

Dolomites Adventure ★ 4.76 99 Reviews

Dolomites Adventure

9 Days

14 People Max



You're invited on our Dolomites Adventure hiking tour that'll bring you to a quieter time as you explore Italy's Dolomite Mountains, filled with charming villages and breathtaking landscapes.

Indulge your senses as you hike amongst the Dolomite Alps, let fresh air fill your lungs, wildflowers tease your nose, and local wine and cheese tempt your tastebuds on our 9-day Dolomites Adventure. Starting and finishing in Venice, you'll enjoy nine incredible days of exploring the hidden secrets of the Dolomites. Wander through charming villages like Cortina and Dobbiaco, circumnavigate the soaring peaks of Tre Cime de Lavaredo, discover why Alta Badia is known as the 'heart and soul' of the Dolomites and challenge yourself with a Via Ferrata atop Cinque Torri. And yet, the Dolomites with Active Adventures is so much more than outstanding landscapes and adventure. You'll experience the incredible hospitality of the local Ladin people, stay in very comfortable mountain hotels and have the chance to taste the amazing variety of local food and wine.

Trip Highlights

Hiking - Tre Cime di Lavaredo

Hiking - Fannes Sennes Braies National Park

Hiking - Setsass Dolomiti Range

Hiking - Via ferrata Sass di Stria

Biking - Cortina to Dobbiaco

Plus ... - A UNESCO World Heritage area

Plus ... - Monte Lagazuoi WW1 Tunnels

Plus ... - Ladin culture

Plus ... - Local Dolomite families stay

Our Active Adventures Assurance

We value loyalty, and appreciate that it goes both ways. So when you book with us we'll make a few assurances to you so you can book with complete confidence, no matter what's happening in your life (or the world).



COVID-Ready Certified: Safe Travel for our Guests Travelling Overseas
Active Adventures has received the World Travel and Tourism Council's Safe Travels stamp, which guarantees you that we'll follow all ATTA and WTTC health and safety guidelines on all our trips. See how our small group, off-the-beaten-track adventures are perfect to start exploring again.

Dolomites Adventure ~ Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive Venice, hike near Cortina d'Ampezzo

Our trip begins in Venice, one of the most iconic cities in the world. We'll meet you at Venice Marco Polo Airport and make our way towards Cortina d'Ampezzo in the heart of the Dolomites. As we head north, the foothills rapidly steepen and become more colorful around every corner. Amidst rolling green meadows and high rock monoliths, Cortina village is one of the most picture-perfect mountain towns in the world. There's almost not a blade of grass, roof tile, or street cobblestone out of place. Once we arrive in town we'll walk to a local restaurant for lunch, where you'll have the opportunity to try the local beetroot ravioli! After lunch, we'll take an introductory hike to the Cascade di Fanes and this afternoon you'll have a chance to briefly explore the cobbled streets of the iconic mountain town of Cortina before dinner.

Hotel Franceschi, Cortina (Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 5 kilometers (3.1 miles), 2-2.25 hours, elevation +/- 150 meters (492 feet)

DAY 2

Hiking circumnavigation of Tre Cime de Lavaredo

Today we'll circumnavigate the most iconic landmark in the Dolomites - the soaring peaks of Tre Cime de Lavaredo. First climbed in the 1930s, these three massive rock monoliths, that seemingly rise out of nowhere in isolation from other peaks, loom large high over the valleys below. It's difficult to look away! If there's one thing to peel your attention away from the scenery, it's a family-made lunch in an Italian refugio, followed by the best espresso you'll ever receive. Later, as we hike further around the peaks, their shape and form evolve with every step - the views keep getting better! Keep an eye out for bunkers and old barracks on the trail today, as this area is dotted with reminders of the First World War. After our hike, we'll drive a short distance back to Cortina d' Ampezzo.

Hotel Franceschi, Cortina (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 13 kilometers (8 miles), 5-7 hours, elevation +/- 610 meters (2,000 feet)

DAY 3

Bike from Cortina to Dobbiaco or free day in Cortina

This morning we'll ride along the converted Val di Landro railway line - once the only communication link between the towns of Calalzo, Cortina and Dobbiaco on the Austrian border. Non-operational since the 1960s, this route cuts through some of the most iconic and dramatic scenery in the Dolomites. We'll ride over iron bridges that skirt deep canyons, through tunnels and across gentle passes that afford dramatically beautiful views of some of the Dolomites' steepest peaks, including Tre Cime de Lavaredo. If you prefer, there's plenty of free time in Cortina to relax and tonight you'll have the evening free to choose from one of the many restaurants for dinner.

Hotel Franceschi, Cortina (Breakfast, Lunch)

Biking: Optional: 54 kilometers (34 miles), 5-7 hours, elevation +/- 289 meters (950 feet)

DAY 4

Hike Cortina to Rifugio Fodara Vedla

Today we'll begin our hike into the heart of the Fanes-Senes-Braies Natural Park. After a short drive deeper into the mountains, we'll set off on the trail, following the turquoise Boite River higher up the Valon Scuro with the massive Piccola Croda Rossa looming large above us. We'll have lunch at Rifugio Senes and afterward, it's an easy 1-hour hike down to our accommodation for the night at Fodara Vedla, a rifugio surrounded by massive peaks to the south, east and north, and the vast Vallone di Rudo to the west. For those who are keen on more hiking today, we'll hike above Fodara Vedla to Col de Lasta where we'll be greeted by 360-degree views of the highest peaks in the Dolomites. Every way you look you'll be blown away by orange and red spires, including the imposing Croda Rossa (10,320 feet), saturated in the late afternoon light. It's a sight to behold!

Refugio Fodara Vedla (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 13.7 kilometers (8.5 miles), 4-6 hours, elevation + 920 meters, elevation - 300 meters (984 feet)

Hiking: Optional: 5.3 kilometers (3.2 miles), 1-3 hours, elevation + 490 meters (1,608 feet), elevation - 130 meters (426 feet)

DAY 5

Hike to Refugio Fanes

The morning light here in Fodara Vedla lends itself kindly to the peaks immediately surrounding this small hamlet - it's worth getting up early for! After breakfast, we'll hike down through the larch fir forest and into the Pederu valley. As we descend the valley, the towering peaks of the Lavinore Range reveal themselves in dramatic red and yellow - typical coloring of the Dolomite rock. After a mid-morning break at Refugio Pederu, we'll head deeper into the natural park and ascend the Vallone di Rudo and into a wide open basin, home to Refugio Lavarella, a comfortable family-run mountain hotel. This place is in an incredible setting, surrounded by massive peaks and small alpine lakes. After lunch, it's an easy stroll to Refugio Fanes, through the moonlike landscapes of the Pian Dies Sarens trail to Passo di San Antonio, where we'll spend the night. If you'd like, you can join us for an extra hike this afternoon taking advantage of the many trails within the Vallone di Rudo or simply relax at the Refugio. Later we'll have the chance to sit back on the deck of our refugio and enjoy an espresso or glass of wine while soaking up the incredible vistas.

Refugio Fanes (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 7 kilometers (4.3 miles), 3-5 hours, elevation + 700 meters (2,300 feet), elevation - 620 meters (2,040 feet)

Hiking: Optional: 9 kilometers (5.5 miles), 3-5 hours, elevation +/- 426 meters (1,398 feet)

DAY 6

Hike to Alta Badia

Today we'll hike out of the Fanes-Sennes-Braies Natural Park, on to the Gran Fanes plateau, and drop down and over the Col de Locia. The landscape here changes around every corner - from sweeping meadows and steep rocky ridges to deep valleys of larch forest. The final stages of today's hike bring us down to Alta Badia - often described as the "heart and soul" of the Dolomites. With tiny villages dotted along the valley, this region is a step back in time, and picture postcard beautiful. Our home for the next couple of evenings is the village of San Cassiano at the head of the valley.

Hotel Conturines or similar, San Cassiano (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 11.4 kilometers (7 miles), 5-6 hours, elevation + 250 meters (820 feet), elevation - 650 meters (2,132 feet)

DAY 7

Hike the Setsass Dolomiti Range

This morning we'll drive a short distance to the Valparola Pass, where we'll set off on a hike on the Setsass Dolomiti Range. This magnificent high ridgeline trail affords superb 360-degree views the whole way. No matter which way you turn, you'll have the highest

peaks in the Dolomites up close and personal and on show – Conturines, Sas de Pütia and Marmolada (to name just a few), the “Queen of the Dolomites”. After lunch at the Pralongia High Plateau, we’ll head down a trail through an area of lush green pastures and wildflowers dotted with traditional chalets, to our hotel in San Cassiano.

Hotel Conturines or similar, San Cassiano (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 15 kilometers (9.3 miles), 5-6 hours, elevation + 730 meters (2,395 feet), 785 meters (2575 feet)

DAY 8

Via Ferrata Mario Fusetti and hike WWI Tunnels of Lagazuoi

This morning we’ll drive to Passo Valparola where a new Via Ferrata has been inaugurated in October on the Sasso de Stria peak. From the ‘Forte Tre Sassi’ WW1 museum we’ll hike along the Goiginger gallery and the trail continues across the saddle, home to Austro-Hungarian post, reaching the start of the Via Ferrata in around 25 minutes. This relatively short Via Ferrata is great to test your climbing skills and we’ll begin the climb on the equipped trail, reaching the trenches located 110m/360’ above, in approximately 40 minutes. The Via Ferrata ends beneath the summit, which can be reached following the already existing trail. Lieutenant ‘Mario Fusetti’ climbed the Sasso di Stria peak to occupy the summit in 1915 during WW1. To commemorate the sacrifice of these soldiers, in the year of the centenary of the end of the First World War, the Army’s Alpine Troop secured the original trail with sturdy bolts and cables, to reach the summit from the South West side, opening up to wonderful 360 degree views over the neighboring mountain ranges. For others who chose not to do the Via Ferrata, you’ll walk along a track to check out WWI trenches, finishing at Passo Falzarego. From there you’ll ascend in the Lagazuoi cable car for a short walk up at the top where we’ll all re-group and enjoy lunch. After lunch, from here, we’ll hike up to the Galleria del Lagazuoi, a fascinating open air and underground WWI museum carved into the mountains. This is where the Italian and Austro-Hungarian armies dug shelters out of the mountains, transforming them into an impenetrable 20th Century fortress of tunnels, trenches and machine gun posts. A number of different subterranean routes take us on a behind the scenes tour of some of the dramatic high altitude battles that were fought in World War 1.

Hotel Conturines or similar, San Cassiano (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Hiking: 4 kilometers (2.5 miles), 1-2 hours, elevation + 140 meters (459 feet), elevation - 800 meters (2,624 feet)

Notes: Optional Via Ferrata Experience: 2 hours. This option must be selected at the time of booking.

Notes: Please note the trails on the Via Ferrata Experience are narrow and involve considerable vertical gain along sections of protected climbing paths with iron cables and iron steps and ladders. While the trails are perfectly manageable for participants in good shape, the experience is not suitable for anyone with fear of heights.

DAY 9

Return to Venice, depart

Today is the last day of your trip in the Dolomites. You’ll go home knowing you’ve hiked, biked, explored by via ferrata, and immersed yourself in one of the most spectacularly beautiful regions on the planet. We’ll head back to Venice this morning in time for flights leaving in the afternoon.

No Accommodation (Breakfast)

Useful Info

Where does the trip end?

Your trip ends with a drop-off at the Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE) in time for afternoon flights. If you're staying on in Venice you can take a transfer from Venice Airport to Central Venice via regular bus services.

Where does the trip start?

On the first morning of the trip we will pick you up from the Venice Marco Polo (VCE) airport at the Ground Floor 'Relay' newsstand and shop at 11am.

Is tipping expected in Europe?

Tipping is not expected in Europe however you might want to tip a little extra if you feel someone gave really fantastic service, but it's not really necessary. Many of our people also choose to tip their Active Adventures Europe trip leaders and local guides and we recommend USD\$20 per day, per guest, per Trip Leader/guide. You are welcome to tip an equivalent amount in the local currency. There are plenty of ATM's and banks in the larger towns of Europe.

Trip direction

Some departures for this trip run in the reverse direction, which means the stated itinerary will simply operate in reverse. Contact us, or check your Travel Wallet once booked, to get the specific itinerary for your trip.

What flights would you recommend?

Arrival: We recommend arriving in Venice by 9am. Many guests like to arrive a day or two early to accommodate potential flight delays and/or explore the city prior to your trip start.

Departure: Flying out on the last day of the trip, we recommend departing from Venice after 2pm for both domestic and international. Earlier flight times will require a separate transfer booked at your own expense.

How fit do I need to be?

As an [Activity Level 3-4](#) trip, you'll need a solid level of fitness for this trip. We'll get you into the back country to experience the Dolomites scenery up close, typically, hikes range between two and seven hours to complete, with shorter options available on most days. So get out there with a daypack on and train so you'll be ready to join us! While you don't have to be extremely fit, you should be in the habit of doing regular aerobic exercise, ideally involving some up hills and down hills and perhaps even carrying a pack! With a little preparation before your trip begins, you'll enjoy the active and outdoor nature of your trip all the more.

Please head to our [Fitness Guide](#) for great tips on how to prepare along with a workout plan!

What accommodations do we stay at on this trip?

We've selected the accommodation on the trip for the unique character and adventuresome feel – this trip is not designed as a tour of the fanciest hotels in Italy. We prefer to stay in quaint, comfortable B&B's and mountain lodges during the trek in Fanes-Senes-Braies Natural Park, known locally as rifugio's.

If you've selected a single supplement for your trip, the multi-day hike in Fanes-Senes-Braies Natural Park is not included as no single rooms are available in the rifugio's, and the single supplement price takes this into account.

While there maybe opportunities to do laundry on the trip, if need be, they won't be as convenient. Laundry can be quite expensive (usually around €2.50 per item and takes 24 hours) so if you need to do this the best time will be after your Natural Park trek once we arrive into Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Tell me about the optional activities on this trip?

Today we have the choice of either going out on a via ferrata, or hiking the ridgeline. Both options have stunning views, it simply depends on what you prefer. These options are no additional cost though must be prearranged at least one month in advance.

You have the choice of the following two options:

Via Ferrata Fusetti

One of the standout activities of this trip! We'll don helmets, harnesses and safety gear, and with our expert guides embark on a fixed cable (via ferrata) Ferrata Fusetti on Sass de Stria. Once at the summit you'll see the entire Dolomite mountain range. It's a challenging hike, so we've got an alternative option if you'd prefer.

Hike with cable car access

If you prefer to hike instead of trying the via ferrata, an alternative option is to walk along a track to check out WWI trenches, finishing at Passo Falzarego. From there you'll ascend in the Lagazoui cable car for a short walk up at the top where we'll all re-group.

Tell me about trekking through the Fanes-Senes- Braies Natural Park

The three day trek through Fanes-Senes-Braies Natural Park will definitely be one of the most memorable aspects of your trip!

This amazing trek will take you past sheer granite peaks, snowclad mountains and glacial lakes. While it might be a bit of a challenge, the rewards are well and truly worth it!

The trek is close to sea level so you won't be dealing with any altitude factors. The trail is 43 kilometres (26 miles) in total length and we average around 6 hours or 14 kilometres (9 miles) per day. The greatest elevation reached is 2,200 metres (7,220 feet) in the Natural Park. The trails are very well maintained so finding your way is never a problem. If you've not done a multi-day trek before and would like some expert advice on how to prepare for one, get in touch!

During the trek in Fanes-Senes-Braies Natural Park you'll be spending two nights in mountain lodges, known locally as rifugio's. All rooms have individual beds (no double beds), and share bathrooms. The rooms are mixed gender and can range from 2 beds to 10 beds, so you will be sharing a room with others, no single rooms are available. Meals are served in the restaurant and there's a bar that accepts euros and credit cards if you fancy a drink.

You'll only be carrying the gear on the list your guides will provide you with the night before - your excess gear and luggage will be stored securely for you in Cortina d'Ampezzo for when you arrive.

How much luggage can I bring on this trip?

You are allowed one piece of luggage on your trip, plus a daypack. Your main piece of luggage should not exceed 50 pounds (23 kilograms) and can be anything from a duffle bag to a sports bag with wheels or a suitcase. You'll also want a good quality backpack sized 25-30 liters (2000 cubic inches) to use throughout the days.

You'll also need an overnight trekking pack for the multi-day hike in the Fanes-Senes-Braies Natural Park, though your daypack could double as your overnight trekking pack if you bring along a 30-40 litres size (2000- 3000 cubic inches).

How do rooming arrangements work?

Trip prices are based on shared arrangements (typically two guests per room), unless otherwise stated. For solo travelers, we'll pair you with another person of the same gender to share rooms and if there's no one suitable to share with, there's no forced single supplement. However, if you specifically request your own rooms, you can opt to pay the single supplement. Solo travelers who book within 90 days of departure, where there are no other solo travelers willing to share, will be required to pay the single supplement.

For Family Vacation bookings, families consisting of four guests traveling with children aged 17 and under will be automatically assigned one shared room. However, the following alternative rooming allocations are available:

Families consisting of four guests with all children aged 13 and above are welcome to opt for additional rooms as per advertised double occupancy adult rates.

Families consisting of four guests with at least one child aged 12 and under are automatically assigned a shared room. However, families can opt to pay the adult rates for all guests in their family to have an additional room.

The same principles apply for families consisting of more than four guests.

Rooming preferences are subject to availability and must be communicated in writing at time of booking. Automatic assignments as per this policy will be applied in the absence of any specification provided by guests. Any request for additional rooms during trips will be at guests' own expense and subject to rates made available by the accommodation provider at the time. All minors (guests aged 17 and under) must be accompanied by at least one adult.

What is not included?

Flights to and from trip start/end points

Pre/Post accommodation

Optional extra activities

Travel insurance

Gratuities for your guides

Rental gear

General Trip Information

You can find details on recommended flights and fitness, as well as trip start and end in the 'Useful Information' section above.

Accommodation

Our trips focus on getting you outside for the best adventure activities in the most stunning parts of Europe. We choose our accommodation very carefully, but it's by no means a tour of the fanciest hotels on the continent. Some of the places we stay are quite luxurious and other places - like the mountain lodges in the Dolomite Mountains - are relatively basic, but in truly spectacular locations!

Included

- Our own highly experienced guides and leader, with you from start to finish
- Industry-leading Guest-to-Guide ratio (averaging 6:1)
- Your own 'Travel Wallet', an online space with everything required for your adventure
- Our knowledgeable Customer Service Team to answer your queries - just a phone call, email or chat away
- Customer Service pre-trip phone calls to ensure you're 'trip ready'
- All accommodations for the duration of your trip
- All meals except where indicated in the itinerary
- Unlimited snacks to keep you fueled
- Flights as outlined in the itinerary
- All activities outlined in the itinerary
- All necessary equipment (well-maintained and safe) for activities, including bikes (where bike rides are applicable)
- All gratuities for hotels, restaurants, and activities
- All park and other entry fees
- Transportation in our air-conditioned vans - safe, clean, modern, and comfortable!

Itinerary Updates

We update our itineraries regularly, so please check our website for the most up-to-date itineraries and pricing. We make every effort to ensure itineraries are updated as necessary, though changes may occur without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

Outdoor Experience

Our trips allow you to make the most of the back country, whether you're relatively new to hiking or a seasoned trekker. Our highly trained and experienced trip leaders will be at your side, safely guiding you to magnificent places that you wouldn't get to on your own. The challenges are there, if you're looking for them, all we ask is that you be energetic and in reasonable shape and we guarantee you'll have an incredible time. You don't need kayaking experience to enjoy paddling on the water and you don't need to be a serious cyclist to enjoy most of the rides we do. In fact, we have so many options available that you don't need to ride or paddle at all if you'd rather hike or just laze around! We hold all relevant licenses and permits, and have an impeccable safety record. So with all the research, logistics, safety and hospitality taken care of, you can focus on the most important thing - making the most of your vacation!

Excluded

- International/Domestic Flights and transfers to start/end point
- Optional additional activities
- Travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Additional equipment available to rent as per your itinerary
- Gratuities for your guides at the end of your fabulous trip