

Cycling Safaris

Top of Amsterdam

Group tour 2026

Guide cycles with group | 270 - 350 km | 8 days / 7 nights

Arrival day on Thursday



Not until the 17th Century large parts of the area north of Amsterdam were reclaimed through the use of hundreds of windmills. It's here that you find the typical Dutch landscape of polders, mills and harbours.

The route brings you over small dykes and country roads. Many of the windmills are still in working order. In Zaandse Schans, a lovely little hamlet on the banks of the river Zaan, the mills, houses, shops and traditional Dutch crafts bring the past to life. Alkmaar is the capital of Dutch cheese with its own cheese market and weigh-house for cheese. The route brings you to an extensive dune area.

These are also the only kilometers you will be cycling above sea level! Texel is an island with thousands of sheep and a magnificent nature reserve. You can get a feel for the old Dutch atmosphere in Enkhuizen, Hoorn and Volendam: traditional sailing ships and long johns on the clotheslines. If you want to experience what it was to live in one of those villages in the old days we recommend to visit 'het Zuiderzeemuseum' in Enkhuizen.

Highlights

- Isle of Texel
- Zuiderzeemuseum
- Fishing villages
- Forest, dune and beach



Itinerary:

Day 1 Thursday	Amsterdam, sailing to Wormerveer
Day 2 Friday	Wormerveer - Alkmaar, 40 km
Day 3 Saturday	Alkmaar - Den Helder, sailing to Texel, 50 km
Day 4 Sunday	Texel, round trip 35/48/62 km
Day 5 Monday	Texel, sailing to Medemblik - Enkhuizen, 35 km
Day 6 Tuesday	Enkhuizen - Hoorn, 30 km
Day 7 Wednesday	Hoorn - Amsterdam, 46 km
Day 8 Thursday	Amsterdam, disembarkation before 10 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 Thursday: Amsterdam, arrival between 12:30pm and 1.30pm

The barge is moored at the Oosterdok in central Amsterdam, near the train station. You are expected to arrive at our barge on Thursday between 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM.

When you arrive on board, you can settle in and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It is also a good moment to become acquainted with the tour leader, skipper and crew and of course your fellow passengers.

During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next day and the global planning of the week are discussed. Instructions on cycling and safety procedures will also be given.

In the evening or on Friday morning, the tour guide will take you on your first short bike ride around Zaandam. You will visit the world famous hamlet and open air museum of Zaanse Schans. A unique place where people live and work, with original houses and windmills from the river Zaan area.



Day 2 Friday: Wormerveer - Alkmaar, 40km

After a good breakfast we jump on our bicycles. From Wormerveer you will cycle 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. Todays' 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. Its weigh-house was the first in the country (for weighing and trading of cheese).



Day 3 Saturday: Alkmaar - Den Helder, sailing to Texel, 50 km



From Alkmaar, we cycle up north. You enter the area of the Schoorlse Duinen (Schoorl Dunes), where you will find the highest dunes in the country. During the last century many pine trees were planted here so now it is a rather woody region. Bergen is an artists' village which attracts many painters, writers and architects. You pass by the unique nature reserve Het Zwanenwater (The Swans' Water), with its lakes and boggy hollows in the dunes. A little further you cycle on the Hondsbossche Zeewering (Hondsbossche Sea Dike), with a spectacular view of the North Sea.

From Den Helder, the Dutch Naval port, we sail to Texel. Texel is the biggest of the Netherlands' Wadden islands and famous for its diversity in landscapes, sheep and birdlife. The Wadden Sea is unique. It is the largest unbroken system of intertidal and mud flats in the world and an UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 4 Sunday: Texel, round trip 35 / 48 / 62 km

The isle of Texel is the largest of the Dutch Waddeneilanden (Wadden islands). The average length of Texel is 20 km and the average width 8 km.

The first inhabitants of Texel may date from the Middle Stone Age (8,000-4,500 BC). Texel is highly appreciated by bird-watchers. In springtime about 80 different types of birds breed here, mainly in the dune areas, but all in all about 300 different species have been perceived on Texel.

As early as in the 16th and 17th century the Texel sheep's cheese was well-known abroad. This was not only the usual white cheese but in particular a special, green cheese. The cheese was green as a result of the juice of boiled sheep droppings, which was stirred through the milk. However, thankfully because of hygienic reasons this was forbidden by the Dutch Food Inspection Department in 1930!



Day 5 Monday: Texel sailing to Medemblik - Enkhuizen, 35 km

From Texel, we sail across the IJsselmeer to Medemblik. First we have to cross the locks in the Afsluitdijk, a 32 km long dike that has protected the Netherlands against the force of water for over 90 years. In Medemblik we hop on our bikes.

Medemblik is a historic fishing town and lies where land and water meet; past and present are inextricably linked.

Todays trip ends in Enkhuizen, a town which came into existence when two adjoining villages amalgamated. You can end your day with a visit to the Zuiderzeemuseum. This museum, which consists of an indoor and outdoor part, shows you the history of everyday life around the Zuiderzee until the middle of the 20th century. Enkhuizen itself is an very nice old harbor town.



Day 6 Tuesday: Enkhuizen - Hoorn, 30 km

After a last morning stroll through the streets of Enkhuizen you continue on your bike on the dike with a wonderful view over the Markermeer on your left and West-Frisian villages on your right-hand side. The recently (1976) built dike from Enkhuizen to Lelystad (in the Noordoostpolder) appears on the horizon. This was meant to be a polder dike for a huge new polder: the Markerwaard. However, the plans were never executed: with time perception changed. The environment and fresh water supply became more important. So today the dike is there, but no polder...We spend the night in Hoorn, a historic port city located on the Markermeer and a very important VOC city in the Golden Age (1602-1702)..

Day 7 Wednesday: Hoorn - Amsterdam, 46 km

The first part you sail to Volendam, originally a small fishing community, now a tourist attraction. Here your last cycling stage starts. You cycle to Monnickendam where you can see the towns many old gables, plaques, churches and towers.

Then on to Marken, a former island with many green painted wooden houses and its own particular character. Near the lighthouse there is a nice little beach where you can enjoy your lunch and perhaps take a swim in the fresh water of the IJsselmeer. The last part of the stage takes you through an area called Waterland. You will understand why it is called that when you see that the houses and other buildings are almost at water level and that the ground is soggy. At the end of the afternoon you will reach Amsterdam. Once you are back at the boat in Amsterdam it is time to take leave of your bikes. In the afternoon there still is some time to go into town and after dinner you may want to finish off your trip by going on a city walk or taking a trip on one of Amsterdam's canal boats.



Day 8 Thursday, Amsterdam

End of tour after breakfast. Disembarkation before 10am near Central Station.

DATES AND PRICE 2026

Barge Sailing Home

16th July

€1555 per person sharing in twin cabin
€2335 single use cabin



Barge Anna Antal

July 23

€1365 per person sharing twin cabin
€1730 single use cabin
€1570 per person superior twin cabin
€1150 per person bunk bed cabin

Barge Liza Marleen

7th May, 14th May, 18th June

€1660 per person twin cabin
€2485 single use cabin
€1510 per person triple cabin
€1910 per person superior twin cabin

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights on board (incl. bed linen, towels and soap)
- Route information/road book (1 set per cabin)
- Breakfast & Dinner on board
- Picnic Lunch packages when on the road
- 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)
- Ferry fares on the route
- Travel documents and cycling guide 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

€140 21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag, bike insurance incl.
€255 Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag, bike insurance incl.

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

Note: We can no longer provide vegan meals. The space in the kitchens on our ships is too limited (for storage and preparation) to properly prepare these meals.

Reduction for Children (if travelling with at least one full paying person in their cabin)

0 - 2 free of charge

3 - 11 30% discount

Discount does not apply to bike / seat / trailer rental

ACCOMMODATION / BARGES

Our motorized 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.

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. There is air conditioning and windows cannot open, Wi-Fi on board



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 there is the salon, a roomy lounge with cozy bar and a sun deck. Wi-Fi on board



Barge Anna Antal

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

The Anna Antal sails exclusively for Cycletours Holidays. It has a cozy salon. In the evenings, a drink can be consumed in the cozy and elegant bar. 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.

Cabin Plan

- 5 twin cabins (beds can be placed together)
- 4 bunk bed cabins



All cabins are provided with: private bathroom, central heating, 220 voltage, soap, windows/portholes 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.



BIKES AND CYCLING

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

Hybrid bikes are an additional €140

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, Helmet, Odometer, Good lock, Water bottle
- You will get a repair kit when biking on your own.
- Bike insurance included.

E-bikes are an additional €255

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 price.

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.

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

You are expected on our barge on Thursday between 3pm and 4pm. 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

Arrival to tour start

It is very easy to get from Schiphol airport to the ship. The distance is approx. 20 km. At Schiphol airport you can take the train to Central Station Amsterdam. These trains leave very regularly (approx. every 8 min.). It takes approx. 15 minutes by train from the airport into Amsterdam and the train ticket Schiphol-Amsterdam is approx € 5 per single journey. From Amsterdam Central Station it is a 10 minute walk to the place where the ship is docked.

A taxi from Schiphol to Amsterdam takes about 30 minutes. It costs about € 35.

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 ComfortLuxe 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 herewith some suggestions:-

Amsterdam -

Hotel Avenue - www.hotels.nl/amsterdam/avenue/

Prinsengracht Hotel - www.prinsengrachthotel.nl/index.php