



The Beautiful South - Bruges to Amsterdam

This tour brings you through some of the most beautiful cities in all of Europe, plus the beautiful South of the Netherlands with its polders, windmills, farmland and small, historic towns and villages. You will also see some of the most impressive Dutch engineering, the famous „Deltawerken“.*

Day 1 Bruges

15 km / 10 miles

Arrival on board the Elodie in Bruges where the crew will welcome you with a nice cup of tea or coffee. Introduction to the crew, the rules on board and your personal bike. After this we will make a short tour along a round course out of town and back to the barge, so that you can get comfortable with your bike and make adjustments if required. The city of Bruges is world famous for its charming atmosphere and historic architecture. It's like being in an open air museum at times.

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

Day 2 Bruges – Gent

40 km / 14 miles

Through rural countryside and green pastures we make our way from Bruges to Gent which is believed by many to be even more beautiful - whilst less crowded - than Bruges. The city is also called „The pride of Belgium“. It's a University town as well as a place with a rich history of which the well preserved architecture bears witness. This part of Belgium is also famous for its good food, and of course our chef will try to incorporate as much as possible of it into our cuisine onboard.

Day 3 Gent - Middelburg

53 km / 33 miles

From the Belgian part of Vlaanderen we make our way into the Dutch part of this region which is in terms of culture, language, cuisine and history inseparable, while the Dutch/Belgian border divides it into two. On our way we will pass the Westerschelde which opens out into the North Sea.

**Day 4 Middelburg - Zierikzee****56 km / 35 miles**

Today we will encounter one of the wonders of the world. We will be able to cross the great dam that was built after the great flooding of Zeeland in 1953 - on our bikes. This truly impressive example of Dutch engineering is designed to tame the sea, and it has served its purpose ever since. Middelburg, situated right in the heart of the province of Zeeland (after which New Zealand was named by the Dutch), is our destination for today.

Day 5 Zierikzee**0 km / 0 miles**

The city of Zierikzee is worthwhile the extra visit, so we will spend a day here. Zierikzee boasts of 500 monuments, including medieval city gates, historic mills and town houses, picturesque alleys and the charming, old fishing port. The historic city hall today hosts an interesting collection of ships models, paintings, silverware, historic maps and other artefacts in the Stadhuis Museum. There is also ample opportunity for shopping or simply strolling through the old alleys and have a coffee at a nice terrace or by the port.

Day 6 Zierikzee — Willemstad**44 km / 27 miles**

From Zierikzee to Willemstad we will get to see everything that is typical for Zeeland. This province has been shaped by water and is to date affected by water in every possible way. There are countless little waterways, canals, bridges, ports, ferries, islands. And also the farming, the wildlife and the architecture in the pretty villages are determined by the near sea and the many waters leading into it in this area. On our bikes we can take in the unique atmosphere. Willemstad is an old fortified town, overlooking Holland's Die where you can watch seagoing vessels passing by.

Day 7 Willemstad – Dordrecht**34 km / 21 miles**

Along the Hollands Diep we make our way further inland. We have to cross the busy waterway either by ferry or via one of the bridges to continue to Dordrecht, the oldest town in the provinces of North and South Holland. It boasts of more than 1000 monuments. The old traders' houses around the port are only one example. They bear witness of the time when the city was the most important trading town in all of The Netherlands.

**Day 8 Dordrecht — Vianen****55 km / 34 miles**

From Dordrecht we take the fast ferry towards Kinderdijk, one of the most famous attractions in all of The Netherlands. It boasts with the largest collection of windmills together in a park as they were originally built. From Kinderdijk we continue towards Schoonhoven for another stop. Schoonhoven is well known for its silver. You will be able to admire this in the many Silver shops. From Schoonhoven we will proceed along the meandering river Lek towards Vianen.

Day 9 Vianen — Amsterdam**55 km / 34 miles**

Through wetland, polders and picturesque little towns we make our way to the castle of Haarzuilen. From here we continue towards the lovely river Vecht which we will follow towards Nigtevecht. The valley is home to many beautiful mansions in a beautiful surrounding. In Nigtevecht the Elodie will pick us up and take us into Amsterdam.

Day 10 Amsterdam**30 km / 18.5 miles**

The Elodie will remain to be your home away from home while you have a full day for exploring the city with its countless sights and highlights. It is advisable to pre-book tickets for most of the museums. For some, i.e. the Anne-Frank-House you may even want to do so before you start your journey as they are so very popular. Tonight there will be no dinner onboard. Our guide will assist with finding a nice restaurant of your choice.

Day 11 Amsterdam

It's time to say good-bye. We take leave of you after breakfast, at 9 a.m.

**Please note: Daily mileages and tour planning may change according to weather or other circumstances.*