

The Netherlands

July 1 – 10, 2018



Adventures
IN TANDEM

The Netherlands Tour Itinerary

Welcome to the Netherlands!

The Netherlands is a beautiful country of 17 million people. It is most known for its tulips, windmills, cheese, wooden shoes, canals, masterpieces of the Old Masters, Delft Blue earthenware, innovative water-management, and, of course, bicycles.

The Netherlands or Holland?

Technically, the country is called ‘The Kingdom of the Netherlands’ and includes the land in Europe plus three colonial islands in the Caribbean – Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten. The European part of the Kingdom is referred to as “the Netherlands”. Talking about the Netherlands, people often



"I think you've got the wrong idea about going Dutch!"

incorrectly call it Holland. In fact, only the central part of the Netherlands is geographically named Holland. This part of the country consists of two provinces Noord Holland (North Holland) and Zuid-Holland (South Holland). This is the region with important cities such as Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague (Den Haag), Delft, Leiden and Haarlem.

(from www.amsterdam.info/netherlands/).

Most of our tour is in Holland; however, we do dip into the province of Utrecht.

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Some Facts About Amsterdam

(from www.iamsterdam.com and amsterdamforvisitors.com)

Population: 800,000; however, the metropolitan area has 2.4 million people

Bicycles: 880,000 with 58% of the people cycling daily

Canals: 165 with 80 bridges over them. The canals cover about 60 miles. The Canal Ring is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Interestingly, the canals contain both salt and fresh water.

16th, 17th and 18th Century buildings: 8863

Houseboats: 2500

Why is the Netherlands obsessed with the color orange?

While the Netherlands is a democracy, they, like the British, have retained their royal family roots. (It's actually called an "Independent Monarchy".) The royals' lineage dates back to the House of Orange from the 16th century. The current King of the Netherlands is King Willem-Alexander and he was crowned in 2013.

Interesting fact: The people of the Netherlands are the tallest nationality in the world. The average man is six feet tall! (The US is 5 feet 9, in case you are wondering.) According to Smithsonian.com, the Dutch have gained eight inches in the last 150 years. Smithsonian.com says it's natural selection. Taller people seem to have more kids. But I read elsewhere speculation that it's the abundance of milk. Anyway, we have never felt so short in a foreign country!

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The Netherlands Top Cities by Population

We will be visiting the top four cities in the Netherlands, by size.

Amsterdam – 740,000

Rotterdam – 600,000

The Hague – 470,000

Utrecht – 290,000

The next largest city is Eindhoven with 210,000.

Here are the population sizes of the other places that we will be staying:

Gouda – 70,000

Huizen – 40,000

A Bit About the Netherland's Bike Culture

How did the bike culture start in the Netherlands? Prior to WWII, most people got around by bike. However, post war, all of Western Europe became car obsessed. However, a combination of a large number of cycling accidents and discomfort with being dependent on mid-East oil, caused the Dutch to approve building an extensive network of separate bike paths and cycle-ways. This has developed into the cycling culture that we can enjoy today.

Why are there so many loose “j’s” in Dutch words?

One of the places that we will be visiting is Kinderdijk. The ‘j’ is silent. We wondered why have it at all? You will see a lot of *ij* combinations in words. An *ij* is actually a diphthong. The *ij* is pronounced as a ‘long i’. It tells you to pronounce “dijk” as Dike and not Dick. In case you were wondering...

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Windmills!

There are over 1000 windmills in Holland. Their original purpose was for draining water in the area, but they have also been used for grinding grain, milling wood and other things needing power. You can visit 19 iconic windmills in Kinderdijk on Day 4 or 5 of this tour. There are also windmills in and around Amsterdam, in Delft and Leiden, as well as along several of the routes. Many of these windmills have been made into museums. At one time, there were over 12,000 windmills in the Netherlands.



Water Management in the Netherlands

The Netherlands is a very low and flat country with roughly one-quarter of the country below sea level and one-fifth of the population living below sea level. Only about half of the country is actually greater than one meter above sea level! So water management is a big deal.

The Netherlands has the most experience with water management in the world. With climate change and melting ice caps, Dutch water management engineers are in high demand.

What is a Polder?

A polder is a low-lying tract of land enclosed by dikes that forms an artificial hydrological entity. It has no connection with outside water other than through manually operated devices. We will be riding on dikes along polders on our trip.

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Dutch Road Signs You Should Know:

You may find some of the road signs to be baffling. Here are some:

	Compulsory cycle path
	End of compulsory cycle path
	Compulsory path for bicycles and mopeds
	End of compulsory path for bicycles and mopeds
	Non-compulsory cycle path
	End of non-compulsory cycle path
	No entry to road users, cyclists excepted / Cyclists and mopeds excepted So cyclists may enter this road!
	All road users must bear right, cyclists excepted Cyclists may also go straight ahead or turn left.
	NO cycling!
	Any sign attached to this sign does not apply to cyclists.

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Translation for a Number of Road Signs:	
Let op !	Pay attention!
Drempel	Speed bump / road hump
Fietsers uitgezonderd	Except cyclists
Fietsers oversteken	Cyclists must cross the road
Fietsers toegestaan	Cyclists allowed
Doorgaand rijverkeer gestremd	Ongoing traffic has been blocked
Verboden fietsen te plaatsen	Do not park your bike here
Fietsen buiten de fietsenrekken worden verwijderd	Bikes that have been parked outside the bike stands will be removed

Q: Do cyclists get fined in the Netherlands?

A: Yes! For example:

For cycling on the pavement or in pedestrianized zones;

For cycling in the dark when their front or rear lighting is not in working order;

For cycling the wrong way in a one-way street;

For ignoring a red light.

Q: Are we allowed to cycle side-by-side (two abreast) on a bike track?

A: Yes, as long as you are not hindering anyone.

Q: Who has right-of-way / priority at a crossing or a roundabout?

A: In the right-of-way dilemma, cyclists and drivers have the same rules and are equal partners in traffic. On a crossing with equal priority (no white triangles for anyone), yield to traffic coming from the right. Traffic turning off the road must yield to traffic continuing straight ahead. It is always best to approach crossings and especially roundabouts with caution even if you have right of way. It is customary to signal with your hand before making a turn.

Q: What are those white triangles on the road?

A: They are the equivalent to a yield sign. Give way to other traffic if you encounter white triangles on the tarmac.

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Cycling in the Netherlands

Signposts: *Knooppunten* Route

On your itinerary, signposts will show you the way. A network of numbered intersections allows you to explore every nook and cranny of this diverse country. *Knooppunten* (intersections) have been assigned a number and linked together in a network that covers the whole country.

What do the signs look like?

The signs are white with green lettering: a number with a circle around it and an arrow telling you which way to go to reach the number. You will find these same numbers on your route description. The adjacent sign reads as follows: "If you are on your way to number 7 go straight ahead. But if your route description is telling you to go to number 18, then make a right turn here".



Where are the signs?

The signs are usually at eye level for cyclists. But sometimes they are on a low post near the ground:



How do I know when I am approaching a *knooppunt*?



On the last sign before you actually reach a numbered intersection you will see the text *U nadert knooppunt*. This means: You are approaching intersection. On the adjacent image, the sign reads "You are approaching intersection number 23". At this point you continue straight ahead, safe in the knowledge that it won't be long now: Number 23 is coming up soon.

Better look out for it.

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If you are interested, we have assembled a list of books and movies that take place in the Netherlands. There are tons more, just Google it!

Books:

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank and B.M. Mooyart – Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier (2001) – History and fiction merge seamlessly in this luminous novel about artistic vision and sensual awakening. **Girl with a Pearl Earring** tells the story of sixteen-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius . . . even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil

The Coffee Trader by David Liss (2003) – Historical novel set in 17th Century Amsterdam

Tulip Fever: A Novel by Deborah Moggach (2001) – 1630's Amsterdam during the tulip mania. This does not appear to be the same as the movie below by the same name

Why the Dutch are Different: A Journey into the Hidden Heart of the Netherlands by Ben Coates (2017) - Stranded at Schiphol airport, Ben Coates called up a friendly Dutch girl he'd met some months earlier. He stayed for dinner. Actually, he stayed for good. In the first book to consider the hidden heart and history of the Netherlands

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from a modern perspective, the author explores the length and breadth of his adopted homeland and discovers why one of the world's smallest countries is also so significant and so fascinating. It is a self-made country, the Dutch national character shaped by the ongoing battle to keep the water out from the love of dairy and beer to the attitude to nature and the famous tolerance.

Movies:

06/05 (2004) – A fictional version of the events that led to the assassination of the Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn on May 6, 2002

Cheech & Chong Still Smokin (1983) – Cheech & Chong are invited to a celebrity party/festival in Amsterdam

Girl With a Pearl Earring (2003) – About the famous Dutch painting by Johannes Vermeer. Shot in Amsterdam and Delft.

Layer Cake (2005) – A successful cocaine dealer gets two tough assignment from his boss on the eve of his planned early retirement

Love Is All (2007) – Dutch romantic comedy

Ocean's Twelve (2004) – filmed in Amsterdam with some canal scenes

The Diary of Anne Frank (1959) – classic with Millie Perkins playing Anne Frank and Shelley Winters playing Mrs. Van Daan. Won three Oscars including best supporting actress to Shelley Winters

The Hitman's Bodyguard (2017) – The world's top bodyguard gets a new client, a hit man who must testify at the International Criminal Court. They must put their differences aside and work together to make

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it to the trial on time. (Not the best movie, but there is a really cool chase scene in Amsterdam.)

Tulip Fever (2017) – An artist falls for a young married woman while he's commissioned to paint her portrait during the Tulip mania of 17th century Amsterdam

What is Included on this tour?

All breakfasts and six dinners.

Sunday, July 1	Dinner at hotel in Amsterdam
Monday, July 2	Dinner at hotel in Scheveningen
Tuesday, July 3	Dinner on your own
Wednesday, July 4	Dinner at hotel in Gouda
Thursday, July 5	Dinner on your own
Friday, July 6	Dinner at hotel in Utrecht
Saturday, July 7	Dinner on your own
Sunday, July 8	Dinner at hotel in Huizen
Monday, July 9	Private Dinner Cruise

Dinner will be at 7pm, except for the last night when we will set off from the hotel at 6pm for the dinner cruise.



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Preparing for the Tour – Bike Gear (What to Bring)

- This is what we found when we googled Dutch bike laws. We don't know if it is enforced: Dutch law requires a white light up front and a red light in the rear of your bike. Flashing lights are not allowed. Loose lights are allowed if properly visible and attached to your upper body, not your head, helmet or limbs. It is also required to have a bell. Dutch law also requires bike reflectors: a red reflector (not triangular) on the back of the bike, yellow reflectors on the pedals and white or yellow reflective tires.
 - We recommend at least 32c tires as some of road surfaces may be rough
 - Spare tubes
 - Spare tire
 - **Lock (this is important. Bikes are frequently stolen in the Netherlands)**
 - GPS bike computer if you have one
 - Cue sheet mount
- Other things to bring –**
- Helmet, gloves, bike shoes, bike clothes, etc.
 - A bag to carry stuff that you might buy
 - Sunscreen, a wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, lip balm with sunscreen
 - Extra pair of glasses
 - Sneakers or light hiking shoes
 - Rain gear
 - Light jacket, depending on the forecast
 - Water bottles and/or hydration pack
 - Bathing suit (all of our hotels either have pools or hot tubs)
 - Camera
 - **Travel adapters/converters for the Netherlands**
 - Medications you may need
 - Phone

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- Health insurance card/Travel insurance policy info
- Passport/ID
- Wash cloth (**hotels in Europe usually do not provide them**)
- **Many hotels in Europe only have a duvet on the beds. We are bringing a flat sheet so that we can sleep with just that if it is hot out.**

Note that you do not need to bring a hair dryer. Each hotel room has one.

A Word About Luggage...

This is a cycling trip, so you won't need to bring anything fancy! We find that it is best to travel light with cycling trips. It makes repacking to change hotels easier. Don't worry about your fellow travelers seeing you in the same stuff during the trip. They (and we at Adventures in Tandem) will be doing the same thing! You will be amazed at how freeing it is not to have to spend a long time agonizing over what to wear!



We permit one suitcase – up to 40 pounds per person. We will also allow one additional small bag per couple. On days that we change hotels, your bags will be picked up after 9am and delivered to the next hotel by mid to late afternoon. We will do our best not to damage any luggage; however, it is possible for there to be scratches or other minor damage. Adventures in Tandem LLC is not responsible for any luggage damage.

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Bike Safety: Rules of the Road

The League of American Cyclist's five Rules of the Road prepare you for a safe and fun bicycling no matter where you're riding.

Follow the Law

Your safety and image of bicyclists depend on you. You have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the rightmost lane headed in the direction you are going.

Be Predictable

Make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars. Signal turns, and check behind you well before turning or changing lanes.

Be Conspicuous

Ride where people can see you and wear bright clothing. Use a front white light, red rear light and reflectors when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with others and don't ride on sidewalks. We will be providing a reflective triangle.

Think Ahead

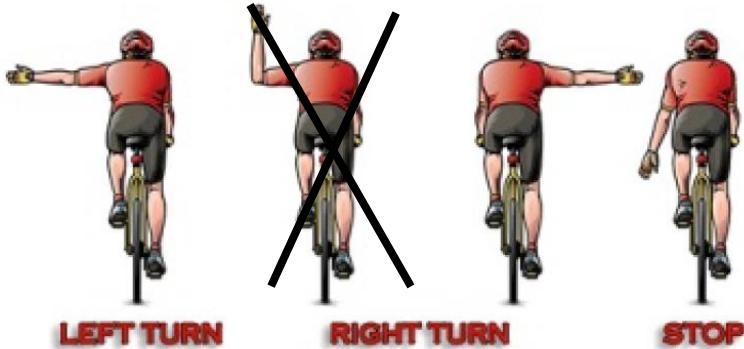
Anticipate what drivers, pedestrians, and other people on bikes will do next. Watch for turning vehicles and ride outside the door zone of parked cars. Look out for debris, potholes, and other road hazards. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

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Ride Ready

Check that your tires are sufficiently inflated, brakes are working, chain runs smoothly, and quick release levers are closed. Carry tools and supplies that are appropriate for your ride. Wear a helmet.

BICYCLE SAFETY: CORRECT HAND SIGNALS



Be sure to signal your turns. For right turns, just put your right arm out. The Dutch will not understand the upward left arm signal.

Support and Emergency Numbers:

If you have a medical emergency, please call “112”, that is the 911 equivalent in Europe. We will be providing a number to call in case you have a mechanical problem that requires help. For a non-emergency, you can reach us by calling either Caren’s cell phone – 862-812-8854 – or Mike’s cell phone – 973-879-3427. We will also check emails at adventuresintandem@gmail.com and are available under What’s App.

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Note that this is the entire tour, including optional routes.

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Day 1 – Sunday, July 1

Arrive in Amsterdam

9am	Meet at the Westcord Amsterdam Hotel You can take a cab from the airport or take the train to Centraal Station and then a shorter cab ride to the hotel. Since we will all be coming in early, we can meet at 9am after breakfast. We can go for a ride – perhaps the 36.5 mile ride.
	Assemble bicycles
	Ride choices:
	26miles– N1S Amsterdam Zaandam Roundtour
	36.5 miles– N1M Amsterdam Marken Roundtour
	47miles – N1L Amsterdam Volendam Roundtour
7:00pm	Group dinner at hotel

All three rides take you north of Amsterdam. The 26 mile ride is the most urban. It takes you to Zaandijk, which, although touristy, is still a fun place to visit.

N1S Amsterdam Art Roundtour Zaandam – 26.1miles

Note that there is a free ferry on this ride.



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The other two rides are beautiful rides along the water.

The 35 mile route also takes a free ferry.

N1M Amsterdam Marken Roundtour – 36.5 miles



N1L Amsterdam Volendam Roundtour – 46.7 miles (pay ferry)



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Before we leave Amsterdam, make sure that you have seen the sights! Here is a list of things that we recommend.

Anne Frank House – this is the actual hiding place for Anne Frank and her family during World War II. Expect very long lines.

Westerkerk Church – the largest church in Amsterdam, finished in 1631. You can climb to the tower. We recommend doing this tour, provided that you are not afraid of heights. It was a very interesting tour that takes you up to the very top of the tower where the bells are. The views were great! Note that there are no tours on Sundays, but there is a religious service at 10:30am on Sundays. The guided tour costs €7. We had to buy our tickets a few hours before the actual tour.

Heineken Experience – this was a pretty touristy thing. Only do it if you are really into brewery tours and/or Heineken in particular. They did have a very generous tasting area.

Zaanse Schans – an open air museum that recreates a Dutch village with wooden houses and windmills dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. You pass by this on the short ride at mile 16.4. It is touristy...we mean busloads of tourists...but we still enjoyed it and recommend going if you have the time.

Canal Cruise – If you are jetlagged, we recommend taking a canal cruise. It is a nice way to soak in some sun without expending a lot of energy. There are a number of touring boats near Westerkerk Church and also at Centraal Station. They are hop on/hop off. But if you don't get to do this, no worries! Our last night we have a private dinner cruise planned.

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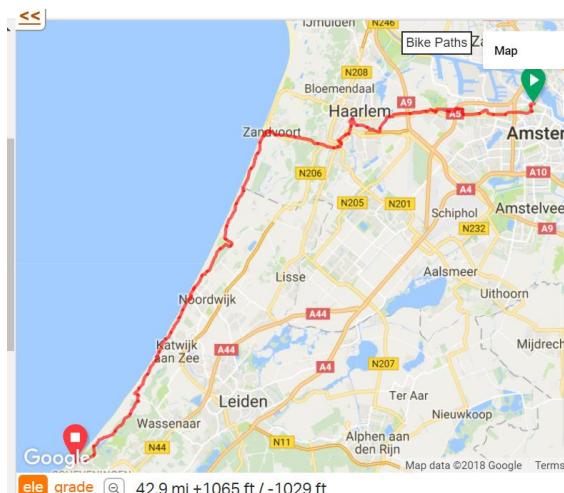
Day 2 – Monday, July 2

Amsterdam to Scheveningen

8:00am	Breakfast at the Westcord Hotel
9:00am	N2 Amsterdam to Scheveningen - 43 miles feet
	Mile 13.7 - St Bavo Church and Haarlem
	Lunch on your own.
After 3pm	Check into the Grand Amrath Kurhaus in Scheveningen
7:00pm	Group dinner at the hotel, after dinner, weather permitting, we can walk to the beach to watch the sunset.

For lunch, you may want to stop at a supermarket in Zandvoort (our route passes by one at mile 19). Then you can picnic along the dunes. Or you can eat in one of the many eateries that you will pass through along the coast around mile 31 to 36. Note that there are clothing optional beaches along the way!

N2 Amsterdam to Scheveningen – 43 miles



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St. Bavokerk or Grote Kerk is a Protestant church and former Catholic cathedral located on the central market square in the city of Haarlem. The first church in this spot burned to the ground in the 14th century. The church was rebuilt and was deemed a cathedral in 1559.

We found the interior wood ceiling to be beautiful and quite unique. We took a self-guided tour inside the church. In addition to the woodwork, beautiful and unique stained glass we saw the extremely impressive organ. (There was a musician practicing on it when we were there.)

There is an entrance fee of €2.50/person.

Be sure to check out the beaches from mile 19 to 37.



You won't miss it when you get to the hotel in Scheveningen! It is right next to the massive Ferris Wheel! SkyView Pier is open from 11am to at least 8pm (maybe later in July). You can also enjoy lunch, finger food dinner or high tea on the wheel. A regular spin around should run you about €10/person.

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Day 3 – Tuesday, July 3

Scheveningen

8:00am	Breakfast at the Grand Amrath Kurhaus
9:00am	Two ride choices: 26 miles– N3S Scheveningen Delft Roundtour Short 42 miles– N3L Scheveningen Delft Roundtour Long The Hague Museums are around mile 3.5
7:00pm	Dinner on your own. If you want to go with the group, lets meet at 7pm in the hotel lobby.
10:00pm	Sunset viewing from the hotel



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Things to see in The Hague (there are tons, but here are two that we will be going to):

The Mauritshuis Royal Picture Gallery – if you want to experience the Dutch Golden Age of painting, come here. It is at mile xx on the route.

Escher in the Palace – Escher at the Palace is dedicated to the work of Holland's most famous graphic artist M.C. Escher. Nearly all his prints are exhibited, among them Belvedere, Drawing Hands, Waterfall and Ascending and Descending. Here you can see how Escher changed fishes into birds, made water flow upstream and his less known, but very attractive early Italian landscapes.

Delft



Delft is a lovely town near The Hague. It hosts the Delft University of Technology and many consider it to be the birthplace of microbiology. It is also known for its Delft Blue pottery which has been made there since the 1500's.

Leiden

I have a Dutch friend who has told me that Leiden is the most picturesque town he has ever seen. Judge for yourself!



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Day 4 – Wednesday, July 4

Scheveningen to Gouda

8:00am	Breakfast at the Grand Hotel
9:00am	Ride Choices: N4S Scheveningen to Gouda - 40 miles or N4L Scheveningen to Gouda via Rotterdam - 63miles
	The 40 mile route travels through the Hague and then travels west to Gouda (pronounced Howda)
	The 63 mile ride continues along the coastline and then turns west to go through Rotterdam. After Rotterdam, the ride goes to Kinderdijk and then north to Gouda
	If you elect to do the shorter route, we recommend riding to Kinderdijk on Thursday
	Check into the Best Western, Gouda
7:00pm	Group dinner at the Best Western



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Rotterdam

Rotterdam is a modern, large city. The bike tour will take you through Rotterdam on dedicated bike paths and bike lanes. Given that the riding is a metric century, you won't have time to really spend in the city. Here's what we recommend:

Markethall Rotterdam – this is a cool place to get lunch and see the action around central Rotterdam. It is around mile 36.5. There is a very large bicycle parking area nearby.

Cube Houses – this is right past the Markethall. There is a museum cube house if you are interested.

Kinderdijk

Long Route Mile 46. This is your iconic view of Holland – 19 windmills all within one view! Originally built to actually drain the swamp, these windmills are still maintained. Expect to see tourists by the busload. Just the same, we recommend going to Kinderdijk. It's really cool to be on a bike as you can ride past the tourists and see more. Make sure that you have change for the ferry. Extra credit if in your travels you find out how Kinderdijk got its name!

Gouda

Gouda is a very walkable town. You will want to leave yourself some time to wander around the central square. Check out the syrup waffles (stroopwaffels). Honey Stinger totally stole that idea!

If you aren't out riding Thursday morning, there is a reenactment of a cheese market for the tourists.

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Day 5 – Thursday, July 5

Gouda

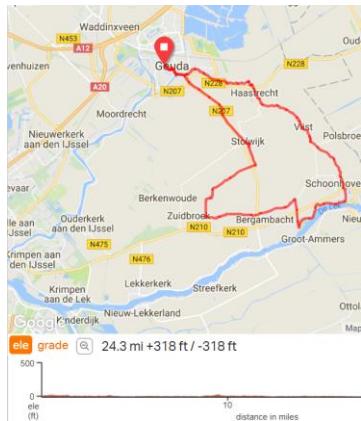
8:00am	Breakfast at the Best Western
9:00am	Layover day in Gouda
10:30am	Weekly Gouda cheese market (put on for the tourists)
	<p>Three ride choices:</p> <p>N5A Gouda Kinderdijk Roundtour - 40 miles with Kinderdijk and Schoonhoven (Kinderdijk is at mile 26) (We recommend this ride if you did not get to Kinderdijk on Wednesday)</p> <p>N5S Gouda Schoonhoven Roundtour Short - Short loop tour to Schoonhoven (24 miles)</p> <p>N5L Gouda Schoonhoven Roundtour Long - Long loop tour to Schoonhoven (36 miles)</p>
	Dinner on your own, but we can meet in the Best Western lobby at 7pm to go out together

N5A Gouda Kinderdijk Roundtour – 39.6/+478

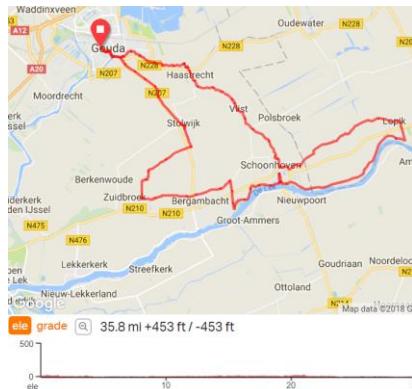


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N5S Gouda Schoonhoven Roundtour Short – 24.3/289



N5L Gouda Schoonhoven Roundtour Long – 35.8/431



Schoonhoven is known for its silver and is nicknamed Zilverstad or "Silver City". The town is also known for its production of clocks. There are two main shopping streets in Schoonhoven and plenty of places to stop for lunch. Schoonhoven is at mile 9 on the short and mile 20 on the long loop tour.

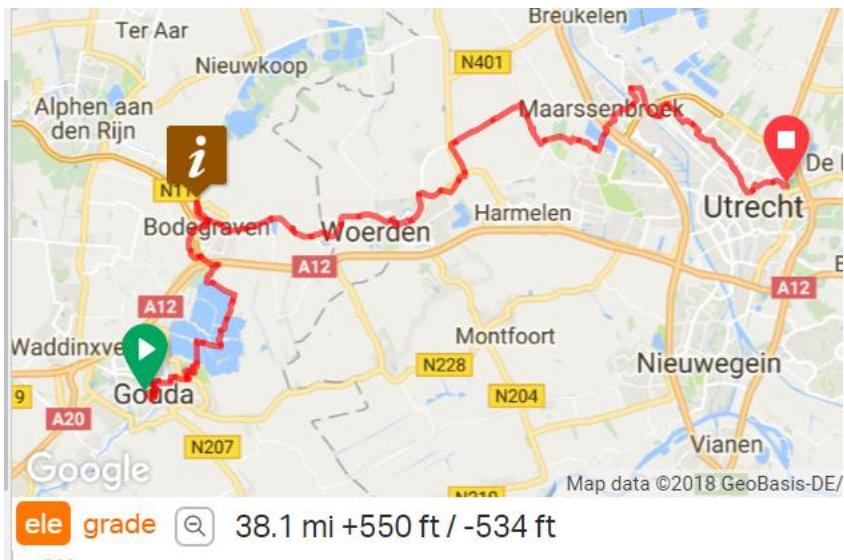
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Day 6 – Friday, July 6

Gouda to Utrecht

8:00am	Breakfast at the Best Western
	N6 Gouda to Utrecht - 38 mile route to Utrecht
	Mile 11.5 – de Graaf Cheese Farm – guided tour at 10am
	Mile 26.5 – Kasteel de Haar – a very well kept castle decorated to the early 20 th century. Beautiful gardens. Worth a picture in front at the very least. Admission is €16/person.
3:00pm	Check into the Hotel Midland
7:30pm	Dinner at the hotel

N6 Gouda to Utrecht – 38.1 miles



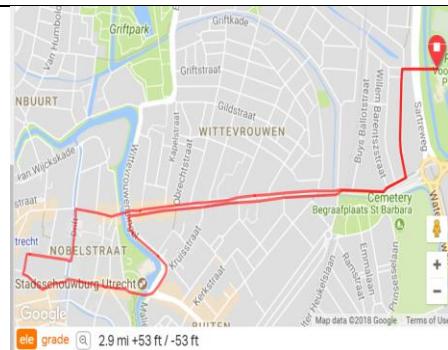
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Day 7 – Saturday, July 7

Utrecht

8:00am	Breakfast at the Hotel Midland
9:00am	Layover day in Utrecht
	Choice of rides:
	N7 DOM Utrecht Domkerk Roundtour - 3 mile roundtrip to Utrecht center and DOM Tower
	N7 Utrecht Mitland Roundtour - 39 mile/1021 feet loop ride to Amersfoort
	Dinner on your own

N7DOM Utrecht Domkerk Roundtour - 2.9 miles



N7 Utrecht Mitland Roundtour 39.2 miles



While we are offering a loop ride on the layover day in Utrecht, we recommend that you only ride the short route and spend the day exploring Utrecht.

Fun Bike Facts about Utrecht: 96% of households own at least one bike. The traffic system (Flo) is designed to help cyclists catch green lights, and the world's largest biking garage, which will hold 12,500 bikes is set to open later this year!

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Things not to miss in Utrecht

Dom Tower – climb 465 steps on this guided tour of the highest church tower in the Netherlands. We do not recommend this tour if you are afraid of heights or claustrophobic. Otherwise, we do recommend that you do this tour. It was interesting to hear the history of the tower and the views from the top are great. You also get a great view of the ruined cathedral adjacent to the Tower. The tour takes an hour and costs €9/person.

DOMunder – archeological site underneath the cathedral. We found it interesting. It takes about 75 minutes and costs €11.

St. Martin's Cathedral Domkerk – Medieval gothic architecture church in the square. A massive storm caused the nave to collapse in 1674 It was never rebuilt.

Canal District – The main attraction in Utrecht is the Canal District. It is worth it to ride through the area and stop in the shops and cafes. You can also take a canal tour. www.visit-utrecht.com is a good resource.

You can even rent a boat, canoe or kayak in Utrecht!



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Day 7 – Sunday, July 8

Utrecht to Huizen

8:00am	Breakfast at the Hotel Midland
9:00am	Two ride choices: N8S Utrecht to Huizen Short – 24 miles N8L Utrecht to Huizen Long – 40 miles
	Check into the Fletcher Hotel Nautisch Kwartier. The hotel is in a pretty, but quiet area along the water. There is not much around to do. No need to rush over.
6:00pm	Pre-dinner drinks by the Bianco's room
7:00pm	Dinner at the hotel

N8S Utrecht to Huizen Short
24.1 miles/+502 feet



N8L Utrecht to Huizen Long
40.1 miles/+718 feet



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Day 9 – Monday, July 9

Huizen to Amsterdam

8:00am	Breakfast at the Fletcher Hotel Nautisch Kwartier
9:00am	Choice of 23 or 34 mile route back to the Westcord Arts Hotel N9S Huizen to Amsterdam Short – 23 miles N9L Huizen to Amsterdam Long – 34 miles
	Mile 5 – the ancient fortified village of Naarden.
	Mile 11 – Muiderslot Castle – 700 year old Dutch castle. (Much more practical than castles you see in France!) Guided tour. Admission is €15.50/person.
	Disassemble bikes in the afternoon
6:00pm	Final group dinner and cruise around Amsterdam



The Netherlands Tour Itinerary



Naarden is a fortified town. This aerial view shows Naarden's star shaped moat. We will be riding by this town at mile 5.

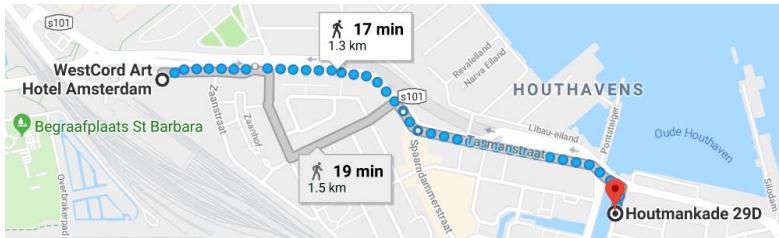
Muiden (aka Muiderslot) Castle was built in 1280 by Count Floris V and was used to collect a toll on traders who were on route to Utrecht by the Vecht river. This is a small castle with pretty gardens. You could spend an hour or two here.



The Netherlands Tour Itinerary

Dinner on Monday

We will meet at the hotel lobby at 6pm to walk to the dinner cruise with Private Boat Tours. It is an 8/10th mile walk. Please let us know if you would prefer to take a cab. (Houtmankade 29D)



The Belle Epoque is an elegant saloon boat dating back to 1910, beautifully refurbished and fully fitted out to meet the functional requirements of our day. At the same time the Belle Epoque has retained its authenticity and the charm of its heyday.

The Netherlands Tour Itinerary

Day 10 – Monday, July 10

Amsterdam

8:00am	Breakfast at the Westcord Arts Hotel
	Goodbyes

Thank you for spending your vacation with us. We hope to see you again on another one of our tours!





2018 Remaining Tours

The Canadian Rockies – August/September 2018

New Mexico – September 2018

2019 Tours

Morocco – March 2019

Italy (alumni only) – May 2019

The Massachusetts Berkshires – June 2019

The Loire Valley – July 2019

Zion and Bryce National Parks – September 2019