

# Tulips and Windmills Cycling Tour of the Netherlands

Private Boat & Bike Tour

May 1-11, 2019



Dear Friends,

Please join us for our Tulips and Windmills Cycling Tour of the Netherlands, May 1-11, 2019!

When you imagine cycling in Europe, there are tons of great places to go, but most everyone will agree that the cycling paradise is the Netherlands!

With more than 25,000 miles of dedicated bicycle routes, the Dutch have truly made cycling a way of life. There are actually more bicycles than people in the Netherlands, and we are so excited to experience the land of tulips, windmills and bicycles!

Our journey begins with two nights in Amsterdam with time to explore this beautiful capital of the Netherlands. Highlights of our trip includes Keukenhof - the world's flower garden, Aalsmeer - the world's flower auction, Leiden - the birthplace of Rembrandt, Haarlem - the center of the Dutch flower-growing district, Gouda - cheese tasting, windmills, tulips and much, much more.

We have chartered our own, private 12-cabin boat and this tour is for an exclusive group with a maximum of 24 Hound Dog Cycling travelers. How fun to have an entire boat to ourselves!

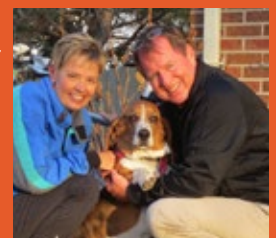
Our tour is supported and led by local outfitters who are the experts in the areas we visit. Leave your gear on the boat and spend your time exploring the beauty and friendliness of Amsterdam and the rural areas of the Netherlands. We'll take care of the rest! Secure your spot immediately - this tour will sell out fast.

Sincerely,

Susan & Rich Rodenburg

Hound Dog Cycling Adventures

 **Executive Travel**



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



### **May 1, 2019 Wednesday**

We depart our hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic to Amsterdam. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as we start our European adventure.

### **May 2, 2019 Thursday**

Arrive in Amsterdam in the morning. We will be met by our local English-speaking guide, and transfer to our centrally-located hotel to drop our luggage, before we head out for a walking tour of the picturesque streets of Amsterdam. A fun Gouda cheese and wine tasting is included for lunch at Old Amsterdam. We return to the hotel to check in, unwind and relax. Evening at leisure. B (on plane) | L

### **May 3, 2019 Friday**

After a hearty breakfast, it's time to explore more of Amsterdam, today by bike! We will spend three hours cycling along the canals and enjoying the unique atmosphere of a city hosting some of the most famous museums in the world; the Van Gogh Museum, the Rijksmuseum (with Rembrandt's Night Watch), and the Anne Frank House. The local markets, including the Flea Market, Flower Market, Noorder Markt and Albert Cuyp Markt, are not to be missed, and we will have plenty of time to enjoy the abundance of terraces and boutique style cafes. B

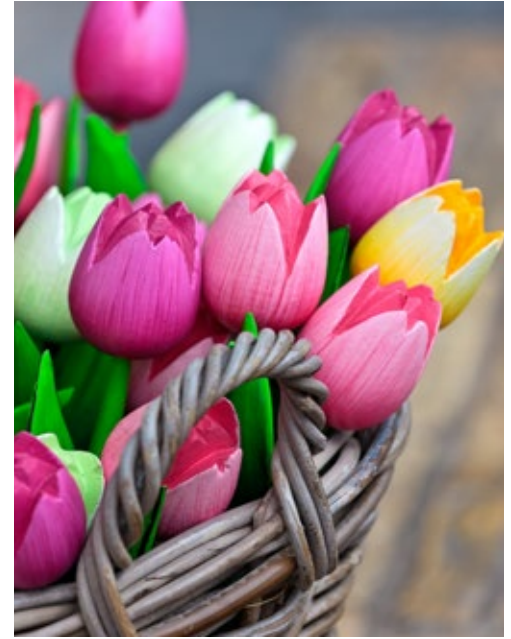


### **May 4, 2019 Saturday**

Breakfast is served and the morning is free to enjoy at leisure, before we transfer to our privately chartered boat; the Quo Vadis. The crew will welcome us with coffee and tea as we get familiar with our home for the next 8 days. All major highlights are within easy walking distance from the mooring location. Dinner is served on board tonight. B | D

### **May 5, 2019 Sunday**

Amsterdam - Kudelstaart, 23 mi. (37 km)  
We are about to begin a journey bursting with colors and scents. When Spring dawns in the Netherlands, millions of eager bulbs rise, stretch toward the sun, and blossom for the occasion. Acres upon endless acres of exquisite tulips transform ordinary fields into a colorful kaleidoscope! Having been grown in the Netherlands for more than 400 years, 1200 different varieties of these flowers are now harvested! Leaving Amsterdam we travel by our bikes along the "Amsterdam Forest" an English park-landscape, through Schiphol and Aalsmeer to Kudelstaart on the lake of Westeinderplassen. Cycling in this area is awesome and the Westeinderplassen consists of a big lake surrounded by several smaller lakes, all of them interconnected through a network of narrow canals. The lake is dotted with pleasant marinas and there's plenty of time to relax and people watch.



### **May 6, 2019 Monday**

Kudelstaart - Leiden, 34 mi. (55 km)  
Today begins with an early rise and ride to Aalsmeer so we have plenty of time to visit the largest flower auction in the world. We continue our ride, passing through the beautiful Dutch landscape following the green heart of Holland in the direction of Leiden, the birthplace of Rembrandt. It is known for its centuries-old architecture, the oldest university in the country which dates back to 1575. The university houses the Leiden Botanical Garden, founded in 1590. This is where the tulip was introduced to Western Europe. A visit to a traditional cheese farm is included today and the evening is yours to explore the delightful city of Leiden. B | L | D

### **May 7, 2019 Tuesday**

Leiden - Keukenhof - Haarlem, 25 mi. (40 km)  
We bike to Lisse, known for the Keukenhof Garden or The Garden of Europe, and the Keukenhof Castle. In the 15th century the garden's location was used as hunting grounds and it was a great source for herbs, often used in the kitchen of Jacqueline, Countess of Hainaut's castle. For this reason the garden earned the name Keukenhof (Kitchen Garden). The garden displays six million tulips, narcissi, hyacinths, and other bulb flowers. Small pavilions serve local delicacies; don't miss the small pancake



pavilion serving delectable mini pancakes! In the afternoon we bike through the blooming fields of flowers to Haarlem, once a major North Sea trading port surrounded by a defensive wall. With its ancient buildings, cobblestone streets and gabled houses, it is one of the most photogenic destinations in the Netherlands. B | L | D

### May 8, 2019 Wednesday

Haarlem - Alkmaar, 31 mi. (50 km)  
Our bike ride today takes us from Haarlem to Spaarndam with a detour to the monument of the legendary figure, Hans Brinker, standing on one of the locks which accentuates the Spaarndam dyke. Hans Brinker, a true hero of Spaarndam who, so the story goes, succeeded in saving the town from a flood having spent the whole night with his finger in a fissure that had appeared in the protection dyke. We ride farther on to the historic city of Zaandam and visit the open-air museum "Zaanse Schans", an old Dutch museum village. Historic windmills and distinctive green wooden houses were relocated here to recreate the look of an 18th/19th-century village. This is the coolest place to experience regional costumes, model windmills and interactive exhibits on chocolate making. Artisan workshops demonstrate rare handicrafts, clog carving, barrel making and pewter casting. You will just love this place! Alkmaar is our final destination today, known for its Dutch cheese. B | L | D



### May 9, 2019 Thursday

Alkmaar - Schagen - Alkmaar, 31 mi. (50 km)  
This morning we are cruising to Schagen where our bike tour begins by cycling through the flower fields of Anna Pauwlonapolder, the former wife of King William II of the Netherlands. We continue along the coast and "Schoorlse Duinen", the most varied nature area on the Dutch coast, with the widest and highest dunes in the Netherlands. Take your time today to enjoy this amazing national park, crisscrossed by footpaths and cycling trails. B | L | D

### May 10, 2019 Friday

Alkmaar - Amsterdam, 28 mi. (45 km)  
Alkmaar cheese market is open this morning. In 1365, the city owned only one pair of cheese scales, but this increased to four in 1612. The cheese market is located on the Waagplein Square and has been expanded eight times in the course of two centuries, reaching its current dimensions. In the 17th century, cheese was traded on Fridays and Saturdays only, from May until All Saint's Day.



It increased to four days a week in the 18th century and nowadays the market is open daily. The bell rings on the stroke of 10am, indicating the start of the cheese trade. As soon as the market opens, the samplers and traders go to work and you will sense the very special and busy atmosphere. A fun, fun place to start our day, before we head out and cycle through the marshland with beautiful villages such as Beemster, de Rijp, Schermer (with more windmills!). We reach Amsterdam in the late afternoon and will enjoy our last meal on board among our Hound Dog Cycling friends. B | L | D

### May 11, 2019 Saturday

All too soon we have to prepare for our homeward flight. Transfer to Amsterdam airport in plenty of time to check in and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before flying west across the Atlantic Ocean, back to the United States. B | L (on plane)

*Itinerary is subject to change.*

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner





To register contact:

**ExecutiveTravel**

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Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)

Fax: 402-435-2735

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

[executivetravel.com/tulip-tour/](http://executivetravel.com/tulip-tour/)

For more information about Hound Dog Cycling, visit:

[HoundDogCycling.com](http://HoundDogCycling.com)

### Package Price:

Package Price (land only):

Per person in shared double room/cabin: \$2,895

Per person in single room/cabin (max. 2): \$4,695

Triple room/cabin not available

Air can be reserved by mid June, 2018.

We estimate \$1,200 per person for group air (economy class, including taxes and fees).

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Balance is due on January 15, 2019 and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment will access a 3.5% processing fee.

We strongly recommend travel insurance, not only in the unfortunate event of cancellation prior to the departure, but also for full medical coverage while traveling in Europe. Base Plan coverage is offered from \$171 per person (covers land up to a total of \$3,000 per person). Please ask us for the details. Once air can be reserved (by mid June 2018), travel insurance will be adjusted to include the air portion.

*This tour has limited capacity. We have our own private boat for a maximum of 24 travelers. Do not hesitate to secure your spot. Should the tour not be materialized, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

### Air:

We offer group airfare with United Airlines:

5/1/2019 - Omaha to Chicago, 11:21AM - 12:59PM

5/1/2019 - Chicago to Amsterdam, 5:55PM - 9:20AM (5/2/2019)

5/11/2019 - Amsterdam to Houston, 11:05AM - 2:30PM

5/11/2019 - Houston to Omaha, 7:50PM - 10:05PM

\$1,290.00 per person incl. all taxes and fees.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. United Airlines' Economy Plus seating can be purchased and confirmed at this time. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee availability of specific seating on the aircraft.

### Included:

- Arrival transfer by private motor coach, Amsterdam airport - Amsterdam city with local guide assistance
- Two nights at centrally located 3-star hotel in Amsterdam with full breakfast (May 2-4, 2019)
- 7 nights accommodation on board our private boat, the Quo Vadis
- Welcome coffee/tea
- Full meals: daily breakfast, packed lunch or lunch on board, dinner
- Daily cleaning of cabin
- English speaking tour guide on board
- 8-speed hybrid bicycle with pannier
- Bicycle protection/insurance
- Route information and route book (one per cabin)
- Admission to Keukenhof, Aalsmeer Flower Auction, cheese farm Zaanse Schans, Aalkmeer cheese market, Bulbarium Lisse, and evening canal cruise
- Port fees
- Eleven days of international fun and adventure with Rich and Susan Rodenburg
- All local taxes and fees as per May 3, 2018

*Hotel in Amsterdam will be announced 90 days prior to departure.*

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found at <http://executivetravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

### Not Included:

- Airfare (group air will be announced by mid June, 2018)
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag included in international airfare, 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Helmets - we recommend bringing your own, but helmets can be purchased on board (\$50) - these must be reserved in advance as the ship only carries a limited number
- E-bikes. Offered at an additional \$115 per bike, limited inventory, "first come, first serve"
- All beverages
- Gratuities (estimate \$5 per person per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



**HOUND DOG**  
CYCLING ADVENTURES

## JOIN OUR GREAT AIRFARE TO/FROM AMSTERDAM!

We offer group airfare with United Airlines:

5/1/2019 - Omaha to Chicago, 11:21AM - 12:59PM  
5/1/2019 - Chicago to Amsterdam, 5:55PM - 9:20AM (5/2/2019)  
5/11/2019 - Amsterdam to Houston, 11:05AM - 2:30PM  
5/11/2019 - Houston to Omaha, 7:50PM - 10:05PM  
\$1,290.00 per person incl. all taxes and fees.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. United Airlines' Economy Plus seating can be purchased and confirmed at this time. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee availability of specific seating on the aircraft.

## RESERVE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!





## Quo Vadis Comfort Plus Class Boat

The Quo Vadis was originally built in 1939 at the boatyard in Bouwsluis at a length of 50 meters. In the 70's, in the shipyard Voruit in Zaandam, it was extended to 55 meters and continued its life as a cargo ship, only to be shortened again in 2005 and converted into a passenger vessel.

Now, years later, the Quo Vadis, navigates the waterways of Holland, Belgium, and Germany, writing a new history as a bike and boat vessel.

It is equipped with 12 spacious cabins, each with a private bath, two single beds that can be pushed together, and air conditioning with fixed windows. Each cabin has a safe for valuables and a hairdryer. The ship offers a gorgeous open salon with corner seats, a restaurant, a small bar, and a sundeck with umbrellas. With a guitar and piano on board, guests are invited to play and sing.

Don't forget that on board the Quo Vadis, mostly organic food is offered.

### Technical information:

Length: 45 meter

Width: 6.60 meters

Height: 5.50 meters

Draft: 1.50 meters

WiFi for light surfing available in the Netherlands and Belgium (however not always guaranteed).

Measurement of space under the bed: 40 cm (16")

### FAQs:

**Smoking:** The interior of the ship is a no-smoking zone: smoking is only allowed on the sun deck. **Laundry:** If you want to wash your clothes, you can find different places on land to do laundry or use the laundry service on board. Just ask for a mesh laundry bag. Supplement is €7,50 for a full bag.

**Special Diet:** If you have special dietary wishes (vegetarian meals, lactose or gluten-free diet), then please indicate this when making your reservation. Vegetarian meals are always available, in all other cases we will check the possibilities for your selected trip. In some cases an additional charge may apply; this mainly applies to lactose or gluten-free meals.





## The bikes provided on board!

### Hybrid touring:

- VSF Fahrradmanufaktur T-50 Shimano Nexus 8-speed trekking bike
- Hydraulic Rim brake (Disc)
- Aluminum Frame with weight of 15.8 kg
- Frame sizes: 45 cm, 50 cm and 55 cm
- Schwalbe greenguard tires
- Gel saddle
- Quick release

### Electric bike:

- Vitality Eco 3 Active 400 WH
- Shimano Nexur 7 speed CB/HS22
- Frame size 45 cm, 50 cm, and 55 cm
- Coaster brake and hand brakes

**We recommend you bring your own helmet.** All bikes equipped with Ortlieb travel classic pannier made of robust waterproof polyester fabric (12.5 liter capacity) and safety lock.

**Electric bikes** are also offered on this tour, for an additional supplement of **\$115.00**, and must be reserved at least 2 weeks in advance. **E-bikes are limited and offered on a “first come, first serve” basis.**

All bikes are equipped with pannier bags and a bike lock. Each cabin will receive a repair kit. **It is required that you know how to fix a tire puncture on your own.** Rich Rodenburg may be available to help with repairs if he is nearby. You will find information on the time of bike distribution in your cabin or on the information board in the foyer. Please choose the best bike that fits you and mark it with a luggage tag with your cabin number on it.

For a smooth start each morning, please ensure you take the bike tagged with your cabin number to avoid any unnecessary mix-ups. Never leave your bike unattended, especially in the towns along the route. We recommend that you do not take your bike with you when sightseeing or during a walking tour through any city. For damage other than a tire puncture, please contact the tour leader. Please do not have any repairs done on the rental bikes without the tour leader's consent.

The bicycle always needs to be locked when unattended and the included Bike Protection does not cover the theft of the bicycle while it is unlocked.

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## Shipping your own bike(s)!

**We recommend that you utilize the on board provided bikes**, but should you wish to bring your own, please be aware of the following:

There is a limit of 2 bikes per airplane. The cost is estimated at \$150 per bike per way, (e-bikes or larger bikes may be charged differently). Please contact Executive Travel if you need further information.

You can also choose to ship your bike(s) in advance. [www.flightbikes.com](http://www.flightbikes.com) are partners of FedEx and offer their service and assistance, but prices may be as high as \$800 per way to ship your bike(s) to a European airport.

5 business days are required for delivery to Amsterdam airport and you should be aware that dropping off the bike for the return to the United States can be done during weekdays only (we return from the Netherlands on a Saturday).

## Bike rental in the Netherlands:

Please contact us about rental opportunities if you are interested in this option.