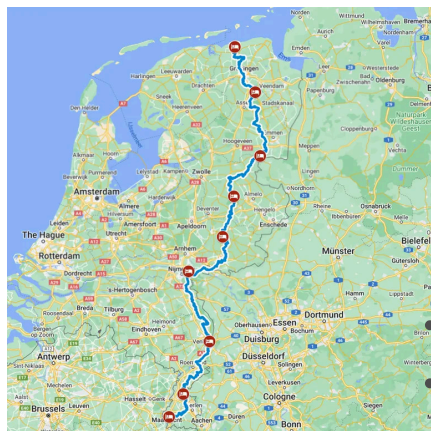


Cycling The Pieterpad sporty and E-bike

10 days, € 1099



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 in 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 – Zuidlaren / Zeegse (83/88 km)

Embark on an unforgettable cycling journey through the enchanting Wierdenland of Groningen, where picturesque creeks meander through expansive, flat landscapes. Discover charming villages perched on elevated ground, such as Eenrum and Winsum, each offering unique sights and local delights. Follow the scenic route along the Reitdiep, the oldest cultural landscape in Western Europe, leading you to the historic city center of Groningen. Here, you can marvel at stunning monuments and indulge in urban pleasures. As you explore the city, you'll trace the banks of the Drentsche Aa, a winding waterway that will accompany you throughout your ride. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery around the Paterwoldsemeer and the Hondsrug, a 20-meter high 'megaflute' that provides stunning views over the surrounding valley. Your adventure culminates in the esdorp of Zeegse, part of the National Beek- and Esdorpenlandschap Drentsche Aa, where you can unwind and reflect on the beautiful landscapes you've encountered.



Day 3 **Zuidlaren / Zeegse - Coevorden (85/80 km)**

Begin your day in Drenthe with a scenic ride through the stunning landscapes of the 'velden,' (fields) including the tranquil and expansive Ballooërveld. This rugged terrain features serene ponds, heather fields, and lush forests that invite exploration. As you pedal past Rolde, the former capital of Drenthe, take a moment to admire two ancient hunebedden that dot the landscape. The journey continues along the impressive Rolderrug, guiding you through the heart of Drenthe—an untouched, forested nature reserve spanning 5,000 hectares. After passing 'De Kielse Keien,' consider a detour to the Ellert and Brammert Open-Air Museum in Schoonoord, where you can immerse yourself in local history. Your adventure leads you further into the Sleenerzand, where you'll search for the intriguing 'Papelozse Kerk' and the historic 'Galgenberg.' Make a quick stop at the 'Driftplein' near Dalen, home to the northernmost artwork of the 'Kunstwegen' route, before continuing your journey to the "Geese" city Coevorden.

Day 4 **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 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 5 **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 6 **Vorden - Ooij (77 km)**

Start your adventure with a beautiful bike path to Castle Vorden, an impressive medieval structure with a delightful tea garden. Continue through the characteristic landscape of hedgerows, tree lanes, small fields, and meadows. Marvel at the 18th-century Huis de Kiefskamp, styled in Louis XVI fashion, and Huis 't Zelle, known for its unique 18th-century lane system. After passing through Zelhem, home to the archaeological museum Smedekinck, you'll catch a glimpse of the hilly Montferland in the distance. Cycle through the expansive Bergherbos before descending into Gelderse Poort, a unique area where the Rhine has carved through the moraine. Enjoy the water-rich Ossenaar and the newly established bird-rich nature reserve of Revensweert before reaching the wide river. A bike ferry will take you across to Millingen aan de Rijn. From here you can already see the German border but after Leuth you turn off to the river Waal which leads you to today's final destination.

Day 7 **Ooij - Venlo (85 km)**

Through the beautiful Ooijpolder you soon experience the "seven hills" to reach Groesbeek. Here the Canadian War Cemetery of Honor, the Liberation Museum and the replica of an Allied glider on Klein Amerika remind you of the last bloody days of World War II. Through the beautiful Zevendal you descend into the Maas Valley, where just before lively Gennep you find the ruins of the historic Gennepershuis, a former castle and fortified fortress at the mouth of the Niers into the Meuse. You now enter the Maasheggengebied, the oldest cultural landscape of the Netherlands; a mosaic of meadows, old trees and hedges, where in spring the May and blackthorn bloom abundantly. You cycle past pretty farming villages along the Meuse. The many streams and old Meuse beds like the Sohr contribute to a green and varied landscape. The area around Lottum and Grubbenvorst is known for its rose cultivation and the "Gekke Maondaags" tradition. A ferry takes you to the other bank of the Meuse. Visit the chapel of Notre-Dame de Genooi, the patron saint of the nearby city of Venlo. This ancient Hanseatic city, located at the transition from lowland to hill country, is today's final destination.



Day 8 Venlo - Sittard (83 km)

Start your day cycling across the Jammerdaalse heath which seems to owe its name to the lamentations of Caesar's soldiers, who were massacred here by Ambiorix. The ancient clay pits with their steep banks are an eldorado for the rare natterjack toad and bank swallow. Then over the Prinsendijk, which in addition to being a geological boundary, was also once part of an ancient Roman road as well as the 1944 German Meuse-Roers Defense. After the nature around the meandering Swalm stream, you reach the imposing castle of Hillenraad. Then back to the border, through the terraced landscape of National Park de Meinweg with dry dunes and swampy marshes. At Herkenbosch you cross the winding Roer River and head for 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"). 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. After this forest, you take a trip across the German border, before the stage ends in at the old monasteries in Sittard's city center.

Day 9 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 Quix 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 10 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:

Wednesday until Sunday from April until end of September.

****If travelling by train, check practical info!***

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		1,094.00
Single room, breakfast		1,634.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		99.00
Hybrid		117.00
E-bike		252.00
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

www.waddenhoes.nl

Alt hotels: Waddengenot &
Dorpslogement-Pieterburen / De
Oude Smidse-Westernieland



Zeegse - Hotel-Restaurant De Zeegser Duinen****

www.hoteldezeegserduinen.nl

Alt. hotel: Brinkhotel - Zuidlaren

Coevorden - Hotel Talens***

www.hoteltalens.nl

Hellendoorn - Landgoed de Uitkijk****

www.landgoeddeuitkijk.nl

Vorden - Hotel Bakker***

www.bakkerinvorden.nl

Ooij - Oortjeshekken

www.oortjeshekken.nl/

Venlo - Theaterhotel Venlo****

www.theaterhotelvenlo.nl

Sittard - Merici Hotel****

www.mericihotel.nl

Maastricht - Crowne Plaza Maastricht****

www.centrumhotelmaastricht.nl



Practical Info



9 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:
<https://www.ns.nl/reisplannen>

For your information, the next 6 weeks the trains to Groningen will run to Groningen Europapark, from there there will be buses to Winsum/Baflo. Groningen Central Station is therefore limited or not at all accessible by train. If you travel to your starting location by public transport, please take longer travel times into account. Plan your journey in advance on 9292.nl or ns.nl, or in the app of these websites.

From Saturday 10 May to Saturday 12 July 2025, there will be large-scale track works around the station in Groningen. As a result, many trains will not be able to run during this period. Arriva and NS will operate train replacement bus transport. Please note that bicycles cannot be taken on the bus.

If your journey starts in Groningen, Pieterburen or Wiersterland and you travel to the starting location of your journey by public transport and bring your own bicycles, we may be able to arrange a transfer for you or transport your bicycles from the station, so that you can take the bus yourself. The costs of a transfer are €30,- for 2 persons and 2 bicycles. However, this service is based on the availability of the drivers and the capacity, so it cannot always be guaranteed. If you are interested in this service, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can make an inventory of what is possible. We only offer this service to people who travel to Groningen with their own bicycles. People who have booked rental bicycles can use the normal replacement bus transport because they only receive the rental bicycles at the accommodation. We hope for your understanding.



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



The nearest Airport is Amsterdam 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.

