

## Self-Guided Bicycle Tours in Italy: Bicycling Italy's Art Cities from Venice to Florence Self Guided

### Tour Facts Sheet

Romance, art, history, and great food come together on our most popular trip for beginning cyclists. From the canals of Venice, the bridges of Comacchio and the early Christian mosaics of Ravenna to the Renaissance architecture of Florence, this tour features six days of pedaling through the heart of Italian culture and cuisine. Along the way you'll pedal through vineyards and fruit trees and discover colorful ceramics in Faenza, while of course enjoying gourmet meals in Emilia-Romagna - Italy's foremost pasta region.

<b>Highlights</b>	Venetian Lagoon, Florence, Ravenna, Ceramics of Faenza, Cycling Quiet Roads, Pedaling through Orchards
<b>Price</b>	€ 995 per person sharing a double room Single supplement: €260 (solo travelers pay €650) <b>GROUP DISCOUNT 5%</b> (6 people or more) Please note that a High-Season Supplement fee may apply for May and September
<b>Includes</b>	7-night lodging in 3-4 star hotels; all breakfasts; one dinner; use of GPS with preloaded tracks; roadbook and map; suggestions for dinners; luggage transfers
<b>Countries</b>	Italy
<b>Begin/End</b>	Venice - Chioggia /Florence
<b>Arrive/Depart</b>	Venice (VCE)/ Florence (FLR)
<b>Total Distance</b>	305-362 km (190-226 miles)
<b>Daily Distance</b>	15-83 km (9-52 miles), plus optional mileage
<b>What to Expect</b>	Gentle terrain down the Adriatic Coast with more challenging rides as we enter the Apennines. Great for all cyclists.
<b>Rating</b>	1 – <a href="#">View Tour Rating Descriptions</a> First 5 days are flat, last few days include climbs with option to take a train or ride more kms!
<b>Terms</b>	<a href="#">Terms &amp; Conditions</a>



Visit our website for tour dates, price and full itinerary description at [Cycleeurope.com](http://Cycleeurope.com).

Do you need more information? Read our Self Guided Tour FAQ Sheet [here](#)

## Tour's Dates:

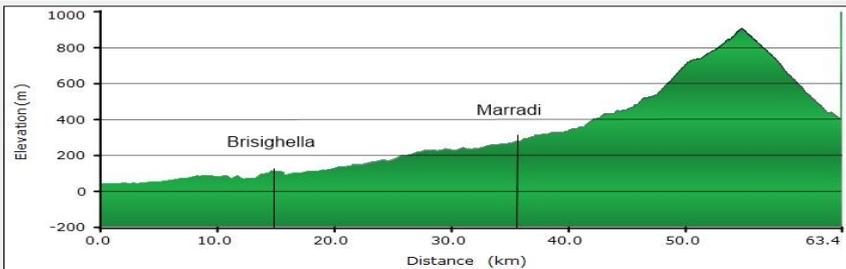
Suggested starting day: Thursday\*

\* Other weekly start days available, with €150 fee (total fee per departure, not per person).

Please note - most museums in Florence are closed on Mondays, so we discourage starting in Chioggia on the previous Monday or Tuesday. There can also be more weekend traffic on the road over the Apennines, so we discourage starting in Chioggia on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

## Your Itinerary

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 1: Tour begins in Chioggia, Italy</b> <i>Highlights: "Little Venice" and the Venetian Lagoon</i></p> <p>Welcome to Chioggia and the Venetian Lagoon! We meet this afternoon at our hotel in the center of Chioggia. We'll fit bicycles and go over route details. Take a walk around the center of Chioggia and admire the canals, bridges and main pedestrian walking street. If you arrive early we can suggest a ride along one of the islands in the lagoon.</p>	<p>Mileage: your option</p> <p>Accommodation: <a href="#">Hotel Grande Italia</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 2: Pedal the Po River Delta</b> <i>Highlights: Chioggia, cycling on quiet roads, stay at a working farm</i></p> <p>We leave the Venetian lagoon today towards the Po River Delta. Enjoy cycling on levee roads and birdwatching. Grab some picnic supplies from the local grocery store or stop at a cafe for lunch today. Those who want extra mileage can enjoy a great ride into the delta this afternoon. Our destination tonight is a small country farm bed and breakfast.</p>	<p>Mileage: 58-101 km (36-63 miles)</p> <p>Accommodation: <a href="#">Agriturismo Forzello</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 3: Comacchio</b> <i>Highlights: bicycle along the Po River to Comacchio</i></p> <p>It's another day of leisurely riding today. Our destination is a small lagoon town that at one point was more powerful than Venice in the 700 and 800s. The lagoon town of Comacchio, has a fabulous museum that showcases a Roman boat and its cargo that was excavated from one of the canals. Built on 13 islands this town is now landlocked but surrounded by the Po River and fresh water wetlands. Enjoy a small float around the canals with a local fisherman before dinner.</p>	<p>Mileage: 74 km (46 miles)</p> <p>Accommodation: <a href="#">Hotel La Comancina</a> OR <a href="#">B&amp;B Al Ponticello</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 4: Ravenna</b> <i>Highlights: Wetlands, bird viewing and beautiful mosaics, bustling town</i></p> <p>We pedal along the Valley of Comacchio wetlands towards Ravenna. Ravenna was the last capital of the Western Roman Empire and home to more early Christian mosaics than any other city in Western Europe. You can walk to Dante's Tomb and the mosaics of San Vitale, Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia this afternoon, as our hotel is near all the city sights.</p>	<p>Mileage: 49 km (31 miles)</p> <p>Accommodation: <a href="#">Ostello Galletti Abbiosi</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 5: Ravenna to Faenza</b> <i>Highlights: Faenza International Ceramics Museum and Renaissance Town Square</i></p>	<p>Mileage: 51 km (32 miles)</p>

<p>Exiting Ravenna, you have the choice to visit another very important Byzantine masterpiece: Sant'Apollinare in Classe. Cross the plains through fruit plantations and arrive to Faenza. Your hotel is a restored convent near the central square of this regional market center and famous ceramics town. Enjoy the bustle in the market square and the main "piazza" which is always full of bicycle riders of all ages. Faenza is world-renowned for its hand decorated ceramics; we recommend a visit to the International Ceramics Museum as well as several of the local artists' studios specialized in this colorful pottery.</p>	<p><i>Accommodation:</i> <a href="#">Hotel Vittoria</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 6: Over the Apennines</b> <i>Highlights: Bicycle the Apennines and the Mugello.</i></p> <p>We head into the Apennines today, passing first through the medieval village of Brisighella. Take a break and pick up some snacks for climb if you feel like it. If you decide you want to train up and over the mountain, feel free to do so! For those who decide to bicycle, begin climbing (easily at first!) over the Apennines -- remember to look around as you pedal since the scenery changes dramatically as you leave the plains and enter the mountains. Just before we reach the toughest part of our climb there is a very conveniently located train station which allows you a choice in how you reach our destination! Dinner is included tonight.</p> 	<p>Long option.            Mileage: 63 km            (39 miles)            Short option.            Mileage: 15 km            (9 miles)            It's possible to catch a train either from Brisighella, or from Marradi.</p> <p><i>Accommodation:</i> <a href="#">Albergo La Rosa</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 7: Florence</b> <i>Highlights: Fiesole and its Etruscan ruins, Renaissance Florence, Uffizi Gallery</i></p> <p>There's a small climb this morning to Vetta le Croci, then it's downhill to the old Etruscan city of Fiesole, where you'll enjoy a great view of Florence rising from the valley floor. We recommend waiting until after lunch to ride into town and the rest of the afternoon is yours to explore this capital of Renaissance Italy.</p> 	<p>Mileage: 41 km            (26 miles)</p> <p><i>Accommodation:</i> <a href="#">Hotel Silla</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 8: Tour ends</b> <i>Highlights: Arrivederci!</i></p> <p>After a buffet breakfast in the hotel, you're ready to become a tourist again. You're on your own now, so get out there and visit Michelangelo's <i>David</i> at the Accademia, Botticelli's <i>Birth of Venus</i> and the other masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery, and more.</p>	

**NOTE:** This hotel itinerary is subjected to changes according to availability. City taxes are not included.

**LODGING UPGRADE:**

Room upgrades are possible in some hotels. Ask for availability.

## **GTA: How to get there and away**

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**Starting point:**

Hotel Grande Italia - Rione S. Andrea, 597 (Piazzetta Vigo) - Chioggia

The airport closest to the tour start is Venice Marco Polo Airport.

Take a shuttle bus to Venice P.le Roma, then a bus to Chioggia or ask for a private transfer from Venice airport to your hotel in Chioggia.

If you are spending time in Venice before the trip you can take a ferry to Chioggia which is on the south side of the lagoon. You can find more details at the [ACTV website](#).

**Ending point:**

Hotel Silla - Via de' Renai 5 – Firenze

You can fly out from Florence or from Pisa, which is connected to Florence by train.

Once you book the tour we will send you detailed information and different options on how to get to the starting point and away from the ending point of the tour.

## **Luggage Transfers**

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Luggage transfer is included in your package. Normally, the luggage is collected from 09.00 at the reception of the hotel and is delivered at the following hotel by 15.30.

Every luggage must be marked with a visible luggage tag. Please make sure yours have correct tags.

If your luggage is not ready by the time the driver comes to collect it, you may need to have to pay directly a local taxi for the service.

Please consider that the luggage is not insured during the transport. You need to have your own insurance. Do not leave valuables or fragile items in your luggage.

Normally you cannot use the luggage transport service to skip the stage. In case you need help to skip the stage, please contact our emergency number.

**Services available at an additional cost (ask for availability)**

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**Private transfers** (subject to change depending on arrival time and flight delays)

Venice airport - Chioggia:		€115 (1-6 pax) €230 (7-12 pax)
Florence - Florence airport:		€60 (1-3 pax) €65 (4-6 pax)

**Extra nights** at tour start and end (please inquire about adding nights along the itinerary)

Prices for double rooms:

Chioggia:		Starting from € 150/room/night
Firenze:		€155/room/night

**Extra meals and activities (please inquire about availability):**

Day 2 – Dinner near Agriturismo	€18/pax for pizza menu €27/pax for 3-course menu (drinks not included)
Day 4 – Guided visit of Ravenna (approx. 3 hours) Price does not include the cumulative ticket required for the visits, to be paid on the spot (around €10 per person).	€150 (up to 10 people)
Day 4 – Dinner in Ravenna	€30/pax (drinks not included)
Day 5 – Dinner in Faenza	€30/pax (drinks not included)
Day 6 - Olive Oil Tasting in Brisighella	€5 / pax
Day 7 – Dinner in Florence	€25/pax (drinks not included)
Day 8 - Guided visit of Florence	€150 (per group up to 12 pax)
Cooking class (*) available in more than one location along the way (includes tasting meal at the end)	€80 / pax for at least 2 people. Supplement of €25 for solo travellers

## Bicycling Italy's Art Cities from Venice to Florence

(\*) The **Cooking class** is run by [Le Cesarine](#), a company that organizes culinary experiences at local people's houses. Your class will last about 3 hours, during which you will help the Cesarina prepare 3 courses. In the 4<sup>th</sup> and final hour, you will enjoy a meal (lunch or dinner) made of the courses you prepared during the class. Water and one bottle of house wine every 3 people are included.

The **Dinners** you book through us consist of 3-course set menus (some restaurants allow multiple choice menu). Drinks are not included. Please check the scheduled time of your dinner, as some restaurants in Italy open for dinner as late as 7:30 or 8:00 pm.

### Room upgrade:

Please inquire about availability and price.

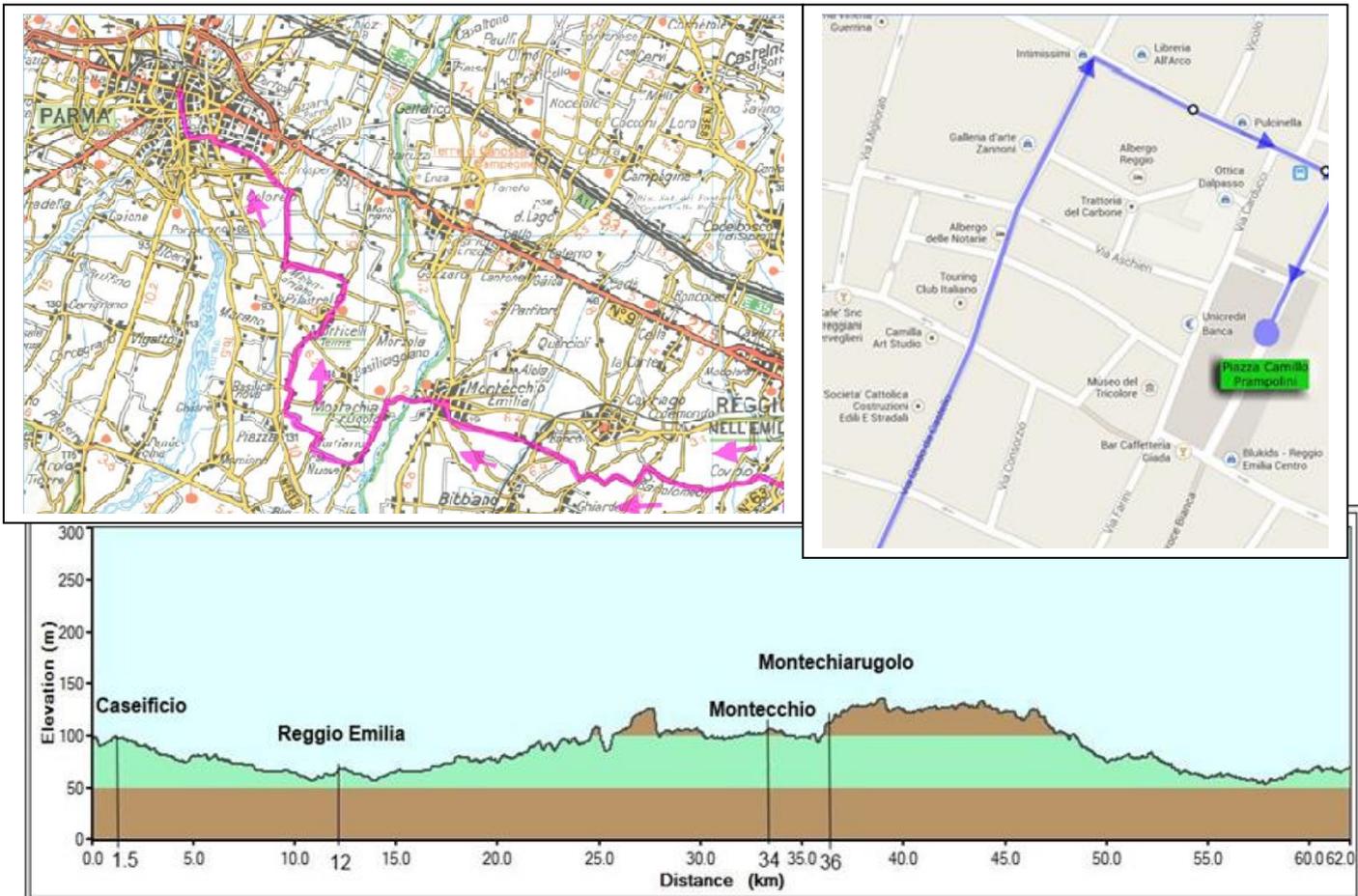
### Bike Rental (for a standard 8-day tour. Please inquire about longer tours)

- [Titanium road or hybrid bikes](#): €160
- [Tandem](#): €280
- [E-bikes](#): €240

For detailed specs and photos of our bikes, see our website - [Bike Rentals Italy](#).

Your roadbook

Here below you'll find a snapshot as a sample of what you'll have in your roadbook day by day. As you can see you will find the map with the marked itinerary, the elevation profile, maps for entering and leaving a towns and step by step instructions. Together with this we'll provide cultural information, lunch and dinner suggestions, list of bike shops and taxi numbers.



Total Distance	Partial Distance	Symbol	Descriptions
4,4	0,1	↑	Go straight on ZTL on Via Panciroli
4,6	0,2	↑	At  go straight on Via Guido da Castello
4,9	0,3	→	<b>TR</b> on Via Emilia (INA building)
5,0	0,1	→	<b>TR</b> at Albergo Posta on Piazza del Monte
5,1	0,1	 	You're in the main square in <b>Reggio Emilia</b> . (Piazza Camillo Prampolini). Several lunch options here