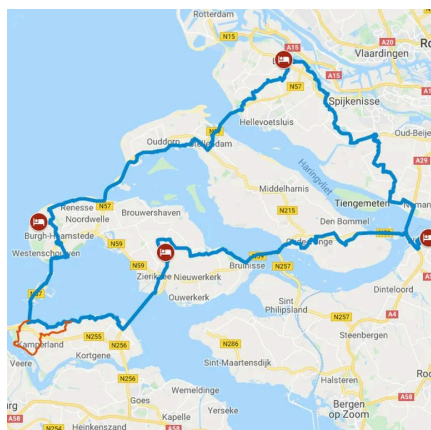


Dunes and Deltaworks

6 days, € 700



Introduction



As soon as you drive down the access roads to Zeeland, that holiday feeling will come upon you. That salty air and the far horizons give you a feeling of peace, space and freedom. This is Zeeland, a lesser-known province on the south-west coast of the Netherlands, where it is still possible to be alone. Mainly made up of islands, for a long time it was somewhat cut off from the rest of the country and only in recent decades have dams and bridges opened up the region to visitors. For all those interested in history and water management it offers fascinating insights. But your daily companions on this tour will be white beaches, windswept dunes, open polder countryside and pretty villages stilled in time, flat terrain ensures a perfect cycling experience.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Burgh Haamstede**

For those brave souls travelling down by public transport, please note that it will take you around three hours to reach Burgh Haamstede from either Amsterdam Airport or Hook of Holland harbour. NS (Dutch Rail) do not serve this outpost! You will have to journey here by metro/bus from Rotterdam. To shorten your travel time, consider making the town of Brielle the starting point of your tour (only possible with own bikes).

Day 2 **Burgh Haamstede - Brielle**

50 km

Twenty-one kilometres of the Netherlands' most pristine coastline await you this morning. Pedalling up the beautiful coast of Schouwen-Duiveland island, you will enjoy bright white beaches and rolling dunes. The Delta Works, a series of thirteen sea barriers, sluices and dams all down the coast of Zeeland were constructed to protect the low-lying hinterland from flooding. But it also dramatically improved infrastructure in the region. Brouwers Dam and Haringvliet Dam are part of the Delta Works and will take you across to the next two islands on today's route. Ride atop the dams with the sea to your left and lakes on your right. You will end the day in the town of Brielle. The star-shaped fortifications (including moat, canals, ramparts, bastions) have been lovingly restored and the 400+ listed buildings are a sight to behold.



Day 3 Brielle - Willemstad**50 km**

Turning away from the coast, lakes, rivers and creeks light up the polders and woods as you travel across the isle of Voorne Putten. On Hoeksche Waard island fertile polders with open fields and scattered orchards are surrounded by tall dikes topped with long rows of trees or houses. Of the many windmills that once drained the polders, twelve remain. This listed National Landscape tells the story of land reclamation through the centuries. Field margins full of wild flowers enhance biodiversity. Cycling atop Volkerak Dam you will reach the enchanting fortified town of Willemstad.

Due to construction work on the Haringvliet Bridge, the route of this day may differ slightly in 2023.

Day 4 Willemstad - Zierikzee / Noordgouwe**50 km**

Make your way across the isle of Goeree Overflakkee amid a mosaic landscape of rectangular polders, rolling dunes and golden sand flats. A bridge will take you across Grevelingenmeer Lake back to the isle of Schouwen Duiveland. In mussel town Bruinisse, "the Gateway to Zeeland", look around the fishing harbour or stroll over to the attractive marina. Back in the saddle, pedal on to the historical town of Zierikzee, a real gem, situated on the Oosterschelde estuary. The street plan is medieval and meandering, the historical buildings number over 500, the impressive marina is well worth a visit. Don't forget to treat yourself to a Zeeland delicacy: "Zeeuwse bolus" (pastry with syrup and cinnamon -sometimes buttered) or "Schouws palingbroodje" (a bread roll stuffed with smoked eel). If you want to delve into local history, do explore the Maritime Museum revealing all on Zierikzee's glorious (notorious?) seafaring and trading past.

Day 5 Zierikzee / Noordgouwe - Burgh Haamstede**48 km**

Oosterschelde National Park is an estuarine tidal habitat. Tidal flats are submerged by seawater at high tide and re-emerge at low tide covered in food for water birds. They are also a favourite resting place for seals. Flora and fauna in and around the Oosterschelde adapt to both freshwater from the rivers and salty seawater. Today you will cross the Oosterschelde on Zeelandbrug Bridge to the isle of Noord-Beveland. It's like entering a different world. Few tourists have made it this far! Cycling west, past fields and pastures and through tiny villages, you will reach world famous Oosterscheldekering. This is the Storm Surge Barrier, the largest, most ingenious and expensive of the Delta Works. Nine km long, connecting Noord-Beveland to Schouwen-Duiveland, initially it was planned as a closed dam. But under pressure from the fishing lobby and environmentalists, sixty-two big sliding sluice gates were installed in the dam. These steel doors are nearly always open, allowing sea water to pass thus safeguarding Oosterschelde's saltwater ecosystem. They close only when sea levels are expected to rise more than three meters. Halfway across the barrier, on an artificial island, lies Delta Park "Neeltje Jans", Zeeland's number one tourist attraction, built around the Delta Expo. It offers illuminating insights into the Delta Works, why they were necessary, how they protect our coastline and relative environmental matters. But there's more: a water theme park with a playground, an amazing waterslide, saltwater aquarium, sea lion show and more... Back on the isle of Schouwen-Duiveland, you will cycle through the tranquil woods of "Kop van Schouwen" nature reserve. At the end of the day, receive a warm welcome back at the hotel where you started out on this holiday.

Day 6 Return Home

After breakfast at your hotel, it's time to go home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from April 1 till September 25.

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		695.00
Single room, breakfast		1,095.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Fletcher Strandhotel Haamstede, Burgh Haamstede		25.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		55.00
Standard bike		75.00
E-bike		140.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 5	20.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 5	25.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 5	15.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 5	30.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 5	25.00
Tag-along bike	€ 6.00 x 5	30.00
Child trailer	€ 17.50 x 5	87.50
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
discount	per piece	-20.00

Starting point:

Burgh Haamstede



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.



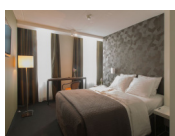
**Fletcher Duinhotel Burgh
Haamstede **** (Burgh
Haamstede)**

www.duinhotelburghhaamstede.nl



Boutique Hotel Poorter **
(Brielle)**

www.poorterhotel.nl



Hotel Mauritz * (Willemstad)**

www.mauritzwillemstad.nl



Hotel Mondragon (Zierikzee)

www.mondragon.nl



Practical Info



5 Nights included



3/4 Star Hotels



Breakfast included



Detailed roadbooks with maps and tourist information



The possibility of renting our bikes



7-days a week service-hotline



Luggage transport to your next hotel



Middelburg



Parking possibilities at the hotel



Any ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airport are Rotterdam The Hague Airport (RTM) or Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



Burgh Haamstede by public transport is not recommended, it is about 3,5 / 4 hours. You could better start this tour in Willemstad or Brielle. If you do want to start in Burgh Haamstede and arrive by Public Transport, check this website for all details: www.9292.nl/en.

