

## GERMANY & HOLLAND – COLOGNE (KÖLN) TO AMSTERDAM or return 8-days / 7-nights **PREMIUM PLUS** cycling cruise along the River Rhine



Be surprised by the diverse river scenery as you travel along the rivers Rhine and IJssel in Germany and the Netherlands. This is a journey with many cultural highlights, art treasures, and regional culinary specialities. It follows the Rhine valley downstream to learn about the history of the river, its industry and agricultural heritage. We cycle through the National Park de Hoge Veluwe with its natural beauty and wildlife, to the Kröller-Möller art museum and sculpture garden. We cycle along the winding river Vecht lined with impressive mansions, across the flat farmland of Holland, with its famous windmills and visit a traditional Dutch cheese farm.

Bike & Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), allowing 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. Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (you can bring your own if you prefer). A limited number of pedal-assist E-bikes are available on request for a surcharge.

Aboard these well-equipped barges the crew are known for their hospitality and excellent meals. They pay keen attention to their guests' needs and make everyone feel that this is your home away from home. Comfortable cabins are simply furnished with lower beds and a small ensuite toilet / shower.

**Cost from:** \$2235 per person, twin share                      Single cabin supplement from \$225

**Departs:** Cologne to Amsterdam: 1<sup>st</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019  
Amsterdam to Cologne: 25<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019

**Includes:** 7 nights in twin-share cabin with a shower/toilet, bed linen, towels, buffet breakfasts, picnic lunches on cycling days, dinners each night, multi-geared hybrid bike hire (including helmet, pannier, lock and repair kit), ferry tickets en route, route information and experienced English speaking tour guide.

**Not included:** Transfers to/from the boat, drinks, items of a personal nature, travel insurance, tour guide or crew gratuities, entrance fees, guided excursions.



**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

**Suggested itinerary:** *subject to change based on nautical or other operational reasons at the captain's discretion – cycling distances are approximate. Itinerary operates in reverse on selected dates:*

### **Day 1: Arrive Cologne (Köln)**

Plan to join the barge in the afternoon, stow your luggage in your cabin and enjoy a coffee or tea and get to know the guide, skipper and crew and of course your fellow passengers. Then there is free time to explore the city. Cologne is the oldest of the bigger German cities, founded by the Romans in 50AD as a gift from the Roman empress Agrippa. The city's iconic landmarks are the Cathedral and the railway bridge over the Rhine. Construction of the cathedral began in 1248 and was completed in 1880. The city hall, dating from 1330, is beautifully restored and well worth a visit.

### **Day 2: Cologne - Düsseldorf**

**cycling @ 30km**

Cycling towards Düsseldorf, our route follows the Rhine, allowing for an arrival in the afternoon. Düsseldorf is a diverse international city. There is time to visit the Altstadt, where you can try the famous local dark beer, Altbier.

### **Day 3: Düsseldorf - Ruhrort**

**cycling @ 42km**

We depart Düsseldorf towards Krefeld. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Krefeld was an important centre for the textile industry. Velvet, silk and brocade were sold to emperors and kings from all over the world. There is still the statue of a silk weaver in the town celebrating this history. The weavers worked in small workhouses, some of which still remain in Krefeld. Leaving Krefeld we reach the important industrial area known as the Ruhr.

### **Day 4: Ruhrort - Rees**

**cycling @ 50km**

We cycle through the Ruhr area where Germany's (and probably Europe's) largest industries are based, a vast landscape of steel plants, textile factories and chemical industrial plants. Cities like Essen, Duisburg, Oberhausen and Dortmund are linked through a maze of highways, railways and waterways. This industrial heartland was occupied in 1923 by Belgium and French troops in an attempt to force Prussia to make WW1 reparation payments, and was a major target of Allied bombing in 1944-45. A fascinating area for cycling, the German government has put a lot of effort into re-developing the area after many of the factories were closed.

In the afternoon we visit the enormous landscape park of Duisburg-Nord, where we see huge former industrial plants and learn more of the regions history. It may not be always scenic, but it is an impressive landscape and one not to be missed when exploring the Rhine region.

### **Day 5: Rees - Arnhem**

**cycling @ 40km**

We sail to Emmerich with its lovely boulevard along the Rhine, then cycle to Tolkamer, where the Dutch imposed tolls on incoming ships. We pass the border at Lobith, a village every schoolchild in Holland knows, and we take the right bank of the Rhine to Doornenburg, with a wonderfully maintained medieval stronghold, a 'fairy tale' castle often used as a setting for movies and television shows. We end the day in Arnhem, site of a famous World War II battle.

### **Day 6: Arnhem - Wijk bij Duurstede**

**cycling @ 50km**

We cycle first through National-Park de Hoge Veluwe with its abundant scenic beauty. We have an opportunity to visit the Kröller-Möller museum right in the middle of the park. Later we pedal through picturesque countryside alongside the river Nederrijn. At Wageningen we board the barge and sail to today's destination: Wijk bij Duurstede, an old settlement on the river Lek.

### **Day 7: Wijk bij Duurstede - Amsterdam**

**cycling @ 40km**

Over breakfast we sail to Breukelen then cycle to Amsterdam along the meandering river Vecht and the beautiful river Amstel. On the way we pass by well-kept 18<sup>th</sup> Century country houses and mansions in splendid garden settings, and we have a chance to visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional methods. After dinner there is an optional cruise through the canals of Amsterdam.

### **Day 8: Departure day**

Tour ends in Amsterdam after breakfast.

**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Barge cycling cruises on the canals and rivers of France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Romania or Hungary. Bike & Boat holidays are available in Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and in Vietnam. We also offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours or walking holidays in Europe, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, South Africa and in China, Japan or Vietnam. Self-skipped boat hire (with bikes) and luxury all-inclusive hotel barge cruises are available in the UK and Europe.

### **Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

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