

Netherlands – North Holland by Bicycle and Barge Tour 2023
Self-Guided Tour
8 Days / 7 Nights



Flat countryside up to the horizon, windmills, canals (Grachten) and cycling that are the Netherlands. And there is so much more. Discover the Netherlands in a unique way on an eight day journey by bike and boat. Well-built cycle paths as well as wide and extensive waterways guarantee an unforgettable holiday. Throughout the day you are cycling on your own through the beautiful landscapes in Rembrandt's and Van Gogh's country and in the late afternoon your swimming hotel MS Serena will be at your disposal. And if you don't like to cycle every day, you can stay on board and enjoy the passing countryside. The province of the Northern Netherlands: The Dutch province of the Northern Netherlands is situated on a peninsula of the North Sea and the IJsselmeer (IJssel Sea). The Northern Netherlands was founded due to the separation of the north and south of the Netherlands in 1840. Its capital is Haarlem, the biggest city is Amsterdam. Discover the folklore and tradition in the flat Polderland, on the North Sea and in romantic ports. You travel through a former lake and marsh region that has been drained by the help of windmills since the 17th century. Experience varying, typically Dutch Polder countryside, dunes and the North Sea beaches, the North Sea island Texel and many picturesque harbour villages on the coast of the IJsselmeer.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Individual arrival at Enkhuizen

Check-in on board in the afternoon. Perhaps you take a first short walk through the pretty harbour town with its charming old town.

Day 2: – Cycling from Enkhuizen and back, cycle tour 28 - 36 km

Today you will discover the pretty harbor town on the banks of the IJsselmeer and its beautiful surroundings. The rich history of the city can still be felt during a walk through the old town with its numerous villas, canals, churches, city walls and ports. Tip: You should visit the Zuiderzee museum. If you would like to make a day trip to Amsterdam: The Enkhuizen train station is within walking distance of the berth. There are train connections to Amsterdam and back every 30 minutes. Journey time approx. 1 h (ticket not included.)



Day 3: Sailing from Enkhuizen to Lemmer – Cycling from Lemmer and back 32 - 42 km

Today you sail over the IJsselmeer to Lemmer. You start your roundtrip by bike: over the Oosterzee Buren to the Tjeukemeer,

further to Munnekeburen, then around the Rottige Meente, over Scherpenzel and Schoterzijl and back to Lemmer, with its historical old part of town and beautiful gable houses. Tip: optional visit of the largest still functioning steam pumping station in the world, “Woudagemaal”.

Day 4: Cycling from Lemmer to Stavoren 33 - 48 km – Sailing from Stavoren to Oudeschild (Island of Texel)

You are going by bike to Sondeler Leien Lake, from there through the woods of Rijsterbos, passing the Mokkebank (a birds' reservation) to the Roode Klif at Stavoren. From there you travel to Oudeschild on the Island of Texel.



Day 5: Island of Texel - Cycle tour from Oudeschild and back 31 - 49 km, sailing from Oudeschild to Den Helder

You are going on a round trip by bike on the biggest North Sea Island of the Netherlands – Texel. There are numerous alternative routes (29/32/47/70 km). **Tip:** We also recommend you to visit the beer brewery of Texel (optional). About 5:00 pm sailing back to Den Helder.

Day 6: Cycling from Den Helder via Sint Maartensvlotbrug to Alkmaar 27 - 57 km

In the morning you cycle through the dunes to Alkmaar. It is possible for you to board the MS Serena in St. Maartensvlotburg and sail the rest of the way to Alkmaar. As an alternative, you can also start your cycling tour in St. Maartensvlotburg.

Day 7: Sailing from Alkmaar to Wormerveer – cycling from Wormerveer - Hoorn, cycle tour 55 km

In the morning you start from Wormerveer to the open-air museum Zaanse Schans (windmills, ancient Dutch village, cheese factory, etc). After your visit you will continue in the direction of Volendam. On the way you have the opportunity to visit a cheese dairy in Katwoude. Here you can see how Gouda cheese and the traditional Dutch wooden shoes are made. Via Volendam, known as a traditional fishing village with typical authentic cottages, you cycle to Hoorn. For a short visit of the historic old town with its many buildings from the 17th century (e.g. the harbour tower as well as the storage houses at the old quai) you should take some time.



Day 8: Sailing to Enkhuizen

Early in the morning shipping to Enkhuizen. Checkout until 9:00 am and we are saying goodbye – have a safe journey.



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Tour Profile: Easy. The bicycle tours are individual self-guided, at your own pace, without a tour guide, but with detailed bicycle maps and directions. When a guest does not want to cycle one day, she/he can skip the bike tour and relax on board while cruising to the next harbour.

Distance: 206 - 287 km

Travel Season: Saturday departures Season A: March 25 and October 7, 2023
Season B: April 1 and September 30, 2023
Season C: April 8 and September 23, 2023
Season D: April 15; April 22; April 29; September 9 and September 16, 2023
Season E: May 6; May 13; May 20; May 27; June 3; June 10; June 17; June 24; July 1; July 8; July 15; July 22; July 29; August 5; August 12; August 19; August 26 and September 2, 2023



Prices per Person:	Season A	Season B	Season C	Season D	Season E
Two Bed Cabin Main Deck	€ 599.00	€ 699.00	€ 749.00	€ 849.00	€ 999.00
Junior Suite Main Deck	€ 649.00	€ 749.00	€ 799.00	€ 899.00	€ 1049.00
Two Bed Cabin Promenade Deck	€ 749.00	€ 849.00	€ 899.00	€ 999.00	€ 1099.00
Two Bed Cabin for Single Use	+50%				
Hybrid Bike Rental 7 speed unisex bicycle, with hand and pedal brake or hand brakes only	€ 79.00				
E-bike Rental 8 gear with freewheel	€ 189.00				

Included:

- Seven nights in outside cabins with shower/WC in the booked cabin category
- Programme according to the routing to/from Enkhuizen
- Welcome drink
- Room cleaning every day
- Changing of towels and bed sheets if wanted
- Full board consisting of 7x breakfast buffet, 6x lunch snack on board (non-cyclists) or lunch package for cycle tours, 6x coffee or tea in the afternoon, 7x 3 course dinner
- All charges for harbours, bridges and locks
- Daily meeting for the cycling tours
- Printed instructions and detailed maps for daily individual bike tours (1 per cabin)
- Tour guide on board
- GPS tracks

Not Included:

- Journey to/from Enkhuizen
- Shuttles
- Bike rental
- Entrance fees and excursions
- Ferry tickets
- Drinks on board
- Gratuities (at your discretion) and own expenses

The cruise ship MS Serena



A comfortable river boat with restaurant and bar (air-conditioned). There is a partly roofed sundeck with seats and store place for the bicycles. On the whole MS Serena comprises 33 cabins on the Main Deck and 18 cabins on the Promenade Deck with two bed cabins (approx. 8-9 square meters) with two single beds. The two Junior Suites (approx. 12 square meters) on the Main Deck have a grand lit (lying surface 1.40 x 2.00 m). There are in total 3 single cabins (2 on the Main Deck and 1 on the Promenade Deck, 6 square meters). All cabins have windows that can be opened on both decks, shower/WC, colour TV and ventilation.



Bikes

Hybrid Bike



The bikes are fitted with comfortable Selle Royal saddles. They also come with coaster brakes or a freewheel hub – all hub gears come from Shimano – and you can pick whichever one you prefer.

We offer three frame sizes: 45cm, 50 cm and 55 cm

All bikes are additionally equipped with tire pumps, repair kits with tools and spare inner tubes. For extra storage room, most bikes are fitted with panniers and/or handlebar bags.

Electric Bike



All the Pedelecs are equipped with Bosch mid-drive motors that come with fully integrated 500 watt Bosch rechargeable batteries. The innovative way of construction allows the batteries to become almost invisible. That way, cyclists gain the advantage of a well-balanced bike that is easily operated. It is perfect support and a high level of comfort even on long tours.