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BERLIN TO PRAGUE ACTIVE

6 DAYS | 5 NIGHTS

Between two of Europe's most exciting cities, we have crafted a biking journey through world history. We cross the bridge behind the former Iron Curtain on our first ride and spend the whole trip on the "other side." In Potsdam, we ride to a palace where the foundations for the World Order after WWII were laid. In Dresden, our guide will tell us all about the Peaceful Revolution—she was there! In between, we ride through the UNESCO biosphere Spreewald and enjoy an *aperitif* on a punt. We glide along the vineyards above Elbe river, explore Europe's greatest treasury all by ourselves and hike through Saxon Switzerland National Park's bizarre landscape. We cap off our adventures with a night out in Prague, a marvellous city that was miraculously untouched by the ravages of the 20th c. wars.

DAY 1



Potsdam & The Spree Forest

We *rendezvous* at Berlin's iconic Hotel Adlon this morning. Assuming that you have explored central Berlin over the past few days, today, we'll take you to the city's southwestern edge. A short drive brings us to Wannsee lake—the "bathtub" of former West Berlin, where we'll meet our bikes and our guide extraordinaire Mike. Together, we'll pedal along lakes, rivers and through no less than 300 years of history to the centre of neighbouring UNESCO World Heritage Potsdam.

Starting our ride next to Haus der Wansseekonferenz, we continue along Wannsee's southern bank and river Havel. Soon, we'll leave Berlin municipality crossing Glienicker Brücke, the famous "Bridge of Spies." Now officially in Potsdam, we'll cycle through immaculate royal gardens to Schloss Cecilienhof, site of the 1945 Potsdam Conference, where the groundwork for a new order in Germany, Europe and the world was laid by Harry S. Truman, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin. Mike will take you inside to explore and see the table around which the Cold War was started.

After a casual lunch nearby, we'll bike to Potsdam's most-loved site and greatest legacy of Prussian King Frederick II ("the Great"): Sanssouci Palace and Gardens. Leave your bikes and roam around before we board our van for a 1.5-hour drive to the tranquillity of the Spreewald (Spree Forest). We'll check in at our well-hidden spa hotel, and in the evening, we reconvene for cocktails and dinner at the Bleiche.

ACCOMMODATION

Bleiche Resort & Spa

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 19 km (12 mi.) historian-guided ride through world history from Berlin to Potsdam | Total elevation: 132 m (433 ft)
- Guided visit of Potsdam Conference Cecilienhof Palace
- Free-flow visit of Sanssouci Palace Gardens

INCLUSIONS

Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2



Eastern Spreewald & Fascinating Legends

After a leisurely start to the day—in case you don't decide to go for our optional morning loop—we set out from the hotel and bike towards the eastern Spreewald. The hamlets Werben, Briesen, Dissen and the town of Burg demarcate today's loop-ride that links a myriad of lakes, canals and biotopes. We'll get a chance to peek into the history of the Spreewald on an optional free-flow visit to a small museum on the way. The museum especially focuses on the Sorbian minority having lived here for centuries.

Later on, we pause for a lovely picnic lunch in the home garden of our good friend Christine. Not only will her husband greet us with some very special tunes and serve up some fresh and light local delicacies, but Christine will also share her abundance of stories about Spreewald and its remarkable tales of goblins, ghosts and pixies. The pair are incredible hosts and are always the best company.

Depending on the biking option you individually choose to go for, more or less of the afternoon will be at your leisure. Once back at Hotel Zur Bleiche, enjoy the lavish grounds, the saunas, pools and steam bath and the fabulous spa with its outstanding treatments. In the early evening, we'll take you out onto the canals for a cocktail in true Spreewald style. After, you're free to dine at the hour and in the company of your choice.

ACCOMMODATION

Bleiche Resort & Spa

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 35 or 50 km (22 or 31 mi.) loop ride through eastern Spreewald | Total elevation: 105 or 147 m (344 or 482 ft)
- Spreewald legends talk at Christine's house
- Cocktail hour punt ride through Spreewald

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 24 km (15 mi.) additional morning/afternoon loop ride through southern Spreewald | Total elevation: 88 m (289 ft)

INCLUSIONS

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3



Wine, Porcelain & Royal Treasures in Saxony

Today, we drive southwest to Saxony, where our bikes await us at Germany's northernmost wine-growing region. We'll have just shy of a 1.5-hour drive today. Our bike ride takes us into the vineyards and green pastures of the area before we scenically circle the stunning Moritzburg Water Palace. From there, we make our way down to Elbe River Valley. Cycling on the delightfully flat bike path along its banks, we pay a quick visit to a hip local winery before the charming town of Meissen—enthroned in the landscape of the Elbe Valley—comes into view, with the Albrechtsburg (Germany's oldest castle) perched high above the city. We ride to the world-famous Meissen porcelain manufactory for lunch (which comes served on Meissen porcelain, of course) and then it's on to a private tour of the production showrooms and gallery.

From Meissen, we quickly drive to the day's destination: Dresden, Saxony's royal capital. Disembarking outside our palace hotel, we find ourselves in the heart of the city—now fully recovered from wartime damage. The meticulous reconstruction of the main square provides ample evidence of why Dresden was among Europe's finest cities. Around us stands a stunning theatre of baroque architecture and design, punctuated by the occasional unsightly yet charming, Soviet-era building.

We meet again in the late afternoon to cross the street and step into a world of its own: Europe's most impressive treasury—the New Green Vault inside Dresden Castle. On our exclusive tour, we have all the treasures to ourselves. We will peruse the collection of the Saxon Kings, particularly of its most flamboyant, Augustus the Strong. To cap off the day's adventure, we stroll to Kastenmeier's, a culinary institution and home of Dresden's best-known chef.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski Dresden

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 34 km (21 mi.) easygoing ride past Moritzburg, through vineyards and along Elbe river to Meissen|
- Total elevation: 193 m (633 ft)
- Guided Meissen Porcelain Manufactory showrooms visit
- Exclusive private visit to Dresden Castle's New Green Vault

INCLUSIONS

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4



Baroque Dresden, German Romanticism & Saxon Switzerland

Today, we swap our bikes for hiking shoes. The morning begins with a guided walk through Baroque Dresden, a tour that includes its resurrected centrepiece—the Frauenkirche, Zwinger pleasure palace, Semper opera and so much more. We'll be with Christiane, our knowledgeable local expert and active participant in the 1989 protests in the former GDR (as you can imagine, she has a story or two to share).

Leaving Dresden behind, Christiane will join us on a half-hour train ride into the heart of Saxon Switzerland National Park. In this otherworldly scenery of the Elbsandstein mountain range, we'll be introduced to the world of the early 19th c. Romantic landscape paintings of Caspar David Friedrich—the most important German painter of his time. In perhaps his best-known work “Wanderer above the Sea of Fog,” he painted a young gentleman wrapped in a dark overcoat, a walking stick in hand, overlooking the very sandstone formations above Rathen, which we'll soon pass by.

On today's approximately 3-hour hike, we'll walk by the highly photogenic Basteibrücke (Bastei bridge) as well as the so-called *Schwedenlöcher* (Holes of the Swedes), where the population of Rathen and surrounding villages hid from the Protestant Swedish troops during the Thirty Years' War. At one of the various viewpoints, we'll unwrap our picnic lunches overlooking the bizarrely beautiful scenery. After the hike, we'll drive you back to Dresden. Dinner is on your own tonight—you'll be well equipped with a long list of recommendations from your guides, of course.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski Dresden

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Guided walking tour of Baroque Dresden
- Train ride along Elbe river to Saxon Switzerland National Park
- 7 km (4.3 mi.) loop hike in Saxon Switzerland National Park | Total elevation: 200 m (656 ft)

INCLUSIONS

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5



Terezin Memorial, Bohemia's Elbe River Valley & Golden Prague

We leave Dresden by vehicle this morning and cross into Czech Republic's Bohemia region. Having arrived in charming Litoměřice, we offer you two options. Either join us on a guided visit of Terezin Memorial's Small Fortress (a former Nazi-police prison), for an impactful glimpse into Europe's darkest history or set out on a bike ride following the Elbe river through the Czech countryside to the town of Roudnice nad Labem.

We'll all meet for lunch in its central square before we continue our ride south. Still following the river bank, we make our way to Bohemia's wine-growing region and eventually reach its capital, Melnik. From here, it's less than an hour's drive to central Prague. The city of a thousand spires, capital of kings and emperors and untouched by the ravages of the 20th c. wars requires little introduction—but allow us to say that it can't be missed!

Our hotel is perfectly located in Prague's most delightful Mala Strana quarter, making it an ideal base from which to explore the city. Later this afternoon, we'll do just that! We'll peruse Mala Strana and Prague's Old Town on foot with our most excellent local guide. Eventually, he will get us to our final night dinner location—surprises should be expected!

ACCOMMODATION

Aria Hotel Prague

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 23 km (14 mi.) ride along Elbe river through Czech countryside to Roudnice | Total elevation: 94 m (308 ft)
- 28 km (17 mi.) ride along Elbe river into Bohemia's wine-growing region around Melnik | Total elevation: 114 m (374 ft)
- Guided walking tour of Prague's Mala Strana and Old Town districts

INCLUSIONS

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Guided visit of Terezin Memorial former Gestapo prison

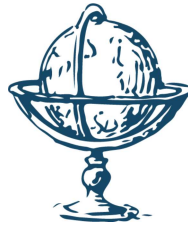
FINAL DAY

Farewell

This morning, we say our farewells after breakfast at the hotel. If you are not staying to further explore Prague, your guides will be happy to help you arrange your transportation to the airport or train station—safe travels!

INCLUSIONS

Breakfast



YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS



Bleiche Resort & Spa

Set amid the peaceful Spreewald forest, the 18th c. buildings were converted to luxurious Bleiche Resort & Spa in 1992. It's all about sustainability and relaxation here. The hotel has neither clocks nor signs on the walls, inviting guests to unwind and discover the large space on their own. Its health facilities are top-notch; frequented by prominent figures of German politics, showbiz and even by the world-renowned Bayern Munich football club. Rooms are spacious, and the array of beautifully appointed dining rooms makes for very relaxed dinners.

Nights 1 - 2



Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski Dresden

Nestled between the Baroque landmarks of the Semper Opera House and Dresden Castle, the Kempinski Taschenbergpalais has a location second to none. B&R has stayed behind the imposing façade of this meticulously reconstructed royal palace—it was once a gift from August the Strong to one of his many mistresses—for many years. We're welcomed as good old friends!

Nights 3 - 4



Aria Hotel Prague

Aria Hotel Prague is perfectly located in the Golden City's most delightful Mala Strana district below Prague Castle and just steps from the Charles Bridge. With its extensive public spaces, including a rooftop terrace, a music library and its very own UNESCO World Heritage Baroque garden, the property is an oasis within the bustling capital. And not only is it for the music lovers—the hotel's art collection features original works by Braque, Picasso and Dali.

Night 5

DETAILS

**As we fine-tune and finalize your trip, please note that your itinerary maybe be subject to changes.*

PRICE

Per person from \$5,995.00 USD

Based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,000.00 USD

Upgrades Available

THE FINE PRINT

TRIP INCLUSIONS:

- All hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated, including wine
- Services of B&R guide(s) and support van
- All special events, private tours, guest experts and entrance fees
- Use of a customized hybrid or a racing bike with drop bars, equipped with handlebar bag and helmet
- GPS bike routes with turn-by-turn B&R directions
- B&R biodegradable water bottle
- Use of lightweight, telescoping walking sticks
- All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off
- All gratuities for baggage, porters and hotel service

TRIP EXCLUSIONS:

- International flights
- Cancellation insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuity for your B&R guides
- Early hotel check-in or late check-out

B&R RENDEZVOUS

CITY:
BERLIN

LOCATION:
HOTEL ADLON KEMPINSKI

TIME:
8:45AM

We will meet in the lobby of Hotel Adlon Kempinski; please be dressed to bike. Your guides will leave a message at your hotel if there are any changes to the rendezvous details. Please ensure we have all your pre-trip contact information.

B&R FAREWELL

CITY:
PRAGUE

LOCATION:
ARIA HOTEL

TIME:
AFTER BREAKFAST

Need help arranging a ride to the airport? Your guides are happy to help.

 Get in touch about booking your pre-trip night at the rendezvous hotel.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

LEVEL 1

The riding is mostly flat and a good part of it is on dedicated bike paths. In Spree Forest, the riding is very level, where riders could be required to push their bikes over a couple of low wooden bridges. In Saxony we bike along the river Elbe, which is virtually flat. Options for more biking are available on some days. Given the variety of road surfaces, B&R recommends a hybrid bike for all but the most confident riders.