



# North of Amsterdam – Boat and Bike

*‘Typical Dutch landscape – windmills, waterways, old ports, sand dunes, and the island of Texel’*



North Holland Windmill



Texel – beach and lighthouse



Enkhuizen Harbour

- Accommodation on comfortable barge – all cabins with private facilities
- All meals included – breakfast, dinner, packed lunches
- Easy cycling on flat cycle tracks and minor roads
- See old ports and fishing villages, dunes, beaches, and the island of Texel
- Flexibility – cycle with guide or on your own, or stay on board!
- Extra nights option in Amsterdam

The landscape of north Holland is varied and contains many of the features we associate with the Dutch countryside. Country roads reveal the ever-present waterways, small dykes, and windmills, many of which are still in working order. The western coastline with its attractive beaches is backed by an impressive area of dunes, and the island of Texel, reached by ferry, has a magnificent nature reserve.

The old ports of the the IJsselmeer – Volendam, Hoorn, and Enkhuizen – are a delight to explore, and will give you a real flavour of the old Holland when these towns were at the centre of the Golden Age of prosperity. Alkmaar which you reach on day 6 has lovely old merchants’ houses along its canals, and a famous cheese market held every Friday, the day we are there!

You will spend 7 nights on a converted Dutch barge in a cabin with private facilities and bunk beds. There is an attractive saloon/dining area and also a sundeck.

This is a rewarding tour which will show you many features of the countryside and history of northern Holland.

## ITINERARY

7 nights: Arr ✈ Amsterdam

**Day 1 Amsterdam ■ Optional Cycling 12m; 20km**  
Arrive in Amsterdam’s Oosterdock (close to Central Station) by 16.00. After settling in, there will be an optional warm-up ride around Amsterdam of about 20km.

**Day 2 Amsterdam - Volendam ■ Cycling 26m; 42km**  
Take a ferry to Amsterdam Noord and then cycle via Marken and Monnikendam to Volendam, our stop for tonight.

**Day 3 Volendam – Enkhuizen ■ Cycling 17/36m; 27/58km**  
Start cycling from Volendam to cover today’s full distance. Edam is a beautifully preserved old Dutch town with its well-known cheese association. Continue to Hoorn, another fine town which was a major port in the 17th century. Shorter distance cyclists start from Hoorn and cycle to Enkhuizen, a small town with some fine Golden Age architecture.

**Day 4 Enkhuizen – Texel ■ Cycling 27m; 43km**  
Perhaps visit the Zuidersee Museum for an insight into the remarkable history of this region. Cycle across reclaimed land to Oude Zeug where you take the ferry for the island of Texel.

**Day 5 Texel ■ Cycling 25/31/41m; 40/50/66km**  
A full day on this fascinating island. Choose from a variety of rides, but enjoy the wonderful birdlife and the beautiful beaches and dunes. Texel’s villages are full of character.

**Day 6 Texel – Alkmaar ■ Cycling 19/25/36m; 30/40/58km**  
The barge returns you to the mainland at Den Helder. Cycle through the duned area down to Bergen, a well-known artists’ colony. Continue to Alkmaar, famous for its Friday Cheese Market, the National Beer Museum, and its many fine old buildings.

**Day 7 Alkmaar – Amsterdam ■ Cycling 13/28m; 20/45km**  
More distance options today. Admire the three windmills (one a working mill and museum) at Schermerhorn, before visiting Zaanse Schans whose inhabitants live and work in the original houses and windmills of the River Zaan area. Return to Amsterdam via the Twiske Leisure Park. Time to explore Amsterdam this evening.

**Day 8 Amsterdam**  
After breakfast make your way to your chosen departure point.



Try before you buy cheese tasting



Anna Antal



Anna Antal



Bicycle-friendly bridge

## TOUR & TRAVEL INFORMATION

### Terrain

The terrain is flat. The itinerary uses mainly small country roads with little traffic.

### Daily Mileage

13–41m (20–66km)



### Climate

As this tour is in Holland weather patterns are similar to those of the UK.

### Travel Information

Flights to Amsterdam: Available from a wide variety of carriers.

Train to Amsterdam: Eurostar from London St.Pancras, Ebbsfleet, or Ashford to Brussels, transfer to Amsterdam train.

### Transfer Information

Amsterdam: By train between Schipol Airport and Amsterdam Central station. Walk for 15 mins or short taxi ride to Oosterdock.

## PRICES

Prices are per person and exclude flights. Included are bed & breakfast, packed lunches, and evening meal for 7 nights, bike hire, ferry fares, and the services of a tour leader. Prices are per person and are based on the occupancy of cabins as shown. Child prices are valid where a child 11 years or younger (at departure date) is occupying a cabin with at least one adult.

	24 APR - 15 MAY	22 MAY - 25 SEP
ADULT		
Single	£ 919	£ 899
Twin	£ 749	£ 719
3-berth	£ 699	£ 699
4-berth	n/a	£ 659
CHILD (11 or younger)	£ 529	£ 529

## DEPARTURE DATES 2010

Departures between 24 April and 15 May 2010 will be on the *Wending*; remaining departures will be on the *Anna Antal* or the *Feniks*.

Apr: Saturday 24

May: Saturday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Jun: Saturday 5, 12, 19, 26

Jul: Saturday 3, 31

Aug: Saturday 28

Sep: Saturday 11, 18, 25

*‘The real Holland.’*