

# HOLLAND

*Highlights*  
 UNESCO World Heritage Site,  
 Cheese in Gouda,  
 Cycling along the river,  
 Culture in Amsterdam  
 & Bruges



## FROM AMSTERDAM TO BRUGES

We have devised a wonderful cycling holiday through the Netherlands to Belgium, past towns, villages, canals – on high-quality cycling paths. In eight days of cycling you will discover many delightful places you otherwise wouldn't have chanced upon. The route is predominantly rural and passes through a number of nature reserves.

<b>DIFFICULTY</b> ●○○○	<b>KM</b> 330	<b>LENGTH</b> 8 days 7 nights	<b>ARRIVAL</b> Daily 29.03. - 23.09.2024*
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### Day 1 Arrival

Your bicycle holiday starts in Amsterdam, famous for its gorgeous 400-year-old canal district; museums (the new Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh, Anne Frank etc); street artists and performers on Dam, Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein; a notorious red-light district and more. Try to arrive early so you have time to admire the elegant tree-lined canals and tall narrow townhouses and warehouses dating from the 17th century (World Heritage Site).

### Day 2 Amsterdam - Gouda/ Bodegraven 68/58 km

After staying the night in bustling Amsterdam, you are cycling into the peace and quiet of the "Groene Hart" or Green Heart, a pleasant rural area of low-lying polders with peat meadows and grazing cattle. It's a flat, open, spacious landscape where church spires and windmills touch the horizon and clouds are reflected in lakes and canals. Then you arrive in this main city, do not hesitate to take a stroll around the Old Town, soak up the yesterday atmosphere and marvel at the attractive market square.

### Day 3 Gouda - Papendrecht/ Dordrecht 38 km

From Gouda you'll cycle to the village of Kinderdijk, explore the site with 19 windmills. One of the mills is open to the public. Your destination, Papendrecht, is just a ferry crossing away from one of Holland's oldest towns; Dordrecht. Dordrecht is completely surrounded by rivers.

### Day 4 Papendrecht/Dordrecht - Willemstad 65 km

Biesbosch is one of the few remaining wetland habitats in Europe where the ecosystem has adapted both to saltwater coming in from the sea through tidal creeks, and to freshwater coming down in the rivers. It's an ever-changing labyrinth of creeks and riverlets encompassing countless little islands of willow woods and reeds. Round off the day in Willemstad, a fortified town shaped like a seven-point star. The cycle road leads you through beautiful nature.

### Day 5 Willemstad - Noordgouwe/ Zierikzee 50 km

Today you will enter Zeeland, a province of the Netherlands marked by light, wind, water and lots of space. It is made up of islands so bridges and ferries will be carrying you across the waters as you drift down towards Belgium. Traverse a patchwork landscape of vast polders, idyllic countryside, rolling dunes and golden sand flats by bike.



### Day 6 Noordgouwe/Zierikzee - Middelburg/Vlissingen 43 km

A wander down the narrow streets of Zierikzee is an absolute delight. Your route continues to the charming village of Veere. This contract brought the town not only prosperity but also a very lively Scottish expat community that stayed for 300 years. Cruising further south, you will discover the nostalgic splendour of the city of Middelburg, capital of Zeeland. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was one of the most important centres of trade in the Netherlands.

### Day 7 Middelburg/Vlissingen - Bruges 66 km

After a hearty breakfast, hop on a ferry boat to Zeelandic Flanders with its winding country roads, pollard willows, wet meadows and scattered villages. Having crossed the border into Belgium by bike, you will reach the charming little town of Damme on the banks of the romantic Damse Vaart. From here, it's only a short stretch to Bruges, known as the pearl of Flanders! It's a truly enchanting town that has been welcoming tourists for about 150 years. With most of its medieval architecture intact, it remains exceptionally well preserved and can really give you a sense of times gone by when it was at the centre of the European wool and cloth trade.

### Day 8 Departure

**SELF-GUIDED CYCLING TOUR**

**ROUTE CHARACTERISTICS**

90 % on asphalted cycling paths or side roads with little traffic. Mainly flat.

**SERVICES INCLUDED**

- 7 nights in charming 3/4-star-hotels
- Daily breakfast
- Daily luggage transfer (1 piece per people, 20 kilo max)
- Routedescription, maps and information material
- 7 days service hotline
- GPS-tracks on demand
- Tourist taxes

**PER PERSON**

<b>ROOM</b>	
with B&B DBL / SGL	935 € / 1240 €
<b>EXTRA NIGHT</b>	
Amsterdam DBL	110 € / 195 €
<b>BIKE RENTAL</b>	
21-Gear - Hybridbike	95 €
E-bike	200 €
<b>EXTRA CHARGE IN AMSTERDAM</b>	
29.-31.03, 20.04, 26.-28.04., 09.-12.05., 17.-19.05.	45 €
In case of staying overnight on Saturdays per person DBL / SGL	28 €
*No start on 13., 14., 15., 16.05; 17., 18.06; 07., 08., 09., 10., 11.07; 13., 14., 15., 16., 17.09	
<b>POSSIBLE OPTIONS</b>	
Bike breakdown insurance:	31 € p.P.