

Secret Zeeland Tour

8 days, € 990



Introduction



As yet undiscovered by mass tourism, the secluded islands of Zeeland in the south-west of the country have remained relatively untouched by time. Fine historical buildings in picturesque towns hark back to Zeeland's glory years when it counted a handful of international harbours, a marine base, a chamber of the Dutch East India Company and a chamber of the Dutch West India Company. The people living in this Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt river delta have always had to struggle to keep their feet dry. In fact much of the land is below sea-level and man-made. Since the last major flood in 1953, work has been continuing on one of the "seven wonders of the modern world", a series of sea barriers known as the Delta Works – you will see them up-close! We also promise you stunning white beaches, ever-changing seascapes, unspoilt countryside and a magical maritime sense of space, tranquillity and freedom.

Day to Day

Day 1 Arrival in Rotterdam

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Day 2 Rotterdam - Willemstad

66 km

Firstly from Rotterdam to Kinderdijk. With all its picturesque windmills. Pedalling on, you will reach one of the oldest towns in Holland: Dordrecht, completely surrounded by water. The area around the marina is a true gem. This oldest part of town counts over a thousand historical buildings and three nostalgic canals. Round off the day in Willemstad, a fortified town shaped like a seven-point star.



Day 3 Willemstad - Noordgouwe (Zierikzee)**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 4 Noordgouwe (Zierikzee) - Vlissingen**50 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. Subsequently, a ferry boat will take you to the former island of Walcheren. Continue the route to the charming village of Veere, known for its water sports, and then on to Middelburg. This beautiful town is the capital of Zeeland Province and one of the Netherlands' oldest towns. As you can see by the splendour of the merchants' mansions, in its heyday Middelburg accumulated its wealth through trade: with the Far East and with South America (incl. the transatlantic slave trade). Crown your day with a stroll through the town of Vlissingen. It thanks its irresistible maritime flair to its location on the North Sea. Standing on the seafront, you can see enormous sea ships sail past - up-close! At the end of the sea dike a series of bamboo flutes are played by the wind and produce eerie and mysterious tones. Prominent is the statue of Michiel de Ruyter (1607-1676), a successful Dutch admiral who was rather unpopular with the British... find out why at MuZEEum.

Day 5 Vlissingen - Burgh Haamstede**53 km**

Cutting straight across the (former) isle of Walcheren, you will come upon dikes, woods and centuries old towns, such as picturesque Domburg, the oldest resort on the coast of Walcheren. The sand dunes are 50 meters high in places and offer great views of the wide beaches and the sea. Today's main point of interest is 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 lions' 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 **Burgh Haamstede - Brielle**

51 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 7 **Brielle - Rotterdam**

38 km

From Brielle first cycle towards Maassluis. Then pedal east along the New Waterway ship canal, past fishing villages, windmills and jenever distilleries, to Rotterdam.

Day 8 **Return Home**

After breakfast in your hotel it is time to go home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Wednesday until Monday from April 1 till September 23.

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		985.00
Single room, breakfast		1,545.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Fletcher Hotel Arion, Vlissingen		55.00
Fletcher Strandhotel Haamstede, Burgh Haamstede		25.00
Hotel Mondragon, Zierikzee		0.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		77.00
Hybrid		91.00
E-bike		196.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 7	28.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 7	35.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 7	21.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 7	42.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 7	35.00
Tag-along bike	€ 10.00 x 7	70.00
Child trailer	€ 18.00 x 7	126.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00
discount	per piece	-20.00

Starting point:

Rotterdam or 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.



NH Hotel Atlanta Rotterdam
****** (Rotterdam)**

www.nh-hotels.com/nl/hotel/nh-atlanta-rotterdam



Hotel Mauritz * (Willemstad)**

www.mauritzwillemstad.nl



Hotel Mondragon (Zierikzee)

www.mondragon.nl

Hotel Piccard ** (Vlissingen)**

www.piccard.nl

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

www.duinhotelburghhaamstede.nl

Boutique Hotel Poorter **
(Brielle)**

www.poorterhotel.nl



Practical Info



7 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



Rotterdam



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)



From Rotterdam The Hague Airport you should take the bus and metro to reach the hotel. For timetables and tickets: www.9292.nl/en.

The train from Schiphol to Rotterdam departs 4 times per hour. Travel time is about 2 hours. A single ticket costs approx €15,- per person excl. bicycle.

For timetables and tickets, go to www.ns.nl/en.

From Rotterdam trainstation you should take a metro and bus to reach the hotel. For metro and bus details, how to reach the hotel, check: www.9292ov.nl/en,

