

CYCLING EUROPE

The Romantic Pathway

8 days/7 nights - approx. 300km - INNSBRUCK TO AUGSBURG – 1ST STAGE

8 days/7 nights - approx. 262km - WÜRZBURG TO DONAUWÖRTH - 2ND STAGE

INNSBRUCK TO AUGSBURG 300 kms 8 days/7 nights

VIA CLAUDIA AUGUSTA

I: Almost 2000 years ago this road was built by the Romans; the only imperial state pathway across the Alps. Carts trundled past inns, settlements and graves, which enrich the landscape today as monuments of the past. The traces are not always immediately recognisable. In some parts, the original road is still visible as a dam in a field and a meadow, or as curved path traces.

ROMANTIC PATHWAY I:

No citizen in the Middle Ages would have probably thought that this road would become one of the most important holiday pathways in the future. The old trade route retained its historic image and its romantic atmosphere throughout the ages. The episcopal and the royal residence and the fairy tale Bavarian castles provide a frame for a relaxing bike tour.

Tour itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Innsbruck

Collect bicycles and attend a briefing with your tour manager to go through the detailed tour information.

Day 2 Innsbruck – Imst

65 km

Cycle on the former Treidel Path along the Inn and through small villages to Stams known for its' baroque

Cistercian convent. Continue through Haiming to Imst, the “Meran of North Tyrol”, with its numerous fountains and magnificent mountain



background..

Day 3 -- Imst – Füssen

55 km

To Hahntenjoch (2000 m) by bus. A wonderful downhill ride to Elmen and Lech follows. The splendid mountain landscape, the mountain river and the town of Reutte get you into the right mood for a dream journey past the royal castles of the Forggensee (lake) to the splendid city of Füssen . The city is surrounded by magnificent alpine peaks and blue-green mountain lakes. Stroll around the city in the pedestrian zone where you will see the outline of the Via Claudia.

Day 4 - Füssen – Schongau

approx. 45 km

Enroute today are King Luis' fairytale castles in Königswinkel, Hohenschwangau and Neuschwanstein. At the valley station of the Tegelberg you should see the uncovered Roman thermal springs. The world famous Wieskirche (church) – the epitome of Bavarian rococo – is the next highlight. Cycle through the beautiful landscape of Steingaden and Peiting before arriving Schongau..

Day 5 - Schongau –

Landsberg/Lech 45 km

Schongau is a former Bavarian border fortress with fortified passages on the town wall that can still be accessed.. Enjoy the splendid view over the Lech Valley. Wander the old part of town and explore places of interest. Continue cycling to Hohenfurch to see the Romanesque basilica with vaults, to Epfach where there is the Roman Abodiacum (Roman museum) and on to Vilgertshofen to see the stunning baroque pilgrimage church before reaching Landsberg.

Day 6 - Landsberg/Lake –

Amersee - Landsberg

approx. 45 km

Along side roads you cycle via small, baroque villages to the western bank of the Lake until you reach Utting. If you like, visit the monastery of Andechs by ship located opposite the Lake in the village of Herrsching (not included). Afterwards cycle slightly hilly terrain back to your hotel in Landsberg past many baroque onion domes.

Day 7 - Landsberg/Lech -

Augsburg 50 km

The mediaeval city centre of Landsberg/Lech – embedded

in the bed of the river with the same name – is known for its' historic town hall and the Gothic Bavarian gate. Bike through Kaufering am Lech to Königsbrunn (with the 11 km long, best preserved part of the Via Claudia), into the old Bavarian duke city of Friedberg and on to the Fugger city of Augsburg. with Numerous historic monuments from all epochs give the city its distinctive tone: the famous Fuggerei, trading company of the Fugger family in the old part of Augsburg dates from the year 1516, Elias Holls (town hall) and the Roman museum are worth seeing.

Day 8 - Augsburg

Arrangements terminate after breakfast.

Terrain

Along the Lech on bicycle paths and small country roads, through quiet and charming landscapes near the Roman road. A bike tour for anyone. From Imst/Hahntenjoch 2000 m or Füssen 800 m to Donauwörth 400 m continuously downhill with short hilly passages.

Prices 2009 (Prices in € per person)

Independent tours: Every Sunday from 10 May to 20 September.

Guided tour: Saturday 25 July 2009 (special arrangements for groups of 8+ upon request)

	Guided	Category A	Category B
Basic price per person in a double room	€888	€726	€624

Single room surcharge	€170	€170	€125
Half board surcharge	Included	€130	€125
Rental bike	€55	€55	€55
Electric bike	€120	€120	€120
Accommodation-Category	Chosen 3***- & 4**** properties	Chosen 3***- & 4**** properties	Hotels and Pensions in 3*** properties

Additional nights Prices in €	Innsbruck Category A	Augsburg Category A & B	Innsbruck Category B
Per person in a double room	€78	€59	€64
Single room surcharge	€25	€30	€25

Price includes:

- Accommodation in hotels and guest houses as per chosen category on a bed and breakfast basis
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Detailed travel material – cycling notes, route description, places of interest
- Service hot line (Independent only)
- E-signposting
- Transfer to the Hahntenjoch (2000m)

Additional inclusions for Guided Tour:

- Daily 3-course evening meal
- Skilled tour guide for the duration of the tour
- City tour in Innsbruck
- Guided tour through the Neuschwanstein Castle
- City tour in Augsburg
- All entrance fees and guided tours as mentioned in the program

SEE BELOW FOR THE NEXT STAGE : Würzburg To Donauwörth

WÜRZBURG TO DONAUWÖRTH 262 kms 8 days / 7 nights independent

1st day: Würzburg through small villages and the romantic atmosphere of this Gothic town. Starting point of your journey is follow the Aalbach. Near Würzburg, with its splendid buildings, the residence and the fortress Marienburg, which made the town famous. Enjoy the charm of this town that lies among vineyards at the Main-riverside, and experience the romantic wine rooms.

2nd day: Würzburg – Wertheim, approx. 40 km You leave Würzburg on a woody path through the Steinbach valley. You bike through small villages and follow the Aalbach. Near Bettingen you finally reach the Main. Worth seeing is the gothic fortress-church with the Saint Mary’s altar at Dertingen. The small town of Wertheim lies between Spessart and Odenwald picturesquely situated at the mouth of the Tauber into the Main. The beautiful castle ruin of striking red sandstone towers above the old city. In the evening, enjoy

3rd day: Wertheim – Bad Mergentheim, approx. 49 km Leave the Main and bike further on through the Tauber Valley. You have the natural landscape dotted with monuments dating back a thousand years like the bridges built by Balthasar Neumann in the Tauber valley. Stop at the little town of Tauberbischofsheim to see its’ great castle and many fine buildings and monuments.

Follow the Romantic Road to Bad Mergentheim, your overnight stay.

4th day: Bad Mergentheim – Rothenburg ob der Tauber, approx. 48 km

Bad Mergentheim is a lively spa town that has a pretty Renaissance market place surrounded by splendid buildings. Close by is the castle with a museum. Soon after leaving Bad Mergentheim visit the water fortress of Weikersheim with its park in rococo-style. At Creglingen visit the well-known Saint Mary's altar of Tilmann Riemenschneider. Finally there's the highlight of your journey, Rothenburg. Stroll around through this world famous Gothic town that is surrounded by fortress walls with seven doors. Shortly before midnight, you can make a trip through the town with the night watchman.

5th day: Rothenburg ob der Tauber – Dinkelsbühl, approx. 50 km

The next destination of your journey is Schillingsfürst with its Baroque castle. Before you reach it, there is a small ascent to cover. Continue through Zumhaus with its bicycle museum and Feuchtwangen to reach Dinkelsbühl. This town lies in the idyllic Wörnitz Valley. There's a beautiful market place and traditional restaurants to visit. The town also has a special attraction, the night watchman.

6th day: Dinkelsbühl – Nördlingen, approx. 39 km

Today you bike through a region of special geographical interest, the Nördlinger Ries. 15 million years ago there was the impact of a meteorite of 1200 meters diameter, which left a crater of 20 to 25 kilometres diameter. Nördlingen is Germany's only fully preserved

walled town where you can walk atop the wall. Enjoy the view from the 90 meters high bell tower of Saint George's Church. For those who are geologically interested, there's the crater museum.

7th day: Nördlingen-Donauwörth/Rain, approx. 30/40 km

On today's route you leave behind the Ries region and bike through the beautiful Wörnitz Valley. You pass Harburg whose old fortress lies high above the valley. Then you reach Donauwörth where the Wörnitz flows into the Danube. An important part of the town is the splendid imperial street with impressive buildings, one beside the other. Another special thing of this town is the Käthe-Kruse-puppet-museum. Overnight stay is in Donauwörth or in Rain am Lech.

8th day: individual departure

SCHEDULE 2009: 11 April – 13 September start any day

Price 2009: Euros 774 per person share twin / double
Euros 97 single supplement

Bike rental Euros 50 – 7 speed with back pedalling brakes including 1 pannier bag or a 21 speed bike upon request.

Price includes:

- 7 nights with breakfast in good middle-class hotels and pensiones.
- all rooms with bath/shower and WC
- luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- detailed information package with maps

	Double B&B	Single B&B
Additional nights: Rothenburg	€49	€71
Donauwörth/Rain	€60	€87

Book through:

“A Walker's World”

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