



## Best of Holland on a cycle cruise

8 days / 7 nights

This premium tour combines iconic and hidden highlights to give a fantastic impression of Holland's unique characteristics. Over eight days you'll travel in style aboard one of our luxury hotel barges: the Magnifique, Magnifique II, Magnifique III or Magnifique IV. Your cycling cruise starts in Amsterdam with an enjoyable dinner cruise to Zaandam, followed the next day by a taste of living history at the Zaanse Schans open air museum. Enjoy a cycling tour to Hoorn through the heart of a polder named De Beemster, recognized by UNESCO as a "masterpiece of creative planning", where Renaissance ideals were used to design a reclaimed landscape.

You'll visit the picturesque former island of Marken, now linked to the mainland. From there you'll cycle to IJburg, one of Amsterdam's newest neighborhoods. This part of the city was built in the late 1990s on reclaimed land – just a few years earlier it was the bottom of a lake. Continue by barge to the small town of Vianen on the Lower Rhine river. Visit Schoonhoven, well known for its silver, and the Kinderdijk UNESCO world heritage site with its 19 windmills. Lovely views and beautiful pictures guaranteed!

Enjoy the vibrant city of Rotterdam where the waterfront is packed with attractions: from maritime museums to superb bikeways, along with visionary new architectural developments. From here the tour continues north to Gouda, world famous for its cheese and candles. Explore the Green Heart of Holland, a large green rural area encircled by a ring of some of the Netherlands' biggest cities. You'll spend the night in a small village in the Green Heart. Cycle or sail into Amsterdam, where your journey ends.

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### **Day 1 - Amsterdam | Amsterdam – Zaandam**

Embarkation and check-in. The crew will welcome you on board between 1 and 2 p.m. Once all guests have arrived a short cruise will bring you to Zaandam, a city famous for its windmills. Here, your barge will berth in the center of the city for the night. Upon arrival you can enjoy taking your new bike for a brief test ride through the surrounding area. In the evening, enjoy a short walk through the picturesque center of Zaandam.

#### **Day 2 - Zaandam – Zaanse Schans museum – Hoorn (41 km or 51 km)**

After breakfast set out on your first cycling tour to the Zaanse Schans open air museum for a short visit. Continue cycling through small villages in the beautiful historic polder named De Beemster. Today's bike tour ends in the town of Hoorn, former home of the Dutch East India Company and one of the world's most important harbors in the 17th century.

#### **Day 3 - Hoorn – Volendam | Volendam – Marken (ferry) | Marken – Waterland – Muiden | Muiden – Vianen (39 km or 46 km)**

While enjoying breakfast the ship will bring you to Volendam, a small, picturesque fishing harbor on the shores of Lake IJsselmeer. From here you'll take a ferry to the former island of Marken. Explore this charming, authentic village before continuing your cycling journey along the coastline to IJburg, a new and modern part of Amsterdam that was recently built on land reclaimed from a lake (that was previously the sea). From here you'll cycle to the historical town of Muiden with its 14th



century waterfront castle. Today's cycling tour ends near the village of Weesp, where you'll rejoin your ship. Around 5pm the ship departs for Vianen and you can enjoy dinner while cruising. Spend the evening and night in Vianen, a small fortified town on the Lower Rhine river.

#### **Day 4 - Vianen – Schoonhoven | Schoonhoven – Kinderdijk ( 32 km) | Kinderdijk – Rotterdam (waterbus ferry)**

During breakfast the ship will sail to Schoonhoven, the "Silver City", where today's cycling tour starts. The tour takes you through the Alblasserwaard polder to Kinderdijk, a village famous for its impressive row of 19 large windmills. Listed as a UNESCO cultural heritage site, these windmills are a definite highlight of any trip to the Netherlands. From nearby Alblasserdam you'll board the "Waterbus" fast ferry, which will take you and your bicycle into the center of Rotterdam in about 20 minutes. With its vibrant waterfront, this city is Europe's largest port. In the afternoon, a local guide will show you the most interesting corners of the inner city. Dinner on board is not included this evening, so you can enjoy a wonderful meal at one of Rotterdam's many restaurants.

#### **Day 5 - Rotterdam – Gouda (35 km or 45 km)**

After breakfast, bike right through Rotterdam and follow the winding river Rotte to leave the city. You'll soon find yourself cycling through the "Green Heart of Holland" to Gouda, the cheese and candle capital of Holland. Take your time in the afternoon and evening to enjoy this beautiful historical city, with its old market square and Weigh House, where cheese used to be weighed.

#### **Day 6 - Gouda – Leiden – Oude Wetering (33 km or 54 km)**

Start the morning with a visit to Gouda's St. John's church, with its renowned stained-glass windows. Today's cycling tour takes you from Gouda through the typical scenery of the Green Heart of Holland, with its green landscapes, expansive views, small canals and tiny lakes – all below sea level! Today's long cycling option leads through Leiden, the birthplace of the famous painter Rembrandt and home of the oldest university in the Netherlands. The cycling journey ends in the small village of Oude Wetering, where the ship will be docked for the night.

#### **Day 7 - Oude Wetering – Amsterdam | Roundtour Amsterdam Waterland (28 km)**

The ship sails early this morning to take you to Amsterdam. During the afternoon you can choose to take a last beautiful bike ride through the wetlands of Waterland north of Amsterdam, or to discover this amazing city. Visit the inner-city flower market, explore a museum or do some shopping... there's so much to do! In the evening you can join a boat tour through the beautiful, UNESCO-listed canals of old Amsterdam – a wonderful way to conclude your trip!

#### **Day 8 - Amsterdam**

Check-out and disembarkation right after breakfast, before 9.30 a.m.

## Additional information

### TARIFFS

Price from 1279 euros per person.



## OPTIONS

Rental bicycle (incl. helmet and water bottle)

Limitation of liability (damage) rental bicycle €10/week

The bicycles on board are unisex city bicycles of the brand Batavus Dinsdag with normal mount (ladies model), easy-to-handle Shimano 7 gears, handbrakes, gel-saddle (height adjustable), a lock on the frame and a pannier bag. : 85 euros per person.

Rental E-Bike (incl. helmet and water bottle) only on request, limited number of e-bikes available, early bookings strongly recommended.

Limitation of liability (damage) rental e-bike €25/week

The e-bike is Velo de Vile with Nexus 7 gears, 5 support levels and hand breaks only, a lock on the frame and a pannier bag (or a comparable brand/model). E-Bikes limited available, on request and at an additional charge. : 185 euros per person.

Premium twin (Magnifique / Magnifique II) : 200 euros per person.

Upper deck suite for 2 people (Magnifique II / Magnifique III / Magnifique IV) : 500 euros per person.

Single cabin (Magnifique / Magnifique III) : 384 euros per person.

Twin cabin for single use (Magnifique / Magnifique II / Magnifique iv) : 640 euros per person.

Triple cabin discount : -50 euros per person.

Premium triple cabin (Magnifique) : 130 euros per person.

Triple upper deck suite (Magnifique II / Magnifique III) : 400 euros per person.

## INCLUDED

7 x nights on board

7 x breakfast

Packed lunches

6 x 3-course dinner

Coffee and tea on board

Welcome drink

Use of bed linen and towels

Daily cleaning of the cabin

Climate-controlled cabin

Daily briefings

Fully guided cycling tours (2 tour leaders, 2 groups)

Some short walking tours

Maps and notes for cycling tours (1 set per cabin)

GPS tracks

Use of a helmet

Use of a waterproof pannier bag

Water bottle

Fees for ferries

Visit mill at Zaanse Schans

Walking city tour with a local guide through Rotterdam

Visit St. Johns church in Gouda



Entrance 'This is Holland' a unique flying experience

Wi-Fi

**NOT INCLUDED**

1 x dinner (Rotterdam)

Drinks

Bicycle rental or E-bike rental

Personal insurances

Gratuities (at your discretion)

Entrance fees and excursions (not mentioned under inclusions)

Transfers to/from the docking place

Parking fees (Parking in Amsterdam (valet parking): prices and pre-booking on request)

**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

easy tour, very flat terrain

**ACCOMMODATION**

4 ships are available for this tour.

**Magnifique**

The premium barge Magnifique accommodates up to 30 guests and breathes an atmosphere of luxury and comfort. The 16 lower deck cabins are provided with box spring beds and a bathroom with shower, sink and toilet. On the main deck you'll see that the bar is the center of attention, especially during the evening. Around are tables and comfortable chairs where you will be seated during breakfast and when the deliciously cooked dinners are served. In front there is a sitting area and outside are some seats. Last but not least: the Jacuzzi on the aft deck.

**Magnifique II**

This younger sister of the Magnifique, the Magnifique II, was built in 2015-2016 and offers a wonderful stay to a maximum of 34 guests. All of the 13 cabins on the lower deck and 4 suites on the upper deck are very comfortable: excellent beds and a private bathroom, as well as air conditioning, satellite TV, and a wardrobe with a mini-safe. In the tastefully furnished and air conditioned salon on the upper deck, the bar is a real eye catcher. On one side you'll find the restaurant area and on the other there is the lounge. The captain and his crew will take good care of you!

**Magnifique III**

This beautiful ship has 16 lovely cabins on the lower deck, all with two very comfortable beds, an en-suite bathroom, satellite TV, mini-safe and hairdryer. The 5 suites on the upper deck also have a small sitting area and large windows. The air conditioned restaurant and lounge area are situated around the prominent bar; Let's not forget about the Jacuzzi and deckchairs on the top deck.

**Magnifique IV**

Following the overwhelming success of our premium barges Magnifique, Magnifique II (2016), and Magnifique III (2018), we



are proud to announce the construction of a new sister for the family: the Magnifique IV. Launch date: Spring 2020.

This beautiful ship has 8 lovely cabins on the lower deck, all with two very comfortable beds, an en-suite bathroom, satellite TV, mini-safe and hairdryer. The 10 suites on the main deck also have a small sitting area and large windows. The restaurant is situated on the lower deck and the lounge and bar area on the upper deck; ideal spots to enjoy life aboard! Let's not forget about the Jacuzzi and deckchairs on the top deck.

#### **SIZE OF GROUP**

Magnifique : 36 passengers/16 cabins - Magnifique II : 37 passengers/17 cabins - Magnifique III : 40 passengers/21 cabins - Magnifique IV : 36 passengers/18 cabins

#### **DEPARTURES**

Magnifique: 09/05, 13/06, 20/06, 05/09, 12/09.

Magnifique II: 01/07, 08/07, 26/08, 02/09.

Magnifique III: 23/05, 30/05, 01/08, 08/08.

Magnifique IV: 24/06, 01/07.

#### **DEPARTURE**

Tours with the Magnifique II and Magnifique IV start on a WEDNESDAY.

Tours with the Magnifique and Magnifique III start on a SATURDAY.

#### **DISPERSION**

Tours with the Magnifique II and Magnifique IV end on a WEDNESDAY.

Tours with the Magnifique and Magnifique III end on a SATURDAY.

#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

The easiest way to reach Amsterdam is by plane.

The train is also a possibility. Amsterdam serves all Dutch cities as well as European capitals like Brussels, Paris or Berlin.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Bike rent is optional. Guests are allowed to bring their own bicycles or E-bikes (at no extra cost). However, the crew or tour operator is in no way responsible for any damage, loss or theft of such bicycles.