

HOLLAND – SPRING TULIP SHORT BREAK

5-days/4-nights Easy & flat **PREMIUM PLUS** or **PREMIUM** GUIDED cycling cruises from Amsterdam



Holland in springtime is awash with the colours and fragrances of fresh flowers, especially the millions upon millions of brightly coloured tulips. This short 'spring break' tulip tour offers a taste of the season, taking in many Dutch icons, windmills, dikes, wooden clogs and cheese, with the focus very much on the tulips: ride past row after row of flowers in bloom and visit the world-famous 32-hectare Keukenhof Park, perhaps the most beautiful spring garden in the world.

Accommodation aboard Premium Plus or Premium barges, modern and elegantly appointed, with spacious lounge and dining areas for relaxing after the day's ride and cabins with lower beds (no bunks) and private bathroom facilities. Premium Plus barges have a limited number of Premium Twin cabins or Upper Deck Suites whilst the Premium barge has just a few Upper Deck twin bed or double bed cabins.

Bike & Barge cruising combines two popular ways of exploring Europe's waterways, towns and villages: cycling and river cruising. This 5-day cycle cruise is the perfect introduction to this style of holiday. The cycling is mostly flat and generally easy to moderate with up to 40 kilometres in a day. Partners of different abilities and interests can holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists or cycling enthusiasts), and you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

Cost from: **PREMIUM:** Standard cabin from **\$1570** per person twin-share
Upper Deck supplement \$210 per person twin cabin share (\$420 per person double cabin share)
Single use cabin supplement from \$720
Departures: 1, 5, 9 April 2024

PREMIUM PLUS: Standard cabin from **\$2015** per person twin-share
Upper Deck Suite supplement from \$700 per person twin-share
Single use cabin supplement from \$930
Departures: 30 March, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 April 2024

Includes: 4 nights' accommodation aboard the barge in twin-bed ensuite cabin, breakfast daily, picnic lunches on cycling days, 4 x 3-course dinners, welcome drink, daily cabin cleaning, multi-gear hybrid bike hire with pannier, experienced English-speaking cycle tour guides. Premium Plus tour also includes Keukenhof and North Holland Dune Reserve entry, mill visit and ferry fees.

Not included: Drinks on board; most entrance fees; arrival/departure transfers to and from the boat; some ferry fares; items of a personal nature; gratuities; personal and bike insurance.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



We offer these as a Bike & Barge *guided* cycling tour however, you can decide each day if you want to cycle with the group and tour guide, cycle independently, or not ride at all if you prefer to stay with the boat. Non-cycling passengers are welcome on these departures; note that whilst there may be some sightseeing activities or evening guided walks, there are no sightseeing provisions for non-cyclists on cycling days.

Suggested itinerary: subject to change. Cycling distances shown are approximate.

Day 1: Amsterdam – Zaandam

Plan to embark at 2pm. We begin the tour with a short cruise to Zaandam, famous for its windmills and cheese-making. The barge moors in the picturesque city centre and after dinner there is time for a walk.

Day 2: Zaandam – Zaanse Schans – Haarlem

cycling @ 24 or 34km

After breakfast we cycle a short distance to Zaanse Schans, an open-air museum with a unique display of original houses and windmills from the river Zaan area. It is dominated by colourful windmills, the oldest built in 1673 for grinding mustard, spices, paint and oil, and to power sawmills. Visit a clock museum, an old-fashioned grocery store and houses with period furniture, a traditional wooden clog maker, and a cheese farm. In the afternoon you have a choice: board the barge and cruise to Haarlem or stretch your legs and cycle (approx. 24km). Either way the scenery is enjoyable. Haarlem has a well-preserved city centre with many historic buildings. After dinner we should have time to visit some of Haarlem's many sights, including the Grote Markt, St Bavo's Church, the Town Hall, and the Weigh House.

Day 3: Haarlem – Keukenhof – Oude Wetering

cycling @ 39 or 57km

We cycle this morning to the magnificent Keukenhof Gardens, the most beautiful tulip bulb park in the world. Keukenhof offers visitors an overwhelming blaze of spring colours, with seven million flowering tulips as well as hyacinth, narcissi, crocuses, blossoming trees, azaleas, rhododendrons and more, over a magnificent 80 acres. Pavilions offer unique flower shows and a variety of gardening styles, from formal parterres to Japanese style gardens. Keukenhof is also a sculpture park, with many sculptures and *objets d'art* dotted throughout. After our visit to the park, we cycle to Oude Wetering, a small village where our barge awaits.

To maximise your time at Keukenhof, you can arrange to take a bus from the barge in the morning and a taxi back to the barge in the afternoon, both paid locally.

Day 4: Oude Wetering – Aalsmeer flower auction – Amsterdam

cycling @ 28km

An early morning visit to the flower auction in Aalsmeer. Every day Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer sets the world price for flowers and plants shipped in from all over the world (including Australia, Israel, Ethiopia and Colombia) and sold using the auction clock – large and small batches of flowers are dealt with in fractions of seconds. From the gallery we see the crates of flowers, experience the hustle and bustle of auction and marvel at the astonishing logistics, as the flowers sold are exported back out of Holland to destinations worldwide. After the early morning flower auction, return to the barge where a late breakfast awaits us. A short bike ride then enjoy the cruise to Amsterdam. The afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore this cosmopolitan city.

As the Aalsmeer flower auction does not operate on weekends or public holidays, some departure dates may not include a visit to Aalsmeer Let us know when booking if this element is important to you.

Day 5: Departure day. Tour ends after breakfast in Amsterdam.

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PREMIUM PLUS BARGES

Premium Plus boats have more spacious cabins with twin beds. Cabins may have extras such as hair dryers, safe, televisions and air-conditioning. Furnishings and fixtures are up-to-date and to a high standard, and the common areas such as lounge, dining and sundeck are spacious and well-equipped.

Non-cycling passengers may prefer a Premium Plus boat as there is more room to relax during the day.



PREMIUM BARGES

Very comfortable often traditional styled barge. Cabins offer comfortable twin, lower level beds (no bunks) and a small but very functional bathroom with a shower, sink and toilet. The barges have generally modern fitouts with simple but tasteful furnishings. The common areas inside and out are spacious and pleasant often with places where you can sit to enjoy the cruising:



Outdoor Travel also offers Bike & Barge cycling cruises in France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Romania or Hungary or Bike & Boat holidays to the coastal islands of Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey or Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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