



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SIGERICO the Via Francigena and lots more

The pilgrims on the Via Francigena must have been awed and relieved as they gazed over the plain after the epic crossing of the Alps. Re-live their feelings with this tour, enjoying the ride up and down one slope after another on minor roads, through woods, old villages and wonderful scenery. Without forgetting that we are in territory of Erbaluce and Carema, which can be tasted in a well-deserved *merenda sinoira* (combined snack and dinner) or with a lunch of traditional local produce.

TYPE	road bike
DIFFICULTY	@@@
TIME	2 days
DISTANCE	about 140 km (65 first day + 75 second day)
TERRAIN	byroads
PLAN	small group with leader (at least 4 adults)
2012 DATES	Friday 25 May/Sunday 27 May Friday 8 June/Sunday 10 June Friday 29 June/Sunday 1 July Friday 3 August/Sunday 5 August Tuesday 14 August/Thursday 16 August Friday 7 September/Sunday 9 September Friday 5 October/Sunday 7 October Friday 19 October/Sunday 21 Octoberother dates agreed for pre-formed groups (at least 4 adults)
PRICE/PERSON	245 Euros in double room 235 Euros in triple room 315 Euros single occupancy double room The price includes: 2 nights in a 3*Lux hotel, breakfast included, bike tour guide and assistance, 2 meals in traditional local restaurants, <i>merenda sinoira</i> (traditional combined snack and dinner)

DAY OF ARRIVAL

You can arrive at Hotel Sirio whenever you want, the important thing is to give yourself plenty of time to have a good night's sleep to be ready for the next day! If you have time, it's worth getting here early: Hotel Sirio is the perfect place for those who love nature and good food. A walk around Lake Sirio or a stroll through the old town of Ivrea are the best way to get yourself into a holiday mood.

FIRST DAY ON BIKE

After going down into the town from Hotel Sirio and crossing the river Dora, we leave Ivrea heading towards the Aosta Valley on the Royal Turin Wine Trail, which in this part is an easy ride on byroads through the country, to the bridge at Tavagnasco (17 kilometres covered). Here, after crossing the river, we meet the Via Francigena as it descends from the Aosta Valley parallel to the main road, passing through the towns and villages at the foot of the steep rocky ridge that borders the valley. From the centre of Settimo Vittone we climb across the hillside, passing in front of the Romanesque Church and Baptistery of San Lorenzo and continue uphill until we reach the road for

Nomaglio-Andrate. When we get to Croceserra (12 km climb covering a height of 870 m), we go downhill towards the Biellese area on a lovely road through the woods that near the village of Sala give way to wide clearings within the borders of the Serra ridge. When we reach the *Taglio Grosso* above Broglina di Magnano, we start the rapid descent that takes us back onto the Canavese side of the Serra to Bollengo. From here after an easy climb to the top of the hill at Burolo, we ride quickly down to Cascina Bedria (55 km covered) for a well-deserved *merenda sinoira* (a real dinner but early) after which we return to Ivrea on easy secondary roads, with 65 km on the clock and having climbed 1600 m.

Programma

- @ 09.30 am meeting with the group and briefing
- @ 10.00 am start of the tour from Hotel Sirio
- @ 12.30 pm lunch
- @ 05.00 pm *merenda sinoira* at Cascina Bedria
- @ 07.00 pm return to Hotel Sirio

SECOND DAY ON BIKE

From Hotel Sirio we go down towards Ivrea town centre and join the Via Francigena that soon leaves the town heading east. After leaving the main track, after a relaxing ride on the flat, we start to climb the moraine between Azeglio and Settimo Rottaro, ready to face the steep climb that takes us to Masino Castle, where the view from the terrace repays us for all our hard work. We set off again on enjoyable back roads that provide an unusual approach to Lake Viverone where a plentiful meal awaits us in an *agriturismo* (farmhouse). After lunch, we start riding along the Via Francigena again, in the direction of Ivrea. After passing through Viverone, set among the Erbaluce vineyards we find real masterpieces of Canavese Romanesque architecture such as the *Gesiun* (big church) at Piverone and the church of San Pietro e Paolo at Bollengo. Continuing along the pilgrims' path in the opposite sense, we return to the hotel in Ivrea by the Panoramic road, where at the end of the day we have ridden 75 km and climbed 950 m.

Programme

- @ 10.00 am start of the tour from Hotel Sirio
- @ 12.30 pm lunch at the agriturismo Tra Serra e Lago
- @ 05.30 pm return to Hotel Sirio

Price per person

in double room 245 Euros

in triple room (3 adults over 14 years old) 235 Euros

in single occupancy double room 315 Euros

The price includes:

- bed and breakfast at Hotel Sirio 3*Lux
- guide and assistance for 2 days biking
- 2 meals in traditional local restaurants (2 courses, 1 glass of wine, water and coffee)
- *merenda sinoira*

Extra nights: in double room 42.50 Euros; in single occupancy double room 75 Euros

Half board supplement: 25 Euros (3 courses, drinks excluded)

Hotel Sirio facilities: car park, bike cleaning and garaging, Wi-Fi charge

2012 Dates

Friday 25 May/Sunday 27 May

Friday 8 June/Sunday 10 June

Friday 29 June/Sunday 1 July

Friday 3 August/Sunday 5 August

Tuesday 14 August/Thursday 16 August

Friday 7 September/Sunday 9 September

Friday 5 October/Sunday 7 October

Friday 19 October/Sunday 21 October

.....other dates agreed for pre-formed groups

N.B. Tours will be arranged as soon as the minimum number of 4 adult group members is reached.



Changes to the itinerary

While we intend to respect the programme shown, slight changes may be made due to organisational reasons or weather conditions, also on the spot.

Diets and special requests

At the time of booking, please state whether you are vegetarian, celiac or have any food allergies, etc. Last-minute requests will not be accepted. In the event of allergies and/or food intolerances we reserve the right to request a medical certificate. It is important for us to be informed of any health problems you may have, in order to best satisfy your needs. We will do our best to satisfy your needs, however we cannot guarantee for the variety of dishes.

Minimum compulsory equipment

- Road bike with all parts in good working order
- Water bottle or camelbak with personal water supply
- Helmet and glasses

What to bring...

We recommend clothing suited to the altitude of the tour, you should not underestimate the differences in temperature that occur during the day. In the central part of the tour you will be riding in a mountainous environment and since the pre-alpine areas are particularly subject to rapid meteorological changes, it is a good idea to have with you windproof/rainproof clothing.

You should also have a camera for the views!

Insurance

Third party liability – included.

Optional healthcare and medical insurance – estimate upon request

TECHNICAL SUPERVISION AND INSURANCE

bike@round by Alterego S.r.l., via F. Chiaves 1/B, 10015 Ivrea (TO), Italy. Certificate of starting business as travel and tourist agency communicated to Ivrea Council (TO): Ref. No. 24545 of 29/09/2011. Insurance policy: Unipol Assicurazioni-Divisione Navale, No. 00100262347.