

Bike & Sail The Netherlands

Tulips, Windmills, Cheese ...
& much, much more!

April 20-30, 2023



Dear Friends,

We had so much fun exploring the Netherlands in 2019, we are going again! For those who joined us the first time, rest assured our 2023 route explores new territory and you'll want to go back.

Cycling is more than a hobby in the Netherlands, it's a way of life. There are more bicycles than cars in this tiny country and motorists yield to bicycles! You'll be amazed at how easy and safe it is to cycle through even the larger cities like Amsterdam.

Our 2023 route includes cycle paths, plenty of open space, sheep, friendly locals, dunes, lakes, rivers, small villages...and of course windmills and tulips! You will love the opportunity to explore the beauty and friendliness of the Netherlands from the seat of your bicycle.

As we did in 2019, we've chartered our own 12-cabin private boat to make this an exclusive experience just for our group which will include 24 Hound Dog Cycling travelers. Having the whole boat to ourselves is the way to go! The entire crew is focused on making sure we all have the best possible experience. Two private local guides will give us unique insight and lead us in our off-the-beaten-path, daily cycling adventures.

Now is the time to plan ahead for this 10-day boat and bike tour with Hound Dog Cycling Adventures. This tour will fill up fast, so don't delay!

Sincerely,

Susan and Rich Rodenburg
Hound Dog Cycling Adventures

 **Executive Travel**



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



Amsterdam



Local cheese market



Kinderdijk!

April 20, 2023 - Thursday

Traveling to Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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.

April 21, 2023 - Friday

Amsterdam

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 the plane) | L

April 22, 2023 - Saturday

Amsterdam

After a filling 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 Kuip Markt, are not to be missed, and we will have plenty of time to enjoy the abundance of terraces and boutique-style cafes. B

April 23, 2023 - Sunday

Oudekerk, cycling to Uithoorn - 9 miles

Breakfast is served and the morning is free to enjoy at leisure before we transfer to our privately chartered boat; the Quo Vadis. Our wonderful crew will welcome us with coffee

and tea and treats as we get familiar with our home for the next 8 days. After a scenery sail tour through Amsterdam, we do a short warm-up ride to Uithoorn. Dinner is served on board tonight and we will over the day-by-day itinerary with our crew and captain. B | S | D

April 24, 2023 - Monday

Uithoorn - Gouda, 28 miles

From Uithoorn we will continue our tour on country roads, along river banks and channels, through the Green Heart to the city world-famous for its cheese: Gouda. Who thinks of Gouda, not only thinks of cheese, pipes, "Stroopwafels" (treacle-waffle), and pottery but also of beautiful stained glass windows, a fairy-like town hall, and atmospheric canals. Gouda is a beautiful Old Dutch city with a mostly intact city center. As on most days, after dinner, you can take a walk through the city to enjoy even more of the local atmosphere. B | PL | D

April 25, 2023 - Tuesday

Gouda - Delft, sailing or biking to Delft, 25/34 miles

We enjoy our breakfast and then begin today's scenic route past the low-lying polders via Kinderdijk to Rotterdam. Kinderdijk has the largest group of windmills in the Netherlands and some were still actively used until 1950. These days, a large pumping station is responsible for controlling the water level in the polder. From Kinderdijk we take the ferry to Rotterdam where the barge is waiting for us to take us to Delft (you may also choose to bike; it's only 9 miles), famous for its pottery, the "Delft blue". Apart from admiring the beautiful pottery, you can (optionally) visit the Prinsenhof Museum housed in the former St. Agatha's monastery. In 1572

William of Orange chose the convent as one of his residences. It was from here that he led the revolt against the Spanish tyranny of Holland. He was murdered on the steps of the Prinsenhof on July 10, 1584, by Balthazar Gerards, a Spanish sympathizer. Two bullet holes in the wall of the stairs bear witness to this event. We will enjoy the evening in charming Delft. B | PL | D

April 26, 2023 - Wednesday

Delft - Leiden, 25 miles

After a hearty breakfast, we return to our saddles to bike in the direction of The Hague, through the Haagse Bosch, a large park, and past the Huis Ten Bosch royal palace. It is one of three official residences of the Dutch monarch; the two others being the Noordeinde Palace in The Hague and the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. A tranquil cycle path through the dunes leads us to Wassenaarse Slag. Here, some remains of the Atlantic Wall can still be seen. The Atlantic Wall was an extensive system of coastal fortifications built by the German Third Reich in 1942 until 1944 during World War II along the western coast of Europe. Now, this underground network serves as a bat preserve! It was nearly 1,700 miles long. Continuing on through the dunes, to Katwijk aan Zee, an old fishing village (the inhabitants still speak their own dialect called Kattuks), we will follow the course of the Oude Rijn (Old Rhine) ending in Leiden. Leiden originated around 800 AD as a marketplace at the confluence of the Old and New Rhine rivers, the Vliet river, and the Mare ("Leyten" means "at the waters"). For a long time, it was the second city after Amsterdam. It boasts 14 museums and the city is the birthplace of Rembrandt. It is known for its centuries-old architecture, and the oldest university in the country, which



Katwijk aan Zee



Clogs!



Rotterdam

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. In the center of town, you can go shopping or enjoy sitting on an outdoor terrace on the water's edge. B | PL | D

April 27, 2023 - Thursday

Leiden - via Keukenhof to Haarlem, 25 miles
 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. The Keukenhof is the place where the spring breaks and numerous gardens and gardening styles can be found here: the English Landscape Garden, the Historical Garden, the Natural Garden, the Japanese Natural Garden, the Formal Garden, and three special colors gardens. Spread throughout the entire park there are approximately eighty sculptures from well-known Dutch artists as well as several other art objects, such as the collection 'Surprising Tulips'. 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 and once in the city of Haarlem, we will make a short tour through

the city to see some typical "hofjes" (almshouses), old houses around a central courtyard, now usually housing elderly people. These "hofjes" are definitely worth a visit. Haarlem, which rendered its name to Harlem, New York, is a lively city with good shopping possibilities. The ship is berthed in the city center, with a view of St. Bavo's Church and with easy access to the Grote Markt with its many outdoor cafés. Dinner is on our own tonight - there are so many places to enjoy! B | PL

April 28, 2023 - Friday

Haarlem - Amsterdam, 25 miles
 From Haarlem, we sail to Spaarndam, a picturesque village on the edge of Haarlem, in the direction of Amsterdam. Spaarndam hosts the monument of the legendary figure, Hans Brinker, standing on one of the locks which accentuate 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! We end our day in Amsterdam with a wonderful dinner on board. B | PL | D

April 29, 2023 - Saturday

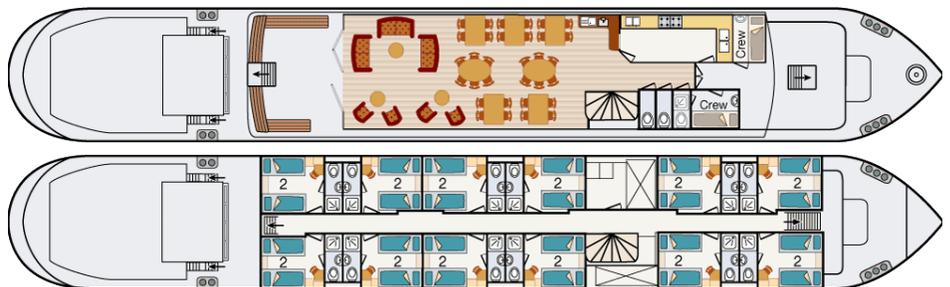
Amsterdam, free miles!
 Today we enjoy our last day in Amsterdam. The day is free at leisure and the itinerary all yours. You may follow us and our bike tour leaders or simply head out on foot or by bike on your own. Tonight we enjoy our farewell dinner as our captain will take us through the canals of Amsterdam. This is the perfect way to end our tour. B | PL | D

April 30, 2023 - Sunday

Traveling home
 All too soon we have to prepare for our homeward flight. We will 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 S = Snack
 PL = Packed Lunch D = Dinner





To register contact:

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SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://fs28.formsite.com/vLu8mE/HDCBOAT23/>

For more information about Hound Dog Cycling, visit:

HoundDogCycling.com

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$3,495

(all rooms/cabins with two separate beds)

Per person in a single room: \$5,595

(max. 2 single rooms/cabins - first come, first serve)

We offer "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist with finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person is required upon signing up for the tour. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Balance is due on December 1, 2022, and is non-refundable. Balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

Registering for this tour signifies that you agree with our terms and conditions which can be found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours. The tour will be materialized with a minimum of 20 travelers. Should the number fall below 20, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking and biking, longer periods of standing, and outdoor activities.

Group airfare:

We offer group airfare. Pricing and specific itinerary will be available by the end of June 2022. All registered travelers will be notified. Estimate \$1,200 for your roundtrip ticket, economy class, including taxes and fees.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by TravelEx Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

TravelEx Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

A valid passport is necessary to travel to the Netherlands. A visa is not required (by October 2020) for American citizens. It is the traveler's responsibility to verify all passport expiration details, blank pages, and visa requirements. We recommend you check <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>.

Included:

- Arrival transfer by private motor coach, Amsterdam airport - hotel with local guide assistance
- Two nights at centrally located 3- or 4-star hotel in Amsterdam (April 21-23, 2023)
- 7 nights accommodation on board our private chartered boat, the Quo Vadis
- 9 x breakfast
- 7 x lunch (cheese tasting lunch on April 21, 2023, and 6 x packed lunch during sailing days)
- 6 x dinner
- Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and water on board
- Daily cleaning of your cabin during sailing days
- Two English-speaking bike-tour guides on board
- All ferry fares en route
- 8-speed hybrid bicycle with pannier
- A universal sized bike helmet (if you don't bring your own!)
- Complimentary water bottle
- Bicycle protection/insurance (hybrid bike)
- Route information and route book (one per cabin)
- WiFi on board

- Admission to Keukenhof, cheese farm, visit of a windmill (Kinderdijk), evening canal cruise
- Port taxes and fees
- Eleven days of international fun and adventure with Rich and Susan Rodenburg
- All local taxes and fees as per May 11, 2021

Hotel in Amsterdam will be announced 120 days prior to departure.

Not Included:

- Airfare (group air will be announced by the end of June 2022)
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- E-bike (electronic bike), offered at an additional \$150 for all days of cycling, must be booked at the time of registration
- \$150 per e-bike insurance, payable with the trip balance
- GPS
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- All beverages other than mentioned in the tour program
- Gratuities (estimate \$5 per person per day for the local guides)
- Personal expenses
- Professional fee, \$75 per person due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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 70s, 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 (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 €8 for a full bag.

Special Diet: If you have special dietary wishes (vegetarian meals, lactose or gluten-free diet), 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 **\$150.00**, 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 Plan does not cover the theft of the bicycle while it is unlocked.

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 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.