

WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

Italian Biking Adventure

**DOLOMITES TO VENICE
JULY 20-29, 2024**

*A 300-kilometer bike trip highlighting the
history and scenery of Italy's Höhlensteintal Valley,
Cortina d'Ampezzo, and Bassano de Grappa*



A JOINT PROGRAM OF
W&L'S OUTING CLUB AND
LIFELONG LEARNING

Stay Active, Learn Outdoors

Dear W&L Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

We are excited to announce that Lifelong Learning and the Outing Club have joined forces to offer an exciting new type of active educational adventure. This alliance brings together W&L's strengths in educational travel and outdoor education to offer a unique program specifically designed for members of the W&L family who want to combine their love of physical activity with their quest to travel and learn. We invite you to join us on our inaugural program, a bike tour through some of the most beautiful countryside in northern Italy.

Our 300-kilometer journey will begin near the Austrian border in the northeastern Dolomites (southern Alps). You will ride through the Höhlensteintal Valley below the spectacular Drei Zinnen (Three Peaks) to the Olympic city of Cortina d'Ampezzo. Here we'll make our first stop to climb a via ferrata built by soldiers during World War I or, for those who prefer it, take a brisk hike to Monte Faloria. While in Cortina, we'll also visit Hotel de la Posta where Ernest Hemingway lodged during his time in Italy and reportedly was inspired to write *Across the River and Into the Trees*. On the path of the former Dolomites Railway, we will continue to Pieve di Cadore, the birthplace of legendary Renaissance painter Titian. The path continues to the Dolomite town of Belluno, famed for its tradition of making fine quality gelato.

Our trek continues through the foothills, heading first to Feltre and then on to Bassano del Grappa, where you can sample the bracing spirit that shares a name with its village of origin. Then, we'll take a short detour to Asolo, the "city of a hundred horizons," before we reach the plains and head to Treviso, known for its decadent tiramisù and as an Italian fashion center. Along the River Sile, we will cycle to our magnificent final destination, La Serenissima (aka Venice). The Floating City is ours to explore as we unwind before our final dinner together. The option to stay in Venice on your own after the tour is a great way to take in the canals, piazzas, museums, palaces, and cathedrals that make this one of the world's great cities.

Join us for this inaugural Outing Club x Lifelong Learning adventure. Space on this tour is extremely limited, so reserve your spot today.

Stay Active,



Gary Kirk
Director, Lifelong
Learning



James Dick
Director, Outdoor
Education



Ruth Candler
Associate Director,
Lifelong Learning



Lisa D'Amelio
Coordinator, Lifelong
Learning





HIGHLIGHTS

- » Bike from the Dolomites to Venice (July 22-28) featuring breathtaking natural landscapes, visits to quaint towns and cities with architectural treasures, and historically significant sites from World War I.
- » Ascend the cables, steps, and walkways of a via ferrata for a thrilling experience or hike Monte Faloria to take in panoramic vistas.
- » Educational opportunities throughout the journey will combine self-guided tours and expert interpretive guides.
- » Visit the Hotel de la Posta, a favorite retreat of Ernest Hemingway, for a reception and lecture about the author.
- » Experience regional culture and cuisine during tastings of gelato and grappa.

Your 10-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: July 20, 2024
Depart U.S.

DAY 2: July 21, 2024
Arrive in Venice
and transfer to
Hochpustertal (D)

- Welcome dinner

DAY 3: July 22, 2024
Bike in the Höhlenstein
Valley to Cortina
d'Ampezzo. (B,L)

- Drei Zinnen (Three Peaks)
- Regional WWI history

DAY 4: July 23, 2024
Cortina d'Ampezzo
(B,L,D)

- Via ferrata climb or Monte Faloria hike
- Hemingway's room at Hotel de la Posta
- Group dinner

DAY 5: July 24, 2024
Bike from Cortina
d'Ampezzo to Belluno
(B,L)

- Sorapis, Cinque Torri, Boite Valley, Pieve di Cadore, Longarone
- Traditional gelato tasting

DAY 6: July 25, 2024
Bike Belluno to Feltre
(B,L)

DAY 7: July 26, 2024
Bike Feltre-Bassano
del Grappa (B,L)

- Brenta Valley
- Grappa tasting

DAY 8: July 27, 2024
Bassano del Grappa
to Treviso (B,L)

- Asolo
- Palladian architecture

DAY 9: July 28, 2024
Treviso to Venice (B,L,D)

- River Sile and the Adriatic Sea
- Farewell dinner

DAY 10: July 29, 2024
Venice/Depart for U.S. (B)



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- » Transfers to hotel on July 21, 2024 from the Venice airport (VCE)
- » Lodging each night (July 21-28) (double occupancy); a limited number of single supplements available (+\$300)
- » Bike rental; helmet available (or bring your own)
- » 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 3 dinners (including program opening and closing dinners)
- » Admission to historical sites and cultural experiences
- » Educational materials and resources
- » Transfer to the Venice Airport on July 29th.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- » Roundtrip airfare to/from Venice to the U.S.
- » Dinners and incidentals not specified above
- » Time on your own in Venice after the tour
- » Airport transfers outside of the tour dates

TRAVELING WITH YOU:



James Dick has directed the university's Outdoor Education department for 22 years and has led back-country expeditions and adventure programs on four continents. He is also a frequent host for Lifelong Learning tours, including recent trips to the Galapagos Islands and the National Parks of the American Southwest. James graduated from the University of New Mexico.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND COMFORT LEVELS:

This program is an active educational adventure that requires participants to ride a bicycle under their own power. Participants should be prepared to bike between 45-80 kilometers per day, including moderate elevation changes. Travel will remain on schedule in inclement weather, so participants should be ready to bike in a variety of weather conditions. Accommodations will be comfortable and will highlight options that cater to active travelers. Provided meals (see above) include hotel breakfasts, casual picnic lunches on-the-go, and restaurant dinners offering opportunities to sample locally produced specialties and nourishing fare while engaging with fellow adventurers.



Register Today

To reserve your space, complete the online registration form available at <https://go.wlu.edu/dolomitemountains>. Once you submit your reservation, W&L Lifelong Learning will contact you to confirm your reservation and collect your deposit and additional information.



COST PER PERSON (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY): \$1,875 from Venice, Italy

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$300

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT: Due to the nature of this tour, limited space is available and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. A completed registration form and a deposit of \$600 per person are required to secure your reservation. Final payment is due on or before April 15, 2024. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the departure date, the full cost of the program is due at the time of registration. If final payment is not received by the due date, W&L may cancel your reservation with no right of refund. Payments are accepted by check or major credit card.

CANCELATIONS, REFUNDS, AND ADDITIONAL FEES: All cancellations must be submitted to W&L Lifelong Learning in writing. Refunds will be processed as follows:

- » Cancel before April 15, 2024: Full refund less a \$250 cancellation fee.
- » Cancel April 15-May 15, 2024: Full refund less \$600 deposit.

- » Cancel May 16-June 20, 2024: 50% refund.
- » Cancel after June 20, 2024 (or no show): No refund available.
- » No full or partial refunds will be made for early departures or non-participation in tour activities.
- » Participants are responsible for additional expenses associated with emergency health care and travel extensions beyond the tour package as described.
- » Travel insurance is recommended for all participants.

ASSISTANCE AND MORE INFORMATION: Contact W&L Lifelong Learning at lifelong@wlu.edu or (540) 458-8723.

TOUR OPERATOR: FunActive Tours, Niederdorf (BZ), Italy.

