

Cycling Europe

GERMANY 2019

ROMANTIC ROAD: WÜRZBURG - FÜSSEN

12 DAYS /11 NIGHTS, 499 km by (7 speed, 21-speed or Electric Bike)



Grade/ Difficulty: Medium

Würzburg – Rothenburg: For the most part, the route runs on small, quiet, paved roads, sometimes on paved or “sanded” bike paths. Between Würzburg and the Tauber Valley, you will have some hills. The Tauber Valley is generally flat, with slight inclines.

Rothenburg – Donauwörth/Rain

The well signed bike trails along the Romantic Road lead you through exciting scenery like the Wörnitz valley or the Nördlinger Ries. Take a wander around the historic old town centres and enjoy the culinary delights as a reward for cycling in somewhat hilly terrain on mostly paved or gravel bike paths.

Donauwörth/Rain - Füssen:

You partly cycle on bike paths through Lechfeld Without any significant traffic. From Landsberg onwards the path is mostly asphalt and you travel through the moraine landscape you come closer

to the Alps. At the foot of the Kings' castles you can make an excursion to the Forgggen lake at the end of the tour.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Würzburg

The tour starts with a night in the old Franconian city Würzburg. The town is famous for its many spectacular old buildings. Renowned artists like Balthasar Neumann, Tilman Riemenschneider and Tiepolo lived and worked here. Enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the town, beautifully situated among vineyards on the banks of the Main, and get to know the Franconian Joie de Vivre in one of the romantic wine bars. You spend the night in Würzburg.

Rental Bikes will be delivered tonight, or first thing next morning (extra days bike rental can be requested "pre-tour").

Day 2: Cycle Würzburg - Wertheim, approx. 46 km

You leave Würzburg on forested trails along the valley of the Steinbach river and bike through small villages beside the Aalbach river. The medieval fortified church in Dertingen has a beautiful altar which is worth a visit. You reach the Main River in Bettingen. From here it is only a short way to Wertheim: The small city is located between the hills of Spessart and Odenwald forests, where the Tauber joins the Main. A charming ruined castle built out of red sandstone sits majestically above the small, narrow alley of the historical town centre. Enjoy the romantic atmosphere of this medieval town during a relaxed evening. You spend the night in Wertheim.



Day 3: Wertheim - Bad Mergentheim, approx. 48 km

Today you leave the Main and continue into the Tauber Valley. This region combines beautiful countryside with art-historical relicts from over 1000 years of history. Balthasar Neumann is one of the area's many artists and is known as the "Master Bridge Builder of the Tauber Valley". The river follows a winding path before arriving in Tauberbischofsheim. The "Kurmainzische Schloss", a pretty castle with thick walls and impressive towers, is a silent witness to the interesting history of the town. Numerous monuments and old buildings show architectural influences from several different ages. From here the Romantic Road takes you to Bad Mergentheim, where you stay the night.

Day 4: Bad Mergentheim - Rothenburg ob der Tauber, approx. 53 km

You spend the morning in Bad Mergentheim, a lively and friendly spa town. The renaissance market square is surrounded by grand old town houses. Shortly after Bad Mergentheim you pass the Weikersheim Palace with its lovely baroque park. Then you continue to Creglingen where you can see the famous altar to Mary by Tilman Riemenschneider. Finally you cycle onwards through the charming Tauber Valley to Rothenburg. At 8.00pm the Rothenburg night watchman offers guided tours of the city (included – English speaking guide). He has many exciting stories to tell about life in the Middle Ages! You spend the night in Rothenburg.

Day 5: Rothenburg ob der Tauber - Dinkelsbühl, approx. 60 km

The first destination of your bike tour is visible from afar: The old, baroque castle in Schillingsfürst rises mightily above town. A short climb takes you up to Schillingfürst, then you continue to Feuchtwangen. Finally you reach the former free imperial city of Dinkelsbühl in the idyllic Wörnitz Valley. The town square is surrounded by beautiful, colourful old town houses. Enjoy Frankish cuisine in one of the traditional restaurants. A city tour with the Dinkelsbühl night watchman is highly recommended. You spend the night in Dinkelsbühl.

Day 6: Dinkelsbühl - Nördlingen, approx. 37 km

Today you cycle to the Nördlinger Ries, an area of great geological interest. 15 million years ago a meteorite with a cross section of 1500 meters hit the earth at a speed of 72 000 km/h in this spot and

left an 20-25 km large crater between the Swabian and Frankonian Alps. Your destination today is the former free imperial city of Nördlingen. Don't miss Germany's only entirely preserved city wall! It is even possible to walk around on it. The 90 meters high bell tower of St. George's Church is known as "Daniel" and offers an amazing view into the Ries (the meteorite crater). Another point of interest is the old tanners' quarter and of course the Ries Crater Museum for the geologically enthusiastic. You spend the night in Nördlingen.

Day 7: Nördlingen - Donauwörth/Rain, approx. 39 km (or Nördlingen to Rain, approx. 63 km)

You leave the countryside of the Ries and bike through the beautiful Wörnitz Valley. Soon you pass Harburg with its lovely castle, situated high above the valley. Visit the charming old town centre between the river and the castle. You continue to Donauwörth, where the Wörnitz meets the Danube. The Reichstreet is the main attraction of the city: This lovely street is bordered by numerous amazing old town houses, like the Tanzhaus and Café Engel. Also visit the Käthe Kruse Doll Museum! You spend the night in Donauwörth or Rain am Lech.

Day 8: Donauwörth - Augsburg, approx. 79 km (or: Rain to Augsburg, approx. 55 km)

You leave Donauwörth or Rain and cycle to the market in Biberbach. Worth seeing is the pilgrimage church with its rococo style. The last part of today's distance brings you to the memorial stone "Via Claudia Augusta" at Langweid in the independent university town Augsburg. The puppet theater museum, where the marionette theatre in the "Augsburger Puppenkiste" is located, is worth visiting. Go for a stroll and discover the charming corners and the many cultural highlights, as the Schaezlerpalais with its exceptional art collection (incl.).

Day 9: Augsburg - Landsberg am Lech, approx. 52 km

Today you firstly cycle to Königsbrunn, one of the youngest settlements in Bavaria. The archeological museum Königsbrunn presents regional findings of the pre- and early history till the modern time. In the centre of the city you can admire "Mercateum", the biggest walkin globe of the world. In Landsberg am Lech you will notice the well preserved townscape with its colourful row of houses.

Day 10: Landsberg am Lech - Schongau, approx. 35 km

Leaving Landsberg am Lech you will encounter Pfaffenwinkel and the flat country Lechfeld passes slowly to the hilly foothills of the Alps. We recommend you to cycle west of the Lech through the places Asch, Leeder and Denklingen. From a great distance you can see the 34 metres high tower of the catholic village church Denklingen from the 18th century. You will spend the night in Schongau. The beautiful old town boasts an almost entirely preserved city wall.

Day 11: Schongau – Schwangau/Füssen, approx. 50 km

You will cross the Lech River and cycle to Peiting. Now you can choose between two variants. We recommend the route through Rottenbuch and Wildsteig, because the other route goes through small roads and hilly terrain. Through Wies with its magnificent pilgrimage church you will arrive in Schwangau. It is worth to make a detour over the castles Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau. The last destination of the bike tour along the Romantic Road is the city Füssen. High on a hill the gothic "Hohe Schloss" once the summer residence of the prince bishops of Augsburg, dominates the old town. The big castle is one of the best preserved medieval castles in Bavaria. Overnight in Schwangau or Füssen.

Day 12: Tour ends after breakfast in Füssen (or Schwangau)

If you stay in Schwangau, it is only about 5 minutes in a taxi to Füssen train station.

Extra nights (rest days) can be added in Rain, Donauwörth, or any town along the way

2019 TOUR COST (per person in Euros)

11 Night tour in a Double/Twin room with breakfast: €1350 per person

Single room surcharge	€265
21-speed bike rental	€130
Electric bike	€295
Dinner option:	€285 pp (for 11 dinners on tour. Dinners are 3 courses.)

Extra nights B&B in Würzburg: €82 per person per night (share Double or twin room)
Extra nights in B & B in Rothenburg o.d. Tauber: From €66 per person per night (share Double /twin)
Extra nights B&B in Rain or Donauwörth: €77 per person per night (share Double or twin room)
Extra nights B&B in Füssen or Schwangau: €95 per person per night (share Double or twin room)

Helmets are not available on this tour – it is not compulsory to wear one, however we recommend that you do take your own.

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST:

- 11 nights accommodation with breakfast in good (middle range hotels), all rooms have own bathroom
- Luggage transfers between tour hotels (unlimited bags, maximum 20 kg per bag)
- Guided tour with the night watchman in Rothenburg
- Entry to Schaezler Palace in Augsburg
- Local emergency contact in Germany
- "Infopack" with Roadbooks & Maps sent to New Zealand
- GPS data on request

Getting there:

From Frankfurt Airport: Direct trains to Würzburg 1hr30, trains are frequent, from approx NZ\$95

From Frankfurt main station (Hbf) frequent direct trains 1hr10 – 1hr45, from NZ\$72 - \$88 2nd class

From Munich Airport to Würzburg: Take the S-bahn commuter train to Munich Hbf main station & Würzburg is 2 hours by direct train from Munich Hbf (main station)

Departure from Füssen: to Munich Airport: Take train to Munchen-Pasing or Munich Hbf, and get the S-bahn commuter train from there. From €33 - 2nd class advance reservations are not possible – it is cheaper to buy ticket in Germany.

From Füssen: Direct train to Munich Hbf (main station) 2 hrs – from approx. NZ\$69, advance reservations are not possible – it is cheaper to buy ticket in Germany.

From Füssen To Frankfurt Airport is it 5 – 6 hours by train, with minimum 1 change in Munich or Augsburg. Seat reservations can be made for some of the journey.

Romantic Road Coach – there are daily transfers by coach along the Romantic Road with facilities for transporting bikes. General route is Frankfurt-Würzburg-Rothenburg-Dinkelsbühl-Augsburg-Füssen-Munich return. Costs on request.

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