Dolomites Alta Via 2 Trek

Information Pack

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Why Choose Earth's Edge

Our mission is to support you in exploring our incredible world and experiencing life-changing adventures in the safest way possible. We are passionate about protecting the planet and improving the lives of those we meet along the way.

- We are a **100% Irish-owned small business.** Our founder, James McManus, is passionate about adventure travel, and his extensive experience is an invaluable source of support for our office team in our day-to-day operations.
- Our **exceptional guides and leaders** are fully trained in wilderness first aid, and true experts in their region. They are passionate about sharing their first-hand knowledge of the local culture, history, and geography, while ensuring we consistently deliver unforgettable experiences.
- We keep **group sizes small** to minimise our environmental impact and foster a strong group dynamic. Whether you're traveling solo or with friends or family, our small group sizes provide the perfect opportunity to bond over shared experiences and create lasting friendships.
- For most of our expeditions, we run a **pre-departure training weekend** two months prior to departure, which includes a detailed expedition brief, two training hikes and expert advice from an experienced mountain guide.
- We're here to **support you every step of the way.** Our friendly office team is available to answer any questions you have by phone, e-mail or video consultations. Each team member participates in an expedition every year, ensuring they can share up-to-date advice and insights drawn from their own first-hand experiences.
- Booking an Earth's Edge expedition entitles you to a discount from our **equipment partners** at Great Outdoors to ensure that you get the best gear for your expedition.

- **Responsible travel** is at the core of what we do at Earth's Edge. As a Certified B Corp company, we are committed to using our business as a force for good; to support our communities both locally and worldwide as well as creating more environmental awareness.

We have a number of **environmental programmes and community projects,** including;

- A yearly scholarship that gives porters the opportunity to become guides on Kilimanjaro.
- Our clients in Nepal help to remove waste from Sagarmatha National Park through the Carry Me Back Program.
- We collect clothing and gear donations for our amazing porters on Kilimanjaro.
- We are striving to increase the number of female staff across our expeditions.

To read more about our sustainability practices please visit our responsible travel page.

Description & Detailed Itinerary

Experience the spectacular Dolomites in one long weekend on our five-day Alta Via 2 trek, a challenging hut-to-hut adventure through one of Europe's most dramatic mountain landscapes.

Known for its towering limestone peaks, rugged mountain passes and beautiful alpine valleys, the Alta Via 2 is one of the Dolomites' most rewarding long-distance hiking routes. Compared with the better-known Alta Via 1, it offers a wilder, more challenging experience, with quieter trails and a real sense of adventure.

Our shortened five-day itinerary covers approximately 65km along the northern section of the famous route, avoiding technical via ferrata climbing. We begin near Brixen and finish in the mountain village of Arabba, with group transfers to and from Venice airport included. Along the way, we'll hike through the beautiful Puez-Odle Nature Park, cross steep mountain passes, discover the spectacular Sella massif and experience incredible views from almost 3,000m above sea level. Expect a mix of forest trails, open alpine meadows, steep scree slopes and rocky mountain paths, including some exposed sections with fixed cables and handrails for support.

Each evening, we'll stay in a traditional mountain refuge, enjoying hearty Italian mountain food and the unique atmosphere of life high in the Dolomites. These remote mountain huts are an integral part of the experience and provide a wonderful opportunity to unwind after a challenging day on the trails.

Accompanied throughout by a professional, experienced mountain guide, you'll experience some of the best of the Alta Via 2 in just five days. Whether you've previously completed the Tour du Mont Blanc or are looking for your next alpine adventure, this is a fantastic opportunity to experience the wild, rugged beauty of the Dolomites.

Day 1: Arrive in Venice, transfer to Brixen, 3hrs, trek to Rifugio Plose, 2 hrs | 5 km / +600m

Our Dolomites adventure begins at Venice Marco Polo Airport, where we meet as a group in the morning for our private transfer to Brixen, approximately three hours away. From here, we hike towards Rifugio Plose, enjoying views of the surrounding Dolomites. This is a relatively gentle introduction to the terrain ahead. Depending on timing and conditions, we may take the Plose cable car and follow a shorter trail to our refuge. Overnight mountain refuge.

Day 2: Trek Rifugio Plose to Rifugio Genova, 6.5 hrs | 14 km | +600m / -700m

Today we join the Alta Via 2 and make our way into the beautiful Puez–Odle Nature Park, surrounded by some of the Dolomites' most recognisable limestone peaks. The trail descends towards Passo Rodella before climbing through a rocky mountain gully to Forcella della Pùtia, with fantastic views across the surrounding mountains. From the pass, we continue along scenic mountain paths and across open alpine meadows towards Rifugio Genova. Depending on conditions and the group's fitness, there may be an opportunity for an optional summit walk to Piccolo Sas de Pùtia at 2,800m. Overnight mountain refuge.

Day 3: Trek Rifugio Genova to Rifugio Firenze, 6 hrs | 13 km | +670m / -900m

Today's route takes us into some of the more rugged mountain terrain of the trek, as we climb towards Forcella de Medalges and continue to the dramatic Forcella del Róa. This is one of the more challenging sections of our trek, with steep, rocky paths and loose scree underfoot. Our efforts are rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding limestone peaks. We avoid the technical via ferrata section, descending into Val de Róa before leaving the main Alta Via 2 trail and continuing towards our refuge above Val Gardena. Overnight mountain refuge.

Day 4: Trek Rifugio Firenze to Rifugio Pisciadù, 7 hrs | 16 km | +1,300m / -740m

With around 1,300m of ascent, today is likely to be the most physically demanding day of the trek. We begin by descending towards the mountain village of Selva di Val Gardena, where there may be time for a coffee stop before we start our climb towards Passo Gardena. From here, we enter the Sella massif, following rocky mountain trails beneath towering limestone cliffs. Our final ascent again avoids the technical via ferrata route, but does include some short sections equipped with fixed cables for support. There may also be an option to use a mountain lift to reduce some of the ascent. We spend the night at Rifugio Pisciadù, situated beside the beautiful Lago Pisciadù, surrounded by the peaks of the Sella massif. Overnight mountain refuge.

Day 5: Trek Rifugio Pisciadù to Arabba, 6 hrs, transfer to Venice | 14 km | +717m / -1,711m

Our final day takes us across the rocky Sella Plateau, approaching 3,000m above sea level, with panoramic views across the surrounding Dolomites. We continue towards Forcella d'Antersass and the Pordoi cable car, which we take down to Passo Pordoi to avoid the long, steep scree descent. From here, we continue on foot towards the mountain village of Arabba, where our private group transfer will be waiting. After five unforgettable days in the Dolomites, we travel back to Venice Marco Polo Airport, where our adventure ends.

Trip Costs

You can find our detailed expedition pricing on our website.

- A **deposit** of EUR/USD/GBP 199 is taken at the time of booking to secure your spot.
- The **final balance** can be paid in instalments, but is due 90 days prior to departure.

Flights

We'll share recommended flight timings to Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE) that line up with our complimentary group transfers.

Please consult us before booking alternative flights to ensure you arrive in time for the group transfer, as it's difficult to make your own way to the starting point of the trek.

Accommodation and Luggage

All four nights are spent in traditional mountain refuges, known as *rifugi*. Refuges are comfortable but relatively simple, and facilities vary between locations.

Accommodation is in shared dormitory-style rooms, with bunk beds and communal facilities. Pillows and blankets or duvets are provided, but you'll need to bring a lightweight sleeping bag liner. Showers are available at all refuges, although hot water may be limited. Charging facilities are generally available but can be limited, and Wi-Fi should not be relied upon.

You'll need to carry all of your own clothing and personal equipment throughout the trek, as luggage transfers are not available. We recommend packing as light as possible (max. 10kg) and using a comfortable, well-fitted hiking backpack.

Trip Inclusions & Exclusions

What's Included:

- An Earth's Edge team jacket, buff and cap for you to keep
- Pre-departure training weekend in Wicklow
- 5 days guided hiking on the Alta Via 2 by an experienced mountain guide
- Return group airport transfers from Venice Marco Polo Airport
- 4 nights accommodation in mountain refuges on the trail
- A pillow and blanket is provided at the refuges
- All meals and drinking water on the trek

What's Excluded:

- Flights
- Expedition doctor (high-quality medical care is readily available locally)
- Training Weekend accommodation and food
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal equipment
- Tips
- Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, and alcohol
- Any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances which affect the itinerary, such as bad weather, landslides, road conditions, and any other circumstances beyond our control.

Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory for all travellers, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have suitable cover in place for this trek.

We strongly recommend arranging travel insurance as soon as possible after booking, so that you may be covered for unforeseen events, such as illness or injury, that could prevent you from travelling.

At a minimum, your policy must cover:

A. Medical expenses for personal injury or sickness
B. Guided trekking up to 3,000 metres
C. Mountain rescue, including helicopter evacuation in an emergency situation
D. Repatriation to one's country of residence

We recommend considering **TrueTraveller** as their policies can provide cover for the requirements outlined above and include cancellation cover.

Spending Money and Tipping

Spending Money

We recommend allowing approximately **€200** in spending money for this trip, including tips, drinks, snacks and any personal expenses. We suggest bringing some cash in euros, as card payments may not always be available at mountain refuges.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely optional and at your discretion, based on your experience and level of satisfaction. If you are happy to tip, we suggest approximately **€30 per person**, which you can give to your guide at the end of the trek.

Training Weekends

Before every expedition, we organise a Training Weekend where you'll have the chance to meet your fellow adventurers! Led by experienced guides, these weekends include a comprehensive expedition briefing, two training hikes, and invaluable advice covering everything from equipment to weather conditions.

Not only are these events educational, they're also enjoyable, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. Please note that food and accommodation for this weekend is not included.

Safety Standards

At Earth's Edge, your safety is our top priority. Our Dolomites trek is led by a professional, experienced mountain guide with extensive knowledge of the local terrain and mountain conditions.

While our guide carries a first aid kit, we ask all participants to bring a basic personal first aid kit, as outlined in the equipment list. Always follow the guidance of your guide, to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience

We recommend participants review the official travel advice available on the DFA website.

Maintaining good personal hygiene is important throughout the trek, particularly when sharing facilities in mountain refuges.

Always **wash your hands thoroughly** after using the toilet and before eating, and carry **hand sanitiser** for times when washing facilities aren't available.

Only drink **water** from designated potable water sources. Avoid drinking untreated water from streams or other natural sources.

To read more about our safety standards please visit our safety page.

Special Offers:

- **Return Customer Offer** - If you have travelled with us before please visit our return customer page for details on what discount you are entitled to.
- **Refer a Friend Offer** - If you have a friend who wants to travel with us please visit our refer a friend page for details on our referral programme.
- **Group Discounts** - If you are booking as part of a group please visit our group discounts page for details on what discount you are entitled to.

- **Couples Offer** - If you are booking with a friend or partner please visit our couples offer page for details on what discount you are entitled to.

Book Your Trip Consultation

You can now schedule a free trip consultation with a member of the Earth's Edge team! We're happy to talk you through the itinerary, preparation and training, equipment, and anything else you'd like to know. Book your consultation here.

Expedition FAQ

Do you have a question that wasn't answered in this information pack? If so, please visit our FAQ page for a full list of frequently asked questions. If you can't find your answer there please contact us.