

South Tyrol: A Cyclists' Mecca

In 2019, the “Tour of the Alps” will once again cast cycling in South Tyrol into the spotlight. South Tyroleans love cycling, and what’s more: They also set new benchmarks through their environmental awareness.

For the third time already, the Tour of the Alps 2019 will lead professional cyclists across five stages and through three states of the European region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino. This time around, the Tour of the Alps will take place from 22 to 26 April. Three stages—on 23 and 24 April and the final stage on 26 April—will take the professional cyclists through South Tyrol.

But pros are not the only ones pedalling hard in our part of the world: Bozen/Bolzano is a genuine cycling capital, because nearly one in three people cycle on a daily basis. There are projects in place all over South Tyrol which aim to popularise bicycles as a means of transportation and integral part of everyday mobility. Here, cycling is the people’s sport, which is promoted with a range of offers and campaigns. **“South Tyrol cycles”**, for instance, is a project by **Green Mobility South Tyrol** (<https://www.greenmobility.bz.it/en/>). In 2018, almost 4,000 cyclists participated: The total distance covered by them on their way to work or to school amounted to a whopping 3.2 million km! Plenty of cycling is not only good for the body, but also for the environment. All that cycling prevented approx. 300 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted into South Tyrol’s atmosphere (<https://www.suedtirol-rad.com>).

Comprehensive bicycle services

Bicycle rentals open for business in early April when the cycling season begins. They are included in the **bikemobil Card**, a low-priced combination ticket for bus and train services as well as rental bikes which is available—and valid—in all of South Tyrol (<http://www.mobilcard.info/en/bikemobil-card.asp>). The bikemobil Card enables holders to rent and return rental bikes at any bicycle rental marked “Südtirol Rad” or “Papin Sport” along the railway line and at the various satellite stations. Both bike rental services offer a wide range of city and mountain bikes as well as e-bikes and racing bikes.



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The bikemobil Card is available as a 1-day, 3-day, and 7-day travel card and can be purchased at all participating bicycle rentals, the tourist offices, and the transport system selling points.

Bicycle transport on a train will be permitted for holders of a separate daily bicycle ticket (7 EUR) if there is sufficient room on the train.

For safety reasons, bicycles may only be transported on a bus if the bus has a separate storage area.

Some bus lines are equipped with special bicycle racks from spring till autumn. The Val Venosta railway, the Vinschger Bahn, will not transport bicycles during that time; however, there is a separate bicycle transport service by truck.

Stations where bicycles may be loaded up are marked with a bicycle symbol in the schedule. Bicycle transport for larger groups may be booked at +39 0473 201500.

At the train stations Naturns/Naturno, Lana-Burgstall/Lana-Postal, and Gargazon/Gargazzone there are bicycle stalls, or “bike boxes”, for safe-keeping. These roofed boxes are lockable and under video surveillance. The bike boxes are another puzzle piece in the modern, innovative mobility concept promoted by South Tyrol. The aim is to create more incentives to facilitate a switch from cars to more sustainable means of transportation.

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More than just bicycles

Green mobility is more of a priority in South Tyrol than elsewhere. Since 2013, **Carsharing Südtirol Alto Adige** has offered an additional environmentally friendly way to travel. Today, there are 23 stations in 11 municipalities, making it quick and easy to pick up a car-sharing vehicle (<https://www.carsharing.bz.it/en/>).

South Tyrol is also expanding its infrastructure for hydrogen-powered vehicles. Researchers at the **H2 Centre** in Bolzano are working to refine possibilities to store hydrogen as a fuel for emission-free vehicles (<http://www.h2-suedtirol.com/en/>). As part of the CHIC project from 2013 to 2016 in Bolzano, five emission-free hydrogen buses took to the streets and are still operational today in Bolzano (www.chic-project.eu).

Cycling tours for every taste

Inviting you to participate and celebrate, South Tyrol's substantial network features approx. 500 km of valley cycle paths and an impressive 2,000 km of official mountain bike tours as well as countless events celebrating life on "two wheels."

The "**Wine and Bike**" themed tours combine cycling with guided vineyard and winery tours all along the South Tyrolean Wine Road (<https://www.suedtiroler-weinstrasse.it/en/experience/wine-cycling.html>).

South Tyrol's cycle path network is also connected to the major long-distance cycling tours. The most famous of these are the "**Via Claudia Augusta**" (<http://www.viaclaudia.org/en/introduction.html>) and the "**Munich-Venice**" (<http://www.muenchen-venezia.info/en/>), with nearly 700 km from Munich through Bavaria, Tyrol, and South Tyrol and terminating in Venice. The "**Augustour**" will take place along a stretch of the route in South Tyrol in late September 2019 (<http://www.augustour.it/en/>).

The planned but yet-to-be-completed **EuroVelo7** long-distance cycling path, which will extend from the North Cape of Norway to Malta, will include stretches of the already open Brennero Cycle Route from Brenner/Brennero to Bozen/Bolzano. The



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entire route network is supposed to be completed by 2020

(<http://www.eurovelo.com/en>).

The **car-free days** are particularly attractive for cyclists. Once a year in Bolzano, but not only there; time and time again, mountain pass roads are closed for motorised traffic and reserved for cyclists instead: the Stelvio Pass and Mendel/Mendola bike days, the Dolomites Bike Day, and the Sellaronda Bike Day, to name but a few.

Modern bicycle mobility classics!

The **#dolomitesvives** project helps promote sustainable mobility in the Dolomites: At the Sella Pass, traffic is limited to a certain number of vehicles per day. The road to the Pragser Wildsee/Lago di Braies is closed for private transport for several hours every day in summer.

The right accommodation for cyclists

In South Tyrol, there are not only the right tour options for every taste, but also the appropriate accommodations: from casual/sporty to luxurious, for race bikers and mountain bikers, the ideal combination of accommodation and tour is available to suit the needs of every type of cyclist. The **Bikehotels Südtirol** website is not limited to hotels only. It also features information about bike schools, bike shops, bike rentals, and cable cars in addition to countless tips and special tours, trails, and cycle paths (www.bikehotels.it/en/south-tyrol.html).

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Cycling events in South Tyrol

17–18 May, South Tyrol

Giro d'Italia (<http://www.giroditalia.it/eng/>)

1 June, Glurns/Glorenza

5th Ortler Bike Marathon (<http://www.ortler-bikemarathon.it/en/>)

15 June, Gröden/Val Gardena

Hero Bike Festival (<http://www.herodolomites.com/en/homepage>)

22 June, Gröden/Val Gardena – Alta Badia

14th Sellaronda Bike Day (<https://www.sellarondabikeday.com/en.html>)

7 July, Alta Badia

Maratona dles Dolomites (<https://www.maratona.it/en/>)

13 July, Three Peaks

24th Dolomiti Superbike (<http://www.dolomitisuperbike.com/en>)

21–27 July, South Tyrol

Giro delle Dolomiti (<http://www.girodolomiti.com/>)

21 July, St. Vigil in Enneberg/San Vigilio di Marebbe

Kronplatz King – MTB marathon at the Kronplatz/Plan de Corones
(<https://www.kronplatzevents.com/en/Kronplatz-King>)

For general information on South Tyrol, please go to <https://www.suedtirol.info/en>

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