

TerraTreks Dolomites Itinerary - 2026

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The UNESCO World Heritage Dolomites are comprised of 9 mountain systems linked together by common features referred to as the Dolomitic Landscape. Ask anyone who has hiked in this area, and you are likely to hear it is the most beautiful place they have ever been. The fundamental characteristic of the Dolomites is the striking contrast between the sheer vertical lines of the enormous rock formations and the gentle, rolling contours of the meadows. The Dolomite range is the only area in the world where pale dolomite and dark volcaniclastic rocks are found together. This combination creates a natural visual phenomenon known as Enrosadira where the colors of the rock faces react dramatically to changes in light. The Dolomites are also rich in World War I history. The route we follow takes us through some of the most geologically interesting areas of the dramatically beautiful Dolomites as well as WWI historical sites.



The trek begins along Lake Braies in the Puster Valley in the Northern Dolomites and leads us through the Belluneser Dolomites into the Ampezzaner Dolomites and around the area of Cortina d'Ampezzo, the site of the 2026 Winter Olympics, we end at the most iconic and magical part of the Dolomites—Tre Cime (three peaks in Italian) also called Drei Zinnen in German.

The first section of the Dolomites Mountain trail leads from Lake Braies to Passo Giau. The main route is at an average altitude of 2100 meters (6700 feet). The highest summit we cross is Heiligkreuzkofel at 2907 m (9537 ft) on the fourth day. Our highest overnight stay, at Refugio Lagazuoi if it is available for booking, is at an elevation of 2752 m (9028 ft) and occurs on night five; by days four and five you should easily adjust to these higher elevations.

Except for two days, luggage is transferred to our hotel or refugio for the night, so we carry only a light day pack. We will meet in Venice and transportation to San Candido, our starting point for the hike, is included as well. We stay three nights in family-owned local inns and hotels, and four nights in historic

mountain refugios. The trip includes rental gear (snow spikes in case of snow patches and a helmet for the descent through the tunnel on day 6) seven breakfasts and seven dinners. Lunches may be purchased at the huts and snacks for our daily hikes can be purchased at the huts and hotels. This option provides everyone with the opportunity to order their favorite dishes at lunch and sample the local cuisine as desired. The huts we visit are known for excellent cuisine as are the hotels we have chosen.

This hike requires good physical condition, mountain experience, and above average fitness levels. Anyone with hiking experience in the Sierra Nevada, Rocky Mountain, or similar ranges should be able to tackle this hike.



Lago di Braies

Photo Courtesy of Robert Schmalle Photography

Day 1

Meeting point: Venice, Italy at 1:00pm. We will meet at Parcheggio NCC Piazzale Roma located at Rio Terà Sant' Andrea, 460, 30135 Venezia, Italy, for transport to our hotel in the Puster Valley. (Note: It sounds beautiful in Italian, but Parcheggio is a Car Park accessible by water taxi from Venice. It is a convenient location for the van to meet us and the closest facility to Venice).

After a two hour and thirty minute drive from Venice we arrive at the charming village of San Candido, our home base for the Dolomites Trek. We'll check into our rooms in time to relax and walk around the village, visit a few shops or stop at one of the local cafes for your first Aperol Spritz.

Overnight: Naturhotel Leithof, or similar 4 star accomodation, San Candido deluxe room with private bath

[4 Star Hotel at San Candido - Sporthotel Tyrol](#)

Meals: Dinner

Day 2

After breakfast we start with an easy hike along the shore of the beautiful and famously photographed Lake Braies before beginning the ascent to Sora al Forn-Scharte (2,388 m), where we reach the Sennes plateau. After a short descent to the Seekofel Hut (2,325 m), we continue to the cozy Sennes Hut for lunch (2,116 m). After lunch, the path leads steeply down to Pederü (1,545 m). From there we take the 4x4 taxi to the beautiful Fanes Hut (2,060 m) where our private rooms with patios will be waiting.

Walking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 950 m (3117 ft), descent 900 m (2953 ft), length approx. 14.5 km (9 miles).

Technical Route Category: (Easy) **BBBBBB**

Overnight: Fanes Hut—private room with private bath. <http://www.rifugiofanes.com/en/dolomites-hut.htm> **Meals:** Breakfast and dinner



Summit at Kühwiesengipfel

The trails on the Dolomites hike are sparsely traveled. Most days we will see only a few, if any, hikers along the way.



Day 3

Today we day tour to the Heiligkreuzkofel (2,907 m). The Heiligkreuzkofel offers a scenic, extremely rewarding, varied, and moderately strenuous mountain hike over the Fanes Plateau. The path is narrow in spots but well-marked with no steep drop-offs.

The view from the summit, which slopes steeply to the west, is magnificent, especially the iconic Marmolada, which appears to rise from the plateau as if it were displayed on a platter of breathtaking landscape. The last pitch to the summit is steep and has loose rocks (scree slope). The descent follows the ascent route. Another overnight stay at the Fanes hut.

Walking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 950 m (3117 ft), descent 950 m, length approx. 15 km (9.5 miles) Technical Route Category: (Mostly Easy/Some Moderate) BBRRBB

Overnight: Fanes Hut - Private room with private bath.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 4

Today we set out from the Fanes Hut for a rewarding hike to Col Bechei Dessora—a route filled with dramatic peaks, quiet alpine lakes, and the chance to spot local wildlife. This trail offers a wonderfully immersive mountain experience, and because it's lesser known, we'll likely have much of the landscape to ourselves.

From Rifugio Fanes, we make our way up to Passo Limo—also known as Limo Joch in German and Ju de Limo in Ladin, one of South Tyrol's official languages. A short distance beyond the pass, the trail leads us along the tranquil shores of Lago di Limo, a small but striking alpine lake. From here, we continue toward Col Bechei Dessora, where we can explore the remnants of a WWI encampment. As we approach the summit, the path becomes steeper and more technical, but the effort is well rewarded with sweeping views of the surrounding peaks.

Because this is an out-and-back route, we return along the same trail—giving us another chance to enjoy the stunning scenery from a fresh perspective.

Walking time approx. 5-6 hours, ascent 750 m (2460ft), descent 750 m (2460ft), length approx. 8 km (5 miles)

Technical Route Category: BRSSRB

Overnight: Fanes Hut - Private room with private bath.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 5

We have a very full day today so we will get an earlier than usual start. The day begins with a gentle climb that quickly brings us to the Limojoch, where the landscape opens wide across the beautiful Fanes Plateau. As we make our way toward Passo di Lago, the scenery becomes increasingly dramatic, and before long we can see Lago Lagazuoi shimmering far below. After a steep but rewarding descent, we reach the lakeshore—an idyllic spot for a lunch break.

After lunch our journey continues upward over Forcella Lagazuoi, a route that leads us through an area rich in World War I history. The mountains here are dotted with old encampments, bunkers, barbed wire, trenches, and rusted everyday objects that once served soldiers stationed high in these rugged peaks. Eventually we reach the summit of Little Lagazuoi, where sweeping views stretch in every direction. After taking time to admire the panorama we begin our descent through the dramatic tunnels carved by Italian troops during WWI. The passage is steep, dark, and lined with countless steps, offering a vivid sense of the hardship endured by those who built it. Helmets and headlamps make the journey safe, and for those who prefer not to venture underground, a cable car provides an easy descent to Passo Falzarego.

After the descent through the tunnel a shuttle brings us to our lodging in the charming village of San Candido. We can wander its welcoming streets, relax with an Aperol Spritz at one of the many cafes and soak up the distinctive atmosphere of Tyrolean culture—an enjoyable and relaxing end to a very full and memorable day.



Walking time approx. 7-8 hours, ascent 1100 m (3600 ft), descent 1050 m (3440 ft), length approx. 16 km (10 miles)

Technical Route Category: (Mostly Easy/Some Moderate) : BBRBBR

Overnight: Naturhotel Leitlhof, San Candido

[3 Zinnen - Dolomites | Holiday at the Naturhotel Leitlhof](#)

Meals: Breakfast and dinner



Refugio Lagazuoi

Day 6

From our hotel in San Candido we board a cable car to Haunold Hut; from there we hike ascend to Haunold Kopf and descend to Dreischusterhütte in the Innerfeld Tal. If the weather cooperates, we should be able to see the iconic Tre Cime for the first time. The hike to the Dreischusterhütte is probably one of the nicest hikes in the San Candido/Innichen region. Its main attraction is the wonderful peaks of the Sexten Dolomites that tower over the entire Innerfeldtal Valley. The area is also part of the incredibly beautiful and peaceful Drei Zinnen Nature Park. The destination for this hike is the Dreischusterhütte mountain hut. The hike is relatively easy with no particularly difficult sections.

Walking time approx. 5 to 6-hour, ascent 800 m (2625 ft), descent 650 m (2133 ft), length approx. 11 km (7 miles)

Possibility to skip the summit of Haunold Kopf - Walking time approx. 3 to 4-hour, 480 m (1575 ft) ascent, descent 330 m (1083 ft), length approx. 8 km (5 miles)

Technical Route Category: (Easy) - **BBBBBB**

Overnight at Dreischusterhütte – No luggage transport today, bring your overnight essentials in your day pack.

<https://www.drei-zinnen.info/en/dobbiaco/action-sport/winter/alpine-ski/huts-rest-stops/15-dreischusterhuetten-rif-tre-scarperi-hut.html>

Private room with shared bath Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Drei Zinnen (Tre Cime) from the Trail



Day 7

The last ascent leads us through the picturesque Innerfeldtal valley to the Drei Zinnen Hütte (2,438 m). From here the views are breathtaking all around and include the north walls of the famous Drei Zinnen (aka: Tre Cime). Breathtaking and spectacular are overused descriptors but there is no other way to describe this spot. The views before we reach the Hütte for lunch really cannot be described except to say they are spectacularly awesome. About one hour after lunch, we reach the Auronzo hut where there are more incredible views. A glass of wine while you sit, admire the view, and try to hold on to the last moments of this trek is a definite must do.

From here there is a short walk that you will want to do very slowly because when we reach the parking lot the transfer takes us back to our hotel in Cortina for the last night of our hiking adventure through the beautiful UNESCO Heritage Dolomites. You will not want to leave. In fact, you may start your own hiking company so you can do this hike every year.

Walking time approx. 4 hours, ascent 950 m (3117 ft), descent 250 m (820 ft), length approx. 10 km (6.2 miles)

*Technical Route Category: (Easy) **BBBBBB***

Overnight at Naturhotel Leitlhof, San Candido Private room with private bath.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8

Enjoy breakfast then depart to continue travel at your own pace. Terra Treks will arrange shuttle transportation back to Venice upon request.

Meals: Breakfast

More About the Lagazuoi WWI Tunnels

<https://www.lagazuoi.it/Eng/page7-Open-air-Museum-of-the-Lagazuoi>



” Mount Lagazuoi is a veritable "castle of rock", with spires and turrets, and with military bases hidden in its bowels. During the Great War, the Italian and Austro – Hungarian armies dug shelters in its interior for men and arms, transforming it into an impenetrable 20th century fortress. Today visitors can hike the restored tunnels, trenches, and machine gun posts in the Open-Air Museum of Lagazuoi. The numerous routes lead hikers on a behind-the-scenes tour of a dramatic war fought at high altitude.

The entire area of the museum is crossed by paths doable on foot. Almost all the tunnels and trenches have been cleared and restored thanks to the work of numerous volunteers. Restoration of the steps has enabled easier access to the sloping stretches of the tunnels. It is possible to visit several different routes, some longer and more difficult, others shorter and easier.”

Inside the Lagazuoi Tunnel





*Al fresco dining
does not get any
better than this!*

*The views and the
food are
awesome.*

Price: \$3750 per person double occupancy, rooms will have either one double or queen bed, or two twin beds. We strive to book only private double rooms throughout the trek, but in some huts we may have rooms for 3-6 people, however all will be from our group. All but the Lagazoui and Dreischuster huts, have private baths. In those huts the bathrooms are down the hall.

Included: Expert guide service, on-site trip organizer, daily luggage transfer, except where indicated) transportation from Venice to San Candido, three nights in hotels and four nights in refugios, rental gear (ice spikes and helmets), chairlifts to the Cinque Torri and Haunold, cable car backpack transport to Passo Falzarego, seven breakfasts, and seven dinners. Training tips, packing, and gear guides.

Not included: Lunches on the trail, extra food and snacks during the day, drinks, airfare, special transportation (apart from the group transportation included), departure from San Candido, and special transportation during the hike if needed or wanted.



Our Dolomites Guide

Mathias Klebaur

»The mountains are balm for the soul«

Mathias has been guiding hikers on some of the most beautiful and challenging trails in Europe for over 25 years. He is a Certified Mountain and Ski Guide with an additional qualification as a canyoning guide, a member of the Mountain Rescue Hindelang, and a Region Instructor for Bergwacht Allgäu, the Mountain Rescue Service for the Allgäu region in the Bavarian Alps. Thia splits his time between his homes in Bad Hindelang, Germany and Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada where he is a heli-ski guide during the winter season for Canadian Mountain Holidays.



Requirements:

Good physical condition, mountain experience, above average fitness (must be able to hike, surefootedness and endurance for daily stages up to 7 hours). There could still be patches of old snow on some spots which will require snow spikes. There may be changes to the planned route due to weather such as snowfall, lightning, or other hazards. Our guide will determine if conditions are safe for the group.

Required Gear:

Hiking boots (no trail shoes), rain jacket, rain pants, headlamp, gloves or thick glove liners, hat (for sun and rain). Notice: If you do not have hiking boots in good condition you will either need to purchase them in Italy before you start the hike, or you will not be able to participate. If you do not have a headlamp, you will not be able to descend the Lagazoui tunnel.

A Note About the Dolomites Trek Rating System

Europeans use a different rating system than in the US and because the guide is from Germany, I am using the rating descriptions they would use. The **Technical Route Categories** used for each hike, which have been simplified from a more detailed scale, are combinations of the letters “B” and “R” and **indicate the level of technical difficulty not the vertical ascent or miles hiked each day**. A hike could be 8-10 miles and 3500 feet of elevation but if it didn’t involve cables, ladders, cliffs or rock climbing it would be considered “Easy”, whereas a hike with that distance and vertical ascent would be rated difficult in the US.

In the US there is a route classification system, known as the Yosemite Decimal System (YDS), but generally, hikers aren’t aware of it because it is a scale used mostly by climbers. Guidebooks and apps like AllTrails would not include hikes with a Route Classification of 3 or above. Not true for Germany. The hike or trek would be rated moderate or difficult depending on technical skills required. Only very experienced **climbers** would attempt a “Difficult” trek, it would not be suitable for hikers no matter the level of physical conditioning.

The Dolomites trek, by US standards, would be considered moderately strenuous to strenuous based on similar hikes I have done in Yosemite and Colorado that were rated as such. For example, Grays and Torreys Peak in CO (7.8 miles and 3582ft), Four Mile Trail in Yosemite (7.5 miles and 3277 ft), and Mountain Dana Peak on the Eastern side of Yosemite which starts at 9700 feet and goes to 13,250 feet (7.0 miles and 3103 ft, classed at 1 -2 by YDS) are rated as “Difficult” on AllTrails and would be considered “Easy” by German standards because there are no cables, ladders, or narrow trails with steep drop offs. The Dolomites Trek would be rated Class 2 on the YDS scale.

For more information on the YDS system go to: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/climbing-bouldering-rating.html>

Route Difficulty

B= Simple Mountain Paths -- Simple mountain trails are mostly narrow, can be steep and have no crash prone passages (meaning that the trails may be single track but do not involve cliffs, see sample pictures below).



R = Moderate Difficulty Mountain Paths -- Medium-heavy mountain trails are mostly narrow, often steep and can have crash-prone passages. There may also be brief technical walking passages (e.g. cables or ladders). It is possible to opt out of these days and in some cases just those portions of the hike which are rated moderately difficulty.



Route Difficulty does not consider distance or vertical ascent. Route Difficulty refers only to the technical aspects of the trail such as whether cables, ladders, or steep drop-offs are included.