

GERMANY & POLAND – MALCHIN TO BERLIN or return

8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate cycling from the Ost See beaches and forests to the German capital



Once hidden away behind 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 one of the most fascinating and scenically interesting cycling and cruising routes we offer in Europe. And on arguably our most comfortable and spacious barges.

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. These cycling cruises are ideal for first timers, experienced cyclist AND for families or small groups.

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.

Cost: AU\$1895 per person twin share Single cabin supplement AU\$395
 Departs: 30th June, 2012 from Berlin and 7th July, 2012 from Malchin

Tour cost includes:

- * 7-nights accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom, air-conditioning, safe, hairdryer
- * 7 buffet breakfasts, 6-packed lunches (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 & entrance fees other than those described & personal expenses, transfers to/from the barge.

Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (passengers can bring their own if they prefer) with guided cycling along a variety of waterways and pathways – mostly along flat, sealed pathways or sandy/gravel tracks - but occasionally we break away into hillier country to visit areas of interest, a castle or a coffee stop. More challenging routes may be available in some destinations. The cycling is always fascinating and varied with free time to explore each day's destination. Extra time available for those who want more cycling each day stage.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



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

During the daily guided cycling tours distances will average about 30 – 45 kms per day.

Day 1 – Saturday: Malchin – Demmin

Afternoon check-in at 4.00pm and the cruise will depart at 6.00pm from Malchin to Demmin. We will pass over the Kummerower Lake, known for its 300-metre-high east bank that offers astounding views of the surrounding Mecklenburger Schweiz landscapes. Moorage in Demmin will be located in the town centre. The city of Demmin, being located in the Northern German Lowlands, is where the rivers Peene, Trebel and Tollense meet. There are five scenic and natural park protected areas that are perhaps some of the most beautiful landscapes in Germany.

Day 2 – Sunday: Demmin – Loitz – Anklam – Ueckermünde

An early morning departure with breakfast served as we cruise along the River Peene downstream to Loitz. From here we cycle to Anklam, passing the medieval city of Alt Penzlin. We visit the village of Jarmen where you can visit the “Waterstraat” residence with its wonderful Art Nouveau elements and the inspiring town hall. Still following the River Peene, we travel on to Anklam via the Haff Lagoon at Anklam. The Peene flows across the largest uninterrupted lowland moor area of Europe. From Anklam we cruise through the Peene estuary to the Stettin Lagoon, and onto the estuary of the River Uecker. Tonight we stay in the town centre at Ueckermünde with time to visit the old Marienkirche (St. Mary’s Church), the museum in the former Pomeranian Castle and the local beaches.

Day 3 – Monday: Ueckermünde – Nowe Warpno – Stettin (Szczecin)

We start cycling today in Ueckermünde and ride on to Nowe Warpno. Along the way there are outstanding views of the beaches and coastline. We continue on to Altwarp and then cross by ferryboat to Nowe Warpno (approximately 15 kms) or for those who want a longer cycling day you may take the detour around Mecklenburg - Western Pomerania along the Ueckermonder Heath (which is approximately 45 kms).

You rejoin our boat in Nowe Warpno at about 3pm to cruise along the Stettiner Lagoon to the estuary of the River Oder and the Polish border. From here we follow the River Oder to the Polish city of Szczecin, which was formerly part of Germany and named Stettin where we stay overnight. Tonight is a free night for you to sample regional cuisine at a restaurant of your choice (at your own expense).

Day 4 - Tuesday: Stettin (Szczecin) - Mescherin (D) – Schwedt

This morning we will leave Polish territory and return to Germany cruising on to the German state of Brandenburg. Our cycling begins in Mescherin and will take us to the historical town of Schwedt where we will stay overnight. Schwedt offers a reminder of the former German Democratic Republic lifestyle as it has change little since the re-unification of Germany with an almost pristine landscape surrounding the town.

Day 5 – Wednesday: Schwedt – Oderberg – Eberswalde

Today we cycle from Schwedt to Oderberg. We will pass the Castle of Stople, with one of the finest-preserved medieval castle towers in Germany. The view from the roof of this tower is astounding and extends from the National Lower Oder River Valley to Poland. We re-board the barge at Oderberg and pass one of Germany’s oldest boatlifts at Niederfinow. Our overnight stay will be at Eberswalde.

Day 6 – Thursday: Eberswalde – Oranienburg – Berlin/Spandau

Our route today offers a level, easy ride as we explore the industrial history of the area surrounding Eberswalde en-route to Oranienburg. The route will take us along the Finow Canal where we could possibly take a short detour to the Barnim National Park (which increases the cycling distance to 60 kms). Oranienburg, which received its royal name from the Dutch Princess Louise Henriette of Nassau-Oranien (1627-1667), is situated at

the northern city limits of Germany's capital city, Berlin. This attractive city is located within the area known as the Lake District and it offers many attractions and is popular with visitors and Berliners alike. On reaching Oranienburg we re-board the barge and enjoy a peaceful cruise to Berlin/Spandau along the River Havel. There is time to explore Spandau in the evening.

Day 7 – Friday: Berlin/Spandau

Today we offer the opportunity to explore many local attractions such as the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (Gedächtniskirche), the famous Brandenburg Gate, spectacular Unter den Linden Avenue, the Friedrichstraße, the KadeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens), the Reichstag, Check-point Charlie & numerous museums. For those keen on more cycling join our tour guide to explore the interesting suburban environs of Berlin.

Day 8- Saturday: Berlin/Spandau or City Centre

The tour ends after breakfast.

Please note: *the mooring in Berlin will depend on the Berlin river & port authorities. It could be Berlin Spandau, Berlin Mitte or Berlin Tegel.*



Similar Bike & Barge cruises are also available to view the tulips and spring flowers in Holland from early April each year. Outdoor Travel also offer 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.

Departure dates and cabins available are always limited - early reservations are essential.

Other Bike and Barge cruises are available from Outdoor Travel in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey and also in Vietnam – river and canal cruises 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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