

# The Great Rivers Tour

8 days, € 904



## Introduction



The landscape is typically Dutch! You'll be surrounded by windmills, cows in the meadows, dikes and ancient farmhouses. The route also takes you down the North Sea coast with its lovely sandy beaches, windswept dunes and busy resorts. You might be interested to visit the impressive port of Rotterdam or the modern city centre. Old Dutch fishing villages also feature on this route. Ride your bike along the banks of the busiest shipping routes in Europe.

## Day to Day

### Day 1 **Arrival in Utrecht**

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### Day 2 **Utrecht - Gouda**

**62 km**

Today you'll see stately homes, castles, woods and parks before reaching "cheese town Gouda, famous for its candles, syrup waffles (try one hot!) and beautiful church. If you're in Gouda on Thursday morning, go visit the traditional cheese market.

### Day 3 **Gouda - Scheveningen**

**64 km**

Through open grassland you will cycle to The Hague, home to the government and the Queen. The Hague is brimming with things to do and see. You might like to take the opportunity to see Vermeer's famous painting "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" in Mauritshuis Museum. Another favourite is Mesdag's cylindrical Panorama of Scheveningen in 1881. Then climb back on your bike and check out 21st Century Scheveningen, the resort where you'll spend the night.



**Day 4 Scheveningen - Rotterdam****62 km**

Cycle down the coast through dunes and past seaside resorts. Then pedal east along the New Waterway ship canal (completed in 1872), past fishing villages, windmills and jenever distilleries, to the great city of Rotterdam. Alternative Route via Delft. Delft is a university town on the River Schie, between The Hague and Rotterdam. Go for a lovely walk on the cobbled streets of the old town centre with its cute crooked houses and pretty canals and bridges. Delft Blue ceramics factories are open to the public. The Vermeer Walk and the Vermeercentrum are dedicated to the famous baroque painter Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675) who lived in Delft all his life. The Nieuwe Kerk church has been the last resting place for our royals since 1584.

**Day 5 Rotterdam - Papendrecht****31 km**

Modern Rotterdam offers architecture, art, port tours, a maritime museum and shops galore. The re-developed inner-city harbours are hotspots. On your way visit the famous windmills of Kinderdijk. Then on to Papendrecht, just north of one of Hollands oldest towns Dordrecht. Dordrecht is surrounded by rivers. Beautiful bridges take you across the water into the heart of town. The harbour area is especially picturesque.

**Day 6 Papendrecht - Gorinchem****59 km**

Today you cycle through a part of Biesbosch National Park, one of the few remaining freshwater tidal areas in Europe. The countless islands of marshy willow woods, reed-lands and grasslands are surrounded by creeks and rivers. The place is a resting, foraging and breeding site for water birds. Nature lovers should visit Biesbosch Centre Dordrecht for information on this fascinating area. Before you arrive in Gorinchem you can, if you wish, take a boat trip to visit the interesting Loevesteijn castle. The town of Woudrichem is definitely worth a visit.

**Day 7 Gorinchem - Utrecht****58 km**

Gorinchems walled town centre has a long turbulent history and over two hundred monuments to remember it by. It used to be big in fishery, markets and trade, but was often plagued by floods and conquerors (the town was the gateway to Holland). In the heart of the big city of Utrecht lies the peaceful Oude Gracht (= Old Canal). Its characteristic wharves are unique to Utrecht. Nowadays they are the pleasant setting for waterside cafes. Explore the pretty Museum Quarter or go (window) shopping in one of the quieter shopping streets.

**Day 8 Return Home**

After breakfast in your hotel, you will return home.



## Prices, Data, Booking

### Starting dates:

Daily from May 1 till September 23.

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		899.00
Single room, breakfast		1,354.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Boutique Hotel Karel de Stoute, Gorinchem		25.00
Hotel Mitland, Utrecht		40.00
Relais & Châteaux Weeshuis Gouda, Gouda		100.00
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:

Utrecht



## 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 Mitland \*\*\*\* (Utrecht)**

[www.mitland.nl](http://www.mitland.nl)



### **City Hotel Gouda \*\*\*\* (Gouda)**

[www.cityhotelgouda.com](http://www.cityhotelgouda.com)



### **Boulevard Hotel \*\*\* (Scheveningen)**

[www.boulevardhotel.nl](http://www.boulevardhotel.nl)



### **ss Rotterdam \*\*\*\* (Rotterdam)**

[www.ssrotterdam.com](http://www.ssrotterdam.com)



### **Leonardo Hotel Papendrecht \*\*\*\* (Papendrecht)**

[www.leonardo-hotels.nl/papendrecht](http://www.leonardo-hotels.nl/papendrecht)



### **Hotel Gorinchem \*\*\* (Gorinchem)**

[www.hotelgorinchem.nl](http://www.hotelgorinchem.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



CS Utrecht



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 Utrecht departs 4 times per hour. Travel time is about 30 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €10- 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).

