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# Dolomiti Royale

We takes you to our favourite spots! Cross the whole Dolomites from the city of Bolzano on the South-West to the town of Dobbiaco on the North-East. Ride high mountain plateaus with unbelievably views, enjoy the greenest meadows you've ever seen, face some of the most dramatic rocky shapes of the Dolomites, visit medieval towns on your way and sleep in mountain refugios for stellar nights.

5 days - 228km/142mi - 8380mt+/27.495ft+ - moderate to demanding

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It's difficult to choose our favourite routes, or stretches of them, here on the Dolomites. Even if we are locals, we still get deeply impressed while riding our home trails, time after time. The constantly change of light gives to these pale mountains new shapes, a trail can't be the same when the surroundings are so magnificent. One night, sit down at the old wood table, we putted some red circles on a map. Each of us choose a sector. All share anecdote. All together we gave Dolomiti Royale the birth.

You'll depart from **Bolzano** using the **cablecar** that connect the city with the plateau right above it (some here suggest you should cycle this part, I say that it is one of the most absurd steep climbs and not the best way to start the day!). Once on the height, you'll begin pedaling across a pleasant and varied terrain, alternating between forest roads, trails and mule tracks finally reaching a saddle. From there, for dozen of kilometers, you'll see the Dolomites stretch out across the Isarco River to the East. To the North, a splendid mountain ridge dotted with wooden huts and, in the background, the glittering glaciers of the Alps. Your cozy refugio is located right where the grass leave place to the rocks - you'll push your bike for a little while to make it more epic and to deserve great homemade food and beer with a 5 stars view!



A glorious morning awaits you: kissed by the sun, follow the never-ending gravel switchbacks and reach down below the Isarco Valley, where you'll visit the medieval town of **Chiusa/Klausen** with its arcade alleys but, most important, to stop at our favourite pastry shop. The town is the access door to the Dolomites and you will start immediately tackling the long, beautiful climb across the **Val di Funes**, admiring the sharp, unreal profile of the **Odle mountains**. Explore the whole **Val Badia** then - a real gem among South Tyrol valleys - and home of some of the most rewarding gravel riding ever. We have at list a couple of recommended food stop: the ravioli made by our favourite local nonna and the best gelato shop are unmissable.

Enter the **Fanes-Senes Natural Park** and cycle across a gorgeous alpine environment home of huge mountains made of multi-colored rocks, green meadows crossed by crystalline streams like silver veins that join together to become seasonal lakes, a true

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paradise. We've spent so many bikepacking days around here and we don't have any doubts: this is one of our favourite places all over the whole Alps' chain.

Follow the roaring water sound in the wild **Dolomiti d'Ampezzo Natural Park**, stop at our favourite refugio (best homemade pasta ever) and (I know) tackle one of the spiciest climb of the whole Dolomites to finally reach **Misurina Lake**, doorway to the famous **Tre Cime di Lavaredo**. After the overnight you will have **two options**: start cycling still in the dark and enjoy one of the most epic days of your life, arriving at dawn at the feet of the Tre Cime (hike-a-bike mandatory) or take a shortcut and re-join Dolomiti Royale route right before the unmissable **Specie Valley** climb. The ultra panoramic **Prato Piazza** plateau, with its shining green meadows will mark the end of the climb. Take a couple of beers at the local refugio to celebrate the incoming long downhill ride to the **Pusteria Valley** and to the town of **Dobbiaco**, where Dolomiti Royale will ends.



## How to:

**Access town:** Bolzano

**Starting point:** Bolzano

**Ending point:** Dobbiaco where you will find trains back to Bolzano

## Stages&Overnights

- Hotel overnight in Bolzano the day before the tour starts
- Day 1\_ 30km/18,6mi - 1540mt+/5050ft+\_ mountain rifugio overnight
- Day 2\_ 48,5km/30,1mi - 1990mt+/6530ft+\_ mountain rifugio overnight
- Day 3\_ 59km/36,6mi - 1800mt+/5900ft+\_ mountain rifugio overnight
- Day 4\_ 40km/24,8mi - 1700mt+/5560ft+\_ guesthouse overnight
- Day 5\_ 50km/31mi - 1350mt+/4430ft+\_ hotel overnight in Dobbiaco

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