

Dunes and Canals Tour

8 days, € 880



Introduction



This very attractive cycle route takes you on a tour of an enchanting variety of landscapes: woods, lakes, polders, meadows, dunes, beaches, canals and rivers. Learn all about the Zuiderzee Works, whereby sea was transformed into lake, and part of the lake was made into land. Discover Holland's Golden Age in the historical buildings of ancient trading towns. Spend a day on the coast, and another in Amsterdam. Check out Alkmaar's world famous cheese market, and find out everything you always wanted to know about windmills! As on all our carefree cycle tours, we provide luggage transfer and excellent accommodation.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Utrecht**

Arrival in Utrecht.

Day 2 **Utrecht - Amsterdam**

62 km

Idyllic scenery today as you cycle to Amsterdam on the banks of the lovely River Vecht. Characteristic for this area are the many stately homes and summerhouses built by rich Amsterdam merchants in the 17th and 18th Centuries. At the end of the day, Amsterdam awaits! Everyone has their own reasons for loving this remarkable city. What will yours be?

Day 3 **Amsterdam - Zandvoort**

32 km

There's so much to see and do in Amsterdam. Have you seen the new and improved Rijksmuseum? The Maritime Museum, Van Gogh, Anne Frank...? Then take your leave of the city, set those wheels in motion and head west. As you approach elegant Haarlem, St. Bavo basilica dominates the skyline. A great city for shopping, the pedestrianized city centre is a delight. Look up at the façades of historical buildings on the wonderful main market square. Will you have enough time to pop in at Frans Hals museum of 17th-century Dutch masters? Be sure to make it to the beach in time to see the sun set into the sea! Zandvoort is a well-known seaside resort.



Day 4 Zandvoort - Alkmaar**53 km**

The sandy beaches of the North Sea are backed by dune systems that safeguard the hinterland from the sea. Today you will cycle through a Dune Reserve and a National Park that protect the many species of dune flora and fauna.

Day 5 Alkmaar - Enkhuizen**61 km**

Alkmaar is known worldwide for its traditional cheese market, which is still held as a tourist attraction on Friday mornings from early April to early September. On today's scenic coast-to-coast bike ride you will stop off at the picturesque village of Schermerhorn on the border of Schermer and Beemster polders. Schermerhorn was an island of whalers until, in the 17th century, private investors from Amsterdam decided to transform the lakes surrounding the village into polders and then sell off the new land. The polders were drained by windmills that scooped the water up over the dike into a discharge canal. Just outside the village stand three of the windmills that did this job - and what a pretty picture they make! Opt to visit Schermer Museum Windmill and experience the workings and rhythmic creaking of the moving parts. "The Beemster Polder, dating from the early 17th century, is an exceptional example of reclaimed land in the Netherlands. It has preserved intact its well-ordered landscape of fields, roads, canals, dykes and settlements, laid out in accordance with classical and Renaissance planning principles" is how the entry on the World Heritage List reads. On the shore of Lake IJsselmeer, you will see the Dutch Golden Age reflected in the historical buildings of the pretty towns of Hoorn and Enkhuizen. For a history lesson go to Zuiderzee Museum. It boasts a recreated village of old, complete with traditional craftsmen in folk costume. You can also learn about the trading routes sailed by seafaring villagers from the shores of the Zuiderzee: For centuries, dried fish and Edam cheese were exported all over Europe; grain from Poland was shipped to Italy; wine shipped back to Amsterdam etc.

Day 6 Enkhuizen - Harderwijk**61 km**

A 32-km dike will take you across the waters to the town of Lelystad in the Flevo Polder, the newest part of the Netherlands, reclaimed in 1968! Lelystad is named after the architect of the Zuiderzee Works, Cornelis Lely. The Zuiderzee Works started with the building of the great closure dam (1932) that cut off Zuiderzee sea from the North Sea. It turned a choppy sea into a harmless lake and put a stop to regular floods. Subsequently, polders were created in the lake because there was a great need for more farmland. Museum Nieuwland explains in detail why and how the Flevo Polder came to be and how it affected the people who used to live by the sea. Our bicycle route continues on the new land, through woods and cropfields, while we try to imagine how much fun spatial planners and urban planners must have had planning this whole place from scratch. At the end of the day you will reach Harderwijk. Once upon a time it was a bustling Hansa town and a thriving fishing port by the sea - but now it's on a lake overlooking a polder!

Day 7 Harderwijk - Utrecht**61 km**

Along the shores of Randmeren lakes you'll reach Hertog Reijnout steam-driven pumping station (1883-1983), used to drain Arkemheen polder. The next stop is Spakenburg, a former fishing village with a picturesque museum harbour and shipyard for "botters", Zuiderzee fishing boats. In the afternoon, the woods hold all kinds of surprises including a royal palace, a famous pancake inn and a treetop climbing park.

Day 8 Return Home

After breakfast in your hotel, you will return home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 1 till September 23.

Please note: a minimum stay of 2 nights in a row is required in the hotel in Amsterdam on the following dates (and a higher price will be charged):

March 29th, 30th and 31st 2024

April 20th 2024

April 26th and 27th 2024

May 9, 10th and 11th 2024

May 17th, 18th and 19th 2024

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		875.00
Single room, breakfast		1,225.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only Amsterdam		100.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Hotel Mitland, Utrecht		40.00
Westcord Art Hotel, Amsterdam		10.00
Surcharge per person		€
Stay in Amsterdam on Saturday		25.00
Stay in Amsterdam from: 09/05/2024 - 11/05/2024 17/05/2024 - 19/05/2024		40.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		77.00
Hybrid		91.00
E-bike		189.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 7	28.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 7	35.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 7	21.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 7	42.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 7	35.00
Tag-along bike	€ 6.00 x 7	42.00
Child trailer	€ 17.50 x 7	122.50
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00

Starting point:

Utrecht, Bunnik or Amsterdam



Accommodation

The hotels and the B&B on this trip have been carefully selected for their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. All rooms are en-suite. A list of the accommodation we work with appears below. If a certain accommodation is unable to confirm due to lack of availability, we will try to request a comparable alternative if possible. 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.



Hotel Mitland ** (Utrecht)**

<https://www.mitland.nl/>



Westcord Art Hotel */**** (Amsterdam)**

www.westcordhotels.nl/art-hotel



NH Zandvoort ** (Zandvoort)**

www.nh-hotels.nl/hotel/nh-zandvoort



Grand Hotel Alkmaar ** (Alkmaar)**

www.grandhotelalkmaar.nl

Hotel Restaurant Die Port van Cleve * (Enkhuizen)**

www.deportvancleve.nl

Best Western Hotel Baars ** (Harderwijk)**

www.hotelbaars.nl



Practical Info



7 Nights included



3/4 Star Hotels



Breakfast included



Detailed roadbooks with maps and tourist information



The possibility of renting our bikes



7-days a week service-hotline



Luggage transport to your next hotel



CS Utrecht



Parking possibilities at the hotel



GPS-tracks available



Any ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airport is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



The train from Schiphol to Utrecht departs 4 times per hour. Travel time is about 30 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €10- per person excl. bicycle.

For timetables and tickets, go to www.ns.nl/en. For bus details, how to reach the hotel, check: www.9292.nl/en.

