

Cycling The Pieterpad - Part 1

8 days, € 875



Introduction



NEW TOUR 2025

The first section of the 'Pieterfietspad', stretching from the picturesque Pieterburen in Groningen to the heart of Doetinchem in the Achterhoek, closely follows the renowned Pieterpad, the most famous long-distance walking route in the Netherlands. Spanning a total of 580 kilometers, this route showcases the highlights of the (Eastern) Dutch landscape. The first half takes you from the Groninger Wierden, through the forests of Drenthe and the rolling hills of Salland, to the stunning castles of the Achterhoek region. The Pieterfietspad is the official cycling variant of the beloved Pieterpad. While the Pieterpad connects the most beautiful walking paths, the Pieterfietspad links together scenic cycling routes. So hop on your bike and discover the beauty of 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 village of Zeegse is part of the National Beek and Estdorp 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 (66 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 Papeloze 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 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 - Doetinchem (34 km)**

The day begins with a beautiful cycling path leading to Vorden Castle, an impressive medieval structure with a charming tea garden. Continue through the characteristic landscape of the area, featuring hedgerows, tree-lined avenues, small fields, and meadows, all separated by rustic woodbanks. Admire the 18th-century Huis de Kiefskamp, designed in Louis XVI style, as well as Huis 't Zelle, known for its unique 18th-century avenue system. After passing through Zelhem, home to the archaeological museum Smedekinck, the hilly Montferland will soon rise in the distance. Just before reaching it, you'll divert to the cozy "Center of the Achterhoek," Doetinchem.

Day 8 **Depart from Doetinchem**

After breakfast, your bike tour comes to an end. We wish you safe travels and look forward to welcoming you again for Part 2!



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Tuesday until Sunday from April until end of September.

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

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		870.00
Single room, breakfast		1,290.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Surcharge per person		€
Stay in Pieterburen on		10.00
Surcharge per person		€
Stay in Pieterburen on Saturday		10.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		88.00
Hybrid		104.00
E-bike		224.00
Extra services		€
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
transferpersonbus	per piece	90.00



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



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



Doetinchem - Villa Ruimzicht****

www.hotelvillaruimzicht.nl



Practical Info



7 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)

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](https://www.9292.nl) or [ns.nl](https://www.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



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.

