



Tandem Ramble through Holland's Hansa Towns

September 5-12, 2020 - 8 days, 7 nights

Itinerary: Amsterdam – Wijk bij Duurstede – Arnhem – Deventer – Kampen - Harderwijk – Elberg - Amsterdam

Included: lodging, bike & helmet rental, 7 breakfasts, 7 packed lunch, 6 dinners, linens/towels, tour guide, tour director
Designed with tandem cyclists in mind, this tour takes you on a scenic journey from Amsterdam, through the central region of the Netherlands whose landscape was shaped by the many rivers and streams that crisscross it. The region flourished during the Middle Ages when the IJssel River was one of the most important Hanseatic trade routes in Europe.

Cyclists of all levels will enjoy easy cycling along the winding trails of the majestic Rhine valley, its beautiful tributary the IJssel, the border lakes region, and charming villages like Arnhem, Deventer, Kampen, Harderwijk and Elburg. You'll travel between the "old" land with historic harbor towns, and the "new" land of Flevoland, which was once the bottom of the sea, before the land was reclaimed through the ingenuity of the Dutch people in the middle of the 20th century. This relatively undiscovered area is a favorite among Dutch cyclists and we are confident it will become a favorite of yours!



Day 1 (Sat): Amsterdam | Amsterdam – Wijk bij Duurstede (cruise)

The crew will welcome you on board between 1 and 2 p.m. in Amsterdam. At approximately 2 p.m. the barge will leave Amsterdam to sail over the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal to Wijk bij Duurstede on the Rhine where you will spend your first night. There will be a bike fitting session and a short ride to dial in your bike fit. After dinner, your guide will take you on a walk in town.

Day 2 (Sun): Wijk bij Duurstede – Wageningen (cruise) | Wageningen – Arnhem (bike 35 km/21 mi. or 44 km/28 mi.)

While you are enjoying breakfast, the barge will sail to Wageningen where you will begin to cycle through the picturesque river valley of the Rhine. Along the way you will cycle through the woods and moorlands of the Veluwe. Later, you'll pedal through the suburbs, past lovely parks such as Sonsbeek and Zijpendaal to Arnhem, where you spend the night close to the city center. You'll visit the renowned Airborne Museum Hartenstein to learn more about Arnhem's role during the Second World War, as the battle scene of Operation Market Garden, the largest airborne operation in history.





Day 3 (Mon): Arnhem – Doesburg – Zutphen (bike 42 km/26 mi.) | Zutphen – Deventer (cruise)

Today's cycling tour takes you along the Hanseatic Town Route to the small village of Doesburg and along the IJssel to Bronkhorst, officially the smallest town in Holland. Guests will enjoy a ride through Vorden passing country houses, castles and rural estates along the way. During dinner, the barge will sail to Deventer. In the evening, discover Deventer on a walking tour led by a local guide who will show you some of the Netherlands' oldest churches, homes and monuments.

Day 4 (Tue): Deventer – Hattem (bike 48 km/29 mi.) | Hattem – Kampen (cruise)

This morning you will enjoy a short bicycle ride along the IJssel riverbank before boarding a ferry at Wijhe to cross the river to Hattem. The 800-year-old town of Hattem has a rich history that is still clearly visible today. Guests have the opportunity to stretch their legs with a bicycle route through east Veluwe. During dinner the ship will sail to Kampen where you can join your guide for a walking tour in the largest Hanseatic town in the Netherlands.

Day 5 (Wed): Kampen – Elburg – Harderwijk (bike 48 km/29 mi.)

In the morning the barge will sail to the IJssel estuary and across the border lakes. Today's cycling tour starts at a lock, Roggebotsluis. From the lock you cycle along the border lakes to the fishing harbor of Elburg. From Elburg, it's on to the family-owned Cheese Farm van Zeeburg to learn about cheese making practices that start with milk from their own grass-fed cows. You may taste their delicious cheeses while shopping for souvenirs. The cycling route continues through the woods and moorland at Elspeet to lovely Harderwijk where we will visit a working windmill, Windmill de Hoop. We will overnight in Harderwijk's historic fishing harbor.



Day 6 (Thu): Harderwijk – Bunschoten – Spakenburg (55 km/34 mi.)

Today you will visit the Steam Pump Arnhem to learn the true meaning of the Dutch expression, "God created the earth, but the Dutch created the Netherlands." You'll see just how they reclaimed the land from the sea at this facility. We will then cycle into the woodlands before we arrive in Spakenburg, a village well-known for its traditional costumes.

Day 7 (Fri): Spakenburg – Huizen (cruise) | Huizen – Naarden – Muiden – Amsterdam (bike 35 km/21 mi.)



During breakfast enjoy the passing scenery from the comfort of the barge. From Huizen you'll begin cycling to the beautiful fortress towns of Naarden and then to Muiden, home to one of the best preserved medieval castle in the Netherlands. After a tour of the castle, you will cycle along quiet roads to your final destination, the world famous city of Amsterdam. In the afternoon, you will have free time to explore the city on your own, some suggestions include the Anne Frank House, Rembrandt's Night Watch at the Rijksmuseum, Rembrandt's House, or an optional canal tour.

Day 8 (Sat): Amsterdam Disembarkation after breakfast, before 9:30 am.

Accommodations for the tour...



Lena Maria began her “second life” as a passenger barge in 2006. This ship was built by Hans de Lange who had previous experience building and operating similar vessels. The Lena Maria is a very comfortable ship, ideal for bike and barge tours in the Netherlands. The Lena Maria has spacious twin cabins (113 sq. ft.) with two separate beds. Each cabin has a private shower, toilet and sink. Cabin windows can be opened for ventilation. Also, you will find a hair dryer in each cabin. On the upper deck of the Lena Maria you will find the cozy lounge with the bar and dining area. Wi-Fi is available. The barge also has a beautiful sundeck, where you can have a drink. On nice evenings, or while cruising, you can enjoy the surrounding scenery from here.



Bright spacious dining room and guest lounge with views



Guest Cabins with private bath and windows that open

Included in the cost of the tour

- 8 days / 7 nights lodging on the Lena Maria, a Comfort class hotel barge equipped with cabin windows that open
- bed linen and towels, hair dryer, daily cleaning of the cabin
- 7 x breakfast, self-packed lunches, 6 dinners on board, glass of wine or beer with dinner, complimentary coffee & tea on board
- Service of a Bicycle Guide and a Tour Director
- Use of **Royal Dutch Gazelle 5 speed tandem touring bike** equipped with anti-puncture front and rear tires, quick adjuster for saddles, pannier bicycle bags
- **Entry fees** for sites listed in itinerary: Airborne Museum Hartenstein, tour of Deventer with local guide, Cheesefarm van Zeeburg, Steampump Arnhem, Muiden Castle
- Helmet rental
- souvenir water bottle

On request

- Special diets, pricing varies, please enquire



FOR PRICING AND AVAILABILITY, Please contact us at StephanieVentures@gmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Arrival in Amsterdam: We recommend that our guests arrive in Amsterdam the day before the tour begins. We are happy to assist with room reservations near Amsterdam Centraal Train Station which is also adjacent to the Oosterdok, where the Lena Maria will await your arrival.

Internet: There is WIFI onboard the barge. The speed may not be what you are accustomed to at home but you should be able to check e-mails and surf the web.

Bicycles: The barge will carry a fleet of well-maintained tandem touring bikes, ideal for the terrain featured in this itinerary. **HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT TO BRING YOUR OWN BIKE**, you are welcome to do so. This is a rare tour opportunity to ride your own bike!

Bicycle Helmet: We require all guests to wear a proper helmet at all times while riding on the tour. Helmets are available on the barge for guests to borrow.

Bicycle Locks: All bicycles are fitted with locks. Please use them whenever you plan to leave your bicycle unattended for any length of time. You will be liable for damage or theft of the bicycle if it is stolen during an excursion because it was not locked properly. You will have the option to purchase insurance onboard for a nominal fee.

Itinerary Program: The above itinerary is subject to change. Alterations are sometimes necessary due to nautical or technical conditions. This tour will cover daily bike rides between 40 and 60 km. It is often possible to do only part of the day's tour. And, of course, you can always opt out of riding and stay on board for the day. Your guide will join you for the daily rides and point out interesting sights along the route. Guide can make repairs to your bike as necessary. While you are biking, the barge will cruise to the town where we will spend the night.

Physical Fitness: To participate in and enjoy the biking part of the tour, it is important that you are in good physical condition, are comfortable riding in a group, and maintain control of your bike and keep up with the group. On most parts of the route, there are dedicated bike paths but sometimes we will have to share the road with car traffic and we will have to cross busy intersections. The weather is variable in the Netherlands, it may not always be sunny, and the winds may not always be calm. Even under poor weather conditions, you should feel safe and able to cover the day's distance on your bike as it may not always be possible to join the ship in mid-ride.

About Stephanie Ventures, LLC...



Our expertise is active, affordable, small group travel and we pride ourselves on putting a unique spin on our itineraries to ensure you will not find another tour experience out there quite like ours. Founder Stephanie Scott started the company with 35 years of experience in specialty food and wine, during which she designed many fun, memorable events and travel adventures. Certified as a Tour Director by the *International Tour Management Institute*, Stephanie has also worked as a tour guide in San Francisco.

In her "day job", she worked with one of the most popular men's pro-cycling teams in the US for 15 seasons, but is content to ride her bike, at home and on tour, at a more leisurely pace. She believes that the best way to see the world and meet its people is by traveling around it on two wheels, and she logged plenty of kilometers on the bike paths of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria before launching her tour business in 2015. Since then, she's hosted amazing bike & barge tours in the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany and Luxembourg.

Join us in 2020 when we return to the Netherlands, where it all began, this time for this exciting new itinerary, designed with tandem cyclists in mind! Be sure to bring your spirit of adventure, hearty appetite, and a good sense of humor!

