

HOLLAND IN THE SPRINGTIME

Easy to moderate *Premium* Bike & Barge cruise in the spectacular tulip time



Duration: 8-days / 7-nights
Cost: AU\$1845 per person twin share Single cabin supplement AU\$395
Departs: 24th & 31st March, 7th & 21st April 2012 from Amsterdam

Suggested highlights: The city of Amsterdam * visit a typical cheese farm * see the Green Heart of Holland * Vreeswijk * the silver city of Schoonhoven * the Kinderdijk windmills * Gouda cheeses * Leiden * the flower market at Keukenhof * the university city of Leiden.

Tour cost includes: 7-nights accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom, air-conditioning, in-cabin safe, hairdryer, all meals starting with dinner on Saturday, the first day and ending with breakfast on Saturday the last day (except dinner on one night), picnic lunches each cycling day, daily room cleaning service (including all bedding, sheets, towels, facial tissues, soap), bicycle hire with panniers and services of an experienced cycle tour guide, entrance fees to the Keukenhof & Harbour fees. We suggest you bring or buy your own helmet or they can be hired onboard.

Not included: Drinks and bar expenses other than those mentioned, entrance fees other than those described, transfers or travel to/from the cruise, travel insurance and personal expenses

Bike & Barge cruises combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (easy to moderate cycling with river, canal or island cruising). They allow partners of different abilities & interests to holiday together (trips 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. These cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for first timer or groups.

These cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities sampling beers, wine and local produce in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English but passengers mostly include a mix of different nationalities including English or German speaking with French, Italian or Dutch as the other main languages - adding to the cultural enjoyment of bike and barge cruising.

Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (passengers can bring their own if they prefer) with opportunities for guided cycling along a variety of waterway routes – mostly along flat, sealed pathways - but occasionally they break away into hillier country to visit areas of interest, wine tasting, a castle or a coffee stop. More challenging routes are available in some destinations so please ask for our suggestions according to your ability and interests. The cycling is always fascinating and varied with free time to explore each day's destination. Extra time is usually available for those who want more cycling at the end of each day's stage.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Saturday Amsterdam

Afternoon check-in, your barge will be moored in central Amsterdam near the central railway station. Welcome drink, information on life aboard the boat and the tour followed by dinner and a city walk.

Day 2 Sunday Amsterdam – Vreeswijk

We begin cruising before breakfast sailing to Nigtevegt to start our cycling. We visit a cheese farm where we stop for lunch. We then cycle to Vreeswijk to rejoin the barge. Dinner and overnight at Vreeswijk. In the evening there is time for a stroll through the city with your guide.

Day 3 Monday Vreeswijk – Schoonhoven – Kinderdijk – Gouda

This morning we cycle through stunning scenery as we make our way along the charming River Lek and up to Schoonhoven, a town famous for its silverware. Here we board the barge and cruise past more breathtaking countryside to Kinderdijk which hosts an impressive row of large windmills, built to drain the polder Alblasterwaard. We have the chance visit one of the mills if we wish. Dinner and we dock overnight in Gouda a charming town famous for its cheese and candles.

Day 4 Tuesday Gouda - Leiden

In the morning time we have to explore Gouda before cycling to Leiden, a lively university city, where we stay for dinner and overnight.

Day 5 Wednesday Leiden – Keukenhof – Leiden

After breakfast we cycle to the Keukenhof, the flower markets and exhibition, where we can admire all the beautiful tulips and other flowers that are the pride of Holland. We then cycle back to Leiden where the barge is waiting for our dinner.

Day 6 Thursday Leiden – Amsterdam

After breakfast we cycle to Amsterdam, the capital of Holland, where we have the chance to experience an eye-opening tour that takes us through great Dutch scenery. Dinner tonight is at your own expense in any restaurant you choose. Overnight mooring is in the centre of Amsterdam.

Day 7 Friday Amsterdam

Today we have a choice of either continuing to explore Amsterdam on our own or take part in a cycle tour of the surrounding countryside. If staying in the city we have the opportunity to take a tour in the glass topped canal boats to explore Amsterdam from the water or pay a visit to one of the fascinating museums. Dinner onboard and we stay overnight in the centre of Amsterdam.

Day 8 – Saturday - Amsterdam

Tour ends after breakfast at 9:00am

Other Bike & Barge cruises are available in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Greece & Turkey and also in Vietnam. River and canal hotel barge (no-cycling) cruises or self-skipped boat hire are available throughout Europe as are Inn-to-Inn guided or self-guided cycling tours - ask for details



Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia
- Travel Agent Licence No 31102