



Czech – Germany – Prague to Dresden Bike Tour 2017
Guided or Individual Self-Guided
6 days / 5 nights



Come with us down the Vltava and Elbe Rivers to visit two important cultural centers in Europe. Prague, since ancient time's melting-pot of Czech, German and Jewish ethnic groups and Dresden, seat of the Saxon dukes and Florence of the North. Both towns have a very long history and visiting them will fill you with very strong cultural memories for a long time. 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 NP, as well as through the 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 beginner bikers. As a bonus you can enjoy boat trip or half day hiking in the Czech Saxon Switzerland.



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Itinerary Day to Day



Day 1: Prague - Melnik 58-70 km by bicycle - exact distance depends on hotel location in Prague

Pick up at the airport or at hotel. We strongly recommend extending your stay in the Czech Republic in order to be able to visit Prague and all its beauties. We can arrange accommodation and tour guiding services for you in Prague as well its surroundings.

Despite the first small ascent, today's stage follows a nice trail to the heart of the Czech wine region - the town of Melnik. It is a good warm-up for our further bike stages. Just before we leave Prague, we pass the Troja Baroque Castle and we continue to the North following the bank of the Vltava River. The river cuts into the ground here, which creates very interesting rock formations and deep valleys. Visits to

castles in Nelahozeves or Veltrusy are the biggest highlights of this day. We will end this stage in an old wine town at the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers with a glass of a good wine.

Day 2: Melnik - Litomerice 50 km by bicycle

Today's stage leads us through a calm Elbe region and is without significant altitude changes. This region is one of the most fertile regions in the Czech Republic. Due to the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe Rivers, the river gains on its mightiness and strength and slowly becomes a European major waterway. After passing the Libechov Castle, we will get to the town of Roudnice nad Labem and we will have a chance to admire an old church and a castle. The most impressive stop on today's stage is the massive Terezin Fortress from the turn of the 18th



century, which illustrates the military architecture of that time. The seamy side of its history is the World War II period. This era was filled with hatred and cruelty and dramatically spotted the history of Terezin, a place which the Nazis used as a Jewish concentration camp. We will conclude the day in an old town and spiritual center of this region - in the town of Litomerice, which is an antipole to the horrific Terezin Fortress.



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Day 3: Litomerice - Decin 52 km by bicycle

The third day of this bike tour from Prague to Dresden is planned for exploration of the romantic countryside of the Czech Middle Mountains. Even though, this region is very hilly, we will follow the banks of the Elbe River most of the time and hills with several old-time ruins will surround us. This former volcanic region had always been an ideal terrain for building of castles and fortresses, many of which have unfortunately not been preserved till up to date. The Strekov Castle, which was built on top of a steep rock cliff, belongs among one of the most romantic castles in the Czech Republic. After a more strenuous climb, we will be rewarded by a

magnificent view from its walls. The final point of this stage will be the Northern Gate of the Czech Republic and the town of Decin - town with the lowest altitude in the Czech Republic.

Day 4: Decin – Czech Saxon Switzerland - Bad Schandau 25 km by bicycle

This day will be almost fully optional but always special! In the morning of this bike tour from Prague to Dresden you can decide, whether you prefer biking or sailing for last point in Czech Republic - Hřensko. This border town is situated in the heart of the Czech-Saxon Switzerland National Park and offers many attractive activities. It is very good especially for hiking lovers. It offers many touristic trails leading through the scenery of the rocky towns, the mesas, the passes, deep gorges and hillsides. Special bonus to admire is the wonder of the Pravcicka Gate, no doubt, the biggest natural rock bridge in Europe. You can also try sailing on the boats through the passes of Kamenice River, continue your bike tour from Prague to Dresden on one of many marked bike trails through this wonderful country, or combine a boat trip with ride through a romantic valley on a historical tram in Bad Schandau. Although it's the lowest place in the Czech Republic, you will feel like being in the mountains all the time! After saying goodbye to Czech Republic, cross the border to Germany, just on the edge of the historic spa town of Bad Schandau.





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Day 5: Bad Schandau - Dresden 48 km by bicycle

This day is packed with historical sites! Shortly after we leave 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! A 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. For guided group tours the support vehicle with bikes and the tour leader leave Dresden on Day 5 in the afternoon.



Day 6: Dresden

In case you are interested, we can arrange tour guiding services for you or help you to extend your stay. There is probably no other town in Germany which better symbolizes the turbulent history of this country 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".



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Route



Technical Characteristics:

Tour Profile: Easy. The easiest route suitable is also for children. 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. Thanks to huge investments within last few years Prague Dresden tour had become best developed bike trail of Czech Republic with more than half of a distance on special bike trails or on minor roads with marked bike lines! Not only for that is this trail highly recommended to families with kids!

Distance: 240 km

Travel Dates: Self-Guided Tours: Daily departures April 1 to October 31, 2017

Guided Tours: Departures April 30; June 4; July 2; July 30; August 20 and September 24, 2017



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Price per Person	Guided Tour	Self-Guided Tour
Price per person based on double room occupancy	€ 765.00	€ 495.00
Surcharge for single occupancy	€140.00	€140.00
Surcharge Solo Traveler	N/A	€45.00
Surcharge for Premium Hotels	N/A	€195.00
Surcharge for Single Occupancy Premium Hotels	N/A	€180.00
Bike rental	€ 60.00	€ 60.00
E-Bike Rental	€ 125.00	€ 125.00

Guided Group Tour includes:

- Specialized bicycle tour leader during all biking days
- Pick-up from specified Prague hotel on the first day of the tour at an appointed time
- Accommodation in selected standard class hotels and pensions
- Buffet breakfast on all days
- Dinners with drinks except the last night
- Refreshments in the supporting vehicle (soft drinks, snacks, sweets, fruit)
- Water for bike flasks
- Welcome briefing on the first day
- Maps of Prague and towns of accommodation on the tour (per room)
- Detailed cycling maps (per room)
- Program and Route Book (per room)
- Practical bike ride safety training
- Technical service on the route
- First aid - health service on the route
- Support minibus
- All transportation of participants and their luggage and bicycles during the tour

Guided Group Tour does not include:

- Personal travel and health insurance for participants in the tour
- Transportation (air-tickets) to/from Prague – starting/final point of the tour
- Transfer from Prague airport to your Prague hotel on the day of arrival
- Transfer from hotel to the airport on the departure day
- Lunches and dinner on the last night
- Guided tours of castles, chateaux, breweries and museums on the route
- Bike rental

Self-Guided Individual Tour includes:

- Pick up from any Prague hotel or from Prague Airport on the first day of the tour at an appointed time
- Accommodation in selected standard class hotels and pensions
- Buffet breakfast on all days
- Detailed town maps (per room)
- Program and Route Book (per room)
- Detailed cycling maps and route description (per room)
- Bicycle repair kit (per room)
- Transportation of participants, their luggage and bicycles from Prague to the starting point of the bike route and from the end of the route to Prague (according to the programme of the tour)
- Transportation of luggage between hotels
- 24 hour hotline assistance service
- GPS set with recorded routes, batteries, battery charger (on request)

Self-Guided Individual Tour does not include:

- Personal travel and health insurance for participants in the tour
- Transportation (air tickets) to/from starting/final point of the tour
- Transfer from Prague Airport to your Prague hotel on the day of arrival
- Transfer from hotel to the airport on departure day
- Meals (except for breakfasts)
- Entrance fees to museums, castles and chateaux
- Bike rental

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Bikes

Crossing Trekker Mens' Fox Point 211



Crossing Trekker Ladies' Fox Sumava



Cross Road Specialized



Bicycle Rental includes:

- Trekking/Touring or Cross road bicycle with at least 24 – gears, Shimano components and suspended fork
- Panniers and handle bar bags for carrying things you need on the road
- Lock
- Cycling water bottle as a gift
- Helmet – free helmets need to be ordered in advance
- For self-guided tours we provide bikes with a spare tube, pump and necessary tools so rider is able to change tire tube if needed.
- We adapt the bike to suit your body
- You are welcome to bring your own SPD pedals and saddle

Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

www.okcycletours.com



THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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