

7 days Trentino

Background:

Over 3 years ago I got the tip on the Hotel Cristallo in Levico Terme.

Since I had wanted to do some tours in this area for a long time, the destination for a longer trip was fixed.

But it was not until this year that I finally got the opportunity to do so.

Over the winter time I have put together five partly very demanding tours based on my already existing local knowledge, extensive map study and the motorcycle tour planner.

One tour should include the Passo Pian delle Fugazze, the Passo Fittanze as well as the Monte Baldo and the Monte Bondone (resulted in 380 km), one should lead to the Garda Lake, Passo Croce Domini as well as the route along the Lago dei Valvestino and finally go through the Brazilian Gorge at the Garda Lake (= 350 km), one should include the Kaiserjägerstraße and the Passo Manghen (= 250 km) and one to the Monte Grappa and Passo S. Boldo (= 330 km). The last tour then finally roughly towards Cortina d'Ampezzo (= 410 km).

Date should be end of September/beginning of October.

Petra said, put it in the Alpenbiker-Forum - maybe 1 or 2 people will join us?

No sooner said than done! On 17.04. I put it in and the registrations came in no time!

In the end, besides me, 9 other participants had joined for the full time - 7 days and 4 others who only wanted to/could participate for 1 or 2 days.

With such a great response I was not fair at all - but great!

Execution:

For the planned period from 22 - 28.09. beautiful weather was announced for Trentino.

Sunday, 22.09. Drive to Levico Terme

Jürgen, Ingo and Franz (Aquarius) started at 9:10 am together with me in Sonthofen.

Through the Tannheimer valley we went down to Weissenbach, where we met Franz (Bronco). Then over the Hahntennjoch to Pillerhöhe



and over the Resia Pass. In Schluderns (Vinschgau) we met Michael and Markus. From there we continued on the small but nice mountain road to Schlanders and further on towards Meran. Then we turned right over Marlung and Lana to the Gampenpass. But suddenly some participants were missing! Michael told us that there had been an accident, but that they would come soon. In Lana we waited. It turned out that Franz (Aquarius) had suddenly - without any outside influence - gone off the road to the right, got stuck with his BMW on a

wall and had said goodbye to the bike with a somersault! Fortunately, hardly anything had happened to him (a small flesh wound on his foot). But the motorcycle was heavily damaged, so that it was not possible to continue the journey. - Franz was able to drive home himself later by means of a rental vehicle (via the ADAC) and also load up his motorcycle and transport it home.

The rest of us then drove over the Gampen Pass to Mezzolombardo and via Trento to Levico Terme.

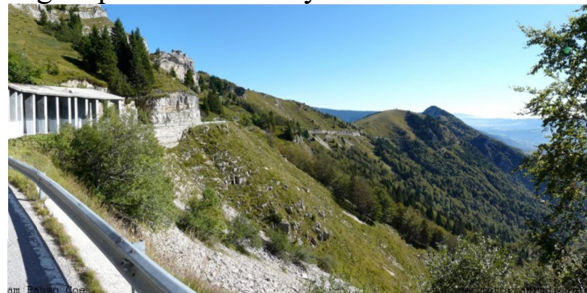
After dinner we could review the day with a comfortable evening.

Monday, 23.09. Tour Borcola - Fittanze

At 9 o'clock we started this demanding tour!

Before the start of the tour I agreed with my passengers that I would stop for a photo stop every now and then. The others could then already drive on and wait for me at the next turnoff. Who wanted to close photos himself could of course also stop for a short time and we would meet again at the next turnoff. Because a common stop of all participants at every short photo stop would simply take too much time.

So first of all we went from Levico Terme along the Fricca road to Carbonare and then on towards Folgaria. Since we hadn't found a gas station on this route yet, I didn't continue immediately to Passo Coe, contrary to the original plan, but continued on to Folgaria and the next gas station. Unfortunately, one participant did not wait for the following part of the group, so that two participants - without refueling stop - drove directly to Passo Coe.



But there we met again. Up to the Passo Borcola we went on varied and above all lonely (no traffic!). Then we continued in direction Rovereto. After I made another photo stop, I followed the others, but had to wait about 10 minutes at an actually small short construction site until I was allowed to continue. But at the next junction there was nobody standing! So I thought "Shh... they went straight ahead towards Rovereto!" So I went straight on to Rovereto, but there was nobody there either! So on to Fugazze!

There should be a break up there.



But when I got to the top, there was nobody there again! Since Michael had said before that he would rather stop at Passo Xon, I thought "Ok, so that's where they went!" - also a failure, because the restaurant there - just like the one at Fugazze - had closed! So I went on to Recoaro Terme - but there was nobody here either. Because I didn't meet anybody later I tried

to reach Markus, which I finally succeeded. "Where am I now?" - "We're in Schio now!"
Oops! Totally wrong corner! So we agreed that I would do the rest of the tour alone and that the others would find a way. Shit happens!

So I went on over many small lonely roads to the Passo Fittanze and down into the Etsch valley. Then I took the great route from Avio up to Monte Baldo - simply brilliant!



At the Bocca di Navene - great view down to Lake Garda - I had a cappuccino break, before I continued over the Monte Baldo area down to Mori.



There I turned left and later followed the turnoff up to Ronzo Chienis and reached the Passo Bordala and later the Monto Bondone. From there I went back to Levico Terme via Trento. At 18:40 I arrived at the hotel. Here the others were waiting for me - who had arrived long before. They told me that we had even met on the downhill from Fugazze! But nobody called at that moment, so that I - as already described - drove on alone.

Tuesday, Sep 24 Tour Lago di Garda - Croce Domini

The evening before we had agreed to shorten this tour and to cancel the section from Lake Idro to Passo Croce Domini. Thus, the distance was shortened from 350 km planned at first to almost 280 km. Via Carbonare and Folgaria we went down into the Adige Valley. From there we went on via Nomi and Patone and then via Lenzima to Torbole on Lago di Garda. The road was - as known - very very narrow, but completely new asphalted! However, we were stopped at a large construction site truck, whose driver made it clear to us that the rest of the route was impassable! So we had to turn around and take the way over the Passo Bordala (which we already had on our program in the afternoon).



There we had a cappuccino break and went on to Lago di Garda. Above Torbole the obligatory photo stop and further to Riva del Garda and up into the Ledro valley. From there to Lake Idro and then to one of my personal

"highlights of the Alps", the route along the Lago di Valvestino. I have ridden the route many times before, but I had NEVER taken a photo there before! That should be different this time.



From there we went down to Gagnano on Lago di Garda - for the next cappuccino break. Then we went quickly up to Tignale and on towards Tremosine. But first turn right to the Brasa Gorge. A stretch of road I had never ridden before myself. But I had already seen a lot of photos of it and therefore I wanted to go there - was worth it! An eye-catcher! Since I wanted to close the photos again I sent the others ahead with the advice to wait for me downstairs.



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After I had taken my photos I drove down to the main street. But there nobody was waiting for me. So I went on to Riva del Garda and in the middle of the traffic towards Arco. Then

suddenly I saw Michael driving some cars in front of me and so I caught up with my group again. Together we went to Arco and from there we took the narrow road up to Monte Velo and Passo S. Barbara - a route to ride dizzy! Via Ronzo Chienis and the Passo Bordala we continued along the Lago di Cei and Aldano back to Levico Terme. With the common dinner and afterwards get-together this wonderful day came to an end.

Wednesday, 25.09. - Tour Kreuzbergpass

Also this tour was shortened after arrangement, so that we turned left after the Passo Cibiana and drove directly to Cortina d'Ampezzo. Also on this day, some sections of the route were done quasi in the D-train tempo. With completely empty roads and good asphalt it was simply a pleasure!!!



The route then led us over Passo Giau to Passo Valles. There were - although over 2000 m high and at the end of September - still quite a few cows on and off the road! Passing Cavalese we went on to Val di Cembra (eastern side of the valley). Because the first ones were a little bit faster on the road we waited for the other 2 riders before Segonzano. But after more than 15 minutes nobody came. A call remained unsuccessful - was not heard. Also at a refueling stop along the further distance nothing was to be seen from the other two. So we drove the last part to the hotel and found out that the missing people had been there for about 10 minutes! They had - according to their own statement - driven the same route! But neither we had them, nor had they seen us!

Thursday, 26.09. - Tour Monte Grappa - San Boldo

Since this 330 km long route should take over 8 hours according to the navigation system, but I absolutely have to take the Passo S. Boldo, I was ready to start the tour at 8:20 a.m.! First up again to Carbonare and then down into the valley towards Schio. In Pedascula we turned left



to the simply ingenious track up towards Asiago - a pleasure! Then further over Asiago to Foza. From there it goes over a partly very spectacular route down to Valstagna. At the beginning of the winding route there was a cappuccino break. In Valstagna we enjoyed the great cityscape for a short time and then drove on to Monte Grappa. First we went up the main road (but still with very little traffic - to the

summit. There we enjoyed the view for a short time and then turned around to get back down

into the valley on the extremely narrow and winding track that runs parallel to the main track.



In the upper part, partly very thick fog blocked our view of the landscape and the further route. Over quite unspectacular sections we came to Valdobbiadene. Here I first drove one exit too late from the (big oval) roundabout. So I turned around and went back inside. The Navi showed me one exit before and went on. Next right and then right again - somewhere in the middle of the smallest streets of the village. Then the Navi pointed to the left - here a car just drove into the small street. So after it! It was very steep (surely more than 30% !!!) uphill. Here none of us wanted to have to stop or start again. I just thought "Where does the navigation system lead me now? But then we were back on the right planned route. Here again one of the tricks of the Navi's showed up! In some places the "natural" variant is not always chosen - that is to say, following the main road, even if it is a little longer, but the "shortest" route, which sometimes chooses "impossible" roads! It would have been better to take an exit at the roundabout in question. Then we would have been immediately on the right street (Jürgen told me afterwards also).

Although I checked all tours for correct routing before the vacation, I will have to go into more detail in the future to avoid such "short distances". By the way, concentrating on the right exit of the roundabout, I missed a cafe or an ice-cream parlor directly at the roadside - would have been a pleasant interruption of the tour.

But so we drove a narrow but fine road uphill full of curves and hairpin bends (direction M. Cesen). Further up we found a restaurant/bistro where we took a well-deserved cappuccino break. Then the road led us further along the ridge and later down into the valley - a nice variation!

Then we went on to the Passo S. Boldo. Here I talked to my fellow riders about taking some photos again and that they should wait for me at the top of the pass. First we went up in some "open" hairpin bends, before the last 6 or 7 hairpin bends lead up through single-lane tunnels. Here the traffic is regulated by traffic lights, because even a motorcycle cannot pass a car in the tunnels! But the photo stops were worth it - the road is simply spectacular!



After this highlight of the tour we went - partly along the main route - to Feltre. There we turned right to Passo Croce d'Aune. A pass that I have never ridden before, but which was a lot of fun due to its extremely varied route. In addition, in preparation for a mountain racing event, which will probably take place at the weekend, the track was marked and the hairpin bends could be estimated even better in advance - nice! A cappuccino break interrupted the rush of the turns! Afterwards we went uphill again (from the top of the Croce d'Aune pass!) and then over a narrow strip of asphalt back down into the valley to Pte. d. Serra. There we turned right and immediately left up to Castello Tesino. From there - via Stringno and Telve - it was not far back to the hotel in Levico Terme.

A successful tour, which also brought me closer to some unknown roads.

In the evening we also met Tina, Volker and Rudi (ruzeil), who had come to Trentino for Friday and (Tina) also for Saturday.

Friday, 27.09.13 - Tour Manghen - Lavazze

Unfortunately, the sky was overcast again today, so that we had only bad visibility into the valley at the 1st highlight of the tour - the Kaiserjägerstraße (the others had already driven the route in the best weather on Monday, where we got lost).



Afterwards we went to Passo Manghen! One of my favorites!!! From Telve, it's just great!



At the top there was a longer break before we went down into Val di Fiemme. Via Cavalese we reached the Lavazejoch and after a few kilometers downhill we went steeply uphill again towards Deutschnofen. Via Aldein we went to the route from Montan to Cavalese, which we followed - turning left - until we reached Passo S. Lugano. Here we turned right to Altrei. After a short break, the path led us down into the Val di Cembra. Here I was already looking



forward to the further course of the road - the road used to be a poem! But within the last 2 years, when the road was closed, it was - in my opinion - changed to the disadvantage! The former charm of the road has been lost! It is still very curvy, but not as spectacular as before. At Faver a bypass tunnel was built. After that we went down to the bottom of the valley and up

again on the other side. Then left to Sover. Here it should turn right to Brusagno. On the tour on Wednesday we had already passed through Sover and I had seen the turnoff up to Brusagno at the entrance of the village. This time we came to Sover from the other side. Nevertheless the navigation system turned right at the entrance of the village and I thought "Ok, it will fit! But then it became very tricky! At first we went relatively wide into the village before it got narrower. Then the Navi pointed sharply at an acute angle to the right. "That can't be right - can it?" But it was! To turn right here, we all had to shunt once to get around! Then a van, which came towards us, blocked the way. He was waiting for me too and so I drove towards him and directly in front of him to a small yard entrance/parking area. My passengers followed one after the other and the delivery van driver could not hold back a laugh when one motorcycle after the other arrived. Our altogether 6 machines had just enough space on the area. Then the van drove on and we could follow the road further. Shortly afterwards we hit the actual road to Brusagno. Then we turned left to the Passo di Redebus (I had never heard of it before!). Then we went on over some small roads to Pergine. From there the last point on the tour was the road up to Panarotta. Turn right and follow the road down to

Levico Terme. Here the tour description would have ended, but unfortunately not this time. Followed by Tina I drove down to the valley. Then suddenly a mowing vehicle was at work on the right side of the road. We drove past and on we went. Suddenly I missed the rest of the group. We stopped and waited a few minutes. I already wanted to turn back when Wolfgang and then the other 3 passengers arrived. It turned out that shortly before the mower truck there was a big stone on the road (which I - for whatever reason - hadn't noticed at all). Jürgen had hit this stone with the front wheel and had stopped. Get out the side stand and get off. But he hadn't engaged a gear and so the heavy BMW LT rolled over the side stand and threatened to fall over. Markus saw this coming and was able to grab the back of the car at the right time, while Jürgen hit the windshield instead of the handlebars. The fall could be prevented, but the left holder of the windshield was broken. As Jürgen knew from experience a quite expensive damage!

Afterwards we went back to the hotel and the evening ended in a comfortable round.

Saturday, 28.09. Return journey

Since I was a little disappointed by the Val di Cembra the day before, I had decided to take the motorway first in Trento and then up to the Brenner Pass. From there I took the country roads back to Sonthofen.

After breakfast I said goodbye to the others and started the journey home.

The journey was uneventful and I arrived safely back in Sonthofen at about 13:30 hrs.

Conclusion:

It was a great week, with a lot of great impressions, brilliant route and wonderful landscapes. It was simply fun!

Comments:

The Hotel Cristallo is highly recommended. Apparently, this has already gotten around in motorcycle circles. Although the holiday season is actually over at the end of September, there were over 60 motorcycles in the underground car park! The food is good and the staff friendly.

In total I have covered 2333 km.

It was said in German "Simply a dream!" It was a lot of fun and I discovered some tracks I didn't know before.

I had planned the tours - as already described at the beginning - by studying maps, motorbike tour planner and already known route knowledge. It was worth it!

The roads were almost completely empty of people and vehicles and we could just enjoy the tours.

Whoever takes the opportunity later and follows the tour suggestions I made, will find this confirmed.

Most of the times, Trentino is in this area not yet as touristically crowded as the Dolomites and moreover, it offers very diversified - partly simply brilliant (!) routes. Motorcyclist's heart was you want more!