

Cycling Safaris

Amsterdam Tulip Tour 2026

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

Thursday arrival day



Between April and mid-May we offer special tulip tours, centered on the Tulip theme and you visit of course 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: Thursday **Arrival Amsterdam, embarkation between 12.30pm - 1.30pm** **sailing to Oude Wetering, cycling around Oude Wetering, 10 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. It is also a good moment to become acinted with the tour leader, skipper and crew and of course your fellow passengers.

You will first cruise through Amsterdam before reaching the wetlands south of the city and the mooring place of today, the village of Oude Wetering.

During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next day and the global planning of the week are discussed. After dinner the tour leader will escort you on the first kilometers on your bike during a short ride around the village.

Day 2: Friday **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: Saturday **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: Sunday Delft - Leiden

36 km / 48 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: Monday Leiden - 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: Tuesday 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: Wednesday 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 Buitenhuisen 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: Thursday Amsterdam, end of the tour after breakfast. (Disembarkation 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 2026

Barge	Dates	Standard Season per person
Anna Antal	April 9	€1835 (twin cabin)
	April 16	€1560 (bunk bed cabin)
	April 30	€2305 (single use bunk bed cabin)
Sailing Home	April 23	€2105 (twin cabin)
	April 30	€3130 (single use cabin)
Anna Van Aemstel	April 2	€2020(twin cabin)
	April 9	€1845 (triple cabin)
	April 16	€2990 (single use 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, towels & soap)
- Breakfast & Dinner on board
- Coffee and tea on board
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Entrance fee Keukenhof and return ticket public transport
- Tour guide who cycles with the group
- Minimum of 3 city walks with tour guide
- Route information/road book (1 set per cabin)
- Free WiFi (limited availability in lounge and on deck)
- Ferry fares on the route
- Travel documents and cycling app incl. GPS tracks

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

Not included/optional extras

Bike Hire:

€140	21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag
€255	Electric - bike, 8 speed, with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag
Available	Childrens bike; suitable for approx 9 years and older

- Entrance fees to museums; approx €25 per tour
- Gluten free or Vegan meals : €105 supplement, needs to be booked in advance.
(When ordered upon arrival the additional charge is €150.

Prices are based on current fuel prices and may be subject to change if fuel prices increase by more than 5%. We do not allow private bikes onboard (due to safety regulations)

BIKES AND CYCLING

Hybrid bikes



Touring bike with 24 speeds and handbrakes. Men's and women's models available. Brand Oxford.

Accessories: bike helmet, pannier bag, a good lock and a water bottle.

Step-through frame: for passengers from 4'11 to 5'10" / 150cm - 178cm

Men's frame: for passengers from 4'11 to 6'8" / 150cm - 203cm

E- bikes



E-bike with integrated battery; 8 speeds. Brand Freebike.

Accessories: bike helmet, pannier bag, a good lock and a water bottle.

We advise only to rent an electric bicycle if you are used to cycle and only need electric support because of, for example, lesser condition. It is a heavy bicycle to handle (25 kg).

For passengers from 5'1 to 6'3" / 155cm - 190cm

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.

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.

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)

Electricity: 220 V, Wifi on board, Windows can open

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



Sailing Home

The barge "Sailing Home" started cruising in 2001. Built by Cycletours for Bike & Barge Tours in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

The Sailing Home sails exclusively for Cycletours Holidays. This beautiful passenger ship can accommodate 26 overnight passengers/70 day passengers. The interior of the salon and bar is decorated in a modern Victorian style and offers a lot of comfort (airconditioned). 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. The four-man crew consists of the skipper, sailor, cook and hostess. There is limited WiFi on board. On board of the Sailing Home all cabins are twin cabins. Cabins for single use are limited available.

Cabin plan

13 spacious twin cabins (beds can be placed together)

All cabins are provided with: air conditioning, private bathroom, wardrobe/closet, safe, hair dryer, mini toiletries (soap, shampoo, shower gel), central heating, 220 voltage (European Power sockets), a porthole or window (cannot be opened).

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



Anna Van Aemstel

The “Anna van Aemstel” (former Wending) is a former freight barge that started a new life in the early nineties as a luxury passenger motor barge. Since then it’s a familiar sight on several routes in the Netherlands and Belgium.

The Anna van Aemstel sails exclusively for Cycletours Holidays. It has a roomy and cosy saloon (airconditioned). After the bike ride the saloon is a great place to relax. An extensive range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks is available for the "après de velo". Outside there is a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. The crew consists of a skipper, a cook and a sailor/hostess. There is limited WiFi on board.

The Anna van Aemstel was renovated in the winter of 2024/2025 and the salon, kitchen and cabins got a complete make-over. The barge is looking fresh and updated and the cabins are air-conditioned.

Cabin plan

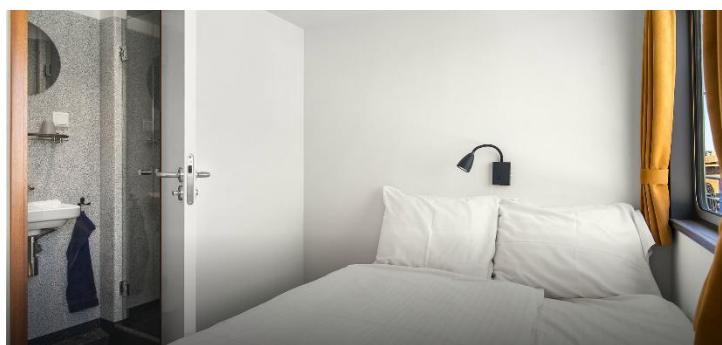
- 13 Twin cabins, beds can be placed together

All cabins are provided with:

- air conditioning
- private bathroom,
- central heating,
- 220 voltage,
- soap,
- windows that open.



Hair dryers are available on board. 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

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Embarkation is between 12:30 – 1.30pm. You can recognise the barge by the banner with Cyclotours 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 10 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/