

Premium Guided Cycling

Hungary Slovakia Poland



Tour description

Day 1	
Arrival Budapest - Szentendre	
Day 2	58 km
To Esztergom	
Day 3	62 km
To Dudince	
Day 4	42 km
To Banska Stiavnica	
Day 5	59 km
To Banska Bystrica	
Day 6	66 km
Vlkolinec - Liptovsky Mikulas	
Day 7	47 km
To Dolny Kubin	
Day 8	20 km
Kalwaria Zebrzydowska - Krakow	
Day 9	
Krakow	

Budapest to Krakow

Throughout history, people traded amber along this route, leading through Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. On this bicycle tour, ride from artist's town of Szentendre, biking along the Danube bend to Banska Stiavnica, an old mining town in the hills. Here the cycling gets more challenging, crossing the Low Tatras and West part of the High Tatras. Your reward is the superb panoramic views of the breath-taking Slovakian countryside dotted with traditional mountain villages, meadows and pastures. You will see traditional handcrafts such as carpets being hand made in the village of Malatina. Biking into Poland you will visit the pilgrimage site of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. Finish in Krakow, rivaling Prague with its historical monuments.

Come enjoy this incredible country with Active Journeys!



Tour Details 2020

Departures: May 9
June 16
July 11
August 1

Cost: \$4295 per person 8+ persons
\$3795 per person 4-7 persons

Single Supplement: \$695

Bike Rental: Included

Length: 9 days / 8 nights

Grade: Challenging

Starts: Budapest

Ends: Krakow

Fast Facts

- Accommodation in selected hotels and pensions with breakfast and dinner
- TREK hybrid bike with GPS track
- Services of bilingual guide, luggage transfers, support van, cycling maps
- Tours of chateaux, museums & castles

E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$350
- Limited supplies available, reservations upon booking recommended
- SCOTT E-Sub models



Day 1 Budapest - Szentendre

After arriving in Budapest, individual transfer to the small town of Szentendre (7km). This is achievable by bus, train, car or boat. This town has a unique character with 24 museums, 7 churches, thirteen galleries and numerous cafes and small bars. An Open Air Museum offers a look at original Hungarian country life.

Day 2 Szentendre - Esztergom 58 km

The first day of cycling along the Danube to Lenyefalu takes you to the ferry to Szentendre Island. After biking through the charming island, it's back to the mainland and onward to Esztergom. The original place of the Hungarian bishops, Esztergom has a massive castle and is a highlight of the Hungarian part of this tour.

Day 3 Esztergom/Sturovo - Dudince 62 km

The Slovak part of the tour starts today as we cross from the southern to the northern bank of the Danube to Sturovo. It is fairly easy cycling over rolling landscapes to the town of Dudince. This town was built according to the ideas of Socialist Realism and, as a result, is a very interesting place to visit. A highlight in this town are the Roman bathtubs carved out of the travertine stone.

Day 4 Dudince - Banska Stiavnica 42 km

This demanding section of the Slovak ride starts in the Stiavnicky Hills, a precursor to the later mountain stages. We can always shorten your daily miles or transfer you to the next destination. Finish in Banska Stiavnica, a UNESCO protected, well-conserved old town with a long heritage of mining. It is one of the best stopovers on the entire Amber Trail.

Day 5 Banska Stiavnica - Banska Bystrica 59 km

Today's ride consists of a challenging section incorporating two ascents. The first half is hilly through quiet rural forests and remote villages. Then it is almost flat and the route takes you against the Hron river through beautiful countryside. On the way to Banska Bystrica, stop to look at the precious timber church located in Hronsek, a site on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Once in Banska Bystrica you will see how the old part of the town is being restored to overcome the towns upsetting, Socialist past.

Day 6 Banska Bystrica - Vlkolinec - Liptovsky Mikulas 66 km

Today a transfer to the small mountain village of Vlkolinec. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it contains the biggest concentration on traditional architecture in the Slovak Republic – old timber houses built using old crafts and techniques. Having climbed up from Liptovska Osada you begin cycling in the very challenging area of the Lower Tatras – beginning with a 5km climb. However the amazing views and the sweeping landscape are worth the effort. The rest of the day is easier with a ride around the reservoir in Liptovska Mara. Finish in Liptovsky Mikulas, an interesting town whose museum documents an infamous outlaw Juraj Janosik – Slovakia's equivalent of Robin Hood.

Day 7 Liptovsky Mikulas - Dolny Kubin 47 km

Cycle through the Chocsky and Oravsky Hills, one of the prettiest stages of the whole route. See the large Liptovská Mara water reservoir and enjoy spectacular views of the Orava region's landscape. Two short steep climbs are rewarded with a comfortable downhill at the end. Evening transfer to Sucha Beskidzka, Poland.

Day 8 Sucha Beskidzka - Kalwaria Zebrzydowska - Krakow 20 km

Today's ride is short in order to get you to Krakow earlier. Ride through the typical Carpathian landscape of Poland. The main highlight today is Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, an imposing Bernadine monastery. Transfer by car from Kalwaria Zebrzydowska to Krakow. Overnight in Krakow.

Day 9 Krakow

Tour ends after breakfast. You will want to spend more than just one day in Krakow. Wawel Castle, the Old Market Square, the Kazimierz Jewish Quarter, the town walls and Royal Way are just some of the many things to see in this royal city.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The weather in this region is very similar to Vermont. So spring may be a little cloudy and rainy. Summer will be cool mornings and evenings, and hot during the day.

How many hours of cycling a day?

Be prepared to be active between 3 to 6 hours daily, everything will be at a moderate level. The self-guided option is a not supported tour, so you should be able to the minimums required each day. Keep in mind that you can opt out occasionally or take local transport en route.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, as you will enjoy the holiday more. This is an intermediate trips with challenging options so previous hill climbing experience is recommended.

What are the hotels like?

We use a wide mixture of accommodations. Hotels and guesthouses are of tourist class standards with private facilities and hot water. Facilities in the village stays are obviously quite limited, but we make sure you have clean and charming accommodation. You can opt to take the half-board meal plan, this would include dinners at each destination.



Getting There

- Flying into Budapest with many international airlines such as KLM and Lufthansa
- At the end of the journey, we can organize a bus back to Budapest for your return flight. This option can also be used at the beginning of the tour.

Self-guided Option also Available

Daily from April to October

\$ 2995 per person

The self-guided tour includes:

- Accommodations specially selected
- Buffet breakfast
- Luggage transfers
- English route descriptions
- Detailed cycling and town maps
- Global Positioning System (GPS) console with programmed route
- Transfers by car according to program
- Welcome briefing upon arrival
- Quality TREK bike rental
- Emergency support (mobile phone & contact person)

We have a small selection of hotels for your arrival or departure. Hotels in Budapest and Krakow range from \$70 per night to a deluxe 5* property at \$300 per night.

How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.