



Going with the flow in the Northern Netherlands

5 days / 4 nights

Known as a cycling paradise, the Netherlands is the home of an extraordinary past and culture. It also offers a blend of idyllic country beauty with its magnificent Tulip fields, ponds, streams and canals as well as its traditional farmlands, windmills and museums. With this cycling tour, you will pedal your way through authentic little villages, such as Edam or Volendam, and discover picturesque landscapes, polders or even the IJsselmeer.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Edam and Hoorn (60 km)

During your first day of cycling, visit Edam and Hoorn. The name of Edam comes from the River IJ, around which the town of IJedam was built. Edam is mostly famous for its succulent cheese.

After leaving Edam, you will cycle through another interesting and typically Dutch town called Hoorn. During the Golden Age (1584-1702), Hoorn was a strategic maritime point for the Dutch East India Company.

End the day by riding through the marvellous Zeevang polder, which will take you all the way up to your hotel.

Distance: 60 km.



Day 2 - The Beemster (47 km)

Go on to discover the Beemster and its polder. Once a lake whose water was pumped by more than fifteen windmills during the 17th century, this polder has now been inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

You will then cross the beautiful village of 'De Rijk', which was once a fishing village. Then, explore another village, which will offer you the chance to travel back in time and to discover the maritime history of the Netherlands. You will also have nice views over the windmills of Lake Schermer.

Distance: 47km.



Day 3 - Volendam and Amsterdam (60 km)

Start today's journey by taking a boat trip to the peninsula of Marken, where Dutch traditions run deep and where villages have maintained their timeless peaceful atmosphere. Charming little wooden houses also populate the enchanting streets of the peninsula.

As for Volendam, it is an authentic little Dutch town, with an important cultural heritage. Its political role was once as important as that of Edam.

You will end today's trip in the great metropolis of Amsterdam.

Distance: 60 km.



Day 4 - The Zaanse Schans (46 km)

The Zaanse Schans is one of the most famous touristic locations in the Netherlands. There are so many windmills and wooden houses in the area that Zaanse Schans almost appears like an open-air museum.

You will then cycle through the polder of De Wijde Wormer, which once was a lake similar to the polder of Beemster, but which has since then been drained for arable farming.

Distance: 46 km.



Day 5 - Your trip ends here

Your trip ends here, after breakfast.

Additional information

TARIFFS

Price from 285 euros per person.

OPTIONS

Renting a hybrid bike - 4 days : 50 euros per person.

Electric bike rental - 4 days : 100 euros per person.

Half-board supplement : 115 euros per person.

Summer supplement (11/06 - 27/08) : 20 euros per person.

INCLUDED

4 nights in 3 ou 4 star hotels

Bedroom with en-suite bathroom

4 breakfasts

Information package with maps and road-books

Free car park at the hotel,

Hotel taxes

hotline service (includind de week-end)

NOT INCLUDED

Ferry crossing from Volendam to Marken : +/- 8€ to be paid on the spot

Transport options to the meeting point and from the point of dispersal

Personal travel insurance,

Lunches

Evening meals in option (4 dinners - 3 courses)

Bike rental in option



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Easy. Road surface: flat. Distances: from 46 and up to 60 km a day.

ACCOMMODATION

4 star hotels (double or twin bedroom with private bathroom and toilets).

SIZE OF GROUP

From 2. personns

DEPARTURES

Every day from the 26th of March to the 27th of October.

DEPARTURE

At your hotel in Purmerend.

DISPERSION

End in Purmerend after breakfast.

HOW TO GET THERE

- Schiphol airport (Amsterdam) + train journey to Amsterdam Centraal + underground stop Amsterdam-Noord and bus n°307 - bus stop: Bunderstraat Purmerend (5 minutes away from your hotel).
- Motorway (in the direction of Purmerend), free parking space.
- Amsterdam Centraal station + underground stop Amsterdam-Noord and bus n°307 - bus stop: Bunderstraat Purmerend (5 minutes away from your hotel).

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

ADVISED MATERIAL TO TAKE WITH YOU (non-exhaustive cheklist) :

As a good preparation is key to a successful stay, here are a few tips to ensure that your trip takes place in optimal conditions.

BIKES

In order that your stay does not turn into a mechanical training course, it's advisable to carry out a meticulous revision of your bike before going on a tour :

- the tyres are well inflated and in good condition
- cables and chain are in good condition
- the transmission elements are clean and oiled
- there are no leaks in the suspensions
- the wheels are well tightened
- the brakes are in good condition (wear + possible leaks)
- the headset has been checked

And don't forget that anomalies are easier to spot on a cleaned bike...

REPAIR MATERIAL

To avoid mechanical problems, it's better to be far-sighted and always carry the basic equipment of a biker:



- 2 inner tubes (puncture sealant is strongly recommended, or puncture sealant strips)
- a pump
- tire irons
- an inner tube repair kit consisting of patches and glue
- a multi-tool
- a small wrench
- a piece of tire

Also, you can prepare your own toolbox which we transfer with your luggage. You will put in it the following items :

- a brake cable (front and rear)
- a derailleur cable
- a tyre
- one derailleur hanger
- chain oil
- a rag

EQUIPMENT

As you can't judge a book by its cover, cycling slinky shorts won't help you to turn into a cycling champion. However, a minimum of specific bike equipment will be necessary in order to be comfortable :

- a helmet
- glasses
- suitable shoes (no smooth soles)
- a cycling short or short
- a breathable tee-shirt (try to avoid cotton)

DAY BACKPACK

Because it's unpleasant to ride with a too loaded backpack, it's better to think carefully about the necessary things to bring in the backpack for the day:

- a water bag and/or a flask and/or water cans on the bike (2L/day/person minimum)
- provisions (energy bars, dried fruits...)
- the basic repair material for your bike (see above)
- a windbreaker (waterproof)
- picnic
- a headlamp
- a knife
- sun cream (+ lip protection)
- toilet paper
- a first-aid kit (see below)
- your mobile phone + an external battery
- a rubbish bag

PICNIC



In order to avoid unnecessary waste at picnic time, remember to take with you :

- an airtight box (0.5L) with initials marked on the lid and on the box + wide elastics
- reusable cutlery (fork and pocketknife)

TRAVEL BAG

Your luggage is transferred during the day and you will find it every evening at your hotel. It is preferable that your travel bag contains the following items :

- a sleeping bag liner (stays in gîtes)
- a change of clothes
- a pair of light shoes for the evening
- a large jumper or fleece jacket
- a small toilet bag with a towel

FIRST-AID KIT

Concerning all our guided stays, the instructor has a first aid kit.

However, it is essential to bring your own first aid kit.

Here is a list of the minimum items to take with you:

- disinfectant
- gauze strips
- plaster
- protective cream for the buttocks
- your personal medicines
- micropur pastilles (water disinfectant)
- a survival blanket

A more complete first-aid kit should be formulated with your doctor.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

4 loops, from and back to your hotel, in the order you want. Possibility to add an extra night to your tour (on request).