

Cycling Safaris

Amsterdam Tulip Tour 2023

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”.

On this bike and barge tour we cycle through the green heart of Holland, with its meadows, ditches and farms. The route leads through vast fields of tulips between Leiden and Haarlem, where you can visit the world-famous, 32-hectares flower garden The Keukenhof. Over 7 million bulbs, with a total of 800 varieties of tulips, bloom here, it is a unique, unforgettable experience!

The tulip bulb, originally from Turkey, reached the Netherlands at the end of the 16th century. The flower and bulb were thought to be so special that a lively trade arose quite quickly. In 1634 there was one single bulb that was so expensive, a whole canal house in Amsterdam could be bought with its worth.

Apart from the beautiful flowers we also visit the famous cheese city of Gouda, the 19 windmills of Kinderdijk (World Heritage List), the international port of Rotterdam and the Residence in The Hague.



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday Arrival Amsterdam, boarding from 1pm - 2pm, sailing to Oude Wetering

It's very important you are on time for 2pm the latest. The barge can't wait due to the opening hours of the bridges and/or locks.

You can relax on the barge and during dinner aboard the ship, the program for next day and the route for the week are discussed. After dinner the guide will take you on a short 15km cycle around Oude Wetering to try out the bikes.

Day 2: Sunday Oude Wetering - Gouda 45 km

From Oude Wetering we start our tour through country roads, along river banks and channels through the Green Heart to the city known for its cheese: Gouda. Gouda is not only famous for its cheese, pipes, 'stroopwafels' (treacle-waffle) and pottery, but also for beautiful stained glass windows, a fairy-like town hall and atmospheric canals. It is a beautiful Old Dutch city with a mostly intact city centre. As on most days, after dinner you can take a walk through the city.

Day 3: Monday Gouda to Delft 40 km

From Gouda we cycle past scenic polders via Kinderdijk to Rotterdam. Kinderdijk has the largest group of windmills in the Netherlands and were still actively used until 1950. After visiting the windmills we take a ferry to Rotterdam where we embark and from there our boat takes us to Delft. Delft is famous for its pottery, the 'Delft blue'. You can visit the Prinsenhof Museum which is housed in the former St Agatha's monastery. In 1572 William of Orange chose the convent as one of his residences and it was from here that he led the revolt against the Spanish tyranny of Holland. He was murdered on the steps of the Prinsenhof on July 10, 1584, by Balthazar Gerards, a Spanish sympathiser. Two bullet holes in the wall of the stairs still bear witness to this event.

Day 4: Tuesday Delft - Leiden**36 km**

From Delft we cycle towards The Hague, through the large park of 'het Haagse Bosch' and past the former Royal Palace 'Huis ten Bosch'. The longer route heads along tranquil cycle paths through the dunes to Wassenaarse Slag, where we can see the remains of the Atlantikwall. The route continues through the dunes, to the old fishing village of Katwijk aan Zee where the older inhabitants still speak their own dialect, 'Kattuks'. Following the course of the Oude Rijn (Old Rhine) river we cycle to Leiden which boasts 14 museums, including the Rijksmuseum. The ship is moored near the Zijlpoort, a gate that once formed part of the city walls. The shorter route heads inland after 'Huis den Bosch' and brings us along 'Vlietlanden' a 130 ha big recreational lake to Leiden.

Day 5: Wednesday Visit to Keukenhof Gardens by public transport

Today you visit the Keukenhof gardens, the most beautiful spring park in the world. It is an overwhelming blaze of colours, seven million flowering tulips, in a magnificent 80-acres' of traditional and modern gardening architecture.. In the Keukenhof various gardens and gardening styles can be found: the English Landscape Garden, the Historical Garden, the Natural Garden, the Japanese Natural Garden, the Formal Garden and three special colours gardens. Spread throughout the entire park there are approximately eighty sculptures from well-known Dutch artists as well as also several other art objects, such as the collection 'Surprising Tulips'

Day 6: Thursday Leiden - Harlem**40 km**

From Leiden we cycle through wonderful flower beds towards Haarlem. From March to May the bulb fields are blooming, starting with daffodils and followed by hyacinths, tulips and lilies. Once in the city of Haarlem we take a short tour through the city to see some typical 'hofjes' (almshouses), old houses around a central courtyard, now usually housing elderly people.. Haarlem, which rendered its name to Harlem, New York, is a lively city with good shopping possibilities. The barge is berthed in the city centre, with a view of St Bavo's Church and with easy access to the Grote Markt with its many outdoor cafés.

Day 7: Friday Harlem -Amsterdam**40 km**

From Haarlem we sail to the nearby village of Spaarndam, whose name comes from the dam built in the Spaarne River to limit the danger of flooding from the sea. The statue of Hansje Brinker on the IJdijk is here. Hansje is a character from an American novel, who was said to have saved the country from flooding by putting his finger in the dike. The Buitenhuis ferry takes us across the North Sea Canal and from there we cycle to the Zaanse Schans. The Zaanse Schans, with its traditional weatherboard houses, warehouses and windmills may give you the feeling of stepping back into the 17th or 18th century. Yet this is no open air museum, but a lively neighborhood where people live and work. Among other things a cheese farm, a clog maker and an old bakery can be visited here. The tour finishes back in Amsterdam

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

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.

DATES & PRICES 2023

Barge	Dates	Standard Season per person	High Season pps	Single Rate
Sailing Home	April 1, 8, 15 April 22, 29 May 6	€1410 (twin cabin)	€1545 (twin cabin)	€2030 std season €2215 high season
Wending	April 8, 15 May 6	€1250 (twin cabin) €1155 (triple cabin)	€1365 (twin cabin) €1265 (triple cabin)	€1470 std season €1600 high season
Liza Marleen	April 8, 15 April 22, 29 May 6	€1350 (twin cabin) €1590 (superior twin) €1240 (superior triple)	€1475 (twin cabin) €1725 (superior twin) €1355 (superior triple)	€1930 std season €2125 high season

Reduction for Children: (if child is travelling with at least 1 full paying adult)

0 – 2 years : free of charge

3 – 11 years : 30 % discount

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights on board (incl. bed linen and 2 towels)
- Route information/road book (1 set per cabin)
- Breakfast & Dinner on board
- Picnic Lunch packages when on the road
- Entrance fee Keukenhof and return ticket public transport
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide who cycles with the group
- Minimum of 3 city walks with tour guide
- Free WiFi (limited availability in lounge and on deck)
- GPS tracks (on request)

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

Not included/optional extras

Note that for 2023 bike hire is separated out / not included in the tour price

€100.00	21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag
€195.00	Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag
€60.00	Childrens bike; suitable for approx 9 years and older
€55.00	Trailer bike ; suitable for children from approx 4 – 9 years (max weight 35kg)
€15.00	Bike seat; suitable for children from approx 11 months to 5 years (max weight 25 kg)
€200.00	Bike Trailer: suitable for babies who cannot sit by themselves – car / baby seat not incl

- Bike insurance €30 per bicycle / €40 per electric-bike (can only be ordered at time of booking)
- Entrance fees to museums; approx €25 per tour
- Gluten free or Vegan meals : €50 supplement, needs to be booked in advance. (When ordered upon arrival the additional charge is €100.)

ACCOMMODATION / BARGES

Our motorised passenger vessels are about 35 - 45 metres in length and 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 which you can slide 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.

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)

The "Sailing Home" has capacity for 26 pax in 13 spacious and comfortable guest cabins for two (lower beds), twin beds which can be placed together, and each cabin has a private bathroom. All cabins have central heating and air-conditioning. Windows can open.

The "Sailing Home" has two floors. On the top floor you will find the salon, a roomy lounge, a cosy bar and a sun deck. Electricity: 220 V, Wi-Fi on board



Wending - Category comfort

The "Wending" is a former freight barge that started a new life in the early nineties as a luxury passenger motor barge. Since then the "Wending" is a familiar fixture on several routes in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Capacity: max. 28 people/ On the Bike & Barge tours: max. 25 people

Cabins: The "Wending" has 8 double and 2 triple cabins. The beds in the cabins are side by side. In the triple cabin one bed is placed over the other two.

All cabins with private bathroom and central heating.

Day Stay: The "Wending" has a roomy and cosy salon, equipped with a complete music installation and TV. After a strenuous bike ride it is a great place to relax.

Electricity: 220 V



Category Comfort Plus: The “Liza Marleen” is a luxury motor passenger barge, built in 1997-98 on the completely dismantled shell of a seafaring freight logger. Cabins were fully renovated for the 2016 season. The “Liza Marleen” has 8 double cabins and 2 triple cabins (Capacity: max 22 people) All cabins come with a private bathroom and central heating. The triple cabins have one double bed on top and one single bed underneath. The double cabins have two separate beds on top of each other.

The “Liza Marleen” has a beautiful, spacious and tastefully decorated salon and plenty of room on deck. The dayroom has audio-equipment and TV. Electricity: 220 V, Air conditioning, Windows cannot open, Wifi on board



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

Bike Insurance:

Bicycle insurance is available for €30 per touring bike and €40 for an e-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.

If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required

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

Hybrid bikes are an additional €100

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. here 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, Helmet, 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!

E - bikes are an additional €195

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.



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 Centre: '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/