

Cycling Europe

HOLLAND: BIKE & BARGE 2020 NORTHERN TOUR

“MS DE HOLLAND”

Semi-Guided Cycle Tour, 8 days/7 nights (220-330kms)



Explore the rich tradition in the flat “polder-land”, along the North Sea coast and in romantic fishing villages. You will cycle across a distinct rural, former lake and marsh land. Since the 17th century, this Area has been reclaimed from the sea, in ancient times by pumping it dry with windmills.

Green flat polder landscapes with quiet cycle tracks, the stretch of the North Sea beach and the beautiful sand dunes will alternate with each other.

One of the highlights on this tour is the bike friendly island of Texel with its beautiful flat landscapes, small dreamlike farm villages and picturesque harbour villages along the IJsselmeer. Other highlights are the open air museum ‘Zaanse Schans’, the city centre of Alkmaar and the old harbour towns of Medemblik, Enkhuizen, Hoorn and Volendam, not to mention Amsterdam with its canals.

Flowers, cheese, wooden shoes, windmills and waterways are synonymous with this area. Travelling and staying on a ship means that your hotel room and restaurant follows you during your tour. The friendly and multilingual crew and kitchen staff onboard serve delicious meals. In the morning, an extensive Dutch breakfast will be served and you may make your own packed lunch (sandwiches, fruit, a snack and a drink).

Ourself-guided tours are very suitable for those who do not like to bike in a group. Everyone can choose his or her own speed and – obviously – daily tours can be individually arranged or organized according to your personal interests and daily constitution. On board, you will have many opportunities to meet with other enthusiastic cyclists from various countries. The tour leader does



cycle during the day, and is contactable by mobile, however, as everyone cycles at different speeds, the guide may have to round up the stragglers, so cannot stay with the same people all the time. There will be a daily briefing, and detailed maps provided.



YOUR SHIP ON NORTHERN ROUTE

De Holland is a cosy, small river cruiseship with a length of 78 metres and 34 staterooms (approximately 10m²). The lower deck has 24 twin cabins - all cabins have a private shower and toilet, all with lower single beds and air conditioning, digital TV, a mini-safe, hairdryer and a small

window (80 x 40cm) which cannot be opened. 5 twin cabins and 16 superior cabins have separate beds set next to each other as a hotel style bed.

The difference between the twin and superior cabins on the lower deck is their location in relation to the engine room, stairs and salon.

The upper deck offers 9 identical superior twin cabins and 1 suite (approx. 13m² and with mini-bar and a sofa bed as optional 3rd bed). All upper premium deck cabins and the suite have a French Balcony (sliding glass) door instead of a regular window.

De Holland has a large salon/ restaurant/ bar/ lounge with panoramic windows on the upper deck. Wi-fi is available in the salon (additional data can be purchased online).

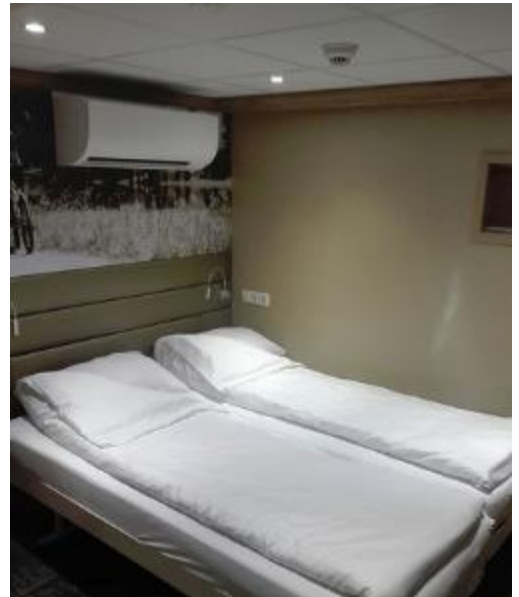
There is a large and partially covered sun deck with chairs and sun loungers, together with separate bike storage.

The ship was built in 1952, with a full refit 2017/2018. **Passenger capacity 68 – 72.**

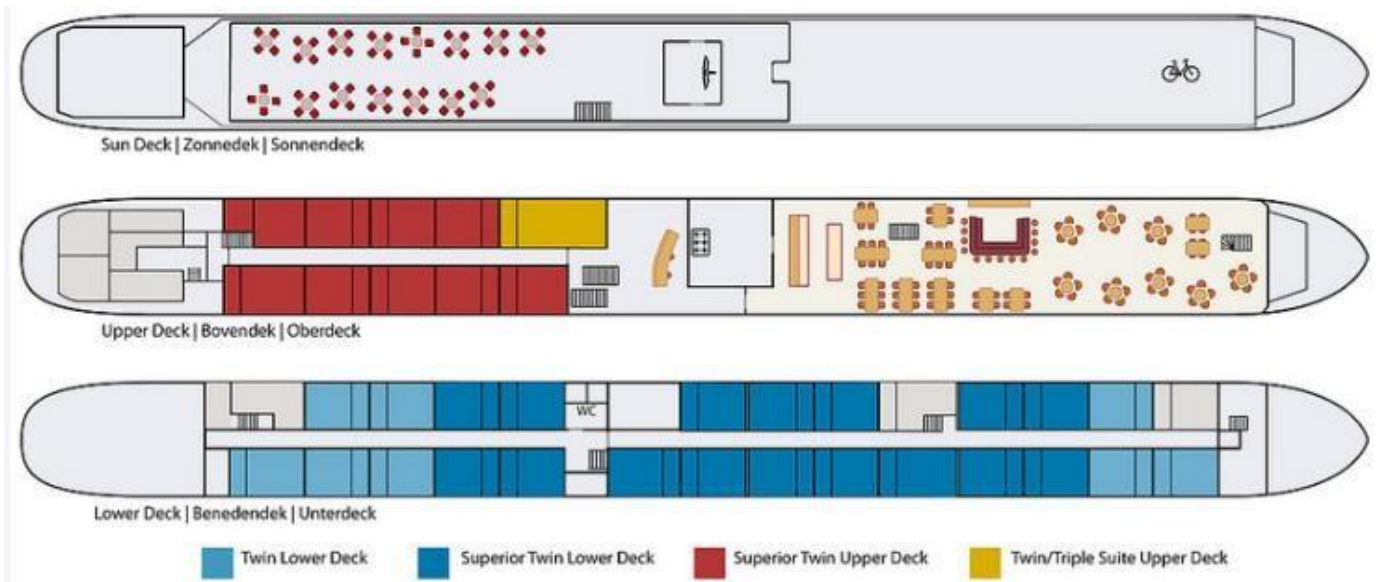




Upper Deck



Lower Deck



ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday - Boarding in Amsterdam from 2.00pm.

There will be a welcome meeting, dinner and cocktails and a first briefing on board. Overnight in Amsterdam.

If you arrive early, it is possible to leave bags on the boat from 9.30am, and explore the wonders of "The Dam". You can make time for shopping, visit a museum or take a canal tour – a nice introduction to Amsterdam. Discounted tickets for a one hour canal tour can be prepaid when booking.

Day 2: Sunday – Amsterdam – Zaandam (by boat) Zaandam - 'Zaanse Schans' – Alkmaar (cycling approx. 44 km)

Leave Amsterdam and cycle through the green area of Waterland to the open air museum "Zaanse Schans" with its traditional wooden houses, windmills, cheese and clog manufacturing. After exploring the museum continue a few more kilometres and then stroll through the former whalers' village De Rijp and past windmills at Schermerhorn. Rejoin the ship near the historic city centre of Alkmaar.

Due to works on the locks of Zaandam in 2020, on some departure dates Day 2 & Day 3 of the tour will be subject to change and you will overnight in Enkhuizen, and some transfers by bus will be included.

Day 3: Monday – Dune tour: Alkmaar - Alkmaar (cycling tour approx. 33-40km) Evening: Travel by boat Alkmaar - Den Helder

Today, you'll explore the beautiful North Holland Dune reserve – a 5,300 hectare forest and dunes area, where the drinking water for most of the province of North Holland is sourced. After visiting the beach and the artists' village of Bergen, you will return to Alkmaar where you can explore the wonderful city centre before the ship navigates the North Holland Canal to the naval port of Den Helder.

Day 4: Tuesday – Den Helder – Oudeschild (by boat), Texel Island (cycling tour approx. 15-65 km) Evening: Travel by boat Texel – Den Oever

During breakfast cross the Marsdiep with your ship to the harbour of Oudeschild on the island of Texel**. (**In unfavourable weather the barge will not cross to Texel, you can go by ferry instead, price €5 per person). Enjoy a circuit bike trip on the largest of Dutch islands, Texel, through beautiful natural areas and to the most beautiful beaches. We recommend: the beautiful "Thijssse-route" (with signposting) on the southern part of the island (approx. 40km/25m). You can end the day with an optional visit to a small beer brewery in Oudeschild. In the evening the ship will return to Den Oever on the mainland. A night of live music on board.

Day 5: Wednesday - Den Oever to Stavoren (by boat) - South West Friesland round trip (cycling tour approx. 43-55km)

Cross the large inland lake IJsselmeer by boat to Stavoren. Options of short or longer cycling tours (or combine both) - discover the natural region of Gaasterland or explore part of the lake district that Friesland is known for.



Day 6: Thursday – Stavoren – Medemblik - Hoorn - Enkhuizen (cycling tour approx. 30-50 km)

Sail to Medemblik and cycle along the IJsselmeer (former Zuidersee lake) coast to Enkhuizen. Enkhuizen – the "herring city" is an old city steeped in maritime tradition with a very interesting Zuidersee Museum. You can extend the cycling by riding from Medemblik to the former Dutch East India Company town of Hoorn which gave its name to Cape Horn. Stroll through the old city and continue by bike through picturesque villages to Enkhuizen. In the evening enjoy a short city tour including a visit to a

traditional cheese shop, with cheese tasting.

Day 7: Friday – Enkhuizen to Volendam by boat / Volendam – Waterland - Amsterdam (cycling approx. 35-50 km)

Sail to Volendam during breakfast then cycle through the beautiful Waterland area with its hundreds of small lakes and canals. If you wish, you can take a detour to the former island of Marken where the locals still dress in traditional costume, through the "Garden of Amsterdam". Afternoon and evening free time in Amsterdam.

Day 8: Saturday: Tour ends in Amsterdam

After breakfast, disembarkation in Amsterdam 9.30am.

A TYPICAL DAY "ON TOUR": Between 9 and 10 am you will leave your barge, which will sail to the next meeting place. In the meantime, you will cycle along the most scenic routes. You can cycle self-guided, with your own map provided, you can plan your own daily tour yourselves. The tour leader does cycle during the day, and is contactable by mobile, however, as everyone cycles at

different speeds, the guide may have to round up the stragglers, so does not stay with the same people all the time. En route, various stops can be individually planned for sightseeing and coffee and lunchbreaks.

At the end of your daily cycle tour, the staff will welcome you on board and coffee and tea are available in the afternoon until 4pm. In the evening, a delicious three-course dinner will be served on board. Drinks (such as wine, beer and soft drinks) are available for purchase in 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 cozy living room, the bar, or on the sun deck of your ship. Daily cycling distances may vary between 30-60 kilometers (18-35 miles). Most routes are rated as "easy", as most parts of the country are flat.

BICYCLES: The bicycles onboard are 7-speed unisex hybrid bikes, with light-weight frames and normal mount (ladies model), with 7 gears, hand and hub brakes and a pannier bag. For the taller gentlemen (1.90m and above) there are a few traditional men's models with horizontal bar available however they must be pre-booked. Electric bikes, tandems and child bikes are also available, prices upon request. The E bike is a Trenergy E-Relax Pro with Nexus 7 gears, 3 support levels and hand brakes only.



2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO: Depart Saturdays

DECK	Twin Lower	Twin Upper	Suite Upper
March 28	€659	€859	€1009
April 04 & 11; October 10	€759	€959	€1109
April 18; October 03	€809	€1009	€1159
April 25; September 26	€859	€1059	€1209
May 02 & 09; September 19	€909	€1109	€1259
May 16, 23 & 30; September 12	€949	€1149	€1299
All other dates June 06 – Sept. 05	€989	€1189	€1339

Add €350 single use cabin on Lower and Upper Decks only
Triple Cabin costs on request

Bike Hire: €80 per week (7 speed with hand brakes plus pannier bag)

Electric Bike Hire €180 per week (3 support levels, 7 gears, range 60-65km limited number - on request)

Helmets: Rental helmets are available at **€10** - must be pre-booked. It is not compulsory to wear a helmet in the Netherlands, however we do recommend it.

Limitation of liability (damage) standard bike **€10 per week**

Limitation of liability (damage) electric bike **€25 per week**

Amsterdam Canal Tour (1hr tour) Purchase on board at €13 discounted ticket if pre- paid (normally €18). Tours have frequent departures, every hour from a location on the waterfront not far from the Amsterdam Central station. On the last night of the tour you will have free time in Amsterdam.

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST:

- 7 nights' accommodation in air conditioned cabins with shower, toilet, wash basin and central heating
- All meals: 7 Breakfast, 6 picnic lunches, 7 three course dinners onboard
- Welcome drink on first evening & live music onboard
- Use of Bed linen & Towels (daily change of towels available on request)
- Cabins cleaned daily
- Tourleader (multilingual) onboard, with daily briefings of the bike tours, some short city tours (Alkmaar, Enkhuizen), during the day—the tourleader is cycling the daily bike tour and can be reached on his/her cell phone;
- Detailed maps and printed instructions for bike tours, (1 set per cabin)
- Wifi in the lounge of the ship
- Complimentary tea and coffee until 4pm
- Some short walking tours
- GPS tracks

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST:

- Special diet catering has a surcharge of €50 to pay in cash on boat (eg gluten free, dairy free, vegan, etc). If you are a "lacto-ovo" vegetarian (eats dairy & eggs) there is no extra charge.
- Transfers to and from the dock in Amsterdam
- Canal Tour
- Entrance Fees, excursions and ferry tickets. Discounted tickets are available for entrance fees and excursions (Zaanse Schans, visitors centre windmill Schemerhorn, brewery Oudeschild Texel, steam engine museum, open-air museum Enkhuizen), as per the itinerary
- Drinks onboard
- Personal Travel Insurance
- Gratuities (at your discretion)

Book through:

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Ph 09 486 7473 Fax 09 484 0091

Email: info@walkworld.co.nz