



Bike - and boat trip from Berlin/Spandau to Malchin

July 13th and July 27th 2019

This is to be considered the most interesting tour the Merlijn offers. Hardly tourists, the country at its purest still, areas that are still being developed after the reunification in 1989.

We can offer you transfer possibilities from Malchin back to Berlin by bus or minibus

We also provide train E-tickets on board the Merlijn

During the daily bicycle tours you will be cycling approx. 30 - 55 km per day

Highlights:

The Ship Lift Niederfinow -oldest ship lift in Germany, elevation 38 meters!-, travelling through Poland - overnight stay here and free dinner -, the sunny island of Usedom - possibility to swim in the Baltic Sea - and cruising on the stunning Peene River “the Amazon of the North”. This tour offers you insight in the history of the former divided country of Germany which has been reunited since 1989.

Day 1. Saturday - Berlin/Spandau - Oranienburg



Spandau west Berlin



Spandau Church

The Merlijn, your sailing hotel already awaits you in Berlin/Spandau. Embarkation starts at 4PM. At 5PM the crew welcomes you on board and while you enjoy your welcome drink you will get information about the ship, the tours and the bicycles. Meanwhile Henk starts the engine and we will sail to Oranienburg, where we will stay overnight. Oranienburg, which received its royal name from the Dutch princess Louise Henriette of Nassau-Oranien (1627-1667), is situated at the northern city limits of Germany's capital city of Berlin. Our docking spot will be too far away from the center of Oranienburg, but we will be happy offering you a nice evening stroll after dinner.



Day 2. Oranienburg - Eberswalde

Today we start with a sailing breakfast along the Havel River while we cruise to Zerpenschleuse. The biking tour of today starts here and you will explore the industrial history of this area. We will bike to Eberswalde along the Old Finow Canal and we will meet the Merlijn in Eberswalde. Our mooring spot for the night will be close to the Niederfinow Ship Lift, a highlight we will explore tomorrow.



Finow Channel

Day 3. Eberswalde - Oderberg - Schwedt

In the morning, we will experience the highlight of this tour: the oldest German boat lift at Niederfinow. The Merlijn and its guests will be brought down for 38 meters in this lift. A wonderful experience.



Afterwards we will continue our journey to Oderberg. From here your cycling tour will take you to the city of Schwedt passing magnificent areas of natural beauty. A visit to the Castle of Stolpe is included in your tour.



The Castle of Stolpe has one of the best preserved Medieval castle towers in Germany. Enjoy the majestic view from the roof of this tower, a view that extends from the National Lower Oder River Valley up to Poland or of picturesque wooded slopes up to beautiful chains of hills in the spacious hinterland. We offer you a guided tour through this castle.

Our tour will take us through many more magnificent scenic areas to the city of Schwedt. Overnight stay will be in Schwedt.

Day 4. Schwedt - Mescherin (D) - Szczecin

Schwedt is a historical town where you will be able to discover and experience some of the remains of the lifestyle and atmosphere of the German Democratic Republic. As far as the landscape is concerned, today's trip will offer you "nature at its purest" yet again. The bike tour leads you to Mescherin, still in Germany in the state of Brandenburg. Here you will board the Merlijn and together we sail into Poland. We will stay here, in the former German city of Stettin, which belongs to Poland now and is named Szczecin. Tonight you will have the opportunity to discover the regional Polish cuisine in one of the many restaurants this city offers. This will be at your own expense. We will stay one night in the country of Poland.



Szczecin/Oder



Nature Park near Schwedt



Schwedt

Day 5. Szczecin - Kamminke, Usedom

An early start and while you are enjoying your breakfast, the Merlijn will continue her trip by following the Oder from Szczecin to the confluence of the Oder into the Stettin Lagoon/Stettiner Haff. After we passed the estuary of the Oder River and the Polish/German border we will sail this magnificent Stettiner Lagoon. The Stettin Lagoon, originating from a glacier reservoir lake, is located to the south of the island of Usedom and its surface area is larger than the surface area of the famous Lake Constance. This is a German-Polish region located at the Baltic Sea definitely well worth exploring and discovering. Today's cycling tour will start approx. 11 AM and you will cycle on this island to the northern coast at the Baltic Sea. Here you will have a couple of hours to relax, swim, hire a special beach chair or stroll through the charming cities such as Ahlbeck and Heringsdorf.

Whatever you decide you will enjoy this isle very much, it is considered to be another highlight of this tour. We will enjoy our diner and overnight stay in Kamminke on the island of Usedom.



Day 6. Usedom - Stolpe



This morning you we will cycle again across this beautiful Island of Usedom enjoying its beautiful nature. In Karnin, which is in the southern part you will board the Merlijn, together we sail into the river Peene, our todays' destination is Stolpe. Stolpe is in a nature area again, you will see hardly any tourists, mostly native inhabitants only.

Day 7. Stolpe - Jarmen - Demmin - Malchin

Your last biking tour starts in Stolpe and you will embark the Merlijn again in Loitz, another charming village on the Peene river. Your cycling routes are through the former DDR region again, where the roads slightly change from asphalt to concrete bike paths to cobblestones, a popular surface in this region. From Loitz we will sail together the Peene to our destination Malchin. The Peene is a moor river which means nature pure. The banks are wide and traffic, houses and people are far away. Enjoy this Amazon of the North, this beautiful river after a great cycling tour this week.





Peene



Kummerower See

During our river sailing we will also cross the Kummerower See, a 20 km wide lake, floating into the Peene again. This cruise is also to be considered one of the highlights of this week. Early evening we arrive at Malchin, our final destination.

Day 8. Malchin

After breakfast it is time to say goodbye and continuation of your European trip.

We reserve to ourselves the right of changing schedule and/or program. If -part of - the route is not navigable the captain is entitled to change the schedule for safety reasons. Changes in schedule and program do not give you the right on free cancellation.

Rate p.p. in a double room € 1.480

Inclusions in the 8-days trip:

- 7 overnight stays on board the Merlijn
- 7 times breakfast buffet
- 6 packed lunches
- 6 times three course dinners
- Use of a 24-gear bike, incl. water bottle, universal sized helmet, bike bag, towel to take along on your bike ride
- Entrance and guided tour Stolpe Tower
- Service of a tour guide throughout the Bike and Barge tour
- Service on board (housekeeping, restaurant and bar service and more)
- Canal, harbour and docking fees
- Availability of 11 double rooms with ensuite.

We rent electric bikes and a tandem, each € 25 a day extra, to be paid on board, reservations ahead are appreciated.

We accept credit cards (MC and VISA)

We will be happy in assisting you and book your transfers and/or pre / after hotel reservations.

Payment: 20% of the price at the time of reservation
80% 1 month prior to starting cruise date

Cancellation fee: If the cruise is cancelled
until 6 months prior to starting cruise date 20%
between 6 and 4 months prior to starting cruise date 50%
between 4 and 1 month prior to starting cruise date 80%
between 1 month and 1 day prior to starting cruise date 90%
at the day of starting cruise date or later 100%