

## Cycling the River Elbe, Wittenberg to Dresden

### Through charming scenery to historical European locations

**Daily distance:** 30-65 km    **Duration:** 7 days / 6 nights  
**Route profile:** flat terrain, as we cycle along the River Elbe

We start this journey in Wittenberg, only 1½ hrs south of Berlin. Sites intimately connected with European history await us along the route – such as the place where the Reformation emerged in 1517 and the bridge where U.S. and Soviet troops first met at the end of WWII. Furthermore, you will also discover the less famous but no less amusing stories and local chronicles along our way – giants, mermaids and knights in shining armour.

The route itself follows the river on dedicated cycle paths and silent back roads, mostly through lush green, open countryside and sleepy little villages. Small ferries will take us across the river at several points. Palaces and castles pop up every now and then, inviting us to take a closer look.

So if you like the sound of cycling surrounded by nature whilst exploring a wonderful part of Europe, then do come along and join us on this cycling holiday.

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#### Day 1, Sunday

Arrival at an airport or railway station nearby and transfer to our hotel in Wittenberg. Here, in 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 theses against indulgences on the Castle Church's door, sparking the beginning of the Reformation. For us, it marks the point where we will begin cycling tomorrow.

To pass your first afternoon, why not take a look inside the House of History, where GDR room furnishings are on display, or walk past the medieval houses between the central market and the Castle Church.

#### Day 2, Monday

Our first day of cycling leads us to the Worlitz Garden Realm. It is one of continental Europe's largest English parks. Peaceful nature and noble edifices form a harmonic union here. After enjoying the scenery and a picnic, we cross the Elbe and return to Wittenberg on the other side. A guided tour through the old town concludes the day. (26 miles/42 km)

#### Day 3, Tuesday

Another stress-free cycle ride on quiet cycle paths will bring us to Torgau today. The town is considered to be one of Germany's most beautiful Renaissance towns, as many buildings from the era are still standing. (41 miles/65 km)

Despite the high mileage today, a gentle tailwind will ease you along nicely. As with most of this tour, we cycle with the wind - up the river.

#### Day 4, Wednesday

We will start this day with a guided walk around Torgau, learning about the 'impossible' staircase at Hartenfels Castle and, of course, the meeting of U.S. and Soviet forces in April 1945.



Before midday, we will be back on our bicycles following the Elbe as it continues to meander through peaceful countryside. In Belgern we will pass by a 19-foot 'Roland' statue, perhaps watching as people bite into the statue's toe. There is an old legend that orders certain people to do this. Do you dare learn the truth? (30 miles/49 km)

### Days 5 and 6 ...

... did not fit in here. Please visit our website for further details.

### Day 7, Saturday

Although it is at the end of the tour, Dresden – with its rich baroque architecture, numerous museums and vibrant cultural scene – is easily a holiday destination in itself. If you do decide to extend your stay here, make sure you visit the reconstructed Church of Our Lady, the Semper Opera and the Zwinger palace.



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**Tour dates 2012:** 22<sup>nd</sup> July - 28<sup>th</sup> July,  
19<sup>th</sup> August - 25<sup>th</sup> August

### Services included:

- 6 nights in biker friendly hotels or guesthouses (double room) incl. breakfast and dinner (dinner excl. beverages)
- healthy food and refreshments will be provided along the way
- transport from and to airports/railway stations in Dresden, Leipzig and Berlin
- daily luggage transportation
- one bilingual guide cycling with the group
- passenger van escort
- trekking/hybrid bicycle with panniers
- guided tours in Wittenberg, Torgau, Meissen and at Pillnitz Castle
- all ferry boat fees



Last updated: November 2011

**Fair price:** € 905 p.p. (£ 740 p.p.)  
single room supplement: € 170 (£ 140)

**Extra nights** in Dresden [per room and night]: double € 105 (£ 95) / single € 75 (£ 65).  
Extra nights in Wittenberg [per room and night]: double € 90 (£ 80) / single € 65 (£ 55).  
If you intend to extend your cycling holiday in Dresden or Wittenberg, be aware that we will not be able to maintain our shuttle service on your day of arrival or departure.

**Mercurio shuttle service:** Included in each of our tours is a shuttle service from the nearest major airports and train stations. This shuttle operates throughout the day, at the beginning and at the end of your cycling holiday.

Pick-up points on arrival:

Dresden Airport (DRS) and main station  
Leipzig Airport (LEJ) and main station  
Berlin Airport(s) and main station  
Other places on request.

Drop-off points on departure:

Dresden Airport (DRS) and main station  
Leipzig Airport (LEJ) and main station  
Berlin Airport(s) and main station  
Other places on request.



[www.mercurio-bike-travel.com](http://www.mercurio-bike-travel.com)

Guided cycling holidays in Germany and Austria

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