

GERMANY & LUXEMBOURG – KOBLENZ TO MERZIG OR RETURN 8-days / 7-night easy to moderate Bike and Barge premium cruise



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 in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for first timers, couple and friends or small groups.

These cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities sampling beer, wine and local produce in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English and passengers may 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.

Duration: 8-days / 7-nights
Cost: AU\$1845 per person twin share (single supplement \$395)
Departs: 8th – 15th or 22nd – 29th September 2012

Tour cost includes:

- * 7-nights accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom, air-conditioning, safe, hairdryer
- * 7 buffet breakfasts, picnic lunches, 3-course dinners every night but one (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
- * Drinking water, tea and coffee. Beer and wine etc are available at extra cost from the bar
- * 7-speed hybrid bicycle hire with panniers, repair kit & lock (helmets available if required on request)
- * Experienced cycle tour guide, harbour and ferry fees

Not included:

- * Drinks and bar expenses other than those mentioned & entrance fees other than those described
- * Transfers or travel to/from the cruise, travel insurance and personal expenses.

Well-maintained bikes are provided (e-bikes are available at extra cost) 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, wine tasting, a castle or a coffee stop. Longer routes are available in some destinations so please ask our cycling guides for suggestions according to your ability and interests. The cycling is always fascinating and varied with free time to explore each day's destination or for extra cycling for those who prefer.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

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

Saturday Day 1: Arrive in Koblenz

Make your way to the barge by 4.00pm (you can leave your bags earlier but with no access to cabins). You will be welcomed on board and introduced to the crew, your cabin and your bicycle. After dinner there is time for a stroll through the ancient city of Koblenz.

Sunday Day 2: Koblenz - Cochem (26 km)

Today, we start with a sailing breakfast cruising upstream along the River Moselle to Alken. Here we start the cycling with a ride to Moselkern and into the Elztal to visit the castle of Eltz. High on the cliffs, the castle is one of the few that has never been destroyed during its long history. We continue to Cochem and re-board the ship for dinner. In the evening there is free time to visit the famous Reichsburg or stroll through the streets of romantic Cochem.

Monday, Day 3: Cochem – Zell – Trarbach (35 km)

After breakfast we cycle to Beilstein with time to explore this medieval village. Cycling beside the meandering Moselle we reach Zell, famous for its vineyard *Zeller Schwarze Katz*. A wagon takes us up into the vineyards to taste the local wines. We return to our ship to sail to Trarbach. Dinner is served during the cruise. Overnight in Trarbach Bernkastel-Kues.

Tuesday, Day 4: Trarbach - Bernkastel Kues - Trier (45 km)

An early start with a sailing breakfast from Trarbach to Bernkastel Kues. Here we can visit the market place with its timber-framed houses. Later we ride to the holiday resort of Mehring a favourite of the Roman poet Ausonius. The Romans fell in love with this landscape over 2000 years ago and built many splendid country villas here. We rejoin the ship in Mehring and cruise to Trier.

Wednesday, Day 5: Trier – Wasserbillig (25 km)

The morning is free for you to explore Trier or join a guided city tour to learn more about its history. Trier was a city over 1000-years before the Romans made it the capital of the Northern Roman Empire. There are many Roman remains to explore, best -known being the Porta Nigra city gate. There is also a modern shopping centre and the birthplace of Karl Marx. Trier is a university city with many students from around the world.

In the afternoon we ride to Wasserbillig along the left bank of the Moselle, passing the *Igeler Saule*, an ancient Roman monument. Today's ride ends in the small city of Wasserbillig in Luxemburg.

Thursday, Day 6: Wasserbillig - Saarburg (35 km)

Today we start by crossing the river by ferry at Wasserbillig and cycle along the Moselle to Konz and the confluence of the River Moselle and the River Saar. From Konz we ride 'upstream' following the Saar to the lovely town of Saarburg with its narrow alleyways, timber-framed houses, baroque-style church and stone buildings and the colourful cottages used by fishermen and sailors. The Berlin architect, Karl Friedrich Schinkel in the 19th century called the romantic houses, small bridges waterfalls and waterwheels on the Buttermarkt (beautifully floodlit at night) – with its outdoor cafes and restaurants - "Little Venice".

Today the town centre has retained much of that charm & the nearby castle, perched high above the river makes a wonderful vantage point to view the town and surrounding vineyards.

Tonight dinner is at your own arrangement and there are many restaurants in Saarburg serving local and international cuisine.

Friday, DAY 7: Saarburg - Merzig (32 km)

After a ride through Saarburg with splendid views over the city and the Saar valley, we reach the famous Saar-loop river bend near Orscholz. We climb through the forest for a view over the Saar loop and spectacular surrounding landscapes.

From here it is only 10km to our final destination, the city of Merzig. On the way we visit the village of Mettlach, home of the internationally famous pottery works of Villeroy & Boch. In Merzig we take a short city tour in the afternoon to see many of the splendid ancient buildings and museums including the "Wolfspark" established in 1977 by Werner Freund, the internationally known ethologist.

Saturday, DAY 8: Departure

Tour ends after breakfast.



We offer 8-day / 7-night Bike & Barge cruises to view the tulips and springtime flowers in Holland from early April each year. We also offer cycling cruises from Berlin to discover 'nature's paradise' in northern Germany and Poland towards the aquatic and wildlife rich shores of the Ost See and various routes along the Saar, Moselle, and Neckar Rivers visiting the former Roman city of Trier, Koblenz, Merzig, Cochem, Ludwigsburg and the wonderful white wine growing regions of Germany. Cabins are limited - early reservations are essential.



Other Bike and Barge cruises or inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays are available from Outdoor Travel in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Denmark, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and also in Vietnam. River and canal cruises are available throughout Europe. Sailing holidays are available in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily in Italy - ask for details

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

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102