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# The Line

There is a place where the Dolomites rises abruptly from the plain like nowhere else, where finding a line to penetrate this rocky territory is everything than easy. We put together ancient roman roads and medieval pilgrimage routes. We followed the trails walked for centuries by shepherds with their flocks, by charcoal burners and hunters on their seasonal migration from valley to valley. We connect the city of Belluno with the town of Badia, for a journey of a lifetime.

5 days / 276km/173mi / 10.050mt+/33.000ft+ / demanding

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The nice city of **Belluno**, with its wide open square and Venetian style old buildings, is the southern doorway from where to have access to the wildest and less accessible area of the Dolomites, protected by the **Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park**.

Left the city, the route follow the white river bed of the **Piave River** to turn then northwards being swallowed up by the dramatic, narrow and shadowy gorge of the **Canal del Mis Valley**, stretched underneath the harsh mountain territories of the **Monte Agnelezze** and **Monti del Sole**. Once get out on the other side of the gorge you will meet the light again and the view will run free on the dramatic shapes of the **Piz de Sagron** and **Sass de Mur** mountains, together with the southern face of the **Pale di San Martino's** mountain range.

Visit **Agordo** - a small Venetian style charming town with fantastic coffee and best gelato shops ever - from where you will admire the gigantic mass of the **Moiazza**, your next challenge to be climbed till the mountain refugio where you will overnight.



Enjoy a glorious Dolomite's morning from your refugio, have a couple of espresso before to enjoy the long and winding road that leads down to the **Val di Zoldo** from where you'll start to explore forgotten trails, tasting hike-a-bike sectors, crossing with ancient farms and beautiful examples of rural architecture, the *tabià*: century old, stone and wooden houses perfectly preserved. Cycle at the feet of the **Pelmo** mountain - rising alone with all his stunning beauty - enjoy an apfelstrudel with-a-view at the refugio and go to tackle the epic climb to **Forcella Ambrizzola** then. With a kamikaze and super fast descend you'll get to **Cortina d'Ampezzo**: the town, placed in a mountain basin surrounded by majestic peaks, has a typical Italian flavour and it is the perfect spot where to enjoy an *Aperol Spritz* in the central via Roma. Back to the bikes, let's climb under the shapes of the mighty **Tofane'** peaks and start exploring the **Dolomiti d'Ampezzo Natural Park** with its gorges, roaring streams and waterfalls. Your will head north cycling along the beautiful off-road cycling route (in winter a cross country skiing itinerary that links the towns of Cortina with Dobbiaco) to finally reach **Misurina Lake**, doorway to the most famous of all the Dolomites' peaks: the **Tre Cime**. Sipping a beer at sunset on the lake shores watching the rocks turns pink is worth the whole trip!

Start cycling still in the dark, follow the dancing lights and the shadows of your buddies climbing on the black asphalt to get at the feet of the Tre Cime and hike-a-bike till our favourite spot ever from where to wait for the dawn: this will be an experience of a lifetime! Challenging terrain ahead till you'll reach the bottom of the valley from where the adventure will keep going entering on the beautiful **Fanes-Sennes Natural Park**. Enjoy one of the most beautiful gravel bike ride on Earth across a mountain plateau of stunning wonder, with its colorful rocks eroded by ancient glaciers and its pastures of all the types of green. Once arrived in Val Badia, go straight to our favourite pub and celebrate this epic ride!



## How to:

**Access town:** Belluno

**Starting point:** Belluno

**Ending point:** Badia where you will find the bus back to Bolzano then train to Verona/Venezia/Belluno

## Stages&Overnights:

- Farm or hotel overnight in Belluno the day before the tour starts
- Day 1\_ 82km/51mi - 2340mt+/7677ft+\_mountain refugio overnight
- Day 2\_ 45km/28mi - 1950mt+/6398ft+\_hotel overnight
- Day 3\_ 38km/23,6mi - 1600mt+/5250ft+\_guesthouse overnight
- Day 4\_ 46km/28,6mi - 2120mt+/6950ft+\_mountain refugio overnight
- Day 5\_ 70km/43,5mi - 2120mt+/6950ft+\_hotel overnight in Badia

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