2017 Maratona dles Dolomites Tour

BikePlusTours

The Ultimate Dolomites Cycling Experience

We are pleased to present our 2017 Maratona dles Dolomites Tour. This trip is guaranteed to offer a challenge to even the most avid cyclists. As we are an official travel partner of the Maratona, our trip participants are guaranteed entry in Italy's premier 'Gran Fondo' race. More info is at www.Maratona.it

Our itinerary will give you optimal preparation during the final week before the event, without wearing you out so you can enjoy the great roads, towns and breathtaking scenery of the Dolomites.

One of the things that sets our itinerary apart from those offered by others is that during the cycling days of our tour we'll stay multiple consecutive nights in every hotel. This will give you more time to relax instead of the hassle of daily packing and unpacking.

At a glance

Trip dates: 24 June 2017 to 4 July 2017
Duration: 10 nights / 11 days
Cycling distance: 318 miles Cycling vertical: 47,600 ft
Small group: maximum 16 guests
Supported rides with industry leading 4 to 1 guest to staff ratio
Hotel accommodation with all breakfasts and dinners included
Price: $2,795 per person, single room supplement: $695

MARATONA® DLES DOLOMITES

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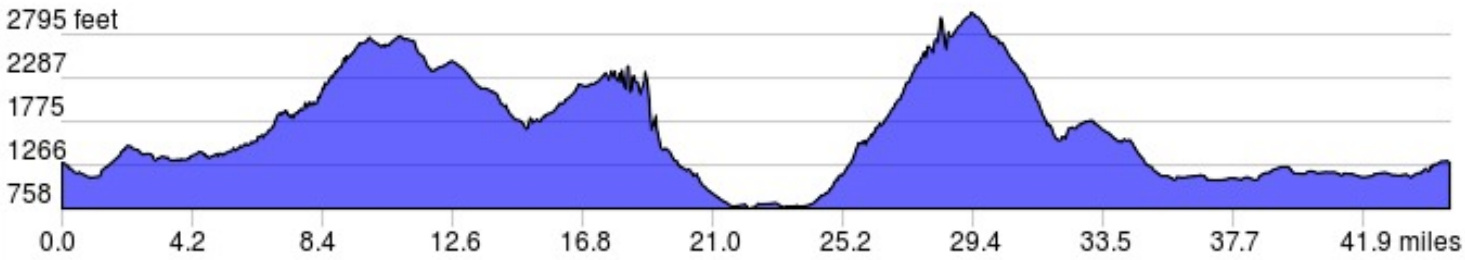
Itinerary and Elevation Profiles

Saturday 24 June: **Departure from the US on an overnight flight to Venice Marco Polo Airport**

Sunday 25 June: **Arrival at Venice airport and group transfer to Belluno. In the afternoon you'll have time to put your bike together and go for a quick test ride.**

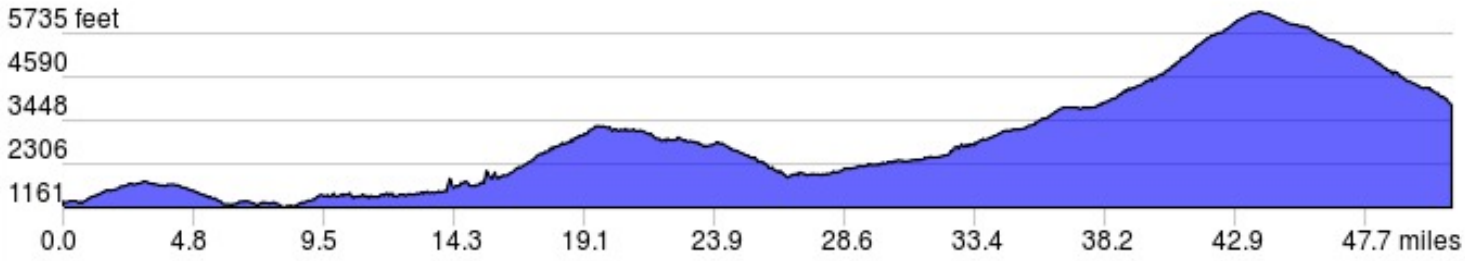
Monday 27 June: **Belluno Loop (45 mi / 6,000 ft)** **Climbs: Pranolz, San Boldo, Praderadego**

Our first stage is short but it packs enough vertical to hopefully get you into climbing mode. Today's highlights include the descent of the San Boldo, with its hairpinned tunnels, and the tough Praderadego climb. We'll be back at our hotel by mid-afternoon so you'll have time for lunch and to explore the town.



Tuesday 28 June: **Belluno - Moena (51 mi / 8,000 ft) Climbs: Franche, Valles**

Today we'll ride to our hotel in Moena, a pretty town which will be our home for the next two nights. There are only two categorized climbs in today's route, but the last one, the infamous 'first category' Passo San Pellegrino will hurt the most as it is almost 20 miles long and very steep near the top. The reward for all this is great scenery on the way up and a long descent almost all the way to our hotel.

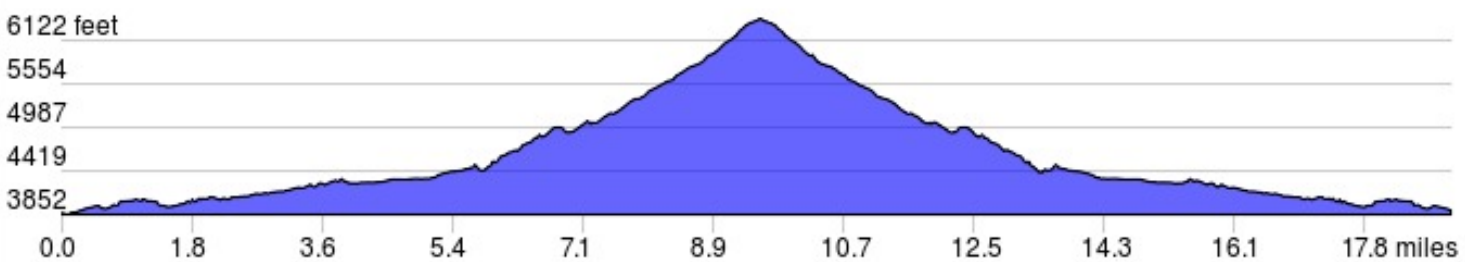


Wednesday 29 June:

On Wednesday we offer two very distinct options:

1. Rifugio Gardeccia (19 mi / 2,800 ft)

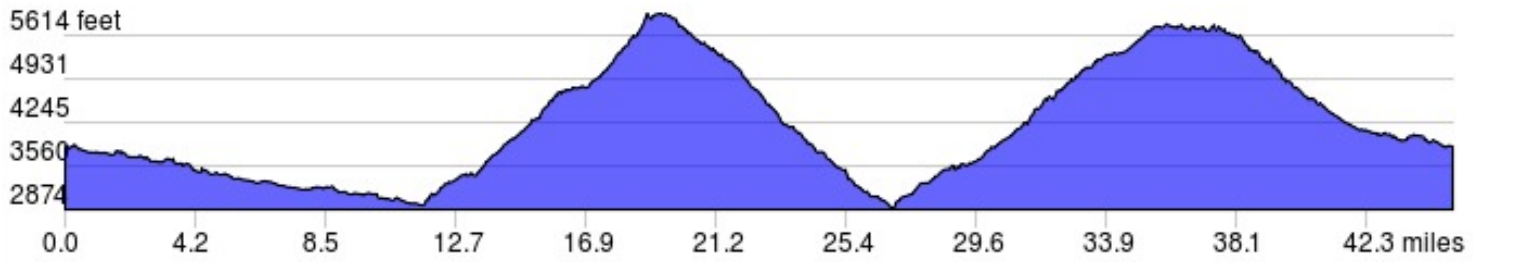
This is a short ride to a high mountain hut on a very steep (up to 16%) and spectacular road closed to car traffic. At the hut you can have a coffee or refreshment before descending back to the hotel. You'll have the afternoon to relax in the hotel's 'wellness' area or spend some time in town.



Itinerary and Elevation Profiles (Continued)

2. Moena Loop (45 mi / 6,200 ft) Climbs: Lavaze and Costalunga

The second option is a loop that starts with a 10 mile gradual downhill stretch followed by two 'first category' climbs, with great views on the way and especially from the summit of the first climb (Lavaze).



Thursday 29 June: Moena - Colfosco

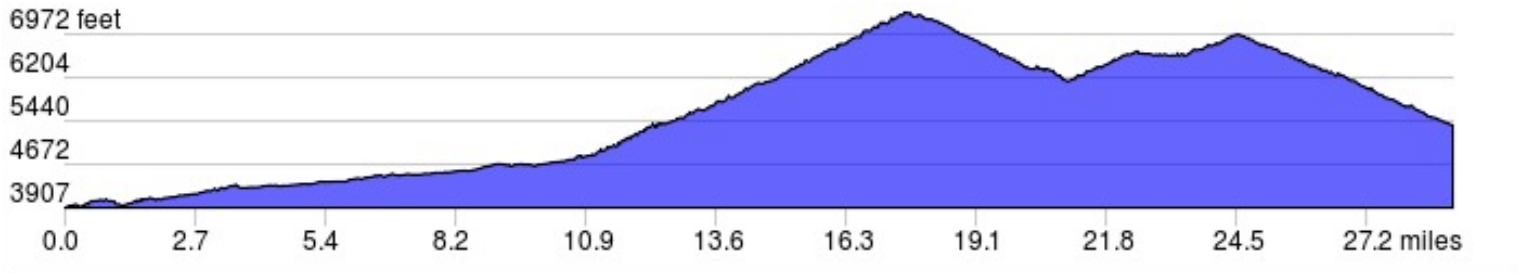
On Thursday we'll ride to our hotel in Colfosco where we'll stay for the next four nights. Again we offer two ride options:

1. Three Passes (57 mi / 8,600 ft) Climbs: Costalunga, Castelrotto, Gardena

A tough route with a steep climb soon after the start. You'll have fun in the long descent to the next climb. The last climb is the longest and busiest, but the views are superb.

2. Maratona Reccie (29 mi / 4,400 ft) Climbs: Sella and Gardena

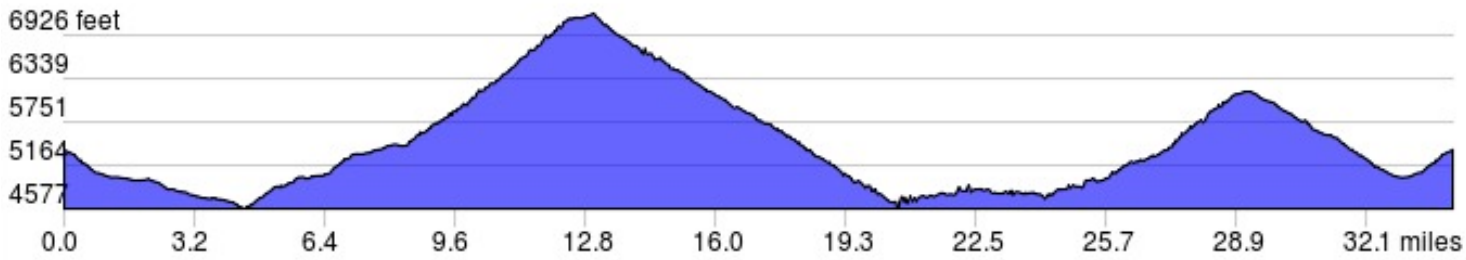
After a 10 mile warm-up we'll start the 'first category' Passo di Sella climb. Halfway up we'll join the Maratona route, which we'll follow all the way to our hotel on the other side of Passo Gardena.



Itinerary and Elevation Profiles (Continued)

Friday 30 June: **Colfosco Loop (34 mi / 4,800 ft) Climbs: Valparola and Campolongo**

Today's loop will take us on another stretch of the Maratona course, albeit in the opposite direction of the race. The first climb is the 'first category' Passo Valparola. At the top there is a nice mountain hut for a coffee stop. Passo Campolongo is a relatively easy climb that brings us to Corvara, the starting point of the Maratona. We'll sign-in for the race and pick up our goody bag on our way back to our hotel.



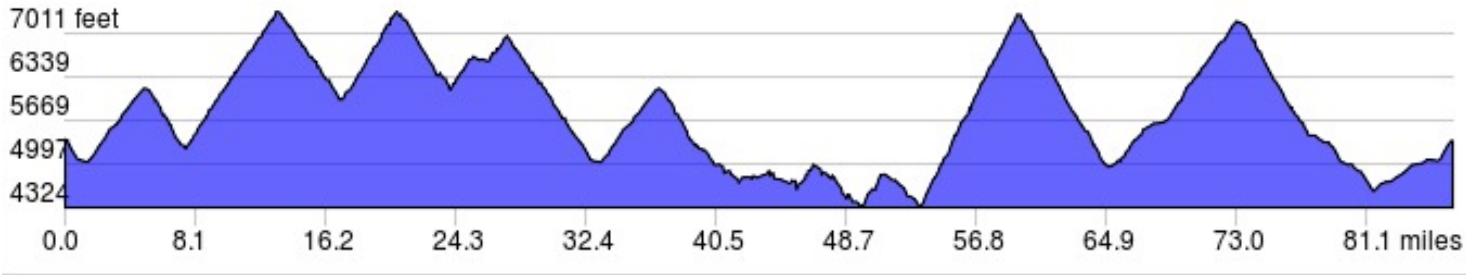
Saturday 1 July: **Rest day. Time to enjoy the 'Maratona' festival in Corvara or relax at the hotel.**

Sunday 2 July: **Maratona dles Dolomites Gran Fondo**

The big day! The hotel will put on a special early breakfast for us. Then it's just over a mile down from our hotel to the start line. There are three routes offered and you can decide during the ride which one to do. All three routes start with the famous Sella Ronda loop.

1. The classic Maratona course (86 mi / 14,000 ft)

The stats tell the story: this is one hell of a ride! Eternal bragging rides if you finish this one.



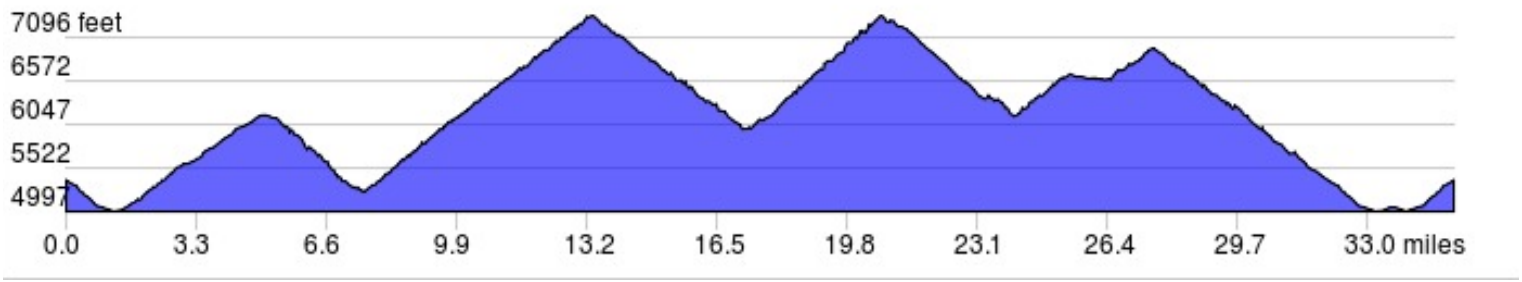
2. The 'medium' Maratona (67 mi / 10,300 ft)

This route is not as hard as the full course, but still not to be underestimated, with the 'first category' climb of the Passo Falzarego at the end.

Itinerary and Elevation Profiles (Continued)

3. The Sella Ronda (35 mi / 5,900 ft) Climbs: Campolongo, Pordoi, Sella and Gardena

This is the classic Dolomites loop with 4 climbs and panoramic vistas along the way.



<u>Monday 3 July:</u> Our Last day in the Dolomites

You can go for an optional last ride in the morning before packing your bike and getting ready for our private bus transfer to our hotel at Venice Airport. We'll have a celebratory dinner in the evening to mark the end of our tour.

<u>Tuesday 4 July:</u> Flight home

The hotel shuttle will take you to the airport for the flight home.

Why BikePlusTours?

15 Years of experience in organizing performance cycling trips in Europe
Routes that combine famous climbs with beautiful local byways
Small group size
Industry leading 4 to 1 guest to staff ratio
Great value for money

Our package includes:

- **Group airport transfers for you, your luggage and your bike**
- **Combined van support and luggage transfer on riding days**
- **Support during the rides from our experienced tour guides on bikes**
- **Two support vehicles**
- **9 nights of ***/**** hotel accommodation on the basis of a double room (single rooms available with supplement)**
- **All dinners and breakfasts**
- **Supplementary water, snacks and fruit on the rides**
- **Laminated cue sheets with detailed directions and altitude profiles**
- **GPS files of all rides**
- **Guaranteed entry spot in the Maratona dles Dolomites Gran Fondo (3rd starting block)**
- **The official Maratona 2017 cycling jersey by Castelli**

Excluded items:

- **Flights to and from Venice Marco Polo Airport**
- **Travel insurance**
- **Lunches, drinks, gratuities and personal expenses**

Price: $2795 per person, single room supplement: $695

Please e-mail Carolyn and Pieter for more information and booking: info@bikeplustours.com

We reserve the right to change this itinerary due to availability of accommodation, road closures, weather or other unexpected circumstances.

Our trips are catered to experienced cyclists with excellent bike handling skills. We ride rain or shine. You will be required to complete all rides by bike. Van transfer is not available except in case of an emergency.

Maratona images courtesy of Maratona dles Dolomites - Enel