

Bavaria, Austria & Slovenia Tour Wednesday 9th July – Sunday 20th July

Welcome to the White Rose **'Bavaria, Austria & Slovenia' Tour**, we hope you enjoy your holiday. To help yourself and your traveling companions, please read this Information Pack, as it will help to explain how to get the best out of your tour, and what to expect. You should have received a White Rose motorcycle sticker; we would ask that you fix this to your bike/luggage for the duration of the tour – this will help identify yourself to fellow riders and your escort.

As this tour was billed as an escorted tour suitable for experienced riders who have ridden on the continent before, and due to the size of the group we feel sure everyone will be happy to make their own way, either riding with friends or in small groups. As with all our escorted tours, we supply all the relevant information you will need to reach your destination, including hotel locations, and proposed route. The route is not compulsory but does mean that if you breakdown or get lost, you are more likely to see other members of the tour who can help. Routes are designed to be a compromise between making progress, admiring the scenery and enjoying some great biking roads.

If you intend to follow the proposed route, we suggest you familiarise yourself with it (GPX format) and make some notes to help you along the way or whatever makes it easier for yourself, as everyone has their preferred way of doing things. If taking an alternative route, please advise your escort before departure and we would ask that you arrive at the hotel in time to check-in, get changed and have your evening meal (normally around 7pm). We will automatically email the GPX routes to those who have given us a current email address.

If you do wish to ride with the escorts you are welcome to do so, but should be aware that riding in a large group is very slow (allowing for fuel stops, coffee breaks, toll booths, etc. an **average** of 45mph is normal), so as indicated you will make better progress if you split-up and ride with friends or riders of a similar style. Even riding with the escort, it is your responsibility to have maps, and route notes out and know where you are at all times. You should also be sure to read the enclosed notes on 'Group Riding'. You should always follow the group and not your own satnav. **Unless told otherwise, the group usually departs at 0900am.**

Once at the location, please feel free to do as much or little as you wish - after all, this is your holiday. Your escort will be able to advise you on routes and local attractions. Any ride-outs will be guided and will use the 'drop-off' system as detailed in the 'Group Riding' document.

The accommodation we use on this tour is mainly 3 and 4-star qualities, and whilst hotels in Europe are generally very biker-friendly, we like to make a good impression so would ask that you dress smart but casually, with no sleeveless T shirts, shorts or tracksuit bottoms in the dining room. Please note that although we reserve the room type you have requested, it is quite common for Double rooms to have twin beds. To avoid lengthy descriptions of the hotels facilities which can be considerable, we have included their website addresses so that you can read everything first hand.

We usually eat as a group between 7pm-8pm and time for each hotel is specified. Evening meals that are included will be either a fixed menu or buffet style.

This Tour Pack should contain all the information you need, but if there is anything you are not sure about, or you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you have not already done so, we would ask you to fill-in and return the Personal Details Form to our office ASAP.

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Wednesday 9th July Home – Hull

Today, those taking the **Northern departure** should make your way to the P&O ferry terminal at Hull, where you will board the overnight ferry to Europoort, Holland. We suggest you refuel before boarding, as there are obvious fuel stations entering Hull, you will need to fuel on A63 a few miles out or go past the ferry entrance to the next roundabout where there is a BP station. Check-in starts at **1500 hrs**, embarkation starts at **17:00 hrs**. Check–in closes 90 minutes before departure, and the boat sails at **2030hrs**.

Everyone has their own individual reservation number, so if stopped and asked if you are in a group say **no**, then proceed to check-in where you should quote the reservation number, we have given you to receive your tickets and cabin allocation.

However, difficulties can sometimes occur when two people sharing a cabin arrive separately. Over the years we have talked to P&O to try preventing this, but it obviously beyond their organisational skill to do this, so if sharing a cabin please arrive at <u>1530hrs</u> and locate one another before the check-in gate, and check-in together.

Once on-board you will need to get your cabin key from the relevant collection point. P&O no longer consider it their responsibility to secure your bike, leaving you to do it yourself. They do supply a fastening, (rope or strap) but you may wish to take your own ratchet strap. I usually put the bike on the side stand, in 1st gear, and then pass the ratchet strap over the seat, making sure the ratchet is at the side stand side.

We hope to see you on the dockside but if not, I suggest you pay a visit to the "Sky Lounge bar" - DECK 12 between 1800-1900 hrs where you can meet your fellow riders and escorts, we can also answer any questions you may have.

Your package does not include any meals on the ferry, however there is a choice of restaurants – the most popular being 'The Kitchen', which is in the form of a help-yourself buffet. If you would like something less substantial, Soup, Pasties, Pizza etc. are available from the coffee shop from 8pm onwards. There are several bars and an evening cabaret, but please do remember you are riding the next day, and it's not unknown for the police to breathalyse motorists on arrival. Don't forget to put your watch forward 1 hour to European time.

<u>Thursday 10th July</u> Calais – Troyes (250 miles) Europoort – Troyes (343 miles)

Unless you have arranged differently, those who have chosen the **Southern crossing** should arrive at the **Folkestone Eurotunnel terminal** no later than **0636hrs** for a **0736hrs** departure. (Arrive 0911hrs French time). Please see the sheet in your tour pack for your reservation numbers.

If you arrive early, you may be given the option to travel on an earlier train. If you wish to do so, please go ahead, but if you wish to travel with other members of the tour, you should choose the reserved time and enter the terminal parking area until called. You should be able to identify you're travelling companions via bike type, registrations and White Rose sticker. I suggest you refuel before departure, there is a station at the French side of the tunnel, but the exit can send you out the wrong way.

Those going via Rotterdam will have time for breakfast before the ferry docks approx. 08:00 hrs. Once ashore, if you wish to travel with your guide please wait after the passport control. If you are making your own way, **please** let the guide know whilst on the ferry then he is not waiting for you.

Whichever route you have taken, once at the hotel, the group will be complete, and there will be time for drinks and introductions before we sit down to our evening meal (fixed menu) at **1930 hrs.**

Best Western Golf De La Foret d'Orient **** Route de Geraudot Rouilly Sacey

10220 Piney Tel: 00 33 3 25 43 80 80 http://hotel-foret-orient.com/en/home.html

This 4-star hotel is set in the heart of Foret d'Orient and has its own Golf course. Facilities include a large bar area, sun terrace and undercover outside swimming pool.

Friday 11th July

Troyes to Radolfzell (282 miles)

We start our day with a cross-country ride across the Champagne region and into the Vosges Mountains. You should be aware that at the start of the day, there is not a lot in the way of places to stop for refreshments etc. Once in the Vosges Mountains we pick up some great biking roads before dropping down to the plains to cross over the Rhine. Passing through Freiburg we enter the southern Black Forest to our next destination on the shores of lower Lake Constance. **3 Star Hotel, Dinner 19:30 hrs, B&B**

Hotel K99 Kasernenstraße 99, 78315 Radolfzell am Bodensee, Germany https://www.hotel-k99.de/en/hotel-k99-radolfzell/

Saturday 12th July

Radolfzell to Berchtesgaden (283/300 miles)

An early start is recommended today to make the most of everything on offer as we ride next to Lake Constance to meet up with the **Deutsch Alpen Strasse** (Albeit an altered version). One of the most scenic roads Bavaria has to offer as it twists and turns across the German – Austrian border with breathtaking scenery, ever popular with the BMW owners club annual meeting. The fairy tale **Neuschwanstein Castle** been one of attractions on offer best viewed from Marien Brücke (Mary's bridge), the bridge can get extremely busy and can be very time consuming so please plan ahead if you want to visit. A way point has been included in the GPX file for a decent place for picture of the castle from the road. Also, the **Tatzelwurm Waterfall** is worth a visit if time dictates, as we head to our hotel for the next 2 nights in the historic town of Berchtesgaden. **4 Star Hotel, B&B**

Alpina Ros Demming Sunklergässchen 2 83471 Berchtesgaden Germany https://www.alpina-hotels.de/demming/

Sunday 13th July

Free Day

For those who want a day off the bikes as we get to explore this historic town, the obvious attraction would be a visit to the **'Eagles nest'**. An engineering marvel built in 1938 built by the Nazi's then repurposed as a mountain restaurant with some spectacular views. Not accessible by road to the public since the 50's, a bus service runs several times a day taking you to the top for a drink and something to eat whilst admiring the views of the Obersalzburg and Lake Konigsee. Bear in mind this being a Sunday there is a reduced service so please check the website and plan before your visit. For those who want to go out riding, being in the Berchtesgaden National Park you are never far away from spectacular scenery or mountain roads with a visit to Lake Konigssee an option. Those who wish to travel a bit further afield can visit the Hohenwerfen Fortress, famous for featuring in the Sound of Music (roughly a 40-minute ride). A full list of activities available at the link below.

https://www.berchtesgaden.de/en/home

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Monday 14th July

Berchtesgaden to Kranjska Gora (197 miles)

As we say farewell to Bavaria, we head south towards Zell Am See and ride south on the Grossglockner. If you have never ridden the **Grossglockner** we can highly recommend it, we have also included the **Nockalmstrasse** in the route. The Nockalmstrasse is lesser known but still definitely worth a visit, 34km of Alpine Road which meanders across the Nockberge national park. We then continue towards Villach crossing into Slovenia via the Wurzen pass.

Hotel Kranjska Gora **** Vrsiska cesta 38 SI-4280 Kranska Gora Slovenija Tel: +386 (4) 588 15 20

Your hotel in Slovenia is situated at the edge of **Kranska Gora**, which is a small ski resort under the shadow of Mt. Triglav. Here you can unwind and enjoy the hotel facilities, which include a fitness centre containing a sauna, steam bath, solarium, and swimming pool. **4-star hotel**, **B&B**.

Tuesday 15th July

(free day)

Our two-night stay gives you chance to tour the area in more detail. The Triglav National Park has many interesting roads. Being on the border with Italy and Austria there are many great roads to ride including the challenging Mangart Pass (not for the faint hearted). If you would like a day off the bikes you can stroll into town, take a cable car, or just enjoy the great facilities of the hotel. **4-star hotel, B&B.**

Wednesday 16th July

Kranjska Gora to Bolzano (184 miles)

Our planned route takes us through Italy as we then travel west past Cortina and through the Dolomites to our next overnight stop in Bolzano. **3-star hotel, Dinner at 19:30 hrs, B&B.**

Chrys Hotel *** Via della Mendola 100-39100 Bolzano, Italy Tel: +39 0471 921121 https://chryshotel.it/

The hotel is situated in a quiet location on the outskirts of Bolzano. The hotel has a spa area, sun terrace and gardens where you can relax and enjoy a drink after a hard day.

Thursday 17th July

Bolzano to Feldkirch 145/152/262

Two different riding choices today either the **Reschen pass** (145) via **Timmelsjoch** (152) or maybe via the **Brenner** pass (262). The Reschen pass is scenic as it passes through apple orchards but can be a little frustrating due to congestion. The Brenner is the longest and uses mainly motorway so would not be my first choice. Weather permitting the best route and the one on the satnav is the Timmelsjoch. Once through Merano (bit of a nightmare) the route takes you into Austria via the **Timmelsjoch High Alpine road (2474m)** before passing the popular ski town of Solden and back to the A12 motorway. From here you will head due west through the **Alborg** tunnel to an overnight stop in Feldkirch. If times allows you can miss out the Alborg tunnel by going over the Alborg pass or via the Silvretta pass.

Our hotel tonight is 4 star and set in the medieval town of Feldkirch. The hotel like us to park neatly around the hotel entrance, but please do not block it. Motorcycles are not allowed in the carpark alongside the hotel. **4-star hotel, B&B**

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Friday 18th July

Feldkirch to Nancy (257 miles)

Continuing westwards we pass the shores of Lake Constance and through the southern Black Forest, re-entering France as we cross the Rhine near Colmar. Our route then takes us through the Vosges Mountains to our next stop on the southern outskirts of Nancy. Your hotel is

Ibis Styles Nancy sud Houdemont (Novotel) *** 8 Allee de la Geneliere 54180 Houdemont Tel: 0033)3 83561025 http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-0408-ibis-styles-nancy-sud-ex-novotel/index.shtml

Hotel facilities include all the usual facilities, such as AC, hairdryers, TV and Wi-Fi. There is a bar area and outside terrace with heated pool. Evening meal (fixed menu) is again included. **3-star hotel, Dinner at 19:30 hrs, B&B.**

Saturday 19th July

Nancy to Calais/Rotterdam (318/310 miles)

Today, we say goodbye to our fellow riders as we leave for the ferry port of our choice. Those using the Southern crossing (316 miles) will be at Calais no later than **1436hrs** for a **1536hrs** departure. (Arrive 1511hrs Local time). Whilst those on the Northern crossing (312miles) head for Rotterdam and their overnight ferry. Check-In opens at 1600hrs at Europoort, with embarkation beginning at 1700hrs. Check-In closes 90 minutes before departure time.

Sunday 20th July

Hull to home

The ferry docks at approx. 0800hrs, giving us time to have breakfast before making our way home.

<u>Germany & Austria</u>

Currency is Euro Vignette required for our time in Austria. 4.90 Euro for 10 days, can be purchased from a garage whilst we are there.

<u>Slovenia</u>

Currency is the Euro. Vignette required for the use of motorways – 15 euro for 7 days.

Main attractions

Neuschwanstein Castle – a 19th century fairy tale castle in the foothills of the alps, built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria. **Linderhof Palace** – Palace in the south west of Bavaria, the smallest of 3 palaces built by King Ludwig II. **Kehlsteinhaus** – Also known as the Eagles nest, Mountain top restaurant in Berchetsgaden.

Ljubljana – capital of Slovenia, city of 10 castles and numerous palatial buildings.

Koper – Slovenia's coastal centre – strong Italian influence

Lake Bled – popular tourist town with the famous lake and island castle.

Kranjska Gora – Alpine village in the shadow of Triglav the highest peak in the national park named after it. From here you have instant access to the beautiful scenery and great biking roads of the Julian Alps.