

MOMENTS

on the road

Back Roads of the Alps -
Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy (8 Days)





ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

We love road journeys. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. And when we're in the mood for spoiling ourselves with fine food and delightful hotels besides the sheer pleasure of being on some of the world's best roads, we turn to Europe!

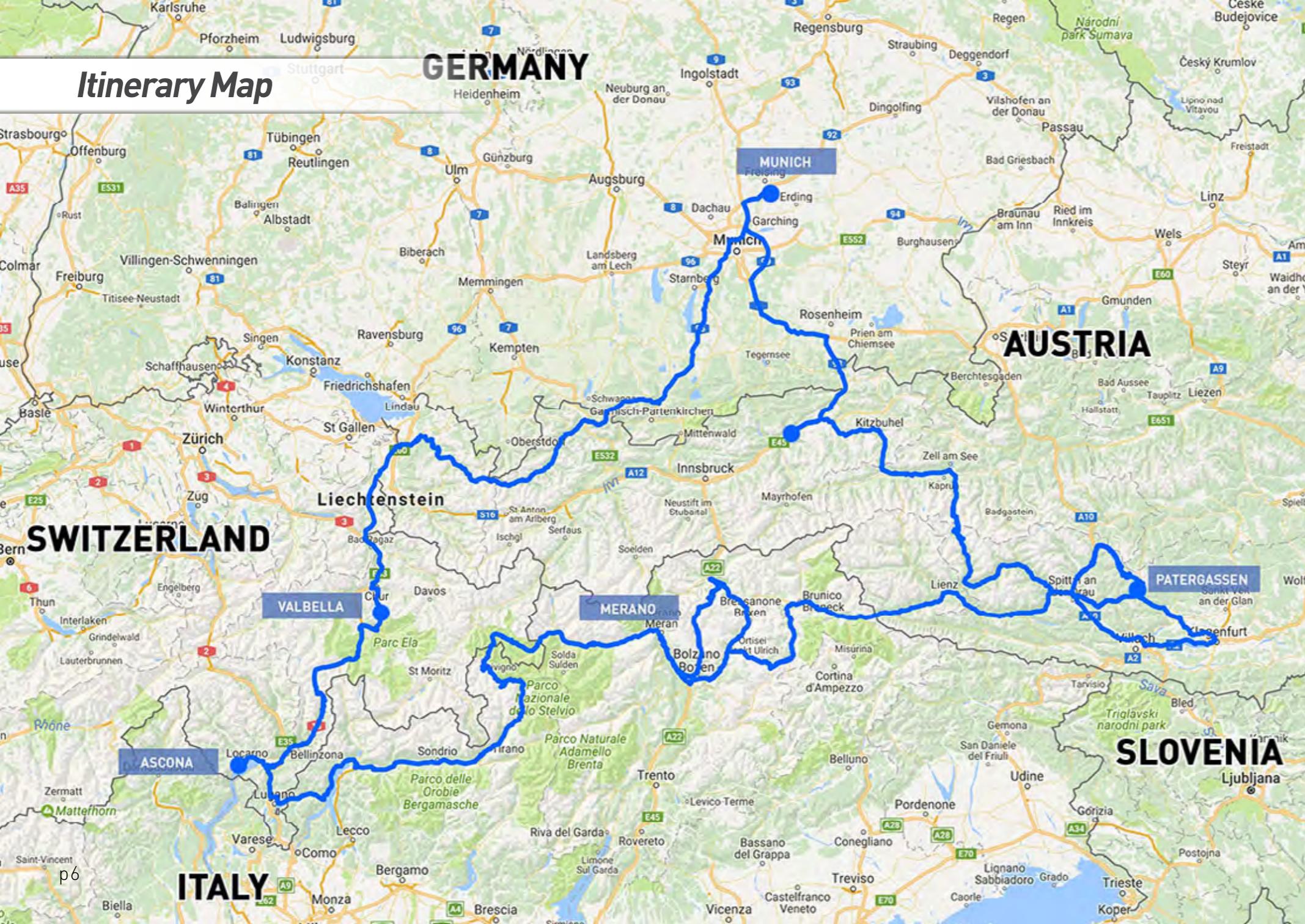
Few regions within Europe offer as much variety of landscapes and cultures and roads as the one centered on the Alps. The Alpine countries and regions – southern Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland, South Tyrol with its Dolomites, the French Alps – are a treasure trove of hidden gems. We therefore take great pleasure in introducing you to our first, carefully crafted Alpine driving journey itinerary that is without equal. Now turn the page and find out what we've come to love ourselves so much...



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Itinerary Map



Day-by-Day

Day1
Munich/Germany to Valbella/
Switzerland – A bit of highway, then
dive headlong into the back roads of
the Alps

Day2
Valbella to Ascona – Across the
famous Tremola into Mediterranean
Switzerland

Day3  
In and around Ticino – Beautiful
drives, shopping, sight-seeing or just
chilling out?

Day4
Ascona/Switzerland to Merano/
Italy – Stelvio Day!

Day5  
In and around South Tyrol –
Gorgeous passes? Massage? Sight-
seeing?

Day6
Merano/Italy to Innervillgraten/
Austria – Through the UNESCO
World Heritage Dolomiti into Austria

Day7 
In and around Osttirol & Carinthia
– Wonderful roads and landscapes
in the middle of nowhere

Day8
Innervillgraten/Austria to Munich/
Germany – Via the Grossglockner
back to Munich

 International Brands Shopping
 Local/Handicraft Shopping

It all goes back a long, long time...

Europe is the cradle of the motorcar and private motoring. Ever since Karl Benz's 1886 Motorwagen, people have taken pride in owning a car and being in its driver's seat. Driving in a beautiful car bespeaks privilege, freedom, privacy, and, especially in a cabriolet, allows one to be in communion with the elements and natural beauty: soak up the sunshine, feel the wind in your hair, smell the fresh air and the scents of freshly cut grass. Besides, there is the sheer pleasure of being in control, of directing the course of travel: to turn, to go, to stop where and when you feel like it.

These are pleasures that Europeans were the first to enjoy. Most evidently, these are pleasures that can be shared by couples. While it is often the gentleman who takes the driving seat, it was in fact Bertha Benz who undertook the first driving journey (with their two children) in the world. Driving journeys in a cabriolet is something that women have enjoyed ever since, whether as companion or driver.

Discovering the world by means of a driving journey is a unique pleasure that we want to share with you!



Journey of discovery



“In the FIRST 2 hours,
YOU will be in the ALPS...”

In Austria's Lechtal...

“ Across HILL
and DALE...
on DAY ONE...”



In the Bregenzer Wald...



In Valbella, Graubuenden...



“ALPINE LIVING...
for your
FIRST STAY...”



“ WIDE OPEN VIEWS
from the Oberalp PASS
as you drive WEST...”



“ NO COMMENT...
where does it take
you?”



“ACROSS THE
St.Gotthart on the
TREMOLA...
a CLASSIC ROAD
like no other...”

“ TICINO,
that part of SWITZERLAND
that is completely
MEDITERRANEAN...”



The landscape of Ticino

“AMAZING VIEWS
from one of Ticino’s
FABLED Mountains...”



The view from San Salvatore

“ One of
TICINO’s many
CHARMING towns...”

Santuario Madonna del Sasso high

“Your HOTEL
in Switzerland’s
BEAUTIFUL
TICINO...”

Overlooking Lago Maggiore...



“ On your way to
South Tyrol...the
REMARKABLE STELVIO...
for you to enjoy!”

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road on a mountain. The road is bordered by concrete barriers and runs through a rocky, sparsely vegetated landscape. Several cars are visible: a red sports car with blue and white stripes on the left, a dark blue car in the middle, a bright blue sports car on the right, and another red sports car with a white cross on the roof in the lower right. The road curves sharply to the right in the foreground.

“ The Stelvio...
a REAL CHALLENGE,
but UNFORGETTABLE...”

“ In SOUTH TYROL,
where the
AUSTRIAN ALPS meet
MEDITERRANEAN FLAIR...”

“ In South Tyrol, one of
the most **BEAUTIFUL**
WINE REGIONS
of the Alps...”

Lago di Caldaro, south of Bolzano...

“ South Tyrol,
a farming region of
**LONG, LONG
TRADITIONS!**”



A farmer's life in South Tyrol





“VISIT a local
ARTISAN in his
studio...”

South Tyrol is famous for almost-lost handicraft traditions...

“ VISIT a
700 YEAR OLD farm house
in a REMOTE VALLEY of
South Tyrol...”



Lago di Caldaro, south of Bolzano...



“WHENEVER possible, taste local delicacies...”



Speck and Schuettelbrot in South Tyrol



“ In South Tyrol,
where the ALPS
are GRANDER still
than in Austria...”

The Dolomites, a UNESCO World Heritage region....

“On the Road
in the
DOLOMITES...”





In Innervillgraten, Osttirol



“A CHARMING hotel
in the MIDDLE of
NOWHERE in Austria...”

“The ONLY PRIVATE
Porsche Museum
in the world...”



Josef Pfiel Museum in Gmünd



Bitte nicht
berühren!

“ ONE of the very
FIRST Porsche 356
(year 1948)...owned by
Peter's FATHER!”



“ The
GROSSGLOCKNER...
Austria's tallest mountain
and the focus of a
GORGEOUS ROAD
across the ALPS...”



“A MUST-NOT-MISS
last stop: the glass
factory in
RATTENBERG...”



The finest of Austrian Glass



Day-by-day



Day 1

A bit of highway, then dive headlong into the back roads of the Alps

After arriving at Munich airport, you will pick up your choice of rental car.

Then you will begin your driving holiday in the Alps. Navigating around Munich will take a bit of time, but soon you will find yourself on a beautiful German highway that will take you to the foothills of the Alps in no time.

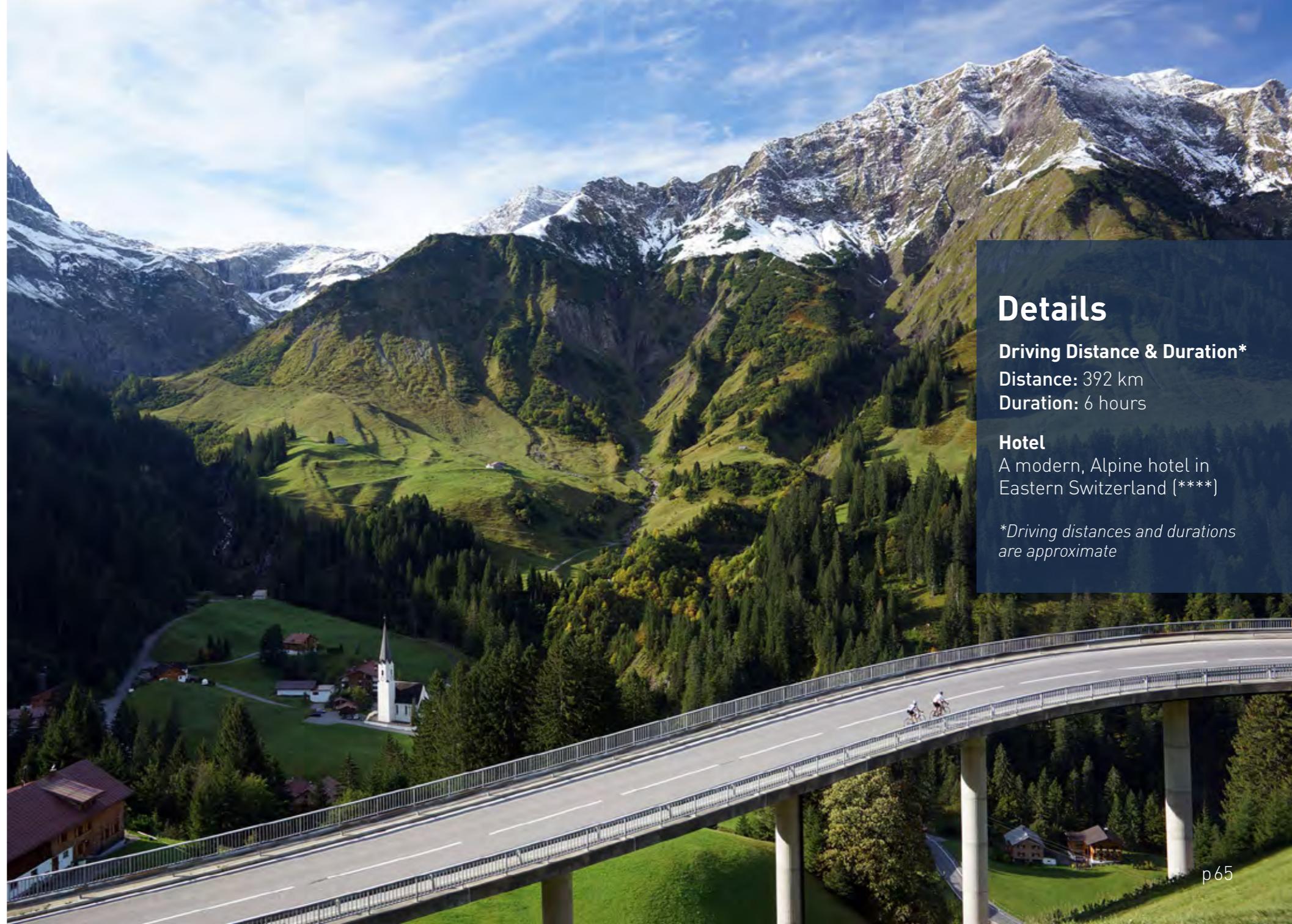
For your first day, we have chosen for you back roads that will allow you to enjoy

mountainous and winding roads right away.

Soon after leaving the German highway, you will cross into Austria where you will spend most of your day. You will drive in spectacular scenery (through typical Austrian villages and along lovely rivers) and on roads that are Peter's backyard...where he, from age 18, developed his love for driving!

In mid-afternoon, you will cross into Switzerland where you will need to show some restraint: Switzerland has the strictest speed limits and the fiercest fines.

You can expect to arrive at your hotel in the late afternoon.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration*

Distance: 392 km

Duration: 6 hours

Hotel

A modern, Alpine hotel in Eastern Switzerland (****)

**Driving distances and durations are approximate*

Day 2 Across the famous Tremola into Mediterranean Switzerland

Switzerland has four distinct cultural regions: the Germanic North and Northeast; the East-Central Grison; the Italian South and the French West. The day before, you arrived in the Germanic region.

Today you will drive into the Italian south where Switzerland truly feels Italian, not only because the Italian language is in common use, but also because the climate is thoroughly Mediterranean, replete with palm trees and southern European vegetation, piazzas and the colors of Italy. Ticino is known for excellent wines; in particular, Merlot feels at home here. This region is famous as well for steep and narrow valleys and spectacular lakes dotted with sailboats and ferries that carry people and cars from the Swiss to the Italian shores of these bodies of water.

One of today's highlights will be the drive across one of

Switzerland's most famous roads, the Tremola...be surprised!

On the way to your destination today, you will have lunch in a small restaurant in the midst of the Merlot vineyards. You will also be able to visit the Val Verzasca dam of "James Bond" fame: the dam is 220m tall and will frighten anyone with only a touch of acrophobia. Bungee jumping anyone?



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 218 km

Duration: 3.30 hours

Hotel

A charming small hotel by Lago Lugano (****)

Day 3 Beautiful drives, shopping, sight- seeing, or just chilling out?

Ticino with its mild southern climate is the ideal place for a day of rest or leisurely sightseeing.

You will have many choices ranging from kicking back with a drink and a good book by the hotel's pool, visiting local markets (in a different village depending on the day of the week), making an outing by driving along one of the lakes (and dipping your toe into Italy, as it were), or visiting near-by Milano for a bit of shopping.

We will help you make your arrangements and guide you as you desire.

Note: Today's lunch and activities during the day are not included.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Depending on your chosen activity

Hotel

A charming small hotel by Lago Lugano (****)

Day 4 Stelvio Day

Today you will leave behind Switzerland's Ticino and drive toward Alto Adige (or South Tyrol), Italy's northern most region.

It is a spectacular drive along Alpine lakes, through steep valleys and across high passes.

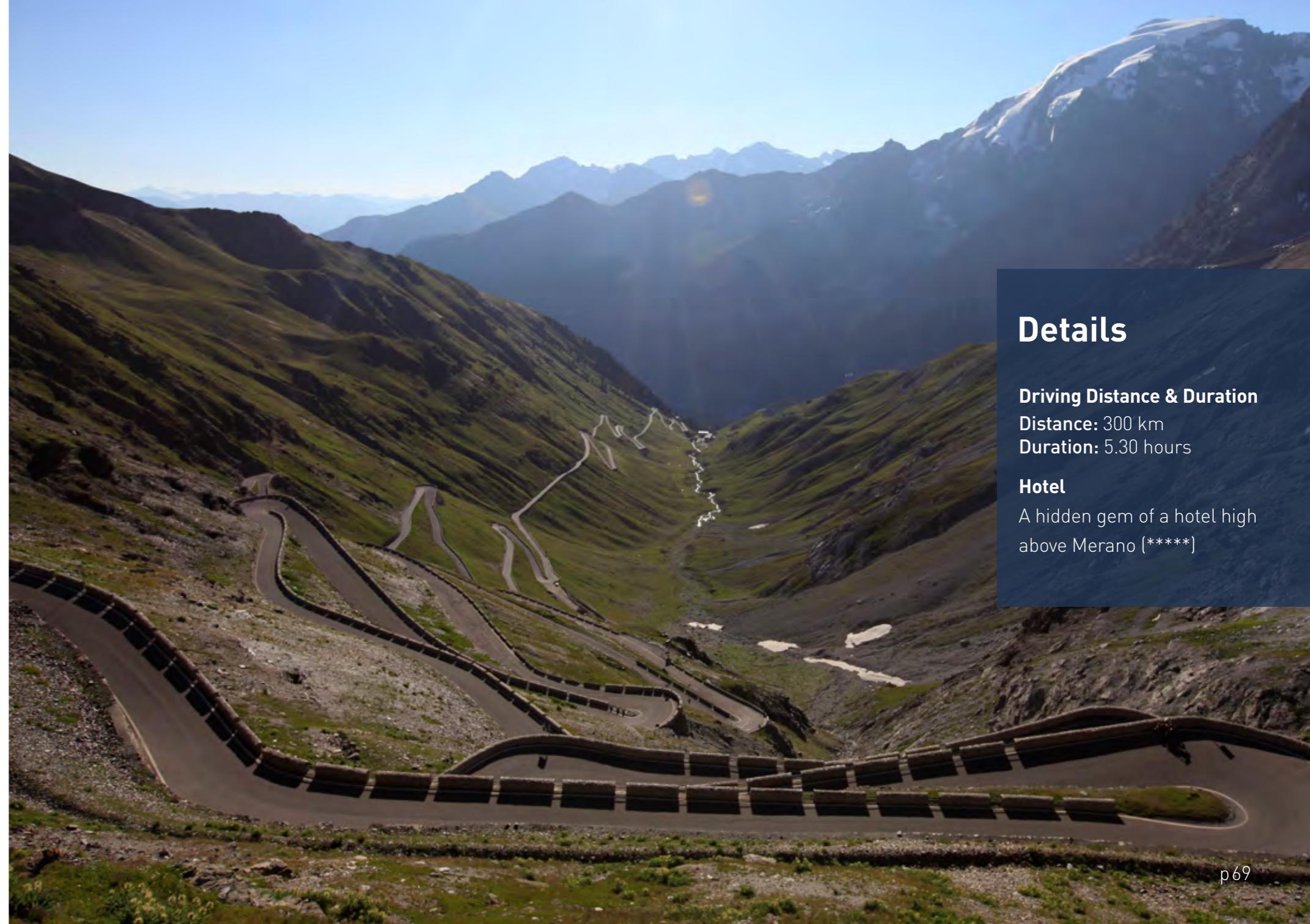
Weather permitting, you can look forward to an unforgettable driving day since today is also "Stelvio Day", one of the best known passes in the Alps. It is the highest tarmacked pass in the Eastern Alps and tops out at 2,757 m (9,045 ft). It is not only beloved by bikers and driving

lovers, but also by sports aficionados, especially cyclists.

But beware: its switchback and hairpin turns can be treacherous and, if it is a beautiful day, there could be quite a bit of traffic, especially mountain bikers, some of whom are hell-bent on proving something, whatever that may be.

Still, driving across the Stelvio pass is a once-in-a-life-time experience for driving lovers!

Your hotel for this and the next night is beautifully situated above Merano, a small town in South Tyrol: the view from high above Merano is breath-taking.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 300 km

Duration: 5.30 hours

Hotel

A hidden gem of a hotel high above Merano (*****)

Day 5 Gorgeous passes? Massage? Sight- seeing?

South Tyrol with its mild southern climate, stunning mountains, traditions and culinary delights, offers something for everyone.

Today, we suggest to take you into a little known valley called the Sarnthal such that you can get a glimpse of the uniqueness of South Tyrolean

traditions and way of living. In the morning, it will be a short drive from Merano to the Sarnthal.

There you will spend the better part of the day. Besides a very local lunch in a 700-year old farm house, we would like to introduce you to a producer of fragrant, essential oils made from a species of pines that are up to one thousand years old and to introduce to Sarnthein valley artisans of various kinds, among them a manufactory of exquisite embroideries that

are produced with the feathers of peacocks. All of them are artisanal handicrafts that are centuries old.

In the later afternoon, we will drive back to Merano across two spectacular mountain passes and beautiful back roads. Upon returning to the hotel, you will have free time until dinner.

Since we will be returning to the same hotel, you are of course free to opt out of today's drive and activities.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 280 km

Duration: 3.30 hours

Hotel

A hidden gem of a hotel high above Merano (*****)

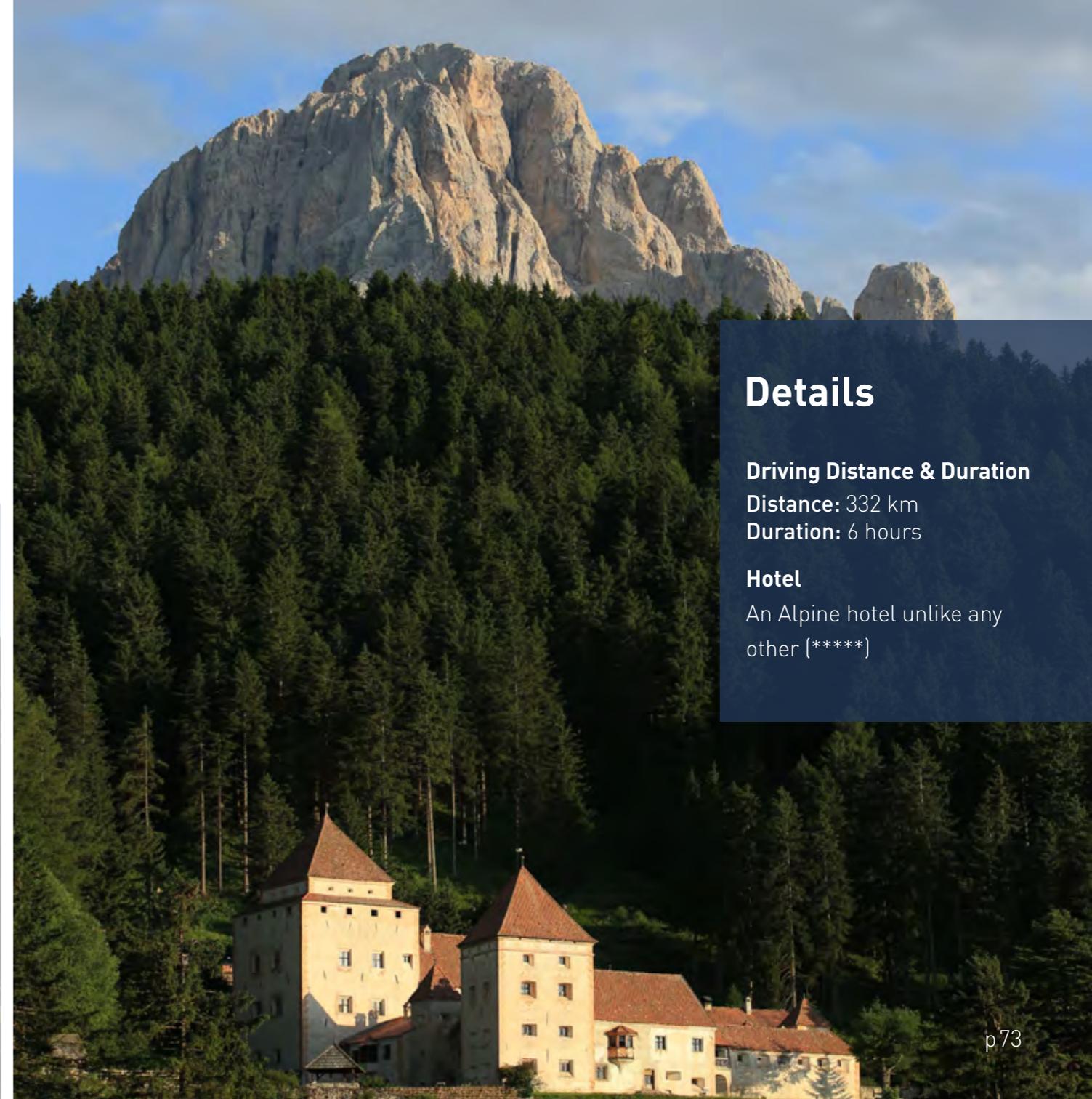
Day 6 Through the UNESCO World Heritage Dolomiti into Austria

Today's drive will take you first into a mountain range called the Dolomiti. They are a UNESCO World Heritage region and, even though they are part of the Alps, entirely different from all the other mountains in the center of Europe.

Depending on your appetite for driving and the weather, we can spend more or less time on the amazing roads of the Dolomiti. If nothing else, we will drive across the Passo Gardena on the way to Corvarra. The combination of stunning roads and unique landscape will make it an unforgettable drive.

After descending from the Dolomiti, you will drive in an

easterly direction and before long cross the border from Italy into Austria. Once in Austria, we will enjoy a lunch in a hidden gem of a restaurant in, as far as it is possible in Europe, the middle of nowhere.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 332 km

Duration: 6 hours

Hotel

An Alpine hotel unlike any other [*****]

Day 7

More great mountain roads? A unique Porsche museum? Or just enjoy the hotel and a spa?

Today we recommend a drive along one of Austria's most scenic roads, the Nockalm Panoramastrasse. The Nockbergs are Europe's only National Park in a gentle high mountain range with the largest forests of spruce, larch and stone pine in the eastern Alps.

The unmistakable appearance of the rounded "Nocken" (for Asians, Nocken might as well be translated as "dumplings") are geological rarities and unique in the entire region of the Alps. The 35km long Panoramastrasse leads you, via 52 hairpin turns, through this national park.

The destination of your drive will be the only privately owned Porsche Museum in Europe, that in Gmünd. It was here that

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Depending on your chosen activity

Hotel

An Alpine hotel unlike any other (*****)

the first car named Porsche (a 356) was produced in March 1948.

For the return journey, we suggest to take a detour via Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia for a lovely Chinese meal in a restaurant run, for 20 years, by people from Zhejiang province. After several days of eating Western food, it will be a welcome change, we're sure.

In the afternoon you will have time to enjoy the Almdorf and its surroundings.



Day 8 Via the Grossglockner back to Munich

Today you will drive back to Munich airport in time for you to catch an evening flight back to Hong Kong, if you have to!

On the way we have two final highlights in store for you.

You will want to pray for good weather for this morning since you will be driving across the Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse, Austria's grandest high alpine road. The snow-capped peaks, especially that of the Grossglockner, Austria's tallest mountain, and flower-dotted bright green pastures are a sight to behold.

After this exhilarating drive, you will find yourself in Tirol, Austria's most mountainous state and the cradle of its world-famous crystal glass making excellence. Instead of taking you to Swarovski, however, we propose to introduce you to a tiny town



(Austria's smallest with a history of well over a 1000 years) that is the home of an artisanal manufactory of beautiful glass – plain and simple or ornate and colorful. You will be delighted, either simply to look and marvel or perhaps to purchase and take home one of its gems.

The remaining drive to Munich is short, mostly on highways, with the exception of a fine stretch of country roads just before arriving at Munich airport.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 428 km

Duration: 6.15 hours



Choice of Cars

We include in the package price a cabriolet.

We strongly encourage you to enjoy this journey in an open-top car because the natural beauty, the fresh and scented air, the glorious mountains, the vineyards, and the many gorgeous roads are best enjoyed when wind is in your air and you can fully immerse yourself in the enjoyment of being on the road!

Of course, if you prefer a coupe or sedan of the same class or something a little or a lot more exotic, we're happy to offer you upgrade options.



**“ ANY car,
as long as it is a
CABRIOLET”**

Adventures and Discoveries in Local Cuisines

While this itinerary is **not** one of our 'Foodie'-themed journeys, we do believe that each one of our journeys should introduce you not only to hidden gems of cultural and scenic beauty, but that sampling local cuisines is also a must.

We will therefore arrange for you 'tasting menus' such that you can try out a variety of specialties during each meal. While alcoholic beverages are not included in the price, on certain occasions, when we believe that a particular dish is best enjoyed when combined with a local drink, we will make it part of the experience!

For private journeys, we can, of course, tailor the meal experience to your taste (and budget).



What's Included / Best Months to Go...



Best months to go...

JAN FEB MAR APR **MAY JUN**

JUL AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again except for liquids (alcoholic drinks and petrol) and presents to take home!

- Hand-crafted *On the Road in Europe* – Back Roads. Hidden Gems. – Itinerary design as

described in this Journey Dossier

- A crew existing of a journey host, subject matter experts/destination guides in various locations and a lead car driver. Depending on group size, we will add additional crew members.
- All meals in 'tasting menu' (or omakase) style

- All accommodations
- A BMW 2 Series Cabriolet (or similar) from one of our highly reputable car rental partners.
Many car-upgrade options exist at an extra charge.
- All ground transportation and airport transfers
- Pre-programmed GPSs and printed maps

- Walky-talkies to stay in touch with fellow travelers and your crew
- All toll fees and parking fees
- Entrance fees for all attended activities
- Lead car for your crew
- *On the Road in Europe* service (goodies basket and other treats along the way:

wet towels, daily picnic, basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles)

What's Not Included

- Your transport to/from Munich
- Petrol for your car
- Personal shopping
- Visas (if required)

- Alcoholic drinks (unless explicitly included)
- Activities, Meals, Transport during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier
- Top-up Collision Damage Waiver insurance

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“ A picture is worth a thousand words. True, but when it comes to a road journey, moving images are priceless. Please visit : <http://www.ontheroadexperiences.com/experience/videos/> ”





ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

