

## From Nice to Genova by bike

8 days / 7 nights

Exceptional journey along the Ligurian Sea, from the French Cote d'Azur to Genova. We will cycle most of the way along the coast and along some stretches of the new bicycle lanes. The sea remains with us all of the way, as we follow in part the route of the ancient Via Julia Augusta. The Mediterranean landscapes and the views of the sea will remain as unforgettable souvenirs.

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### Day 1 - individual arrive to Nice

Nice awaits you with its beautiful promenade des Anglais, the heart of the city where you can meet street artists, it's trendy bars and, above all, the beach overlooking the azure-blue sea. The most characteristic corner of Nice is the old city: a maze of lanes, alternating between charming restaurants and shops of local handicrafts, which open onto small and picturesque squares.

#### Day 2 - Nice – Ventimiglia

This is the day of the 3 countries: in the morning we reach the principality of Monaco, then we continue on to Menton, and finally we ride into Italy, to Ventimiglia, where we spend the night. We follow the boardwalk which brings us to Cap Martin and the ancient path of customs officers ("le sentier des douaniers"). The path is surrounded by nature, nestled between the sea and the Mediterranean. The promontory is dominated by the castle of Roquebrune, and is a true paradise for nature lovers. From Cap Martin we descend quickly to Menton, where we can spend some time to visit the city, before arriving into Italy. About 42 Km

#### Day 3 - Ventimiglia – Bordighera - San Lorenzo - Imperia

We follow a beautiful bike path that leads to San Remo, one of the most renowned holiday resorts of western Liguria, also known as the city of flowers. After San Remo we reach Bussana; if you have time, you can continue with a 3km climb that leads to Bussana Vecchia, where now resides a community of artists who have restored some of the houses destroyed by the earthquake of 1887; you can visit the romantic ruins of the church and the stone houses of the late medieval period, as well as having a magnificent sea view. From San Lorenzo, the road leaves the coast and leads you into the hinterland of Liguria. A not too hard a climb takes you to Civezza, which enjoys a privileged location on top of a hill surrounded by olive groves. From here a nice descent brings us to Imperia where we spend the night. About 49 km.

#### Day 4 - Imperia – Diano - Cervo - Alassio 44 km

On this stage we continue to ride through small towns and villages on the coast, which can become very lively in July and August, such as Diano Marina and San Bartolomeo. Some of these places are well worth a visit. One of the most characteristic is the village of Cervo, which seems suspended above the sea. From here on, the country seems to dive directly into the water, and you need to get to Marina di Andora to find a suitable beach. You should take a little break here, maybe for a short bathe, before taking the path that leads inward. You will have some climbing to do in Merula valley to overcome the hills in Villalunga, before descending to Alassio, where we spend the night.

About 44 km

#### **Day 5 - Alassio - via Julia Augusta - Albenga - Verezzi – Finale or surroundings**

From Alassio we follow the ancient Roman road Via Julia Augusta up to Albenga, a very suggestive way, which preserves part of the original roman footsteps. In Borghetto we leave the coast for a first turn inward, relatively flat, towards the villages of Toirano and Boissano. Regained the sea, we proceed along the coast through the fishing villages of Pietra Ligure, and Borgio. Here begins the final climb of the day, about 200 vertical meters that lead us, from Verezzi until Gorra, then it's all downhill to Finalborgo, whose medieval walls have been preserved to this day; it's worth to take a break walking in the streets of the historic core of the village, overlooked by fifteenth-century and Renaissance buildings. We are now in sight of the beach of Finale, the ultimate goal of this stage.

About 44 km.

#### **Day 6 - Finale - Savona**

The route is flat up to Finalpia, then we go up to the plateau of Manie, from which we reach the sea at Noli Ligure, through a quiet street surrounded by woods. Noli is a small village by the sea, nestled among the hills on which stand the ruins of his castle. To achieve Spotorno we can follow the direct route by taking a walk along the beach or up the road to the castle of Noli, continue until Vezzi Portio and from there we take the road downhill, which brings us up to Spotorno. We continue on the coast to Torre del Mare, then up again above the sea to Bergeggi and back down in Vado Ligure; finally the beautiful waterfront brings us to Savona, where we spend the night.

About 34 km

#### **Day 7 - Savona – Arenzano – train to Genova**

We follow the seafront to Albissola, the beach is backed by extensive bathing establishments which invite us to our first stop. Continuing along the coast we reach the beach of Celle Ligure and then the beautiful town of Varazze, with a wide promenade framed by historic buildings. Then we follow the last stretch of bike path that comes with a short interval, until Arenzano. The path has been drawn by nineteenth century old railway, converted to a cycle path following the disposal of the tracks, it winds through tunnels, stone bridges and picturesque steps overlooking the sea. We end our bicycle journey in Arenzano; load the bikes

on the train and comfortably reach the Ligurian capital of Genova, to spend the last night.

About 24 km

#### **Day 8 - Time for departure**

Departure after the breakfast in the hotel.

## **Additional information**

### **TARIFFS**

Price from 1399 euros per person.

### **OPTIONS**

Single room supplement : 340 euros per person.

Rental Ebike : 300 euros per person.

Rental bike (21-speed bike free-wheel + 1 pannier bag & 1 tool kit) : 160 euros per person.

High Season supplement (June, July, August and first week of September) : 100 euros per person.

#### **INCLUDED**

- 5 nights in 3\*, 1 night in 2\* & 1 night in 4\* hotels
- Bed and Breakfast
- Baggage transfer from hotel to hotel (1 piece of luggage per person),
- GPX tracks
- Best elaborated route
- 7 days Service Hotline

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Trip to Nice and from Genova
- lunches & dinners
- Local taxes
- everything not specified in the trip dossier

#### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

The route is mainly on roads with low traffic, and in some parts on protected cycle path; there are some climbs to avoid busy roads, and some short stretch on busy road.

#### **CARRYING**

Baggage transfer from hotel to hotel (1 piece of luggage per person)

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

5 nights in 3\*, 1 night in 2\* & 1 night in 4\* hotels / Bed and Breakfast

#### **SIZE OF GROUP**

2 people minimum

#### **DEPARTURES**

Every Saturday from beginning of April until beginning of October

#### **DEPARTURE**

At your arrival at the hotel in Nice.

#### **DISPERSION**

In the morning of the 8th day, after breakfast

#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

The international Nice Airport has direct flights to most major cities in Europe.

Nice is connected to the rest of France via the SNCF train network. Trenitalia trains connect Nice to Italian cities like Milan, Genoa, Rome and Venice. There is also a weekly long-distance night train from Moscow, making stop-overs in Minsk, Warsaw

and Vienna.