

**cYcLe
TōūrS**

HOLIDAYS

Cologne to Amsterdam



Tour information 2020



Cycling along the majestic Rhine

**Cruising on a boat and cycling through a colorful countryside.
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.**

We follow the Rhine valley downstream, first through industrial areas where we learn about the important history of the river, later wide and flat along farmland and meadows. You will enjoy the gorgeous river scenery of the rivers Rhine and IJssel, first in Germany and later in the Netherlands. We also bike through National Park de Hoge Veluwe with its abundant scenic beauty and we can visit the famous Kröller-Möller museum.

The last part of the tour 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.



Day 1: Saturday: Cologne, embarkation between 3 PM and 4PM

Day 2: Sunday : Cologne –Dusseldorf, sailing to Zons and cycling to Dusseldorf, 30 km.

Day 3: Monday: Dusseldorf – Ruhrort, 42 km.

Day 4: Tuesday: Ruhrort, sailing to Orsoy and cycling to Rees.

Day 5: Wednesday Rees- Arnhem, cycling to Emmerich and cycling to Arnhem, 40 km.

Day 6: Thursday: Arnhem, cycling to Wageningen and sailing to Wijk bij Duurstede, 50 km

Day 7: Friday: Wijk bij Duurstede, sailing to Breukelen and cycling to Amsterdam, 40 km.

Day 8: Amsterdam. Departure after breakfast, before 10 AM.

1 km= 0,62 miles

All distances are approximate. The above planned itinerary is subject to change due to changing wind and weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances having to do with mooring requirements, etc.

Day 1: Saturday: Cologne, embarkation between 3 PM and 4 PM

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. 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. During dinner aboard the ship, the program for the next day and the global planning of the week are discussed.



Day 2: Sunday: Cologne –Dusseldorf, sailing to Zons and cycling to Dusseldorf, 30 km.

Cycling direction Düsseldorf you will stay close to the Rhine in order to be in Düsseldorf not too late in the afternoon. There is time to visit the Altstadt. You can try their famous local dark beer, Altbier. You will be amazed to what an international city this is, with almost a fifth of the population being foreigners.

Day 3: Monday: Dusseldorf – Ruhrort, 42 km.

Today 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.

Leaving Krefeld behind us, we enter the Ruhr-area.



Day 4; Tuesday: Ruhrort, sailing to Orsoy and cycling to Rees.

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.



Day 5: Wednesday Rees- Arnhem, cycling to Emmerich and cycling to Arnhem, 40 km.

We sail to Emmerich, a bigger town with a lovely boulevard along the Rhine. At Tolkamer the Dutch used to impose tolls on incoming ships. We pass the border at Lobith, a village every schoolchild in Holland knows and we take the right bank of the Rhine to Doornenburg. This town has a wonderfully maintained medieval stronghold. This fairy tale castle was the scene for many a movie.

Day 6: Thursday: Arnhem, cycling to Wageningen and sailing to Wijk bij Duurstede, 50 km

First you bike through National Park de Hoge Veluwe with its abundant scenic beauty. You can visit the Kröller-Möller museum right in the middle of the park. Later you bike along the river Nederrijn and you can enjoy great river landscape. At Wageningen you go on board and sail to today's destination: Wijk bij Duurstede, an old settlement at the river Lek.



Day 7: Friday: Wijk bij Duurstede, sailing to Breukelen and cycling to Amsterdam, 40 km.

During breakfast we will sail to Breukelen from where we will cycle to Amsterdam along the two most beautiful rivers of Holland, the Vecht and the Amstel. Along the route you will find the magnificent country houses and mansions from the 18th century with their splendid, well-kept gardens. On the way we can visit a working cheese farm. After dinner you have the option to take a canal cruise through the canals of Amsterdam



Amsterdam:

In the 12th century Amsterdam was nothing more than a simple settlement at the mouth of the river Amstel, directly connected to the sea. Amsterdam was granted its municipal charter between 1300 and 1306 and has since expanded continually. In the 17th century (the Golden Age), inhabitants of Amsterdam were the most prosperous Europeans. It was in the Golden Age that the famous rings of canals were dug. 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. Amsterdam is inextricably related to the diamond-cutting industry, which has brought much fame to the city since the 17th century.

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

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 8 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?

Day 8: Saturday Amsterdam

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



Cabins:

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

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

Hairdryers are available on board.

The "Sailing Home" has a saloon (dining area), a roomy lounge, a cosy bar and a sun deck.

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.

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 4.00 pm. Your bike has 24 speeds, bike helmet, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, 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 on our barge on Saturday the latest at 4 PM. You can recognise the ship 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. If you want you can bring your luggage in advance, from 12 Noon onwards.

The mooring place (B) of the barge in Cologne/Köln is Rheinau Sporthafen Köln GmbH, An der Kaimauer (Rhenaniahaus), Bayernstraße 28a, Zip-code 50678

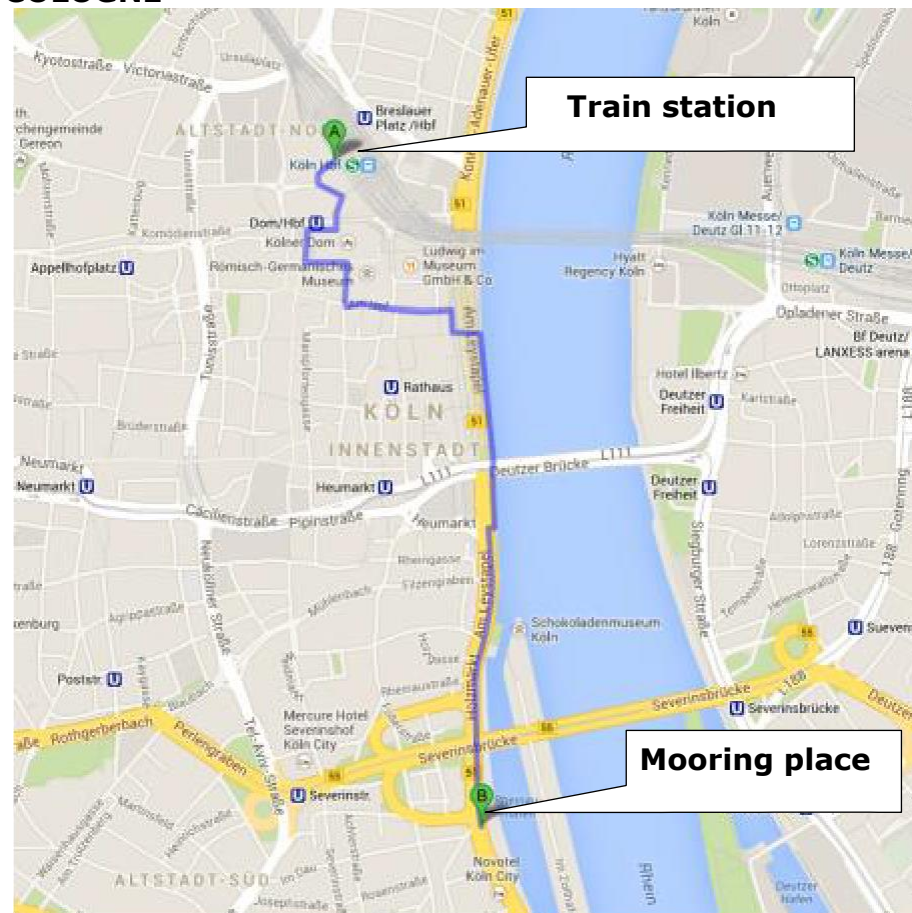
On foot

From Cologne/Köln Hauptbahnhof it's about 30 minutes walking (2 km) to the Bayernstrasse where the boat is moored. Follow the blue line on the map below:

Taxi

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

COLOGNE



Köln Hauptbahnhof (A)

From the airport it takes about 8 minutes to travel by S-bahn to Köln Hauptbahnhof. From here you can take a taxi or travel by foot.

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.

Car

There is a great need for parking facilities in a city like Cologne. As well as business travelers and visitors from near and far, it is the residents of Cologne themselves - particularly in the city centre - who search for free parking spaces on a daily basis.

The parking guidance system tells you where and how many free parking spaces can be found in Cologne's city centre car parks.

<http://www.koeln.de/apps/parken/>

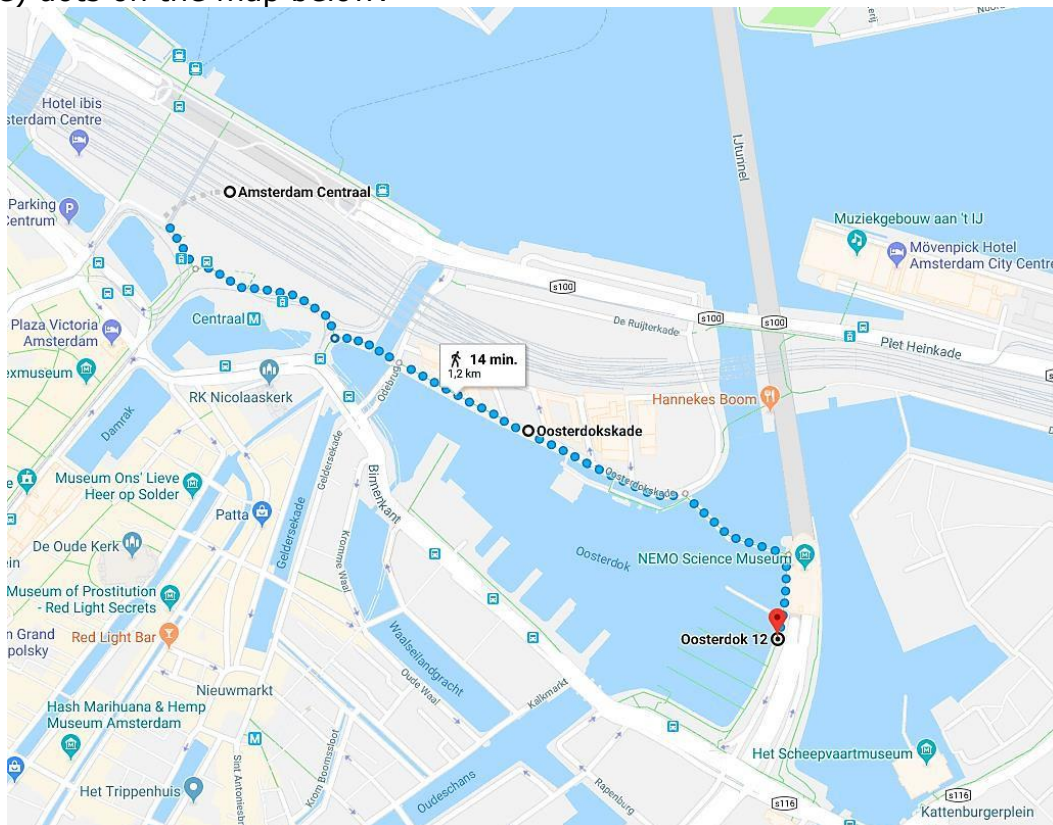
End of the tour

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

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

On foot

From the mooring place it takes about 15 minutes (1,2 km) to walk to Amsterdam Central Station. From the jetty turn left and in front of Nemo Science Museum turn left over the bridge (only for cyclists and pedestrians), see the (blue) dots on the map below:



Train

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

Taxi

A taxi from the barge to Schiphol Amsterdam Airport 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 € 10,-.

Travel dates 2020

2020	Barge Sailing Home	Season
May	16/5/2020	Standard
June	6/6/2020	Standard
July	4/7/2020	Low

Prices per person in 2020

Barge Sailing Home (Comfort DeLuxe)

	Low season	Standard season
Twin cabin	\$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
- Bicycle insurance hybrid bike (optional) € 20,- per bicycle
- Bicycle insurance E-bike (optional) € 40,- per bicycle
- Entrance fees to museums; approx. € 15,- per tour
- Travel risk insurance / cancellation 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 web site.

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 for booking and more information

