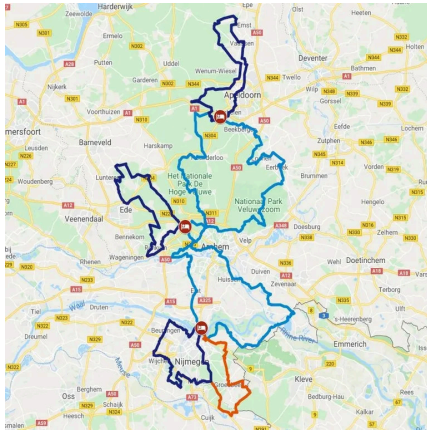


Rivers and Veluwe Tour Extra

7 days, € 770



Introduction



This holiday brings you the best of two worlds: Wide-open, bright and sparkling river landscapes, as well as the more enclosed, earthy landscapes of the Veluwe region marked by farmland, woodland, fields of heather and drifting sands. Come in August to fully appreciate the beauty of flowering heather fields. We will send you criss-cross through the Veluwe, a Natura 2000 area. The region boasts two National Parks; a top-class modern-art museum in the middle of a forest; wonderful natural scenery and pastoral countryside; and Airborne Museum "Hartenstein" dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem in 1944.

We also offer this trip as a 5-day trip without the round tours.

Day to Day



Day 1 **Arrival in Nijmegen**

Check in at eco-friendly and comfortable Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent, opened in 2016. Lent is a village that lies just across the Waal River from the big historical city of Nijmegen. In five minutes, you can walk to the Spiegelwaal near the old bridge of Nijmegen. Spiegelwaal is a new 4-km-long side channel of the River Waal, intended to prevent flooding. From the Lent quay you have a beautiful view of the city of Nijmegen and of five bridges straddling the River Waal. To your right, you'll see the Snelbinder Rail/Cycle bridge and beyond that De Oversteek, a new white bridge for motorized traffic. De Oversteek means The Crossing. It refers to an event that took place there on 20 September 1944, when the Allies tried to cross the Waal in small boats to secure a bridge and a railway bridge in Nijmegen. 48 men lost their lives when they were spotted by the Germans. The mission was eventually accomplished although German resistance was fierce. Walk across the old Waal bridge into the welcoming centre of the oldest city in the Netherlands. Its history goes back more than 2000 years. In HunnerPark you will find the remains of old city walls. The centre of Nijmegen boasts several museums, including Museum Het Valkhof, specialized in Roman archaeology, ancient art and crafts, and modern art.

Your hotels are in Lent (Nijmegen), Papendal (Arnhem) and Ugchelen (Apeldoorn). You determine which hotel will be the starting point of your holiday. If you travel to the start location by car, we recommend starting in Apeldoorn or Arnhem because of the better parking options for the entire duration of the trip.

You will stay two consecutive nights at each of the other two hotels; cycling a round tour every other day. If you want to use your rental bike on the day you arrive to make a round tour from Nijmegen-Lent (or a roundtrip around Apeldoorn or Arnhem if you start your trip there), please mention this in the booking form. We will charge 1 day extra of bike rental (and optional bike insurances).

Round Tour from Nijmegen-Lent 48 km

Today you can choose from 2 wonderful round trips of 48 km (which can also be combined into one trip of 57 km), which also takes you through the center of Nijmegen. The south-westerly tour goes through the Land van Maas en Waal, straight through the Overasselt and Hatertsevennen nature park with the St. Walrick 'fever' tree for healing and back through the woods below Nijmegen.

The southeastern route is a beautiful but hilly ride through the Rijk van Nijmegen along the Mookerheide, the South Limburg-like Zevendal. A beautiful winding path through Germany takes you to Groesbeek, where the locally well known Zevenheuvelenweg ('seven hill road') to Berg en Dal awaits you. Finally, a fast descent takes you close to the thickest Dutch tree (take a short stroll) and the Ooijpolder. Impressive views of the lateral moraine accompany you the last bit back to Nijmegen.

Day 2 **Nijmegen (Lent) - Arnhem (Papendal) 61 km**

Your bike tour starts with a beautiful winding route through lovely Ooijpolder. Feast your eyes on a diverse river landscape with sand excavation lakes, marshes, drifting dunes and floodplains. You will also notice several abandoned brickworks. After passing the village of Ooij, De Thornsche Molen is a good place to stop for coffee: The outside seating area offers a fine view of the old windmill. Via Germany, cycle to Millingen aan de Rijn. Cross the Rhine by ferry and cycle along the shore of lake De Bijland to Herwen. Stop off to take a look at Huis Aerdt (1657), an attractive house surrounded by a moat and pollard willows. Then cycle through Rijnstrangen nature reserve, atop old river dikes, to the village of Loo. Take the ferry to Huissen and cycle along the Rhine to the John Frost Bridge. It is named after the commander of the British forces who defended the bridge during the Battle of Arnhem. This is the bridge that featured in the film "A Bridge Too Far" (1977). Through the city centre of Arnhem, continue to Oosterbeek. If you are interested in WWII, visit Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein' to learn about the Battle of Arnhem. As the sun sets over Veluwe Forest, put your feet up in Van Der Valk Hotel Arnhem-Papendal. Shortcut (10 km shorter): From Nijmegen, along the Waal, to Doornenburg Castle with a "Millennial Oak"; then catch the ferry at Pannerden.



Day 3 **Round Tour from Arnhem (Papendal) 59 km**

Today you will cycle a tour around the geographical heart of the Netherlands at the Lunterse Goudsberg, where you will roam through forest, heathland, drifting sands and old farmlands. VanMossel teahouse is a popular place to stop for a cup of coffee. This age-old agricultural enclave is located in the middle of a nature reserve called De Planken Wambuis, home to deer, wild boar, fox, ponies, cattle and other animals; as well as numerous bird species, including the raven. Just beyond Wekeromse Zand, an area of drifting sands, you will find so-called Celtic Fields, agricultural land from the Iron Age, with a reconstructed farm. On hot days you can cool off in Bosbad swimmingpool or seek the shade in De Dennenhorst, a pinetum (arboretum specialized in conifers). Watchtower De Koepel offers great views. For lunch, a pancake at Landhuis Kernhem and a walk to the nearby maze come recommended.

On the heath of Ginkelse Heide cycle to Quadenoord estate, where a walk around the (African) sculpture garden is worthwhile. Through a beautiful stream valley you will continue to Renkum. This village was heavily damaged in WWII and was later rebuilt in the so-called Delftse Schoolstijl (Delft School Style).

Alternatively, cycle a shorter tour of 44 km where you skip Quadenoord estate and the Renkumse stream valley, so you have more time for a game of Pitch & Putt in Papendal sports center.

Day 4 **Arnhem (Papendal) – Apeldoorn (Ugchelen) 62 km**

On your second cycling day, you will explore the Veluwe region with Veluwezoom National Park as the highlight. Firstly, traverse Warnsborn country estate, boasting gardens and heather fields with juniper trees. Next you will pass the Nederlands Openluchtmuseum (an open-air museum of cultural history where you can easily spend a day, so book an extra night at Papendal if you are interested). Proceed to lovely Roosendaal Castle and landscape park. Subsequently, in Heuven, opt to visit a sheepfold: During the day, the flock grazes the heathland; at night they are closed into the deep litter fold. The manure, mixed with heathland turf, is still used to fertilize fields on the barren sandy soil, the traditional way. Soon afterwards you will reach the hilly Posbank, a monument for Mr. Pos, who was an early promotor of tourism in natural surroundings. The monument is a stone bench for everybody to sit and enjoy the view of the heather fields all around. Calluna vulgaris blooms a lovely mauve colour in August to September. Nearby is Pavilion de Posbank which serves delicious and healthy lunches, inside and out. Afterwards cycle through the beautiful natural surroundings of Veluwezoom National Park to Laag-Soeren, Eerbeek and along the Apeldoorn Canal to Loenen. On the way to Beekbergen you will encounter the Loenense Waterfalls, created in 1869. At the end of the day, cycle through the woods of Ugchelen to Van der Valk Hotel Apeldoorn – De Cantharel. Shortcut: after the Elsberg cycle directly to Loenen – 14 km shorter; and natural surroundings all the way. You then skip Eerbeek and the climb of the Posbank.



Day 5 **Round Tour Apeldoorn (Ugchelen) 61 km**

The Dutch royal family has left its mark on the area around Apeldoorn. Het Loo is one of their Crown Domains, the largest Dutch estate and still in use by the Royal Family. Het Loo is also the name of the former royal palace, now open to the public. You can visit the museum and the historical gardens, stables and coach houses. In the coach houses, inspect the royal carriages, cars and sleds up close.

Before you reach the palace, you will negotiate an uphill path through woods and heathland to the village of Hoog Soeren. Then you can opt to visit Apenheul, a specialized monkey zoo, where the smaller species roam freely, and the larger species live in natural groups on woody islands.

After the palace you will cycle through a varied landscape along the forest edge to the watermill at Wenum. At this point, if it's getting late, limit the bike tour to 41 km by cycling back directly via Apeldoorn.

Alternatively, continue to the authentic hamlet of Niersen and Gortel, surrounded by prehistoric burial mounds and heatherfields, and splendid Cannenburch castle in Vaassen.

Day 6 **Apeldoorn (Ugchelen) – Nijmegen (Lent) 64 km**

Through the woods and heathlands, cycle to the hamlet of Hoog Buurlo and Hoenderloo. Then enter the green treasure chest of the Netherlands, De Hoge Veluwe National Park. The building with the tower is Sint Hubertus Hunting Lodge, designed in 1914 by H. Berlage. Also in the park: Kröller-Müller modern art museum where you will find the second largest Van Gogh collection in the world! The enormous sculpture garden is impressive too. Admission tickets for the park is included (excluding museum entrance). After taking your time to study the works of art in their wonderful setting, get back on your bikes and continue through diverse natural scenery to Schaarsbergen, past Hotel Warnsborn and the impressive Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek. Your next stop is Doorwerth Castle, where you could go for a short walk on the grounds and sample delicious chocolate cake at the foot of a fat acacia from 1678 in the courtyard. Afterwards, follow the Fonteinallée and you will soon reach the bicycle ferryboat at Driel. You will cross the Rhine where the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade paddled to the other side in boats. They showed great courage in their role in Operation Market Garden, in which the Allies attempted to secure nine bridges, in 1944. As evening falls, you will find yourself back at welcoming Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent. Short-cut: The route can be shortened on 3 locations, the shortest option is 48 km.

Day 7 **Return Home**

After a comfortable night, enjoy a fantastic buffet breakfast in comfortable Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent. After breakfast, your cycling holiday comes to an end.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 1 till September 24

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		765.00
Single room, breakfast		1,185.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		66.00
Hybrid		78.00
E-bike		162.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 6	24.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 6	30.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 6	18.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 6	36.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 6	30.00
Tag-along bike	€ 6.00 x 6	36.00
Child trailer	€ 17.50 x 6	105.00
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00

Starting point:

Nijmegen Lent (arrival by train) or Apeldoorn or Arnhem (arrival by car)

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.

Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent **** (Lent)

www.valknijmegen.nl

Van der Valk Hotel Arnhem **** (Arnhem)

www.hotelarnhem.nl

Van der Valk Hotel Apeldoorn-De Cantharel **** (Apeldoorn)

www.vandervalkapeldoorn.nl



Practical Info



6 Nights included



4 Star Hotels



Breakfast included



Detailed roadbooks with maps and tourist information



The possibility of renting our bikes



7-days week service hotline



Luggage transport to your next hotel



Nijmegen-Lent



Parking possibilities at the hotel



GPS-tracks available



Any ferry crossings are not included

