



**Netherlands – Pearls of Holland Bike Tour (2024)**  
**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.



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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 30 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. In April and early May, you have the option of cycling a longer route of 60 km where you can see the tulip fields.



#### **Day 3: Haarlem - Leiden 43 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 almshouses 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 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 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).



#### **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 (early April until last Thursday in August).



#### **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 a relaxed version. Then you sleep an extra night in Woerden between Gouda and Amsterdam (making two legs: 38 km and 49 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:** 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): March 29th, 30th and 31st 2024; April 20th 2024; April 26th and 27th 2024; May 9, 10th and 11th 2024; May 17th, 18th and 19th 2024*

**OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc.** - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9  
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**Price per Person:** *all prices subject to confirmation on booking*

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Double Occupancy with Breakfast   | € 825      |
| Single Occupancy with Breakfast   | € 1245     |
| Hybrid Bike Rental (7/21 gears)   | € 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 |

**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
- GPS tracks available
- 7 day a week service hotline

**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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