

Cycling Safaris

Amsterdam Super Tulip Tour 2024

Guide cycling with group | 270km | 7 nights / 8 days

New: Thursday arrival day



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, costing the equivalent of a whole canal side house in Amsterdam. Of course you also will visit the world-famous, 32-hectares’ park “The Keukenhof”, an expanse of wonderfully colorful fields with flowering bulbs. On Tuesday we can pay an early morning 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 we cycle from Amsterdam to the Zaanse Schans, a unique hamlet where people live and work, with original houses and windmills from the river Zaan area (17th century).

Around Alkmaar are 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 us, 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



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday **Arrival Amsterdam, Embarkation is between 12.30pm - 1.30pm, sailing to Spaarndam and cycling to Haarlem, 15 km**

The barge is moored at the Oosterdok in central Amsterdam, near the train station. After arrival on board, you can settle in and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

You will first cruise through Amsterdam and over the North Sea Canal before reaching the village of Spaarndam. From here we make an easy ride into the beautiful city of Haarlem and you will see the first of many windmills. During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next days are discussed. As on most evenings, the tour guide will take you on a walk around the city after dinner.

Day 2: Friday **Haarlem - Keukenhof - Leiden** **40 km**

Today's trip brings us through the oldest tulip fields of Holland, including a visit of the Keukenhof gardens. Arguably the most beautiful bulb park in the world, a place where the spring breaks. It is an overwhelming blaze of colour; seven million flowering tulips in a magnificent 80-acres' of traditional and modern gardening architecture. 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: Saturday **Leiden - Kudelstaart** **45 km**

Today we cycle from Leiden to Kudelstaart: a small town bordered by the Westeinderplassen. Our route takes us through the green heart of quintessential Holland, an area with small cycle paths, lakes, small rivers and cows.

Day 4: Sunday Flower auction, Sail to Amsterdam - cycling to Zaanse Schans - Wormerveer 45 km

In the early morning we can visit the flower auction in Aalsmeer. Every day Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer sets the world price for flowers and plants by means of the auction clock - a fascinating process during which large and small batches of flowers are sold within fractions of seconds. As visitors to Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer, we can walk over a specially designed gallery among the gorgeous flowers and 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.

After we have breakfast while sailing in the direction of Amsterdam. From the lock at the Nieuwe Meer we cycle along the borders of the river Amstel into the city. We take a 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. The village includes a clock museum, an old-fashioned grocery store, a house with period furniture, a clog maker and a cheese farm. Afterwards we head to Wormerveer.

Day 5: Monday Wormerveer - Alkmaar 45 km

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

Day 6: Tuesday Alkmaar - Purmerend 35 km

We 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. We also are able to visit one of the big water mills at the Rijk.

Day 7: Wednesday Purmerend - Amsterdam 20 or 35 km

Purmerend lies at the edge of an area called 'Waterland' where roads and water are almost on the same level. We visit the lovely villages of Zunderdorp and Ransdorp. You have the option to cycle the long route to Edam and Volendam and if time permits you can cross the lake Gouwee to see the traditional fisherman's village Marken with its typical wooden houses.

The tour finishes back in Amsterdam

Day 8: Thursday Amsterdam, end of the tour after breakfast before 10am 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.

DATES & PRICES 2024

Barge	Dates	Standard Season pps	High Season pps
Zwaan	April 4 April 11 May 2	€1680 (twin cabin) €1900 (luxury cabin) €1440 (smaller cabin) €2170 (single front cabin)	Same price for both seasons
Barge Clair de Lune	April 4 April 11 April 18 April 25	€1410 (double cabin) €1410 (cabin with split-level beds) €1480 (single cabin)	€1545 (double cabin) €1545 (cabin with split-level beds) €1670 (single cabin)

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 Wi-Fi (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.

Please note the following:

- Prices are based on current fuel price and may change if fuel prices increase more than 5%
- We do not allow private ebikes on board (due to safety regulations)

Not included/optional extras

Bike hire is separated out / not included in the tour price

€115 21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag, bike insurance incl.

€225 Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag, bike insurance incl.

Available Childrens bike; suitable for approx 9 years and older

- Entrance fees to museums; approx €25 per tour
- Gluten free or Vegan meals : €75 supplement. Needs to be ordered at time of booking. When ordered upon arrival the additional charge is €100 per week.

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.

Zwaan - Category comfort

Zwaan is known for the high quality of the meals and the friendly atmosphere on board. The crew consists of the captain, chef and hostess for 14 guests. Weather permitting dinners can be served on the sundeck.

Since 2019 the Zwaan is equipped with air-conditioning in all cabins with limited WiFi on board

Capacity: Seven cabins with private hot shower and toilet



Clair de Lune

The Clair de Lune was originally built in 1936 as a freight ship in Belgium. From 2020 the Clair de Lune sails exclusively for Cycletours in mainly France.

The Clair de Lune sails exclusively for Cycletours Holidays. In 1982 the barge was built into a passenger ship, first named 'Steile Bank' and 'Summerjazz'. Since May 2014 we named the ship 'Clair de Lune'. Aboard there is a big and cozy salon with big windows for a perfect view. The barge is 34.15 meters long and 5.05 meters wide, which makes it possible to boat in France with its narrow locks.

Cabin Plan

3 double cabins (with double bed)

5 split level beds cabins (L-shape)

1 single cabin

All cabins are provided with:

air-conditioning, private shower/toilet, sink (in cabin), central heating, 220 voltage, windows/ portholes that open.

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



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.

Bikes are available to rent on the tour:

€115	Hybrid Bike rental includes helmet, pannier bags, lock, water bottle
€225	E-Bike rental includes helmet, pannier bags, lock, water bottle
Available	Childs bike for children 9 years or older

Hybrid bikes

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, 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.

E- bikes

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.



Bike Insurance:

Bicycle insurance is included in the bike rental.

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

Embarkation is between 12.30pm – 1.30pm. 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.

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/