

CZECH REPUBLIC – PRAGUE & BOHEMIA

8-days / 7-nights on the Elbe River, **PREMIUM** Bike and Barge **SELF-GUIDED** cycling cruise



This unique Bike & Barge tour cruises through the heart of Bohemia, starting and ending in 'the Golden City' of Prague. Cruising along the Upper Moldova or Moldau, more familiar by its Czech name Vltava, and the mighty Elbe River, with its river landscapes, picturesque villages and romantic castles, whose history and architecture can often be traced back to the Middle Ages.

Stay aboard a recently refurbished, well equipped and spacious river cruiser. The upper deck cabins feature a small balcony with windows that open, and there are 25 cabins on the main deck with closed windows. All 47 cabins are outward facing with twin beds, they have private en-suite bathroom facilities. They also include climate control, a hairdryer, TV and a safe. The onboard chef prepares national and regional specialties, served up in the restaurant with bar. Comfortable lounge and observation saloon seating areas are available with panoramic windows. There are also deck areas with chairs on the large sundeck.

In Prague the ship is moored close to Charles Bridge near to the restored Market Place, busy Wenceslas Square, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town and historic Jewish quarter. At sunset the bridges over the Vltava River are ablaze with sunlight and the spires of the castle sparkle in the light and you can see why Prague is called 'the Golden City'. Prague is one of Europe's most beautiful cities with the added bonus of the original Czech 'amber nectar' – the beer, notably Pilsner, for which this area is renowned.

Bike & Barge cruises combine two popular ways to explore Europe (cycling and river cruising), allowing 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 self-guided cycling is easy to moderate with daily distances of 25 to 60km mostly on cycle trails, quiet backroads or unpaved trails through forests or fields. Near major centres we cycle on some roads with heavier traffic. The terrain is mostly flat, with some short hills. Non-cycling passengers are welcome but note that whilst there may be activities planned for the evenings there are no sightseeing provisions for non-cyclists during the day. Of course you can always just relax on board and enjoy life on the river.

Departs: 23rd, 30th June; 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th July; 4th, 11th August, 2020

Main Deck cabin cost: \$1665 per person, twin share Single Use supplement: \$895 per person

Upper Deck cabin cost: \$2005 per person, twin share

Single cabin cost: \$2180 (main deck) \$2535 (upper deck) – limited availability - please book early

E-Bikes: Available for hire at extra cost – ask for details

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabin with air-conditioning, full board (breakfast, packed lunch and dinner), welcome drink, bike hire (7-speed city bike with pannier), bike insurance, route map and cycling information (one set per cabin), daily cycling briefing, cabin cleaning, port/bridge/lock fees.

Not Included: Arrival & departure transfers, entrance fees and excursions, ferries, gratuities or personal expenses. Bike helmets are not available, we recommend you bring your own or buy one locally.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested Itinerary: *

Day 1: Tuesday, Arrive Prague

Arrive Prague and make your way to the boat, moored in the city centre, from 4.00pm. After dinner, stroll over the Charles Bridge and enjoy the stunning view of the illuminated Prague Castle.

Day 2: Wednesday, Prague – Kralupy

cycling @ 27km

In the morning, there is an optional guided walk, about 2 hours, to discover the right bank of the Vltava River, the highlights of the Old Town, the New Town and the Jewish Quarter. Return to the ship, collect your bike and at around noon head off cycling along the Vltava River through Troja, home to a Baroque castle with an extensive art collection, to the villages of Klecány and Drasty, then onward to our destination, Kralupy.

Day 3: Thursday, Kralupy – Mělník, then by boat to Litoměřice

cycling @ 28km

After breakfast we cycle along the banks of the Vltava River, to Nelahozeves. En route there is an optional visit to the birth house of composer Antonin Dvořák and one of the most famous Renaissance castles of Bohemia, also known as the "little Louvre of Czechia". We pass Veltrusý Park, with numerous sculptures and gazebos and large, English-style garden, up to the royal town of Mělník, where the Vltava River flows into the Elbe. Here we re-join the ship and relax during the boat trip on the Elbe River to Litoměřice.

Day 4: Friday, Free day in Litoměřice

optional cycling or sightseeing

Today is free to explore Litoměřice, one of the most beautiful Czech towns. Perhaps join the optional guided walk to see the colourful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings in the town centre. Explore the Baroque Cathedral of St Stephen, the historic underground tunnel system or the Bishop's residence. You may also cycle to the village of Terezín with its concentration camp memorial (Theresienstadt) about 5km away. There is also a longer optional ride (approximately 55km) to Ustí, where the ruins of Střekov Castle tower above the Elbe.

Day 5: Saturday, Roudnice then cycle Roudnice – Mělník – Mlčechvosty

cycling @ 40km

Over breakfast we sail to Roudnice. Following the Elbe, via Dobřín, Račice and Vliněves, we cycle back to the lovely village of Mělník. On a guided walk (optional) enjoy the splendid panoramic view of the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers from the top of the castle hill. After there is an option of coffee and cake in the castle's patisserie, then continue cycling to our destination Mlčechvosty.

Day 6: Sunday, Mlčechvosty – Prague

cycling @ 40km

Cycle to Prague via the charming villages of Nelahozeves, Kralupy, Chvatěruby, Vodochody, Drasty and Klecánky. Free time to explore Prague Castle, the Golden Lane, the Powder Tower or the wonderful shopping and cafes on the Old Town Square.

Day 7: Monday, Circular ride to Zbraslav and return

cycling @ 30km

Cycle today along the Vltava River upstream to Zbraslav and back. Visit the 10th Century Vyšehrad Castle, which was built on a hill over the Vltava River and which legend suggests was the first settlement which later became Prague. Alternatively, spend the day exploring more of central Prague, visit Prague Castle or just meander along the streets or watch the lively goings-on from one of the cafes on the Old Town Square.

Day 8: Tuesday, Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Prague.



* The timetable and itinerary are indicative only and are subject to change without notice. Distances shown are approximate and are determined by water levels and navigation of locks and bridges, etc. The ship does cruise at night.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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