

GERMANY & CZECH REPUBLIC - BOHEMIA, SAXONY & ELBE BIKE PATH 8-day / 7-night easy to moderate SELF GUIDED inn-to-inn cycling - Prague to Dresden to Magdeburg



This unique cycling tour takes you through the heart of Bohemia and along the mighty Elbe River. Starting in one of Europe's most popular destinations, the "Golden City" of Prague in the Czech Republic we take you cycling to the beautiful historic city of Dresden. A second week offers a complete change in the landscape and many cultural highlights as the cycling continues to historic Magdeburg, the oldest city in Germany.

The **Elbe Cycle Path** meanders beside pastoral landscapes, through picturesque villages, past vineyards and below the impressive Elbe Sandstone Mountains, into a region known as Saxon Switzerland. The first week of this one or two week holiday offers medieval towns with cliff-top castles and charming architecture that can often be traced back to the middle ages. From Dresden to Magdeburg the scenery changes to show towns and cities of great historical and cultural interest with impressive Renaissance architecture. There are again villages and vineyards and enjoyable cycling. The contrast between the first and second weeks is significant and often so hard to choose between the two, that the easy option is to continue on and do both!

The cycling is easy to moderate, over mostly flat with some gentle slopes and daily distances of 25-80 kilometres. The route goes along the beautiful Elbe Bike Path, with its mostly asphalt surface with some unsealed sections, most of the cycle path is traffic-free. Bikes are provided, are well-maintained, specially designed multi-gear touring bikes ideal for the terrain. Alternatively hire an E-bike to make the cycling even more enjoyable.

Prague to Dresden - 8-days / 7-nights

Departs: Daily from 1st April – 31st October 2020

Cost from: \$1315 per person twin-share Single supplement from \$465

Dresden to Magdeburg - 8-days / 7-nights

Departs: Daily from 1st April - 7th June, 9th June – 5th July, 11th – 13th July, 14th July - 31st October 2020

Cost from: \$1350 per person twin-share Single supplement from \$505

Includes: Twin-share accommodation (with private bathrooms) in comfortable hotels, with breakfast included; welcome drink; hire of multi-gear touring bicycle with pannier, repair kit and bike lock; luggage transfers; detailed route notes and maps (1 per room) and emergency telephone assistance. E-Bikes are available at extra cost – please ask for details when booking.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, drinks, personal expenses, bike or personal insurance, entrance fees. Bike helmets are not included but for safety reasons we recommend you bring your own or buy one locally.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



PRAGUE – CZECH REPUBLIC TO DRESDEN - GERMANY

From Prague along the Vltava & Elbe Rivers through Bohemia and Saxon Switzerland to Dresden

The cycling route from Prague to Dresden connects two significant cultural-historical cities. Take time to capture the flair of Prague before you set out on your way through the rural landscapes of the Czech Republic to Germany. In recent years, on the Czech side, the Elbe Cycle Path has continuously been extended and improved offering riding mostly on a sealed asphalted path. Rarely do you need to ride onto major roads on the way to towns like Mělník or Litoměřice and the bizarre rocky landscapes of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Prague

We suggest you plan to arrive early into Prague as it is a city with so much to see and explore.

Day 2: Free day Sightseeing in Prague

Situated beside the River Vltava, the highlights of Prague include the sixteen arches of the 14th Century Charles Bridge, the Old Town Square with its famous Astronomical Clock, Hradčany and the royal palace. The historic centre is great to explore on foot and there are many shops, cafes and wine bars to enjoy.

Day 3: Prague– Mělník

cycling @ 55km

Today we start the cycling from Prague to Dresden. After breakfast cycle along the Vltava River to the centre of the Bohemian wine growing area of Mělník. From the castle there is a marvellous view over the confluence of the two rivers Vltava (Moldau) and Elbe (known locally as the Labe). You can also see the Elbe Cycle Path.

Day 4: Mělník – Litoměřice

cycling @ 45km

From today we ride along the Elbe Cycle Path towards Dresden. Ride past Roudnice to the former fortress and town of Terezín. From here it is only a few kilometres to Litoměřice with its famous chalice house. Make sure you allow time for a walk through the old town to choose from one of the many restaurants for dinner.

Day 5: Litoměřice – Děčín

cycling @ 50km

Ride through Ústí nad Labem, past the ruin of castle Stěbov, and follow the Elbe to Děčín. We recommend a visit to the local baroque castle, where Frédéric Chopin went to search for inspiration for his music.

Day 6: Děčín – Bad Schandau/Pirna

cycling @ 21km or 44km

From Děčín ride along the Elbe cycle path on the left bank of the river to the border with Germany and you will see the bizarre rock formations on either side of the Elbe. Pass the fortress of Königstein and the sandstone pillars and spectacular rock cliffs at Bastei that give this region the name of the Saxon Switzerland. Today's cycle tour ends in Pirna – known as the "Gateway of Saxon Switzerland".

Day 7: Bad Schandau/Pirna – Dresden

cycling @ 22km or 45km

The last leg of the cycle tour takes you to the famous Pillnitz Castle where you can stroll in the gardens before continuing the ride into Dresden. Take a relaxed evening walk and choose one of the many local restaurants for dinner.

Day 8: Departure day from Dresden

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. *There is so much to see in Dresden and extra nights can be pre-booked if you wish to extend your stay here longer.*



DRESDEN TO MAGDEBURG - GERMANY

From Dresden along the Elbe River to Meissen, Wittenburg, Dessau & Magdeburg

Dresden known as the “*Florence of the Elbe*” is a spectacular, historic city with many wonderful buildings. Cycle the **Elba Bike Path** through the Sandstone Mountains and a rural landscape to Meissen famed worldwide for its porcelain. See fascinating Wittenberg and Dessau and the UNESCO listed biosphere reserve “*Mittlere Elbe*” to reach Magdeburg with its spectacular world famous cathedral and monastery.

Suggested itinerary:

Extra Day in Dresden

cycling @ 45km

If you have not completed the previous week of the Elbe Bike Path from Prague to Dresden, we recommend you add an extra night in Dresden for a day trip to Saxon Switzerland. You can cycle there and then back to Dresden (or return by local train (at own cost) – ask for details.

Day 1: Arrive Dresden

Arrive in the historic city of Dresden in the Elbe river valley by mid-afternoon to collect your bicycles and to finalise your plans for the days ahead. Dresden is home to the Zwinger Palace built in Baroque style, which was the orangery and festival arena of the Dresden Court, see also the Semper Opera and the Court Church.

Day 2: Dresden – Meissen

cycling @ 30km

Plan to leave after breakfast with a ride past the vineyards of Radebeul on the way to Meissen. Before you reach the town you can see Albrechtsburg Castle high on a hill. Allow time to visit the castle, the cathedral and the world-famous **Meissen porcelain factory** which dates back to 1708. In the evening enjoy a glass of local wine as this is the heart of one of the smallest yet most distinguished winegrowing regions of Germany.

Day 3: Meissen – Riesa/Strehla

cycling @ 28km or 36km

The ride today is through the many picturesque wine villages along the Elbe, especially idyllic Diesbar-Seußlitz. Today's destination is Riesa, known remarkably for the production of pasta (visit the transparent noodle centre for an insight into modern food production, the second biggest pasta manufacturer in Germany).

Day 4: Riesa/Strehla – Torgau

cycling @ 48km or 40km

Today, explore the enchanting rural town of Strehla and continue to Torgau, a town with over 500 years of Renaissance and late-Gothic buildings including Hartenfels Palace and the first Protestant church of Germany, dedicated by Martin Luther.

Day 5: Torgau – Lutherstadt Wittenberg

cycling @ 68km

Cycle through the floodplains and farm pastures of the Elbe to Pretzsch and on to Wittenberg, a town made famous by Martin Luther. As the historic, spiritual and cultural centre of Europe, Wittenberg was influenced by such important historical figures as Martin Luther, Philipp Melanchthon, Lucas Cranach the Elder and Lucas Cranach the Younger. In 1996 the Luther memorials were placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

To shorten today's ride add an extra night in Pretzsch – the cycling then becomes @ 37 km then 35 km – ask for extra night costs.

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Day 6: Lutherstadt Wittenberg – Dessau

cycling @ 37km

Today's route takes us through beautiful farmland meadows beside the Elbe and past the world-famous Wörlitzer Park and gardens. The 100-hectare park offers numerous attractions including islands, canals, temples and statues. Our destination is Dessau, a town which played an important role for a new "Bauhaus" style of architecture, a whole life philosophy from the 1920s. The Bauhaus building in Dessau was designed by the founder of the Bauhaus, Walter Gropius, and commissioned by the city of Dessau.

Day 7: Dessau – Magdeburg

cycling @ 78km

Between Barby and Magdeburg we cycle through another UNESCO biosphere reserve beside the Elbe, "Mittlere Elbe" is home to many vulnerable species of plants, birds and other wildlife. The city of Magdeburg offers lots of park and trails to explore on foot or by bike. As time allows perhaps visit to the famous Protestant Cathedral of Saints Catherine and Maurice and the Monastery of Our Lady, built in the 11th Century. The Monastery contains the church of St. Mary and today is a museum for Modern Art, home to the National Collection of Small Art Statues.

Day 8: Departure day from Magdeburg

The tour ends after breakfast in Magdeburg. *You are free to make your own onward travel arrangements or, extend your stay in Magdeburg – ask about cost and availability of extra nights of accommodation.*



Outdoor Travel also offer cycling holidays in several areas of Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Ireland, England and Scotland, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, the USA, Canada, China, Vietnam, New Zealand and Australia.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations

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