



Bike and Barge trip with “MERLIJN“
Following in Theodore Fontane’s footsteps
Exploring the cradle of the Prussians:
Cities and landscapes in the March of Brandenburg.
Experiencing culture - enjoying nature from the east to the west.

August 24th - 31st 2019

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

We also provide E-train tickets on board our Merlijn.
Biking kilometers per day 35 to 55

Day 1, Saturday - Berlin/Spandau



Berlin is the most exciting of all German cities and one of the most fascinating capitals in the world. There is no other place where art and culture, museums and theaters, entertainment and nightlife are as varied and exciting as in this metropolis on the Spree River. After the German reunification, the so-called “Wende”, Berlin developed into a lively, fast, exuberant and cosmopolitan city in only a few years. Discover Berlin yourself and visit the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (**Gedächtniskirche**), the **Holocaust Memorial**, the famous **Brandenburg Gate**, the beautiful avenue **Unter den Linden**, the **Friedrichstraße**, the **Reichstag**, **Checkpoint Charlie** or one of the numerous museums. There are so many things to see and discover.

After check-in at 4 p.m. we will start our program with a welcome drink, the introduction of our crew and information on our ship, the trip and our bicycles. Followed by dinner and a stroll around town. The Merlijn will be docked in Berlin/Spandau.

Day 2, Sunday, Berlin/Spandau - Potsdam

Day 3, Monday, Potsdam



Monday morning we will start biking from Spandau to the city of Potsdam, passing already historic sites, as there are so many here, such as the Glienicker bridge and the House at the Wannsee. Potsdam is the provincial capital of the Brandenburg province. This town is without any doubt one of the most beautiful cities of Germany. Potsdam’s best-known attraction is Sanssouci Castle. In addition to this former summer residence of Friedrich the Great with its famous Sanssouci Park there are many other interesting attractions that are certainly worth a visit. The historical city quarters, the Russian colony Alexandrowka, the Dutch Quarter and the former Bohemian Weaver Quarters exude the atmosphere of a city heavily influenced by Europe. Our ship will be moored within a short walk from the city centre. We will stay here two nights, you will have enough time to visit the important sites. Tuesday night in Potsdam you have the opportunity - at your own expense - to discover the regional cuisine in one of the many restaurants of the city.

Day 4, Tuesday, Potsdam - Werder - Brandenburg



During breakfast we will continue our trip sailing to the insular city of Werder, the city of blossoming trees, the starting point of our bicycle tour. Werder is surrounded by innumerable lakes and tributaries of the Havel River. Strolling around Werder will lead you to water almost everywhere. It will not take long before you reach the Schwielowsee, Glindowsee, Big Plessower See and Zernsee as well as the Havel River itself.

Absolutely unique is the heritage protected silhouette of the historical city centre. From Werder we continue our trip cycling to Marquardt and Paretz, where Queen Louise enjoyed her summer resort in the local castle and in Paretz Park. Shortly after Paretz Park we will approach the picturesque fishing village of Ketzin. After having crossed the Havel on a ferryboat, we will travel along spacious lowlands and small “märkische” villages (villages in the typical March style) with timber-framed buildings to the cradle of the March region: the city of Brandenburg on the Havel River. Here we find three very special city cores: the historical old city centre, the new city centre and Dome Island, where the Merlijn will be moored. Well worth seeing in Brandenburg are the St. Nicolai Church, one of the oldest witnesses of the art of brick building in the Brandenburg district, the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the most important building of the city, where the first diocese east of the Elbe was founded, the old town hall, an outstanding example of late Gothic brick architecture from the middle of the 15th century, and the beautiful local brick tower, the Steintorturm. This defense tower, which is 32.5 meters tall, is the only one of the four defense towers in Brandenburg that is open to public visitors. The impressive panorama from the roof over the entire historical city center should definitely be on anyone’s “to-visit” list. After dinner you will have the chance to explore this city a little more. We will stay overnight in Brandenburg.

Day 5, Wednesday, Brandenburg - Genthin



Today you will take your bicycle through two different German federal states: Brandenburg and the last state included in this trip, Saxony-Anhalt. Departing from Brandenburg you will drive along the cycle path “Tour Brandenburg“, which will lead you along **the western side of the Havel Lake Plateau**. Here Merlijn will take the northern route along the **Silocanal** and the **lower Havel Waterway** up to the **Elbe-Havel Canal**. Your bicycle tour will take you through endless forests with numerous “green” views. Your finish for today will be in Genthin. Genthin’s governing mayor calls his town “**The Pearl along the Canal**“, a nice, friendly, and quiet town with a small historical city center. Just to the north of Genthin you will find Altenplathow, a city along the Romanesque Road. This well-known Romanesque Road is a popular touristic road which runs through all of Saxony-Anhalt. It is part of the cultural route Transromanica, which runs through Germany (the federal states of Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia), Italy (the provinces of Modena, Parma and Ferrara), Austria (the state of Carinthia) and Slovenia. In 2006 the Transromanica received the “European Cultural Road” award from the Council of Europe. In Genthin-Altenplathow there is a 12th-century figural gravestone, one of the very limited number of Romanic figural tomb slabs in this district that have been well maintained.

Day 6, Thursday, Genthin - Burg - Magdeburg



After breakfast the Merlijn will gently float along the Elbe-Havel Canal to Burg, where your bike will start. In the city center of Burg there are 1055 years of history to be admired. The churches along the Romanesque Road, such as the **Lower Church St. Nicolai** (12th century) and the **Upper Church “Unser Lieber Frauen”** (13th century) will catch your eye from afar. Definitely worthwhile is a long stroll through the old historical center in this “**City of Towers**”. You will bike to Magdeburg, our final destination. One of the very important sites close to Magdeburg itself, is the famous Magdeburg Water Bridge, where the ships on the Elbe-Havel Canal cross the Elbe on a navigable aqueduct. Magdeburg is the capital of the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt and was documented as early as 805. The city is well known because of its important historical heritage as the royal palace of the Emperor Otto the 1st, the first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire crowned in 962. Enjoy this city in our modern time and visit all the different attractions: the **Magdeburg Cathedral**, the first cathedral designed and built in the Gothic architectural style on German ground and one of the largest churches in Germany, the Old Market and the **Golden Rider Statue**, a bronze copy of the first self-supporting statue of a rider north of the Alps, which can be found right in the heart of the city center. It was created in the year 1240 and presumably portrays the Emperor Otto I. Don't forget to visit the old City Hall, the **Green Citadel**, the Hundertwasserhaus and many more places of interest. Our mooring spot will be either on the Elbe river in the city center of Magdeburg, or at the Canal, close to the Water crossing Aqueduct. This will depend on the water level in the Elbe river.

Day 7, Friday, Magdeburg - Wolfsburg

During breakfast the Merlijn will take us to Calvörde where the bike tour will start. When you arrive at Wolfsburg you will be offered a tour through the VW Autostadt, which will take about 45 minutes. After that you can visit more sites in the Autostadt at your own pace. Farewell dinner and last overnight stay on this tour in Wolfsburg.



Day 8, Saturday, Wolfsburg

After breakfast, unfortunately, it will be time to say goodbye. Merlin will be docked very close to the Railway Station.

*Today is not forever,
We'll meet again, no doubt.*

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

Included in your trip:

7 nights of accommodation, 7 times breakfast buffet, 6 times lunchboxes, 6 times three course dinners

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and ice water free of charge

Use of a 24-speed hybrid bike, including bike bag, water bottle and universal sized helmet

Services of a tour guide for individual tours

Entrance ticket and audio tour through the Palace of Sanssouci, Potsdam

Entrance ticket and guided tour in the VW Autostadt, Wolfsburg

Fees for harbors, bridges and locks

Daily cabin cleaning service

Welcome drink

Route information

Ferry fares *en route*

Not included:

Insurances

1 dinner

Inbound and outbound journey and transfers

Organised city tours

Drinks other than mentioned

Entrance fees, excursions other than Autostadt and Sanssouci

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

Cancellation fee:

If the cruise is cancelled

until 12 months prior to starting cruise date 20%

between 12 and 6 months prior to starting cruise date 50%

between 6 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%

We will be happy to inform you on transfers, city hotel reservations, rental of our tandem or electric bikes (€ 25 each per day)