

GERMANY & CZECH REPUBLIC - BOHEMIA, SAXONY & ELBE BIKE PATH 8-day / 7-night easy to moderate SELF GUIDED inn-to-inn cycling: Prague-Dresden / Dresden-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 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. The contrast between the first and second weeks is significant and often hard to choose between the two, so 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.

Departs: Daily from 1 April – 31 October 2024.

Prague to Dresden - 8-days / 7-nights **Cost from:** \$1640 per person twin-share
Single room supplement from \$445

Dresden to Magdeburg - 8-days / 7-nights **Cost from:** \$1735 per person twin-share
Single room supplement from \$480

Subject to a minimum of 2 people. Solo travellers on request

Includes: Twin-share accommodation (with private bathrooms) in comfortable hotels, with breakfast included; 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.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, drinks, personal expenses, bike or personal insurance, entrance fees. Visitors' taxes (payable locally). Bike helmets are not included but for safety reasons we recommend you bring your own or buy one locally. **E-Bikes** are available at extra cost – please ask for details when booking.

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, cafés and wine bars to enjoy.

Day 3: Prague– Mělník

cycling @ 55km

You leave 'The Golden City' behind you on this day 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

In Mělník you join the Elbe Cycle Path towards Dresden. Ride past Roudnice to the former fortress and town of Terežín. 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 Střekov, 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/Krippen/Pirna

cycling @ 21km or 43km

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 its nickname, Saxon Switzerland. You end the day in either Bad Schandau or the nearby village of Pirna – known as the "Gateway of Saxon Switzerland".

Day 7: Bad Schandau/Pirna– Dresden

cycling @ 23km 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

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. There is much to see in Dresden and extra nights can be arranged when booking 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 **Elbe 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 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

cycling @ 28km

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

Day 4: Riesa – Torgau

cycling @ 48km

Explore the enchanting rural town of Strehla and then 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 Melancthon, 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 @ 33km then 35km – ask for extra night costs.

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Day 6: Lutherstadt Wittenberg – Dessau**cycling @ 37km**

Your route is 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. Your 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**

Past Dessau there are many other examples of Bauhaus architecture. Between Barby and Magdeburg you cycle through another UNESCO biosphere reserve beside the Elbe, *Mittlere Elbe*, home to many vulnerable species of plants, birds and other wildlife. The city of Magdeburg offers many parks and trails to explore on foot or by bike. As time allows perhaps visit 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.

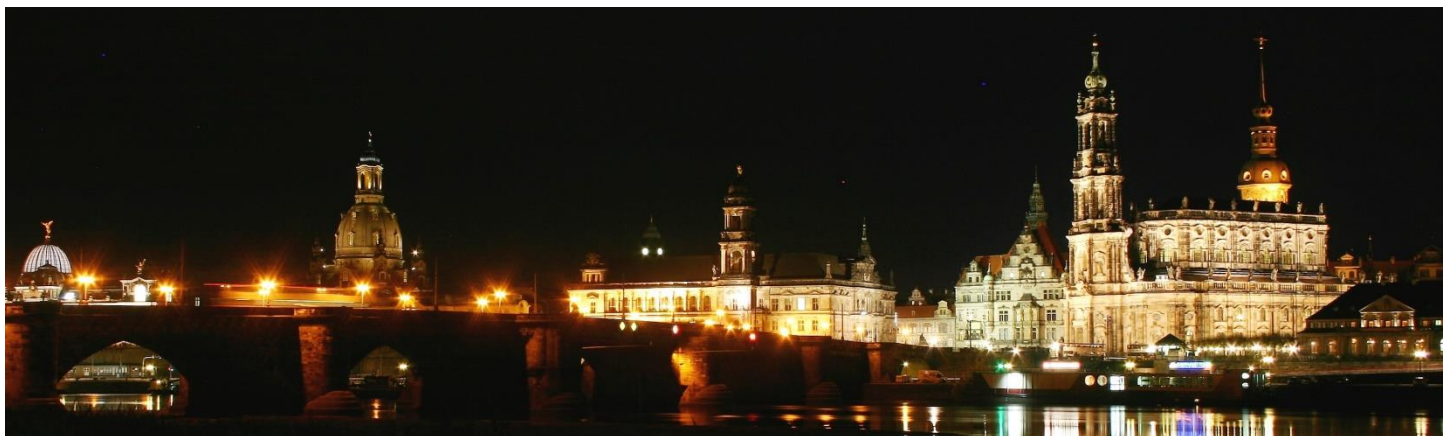
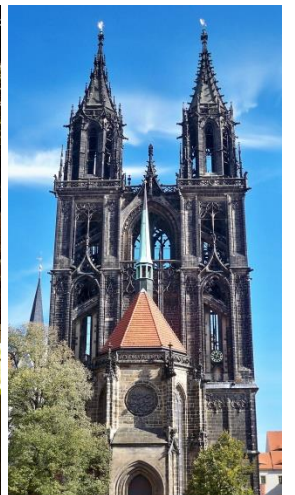
To shorten today's ride, add an extra night in Barby – the cycling then becomes @ 40km then 42km – ask for extra night costs.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. 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 when booking.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations**

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