

# Glorious Glacier Ride

## Innsbruck, Austria

The Glorious Glacier Ride is an epic Alpine tour past iconic glaciers, organised by VeloTours in collaboration with Cycling4Climate. Initiator Joost Brinkman rode the first edition in 2025 and will once again be joining as team captain. His commitment to climate-conscious cycling forms the heart of this special tour.

Starting from Innsbruck, you'll tackle seven impressive stages of around 100–110 km, averaging 2,000 metres of elevation gain per day, mostly on quiet roads and stunning cycle paths. VeloTours will arrange transport for your bike and luggage from Utrecht to Innsbruck and, after the tour, from Chamonix back to the Netherlands. A rest day follows the fifth stage.

You travel to Innsbruck independently (for example, by night train). VeloTours is happy to assist you in finding suitable train connections. You will stay in good mid-range hotels along the way, including breakfast and dinner. Lunch, sports nutrition, technical assistance and breakdown service are fully arranged during the routes.

We cycle using GPX files, in groups of up to 10 participants, matched according to pace and experience. A good level of fitness and mountain experience are recommended for this inspiring challenge through fragile Alpine landscapes and rapidly melting glaciers. During the trip, we pay special attention to the shrinking glaciers and you'll receive accessible, practical education on the impact of climate change on these unique landscapes.

Together with Cycling4Climate, we ensure that whilst you cycle, you are also making a real contribution to the preservation of our glaciers. In this way, you contribute directly to the conservation of the natural environment through which you cycle and raise climate awareness amongst friends and acquaintances.

After the finish, you can easily travel back to the Netherlands via the TGV and Eurostar.

## Services

- Accommodation in mid-range hotels in shared twin rooms
- Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Guided bus tour by VeloTours
- Transport of your bike and luggage from the Netherlands to Innsbruck and back from Chamonix
- Two support stops per day
- Route book and GPX files
- Guided visits to various glaciers with commentary
- Technical assistance and breakdown service/sweep vehicle

# Itinerary

## **Monday 24 – Wednesday 26 August 2026**

Drop off your bike and luggage at the VeloTours office in Utrecht during office hours, on Monday until 8.00 pm. This way, you'll be fully prepared for this unforgettable cycling tour through the Alps.

## **Thursday 27 August 2026**

Travel to Innsbruck independently. VeloTours will help you find suitable train connections, for example via the ICE or the night train from the Netherlands. Your bike and luggage will be transported comfortably to Innsbruck today.

## **Friday 28 August 2026 – Innsbruck to Reschensee, 125 km, 1800 m elevation gain**

Reception from 09:00–10:00 at the hotel near the station, with an introduction and final briefing. Start at 10:15 heading towards the Inntal Radweg. Via Oberinntal and Pfunds, we climb the Reschen Pass and reach the beautiful Reschensee at over 1,500 metres above sea level.

## **Saturday 29 August 2026 – Reschensee to Livigno, 106 km, 3100 m elevation gain**

A challenging but unforgettable day: climb the famous Stelvio (Cima Coppi, 2,760 m) during Stelvio Bike Day (so no cars or motorbikes today) with views of the impressive Ortler massif and glaciers. Then on to Passo Foscagno (2291 m) and Passo d'Eira (2208 m) to Livigno. A day full of breathtaking mountain scenery and challenging passes.

## **Sunday 30 August 2026 – Livigno to Thusis, 110 km, 2000 m elevation gain**

Cycle through the Livigno Valley and climb the Passo Forcola di Livigno (2,315 m). We pass the Bernina Pass (2,330 m) and visit the impressive Morteratsch Glacier. The day ends with the Albula Pass (2,300 m) and a descent through the beautiful Albula Valley to Thusis.

## **Monday 31 August 2026 – Thusis to Andermatt, 101 km, 2500 m elevation gain**

Today we cycle along the Vorrhein river via Tamins, Flims and Laax to the Oberalp Pass (2044 m), where the Rhine rises. Enjoy the panoramic views of Lake Oberalp. Overnight stay in charming Andermatt.

## **Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Andermatt to Visp, 105 km, 2100 m elevation gain**

We climb the famous Furka Pass (2,429 m) and visit the remaining Rhone Glacier near the iconic Hotel Belvedere. Optionally, you can take a gondola to admire the majestic Aletsch Glacier, one of Europe's iconic glaciers. Descend to the Visp valley for an overnight stay.

### **Wednesday 2 September 2026 – Rest day**

We'll give our legs a rest today. We'll see what the group needs today. There may be an excursion to Zermatt or the Saas Valley (optional, at your own expense).

### **Thursday 3 September 2026 – Visp to Sierre, 95 km, 2300 m elevation gain**

We follow the Rhone Valley westwards and head south into the picturesque Val d'Anniviers. Via the picturesque Grimentz, we reach Lac de Moiry and the impressive Moiry Glacier at over 2,300 metres. Final descent to the charming town of Sierre.

### **Friday 4 September 2026 – Sierre to Chamonix, 96 km, 2200 m elevation gain**

The final day of cycling takes us through the sunny Rhône Valley, past vineyards and fields to Martigny. Climb the Col de la Forclaz (1,527 m) and visit the Trient Glacier, then cross the Col des Montets (1,461 m) into France. Finish in Chamonix with a breathtaking view of the Mont Blanc Glacier. Overnight stay in Chamonix.

### **Saturday 5 September 2026 – Chamonix to the Netherlands**

After breakfast, we load the bikes and luggage. VeloTours will transport everything safely back to the Netherlands, whilst you look back on an unforgettable glacier cycling tour full of challenges, views, insights and unforgettable memories.