Cycling through the Waters: The Carinthian Lakes Tour

A 7-day cycling tour

Tour code: AUS01C



Alpine Peaks and Turquoise Reflections

Welcome to the heart of southern Austria, where the majestic peaks of the Alps meet the gentle touch of a near-**Mediterranean** climate. **Carinthia** is more than just a destination; it is a cycle-touring paradise, renowned for **waters so pure** they are drinkable and a network of cycling paths that is second to none in Europe. This loop tour is an invitation to slow down, breathe the crisp mountain air, and let the rhythm of your pedals carry you along the shores of some of the continent's most stunning lakes.

The journey begins and ends in **Villach**, a vibrant cultural crossroads just a few kilometers from the Italian and Slovenian borders. From here, the itinerary unfolds like a scenic ribbon, touching the spectacular **Millstätter See**, nestled between towering mountains, and the wild **Weißensee**, a high-altitude natural jewel that enchants with its untouched charm.

Continuing through the sun-drenched **Gail Valley (Gailtal)**, the landscape opens up toward **Faaker See**, famous for its intense turquoise waters, before reaching the legendary **Wörthersee**. With its elegant villas and characteristic emerald hue, the latter represents the sophisticated heart of the tour, which then concludes via the serene **Ossiacher See** back to Villach.

What makes this tour truly special is the harmony of contrasts: the rewarding challenge of the hilly landscapes is always balanced by the flow of flat cycle paths along rivers and lakeshores. Cycling here between **April and October** means enjoying extraordinary light and ideal temperatures, immersed in a nature that changes face at every turn, from the deep blue of the lakes to the brilliant green of alpine pastures.

Get ready to discover a corner of Austria where **hospitality is authentic**, the cuisine is a fusion of Alpine-Adriatic flavors, and every stage is an invitation to recharge!



Period: Every day from 04 May to 27 September 2026.

Participants : From 1 Person

Level 2,5
Tours of this level have a moderate difficulty and are designed for those seeking a moderately challenging experience. A fair level of fitness and good physical condition are required. The itineraries develop over flat or rolling terrain, with only occasional hilly sections. Cycling takes place predominantly on flat roads, with inclines only in specific spots. The routes consist of dedicated cycle paths, lakeside tracks, or, in some stretches, secondary roads with low traffic. Daily distances range between 45 and 70 km.

Total km: About 258 km

Program in short:
Day 1: Arrival in Villach
Day 2: Villach – Seeboden (48 km/77mi)
Day 3: Millstättersee - Weissensee - Feistritz an der Drau/Spittal an der Drau (70 km/112 mi)
Day 4: Feistritz an der Drau/Spittal an der Drau - Faaker See (45 km/72 mi)
Day 5: Faaker See – Klagenfurt (45 km/72 mi)
Day 6: Klagenfurt - Ossiacher See – Villach (50 km/80 mi)
Day 7: End of tour

Daily program

Day 1 Individual arrival in Villach
Individual arrival in Villach, an Austrian town located approximately 30 km from the **Italian border**. Bathed by **the river Drava**, it is known for its thermal baths and mountains, its art-rich old town and the beautiful bathing lakes in its vicinity.
It will be possible to leave your car in an unattended car park near the hotel.

Overnight stay with breakfast in Villach

Day 2 Villach – Seeboden
The tour begins by leaving the lively town of Villach and heading north, cycling upstream along the rivers until you reach **Millstätter See**, Carinthia's deepest lake, nestled among the mountains like an alpine jewel. Today's stage will lead you to discover the wilder soul of the lake along its **southern shore**: an exclusive cycling path **with no car roads**, where the forest meets the water's edge, offering breathtaking views in total silence. After passing through the village of **Döbriach**, located on the eastern shore, the route continues along the northern side. Here the atmosphere changes, becoming **sunnier and more vibrant**, as the cycle path runs right along the water, passing elegant historic villas and manicured gardens. The stage concludes in **Seeboden**, today's destination, where you can relax in its famous flower-filled parks and enjoy the sunset over the surrounding peaks.

Overnight stay and breakfast in Villach
Distance: 48 km/77mi
Ascent /Descent: + 680 m – 500 m



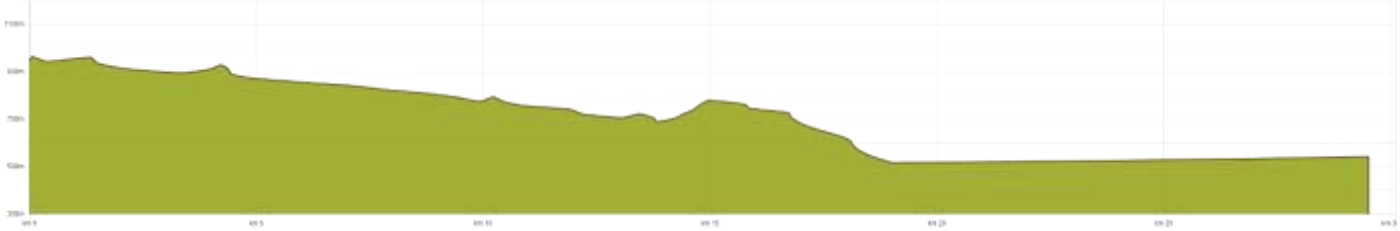
Day 3 Millstättersee - Weissensee - Feistritz an der Drau/Spittal an der Drau
The second stage takes you to discover **Weißensee**, nicknamed the "Caribbean of the Alps" for its incredible turquoise hues. Starting from Millstätter See, you will initially cycle along the peaceful Drau Valley until you reach Greifenburg. From here, the ascent to the Weißensee plateau begins; for those who prefer a more relaxed approach, a convenient **organized transfer (included)** is available to overcome the elevation gain without effort. Once you reach the shores of the lake, you will enjoy a unique experience: a **ferry trip (included)** across this alpine fjord, allowing you to admire the steep, pristine wooded banks from the heart of the water. After disembarking, you will get back on your bikes for a pleasant descent that leads you back into the Drau Valley, passing through agricultural landscapes and traditional villages, until you reach today's destination in the Drau Valley.

Overnight stay and breakfast in the Drau Valley.
Distance: 70 km / 112 mi
Ascent /Descent: + 880 m – 530 m

Lake Millstätter See - Lake Weissensee



Weissensee - Spittal an der Drau



Day 4 Feistritz an der Drau/Spittal an der Drau - Faaker See
Today's stage leads you southward, leaving the course of the Drau River behind to head toward one of the region's most iconic treasures: **Faaker See**. The route winds through lush countryside and typical **Carinthian villages**, where time seems to flow as calmly as the rivers that cross them. Along the way, you will pass through **Villach** once more, offering a perfect opportunity for a break in its vibrant historic center before pushing on toward your final destination. **Faaker See** will welcome you with an almost surreal scenery: despite its modest size, it is famous for its **Caribbean-turquoise** waters and for being among the warmest lakes in Austria. Cycling with the imposing silhouette of **Mount Mittagskogel** as your backdrop, you will reach its shores, where the day simply must end with a **refreshing swim**. It is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the tranquillity of this corner of paradise before continuing your tour.

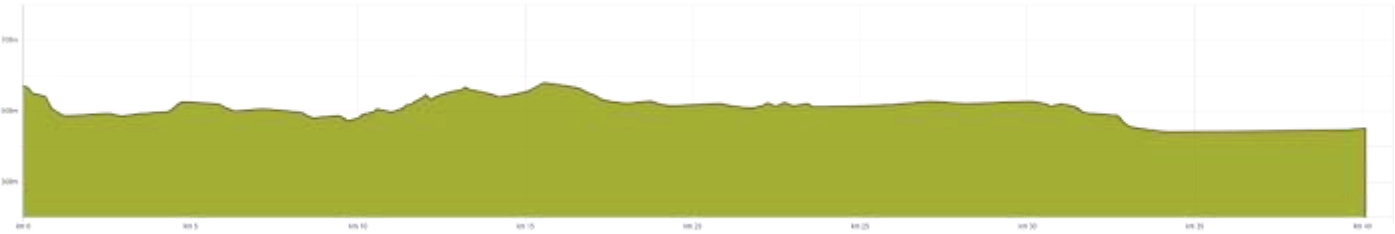
Overnight stay and breakfast at Faaker See
Distance 45 km/ 72 mi
Ascent /Descent: + 620 m – 500 m



Day 5 Faaker See – Klagenfurt
The day begins by leaving the waters of Faaker See behind to briefly follow the course of the **Drau River**, heading toward the famous **Wörthersee**. Shortly before reaching Velden, the itinerary detours into the enchanting **Keutschach Valley (Seental)**: an idyllic area running parallel to the main lake, where a succession of small bodies of water dots the path like a precious string of pearls. This stretch is immersed in greenery and tranquillity, away from the main tourist flows, offering an intimate and authentic perspective of the Carinthian landscape. The stage concludes in **Klagenfurt**, the regional capital. The city welcomes you with its splendid **Renaissance historic**

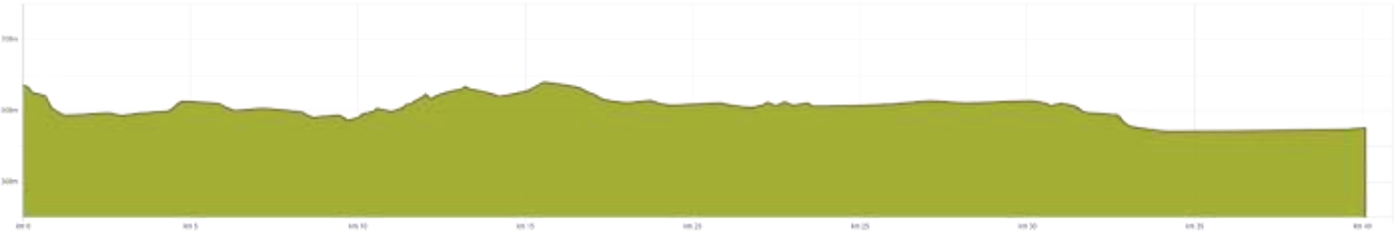
center, where arcaded courtyards, charming cafes, and local shops create a nearly Mediterranean atmosphere. For those seeking culture, the city offers **the Museum of Modern Art and the renovated Museum of Carinthia**. For the perfect view, a climb up the parish church tower rewards you with an **unforgettable panorama** over the entire valley and the surrounding peaks.

Overnight stay and breakfast at Klagenfurt
Distance 45 km/ 72 mi
Ascent /Descent: + 580 m – 450 m



Day 6 Klagenfurt - Ossiacher See – Villach
The final stage of your journey sets off from Klagenfurt, heading north toward Feldkirchen. Just before reaching the town, the itinerary detours toward **Ossiacher See**, the third-largest lake in the region. Nestled in an enchanting mountain setting, this body of water will strike you with **its deep green color**—a unique hue that clearly sets it apart from the lakes visited in previous days. Along its shores, you will find inviting bathing spots and the striking **Ossiach Abbey**, a Baroque jewel that adds **a touch of romance** to the landscape. After enjoying the tranquillity of its banks, you will set off for the final stretch that leads you back to **Villach**, the ultimate destination of this tour. It will be the perfect opportunity to toast the conclusion of this magnificent journey in the heart of the city.

Overnight stay and breakfast in Villach
Distance: 50 km / 80 mi
Ascent /Descent: + 580 m – 450 m



Day 7 End of tour
Breakfast and possibility to extend your stay with a night in Carinthian

Hotels: *** and **** hotels
* The mentioned hotels are an example, but if no availability found, will be chosen an equal quality hotel.

Price per person 2026 in Euro:
Arrivals on 04/05 and on 27/09
In double room: 699,00 €
In double room for single: 948,00 €

Arrivals 05/05 to 19/06 and 07/09 to 26/09

In double room: 789,00 €
In double room for single use: 1.038,00 €

Arrivals from 20/06 to 06/09
In double room: 839,00 €
In double room for single: 1.088,00 €

Bike rental (21 changes, men's and women's model): 99,00 €
Electric bike (unisex model, 500W battery, range up to 100km): 249,00 €
TOP Bike Rental: 149,00 €

The price includes:

- 6 nights in a 3*** or 4*** hotel**** with breakfast
- Videobriefing
- Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- Transfer and ferry only when included
- Detailed maps and travel documents with route information and tips
- Navigation app with GPS tracks and route tips
- Hotline service for the duration of the tour

Not included in the price:

- Arrival at starting point
- Return journey at end of tour
- All lunches and dinners
- Drinks
- Tourist taxes (payable locally) and all extras in general
- Trains, boats, transfers not indicated
- Entrance fees not indicated
- Bicycle hire
- Insurances, which we highly recommend
- Anything not expressly indicated under 'the price includes'.

Bike Rental: Trekking Bike, E-Bike and Top Bike

Cancellation Policy
The traveller who withdraws from the contract, shall be charged for the individual administrative costs, the eventual amount for insurance services or other services already used which were due at the time of signing the contract, cancellation fees charged:

A. Cancellation within 28 days before the tour begins: 20% of the total travel price;
B. Cancellation between 27 and 14 days before the tour begins: 30% of the total travel price;
C. Cancellation between 13 and 8 days before the tour begins: 50% of the total travel price;
D. Cancellation between 7 and 4 days before the tour begins: 70% of the total travel price;
E. Cancellation from 3 days before departure: 95% of the total travel price;
F. "No-show" or cancellation of the already started trip: 100% of the total travel price.

Start / End of tour: Villach / Villach



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