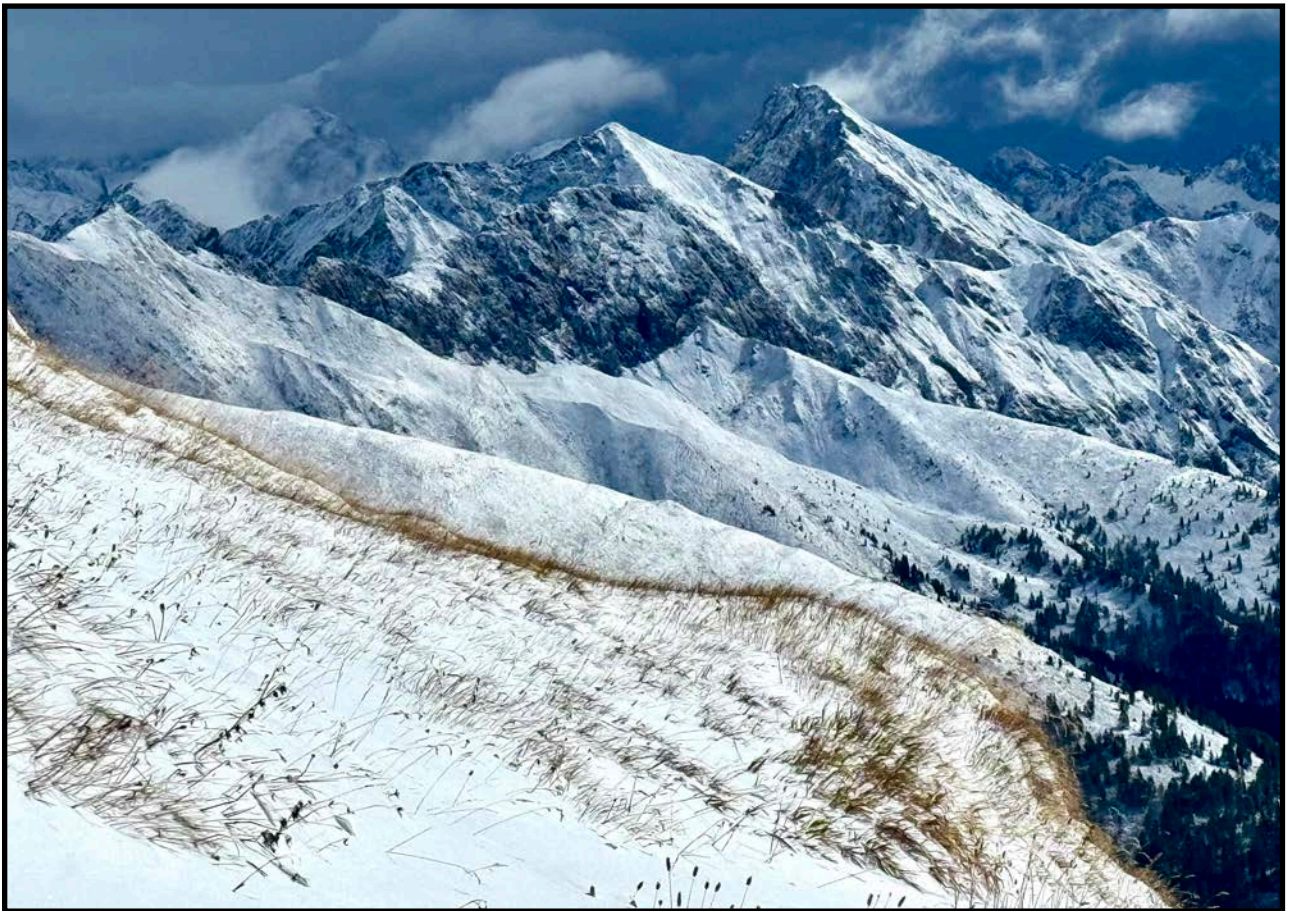
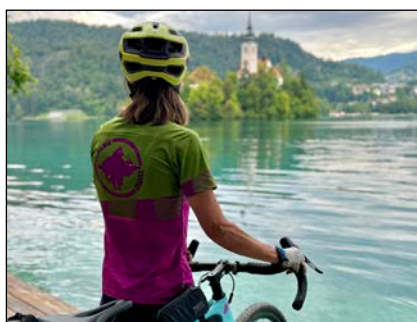

The Northern Ridge

Two mountain chains separate the north of Slovenia from Austria: the Caravanche and the Kamnik-Savinjan Alps. We cycled this wild territory, dealing with its unpredictable weather, exploring a countless number of peaks and saddles, enjoying sunny alpine pastures, linking together mountain and shepherd's huts through the most scenic routes. From the very deep of the forests to golden ridges, miles and miles of off-road fun awaits you. Add to all this two of the most beautiful lakes of Slovenia, the Triglav National Park's nature, the shepherd's village on the Velica Planina plateau and the *Beerway* in Kamnik: a visit to all the artisanal breweries of the city will pave the way for you to return to Ljubljana.

6 days - 380km/236mi - 10.800mt+/35.450ft+ - level: demanding



The Northern Ridge gravel bike tour starts from our beloved city of **Ljubljana**, capital of Slovenia, the greenest among European cities for its environmental commitment. A car-free city center, a huge cycling lane network, city parks and gardens everywhere, bar, great restaurants, live music, night life. We know it will be hard to leave...! On your way north you will visit two of the most picturesque little white churches of Slovenia, real icons of its beautiful countryside and perfect outlook points to have a look to the mountain ridge that awaits you for the days to come. Once met the **Sava** you will follow the river to get to the ultra famous (and beautiful) **Lake Bled** where you will overnight. Take a late afternoon walk on its shores chasing the best light and enjoy the view of the church on the island reflected on the placid lake's water. Don't miss the stop to our favourite *patisserie* in town!



From Lake Bled you will follow a beautiful cycling path along the Sava Bohinjca River to get to **Bohinj Lake**, a placid, dark body of water surrounded by a beautiful forest. If you like, you could cycle to the northern point of the lake to go admiring the impressive **Savica waterfalls** or simply keep following the route, cycling one of our favourite sectors among all our Slovenian tours. The **Triglav National Park**'s plateau crossing offer top quality gravel roads, beautiful forests, gorgeous mountain views and the meeting with the characteristic shepherd's wooden huts settlements. Our friend Natalja will host you on her organic farm for the overnight: can't wait to get back to taste her Jota soup (probably we will dedicate the name of a tour to honor her master craft in the kitchen!) again!

In the town of **Mojstrana** you will cross the **Sava Dolinka River** to finally start to tackle the first climbs on the Caravanche's slopes cycling at the feet of its two tallest peaks, the **Weinasc** and the **Hochstul**. A tough day ahead, rewarded with beautiful lonely gravel roads, alpine meadows and, at the end, a cozy mountain refugio where you will overnight.

Another day of great gravel cycling will then takes you across the **Pungrat** area, crossing some of the most beautiful, panoramic and sunny mountain pastures, with several mountain huts where to stop to enjoy the best homemade **štruklji** (traditional rolled dumplings) and dairy farm where to try local cheese. Time to leave the Caravanche and enter in the **Kamnic-Savinjan Alp** range, a dense forested environment where you will have fun along some single-track sectors till an epic descent to the beautiful **Slovenian Carinthia region** to find the mountain village of **Zgornje Jezersko** where you will overnight. The village is part of the European network of **Bergsteiger Dorfer** (mountaineers' villages) that aim to protect the authenticity, traditions, and culture of the place avoiding mass tourism, keeping intact the village character, mountain agriculture and forestry, nature and landscape conservation, and environmentally friendly mobility/transport. Together with the nearby lake where to dip in, it's a real paradise for all mountain'lovers!



One of the highlights of the whole tour awaits you: the **Solcava Panoramic Road** is an unmissable destination for the scenic places it display at every turns, a paradise of unspoiled nature made of soaring peaks and valleys running everywhere. Admire the grandeur of the **Logarska Dolina valley**, with the impressive mountain shape of the **Grintovec** range closing it at its southern point, have a break in one of the fantastic organic farms along the way where not only to taste the best local products, but above all, to met the local culture thanks to an authentic warm welcome of the farmers. Follow the clear running waters of the **Savinja** and **Lučnika Rivers** before to enjoy a last, beautiful climb to reach the amazing **Velica Planina** plateau, where you'll find your mountain refugio for the overnight.

There's no better moment of the day than the morning to enjoy the magic atmosphere of the Velica Planina: green pastures all around, white gravel roads, thin threads of smoke coming out from the wooden shepherd's huts, the bells' cows that lazy start to play at the new day. It is simply magic! Enjoy your time out there, it will be priceless. You will get to the city of **Kamnik** right for the lunch time: get ready to taste the best **artisanal beers** with a visit to all four breweries in town! We don't remember how the ride was to get back to Ljubljana, we only keep in our hearts all the wanders that this amazing country gave us so far!



Departure town: Ljubljana

Arrival town: Ljubljana

- Hotel overnight in Ljubljana the day before the tour starts and when it ends
 - Day 1_80km/50mi - 2050mt+ / 6725ft+_hotel overnight
 - Day 2_89km/55,3mi - 1900mt+ / 6235ft+_farm overnight
 - Day 3_40km/25mi - 2150mt+ / 7050ft+_mountain refugio overnight
 - Day 4_50km/32mi - 1900mt+ / 6235ft+_hotel overnight (optional 2 nights at the farm with one layover day)
 - Day 5_64km/40mi - 2020mt+ / 6630ft+_mountain refugio overnight (optional stay in a traditional wooden shepherd's hut)
 - Day 6_57km/35,5mi - 1300mt+ / 2460ft+_hotel overnight in Ljubljana
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