

## Heather and Rivers Tour

6 days, € 595



## Introduction



Enjoy rolling heather fields, deep forest and panoramic views; as well as the attractive wide-open riverscapes of the rivers Rhine, IJssel and Eem; and alluvial floodplains, flooded in winter and often full of wild flowers in July and August. The diverse route leads you through two National Parks: Utrechtse Heuvelrug and Veluwezoom. Nowhere in the Netherlands will you find quite as many different species of fauna and flora as here. No less than four castles provide diversion for history lovers. Along the way you will visit age-old towns such as Vaassen, Elspeet and Putten as well as traditional Dutch windmills. The hanseatic towns of Deventer and Zutphen are also in the line-up.

## Day to Day

### Day 1 **Arrival Bunnik**

The starting point of your cycling holiday is Bunnik. The village is located 6 km from the city of Utrecht, the fourth largest city in the country. If you arrive early, take a trip to Utrecht and explore the scenic Old Town, which is still surrounded, for the most part, by a city moat. After Amsterdam and Maastricht, Utrecht is the city with the most listed buildings of national interest – of which the cathedral tower is the most conspicuous.

### Day 2 **Bunnik – Arnhem (72 km)**

Hit the trail and set off for Arnhem, capital city of Gelderland province. Your décor in the morning: a typical Dutch pasture landscape with woodlots here and there and a farmhouse on the horizon. The route takes you along Langbroekerwetering, a drainage canal from the 12th century. This area used to be popular with gentlemen farmers and noblemen: The many large country houses hark back to those times. In quick succession, you will pass country houses Beverweerd, Lunenburg and Sandenburg. When you reach Utrechtse Heuvelrug National Park, the open countryside will make way for woods. After seeing Amerongen Castle, cross the Rhine and enter the Betuwe region, known for its fruit production (gorgeous flowering orchards in spring!). On the banks of the Rhine river, pedal to Groot Warnsborn, a hilly, woody country estate with a lovely house and majestic formal gardens. Near the end of the route you will pass the Airborne Museum. A visit to this museum commemorating the Battle of Arnhem (WWII) could be a great conclusion to an inspiring cycling day.



### Day 3 **Arnhem - Deventer (61 km)**

We have another diverse route lined up for you today. Cycle through Veluwezoom National Park with large, rolling heather fields, beautiful woods, and a few remaining areas of shifting sands. This is the Netherlands' oldest national park, a paradise for cyclists. You may have to bear down when it's time to climb the Posbank, but the view from the top is worth your efforts. A point of interest on the route is Carolinaberg: 13 lanes come together at the top of a 50 meter-high hill in the woods. Carolina was the daughter of one of the princes of Orange, Dutch royal family. This was their country estate, Hof te Dieren. At the village of Dieren, cross the River IJssel by ferry. All of a sudden, the wide-open river valley seems a world away from Veluwe Forest. The washlands boast wildflowers in the summer months. Pedal down stream to the Hansa town of Zutphen, an ideal place to stop for a break in the historical town center full of welcoming cafes with outside seating. Today's cycle route ends in Deventer. In this once mighty hanseatic town many vestiges of a rich and eventful history remain visible.

### Day 4 **Deventer - Putten (61 km)**

Meadowland, woods, heather fields and windmills; they are all on the programme for today. Soon after leaving your hotel you will be treated to wide-open countryside dotted with pleasant villages. A total change of scenery ensues with Gortelsche Bos, a 21-km-long forest harbouring many different species of trees and animals as well as a prehistoric burial mound. Next up is the village of Vaassen where an eight-sided gallery mill, used for grinding grain, towers over the houses. Subsequently, a woody route takes you to the Veluwe village of Elspeet where another mill graces the horizon. The route continues through fields of heather: From mid-August, for a couple of weeks, they are alive with colour - a breath-taking spectacle! At this point, cyclists with a passion for history and a love of nostalgia could deviate from the route to visit Staverden Castle, where white peacocks have strutted through the gardens for centuries. If you still can't get enough of traditional Dutch windmills, cycle into the age-old village of Putten to have a look at grain mill "Het Hert". After a last ride beneath the shady canopy of Veluwe Forest, you will arrive at your comfortable hotel, beautifully located on a lake (Nuldernauw).

### Day 5 **Putten - Bunnik (50 km)**

On your last cycling day, the route starts off on the banks of the River Eem, beautiful pastureland, where you can spot all sorts of grassland birds. Continue to the small town of Baarn and then proceed to Soestdijk Palace, former residence and offices of the Dutch royal family, surrounded by magnificent forests. The route then guides you through Soesterduinen nature reserve consisting of inland dunes with shifting sands, surrounded by woods. After passing the town of Zeist, you will reach Bunnik, your final destination. The longer 62 km route takes you through the medieval center of Amersfoort. Upon leaving this city, you can visit Camp Amersfoort which was used as a concentration camp in WW2. Then it continues with an alternation of moors and forests through the estates of Den Treek and Heidestein. Herein is the Pyramid of Austerlitz, an artificial hill built as a monument by Napoleon's soldiers.

### Day 6 **Return home**

After a last delicious hotel breakfast, it is time to go home.



## Prices, Data, Booking

### Starting dates:

Daily from April 1 till September 25

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		590.00
Single room, breakfast		940.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		55.00
Hybrid		65.00
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	€ 10.00 x 5	50.00
Child trailer	€ 18.00 x 5	90.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
discount	per piece	-20.00

### Starting point:

Bunnik



## 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.



### **Postillion Hotel Bunnik \*\*\* (Bunnik)**

[www.postillionhotels.com/utrecht-bunnik](http://www.postillionhotels.com/utrecht-bunnik)



### **Hotel Haarhuis \*\*\*\* (Arnhem)**

<https://hotelhaarhuis.nl/>



### **Postillion Hotel Deventer \*\*\*\* (Deventer)**

[www.postillionhotels.com/postillion-hotel-deventer](http://www.postillionhotels.com/postillion-hotel-deventer)



### **Postillion Hotel Amersfoort Veluwemeer \*\*\*\* (Putten)**

[www.postillionhotels.com/postillion-hotel-amersfoort-veluwemeer-nl](http://www.postillionhotels.com/postillion-hotel-amersfoort-veluwemeer-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



Bunnik



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 Bunnik departs 2 times per hour. Travel time is about 45 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €11- per person excl. bicycle.

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

