

Cycling Europe

HOLLAND'S HIGHLIGHTS 2020 BIKE & BARGE, 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS MSFLORA SELF-GUIDED or MS LENA MARIA GUIDED



Bike and barge holidays are a wonderful way to explore a country - cycling picturesque villages and countryside by day with a comfortable barge to meet you at the end of it. On this tour you cycle individually at your own pace through the green heart of Holland. There will be a daily briefing of the bike tours, and detailed maps provided. You'll visit the historical cities of Amsterdam, Haarlem, Rotterdam, Leiden, Delft and Gouda and the cultural-historical attractions in the province of Zuid-Holland.

Famous painters including Rembrandt, Frans Hals and Vermeer lived and worked in these cities and on this tour, you'll see for yourself the many attractions of central Holland's lake district. Starting and ending in Amsterdam, you get to truly experience the highlights of this beautiful area while your floating accommodation travels along with you.



Day 1: EMBARKATION IN AMSTERDAM



Join your barge anytime from 2 pm. The dock is in the heart of Amsterdam so this afternoon have a wander and explore the city centre. At 5.30pm you'll meet the crew, receive your bike and enjoy your first dinner on board.

Day 2: AMSTERDAM→ZAANDAM BY BARGE, ZAANDAM→HAARLEM BY BIKE

This morning after a short cruise to Zaandam we visit the lovely open-air museum 'Zaanse Schans'. An old 18th and 19th century Dutch village has been totally reconstructed in the museum complete with windmills, a cheese-maker and a clog maker. You then cycle to Haarlem where you are able to stroll through the lovely city centre and stop for a drink and 'people-watching' on one of the terraces in the Grote Markt (market square). By the way, Haarlem is known as the best town for shopping in the Netherlands. You also have the option of extending today's bike tour with a visit to the sea locks of IJmuiden and the Kennemer Dunes. During this bike tour you can see/visit some forts of the Defence Line of Amsterdam.

Cycling: approx. 40 or 55km

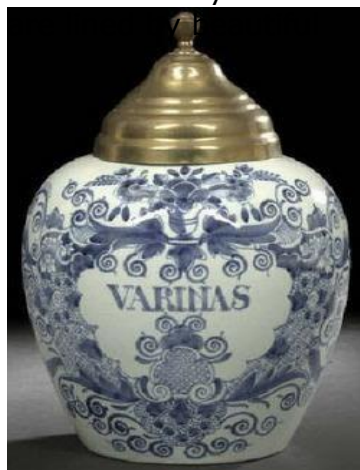


Day 3: HAARLEM→NORTH SEA COAST→LEIDEN

Today you cycle along the North Sea Coast on the path that was used by the fishermen's wives to go to the market in Haarlem. You cycle through the dunes, via the seaside resorts Noordwijk and Katwijk aan Zee to Leiden; birthplace of Rembrandt in 1606 and home to the Netherlands' oldest university. It's a beautiful city criss-crossed with canals that

are lined with beautiful 17th century buildings that invites exploration.

Cycling: approx. 42 or 50km



Day 4: LEIDEN→DELFT

Today's destination is Delft where the world-famous Delft Blue pottery has been produced since the 17th century. You will of course visit a Delft Blue porcelain studio but there's more to the beautiful city of Delft than pottery. The royal crypts of the House of Orange are located in the New Church in the beautifully preserved historic centre. The painter Johannes Vermeer lived and worked in Delft most of his life. From Delft you can cycle (or take the train or tram) to The Hague, Binnenhof, the Peace Palace (Vredespaleis) and the Scheveningen seaside resort.

Cycling: approx. 35 – 41 km

Day 5: DELFT→ROTTERDAM→KINDERDIJK BY BARGE

KINDERDIJK→GOUDA BY BIKE

This morning you travel by barge through the remarkable international port of Rotterdam to Kinderdijk, the only place in the world with so many windmills in an authentic polder landscape. The sight is simply delightful. From Kinderdijk, you have the choice of cycling direct to the 'cheese city' of Gouda, or taking a longer route via the 'silver city' of Schoonhoven.
Cycling: approx. 23 or 66km



Day 6: GOUDA→KUDELSTAART

After breakfast you cycle through the idyllic South Holland landscape with its numerous little canals to the small town of Kudelstaart. The barge will be moored on the banks of the Westeinder Plassen ("West End" Lakes) where you enjoy the splendid views.

Cycling: 45 or 55km



Day 7: KUDELSTAART→AMSTERDAM BY BARGE OR BIKE

Start the day early with an early morning cycle to the large flower auction at Aalsmeer (cost not included in tour). Then after breakfast, choose to cruise through the city of Amsterdam to our mooring place or cycle into the city through the city park Amsterdamse Bos or along the Amstel River. Take some time to linger awhile at the many attractions in the city centre.

Cycling: approx. 30 or 37km

Day 8: AMSTERDAM

Tour ends after breakfast at 9.30am.

GRADE

The bike routes require a basic level of fitness, which you should have acquired by occasional or daily cycling. The routes are mostly flat, easy cycling that can be completed without time constraints. You can also choose to skip a day's biking and cruise with the vessel.

A TYPICAL DAY

Between 9:00 and 10:00 am you will leave your ship, which will be cruising to the next meeting place. In the meantime, you will cycle along the most scenic routes. With your daily briefings, printed instructions and detailed maps you can plan your daily tours and cycle at your own pace. **(Cycling is self-guided)**. En route, various stops can be planned or spontaneous for sightseeing and coffee and lunch breaks.

At the end of your cycling tour, the staff will welcome you on board, and coffee and tea are available. In the evening, a delicious three-course dinner will be served on board. Drinks (wine, beer and soft drinks) are available for extra charge from the bar. Every evening you will have the opportunity to visit and explore a different town or city or to share your experiences with other guests from various countries in the cosy living room, the bar or on the sundeck of your ship.

BIKES

The bicycles on board are 7-speed unisex touring bikes with light-weight frames and normal mount (ladies model), with 7 gears, hand brake and hub brake plus pannier bag. A limited number of E-Bikes (electrical bikes) are available on request.

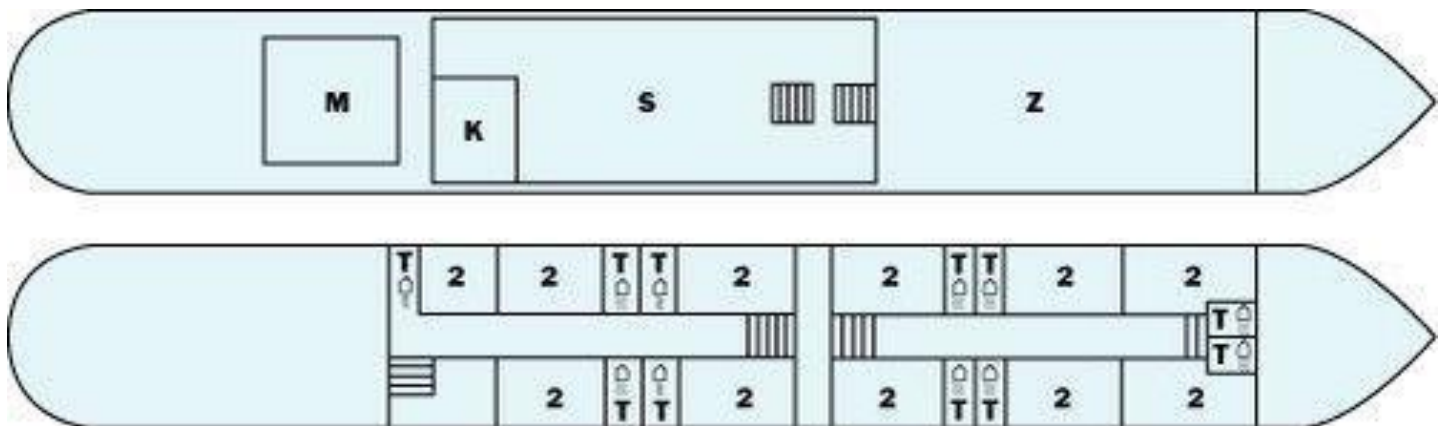
HELMETS

In the Netherlands, bikers are not obligated by law to wear a helmet however for your own safety we do recommend. There are a limited number of helmets on board which need to be reserved in advance - otherwise you will need to bring your own.

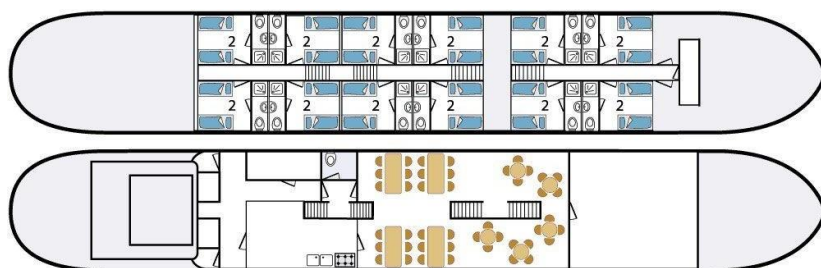
MS FLORA



MS FLORA (previously known as MS Jelmar), a small, cosy and comfortable passenger barge accommodating just 20 passengers. Renovated in 2007, the 10 twin cabins (approx. 8.2 m²) feature two single beds (80 x 200 cm), a small wardrobe, shelves above and storage space under the beds, a small bathroom with washbasin, shower and toilet and small windows with screens that can be opened. The salon is your restaurant and living room, with bar and Wi-Fi. On nice evenings or while cruising, you can relax and enjoy the scenery from the sundeck.



MS LENA MARIA



The Lena Maria started her new life as a passenger ship in 2006. The ship is very comfortable and perfect for bike and barge tours, offering room for up to 24 passengers. The restaurant is on the upper deck together with the sun deck. All 12 spacious cabins have 2 separate beds and ensuite. Windows can be opened and cabins are centrally heated.

2020 SCHEDULE

Flora: 16 & 30 May; 13, 20 & 27 June; 04 & 25 July; 01, 08 & 15 August

Lena Maria: 16 & 23 May; 06 & 13 June; 04 July; 12, 19 & 26 September

2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO: FLORA (self-guided cycling)

Twin Share Cabin	€ 999
Twin cabin for single use (on request)	€1469
Triple cabin (third bed child only)	€ 899

2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO: LENA MARIA (guided cycling)

	May-Sep	26 Sep
Twin Share Cabin	€1019	€ 919
Twin cabin for single use (on request)	€1499	€1349
Rental Bike 7 speed	€ 80	
Rental Bike - Electric	€180	
Helmet	€ 10	

Ticket for canal tour in Amsterdam (60min) €13

Limitation of liability (damage) rental bike - €10 per week

Limitation of liability (damage) Electric bike - €25 per week

2020 COST INCLUDES: FLORA & LENA MARIE

- 7 nights' accommodation in a cabin with ensuite
- MEALS: 7 breakfasts; 7 three course dinners; 6 picnic lunches for bike tours
- Welcome drink on first evening
- Bedding and towels (change of towels available on request)
- 1 x cabinservicing
- Daily briefings of the bike tours (bike rides are self-guided)
- Detailed maps and printed instructions for cycling (one set per cabin)
- Wi Fi
- Complimentary tea and coffee until 4pm
- GPS Tracks
- Waterproof pannier

LENA MARIA only

- Fully guided cycling tours included
- Fees for ferries

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Entrance Fees and excursions
- Drinks onboard
- Person Travel Insurance
- Gratuities (at your discretion)
- Special diet catering may have a surcharge of €50 to pay in cash on boat (e.g. gluten free, dairy free, vegan, etc). If you are a "lacto-ovo" vegetarian (eats dairy & eggs) there is no extra charge.



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