

Cycling Safaris

Amsterdam Super Tulip Tour 2017 Guided Tour Guide cycling with group | 270km | 7 nights / 8 days



Between April and mid-May we offer special tulip tours. The program of this Super Tulip Tour is totally dedicated to this beautiful flower. You will cycle through hectares of spring flowers and tulips, learn all about growing tulips in a tulip park and of course you visit the “Keukenhof”.

The tulip originated in Turkey. The tulip bulb reached The Netherlands at the end of the 16th century. The plant became very popular (the “Tulip Mania”): In 1634 there was one single bulb that was so expensive; a whole canal side house in Amsterdam did cost the equivalent. Of course you also will visit the world-famous, 32-hectares’ park The Keukenhof, where you can admire the wonderfully colorful fields with flowering bulbs in peace and quiet. On Tuesday early you pay a visit to the impressive flower auction at Aalsmeer. Aalsmeer controls a market share of 44% for the turnover of bulbs and tulip flowers. At midday you will cycle from Amsterdam to the Zaanse Schans. The Zaanse Schans is a unique hamlet where people live and work, with original houses and windmills from the river Zaan area (17th century).

Around Alkmaar you will find the most beautiful dunes in the country. From Alkmaar to Purmerend the route leads you through the 17th century polders. When time permits you will visit a water mill. The last part of the week the green “Waterland” surrounds you, while you’re cycling through the Beemster Polder, dating from the early 17th century.

Highlights:

- ▶ Cycling through the tulip fields
- ▶ Tulip garden & Keukenhof
- ▶ Flower auction at Aalsmeer
- ▶ Beemster Polder



The route from day to day

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|--------------|---|
| 1. Saturday | Amsterdam, embarkation at 2.00 pm near Central Station.
Sailing to Spaarndam and cycling to Haarlem, 15 km |
| 2. Sunday | Haarlem – Keukenhof – Leiden, 40 km |
| 3. Monday | Leiden – Kudelstaart, 45 km |
| 4. Tuesday | Visit to flower auction. Sailing to Amsterdam – cycling to Zaanse Schans Wormerveer, 45 km |
| 5. Wednesday | Wormerveer – Alkmaar, 45 km |
| 6. Thursday | Alkmaar – Purmerend, 45 km |
| 7. Friday | Purmerend – Amsterdam, 20-30 km |
| 8. Saturday | Amsterdam, debarkation before 10.00 am near Central Station |

All distances are approximate. The above planned itinerary is subject to change due to changing wind and weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances having to do with mooring requirements, etc.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday **Arrival Amsterdam, boarding at 2.00 pm, sailing to Haarlem**

It's very important you are on time for 2pm. The barge can't wait due to the opening hours of the bridges and/or locks. The first part of the tour you will sail to Spaarndam – known as the village of Hansje Brinker – and from here we make an easy ride into the beautiful city of Haarlem.

Day 2: Sunday **Haarlem – Keukenhof – Leiden 40 km**

Today's trip leads you through the oldest tulip fields of Holland, including a visit of the Keukenhof gardens. This is the most beautiful bulb park in the world. Keukenhof is the place where the spring breaks. An overwhelming blaze of colours; seven million flowering tulips in a magnificent 80-acres' background of traditional and modern gardening architecture. You also can admire the various hyacinths, narcisses and many other colourful flowers.

For more information about the Keukenhof you can check the following website: www.keukenhof.nl.

You spend the night in Leiden, which boasts 14 museums.

Day 3: Monday **Leiden – Kudelstaart 45 km**

Today you bike from Leiden to Kudelstaart: a small town bordered by the Westeinderplassen. You will go right through the green heart of Holland, an area with small cycle paths, lakes, small rivers and cows.

Day 4: Tuesday **Flower auction, Sail to Amsterdam – cycling to Zaanse Schans – Wormerveer 45km**

In the early morning you can visit the auction in Aalsmeer. Every day „Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer sets the world price for flowers and plants. This happens by bringing supply and demand together by means of the auction clock - a fascinating process during which large and small batches of flowers are sold within fractions of seconds. As a visitor to Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer, you will walk over a specially designed gallery. Enjoy the gorgeous flowers; experience the hustle and bustle of auction. The flowers and plants that are sold at the auctions are exported all over the world, a wonder of logistics. Afterwards you will have breakfast while sailing in the direction of Amsterdam. From the lock at the Nieuwe Meer you can cycle along the borders of the river Amstel into the city and after the ferry into the green again to the Zaanse Schans, a unique hamlet where people live and work, with original houses and windmills from the river Zaan area. The hamlet is dominated by operating windmills, the oldest built in 1673, for grinding mustard, spices, paint and oil and for sawing wood into planks. As you walk through the village you will see a clock museum, an old-fashioned grocery store, a house with period furniture, a clog maker and a cheese farm. Afterwards to Wormerveer.

Day 5: Wednesday **Wormerveer – Alkmaar** **45 km**

From Wormerveer you will cycle to and through the most beautiful dunes of the Netherlands and if weather permits, you may like to swim in the North Sea during your lunch break at the beach. Today's overnight stay is in cheese town Alkmaar. An historic lively city with many small and bigger shops. A little less than 400 heritage sites, canals and harbour dominate the townscape.

Day 6: Thursday **Alkmaar – Purmerend** **45 km**

Today time to cycle into the polder landscape of the Beemster and Purmer, part of a big green polder area. The Beemster Polder, dating from the early 17th century, is an exceptional example of reclaimed land in the Netherlands. It has preserved intact its well-ordered landscape of fields, roads, canals, dykes and settlements, laid out in accordance with classical and Renaissance planning principles. Also time to visit one of the big water mills at the Rijk.

Day 7: Friday **Purmerend –Amsterdam** **20 / 35 km**

Purmerend lies at the edge of an area called ‘Waterland’ where roads and water are nearby on the same level. We visit the nice village of Zunderdorp and Ransdorp. The better cyclists can cycle the long route to Edam and Volendam and if time permits you can cross the lake Gouwee to admire the traditional fisherman's village Marken with its typical wooden houses. In Amsterdam you can look back at cycling seven days in great variation of typical Dutch landscapes, towns and many highlights.

Day 8: Saturday **Amsterdam, end of the tour after breakfast. (10am)**

ACCOMMODATION / BARGES

Comfort de Luxe: The "Sailing Home" started cruising in 2001. This beautiful passenger ship can accommodate 26 overnight passengers. The interior of the salon and bar is decorated in a modern Victorian style and offers a lot of comfort. Wifi on board (free up to 100Mb)

Cabins:

The "Sailing Home" has 13 spacious and comfortable guest cabins for two (lower beds) and each cabin has a private bathroom. All cabins have central heating and air-conditioning.

The "Sailing Home" has two floors. On the top floor you will find the salon, roomy lounge, a cosy bar and a sun deck.

Electricity: 220 V



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Zwaan – Category comfort plus

Hotel boat Zwaan's chef prepares great meals, which are served in the living room or, weather permitting, on the sundeck.

Capacity: 14/18 persons Wifi: on board (only in the Netherlands)

Electricity: 220 V

Cabins: Seven cabins with private hot shower and toilet

2x Family-style room, 2/3 p with double bed + single bed

2x Friends-style room, 2/3 p with 3 single beds (one bunk)

2x Twins-style room, 2 p with two separate beds

1x Lovers Nest, 2 p with double bed



Anna Antal – Category StandardPlus/Comfort

The "Anna Antal" is a former barge which was converted into a luxury motor passenger ship in the winter of 1994-95.



Cabins: The Anna Antal has 9 cabins each with their own shower, washbasin, toilet and central heating. 5 x 2-berth cabins with low beds (Comfort) 4 x 2-berth cabins with bunk beds (StandardPlus).

Saloon: The Anna Antal is pleasant for a day's stay and it has a cosy bar.

Our motorised passenger vessels, about 35 - 45 metres in length, are former river vessels especially converted for this kind of holiday. The barges all comply with the strict safety regulations laid down by the Dutch Shipping Inspection Authorities. On board you find a cosy dining room, a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. All cabins are provided with running water (hot and cold), private shower and toilet, 220 voltage and central heating. There is limited storage

space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.

Do not expect a cruise ship with its passive luxury. The Bike & Barge Holidays are for people who really enjoy the physical activity of cycling and who value sociability more than wholesale luxury.

DATES AND PRICES 2017

Ship Zwaan (Comfort Plus)

April 1, 15, 22, 29, May 6

2-berth cabin: €1125 -

Single use: € 1595 -

Triple cabin: € 1100 -

Ship Sailing Home (Comfort Deluxe)

April 1, 8

2-berth cabin: €1125 -

Single use: € 1595 -

Ship Anna Antal (Standard Plus/Comfort)

April 8, 15, 22, 29

2-berth cabin: € 1025 – Comfort

2 berth cabin €875 - Standard

Single use: €1125 Standard

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- All nights on board (incl bed linen and 2 towels)
- Breakfast & Dinner on board
- Route information / Road book (1 per cabin)
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide
- Bike rental, 24-speed Gazelle Medeo (incl. bags, lock, water bottle)
- Ferry fares on the route

Please note that all charges on the boat must be settled in cash (euro) at the end of the tour.

Reduction children : (if child is travelling together with at least 1 one full-paying person)

0-2: free of charge (plus bike trailer cost)

3-11: - 30% on tour price

Not included/optional extras

- E-bikes are available at a supplement of €65
- Helmets are not included in the price, but are available at time of booking for € 10 (can not be rented on board)
- Bike insurance € 15 per bicycle / €40 per e-bike (can only be ordered at time of booking)
- Entrance fees to museums; approx €15 per tour
- Bike maps (3x): € 20 (to be ordered when booking; can not be rented on board)
- Bike trailer €85/trailer bike €50 / bike seat €15 /child bike: €50

WHAT TO BRING

Specialized cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ legging
- shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing
- gloves (only when you book a tour in April. It can be chilly in the morning that time of year!)
- good shoes
- sunglasses/ cap/ swimming costume
- extra towel
- soap/ insect repellent

BIKES AND CYCLING

On these tours you cycle together as a group with the guide.

After arrival on board you will be allocated a bicycle suitable to your height. This bicycle (a Hybrid bike), is at your disposal during your trip until Friday at 4pm.

There is a good bicycle available for all participants from ages nine and up with 24 gears and handbrakes. All bikes are comfortable lightweight touring bikes.



The bikes are equipped with:

- Pannier bags
- Odometer
- Good lock
- Water bottle
- You will get a repair kit when biking on your own.

Before you make your first tour, the guide will give you instructions about the bike. Can we draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to, or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board (The bike is a **Batabus Galivier** with a value of more than €600). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object. You can insure this bike for a fee of €15.00, at the time of booking, or when you arrive on board on the arrival day (payment in cash required).

Should you use your own bike, please bring a good lock with you!

Holland is a cycling country - 16 million inhabitants all with bikes. The number of cyclists necessitates a cycling infrastructure: cycle paths (20.000 km), cycle routes (long and short distance), cycle bridges, cycle tunnels, cycle ferries and special signposts for cyclists.

E-bike

It is also possible to book an E-bike. Your bike has 24 gears, a detachable lithium-Ion battery, hand brakes, pannier bags, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair kit. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the E-bike has a value of more than € 2000,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object, and don't forget to remove the information panel from your steering wheel. You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 40,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required



Bike Insurance:

Bicycle insurance is available for €15 per bike. The participant is liable for damage or theft as long as the bike is not on board. The bicycle insurance covers the cost of the repair or replacement of bicycle parts in case of an accident. It also protects against theft of the bike while it was locked.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

You are expected on our barge on Saturday at 2pm. You can recognise the barge by the banner with Cycletours written on it. After arrival there's coffee and tea on board. Other drinks are also available on cash payment. If you want you can bring your luggage in advance, from 12 Noon onwards.

**The mooring place of the barge in Amsterdam is Oosterdok
Zip-code 1011 VX (near the Science Center: 'Nemo', Oosterdok 2).**

On foot

At Central Station take exit "centrum", and then turn left, walk straight on 1,2 km/0.75 miles.

Cross the bridge (only for cyclists and pedestrians). It takes about 10 to 15 minutes. Follow the red line on this map.

Train

There is a direct train that leaves 6 times per hour from Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam Central Station. It takes about 16 minutes. The price for a train ticket Schiphol-Amsterdam is € 4,00 per person for a single journey.

Taxi

A taxi from Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to the barge in Amsterdam takes about 30 minutes. It costs about € 50 you can call the following company: Taxi Direct 0031 (0) 20 6333333 www.taxidirect.nl a taxi from the Central Train Station in Amsterdam to the barge takes about 5 minutes: Costs about € 10,-.

Car

If you arrive by car, we recommend you to arrive earlier to unload your luggage. You can find more information about parking possibilities at www.iamsterdam.com



GENERAL INFORMATION

Group

On board you will meet an international party of all age groups, men and women, singles, couples and families together with their children.

Travel Guidance

The crew on board your ship consists of: the skipper and his mate who are responsible for the smooth running of things on board and the cook who is in charge of the catering. A tour leader, who can assist in case of breakdowns, and who can be your guide to point out to you the things of interest along the way, accompanies the participants. He or she is multi-lingual.

Meals

In the morning a substantial cyclist's breakfast is on offer, and the evening meal consists of a dinner with tea and coffee to follow. The midday meal comprises sandwiches/fruit/ snack/drink, which you take with you from the boat after you have prepared this package yourself after breakfast. When you arrive back at the boat after the day's cycling a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit will be waiting for you. The three-course dinner is different every day. There is a first course, main course and dessert (on the Comfort deluxe there is also an extra intermediate course). The meals on board are included in the price, as are coffee and tea. There is a bar on the boat with beer, soft drinks and wine at reasonable prices.

Hotels

If you are booking additional hotel accommodation 3* in Amsterdam and/or Bruges, herewith some suggestions:-

Amsterdam –

Hotel Avenue - www.hotels.nl/amsterdam/avenue/
 Prinsengracht Hotel www.prinsengrachthotel.nl/index.php

Bruges –

Hotel Martins - www.splendia.com/pagehotel.php?hotelid=30399&lang=EN
 Hotel Maraboe - www.maraboe.be/
 Hans Memling Hotel - www.hansmemlinghotel.com/