

Netherlands - Belgium - Amsterdam to Bruges Bicycle Tour (2025)
Individual Self-Guided
8 days / 7 nights



We have devised a wonderful cycling holiday through the Netherlands down into Belgium, past towns, villages, canals – on high quality cycling paths. In eight days of cycling you will discover many delightful places you otherwise wouldn't have chanced upon. Starting in Amsterdam and travelling in a southwesterly direction you will go to the following towns: Gouda, Dordrecht, Willemstad, Zierikzee, Middelburg, Vlissingen (Flushing), Sluis, Damme and Bruges. They count among the most picturesque towns in the Netherlands and Flanders and are remarkably well-preserved and evocative of centuries past. The route is predominantly rural and passes through a number of nature reserves. We also offer this tour with Bruges as the starting point.



### **Itinerary Day to Day**

#### Day 1: Arrival in Amsterdam

Your bicycle holiday starts in Amsterdam, famous for its gorgeous 400 year old canal district; museums (the new Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh, Anne Frank etc); street artists and performers on Dam, Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein; a notorious red light district and more. This city is brimming with things to see and do and you couldn't wish for a more dynamic beginning to your holiday. Try to arrive early so you have time to admire the elegant tree lined canals and tall narrow townhouses and warehouses dating from the 17th century (World Heritage Site).



Day 2: Amsterdam – Amsterdam – Gouda/Bodegraven 68 km From bustling Amsterdam, plunge into the peace and quiet of the 'Groene Hart' or Green Heart, a pleasant rural area of low-lying polders, peat meadows and grazing cattle. A flat, open landscape where church spires and windmills touch the horizon and clouds are reflected in lakes and canals. For centuries, people have flocked to markets in Gouda, coming from far and wide to buy horses, cows, meat, turf, seed, cheese, etc. Take an evening stroll around the Old Town, soak up the yesteryear atmosphere and marvel at the attractive market square, 15th-century town hall and Weighing House or 'Waag'.

#### Day 3: Gouda/Bodegraven - Papendrecht/Dordrecht 38 km

From Gouda, cycle via the 'Green Heart of Holland' to Kinderdijk, where 19 windmills have majestically stood the test of time since 1740. These mills were formerly used to drain excess water out of the low-lying polder and pump it up to the River Lek, and one of them is open to the public. Your destination Papendrecht is just a ferry crossing away from Dordrecht, one of Holland's oldest towns, surrounded entirely by rivers. Beautiful bridges take you across into the heart of town, where monumental buildings line the harbour. A short 3km stretch leads to your hotel in Papendrecht, situated

### Day 4: Papendrecht/Dordrecht - Willemstad 65 km

The result of a major flood in 1421, Biesbosch is one of the few remaining wetland habitats in Europe where the ecosystem has adapted both to saltwater coming in from the sea through tidal creeks, and to freshwater coming down in the rivers. It's an ever changing labyrinth of creeks and riverlets encompassing countless little islands of willow woods and reeds, a paradise for birds. The longer ride (54 km) takes you along the edges of this National Park. Round off the day in Willemstad, a fortified town shaped like a seven point star. Please note: Biesbosch Park can only be cycled on days the ferry runs. There is an alternate route for days with no ferry departure.

on the north bank of the river just outside Dordrecht town centre.





#### Day 5: Willemstad – Schuddebeurs/Zierikzee 50 km

Today you will enter Zeeland, a province of the Netherlands marked by light, wind, water and lots of space. It is made up of islands so bridges and ferries will be carrying you across the waters as you drift down towards Belgium. Picture book towns with ancient houses and cobbled streets are lined up for the coming days. Traverse a patchwork landscape of vast polders, idyllic countryside, rolling dunes and golden sand flats.



# Day 6: Schuddebeurs/Zierikzee – Vlissingen/Middelburg 43 km

A wander down the narrow streets of Zierikzee is an absolute delight. Quaint little old houses take you back in time to the town's glory days when ships set sail to sell salt, wool, fish, grain and red dye as far afield as the Baltic and the Mediterranean. Your route continues to the charming village of Veere. From 1541 everything that was exported to Holland from Scotland (mainly wool) came ashore in and was distributed from Veere. This contract brought the town not only prosperity but also a very lively Scottish expat community that stayed for 300 years. Walk in their footsteps as you take a tour of the sights. Cruising further south, you will discover the nostalgic splendour of the city of Middelburg, capital of Zeeland. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was one of the most important centres of trade in the Netherlands.

#### Day 7: Middelburg /Vlissingen – Brugge 66 km

After a hearty breakfast, you will cycle to Vlissingen. After Vlissingen hop on a ferry boat to Zeelandic Flanders with its winding country roads, pollard willows, wet meadows and scattered villages. Having crossed the border into Belgium, you will reach the charming little town of Damme on the banks of the romantic Damse Vaart. From here, it's only a short stretch to Bruges, known as the pearl of Flanders! It's a truly enchanting town that has been welcoming tourists for about 150 years. With most of its medieval architecture intact, it remains exceptionally well preserved and can really give you a sense of times gone by when it was at the centre of the European wool and cloth trade.



#### Day 8: Return home

After breakfast in your hotel, you will return home



#### **Route**



# **Technical Characteristics:**

**Route Profile:** Easy. 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:** 362 km

Travel Season: Departures daily April 1 - September 24

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



#### Price per Person:

	Cat A	Cat B	
Double Occupancy with Breakfast	€ 875	€ 835	
Surcharge Single Room with breakfast	€ 490	€ 490	
Hybrid Bike Rental	€	€ 95	
E-Bike	€ 199		
Hybrid Bike Insurance (theft)	€ 24		
E-Bike Insurance (theft)	€ 46		
Surcharge for staying in Amsterdam on a Saturday	€25		
Extra Nights in Amsterdam	On re	On request	
Breakdown pass 7 x€4 *	€	€ 28	

#### High season dates Amsterdam

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)\*

\*IMPORTANT! If the trip includes a night in Amsterdam on the dates above, there is a minimum stay of 2 consecutive nights in Amsterdam required. There is also an extra high season surcharge of €40 per person. If the date is on a Saturday night, there will be an additional charge of €25 per person.

Breakdown pass- Mile after wonderful mile of untroubled cycling is what we would wish our clients. However there is a minimal chance of breakdown along the way. If this thought is a nagging worry to you, a Bicycle Breakdown Assistance insurance policy may ease your mind. If you buy this insurance from our partner ANWB pechhulp in advance, their service is as follows. The costs are €4,- per bicycle per day. If your bike breaks down by the roadside an ANWB bicycle repair man will drive to you in his repair van and fix your bike so you can continue your tour. You won't have to pay him repair costs. If you are cycling on your own bicycle you will be charged for any new spare parts your bike may require. If you are renting a bicycle through Dutch Bike Tours any new parts are at our expense. If it turns out the bicycle cannot be repaired on the spot, or if you can't continue cycling, the repairman can drop you off somewhere in his van. One companion plus bikes may join you in the van.

#### Included:

- 7 nights' accommodation in selected Cat accommodation all hotels are 3\* or above Cat A hotels are more centrally located.
- Breakfast
- Luggage transport to your next hotel (1 piece Max 20 kg)
- Detailed route descriptions, maps and Guibo app

# Not Included:

- Any ferry crossings
- Trains to and from start/end of tour



# **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.

**Hybrid Bike** 



### E-Bike



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

www.okcycletours.com tico.ca