

GERMANY & POLAND

8-days / 7-night mostly flat riding **PREMIUM PLUS** GUIDED cycling cruise from Berlin to Malchin

ONE DATE ONLY LEFT FOR 2019 SEASON ON THIS BARGE



Once hidden behind the Iron Curtain this region of northern Germany is now exposed as a true natural paradise of unspoiled rural villages, woods, forests, wetlands, rivers, treelined lakes and beaches. Birds, animals and wildflowers abound as you step back in time to one of the most fascinating and scenically interesting cycling and cruising routes we offer in Europe. And on arguably our most comfortable and spacious barges – with 12 very comfortable fully equipped air-conditioned twin cabins each with a private shower/toilet. This barge is almost completely full in 2019 but we have managed to secure a few cabins on this route.

These guided cycling cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities, sampling beer and local produce along the way. The cycling is interesting and varied with free time to explore each destination. Easy to moderate, **mostly flat** cycling offers diverse scenery and insights into a rich part of European history – with an experienced, knowledgeable guide - in the company of like-minded cyclists.

Tours are conducted in English but passengers may include a mix of different nationalities - including English or German speaking with Danish, French, Italian or Dutch as the other main languages – all adding to the cultural enjoyment of bike and barge cruising.

These Bike and Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe 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). Unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Bike & Barge cycling cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller, they are ideal for first timers, couples and friends or small groups.

Highlights include Berlin, the Niederfinow lift, a visit to Poland, the Stettin Lagoon and the Baltic Sea

Cost from: \$2875 per person twin share Single cabin supplement on request

Departs: 29th June 2019 **Limited availability – last 5 cabins for 2019**

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom; 7 buffet breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 6 dinners; drinking water, tea and coffee; welcome drink; hire of multi-gear hybrid bicycle with water bottle and bike bag (helmets also available); tour guide and route information; guided city tour of Stolpe Tower; canal, harbour and mooring fees.

E-Bikes: additional cost, numbers are strictly limited, please ask about cost and availability when booking.

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.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Berlin-Spandau – sail to Oranienburg

Plan to arrive at the barge mooring at Berlin-Spandau by 4.00pm for a welcome drink, to meet the crew and fellow passengers and learn about the week ahead. If you arrive in Berlin earlier you may drop your bags off to explore the city. The barge departs at 5.00pm for Oranienburg, named after the Dutch princess Louise Henriette of Nassau-Oranien who had a castle here in 1646. It is at the northern limits of Germany's capital city of Berlin.

Day 2: Oranienburg – Eberswalde

cycling distance @ 26km

We start sailing before breakfast along the Havel River cruising to Zerpenschleuse. The cycling starts here and we explore the industrial history of this area tiding to Eberswalde along the Old Finow Canal to re-join the barge. Our overnight mooring is close to the unique Niederfinow Ship Lift, a fascinating engineering feat..

Day 3: Eberswalde – Oderberg - Schwedt

cycling distance @ 42km or 56km

One of the highlights of this tour is our passage through Germany's oldest boat lift at Niederfinow which takes barges down 38-meters to connect the canal and the river here. Afterwards we continue through a very beautiful rural landscape and woodlands to Oderberg and cycle to the city of Schwedt. The Castle of Stolpe has one of the best preserved medieval castle towers in Germany with view from the roof from the National Lower Oder River Valley to Poland. There is a guided tour through this castle and around the city of Schwedt. Schwedt was an important historical town with fascinating reminders of the lifestyle and atmosphere of the former East Germany, the German Democratic Republic. We stay in Schwedt overnight.

Day 4: Schwedt – Mescherin – Szczecin

cycling distance @ 32km

Today we will see nature at its finest as we ride to Mescherin, in the state of Brandenburg. We re-join the barge and cruise across the border into Poland. We stay in the former German city of Stettin, now known as 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 point (dinner tonight is at your own expense).

Day 5: Szczecin – Usedom Island

cycling distance @ 42km

An early start and a breakfast whilst cruising as we follow the Oder River from Szczecin to the Stettin Lagoon. Originally a glacial lake, this waterway is home to many thousands of wading birds. Its surface area is larger than that of Lake Constance. This is a fascinating area to explore with many small villages and fishing ports, sandy beaches and holiday resorts. Lots of Bier Gardens and coffee shops in an area that is very popular in summer.

The morning is free until about 11.00am when we ride to the Baltic Sea coast. Time for a swim or a stroll through the small towns of Ahlbeck and Heringsdorf. We moor overnight in Kamminke on the island of Usedom.

Day 6: Usedom – Stolpe

cycling distance 40km

After breakfast we ride across this beautiful Island of Usedom to Karnin to rejoin the barge. We sail into the river Peene towards Stolpe, an area not frequented by tourists and again nature and the birds and wildlife dominate.

Day 7: Stolpe – Loitz – Malchin

cycling distance @ 40km

The last day of cycling takes us from Stolpe to Loitz, another charming village on the Peene River. Again we are crossing the former DDR and we are reminded that concrete and cobblestones were the surface of choice during East Germany times. From Loitz 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 again to the charming town of Malchin.

Day 8: Departure day

Disembark the barge after breakfast. Malchin has good rail connections to Berlin via Neubrandenburg (train journey time is @ 2½ hours).



Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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