

3. Reit im Winkl – Ruhpolding

Length of Stage: ca. 31 km

Total Climbs: 1030 m

We now make a right on the highway and ride to the Entfeldmühle, at which point we leave the highway again. With the Alzbach as our constant companion, we make our way moderately uphill until we come to an area of alpine pastures at the Pötschalm and Sotteralm. These are splendid places to quietly enjoy our natural setting. A meadow path now leads us to the forest's edge, after which we will ride along a narrow forest path down to the shores of the Weitsee. We can use an occasional gravel path next to the main highway, but despite that, we will have to ride on the road for a while, until we reach a parallel path through the forest that will lead us to the turn-off for the Wappbachtal.

At the signs marked "Naturschutzgebiet" and "Wappbachtal – Röthelmoos", we will leave our current path and make a left into the forest. Gently climbing, we will find ourselves riding next to a romantic mountain stream up to the Röthelmoos (moor). Once there, a broad grazing area with farm buildings reveals itself before us. 1/3 of this is the moor itself, partially covered in mountain pine. At the intersection where there is a large spruce tree and a roadside altar, we will keep straight, making a left up into the forest at the next intersection. Passing by the Schwarzlachenstube, which stands below us to our right, we will ride another ca. 700 m uphill, after which we continue essentially parallel to the hillside in the direction of the Eschmooshütte, where a large grazing area affords us open views of the Röthelwandkopf and, to its left, the alpine formations of the Hochgern. From the Eschmooshütte, we now continue uphill to the left (a gentle climb), before making a right that will take us downhill through the forest.

Now begins the most memorable part of the stage. We make our way through a canyon, a narrow, very rocky path leading us along a steep rock face about 100 m above the canyon floor. On the far side of the canyon, the imposing flanks of the Rötterwandkopf rise skywards (this stage really demands good braking and focused riding). Afterwards, we will again ride downhill over a rocky surface, past a reservoir and as far as the Menkenbödenhütte. Shortly after this, we will make a right across the stream and continue uphill to the Gleichenbergalm. Just beyond the alpine huts to our right, we first make a steep downhill into the Schwarze Ache river valley, after which we will have before us a very steep climb towards the Bründlinghaus, at which point we make a left onto a footpath that takes us on a virtually flat ride to the Steinbergalm.

We now ride from the Steinbergalm down a paved road for about 6 km to Ruhpolding. At the intersection with the main road, we will first make a brief right, followed by the next left up Von-Hertling-Straße and then another left down Brandstätterstraße. Just before reaching the main road, we must make a left against the traffic flow in a one-way street (push your bike!), following the Schulgasse and Rathausstraße back to the main road.