



Netherlands – Pearls of Holland Bike Tour (2025)

Individual Self-guided
7 days / 6 nights



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. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9

www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350

TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848



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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 rent a canal bike and find out what the city looks like from the water.

Day 2: Amsterdam-Haarlem/Santpoort 30km

Spend the morning visiting your favourite Amsterdam museum or sitting in the sun on Rembrandtplein watching the world go by, or go for a walk along the canals. The possibilities are endless. As you leave the capital in the early afternoon, the urban buzz will soon make way for the peace and quiet of the countryside. This region is called Zuid-Kennemerland. In the low-lying peat landscape clouds are reflected in the water and reed sways in the wind. The steam mill Cruquius, just before you cycle into Haarlem, is itself a



National Monument for the steam history of the engine within, and it has also been declared an Anchor Point of ERIH, The European Route of Industrial Heritage. It is thought to be the largest steam engine—and certainly the largest beam engine—ever built. The reclamation of Haarlemmermeer by means of steam power marked the breakthrough of the Industrial Revolution in the Netherlands. Top off your day roaming lovely downtown Haarlem, from impressive Grote Markt square, to the white drawbridge on the River Spaarne. Idyllic courtyards, known as 'hofjes', will set your hearta-flutter. Haarlem is home to the oldest hofje dating from 1395.

It can happen that we will book a hotel in Santpoort instead of Haarlem, due to availability. The hotel is located in a manor house with a beautiful park, surrounded by nature, about 7 km outside Haarlem. Please check the extra price of Landgoed Duin & Kruidberg Hotel in Santpoort in the price overview below. The price includes dinner for this night

Day 3: Haarlem/Santpoort – Leiden 43 km

Haarlem, one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands, deserves to be explored extensively before your bicycle tour today. In the monumental city center, with many sights, you can stroll around for hours without getting bored for a moment. Famous photo spot is the small white drawbridge over the Spaarne with the two gabled houses in the background. On the market you will find the Grote Kerk with the organ that Mozart played on when he visited Haarlem. Fancy a morning of soaking up art? Then visit the Frans Hals museum with unique art from the Golden Age, including works by Haarlem painters Frans Hals, Jacob van Ruisdael and Pieter Saenredam. After Haarlem, get ready for a bike ride through the famous Dutch Bulb Region, the area where much of Holland's flower bulb cultivation takes place. Cycle through the dunes past well-known seaside resorts such as Noordwijk and Zandvoort. Noordwijk is a

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seaside resort of international stature with a 13 km long sandy beach. Surrounded by beautiful forest areas, rugged dunes and the flower bulb region near De Keukenhof, Noordwijk is also referred to as the flower resort of Europe. Formula 1 fans know the CM.com Circuit Zandvoort, which is known as a real "Old School" circuit, with fast, undulating and challenging corners formed by the natural dunes. With a track length of 4.3 kilometers, it is one of the shorter circuits on the F1 calendar. Almost nowhere else do drivers race past race fans so often! In the late afternoon, you will



arrive in Leiden, another beautiful historic city rich in attractions. The city has much to offer. Beautiful are the seventeenth-century houses and characteristic canals. Also worth a visit are the oldest university in the Netherlands, the historic botanical garden and the Gothic St. Pieterskerk.

Day 4: Leiden – Delft 29 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 breathtaking. 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).



Day 5: Delft – Gouda/Oudewater/Bodegraven 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 (early April till last Thursday in August).

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**Day 6: Gouda/Oudewater/Bodegraven - Amsterdam 68 km**

After a hearty breakfast at your hotel, get back on your bike and set off on the longest leg of this bike tour! Bird lovers bring your binoculars! Once again, switch on your five senses to fully enjoy the characteristic countryside of the Green Heart. Drift past meadows, lakes and small villages. Can you hear the wind in the rushes? Did you see the clouds reflected in the lake? Are you feeling peckish? In that case, do stop to sample Dutch style apple tart with your coffee! Thus fortified, continue on your way back to Amsterdam pursuing beautiful River Amstel.

Should the prospect of 68 km be rather daunting, then you can book the 8-day relaxed version of this tour. Then you sleep an extra night in Woerden between Gouda and Amsterdam (making two legs: 38 km and 49 km). Ask us for details and prices

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: This is an easy cycling trip on relatively flat terrain, suitable for people with little or no cycling experience. Daily cycling distances span roughly 30-50 km. **Distance:** 215 km

Travel Season: Departures daily from April 1 until September 24

Please note: a minimum stay of 2 nights in a row is required in the hotel in Amsterdam on the following dates (and a higher price will be charged): April 18, 19, 20 (included) April 25, 26 (included)* May 29, 30, 31 (included)* June 6, 7, 8 (included)* June 21, 22 (included)* June 24, 25 (included)* August 29, 30, 31 (included)*

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Price per Person in Euros: *all prices subject to confirmation on booking*

Double Occupancy with Breakfast	€ 825
Single Occupancy with Breakfast	€ 1245
Hybrid Bike Rental	€ 80
E-bike	€ 170
Surcharge for staying overnight in Amsterdam on Saturday Double Occupancy	€ 25
Surcharge for staying in Amsterdam on dates above	€ 40
Hybrid Bike Insurance (theft)	€ 18
E-Bike Insurance (theft)	€ 36
Extra Nights	On request
Bike breakdown pass	€24

Included:

- 6 nights' accommodation in 3*** or 4**** hotels
- Breakfast (buffet)
- Luggage transport to your next hotel 1 piece 20Kg
- Detailed route descriptions and maps
- Tourist information on all the places of interest
- Guibo App

Not Included:

- Any ferry crossings



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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

hybrid bikes have 24-gears with hand brakes. The hybrid bikes are circa 16,5 KG.



E-Bike

The e-bikes have a small electric engine and battery, which can be charged at the hotels. You still have to pedal: it just makes pedaling much easier. Some experience with e-bikes is recommended, as the bikes accelerate faster and are heavier than regular bikes because of the electric engine. The weight of the e-bike is ca. 25 KG. We recommend a minimum height of 160 cm for the e-bike.

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

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THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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