

Sand and Sea Tour

11 days, € 1300



Introduction



If you love the sea and beautiful sandy beaches and if you're interested to find out about Holland's struggle against the waters and about our seafaring history, this might well be the tour for you. The landscape is so varied; it will never cease to delight you. The beach is backed by beautiful windswept dunes. Behind the dunes, in spring, multicoloured bulb flower fields will take your breath away. A string of coastal villages and resorts lead you down to modern Rotterdam which has the largest port in Europe. River landscapes, lush meadows, ancient farmhouses and dikes will feature on the last part of the tour.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Utrecht/Bunnik**

Arrival in Utrecht.

Day 2 **Utrecht- Harderwijk**

61 km

Hidden away in the woods, hamlet Lage Vuursche will surprise you with a famous pancake inn and Queen Beatrix castle Drakensteyn, where she will return when she retires. Next stop is her parents' palace. Along the shores of Randmeren lakes you will reach Harderwijk which used to be a prosperous port but is now no longer by the sea... find out what happened!

Day 3 **Harderwijk - Enkhuizen**

61 km

Cycle through the woods and farmland of Flevopolder to Lelystad. In Nieuwland Museum you can see an exhibition on how the polder came to be. Cross Lake IJsselmeer to Enkhuizen atop a 30 km dike! You will see our Golden Age reflected in the historical buildings of pretty Enkhuizen. Don't miss the excellent Zuiderzee Museum! There is an exhibition about the days when trading ships from towns on the Zuiderzee sailed the seven seas. Moreover, in the park you can visit a recreated Zuiderzee village of old.



Day 4 Enkhuizen - Alkmaar**59 km**

After looking around pretty Hoorn, which also made its fortune trading in the Golden Age, you will set off on today's coast-to-coast bike route from Lake IJsselmeer to the North Sea. You will pass by Holland's oldest polder, Beemster, drained by windmills in 1612(!). You can also visit an interesting "museum windmill" as well as "cheese town Alkmaar. The traditional cheese market is on Friday mornings.

Day 5 Alkmaar - Zandvoort**57 km**

The sandy beaches of the North Sea are backed by dune systems that safeguard the hinterland from the sea. Today you will cycle through a Dune Reserve and a National Park that protect the many species of dune flora and fauna. Cross the North Sea Canal by ferry and then set course for Zandvoort, a well-known seaside resort.

Day 6 Zandvoort - Scheveningen**43 km**

This stretch of the cycle tour takes you through sandy dunes and past multicoloured bulb fields (daffodils, hyacinths and tulips). On the coast, check out the resorts and beaches which each attract their own crowd.

Day 7 Scheveningen - Rotterdam**64 km**

Cycle south, along the coast through dunes and past seaside resorts. Then pedal east along the New Waterway ship canal, past fishing villages, windmills and jenever distilleries, to Rotterdam.

Day 8 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. You'll cycle via the village of Kinderdijk, explore the site where 19 windmills have been standing majestically in rows since 1740. They were used to drain excess water out of the low-lying polder up into the River Lek. One of the mills is open to the public. Your destination, Papendrecht, is just a ferry crossing away from one of Holland's oldest towns; Dordrecht. Dordrecht is completely surrounded by rivers. Beautiful bridges take you across the water into the heart of town. Around the harbour you will see many monumental buildings.

Day 9 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 Loevestein castle. The town of Woudrichem is definitely worth a visit.

Day 10 Gorinchem - Utrecht/Bunnik**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 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 and restaurants. Explore the Museum Quarter and go (window) shopping on some of the quieter shopping streets.

Day 11 Return Home

After breakfast in your hotel, you will return home.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from May 1 till September 20.

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		1,295.00
Single room, breakfast		1,845.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Boutique Hotel Karel de Stoutte, Gorinchem		25.00
Hotel Mitland, Utrecht		40.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		110.00
Hybrid		130.00
E-bike		280.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 10	40.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 10	50.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 10	30.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 10	60.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 10	50.00
Tag-along bike	€ 10.00 x 10	100.00
Child trailer	€ 18.00 x 10	180.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00

Starting point:

Utrecht, Bunnik or Harderwijk



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



Best Western Hotel Baars ** (Harderwijk)**

www.hotelbaars.nl



Hotel Restaurant Die Port van Cleve * (Enkhuizen)**

www.deportvancleve.nl



Grand Hotel Alkmaar ** (Alkmaar)**

www.grandhotelalkmaar.nl



NH Zandvoort ** (Zandvoort)**

<https://www.nh-hotels.com/nl/hotel/nh-zandvoort>



Boulevard Hotel * (Scheveningen)**

www.boulevardhotel.nl

ss Rotterdam ** (Rotterdam)**

www.ssrotterdam.com

Leonardo Hotel Papendrecht ** (Papendrecht)**

www.leonardo-hotels.nl/papendrecht



Practical Info



10 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. For bus details, how to reach the hotel, check: www.9292.nl/en.

