

Cycling Europe

THE ELBE RIVER TRAIL - PRAGUE TO DRESDEN SELF GUIDED OR GUIDED CYCLE TOUR - 8 days/7 nights 2020



On this riverside cycle tour, connecting the Czech Republic and Germany, you cycle between two European centres of cultural importance, following the Vltava and Elbe Rivers. Marked cycling paths and paved backroads make this route easy. Start by cycling to Melnik, the centre of winemaking in Bohemia. Continue by biking through fertile countryside, and Litomerice with its Gothic houses. The most impressive part of the tour is the region of Czech and Saxon Switzerland, where you bike along a steep-sided river valley with fantastic sandstone formations towering above. In Germany, the cycle trails are a joy to follow and they lead you to Dresden.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prague old city & Jewish quarter, and Prague Castle, the largest castle complex in Europe
- Melnik – Bohemia's premier wine region, and Melnik Chateau
- Baroque Chateau in Libechov
- World War II memorial at Terzin
- Pravcicka brana, the largest natural stone arch in Europe
- Dresden, with monuments - Zwinger Pavilion, Frauenkirche Church, Semper Opera House and Royal Palace

ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Prague.

A city of a thousand spires! Overnight in Prague.

Day 2 Prague – Melnik . 59kms

Tour Briefing: You will be met at your hotel by our local representative, who will introduce you to the programme, hand over the bikes and answer any questions about the tour. Start with a short car transfer to the chateau Troja, on the outskirts of Prague. From there you begin cycling northward along the Vltava River. After leaving town the landscape begins to change, with more and more vineyards appearing. Your destination of Melnik is the main wine growing center in Bohemia. Melnik's renaissance palace looks out over the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers - a view that goes down very well with the local wine. Overnight in Melnik



Day 3 Melnik – Litomeric. 47 kms

Today's stage takes you from Melnik through Roudnice nad Labem and Libechov. See the palace and gardens. The next stop is the Terezin transit camp and ghetto for prisoners en route to extermination camps during WWII. This fortress is now a memorial to those who suffered here. From here it is a short ride to the superb architectural town of Litomerice, the major town in the region. Overnight in Litomerice.



Day 4 Litomerice – Decin. 51 kms

Cycle along the valley of the Elbe River, with the hills rising high above you. Be sure to look out for the ruins of Strekov Castle high above the river near the town of Usti nad Labem. Today's route finishes in Decin, the last big town before the German border. Overnight in Decin

Day 5 Decin – Bad Schandau. 25 kms

Today is an easy day in terms of distance. Ride through the incredible landscape of the Bohemian/Saxon Switzerland area, following the forested river valley through intricate sandstone formations carved by the River Elbe over millions of years. One option for today is to get off your bikes in the Czech border town of Hrensko and climb up to the Pravcicka brana, the largest natural stone arch in Europe. Continue on to Bad Schandau on the German side; a neat, tidy spa town where you can make use of the spa facilities or just enjoy the town's quiet, genteel atmosphere while watching the boats go by. Overnight in Bad Schandau.



Day 6 Bad Schandau – Dresden. 45 kms

Continue on through the sandstone formations of Saxon Switzerland. As you journey along the Elbe river valley you might want to climb to the impressive Bastei rock formation above the spa town of Rathen, then on past the massive fortress of Koningstein. Cycling through peaceful meadows and wetlands to Dresden rounds off this tour perfectly. Overnight in Dresden

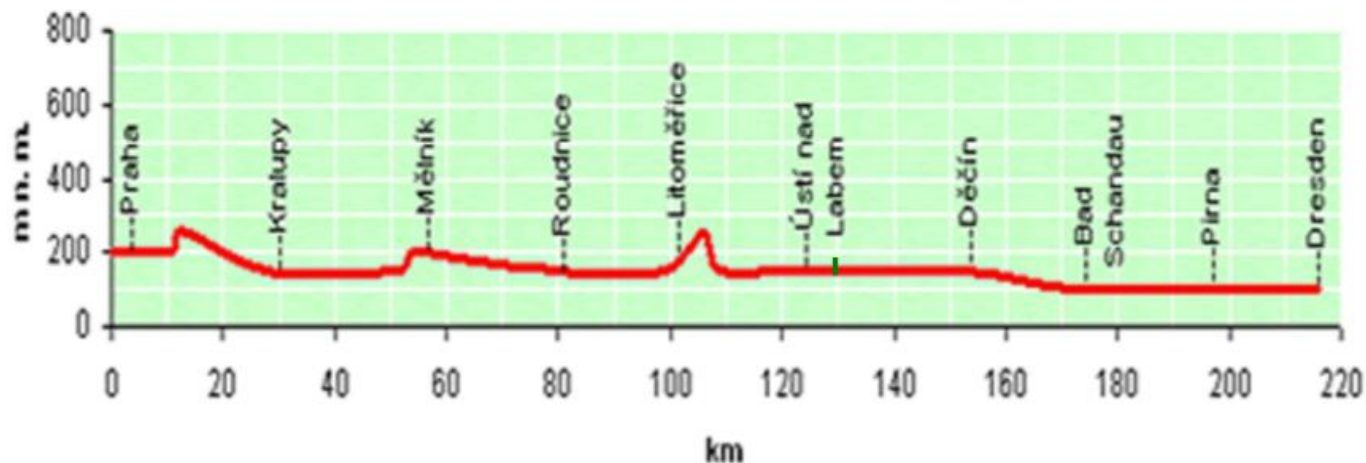
Day 7 Free day in Dresden

No visitor to Dresden should miss the Zwinger Pavilion, The Frauenkirche Church, the Semper Opera House or the Royal Palace. Overnight Dresden.

Day 8 Tour ends after breakfast.



GRADE: EASY



2020 SCHEDULE

Self-Guided Tour: Start any day April – October (subject to hotel availability)

***Guided Tour: Dates to be reconfirmed:** Depart 07 June and 17 September (includes wine festival in Melník).

2020 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EURO

Self-Guided 8 Day/7 Nights

Double or twin share

€ 1375

Single room supplement

€ 430

(prices above for minimum 2 people – for solo travellers a 15% surcharge applies)

Guided 8 Day/7 Nights*

Double or twin share

€2115 - minimum 4 people to operate

Single supplement

€ 430

Set date guided tour prices above are for a group of 4 – 7 people. If more than 8 people book on the same date, the cost will reduce by €210 per person. The last day is a free day in Dresden without a guide; your guide will give you ideas for sightseeing the night before.

2020 SELF-GUIDED TOUR COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation for 7 nights in smaller selected hotels and pensions with ensuites
- Daily Buffet breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- English route descriptions
- Detailed cycling maps
- Town maps
- Global Positioning System (GPS) console
- Transportation by van/car according to the program
- Welcome briefing upon arrival
- Quality bike and helmet
- Stand-by support (cell phone and contact person)

2020 GUIDED TOUR COST INCLUDES

- Professional bilingual guide
- Accommodation for 7 nights in smaller selected hotels and pensions with ensuites
- Support van
- Buffet breakfast and dinner included
- Luggage transfer
- English route descriptions
- Detailed cycling maps
- Town maps
- Global Positioning System (GPS) console
- Quality bike and helmet
- Guided tours at chateaux, castles, museums and other select attractions
- Special events, including wine tasting and picnic

2020 COST PER BIKE

BIKE - Included in cost of tour. Trek FX3 bike. Men and Womens sizes. Equipped with helmet, pannier bags, handlebar bag, odometer, repair tools, puncture repair kit, inner tube, pump, water bottle and lock.

E BIKE - €20 PER BIKE PER DAY

TREK FX 3

Lightweight aluminum frame

Carbon fork

Groupset Shimano Alivio

Trek FX 3 is a lightweight hybrid bike with a carbon fork which brings both speed and comfort to any of our routes you choose. It comes in all sizes to fit you perfectly and it is available also in Women's Specific Design.

Size Men : 15" 17.5" 20" 22.5" 25"

Size WSD: 15" 17" 19"



TIME TO GO

The Central European continental climate consists of long, hot summers and cold, snowy winters. The best time for cycling is between April and October. In the summer months it can get quite hot. Bear in mind that it will be cooler on the mountain tours at this time. May, June and September are generally good months to take advantage of the cooler, but still warm weather.

Generally July and August are the busiest months. We mention this with regard to seeing cultural monuments and UNESCO protected areas with greater ease and with less people around.

Melnik Wine Festival: 20 - 22 September 2019- Traditional wine celebrations, program of events taking place on three stages (main country and historical stage), arts and crafts, Procession led by Charles IV, firework display <http://www.vinobranimelnik.cz/galerie/detail/12>



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Ph 09 4867473 Fax 09 484 0091

Email: info@walkworld.co.nz