

*The Potomac Ski & Adventure Club &  
The Ski Club of Washington DC Jointly Present*



***The Golden City of Prague and the Rivers Elbe & Moldau***  
***Explore the Legendary Bohemia - Cruising & Biking these Historic Rivers***  
***Aboard the MS "Florentina"***  
***Enjoy an Optional Extension in the Irish Capital ~ Dublin!***  
**July 7-15 (or 19th with Extension), 2018**

**Price\***: ~~\$2,730 (Top Deck Sold out)~~; \$2,480 (Main Deck) --- Add \$400 for Dublin Extension

- \* Price per person, double occupancy: No more Singles nor Top Deck available
- \* Includes Current Airline airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Subject to increases
- \* Guaranteed Euro exchange up to \$1.20 for the land portion

**Trip Includes:**

- R/T Dulles to Prague by way of Dublin
- 7 nights on the MS Florentina in ~~Upper~~ and Main Deck Cabins
- Four nights in Dublin with the optional Extension. Daily Breakfast
- Daily Breakfast & Dinners on the Florentina; Picnic lunches daily for the bike tours
- All ground transfers between the ship's ports, hotels and airports

**Not Included:**

- Bicycle Rentals: \$85 for the week on 7 or 21-speed bikes. Electric bikes \$200
- Guided tours and entrance fees to attractions
- Trip Insurance. Strongly recommended and available through our suggested providers.

**Trip Leader:** [Frank Peñaranda](#) (301) 593-6472. To register, download [Registration Form](#).

Please scroll down to view additional information and link to various trip flyers

**[Blue Ridge Ski Council \(BRSC\) Members.](#)**

## The “Golden City” and the Rivers Moldova and Elbe With Bike and Barge from/to Prague Aboard the “MS Florentina”

The “Heart of Europe” is a good description of the destination for our next Bike & Barge adventure. The region formerly known as “Bohemia” evokes exotic culture, customs and history; not just for its resplendent cities, but its villages and country-side. Our starting and ending points is the city of Prague, one of the few large cities whose buildings, monuments and culture were spared from the devastation that WWII brought to the rest of civilized Europe. We will have ample opportunity to visit this major capital of Eastern Europe, but also the villages and hamlets that dot the course of the two principal rivers in our journey: The Vltava (also known as the Moldova or Die Moldau in German) and the Elbe; all close and personal on bikes or on foot.

When the bridges of the Vltava River are ablaze with sunlight and the spires of the castle sparkle in the light, then it becomes obvious why Prague has its nickname “Golden City”! Multifaceted and unique, modern and at the same time aware of tradition – it is one of Europe’s most beautiful metropolis with its Old Town listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The MS FLORENTINA moors close to the Charles Bridge and is therefore an ideal Spring board for exploring this gorgeous city – the marvelously restored Market Place, the busy Wencelslas Square or the Jewish quarter await. And we will not miss out on good food – roast pork with dumplings washed down with an original Czech beer, just to name one of the many specialities – when on the move with our bikes.

This promises to be one of the most rewarding trips we have offered, and will fill-up very quickly, so if you are even remotely interested, please contact the trip leader immediately to reserve a spot

### MS FLORENTINA



Built in 1980 and completely refurbished between 2008 and 2014, the *MS Florentina* is a cosy and comfortable middle-class ship.

The ship features 16 twin cabins (approx. 10 sq m) and 4 single cabins (approx. 8 sq m) with French balcony (opening windows) on the upper deck, and 24 twin cabins (ca. 10 sq m) and 2 single cabins (ca. 8 sq m) on the main deck (windows cannot be opened). All 46 cabins are outside cabins and have

en-suite shower facilities. All include central air conditioning with individually adjustable ventilation, hairdryers, TV's and safes. There is W-LAN on board, although the signal may not always be available due to the surrounding terrain. \*\*\* [Scroll down to see pictures of cabins](#)

The lounge next to the reception, the observation saloon with its panoramic windows on the upper deck or the sundeck and deck chairs, offer comfortable seating areas to converse, drink or snack and just relax

For dinner, the Czech chef prepares national and international dishes, served in the bright, friendly restaurant and bar. Breakfast is also served in this area, buffet style, and an assortment of picnic-lunch items are available for the bikers.

## Itinerary:

### **Day 1: Sunday, Arrival in Prague**

Group's arrival in Prague. Embarkation from 4 pm. After dinner, take a stroll over the Charles Bridge, particularly beautiful in the dark, and enjoy the stunning view of the illuminated Prague Castle.

### **Day 2: Monday, Guided Walking Tour Prague (optional) \* Prague – Kralupy; Cycle Tour approx. 27 km**

In the morning, there will be an optional guided walk to discover the right bank of the Vltava River, the highlights of the Old Town, the New Town and the Jewish Quarter (duration approx. 2 hours). After returning to the ship, you will be handed your bike around 11:00 am to begin your first cycle tour. You will cycle along the Vltava River via Troja (Baroque castle – National Art Gallery) to the village of Klecánky and then over the tread of the Vltava via Drasty, Vodochody back to the river bank to today's Kralupy destination. Arrival of the ship in port around 5 pm.

### **Day 3: Tuesday, Kralupy – Mělník, Excursion Nelahozeves (optional); Cycle Tour approx. 28 km, Boat Trip to Litoměřice/Leitmeritz**

After breakfast, around 9 am, you will cycle – almost always along the Vltava River – to Nelahozeves. Visit the birth house of Antonin Dvořák and one of the most famous renaissance castles of Bohemia, also known as the “little Louvre of Czechia” (optional). The tour takes you past the Veltrusý Park, with numerous sculptures and gazebos in an extensive terrain, up to the royal town of Mělník. Return back to the ship around 1:30 pm and enjoy the boat trip on the Elbe River to Litoměřice.

### **Day 4: Wednesday, Litoměřice – Guided Walking Tour (optional); Cycle tour to Ustí and back (approx. 53 km)**

Enjoy a day of leisure. On a guided walk (optional), you will have the chance to discover one of the most beautiful Czech towns, the royal town of Litoměřice. The colourful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings in the town centre, which for the most part is encircled by well-preserved Gothic fortifications, are enchanting. Well-worth seeing: Baroque Cathedral of St Stephen atop the dome hill, and the historic underground (extensive tunnel system) or the Bishop's residence. You may also want to visit the Terezín Memorial (Theresienstadt) in the village of Terezín. This concentration camp memorial is located only 5 km away. The more advanced cyclists may wish to cycle to Ustí – idyllically situated in the narrow valley of the Elbe river – where they will visit the Bohemian Gate and the old castle ruin of Schreckenstein. The MS FLORENTINA will moor overnight in Litoměřice.

### **Day 5: Thursday, Litoměřice – Roudnice – Mlčechvosty; Cycle Tour Roudnice – Mělník – Mlčechvosty, approx. 40 km; Excursion Castle Tour and coffee and cake in the castlepatisserie (optional)**

Early in the morning, the ship will take you to Roudnice. Your cycle tour starts at around 09:00 am. Almost always alongside the Elbe, via Dobřín, Račice and Vliněves, you will cycle back again to the lovely village of Mělník. On a guided walk (opt.) enjoy the splendid panoramic view of the confluence of the Vltava and Elbe River from the top of the castle hill. Afterwards, have coffee and cake in the castle-patisserie. You'll continue cycling to today's destination of Mlčechvosty. Port arrival of the ship is around 4:30 pm.

### **Day 6: Friday, Mlčechvosty – Prague, ca. 40 km**

Today you can enjoy one last bike tour via Nelahozeves, Kralupy, Chvatěruby, Vodochody, Drasty and Klecánky to Prague, or relax on the sun deck. You will arrive in Prague around 3:30 pm. The rest of the day is reserved for individual touring of Prague.



### Day 7: Saturday, Prague – Zbraslav and back, ca. 30 km

Begin by visiting the Prague Castle with the Golden Lane and the Powder Tower; meander along the streets or simply watch the lively goings-on sitting in one of the cafes on the Old Town Square. Should you feel like cycling, take a tour upstream along Vltava River to Zbraslav and back. A trip to Vyšehrad Castle is worthwhile. It was built, probably in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, on a hill over the Vltava River. Local legend holds that Vyšehrad was the location of the first settlement which later became Prague.

### Day 8: Sunday, Prague – Disembarkation after breakfast, around 9:30 am.



### Grade & Terrain

Although almost completely flat this cycle tour is graded easy to moderate as the daily distance ranges from 25 – 50 km and there may be some short steep slopes to cope with. You will be cycling on the rivers' cycle paths, which follow traffic free or quiet roads, and there is the option of staying on board if you don't feel like cycling.

The route is marked throughout and you are supplied with a detailed route map, guidebook and information pack so you will have no problem following the route. The on board tour guide will also give you a briefing each evening about the route and highlights of the next day's cycle

## Rental Bikes

- 7/21-speed unisex hybrid bikes with coaster (back pedal)/caliper brakes: \$85/week
- Electric Assisted bikes: \$200/week (limited supplies and must be reserved in advance)

All rental bikes are equipped with a pannier (saddle bag), handlebar bag and a speedometer. Helmets may be required on some of the countries we cross and are not included as part of the rental package. You are asked to bring your own helmet or buy one onboard (€25).

### Important Information:

*In case of flood or low tide the shipping company reserves the right to bridge parts of passages with buses. In extreme case the shipping company reserves the right to cancel the journey on short notice. No legal right shall be constituted of both situations. (Water level is force majeure). The same applies for officially ordered – previously not announced – repair work on locks or bridges or in case of undeserved breakdown of engine and power unit. Please be aware that your ship, like all other ships, is not only your hotel but also a machine, working with engine power also during night. Especially crossing locks and bridges – and the preparation work – might cause noises. If you are sensitive to noises please bring your own earplugs.*

**Embarkation:** From 4 pm. • **Disembarkation:** After breakfast, around 9:30 am

- **Languages on board:** German, English
- **Excursions:** Optional excursions during the journey must be booked on board.
- **Special dietary needs:** (e.g. lactose-free and gluten-free diet) On request and extra fee. Please inform us at least 14 days prior to departure. If necessary, some special dietary product must be brought along.
- **For safety reasons,** sun deck access may be limited in times of high water levels/low bridge clearance.
- **Bicycles may sometimes be stored** ashore overnight as a transport on the ship would not be possible due to low bridge clearance.
- **Please note** for your tour planning that due to numerous locks, the ship will always be slower than a cyclist.
- **Travel documents:** EU citizens need a valid identity card or passport for this journey. Passports for all others



**Double Cabin – Top Deck. With full French windows.**



**Double Cabin – Main Deck. Reduced window size, non-opening.**