

Amsterdam to Koblenz



Travel information 2020



Cycling along the Rhine

You can download the photos of the tour and the barge on our Flickrpage: https://www.flickr.com/photos/cycletours_holidays

During this cycling holiday in the Netherlands and Germany we will follow the river Rhine from Amsterdam to Koblenz.

In the Netherlands, you will cycle along the winding river Vecht with its impressive castles from the 17th century along the riverbanks. You can enjoy lovely Dutch river country during bike trips and bikers will ride through the "Hoge Veluwe" National Park with its abundant scenic beauty. In Germany we will spend the night in Remagen and visit Bonn, where we will visit the beautiful city center and in Cologne, where visiting its extraordinary cathedral is a must. Koblenz is an interesting and lively city, where the Rhine and the Mosel converge.

This bike and barge holiday is centered around the Rhine Cycle Route. Following this route you will see and feel the rich history of this majestic river from the Romans to the Industrial Revolution and from the WWII to the German reunification.

- Day 1: Saturday: Amsterdam, embarking between 1 PM and 2 PM. Sailing to Nigtevecht-cycling to Breukelen-sailing to Wijk bij Duurstede, 17 km
- Day 2: Sunday: Wijk bij Duurstede, sailing to Wageningen and cycling to Arnhem, 50 km.
- Day 3: Monday: Arnhem, sailing to Pannerden and cycling to Rees, 40 km.
- Day 4: Tuesday: Rees, sailing to Wesel and cycling to Ruhrort 40 km.
- Day 5: Wednesday: Ruhrort - Düsseldorf, 42 km
- Day 6: Thursday: Düsseldorf, sailing to Zons and cycling to Cologne Rheinau Sport, 30 km
- Day 7: Friday: Cologne - Remagen, 45 km
- Day 8: Saturday: Remagen - Koblenz, 45 km
- Day 9: Sunday: Departure after breakfast, before 10 AM

1 km = 0,62 miles

Day 1 Saturday: Amsterdam, embarkation between 1 PM and 2 PM. Sailing to Nigtevecht- cycling to Breukelen (17 km) – sailing to Wijk bij Duurstede

When you arrive on board the ship you can put your luggage away in your cabin and then enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. It is also a good moment to become acquainted with the guide, skipper and crew, and of course your fellow passengers.

You sail to Nigtevecht for your first cycle tour: cycling along the Vecht River towards Breukelen. Brooklyn in New York is named after this charming little town. This placid river is lined with hand-some 17th century villas, each with its own waterfront gazebo, some with thatched roofs, others resembling classical stone temples. These villas were built by the wealthy Amsterdam merchants of the day. At Breukelen you go on board and sail to Wijk bij Duurstede.

You spend the night in Wijk bij Duurstede on the river that, up to that point, is called the Rhine, but downstream the name changes to Lek. During the early Middle Ages, this town was a prestigious trading centre. The marauding expeditions of the Norsemen put an end to their flourishing period however. The old city centre is picturesque with its marketplace surrounded by trees, the town hall dating back to 1662 and the Main Church dating back to the 15th Century. The gothic tower has never been finished, though. On the other side of town you will find the hidden ruins of Duurstede Castle, consisting of the (restored) Burgundy Tower and the Donjon (= bell tower) dating back to the 12th Century. In the 15th Century Bishop David of Burgundy lived in the castle.

The programme for the next day and the rest of the week will be explained to you at dinner time.



Duurstede Castle



Day 2 Sunday: Wijk bij Duurstede, sailing to Wageningen and cycling to Arnhem, 50 km

Breakfast during sailing to the city of Wageningen. Today you bike along the river Nederrijn and you can enjoy great river landscape. Later you bike through National Park de Hoge Veluwe with its abundant scenic beauty. Your bike tour ends today in Arnhem, famous for her role in the Second World War.



Day 3 Monday: Arnhem, sailing to Pannerden and cycling to Rees, 40 km.

Biking starts from Pannerden. Before we hit the German border we pass Doornenburg, with a wonderfully maintained medieval stronghold. This fairy tale castle was the scene for many a movie. From Doornenburg you take the right bank of the Rhine and pass the border at Lobith, a village every schoolchild knows. At Tolkamer the Dutch used to impose tolls on incoming ships. On the way to our destination Rees you pass Emmerich, a bigger town with a lovely boulevard along the Rhine. You may also stop at Kalkar. This beautiful town is also known for the failure of the German Nuclear Energy program in the 70s. A completely finished nuclear processing plant has never been put into functioning due to massive protest and is recently re-opened as an attraction park! We all end in Rees, a town with impressive remains of fortification.



Day 4 Tuesday: Rees, sailing to Wesel; cycling to Ruhrort 40 km

We sail during breakfast and get off at Wesel.

Today we focus on the Ruhr area where Germany's and probably Europe's largest industries are housed. On a surface of 4.600 km², very rich in coal, a vast landscape folds out of steel plants and textile industries, combined with chemical industrial plants. Cities like Essen, Duisburg, Oberhausen and Dortmund are glued together through a maze of highways, railways and waterways. Once very prosperous and therefore a target in 1923 when Belgium and French troops tried to enforce WW-1 payments of Prussia. And a number 1 target in 1944-1945 for sure. Hard to imagine that you can cycle here, but you can! The German government put a lot of effort in re-developing the area after the closing down of many a factory. In the afternoon we visit the enormous landscape park of Duisburg-Nord, where we get to see huge former industrial plants and more detailed explanation and information about this area. It may not be always scenic, but it is an impressive landscape indeed and not to be missed when one visits the Rhine. We will find the ship in Ruhrort.

Day 5 Wednesday: Ruhrort - Düsseldorf, 42 km

Today we leave the Ruhr-area behind us and we head first for Krefeld. In the 18th century Krefeld grew thanks to the textile industry. Velvet, silk and brocade were sold to emperors and kings from all over the world. There is still the statue of a silk weaver. The weavers worked in small houses that simultaneously served as a factory and house. In Krefeld, one can still see some of these houses. Our destination is Düsseldorf.

In the evening there is time to visit the Altstadt. You can try their famous local dark beer, Altbier. You will be amazed at what an international city this is, with almost a fifth of the population being foreigners.



Day 6 Thursday: Düsseldorf, sailing to Zons and cycling to Cologne 30 km

Cycling direction Cologne you will stay close to the Rhine in order to be in Cologne not too late in the afternoon and having some time to look around. Cologne is the oldest of the bigger German cities, founded by the Romans. It got its city rights already 50 years after Christ as a gift from the Roman empress Agrippa. Later Cologne became one of the most important centers of the Holy Roman Empire. Landmark is of course the Cathedral right next to the railway station and the railway bridge over the Rhine. In 1248 they started with the construction of the cathedral and only finished it in 1880! The city was almost completely destroyed in the 1944-1945. The city hall however, dating from 1330, is beautifully restored.



Day 7 Friday: Cologne to Remagen 45 km

Today you cycle further along the Rhine to the former capital of West-Germany and birthplace of Beethoven Bonn. From Bonn you keep following the river and former border of the Roman Empire to mooring place Remagen.

Remagen was once a Celtic settlement and after that a Roman fort. Remagen became world famous in the 2nd World War, thanks to the struggle for the "Bridge of Remagen" and the 60's film of the same name. In March 1945 the Allies crossed the Rhine on the Ludendorff Bridge after the failure in Arnhem in September 1944. Today the Peace Museum is housed in the surviving piers. In the city centre you will find a pedestrian area with stylish shops, interesting cafes and traditional, cozy pubs. Narrow streets with ancient Roman names will take you from the old town to the Rhine promenade



Day 8 Saturday Remagen to Koblenz, 45 km

During the final stage of your bike & barge cycling holiday you will realize for the last time the rich history of this majestic river. We visit the Andernach, once a Roman settlement. It is still a wonderful town with many historical sites. Shortly after Andernach we arrive in Koblenz. Its name comes from the Latin Confluentes, meaning the merging of two rivers (Rhine and Moselle). The statue of Emperor Wilhelm of Prussia on the merging point is an impressive landmark. Koblenz is a city cozily rebuilt after the Second World War damages.



Day 9: Sunday: Koblenz

End of the tour after breakfast, before 10 AM



Zwaan – Category ComfortPlus

Capacity: 14/15 persons

Length/width: 34 x 6,2 m

Electricity: 220 V

Wifi on board: Yes, limited available in lounge and on deck

Windows can open? Yes

Air conditioning: Yes



Cabins

7 cabins with private hot shower/toilet and air-conditioning:

- 2x Luxury double cabin (separate seating)
- 1x Twin cabin (beds can be placed together; small desk between the beds)
- 2x Twin cabin (beds fixed to the floor; small desk between the beds)
- 1x Triple cabin (bunk bed+single bed, beds fixed to the floor; can be booked as twin)
- 1x Front double cabin, smaller cabin in the front of the barge (small double bed; can also be booked as single use); accessible with steep stairs; entrance on deck)

Hairdryers are available on board.

Weather permitting dinners can be served on the sundeck.

Our motorised passenger vessels, about 35 - 45 metres in length, are former river vessels especially converted for this kind of holiday. The barges all comply with the strict safety regulations laid down by the Dutch Shipping Inspection Authorities. On board you find a cosy dining room, a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. All cabins are provided with running water (hot and cold), private shower and toilet, 220 voltage and central heating. There is limited storage space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.

Do not expect a cruise ship with its passive luxury. The Bike & Barge Holidays are for people who really enjoy the physical activity of cycling and who value sociability more than wholesale luxury.

Bicycle

After arrival on board you will be allocated a cycle suitable to your height. This cycle (a so-called Hybrid), is at your disposal during your trip until Friday at 4 PM. Your bike has 24 speeds, hand brakes, bike helmet, pannier bags, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair-kit. Before you make your first tour, the guide will give you instructions about the bike. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the bike has a value of more than € 600,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object.

You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 20,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required. Should you use your own bike, please bring a good lock with you!



Electric bike

It is also possible to book an electric bike. Your bike has 24 gears, a detachable lithium-Ion battery, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair kit. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the E-bike has a value of more than € 2000,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object, and don't forget to remove the information panel from your steering wheel. You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 40,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required.

Arrival between 1 PM and 2 PM

You are expected to arrive on our barge on Saturday the latest at **2 PM**.

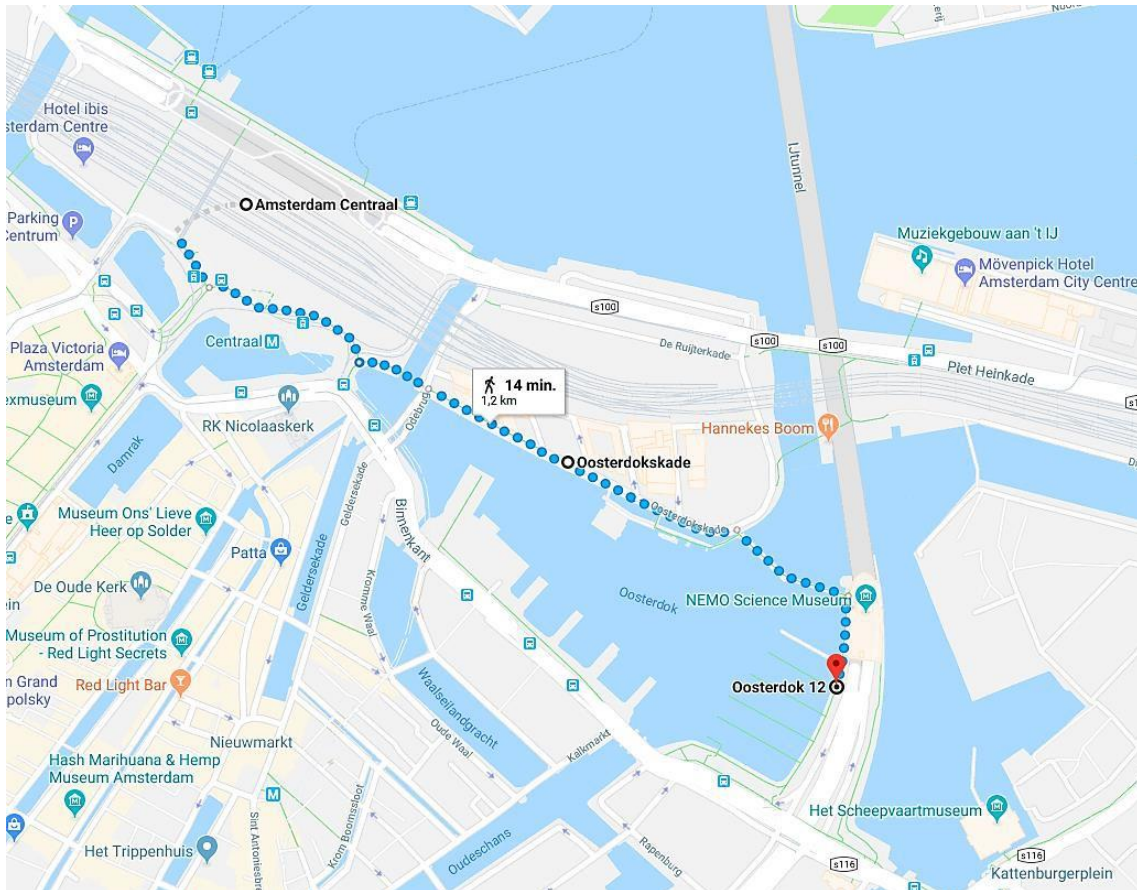
You can recognise the barge by the banner with Cycletours written on it. The name of your barge is printed on the voucher, which you will receive separately. After arrival there's coffee and tea on board. Other drinks are also available on cash payment.

You can bring your luggage in advance, from 12 Noon onwards.

The mooring place of the barge in Amsterdam is Oosterdok Zip-code 1011 VX (near the Nemo Science Museum, Oosterdok 2).

On foot

At Central Station take exit "centrum", and then turn left, walk straight on 1,2 km/0.75 miles. Cross the bridge (only for cyclists and pedestrians) and turn right. It takes about 10 to 15 minutes. Follow the (blue) dots on this map.



Train

There is a direct train that leaves 6 times per hour from Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam Central Station. It takes about 17 minutes. The price for a train ticket Schiphol-Amsterdam is around € 5,- per person for a single journey.

Taxi

A taxi from Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to the barge in Amsterdam takes about 30 minutes. It costs about € 50,-. A taxi from the Central Train Station in Amsterdam to the barge takes about 5 minutes: Costs about € 15,-.

Car

If you arrive by car, we recommend you to arrive earlier to unload your luggage. You can find more information about parking possibilities at www.iamsterdam.com Parking near the mooring place of the barge: Parking Oosterdok www.parkingcentreamsterdam.com (about € 150,- per week; 500m walking distance to the barge)

End of the tour

The tour ends one week later in Koblenz on Sunday morning after breakfast before 10 AM. You'll spend the night from Saturday to Sunday on board.

Travel dates 2020

2020	Barge Zwaan
August	15/8/2020
October	18/10/2020*
	*in reverse order

Prices per person in 2020

Barge Zwaan (ComfortPlus)

	All season
Luxury double cabin	€ 1470,-
Twin cabin	€ 1310,-
Triple cabin	€ 1260,-
Smaller double front cabin	€ 1144,-
Smaller front cabin for single use	€ 1675,-

(US Price aprox. 14% higher)

Reduction children:

0-2 *: free of charge

3-11 *: 30%

*If child is travelling together with at least 1 one full-paying person

Please note that the tour prices are based on the current fuel price.

Should the fuel price increase more than 5% (reference date Oct.2018), then we need to ask a supplement. Even for reservations that already have been made.

Included

- All nights on board (incl. bedding, towels, soap)
- Breakfast and dinner on board
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide, cycles with the group
- Min. 3 city walks with tour guide
- Free WiFi (limited available in lounge and on deck)
- Road book, 1x per cabin
- Ferry fares on the route
- GPS-tracks (on request)

Not included

- Bicycle rent (see below)
- Bicycle insurance hybrid bike (optional) € 20,- per bicycle
- Bicycle insurance E-bike (optional) € 40,- per bicycle
- Entrance fees to museums; approx. € 15,- per tour
- Personal insurance

Extra

- Bike rental incl. bike helmet: € 92,50
(Hybrid bike with 24 gears, pannier bags, lock, water bottle)
- E-bike rental: € 175,- (with 21 gears)
- Child's bike: € 60,- (incl. helmet; with 21 gears; for children from approx. 9 years and older)
- Bike seat: € 15,- (incl. helmet; suitable for children from approx. 11 months until 5 years; max. weight 25 kg)
- Trailer bike: € 55,- (incl. helmet ; bike attached to adult's bike; suitable for children from approx. 5 until 9 years; max. weight 35 kg)
- Bike trailer: € 90,- (suitable for babies who can not sit by themselves; a car seat/baby seat not included)

Special details

Please take good notice of our [Terms & Conditions](#) on our website.

If you have special meal requirements (vegetarian meals, or if you are on a diet), we ask you to mention this when booking.

In case of **gluten free/Celiac/vegan diet** there is an additional charge of **€ 50,-** per week.

Cycletours Holidays reserves the right to cancel tours with fewer than 12 participants up to 21 days prior to the date of departure.

Contact us for billing and more information

