

## THE NETHERLANDS – HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTHERN HOLLAND

8-day / 7-night Easy **PREMIUM PLUS** cycling cruise - Green Heart of Holland, **GUIDED** or **SELF-GUIDED**



A flat cycling cruise of Southern Holland with many of the icons of the Netherlands, including the windmills at **Kinderdijk** and **Zaanse Schans**, a museum celebrating life in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, flat green polder landscapes, and fascinating towns and cities. We visit the historical cities of **Haarlem** and **Utrecht**, **Delft** with its famous blue pottery, the 'cheese town' of **Gouda**, Holland's largest seaport **Rotterdam** and of course cosmopolitan **Amsterdam**. The relaxed pace allows for plenty of free time at each day's destination. This cruise, with easy cycling over flat countryside, is ideal for those considering a cycling holiday for the first time.

Bike & Barge cruises combine cycling and river or canal cruising, allowing partners of different abilities to holiday together (non-cyclists are welcome too). Unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained multi-gear bikes and e-bikes are available.

Aboard this well-equipped boat the crew have a reputation for hospitality and excellent meals (daily breakfast and three-course dinner are onboard, lunch is a picnic taken from the breakfast buffet). This larger and more spacious boat gives space to relax with comfortable, well-furnished cabins with twin beds and ensuite bathroom.

**Departs:** **SELF-GUIDED:** Weekly on **Saturdays** from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020  
**GUIDED:** On 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**SELF-GUIDED cost from:** **\$1315** per person twin-share – twin share, lower deck  
**\$1930** per person twin-share – twin share, upper deck suite  
Mid/High season supplements from \$175 - \$580 per person - April to September

**GUIDED cost supplement:** add **\$275** per person

**Supplements:** Single cabin supplement **\$770**  
Superior Twin Cabin supplement from **\$175** per person  
Upper Deck Superior Twin Cabin supplement from **\$265** per person  
Upper Deck Suite supplement from **\$615** per person (availability strictly limited)

**Includes:** 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabin (lower beds) with a shower/toilet; 7 buffet breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches, 7 dinners; welcome drink; coffee and tea before 4pm; daily cabin cleaning; hire of multi-gear hybrid bike with pannier; route information (one set per cabin).

On the **SELF-GUIDED** tour there is an onboard tour leader who will brief you on the route each night. The **GUIDED** tour includes the services of an experienced English-speaking tour guide leading the cycling group.

**Not included:** Transfers to/from the boat, drinks, personal expenses, bike or travel insurance, gratuities, entrance fees and excursions, ferry fares. Helmets are not included but can be reserved in advance at a cost of @ \$20 per person.

**E-Bikes are available:** A limited number of E-Bikes are available for hire at an additional cost – ask for details.

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



**Suggested itinerary:** routes, distances & mooring points may vary at the discretion of the captain / tour guide.

#### **Day 1: Amsterdam**

Board the barge in central Amsterdam by 2.00pm, stow your luggage in your cabin and enjoy a welcome drink while you get to know the cycling guide, skipper and crew and your fellow passengers. After dinner, the cycle guide and crew will brief you on the week ahead.

#### **Day 2: Amsterdam – Breukelen – Utrecht – Rotterdam** **cycling @ 25km or 40km**

We cruise over breakfast to Breukelen (after which Brooklyn, New York is named) to start cycling. We ride along the River Vecht, past beautiful mansions, small castles, parks and gardens. We follow the Vecht into Utrecht with time to explore the historical city centre, including the Dom Cathedral, shops and cafés. After lunch we cruise to Rotterdam, a busy city with many architectural highlights and interesting museums. As The Netherlands' second-largest it is perhaps the most contemporary, nicknamed Manhattan-on-the-Maas it has many modern towers..

#### **Day 3: Rotterdam – Schiedam – Delft – Rotterdam** **cycling @ 28km or 50km**

We cycle to Schiedam (the gin capital of the Netherlands) to the beautiful town of Delft. The painter Vermeer made the town famous, and it is known as the burial place of William of Orange. Delft is famous for its 'Delft blue' pottery and a visit to a pottery factory is a highlight. We return to Rotterdam for a short city walk in the evening.

#### **Day 4: Rotterdam – Alblasserdam – Kinderdijk – Schoonhoven** **cycling @ 30km or 58km**

We can either cycle out of Rotterdam or take the 'waterbus' to Alblasserdam. A short ride brings us to Kinderdijk with its World Heritage listed windmills, built around 1750 to assist with flood mitigation and now largely decorative, still an iconic and spectacular sight. Here we have a choice; a shorter route through the Alblasserwaard, a wide landscape of water and pastures; or a longer route to the Gouda with its cheese market and 'stroopwafels' (treacle waffles). Gouda has a picturesque town hall, town square, Weighhouse and St. Janskerk with its stained-glass windows. Both routes end in Schoonhoven where we can visit to a silversmith.

#### **Day 5: Schoonhoven – Oudewater – Utrecht – Haarlem** **cycling @ 45km**

We leave Schoonhoven, cycling through the *Green Heart of Holland*, a peaceful rural area of marshland, pastures, quiet country lanes, small villages, and canals. Near Oudewater we can visit a traditional cheese farm and the Witches Weigh-house, where those accused of witchcraft during the witch hunts of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century were tried. We cycle onwards to Utrecht where, time permitting, we can visit one of the pubs on the Oudegracht canal. We sail from Utrecht to our overnight mooring point in Haarlem.

#### **Day 6: Circular route from Haarlem, sail to Zaandam** **cycling @ 40km or 50km**

A choice of routes today: the longer tour takes us to Haarlem through the sand dunes of the North Sea coastline and the seaside towns of Bloemendaal and Zandvoort. Haarlem has many interesting 17<sup>th</sup> Century buildings, the Grote Markt with many outdoor cafés, and the oldest museum of the Netherlands (containing drawings by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael and many others). The longer cycling tour leads to the largest steam engine of the world, the Cruquius pumping station and back to Haarlem. During dinner we cruise to Zaandam.

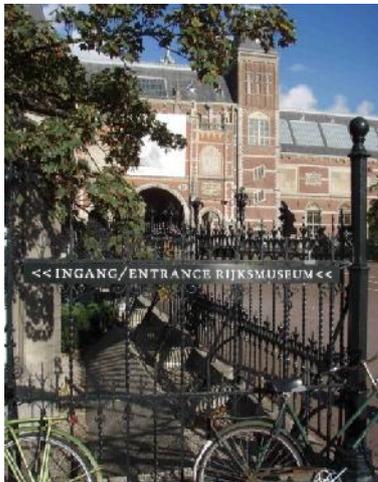
## Day 7: Zaandam – Amsterdam

cycling @ 30km or 45km

Our final day of cycling takes us to the museum at Zaanse Schans and through Twiske with its many cycle paths to Amsterdam. We arrive in the afternoon with free time before our farewell dinner onboard the barge. There is free time to explore the many attractions of the city after dinner.

## Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends in Amsterdam after breakfast.



**Outdoor Travel** offer **Bike & Barge** cycling cruises along the rivers and canals of Europe in France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Romania or Hungary. **Bike & Boat** holidays are available in Italy, Austria, Germany, Hungary & Slovakia (along the River Danube), in Croatia, Greece, Turkey and Vietnam.

Cycling holiday specialists Outdoor Travel offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours in most destinations throughout Europe, New Zealand, the USA or Canada, Vietnam & Australia. We offer walking holidays or river and canal hotel barge cruises in many areas of Europe and self-skippered narrowboat hire in the UK.

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

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