

## Cycling Guided

Options:

Premium Boat  
Superior Boat

### Tour description

Day 1 Amsterdam - Uithoorn	15 km
Day 2 To Gouda	45 km
Day 3 To Delft	40 km
Day 4 To Katwijk and Leiden	36 or 48 km
Day 5 Keukenhof Gardens visit	
Day 6 Haarlem via Tulip Fields	40 km
Day 7 To Amsterdam	40 km
Day 8 Tour ends	



## Tulips and Beyond!

Our Tulips and Beyond tour is perfect for the novice cyclist with miles of flat, quiet country roads. Enjoy seeing Holland while either riding on dedicated bike trails or on the comfort of your movable hotel, our boat, which moves along the many canals of the Netherlands. This route is one of Holland's finest, with vast fields filled with millions of tulips taking in Delft, Leiden, Gouda and windmills all around. Take in the beauty of a visit to the Keukenhof Gardens and your trip will be complete.

This unique holiday allows you the freedom to explore the countryside and sleep in comfort on board our ship at night. With daily cycling around 30 miles, you will enjoy the sights of lovely windmills dotting the rural backwoods. We stop in some old, picturesque towns for a snack or to pick up a lovely souvenir.

This is one of our most popular trips, and we sell out our departures every year. So don't delay, book your trip today!

### Fast Facts

#### Includes:

- 7 nights accommodation on boat, with all meals included (packed lunches)
- Guide, route notes and support

#### E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$350
- Limited supplies on boat, so reservations recommended
- Batavus Ventoux model



### Tour Details 2019

#### Dates:

Premium Barge: Apr 6, 13, 20, 27  
May 4

Cost: \$2295 per person

Superior Barge: Mar 30

Apr 6, 13, 20, 27 May 4

Cost: \$2495 per person

Single Cabin Upgrade: \$450 / \$800

Bike rental: \$185  
Length: 8 days / 7 nights  
Grade: Moderate  
Starts / Ends: Amsterdam

# ITINERARY

## Day 1 Amsterdam - Uithoorn 15 km

Embarkation from 1:00-2:00 PM. The barge will sail at 2:15 to Uithoorn. During dinner aboard the barge, the program for the next day and the planning of the week are discussed. After dinner you will take your first cycle around the charming city of Uithoorn.

## Day 2 To Gouda 40 km

From Uithoorn you will continue cycling along country roads, riverbanks and channels through the Green Heart and polders to Gouda. Gouda is a beautiful Old-Dutch city known for its cheese, pottery and stained-glass, a fairy-tale town hall and canals. After dinner take the time to explore and walk through the city.

## Day 3 To Delft 40 km

Leaving Gouda you cycle past scenic polders via Kinderdijk to Rotterdam. Kinderdijk has the largest group of windmills in the Netherlands and in use until 1950. These days, a large pumping station is responsible for controlling the water level in the polder. From Kinderdijk you take the ferry to Rotterdam where the barge is waiting for you to sail to Delft. Delft, the town famous for its pottery, the 'Delft blue' is a lovely little town to explore on foot, have coffee or shop a little.

## Day 4 To Katwijk and Leiden 40 km

From Delft we cycle in the direction of The Hague, through the Haagse Bosch, a large park, and past the Royal Huis ten Bosch Palace. Continuing through the dunes to Katwijk aan Zee an old fishing village. The old inhabitants of Katwijk still speak their own dialect, 'Kattuks'. Following the Oude Rijn (Old Rhine) river we cycle to Leiden. The Hortus Botanicus (Botanical Garden), a 400-year old garden with exotic plants and trees, is certainly worth seeing. In the centre of town you can go shopping or enjoy sitting on an outdoor terrace on the water's edge.

## Day 5 Leiden and a Visit to the Keukenhof Gardens

Today you take public transport for a visit to the Keukenhof gardens, the most beautiful spring park in the world. The gardens are an overwhelming blaze of colours with seven million flowering tulips, in a magnificent 80-acres' setting of traditional and modern gardening architecture. The many blossoms, the flowering rhododendrons and azaleas are a feast for the eye.

## Day 6 Haarlem via the Tulip ffields 40 km

From Leiden you cycle through wonderful flower beds in the direction of Haarlem. Once in the city of Haarlem you make a short tour through the city to see some typical 'hofjes' (almshouses), old houses around a central courtyard, now usually housing elderly people. These 'hofjes' are definitely worth a visit. The barge is berthed in the city centre, with a view of St Bavo's Church and with easy access to the Grote Markt with its many outdoor cafés.

## Day 7 To Amsterdam 40 km

Sail to Spaarndam, a picturesque village on the edge of Haarlem, in the direction of Amsterdam. Spaarndam's name comes from the dam built in the Spaarne River to limit the danger of flooding from the sea. The Buitenhuisen ferry takes you across the North Sea Canal and from there you cycle to the Zaanse Schans. Overnight in Amsterdam.

## Day 8 Amsterdam, end of the tour after breakfast

Please note that itinerary is subject to change.



# What to Expect

## What will the weather be like?

The weather is nice and cool especially in the mornings and evenings. A sweater or fleece would be useful. It may rain in the spring so rain gear for cycling is highly recommended.

## How many hours of cycling a day?

This is technically a self-guided trip but the guide along rides with the group daily. You can cycle from 4 to 6 hours a day depending on your fitness level. There are several breaks during the day to get off the bicycle and walk around. The route is completely flat with very little elevation gain or loss.

## How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, but even a fit beginner will enjoy this trip. The biggest issue may just be getting accustomed to sitting on a bike for hours a day, so get used to riding on a bike before coming out.

## What are the accommodations like?

Cabins are all fitted with 2 beds, a bathroom with sink, toilet and shower. The main common areas include the upper deck with the dining rooms and lounge. All barges have an outdoor deck to enjoy as well. The superior barge has air con in rooms and a lovely lounge area with a bar.



# Need to Know

Amsterdam (Schipol) Airport is easily accessed from most major cities.

From the airport, you can take the local train directly to the Central Station. This journey takes about 15 min. and departs 6x per hour.

# Extra Costs

Vegan and Celiac / gluten-free diets:  
Add \$ 100 per person

# How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.