

Europe by Bike 2023



Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and Germany

Overview

- 4 Bike Tours - booked through [biketours.com](https://www.biketours.com)
- 4 Countries - Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Germany
- 9 Cyclists - at different times on the trip
- Self Guided and Guided tours
- Lots of incredible sights, especially the mountains in Switzerland

Trip Planning - What we wanted




- Mainly self guided but not self supported
- Support from a tour company
 - Carry our luggage
 - Make hotel arrangements
 - Provide a biking route
 - Provide information about sights along the way
 - Provide bikes
- We navigate the route from hotel to hotel on our own using information provided by the tour company
- A few days between tours to travel to the next location and build in an extra day or two in case travel plans go awry
- Plan the tour order to make travel efficient from one tour to the next
- Often build in some off bike days in the middle of a tour if we are in a particularly beautiful, scenic place
- Use trains to get from one tour to the next
 - Each country has an app for their train system that makes purchasing train tickets easy

Trip Planning - Finding our Tours

- Bike Tours.com - hundreds of bike tours collected in one place
 - We searched biketours.com for tours that
 - Had scenic beauty,
 - Were in interesting places,
 - Had lots of things to stop and see along the way,
 - Had average mileages of 30 to 35 miles a day and
 - Were places we hadn't biked before
 - Tours are provided by local European tour companies
 - Prices are generally significantly cheaper than many of the US tour companies
- After we decided on our tours we used the provided itinerary and google to find sights to see along the way.

Swiss Lakes by Ebike


- From Lake Geneva to Lake Lucerne
- Averaging 34 miles per day
- Multiple days with 4,000 ft of climbing
- Fabulous mountain views
- Picture perfect scenery and stunning turquoise lakes
- Followed Swiss bike route 3 most of the way
- Mix of separated bike trails, country roads, and village and town traffic
- Two days off the bike in the middle of the tour to explore the surrounding area


8:24   

biketours.com

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL: +1-215-613-0874
TOLL FREE: +1-833-216-0635



BIKETOURS.COM
TWO WHEELS • ONE WORLD








Swiss Lakes by E-bike: Lake Geneva to Lake Lucerne

★★★★★ 4.7/5 (14)

 7 nights
 34 miles/day



 

 Self guided from CHF 1770
Bike tour in [Switzerland](#)

[Book this tour](#)

[Ask a tour advisor](#)

Why book with us?

 SWISS LAKES BY EBIKE 

Where We Went in Switzerland

- Vevy
- Gruyère
- Gstaad
- Interlaken
- Lucerne



Trip Highlights

Chillon Castle
Gruyère
Gruyère Castle



Gorgeous Swiss Scenery



Snowy Mountain Tops in August



Innsbruck to Lake Garda

- Averaging 34 miles per day
- Across the Dolomites to Lake Garda
- Mostly on separated bike trails
- Lots and lots of apple orchards and a few vineyards
- Most days were in the Germanic northern part of Italy

8:31 65%

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"A dream ride through beautiful orchards and vineyards!" —Nancy

Innsbruck to Lake Garda Across the Southern Slopes of the Alps

★★★★★ 4.6/5 (15)

🌙 7 nights
🕒 34 miles/day

📖 Self guided from EUR € 1079
Bike tour in [Austria](#) and [Italy](#)

Book this tour **Ask a tour advisor**

← → + 49 ...

Italy to Lake Garda - Where we Went

- Innsbruck
- Imst
- Malles
- Merano
- Auer
- Trento
- Riva Torbole





Highlights





Lake Garda


- Averaged 35 miles a day
- Based in one hotel
- Day rides to surrounding towns
- Biked out or back and took a train or ferry the other direction
- Bike trails, country roads, village roads and some city riding

9:03 85%

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Lake Garda (based in one hotel)

★★★★★ 4.4/5 (9)

🕒 6 nights
🕒 35 miles/day

📖 Self guided from EUR € 999
Bike tour in [Italy](#)

[Book this tour](#) [Ask a tour advisor](#)

Why book with us?

← → + 49 ...

Lake Garda - Where We Went

- Desenzano
- Trento
- Verona
- Mantua
- Vicinity ride
- Brescia





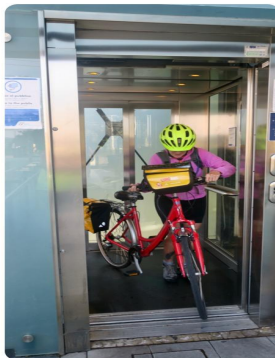
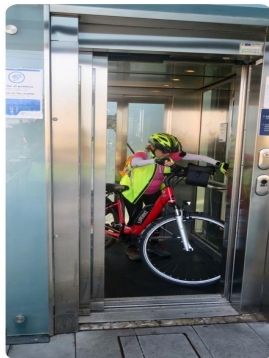
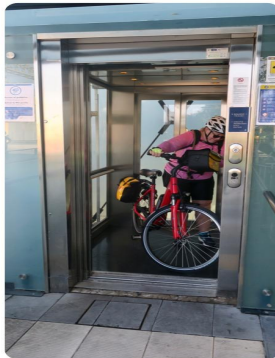
Highlights







Train Station Manou ering



German Wine Country Along the Mosel and Saar Rivers

- Bike and Barge
- Guided
- Averaged 27 miles per day, easy mostly flat riding
- Rode 7 days
- Rode on the bike path along the Mosel and Saar rivers
- Amazing, almost vertical vineyards growing up from the river

9:09 88%

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BIKETOURS.COM
TWO WHEELS • ONE WORLD



German Wine Country along the Saar & Mosel Rivers

★★★★★ 4.5/5 (2)

🕒 7 nights
🕒 27 miles/day

👤 Guided from EUR € 1475
Bike and Boat Tour aboard Zwaan
Countries: Germany

[Book this tour](#) [Ask a tour advisor](#)

Why book with us?

← → + 49 ...

German Wine Country Along the Mosel and Saar

- Cochem
- Zell
- Bernkastel - Kues
- Trier
- Saarburg







Lessons Learned

- Number 1 - have a good navigation app such as Ride with GPS
 - The tour companies app and maps were not sufficient
- Pack good rain gear - you will likely need it
- Be ready to fix small bike issues, tires, adjusting brakes etc.
- Be sure to have a phone with an international plan
 - Navigation on the bike
 - Get around cities, find the right buses, when to change buses and when to get off
 - Finding restaurants
 - Call the tour company if you have a problem
 - Check the weather
- Plan some off bike days to enjoy the area and see sights beyond the bike route

Lessons Learned

- Check the weather at your destination one last time right before you go
- Pack light - one carry on and a personal item.
- If you check luggage take all meds, one riding outfit, and extra underwear on plane with you
- Make sure you can lift your full bag and that you can wheel it for blocks, and blocks, and blocks....