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# Burja

Is the name of the wind blowing from the North-East that can reach up to 130mph, it clean the sky, rules hairstyles and the way locals have built their villages. Leave Trieste and go exploring an amazing countryside made of medieval villages, home of gorgeous wines and finest homemade food. Cycle across a stripe of land in between Italy and Slovenia, crossed by turquoise rivers that winds through boundless forests. Don't worry, you will have the wind at your back!

6 days - 410km/250mi - 10.000mt+/33.000ft+ - level: moderate to demanding

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**Burja** gravel bike tour starts from the beautiful Italian coast city of **Trieste**, with its mix of Mediterranean, Central European and Slavic influences, famous for its coffee shops and fish restaurants. Left the city with a lift on the beautiful **Opicina old-fashioned tramway**, you will head westward following the old **roman road** called **Gemina** exploring the **Carst/Carso** region. A dry landscapes where small villages alternate with red earth fields, white stonewalls, holm oak forests: an unique environment, home of several endemic species of plants. The route will then make you reach the town of **Gorizia/Nova Gorica** - right at the border in between Italy and Slovenia and 2025 European Culture Capital, where you'll overnight. Don't miss an aperitif on a busy bar on the central square to taste gorgeous wines from the nearby **Collio/Brda** wine region: try it together with local finger food.

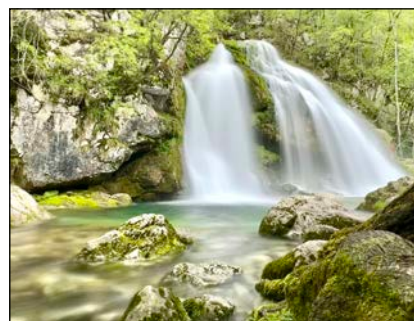


Left Gorizia/Nova Gorica, the first challenges of the day will arrive while climbing the **Collio/Brda** hills to get to the town of **San Floriano del Collio**, placed on a superb and panoramic balcony. Steep climbs will be rewarded by the view of one of the most precious cultural European landscapes, where gentle hills, vineyards, woodland and small settlements blend harmoniously together. Don't miss a glass of Malvasia too. Lunch time and you'll get to the beautiful Italian medieval town of **Cividale del Friuli** - with its charming squares closed by century old buildings, some dated back to XIV century. Get your *Frico con patate* typical dish together with a *Gubana*: this traditional cake is an energy booster, perfect to tackle the challenging second part of your day (buy a whole one at a bakery in town). You'll cycle then across some of the most isolated, remote and wild part of the **Natisone/Nadiza River** territory (wild boars loves Gubana too) and you'll get to the small settlement of **Robidisce**, in Slovenia. The overnight will be at the local guesthouse where it will be nice, after so much time on the deep of the woods, to find the warm welcome of Staša - the owner.

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After breakfast you'll get deep on the woods again where, at the bottom of a narrow gorge, you'll meet the clear and running white waters of the Natisone/Nadiza River. From here a beautiful, mystic - 1000mt of elevation gain in one go - long climb will start to get to the summit of **Stol** mountain. This is one of the most amazing climb you can enjoy in Europe, with its first steep concrete ramps to leave the bottom of the gorge and an endless IWW gravel road that get on top. The sight will run free over the upper portion of the Natisone/Nadiza Valley and the southern part of the **Soka/Isonzo river valley**, and on some of the highest peaks of the Julian Alps such as the Kanin, Jof Fuart, Mangart, Bricelj, Grintavec and the Krn. From the top you have two options, let us suggest the most spicy one - that runs all along the ridge to get then down to the little town of **Kobarid**. Here you will meet one of the (many) highlight of the whole tour: the **Soka/Isonzo river**. Its unbelievable turquoise waters will forever stay impressed on you. In Kobarid don't miss a stop at our favourite trattoria with the best homemade Slovenian food (delicious house wine and draft beers too).



From the Soka River valley you will then start to explore the dense forested, sparsely inhabited, beautifully wild area of the western Inner Carniola/Notranjska region, cycling along the **Idrijca** and **Trebušnica** rivers. Do not forget swimsuits! The pristine and clear waters will offer plenty of opportunities for refreshing dives thanks to small and secluded beaches. Enjoy this true paradise for gravel cycling - in the heart of the **Idrija Unesco Geoparc** - and discover the beautiful **Wild Lake**, a turquoise eye in the middle of the forest. After an overnight on a farm near the town of Idrija - and a great culinary experience with best local products - you'll be fully energized to keep going with this cycling adventure getting to the **Nanos's** plateau, also known as the "Burja's plateau", where the strong wind get at its best! The place offer amazing views over the Giulian Alps, the Venice lagoon and the Dynaric Alps mountain chain to the South-East.

You are right above the beautiful **Vipava river valley**, a world' famous wine region: a fast descent will let you get in town right in time for the aperitif. A Ribolla served chill is an elisir to escape the heat of the ride and to get ready for one of the best dinner of your life at our much loved farm, where you will overnight.

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With a last, beautiful cycling stage you will cross the perfectly handkept Vipava's vineyards countryside reaching the medieval village of **Stanjel**, from where you'll get back to the Carst/Carso area, visiting one of the World's finest natural cave. A stop to visit **Škocjan Cave** - Unesco heritage site - with its huge and impressive underground canyon is unmissable indeed.

You are few kilometers away from Trieste: with a long downhill you'll get back to the city feezy main square - Piazza Unità d'Italia - litted by the best sunset light where seagulls plays with the Burje.



**Departure town:** Trieste

**Arrival town:** Trieste

- Hotel overnight in Trieste the day before the tour starts and when it ends
  - Day 1\_60km/38mi - 900mt+ /3000ft+\_b&b or wine farm
  - Day 2\_65km/40,4mi - 1600mt+ /5300ft+\_guesthouse overnight
  - Day 3\_83km/51,6mi - 2100mt+ /6900ft+\_hotel overnight
  - Day 4\_60km/38mi - 1900mt+ /6250ft+\_farm overnight
  - Day 5\_70km/43,5mi - 2200mt+ /7250ft+\_farm overnight
  - Day 6\_69km/42,8mi - 1300mt+ /4270ft+\_hotel overnight in Trieste
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