
Dolomia

Dolomia is a carbonate sedimentary rock consisting mainly of the mineral dolomite, chemically a double carbonate of calcium and magnesium. Originated from millions years old coral reef in a low water tropical lagoon, Dolomites rised to nowadays heights being meanwhile eroded in some of the most incredible and bizarre shapes. Explore this rocky kingdom made of spires, crests, towers, pinnacles and valleys cycling across the very heart of this region, to discover - nose up - the most beautiful mountains in the world!



Dolomia starts from Ortisei, the main town of Val Gardena valley, one of the most wanted touristic destination of the whole Dolomites. There are good reasons indeed: the valley is surrounded by beautiful peaks, accommodation standards are among the best, coffee shops and pastry shop at every corner and on the valley's floor a nice cycling path runs on a former railway line, the perfect warm up before to tackle your first spicy climbs! But honestly the main reason we love Ortisei is because of our most loved gelato shop and few hundreds meters away, the local artisanal brewery where a countless number of tours has finished gloriously!



Left the town you will immediately enjoy a superb climb on gravel that will take you to one of the most panoramic mountain refugio for the cappuccino and the *Apfelstrudel*, enjoying the stunning views over the Sassolungo mountain, an impressive limestone monolith that hangs over the Val Gardena. Your ride will keep being just amazing cycling at the feet of the sharp needles of the Odle mountains and exploring the beautiful Val di Funes. Another day other huge mountains await you on your way to the Val Badia: the severe, triangular shape of the Sas de Pütia is truly a landmark for all passionate outdoor people. You'll cycle through some of the most beautiful meadows of the Alps, exploring century old farms, zigzagging in between cows and wooden huts tested by the elements (we love old wood!) under the stern of colossal rocky walls that distinguish the lower part of the Val Badia. Have a *Kaiserschmarren* at the local refugio and enjoy the most unbelievable sunset ever. Day of big climbs ahead but you'll be rewarded by cycling one of the most panoramic ridge of the whole Dolomites that will gift you with the sight of hundred of peaks with one towering among all of them: the Marmolada, with its top ice capped. After an exhilarating downhill you'll get to the local diary where to taste best homemade cheese that scents like meadows in bloom, a gnammy pizza at our favourite place to get energized and tackle the mighty road climb of the Pordoi Pass, a must have for all passionate cyclists (if you feel brave enough, off-road detour available!).

Once in Val di Fassa, stop for the well earned gelato and then grab strongly your handlebars and climb up straight to the sky to get to the top of Passo Sella. A gourmet stop at our friends's refugio is unmissable before to enjoy a lifetime ride admiring the

majesty of the Sella group and cruising the whole Alpe di Siusi mountain plateau. Take your time and live the moment, order a couple of aperitifs with local alpine herbs at the mountain hut before to fly down and get back to Ortisei.



How to:

Access town: Bolzano, then by bus to

Starting point: Ortisei

Ending point: Ortisei

Dolomia can be ridden in 2 different difficulty rated options:

- **Easy to moderate**
- **Demanding**

Stages&Overnights_easy to moderate

- Hotel overnight in Ortisei the day before the tour starts
- **Day 1_ 28km/17,4mi - 900mt+/2950ft+_guesthouse overnight**
- **Day 2_42km/26,1mi - 1400mt+/4593ft+_hotel overnight**
- **Day 3_ 47km/29,2mi - 1050mt+/3445ft+_(with gondolas/lifts to skip the main climbs) back to Ortisei**

Stages&Overnights_demanding

- Hotel overnight in Ortisei the day before the tour starts
- **Day 1_ 26km/16,15mi - 1890mt+/6200ft+_mountain refugio overnight**
- **Day2_68km/42,2mi - 2200mt+/7218ft+_mountain refugio overnight**
- **Day3_70km/43,5mi - 2100mt+/6890ft+_back to Ortisei**

www.dolomitigravel.com

www.sloveniagravel.com