

Netherlands Southern Tulip tour by Bike + Boat / Guided

Tulip bloom in Holland

Consultant

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Details

Included services:

- 7 nights on board in cabin with private facilities
- full board (breakfast, packed lunch for bike days, dinner)

- coffee & tea on board
- cycling tour guide
- entrance fee Keukenhof
- all port, bridges and dock charges
- maps and information material per cabin

Day-to-day programm

Tour profile / Level 1

Flat, perfectly built bike-path and side streets, suitable for children.

Day 1: Amsterdam - Uithoorn, approx. 15 km

Individual arrival. Embarkation at 02:00 p.m

The barge needs to leave the mooring place in Amsterdam at 2.15 Pp.m. 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 at the ship, you can put your luggage away in your cabin and then enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. During this coffee break there is plenty of opportunity to get to know your guide, the crew and your fellow passengers. During dinner aboard the ship, 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: Uithoorn - Gouda, approx. 45 km

From Uithoorn you will continue your tour over country roads, banks and channels through the Green Heart and polders to the city known for its cheese: Gouda. 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 centre. As on most days, after

dinner you will take a walk through the city.

Day 3: Gouda - Delft, approx. 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. In Rotterdam you embark and from there the ship takes you to Delft. Delft, the town famous for its pottery, the 'Delft blue'. 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: Delft - Leiden, approx. 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-feet-long brick tunnels. Now the underground network serves as a bat reserve. 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 boasts 14 museums, including the Rijksmuseum. The ship is moored near the Zijlpoort, a gate that once formed part of the city walls.

Day 5: Leiden - Visit to Keukenhof by public transport

Today you visit the Keukenhof gardens, the most beautiful spring park in the world. Keukenhof is the place where the spring breaks. 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: Leiden - Haarlem, approx. 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. The ship 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: Haarlem - Amsterdam, approx. 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 Buitenhuizen 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: Amsterdam

Disembarkation after breakfast until 10 a.m. and individual departure.

Important Information:

Due to changing wind and weather conditions as well as organizational requirements we reserve the right to make changes of routing and program.

Prices
