

Cycling The Pieterpad

13 days, € 1499



Introduction



NEW TOUR 2025

The "Dutch Camino" for cyclists is called the Pieterfietspad, stretching from Pieterburen in Groningen to the Pietersberg near Maastricht in Limburg, follows, wherever possible, the Netherlands' most famous long-distance hiking route: the acclaimed Pieterpad. This 580-kilometer trail takes you past all the highlights of the (East) Dutch landscape. From the Groninger Wierden, through the forests of Drenthe, the hills of Salland, the castles of the Achterhoek, the Maasheggen in North Limburg, to the Maasduinen, you will eventually arrive in the hilly region of South Limburg.

The Pieterfietspad is the official cycling variant of the popular Pieterpad. While the Pieterpad connects the most beautiful walking paths, the Pieterfietspad does so with cycling routes. So hop on your bike and explore the Netherlands on two wheels!

NEW SERVICES

In addition to bike-friendly accommodations, 12/7 availability, luggage transport, etc., we also offer:

The included map set of the Pieter Cycling Route from our partner Stichting Pieterpad (the guidebook and maps are only available in Dutch but you can use the maps for cycling)

All routes and necessary travel information are available in English in our handy and user-friendly navigation app Guibo.

Transfer to the starting point on the last day: see the practical information to find out more.

Day to Day

Day 1 Arrival Pieterburen / Westernieland

Welcome to Pieterburen – Starting Point of the Pieterfietspad! Have you arrived on time? Perfect! Take the opportunity to relax at the village terrace or hop on your bike to explore the sea dyke. Enjoy breathtaking views of the ever-changing Wadden Sea. In the evening have dinner in the village. Savor local cuisine and unwind in a cozy atmosphere.



Day 2 **Pieterburen / Westernieland - Groningen (58 / 56 km)**

Your journey starts with a ride to the sea dyke. As you gaze over the Wadden Sea, you'll spot various islands in the distance. From there, head south through the charming areas of Kleine Huisjes and Broek. You'll find yourself in the Groninger Wierdenland, crisscrossed by numerous maren. Surrounding you is a vast, flat landscape dotted with beautiful villages like Eenrum and Winsum, perched on small hills (called wierden). The route leads you along the river beds of the Reitdiep, the oldest cultural landscape in Western Europe, bringing you to the historic city center of Groningen. Here, you can admire stunning monuments and enjoy the vibrant urban atmosphere. Take plenty of time to soak in the lively spirit of this student city before settling down by the Hoornsemeer for the night.

Day 3 **Groningen - Assen / Schoonloo (47 km)**

Starting in the city, you'll follow the banks of the Drentsche Aa, which will reappear throughout your journey, serving as your winding, watery guide. Enjoy the beautiful landscape around the Paterswoldsemeer and on the Hondsrug, a 20-meter-high "megaflute" that offers stunning views over the valley. After Noordlaren, you'll truly be in Drenthe. The well-known and tourist-friendly Zuidlaren invites you to relax at one of its charming terraces. Be sure to grab a 'Zuidlaarder Bol' along the way! The picturesque es village of Zeegse is part of the National Beek and Esdorp Landscape of the Drentsche Aa. The route continues through the "velden," including the peaceful and expansive Ballooërveld. These rugged lands feature small ponds, heathlands, and forests, providing a unique natural experience. After Balloo, we'll take a short detour from the route for an overnight stay in the capital of Drenthe, Assen.

Day 4 **Assen / Schoonloo - Coevorden (77 km)**

After passing through Rolde, the former main village of Drenthe, you'll encounter two impressive hunebedden. The Rolderrug, standing over 20 meters tall, takes you through the so-called "Heart of Drenthe," a stunning 5000-hectare wilderness filled with forests. Following "De Kielse Keien," you can take a detour to the Schoonoord Open-Air Museum of Ellert and Brammert. Here, you can immerse yourself in the region's history and culture. The journey continues through Sleenerzand, where you'll search for "De Papeleze Kerk" and "De Galgenberg." After the characteristic village of Den Hool, make a quick stop at the "Driftplein" near Dalen, home to the northernmost artwork of the "Kunstwegen" route. It's now just a short distance to the goose city of Coevorden.

Day 5 **Coevorden - Hellendoorn (66 km)**

Once you're on your way, you'll pass by several installations from the "Kunstwegen" route, the longest avenue of contemporary visual art in Western Europe. Cycling along narrow paths, you'll journey through the valley of the winding Overijsselse Vecht, the smallest of our major rivers. Enjoy the swaying reeds, majestic beech avenues, and the gently rolling meadows surrounded by hedgerows, where red farmhouse roofs peek out. You'll travel through the charming es village of Rheeze, known for its authentic brink. It's time for a coffee break and a farewell glance over the Vecht as you reach the cozy town of Ommen. Beyond the lovely Huize Het Laer, the landscape changes dramatically. Now, prepare for the "climb of the week" over the Archemer and Lemelerberg, which together rise 78 meters in the otherwise flat terrain. Enjoy the views and the diverse scenery of sandy plains, heath, juniper bushes, and forests. Just a flat stretch left, and then you'll head over the Hellendoornse Berg to your destination, the "Ice Village" Hellendoorn.



Day 6 **Hellendoorn - Vorden (51 km)**

Start with a gentle climb and descent into the vibrant textile town of Nijverdal. Then, cycle through Europe's largest dry heathland: the Sallandse Heuvelrug, home to unique birds such as the redstart, nightjar, and the iconic black grouse. Enjoy cycling along the rolling, winding paths that offer beautiful views. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the nature museum on the Holterberg, featuring its unique dioramas. After Holten, you'll enter the feudal Graafschap: a historic, wooded landscape shaped by nobility in past centuries. Near the charming 18th-century Huis Verwolde, complete with a delightful tea garden, you can seek out the "thick tree," a 450-year-old oak. As you pass the Twentekanaal and the Berkel River, take a moment to admire Huize Enzerinck before cycling into the picturesque 8-castle village of Vorden.

Day 7 **Vorden - Zeddam (47 km)**

Begin your day with a beautiful cycling path leading to Castle Vorden, an impressive medieval structure featuring a charming tea garden. Continue your journey through the characteristic landscape of hedgerows, tree-lined lanes, small fields, and meadows. Enjoy views of the 18th-century Huis de Kiefskamp in Louis XVI style and Huis 't Zelle, known for its unique 18th-century avenue system. After passing through Zelhem, home to the archaeological museum Smedekinck, the hilly landscape of Montferland rises in the distance, with the cozy village of Zeddam at its foot. Enjoy your day in this captivating environment!

Day 8 **Zeddam - Boxmeer (69 km)**

Begin your journey cycling through the high Bergherbos, then descend after the charming German village of Elten to the Gelderse Poort, a remarkable location where the Rhine has carved its way through the hills. Navigate through the water-rich Ossenwaard and the newly developed, bird-rich nature reserve of Revensweert, leading you to the broad river. A bicycle ferry will take you across to Millingen aan de Rijn. Continue your ride through the rugged terrain of Millingerwaard and the picturesque Ooyse Polder, with its lush meadows, dikes, and winding waterways. In the distance, the contours of the Nijmegen Stuwal emerge, inviting you to climb and descend the "seven hills" to reach Groesbeek. Here, the Canadian War Cemetery, the Liberation Museum, and a replica of an Allied glider at Klein Amerika serve as poignant reminders of the final bloody days of World War II. Cycling through the beautiful Zevendal, you'll descend into the Maas Valley, where just before the lively town of Gennep, you'll encounter the ruins of the historic Gennepershuis, a former fortress located at the mouth of the Niers River into the Maas. It's not far now to Boxmeer.

Day 9 **Boxmeer - Venlo (56 km)**

Start your journey with a delightful bike ride through the Maasheggen region, the oldest cultural landscape in the Netherlands. Here, you'll find a mosaic of meadows, ancient trees, and hedgerows, where the mayflower and blackthorn bloom abundantly in spring. You cycle past pretty farming villages along the Meuse River. The many streams (including De Grootte Molenbeek and Oostrumsche Beek) and old Meuse beds like the Sohr contribute to a green and varied landscape. Tienray has been a popular place of pilgrimage since the 17th and 18th centuries, with its replica of the Lourdes Cave. The area around Lottum and Grubbenvorst is known for rose cultivation and the "Gekke Maondaags" tradition. Grubbenvorst, as a border town in the former Overkwartier of Gelre has an eventful history. A ferry takes you to Velden on the other bank of the Meuse River. Visit the chapel of Notre-Dame de Genooi, the patron saint of the nearby town of Venlo. This ancient Hanseatic city, located at the transition from lowland to hill country, is today's final destination. Use the time for a stroll along the lively Maasboulevard or through the historic city center.



Day 10 **Venlo - Roermond (42 km)**

Begin today's journey cycling over the Jammerdaalse Heide ("whining heath"), which is said to be named after the lamentations of Caesar's soldiers, who were defeated here by Ambiorix. The ancient clay pits with their steep banks create an eldorado for the rare natterjack toad and the sand martin. The tale of the mad "Moandaagvierder" makes it clear that "you are indeed in Limburg", province of stories. Next, you'll ride along the Prinsendijk, which not only serves as a geological boundary but was also once part of an ancient Roman military road and, in 1944, the German Maas-Roersstellung. After exploring the nature surrounding the meandering Swalm River, you'll reach the impressive Hillenraad Castle. A lovely, winding bike path takes you over the Melickerheide, part of the terrace landscape of National Park de Meinweg, featuring dry dunes and marshy wetlands. The day ends in Roermond, known to many for the Designer Outlet, but it has more to offer than that.

Day 11 **Roermond - Sittard (53 km)**

You cycle back from Roermond along the Roer valley to the Pieterpad. At Herkenbosch, you cross the winding Roer River and make your way to Montfort with its impressive medieval castle ruins. The route continues its way through the so-called Green Waist of Limburg ("Smallest piece of the Netherlands"). The varied area east of Susteren consists of deciduous forest, grassland and fields. An important link in the ecological chain is the IJzerenbosch. Among other things, you will find flower carpets of wood anemones, spotted arum and slender primrose. The most special resident is the tree frog. After this forest, you take a trip across the German border, before the stage ends at the old monasteries in Sittard's city center.

Day 12 **Sittard - Maastricht (45 km)**

The last leg of your journey takes you through the rolling green hills of Limburg, featuring fast-flowing streams, marl caves, limestone houses, and quaint chapels or crosses scattered throughout. The day begins with the challenge of climbing Kollenberg, the northernmost foothill of the Ardennes. A steep ascent with seven "footfalls" leads you to the highest point, where you'll find the 17th-century Sint Rosakapelle. Pause at Castle Gerlach to admire the sculpture garden and enjoy a coffee at Burgemeester Quicx in the monastery courtyard. Between Rothem and Geulhem, you'll cycle along the edge of the charming Geuldal. Ride along the brand-new "Groene Loper," flanked by over two thousand linden trees, into the heart of Maastricht, home to more than 1,650 monuments. The route winds through beautiful old streets, but it's definitely worth taking some time to explore on foot at the end of this cycling day. Before that, head to Pieterberg, a plateau nestled between the valleys of the Maas and Jeker. Here, a panoramic viewpoint marks the end of your "Pieterfietspad."

Day 13 **Depart from Maastricht**

After Breakfast, Your cycling journey comes to an end. We hope you've enjoyed every moment of your cycling adventure and created lasting memories along the way.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Sunday until Thursday from April until end of September

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		1,494.00
Single room, breakfast		2,215.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		132.00
Hybrid		156.00
E-bike		336.00
Extra services		€
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
transferpersonbus	per piece	140.00



Accommodation

The hotels or B&Bs on this trip have been carefully selected for their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. All rooms are en-suite. A list of the hotels we work with appears below. If a certain accommodation is unable to confirm due to lack of availability, we will request a comparable alternative. When selecting the accommodation, we try to take into account as much as possible a safe and closed bicycle shed. However, we cannot do this with all of them guarantee and this partly depends on the number of bicycles of other guests.

Pieterburen - Gastenverblijf Waddenhoes

<https://www.waddenhoes.nl/>
Alt. hotels: Waddengenot &
Dorpslogement-Pieterburen / De
Oude Smidse-Westernieland

Groningen - Flonk Hotel Groningen Zuid****

www.hotelgroningenzuid.nl

Assen - City Hotel de Jonge****

www.hoteldejonge.nl

Coevorden - Hotel Talens***

www.hoteltalens.nl

Hellendoorn - Landgoed de Uitkijk****

www.landgoeddeuitkijk.nl

Vorden - Hotel Bakker***

www.bakkerinvorden.nl

Boxmeer, Hotel 't Vertrek****

www.tvertrek.nl

Venlo - Theaterhotel Venlo****

www.theaterhotelvenlo.nl

Roermond - Hotel Roermond****

www.hotelroermond.nl



Sittard - Merici Hotel****

www.mericihotel.nl

Maastricht - Crowne Plaza

Maastricht****

www.centrumhotelmaastricht.nl

Zeddam - Hotel Ruimzicht***

www.ruimzicht.com



Practical Info



12 nights included



3/4 Star Hotels



Breakfast included



Set of Pieterfietspad maps (in Dutch only) and the use of the Guibo App for navigation and information (in English)



Possibility of renting bikes



7-days a week service-hotline



Luggage transport to your next hotel



CS Groningen / Station Winsum / Bus Pieterburen. For more information:
[ns.nl/reisplannen](https://www.ns.nl/reisplannen)



Free parking options Pieterburen



For this trip, route information is only available through our navigation app. You will not receive any travel information or route information on paper, with the exception of the official (Dutch) map of the Pieterpad.



ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airport is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



The train from Schiphol to Groningen departs twice per hour. The travel time is approximately 2 hours. After that, you take the train to Winsum, with a travel time of 15 minutes. From there, you take the bus to Pieterburen, with a travel time of 25 minutes. The total travel time is around 3 hours. A one-way trip costs approximately € 35,- per person excluding a bike.

For timetables and tickets, visit www.ns.nl. For bus details and how to reach the hotel, click here: www.9292.nl.

