

Cycling Safaris

PRAGUE TO DRESDEN 2017

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 198 km | 6 nights / 7 days



The Czech Republic is a beautiful country in central Europe. Past generations have left a wonderful treasure of cultural and historical monuments reflecting a rich and diverse history - ancient towns full of life and culture, Gothic castles and churches, Renaissance chateaux, and many examples of folk cultures. More than two thousand castles, chateaux and castle ruins have been preserved in the Czech Republic. Few countries of Europe can match its richness of historical and architectural monuments.

Cycle down the Vltava and Elbe Rivers and visit two important cultural centers in Europe. Prague, since ancient times melting-pot of Czech, German and Jewish ethnic groups and Dresden the residence of the Saxon dukes and Florence of the North. The same way as the rivers flow, we will ride along them through a beautiful countryside full of picturesque towns such as Melnik, Litomerice or Bad Schandau. The tour will take us through natural beauties of bizarre Czech-Saxon Switzerland National Park, as well as through romantic region of former volcanoes of the Czech Middle Mountains. The last kilometers will take us through cultural regions of the Dresden Valley of the Elbe River. Connecting two European centers, as well as the beauties of the Vltava and Elbe River basins, yields a very attractive, but not physically demanding tour manageable even by less fit bikers. As a bonus you can enjoy a boat trip or half day hiking in the Czech Saxon Switzerland.

Distances are shorter than on other routes and there is only one short up hill on the first day. The rest of the route leads along Vltava and Elbe rivers. You will cycle on roads with minimal traffic and special cycling paths in the Czech republic and Germany. There are some short off-road sections on this tour.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive to Prague

You will be met at the Airport and transferred to your hotel in the beautiful city of Prague. On arrival in the city you can check into your hotel and then explore the city at your leisure.

DAY 2 Prague to Melnik **approx 58 - 70 km / 35 - 42 miles**

In the morning you will meet the group and your guide who will inform you about the tour. Despite the first small ascent, today's stage follows a nice trail to the heart of the Czech wine region - the town of Melnik. It is a good warm-up for our further bike stages. Just before we leave Prague, we pass the Troja Baroque Castle and we continue to the North following the bank of the Vltava River. The river cuts into the ground here, which creates very interesting rock formations and deep valleys. Visits of castles in Nelahozeves or Veltrusy are the biggest highlights of this day. We will end this stage in an old wine town at the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers with a glass of a good wine.

DAY 3 Melnik to Litomerice **approx. 50 km / 30 miles**

Today's stage leads us through a calm Elbe region and is without significant altitude changes. This region is one of the most fertile regions in the Czech Republic. Due to the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers, the river gains on its mightiness and strength and slowly becomes a European major waterway. After passing the Libechov Castle, we will get to the town of Roudnice nad Labem and we will have a chance to admire an old church and a castle. The most impressive stop on today's stage is the massive Terezin Fortress from the turn of the 18th century, which illustrates the military architecture of that time. The seamy side of its history is the World War II period. This era was filled with hatred and cruelty and dramatically spotted the history of Terezin. A place which the Nazis used as a Jewish concentration camp. We will conclude the day in an old town and spiritual center of this region - in the town of Litomerice, which is an antidote to the horrific Terezin Fortress.

DAY 4 Litomerice to Decin **approx. 52 km / 31 miles**

This day is designed for exploration of the romantic countryside of the Czech Middle Mountains. Even though this region is very hilly, we will follow the banks of the Elbe River most of the time and hills with several old-time ruins will surround us. This former volcanic region had always been an ideal terrain for building castles and fortresses, many of which have unfortunately not been preserved up to date. The Strekov Castle, which was built on top of a steep rock cliff, is one of the most romantic castles in the Czech Republic. After a more strenuous climb, we will be rewarded by a magnificent view from its walls. The final point of this stage will be the Northern Gate of the Czech Republic and the town of Decin - town with the lowest altitude in the Czech Republic.

DAY 5 Decin to Czech Saxon Switzerland - Bad Schandau **app. 25 km / 15 miles**

In the morning you can decide, whether you prefer biking or sailing to last point in Czech Republic, Hrensko. This border town is situated in the heart of the Czech-Saxon Switzerland National Park and offers many attractive activities. It is very good especially for hiking lovers. It offers many touristic trails leading through the scenery of the rocky towns, the mesas, the passes, deep gorges and hillsides. Special bonus to admire is the wonder of the Pravcicka Gate, the biggest natural rock bridge in Europe.

You can also try sailing on the boats through the passes of Kamenice river, continue your bike trip on one of many marked bike trails through this wonderful country, or combine a boat trip with ride through a romantic valley on a historical tram in Bad Schandau! Although it's the lowest place in the Czech republic, you will feel like being in the mountains all the time!

DAY 6 **Bad Schandau to Dresden** **approx. 48 km / 29 miles**

This day is packed with historical sights! After crossing the boarder and passing Bad Schandau, we will see a scary looking Königstein Fortress and just past the curve a beautiful rock formation with a romantic rock bridge and Bastei Ruin. Optional is a sightseeing tour of the town with magnificent views and expositions. We recommend it, it is definitely worth it. Moreover, the effort needed for getting up to these high altitudes will be awarded by unforgettable view of surrounding panorama! Couple of kilometers down the road, by the town of Pirna, we will enter the region of the Dresden Valley.

There are several beautiful castles and museums of music masters, such as Karl Maria Weber or Richard Wagner, which used to compose in this area. The final destination of today's stage, as well as of this tour, is the city of Dresden. The support vehicle with bikes and the tour leader leave Dresden this afternoon.

DAY 7 **Dresden departure**

After breakfast and you are free to head home at your leisure or extend your stay here.

There is probably no other town in Germany which better symbolizes the turbulent history of Germany and shows many centuries of cultural and architectural boom combined with religious freedom and economic prosperity. A short admiration of Nazism was followed by a cruel punishment in the form of the biggest bombing during World War II, which turned almost the entire city into ruins overnight. After-the-war resurrection into forty years of communistic unimportance is followed by twenty years of renewal and reconstructions. Thanks to this renovation of the entire city, today we can admire the beauties of this place, which earned the nickname of "Florence upon Elbe".

2017 TOUR PRICE

€910.00 per person
+ €165 for single occupancy

2017 TOUR DATES

Saturday

April 29
June 3
July 1, 29
August 19
September 23

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast
- 4 dinners with drinks (not included first night in Prague and last night in Dresden)
- free refreshments in the van (soft drinks, fruit, sweets, water)
- Water for bike flasks
- One guide cycling with the group
- One guide in support van
- All route details (one per room)
- All transportation of participants, their luggage and bicycles during the tour
- Pick up from Prague airport to Prague Hotel on the arrival day of the tour at an appointed time
- Bike rental, lock, water bottle, helmet

Not Included

- Guided Tours of Castles, Chateaux and museums on the route
- **City of Dresden - all tourist guests to pay visitor tax.**
The price is 1,30 € per person and per day. All clients have to pay the tax separately in any hotel in Dresden

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

If you require additional accommodation and would like us to book it on your behalf, please let us know:-

Pre-tour night in Prague:- €45.00 per person sharing. €75.00 for single room.

Post-tour night in Dresden:- €55.00 per person sharing. €85.00 for single room.

WHAT TO BRING

We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all too much sun. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

There are two guides on this tour, one cycling with the group and a second in a support van. The main reason for this is that there are beautiful forest trails where the vehicle cannot always support the group. There is also the option of using simply signed routes and following the leader's instructions.

Every group is allocated one or two bicycle tour leaders. They ride with and look after the group during the daily programme. They all have mobile phones to communicate with each other, the support vehicle and with group members who brought their own mobile phones and, of course, with headquarters. The leaders will introduce you to the interesting points of the tour, give you basic information about places of tourist interest, and translate castle guides, when needed. They will ensure you eat and drink in suitable restaurants and pubs on the route, pay the bills and arrange all necessary communication. Tour leaders also provide first aid on the route, and carry out maintenance on the bikes for the participants.

BIKE / FITNESS

The bikes supplied for this tour are 27 speed mountain / touring bikes with Shimano equipment. All bikes have a pannier bag and a handlebar bag with map holder in case of guided tours (for self-guided there are also saddle bags), rear lights, bottle cage and mudguards.



As we arrange holidays for our clients, we try to make our trips as enjoyable as possible even for less experienced cyclists. You need to be fit enough to manage the distance of approximately 45 km and some mild up-hills, which may occur on the way. You do not need to be an experienced cyclist. However, you should be physically fit and enjoy sport activities. This tour is suitable for children.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Accommodation

All hotels are carefully checked and reviewed, and located in ideal places for the tour programme. We always stay in Standard Class hotels (three-star hotels) – all with private bathroom, SAT TV, and telephones in each room. We normally accommodate clients in double or twin rooms. On request, you can be accommodated in a triple room for a reduced price or in a single room (with a single supplement). For accommodation in Prague we use 4* hotels.

Arrival to Prague

The largest and main Czech airport is **Prague-Ruzyně**. Domestic flights run from Moravia to Bohemia (e.g. from Ostrava to Prague), although most flights are international. Prague-Ruzyně

Climate

The climate in the Czech Republic is moderate, with average summer temperatures of about 22°C (highest average temperatures 26°C) which is yet another factor that makes the Czech Republic so ideal for cycling holidays.

Currency - Although the Czech Republic is a member of the EU, it is not so far a member of the Eurozone and for this reason, the euro is not the official currency here (yet despite this it is possible to exchange euro for Czech crowns without any problems). The official currency is called the crown, which is made up of 100 hellers.