



St Columba's Venice To Como Cycle



Duration: 5 days

This exciting and beautiful route starts from Venice on the Adriatic Coast, and finishes on the shores of spectacular Lake Como, taking in two more great Italian lakes on the way: Garda and Iseo.

With a route that starts from the flat plains around Venice, to forested hills and the famous lakes-and-mountains scenery of Lombardy, there's enough variety to please any cyclist. Each day offers a great climb to test your legs, but with our highest point at 674m, these aren't the high cols, and it's an achievable ride for anyone willing to train.

Add in small terracotta-roofed towns, the *Romeo and Juliet* city of Verona, lakeside overnight stops, good roads, and plenty of opportunities for recharging on Italian coffee and gelato – this is the ultimate Italian cycle challenge!

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet Venice

Venice is renowned for its beautiful waterways and buildings, such as St Mark's Square and Basilica, the Doge's

Palace and Bridge of Sighs, and the Rialto Bridge. Dependent on flight times, you can enjoy some free time exploring the sights of this wonderful city. We meet up at our mainland hotel in the evening, and ensure our kit and bikes are fully prepared for the start of our challenge tomorrow. Night hotel.

(Lunch not included)

Day 2: Venice – Verona

Leaving Venice behind, we start cycling! We head south through fertile fields, crossing many small canals and rivers which drain into the Venetian Lagoon, still only a few miles to the east. Our terrain today is predominantly flat, allowing us to ease ourselves in relatively gently: it is, however, a long day in the saddle! We avoid the larger towns, but pass through several small towns and villages, all with a distinctive Italian flavour. Our halfway mark is celebrated with the only real climb of the day, as we cross a verdant region of hills dotted with thermal spas; continuing east on flat roads again, we cross the wide River Adige, Italy's second-longest river, and head to Verona. This beautiful city, setting of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, offers plenty of sights if you have the legs for an evening wander. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 146km (91 miles)

Day 3: Verona – Lovere

Our terrain becomes more rolling as we ride on back-roads towards the lakes of Lombardy. After only a few miles in the saddle, we reach spectacular Lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy. As we ride around its southern shore, we can enjoy views of the steep green slopes plunging down to the lake's edge. Today's big climb crosses the forested hills between Lake Garda and Lake Iseo – probably the toughest 10 miles of the route for many of us. It twists and turns up into the wooded hills, passing small communities with striking churches and open pastures. Surrounded by magnificent views of the verdant peaks, the scenery inspires us to keep going. After a fabulous descent, our road levels out to a relatively flat run-in to Lake Iseo. Passing through the medieval town of Iseo, we ride around the lake north to beautiful Lovere; we are close to the mountains here and the buildings have more of a Swiss influence. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 154km (96 miles)

Day 4: Lovere – Como

Our main climb comes earlier today, as we leave the beautiful shores of Lake Iseo and head up on a quiet road that twists through trees and areas of open pasture, with great views back down over the lake and surrounding green hills. The well-earned descent is longer than the climb, and brings us out of the hills through a string of river-side towns and villages as we ride along the valley towards Bergamo. From here it's more rolling terrain, with a couple of sharper climbs, as we head towards the southeast arm of the inverted 'Y' that is Lake Como. The region to the south of the lake is dotted with smaller lakes and towns and makes for varied cycling; one last short climb and descent brings us to Como, on the southwest arm of the lake. An historic town with plenty to see, an evening wander is a good way to soak up the atmosphere. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 115km (72 miles)

Day 5: Como – Milan; Depart

After breakfast we transfer direct to the airport near Milan for your return flight.

(Lunch not included)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Hotel accommodation en-route (twin share)
- Meals (exclusions detailed in itinerary)
- One group transfer from Como to Milan Airport.
- Discover Adventure leaders and mechanics
- Lunches on cycle days
- Full vehicle support
- Over-view maps, GPX files and route information
- Marked route
- Bike transportation from and back to St Albans

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Flights
- Meals as detailed in itinerary
- Alcoholic drinks
- Bicycle, helmet and high-vis jacket
- Personal travel insurance (to cover personal injury, cancellation/curtailment, lost items etc)
- Transfer from Venice airport to hotel

GRADE | ORANGE

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **ORANGE** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions (see icon) are also taken into account.

[Trip grading explained](#)



Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.
Please note: This document was downloaded on 2 Mar 2021, and the challenge is subject to change.