

# BIKE & BARGE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE 2024

GERMANY, POLAND, HOLLAND & BELGIUM Limited cabins available - early bookings essential 8 or 7-day / 7 or 6-night easy to moderate *PREMIUM PLUS* GUIDED cycling cruises various routes



Holland, Poland and Germany have so much to offer; history and culture, beer, wine, beautiful countryside, and thriving cosmopolitan cities. One barge, that we regard as one of the most comfortable luxury barge in our fleet, offers a roving itinerary through the Netherlands and along into Germany and Poland along some of Europe's most romantic rivers. One week cruises with cycling follow the River Rhine, the Main, the Saar and the Moselle and the Mittelland (Midland) Canal, which links western and eastern Germany's waterways. Visit Berlin, Cologne, Mainz, Saarburg and the old Hanseatic city of Bremen in the former East Germany. Explore the cities and cycle or cruise through many towns and small villages in between.

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.

**Cost per person (twin share) from: \$4040** (8 day tour) **\$4580** (9 day tour) **\$5390** (11 day tour) Single cabin supplement on request, *additional dates maybe availabe please ask when enquiring.* 

12 June – 22 June 2024 11 days / 10 nights **Departs:** Bruges to Amsterdam Amsterdam to Bremen 22 June – 29 June 2024 8 days / 7 nights 29 June - 6 July 2024 8 days / 7 nights Bremen to Wolfsburg: Wolfsburg to Berlin: 6 July – 13 July 2024 8 days / 7 nights Malchin to Berlin 27 July – 3 August 2024 8 days / 7 nights Berlin to Malchin 3 August – 10 August 2024 8 days / 7 nights 10 August – 17 August 2024 8 days / 7 nights Malchin to Berlin Berlin to Wolfsburg: 17 August – 24 August 2024 8 days / 7 nights Cologne to Saarburg 1 September – 9 September 9 days / 8 nights Saarburg to Mainz 9 September – 17 September 2024 9 days / 8 nights 18 September – 26 September 2024 9 days / 8 nights Mainz to Ludwigsburg Ludwigsburg to Mainz 26 September – 3 October 2024 8 days / 7 nights Mainz to Merzig 9 days / 8 nights 3 October – 11 October 2024 Merzig to Nancy 12 October – 20 October 2024 9 days / 8 nights 20 October - 28 October 2024 Nancy to Koblenz 9 days / 8 nights

**Includes:** 10, 8 or 7 nights of twin/double cabin accommodation with private bathroom; buffet breakfasts, packed lunches, dinners (except on one night); drinking water; tea and coffee; welcome drink; multi-gear hybrid bicycle hire (panniers, helmet, water bottle, repair kit and lock); tour guide, route information; entrance / ferry fees.

**Not included:** Meals not mentioned, drinks; optional entry fees not described; travel insurance, gratuities, and personal expenses. A limited number of E-Bikes are available at extra cost (paid locally).

## Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



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. Please ask for the alternate tour itineraries.

## Berlin to Malchin – Germany & Poland Tour – cycling distance per day: 35 to 70km

## Day 1: Berlin/Spandau – Oranienburg

Arrive at the barge mooring at Berlin-Spandau by 4.00pm for a welcome drink, tour briefing and introduction to your bicycle. If you arrive in Berlin early, you may drop you bags off and explore the city. The barge departs at 5pm for Oranienburg on the outskirts of Berlin, named after the Dutch princess Louise Henriette of Nassau-Oranien who had a castle here in 1646, and the mooring point for tonight. After dinner there is the chance for an evening stroll.

## Day 2: Oranienburg – Eberswalde – Niederfinow

cycling @ 45km or 60km Enjoy breakfast while the barge cruises along the Havel River to Zerpenschleuse, from where today's bike ride starts. Explore the industrial history of this area riding to Eberswalde along the Old Finow Canal. Rejoin the barge at Eberswalde or extend your ride to Niederfinow. Tonight's mooring point is close to the Niederfinow Ship Lift.

## Day 3: Niederfinow – Oderberg – Schwedt

Today the barge and its guests descend 38 meters in the oldest German boat lift at Niederfinow. Afterwards we continue our journey to Oderberg where we start our cycling tour today. We cycle to the city of Schwedt passing areas of natural beauty. A visit to the Castle of Stolpe is included in your tour. The castle is one of the best preserved Medieval castle towers in Germany and from its roof a view that extends from the National Lower Oder River Valley up to Poland, or of picturesque wooded slopes up to beautiful chains of hills in the spacious hinterland.

### Day 4: Schwedt – Mescherin – Szczecin

Starting today in Schwedt, a historical town where the remains of the German Democratic Republic lifestyle and atmosphere are still evident. The bike tour leads us through preserved natural landscapes to Mescherin, still in Germany. From here we board the barge and cruise into Poland. Where we stay in the former German city of Stettin, which belongs to Poland now and is named Szczecin. The night is free for you to relax or explore the city and to taste regional Polish cuisine in one of the many restaurants near to our overnight mooring.

## Day 5: Szczecin – Kamminke, Usedom

An early start and breakfast whilst cruising, the barge continues to follow the Oder from Szczecin into the Stettin Lagoon/Stettiner Haff, passing the Polish/German border. The Stettin Lagoon, originating from a glacier reservoir lake, is located to the south of the island of Usedom and its surface area is larger than the surface area of the famous Lake Constance. The morning is free until 11.30am when we start our ride to the Baltic Sea coast. With time for a swim or a stroll through the small towns of Ahlbeck and Heringsdorf.

## Day 6: Kamminke – Karnin – Stolpe

After breakfast we cycle across the Island of Usedom enjoying its natural beauty and then re-join the barge in Karnin, in the south. We cruise the river Peene towards Stolpe, a natural area not frequented by tourists where birds and wildlife dominate.

## Day 7: Stolpe – Jarmen – Verchen – Malchin

After a cruising breakfast to Jarmen, Today's cycling takes us to Verchen, another charming village on the Peene river. Cycling through the former German Democratic Republic region again, where the roads change from asphalt to concrete bike paths to cobblestones, a popular surface in this region. From Verchen we sail towards our final destination, Malchin. The river banks are wide and there is little traffic or people in an area known as the "Amazon of the North" because of its dense and overgrown vegetation and forests. We cross the Kummerower See, a 20km wide lake and follow the Peene River to the town of Malchin.

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cycling @ 50km

## cycling @ 35km

## cycling @ 35km

## cycling @ 50km

cycling @ 40km or extend to 70km

## Day 8: Malchin

The tour ends after breakfast.

"Just wanted to thank you very much for organising such a splendid holiday for me. The entire tour was a great success with no hiccups or hitches whatsoever, thanks to your efficiency. The barge exceeded my expectations in every way. The Captain, crew and guides were very professional and at the same time ensured we all had a fun trip. All in all it was a holiday to remember. Thank you again, Dai."



**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Loire Valley, Burgundy or Provence in **France**, in **Germany** along the Rivers Saar, Moselle and Rhine, in **Italy** on the Venice Lagoon, Sicily or Amalfi Coast, the popular River Danube in **Austria** or **Romania**, island hopping in **Greece**, **Turkey** or on the Dalmatian coast of **Croatia**. We also offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays in many destinations in Europe & across the world including **South Africa**, **New Zealand**, **Vietnam** and **Japan**.

## Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations:

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