

# Self-Guided Cycling in Italy - The Prosecco Tour

Trip Code: SGPC

Version:



CYCLE



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle through the stunning UNESCO listed landscape of the 'Prosecco Hills'
- Centre-based at an elegant 4-star restored 19<sup>th</sup> Century Venetian villa
- Included wine-tasting and an included visit to Andrea Palladio's Villa Emo

- Enjoy the good life, 'la dolce vita' in a beautiful part of northern Italy
- Option to extend your trip with a Venice city break

## AT A GLANCE

- Self-guided
- 5 days cycling
- BIKE HIRE INCLUDED
- Thursday and Saturday departures
- Join at Ponzano Veneto

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

# Introduction

Just inland from Venice at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea, the Italian region of Veneto, between the Piave and Sile rivers, is the perfect place for a self-guided cycle tour. This charming corner of Italy is famous for wine growing and for its wealth of historical and architectural heritage. Prosecco is one of the most important wines produced here and as recently as 2019 the picturesque 'Prosecco Hills' in the vicinity of the small towns of Valdobbiadene and Conegliano were granted UNESCO World Heritage status in recognition of the importance of this sparkling and popular drink. From your comfortable hotel in Ponzano, you will explore the 'heart of the Veneto' during five days of leisurely cycling. You will be able to enjoy wonderful views of a verdant and vineyard-clad region surprisingly little-frequented by tourists and marvel at the architectural highlights of Treviso, Castelfranco Veneto and other towns. These highlights include the creations of the Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio (such as the handsome Villa Emo) which have a separate UNESCO World Heritage listing. Taking each day's ride at your own pace and cycling on quiet farm roads, cycle paths and riverside tracks, there will be lots of time to explore, to stop for a cappuccino and to take in the sights,

Staying at the 4-star Relais Monaco Country Hotel and Spa you will be sure to have everything you need to relax after a day exploring on your bike, including a pool, a terrace perfect for relaxing with a good book and a glass of the local produce and a great restaurant to sample the local specialities too.

## Is this holiday for you?

A leisurely tour of Veneto with mainly flat stages, there's a total of up to 245 kilometres cycled in 5 days. Only the stage through the Prosecco Hills (Day 5) has a couple of short climbs of between approximately 1 and 2 kilometers in length. Most of the cycling is on quiet side-roads with little traffic and there are also stretches of unsurfaced farm roads and cycle paths. On the approaches to Treviso and at a couple of locations when crossing bridges, you can expect to encounter more traffic. With very comfortable centre-based 4-star accommodation, you will have everything you need to relax on the completion of each day's activities. E-bikes are available at supplementary cost and will make this quite leisurely holiday even more of a breeze.

# Itinerary

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Version:

## Holiday Information

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### What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Welcome briefing
- Luggage transfers
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Entrance to the Villa Emo on Day 4
- A transfer to Valdobbediane after breakfast on Day 5
- A Prosecco tasting experience at the hotel on Day 5
- Bike hire

### What's not Included

- Tourist tax if due is not included in the price
- Travel insurance
- Travel to and from the hotel in Ponzano Veneto
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

## Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit, about the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook and all your relevant documents no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start date. We will send your documents using a signed for courier so that you can track your package and know that they are safely on their way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our sales team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker so please remind them to pack it before you set off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start date, please do inform our sales team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

## Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This trip starts and ends at Ponzano, Veneto. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a land only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The most convenient airport for this trip is Venice Marco Polo Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

If you are flying into Venice Marco Polo Airport, take the shuttle (Autobus Blu) to Mestre railway station (costs approx. €10/ person <http://www.atvo.it/it-venice-airport.html>) Then take the train to Treviso (approx. travel time 20 - 30 minutes, costs approx. €5/person). From the Treviso Centrale railway station you can take a taxi to the hotel which takes approx. 10-15 minutes and costs approx. €40.

### EXTEND YOUR TRIP

If you wish to explore Venice before or after your trip we are able to arrange additional nights accommodation in Mestre (Venice mainland) for you so you can combine your trip with a city break and experience all this lovely city has to offer.

## Meal Plan

This trip is arranged on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the opportunity to choose between dining in the excellent hotel restaurant or to go out to one of the local restaurants.

## Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

In Italy food is a way of life; it brings families together, gives friends a reason to sit down and laugh and showcases local produce. The Veneto region is no different with many local dishes to sample. Rice and pollenta (as well as pasta) are popular staples in Veneto and the local red form of chicory known as 'radicchio rosso' as well as the hard cheese Gran Padano feature prominently. Lamb and chicken and a distinctive local salami, as well as seafood and fish from the nearby Adriatic are also commonly used. The popular dessert, tiramisu, originated in Treviso as recently as 1970 and can be found on many Veneto a la carte menus. This trip has been designed on a bed & breakfast basis to allow you to dine out and sample these delicacies and many more.

## Accommodation

We have chosen to use the excellent Relais Monaco Country Hotel and Spa as your base for this holiday. Located in Ponzano Veneto, in the quiet of the countryside just a handful of kilometres north of Treviso, the hotel offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere, combined with a high standard of service. With well-tended grounds, a swimming pool and spa, it is the perfect place to relax after your days on the bike. The Relais Monaco offer a great breakfast buffet to fuel you for the day ahead and the hotel's La Vigna restaurant serves region specialities and wines. It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to extend your time in Veneto. Please speak to our sales team for more information.

## Bike Hire

The bikes we provide have 21 gears and come equipped with a pannier and handlebar bag for your daily essentials plus a milometer, a bike lock, pump and repair kit. There are two different frame types - 'Unisex' or 'Men'. Unisex bikes are provided for riders up to a height of 185cm and 'Men' bikes for those above 185cm. You can also choose to ride one of the 'Men' bikes you are under 185cm - please request this with our sales team.

You also have the option of upgrading to bike plus hire on this trip for a supplement of £70. The bike plus option provides a slightly sportier sitting posture and comes with upgraded items such as 27 gears, hydraulic brakes and a front suspension fork. This is a great option for those looking for a slightly comfier ride without upgrading to an e-bike. E-bikes are also available at a supplement of £260. We are also able to arrange children's bikes, trailer-bikes and child seats. Please ask our sales team for details.

We strongly recommend that you wear a helmet at all times when on the bike. We also suggest you consider packing a gel seat for extra comfort or a pair of padded cycling shorts, whilst you will be riding at your own pace and there will be plenty of opportunities to stop and explore, it is always nice to have some padding for a comfortable ride.

## **Baggage Allowance**

There is no restriction on the weight of your luggage other than that imposed by your airline. You should travel with a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you.



# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Health & Vaccinations

### Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

### GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

### Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

## Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided cycling holiday is that you decide the pace. This trip is designed for leisure cyclists and does not require you to be in peak fitness. Having said this it is always sensible to get some additional exercise before going on an active holiday. After all, the fitter you are the more enjoyable your cycling will be. You should be comfortable with cycling an average of 50 km a day mostly on quiet roads and we advise you to dust off your bike and head out on a few rides before your holiday.

## Climate

Northern Italy has a mid-European climate with cold winters and warm summers. Average daily temperatures in the lowland part of Veneto close to Venice range from around 18 degrees centigrade in April and October to 27 degrees centigrade in July. Throughout our season from April to the first week of October this is a predominantly sunny region with just a little rain each month.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

- Venice and the Veneto. Lonely Planet
- Venice and the Veneto. DK Eyewitness Travel Guide

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Please note that a paper copy of your travel insurance is required if you are travelling to Huaraz and the Huayhuash region.

# Equipment Information

## Equipment List

- Cycling shorts



- Cycle helmet
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Scarf
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Rain protection
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Handlebar mount that is compatible with your smartphone
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags

## **Cotswold Outdoor**



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [>> Find out more](#)

## Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

This trip is available for departures on Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the dates listed.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE

We have put together this excellent cycling holiday to show off the best of the delightful Prosecco-producing Veneto region of northern Italy. Staying at a wonderful 4-star country hotel and spa, what better way to experience 'la dolce vita'. Bike hire is included on all of our self-guided cycling holidays. E-bikes are also available (at additional cost) for anyone wanting to make the trip even more leisurely.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 03/07/2024 and the trip is subject to change