

**cYcle
TōūrS**

HOLIDAYS

Amsterdam to Cologne



Travel information 2020



Cycling along the majestic Rhine

Cruising on a boat and cycling through a colorful countryside is the perfect recipe for a successful holiday. Biking and active during the day, the boat accompanies you along the river to welcome you at the day's goal as your floating hotel.

First you will bike through the flat, peaceful countryside of Holland, with the famous windmills along the way. You bike along the winding river Vecht with its impressive mansions on its banks and you visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional method. We also bike through National Park de Hoge Veluwe with its abundant scenic beauty. You will enjoy the gorgeous river scenery of the rivers IJssel and Rhine, first in the Netherlands and later in Germany. We follow the Rhine valley upstream, first wide and flat along farmland and meadows, later through industrial areas where we learn about the important history of the river. We also visit the charming old city of Düsseldorf and the tour ends in Cologne with her magnificent cathedral. Apart from the beautiful landscape, you will see cultural highlights, art treasures, and you can enjoy regional culinary specialties.



- Day 1: Saturday: Amsterdam, embarking between 3 PM and 4 PM
 - Day 2: Sunday: Amsterdam, sailing to Breukelen and cycling to Wijk bij Duurstede. 40 km
 - Day 3: Monday: Wijk bij Duurstede, sailing to Wageningen and cycling to Arnhem, 50 km.
 - Day 4: Tuesday: Arnhem, sailing to Pannerden and cycling to Rees, 40 km.
 - Day 5: Wednesday: Rees, sailing to Wesel and cycling to Ruhrort 40 km.
 - Day 6: Thursday: Ruhrort - Düsseldorf, 42 km
 - Day 7: Friday: Düsseldorf, sailing to Zons and cycling to Cologne Rheinau Sport
 - Day 8: Saturday: Departure
- 1 km = 0,62 miles

Day 1 Saturday: Amsterdam, embarkation between 3 PM and 4 PM, round tour from the boat, 15-20 km

A simple settlement at the mouth of the river Amstel, with open connection to the sea: this was Amsterdam in the 12th century. In those days fishermen and craftsmen built a dam in the Amstel (now the site of the National Monument) and Amstel-re-damme was born. Amsterdam was granted its municipal charter somewhere around 1300-1306 and has since expanded continually. In the 17th and 18th century Amsterdammers were the most prosperous Europeans. The famous rings of canals were dug in the Golden Age, the 17th century. Powerful merchants had their abundantly decorated mansions built here, thus manifesting their riches.

Amsterdam is a city to be explored on foot and we recommend the following places of interest: the rings of canals, the Jordaan area, with its many pubs, outdoor cafés and quaint shops, Vondelpark with its open air concerts, Leidseplein, Rembrandtsplein, the antique shops in the Spiegel district, Museum Square with the Rijksmuseum (National Museum), Stedelijk Museum (Museum of Modern Art) and the Van Gogh Museum.



NEMO Science Museum

Other typical features of Amsterdam are its numerous 'hofjes' (almshouses), the floating flower market, and the hundreds of houseboats lining the canals.

Amsterdam is inextricably related to the diamond-cutting industry, which has brought much fame to the city since the 17th century.

The palace on Dam Square is sometimes called the eighth Wonder of the World as it was built on 13,650 piles.

Did you know that:

- there are 222 trams, 277 buses, 106 underground trains and eight ferries in Amsterdam?
- the Oude Kerk (Old Church) is the oldest edifice of Amsterdam?
- there are 600,000 bicycles in Amsterdam?
- there are 165 canals and 1,281 bridges in Amsterdam?
- there are 2,500 houseboats in Amsterdam?

Back on board, after the bike ride, the programme for the next day and the rest of the week will be explained to you at dinner time.

Upon arrival on board of your ship your luggage can be left in your cabin while you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. During this coffee break there is plenty of opportunity to get to know your guides, the crew and your fellow passengers. Free time to explore the city and visit one of the famous museums like the Rijksmuseum, the van Gogh museum or the 'Stedelijk museum' of modern art.

During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next day and the global planning of the week are discussed. Afterwards canal trip and city walk through the center of Amsterdam.

Day 2: Sunday: Amsterdam, sailing to Breukelen and cycling to Wijk bij Duurstede.40 km

Breakfast during sailing.

The bike tour starts in Breukelen. Breukelen is known in New York as Brooklyn) you bike along the meandering river Vecht. On the way we visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional method. We continue to Utrecht, one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands with her beautiful cathedral. Today's tour ends in Wijk bij Duurstede also an old settlement at the river Lek.



Day 3: Monday: Wijk bij Duurstede, sailing to Wageningen and cycling to Arnhem, 50 km

Breakfast during sailing to the city of Wageningen. Today you bike along the river Nederrijn and you can enjoy great river landscape. Later you bike through National Park de Hoge Veluwe with its abundant scenic beauty. Your bike tour ends today in Arnhem, famous for her role in the Second World War.



Day 4: Tuesday: Arnhem, sailing to Pannerden and cycling to Rees, 40 km.

Biking starts from Pannerden. Before we hit the German border we pass Doornenburg, with a wonderfully maintained medieval stronghold. This fairy tale castle was the scene for many a movie. From Doornenburg you take the right bank of the Rhine and pass the border at Lobith, a village every schoolchild knows. At Tolkamer the Dutch used to impose tolls on incoming ships. On the way to our destination Rees you pass Emmerich, a bigger town with a lovely boulevard along the Rhine. You may also stop at Kalkar. This beautiful town is also known for the failure of the German Nuclear Energy program in the 70s. A completely finished nuclear processing plant has never been put into functioning due to massive protest and is recently re-opened as an attraction park! We all end in Rees, a town with impressive remains of fortification.



Day 5 Wednesday: Rees, sailing to Wesel; cycling to Ruhrort 40 km

We sail during breakfast and get off at Wesel.

Today we focus on the Ruhr area where Germany's and probably Europe's largest industries are housed. On a surface of 4.600 km², very rich in coal, a vast landscape folds out of steel plants and textile industries, combined with chemical industrial plants. Cities like Essen, Duisburg, Oberhausen and Dortmund are glued together through a maze of highways, railways and waterways. Once very prosperous and therefore a target in 1923 when Belgium and French troops tried to enforce WW-1 payments of Prussia. And a number 1 target in 1944-1945 for sure. Hard to imagine that you can cycle here, but you can! The German government put a lot of effort in re-developing the area after the closing down of many a factory. In the afternoon we visit the enormous landscape park of Duisburg-Nord, where we get to see huge former industrial plants and more detailed explanation and information about this area. It may not be always scenic, but it is an impressive landscape indeed and not to be missed when one visits the Rhine. We will find the ship in Ruhrort.

Day 6: Thursday: Ruhrort - Düsseldorf, 42 km

Today we leave the Ruhr-area behind us and we head first for Krefeld. In the 18th century Krefeld grew thanks to the textile industry. Velvet, silk and brocade were sold to emperors and kings from all over the world. There is still the statue of a silk weaver. The weavers worked in small houses that simultaneously served as a factory and house. In Krefeld, one can still see some of these houses. Our destination is Düsseldorf.

In the evening there is time to visit the Altstadt. You can try their famous local dark beer, Altbier. You will be amazed at what an international city this is, with almost a fifth of the population being foreigners.



Day 7: Friday: Düsseldorf, sailing to Zons and cycling to Cologne 30 km

Cycling direction Cologne you will stay close to the Rhine in order to be in Cologne not too late in the afternoon and having some time to look around. Cologne is the oldest of the bigger German cities, founded by the Romans. It got its city rights already 50 years after Christ as a gift from the Roman empress Agrippa. Later Cologne became one the most important centers of the Holy Roman Empire. Landmark is of course the Cathedral right next to the railway station and the railway bridge over the Rhine. In 1248 they started with the construction of the cathedral and only finished it in 1880! The city was almost completely destroyed in the 1944-1945. The city hall however, dating from 1330, is beautifully restored.



Day 8: Saturday Cologne

End of this trip after breakfast before 10 AM.

Barges

You can download the photos of the tour and the barge on our Flickrpage: https://www.flickr.com/photos/cycletours_holidays

Sailing Home – Category Comfort DeLuxe

Capacity: 26 persons

Length/width: 45 x 6,5 m

Electricity: 220 V

Wifi on board: Yes, limited available in lounge and on deck

Windows can open? No

Air conditioning: Yes

Hairdryers available: Yes



Cabins:

Thirteen cabins with private shower, washbasin, toilet, central heating and air conditioning.

- 13 double cabins (twin beds, can be placed together)

The "Sailing Home" started cruising in 2001. The interior of the saloon and bar is decorated in a modern Victorian style and offers a lot of comfort. The barge has a saloon (dining area), a roomy lounge, a cosy bar and a sun deck.

Our motorised passenger vessels, about 35 - 45 metres in length, are former river vessels especially converted for this kind of holiday. The barges all comply with the strict safety regulations laid down by the Dutch Shipping Inspection Authorities. On board you find a cosy dining room, a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. All cabins are provided with running water (hot and cold), private shower and toilet, 220 voltage and central heating. There is limited storage space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.

Do not expect a cruise ship with its passive luxury. The Bike & Barge Holidays are for people who really enjoy the physical activity of cycling and who value sociability more than wholesale luxury.

Bicycle

After arrival on board you will be allocated a cycle suitable to your height. This cycle (a so-called Hybrid), is at your disposal during your trip until Friday at 4 PM. Your bike has 24 speeds, hand brakes, bike helmet, pannier bags, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair-kit. Before you make your first tour, the guide will give you instructions about the bike. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the bike has a value of more than € 600,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object.

You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 20,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required. Should you use your own bike, please bring a good lock with you!



Electric bike

It is also possible to book an electric bike. Your bike has 24 gears, a detachable lithium-Ion battery, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair kit. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the E-bike has a value of more than € 2000,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object, and don't forget to remove the information panel from your steering wheel. You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 40,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required.

Arrival between 3 PM and 4 PM

You are expected to arrive on our barge on Saturday the latest at **4 PM**.

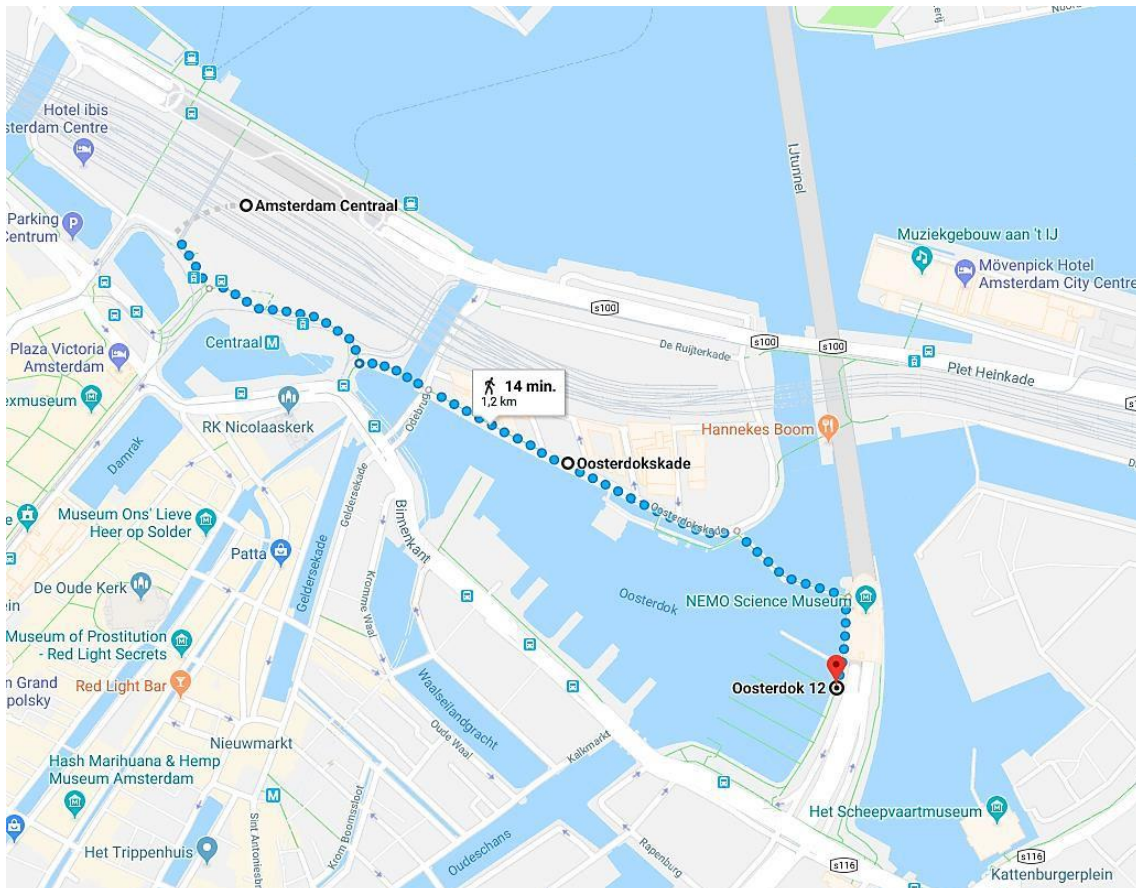
You can recognise the barge by the banner with Cycletours written on it. The name of your barge is printed on the voucher, which you will receive separately. After arrival there's coffee and tea on board. Other drinks are also available on cash payment.

You can bring your luggage in advance, from 12 Noon onwards.

**The mooring place of the barge in Amsterdam is Oosterdok
Zip-code 1011 VX (near the Nemo Science Museum, Oosterdok 2).**

On foot

At Central Station take exit "centrum", and then turn left, walk straight on 1,2 km/0.75 miles. Cross the bridge (only for cyclists and pedestrians) and turn right. It takes about 10 to 15 minutes. Follow the (blue) dots on this map.



Train

There is a direct train that leaves 6 times per hour from Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam Central Station. It takes about 17 minutes. The price for a train ticket Schiphol-Amsterdam is around € 5,- per person for a single journey.

Taxi

A taxi from Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to the barge in Amsterdam takes about 30 minutes. It costs about € 50,-. A taxi from the Central Train Station in Amsterdam to the barge takes about 5 minutes: Costs about € 15,-.

Car

If you arrive by car, we recommend you to arrive earlier to unload your luggage. You can find more information about parking possibilities at www.iamsterdam.com Parking near the mooring place of the barge:

Parking Oosterdok www.parkingcentreamsterdam.com
(about € 150,- per week; 500m walking distance to the barge)

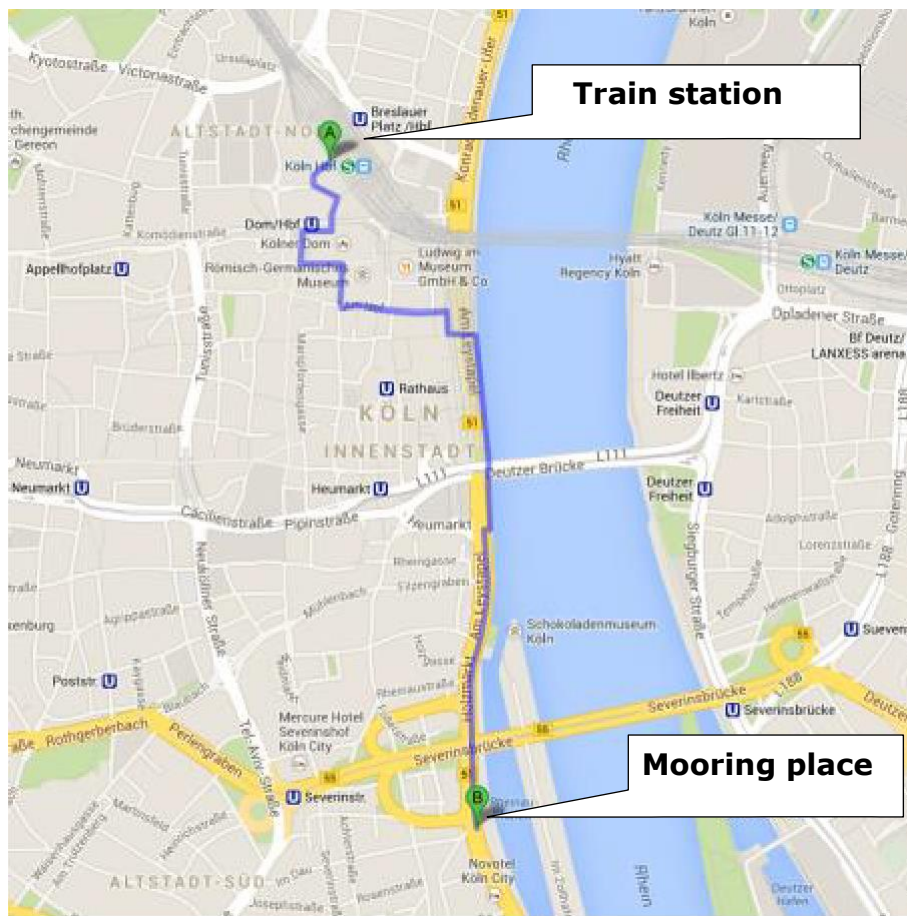
End of the tour

The tour ends one week later in Cologne on Saturday morning after breakfast before 10 AM. You'll spend the night from Friday to Saturday on board.

The mooringplace in Cologne is Rheinau Sporthafen Köln, An der Kaimauer, (Rhenaniahaus), Bayenstraße 28a, zip code 50678

On foot

From the mooring place in Cologne it's about 30 minutes walking (2 km) to Köln Hauptbahnhof.



Taxi

A taxi from the mooring place (Bayenstraße 28a, Köln) to Köln Hauptbahnhof takes about 5 minutes. It costs about € 10,-. Taxi Ruf Köln 0049 (0)221 2882 www.taxiruf.de.

U-bahn

From the Bayernstraße it's about 10 minutes walking to the nearest U-bahn station: Severinstraße. From here you can take the subway to the Poststraße where you can take the subway to the Hauptbahnhof.

Köln Hauptbahnhof

From Köln Hauptbahnhof a train to Amsterdam Central Station leaves every hour. Depending on the train it takes from 2 hours and 40 minutes up to 5 hours to Amsterdam. We advise to take an ICE train so you don't have to change trains. The ICE trains leaves from 6.46 am till 2.46 pm and then from 5.46 pm onwards.. For the exact departure times we advise to check www.db.de. The price for a train ticket Cologne -Amsterdam is about € 65,00 per person for a single journey.

Flughafen Köln/Bonn Konrad Adenauer Köln Bonn (CGN)

The airport is situated about 15 km from the city center. You can either choose to travel by public transport or take a taxi. A taxi to the airport costs about € 35,-. Depending on the traffic this will take you about 25 minutes. Taxi Ruf Köln 0049 (0)221 2882 www.taxiruf.de.

The S-bahn brings you in 8 minutes from the Hauptbahnhof to the airport.

Travel dates 2020

2020	Barge Sailing Home	Season
May	9/5/2020	Standard
	30/5/2020	Standard
June		
	27/6/2020	Low

Prices per person in 2020

Barge Sailing Home (Comfort DeLuxe)

	Low season	Standard season
	\$1295	\$1395
Single use	\$1795	\$1895

Reduction children:

0-2 *: free of charge

3-11*: 30%

*If child is travelling together with at least 1 one full-paying person

Please note that the tour prices are based on the current fuel price.

Should the fuel price increase more than 5% (reference date Oct. 2018), then we need to ask a supplement. Even for reservations that already have been made.

Included

- All nights on board (incl. bedding, towels, soap)
- Breakfast and dinner on board
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide, cycles with the group
- Min. 3 city walks with tour guide
- Free WiFi (limited available in lounge and on deck)
- Road book, 1x per cabin
- Ferry fares on the route
- GPS-tracks (on request)

Not included

- Bicycle rent (see below)
- Bicycle insurance hybrid bike (optional) € 20,- per bicycle
- Bicycle insurance E-bike (optional) € 40,- per bicycle
- Entrance fees to museums; approx. € 15,- per tour
- Personal insurance

Extra

- Bike rental incl. bike helmet: € 92,50
(Hybrid bike with 24 gears, pannier bags, lock, water bottle)
- E-bike rental: € 175,- (with 21 gears)
- Child's bike: € 60,- (incl. helmet; with 21 gears; for children from approx. 9 years and older)
- Bike seat: € 15,- (incl. helmet; suitable for children from approx. 11 months until 5 years; max. weight 25 kg)
- Trailer bike: € 55,- (incl. helmet ; bike attached to adult's bike; suitable for children from approx. 5 until 9 years; max. weight 35 kg)
- Bike trailer: € 90,- (suitable for babies who can not sit by themselves; a car seat/baby seat not included)

Special details

Please take good notice of our [Terms & Conditions](#) on our website.

If you have special meal requirements (vegetarian meals, or if you are on a diet), we ask you to mention this when booking.

In case of **gluten free/Celiac/vegan diet** there is an additional charge of **€ 50,-** per week.

Cycletours Holidays reserves the right to cancel tours with fewer than 12 participants up to 21 days prior to the date of departure.



Contact us to book this tour or get more information