



BIKE & BARGE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE

2009

HOLLAND – TULIPS IN SPRINGTIME FROM AMSTERDAM

Easy to moderate deluxe Bike & Barge cruise

- Duration: 8-days / 7-nights
Cost: AUD\$1980 per person twin share (Single cabin supplement AU\$955)
Departs: 5, 12, 19 April 2009
Includes: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (except in Amsterdam), tea and coffee on board
Cabins: Twin beds with air-conditioning and private bathroom/toilet – bed linen and clean towels with daily cleaning service
Guides: Multi-lingual tour guide (English / Dutch)
Bike hire: Hybrid bikes with 24-gears (frame sizes 44,49,53,57cm), water bottle and saddle bag
Fees: Harbor dues, ferry fees and tourist tax are included, entrance fees are extra

Bike & Barge cruises combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling & river cruising), it allows partners of different abilities & interests to holiday together (tours are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), you unpack once & come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.



A relaxing ride through an ever-changing rural landscape – the landscape made famous by the paintings of the Dutch Masters - visiting some of Europe's most interesting historical cities.

We have a limited number of berths on a unique hotel barge cruising and cycling from the Dutch capital Amsterdam to Delft, The Hague and Haarlem through the green heart of Holland. This fully inclusive cruise offers comfortable ensuite cabin accommodation, local and international meals plus the opportunity to explore this beautiful countryside on a guided cycling program sampling beer and local produce that makes these places in Holland so famous. We provide well-maintained multi-geared bicycles and knowledgeable cycling guides. The cycling is fascinating and varied with free time to explore each day's destination. There are opportunities for extended rides for those interested in longer distances.

Suggested itinerary (may be subject to change)

Sunday - Amsterdam – Uithoorn 15km

Welcome aboard - plan to arrive after lunch today. We will cruise through the centre of Amsterdam to the River Amstel and at Oudekerk you will leave the boat for your first short cycle trip. In the evening your guide will give you a more detailed explanation of the program.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Monday - Uithoorn – Gouda 33km

We head towards the city famous for its cheeses – Gouda. Along the way enjoy the views of windmills, lakes and lush green meadows. We will visit a Dutch cheese farm where you can admire and taste the cheeses. We begin the day early with a visit to the flower auction in Aalsmeer – believed to be the biggest flower auction in the world – where every day the world's market prices for flowers and plant is determined. Many millions of types of flowers and plants find their way to markets all over the world from here.

Tuesday - Gouda – Rotterdam – Delft 10km or 28km

In the morning we explore Gouda with its beautiful town hall, then cycle or cruise to Rotterdam, the largest port in the world. From here we cycle to Delft with its beautiful historical centre including the church where the Dutch royal family is buried. Tonight after dinner we have the chance for a guided city walk and perhaps coffee in the main square.

Wednesday - Delft – The Hague – Leiden 23km

Before we leave Delft we can visit a studio where earthenware is hand painted with the famous “Delfts blauw” (Delft's blue) designs. We cycle to the seat of government in Holland, the capital, The Hague. Historically the settlement around the hunting castle “de graven van Holland” (The Earls of Holland) The Hague grew into a town, and the castle gave it its name, 's-Gravenhage. The area is exceptionally cycle-friendly with many cycle paths leading through the city - past government buildings, museums and beautiful facades and mansions to the beach of Scheveningen with its charming boulevard and fishing port.

At the end of the day we cycle back to the boat and cruise to the university town of Leiden.

Thursday - Leiden – Voorhout – Leiden 10km

In the morning we cycle to Voorhout. Here we find Panorama Tulipland, a 62-metre long / 4-metre high painting of the tulip fields some 50-years ago began in 1996 by artist Leo van den Ende. Leo is still working on his painting almost every day so there a chance you might see him at work.

In the afternoon we visit Leiden - the oldest Dutch university town – with its charming and lively centre.

Friday - Leiden – Haarlem 17km or 35km

From Leiden we head for the Keukenhof. Here you can expect to be overwhelmed by the colours at this time of year when the tulip flowers are at their best. After the Keukenhof we continue our bicycle ride to Harlem where we moor overnight.

Saturday – Haarlem - Amsterdam 7km

In the morning there is the chance for a short ride to the statue of Hans Brinker before we rejoin the boat for the cruise into Amsterdam (arriving at approximately midday). Amsterdam is a place of great activity and atmosphere and we spend the last night here. There are many sightseeing possibilities including a boat tour around the canals, the Van Gogh museum, and the Rijks museum which features famous paintings by many Dutch Masters including Rembrandt

Sunday – Amsterdam

Tour ends after breakfast

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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