

**cYcle
TōūrS**

HOLIDAYS

Tulip Tour



Tour information 2020



Overwhelming colors of spring, visit the Keukenhof and the windmills of Kinderdijk

Between April and mid-May we offer special tulip tours, centered on the Tulip theme and you visit of course the Keukenhof.

The tulip originated in Turkey. The tulip bulb reached The Netherlands at the end of the 16th century. The flower and bulb were thought to be so special that a lively trade arose quite quickly. In 1634 there was one single bulb that was so expensive, a whole canal side house in Amsterdam could be bought with the money worth it. In 1637 the government took the speculation in hand and the bulbs dropped in price drastically. The bulb and flower became "normal". The route leads through vast fields of tulips. You will of course also visit the world-famous, 32-hectares' park The Keukenhof, where you can admire the wonderful colorful fields with flowering bulbs in peace and quiet.



Day 1 Saturday	Amsterdam, embarkation between 1 PM and 2 PM near Central Station. Sailing to Oude Wetering, cycling a roundtrip, 15
Day 2 Sunday	Oude Wetering - Gouda, 45
Day 3 Monday	Gouda - Delft, 40
Day 4 Tuesday	Delft – via Katwijk – Leiden, 36/48
Day 5 Wednesday	Leiden, visit Keukenhof with public transport
Day 6 Thursday	Leiden – Haarlem via bulb fields, 40
Day 7 Friday	Haarlem – Amsterdam, 40
Day 8 Saturday	Amsterdam, debarkation before 10 AM near Central Station

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 Amsterdam, embarking between 1 PM and 2 PM; sailing to Oude Wetering, cycling around Oude Wetering.

You are expected to arrive on our barge on Saturday the latest at **2 PM**. The barge needs to leave the mooring place in Amsterdam at **2.15 PM**. It is very important you are on time. The barge can't wait due the opening hours of bridges and/or locks.

When you arrive on board the ship, you can put your luggage away in your cabin and then enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It is also a good moment to become acquainted with the guide, skipper and crew and of course your fellow passengers.

In the 12th century Amsterdam was no more than a modest settlement at the mouth of the river Amsteel, with open connection to the sea. 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 a municipal charter in 1275 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 ornamented 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), Van Gogh Museum and off course the Anne Frank House. 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 13,659 piles.

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

After dinner you will make your first kilometers on your bike.

Day 2 Sunday Oude Wetering – Gouda (appr.45 km)

From Uithoorn, we will continue our tour over country roads, banks and channels through the Green Heart and polders to the city known for its cheese: Gouda.

Today is Sunday, the day on which most Dutch take out their bikes for a ride.

Who thinks of Gouda, not only thinks of cheese, pipes, 'stroopwafels' (treacle-waffle) and pottery, but also of stained-glass windows, a fairy-like town hall and atmospheric canals. Gouda is beautiful Old-Dutch city with a mostly intact city center.



The 'St. Janskerk', Gouda's 123-metre-long church, with its renowned 'Goudse Glazen' (leaded light windows), the beautiful gothic town hall and the 'Waag' (a building once used for weighing cheese) are absolutely worth a visit. Furthermore, one should not forget the Goudse Kaas- en Ambachtenmuseum (Museum of Cheese and Crafts museum), the Museum of Dutch Resistance, the 'Weeshuisplein' (famous square), the Catharinatuin, patios around the city and the Museumhaven, a harbor where historical ships are moored.

As on most days, after dinner we will take a walk through the city.

Day 3 Monday Gouda – Delft, 40 km

From Gouda you cycle past scenic polders via Kinderdijk to Rotterdam. Kinderdijk has the largest group of windmills in the Netherlands. The windmills at Kinderdijk were still actively used until 1950. These days, a large pumping station is responsible for controlling the water level in the polder. Here you can visit a windmill.

From Kinderdijk you take the ferry to Rotterdam where the barge is waiting for you. From there the barge takes you to Delft.



Delft, the town famous for its pottery, the 'Delft blue'. The painter Johannes Vermeer has made the town famous, but it is also known as the town of William of Orange. William of Orange lies buried in the Nieuwe Kerk in Delft, the church where members of the House of Orange are still buried. An attraction in Delft is the Prinsenhof (Prince's Residence).

The Prinsenhof Museum is housed in the former St Agatha's monastery. In 1572 William of Orange chose the convent as one of his residences. It was from here that he led the revolt against the Spanish tyranny of Holland. He was murdered on the steps of the Prinsenhof on July 10, 1584, by Balthazar Gerards, a Spanish sympathiser. Two bullet holes in the wall of the stairs bear witness to this event.

Day 4 Tuesday: Delft - Katwijk - 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.

A tranquil cycle path through the dunes leads you to Wassenaarse Slag. Here some remains of the Atlantikwall can still be seen. Five bunkers are connected by nearly 3,000-foot-long brick tunnels. Now the underground network serves as a bat reserve. The Atlantikwall was a 1,700 miles' defence line, running from Norway via Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France to the border with Spain. This defence line, which was never completed, consisted of bunkers, canons and mine fields. At some places the bunkers are still there, such as in Zandvoort, Scheveningen, Oostende (Belgium) and Normandy (France). You continue through the dunes, to **Katwijk aan Zee**, an old fishing village. The old inhabitants of Katwijk still speak their own dialect, 'Kattuks'. Following the course of the Oude Rijn (Old Rhine) river we cycle to **Leiden**.



Leiden originated around 800 AD as a market place at the confluence of the Old and New Rhine rivers, the Vliet River and the Mare ('Leyten' means 'at the waters'). For a long time it was considered to be the second city after Amsterdam. It was the centre of the textile industry in medieval times. A well-known episode from the history of Leiden is the siege of 1574 by the Spanish. These were finally driven away after dikes had been broken through and a Watergeuzen (see Rotterdam) fleet had come to help.

The relief of Leiden is still celebrated every year on 3 October. In 1575 Leiden was given the right to establish a university as a reward for the courage shown during the siege. It is also the birthplace of Rembrandt (van Rijn!).

Leiden boasts 14 museums, including the Rijksmuseum for Anthropology with many priceless foreign objects, the Municipal Museum (Lakenhal, 1640) including works by Dou, Steen, Rembrandt and Van Goyen, the Rijksmuseum of Antiquities with Egyptian antiquities. The Hortus Botanicus (Botanical Garden), a 400-year-old garden with innumerable 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.

There is a barge moored near the Zijlpoort, a gate that once formed part of the city walls.

Day 5 Wednesday: Leiden - visit to Keukenhof by public transport.

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



The pavilions will surprise you with unique flower shows. And amidst the wealth of colours there are surprising objects of art. This unequalled combination is extremely pleasing to the eye. In the Keukenhof various gardens and gardening styles can be found: the English Landscape Garden, the Historical Garden, the Natural Garden, the Japanese Natural Garden, the Formal Garden and three special colours gardens. Spread throughout the entire park there are approximately eighty sculptures from well-known Dutch artists. There are also several other art objects, such as the collection 'Surprising Tulips'.

Day 6 Thursday: Leiden – via the flower bulb fields to Haarlem, 40 km

From Leiden you cycle through wonderful flower beds in the direction of Haarlem. In the period of March to May the bulb fields are blooming, starting with daffodils and followed by hyacinths, tulips and lilies.



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.

Haarlem, which rendered its name to Harlem, New York, is a lively city with good shopping possibilities. At the same time there are many interesting 17th-century sights here. In particular the Grote Markt (Market Square) with the Great or St Bavo's Church (1390-1520) is well-known. Mozart was only one of the many St Bavo's organ players. Other famous attractions are the Frans Hals Museum (with many 17th-century paintings), the Town Hall, the Weigh House and the Vleeshal (Meat Hall, branch of the Frans Hals Museum, also with many 17th-century Dutch masters). On the river Spaarne the oldest museum of the Netherlands can be found: Teyler's Museum, with drawings by Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Raphael and others.

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 Friday Haarlem – Amsterdam, 40 km

From Haarlem you 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. Here you can find the statue of Hansje Brinker on the IJdijk. Hansje is a character from an American novel, which saved the country from flooding by putting his finger in the dike.



The Buitenhuisen ferry takes you across the North Sea Canal and from there you cycle to the **Zaanse Schans**.

The Zaanse Schans, with its traditional weatherboard houses, warehouses and windmills may give you the feeling of stepping back into the 17th or 18th century. Yet this is no open air museum, but a lively neighborhood where people live and work. Among other things a cheese farm, a clog maker and an old bakery can be visited here.

Day 8 Saturday Amsterdam, end of the tour after breakfast before 10 AM

Barges

You can download the photos of the tour and these barges 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 locker, private shower (shampoo incl), 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.

Wending – Category Comfort



Capacity: 24/26 persons

Length/width: 41.5 x 6,3 m

Electricity: 220 V

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

Windows can open? Yes

Air conditioning: No

Cabins:

Twelve cabins with private shower, washbasin, toilet and central heating.

- 10 double cabins (twin beds, can be placed together)
- 2 double/triple cabins (one bed is placed over the other two)

Saloon: The "Wending" has a roomy and cosy salon, equipped with a complete music installation and TV. After a strenuous bike ride it is a great place to relax.

The "Wending" is a former freight barge that started a new life in the early nineties as a luxury passenger motor barge. Since then the "Wending" is a familiar fixture on several routes in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Liza Marleen – Category ComfortPlus



Capacity: 20/22 persons

Length/width: 38 x 6,6 m

Electricity: 220 V

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

Windows can open? No

Air conditioning: Yes

Cabins:

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

- 8 double cabins (twin beds, can be placed together)
- 2 x Superior cabins of 15 m² (twin beds, can be placed together + 3rd bed; + small 4th bed for a child)

Saloon: The "Liza Marleen" has a beautiful, spacious and tastefully decorated saloon for a day stay and plenty of room on deck. The saloon has audio-equipment and TV.

The "Liza Marleen" is a luxury motor passenger barge, built in 1997-98 on the completely dismantled shell of a seafaring freight logger. In 2016 all the cabins are renovated.

This robust barge is ideally suited for trips on the wider waterways, like the Dutch Waddenzee, the IJsselmeer and the Zeeland Streams, but it can also be found cruising on the smaller inland waterways of the Netherlands and Belgium.

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 bicycle suitable to your height. This bicycle (a so-called Hybrid), is at your disposal during your trip until Friday at 4 PM. Your bike has 24 speeds, 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, 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.

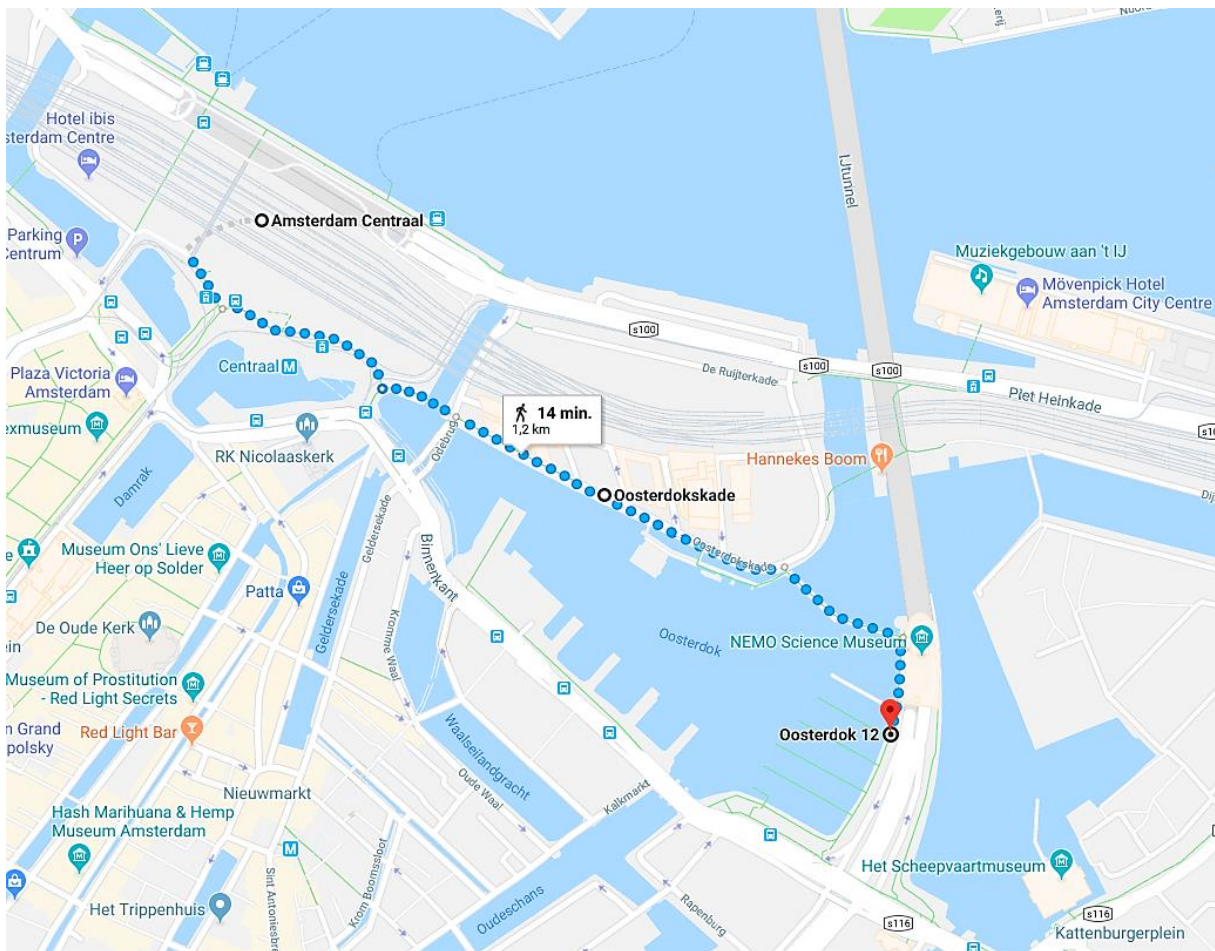
Arrival between 1 PM and 2 PM

You are expected to arrive on our barge on Saturday the latest at **2 PM**. The barge needs to leave the mooring place in Amsterdam at **2.15 PM**. It is very important you are on time. The barge can't wait due the opening hours of bridges and/or locks.

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). It takes about 10 to 15 minutes. Follow the blue dots on the 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 € 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 € 50,00. A taxi from the Central Train Station in Amsterdam to the barge takes about 5 minutes: Costs about € 10,-.

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 Amsterdam on Saturday morning after breakfast before 10 AM. You'll spend the night from Friday to Saturday on board.

Travel dates 2020

Please note that this schedule is subject to changes. On our web site you find our current schedule.

2020	Barge Sailing Home	Barge Wending	Barge Liza Marleen	Season
April	28/03/2020			Standard
	04/04/2020	04/04/2020		Standard
	11/04/2020	11/04/2020	11/04/2020	High
	18/04/2020	18/04/2020	18/04/2020	High
	25/04/2020	25/04/2020	25/04/2020	High
May	02/05/2020	02/05/2020	02/05/2020	Standard

Prices per person 2020

Barge Sailing Home (Comfort DeLuxe)

	Standard season	High season
Twin cabin	€ 1195,-	€ 1310,-
Single use	€ 1729,-	€ 1895,-

Barge Liza Marleen (ComfortPlus)

	Standard season	High season
Twin cabin	€ 1155,-	€ 1265,-
Single use	€ 1655,-	€ 1815,-
Superior cabin (15 m ²) for 2 pax	€ 1260,-	€ 1370,-
Superior cabin (15 m ²) for 3 pax	€ 1040,-	€ 1140,-

Barge Wending (Comfort)

	Standard season	High season
Twin cabin	€ 1075,-	€ 1180,-
Single use	€ 1265,-	€ 1385,-
Triple cabin	€ 1005,-	€ 1105,-

Reduction children*:

0-2 years: free of charge

3-11 years: 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 already 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
- Entrance Keukenhof, incl. public transport
- 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 incl. bike helmet: € 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,- (incl. helmet; suitable for babies who cannot sit by themselves; a car seat/baby seat not included)
- Set of bike maps: € 21,- (to be ordered and paid in advance; cannot be purchased on board)

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.