



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

Day 1, Saturday, Magdeburg

Moorage of Merlijn: At the Midland Canal close to the Water crossing Aqueduct, and the Rothensee Shiplift.

After check-in at 4 p.m. we will start our program off at 5 p.m. with a welcome drink, the introduction of our crew and information on our boat, the trip and our bicycles. Followed by dinner and a stroll in the area..

Day 2, Sunday, Magdeburg - Burg - Genthin



Magdeburg is the capital of the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt and was documented as early as 805. The city of Magdeburg 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. After your visit the bike tour will start to Burg. Before you leave Magdeburg itself, admire the famous Magdeburg Water Bridge, where the ships on the Elbe-Havel Canal cross the Elbe on a navigable aqueduct. 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**". Upon arrival at Burg you will board the Merlijn, have dinner on board and we will sail further on to Genthin, where we will stay overnight.

Day 3, Monday, Genthin - Brandenburg

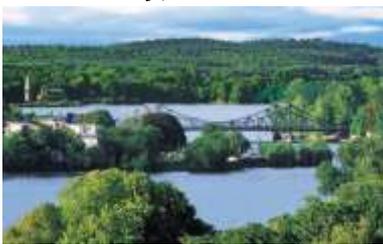


After breakfast your bike tour starts from Genthin. Genthin's governing mayor calls his town "**The Pearl along the Canal**", a nice, friendly, and quiet town with a small historical city center. Today you will take your bicycle through two different German federal states: Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg. 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. Biking to 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 from the **Elbe-Havel Canal** along the **lower Havel Waterway** and the **Silocanal** up to the Havel. Your bicycle tour will take you through endless forests with numerous “green” views. Tonight you will stroll already through the city of Brandenburg, the cradle of the March region, we will stay overnight here.

Day 4, Tuesday, Brandenburg - Werder - Potsdam

Day 5, Wednesday, Potsdam



First we will discover 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 this visit we will start our biking tour to Werder. Before we will cross 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. Shortly after the picturesque fishing village of Ketzin we will approach Paretz where Queen Louise enjoyed her summer resort as well in the local castle as in Paretz Park. We continue our trip to Marquardt and the insular city of Werder, the city of blossoming trees, the end of today’s bike 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 sail together to Potsdam, the provincial capital of the Brandenburg province. Our boat will be moored within only a short walk from the city centre.

Potsdam 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. That’s why we will stay an extra night in Potsdam. Tuesday night you will - at your own expense - discover the regional cuisine in one of the many restaurants of the city.

Day 5, Thursday, Potsdam - Berlin Spandau



Today we will follow the European Cycling Track over the Glienicker bridge, along the Havel River up to Spandau. Spandau is one of the twelve boroughs (*Bezirk*) of Berlin. It is the fifth and western most borough, situated at the confluence of the Havel and Spree rivers and along the western bank of the Havel. In the evening you will have plenty of time for a nice city stroll through the streets of Spandau.



Day 7, Friday - Berlin - Spandau

After breakfast at 9 am, unfortunately, it will be time to say goodbye. Departure and a possible transfer.

*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 € 1.450

Included in your trip:

6 nights of accommodation, 6 times breakfast buffet, 5 times packed lunch, 5 times three course dinners
Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and ice water free of charge
Use of a 24-speed hybrid bike, including towel, bike bag, water bottle and universal sized helmet
Fees for harbors, bridges and locks
Entrance ticket and audio tour through the Palace Sanssouci, Potsdam
Services of a tour guide
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 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,
use of our tandem and/or electric bikes