



**OK CYCLE &
ADVENTURE
TOURS** SINCE 1995

Netherlands – Pearls of Holland Bike Tour 2017
Individual Self-guided
7 days / 6 nights



Wikigogo.org

Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, Delft and Gouda are among our cyclists' all-time favourite cities – each unique and all brimming with that typical Olde Holland character. We have decided to combine them into this one route for the ultimate cultural bike holiday. Cycling distances are relatively short allowing more time for sightseeing and museums. Although you will stay within the Randstad conurbation you'll discover how rural and quiet the countryside can be, where polders, windmills, bulb flower fields (in spring!), lakes and rivers take the spotlight. In short, this route stands for seven days of enjoying cultural gems and idyllic countryside.

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. -- 1337B Wellington Ave – Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 3B8 www.okcycletours.com
Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350



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Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival in Amsterdam

Get here early and opt to wander around the gorgeous and surprisingly peaceful seventeenth century canal ring area (World Heritage Site). If you like bustle, make your way to the city's famous squares: Dam, Rembrandtplein and Leidseplein. Should you prefer to roam off the beaten track, saunter up Brouwersgracht or hire a canal bike and find out what the city looks like from the water?

Day 2: Amsterdam - Haarlem 29 km

Get an early start and beat the queues at the Van Gogh or Anne Frank museum. At the end of the morning, say "tot ziens!" to amazing Amsterdam and mount your bike to journey through Kennemerland where a great variety of lovely countryside awaits: vast polders, wildlife and gardens, country estates, woods and beautiful peatland. You will stay the night in the elegant city of Haarlem. The attractive city centre offers a wealth of possibilities for shopping, delving into art and culture, or relaxing in cafes and restaurants.



Flickr.com



Pinterest.com

Day 3: Haarlem - Leiden 38 km

Downtown Haarlem deserves to be explored thoroughly. We recommend a city walk to discover the city's hidden "hofjes". A hofje is a square of tiny alms-houses set around an idyllic courtyard, often built by the church or by private charity to house single older women. Also dating back to the Dutch Golden Age, the works of Haarlem painter Frans Hals (group portraiture) and his townsmen including Jacob Ruysdael (land and seascapes) and Pieter Saenredam (church interiors) are on display at the Frans Hals museum. In the afternoon get set for a colourful bike trip through the Dune and Bulb Region. Try to time this holiday before mid-May to capture the bulb flower fields in their full splendour! Tulips,

crocuses, daffodils and hyacinths are grown here commercially (for bulb export) and temporarily transform the landscape into one of the country's best-loved tourist attractions. Should you want to spend a day at world famous Keukenhof flower exhibition, we recommend you book an extra night in Leiden. Leiden is our oldest university town. It has a very busy cultural events calendar and a friendly city centre with canals, monuments windmills and museums. The historical botanical gardens get special mention.

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Day 4: Leiden - Delft 24 km

After taking your leave of lively Leiden, peace and quiet will reign once more in today's typically Dutch scenery. Note all the orderly rectangles in this man made polder landscape (mostly peatland reclamations). Let shining lakes and green pastures, old windmills and farmhouses pass you by whilst pedalling on to the famous city of Delft. The melancholy charm of historical Delft is breath taking. Most will associate Delft with its blue and white hand-painted pottery: Delftware. But did you know that painter Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675) lived in Delft all his life? The Vermeer Centre gives illuminating insights into his life, works and city (no original paintings on show here).



Holland.com

Day 5: Delft - Gouda 34 km

This stretch of the tour takes you through the Green Heart: a stronghold against urban sprawl in Randstad conurbation. Balancing atop polder dikes, delight in characteristic villages, far horizons and pleasingly strict rectangles cut by ditches in fields of vibrant green. As you wander around the city of Gouda at the end of the day, don't miss the gothic town hall (1450); the Weighing House (1667); the romantic inner city canals and the stained glass windows in St. John's Church. Gouda is also famous for making syrup waffles (try one hot!) and candles. If you're travelling in summer, plan your trip so that you can witness the traditional Thursday morning cheese market at the start of Day 6 (last Thursday in June till last Thursday in August).



Day 6: Gouda - Amsterdam 80 km

After a hearty breakfast at your hotel, get back on your bike and set off on the longest leg of this bike tour! You will be making a tour via the rural Green Heart. On the way, the scenery is punctuated by rivers, polders and lakes (bird lovers bring your binoculars!). In this Green Heart of Holland only small villages, lakes and meadows. Do stop for a sample of Dutch style apple tart! Thus fortified, continue on your way back to Amsterdam pursuing beautiful River Amstel. Would the 80 km be too long for you then you can split this day by booking an extra Overnight in Mijdrecht. (30 km and 48 km).

Day 7: Return home

Your cycling holiday has come to an end. Enjoy a big hearty breakfast one last time – don't forget to try chocolate sprinkles – and then it's time to go home



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Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Easy

Distance: 205 km

Travel Dates: Daily arrivals starting April 1 until September 24, 2017



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Price per Person:

Double Occupancy with Breakfast	€ 594.00
Supplements	
Single Supplement	€ 180.00
Half board (dinner)	€ 165.00
Bike Rental (7/21 gears)	€ 72.00
E-bike	€ 150.00
Emergency Call Out Service/Bike breakdown pass	€ 15.00
GPS rental	€ 10.00
Surcharge for staying overnight in Amsterdam on Saturday in a double room	€ 15.00
Surcharge for staying overnight in Amsterdam on Saturday in a single room	€ 30.00
Surcharge for staying in Amsterdam April 18-23; May 15-17; June 24-27; September 14-19 Double Occupancy	€ 50.00
Surcharge for staying in Amsterdam April 18-23; May 15-17; June 24-27; September 14-19 Double Occupancy	€ 100.00
Extra nights in Amsterdam	€ 70.00

Included:

- 6 nights' accommodation in 3*** or 4**** hotels
- Breakfast (buffet)
- Evening dinner (min. 3 courses), if you book Half Board
- Luggage transport to your next hotel
- Detailed route descriptions and maps
- Tourist information on all the places of interest
- On demand: Tour as GPS-file
- Saddlebags for carrying things you need on the road
- Seven days a week service hotline
- The possibility of renting our bikes and trailers (at extra cost)
- We adapt the bike to suit your wishes



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Bikes

You will receive your rental bike at the start of your holiday and return it before you go home. All bikes are provided with chain locks.

24-speed gear Bike



E-Bike



Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

www.okcycletours.com



THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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