



April 7th - 13th 2018
Rotterdam to Amsterdam

Bike and barge with us through the green heart of Holland, starting and ending in great Dutch cities!

Visit the beautiful springtime flower park Keukenhof, known by thousands of blooming tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and other bulb flowers, all according to the weather. You will also visit historic cities as Delft, Rotterdam, Gouda (cheese-city), Leiden en Haarlem, Holland's oldest city. During the bike tours, you will enjoy the colorful, wide open meadows and beautiful charming cities. Some parts of the route will be carried out by the Merlijn, sailing together as a group.



Day 1: Saturday, Rotterdam

The crew will welcome you aboard the Merlijn with a welcome drink and information on the barge and the route. In the afternoon and evening there will be time to enjoy the city of Rotterdam.



Day 2: Sunday, Rotterdam - Delft - Rotterdam, biking approx 40 km

In the morning before your bike tour starts to Delft, one of the very famous Dutch cities. In its beautifully preserved historic centre you get in touch with the rich history of the city. Delft stands for Delft Blue, House of Orange - such as the Nieuwe Kerk / New Church with its historic link to the Dutch Royal Family - Vermeer, Almshouses (there are 7), Churches and Monasteries. Besides this Delft is charming with all its canals and historical buildings. After this visit you will return by bike to Rotterdam and you will have time to explore Rotterdam a little more and enjoy your diner in one of the many restaurants in this metro pole.



Day 3: Monday, Rotterdam - Gouda, biking approx 35 km

In the morning we will sail our first part. While cruising you will enjoy the spectacular skyline of Rotterdam.



Our first destination is Kinderdijk, where your bike tour starts. Here appears an impressive row of 19 large windmills, built to drain the polder Alblasserwaard. You can visit one of the mills. Today's bike tour takes you through the Green Heart of Holland to Gouda, the city of cheese and 'stroopwafels'; dinner and overnight stay on board.



Gouda



Day 4: Tuesday, Gouda - Leiden, biking approx. 35 km

Biking through the Green Heart of Holland again, passing Boskoop, famous for its nurseries (horticulture), particularly woody plant and perennial nurseries, of which some 774 are situated on long stretches of land, divided by narrow canals. We will pass small cities and villages such as Alphen aan den Rijn, and later on today's destination Leiden. When exploring Leiden you will notice it's rich history still seems very much alive. This is where Rembrandt was born and developed his painting skills. Leiden's atmosphere is largely determined by the first university in Holland (1575), which has developed into a world-famous centre of science, while its many students contribute to the lively and convivial atmosphere in the city. Dinner and overnight stay in Leiden.



Day 5: Wednesday, Leiden - Keukenhof - Haarlem, biking approx. 35 km

While you enjoy your sailing breakfast the Merlijn will take you to Lisse, which is close to the Keukenhof, the flower exhibition, one of the highlights of the tour. After your visit you will bike to the Merlijn, passing flower fields and great Dutch scenery. In Haarlem you will enjoy your dinner at your own expense, and stroll through the historical city, maybe you will have time to explore the charming, historical city of Haarlem a little more before enjoy your dinner. You may want to visit the Frans Hals Museum or the St. Bavo Church, where once Mozart played the organ. There are many things to see in Haarlem, known as the oldest city of Holland, its history goes back to the 10th century. You may want to end your trip drinking the famous local “Jopen” beer in one of the many bars.



Day 6 : Thursday, Haarlem - Zaanse Schans - Amsterdam, biking approx. 40 km

In the morning your last bike tour brings you to the Zaanse Schans. The bike tour leads you to Zaandam, where you can admire the famous Dutch windmills. Your tour ends in the capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam. Here you will have time to explore the city, you might want to include a ride through the canals. Later on you may want to visit the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh museum. Farewell dinner and city walk through the beautiful illuminated lively centre of Amsterdam.



St. Bavo, Haarlem



Amsterdam



Day 7 - Friday, Amsterdam

After breakfast: End of this trip.

Rate p.p. in a double room € 1.275*

* Rates subject to change. This rate applies at the date of reservation/confirmation.

Included in your trip:

6 nights of accommodation, 6 times breakfast buffet, 5 times packed lunch, 4 times three course dinners
Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and ice water free of charge
Use of a 24-speed tour bike, including bike bag, water bottle and universal sized helmet
Services of a tour guide
Fees for harbors, bridges and locks
Daily cabin cleaning service
Welcome drink
Route information
Ferry fares *en route*
Group admittance to the Keukenhof

Not included:

Insurances
Two dinners
Inbound and outbound journey and transfers
Organised city tours
Drinks other than mentioned
Entrance fees other than the Keukenhof

Payment: 20% of the price at the time of reservation,
80% 1 month prior to starting cruise date

Cancellation fee: If the cruise is cancelled
until 6 months prior to starting cruise date 20%
between 6 and 4 months prior to starting cruise date 50%
between 4 and 1 month prior to starting cruise date 80%
between 1 month and 1 day prior to starting cruise date 90%
at the day of starting cruise date or later 100%

We will be happy to inform you on transfers, city hotel reservations, rental of our tandem or electric bikes (€ 25 each per day)

Reservations through info@merlijn.nu Jantien Wondergem www.merlijn.nu

