

CZECH REPUBLIC – BOHEMIA & PRAGUE

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, along the mighty Elbe River, with its picturesque villages and romantic castles. A region with a rich history and architecture that can be traced back to the Middle Ages. See Prague, one of Europe's most beautiful cities, with the historic Charles Bridge, the restored Market Place, busy Wenceslas Square, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town and historic Jewish quarter. And try the original Czech 'amber nectar' beer, notably Pilsner, for which this area is renowned.

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.

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 – e-bikes available at extra cost), bike insurance, route map and cycling information (one set per cabin), daily cycling briefing, cabin cleaning, port/bridge/lock fees, arrival & departure transfers from/to Prague airport or main train station (at set times).

Not Included: 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: Saturday, Arrive Brandýs nad Labem

Arrive at the ship moored on the Elbe River in Brandýs nad Labem in the afternoon at @ 4.00pm. There is a transfer to Brandýs from Prague airport or Prague hlavní nádraží (hl.n.) train station if required – ask for details.

Day 2: Sunday, Brandýs – Nymburk– Brandýs

cycling @ 35km

Cycle to the beautiful Elbe town of Nymburk, with its magnificent city fortifications and visit the Elbe river bridge, built in 1912, for a city view including the former royal town. Take a tour of the Old Town's historical buildings and monuments, before cruising back to Brandýs.

Day 3: Monday, Brandýs – M Iník – Nelahozeves

cycling @ 52km

Today we cruise on the Elbe River to M Iník at the confluence of the Elbe and Vltava Rivers. Ride along the banks of the Vltava, past Veltrusý Park, with its sculptures, gazebos and English-style garden, to Nelahozeves. You may like to visit the birthplace of composer Antonin Dvořák here. Nelahozeves Castle is a Renaissance palace, with a fine collection of paintings and elaborate *sgraffito* designs depicting scenes from Greek mythology and the Old Testament. Cycle back to M Iník in time for dinner onboard the boat.

Day 4: Tuesday, M Iník – Roudnice – Litoměřice

cycling @ 26km

Free time to explore in M Iník with its central square and many pastel-coloured buildings. You may like to walk to the top of the castle hill for views of the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers. Afterwards we cycle along the Elbe, via Vlněves, Račice, and Dobruška, to Roudnice. There has been a fortress here since the 12th Century; the current Baroque palace was constructed in the 17th Century. Over dinner the boat sails to Litoměřice.

Day 5: Wednesday, Free day in Litoměřice

optional cycling or sightseeing

Free day to explore Litoměřice, one of the most beautiful Czech towns. Optional guided walk to see the 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 WW2 concentration camp memorial (Theresienstadt), @ 5km away. There is a longer optional ride of @ 55km to Ústí, to see the ruins of Střekov Castle which tower above the Elbe.

Day 6: Thursday, Litoměřice – M Iník – Brandýs

cycling @ 30km

In the morning the boat cruises back to M Iník. From here you cycle alongside the unspoilt banks of the Elbe, through forests and small villages and passing quiet wetlands, then join quiet country roads to Brandýs.

Day 7: Friday, Prague

non cycling, sightseeing day

Take a bus transfer to Prague, to spend the day exploring the historic city centre. Visit the Charles Bridge, the right bank of the Vltava River, the Old Town, New Town and Jewish Quarter, or just meander along the streets or watch the lively goings-on from one of the cafes on the Old Town Square. In the afternoon return by bus to Brandýs for your last night aboard the barge and farewell dinner.

Day 8: Saturday, Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast with an optional transfer from Brandýs nad Labem to Prague airport or station.



* 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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