



SELF-GUIDED HUT TO HUT

GRAND TOUR OF THE ALTA BADIA – 7 NIGHT TOUR

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GRAND TOUR OF THE ALTA BADIA

7 Night Tour - The Facts

A complete and dramatic circuit of the Alta Badia, taking in the peaks and trails of the Puez Odle and Fanes Natural Parks and incorporating the Lagazuoi Tunnels (optional) and much more besides. Using some of the most spectacularly located rifugios in the area we have created this superb tour which encompasses most of the major mountain groups around this beautiful, picturesque valley and is a superb introduction to the area.

Terrain

This route uses only waymarked routes which are generally straightforward to navigate using signposts and waymarks. Routes vary from well trodden woodland paths to steeper paths on looser, rocky terrain. Certain sections of the route may be considered exposed by some people. Naturally, in the high mountains a certain level of hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights and a good level of fitness are essential.

Please note that routes in the high massifs, such as this one, may require you to cross patches of snow early in the season.

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|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Grade : | Moderate/Hard |
| Walking Time : | 4 to 5 hours per day (based on 3km/h) |
| Ascent : | 769m to 1435m per day |
| Descent : | 630m to 1390m per day |

Please note that walking time does not include time taken for rests or lunch breaks and is an indication of how long the walking itself will take.

Dates & Prices

Mid June to mid September, with August being particularly busy in the rifugios.

£825 per person

Arrive on the day of your choice. Airport transfers are on offer on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please note that all bookings are subject to availability in the rifugios and hotels - please do not make any travel arrangements until we have confirmed your accommodation dates.

Based on Half Board accommodation in dormitory style rooms in mountain rifugios - there are no hotels on this route. On your first and last nights you will stay in an en-suite room on a B&B basis in a local guesthouse within walking distance of restaurants and pizzerias. All rifugios along this trek have the option of upgrading to a private room - this is subject to a supplement of £15 per person per night (or £30 for single travellers)

All dorms are mixed sex and vary in size from rifugio to rifugio.

No single supplements apply for dormitory accommodation but are applied to upgrades to private rooms.

You must supply your own sleeping bag liners for all dormitory accommodation.

Towels are not provided in any rifugio accommodation - please bring your own.

Included in the price

- Return airport transfers from Venice Marco Polo or Venice Treviso.
(We offer transfers from Venice Marco Polo at 3pm and from Treviso airport at 3.30pm 4 days a week: Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. For departing flights, we ask that flights booked are no earlier than 11.00am. - see www.colletts.co.uk/dolomites/airport-transfers-to-the-italian-dolomites).
- B&B accommodation in the Alta Badia for the first and last nights of your trip - usually in a 2* guesthouse or one of our hosted chalets.
- All rifugio bookings on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner included)
- Detailed route laminates.
- All relevant maps.
- Detailed pre-departure information including packing suggestions.

Not included in the price

- Flights
- Insurance
- Packed lunches (these are available at every rifugio)
- Drinks/snacks and any other purchases in the rifugios - some rifugios do not have drinkable tap water
- Lifts/cable cars and buses - allow approx €10 per person or €20 per person if you choose to use the Santa Croce Lift - Day 2

Route Information

Day 1 - The Val Badia to Rifugio Gardenacia

10.8km, 1435m ascent, 731m descent - The main focus of day one is the iconic peak of Sassongher which dominates the view from Corvara and provides a superb vantage point from which to orientate yourself with the Alta Badia. A narrow switchback path leads up the steep flanks of the peak to a small saddle, from where the final section to the summit involves some easy scrambling in quite exposed positions, aided by the use of metal cables. From the summit, descend the section of scrambling to the saddle again before a superb terraced path leads to the tranquil Rifugio Gardenacia, giving superb views across the valley to the Fanes Massif.

Overnight accommodation - Rifugio Gardenacia

Day 2 - The Puez-Odle to Rifugio Santa Croce

12.9km, 955m ascent, 950m descent - Crossing the valley from the Puez-Odle to the Fanes Massif begins with a descent, which is steep in places, into the village of La Villa. Here you will find plenty of opportunities to stop for a mid-morning coffee before striking out up the eastern side of the valley to San Cassiano and onwards along beautiful woodland paths to the Santa Croce Rifugio and Chapel. This walk gives a real taste of the pretty villages which dwell in the bottom of this beautiful valley. The rifugio is the most basic on the itinerary and whilst food is hearty and tasty there is normally not a great deal of choice. However, this is more than made up for by the position of the rifugio from where you can watch the sun set on the huge face of the Santa Croce which towers above. There is also the option to make the day shorter, and reduce the ascent, by using the lifts from Badia which finish only 300m from the rifugio - not included in the price.

Overnight accommodation - Rifugio Santa Croce

Day 3 - Ascending to the Fanes Massif and Rifugio Lavarella

12km, 1188m ascent, 1150m descent - Leave Rifugio Santa Croce via a meandering path which takes in unspoilt meadows and tranquil forests before ascending to a high col, from where the whole of the Fanes Massif opens out before you. From here, a steady descent leads down to the small, sheltered meadows of Munt de Pices Fanes which have long been used for grazing cattle and are now home to Rifugio Lavarella. The walk involves some quite steep and airy sections of path on loose, rocky terrain on approach to the col and in descent down the far side, however, no scrambling is required.

Overnight accommodation - Rifugio Lavarella

Day 4 - Rifugio Fanes and the high mountain scenery of the Tofana Massif

15km, 1314m ascent, 630m descent - Much of the day follows the well-known Alta Via 1 which crosses the Dolomites from north to south through impressive high mountain scenery. After a short initial climb you are rewarded with a gently undulating path in a superb setting with high peaks all around, before a descent leads into the valley in preparation for a long climb in the afternoon to Rifugio Lagazuoi, which gives what is certainly one of the best 360 views of the Dolomites. Along the way help is at hand in the shape of two well-positioned rifugios which make ideal places for a late morning coffee and then a good hearty lunch. Rifugio Lagazuoi gives a superb vantage point for keen photographers or those who just wish to soak up the view with a beer in hand. The ascent to the rifugio is sustained and it is worth allowing plenty of time so as not to have to rush this part of the day.

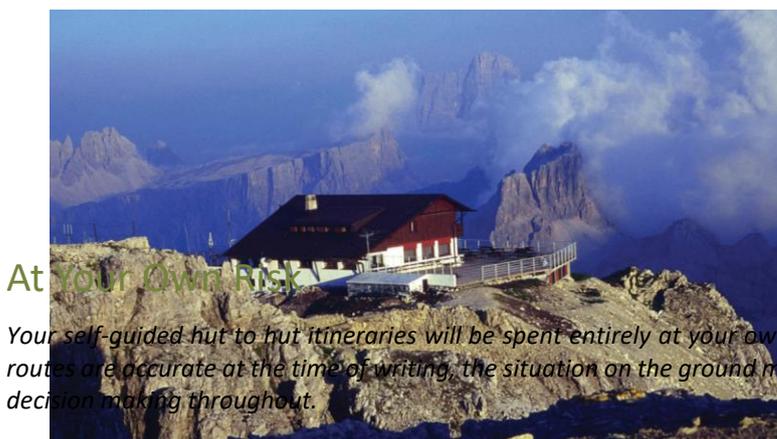
Overnight accommodation - Rifugio Lagazuoi

Day 5 - Lagazuoi Tunnels, Nuvolau or a circuit of the Tofana de Rozes (3225m)

Options abound for day five of your itinerary. Spend the day relaxing on the beautiful sun terrace of Rifugio Lagazuoi with a good book and Rifugio lunch, or perhaps borrow a torch from the rifugio and explore the Lagazuoi Tunnels, an intricate and extensive network of tunnels used by the Italian and Austro-Hungarian troops during WW1 - allow at least 2 hours for a descent then perhaps return by cable car. For those looking for more walking, try the circular route to Rifugio Nuvolau (the oldest in the Dolomites) - walking time 4½ hours, 470m ascent and descent; or complete a circuit of one of the Dolomites most impressive peaks; Tofana de Rozes, walking time 6 hours, 1270m ascent and descent. **Overnight accommodation - Rifugio Lagazuoi**

Day 6 - Lagazuoi to the Pralongia Plateau and Corvara

14.8km, 769m ascent, 1390m descent - Descend from Rifugio Lagazuoi using the cable car, or walk if you are feeling fit, to Passo Falzarego. From here the route takes you along the southern flank of the Setsas range through intermittent woodland, small meadows and boulderfields, before crossing the open meadows of the Pralongia Plateau which gives views of each of the areas covered already by the earlier stages of the itinerar. An indistinct ridge line runs across the plateau and is followed for as long as possible, before a descent on wide tracks leads back into Corvara. More well placed rifugios make for ideal lunch stops and are an superb way to end this Grand Tour of the Alta Badia. **Overnight accommodation - Hotel or Chalet in the Alta Badia**



At Your Own Risk

Your self-guided hut to hut itineraries will be spent entirely at your own risk and it is important that you understand that whilst these routes are accurate at the time of writing, the situation on the ground may change and the itineraries rely on your sound judgement and decision making throughout.



Our self-guided hut to hut itineraries are put together on a basis of goodwill so that you might enjoy a route you may not otherwise have discovered having organised the itinerary yourself. It represents nothing more than the opportunity to go out on a beautiful walk in a part of this wonderful walking area, with the support of knowing that many of the logistics have been arranged for you.

It is a fact that mountains, mountainous areas and activities undertaken in them are associated with personal injury and death. By coming to such areas, you are exposing yourself and your party to the possibility of personal injury or even death. In such an event, Collett's Mountain Holidays will not be held responsible for your interest in mountainous areas and your involvement in mountain pursuits, which can occasionally have tragic consequences.

It is important that you understand that these routes are put together using our extensive knowledge of the area, to provide a route which we believe will be enjoyable and realistic for people who decide that they have the appropriate level of fitness and ability in order to complete the itinerary safely. The information provided uses only marked paths which are in use at the time of writing, however, it is your responsibility to continually assess the suitability and safety of the route throughout the walk and to undertake any action necessary to avoid any terrain which each or any member of the group is not comfortable with. The route choice also assumes an ability to read maps and navigate competently.

It is the responsibility of each individual in the group to make an assessment of the information provided, and to make an informed decision about whether the itinerary is suitable for them.

Finally, during your holiday with Collett's Mountain Holidays you act at your own risk on any ideas, information and opinions you might acquire from our walk organisers or from material prepared by us to help you get the most from the area.

