



FROM RIVER PO TO GARDA LAKE THROUGH THE MINCIO VALLEYS

Mantova – San Benedetto Po – Grazie di Curtatone – Valli del Mincio – Peschiera del Garda
Veneto, Lombardia

4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS



Easy itinerary (mix bicycle + bus) that leads to the discovery of two of “The most beautiful villages in Italy” - San Benedetto Po and Grazie di Curtatone -, and of the wild and untouched beauty of one of the most important naturalistic parks in Lombardy.

It is entirely on plain and it passes through the Mincio valleys to reach Garda Lake, with one hour navigation from Grazie to Rivalta with bicycle transportation

Total length: 115 km. 30 km on Eurovelo8 route.

In 4*hotels, hostels, holiday farms, - guided tour- without portage

Self- guided tour on request





Day 1
Mantova – San Benedetto Po

Length: 32,5 km

Travel time: about 4.15 h (stops and visits not included)

Technical notes: route partly on embankment dirt road and partly on bike path. State highway crossing.

Meeting with the guide in the early afternoon in Mantova and departure to San Benedetto Po. We will pass through part of the Parco Regionale delle Vallazze, Pietole, San Biagio and Correggio Micheli. Arrival in San Benedetto Po, dinner and overnight.



Day 2:
San Benedetto Po - Borgoforte - Mantova

Length: 37 Km

Travel time: about 3.30 h (stops and visits not included)

Technical notes: route on embankment roads and low traffic roads.

We meet our guide in the early morning in San Benedetto Po. After a brief visit to the Basilica and the Monastery Complex of San Benedetto in Polirone, we head towards Governolo where are important hydraulic works conceived by the engineer Gabriele Bertazzolo (17th century) and take the path that runs along the left bank of the Po. Along the path we cross the towns of San Giacomo Po and San Nicolò Po, the birthplace of the great cycling champion Learco Guerra. After a brief stop, we reach Borgoforte.

Free time for lunch in Borgoforte.

From Borgoforte we proceed in the direction of Mantova passing through the towns of San Cataldo, Cappelletta and Virgilio. In Virgilio is possible to stop in order to visit the French-Habsburg Fort of Pietole. Once in Mantova we can take a walking tour in the oldest part of town.

Dinner and overnight in Mantua.





Day 3 **The Mincio Valleys**

Length: 12 Km

Travel time: 1 h (stops and visits not included)

Technical notes: route entirely on bike path

Time for breakfast. We meet our guide in Piazza Sordello. While walking down the old town we can admire the Museum Complex of Palazzo Ducale, Piazza delle Erbe, the Basilica of Sant' Andrea, the "Rotonda" of San Lorenzo and finally, Palazzo Te (exteriors).

Free time for lunch in town.

After the break, we head to the entrance of the path that leads up to Grazie, one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in Italy", where we can visit the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, built at the behest of Captain Francesco Gonzaga (15th century)

We continue on motor ship to reach Rivalta sul Mincio, by a short cruise of about 1 hour (motor ship and bike transport) to visit the Ethnographic Museum of the River Mincio, which aims to collect and preserve the old river people's traditions. Dinner and overnight in Rivalta.



Day 4 **Rivalta - Peschiera del Garda.**

Length: 37 Km

Travel time: about 4 h (stops and visits not included)

Technical notes: after a short stretch on dirt road, the route is on bike path. Return by bus with bicycle transport

Time for breakfast. From Rivalta we take the path that runs along the Mincio Valleys until Pozzolo. Once in Pozzolo, we get on the Mantova - Peschiera bike path to reach Borghetto di Valeggio sul Mincio, with its charming medieval water mills, put in place for a ford of the river Mincio. The village marks today the border between the territory of Mantua and the territory of Verona. Outside of the village stands the fortified dam or "Visconti Bridge", built in 1393 by Gian Galeazzo Visconti and once connected to the castle of Valeggio, built by the Scaligeri family in the thirteenth century.

Free time for lunch in Borghetto sul Mincio.

We continue on the path until the deviation of the Mincio near Monzambano.

The path continues gently up to the bridge of Salionze, crossing Ponti sul Mincio, and from there along the moat of the fortress, we arrive to Peschiera del Garda.

In the evening, return trip to Mantua by bus with bicycles transportation.





What you need to know

Period: from April to October. Dates subject to availability of accommodation at the time of booking.

Difficulty: Easy. Cycling tourists of all ages, families of adults and/or with children and animals.

Where the holiday begins: 1st day in Mantova in the early afternoon

Where the holiday ends: 8TH day in Peschiera del Garda before 06.00 pm. The rental bikes must be restituted during opening hours.

Access: Our territory is easy to reach from the nearest north Italian airports (Milan, Verona, Bergamo, Bologna, Venice, Treviso, Parma) with connections by trains and/or bus. That is why itineraries could be accessible by tourists from all over the world.

Accommodation: in 4 stars hotels/hostels/holiday farms in double or multiple rooms with private bathroom

Meals: the stay is in half board. On request it is possible to have only B&B.

Bike rental: the rental is not included. You can either bring your own bike or rent bicycles there. This service is to book in advance, when you register.

Formal documents: identity card or valid passport.

PRICES:

- Min. 15 pax € 340,00
- Min. 10 pax € 390,00
- Min. 8 pax € 410,00

Rates include:

- Cycling touring guide for the whole period
- Touristic guide for park and historical centre visits
- Accommodation in hotels/hostel/holiday farms in double or multiple rooms with half board
- Short river cruise (people and bike transportation)
- Bus and bike transportation on return
- Insurance

Rates not include:

- Bike and helmet rent
- Luggages transport
- Lunches and beverages
- Vistor's stay tax to pay by accommodations
- Tips, personal extras and all not indicated in "rates include"

Supplements:

- Bike rent € 62,00 for 4 days
- Bikes 7 speed, 28 inches, resistant rubbers, luggage rack or basket

Technical" support services on request and with supplement:





- bicycle and helmet rental
 - children and/or animal trailer
 - baggage transportation
 - means of transport for participants assistance
 - transfers from airports roundtrip by car, minibus and bus depending on the number of participants
 - passages by boat or ferries persons + bicycles
 - booking of airplane tickets, train tickets, bus, etc. for departure/arrival of the tourists
- assistance also in foreign language c/o airports, stations etc.

Self guided tour rates on request starting from € 180,00 per person

- Prices are indicatives and may change according to accommodation availability, number of people and seasonality. Packages could be bought on the websites:
 - www.ontheroadtravel.it; www.ontheroadtravel.eu;
 - requests could be reached via e – mail at the following addresses:
 - info@ontheroadtravel.it; antonella@ontheroadtravel.it;
- All packages can be personalized according the specific needs of the costumer.



This package connects to EuroVelo 8 – Mediterranean Route, a long distance cycle route that passes through eleven European countries from Spain to Cyprus. The route forms part of EuroVelo, the European cycle route network. EuroVelo 8 is expected to be realised in 2020 by which time it will total 6,000 km. Hundreds of kilometres are already in place waiting to be explored. More information is available from EuroVelo.com.