

GERMANY – BAVARIA, KING LUDWIG'S CANAL & THE RIVER DANUBE

7-days / 6-nights Easy to Moderate **STANDARD PLUS** from Bamberg to Regensburg or return



With easy distances and a cycling route through gently rolling countryside this tour in the heart of southern Germany follows a unique Bike & Barge route first introduced in 2017. The area is rich in historic charm and beautiful landscapes. It has a unique character that is not German but Bavarian. Starting in stunning Bamberg we discover classic medieval half-timbered houses dating from the middle ages, see ancient buildings and well-preserved monuments of the Baroque era. The city has many architecture styles right through to some of the most modern designs in Germany. The surrounding countryside is charming and varied and there are dedicated cycle routes through market gardens, vineyards, forested national parks, and many other historical towns.

This cycling cruise explores the scenic Regnitz Valley, including a ride through the forest along one of Germany's most beautiful cycle ways, the *Regnitz-Radweg*. Whilst the barge cruises King Ludwig's Main-Danube canal, one of the oldest in the world, cyclists ride through ever-changing scenery. There are villages and old town centres to explore and on occasion, time for a refreshing, local, Bavarian beer. We end the week cruising along the beautiful River Danube and cycling into the spectacular UNESCO listed medieval city of Regensburg.

Bike & Barge cruising combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), it allows partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (tours can be just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR for enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained multi-gear bikes are provided, ideal for the terrain, and the cycling is fascinating and varied, with free time at each day's destination.

Aboard our comfortable barge the Captain and crew have a reputation for their hospitality, serving excellent meals and for a keen attention to their guests' needs. They make everyone feel that this is your home away from home. The barge has 9 cabins - allowing for a maximum of just 19 guests - each with split-level beds.

Cost from: \$1855 per person twin share Single cabin supplement from \$880

Departs: Bamberg to Regensburg: Saturday 23rd May, 6th June, 20th June, 4th, 18th July, 1st August 2020

Regensburg to Bamberg: Saturday 30th May, 13th June, 27th June, 11th, 25th July, 8th August 2020

Includes: 6 nights' twin-share cabin accommodation each with split-level beds and own shower/toilet, buffet breakfasts, 5 picnic lunches, 6 dinners, afternoon coffee and tea on board, multi-gear hybrid bike hire (including a pannier and lock), daily route information, English speaking tour guide (except 6th, 13th June and all July & August departures, which are **SELF-GUIDED**).

Not included: Arrival/departure transfers to and from the boat, drinks or items of a personal nature, bike insurance (usually €10 paid locally), travel insurance, tour guide/crew gratuities, entrance fees or excursions. Bike helmets are not available onboard, we suggest you bring your own.

E-Bikes available at extra cost (limited – book early). Special diets may incur a supplement – ask for details.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: *Cruise is offered in the reverse direction on alternate weeks*

Day 1 Saturday: Arrival in Bamberg

cycling @ 25km

Plan to arrive at 2.00pm to board the barge in Bamberg. Bamberg is world-class city, with many large Baroque buildings, traditional German houses and narrow streets to explore. There is a welcome aboard, an introduction to the barge crew and cycle tour guide and to the bikes we use, followed by a warm-up ride. Back on the barge dinner is served with perhaps time for a walk around Bamberg's old city centre with the tour guide.

Day 2 Sunday: Bamberg – Hausen – Erlangen

cycling @ 45 - 50km

We usually start today with a morning cruise to Hausen and begin the day's cycling away from the canal, through the fields of the Regnitz Valley. We ride one part of Germany's most beautiful bike routes the "Regnitz-Radweg". During the day there is time to enjoy one of the many "Biergartens" or bars or coffee shops along the way, for a piece of pie or a bier (beer). Our overnight mooring point, Erlangen, is known as the "Bier city of Germany", a rewarding place to explore after dinner.

Day 3 Monday: Erlangen – Nürnberg – Hilpoltstein

cycling @ 30 - 50km

This morning begins with an early cruise to Nürnberg, where we can wander in the medieval part of town or explore some of the places of significance from WW2, including the buildings of the Nürnberger trials. We then cycle alongside one of the oldest canals in the world, King Ludwig's original Main-Danube canal with its 101 locks and rural scenery. In the afternoon we cycle through the Rothsee National Park to Hilpoltstein. Our mooring point is usually at a picturesque location, ideal for relaxing on the sun-deck to watch a Bavarian sunset.

Day 4 Tuesday: Hilpoltstein – Beilngries

cycling @ 40 - 50km

A relaxing ride, today's route takes us to Freystadt with its interesting town centre and the famous pilgrim church of "Maria-Hilf-Wallfahrtskirche", a striking Baroque monument in the middle of the fields. In the afternoon we reach the barge moored at Beilngries, with its historical city centre and locally brewed beer.

Day 5 Wednesday: Beilngries – Riedenburg

cycling @ 30km

Today we explore another beautiful national park, the "Altmühltal", as we follow the river valley. We frequently see reminders of the old King Ludwig Canal, which used to flow through this valley. We end the day in Riedenburg.

Day 6 Thursday: Riedenburg – Regensburg

cycling @ 55km

Our last cycling day takes us to Kelheim, a small city with medieval city gates and Renaissance façades, which is situated at the crossing of the canal and the River Danube. We then cycle to the medieval town of Regensburg – one of Germany's finest. With its Romanesque and Gothic architecture this well-preserved town is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 7 Friday: Depart Regensburg

After breakfast there is time to explore Regensburg, take a city tour or some last minute shopping in this delightful town before disembarking at about midday.

Outdoor Travel offers similar Bike & Barge cycling cruises in France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Romania or Hungary. **Bike & Boat** holidays are available in Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and Vietnam. **Outdoor Travel** also offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours, walking holidays or river and canal hotel barge cruises in many areas of Europe, cycling in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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