



R I D E & S E E K

Join us as we cycle down the coast from Italy through Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece, riding from harbour to harbour. This tour has Marco Polo's spirit at its heart.



VENICE TO ATHENS | (SEPTEMBER 16 - OCTOBER 13 | 2021)

Marco Polo Overview

TOTAL
DISTANCE:

1917km | 1191mi

ELEVATION:

27,080m | 88,849ft

DURATION:

28
DAYS
27 Nights



ITALY



CROATIA



MONTENEGRO



BOSNIA-
HERZEGOVINA



ALBANIA



GREECE

MARCO POLO

GRADING:

Stage 1



Stage 2



MAKE IT
EP!C



EXTRA LOOPS

ARE AVAILABLE
THROUGHOUT THE TOUR
FOR THOSE WANTING
MORE DAILY RIDING AND
ELEVATION

Tours available
from
12 DAYS

STAGE 1 | VENICE to DUBROVNIK

Ride Day	Destination	Distance (kilometres)	Elevation (metres)	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)
1	Venice Lido Warm Up	20	80	12	262
2	Porec	84	1200	52	3937
3	Labin	69	950	43	3117
4	Nerezine	85	1250	53	4101
5	Zadar	77	850	48	2789
6	Sibenik	105	950	65	3117
7	Trogir	90	1150	56	3773
8	Trogir				Rest Day
9	Hvar	57	850	35	2789
10	Korcula	57	850	35	2789
11	Dubrovnik	111	1800	69	5906
12	Dubrovnik				Rest Day
STAGE 1 TOTALS		755	9930	469	32580
STAGE 1 AVERAGES		10 ride days	76	993	47
					3258

STAGE 2 | DUBROVNIK to ATHENS

Ride Day	Destination	Distance (kilometres)	Elevation (metres)	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)
1	Dubrovnik Warm Up	30	150	19	492
2	Kotor	110	1200	68	3937
3	Bar	72	1300	45	4265
4	Mrizi I Zanave (Lezhe)	80	700	50	2297
5	Durres	122	900	76	2953
6	Vlora				Rest Day
7	Sarande	112	2200	70	7218
8	Ioannina	110	1550	68	5086
9	Ioannina				Rest Day
10	Metzovo	80	1650	50	5414
11	Meteora	81	1250	50	4101
12	Neochori	80	1400	50	4593
13	Loutra Ypatis	130	1850	81	6070
14	Athanasiros Diakos	82	2150	51	7054
15	Galaxidi	73	850	45	2789
16	Athens				Visit the Archaeological Site of Delphi
STAGE 2 TOTALS		1162	17150	722	56269
STAGE 2 AVERAGES		13 ride days	89	1319	56
					4328

EXTRA LOOPS

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	Distance (km)	Elevation (m)	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)
EPIC TOTALS	1917	27080	1191	88849
EPIC AVERAGES	23 ride days	83	52	3863

Our ultimate adventure in the footsteps of Marco Polo.



Following in the footsteps of Marco Polo

Join us on our most ambitious project to date. Our aim is to ride from Venice to Beijing, we have 7 distinct stages pencilled in. This is the first of these tours and takes us from Venice, Italy to Athens, Greece.

Our Epic Adventures are all created with a sense of discovery at their core and this tour fulfils that in abundance. Marco Polo is one of the great travellers in history and in many ways he embodies the spirit of the tours we run. The historical focus provides the context and runs in tandem with the cultural and gastronomic immersion we always seek to provide.



First day guidance

For meeting at the start of each stage please come dressed in regular clothes. Look out for the guides at the appointed time in their Ride & Seek attire or simply ask at the hotel reception where to find the group and they will direct you accordingly. The usual first day format involves grabbing a bite to eat together and the guides talking about the tour. We then focus on fitting bikes and set a time to meet in bike gear for a warm-up ride before catching up for pre-dinner drinks with the rest of the group.

Stage 1 – Venice to Dubrovnik

Thursday 16th September – Monday 27th September

For Stage 1 and Epic riders we will meet you at 12:00, Thursday 16th September, at the Hotel Panorama on Venice Lido – www.hpanorama.com. The hotel is conveniently located opposite the Venice Lido passenger ferry terminal.

The primary gateway for this tour is Venice Marco Polo airport from where you can catch a water taxi directly to Venice Lido. For arrivals from other airports, or for those already in Italy, we recommend using the train links to Venezia Santa Lucia station. The Italian fast train network provides regular services to this station and from here you can also catch a water taxi to Venice Lido.

Stage 1 ends in Dubrovnik on Monday September 27th. We will organise a shuttle after breakfast to Dubrovnik airport that is approximately 30 minutes away by car.

Stage 2 – Dubrovnik to Athens

Monday 27th September – Wednesday 13th October

If you are joining us in Dubrovnik we will meet you at 12:00 on Monday 27th September at the Hotel Rixos Premium – www.premiumdubrovnik.rixos.com. The gateway airport is Dubrovnik airport, also referred to as Čilipi Airport, which is situated about 20km from Dubrovnik, a 30 minute taxi ride. We will offer a pickup from the airport at around 11:00.

Tour conclusion

Wednesday 13th October

The official end of the tour is after breakfast on Wednesday October 13th. The hotel we are staying in is the Electra Palace – <https://www.electrahotels.gr/en/athens/electra-palace-athens/> – which is wonderfully located and a great spot to extend your stay. Athens International airport is 30km away and takes about 40 minutes to reach by taxi.

Marco Polo | Venice to Athens



STAGE 1 - Venice to Dubrovnik

This Epic journey is split into two distinct stages that are different in terms of their relative difficulty and the extent to which they appear on the cyclo-tourism radar.

The first stage takes us from Venice across to the Adriatic Sea before heading down the Dalmatian coast to the wonderful city of Dubrovnik. On this stage we island-hop between harbours and place our own mark on an already well-trodden route.



STAGE 2 - Dubrovnik to Athens

For the second part of our journey we step off the beaten path as we head south to Montenegro and through the very much undiscovered country of Albania that we promise will charm you.

From Albania we head to the island of Corfu before turning inland to ride across Greece to Athens. You'll experience longer distances than on the first stage and a more challenging topographical profile.



CLICK to see the Ride & Seek website for details of tour dates and prices

STAGE 1 - Venice to Dubrovnik

- Explore La Serenissima (Venice) from the relative island sanctuary of the Lido di Venezia
- Sail away from Venice to the historic city of Porec and embrace the seafaring spirit of Marco Polo.
- Marvel at Diocletian's Palace which takes up almost half of the old town of Split and is testament to the areas strong Roman heritage.
- Be seduced by the natural beauty of Hvar which is nestled in the Adriatic Sea and is our home for a night.
- Visit Korčula, where Marco Polo is reputed to have been born. There is even a house there that pertains to be his birthplace.
- Savour a cuisine, with its strong seafood focus that encompasses the best of the Mediterranean diet.
- Enjoy your rest day in the enchanting city of Dubrovnik that serves as the halfway point for our tour.

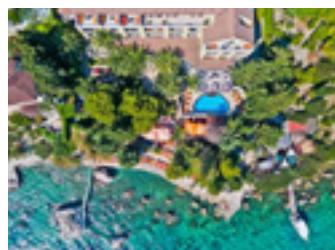
STAGE 2 - Dubrovnik to Athens

- Wander the streets of the beguiling UNESCO site of Kotor in Montenegro.
- Embrace the road less travelled as we cross the border into Albania.
- Experience the global phenomenon of the Slow Food movement at a wonderful agriturismo in the Albania countryside.
- Cycle our favourite ever coastal road with expansive views of Corfu as we head towards the Greek border.
- Take in the scenic beauty of the marine reserve around Valona on a cruise down the Albania coast.
- Sail into Greece via the charming island of Corfu that also provides us with a relaxing venue for a day off the bike.
- Head away from the sea in Greece and experience the beauty of the inland areas as we head towards our tour conclusion in Athens.
- Explore our destination city of Athens and visit the Parthenon which is next to our final hotel.



We carefully select the places where we stay based on their personality and the hospitality of our hosts.

Our tour covers a broad range of countries that are at different stages in terms of their tourism infrastructure. One thing we are delighted by is the friendliness and level of service we encounter in all 5 countries. From charming old buildings, Soviet-style properties, cosy farms, and newly built modern hotels all of our accommodations have a story to tell.



Hotel Panorama, Venice

Our first tour hotel is perfectly located opposite the ferry terminal on Venice Lido. With wonderful views across the lagoon, our hotel is family-run and exudes a wonderful charm.

Hotel Podstine, Hvar

Sheltered in the Podstine bay our hotel has a private beach and is the perfect spot from which to explore Hvar. With a relaxed atmosphere it marries an undoubted class with a welcoming vibe that is not always easy to achieve.

Hotel Villa Pascucci, Durazzo

Owned by the Pascucci coffee family this five star hotel is both kitsch and grandiose at the same time. We love the quality of the service here and the Italian influence plays a role in the food making the restaurant top notch.

Mrizi I Zanave, Lezhe

Attached to the Slow Food agriturismo we eat at, this lovely farm stay affords stunning views from its elevated position. The accommodation fulfils our remit of searching off the beaten track, making this eatery memorable in terms of giving you a sense of where you are travelling.

Electra Palace Hotel, Athens

Our final hotel in Athens gets the combination of class and hospitality just right. Situated in the heart of the city with majestic views of the Acropolis it is a wonderful place to spend our final night on tour.

We choose our restaurants because they are exceptional and unique.

The Balkans are a wonderful melting pot of cultures and history which is reflected in the extraordinary richness to be found in their culinary traditions. There are a myriad of different tasty recipes that cover the many different seafood specialities on the coast and the more meat focused inland areas.



Osteria al Mercà, Lido di Venezia

Situated in the old fish market of Lido di Venezia this wonderful restaurant hosts us whenever one of our tours passes through Venice. With a strong reputation for seafood and a wicked vodka sorbetto it is a great place to start our tour.

Above 5 Rooftop, Dubrovnik

We first ate in this restaurant 5 years ago and it became an instant favourite. With panoramic views, an opportunity to reserve the entire rooftop just for our guests, and a cuisine which is among the best in the city, this is a great spot to celebrate the first stage of the tour.

Galion Restoran, Kotor

With views across the Kotor marina and towards the Old Town it is hard to find a place with a more striking outlook. This restaurant blends the finest in Montenegrin cuisine with a more modern Mediterranean twist.

Mrizi I Zanave, Lezhe

The Slow Food movement embraces so many elements that we hold dear in our own approach to designing tours. We were therefore delighted to come across this agriturismo in the Albanian countryside. With a relaxed approach and a focus on produce from their farm it's a wonderful local dining experience.

Berti's restaurant, Hvar

Our restaurant is very much off the beaten track in an abandoned village just outside Hvar. Berti and his family established an eatery that pays homage to the Dalmatian peak dish and is an undoubtedly culinary highlight of the tour.

The Travels of Marco Polo

Marco Polo (1254-1324) was a Venetian merchant who journeyed across Asia at the height of the Mongol Empire. He first set out at age 17 with his father and uncle, travelling overland along what later became known as the Silk Road. Upon reaching China, Marco Polo entered the court of powerful Mongol ruler Kublai Khan, who dispatched him on trips to help administer the realm. Marco Polo remained abroad for 24 years.

Beyond the image presented in 'The Travels of Marco Polo' (Rustichello da Pisa/ Marco Polo) the historical character of Marco Polo fits perfectly into the reality of his time. In the 13th century Venice offered a stable commercial empire, rooted in the Mediterranean but always looking further afield and to the Levant.

The mercantile world was fluid and constantly evolving with a merchant class increasingly central to geopolitical events, gradually freeing itself from the mistrust dictated by medieval legacies. At the same time on the other side of the world there was a renewed interest in the development of trade routes, the most famous of which is undoubtedly the Silk Road.

All this was facilitated by the Pax Mongolica, an era of stabilisation in the Eurasian territories paradoxically achieved through conquest. In this great dynamism that crosses the two continents Marco was a key figure in the integration of two seemingly very distant and irreconcilable cultures.

The legend of Marco Polo provides a wonderful blueprint with which to create this cycling tour with a sense of discovery and adventure sitting at the core. There is much conjecture as to the path of his journey or even for that matter if he ever visited the court in Beijing. Within this conjecture though lie the bones of a journey have inspired us like no other.





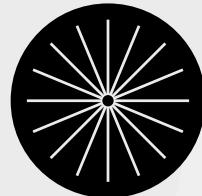
WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Go to our website at:

<https://rideandseek.com/tour/marco-polo/>

to find out more information, a recommended reading list, testimonials and much more.

Alternatively, contact us at info@rideandseek.com or +61 (0) 2 8007 3161



R I D E & S E E K

Marco Polo Overview