

Family budget tour: Beach, cities and castles

8 days, € 555



Introduction



Save money by staying at Stayokay hostels! This is one of those all-encompassing holidays that deliver excitement and relaxation at the same time. You will enjoy a memorable week in which the best of Holland will file past every day: dunes and beach; historical town centres; calming countryside; wooden shoes and windmills. We have planned your accommodation in pleasant Stayokay hostels where you will want for nothing.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Haarlem**

The bus stops right in front of the hostel. The hostel is on the northern outskirts of the city next to a small park called Schoterbos, boasting beehives and community vegetable plots and flower gardens. Make your way down to the city centre to see historical Haarlem in its full glory. Museums such as the free archaeology museum for local finds and wonderful old Teijlers Museum for the sciences appeal to children. Alternatively, visit an enormous museum windmill called De Adriaan overlooking the river and the city.

Day 2 **Haarlem – Round Tour**

33 km

Via Overveen > Zandvoort > Bloemendaal.

Today you can explore the lovely city of Haarlem before setting off for the coast. Everybody knows that this part of Holland is low-lying, even below sea level. So what stops the sea from flooding the land? Along most of the coastline it's the dunes! Sandy dunes, preferably quite wide and hilly and covered in beach grass so the sand doesn't blow away. So as soon as you spot the dunes, you know that the sea can't be far off. Just wait till you see the big sandy beach! You can go hunting for pretty seashells, small crabs and tiny hermit crabs; jump waves; build sand castles etc. Or you choose a shorter loop and cycle around the elegant city of Haarlem in 18 kilometers.



Day 3 Haarlem – Heemskerk

37 km

IJmuiden and its locks, the gateway by water towards Amsterdam. Cargo ships, cruise ships and pleasure yachts pass through here. A special sight to see the huge sea giants crawling by.

After IJmuiden, the route continues through the dunes to the coastal town of Wijk aan Zee.

It is also possible to cycle a shorter route of about 20 km today, skipping the locks and coast.

Thirteenth century Assumburg Castle in the village of Heemskerk is where you will stay the night! This hostel is a dream come true. Surrounded by a moat and gardens it certainly looks the picture so your son will feel like a knight and your daughter will feel like a princess; a princess in a bunkbed...

Important! Please note the bedrooms of Stayokay Heemskerk are divided into two buildings, the Castle and the Orangery. If you make a reservation you will get a room in the Castle or in the Orangery.

Day 4 Heemskerk – Round Tour

31 km

Via Noorddorp > Castricum aan Zee (Castricum by the Sea) > Castricum. This will be another day well-spent, enjoying the coast. The route is a little shorter to give you plenty of time to roam the windswept dunes and relax at the seaside. In several places, you can choose to get off your bike and visit beaches. Then hop on your bikes to return to your castle. There is also a longer route (46 km) you can go through the dunes to Egmond aan Zee. This route can also be shortened (35 km) by not visiting Egmond aan Zee.

Day 5 Heemskerk – Amsterdam

45 km

Via Westzaan > Koog aan de Zaan > Het Twiske > Landsmeer > Amsterdam Central Station

The spotlights are on the Zaan Region today, named after the River Zaan. The region is famous for its traditional architecture: green-painted wooden houses, sheds, warehouses and even windmills. Prime examples have been grouped together at Zaanse Schans, very touristy but oh so pretty! Do stop off there for a good dose of nostalgic cultural history. Kids can find out about cheese making and wooden shoes; or climb up a creaking, shuddering windmill.

Het Twiske is a lovely, leafy recreational area offering sporting activities on and off the water.

Day 6 Explore Amsterdam

The centre of Amsterdam is beautiful. But other districts also offer a variety of architecture, culture and lovely parks. Go to Vondel Park, for example, and continue to Museumplein or P.C. Hooftstraat for the biggest fashion and luxury brands. For waterside chilling, check out Oosterdok with a view of (replica) 17th century sailing ship "The Amsterdam". If you want to board the ship, go to the National Maritime Museum and you'll be in for a very interesting afternoon.

Day 7 Amsterdam – Haarlem

27 km

Leave the city and plunge into peaceful, wide-open countryside. The picturesque village of Spaarndam was built around a dam across the River Spaarne where the river emptied into a saltwater bay (this was very long ago – nowadays there is no sea to be found!). Kolksluis lock, an opening where boats can pass through the dam, is said to be the oldest working shipping lock in Europe (1280). You may be interested to see the monument to the "Little Hero of Haarlem". On Youtube you can hear Sara Cone Bryant's version of this folktale for children about a boy who plugged a hole in the dike with his fist and saved the town from flooding.

Day 8 Return Home

After filling up at the breakfast buffet, it's time to pack your bags and make your way home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Daily:

from April 1 till September 23

ATTENTION: Children from 3 to 12 years get a discount of -35€ on the base price and -70€ on the half board price.

Price pp		€
6 person room, breakfast		550.00
Twin room, breakfast		660.00
Triple room, breakfast		740.00
Quadruple room, breakfast		575.00
5 person room, breakfast		640.00
6 person room, breakfast		550.00
Full board		250.00
Half board		140.00
Lunch		110.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		98.00
Standard bike		140.00
E-bike		210.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 7	28.00
Child seat	€ 8.00 x 7	56.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 7	21.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 7	42.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 7	35.00
Child trailer	€ 20.00 x 7	140.00
Bike helmet	per piece	20.00
Towelservice	per piece	14.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
discount	per piece	-20.00

Starting point:

Haarlem



Accommodation

The hotels or B&Bs on this trip have been carefully selected for their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. All rooms are en-suite. A list of the hotels we work with appears below. If a certain accommodation is unable to confirm due to lack of availability, we will request a comparable alternative. When selecting the accommodation, we try to take into account as much as possible a safe and closed bicycle shed. However, we cannot do this with all of them guarantee and this partly depends on the number of bicycles of other guests.



Stayokay Haarlem (Haarlem)

www.stayokay.com/nl/hostel/haarlem



Stayokay Heemskerk (Heemskerk)

www.stayokay.com/nl/hostel/heemskerk



Stayokay Amsterdam Oost (Zeeburg) (Amsterdam)

www.stayokay.com/nl/hostel/amsterdam-oost



Practical Info

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STAYOKAY HOSTELS

Haarlem: Upon arrival you will receive bedlinen with which you will make the beds yourselves. Towels are not included, but can be rented through Dutch Bike Tours for €14,- for the entire trip or you can bring your own.

Heemskerk: Upon arrival you will receive bedlinen with which you will make the beds yourselves. Towels are not included, but can be rented through Dutch Bike Tours for €14,- for the entire trip or you can bring your own. The hostel is accessible until midnight when the doors close for the night.

Amsterdam Zeeburg: Upon arrival you will receive bedlinen with which you will make the beds yourselves. Towels are not included but can be rented through Dutch Bike Tours for €14,- for the entire trip or you can bring your own.



7 Nights included



StayOkay Hostels



Breakfast included, lunch package and Halfboard optional



Detailed roadbooks with maps and tourist information



The possibility of renting our bikes (7-gear bikes)



7-days a week service-hotline



Luggage transport to your next hotel



Haarlem



Parking possibilities at the hotel



Any ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airport is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



The train from Schiphol to Bloemendaal departs 2 times per hour. Travel time is about 35 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €7- per person excl. bicycle. From Bloemendaal trainstation you need to take the bus to the Hostel.

For timetables and tickets, go to www.ns.nl/en. For bus details, how to reach the hotel, check: www.9292.nl/en.

