

GERMANY: THE NORTH - BREMEN TO MAGDEBURG or return
8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate cycling with historic cities, wildlife and a rural idyll



Once hidden away beyond the Iron Curtain this region of northern Germany is now exposed as a true natural paradise of unspoiled rural villages, woods, forests, wetlands, rivers, treelined lakes and beaches. Birds, animals and wildflowers abound as you step back in time to some of the most fascinating, scenically interesting cycling and cruising routes we offer in Europe. And on arguably our most comfortable and spacious barges.

These cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities sampling beers and local produce in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English but passengers mostly include a mix of different nationalities - including English or German speaking with French, Italian or Dutch as the other main languages - adding to the cultural enjoyment of bike and barge cruising.

Bike and Barge cruises combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (easy to moderate cycling with river, canal or island cruising). They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. These cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do appealing to the more active mature traveller, ideal for first timers, couples or small groups.

Cost: AU\$1895 per person twin share Single cabin supplement AU\$395
Departs: 19th May, 2012 from Bremen

Tour cost includes:

- * 7-nights accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom, air-conditioning, safe, hairdryer
- * 7 buffet breakfasts, 6-packed lunches (taken from the breakfast buffet) and 6 3-course dinners (starting with dinner on Saturday, the first day and ending with breakfast on Saturday the last day)
- * Daily room cleaning service with all bedding, sheets, towels, facial tissues, soap & portorage of luggage
- * Unlimited drinking water, tea and coffee during meals. Welcome cocktail.
- * 7-speed hybrid bicycle hire with panniers and experienced cycle tour guide. Bike helmet available on request
- * Harbour and ferry fees

Not included:

- * Drinks and personal expenses other than those mentioned, entrance fees & transfers to/from the barge

Well-maintained multi-gearred bikes are provided (passengers can bring their own if they prefer) with guided cycling along a variety of waterway routes – mostly along flat, sealed pathways - but occasionally we break away into hillier country to visit areas of interest, beer or tasting or regional specialities, a castle or a coffee stop. More challenging routes are available in some destinations so please ask for our suggestions according to your ability and interests. The cycling is always fascinating and varied with free time to explore each day's destination. Extra time is usually available for those who want more cycling at the end of each day's stage.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Cycling distances: These vary but you should expect 35 – 45km per day

A new tour operated for the first time in 2011 but with one of our most popular and experienced Bike & Barge boats and crew. The tour takes you through parts of the former Eastern Europe, where, despite the Berlin Wall having been torn down over 20-years ago little has changed. Cycle tourism, in fact tourism in general is very new here and is usually confined to the main centres.

The regions isolation means that the natural beauty of this area is unique and development kept to a minimum outside of the cities. Highlights to discover are the UNESCO listed buildings in the famous port city of Bremen, the original Volkswagen factory, the royal palace of Emperor Otto the First (the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire) and the Wasserstraßenkreuz where the Midland Canal crosses the Weser River.

Suggested itinerary: (the route is offered in reverse on alternate dates)

Day 1 – Saturday: Arrive Bremen (Weser River)

Afternoon check in will be at about 4.00pm; your boat will be moored in Bremen at the Schlachte Weser River Boardwalk. A welcome drink is provided and an introduction to your cabin, to the crew and life aboard the boat and to your bicycle. There is time to relax before and after dinner or to enjoy a stroll around the city. Some of Bremen's remarkable attractions include: World Heritage Listed Rolan Statue and City Hall and the St. Petri Cathedral.

Day 2 – Sunday: Bremen – Verden (Weser River)

Today we begin cycling following the Weser River upstream through the impressive landscape of the Weser Hills (Weserbergland). Our destination today is Verden. This charming city is known for breeding Hanoverian horses and for it's historical splendour encapsulating many fine buildings including the Gothic Dome, the Cathedral Quarter at the Lugenstein, the town hall and the Cathedral Chapter House (Domherrenhaus).

Day 3 – Monday: Verden – Hoya – Nienburg (Weser River)

Today we again follow the Weser route to Hoya and to Nienburg. In Hoya, famous for the Earl of Hoya and the historical city centre where you find the Asparagus Well (Sparegekbrunnen), the bronze statue of the Magic Bayard Horse (by Ros Bayard), the 14th century city hall and parish church of Saint Martin with its impressive 72-meter tower!

Day 4 - Tuesday: Nienburg – Stolzenau – Minden (Weser River, Midland Canal)

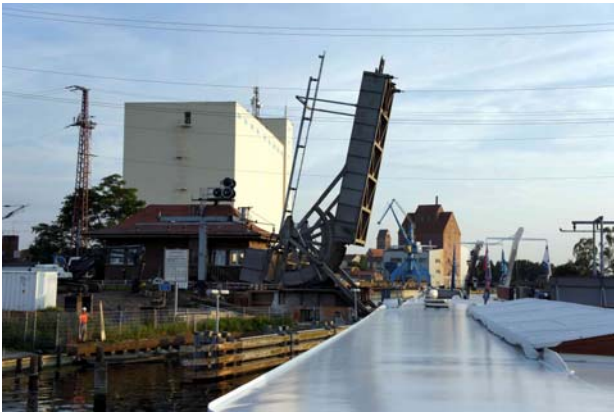
Continuing our route through the Weser Hills, we travel from Nienburg to Stolzenau across a beautiful and varied rural landscape. In Stolzenau we re-join the barge to cruise to Minden for one of this trip's highlights: the Wasserstraßenkreuz (Aquatic Interchange), where the Midland Canal crosses the Weser River by means of a 13-metre high aqueduct. Our overnight mooring will be in Minden.

Day 5 – Wednesday: Minden – Sachsenhagen - Hannover - Peine (Midland Canal)

A breakfast cruise along the Mittelland Canal and bridge to cross over the Weser River to Sachsenhagen. Here we start cycling towards Hannover, passing beside the Steinhuder Lake Nature Reserve. From Hannover we continue by boat to Peine, again on the Midland Canal, where we spend the night.

Day 6 – Thursday: Peine - Braunschweig – Wolfsburg (Midland Canal)

We leave quite early this morning and during breakfast the barge will take us to the city of Braunschweig where we will cycle to Wolfsburg. At around lunchtime we can arrange a factory tour of the famous Volkswagen Factory or you can use the free time to relax.



Day 7 – Friday: Wolfsburg – Mannhausen – Magdeburg (Elbe)

A short cruise in the morning, then cycling until we reach the city of Magdeburg. Our route will again follow the Midland Canal and close to Magdeburg we pass the Sparchleuse (water-saving lock) and the ship is lowered down 20-metres to enter the city of Magdeburg by the River Elbe. Magdeburg itself is well known for its important heritage including the royal palace of Emperor Otto the First, the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

Day 8- Saturday

The tour ends after breakfast in Magdeburg. There are easy train options to Berlin or Leipzig.

Please note: *the tour operator reserves the right to change the schedule and/or program as necessary if the route or any part of it is not navigable or for safety reasons. See tour conditions for details.*

Bike & Barge cruises are available in springtime to view the tulip fields in Holland from early April each year.

Outdoor Travel also offers cycling cruises from Amsterdam to Bruges and various routes along the Weser, Aller, Mittellandkanal, and Rhine rivers, visiting the cities of Amsterdam, Utrecht, Dordrecht, Gouda, Leiden, Berlin, Potsdam, Brandenburg, Dusseldorf, Cologne, Koblenz, Oranienburg, Szczecin Poland, Stettiner Haff, Malchin, Mainz, Frankfurt, Aschaffenburg, Wurzburg and Bamberg.



Other Bike and Barge cruises are available from Outdoor Travel in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey and also in Vietnam. Inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays are also available in many areas. River and canal cruises by hotel barge or self-skipped motor cruiser are available throughout Europe. Sailing holidays in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily in Italy - ask for details

Contact Outdoor Travel or your travel agent for more details and reservations:

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