



## R I D E & S E E K

A cycling adventure through a historic period that changed the world. Starting in Berlin, where the breaking down of the Wall heralded the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, we criss-cross the Iron Curtain through 6 countries on our way to Budapest.



BERLIN TO BUDAPEST | (AUGUST 14 - AUGUST 31 | 2022)

# Iron Curtain Overview



TOTAL  
DISTANCE:  
1430km | 889mi

ELEVATION:  
10,040m | 32,935ft

DURATION:  
18  
DAYS  
17 Nights



MAKE IT  
EPIC

EXTRA LOOPS  
ARE AVAILABLE  
THROUGHOUT THE TOUR  
FOR THOSE WANTING  
MORE DAILY RIDING AND  
ELEVATION



Tours  
available  
from  
1 WEEK





The Iron Curtain tour travels back and forth between Eastern and Western Europe from Berlin to Budapest.



## Presenting the world's most inspiring cycling journeys

Join us on this ride of historical proportions as we ride through 6 countries that are connected by a historic period that changed the world.

Divided into 2 stages the Iron Curtain tour is an epic that travels back and forth across the 'Iron Curtain' which symbolised the divide between communism and democratic capitalism. The history on this tour is still palpable and unlike our other historic epic adventures is still remembered by many of us.

The route travels from North to South along some of the best cycling routes Europe has to offer. Starting with the Berlin Wall trail as a warm up we then join the dots between 5 of Europe's most beguiling capital cities – Berlin, Vienna, Bratislava, Vienna and Budapest.

Experience total immersion into the landscape, history and culture of the places we visit as we ride this somewhat surreal trail on the road less travelled.



## Iron Curtain | Berlin to Budapest

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### STAGE 1 - Berlin to Prague

- Explore the Berlin Wall Trail and take in one of the period's defining symbols – Checkpoint Charlie.
- Meander through a labyrinth of rivers, canals and forests in the old East Germany.
- Cycle on the road less travelled through Sorbian villages to the Polish border.
- Descend to the Oder-Neisse River and Germany's most eastern city Görlitz.
- Ride through the Czech Middle Mountains and along the banks of the Elbe River.
- Visit the imposing Terezin Fortress, used in both World Wars as a prison and later as a concentration camp.
- Follow the Vltava River as it travels through deep valleys that excel in wine production.
- Finish the stage in one of Europe's most enchanting cities, Prague.

TOTAL  
DISTANCE:

551km | 342mi

ELEVATION:

4285m | 14,055ft

DURATION:

7  
DAYS

6 Nights

### STAGE 2 - Prague to Budapest

- Cycle through the wonders of Bohemia with its beautiful landscapes, protected forests and magnificent castles.
- Sample some of the world's best beers, where almost every town has its own brewery – Czech Pilsner, Austrian Lager and Hungarian Ales.
- Explore the now quiet and abandoned Cold War fortifications and watchtowers that dot our route as we cross the former Iron Curtain.
- Enjoy a rest day in beautiful Vienna that is often described as an open-air museum.
- Cycle along the Danube Bend region, one of its most scenic, where it bisects steep hills and meanders through the quaint villages hugging its banks.
- Finish in Budapest, an architectural and historical treasure trove, majestically laid out along the Danube.

TOTAL  
DISTANCE:

879km | 546mi

ELEVATION:

5755m | 18,880ft

DURATION:

12  
DAYS

11 Nights



CLICK to see the Ride & Seek website for details of tour dates and prices

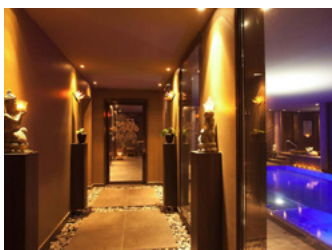
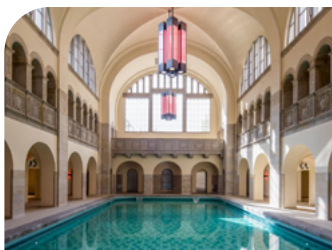






## We carefully select the places where we stay based on their personality and the hospitality of our hosts

Be it a hotel in the historic part of Bratislava that has been housing the heads of state for each political order for over 100 years or the Château de Frontière in the Czech wine country, we seek to connect you with the places we travel in through the accommodations we choose.



### Hotel Oldenburger, Berlin

Beautiful suites in an elegant 1902 former public bathhouse and one of the few buildings that were left standing after World War II.

### Golden Linden Spa Hotel, Decin

A boutique hotel tucked up in the hills above Decin, with its own pool, spa and restaurant.

### Hotel Josef, Prague

In the very heart of one of the most beautiful medieval cities in Europe. Designer Eva Jiricna has managed to create a modern masterpiece, complete with its own in-house bakery, so you can begin your rest day with bread and pastries still warm from the oven.

### Château de Frontière, Hlohovec

A 19th century castle set in beautiful gardens in front of a lake. Featuring an outdoor heated pool, renowned restaurant and a bowling alley.

### Hotel Altstadt, Vienna

In the middle of the city's Museums quarter, behind the splendid façade of an old patrician house, one finds this stylish hotel, which is a favourite hideaway for art lovers, design aficionados and cultural insiders.



## We choose our restaurants because they are exceptional and unique

Whether they are haute cuisine, local farm fayre or local game stew, every meal is guaranteed to be memorable. Our journey takes us through a number of different countries all of which have distinct culinary traditions. We seek to embrace this diversity and give you a sense of place through the food and drink we consume along the way.



## Portfolio Restaurant, Prague

A restaurant whose elegant design, imaginatively prepared menu with an exceptional wine list, and impeccable service create an unforgettable experience for our first night in Prague.



## Prímás Pince, Esztergom

The soaring vaulted ceilings in the old basilica's cellar is just one of this contemporary dining room's many attractions. Add an enticing menu of Hungarian and international dishes, the city's best wine selection and you have one of the best restaurants on the Danube bend.



## Essens Restaurant, South Moravia

This hotel is located in the Château de Frontière, in the heart of South Moravia, our accommodation for our last night in the Czech Republic. The 8 course extraordinary gastronomic experience adds to the picturesque and peaceful environment of the castle.



## Restaurant Wiener, Vienna

Whilst the menu is varied and ambience delightful we unashamedly chose this restaurant for arguably serving Vienna's finest Wiener Schnitzel. Be warned you might need wash it down with schnapps afterwards.



## Ride & Seek Picnics

We pride ourselves on providing the best picnics. These are always in spectacular locations, be it at a historical site or a breathtaking view. The produce will always be local, fresh and exceptional.



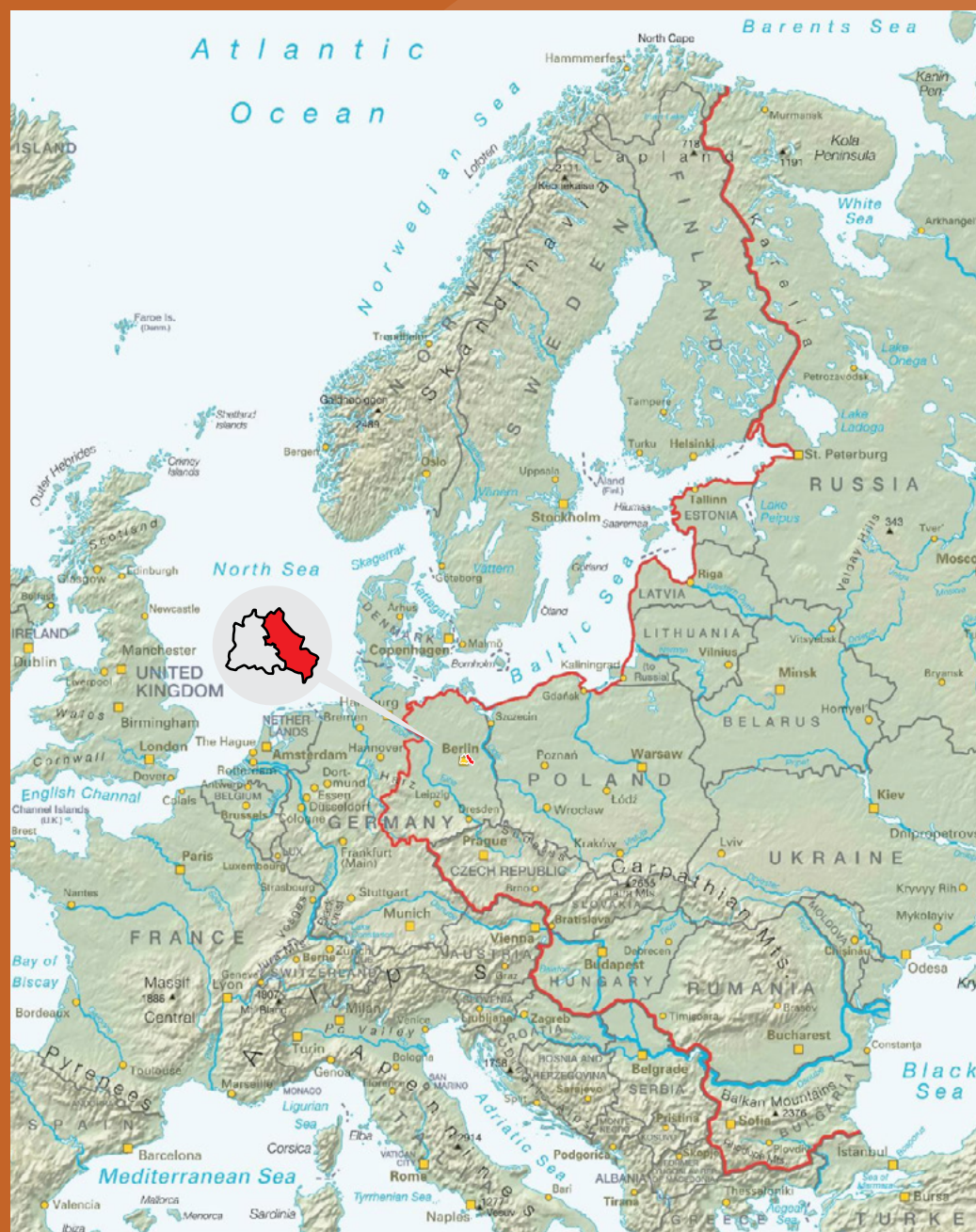
**'From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow'**

Winston Churchill's 'Sinews Of Peace' address of March 5th March 1946 at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri USA

The Iron Curtain was defined in the West as the political, military, and ideological barrier erected by the Soviet Union after World War II. Its purpose was to seal off itself and its dependent eastern and central European allies from open contact with the West and other non-communist areas. In reality the term Iron Curtain had been in occasional and varied use as a metaphor since the 19th century, but it came to prominence only after it was used by Winston Churchill in his speech at Fulton in 1946.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 the geographical landscape of Europe has changed dramatically. Up until that point the countries behind the Iron Curtain were Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Albania and Yugoslavia. A number of now independent countries were also within the USSR. We must also note the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 that divided the city into two ideological blocks in the heart of the old East Germany.

The Iron Curtain was finally lifted on June 27, 1989, at the border between Austria and Hungary by the foreign ministers Gyula Horn (Hungary) and Alois Mock (Austria), 43 years after Churchill's speech. This first crack in the long border between the western world and the Soviet communist world was the beginning of the final collapse of communism in November and December 1989, and the first sign of the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. The events that demolished the Iron Curtain started with discontent in Poland, and continued in Hungary, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Romania.





# What our guests have to say...



Ride & Seek provide the highest quality bike touring experience for a most reasonable cost. I don't know how they do it, but they do. Consistently.

**Jim C**



The Iron Curtain was my first tour with Ride & Seek – what a fabulous experience! The support team, route and accommodation were all excellent. I also really enjoyed the historical talks; particularly those personal accounts of life behind the Iron Curtain. I was lucky enough to be cycling with a really great bunch of people from across the world; great cycling & great banter in beautiful locations – what more could you ask for?

**Neil K**



It was fantastic to be a part of another inaugural ride. Ben did an amazing job of scouting the Iron Curtain and the team delivered their usual wonderful support throughout the ride. Meandering from bike paths to rural then city roads, we often crossed several country borders in one day. To ride along the Iron Curtain is a fascinating and humbling experience.

**Jo & Tony B**



The Iron Curtain trip was amazing on so many fronts. The history as we weaved backwards and forwards through the old East and West; the fantastic fun of the group; the gorgeous hotels and food; iconic cities; and unforgettable memories. This is probably my Ride & Seek favourite – so far!

**Micheal L**

[www.rideandseek.com](http://www.rideandseek.com)

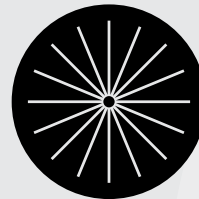


## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Go to our website at:

**<https://rideandseek.com/tour/iron-curtain-berlin-to-budapest/>**  
to find out more information, a recommended reading list, testimonials and much more.

Alternatively, contact us at **[info@rideandseek.com](mailto:info@rideandseek.com)** or **+61 (0) 2 8007 3161**



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