

Montan 2008 - Ridereport

On 04.09.07 it began with the tender "Whitsun 2008 4-day-trip South Tyrol" and from 9 - 12.05.08 it was to go to South Tyrol, more precisely to Montan in Haus Heinrich. The 10 double rooms were soon occupied and the "fine work" could begin!

Tour planning:

["into the heart of the Dolomites"](#) and ["Direction Lago di Caldonazzo"](#)

Since there were no objections or other suggestions, the decision was left as it was.

Petra and I decided to arrive already on Thursday due to the expected high traffic volume on the Friday before Whitsun.

The weather forecast promised nice weather!

Thursday, 08.05.08:

We met with Heike (Dirty Osirius) and Franz in Sonthofen and drove towards Italy!

At the Oberjoch Thomas ("Toutou") and Cathy joined us.

Over the Tannheimer Tal we drove towards Namlostal (the Hahntennjoch was still closed). Unfortunately, after about 2 km a construction site stopped us and we had to turn back because the road was closed. So back to Weissenbach and via Reutte to the Fernpass. Quite little traffic made it a pleasure this time.

Via Nassereith, Telfs and Zirl we drove to Innsbruck. From there we drove via Igls and Ellbögen to Matri. From here it was only a short way to the Brenner Pass, where we met Rita ("Chili") and Helmut. Because of the detour Namlostal and some more stagnation we arrived at 14 o'clock instead of - as planned - at 13 o'clock. On the way to Sterzing we had lunch break and then we drove on to Brixen.

Here we left the Brenner route and turned right towards Feldthurns. There we were supposed to turn right towards Latzfons, but I turned off one too early and we continued uphill via Schnauders.

Then the asphalt ended and we had to turn around. Thomas stumbled and the new BMW K 1200 LT fell to the left side. As the saying goes: Only once you have turned your bike around, it really belongs to you! Okay Thomas: Now it's yours!

With united forces we straightened up the bike again and it could go on. Back in Feldthurns we really went up to Latzfons. The road up is still quite wide, but behind the village it gets narrow! Through a narrow gorge we drove down to Klausen. Here we said goodbye to Rita and Helmut, who took the direct way to Bozen, while the rest of us still drove up the road to Villanders. Wide and with nice curve combinations it goes on and on uphill. Above Villanders the way to Barbian is signposted, which we followed. But the road is also very



narrow and you have to be careful with oncoming traffic. Beautiful views down into the Eisack valley are the reward for this detour.

We continued via Lengstein to Klobenstein and down to Bozen.

Here I wanted to follow the signs to Trento on the left, but the traffic lights at the junction



were out and the traffic from left and right left us no other option than to turn right towards the center of Bozen. Here we were hit by the full rush hour and it only continued at walking pace. But finally this adventure was over and we found the way to Leifers and further to Auer.

On the drive up to Montan, Rita and Helmut were suddenly there again, who had not found the way to the pension after all and were glad that we came. Together we went up and the house Heinrich, our destination, was quickly reached.

Because of the many delays on the way it was already 18:15 o'clock. Total distance from Sonthofen about 340 km.

Soon we moved into our rooms and met at 7 pm for dinner. The events of the day were then discussed in a relaxed atmosphere.

Friday, 09.05.08:

Petra and I wanted to go to Knottnkino (between Vöran and Haflings) that day, Heike and Franz joined us, while Thomas and Cathy as well as Rita and Helmut had other interests. So the four of us went first of all again directly to Bozen, where the traffic was again quite heavy, but it was still much faster than the day before. Direction Sarntal and then left towards Jenesien. But this time I didn't want to take the main road this time, but the old Jenesienstraße, which I had read about in the internet quite often. The road turns right after a few 100 meters and then immediately left again ("Jenesienweg"). The road is very narrow and very steep!!! In addition, there were some narrow hairpin bends and we were glad that nobody came towards us. After a few kilometers we reached the end and stopped on the bulge there. Looking back we could once again imagine the narrowness and steepness of the road.

We continued on the main line up to Jenesien and from there to Mölten. There we turned right and via Vöran we reached the Gasthof Alpenrose, where we parked the motorcycles and made our way up to the Knottnkino. The way leads about 30 min - partly - steeply uphill, but it is worth it! The view up there is just great. There are 30 "cinema chairs" firmly anchored in the ground and you can watch the "landscape film" in peace and quiet. I can only recommend everyone to take the time for this side trip!



Back again with the motorcycles we continued via Hafling to Meran. The whole route from Mlten is characterized by many wonderful views down to Meran and into the Etsch valley. Further the way led us via Lana up to the Gampenjoch. There we had our lunch break. Via Fondo we quickly climbed up to the Mendel Pass and from there up to Monte Pnegal, another wonderful viewpoint with a winding road leading up.

After an "ice stop" in Kaltern, we took a small side road (signposting "Laimburg") to Auer and up to Montan.

Total distance about 170 km.

Some of the other participants - Chris ("Sir Footloose") and Gabi, Peter (gehtnixle) and Ingo, Rudi ("katfisch") and Inge, as well as Joachim ("bartl") and Sylvia had already arrived and only Kai-Uwe ("KUB0711"), Andrea and daughter Alea were still missing (they arrived in Montan at about 00:30).

Dinner again at 7 pm and afterwards a very comfortable common round with pleasant conversations.



Saturday, 10.05.08:



After breakfast at 8 a.m. we started shortly after 9 a.m. for our first round together.

Unfortunately Sylvia could not come with us, because she had a small accident on the way there and her left lower leg was affected (she could only get back on her own bike on Monday for the return trip).

"Into the heart of the Dolomites" was announced and we rode on the main route towards Cavalese. Andrea had taken the warnings of the pension's landlady about the police and their controls too exactly and

kept strictly to the speed limits, so that we drove quite comfortably until Predazzo (gas stop). After a short discussion we went faster towards Passo di Valles (2033 m). After the turnoff to this pass I took it easy and was surprised to find that Andrea almost stuck to my rear wheel. She moved the Deauville very quickly and safely up the mountain - all credit to her!

Also the others came up this wonderful route bit by bit and then they went towards Passo Giau (2236 m). But first the path led us via Falcade down to Cencenighe. From there we went through Alleghe and then followed the signs for Selva di Cadore and Passo Giau. At the top we had a coffee break. But some alpine bikers were still missing, because down in the valley they had not waited for those who were still missing. But also they reached the pass and in the further course of the tour it worked out to wait for the one behind!

In "free ride" (everybody as he likes, without group pressure) they went down the Giau and then up to the Falzarego Pass (2105 m). Here we waited a short time until everybody was there and then



continued uphill to Passo di Valparola (2192 m).

Via St. Kassian we drove to La Villa/Stern. There we had lunch break.

After the meal we went via Corvara up to the Grödner Joch (2121 m). There were signs in the driveway announcing that the pass would be closed between 15:00 and 21:00. It was about 14:45 o'clock and I still thought, if we come up, we will probably come down again! Wrong!!!

Heike had a small fall in the driveway, which did not cause much damage, but did take some time. When everybody was upstairs and we wanted to go to Val Gardena, we suddenly found ourselves in front of a locked barrier! Sh.....!!! But, at this barrier you could drive past on the right side and so we tried our luck - as some other motorcyclists also did. After two - three kilometers there was a further barrier, which we couldn't avoid.



What to do? Turn around?

The other motorcyclists started to lift the barrier in the middle a little bit (as far as possible) and pushed the motorcycles to the left side inclined with united forces under the barrier. So we also tried our luck and one motorcycle after the other "drove" under the barrier.

But our three LT-1200 drivers did not trust the roast and turned back. After they passed the upper barrier again, they informed us briefly by mobile phone and drove via Campolongo and Pordoio directly back to Montan (they arrived there about 15 min before us). The rest of us followed the planned route and reached Castelrotto via Val Gardena and the Panider Sattel (1437 m).



From there, we went via Völs am Schlern over wonderful curve combinations down to Bozen. At the entrance of Bozen (big roundabout) we turned left and took the small but nice road up to Kohlern (Colle) - simply beautiful!

Downhill - with wonderful views - we finally reached Leifers and via Auer back to Montan. Total distance approx. 250 km

At 19 o'clock we met in the Pizzeria Schloss Enn and let the day end with animated conversations.

Sunday, May 11th, 2008:

Again we started at 9 o'clock, this time "direction Caldonazzo Lake".

From Montan over a narrow strip of asphalt to Truden and on to Kaltenbrunn. After S. Lugano we turned right towards Altrei. The 6 km to the village are still wide and well developed. But due to the partial wetness they were not as fast as on dry roads. In Altrei we drive over cobblestones through the village and then left past the church. Here the road

suddenly becomes very narrow and there is hardly enough space to pass an oncoming car with the motorcycle.

But nobody came to meet us and so we quickly reached the Val di Cembra on the right side. Here we turned right and headed towards Faver. The route is sometimes wide and then again very narrow, but still very clear and ideal for motorcycling. In Faver we turned left down into the valley and then via Lasés to the Caldonazzo lake. There we turned right and after a few kilometers left again to Carbonare. Halfway there (near S. Nicolo) we had a lunch break.

Then up to the Passo di Sommo and left towards Tonezza. Shortly before we reached the village the road was closed - like three years ago (!) - and we had to continue on a very narrow side road.

But the access was still partly covered with snow, so we had to be very careful here.



But everyone passed this section smoothly and went on.

Behind Tonezza a small narrow strip of asphalt turns off to the left into the valley.

When we reached the bottom we turned left and then right again towards Asiago. As narrow and narrow the previous section was, as wide and well developed is this one. A rush with 17 bends!

We followed the route to Asiago and from there to the left until Passo Vézzena. Here we made a "Capuccino break".

Then the Kaiserjäger-Straße followed. Always a pleasure again! The view down to Lake Caldonazzo and into Val Sugana - fantastic!

Here we took a group photo and afterwards we drove down into the valley.



Behind Borgo the last highlight of the day followed: The Passo Manghen (for me one of the highlights of the whole Alps!). Photo stop at the top of the pass and then down to the Manghen hut.

But most of them continued quickly because it started to rain. A few stayed up there and took a break.

Afterwards we went - almost the whole way in the partly pouring rain - down into Val di Fiemme and back to Montan.

The last evening together came to an end in a relaxed atmosphere.

Monday, May 12th, 2008:

Except for Heike and Franz, as well as Petra and me, everyone else went home that day.

We said goodbye to the others and then set off for a cosy day.

First we drove up to Truden again, where I took some pictures, which was not possible the day before with 12 motorcycles in tow.

Down we went to Auer and further south to Salurn. Here a road branches off to the left, which leads up to Gfrill. A dead end, but still a nice side trip.



Back in the valley we drove to the other side of the valley and on to Kurtasch. From there we went up to Fennberg - another highly recommended detour! Especially to recommend is the Gasthof Plattenhof, which is famous for its knuckles of pork! The route up was empty of people and vehicles, but up there was quite a lot going on. The Gasthof was well visited.

After the meal we had a lunch break at the nearby small pond.

Then we went back down to Kurtasch and via Truden and Altenburg (partly very steep ascent) to Kaltern, where we enjoyed - like on Friday - a delicious ice cream! We wanted to visit the Maniggler Lakes, but due to the high number of visitors we turned back and drove back to Montan.

A cosy evening at the Gasthof Rose ended this day.



Tuesday, May 13th, 2008:

At 9 o'clock we were heading home!

Via Kaltern we drove to Eppan and then onto the motorway towards Meran. Up into the Vinschgau Valley we were once again hit by the heavy traffic in this area! In Schlanders we left the main route and turned right towards Kortsch. From there a - partly very narrow - road leads via Tannas to Schluderns.

Then we went up to the Reschenpass without problems and still up to Samnaun. The cheap petrol (on this day 1.01 €), as well as the duty-free shopping always make this detour worthwhile.

On the further way we tackled the Piller-Höhe from Prutz and then went straight up to the Fernpass (Hahntennjoch unfortunately still closed). Here was again very much going on and some large trucks came only with difficulty up the mountain - we therefore unfortunately also!

At the rest area we said goodbye to Heike and Franz (who wanted to go home via Füssen) and drove via Reutte and the Tannheimer Tal back to Sonthofen.

Conclusion!

All in all, we covered a good 1,500 kilometres in the six days.

Although we never met some of the participants personally before, everything went smoothly. It was a great group and it was a lot of fun!

With the exception of the descent from Passo Manghen, the weather played its part.

We had a lot of sun, great routes, little traffic and a lot of fun!