

HOLLAND - FROM AMSTERDAM TO IJSSELMEER AND RETURN

8-day / 7-night easy to moderate *STANDARD PLUS* and *PREMIUM* cycling cruises of the *Zuiderzee*



Starting from central Amsterdam this flat cycling itinerary follows the coastline of the former *Zuiderzee* (Southern Sea), once an inlet of the North Sea, now closed off and made into the *IJsselmeer* (IJssel Lake), in one of the great engineering feats of the 20th Century. With its lively villages, harbour towns and traditional sailing boats the IJssel Lake offers a contrast to cosmopolitan Amsterdam. We explore coastal and polder landscapes, cycle along the Kamper Zeedijk dyke, and visit tiny Zwartsluis, the Hanseatic town of Kampen, the beautifully preserved fortified town of Elburg and Spakenburg, a fishing village where some locals, particularly older women, still dress in traditional costume.

STANDARD PLUS

Cost from: \$1470 per person twin share Single cabin supplement from \$405 (limited availability)
Departs: 27th July 2019

PREMIUM

Cost from: \$1540 per person twin share Single cabin supplement from \$405 (limited availability)
Departs: 13th, 20th July 2019

Includes: 7 nights' barge accommodation in small and simple double/twin share bunk bed cabin or split-level bed cabin with private shower/toilet, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and 3-course dinner) from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8, services of an experienced cycling guide, hire of 7-speed bicycle with pannier, bike insurance, route map and tour information (we suggest you bring/buy your own helmet)

Not included in tour: personal expenses, entrance fees, drinks, transfers to/from the barge in Amsterdam (the barge will usually be within walking distance of the main train station)

Bike & Barge cycling cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (easy to moderate cycling with river, canal or island cruising). They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

Cycling cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for first timers or groups. Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (or you can bring your own if you prefer) with opportunities for guided cycling along a variety of waterway routes – mostly along flat, sealed pathways. Occasionally the route may break away into hillier country to visit areas of interest, to sample local wine, beer or cheese, or stop for coffee.

This is your chance to explore beautiful countryside and historic towns and villages, sampling beers and local produce in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English but passengers mostly include a mix of different nationalities including English or German-speaking, with French, Italian or Dutch as the other main languages – adding to the cultural enjoyment of bike and barge cruising.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: The cycling itinerary is set by the captain and cycle guide based on local conditions

Day 1: Arrive Amsterdam

cycling @ 15km

Plan to arrive at the barge in the afternoon in central Amsterdam. After a welcome aboard we cruise through the locks to IJssel Lake. The cruise to Hoorn takes around four hours. In the evening there is time to test our bikes in and around the town of Hoorn before dinner.

Day 2: Hoorn – Lemmer

cycling @ 30km

We cycle through the Noordholland landscape to villages with names like Nibbixwoud and Hoogkarspel. In Enkhuizen we rejoin the boat and sail across the IJssel Lake to Lemmer in the province of Friesland. In the evening there may be the opportunity to join a guided walk through the town.

Day 3: Lemmer – Blokzijl/Vollenhove

cycling @ 35km

The province of Friesland is well known for its numerous lakes and waterways. Our route passes many canals and the 'Tjeukemeer' lake enroute to the tiny village of Ossenzijl, on the edge of the Weerribben National Park. We then follow the Kalenberger Canal to Blokzijl/Vollenhove.

Day 4: Blokzijl/Vollenhove

cycling @ 40km

The barge stays in Blokzijl / Vollenhove and we have planned a circular ride via Steenwijk to Giethoorn, one of the many cities nicknamed 'the Venice of the North'. Here you can rent a 'punter', a local boat to explore the town. Leaving Giethoorn, we pass Lake Beulaker Wijde and Dwarsgracht before returning to Blokzijl / Vollenhove.

Day 5: Blokzijl/Vollenhove – Kampen

cycling @ 40km

We pass the Belter Wijde and Schutsloter Wijde lakes on our way to Zwartsluis. We reach Genemuiden by ferry and cycle along Kamper Zeedijk, an old dike, to the Hanseatic town of Kampen on the River IJssel.

Day 6: Kampen – Harderwijk

cycling @ 55km

After breakfast we visit the fortified town of Elburg and cycle to Nunspeet and the moorlands of Elspeet and the forests surrounding the 'Huis te Leuvenum' estate. Our destination is Harderwijk, a small fishing port.

Day 7: Harderwijk – Amsterdam

cycling @ 60km

We cruise to Spakenburg, a former fishing village where traditional clothing is still worn by many locals. We pass Blaricum, where many Dutch celebrities live, and cross the wood and moorlands of the Tafelberg. After a visit to the 14th Century fortified village of Naarden-Vesting we cruise back to central Amsterdam. In the evening join the guide for a city walk or independently explore the canals by water taxi or cruise boat.

Day 8: Depart from Amsterdam

Tour ends after breakfast.

Other Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cycling cruises from **Outdoor Travel** are available in France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Romania, Croatia, Greece and Turkey and also in Vietnam. Inn-to-inn cycling tours are also available in most destinations. River and canal cruises are available throughout Europe.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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