

## HOLLAND – AMSTERDAM TO IJSSELMEER & FREISLAND

8-days / 7-nights Moderate **SELF-GUIDED** - PREMIUM Bike & Sailing Ship cycling cruise



Cruise the waterways of Holland and explore the inland lake known as IJsselmeer on a stylish and beautifully appointed three-masted tall ship. This renovated and re-fitted clipper is flat-bottomed with a shallow draught. She has a spacious dining area with bar and cosy seating corner for relaxing. There are 10 comfortable cabins, each with an ensuite shower / toilet, twin lower beds and an opening window or porthole.

Starting and ending in Amsterdam, this Bike & Boat cycling cruise takes you to Monnickendam, Hoorn and Enkhuizen, old trading towns of the Dutch East India Company, and the small Friesland villages of Lemmer and Stavoren in the Frisian lakes region. In 1927-32, the Zuiderzee was enclosed by the Afsluitdijk, and the formerly salt water inlet of the North Sea became the freshwater Lake IJsselmeer. Today the charming historic towns, polders and villages along the lakeshore are connected by excellent cycle paths. On the final day, wind and weather permitting, you set off under full sail again for Amsterdam, where you can enjoy a last evening in this beautiful and exciting capital.

Bike & Boat cruises combine cycling and river, canal or sea cruising, they allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts). Should you not feel like cycling, then you are welcome to relax aboard the ship as it sails to the next destination. Well-maintained multi-gear hybrid touring bicycle with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route – and a fascinating and varied guided cycling program with free time to explore each day's destination.

**E-Bikes are available** (at extra cost) – request these early to avoid disappointment.

**Cost from:** \$2390 per person twin share      Single cabin supplement from \$1095 limited availability

**Departs:** 8, 15, 22, 29 June, 6, 13, 20, 27 July, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 August, 7 September 2024

**Includes:** 7 nights' cabin accommodation; 7 breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches, 7 three-course dinners; hire of multi-gear hybrid touring bicycle with pannier; welcome drink; afternoon coffee and tea; multilingual tour director onboard who provides daily tour briefings (the guide does not cycle with the group); route notes and detailed maps for daily individual self-guided bike tours (1 set per cabin).

**Not Included:** Transfers to/from the mooring point in Amsterdam, other transfers, entrance fees and excursions, ferry fares / tickets, drinks on board, bike or travel insurances, crew gratuities. Bike helmets are available for hire by prior arrangement at extra cost; we recommend you take your own or purchase one locally.

**Time and Tide Wait for No Man:** *A Sailing and Cycling tour is an adventure: the only thing which is certain is that we leave from and come back to Amsterdam. The sailing route depends on weather and wind. The skipper decides the sailing schedule each day and will discuss the options with guests. The skipper and crew do everything they can to offer the program as per the itinerary, but it is possible that the itinerary will vary or that the program will be offered out of order. Enjoy and relax: the elements will lead you.*

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



**Suggested itinerary:** *All cycling distances are approximate. The itinerary is subject to change.*

**Day 1: Amsterdam – Monnickendam / Volendam**

Make your way to board the ship, moored in Amsterdam at 2.00pm. The vessel cruises to either Monnickendam or Volendam, both former fishing villages, where we take a short warm-up ride through the rural nature reserve of Waterland, wetlands with many villages, canals and rivers.

**Day 2: Monnickendam / Volendam – Hoorn**

**Cycling @ 30-50km**

After breakfast the tour manager will brief you about the day's route. Start the day with a ride to a nearby cheese and clog shop for a demonstration of cheese and clog making, and a cheese tasting. Cycle along the dikes to Purmerend, in the heart of the Beemster polder, 3.5 metres below sea level, created over 400 years ago. Continue to Edam, a lovely town known for its cheese covered in red or yellow wax, which keeps it fresh – Dutch sailors and merchants traded it for spices and other goods in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. We ride along the main dike of the IJsselmeer to meet the ship in Volendam. Later in the afternoon the ship sails to Hoorn, home to many beautifully ornate buildings and well worth exploring.

**Day 3: Hoorn – Enkhuizen – Urk**

**Cycling @ 30-40km**

From Hoorn we cycle through rural hamlets and villages, passing by the windmill De Krijgsman (*The Warrior*), one of a handful of windmills still in use commercially, producing flour. This area is also known for its many greenhouses. Our destination is Enkhuizen, once one of the wealthiest cities in Holland, thanks to its busy harbour where Dutch East India Company ships once unloaded their cargo of spices, tea, silk, cotton and porcelain from the East Indies, Southeast Asia, and India. There are still many buildings that reflect Enkhuizen's status. In the afternoon, weather permitting, we sail across the IJsselmeer to the port of Urk. You can assist the crew in sailing the ship if you wish or sit back and enjoy the journey. In the evening there should be some time to explore Urk, a picturesque fishing village which was once an island.

**Day 4: Urk – Vollenhove**

**Cycling @ 40km**

After breakfast we ride along the lake on a dedicated, paved cycle path to the former island of Schokland, part of the mainland since the reclamation of the Northeast polder (Noordoostpolder) in 1942. We continue through the polder to Vollenhove, another charming former fishing village.

**Day 5: Vollenhove - Giethoorn**

**Cycling @ 40-50km**

From Vollenhove, cycle paths lead through open countryside to the small town of Blokzijl, where we enter the Weerribben-Wieden National Park, the largest freshwater wetland in north-western Europe and a peaceful oasis for plants, animals and humans. With luck we may see kingfishers or even otters. We pass through the remote village of Kalenberg – until the 1950s it was only accessible by boat – then continue on through an agricultural landscape to the lovely town of Giethoorn, known as “small Venice of the North” where we re-join the boat.

**Day 6: Giethoorn – Lelystad**

**No cycling**

A relaxed day of sailing – again you can help sail the ship if you like or sit back on deck and relax. In the early afternoon we arrive in Lelystad, capital of the province of Flevoland that was entirely reclaimed from the sea. There is free time to visit the maritime shipyard and museum Batavia Werf, with many old, restored ships.

**Day 7: Lelystad – Blocq van Kuffeler – Amsterdam**

**Cycling @ 20-30km**

We cycle through the Oostvaardersplassen, a nature reserve on newly reclaimed land, returning to a revegetated natural state and a paradise for birdwatchers. We meet the ship in the small port of Oostvaardersdiep and sail back to the Dutch capital. There should be time to explore a bit of Amsterdam before our farewell dinner.

**Day 8: Depart from Amsterdam**

Tour ends after breakfast.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

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