

## Peak Rider Adventure - Austria Odyssey Tour 2012 - Itinerary

**Tuesday, 4 Sept** – We begin our tour with an evening departure from the P&O ferry terminal in Kingston-upon-Hull for our overnight mini-cruise to Zeebrugge. Once on board, with bikes secured and gear stowed in our inside cabins, we'll meet for a welcoming drink and a sumptuous buffet evening meal.

**Wednesday, 5 Sept** – Following breakfast we'll disembark in Zeebrugge and motor across Belgium making tracks for the heart of Germany's Pfälzerwald, or Palatinate Forest. This is the highest mileage day on the tour – approximately 330 miles – although with much of it motorway you may wish to make a detour to add local interest to the ride. You might consider a lunch break on the banks of the River Meuse below the cliff-top citadel at Dinant. For those willing to venture a little further off track there is the quintessentially quaint village of Durbuy hidden away in a narrow ravine in a wooded valley.

Upon arrival at our hotel - surrounded by lush vineyards – you'll find a relaxing pool and sauna. Suitably refreshed you may want to enhance your multi-course chef-prepared evening meal with one of the excellent local wines.

**Thursday, 6 Sept** – Our second day on the continent takes us across Germany's Baden-Württemberg region to the Austrian Tirol. By the most direct motorway route it's about 210 miles which gives you the opportunity to do some sightseeing along the way.

Consider a side-trip to the historic market square town centre of Tübingen or head southeast towards Lake Constance and the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen. Perhaps you've always wanted to see Neuschwanstein, southern Bavaria's iconic fairy-tale castle. There are plenty of options to make it a unique day for you.

Our overnight accommodation, at a traditional alpine hotel, comes with a three course evening meal.

**Friday, 7 Sept** – Today we'll cross the spine of the eastern Alps on our way to south central Austria. We'll first head east towards the famous mountain resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, then south via Innsbruck before going east again over the rugged Gerlos Pass.

After roughly 230 miles we'll arrive at our special guest house in Carinthia (Austria's southernmost province) where you'll find the warmest of welcomes. You'll barely have time to remove your helmet and gloves before our English-speaking bike-riding hosts, Ros and John, offer you a freshly poured cold lager.

For the next five nights here we're on half-board so be prepared to swap stories with many new friends over your hearty evening meals.

**Saturday, 8 Sept to Tuesday, 11 Sept** – For four days we'll be exploring from our base in Carinthia with a world of fantastic adventure right on our doorstep. You can do daily ride-outs with your tour leader or strike off on your own. You'll certainly want to transit the iconic Grossglockner High Alpine Road with its unforgettable Edelweisspitze. A foray into the wild Julian Mountains in nearby Slovenia is almost a must. History buffs might wish to take in the breathtaking views from the Kehlsteinhaus in Berchtesgaden.

You can also just kick back a gear and relax if you wish. Take to the hills on the nearby high alpine cable car ride, go for a hike on some of the area's superb walking trails or perhaps float your boat with a leisurely cruise on the Milstätter See. With heaps of good advice and detailed information regarding area attractions Ros and John are dedicated to making our time in Carinthia truly memorable.

**Wednesday, 12 Sept** – Leaving Carinthia we'll return to the North Tirol via the San Leonardo and Timmelsjoch Passes. At the end of today's 245 mile ride we can relax in our hotel's sauna and pool before sharing our day's adventures over the three course evening meal.

**Thursday, 13 Sept** – Our approximately 210 mile day begins with an ascent of the legendary Stelvio, the highest paved pass in the eastern Alps. Cameras at the ready, we'll take a break at the summit for souvenir shopping and the obligatory photographs.

Heading north we'll tackle the forested Umbrail Pass before veering northwest towards Klosters and Davos and winding our way across central Switzerland. Skirting Zurich we'll make tracks for the German border and end our day in Germany's Black Forest. After a breathtaking day like that you'll be ready for a cool drink at our hotel's outdoor café before sitting down to our three course evening meal.

**Friday, 14 Sept** – Our ultimate destination today is Trier, the oldest city in Germany and renowned for the best preserved Roman buildings in the north of Europe. But first we run the Schwarzwaldhockstrasse, the fabled B500 Black Forest High Road with its sweeping bends and amazing ridge-top views. With almost 120 miles on the serpentine B500, our nearly 260 mile day has the potential to be a long one. A prompt morning departure will pay dividends down the road.

Nearing Baden-Baden (so pleased were the locals they named it twice) we head northeast through the French Alsace region towards Trier. Our centrally located hotel doesn't offer dinner but is just steps from many restaurants and bars in the adjacent historic city centre. After passing under the arch of the four storeys high Roman gate you needn't go hungry, or thirsty, for very long.

**Saturday, 15 Sept** – The last leg of our tour takes us across Luxemburg and Belgium to Zeebrugge. On the way to the ferry port you may want to visit the Battle of the Bulge memorial at Bastogne or pop into Circuit Spa-Francorchamps for a souvenir. You may also have time to enjoy a coffee and snack in the historic market square of Bruges.

Once in Zeebrugge we'll make an early evening departure for our overnight mini-cruise to Kingston-upon-Hull. Once again an inside cabin and buffet dinner is included. With bikes secured we can spend a relaxing evening sharing our adventures.

**Sunday, 16 Sept** – Following a hearty on-board breakfast we disembark in Kingston-upon-Hull and end our tour.

**Keen to join us?** Call today to secure your reservation.

**Peak Rider Adventure**

T: 01625 66 99 24

M: 07901 535 812

W: [www.peakrider.com](http://www.peakrider.com)

E: [peakrider@sky.com](mailto:peakrider@sky.com)



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