



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**

We can offer you the possibility of transferring from Magdeburg back to Berlin  
by bus or minibus

**Day 1, Saturday - Berlin**



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 off 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 around town. Depending on the harbor authorities it might be possible we already sail to Berlin Mitte, where we will spend the night.

**Day 2, Sunday, Berlin - Köpenick - Spandau**



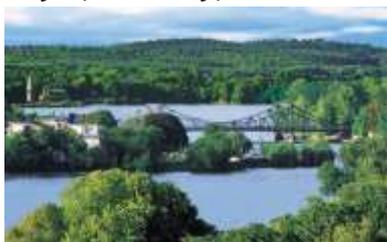
If not already arrived at Berlin Mitte yesterday, Captain Henk will start this day with a breakfast boat cruise to the heart of the city of Berlin. Enjoy your breakfast and the vivid panorama during a two-hour cruise. From Mitte your bicycle tour will start to Köpenick. In addition to Spandau, Köpenick is the only district of Berlin with an old, independent city tradition. Just like Spandau, Köpenick received its own town charter during the Middle Ages and still has a well-maintained historic city center and its own suburban municipality. It became world famous through the deeds of the famous Captain of Köpenick. Köpenick has been part of Berlin since 1920. Your tour will take you further on to the Köpenicker Heath along the Müggelsee and the Dahme and Spree rivers. After having completed this sightseeing by bicycle we will continue our boat trip from Mitte back to the town of Spandau. In the evening you will have plenty of time for a nice city stroll through the streets of Spandau.

### Day 3, Monday, Berlin Spandau - Potsdam



Today we will follow the European Cycling Track through Berlin's municipal Grunewald forest and along the Havel River, over the Glienicker bridge, and up to Potsdam, 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 boat will be moored within only a short walk from the city centre. Tonight 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 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup>-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, while you bike this route. 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** (12<sup>th</sup> century) and the **Upper Church “Unser Lieber Frauen”** (13<sup>th</sup> century) will catch your eye from afar. Definitely worthwhile is a long stroll through the old historical center in this “**City of Towers**”. After your visit to Burg you will board the Merlin and together we sail to Magdeburg, our final destination. Before we enter Magdeburg itself, admire 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

### Day 7, Friday, Magdeburg

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

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

**Included in your trip:**

6 nights of accommodation, 6 times breakfast buffet, 5 times lunchboxes, 5 times three course dinners

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

Use of a 7-speed hybrid bike, including bike bag, water bottle and universal sized helmet

Services of a tour guide for individual tours

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