



**THREE DAYS
UNDER POWER**

Higher, faster, further: true to the motto 'Expand your limits', our photo story shows the new possibilities with an e-bike for an ultimate hut tour in Davos Klosters.



When you're used to doing things a certain way, it's hard to switch, even if there's an easier alternative. That's how I felt about e-bikes, but I was pleasantly surprised. For a long time, e-bikes were seen as not sporty, too heavy, or just for old folks. But this viewpoint is outdated, and the reputation of e-bikes has done an about face. Even Danny MacAskill's latest video has him riding an e-bike. Suddenly, there's a whole new world of opportunity: Thanks to "uphill flow", steep climbs are a piece of cake, and a day trip becomes a quick evening spin. Even long rides to get to the flowiest single-track trails are over in no time.

Totally dope

These words are as fitting for a Davos Klosters e-bike mountain hut tour as a fine-tuned SRAM XX1 trigger shifter on your dream bike. Because once we were a few kilometers into our ride down the Flüelatal and up to Tschuggen, things got pretty dope. Totally dope. A longer climb along a narrow, serpentine track leads from the Flüela Pass up to the Pische mountain station. Just thinking about how this climb feels on a normal bike makes me break out in a sweat. But this time, things were different: My legs kept pumping at a surprisingly regular cadence, and my pulse didn't hit the roof, despite the thinning air at 2,400 meters above sea level. A look at the time and we were even more surprised: We made it to the top in almost half the time. This was definitely a plus, because we still had quite a route ahead of us. To be precise, over the next three days, we would be covering 130 kilometers of trails, with an elevation gain of 5,500 meters. That's why we didn't want to waste any time, despite the amazing panorama. All we had time for is a quick sip from our water bottles. And onwards and upwards.





offering a panoramic view of the city of Davos and the distinctive mountain slopes; this trail took us past mountain meadows filled with sweet-smelling flowers and some charming alpine huts weathered by the elements. Heidi of the classic book by the same name would have felt at home here. One thing, however, remained the same: the trail continued as an easy flow, without too many obstacles. At least until we got back into the forest. This is where things started to get a bit more technical: it was a bit chundery, with a few roots on the trail until we reached Klosters. But the ride continued to be pure pleasure.

Some of the battery's shortcomings

On this note: We were having so much fun riding, we totally forgot to check the battery display. Go figure! We'd paid a price for those steep climbs. If you're one to start feeling antsy when the battery percentage status bar on your phone is down, you can imagine what was going through our heads. Luckily, we weren't too far from the end of our first leg: the Vereina mountain hut. Would the battery keep its charge until we got there? Somewhat worried, we cruised along the forest trail until we reached the fork to the Vereinatal valley, trying to think of other things. The scenery around us was a great distraction. A small clearing in the woods gave us a good view of the Silvretta Glacier, which was easy to see in the dim evening light. Wow! It couldn't be much further. The trail gradually got steeper and more technical. Now and then, we had to get off and push. But at last, we were able to see the hut. We'd made it! The hut caretaker, Köbi, was awaiting us with homemade specialties. Just in the nick of time, because the battery's display showed just one bar. We were lucky.

Shredding the flow trails along the ridge

From the Pischa mountain station, a flow trail winds its way along the Pischa ridge to the peak of Hürel. In summary: a good two-and-a-half kilometers of sheer riding pleasure. In addition to the motorized help on the ascent, the second advantage of the new e-bike: They're amazingly maneuverable. We released the brakes and went for it. The first bump and we got air. Maximum fun factor. Riding the jump was as easy as it would be on a regular bike. Despite its 20-kg weight, the e-bike didn't feel the least bit sluggish or heavy. The trail forks to the right just before the peak of the Hürel. Even the trail's short, steep climb didn't put a damper on our good spirits. A quick flick of the finger is all it takes to activate the motor to make things easier. No sooner were we up, than the scenery changed: no more of the wild ridge



We quickly pulled out the charge cords and plugged them in so we could charge our almost empty batteries. Good to know: Most of the huts have outlets, but make sure you take the right charge cord.

A rough downhill ride

Day broke in the Vereinal Valley. We'd filled our water bottles and fully charged our batteries: We were ready to head out for our second and most challenging leg of the e-bike mountain hut tour. A look at the map showed that this was going to be a physically demanding day, despite our

motor backup: 52 kilometers, with an elevation gain of about 2100 meters. But after all, this tour was not for the faint-of-heart. We rode out of the valley, towards Klosters. From there, the route goes along the Duranna and Casanna Pass, all the way to Parsenn, north of the Weissfluh Peak. To spare ourselves the stress of worrying about the battery levels, we decided to take the Gotschnabahn cable car. Once we got to the top, we took the nicely flowing Totalpsee trail. From this point forward, the trail requires a whole lot of finesse. It's steep, and really chundery in parts. Not exactly a leisurely Sunday ride;

Davos Klosters mountain inn e-bike tour

Three days of cycling, two overnight stays in mountain inns: true to the motto 'Expand Your Limits', the e-bike mountain inn tour takes in all of the Davos Klosters resort.

Route

Stage 1: Davos Platz – Tschuggen – Pisch – Hüreli – Drusatscha – Grünenbödeli – Schwäderloch – Alp Garfiun – Vereina mountain hut

Distance: 40.6 km

Vertical meters: ↑1785, ↓1383

Note: Please bring a spare battery with you or plan a lunch break to recharge your battery

Stage 2: Vereina mountain hut – Klosters – Durannapass – Casannapass – Parsenn – Meierhofer Tälli – Davos Dorf – Dischma – Dürrboden – Dürrboden mountain hut

Tip: If you take the Gotschnabahn cable car up to Parsenn, you'll save yourself an elevation gain of about 1500 meters.

Distance: 50.8 km

Vertical meters: ↑2,170, ↓2,106

Note: Please bring a spare battery with you or plan a lunch break to recharge your battery

Stage 3: Dürrboden mountain hut – Scaletta Pass – Alp Funtauna – Val Funtauna – Ravais-ch-Seen – Bergün – Filisur – Davos Platz

Distance: 36 km

Vertical meters: ↑1,104, ↓2,031

Places to stay

[Berghaus Vereina](#)

Phone +41 81 422 12 16, berghausvereina.ch

[Berggasthaus Dürrboden](#)

Phone +41 81 416 34 14, duerrboden.ch

Further information

davos.ch/e-bike

more of a rough downhill ride all the way to Davos. Our maxim: close your eyes and send it. We took a quick breather at Lake Davos. Still stoked on our adrenaline rush, we wasted no energy tackling the remaining 16 kilometers through the Dischmatal valley up to Alp Dürrboden thanks to the e-motor.

Bonked despite the e-bike

The sun had still not peeked over the slopes of Piz Grialetsch when we headed out on the final leg of our e-bike mountain hut tour. The early-morning air was so cold, our legs and arms were immediately covered in goosebumps. But before too long, things started getting pretty gnarly. Despite the e-bikes, we were totally bonked on the last stretch up to the Scaletta Pass. After two, three painful attempts, we gave up - and pushed. I dare you to say that e-biking is not a workout. Either way, the sweat was worth it: As a reward, once we reached the other side, a five-kilometer single-track trail took us through the alpine moonscape to the Alp Funtauna. We couldn't help but break into a grin on this flowing trail. The earlier exertion? Forgotten! At least for a bit.

Instagram-worthy shots

The trail winds through treeless Val Funtauna. Wide open spaces! Around us, mountain peaks with a fresh dusting of snow - a hint of Tibet, right in the heart of the canton of Grisons. Suddenly, civilization seemed so far away. But the single-track trail snakes steeply up the mountain and is quite a grunt. We used every last bit of energy we had, even with the motor. However, at the top we were met with an amazing view: the deep green alpine lakes Lai da Ravais-ch Sur and Suot. Instagram filters? No need! We put our bikes down in the meadow and simply savored the fact that we were there. We enjoyed a few long, deep breaths. Our e-bike adventure would soon be drawing to a close. Fittingly, the trail from this point forward is just downhill, all the way to Bergün. And then suddenly it turns to asphalt, all the way to the train station in Filisur. But even if all good things must come to an end, this trip ended on a high note: A heritage train, the Rhätischen Bahn (RhB), took us back to Davos, but went right past the fabulous Zügen Gorge. The train ride brought back all the impressions of the last three days and it was like watching a gripping slideshow - three days under power. An e-bike adventure that we won't soon forget.

Photos: Martin Bissig
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