

Hanseatic towns along the IJssel

5 days, € 534



Introduction



On this cycling holiday, a quiet, one-way route takes you to explore three themes: wood- and heathlands in the National Park Veluwezoom, the lovely landscape in the meandering IJssel river valley and the well preserved medieval cities on its banks once belonging to the Hanseatic League. Opt to prolong your holiday by an extra day and with a new theme: the low-lying peat marshes surrounding Giethoorn, a village also known as "Venice of the Netherlands".

Day to Day

Day 1 Arnhem

Your cycling holiday starts in Arnhem, capital of Gelderland province and City of Fashion & Design. Working-class neighbourhood Klarendal has become the place-to-be for designers, artists and artisans, clustered together in Modekwartier (the Fashion District) full of hip stores and studios. Arnhem is also loved for its city parks and green surroundings. In fact, it is known as the Gateway to Veluwe Forest.



Day 2 Arnhem – Ellecom**40 km**

Today you have two options. If you choose to linger in Arnhem in the morning, you may want to take the shorter route. The most famous museum in Arnhem is Openluchtmuseum, a national open-air museum of cultural history focused on the everyday lives of ordinary people and the actual buildings they lived and worked in. Another popular attraction is the fabulous Burgers Zoo. When you are ready to go, leave the city of Arnhem through lovely Sonsbeek Park. The long route makes a loop northward, through desolate heathland with Highland cattle. The route continues through the rolling hills of Veluwezoom National Park. Although never really steep, the road is almost never flat either. This area is celebrated for its fragrant pinewoods, beautiful deciduous forest and Europe's largest sand drifts. Most spectacular are the fields of heather which light up in vibrant varieties of mauve in August. Next, watch the scenery change as you proceed from the forest toward a wide-open river landscape, the valley of the River IJssel.

'56 km'

The long tour passes through less known and therefore more quiet heath and woodlands as well as villages in the transition landscape between the forest and the meadows along the IJssel River.

Day 3 Ellecom – Deventer**51 km**

We have three hanseatic towns lined up for you today, so lots of history. The towns each have a beautiful historical town center, surrounded by (remainders of) town walls and town gates. As for the enchanting scenery, the washlands of the River IJssel, adorned with wild flowers in summer, lead on to typical Dutch farmland, cropfields, homely farmsteads and windmills reaching for the skies. To the west, Veluwe Forest can be seen on the horizon. You will pass the pretty town of Doesburg. It is particularly well-preserved and well worth the extra kilometers. Have a break at the lovely old inn with the red shutters. It dates to 1478 when it was a weighing hall doubling as an alehouse and has since continuously received hungry and thirsty guests looking for some company. In Zutphen, see if you can squeeze in one of the sixteen walking tours on offer. The tiny town of Bronkhorst is very picturesque. It developed 1000 years ago as a fortified farmers' settlement. At the end of the day, a stroll through the center of Deventer is recommended and don't miss the historic Bergkwartier neighbourhood.

Day 4 Deventer – Zwolle**48 km**

Get up early to continue your sightseeing in Deventer, a lovely town known for its bookshops, art shops and special festivals. The local delicacy (from 1595) is honey and spice cake, often eaten for breakfast. The place to savour it is coffee house Bussink on beautiful Brink square.

Follow the river IJssel further downstream and find out all about modern Dutch water management in the washlands. Due to climate change, it is expected that water levels in our rivers will rise and rise. Raising the river dikes even higher is one option to prevent floods, but another is moving them back, to give the river more room. During winter high flows, the washlands are flooded and temporarily store excess water thus slowing the flow downstream and protecting the dwellings behind the dikes from floods. In contrast, in a few strategic places where it is necessary to move excess water downstream more rapidly, ground and vegetation levels in the washlands are kept low to allow the water to pass unhindered.

After visiting the small hansa town of Hattem, cross the river to Zwolle. Surrounded by four waterways, the city has always been a busy hub welcoming travelers and traders from all corners. You will find remains of a medieval town wall and listed buildings from the time the town was affiliated with the Hanseatic League.



Day 5 **Return home or overnight in Giethoorn**

After breakfast, it's time to go home, unless you opted for an extra day to "the Venice of the Holland".

Day 5 Zwolle – Giethoorn (43 km)

Leave the hustle and bustle of Zwolle behind you and follow the River "Het Zwarte Water" into the marshlands. The wide views of the marshy washlands are a world away from our every-day preoccupations. When you reach Hasselt, take your time to sightsee this charming place of pilgrimage (since 1355), boasting seventy listed buildings of national importance, silent witnesses to the time when contacts within the Hanseatic League brought prosperity. Hasselt was a transit point for goods that were shipped down the rivers and loaded onto seafaring ships that crossed the Zuiderzee to friendly Hanseatic ports on the North Sea and Baltic Sea. Subsequently, different goods made the same journey back again. Our cycling route continues to Zwartsluis, a popular port for boaters and yachters to come ashore and explore the surroundings. Proceed through the wetlands of Weerribben-Wieden National Park. It may look like natural wilderness, but it was shaped by man and is, in effect, an abandoned and overgrown peat extraction site. Note the pattern of parallel lanes of water and land. The strips of land are the "peat banks" where the extracted peat was laid out to dry. The wider "dredging channels" are where the peat was extracted from and where the workers stood on small barges wielding their dredging poles; or picking up dried peat to take to market. Dried peat was sold as turf: fuel for household heating and cooking, in towns to the west, where firewood was scarce. As the channels got wider, the water started to make waves: Narrow peat banks got washed away in storms; and lakes developed.

Your journey ends in Giethoorn. Nicknamed Venice of the Netherlands, this centuries-old farming village has waterways instead of roads. Tourists rent silent electric boats to cruise down the main canal looking at the farmhouses with thatched roofs and the lovely gardens.

If you want to book this extra night in Giethoorn, please mention this in the remark field of the booking form.

Day 6 – Return home

Today your cycling holiday comes to an end. After breakfast, it is really time to go home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 1 till September 25.

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		529.00
Single room, breakfast		809.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Pillows Grand Hotel Ter Borch, Zwolle		50.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		44.00
Hybrid		52.00
E-bike		112.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 4	16.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 4	20.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 4	12.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 4	24.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 4	20.00
Tag-along bike	€ 10.00 x 4	40.00
Child trailer	€ 18.00 x 4	72.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
discount	per piece	-20.00

Starting point:

Arnhem



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.



Hotel Haarhuis ** (Arnhem)**

www.hotelhaarhuis.nl



Landgoed Avegoor ** (Ellecom)**

www.landgoedavegoor.nl

Postillion Hotel Deventer** (Deventer)**

www.postillionhotels.com/postillion-hotel-deventer

Bilderberg Grand Hotel Wientjes ** (Zwolle)**

www.bilderberg.nl/zwolle/grand-hotel-wientjes



Practical Info



4 nights included



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



Arnhem (Return from Zwolle)



Parking possibilities at the hotel



Any ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airports are Flughafen Düsseldorf (DUS) or Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



The train from Dusseldorf to Arnhem departs 1 time per hour. Travel time is about 1.4 hours.
The train from Schiphol to Arnhem departs 4 times per hour. Travel time is a bit more then 1 hour. A single ticket costs approx €19,- per person excl. bicycles.

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

