

DENMARK & GERMANY

8-days / 7-nights - moderate cycling the Baltic Sea Coast and Danish South Funen Archipelago



Imagine sailing on a first-class, twin-masted schooner or a three-masted barque to explore the islands of the Danish South Funen Archipelago (Dansk Sydhav) and the German Baltic Sea coast between Kiel and Maasholm. Imagine hoisting the sails, helping the ship's crew and learning about seamanship and about life onboard a traditional sailing ship in these magical northern European waters.

But this is very much a **cycling cruise** and on most of the islands such as Ærø, Langeland, Funen, Alsen and also at Lolland and on the North-German Schlei fjord or along the Kiel Canal we offer guided rides through picturesque towns and villages, thatched roofed farmhouses and rural pastures. We offer a flat to undulating route of 20 - 50km per day where we can discover reminders of the Vikings, see the wild horses on Langeland, pass enchanting woods and grassland meadows full of flowers and explore the world of fairytales that inspired Hans Christian Andersen.

The itinerary, as you would expect, is determined by the wind and the weather conditions, every voyage unique.

The cycling is graded as moderate requiring a good level of fitness with ascents up to 200 - 500m above sea level. The daily itineraries will take you through hilly terrain with nearly 1000 hat-like hills left by the last Ice Age on Langeland some 15,000 years ago. You are free to swim or relax on board the boat as the mood takes you. We will travel mostly on sealed roads or well made gravel trails and each day you can either decide to bike alone, using the information and maps provided, or join with our two experienced multilingual tour guides.

Standard cruise: AU\$1745 per person (twin share cabins). Single cabin supplement: \$470 (limited, on request)

Departs: 14*, 20, 27 May, 3, 10, 24 June, 1, 8, 15* July 2012

Premium cruise: AU\$2135 per person (twin share cabins). Single cabin supplement: \$470 (limited, on request)

Departs: 20 August, 2 September 2012

* Denotes special departures or itineraries – ask for details

Cruise includes: 8-days on a tallship with crew, double cabins with shower/toilet, bed linen and towels, full board on the ship which includes breakfast, lunch (some of which are picnic lunches) & dinner, English-German speaking tour guide & 6-guided cycling tours with bicycle hire (bicycle insurance can be pre-purchased if required) and overview-route maps for the daily tours.

Not included in tour: Transfer from & to Kiel-Holtenau, personal expenses, gratuities and drinks. Note it is obligatory to wear a helmet so bring or buy your own (limited helmets available for hire – reservation necessary).

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SUGGESTED ITINERARY – subject to weather and sailing conditions totally at the discretion of the Captain.

Plan to arrive at the mooring point by 6.00pm (if you arrive earlier you can leave your luggage until check in time) and there is plenty to see around Kiel-Holtenau. Ask to use your bike if you prefer some early practise. Alternatively take a scenic boat or ferry ride or watch the ships on the Kiel Canal from a local café. There is a lively harbour-atmosphere here.

Before dinner the captain and our group leaders will brief you on life aboard the boat, safety procedures, the local region and the cycling ahead.

After a night onboard and breakfast the captain and the tour guide will talk about the program for the day as determined by the weather and winds. An option is to cycle along the Kiel Canal, or set the sails heading for Damp or to the Isle of Ærø. If we choose the later there will be plenty of time for a cycling tour once we arrive.

If we stay onboard there will usually be a short introduction to the working of the ship by a member of the crew. They will explain about the sails and their names and it won't take long to learn that the "Fall" is a rope by which a sail is set or struck and a "Schot" is a rope which is used to operate particular sails. Once the sails are hoisted we should feel the ship responding to the wind and the engine is switched off and we are free to enjoy the wind, the spray and the waves.

Each day and at each destination our cycle guides has a choice of routes to follow. The picturesque town of Ærøskøbing - known as "the place of fairytales" - is one of the many highlights of our journey. Visits to Kappeln, Faaborg or Sønderborg will inspire you with some excellent cycling and lots to photograph.

If the winds are favourable we can see "Valdemars Slot" and the mansion at "Holstenshuus" that was visited by the famous poet Hans-Christian Andersen. We may see the wild horses on the isle of Langeland, the steep cliffs on Ærø, the endless poppy and daisy meadows or Pipstorn Wood on Funen. At every point nature at its most beautiful and many many spectacular views.

Accommodation & meals: For our **standard cruise** – so described because of the type of cabins offered - we have a ship built as a fishing boat for the lucrative Herring trade in 1903. Renovated extensively in 2004 it has 480 m² of sails – more than enough to make the crossings between islands. The ship has 10-double cabins and one triple cabin all with their own bathroom with a shower / toilet. The front saloon in the deckhouse serves as a comfortable dining and day room with upholstered benches and tables.

Our **premium cruise** uses a three-masted barque built in Norway in 1926 for whaling that sailed until the late 1940s in the North and South Polar Seas. In the fifties it was converted into a freighter and sailed between Asia and South America and in 2001 was transformed back to the elegant sailing ship she once was. There are fourteen comfortable cabins each with a private shower and toilet. The ship has central heating, air-conditioning, the most modern navigation and communication equipment plus a comfortable saloon and dining area.

The cook on board is a member of the crew and prepares the breakfast and one or two hot meals each day.

Guided cycling tours: The tours will generally be guided in German and English language. We offer this as a Bike & Boat cycling tour however, you can decide each day if you want to join the cycling as part of the group with the guide or to ride independently with a map or not to ride at all if you prefer to stay with the boat.

The tour requires a minimum number of passengers to operate.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece, the Lycian Coast of Turkey, in several locations in Italy and in Vietnam.

Bike & Barge cycling cruises are available on many of the canals & rivers of Europe including the Seine, Loire Valley & Burgundy or Provence in France & on the 2-week route between Paris & Bruges through the Somme WW1 battlefield & memorial sites in northern France. We also offer several routes in Holland, Belgium & Germany – along the Saar, Moselle & Rhine or in the Venice region of Italy.

Inn-to-inn cycling tours are available in most destinations in Europe, Australia & New Zealand - ask for details

Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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