

# Cycling Safaris

## PRAGUE TO DRESDEN 2017 Self Guided Tour 198 km | 6 nights / 7 days



The Czech Republic is a beautiful country in central Europe. Past generations have left a wonderful treasure of cultural and historical monuments reflecting a rich and diverse history - ancient towns full of life and culture, Gothic castles and churches, Renaissance chateaux, and many examples of folk cultures. More than two thousand castles, chateaux and castle ruins have been preserved in the Czech Republic. Few countries of Europe can match its richness of historical and architectural monuments.

Cycle down the Vltava and Elbe Rivers and visit two important cultural centers in Europe. Prague, since ancient times melting-pot of Czech, German and Jewish ethnic groups and Dresden the residence of the Saxon dukes and Florence of the North. The same way as the rivers flow, we will ride along them through a beautiful countryside full of picturesque towns such as Melnik, Litomerice or Bad Schandau. The tour will take us through natural beauties of bizarre Czech-Saxon Switzerland National Park, as well as through romantic region of former volcanoes of the Czech Middle Mountains. The last kilometers will take us through cultural regions of the Dresden Valley of the Elbe River. Connecting two European centers, as well as the beauties of the Vltava and Elbe River basins, yields a very attractive, but not physically demanding tour manageable even by less fit bikers. As a bonus you can enjoy a boat trip or half day hiking in the Czech Saxon Switzerland.

Distances are shorter than on other routes and there is only one short up hill on the first day. The rest of the route leads along Vltava and Elbe rivers. You will cycle on roads with minimal traffic and special cycling paths in the Czech republic and Germany. There are some short off-road sections on this tour.



## **DAY 6**      **Bad Schandau to Dresden**      **approx. 48 km / 29 miles**

This day is packed with historical sights! After crossing the border and passing Bad Schandau, we will see a scary looking Königstein Fortress and just past the curve a beautiful rock formation with a romantic rock bridge and Bastei Ruin. Optional is a sightseeing tour of the town with magnificent views and expositions. We recommend it, it is definitely worth it. Moreover, the effort needed for getting up to these high altitudes will be awarded by unforgettable view of surrounding panorama!

Couple of kilometers down the road, by the town of Pirna, we will enter the region of the Dresden Valley. There are several beautiful castles and museums of music masters, such as Karl Maria Weber or Richard Wagner, which used to compose in this area. The final destination of today's stage, as well as of this tour, is the city of Dresden.

## **DAY 7**      **Dresden departure**

After breakfast and you are free to head home at your leisure or extend your stay here.

There is probably no other town in Germany which better symbolizes the turbulent history of Germany and shows many centuries of cultural and architectural boom combined with religious freedom and economic prosperity. A short admiration of Nazism was followed by a cruel punishment in the form of the biggest bombing during World War II, which turned almost the entire city into ruins overnight. After-the-war resurrection into forty years of communistic unimportance is followed by twenty years of renewal and reconstructions. Thanks to this renovation of the entire city, today we can admire the beauties of this place, which earned the nickname of "Florence upon Elbe".

## **2017 TOUR PRICE & DATES**

€645 per person  
+ €130 for single occupancy

This tour can start any day from the beginning of April to end of October. Minimum of 2 people.

## **WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE**

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast
- 21 speed trekking bike with panniers, lock, water bottle, helmet
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Bicycle repair kit
- Detailed route notes and maps (one per room)
- Pick up from Prague airport to Prague Hotel on the arrival day of the tour at an appointed time
- 1x GPS set with pre-recorded routes, batteries, battery charger per group
- 24 hour hotline assistance service

### Not Included

- Guided Tours of Castles, Chateaux and museums on the route
- Visitor tax in Dresden: €1,30 per person per night

### Optional

e-bike €65 - on request only

Your luggage will be transported from hotel to hotel. The luggage is picked up after 9am and delivered to your next hotel before 4pm.

## ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

If you require additional accommodation and would like us to book it on your behalf, please let us know:-

Pre-tour night in Prague:- €45.00 per person sharing. €75.00 for single room.  
Post-tour night in Dresden:- €55.00 per person sharing. €85.00 for single room.

### City of Dresden - all tourist guests to pay visitor tax.

Visitor tax is 1,30 € per person and per day. All clients have to pay the tax separately in any hotel in Dresden

## WHAT TO BRING

We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all too much sun. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

## BACK UP SERVICE

As this is a self led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If you experience small problems with the bike (e.g., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You also have access to a 24 hour helpline.

## BIKE / FITNESS

The bikes supplied for this tour are 27 speed mountain / touring bikes with Shimano equipment. All bikes have a pannier bag and a handlebar bag with map holder in case of guided tours (for self-guided there are also saddle bags), rear lights, bottle cage and mudguards.



As we arrange holidays for our clients, we try to make our trips as enjoyable as possible even for less experienced cyclists. You need to be fit enough to manage the distance of approximately 45km and some mild up-hills, which may occur on the way. You do not need to be an experienced cyclist. However, you should be physically fit and enjoy sport activities. This tour is suitable for children.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **Accommodation**

All hotels are carefully checked and reviewed, and located in ideal places for the tour programme. We always stay in Standard Class hotels (three-star hotels) – all with private bathroom, SAT TV, and telephones in each room. We normally accommodate clients in double or twin rooms. On request, you can be accommodated in a triple room for a reduced price or in a single room (with a single supplement). For accommodation in Prague we use 4\* hotels.

### **Arrival to Prague**

The largest and main Czech airport is **Prague-Ruzyně**. Domestic flights run from Moravia to Bohemia (e.g. from Ostrava to Prague), although most flights are international.

### **Climate**

The climate in the Czech Republic is moderate, with average summer temperatures of about 22°C (highest average temperatures 26°C ) which is yet another factor that makes the Czech Republic so ideal for cycling holidays.

**Currency** - Although the Czech Republic is a member of the EU, it is not so far a member of the Eurozone and for this reason, the euro is not the official currency here (yet despite this it is possible to exchange euro for Czech crowns without any problems). The official currency is called the crown, which is made up of 100 hellers.