



Five rivers for fun cycling

Riverside cycle tours are by far the most popular tours. Besides the all-time favourites there are also many terrific rides of more regional popularity. And then there is the Five Rivers Cycle Route which combines the two.

■ How so? Well, the Five Rivers Cycle Tour is made up of sections that have been selected from individual river routes and waymarked as a circuit. Simple, but extremely clever, for the result is a terrific combination. Take a section of the Danube Cycle Route, add a stretch from the Altmühl Valley Cycle Route, throw in a dose of the Pegnitz, Vils and Naab Valley Routes, and touch up the five rivers with a length of the Ludwig-Danube-Main Canal – and what you get is 310 km of cycle route running right alongside the water. And the scenic countryside along the remaining kilometres will also enthral you: Fertile green river valleys, expansive forests, and a hillside scenery with humpbacked peaks showing off majestic castles, ruins and palaces. Eye-catching rock formations adorn the riverbanks.

The Five Rivers Cycle Route circuit takes you through touristically developed areas, for exam-



Wolfstein castle ruin near Neumarkt

ple along the Danube or in the Altmühl Valley – but also through undisturbed stretches of natural countryside in the Pegnitz, Vils and Naab Valleys. And not to forget the enchanting towns and cities along the route. To the west lies Nuremberg with its "Kaiserburg" Castle, where all emperors of the Holy Roman Empire resided temporarily from 1050 to 1571, and to the east Regensburg, whose Old Town district is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Plus all the many attractions for which the individual routes have won fame and popularity. So if you are looking for a diverse riverside ride, saddle up and embark on the Five Rivers Cycle Route.



Weltenburg Abbey on the Danube



For adjacent areas see p. 78 and 80



Kallmünz on the Naab River

LENGTH: 310 km, circuit

TERRAIN



Route through mostly level terrain, mainly on asphalt and largely car-free. Building on existing cycle routes, the route combines the individual sections to form a circuit.

COUNTRYSIDE

The circuit takes you through the countryside of the Upper Palatinate and Middle Franconia along the banks of the Pegnitz, Vils, Naab, Danube and Altmühl rivers. The route passes both touristically developed areas and undisturbed natural countryside.

PLACES TO VISIT

The historic imperial cities of Regensburg and Nuremberg with many cultural sites, Hersbruck (museum), Sulzbach-Rosenberg and Amberg (museums and pilgrimage churches), Theuern Palace with mining and industry museum, Kelheim (Danube Gorge), Weltenburg Abbey, Essing (Schulerloch dripstone cave), Riedenburg (Rosenburg Castle), Berching (historic townscape), Beilngries (museums)

TOP TIP

Luggage transfer available on request. For address see "Further Information" Tourismusverband Ostbayern e.V.

PLANNING YOUR TOUR

"Fünf-Flüsse-Radweg", cycle tour guide, 1:50,000, published by Tourismusverband Ostbayern e.V.

GETTING THERE BY RAIL

Regensburg, Kelheim, Neumarkt, Nuremberg, Amberg

TOUR PACKAGES

"5 Rivers Cycle Tour" departing from Amberg 6 nights accommodation in a double room in 3- to 4-star hotels, including breakfast, luggage transfer, map and information material, service hotline
Price per person: 449 €

Booking address: www.pedalo.com

"5 Rivers Cycle Tour" departing from Nuremberg 6 nights accommodation generally in 3- to 4-star hotels, including breakfast, luggage transfer, guided city tour of Nuremberg, map and information material, service hotline
Price per person: 459 €

Booking address: www.franken-radreisen.de

Both packages are also available with half-board and rental bike included.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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