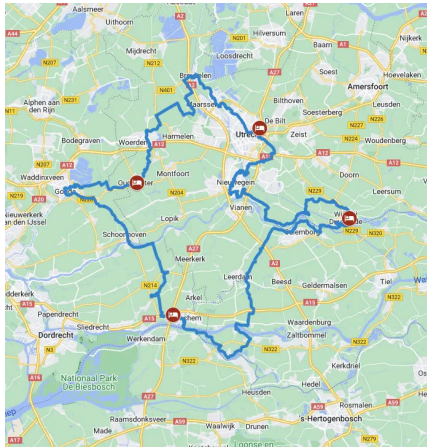


New Dutch Waterline & the Green Heart Tour

6 days, € 594



Introduction



A fascinating, wonderful cycling trip along this special part of UNESCO World Heritage (2021): the New Dutch Waterline. Unique in the world and a defence belt with ancient fortresses with the strangest names, special locks, waterways and bunkers. If you want to see more, then you won't be disappointed! You will also get more than a glimpse of Holland's 'Green Heart' with old fortified towns, mills, castles and lots of beautiful landscapes.

Day to Day

Day 1 Arrival in Utrecht

Arrival in Utrecht, in the very center of the Netherlands, near woodland and small River Kromme Rijn. The centre of Utrecht is not far away and has shops galore, museums and a friendly night life.



Day 2 **Utrecht - Wijk bij Duurstede**

54 km

From Utrecht, cycle past Fort Rijnauwen to Fort Vechten in Bunnik. Here, visit the Waterliniemuseum, where you can learn all about the 'New Dutch Waterline', using VR goggles, you can parachute over this fascinating, historic defence belt of the country, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2021. Then on to the Plofsluis lock: a lock - unique in the world! - which could be detonated to dam the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal to stop the enemy.

The tour continues via Fort Jutphaas through historic Vreeswijk. Here, admire the Oude Sluis, the Rijkshulpschutsluis and the Koninginnensluis. Over the Eiland van Schalkwijk you cycle through a true cultural and natural history open air museum: Fort Werk aan de Korte Uitweg (with a fantastic tea garden), the Gedekte Gemeenschapsweg, the imposing Fort Honswijk and the trenches of Werk aan de Groeneweg. The cycle tour ends in Wijk bij Duurstede, a small town with a big history, known in the Middle Ages as Dorestad. Here, the Kromme Rijn and the Grote Sluis played an important role within the Waterline; they enabled the flooding of the area around Utrecht.

Day 3 **Wijk bij Duurstede - Gorinchem**

67 km

From Wijk bij Duurstede, you cycle through the river countryside of the Lek to historic Culemborg. You pass Werk aan het Spoel, with its attractive catering facilities and sun terrace. The tour continues past Fort Everdingen, the sturdy home of beer brewery Duits & Lauret, blessed with a tasting room. Then along the Diefdijklinie with its bunkers and Fort Asperen, a cultural island on the river Linge. You take a side trip to the Betuwe on a tour along the beautiful, meandering river Linge.

Between the orchards lie pretty villages, such as Acquoy with its tower as leaning as Pisa's. Take a look at the Geofort with its interactive Science centre. The Bommelerwaard near Brakel and Poederloijen, between the Waal and Afgedamde Maas rivers, forms the south-eastern capstone of the New Dutch Waterline. One of the highlights during this drive must be Slot Loevestein, beautifully located on the river in the middle of nature. The castle has an important history as a medieval toll castle, fortress and prison.

Then cycle through the sturdy fortified town of Woudrichem and finish in Gorinchem, one of the best-preserved fortresses in the Netherlands with its city walls, imposing cannons and windmills. Then head for a nice terrace on the cosy Oude Markt in the historic centre.



Day 4 **Gorinchem - Oudewater**

56 km

Today you will cycle a beautiful route through part of Holland's famous 'Green Heart'. You will pass through Nieuwpoort, one of the smallest fortified towns in the Netherlands, which was already founded around 1200. Together with fortified Schoonhoven, they formed part of the Old Dutch Waterline, which thus guarded the Lek river. Schoonhoven, also called the Silver City, was already known for its talented silversmiths in the 17th century.

Along the 10 km 'short' river De Vlist, you cycle to the charming town of Haastrecht, where the Vlist flows into the Hollandsche IJssel. You reach the cheese town of Gouda, a cosy, old Dutch town with an almost entirely intact, historic city centre. So you will find not only cheese and syrup waffles, but also beautiful stained-glass windows, a fairy-tale town hall and particularly atmospheric canals. Your final destination is equally historic Oudewater, famous for its Witches Weighing House (Heksenwaag). Here, women suspected of witchcraft - from all over Europe! - tried to prove their innocence by being weighed. Oudewater is also known as a stork village, so keep your eyes peeled for these beautiful birds along the way.

Day 5 **Oudewater - Utrecht**

50 km

It's time to get back on your bike for the final ride. En route to the fortified town of Woerden - known to some for its Saturday-morning cheese market (Apr-Aug) - you round the pedals through a typically Dutch landscape: low-lying meadows with grazing cows, vast ponds and ancient waterways. Once you arrive in Woerden, it's fun walking over the old fortress walls, and along the picturesque canals.

The route continues towards Haarzuilens, with a visit to the Netherlands' largest castle, Kasteel de Haar, a must-do along the way. Rebuilt in 1892, it is architecturally beautiful in neo-Gothic style. You'll feast your eyes there: fully equipped kitchens, modest service rooms and breathtaking showrooms. Also take time to stroll through the beautifully landscaped gardens. The last part of the route takes you right along the water, via Breukelen, to your final destination Utrecht, the city that owes its lively character mainly to its beautiful canals, with its wharfcellars with terraces right on the water.

Day 6 **Return Home**

Today you will end your cycling trip after breakfast.



Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:

Daily from April 1st to September 24th

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast		589.00
Single room, breakfast		849.00
Extra night double room, breakfast only		80.00
Upgrades pp/night		€
Boutique Hotel Karel de Stoute, Gorinchem		25.00
Hotel Mitland, Utrecht		40.00
Rental bike		€
Child bike		55.00
Hybrid		65.00
E-bike		135.00
Extra services		€
Bike Breakdown pass	€ 4.00 x 5	20.00
Child seat	€ 5.00 x 5	25.00
Bike theft insurance	€ 3.00 x 5	15.00
E-bike theft insurance	€ 6.00 x 5	30.00
Extra luggage	€ 5.00 x 5	25.00
Tag-along bike	€ 6.00 x 5	30.00
Child trailer	€ 17.50 x 5	87.50
Bike helmet	per piece	10.00
SGR	per piece	5.00

Starting point:

Utrecht



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.



Hotel Mitland ** (Utrecht)**

www.mitland.nl

Hotel 1851 (Wijk bij Duurstede)

www.hotel1851.nl

Hotel Gorinchem ***

(Gorinchem)

www.hotelgorinchem.nl

Hotel Broeck (Oudewater)

www.broeckoudewater.nl



Practical Info



5 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



Utrecht / Maarssen



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 Utrecht departs 4 times per hour. Travel time is about 30 minutes. A single ticket costs approx €10- 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.

