





★★★★★ (3)

Boat and bike North Netherland | DE Willemstad

North Sea, tidelands and IJsselmeer


Northern Tour of Holland

During this fascinating cycling cruise on board the ship De Willemstad you will discover the best of what the beautiful Provinces of North-Holland and Friesland offer. Explore flat “polder” landscapes – a polder is a low-lying tract of land enclosed by embankments – the North Sea coast, towering sand dunes, long sandy beaches, historic windmills, the island of Texel and the many picturesque harbor towns along the coast of IJsselmeer Lake. It is without doubt a tour not to be missed!

Nowhere else in the world will you find an area as fascinating as the Dutch Provinces of North Holland and Friesland, two areas rich in tradition. Over the course of your week, you will be able to discover typical Dutch culture and cycle through a flat “polder land”, extensively reclaimed over the centuries from the North Sea and the former Southern Sea (now IJsselmeer). What you will soon realize is the truth behind the proverb “God created the earth but the Dutch made Holland”, such has been the extent of land reclamation in the region you will be cycling through. Since the 17th century in an effort to save disappearing land from encroaching water, protective dikes have been built, low lying land has been pumped dry and tidal dams have been created in creeks to prevent flooding, with the result that today’s green flat polder landscape is full of agricultural enterprise. Given the Dutch love for cycling, the region is crisscrossed with many quiet cycle tracks that stretch from one end of the region to the other. You will be amazed by the beauty of the North Sea beaches, the towering sand dunes – who said there were no hills in Holland! – the extremely bicycle friendly island of Texel, the beautiful flat landscapes, small dreamlike farm villages and romantic picturesque harbor villages. During the second part of the tour you will cross the large lake IJsselmeer to Stavoren in the Province of Friesland. Other highlights during your week tour include the open air museum “Zaanse Schans”, the historic city center of Alkmaar and the old harbor cities of Medemblik, Enkhuizen, Hoorn and Volendam, the islands of Texel and Marken and – of course – Amsterdam with its beautiful canals.

Netherlands

    Easy

 8 Days / 7 Nights

 Self-guided tour

To the online version



Itinerary

Day 1**Arrival Amsterdam**

Embarkation and check-in between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. in Amsterdam. Take the opportunity to go shopping, to explore downtown Amsterdam, to make a canal cruise or to visit a museum. At 5 p.m. welcome drink and safety instructions, dinner and first briefing on board. During dinner short cruise to Zaandam.

Day 2**Amsterdam - Zaandam | Zaandam „Zaanse Schans“ - Alkmaar**

| approx. 44 km

The first cycling trip of this tour takes you via small villages through the beautiful flat and green polder landscape. The first stop is at the Zaanse Schans open air museum (free entry) with its traditional Old Dutch wooden houses, windmills and the cheese- and clog factory. After this visit you will cycle through the “Land of Leeghwater”, a green polder area between Amsterdam, Alkmaar and Hoorn. Stroll through the former whaler’s village De Rijp and pass by the windmills of Schermerhorn. Your ship will be waiting for you near the historical city center of Alkmaar.

Day 3**Dune tour: Alkmaar - Alkmaar | Alkmaar - Den Helder**

| approx. 33- 40 km

Today you can discover the beautiful North-Holland Dune reserve. This is a 5300 hectare large forest- and dune area with its unique landscapes. In these dunes the drinking water for almost the whole province of North-Holland is gained. After a visit to the beach and artists village Bergen you will return to Alkmaar where you can visit the wonderful city center. In the afternoon the ship will sail over the North-Holland Canal to the navy harbor of Den Helder.

Day 4**Ferry to North Sea island of Texel: cycling round trip from/to ‘t Hortnje | Den Helder - Den Oever**

| several options from 15 to 65 km

After breakfast you’ll take a 20-minute ferry ride (ticket included) from Den Helder to the isle of Texel, where you can make beautiful cycling tours on the largest of the Dutch North Sea Isles. Ride through meadows, nature parks and dunes to small villages and have the opportunity for a stop and some bathing at the sandy North Sea beach, or visit the “Ecomare” seal sanctuary. In the late afternoon you will return by ferry to Den Helder. During dinner your ship will sail to Den Oever.

Day 5**Den Oever - Stavoren | Southwest-Friesland: round trip from/to Stavoren**

approx. 43 - 55 km

The vessel will cross the large inland lake IJsselmeer to sail to Stavoren in the Province of Friesland. You can opt for a shorter or longer cycling tour: discover the nature area of Gaasterland or explore a part of the wide lake district, that Friesland is well-known for. You can also combine both options. Night in the small harbor of Stavoren, one of the famous traditional 11 cities of Friesland.

Day 6**Stavoren – Medemblik | Medemblik – Hoorn – Enkhuizen**

30 or 50 km

The ship will cross the IJsselmeer again during breakfast. Take the short cycling trip from Medemblik along the IJsselmeer coast directly to Enkhuizen, where you can spend the afternoon. Enkhuizen is an old city with many centuries of maritime tradition. The “herring city” boasts a beautiful old harbor, a historical old town centre and the very interesting Zuiderzeemuseum. If you prefer a longer cycling tour, ride from Medemblik to the former Dutch East India Company town of Hoorn, in the 17th century one of the world’s leading harbors. Enjoy your lunch break and make a short stroll in the old city centre. Continue by bicycle to Enkhuizen via some picturesque rural villages. In the evening you can join a short city walk.

Day 7**Enkhuizen – Volendam | Volendam – Waterland – Amsterdam**

35 or 50 km

During breakfast the ship will sail to Volendam. Your final day of cycling will lead you through the beautiful area of Waterland, with its hundreds of small lakes and tiny canals. Near Volendam you will have the opportunity to visit a cheese farm. Recommended (extra cycling miles) is a tour to the former island of Marken, to continue through the water shaped region of Waterland back to the Dutch capital city of Amsterdam. The afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy everything Amsterdam has to offer. If you didn’t go for a canal cruise on the first day, you can do so today.

Day 8**Amsterdam / Departure**

End of your tour: Disembarkation after breakfast until 9.30 a.m..

Tour character

Holland is a paradise for cyclists. The routes are flat and well suited for pleasure bikers.

➤ **Explore the area on Google Maps**

Prices and events

Place of arrival: Amsterdam

Season 1	Season 2	Season 3	Season 4
30.03.2024	13.04.2024	27.04.2024	04.05.2024 11.05.2024 18.05.2024 25.05.2024 01.06.2024
			08.06.2024 15.06.2024 22.06.2024 29.06.2024
06.04.2024	20.04.2024	14.09.2024	06.07.2024 13.07.2024 20.07.2024 27.07.2024 03.08.2024
			10.08.2024 17.08.2024 24.08.2024 31.08.2024 07.09.2024
05.10.2024	28.09.2024	21.09.2024	

Boat and bike North Holland | DE Willemstad - under deck, NL-NHSNW-08-U

Base price	759.00	959.00	1,069.00	1,169.00
Grachtenfahrt durch Amsterdam (1 Stunde)	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
2-bed-cabin single use	50%	50%	50%	50%

Boat and bike north holland, DE Willemstad, upper deck, NL-NHSNW-08-O

Base price	959.00	1,159.00	1,319.00	1,419.00
Grachtenfahrt durch Amsterdam (1 Stunde)	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
2-bed-cabin single use	50%	50%	50%	50%

Boat and bike north holland, DE Willemstad, suite upper deck, NL-NHSNW-08-OS

Base price	1,259.00	1,459.00	1,619.00	1,719.00
Grachtenfahrt durch Amsterdam (1 Stunde)	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00

Our bookable bikes

	Price
7-Gang mit Freilauf	90.00

Elektro-rad mit Freilauf	22500
Mitnahme eigenes Tourenrad	10.00
Mitnahme eigenes E-Bike	2500

Prices per person in EUR

Services and extras

Services

- 8 days/7 nights on board of the DE Willemstad
- 7 x breakfast, Packed lunches, 7 x 3-course dinner, Coffee and tea on board till 4 PM, Welcome drink
- Use of bed linen and towels
- Daily cleaning of the cabin
- Climate-controlled cabin
- Daily briefings
- Semi guided cycling tours (guest cycle independently, tour leader also cycles the tour);
- Some short walking tours
- Maps and notes for cycling tours (1 set per cabin)
- GPS tracks
- Use of a waterproof pannier bag
- Ferry ticket to Texel
- Wi-Fi is available in restaurant – data use is not included
- Live music on board

Services not included

- parking fee
- shuttles
- bike rental
- entrance fees and excursions
- ferry tickets
- drinks on board
- tips
- travel insurances.

Extras

Arrival / Parking / Departure

- Amsterdam Central Station: approx. 3 km from the pier.
- Guarded Park & Ride area - costs approx. € 145,- per week, reservation possible with travel documents
- Number of participants

no minimum number of participants - guaranteed departure!

Can be booked separately

Canal cruise, duration 1 hour - special price for our guests € 13 (at the ticket counter approx. € 18). You will receive the ticket on board.

Note

- The schedule and programme are subject to change. If a route cannot be sailed due to low or high water, the skipper reserves the right to change the route for your safety (this is not a free reason for cancellation).
- Crossing to the island of Texel by boat on Monday not in case of unfavourable weather conditions: In this case crossing Den Helder - Texel and back by ferry.
- Special requests for food such as dietary or vegetarian food will be taken into consideration after consultation and if possible. The extra charge for this is approx. € 25,- per person and week (to be paid directly). Please inform us when booking.

Notes

Further important information according to the package travel law can be found [here!](#)

Ship



DE Willemstad

The comfortable ship was completely renovated and converted in 2017/2018. There are two tour leaders on board during the tours with this ship.

Beds: 48

Cabinsize: ca 10 - 15 m²

Crew: 20

Length: 91,35 m

Width: 10,45 m

Draught: 1,45 m

Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.



**Theresa
Hengst**

Book now

