

ROWING – Cape Coastal Rowing Club

CCRC heads to Europe

In July, 12 CCRC members headed to Berlin for the latest in a long-running series of friendship tours with our rowing friends in Europe. This year's tour took us on a 12-day circuit through Berlin and Brandenburg.

The route covered 373 kilometres, beginning and ending at Ruderklub am Wannsee. From the lakes of southwest Berlin we rowed through the city via the Landwehr Canal and River Spree before leaving the urban landscape behind for quieter canals, rivers and lakes surrounded by forests.



Along the way we passed historic landmarks including Glienicke Bridge and Cecilienhof Palace and, in Köpenick, rowed the 1936 Olympic rowing course – the venue immortalised in *The Boys in the Boat*. Beyond the city we continued through green waterways alive with birds and the occasional beaver, cooling off with plenty of swims along the way.

We rowed between 30km and 50km a day, negotiating 14 locks and carrying our boats around four weirs, always good for team-building. Nights alternated between rowing clubs and small guesthouses, giving us plenty of opportunity to perfect the art of sleeping on an air mattress and ignoring snorers.



One highlight was an excursion to the Lübbenau and the breathtaking Spreewald Nature Reserve. A Unesco biosphere, it's an inland delta, famous for its over 276 km of navigable waterways, traditional wooden houses and Slavic cultural heritage.



Our rest day in Potsdam allowed us time to stretch our legs and explore the city's palaces, gardens and cafés before the final leg back to Wannsee.

A tour of this scale doesn't happen by accident. Our sincere thanks go to Jörg and Manja from Oldenburger Ruderverein for an outstanding tour, and to the many rowing clubs that welcomed us along the way.

