NETHERLANDS - ISLANDS OF THE RHINE-MEUSE DELTA - £1,095

5th September 2020 - 13th September 2020 (9 days)
A classic moving-on circular tour combining stunning coastal aspects with windswept seascapes where fishing towns date back to the 12th century. Cycling through forests, farmland and small villages on mainly traffic-free cycle paths and quiet backroads, mostly following "LF" designated cycle routes which are designed to combine the best scenery and city sights. Following the west coast south we use ferries, causeways and bridges to link up several islands to the pretty border town of Sluis, before returning inland to enjoy the historic towns and cities of this region. Staying in hotels and Eco Hostels with breakfast and dinner included. Return ferry from Harwich to Hook of Holland.

HOLIDAY TYPE: Guided
TOUR MANAGER: David Dunkling
GRADE: Moderate
BOOKING STATUS: Places Available
ACCOMMODATION: Hotel & Hostel
BOARD BASIS: Half Board
TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Ferry
ROAD / OFF ROAD: Road
HOLIDAY STYLE: Moving-on
VEHICLE SUPPORT: Carry Own Luggage
HOLIDAY REF NO: 03505

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday 5th September
Meet at Harwich International Ferry Terminal at 2100 for the 2300 Stena Line overnight ferry to the Hook of Holland. Meals: None

Sunday 6th September
We disembark at approx 0800 and take the ferry across the Rhine to Maasvlakte, a man made Island, where we join LF1. We leave the island using the bridge to the island of Voorne-Putten where we'll visit the port of Hellevoetsluis for coffee. We then cycle across the Haringvliet Dam to the island of Goeree-Overflakkee for a short visit, then across the causeway to the small island of Brouwersdam for lunch. After lunch we continue on the causeway to the island of Schouwen-Duiveland, visiting several coastal resorts along the way to our hotel at Renesse, a pretty coastal resort where we'll have time to explore the town and beaches. 57km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Monday 7th September
Today we cycle to Burgh-Haamstede for coffee and then across the Oosterscheldekering storm surge barrier to the island of Noord-Beveland. Then on through forests and coastal scenery to the island of Walcheren, with a break for lunch at Oostkapelle. We then continue to Domburg, an ancient village with wide sandy beaches, interesting architecture and a 13th century castle and then on to our hotel in the holiday resort of Westkapelle. 52km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Tuesday 8th September
Leaving Westkapelle we cycle along the coastal route through forests and sand dunes to the pretty historic port of Vlissingen for the ferry to the fishing
port of Breskens on the mainland for lunch. There will be time to explore the town and lighthouse and try the fish products being cooked fresh at the port. From Breskens we take LF1 to Sluis and our hotel. Sluis is one of the prettiest historic towns in the southern Netherlands and the most southerly point of the tour. 40km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Wednesday 9th September
We leave Sluis and take the ferry back to the island of Walcheren and then LF13 to the historic city of Middelburg for coffee and time to explore. We then continue east to the town of Arnemuiden and our hotel, which is by the marina and overlooking the Veerse Meer. 44km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Thursday 10th September
Continuing east again on LF13 to the city of Bergen Op Zoom stopping along the route at cycle cafes, marinas and ports. We stay in an Eco hostel in the forest which has nature viewing platforms and combines modern living with sustainability. 79km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Friday 11th September
First, a short visit to the small island of Tholen for coffee. Its main town of the same name is steeped in history, surrounded by a moat and is worthy of a visit. We then follow LF13 and LF2 through pretty forested countrysides to Dordrecht and the Biesbosch National Park, where we stay in a Swedish style Eco Hostel. 73km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Saturday 12th September
Leaving Dordrecht we cycle through Papendrecht, crossing the Noord and Beneden Merwede rivers. Then on to Kinderdijk for lunch, where the windmills are one of the most iconic landmarks in the Netherlands. We then take the Waterbus for part of the journey into Rotterdam and then cycle to the Hook of Holland, arriving by 2000 for the 2200 overnight ferry to Harwich. 72km. Meals: B

Sunday 13th September
Arrive at Harwich at 0630 where the tour ends. Meals: None

Meals: B = Breakfast  D = Dinner

Holiday Summary

Accommodation & Meals
Four nights will be spent in 4-star hotels and two nights in modern Eco Hostels, sharing twin en-suite rooms. No single occupancy is available. Breakfast and dinner are included. Vegetarian and other dietary requirements should be detailed on the Booking Form. Meals are not included on the ferry but are available to purchase.

Vehicle Support
No vehicle support is provided. Participants are expected to carry their own luggage.

Passports, Visa & Health
EU citizens must hold a passport that is still valid on the date of their return to their home country. Holders of non-EU passports are advised to check whether they require a visa. There are no compulsory health related requirements for UK residents, but you are strongly advised to check that your tetanus protection has not expired. You must also carry your European Health Insurance Card.

Travel Insurance
Our Booking Conditions stipulate that, for holidays outside the UK, travel Insurance is mandatory. Details of the level of cover needed and other conditions you should check are stated in the Booking Conditions, CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours Ltd cannot accept responsibility for any costs that may be incurred due to insufficient insurance cover.

Price
The price of £1,095 is based on a minimum number of 10 people taking part in the holiday; please note Booking Conditions, clause 3. If there are insufficient bookings by 27th June 2020, we will contact you and return all monies paid, although in certain circumstances the holiday may still run at below minimum numbers but at the same price.

Price Includes
- Return ferry from Harwich to Hook of Holland sharing a 2-berth cabin
- 4 nights hotel, 2 nights hostel, sharing twin room
- 6 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Ferries used on the rides
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

Price Does Not Include
- Travel to and from Harwich
- Meals on the ferry
- Drinks with dinner
- Lunches or refreshments during the day
- Entry fees at any attractions visited
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance

Payment Schedule
A deposit of £110 per person is payable upon booking, with the final balance of £985 per person to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 27th June
Cancellations

Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

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<th>Written notice received:</th>
<th>Cancellation charge:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Before 27th June 2020</td>
<td>Deposit (£110)</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 27th June 2020 through to departure</td>
<td>100% (£1,095)</td>
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Additional Information

Area Covered By The Holiday

The Rhine-Meuse Delta is famous for its diverse wildlife and beautiful coastlines. We travel south down the west coast, visiting several islands before heading into the "Green Heart of Holland" where we visit Kinderdijk, famous for its 18th century windmills. Its water management network features 19 windmills and 3 pumping stations, plus dikes and reservoirs that control flooding in the polder (low-lying land). Waterways, footpaths and bike paths crisscross the area, leading to the main visitor centre and museums in preserved working windmills.

Rides & Rest Days

Rides will be led and most of each day will be spent cycling at around 16/18kmph (10/11mph) on the flat, slower into a headwind. You must be capable of cycling at this speed and used to cycling for full days whilst carrying your own luggage. The wind can be a problem and the route may need to be changed to take in more sheltered areas. It may not always be possible to follow the itinerary exactly as things do not always go according to plan. The last day to the ferry involves a long cycling day but we have plenty of time to do the distance as we don't need to arrive at the ferry terminal until 2000. There will be stops for coffee and lunch, time to take photos and for sightseeing during the day and in the evening.

Accommodation & Meals

Locked cycle storage is available at the accommodation.

Travel

Harwich is well served by train and you should take the train to Harwich International. Car parking is available at the ferry terminal but you will need to arrange this yourself.

Group Information

The maximum number of participants will be 14 excluding the Tour Manager.

Weather & Clothing

Weather in the Netherlands can be very variable so there is a possibility of both heatwaves and cold, wet weather. Lightweight clothing that is windproof, waterproof and suitable for a range of temperatures is recommended. Hopefully sun cream will also be useful. In the evening the hotels seem to be very relaxed about what people wear, but smarter clothing is suggested, and maybe warmer clothing.

Cycles & Equipment

A touring cycle, hybrid or lightweight ATB is suitable for this tour. You should ensure your cycle is well maintained, paying particular attention to wheels, tyres and brakes. A low bottom gear (e.g. small chainring the same size or smaller than the largest cog on your rear wheel) is recommended. If you are unsure about gears, please discuss with the Tour Manager. Mudguards are optional but show courtesy to those who are following you in wet weather. New tyres are recommended of at least 28mm diameter. Participants will be expected to carry each day sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs. Each participant is expected to bring, and carry, all of their own clothing, personal items and spares. You are advised to do some riding before the tour with a similar load to that which you will be carrying during the tour to get a feel for how your bike will handle. Lights are a legal requirement at night and in poor visibility. Wearing a helmet is your personal choice.

Maps & Guides

Although the rides will be led, navigating in the Netherlands is very easy once you understand the Fietspad junction numbering system. Route sheets with instructions will be provided for each day’s ride.

Travel Insurance & Advice

In addition to travel insurance, EU nationals should carry a European Health Insurance Card, obtainable from www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/. This enables you to take advantage of emergency medical services free or at a discount under a reciprocal provision that exists between EU member states. Your travel insurer may refuse to meet the extra costs of medical treatment if you do not carry this card. Before booking you should check the latest travel advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office including security and local laws, plus passport and visa information, at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice or on 0845 850 2829.

Tour Manager’s Contact Details

If you require any assistance, or have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact the Tour Manager using the information provided below.
David Dunkling

Email:
aquamidas@yahoo.com

Mobile:
07974 890949