

Amsterdam - Brussels

8 days, € 894



Introduction



This international bicycle holiday starts in the heart of the Dutch capital and finishes in the epicenter of Europe, Brussels. It's a one-way route, 340 kilometres long, past a string of exceptional and historically precious Dutch and Flemish towns. In-between towns, enjoy the peace and quiet of the Dutch and Flemish countryside with age-old farmhouses and dominating church spires. You will follow a well-signposted route that is as good as flat, low traffic or even car free. Only towards the very end does it get slightly hilly. The towns themselves are perfect for touring by bike, ensuring total freedom and mobility: no traffic jams and you can "park" anywhere.

Want to see more of Belgium? Ask about the possibilities for extra cycling days to Mechelen and Bruges or take a look at the website of our partner [Belgian Biketours](#). If you have an extra week available, you can cycle even further to

Ghent or Bruges.

Please be aware that it is not always possible to start/ finish with a bike rental in every location, our bike supplier cannot deliver the bikes everywhere. When you want to rent our bikes, please check with us which starting/ending location in Belgian is suitable.

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival Amsterdam**

Your cycling holiday starts in Amsterdam, one of the crown-jewels of Europe. With so much to see and do, you couldn't wish for a more vibrant way to kick off your holiday. If you arrive early, make sure to go for a walk to marvel at the townhouses in the 17th-century canal district (listed as World Heritage). Have you got time and energy left? Opt to saunter down the infamous red-light district which attracts millions of curious tourists every year; or enjoy the street performers on friendly Rembrandtplein.



Day 2 Amsterdam – Gouda/Oudewater/Bodegraven**68 km**

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The first leg of the route takes you through the Green Heart of Holland, abounding in water. It is a true cycling paradise, with characteristic peat and polder landscapes, small farming communities and picturesque historical towns such as Oudewater. It was to this place that women who had been accused of witchcraft fled from all over Europe to try to have their innocence proven by weighing. End the day in medieval Gouda. Amble through the beautifully preserved town centre and visit the old town hall and St. John's church. Stop off at a bakery to buy fresh syrup waffles (Gouda is the hometown of syrup waffles) and Gouda cheese – perhaps the world's most famous type of cheese. For availability reasons it's possible you will stay in Oudewater or Bodegraven instead of Gouda.

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Day 3 Gouda/Oudewater/Bodegraven – Papendrecht**51 km**

From Gouda you'll cycle via the "Green heart of Holland" to 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.

The hotel in Papendrecht is just 3km outside the center of Dordrecht on the north banks of the river.

Day 4 Papendrecht – Bergen op Zoom**69 km**

In the morning, the route will take you right past one of the few remaining fresh-water tidal areas in Europe: Biesbosch National Park. Upon crossing a one-kilometre-long bridge high above Hollands Diep river, you will find yourself in the south of the Netherlands. In village after village, Brabant hospitality will entice you to stop for a cup of coffee and big slice of fruit tart. Today's destination is Bergen op Zoom. Eight hundred years old, the town's narrow streets, old squares and hundreds of monuments testify to a rich and dramatic past. Before you settle down at one of the many pavement cafes, don't forget to feast your eyes on Markiezenhof, the town's pride and joy. This late-gothic mansion (1485) was built by the local noble family and now serves as museum and archive.

Please note you will only cycle through de Biesbosch park on days that the ferry departs. This ferry does not go daily. If the ferry does not go you follow an alternative route.

Day 5 Bergen op Zoom – Antwerpen**57 km**

The landscape along today's cycling route is predominantly woody. On the border between the Netherlands and Belgium, catch your breath in De Zoom - Kalmthoutse Heide, a lovely cross-border nature reserve. The route takes you along the Scheldekaaien (quays on the River Scheldt) right into the historical and touristic heart of Antwerp. It's the largest town in Flanders and Belgium's most important port city. After viewing the historical town center you might like to venture to the hip and trendy parts of the city: 't Zuid and Het Eilandje. Have you worked up a thirst for Belgian beer? Consider visiting De Koninck beer brewery. It has been going strong since 1833 and has a new visitors centre welcoming guests wishing to look around and do some tasting. This brewery is best known for its 'Bollekes'.



Day 6 Antwerpen - Leuven/Louvain**68 km**

Via the countryside south of Antwerpen you will arrive at Rumst at the three river point where the rivers Nete and Dijle together form the rivier Rupel, the shortest river in the country at just 10 km long. Cycling along the River Dijle, you enter the age-old town of Mechelen right up to the church tower of St. Rombold's cathedral. This looks like a good place to stop for lunch. Belgian French fries, by the way, are the best in the world. Continue along the River Dijle to crown your day in the university town of Louvain. It's a pleasant town where the oldest houses date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. Don't miss the Grand Béguinage: Counting 100 houses, it was set up in 1234 as a community for spinsters; and now it's part of the university campus. You also might like to see the early-Gothic church of St. John the Baptist (1304). Round off your explorations on the Oude Markt (Old Market Square), nicknamed 'the longest bar counter in the world' due to the enormous number of bars and cafes on the square.

You can also choose a shorter (but perhaps less scenic) route of 63 km along the Leuven-Dijle canal.

Day 7 Leuven/Louvain - Brussels**40 km**

The hills of Belgian Brabant and the extensive Sonian Forest set the scene for our cyclists today. If you don't feel like cycling into the big city of Brussels, you can opt to catch a train at one of the stations along the route. Brussel's main attraction is the fantastic Grote Markt (Great Market Square). Nearby, the little statue of Manneken Pis still draws crowds. Your visit to Brussels can also involve scrumptious hot waffles, chocolate, beer, culinary treats, fun shopping or soaking up a bit of culture. One thing's for sure: Brussels can't be explored in one day.

Day 8 Departure from Brussels

After breakfast, your cycling holiday has come to an end. You can take a flight from Brussels or take the train back to Amsterdam.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Only on Mondays between April and September

Please note: a minimum stay of 2 nights in a row is required in the hotel in Amsterdam on the following dates (and a higher price will be charged):

March 29th, 30th and 31st 2024

April 20th 2024

April 26th and 27th 2024

May 9, 10th and 11th 2024

May 17th, 18th and 19th 2024

| Price pp | | € |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Double room, breakfast | | 889.00 |
| Single room, breakfast | | 1,309.00 |
| Extra night double room, breakfast only | | 105.00 |
| Extra night double room, breakfast only Amsterdam | | 100.00 |
| Upgrades pp/night | | € |
| NH Collection Antwerp Centre, Antwerpen | | 20.00 |
| Westcord Art Hotel, Amsterdam | | 10.00 |
| Surcharge per person | | € |
| Stay in Amsterdam on Saturday | | 25.00 |
| Stay in Amsterdam from: 17/05/2024 - 19/05/2024 | | 40.00 |
| Rental bike | | € |
| Child bike | | 77.00 |
| Hybrid | | 91.00 |
| E-bike | | 189.00 |
| Extra services | | € |
| Child seat | € 5.00 x 7 | 35.00 |
| Bike theft insurance | € 3.00 x 7 | 21.00 |
| E-bike theft insurance | € 6.00 x 7 | 42.00 |
| Extra luggage | € 5.00 x 7 | 35.00 |
| Tag-along bike | € 6.00 x 7 | 42.00 |
| Child trailer | € 17.50 x 7 | 122.50 |
| Bike helmet | per piece | 10.00 |
| SGR | per piece | 5.00 |

Starting point:

Amsterdam



Accommodation

The hotels and the B&B on this trip have been carefully selected for their location, atmosphere and/or unique services. All rooms are en-suite. A list of the accommodation we work with appears below. If a certain accommodation is unable to confirm due to lack of availability, we will try to request a comparable alternative if possible. 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.

Westcord Art Hotel * /******
(Amsterdam)
www.westcordhotels.nl/hotel/art

Best Western Hotel Gouda ****
(Gouda)
www.bestwesterngouda.nl

Leonardo Hotel Papendrecht
****** (Papendrecht)**
www.apollohotels.nl/leonardo-hotel-papendrecht/

Grand Hotel De Draak ****
(Bergen op Zoom)
www.hoteldedraak.nl

Van der Valk Hotel Antwerp ****
(Antwerpen)
www.vandervalkantwerpen.be

Radisson Park Inn * (Leuven)**
www.radissonhotels.com/park-inn-leuven

NH Brussels EU Berlaymont ****
(Brussel)
<https://www.nh-hotels.com/en/hotel/nh-brussels-eu-berlaymont>



Practical Info



7 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



Amsterdam Sloterdijk / Amsterdam CS



Parking possibilities at the hotel



GPS-tracks available



Any ferry crossings are not included

Arrival info



Nearest Airport is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)



The train from Schiphol to Amsterdam Sloterdijk departs 6 times per hour. Travel time is about 10 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €4,- 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. Brussels is the final destination of this tour. You can fly back from Brussels airport or go back by train to Schiphol airport.

