



### *The green heart of Istria - written by Ralph Deichelmann*

*Our E-bikes hum quietly over the small asphalt road, the tour through the peninsula of Istria is both for us as for the operator Edelweiss Bike Travel a premiere.*

Being E-Bike baptized we easily follow the steep driveway leading us out of Opatija and enjoy the beautiful landscape surrounding us. Meadows blooming with flowers alternating massive oak forests where the branches hang wide over the road and cool us down.

Being used to the rough and barren Croatia, I'm surprised to see so much green. We pass by small villages and abandoned ruins overgrown with fig bushes. We don't notice anything from the bustle on the coast. A day later we experience one of the gastronomic highlights of this tour: Linguine with finely grated truffle slices. The forests surrounding the historic city of Istria let these truffles thrive especially well.

Later we pass through a canyon, where nowadays the "Parenza Bikepath" crunches below your tires, it once gave way to the Austrian Emperor steam-locomotive.

#### Local specialties

Change of scenery; as of yesterday the bitter salt odor of the Adriatic sea surrounds us. Our tourguides Johanna and Laurens guide us through the medieval pearls of Porec, Rovinj and Pula. We move further with our goal the Kap Kamenjak at the most southern point of the peninsula. Our E-Bikes keep us cool although we are paddling through a strong headwind. Finally there, we enjoy the

impressions of the unique color spectacle, white foam crones and bright yellow flower bushes. Back at our hotel we watch the warm evening light shine on the ruins of the amphitheater of Pula while drinking a glass of wine.

The next day we continue further north while following the east coast. We cross through small pine forests cycling downhill until we reach the perfect view over a sea bay which is almost looking like a fjord. At the beach of Rebíci a rich picknick is awaiting us. We enjoy the delicious food and watch over the emerald green bay. All you can hear at this dream spot, is the waves break and the seagulls scream. At night we reach Labin, the picturesque town watching over a former mining area from a hill.

Our final challenge are the mighty rocks of the Ucka mountains, slowly we paddle through turn after turn before reaching the pass. Then it's time to fly downhill where we are being rewarded with spectacular views over the Kvarner bay and our final destination Opatija.



For more information:

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