

Moselle to Mozart



Welcome to the Moselle to Mozart tour, a taste of some of the best cycling Germany and Austria has to offer!

One of our more sedate tours, this fantastic adventure begins in an area just north of Trier in lush vineyard country. From here we follow the gorgeous Moselle River with its beautifully preserved historical villages, all the way to the strategically important city of Koblenz. Here the Moselle and Rhine rivers meet and we then follow the 'Romantic Rhine' south passing the famous university city of Heidelberg and the River Neckar.

We push on away from the rivers for a short spell and inland to a middle section of the tour that is hillier and provides some variation and challenge through the Jagst valley and cycle across to the fairy tale city of Rothenburg Ob der Tauber where we have a rest day to explore.

Continuing through the picturesque Altmühl region to Regensburg we meet the impressive Danube and follow this most splendid river into Austria along some of Europe's finest cycle trails. We will pass through many attractive Austrian towns and villages as we continue along the Danube to the stately city of Vienna where we will finish our tour.

Highlights

- Timeless Moselle river with its ancient, half-timbered oxblood houses
- Fairytale hilltop castles lined along the steeped vineyard valleys
- Chocolate box medieval villages and winding wooded valleys
- The fantastically well preserved medieval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber
- The renowned cycling treat that is the Danube cycle path

What's included?

15 nights' accommodation, 15 breakfasts, 14 lunches

Refreshment stops with our famous red brew vans

Mechanical support including spare bikes and equipment

GPS files and route notes

Full logistical planning and support from the first to the last night including luggage transfers

2 back up vans and a guide cycling at the back of the group

Pick up from airport / station on arrival day (Saturday)

Peak Tours cycle shirt and certificate

Lots of fun!



Itinerary

Saturday: Non-riding day

Arrival day – welcome to the tour!

Once you have arrived at your hotel in Frankfurt you will have chance to explore the city followed by our first group meal where we can get to know each other and renew old acquaintances. A brief rundown of the following day will be given before we start our adventure.

Sunday: Day 1 Transfer to Kirsch, cycle to Bernkastel-Kues

Distance: 32 miles / 50 km
Elevation: 590 ft / 180 m

The morning will take us on a two hour coach ride south west of Frankfurt to the pretty village of Kirsch-Longuich. Kirsch-Longuich is situated in the Central Moselle region on the banks of the Moselle River. We will have time for a quick look round and then some lunch before we start cycling. Your adventure begins at a sedate pace alongside the Trier Valley and The Central Moselle, heading for Bernkastel-Kues and it's pretty "Marktplatz", not forgetting of course, its wine taverns!

Monday: Day 2 Bernkastel-Kues to Kobern-Gondorf

Distance: 73 miles / 117 km
Elevation: 632 ft / 192m

As we follow the river roundbends shaped over thousands of years, evidence of the Romans' love of a tippie are everywhere as we pass the site of the unearthing of the famous Roman Wine Ship in Neumagen-Dhron and a gigantic wine press at Piesport capable of creating 12,000 litres worth of headaches!

Continuing along the East bank of the river we take the small ferry across to the West side just after the small town of Cochem. You will continue along the perfectly smooth tarmac trails past a number of attractive villages before we arrive at the twin towns of Kobern-Gondorf, home to the oldest half-timbered house in Germany, built in 1321.

Tuesday: Day 3 Kobern-Gondorf to Bingen

Distance: 50 miles / 80 km
Elevation: 600 ft / 180 m

Our trip along the Moselle culminates in a dramatic meeting of the Rhine and Moselle rivers at Koblenz, overseen by the imposing Ehrenbreitstein Fortress. At Koblenz we turn southwards and leave the gentle Moselle where we begin our section along the mighty

Rhine. This noticeably wider river is Western Europe's longest, and is a working river, serving as the main mode of transportation for goods throughout Europe. The section that we will cycle along is known as the 'Romantic Rhine' due to the number of castles and palaces in between the well preserved medieval half timbered towns and villages.

Wednesday: Day 4 Bingen to Ladenburg

Distance: 68 miles / 110 km
Elevation: 2300 ft / 700 m

Following the banks of the Rhine for a short time we then head inland along quiet country lanes and smooth cycle paths. The Rhine is home to some undoubtedly beautiful scenic sections of which we have had a taster, but it is also home to a number of ugly industrial areas and also some of the cycle path is of poor surface so we rather thought you might prefer coming inland to quiet country lanes, terracotta roofed villages and excellent cycle paths, arriving finally in the gorgeous little town of laid back Ladenburg.

Thursday: Day 5 Ladenburg to Klosterschöntal

Distance: 64 miles / 103 km
Elevation: 4834 ft / 1473 m

After leaving Ladenburg we head to the vibrant university town of Heidelberg, Germany's equivalent to Oxford or Cambridge. This beautiful city is well worth a look around and is also where we meet the river Neckar for a short spell before heading inland for some much missed hills! Our journey inland takes us through farming villages that will have you guessing which century you're in, before finally arriving in the village of Klostershontal by the banks of the river Jagst.

Friday: Day 6 Klosterschöntal to Rothenburg

Distance: 45 miles / 72 km
Elevation: 4456 ft / 1358 m

Our morning sees a gentle start through the Jagst Valley on a fantastically smooth, undulating, ambling, winding river ride, before leaving the relative ease of the river and climbing up for a birds eye view. As we make our way through the forests and winding roads of the cracking German countryside the pine scented air and smell of freshly hung lederhosen will invigorate our senses close to bursting point. Leave a space for later in the day however as our destination is the best example of an ancient walled city in the whole of Germany, the chocolate box perfect, medieval, magical, Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Itinerary

Saturday: Day 7 Rest day in Rothenburg

This amazingly well preserved medieval city as a fantastic place to have a rest and explore. Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber is Germany's best preserved walled town and you can walk around the town walls to view the numerous attractive buildings that the town has to offer. The town is busy with tourists during the day but once the day trippers leave the atmospheric town centre is all yours to wander the moonlit streets.

Sunday: Day 8 Rothenburg to Weissenburg

Distance: 58 miles / 94 km
Elevation: 1607 ft / 490 m

Day eight sees us cycling through the stunning State of Bavaria with its pine forested hills, quaint little villages and lush valleys. Tackling some hills in the morning will give us an appetite for lunch and then we see the terrain become flatter and a wonderful afternoons riding is in store with a downward trend for miles through this lovely part of the world.

Monday: Day 9 Weissenburg to Regensburg

Distance: 73 miles / 112 km
Elevation: 3881 ft / 1180 m

A real sense of adventure is in store today as, from our humble beginnings on the peaceful Moselle, we are finally heading nearer towards the jewel in the crown that is the mighty Danube. Pushing ever eastwards we make our way through the seclusion and nature of the Altmühl and on to our evenings accommodation and gateway to the Danube, Bavaria's interesting, laid back, historical capital Regensburg.

Tuesday: Day 10 Regensburg to Niederalteich

Distance: 62 miles / 99 km
Elevation: 574 ft / 174 m

Not too long after leaving Regensburg in the morning we pass the town of Walhalle and its impressive neo classical structure which is well worth a steep but rewarding detour. The cycling is pleasurable and there are plenty of distractions along the way, including the beautiful old city of Straubing with its sixty metre tower. Later in the day we pass through Degendorf and continue to Niederalteich where we stay in a Benedictine Abbey. Founded in 781 the Abbey is run by monks and a truly unique place to stay.

Wednesday: Day 11 Niederalteich to Inzell

Distance: 57 miles / 92 km
Elevation: 849 ft / 259 m

Today sees us riding by abbeys and ruined

castles with great views of the Donau Valley if you decide to visit them. As the day progresses a scenery akin to that of The Lake District unfolds as we make our way through pleasant undulating tree-lined cycleways and byways. You will notice the houses becoming more frequent as we approach the large town of Passau also known as the "town of the three rivers". Continuing along a spectacular part of the provides some truly fantastic cycling. We stay in Inzell which is located on a bend in the river called the Scholgen Bend. There is a strong echo here so you can practise your yodelling should you desire.

Thursday: Day 12 Inzell to Wallsee

Distance: 63 miles / 103 km
Elevation: 2171 ft / 662 m

We are into beautiful Austria now, and the last few days from Inzell to Vienna are, barring a few exceptions from time to time, spent on fantastic, traffic-free, delightfully smooth surfaces. This day is no exception and we pass attractive market towns and rococo churches on a course for the greatly underestimated beauty of Linz.

Friday: Day 13 Wallsee to Weissenkirchen

Distance: 55 miles / 88 km
Elevation: 889 ft / 270 m

The Danube is present for most of the day today as we pass through the striking scenery around Grein and the smaller settlements on der Donau. In the afternoon the route passes through Melk and the imposing Benedictine Monastery is well worth a visit if time permits. As we head towards the Wachau region the scenery becomes more dramatic and the villages older and prettier. Our stay in Weissenkirchen is one of the most charming villages along the Danube.

Saturday: Day 14 Weissenkirchen to Vienna

Distance: 60 miles / 96 km
Elevation: 554ft / 169 m

Our final day in the saddle today and as we pass Willendorf look out for the Venus of Willendorf, a Paleolithic stone statue of interesting proportions! On we go past the castle at Durnstein where Richard The Lionheart was held prisoner and then Gottweig Abbey dominating the skyline before our final stretch through ancient towns and onto the splendour that is Vienna where we finish in the grandiose square.

Sunday: Departure Day

We highly recommend exploring this beautiful city if the luxury of time permits and wish you well until the next adventure.

Tour Logistics

The start of the tour

The tour starts in Frankfurt (transfer to the Moselle for the first day of cycling) and finishes in Vienna.

Plane: Frankfurt International Airport is well connected to most UK and European international Airports as well as several US locations by direct flight.

Train: Frankfurt has a large train station with connecting metro links.

On arrival day (Saturday) we can collect you from the airport or train station and transport you and your luggage to your first night's accommodation. Please liaise with our office / guides regarding these arrangements.

The end of the tour

The tour ends on Saturday where we will stay for the final meal in Vienna.

For those returning home, Vienna has a large train station. Vienna Airport also has flights to various different UK destinations. The hotel will be happy to assist with taxi / public transport options to the station or airport.

We can take your bike back to our HQ in Glosop for you to collect at a later date, have it couriered back to you or we can meet you at a service station en-route.

Support

Usually each tour has 3 guides:

- One driving the 'brew van' - each day will usually have a morning and afternoon 'brew stop,' with a table full of snacks and drinks. You will also bring a small bag/rucksack to the morning brief and leave this in the 'brew van' which can be accessed throughout the day.
- One driving the 'luggage / lunch van' - transporting your luggage from hotel to hotel, as well as setting up your lunches.
- One riding at the back of the group - you will have detailed route notes so that you can go slower or faster than the leader if you prefer or you can cycle with the tour guide at the back so that you don't have to navigate at all.
- Mechanical support: we carry a range of spare parts so that repairs can be made en route and we also have spare bikes available in the event that your bike has a serious breakdown. If we can't fix your bike then we will get it to the nearest bike shop.
- Each guide will be contactable by phone during the day so if you have any issues you can get straight in touch with them.
- For smaller groups you might only have one guide that cycles with the group and one back up driver or for groups of 12 or less just one tour leader will provide back-up for you.



What's Included?

- 15 nights' accommodation, 15 breakfasts, 11 lunches
- Refreshments from the brew van
- Mechanical support including spare bikes should these be needed
- GPS files and route notes
- Full logistical planning and support from the first to the last night including luggage transfers
- 2 back up vans and a guide cycling at the back of the group
- Pick up from airport / station on arrival day (Saturday)
- A Peak Tours cycle shirt and certificate
- Luggage transfer each day
- Lots of fun!

Food

Breakfast

Breakfast is included in the cost of the tour, and will vary slightly between the various hotels and B&Bs that we use, but you can usually expect have a choice of some cooked breakfast options, as well as toast, cereals, fruit juices, tea, coffee etc.

Lunch

Lunches will be provided each day and will generally be a picnic or a buffet at a cafe or restaurant.

Evening meals

Evening meals can be bought at your accommodation or in a nearby pub. On the first and final evenings of the tour we will have a group meal at the hotel.

Dietary requirements

Please let us know of any dietary requirements you have and we will ensure that all lunch stops and places we eat evening meals are informed.

There will also be snacks on the 'brew van' to suit any and all dietary needs!

Accommodation

You have a choice sharing a double or a twin room. If you would like your own space then you can choose the single room option, or sole occupancy of a double. Most of the rooms are en suite however there maybe a few nights where your room isn't en suite (Sole occupancy of a double room is guaranteed en suite). Accommodation is in clean and comfortable, B&B's, guesthouses and hotels.

What's not included?

- Evening meals / dinner
- Drinks at lunchtime
- Transport to the start and from at the end of the tour for you and your bike (available for a fee)
- Cycle hire (available for a fee)
- Garmin hire (available for a fee)
- Insurance

"I was amazed at the German paths which were outstanding. I must have said at least a dozen times on the cycle, 'How do you find these routes?' The first week was challenging in parts. The route in Austria was fabulous - cycling along the Danube was absolutely beautiful."
Ann

Kit list

Clothing for all weathers is recommended so waterproofs are essential

A full recommended kit list is provided and we are always happy to answer any questions that you may have. You can see details of a kit list [here](#).

Luggage is restricted to a maximum of 18kg per person—we have to look after our guides and their backs as they will be carrying your luggage in and out of the hotels!

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate insurance for your tour which, as an absolute minimum should cover accident & medical expenses if you are travelling outside the UK, cover for your bike and belongings and cancellation cover in the event that you have to cancel your tour for unforeseen circumstances.

You should be aware that if you have an accident or fall ill while on the tour you will lose the money paid for the trip. A travel insurance policy would allow you to reclaim most of the money as well as providing insurance in case you lose your bags or if your bike is stolen, broken etc.

Your policy should also cover cancellation costs if you cancel the tour within 8 weeks of departure. If this happens we will try to fill your space and return your funds to you but if we are unable to fill your place you will lose the funds paid for the tour.

We have partnered with Yellow Jersey who provide Travel and Cycle insurance for UK residents. You can find further details [here](#).

Am I fit enough?

Difficulty

The Moselle to Mozart is one of our more sedate tours. Easier than our Lands End to John o Groats tour, it allows a more leisurely pace and time for exploration and sightseeing.

This tour is classed as a grade 5 tour so easier than our 14 day LEJOG tour. See details of difficulty rating [here](#).

You will be expected to be able to complete an average of 60 miles / 96 km per day.

Most people on the tour will be active cyclists, and cycling the above distances on consecutive days will not be too challenging for them.

How fast do I need to be?

Generally, most cyclists completing this tour will be capable of cycling at 9 miles / 11-12 kmph over the whole day, keeping in mind that some days are hillier than others, and you will be stopping for breaks and lunches.

Most days start at 8:30 and we ask that all riders are finished by 19:00 at the latest if possible, to allow you time to relax and explore the places that you stay in the evenings.

Are there any hills on the tour?

The route starts off along the flat and finishes along the flat and has 3 or 4 hillier days in the middle of the tour. The hillier days have a few tough climbs among them so you should try to get a few hills in your legs, although the shorter daily mileage makes these challenges much more manageable.

Training

The fitter you are and the more training that you do beforehand will add to the enjoyment of your tour and improve your chances of succeeding the challenge.

If you need any advice about fitness please contact us and we will be happy to discuss any questions and concerns that you may have.

We have a training document which has a suggested training programme, which you can access [here](#)

Bikes

The Moselle to Mozart tour can be completed by people on all types of bikes: it is important you ride on a bike on which you are most comfortable. Most people choose to ride on road or touring bikes for this tour.

You can transport your bike in the following ways:

- bringing your own - most people using this option will arrive by train.
- we can transport your bike for you if you can get your bike to us in Glossop in the Peak District.

Please ensure that your bike is fully serviced and in good working order before the start of the trip. It is advisable to have your bike serviced a few weeks before the start of the tour. This will allow time to 'bed in' before you start your ride.

Alternatively you can hire a bike from us, please see our website for more information.

