



Amsterdam - Bruges

8 days

\$1490

Flemish hospitality and history

During this tour, the historical Flemish cities are central: Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges. But before we arrive there, you will get to know a very beautiful part of the Netherlands. You bike along the winding river Vecht with its impressive castles on its banks, you visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional methods and you visit the Dutch windmills in Kinderdijk. From the fortified town Willemstad, which is situated on the impressive wide Zeeland streams, we head for Belgium. There we spent the night in Antwerp, the city of Rubens, and of course we will visit the Rubens house. You bike from Antwerp to Ghent along the beautiful tidal river Nederschelde, in order to breathe in the atmosphere of the days of old in the town center, with its impressive Belfort and the St. Baafs-cathedral, where you can admire the famous triptych of painter Jan van Eyck. Final destination is Bruges, with its picturesque town center probably the most beautiful of the historical Flemish cities.

Sat DAY 1 Amsterdam - Vianen (about 15 km).

Embarkation at 1pm. Barge departs at 1:30pm We take off to Nichtevecht by barge. From there we make a short bike trip to Breukelen along the winding river Vecht. We visit a real Dutch cheese farm, where cheese is still produced according to traditional methods. By the end of the afternoon the barge takes us to Vianen, a small fortified town on the river Lek.

Sun DAY 2 Vianen - Dordrecht (about 50 km).

In the morning our bike ride leads to Schoonhoven, the Silvertown. From Schoonhoven we continue to Kinderdijk right across the Alblasserwaard. There an impressive row of large windmills appears, built to drain the Alblasserwaard. We can visit one of the mills. Then the barge takes us further to Dordrecht, one of the oldest towns in Holland, and an important junction for shipping traffic. Overnight in the historic port of Wolweershaven. After dinner, a walk of the town.

Mon DAY 3 Dordrecht - Tholen (about 35 or 50 km).

During breakfast we cruise to Willemstad, an old fortified town on the Haringvliet. From there we bike along the impressive complex of locks 'de Volkerak' to Tholen. Tholen once was an island in the middle of the large Zeeland streams, where many people fished for their living. Nowadays Tholen is connected to the mainland in various ways. But it is still a picturesque village with many relics of an eventful past.

Tues DAY 4 Tholen - Antwerp (35 km).

We bike through a forest area, "the Wouwse Plantage", to the south. The barge waits for us at the end of the dam and from there we cruise the port of Antwerp to the center of the city. Antwerp is not only known as a diamond city, but also as native city of painter Rubens. In the Cathedral Of Our Lady we can admire his work. Around this church and the Market Square beautiful town houses from a rich past are situated. After dinner, a walk of the town.

Wed DAY 5 Antwerp - Dendermonde (30 - 55 km).

After breakfast we lock out of the port to the Zeeschelde. We follow this beautiful tidal river upstream to Dendermonde. There is a beautiful bike path along the river, and the landscape around the Schelde is magnificent. We can join the Iris again halfway in Temse or continue all the way to Dendermonde, a friendly little town along the river. In Dendermonde we will visit the beautiful town hall and have a little beertasting. After dinner, a walk of the town.

Thur DAY 6 Dendermonde - Ghent (approx 35 km).

The bike tour follows again the river Schelde in the direction of Ghent, a lively university city, again one with a rich past. In the afternoon you have the opportunity to discover the city some more, or to shop in the lively center. The city has its origins in Roman Times, at the place where the rivers Leie and Schelde converge. This favorable situation brought a great deal of prosperity over the years, which had its peak late 13th, early 14th century. Textile industry brought great wealth. In the city center many old patrician houses have been preserved. In the Clothmakers' Hall (1425) textile merchants used to meet. Major church is St. Baafs' Cathedral, raised in various ages and in various styles. In the cathedral you can admire a number of masterpieces of mediaeval painting, of which the 'Adoration of the Lamb' by Jan van Eyck is the most famous.

Fri DAY 7 Ghent - Bruges (45 km).

Our bike tour through the pleasant country side of Western Flanders to Bruges starts right out of town. Today our final destination is Bruges, also called the Venice of the North, maybe is the most beautiful of all Flemish cities. Its old center, which dates from the Middle Ages, is almost completely intact. At the time Bruges was a metropole, center of trade and art, which we can still fully enjoy.

Sat DAY 8 Bruges Departure from barge.



Holland and Belgium

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Netherlands and Belgium

Of course the Netherlands and Belgium are perfect for a nice bike-barge vacation. The country is flat and there are separate bicycle paths almost everywhere. Many of the historic cities are situated on the water and the barges moore within walking distance of the city center. The country landscape is strongly varying and there are many sights, such as the famous Keukenhof, historical village "De Zaanse Schans" and National Park "De Hoge Veluwe".

Itinerary:

Amsterdam - Vianen – Dordrecht – Tholen - Antwerp – Dendermonde - Ghent – Bruges

Highlights:

Amsterdam - Cheese farm – windmills Kinderdijk – Rubens house in Antwerp – Belfort in Ghent – round trip of the canals of Bruges

Dates*:

Amsterdam – Bruges:

August 6 - August 13

Bruges - Amsterdam:

July 16 - July 23

*Additional dates to be added later

Included in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet and tour guide.

Not included in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

12 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins are air conditioned.**

