



Sea to Sea

Discover everything that made The Netherlands the country of today in this unique 14-day Bike & Barge experience. Travel from the colourful and pulsating capital of Amsterdam on the old coast of the „Zuiderzee“, along rivers, canals and across the IJsselmeer through picturesque villages, old Hanse ports and the unique polder landscape up north to the Waddenzee and the beautiful island of Terschelling. Explore windmills, war memorials, nature preserves and Dutch everyday life back in old times and today. After a crossing of the IJsselmeer on board of the Elodie the tour will bring you to Friesland, a part of the Netherlands where culture and nature are ever present. Traditions in trade and sports but also the language of the Frisians have been kept alive. So don't be surprised when you see road and village signs in both, Dutch and Fryslan.

This tour includes two IJsselmeer crossings on board of the Elodie as well as some ferry crossings, including the one to the island of Terschelling.

Amsterdam Sunday 15 km / 10 miles

Arrival on board the Elodie in Amsterdam where the crew will welcome you with a nice cup of tea or coffee. Introduction to the crew, of the rules on board, and you'll get all the information on the full program too. After this we will make a short tour through the rural area of North Amsterdam, so that you can get comfortable with your bike and make any adjustments if required.

In the evening, after dinner, your guide will take you for a walk through Amsterdam.

Amsterdam – Marken - Volendam Monday 25 km / 15 miles

Today we will experience a medley of wonderful landscapes and little "South Sea" villages. We start in Amsterdam, following the IJsselmeer coastline through wetlands to the former island of Marken. Here we'll see some of the inhabitants wearing traditional costumes and enjoying the beauty of their traditional houses. We'll take our bicycles on board the Marken express ferry to Volendam, a charming little touristic town.

Volendam – Hoorn – Enkhuizen Tuesday 42 km / 26 miles

We depart Volendam by bike and follow the IJsselmeer coast to Edam, just a short distance from Volendam. The famous Edam cheese originated in this town. From here we continue following the coastline of the former South sea to Hoorn. "The Horn" in South America was named after this place, home to some of the most famous Dutch explorers, and you can still sense the rich maritime history in the town's beautiful harbour. Leaving Hoorn our next stop will be Enkhuizen. Enkhuizen was one of the bases of the VOC (United East India company). Freight ships left for Indonesia and other exotic destinations from here, to purchase valuable trading products, thereby



making the Dutch very prosperous in those days. The architecture of the old houses in Hoorn and Enkhuizen clearly reflects the wealth of its inhabitants in that period.

Enkhuizen Wednesday 0 km / 0 miles

We spend the day in Enkhuizen to allow time for some exploring and/or some rest. In the morning you will have time to visit the Zuiderzee museum. This museum brings to life the stories of people who once lived on the shores of the Zuiderzee in a lively open air exhibition. See, hear, feel, taste and smell everyday life around the Zuiderzee, as it was before the Afsluitdijk (the great IJsselmeer Barrier Dam) turned the former inland sea into what we now know as the IJsselmeer, in 1932. The Zuiderzee Museum focuses on the history, current situation and future of the region. Themes such as water, crafts and communities take centre stage. These stories are visualized in the Outdoor Museum with its historic buildings, and in the Indoor Museum through thematic exhibitions. In Enkhuizen you will also have some time to rest or for a stroll through the old town.

Enkhuizen - Stavoren Thursday 24,5 km / 15 miles

During breakfast the Elodie will take you across the IJsselmeer to Stavoren*, our entrance into Friesland. From here our route will take us to some of the famous „11 Frisian towns“. Don't be surprised to read signs of city names in two languages - in Friesland the old „Fryslan“ is still kept alive and you can still find people speaking it. Stavoren is a former Hanse town and the first city in the Netherlands that received city rights in the 11th century. The legend of the Lady of Stavoren reminds of the Golden Age, when merchants and traders ruled the country and sea-going vessels still left the port of Stavoren. A short cycle ride or walk through the city will bring you to the statue of the Lady of Stavoren, to the light house and through picturesque streets and squares with wooden houses, remainders of the past. And don't forget to try delicious fried „Kibbeling“ - it's the best you can find in all of The Netherlands! If time allows, there's an opportunity for those who feel eager to do another good ride to see the Red Cliff and explore a nice piece of woodland and fields, including a short visit to a little beach at one of the many lakes.

**Please note that crossing times may vary due to weather and other conditions!*

Stavoren - Sneek Friday 38,5 km / 24 miles

From Stavoren we cycle along the coast up north to the small town of Hindeloopen, another of the 11 Frisian towns. With its many bridges, cobbled streets and pretty houses it boasts of a long maritime history. It is known to be one of the prettiest villages in all of Europe. Workum has so many stories to tell that it may become difficult to decide where to turn to - Catholics, Protestants, Baptists and Jews have lived, prayed and buried their beloved in this pretty place. Traditional skilled crafts and trades are still present in well preserved workshops around the historic port. In the



tiny village of Nijhhuizum the road ends and only bikes can pass through. Along the track from here we pass one of the sweet „Self-service-coffee-places“ which are run by private initiatives for bikers and hikers, so that they can take a break in a cosy and comfortable setting. Along our route we also pass more and more of the so-called typical „spider head mills“ which the Dutch have been using for drainage purposes throughout centuries. The Monnikenburenmolen is one of them. Cycling along the inland sea Flakke Brekken we may have the opportunity to watch some wild life. The population of birds is well preserved in this area and attracts bird-watching parties from all over Europe. In Oudega you may be surprised by the „sinking Titanic“ in the port. If time allows we may also stop at some of the many sculptures around here, especially the „Beehive“ an artwork made from wood and the „Blue Stone“ and the legends around them attract bypasses. Just before we arrive in Sneek the wood mill „De Rat“ is worthwhile visiting.

Sneek - Grou Saturday 37 km / 23 miles

Sneek is the capital of Watersports in Friesland. Hundreds of sailing boats meet here every year in the summer for the „Sneek Week“. And its many canals and the lakes nearby make you wonder if every citizen of Sneek lives and works on a boat. It definitely makes you understand why a boat and a bike are the most popular means of transport in this country. On our route to the city of Grou we will pass numberless bridges and we'll have to use the „Pontjes“ for crossing some of the waterways. These tiny little ferries are typical for the area and a real must-see for any visitor. It is also yet another opportunity to experience Dutch engineering as a bridge in this area is by far not always just a bridge - some lift, some turn, and you may „cross“ a railway by „underwater“ bridge. A beautiful bike path will take us along the Sneeker Meer and through the medieval village of Goingarip with its picturesque cemetery on a hill and a unique wooden belfry with a helmet roof. The village of Terherne has been isolated as an island until 1908, and up to day it is still surrounded by water. There are yachts, fishing boats and all kinds of water fun and sports facilities. It is the perfect place for a coffee break in one of the terraces which overlook the water. Through the village of Jirnsum we reach our destination for the day, Grou.

Grou - Leeuwarden Sunday 30 km / 19 miles

The city of Grou claims to „breathe“ watersports. Today's route will tell us why - this part of the country is dominated by lakes and waterways. Our bikes will take us through the national nature preserve of „Alde Feanen“. Almost 10 square miles in size, this also internationally acclaimed area contains morasses, lakes, forests, peat and meadows. At least 450 plant species and 100 bird species can be found in the area. At the heart of the preserve, in Earnewald, there is a visitors centre which also tributes to the storch breeding station nearby. We may be able to see some of these beautiful birds, as well as Shetland ponies. Through the pretty old village of Warten we continue to the city of Leeuwarden.



Leeuwarden - Harlingen Monday 34,5 km / 21,5 miles

Leeuwarden is one of the best kept secrets of The Netherlands. Home of the graphic artist M. C. Escher and the legendary and mysterious dancer and secret agent Mata Hari, the city boasts with impressive modern art in sculpturing and architecture as well as a museum port with more than a hundred historic ships - mostly privately owned and inhabited by citizens of the city. No wonder Leeuwarden was awarded the title „European Capital of Culture“ in 2018. Upon leaving the city on our bikes we can see the leaning tower Oldehove, locally known as the Dutch tower of Pisa.

Our route today takes us through the villages of Marsum, Bitgum, Berltsum, Minnertsga and Tzummarum, Oosterbierum, Sexbierum, Wijnaldum to the outskirts of Harlingen, port to the UNESCO world heritage of the Waddensea. In this area we will see numerous so-called „Terps“ and „Polder mills“, typical for the Dutch people’s attempt in the old days to secure their homes from floods and to reclaim and cultivate the land for farming. If time allows we may pay a visit to the beautiful planetarium Eise Eisinga in Franeker.

Harlingen - Terschelling - Harlingen Tuesday 19 km or 36 km / 12 or 22,5 miles

The Elodie will stay in Harlingen today and we will take the ferry across the Waddensea to the island of Terschelling where we spend the day in order to explore this beautiful and unique island. Today you have a choice - you may either go on a longer tour which includes woods, dunes and more insights into the wad or you take a shorter route across which includes a visit to a former bunker from World War II and what claims to be the most beautiful bike track of the island. Our guide will help you with your choice and provide you with all necessary information. Together we will take the ferry back to Harlingen where we will be rewarded with yet another nice dinner.

Harlingen - Makkum Wednesday 20 km / 12,5 miles

Nowhere in Europe you will find so many restored monuments per square meter as in Harlingen. Today’s route is comparably short so we may take the chance to have a look around in the city before we start our ride towards Makkum. If the weather is nice we may also take a break at the beach outside the city and go for a quick swim. A short way off the coast, in Kimswerd, we will find the monument of „Grutte Pier“, a Frisian farmer and freedom fighter who led a rebellion against the Habsburgs in early 16th century and became a notorious and successful pirate in the Zuiderzee. Through the pretty villages of Pingjum and Wons we continue our ride to Makkum where the Elodie is waiting for us.



Makkum - Stavoren Thursday 28 km / 17,5 miles

We slowly have to say goodbye to Friesland. Our route today brings us back to Stavoren from where the Elodie will take us back across the IJsselmeer to Noord-Holland. Yet today we will be able to see again some of the typical features of this beautiful country. But the route also holds a surprise for us - or have you ever seen a house being built upside down? It's privately owned, so we will not be able to visit. But the sight is unique, of course and you may want to have your cameras ready.

Stavoren - Hoorn Friday 0 km / 0 miles

Today the Elodie will bring us back to Noord-Holland. The crossing will be longer than on the way up, so this day allows us some relaxation and rest.

Hoorn - Amsterdam Saturday 40 km / 25 miles

Our final day brings us back into the saddle and back to Amsterdam. We will cycle inland, into Purmerend. There we will find an old fort which once belonged to the defence ring around Amsterdam during World War II. Today there are offices and a winery behind those walls. The area here is called „Waterland“ which again reminds us of the dominant element along our journey. In Purmerend we can take a break at the historic „Koemarkt“. The old market where the locals traded their cattle for more than 400 years, is today the centre of a popular pedestrian area with shops, bars and cafés. From here we go straight south, towards our final destination Amsterdam, where the Elodie will be our home again for another night.

In the evening you can choose a restaurant to your liking from the many excellent eateries to be found in Amsterdam.

Amsterdam - Sunday

We take leave of you after breakfast.

Please note that all our tours are subject to possible changes due to weather and other conditions.