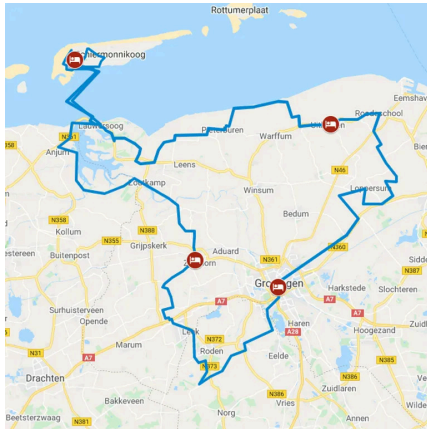


Groningen Hogeland & Schier Island

7 days, € 680



Introduction



Groningen, the far north with endless views of swaying grain, potato fields, rows of thick clay and tree-lined farmhouses here and there. Viewed from afar, the seawall draws a perfectly straight line on the horizon. Stately villas and tiny workers' houses give a glimpse of the recent past and hardships endured by locals. Part of your journey takes in Pieterburen and the seal centre, though it's even better to spot seals from the boat on your way to fantastic Schiermonnikoog. Delve into the enormous diversity of birds and nature on the Lauwersmeer and Wadden Sea. And combine it all with a stay in the lively university town of Groningen. Watch local life from a terrace where history and culture go hand in hand, from the old Prinsenhof and beautiful station hall to the ultramodern Groninger Museum and Forum. All overseen by the A-Kerk and Martini Tower. Come cycle it, then end your tour with the highest compliment in 'Grun'. As they say in the local dialect: 'Nait bad'

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival Groningen**

Arrive in Groningen, check in then take off to see the city. Rest and relax on a terrace at the Vismarkt or climb up Martini Tower for fab views of the city.

Day 2 **Groningen - Uithuizermeeden**

54 km

Today calls for quintessential Groningen countryside. Cycling out of Groningen city, you burst into an open landscape with immense views interrupted occasionally with sites like Ten Boer, Stedum and the newly famous Loppersum. You'll have to skip the borg at Rusthoven (closed due to earthquake damage) but make sure to pause at Ekenstein and Appingedam. Then press onward toward the seawall, Roodeschool and the striking blue-and-white tower at Uithuizermeeden. Visit villas at two grand estates, Rensumaborg and Menkemaborg, and replenish with refreshment on a terrace.



Day 3 Uithuizermeeden - Schiermonnikoog**52 km**

Wake up to the beauty of North Groningen, where flat land stretches out toward the Wadden Sea dotted by occasional mounds of the Wierden. Today's short route takes you further north to open land along the Zeedijk and views of the salt marshes. The Wadden Route would not be complete without a trip to Noordpolderzijl, the Netherlands' smallest seaport, and break for coffee and cake at 't Zielhoes. Circling inland you stumble upon Kantens, Middelstum and the mound villages of Onderdendam and Warffum. Both routes lead into the real Hogeland as you ride via Den Andel to Pieterburen, with its seal sanctuary and Pieterpad trailhead. Continuing to the Catholic enclave at Kloosterburen, you meet the mound village of Ulrum and Lauwersmeer National Park. Then catch the 3:30 pm or 6:30 pm boat to Schiermonnikoog.

We always try to book our standard hotel for the regular rate. However, due to the popularity of Schiermonnikoog, we may have to change to another, more expensive hotel on the island. This will be done in consultation. We therefore recommend booking early to avoid price increases.

Day 4 Schiermonnikoog Roundtrip**22 km**

The call of seagulls and salty island air, with the Wad to one side and the North Sea beach to the other. Grey-green beach grasses stretch out as far as the eye can see, broken briefly by a white or red lighthouse on the horizon. One sole tiny village can be reached only by bike and the challenge here is to choose, with so much to do and so little time! Take a saltwater dip, stop for lunch at Paviljoen Paal 3, hit the beach for seal-spotting on the Balg, paddle in the Berkenplas, see the sun sink into the sea over dinner or browse at boutiques in the village. Still not tired? 'De Tox' Bar stays open until late. Or curl up with a good book and rest up for tomorrow.

Day 5 Schiermonnikoog - Zuidhorn**52 km**

Catch the morning boat back to shore and follow the lock system on a jaunt into the neighbouring province. Roll along with the open Lauwersmeer on your left, lush green meadows on your right and Scottish highland and Konik horses ahead. Then suddenly it's all water, boats and white sails and you find yourself in Friesland! Lauwersmeer National Park leads to Zoutkamp Harbour and the monumental mound village of Niehove, once voted the most beautiful village in the Netherlands by Elsevier Weekblad magazine. Pause for a meal at the renowned Piloersemaaborg, then park your bike in Zuidhorn for the night.

Day 6 Zuidhorn - Groningen**54 km**

The last ride takes you through Westerkwartier, a miniature landscape with its very own personality sandwiched between Friesland and Drenthe. Small meadows line traditional wood canals and wetlands are dotted with raised moors. The villages of Leek and Peize sit higher up on sandy ridges running west to east. Glide through this intriguing 'bocage' landscape, a veritable patchwork of fields, passing Kop van Drenthe and the Paterswoldsemeer on your way back into the city.

Sad to be back so soon? Book an extra night for another great day in the city. Then celebrate with dinner there, or on the shores of Lake Paterswoldse.

Day 7 Return home

After breakfast, your cycling holiday has come to an end.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Monday, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from 29th March till 24th September 2024

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		675.00
Single room, breakfast		1,020.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		60.00
Hybrid		78.00
E-bike		162.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 3.50 x 6	21.00
Child seat	€ 0.83 x 6	5.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 6	18.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 6	36.00
Tag-along bike	€ 6.00 x 6	36.00
Child trailer	€ 17.50 x 6	105.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00

Starting Point:

Groningen



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.



Flonk Hotel Groningen Zuid ***
(Groningen)
hotelgroningenzuid.nl



B&B Lentemaheerd
(Uithuizermeeden)
www.lentemaheerd.nl



Hotel Duinzicht ***
(Schiermonnikoog)
www.hotelduinzicht.nl



In 't Hold 1654 * - Zuidhorn**
www.intholt1654.nl



Practical Info



6 Nights included



Comfortable accomodation



Breakfast included, Halfboard optional



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



Groningen



Parking possibilities at the hotel



GPS-tracks available



Ferry tickets to/from Schiermonnikoog are included



Other ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest airport: Amsterdam Schiphol (intercontinental) or Groningen airport Eelde (low cost carriers).



Nearest railway station to the starting point: Groningen CS

