



Holland's Hidden Heart

When you love riding through seemingly untouched nature and remote villages, this is the perfect tour for you. You will see small, yet thriving towns, surrounded by medieval walls along the big rivers - once the beating heart of busy trade routes. In the heart of this area, and at the same time in the heart of a unique natural reserve, is Geertruidenberg, once a fishing village for delicious Salmon. The surrounding area, the „Biesbosch“ is a unique nature reserve which has its origins in one of the biggest floods the country has ever experienced, the St. Elisabeth flood in 1421. Today the area boasts with a big variety of waterways, remote villages, rare birds and a unique flora.*

Day 1 Amsterdam 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 and 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.

Day 2 Amsterdam – Vianen 50 km / 31 miles

In the morning the Elodie will start sailing for Nigtevecht where this day's cycling tour will start. Along the lovely river Vecht you can enjoy the scenery with beautiful mansions in a splendid setting. Leaving the river, we will head for the castle of Haarzuilen. After a short stop at the castle we will continue our tour through wetlands, polders and nice little towns towards Vianen where we will spend the night.

Day 3 Vianen – Geertruidenberg 50 km / 31 miles

The cyclepath along the canal will bring us through greenland, spotted with farms towards Gorinchem. This small town (in the local dialect called Gorcum) is surely one of the most beautiful in the Netherlands - and the largest still intact fortress in the country. We will make time for a walk there, so you can take in the unique atmosphere there. Via ferry we will cross one of the main rivers the „Boven Merwede“ (upper Merwede) towards Sleeuwijk. Through farmland and along the outskirts of the Biesbosch Nature Reserve. We will spend the night in Geertruidenberg, the perfect base for discovering the Natural Park

Day 4 Geertruidenberg –The Biesbosch and back 55 km / 34 miles

While Geertruidenberg itself is worthwhile a visit, being one of the oldest towns in the Netherlands that were granted city rights, our focus today is on exploring the Natural Park. The Biesbosch with its unique nature of wetlands, weeds, willow forests, creeks and weed beds has fuelled the development of the towns and villages around it. For centuries the men left their houses and families by boat for days in order to harvest the weeds. The reeds and brushwood were cut, sorted and tied together into large

EUROPEAN BICYCLE TOURS



ELODIE BIKE & BARGE

SINCE 1994

Day 8 Wijk bij Duurstede – Breukelen (Amsterdam) 45 km / 27 miles

The closer we get to Utrecht, the more castles, old mansions and beautiful historic villas we get to see. Through small villages and beautiful countryside we will pass Castle Duurstede and Fort Vechten near Bunnik. In Utrecht we will take some time for exploring the city, which is known to be the fastest growing of the five main cities in The Netherlands. It boasts of the tallest church tower of the country, part of the historic cathedral of which a big part has been destroyed. It's called „Dom“. The canals in Utrecht are particularly pretty so it's worthwhile finding a terrace café with a view across one of them. In the pretty village of Breukelen the Elodie will pick us up for the last part of the journey into Amsterdam.

Day 9 Amsterdam 0 km / 0 miles

Amsterdam is certainly well worth exploring because of its many attractions: a boat tour around the canals, the Van Gogh museum and the Rijksmuseum; or just savour the atmosphere and enjoy the colourful procession of people strolling by, while sitting at a sidewalk café. In the evening you can choose a restaurant to your liking from the many excellent eateries to be found in Amsterdam.

Day 10 Amsterdam

We take leave of you after breakfast.

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