

Rivers and Veluwe Tour

5 days, € 530



Introduction



Start just south of the Veluwe in the Netherlands' oldest town and set off through an enchanting river landscape, past castles and country estates. We will send you criss-cross through the Veluwe, a Natura 2000 area, marked by farmland, woodland, heathland and drifting sands. Come in August-September to fully appreciate the beauty of flowering heather fields.

We also offer this trip as a 7-day holiday, with extra roundtours.

Day to Day

Day 1 Arrival in Nijmegen

Check in at eco-friendly and comfortable Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent, opened in 2016. Lent is a village that lies just across the Waal River from the big historical city of Nijmegen. In five minutes, you can walk to the Spiegelwaal near the old bridge of Nijmegen. Spiegelwaal is a new 4-km-long side channel of the River Waal, intended to prevent flooding. From the Lent quay you have a beautiful view of the city of Nijmegen and of five bridges straddling the River Waal. To your right, you'll see the Snelbinder Rail/Cycle bridge and beyond that De Oversteek, a new white bridge for motorized traffic. De Oversteek means The Crossing. It refers to an event that took place there on 20 September 1944, when the Allies tried to cross the Waal in small boats to secure a bridge and a railway bridge in Nijmegen. 48 men lost their lives when they were spotted by the Germans. The mission was eventually accomplished although German resistance was fierce. Walk across the old Waal bridge into the welcoming centre of the oldest city in the Netherlands. Its history goes back more than 2000 years. In HunnerPark you will find the remains of old city walls. The centre of Nijmegen boasts several museums, including Museum Het Valkhof, specialized in Roman archaeology, ancient art and crafts, and modern art.

If you travel to the start location by car, we recommend starting in Apeldoorn or Arnhem because of the better parking options for the entire duration of the trip.

If you want to use your rental bike on the day of arrival for a roundtrip around Nijmegen-Lent (or a roundtrip around Apeldoorn or Arnhem if you start your trip there), please state this in the booking form. We will charge 1 day extra of bike rental (and optional bike insurances).



Day 2 **Nijmegen (Lent) - Arnhem (Papendal) 61 km**

Your bike tour starts with a beautiful winding route through lovely Ooijpolder. Feast your eyes on a diverse river landscape with sand excavation lakes, marshes, drifting dunes and floodplains. You will also notice several abandoned brickworks. After passing the village of Ooij, De Thornsche Molen is a good place to stop for coffee: The outside seating area offers a fine view of the old windmill. Via Germany, cycle to Millingen aan de Rijn. Cross the Rhine by ferry and cycle along the shore of lake De Bijland to Herwen. Stop off to take a look at Huis Aerdt (1657), an attractive house surrounded by a moat and pollard willows. Then cycle through Rijnstrangen nature reserve, atop old river dikes, to the village of Loo. Take the ferry to Huissen and cycle along the Rhine to the John Frost Bridge. It is named after the commander of the British forces who defended the bridge during the Battle of Arnhem. This is the bridge that featured in the film "A Bridge Too Far" (1977). Through the city centre of Arnhem, continue to Oosterbeek. If you are interested in WWII, visit Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein' to learn about the Battle of Arnhem. As the sun sets over Veluwe Forest, put your feet up in Van Der Valk Hotel Arnhem-Papendal. Shortcut (13 km shorter): From Nijmegen, along the Waal, to Doornenburg Castle with a "Millennial Oak"; then catch the ferry at Pannerden.

Day 3 **Arnhem (Papendal) - Apeldoorn (Ugchelen) 62 km**

On your second cycling day, you will explore the Veluwe region with Veluwezoom National Park as the highlight. Firstly, traverse Warnsborn country estate, boasting gardens and heather fields with juniper trees. Next you will pass the Nederlands Openluchtmuseum (an open-air museum of cultural history where you can easily spend a day, so book an extra night at Papendal if you are interested). Proceed to lovely Roosendaal Castle and landscape park. Subsequently, in Heuven, opt to visit a sheepfold: During the day, the flock grazes the heathland; at night they are closed into the deep litter fold. The manure, mixed with heathland turf, is still used to fertilize fields on the barren sandy soil, the traditional way. Soon afterwards you will reach the Posbank, a monument for Mr. Pos, who was an early promotor of tourism in natural surroundings. The monument is a stone bench for everybody to sit and enjoy the view of the heather fields all around. Calluna vulgaris blooms a lovely mauve colour in August to September. Nearby is Pavilion de Posbank which serves delicious and healthy lunches, inside and out. Afterwards cycle through the beautiful natural surroundings of Veluwezoom National Park to Laag-Soeren, Eerbeek and along the Apeldoorn Canal to Loenen. On the way to Beekbergen you will encounter the Loenense Waterfalls, created in 1869. At the end of the day, cycle through the woods of Ugchelen to Van der Valk Hotel Apeldoorn - De Cantharel. Shortcut: after the Elsberg cycle directly to Loenen - 9 km shorter; and natural surroundings all the way.

Day 4 **Apeldoorn (Ugchelen) - Nijmegen (Lent) 64 km**

Through the woods and heathlands, cycle to the hamlet of Hoog Buurlo and Hoenderloo. Then enter the green treasure chest of the Netherlands, De Hoge Veluwe National Park. The building with the tower is Sint Hubertus Hunting Lodge, designed in 1914 by H. Berlage. Also in the park: Kröller-Müller modern art museum where you will find the second largest Van Gogh collection in the world! The enormous sculpture garden is impressive too. Admission tickets for the park is included (not the museum entrance). After taking your time to study the works of art in their wonderful setting, get back on your bikes and continue through diverse natural scenery to Schaarsbergen, past Hotel Warnsborn and the impressive Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek. Your next stop is Doorwerth Castle, where you could go for a short walk on the grounds and sample delicious chocolate cake at the foot of a fat acacia from 1678 in the courtyard. Afterwards, follow the Fonteinallee and you will soon reach the bicycle ferryboat at Driel. You will cross the Rhine where the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade paddled to the other side in boats. They showed great courage in their role in Operation Market Garden, in which the Allies attempted to secure nine bridges, in 1944. As evening falls, you will find yourself back at welcoming Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent. Short-cut: Go from Ugchelen directly to Hoenderloo for a route that is 6 km shorter.



Day 5 **Return Home**

After a comfortable night, enjoy a fantastic buffet breakfast in comfortable Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent. After breakfast, your cycling holiday comes to an end.

Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 1 till September 26.

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		525.00
Single room, breakfast		805.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		44.00
Hybrid		52.00
E-bike		108.00
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	€ 6.00 x 4	24.00
Child trailer	€ 17.50 x 4	70.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00

Starting point:

Nijmegen Lent (by train) or Apeldoorn or Arnhem (with own car)



Accommodation

The hotels and the B&B on this trip have been carefully selected for their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. All rooms are en-suite. A list of the accommodation we work with appears below. If a certain accommodation is unable to confirm due to lack of availability, we will try to request a comparable alternative if possible. 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.



**Van der Valk Hotel Apeldoorn-
De Cantharel **** (Apeldoorn)**

www.vandervalkapeldoorn.nl



**Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-
Lent **** (Lent)**

www.valknijmegen.nl



Van der Valk Hotel Arnhem **
(Arnhem)**

www.hotelarnhem.nl



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 week service hotline



Luggage transport to your next hotel



Nijmegen-Lent



Parking possibilities at the hotel



GPS-tracks available



Any ferry crossings are not included

