



**Netherlands - Belgium - Amsterdam to Bruges by Bike and Barge Tour (2025)**

**Guided Bike Tour**

**8 days / 7 nights**



Two countries, Holland, and Belgium, united in one route. Combining the highlights of Holland's Golden Age and the heydays of the Flemish trade cities in the Middle Ages. And of course Holland's own world wonder: the Delta Works.

The Dutch 17th century Golden Age and the heyday of the Flemish trading cities of the Middle Ages are united in this route. Notice the big difference between the green polder landscape abounding in water, with its tranquil roads and villages and the old world of islands in Zeeland with its pastures, creeks, winding dikes and dams. On top of that the often so picturesque Flemish countryside between the Belgian cities of Gent and Bruges. The great rivers are a prominent feature in this part of the Netherlands and Belgium. Of course you will get to know our own, Dutch Wonder of the World: the Delta Works, evidence of the eternal battle against the waters of the sea.

**OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9**

**[www.okcycletours.com](http://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

#### Amsterdam to Bruges

##### **Day 1: Amsterdam, boarding between 12:30pm and 1:30pm; Sailing to Oude Wetering round trip 10 km**

The barge is moored at the Oosterdok in central Amsterdam, near the train station. You are expected to arrive at our barge between 12:30pm and 1:30pm. When you arrive on board, you can settle in and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It is also a good moment to become acquainted with the tour leader, skipper and crew and of course your fellow passengers. The barge leaves dock at 2:00 PM. You will first cruise through Amsterdam before reaching the wetlands south of the city and the mooring place of today, the village of Oude Wetering. A relaxed way of starting your trip and get used to life on the barge. During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next day and the global planning of the week are discussed. Instructions on cycling and safety procedures will also be given. After dinner the tour leader will escort you on the first kilometers on your bike during a short ride around the village.

##### **Day 2: Oude Wetering – Gouda 45 km**

From Oude Wetering, we will continue our tour over country roads, banks and channels through the Green Heart and polders to the city known for its cheese: Gouda. Your ride takes you through a typical Dutch landscape filled with green meadows, wetlands, canals, rivers and small villages. You will cross waterways on small ferries and over bridges. Before we reach Gouda you ride through the Reeuwijkse Plassen, a nature reserve and renowned wetland.



Who thinks of Gouda, not only thinks of cheese, pipes, 'stroopwafels' (treacle-waffle) and pottery, but also of stained-glass windows, a fairy-like town hall and atmospheric canals. Gouda is beautiful Old-Dutch city with a mostly intact city center. The 'St. Janskerk', Gouda's 123-metre-long church, with its renowned 'Goudse Glazen' (leaded light windows), the beautiful gothic town hall and the 'Waag' (a building once used for weighing cheese) are absolutely worth a visit. As on most evenings after dinner the tour guide will take you on a walk through the city.

##### **Day 3: Gouda – Alblasterdam - Dordrecht 40 km**

From Gouda you will cycle over quiet country roads and narrow cycling paths to Dordrecht. You ride past scenic polders and through the deepest lying polder of the Netherlands, Krimpenerwaard. After arriving on the dyke of the river 'Lek' you cross by ferry to Kinderdijk. From the embankments of the river Lek, you will witness an amazing view of the 19 windmills, which are now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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The windmills at Kinderdijk were still actively used until 1950. These days, a large pumping station is responsible for controlling the water level in the polder. This is where you will take a break and can visit the interior of a windmill. An impressive piece of centuries old technique that is still functional today.

After a beautiful tour through the Alblasserwaardpolder we will arrive at Alblasterdam. A modern, fast ferry will take us over to Dordrecht, one of the oldest cities of the country, situated at a busy crossing of waterways. Dordrecht is also the birthplace of independence of the Netherlands as this is the town where in 1572 the first free State assembly was held.

This assembly can be seen as start of the Netherlands as an independent country as the resistance against Spain was formed here.



**Day 4: Dordrecht, sailing to Willemstad,  
cycling to Zierikzee 54 km**

From Dordrecht we will sail to the Delta area of the Dutch greater rivers during breakfast. Years ago, an open connection existed with the sea due to the many tributaries in this area. After the disastrous flooding in 1953, the Deltaplan was developed and most tidal outlets were closed from the sea by dams. Most parts of Zeeland were, and still are, under sea level and in 1953 the embankments were too weak and too low, causing this area to be at risk for flooding's once in every 80 years. Now, because of the flood barriers, that chance is reduced to less than once every 4000 years. In Willemstad, an old fortified town, we start our cycle tour and ride over the Volkerakbrug (with beneath it, one of the busiest locks in the world) to the former island of Goeree-Overflakkee. Nowadays, this land is easy to reach by embankments and bridges, all part of the Deltaplan of 1953 now protecting the southwestern part of the Netherlands against the rough sea. Just before reaching our destination of today (Zierikzee, on the island of Schouwen-Duiveland) we will visit the 'Watersnoodmuseum'. This museum tells the tragic events of 1953 and is built in recently renewed caissons, once used for the last closure gap. This was done in November 1953, ten months after the storm surge which broke through more than 300 embankments. A shorter version of today's route is offered by sailing to Bruinisse, from where the group of remaining cyclists can be joined to Zierikzee, after which the Watersnoodmuseum is visited. Zierikzee is a beautiful town and the centre of the 'mussel culture'. The 'Zeeuwse mosselen' (blue mussels) are a renowned delicacy.

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**Day 5: Zierikzee – Middelburg - Vlissingen 51 km**

On this day we will cycle towards the North Sea, along the Oosterschelde to the Oosterscheludedam. Enormous locks are built in this embankment that can be closed during storms and high tides protecting the south-west of the Netherlands against the sea. This embankment was one of the last in a series of barriers against the sea. When cycling along the embankment, one will realize why this has been one of the most difficult and costly challenges to protect the country now and in the future and to let seawater into the widespread Delta area. It is precisely why the Deltaworks are referred to as the one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers. After this dam we will paddle to Middelburg, but not without visiting the picturesque port town of Veere. Middelburg is the lively principal town of Zeeland with many old houses, churches, the beautiful town hall and a pleasant shopping. Also to be found in Middelburg is the Roosevelt Academy, a liberal arts college, located in the former late gothic town hall on the market of Middelburg. If possible, during dinner we will sail to Vlissingen. This lovely port town is situated at the Westerschelde and at sea. A walk through the town and over its boulevard is absolutely worth a visit!



**Day 6: Middelburg - Sas van Gent 45 km Sailing to Ghent**

Today you have to cross the 'Westerschelde', the only estuary which isn't closed by a dam because it is the gateway to the port of Antwerp. The barges takes you to the lively harbor town Vlissingen where we make a short tour in bike. From Vlissingen a short ferry trip brings you to Breskens in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (Dutch-Flanders)! We are getting close to Belgium. You will cross the border between the Netherlands and Belgium several times before you definitely cross the border by boat to sail to Ghent. The city of Ghent has approximately 250,000 citizens. Its name presumable derived from the Celtic word 'Ganda', which means as much as mouth or junction. Indeed: in the city the rivers 'Leie' and Scheldt merge. In 630 Saint Amand established the St. Baafsabdij. In medieval times Ghent grew



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to be one of the most important cities of Europe (with approximately 56, 000 citizens in 1350) due to its linen industry. From the fourteenth to the sixteenth century conflicts occurred in the city and battles were often fought with Lords of Flanders. Ghent experienced an economic drawback from 1584 (captured by the Spanish during the resistance against King Philips II) until the nineteenth century. After this period Ghent developed into an industrial city, with strong socialist beliefs. The old city offers many well-kept craftsmen houses, Patrician houses and old storehouses, the Gravensteen (medieval castle), the St. Nikolaaskerk (Saint Nicholas' church, dating from the year 1200), St. Baafskathedraal (Saint Bavo Cathedral from the fourteenth century, with the painting 'Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' by Van Eyck, internationally known as the Ghent Altarpiece) and last but not least, the Belfort (Bell Tower, fourteenth century). Furthermore, the city center has many squares and pleasant pubs. Ghent is a lively town and although Ghent is proud of its rich past, the role of the city is in no means restricted to a museum city. The city is a stunning mixture of medieval buildings, chic shopping areas with beautiful mansions, old workers districts from the early twentieth century which now house hundreds of students and busy squares where one can sit and enjoy warm summer nights until the early hours...



#### **Day 7: Ghent-Bruges 45 km**

This morning we will cycle through Ghent to the scenic countryside of OostVlaanderen (East Flanders). Characteristic to see are the woods, fields, small villages and castles. From the Aalterbrug the last part of this route takes us over the former tow path along the canal of Oostende-Gent, the oldest canal of Belgium, to Bruges. The impressive city of Bruges is the end destination of this bike and barge trip. We will pay a visit to the medieval city of Bruges at the end of this day and many of you are likely to stay another day in this beautiful city.... Bruges is known for its production of linen that used to be

distributed all over Europe. Around 1350 the city counted more than 40, 000 citizens, and double the amount of citizens that live in the city center now. During the fourteenth century the second city wall was built. Four mills still stand upon that wall today.

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In the fifteenth century, Bruges was under control of dukes of Burgundy. They brought luxury and prosperity to the city: the growth of arts and banking. From this period much has remained: the town hall, the many 'natiehuizen' in churches, mausoleums of Marie of Burgundy (Duchess of Cleves) and Charles the Bold. At the end of the fifteenth century, the Burgundy court disappeared in Bruges, which marks the end of a prosperous period. Due to the silting of the coastal area, the city was no longer accessible for vessels, which resulted in Bruges losing its position to Antwerp. In 1584 the city was concurred by the Spanish. Religious wars and the closing of the sea caused Bruges to fall into decay. Bruges developed into a poor city in the nineteenth century and missed the industrialization. It is partly because of the novel 'Bruges la Morte' (1892) from G. Rodenbach, that brought Bruges back into the picture, growing into a city of arts and later into a touristic center. Some sites of interest are: Onze-LieveVrouwekerk (Church of our Lady), Belort and Hallen, Gruuthusemuseum (museum of applied arts of Bruges) and the Kantcentrum (Lace Centre).

#### **Day 8: Bruges**

End of the trip after breakfast, before 10 am

#### **Bruges to Amsterdam**

#### **Day 1: Bruges, embarking between 1 pm and 2 pm. Bike tour to Aalterbrug, by boat to Ghent 21 km**

The barge is moored near Bargeweg on just outside of the Bruges city center and near the Bruges train station. You are expected to arrive at our barge between 12:30 Pm and 1:30 PM. When you arrive on board, you can settle in and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It is also a good moment to become acquainted with the tour leader, skipper and crew and of course your fellow passengers. The barge leaves dock at 2 PM. Your first bike ride is along the canal from Bruges to Ghent. Easy riding on towpaths and quiet roads. At Aalterbrug the barge picks you up and sails to the bustling city Ghent.



Ghent is proud of its rich past but the role of the city is not restricted to a museum-city. The city is a stunning mixture of medieval buildings, chic shopping areas with beautiful mansions, old workers districts from the early twentieth century which now house hundreds of students and busy squares where one can sit and enjoy warm summer nights until the early hours. During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next day and the global planning of the week are discussed. Instructions on cycling and safely procedures will also be given.

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### **Day 2: Ghent**

Today you will have the day at your free disposal. The city of Ghent is proud of its rich past, the many well-preserved guild's and patricians' houses as well as old warehouses, Gravensteen (a mediaeval castle), St Nicholas Church (with 13<sup>th</sup> century foundations), St Bavo's Cathedral and the 'Belfort' (Belfry; 14<sup>th</sup> century). But Ghent is much more than just a museum town. This lively city with its numerous squares and cosy pubs is an excellent mixture of mediaeval edifices, stylish shopping streets, splendid mansions, working-class quarters from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century which now often house students and busy little squares where people eat out till the wee hours on a sultry summer night. You can also choose to go cycling with your guide. The castles and luxurious villas in and around Destelbergen, at a stone's throw from Ghent, are silent witnesses of the rich history of this municipality along the banks of the river Scheldt.

### **Day 3: St. Ghent- Middlebrug 45km**

Today you will leave Belgium and arrive in the Netherlands. During breakfast you will sail to Sas van Gent and cycle through Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (Dutch-Flanders). With a short ferry trip from Breskens to Vlissingen (Flushing) you cross the Westerschelde. From Vlissingen it's just 30 minutes cycling to Middelburg, the capital of Zeeland. Modern Middelburg has preserved and regained much of its historic and picturesque character. There are lavish 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century merchant houses and storehouses standing along canals. The medieval abbey is still in use today, as a museum and as the seat of the provincial government.



### **Day 4 Middelburg - Zierikzee, 50 km**

First you will ride to the town of Veere, formerly an important trading place. From Veere you will cycle over the Veersgat-dam (here you have the possibility of a beach visit) to North Beveland. Soon you will reach the Oosterscheldedam. The enormous locks are built in this embankment and can be closed during storms and high tides protecting the south-west of the Netherlands against the sea. This embankment was one of the last in a series of barriers against the sea. When cycling along the embankment, one will realize why this has been one of the most difficult and costly challenges to protect the country now and in the future and to let seawater into the widespread Delta area. It is precisely why the Deltaworks are referred to as the one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers. After this dam you will peddle to Zierikzee.

### **Day 5: Zierikzee - Willemstad, sailing to Dordrecht, 55 km**

A nice ride on the island of Schouwen-Duiveland is on the program. You ride to Bruinisse. The village is known as a very isolated community. The main source of income is the mussel fishery, on the dike to the Grevelingen you will find a statue of an opened mussels. You will ride on to Willemstad (an old fortified town) and go on board there. Sailing to Dordrecht, one of the oldest cities of Holland and located at the crossroads of busy waterways.

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**Day 6: Dordrecht, sailing to Gorinchem, cycling to Vianen, 50 km**

From Gorinchem you will visit Woudrichem (an old fortified town) and most famous castle in the Netherlands, Loevestein. You follow the meandering river Linge through the Betuwe. This area is known for the large amount of orchards and therefore will be covered with blossoms in May. Along the city of Leerdam, famous for its glass, you continue your tour in northern direction towards Vianen.

**Day 7: Vianen, sailing to Breukelen, cycling to Amsterdam, 40 km**

During breakfast you will sail to Breukelen (Brooklyn) from where you will cycle to Amsterdam along two of the most beautiful rivers of Holland, the Vecht and the Amstel. Along the route you will find the magnificent country houses and mansions from the 18th century with their splendid, well-kept gardens. Amsterdam's name derives from Amstelredamme, indicative of the city's origin as a dam of the river Amstel. Almost without noticing you enter Amsterdam, following the Amstel River. The extensive network of bicycle paths ensures a relatively easy way back into the city, showing you some remarkable sites in the centre. Then it is time to say goodbye to your bike. Before the farewell dinner you may want to go for a walk in town. At night there you may want to take a canal trip or go on a city walk through the centre of the city



**Day 8: Amsterdam**

End of trip after breakfast, before 10 am.





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### Route

#### Amsterdam to Bruges



#### Technical Characteristics:

**Tour Profile:** Easy. The lightest cycling holiday, suited for everyone and people of all ages. On virtually flat terrain, with distances up to 50 kilometers. You spend about 4 hours on your bicycle.

**Distance:** 278 - 297 km

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### Route

#### Bruges to Amsterdam



### Technical Characteristics:

**Tour Profile:** Easy. The lightest cycling holiday, suited for everyone and people of all ages. On virtually flat terrain, with distances up to 50 kilometers. You spend about 4 hours on your bicycle.

**Distance:** 299 - 308 km

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**Travel Dates 2025: Amsterdam to Bruges**

<b>Departure</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Season and Barge</b>
01 May 2025	08 May 2025	Standard Clair de Lune
08 May 2025	15 May 2025	Standard Anna Antal
15 May 2025	22 May 2025	Standard Liza Marleen
22 May 2025	29 May 2025	Standard Sailing Home
		Standard Anna Antal
05 June 2025	12 June 2025	Standard Anna Antal
12 June 2025	19 June 2025	Standard Liza Marleen
19 June 2025	26 June 2025	Standard Sailing Home
		Standard Anna Antal
26 June 2025	03 July 2025	Low Liza Marleen
03 July 2025	10 July 2025	Low Sailing Home
		Standard Anna Antal
17 July 2025	24 July 2025	Low Sailing Home
		Low Anna Antal
31 July 2025	07 August 2025	Low Sailing Home
		Low Anna Antal
14 August 2025	21 August 2025	Standard Sailing Home
		Standard Anna Antal
28 August 2025	04 September 2025	Standard Sailing Home
		Standard Anna Antal
11 September 2025	18 September 2025	High Sailing Home
		High Anna Antal
25 September 2025	02 October 2025	Standard Anna Antal

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### Travel Dates Burges to Amsterdam

Depature	End	Season and Barge
<b>15 May 2025</b>	22 May 2025	Standard Anna Antal
<b>22 May 2025</b>	29 May 2025	Standard Liza Marleen
<b>29 May 2025</b>	5 June 2025	Standard Sailing Home
		Standard Anna Antal
<b>05 June 2025</b>	12 June 2025	Standard Liza Marleen
12 June 2025	19 June 2025	Standard Anna Antal
19 June 2025	26 June 2025	Standard Liza Marleen
26 June 2025	03 July 2025	Low Sailing Home
10 July 2025	17 July 2025	Low Sailing Home
		Low Anna Antal
24 July 2025	31 July 2025	Low Sailing Home
07 Aug 2025	14 Aug 2025	Low Sailing Home
		Low Anna Antal
21 August 2025	28 Aug 2025	Standard Sailing Home
04 September 2025	11 September 2025	High Sailing Home
		High Anna Antal
18 September	25 September 2025	High Sailing Home
25 September 2025	02 October 2025	Standard Liza Marleen
02 October 2025	09 October 2025	Standard Sailing Home

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**Price per person in Euros double occupancy – all prices subject to confirmation on booking -fuel surcharges may apply**

<b>Cabin Type</b>	<b>Low Season</b>	<b>Standard Season</b>	<b>High Season</b>
<b>Barge Sailing Home</b>			
Twin cabin	€1440	€1590	€1750
Single use	€2135	€2360	€2600
<b>Barge Liza Marleen</b>			
Twin cabin	€1370	€1530	
Single use	€2030	€2270	
Superior Cabin for 2	€1595	€1760	
Superior Cabin for 3	€1280	€1400	
<b>Barge Anna Antal</b>			
Twin cabin	€1260	€1380	€1510
Bunk bed cabin Single use	€1595	€1750	€1900
Bunk Bed Cabin	€1070	€1180	€1280
<b>Barge Clair de Lune</b>			
Double Cabin		€1480	
Cabin with split-level beds		€1480	
Single Cabin		€1500	
Twim/double Single use		€2190	
Bike rental	€115		
E-bike rental	€225		
Special diet (pre-ordered)- (gluten free/ lactose free/ vegan meals)	€100		

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### **Included**

- All nights on board (incl. bedding, towels, soap)
- Breakfast and dinner on board
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide, cycles with the group
- Min. 3 city walks with tour guide
- Free WiFi (limited available in lounge and on deck)
- Road book, 1x per cabin
- Ferry fares on the route
- GPS-tracks (on request)

### **Not included**

- Bicycle rent
- Entrance fees to museums; approx. € 25,-
- Personal insurance

Our motorised passenger vessels, about 35 - 45 metres in length, are former river vessels especially converted for this kind of holiday. The barges all comply with the strict safety regulations laid down by the Dutch Shipping Inspection Authorities. On board you find a cosy dining room, a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. All cabins are provided with running water (hot and cold), private shower and toilet, 220 voltage and central heating. There is limited storage space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.

Do not expect a cruise ship with its passive luxury. The Bike & Barge Holidays are for people who really enjoy the physical activity of cycling and who value sociability more than wholesale luxury.

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**The cruise ship Liza Marleen**



The “Liza Marleen” is a luxury motor passenger barge, built in 1997-98 on the completely dismantled shell of a seafaring freight logger. We advise a maximum of 28 overnight passengers and 80 day passengers. This robust barge is ideally suited for trips on the wider waterways, like the Dutch Waddenzee, the IJsselmeer and the Zeeland Streams, but it can also be found cruising on the smaller inland waterways of the Netherlands and Belgium. The “Liza Marleen” has a beautiful, spacious and tastefully decorated salon for a day stay and plenty of room on deck. The dayroom has audio-equipment and TV.

Cabins: Ten cabins with private shower, washbasin, toilet, central heating and air conditioning

- 8 double cabins (twin beds, can be placed together)
- 2 x Superior cabins of 15 m<sup>2</sup> (twin beds, can be placed together + 3rd bed; + small 4th bed for a child)



### **The cruise ship Sailing Home**

The barge "Sailing Home" started cruising in 2001. This beautiful passenger ship can accommodate 26 overnight passengers and 70 day passengers. The interior of the salon and bar is decorated in a modern Victorian style and offers a lot of comfort. The "Sailing Home" has two floors. On the top floor you will find the salon, a roomy lounge a cozy bar and a sun deck. The four-man crew consists of the skipper, sailor, cook and hostess.

#### **Cabin Plan**

13 spacious and comfortable guest cabins for two (low beds) and each cabin has a private bathroom. All cabins have central heating and air-conditioning. Daily cleaning of the cabins



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### **Anna Antal**

The Anna Antal is a former shuttle barge which was converted into a luxury motor passenger ship in the winter of 1994-95.

The Anna Antal sails exclusively for Cycletours Holidays. It has a cozy salon. In the evenings, a drink can be consumed in the cozy and elegant bar. Outside there is a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. The crew consists of a skipper, a cook and a sailor/hostess. There is limited WiFi on board.

#### **Cabin Plan**

- 5 twin cabins (beds can be placed together)
- 4 bunk bed cabins

#### **All cabins are provided with:**

- private bathroom,
- central heating,
- 220 voltage,
- soap,
- windows/portholes that open.

Hair dryers are available on board. There is limited storage space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.



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### Bikes

#### Hybrid Bike



#### 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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