

OUTDOOR TRAVEL



THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

BIKE & BARGE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE

GERMANY – WESER & ELBE RIVERS *Limited cabins available - early bookings essential*
8-day / 7-night Easy to moderate **PREMIUM PLUS** cycling cruises from Bremen to Magdeburg



Germany has so much to offer: history and culture, beer, wine, beautiful countryside, and thriving cosmopolitan cities. Explore northern and eastern Germany on this cruise from the old Hanseatic city of Bremen to Magdeburg in the former East Germany. From Bremen we cruise along the Weser River, which was for centuries a major transport artery in lower Saxony, and the Mittelland (Midland) Canal, which links western and eastern Germany's waterways. We visit the Volkswagen factory and museum, and stop in many of the cities and towns once members of the Hanseatic League of merchant guilds and market towns. Magdeburg, on the mighty Elbe River, has been sacked and destroyed twice (during the Thirty Years' War and World War II) and has risen from the ashes to become a green and modern city.

Bike and Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe: easy to moderate cycling with river or canal cruising. They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. The cycling is fascinating and varied, with free time to explore each destination. Multi-gear hybrid bikes are provided (or you can bring your own if you prefer), and a limited number of E-Bikes are available at extra cost, please ask when booking.

Cost from: \$2415 per person twin-share Single cabin supplement on request

Departs: Bremen to Magdeburg: June Magdeburg to Bremen: July

Includes: 7 nights of accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom; 7 buffet breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 6 dinners; drinking water; tea and coffee; welcome drink; 21-gear hybrid bicycle hire (panniers, water bottle, repair kit and lock); tour guide, route information; entrance fee and guided tour of the VW-Autostadt Wolfsburg, ferry fares enroute.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, drinks and bar expenses; entrance fees other than those described; transfers to/from the cruise; travel insurance, gratuities and personal expenses.

Suggested itinerary: *This may change based on nautical or operational conditions at the captain / guide's discretion. Cycling distances / mooring points may vary accordingly. Itinerary may operate in reverse direction.*

Day 1 Saturday: Arrive in Bremen, cruise to Verden

Arrive in Bremen by 4.00pm. Bremen is an historic city with an old city quarter, market square and UNESCO World Heritage monuments – arrive earlier if you want to explore, as we set sail promptly at 5.00pm. We cruise upstream on the Weser River to Verden, and there is time after dinner to stroll along the Weser's tributary the Aller through Verden. The town is a centre for breeding and sales of German warm-blood Hanoverian horses, and has an extensive Horse Museum and a historical old city centre with its pedestrian area *Große Straße* and many well-preserved medieval and Baroque buildings.

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Day 2 Sunday: Verden – Hoya – Nienburg**Cycling @ 30 - 45km**

We begin cycling from Verden and follow the Weser Cycling Route, one of the most popular in Germany. Cycle through the impressive landscape of the Weser Hills (Weserbergland) and stroll through Hoya's historical city centre. We end our day in Nienburg, established in 1025, with the Asparagus Well (Spargelbrunnen), the bronze statue of Bayard (a legendary magic horse), a 14th Century City Hall and St Martin church and impressive tower.

Day 3 Monday: Nienburg – Stolzenau – Minden**Cycling @ 30 - 45km**

Continuing along the Weser Cycling Route from Nienburg to Stolzenau, we cross a beautiful and varied natural landscape. In Stolzenau we re-join the barge and cruise to Minden for one of this tour's highlights: the Wasserstraßenkreuz (Aquatic Interchange), where the Midland Canal crosses the Weser River via a 13m high aqueduct. We moor overnight in Minden on the Midland Canal.

Day 4 Tuesday: Minden – Sachsenhagen – Hannover**Cycling @ 30 - 45km**

We cruise along the Mittelland Canal and Bridge to cross over the Weser River to Sachsenhagen and cycle towards Hannover, beside the Steinhuder Lake nature reserve. We re-join the barge to cruise to the city centre.

Day 5 Wednesday: Hannover – Braunschweig – Wolfsburg**Cycling @ 30 - 45km**

We begin with a breakfast cruise to Braunschweig (Brunswick in English), where we disembark and begin our ride to Wolfsburg, our destination for tonight. The city was created in 1938 near the old village of Fallersleben as a dormitory town for workers at the Volkswagen factory, and was renamed Wolfsburg in 1945 after Wolfsburg Castle. Dinner is at your own arrangements this evening so you may choose from many restaurants in Wolfsburg.

Day 6 Thursday: Wolfsburg – Haldensleben**Cycling @ 30 - 45km**

After breakfast there is a 45-minute guided tour of the Autostadt Volkswagen complex. Then there is free time when you can visit more of the Autostadt, a 25-hectare museum and automobile theme park, which also includes a planetarium, science museum and the Kunstmuseum, a contemporary art museum and gallery. Alternatively stroll or cycle to the nearby castle, which houses a historical museum and art exhibitions. At around 1pm we ride to Haldensleben, where we stay overnight.

Day 7 Friday: Haldensleben – Magdeburg**Cycling @ 30 - 45km**

We follow the Midland Canal and Elbe River. Near to Magdeburg we pass the Sparschleuse (a water-saving lock) and are lowered 20m to enter Magdeburg on the Elbe River. Magdeburg, the capital of Saxony-Anhalt, was founded in 805AD. The Gothic cathedral, one of the largest churches in Germany, is worth visiting as is the Old Market. Farewell dinner onboard the barge.

Day 8 Saturday: Depart Magdeburg

Depart the barge after breakfast. Magdeburg is well-connected by train to Berlin.



Outdoor Travel offer Bike & Barge cruises to view the tulips and springtime flowers in Holland from early April each year. We also offer cycling cruises on the popular routes from Amsterdam to Bruges or Bruges to Paris, along the Neckar and River Rhine from Ludwigsburg to Koblenz and to see the highlights of Bavaria along the River Main from Miltenberg to Bamberg. Other Bike and Barge cruises or inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays are available from in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and in Vietnam.

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

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