

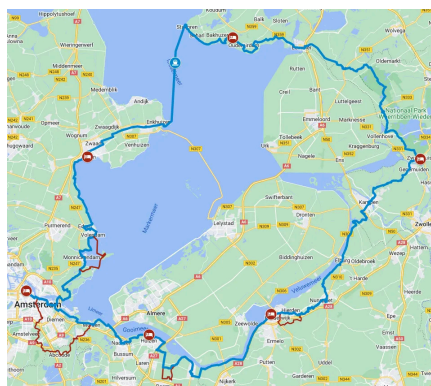
Lake IJssel Tour - classic

8 days, € 930



DUTCH BIKE TOURS
Bike, Breathe & Discover

Introduction



One of our best-loved tours, it shows off the great variety of landscapes, towns and waters in the Netherlands. This is a shorter version of our IJsselmeer Grand Tour which goes all the way around the lake, crossing Afsluitdijk (Closure Dam). Lake IJssel Tour, however, takes you no further north than Stavoren, where you catch a ferry to cross the lake. Ride your bike on the loveliest and quietest roads and bike tracks a cyclist could possibly hope for.

Please be aware in the months may, june and september the boat between Enkhuizen and Stavoren does not depart on Monday.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Huizen**

Arrival in Huizen

Day 2 **Huizen - Amsterdam**

37 km

Hit the tracks and head for Naarden. The town of Naarden is a good example of a star-shaped fortification (have a peek on google maps!). It's very well preserved, complete with walls and a moat. Next up is the village of Muiden, at the mouth of the River Vecht. Although very picturesque in itself, it is best known for its small moated castle built around 1280 - well worth a visit! As the sun sets in Amsterdam, you could go for a leisurely stroll through the romantic canal district.



Day 3 **Amsterdam - Hoorn**

61 km

There's so much to see and do in Amsterdam! Make sure you have an early start. Have you been to see the Gallery of Honour at the Rijksmuseum after the make-over? Why not pop in for a quick visit before you hop back on your bike and plunge into peaceful countryside. Waterland awaits, with wet meadows, wooden bridges and windswept reeds and rushes. Waterlandsmuseum "De Speelklok" in the pretty village of Monnickendam explains (in English) the history of this extraordinary cultural landscape. Then cycle up the shore of Lake Markermeer to friendly Volendam. The quaint stone houses in the distinctive heart of the catholic fishing village seem to have been drawn up without an organized street plan. "De Dijk", overlooking the harbour, is lined with souvenir shops, pavement cafes and restaurants. Just around the corner is the pretty village of Edam. For centuries, small, round, salty cheeses produced by dairy farmers in neighbouring polders were shipped out of Edam and exported all over Europe. For six weeks in summer a traditional Wednesday-morning cheese-market is held as a tourist attraction (10.30 -12.30 hrs) by local volunteers. At the end of the day, you'll reach the lovely, historical town of Hoorn. Like Enkhuizen (see day 4), it has a history in whaling, shipbuilding, fishery and of course shipping. Both towns housed branches ("chambers") of the Dutch East India Company (along with Delft, Middelburg, Amsterdam and Rotterdam).

Day 4 **Hoorn - Rijs**

58 km

Continue up the shore of Lake IJsselmeer, atop the old sea dike, to the beautiful town of Enkhuizen. Opt to visit fun Zuiderzee Museum which tells the story of the days when ships from the Zuiderzee sailed the seven seas trading in bulbs and spices; the days when Holland dominated world trade and the Dutch East India Company was the first-ever multinational. This period is known as the Golden Age and roughly spans the 17th century. The museum also has also combined a collection of local historical architecture with demonstrations of traditional trades. Before you know it, it will be time to catch the ferry from Enkhuizen to Stavoren. It's a trip of 1 ⚓ hours, crossing Lake IJsselmeer. The lake was created in 1932 when a closure dike cut off the Zuiderzee from the North Sea. This was necessary to stop the sea from flooding towns on the Zuiderzee. Once the dike was in place, the sea had become a lake. By 1940 the saltwater had been replaced by fresh water from the River IJssel. Except for the eel, none of the Zuiderzee fish survived. A new fresh water fish population replaced them. On the other side of the lake, you will find yourself in Friesland province. The people of Friesland have their own language (a proper language, not a dialect) closely related to English. When they say butter, bread and green cheese, it sounds like English and not like the Dutch "boter, brood en groene kaas?". The length of this daytrip includes the boat.

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Day 5 **Rijs - Zwartsluis/Vollenhove**

69 km

In the morning, you will cycle through Gaasterland, undulating and woody, to your first port of call, the picturesque town of Lemmer, a favourite with boaters in summer. Next, it's full steam ahead to a World Heritage Site - if you are a steam enthusiast this is your lucky day... Wouda steam-driven pumping station has been operational since 1920 and was used to drain a lake. For centuries, windmills took care of water management in the Netherlands before steam engines took over. Nowadays most of our 1600 pumping stations are electrically powered. In the afternoon, nature lovers will bask in the beauty of Weerribben-Wieden National Park where water, reeds and rushes dominate the landscape. It is said to be the most valuable marshland of north-western Europe.

In case our hotel in Zwartsluis is not available, you will spend this night in the lovely hanseatic city of Vollenhove. You will have the chance to visit Zwartsluis the upcoming morning.



Day 6 Zwartsluis/Vollenhove - Harderwijk**65 km**

After exploring Zwartsluis, popular with boaters and other water sports enthusiasts, you will set off atop the old Kamperzeedijken (Kampen sea dikes) to the marvellous town of Kampen. It has one of the best-preserved town centres in the country. Check out the town gates on the River IJssel side of town. Kampen was a member of the Hanseatic League, a northern European alliance of trading guilds in the 13th-17th centuries. Their main aim was to ensure safe passage for travelling merchants. They also helped each other with information, knowledge, contacts and privileges. This network generated income, allowing merchants to invest in culture and architecture. Perhaps this explains why Hansa towns, centuries on, are so attractive to tourists. The River IJssel, which emptied into Zuiderzee sea, counted several Hansa communities on its banks. In the afternoon, jump back on your bike and follow the fringes of Veluwe Forest down to Harderwijk.

Day 7 Harderwijk - Huizen**49 km**

Set those wheels in motion and pedal along the shores of Randmeren lakes. Arkemheen-Eemland is wide open, empty and a National Heritage Landscape. The area was surrounded by dikes in the year 1360 to stop cropfields from being flooded by the sea. Arkemheen polder is special because the original lots are still intact. The lots are divided by curvy creeks, remnants of Zuiderzee tidal streams. Some plant species still recall the influence of salt water. Part of the polder is being preserved as a bird habitat for "Natura 2000". The visitors' centre has more information. Should you have an abiding interest in the Age of Steam, you may like to visit steam-driven pumping station Hertog Reijnout. It controlled water levels in the low-lying polder from 1883 till 1983. (Cycle distance without ferry-crossing: 55 KM)

Day 8 Return Home

After breakfast in your hotel, you will return home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

From Saturday till Thursday, in May, June and September

Daily in July and August

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):

April 3, 4 & 5, 2026

April 17 & 18, 2026

April 24 until 27, 2026

May 14 until 16, 2026

May 22 until 24, 2026

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		920.00
Single room, breakfast		1,270.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		85.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Hotel Heavens, Hoorn		35.00
Westcord Art Hotel, Amsterdam		10.00
van der Valk hotel Hoorn, Hoorn		15.00
Surcharge per person		€
Stay in Amsterdam on Saturday		25.00
Stay in Amsterdam from: 22/05/2026 - 24/05/2026		40.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		77.00
Hybrid		91.00
E-bike		196.00
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	€ 10.00 x 7	70.00
Child trailer	€ 18.00 x 7	126.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
discount	per piece	-25.00
Giving back to nature	per piece	5.00

Starting point:

Huizen or Amsterdam

In collaboration with:



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.

**Fletcher Hotel Nautisch
Kwartier **** (Huizen)**
www.hotelnautischkwartier.nl

Westcord Art Hotel */****
(Amsterdam)**
www.westcordhotels.nl/art-hotel-amsterdam

Hotel de Keizerskroon *
(Hoorn)**
www.de-keizerskroon-hoorn.nl

Hotel Jans* (Rijs)**
www.hoteljans.nl

Hotel Zwartewater **
(Zwartsluis)**
www.hotelzwartewater.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



Naarden-Bussum. For more information:
ns.nl/reisplannen



Parking possibilities at the hotel



Any ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airport is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



The train from Schiphol to Naarden-Bussum departs 4 times per hour. Travel time is about 40 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €7,- per person excl. bicycle.

For timetables and tickets, go to www.ns.nl/en. From Naarden-Bussum you should take the bus to Huizen. This is about 20 minutes and will cost about €2,50 per person.

For timetables and tickets: www.9292.nl/en.

