

# Cycling Europe

## HOLLAND MEETS GERMANY

### ROTTERDAM TO COLOGNE OR v.v 2020

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS BY BIKE & BOAT – Self Guided Cycling



Travel between Germany's 2000 year old cathedral town of Cologne spanning the Rhine River in western Germany to South Holland's port city of Rotterdam with its proliferation of art, maritime tradition and futuristic architecture. Start cycling in the Lower Rhine region which has one of the most beautiful cycle networks in Europe. Continue along

the Rhine Delta into the Netherlands, past quaint little Dutch towns to more vibrant major towns the closer you get to Rotterdam. When not cycling, soak up the magnificent landscapes from the sun deck and large panoramic windows of the lounge in your river boat.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Cologne's magnificent cathedral
- Dordrecht – Holland's oldest city situated on an island
- Medieval towns of the Rheinschiene adventure trail
- The windmills of the Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage site

## ITINERARY – ROTTERDAM TO COLOGNE

### Day 1: Saturday, Rotterdam

Embarkation in Rotterdam from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. Allow time to have a stroll through the city of Rotterdam, Europe's largest port. Be sure and visit the Maritime Museum whose vintage ships and exhibits trace the seafaring history. The city was almost reconstructed since WWII and has some interesting modern architecture. Of special note is the sculpture, "Man Without A Heart". Enjoy your first evening on board.

### Day 2: Sunday, Rotterdam – Dordrecht, Cycle Tour approx. 40 km

Cycle first along the Maas River until you reach Kinderdijk boasting the best-known windmills in the Netherlands. The 19 windmills, which date back to the 18th century, are beautifully preserved and are listed as UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue the cycle tour and after a short while, you reach today's destination- Dordrecht. The



oldest city in the Holland area lies on an island bordered by large rivers and is characterised by numerous historic buildings, city ports and a fantastic atmosphere.

### Day 3: Monday, Dordrecht – Gorinchem, Cycle Tour, approx. 37 km

For today's cycle trip, leave behind the lively cities and dive into the quietness of nature: pass through the national park of De Biesbosch, an adventurous labyrinth composed of rivers with crystal clear water and small islands. It is one of the few tidal freshwater zones in the world.



### Day 4: Tuesday, Gorinchem – Wijk bij Duurstede, Cycle Tour, approx. 50m k, *By Boat Wijk bij Duurstede-Rhenen*

Leave the fortified city of Gorinchem and enjoy a bike ride through unspoilt nature. Follow the River Linge, a tributary of the Rhine, and by reaching today's destination Wijk bij Duurstede you arrive at the edge of the „Utrechtse Heuvelrug“(eng.: Utrecht Hill Ridge), a tree-covered ridge of low sands created during the last glacial period. View the medieval castle dating back to the 13thC. Enjoy an evening sail to Rhenen for overnight.



### Day 5: Wednesday, Rhenen – Arnhem, Cycle Tour approx. 30 km, *By Boat Arnhem-Emmerich*

Cycle along the Lower Rhine past the foreshore of the dike and reach Arnhe via one of the Netherlands largest fruit-grwing regions. A detour to the city centre becomes a trip to bygone times with narrow lanes and picturesque buildings. Cruise over the Dutch Border into Germany during the night.

## Day 6: Thursday, Emmerich – Xanten, Cycle Tour approx. 31km. By Boat Xanten-Dusseldorf

Today's bike ride cycles past the nature reserve of the Reeser Schanz and the Roman city of Xanten. The Archaeological park is worth a visit to explore how the Romans lived and settled over 2000 years ago. Sail overnight to Dusseldorf.



## Day 7: Friday, Düsseldorf – Cologne, Cycle Tour approx. 55 km



In the morning you will already have reached Düsseldorf from where you start your last cycle tour along the well-developed adventure trail „Rheinschiene“, a particularly attractive section where historic Old Towns and idyllic nature are interspersed with industrial heritage. The towns located directly on the Rhine, often boasting well preserved medieval town walls and towers, are well worth a detour. Eventually reach the Cathedral city of Cologne where the vivid riverbank of the Rhine invites for a stay. Enjoy a cosy evening on board or have a Kölsch, the typical beer from Cologne, in one of the numerous pubs.

## Day 8: Saturday, Cologne

Disembarkation after breakfast until 09:00 am.

## ITINERARY – COLOGNE TO ROTTERDAM

### Day1: Saturday, Cologne



Embarkation from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Enjoy a cosy evening on board the ship or taste a Kölsch, a typical beer from Cologne, in one of the numerous Old Town pubs with views over the Rhine. Besides its many historical treasures, the Cathedral City offers a considerable number of parks and gardens.

### Day 2: Sunday, Cologne - Düsseldorf, Cycle Tour, approx. 55 km;

Cycle along the Rhine Cycle Route on well-paved cycle ways, past quaint villages and with view over the other bank of the Rhine. This route offers variety between industry and idyll. Short detours to the villages located directly on the Rhine are well worth the effort and the remains of medieval walls and towers will leave you impressed. At the end of this tour leg, you reach Düsseldorf. The multifaceted city is one of the leading cultural metropolis' in Germany.

**Day 3: Monday, By Boat Dusseldorf-Xanten, Xanten-Emmerich Cycle Tour approx. 30 km; By Boat Emmerich-Arnhem**

Overnight sail to the Roman City of Xanten.

Almost 2000 years ago the Romans settled here and you can visit the Archaeological Park to see how they lived. Cycle through nature reserves to the village of Kalkar until you reach the oldest German suspension bridge in Emmerich and meet your boat. Sail over the border to Arnhem.



**Day 4: Tuesday, Arnhem - Rhenen, Cycle Tour approx. 40 km; Boat Tour Rhenen - Wijk bij Duurstede**

Today start the cycle tour in Arnhem – a detour to the city centre will take you back to bygone days with narrow alleys and picturesque buildings. Continue cycling through parks and woods, past dike foreland and reach Rhenen. In the evening, the ship will take you from Rhenen to Wijk bij Duurstede.

**Day 5: Wednesday, Wijk bij Duurstede - Gorinchem; Cycle Tour approx. 50 km**

The day starts with a short stretch along the wood of „Utrechtse Heuvelrug“ (eng.: Utrecht Hill Ridge), a tree-covered ridge of low sands created during the last glacial period. Enjoy a bike ride through unspoilt nature. Continue following the Linge River, a tributary of the Rhine to reach the fortified city of Gorinchem.



**Day 6: Thursday, Gorinchem - Dordrecht, Cycle Tour approx. 37 km**

On your way from Gorinchem to Dordrecht, you pass by the national park of De Biesbosch, a green maze of rivers with crystal clear water and small forested islands. It is one of the few tidal freshwater zones in the world. At the end of the day, from the quietness of nature dive into the vivid city life of Dordrecht. The oldest city in the Holland area lies on an island bordered by large rivers and is characterised by numerous historic buildings, city ports and a fantastic atmosphere.

**Day 7: Friday, Dordrecht - Rotterdam, Cycle Tour approx. 40 km**



On your last stretch, explore the best-known windmills in the Netherlands at Kinderdijk. The 19 windmills, which date back to the 18th century, are beautifully preserved and are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site. The windmills are well worth a visit! Follow the route along the Maas River up to Rotterdam, one of the largest ports in the world.

**Day 8: Saturday, Rotterdam**

After breakfast, disembarkation 9:00am. Individual journey home (subject to change)

**GRADE: EASY** Roads and cycle paths are paved or asphalted, and lead alongside the Rhine dikes without any gradients of note.

## YOUR RIVER BOAT: MS OLYMPIA

The MS Olympia was refurbished in 2015/16. The panoramic salon and bar was decorated



gentleman club-style and the restaurant created bright and welcoming. A spacious sun deck is partly shaded and features comfortable deck chairs, which invite you to relax and enjoy the passing scenery. There is ample storage space for bicycles. Both the Upper and the Main deck have en-suite facilities with shower and hair dryer, TV, safe and individually controlled air conditioning/heating, fridge and large panoramic

windows.

**Upper deck:** 22 two-bed-cabins (approx. 11 sqm). There are 4 larger cabins at the stern of the ship (approx. 12 sqm) with twin beds. These cabins may be subject to engine noise. There are 2 single cabins (approx. 9 sqm). Cabins on this deck have opening windows.

**Main deck:** 21 two-bed cabins (approx. 11 sqm).

**Technical details:** Length: 88,50m • Width 10,50m • Depth 1,30m • Max. 96 passengers. • Languages on board: German, English • Currency on board: Euro • Credit cards: MasterCard and Visa.



Upper deck cabin



## 2020 SCHEDULE

Rotterdam to Cologne: 23 May, 15 August

Cologne to Rotterdam: 27 June, 19 September

**Minimum 75 passengers to operate**

## 2020 COST PER PERON IN EURO

Two bed cabin main deck	€1009
Two bed cabin Upper Deck	€1159
Two bed cabin Upper Deck (stern)	€1099
Two bed cabin Main deck for single use	€1299
One Bed cabin Upper Deck	€1359

## BIKE RENTAL

**€75** for a 7-gear unisex touring bike with hand brake and/or pedal brake or free wheel (advance reservation required) and a pannier.

**Electric Bike rental: €165** must be reserved at time of booking, limited number.

Rental Bike helmets are not available on this tour – it is not compulsory to wear one in Germany

### **2020 COST INCLUDES**

- Accommodation 7 nights in outside cabin with ensuite and air conditioning
- Meals: Full board with 7 x breakfasts, 6 x picnic lunches during bike tours, 7 x three course dinners
- Bed linen and towels (daily change of towels); daily short cleaning of the cabin
- Welcome drink and briefing on the first evening
- English speaking tour leader onboard will hold with daily briefings for the bike tours.
- During the day the tour leader does not accompany the bike tour, but can always be reached on his cell phone
- Printed instructions and detailed maps for the daily bike tours; 1 set per cabin on arrival
- Port fees

### **2020 COST DOES NOT INCLUDE**

- Transfers to/from the docking place in Rotterdam and/or Cologne
- Excursions can only be booked and paid for on board
- Rental bicycle €70, on request E-Bike €165
- Fees for other transfers, parking fee, entrance fees & fees for ferries
- Drinks on board, personal insurances, gratuities (at your discretion).
- Special diets on request – a surcharge of €25 for lactose or gluten free diets. Must be booked at least 3 weeks prior to departure and payable directly on board.
- Tips and gratuities

### **BOOK THROUGH**

**A Walker's World**  
**Don't just see the world. Experience it.**  
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