



BIKE & BARGE *in the Netherlands*

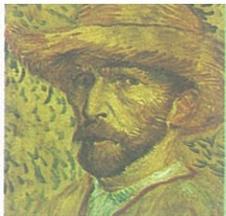
May 29 – June 8, 2019

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*Where the
Magic Blooms*





Bike & Barge in the Netherlands with Members & Friends of the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club May 29 – June 8, 2019



When thinking about the Netherlands you may think: flat country, lowlands and dykes, which is partially true, as-26% of the Netherlands is below sea level; bordering on the North Sea billowing out strong winds and at times it rains, assuring the greenness the country. In the south the Vaalserberg is the highest point at 322 meters above sea level. The average daytime Celsius temperatures in May/June are high teens, comfortable for biking and boating.

When thinking about the Netherlands you may also think: bicycles, wooden shoes, cheese and tulips, which is true; every one of the 17 million habitants owns one or more bikes; wooden shoes not so much anymore; cheese is consumed daily and fresh flowers are everywhere. All this in a country 164 by 262 kilometers.



When thinking about the Netherlands you may think: crowded country. True if you stay in the western provinces of North- and South Holland, but I invite you to board the TIJDGEEST barge, sailing leisurely eastward without incurring traffic jams, enjoying warm onboard hospitality all in the English language. We will cycle the quiet country paths, passing old city walls, seeing castles, watching cows and children play, discovering historic Hanseatic towns dotted throughout the agricultural provinces of Gelderland, Overijssel and Utrecht.

For our last night onboard the barge, we return to Amsterdam in the province of North Holland.

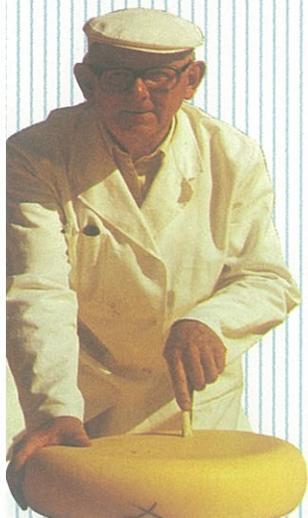
We will sail mainly at night on the Amsterdam Rijn Canal; the River Neder Rijn; IJssel River, the Twente Canal and cycle during the day; non cyclers will have the opportunity to explore historic towns and quaint fishing villages by foot.

To get over jetlag and to indulge into the pleasures of the exciting, liberal, world-class city of Amsterdam we spend two nights in a fine hotel and get onboard the TIJDGEEST on Saturday June 1. Once on board, only unpack once!

If you wish to be one of the 30 lucky ones to come on board the TIJDGEEST, discovering a country in a way most tourists never see, then complete and submit the booking form today as to not miss the boat. **To secure our private charter barge, we must have all registrations under deposit no later than May 15, 2018!** First come, first served!

Itinerary:

- We May 29 **Toronto – Amsterdam** – non-stop overnight flight
- Th May 30 **Amsterdam – join Ineke on a walking tour exploring the heart of Amsterdam**, seeing the Skinny Bridge, Hermitage Museum, Rijksmuseum, Anne Frank House and much more.
- Fr May 31 **Amsterdam – optional train trip to Twello to visit the Brinkman Equestrian Centre** or stay in the country's capital exploring musea, galleria, canals, beer and diamonds.



- Sa June 1 **Amsterdam – at 12:30 pm board the TIJDGEEST barge**, docked along the Veemkade, behind Amsterdam's Central rail station. We sail the Amsterdam-Rijn canal to Wijk bij Duurstede, our destination for the night. During the sailing you will have a light snack on board (lunch is not included). In the evening we go for a short "warm-up" ride in the vicinity which passes by the castles Zandenburg and Walenburg.
- Su June 2 **Cycle 50 km: Heveadorp – Hoge Veluwe Nat. (the Kroller-Muller Museum) – Arnhem.**
The barge sails the River Nederrijn to the lock near the village Heveadorp, where we disembark to commence cycling to the National Park "De Hoge Veluwe." This is the largest national park in the country, set on more than 5500 hectares and made up of forests and heath covered moors. Within the park there are red deer, boar and a type of sheep, the mouflon. You will also find the museum Kroller-Muller, which has a fantastic exhibition of Vincent van Gogh paintings, as well as a small collection of Picasso. A visit to the famous statue garden is also very worthwhile. The cycle trip ends in Arnhem where the ship is moored on the River Nederrijn.
- Mo June 3 **Cycle 50 km: Arnhem – Rheden – Ferry across the IJssel – Doesburg – Brummen – Zutphen**
Today we will cycle past the castle Rosendaël to the ferry near Rheden. The ferry takes us across the river IJssel and we continue cycling through the villages Doesburg and Brummen to the Hanseatic walled town of Zutphen, situated by the river IJssel.
- Tu June 4 **Cycle 60 km: Zutphen – Vorden – Lochem – Zutphen**
As the barge stays in Zutphen, today's cycle will be a round trip. We begin by cycling past the castle Vorden and the rural community of Lochem. After passing Mansion Verwolde we follow the Twente canal back to Zutphen. Alternatively you may wish to spend a day shopping and/or visiting the museum in Zutphen. The Stedelijk Museum has an interesting cultural historical collection that creates a telling image of Zutphen and its surroundings.
- We June 5 **Cycle 60 km: Deventer – Diepenveen – Windesheim – Kampen**
Today we sail by barge to the Hanseatic town of Deventer, where we disembark and begin the cycling day. Enjoy the picturesque landscapes while following the river IJssel to Diepenveen, castle Oude Rande and the rural estate Honderloo. Through the village of Windesheim the trip ends in Kampen, a historic Hanseatic town. Kampen is full of impressive gothic architecture and it is worth exploring the three ancient surviving city gates.
- Th June 6 **Leisure morning sailing to Harderwijk: rural area 30 km bike trip**
Today's motto is "relaxing aboard" as there is a 4 hour sailing trip to Harderwijk, where we spend the night. It is a cosy port known for its amazing dolphinarium. In the afternoon a cycle trip is planned through the rural area around Harderwijk.
- Fr June 7 **Cycle 60 km: Spakenburg – Castle Muiderslot – Amsterdam**
By barge we sail to Spakenburg. After disembarkation we cycle to the former fishing village which is still famous for its traditional costumes. Via the lake area called Ankeveense Plassen you cycle to castle Muiderslot. After a visit to this beautifully situated castle, you continue cycling to Amsterdam. In the evening after our farewell dinner, we may wish to go exploring the streets, canals and wonders of Amsterdam.
- Sa June 8 **After breakfast, disembark the TIJDGEEST and take a short train ride to the airport** for our flight to Toronto with a same day arrival.

Price: \$ 3425 per person, based on dbl. occupancy
(non-cyclists, sharing the room/cabin pay: \$ 3375)

Included in the 11 day tour package:

- Roundtrip flights Toronto - Amsterdam, including all airport taxes and fees
- Roundtrip train Amsterdam Schiphol airport -Amsterdam Central (walk to hotel/ship/train)
- Two nights fine hotel accommodation in Amsterdam with breakfast included
- Seven nights accommodation aboard the Tjidgeest; a standard plus barge (category B): cabins with two lower beds and en-suite facilities. A limited number of single cabins can be requested at a supplement. We require a minimum of 20 participants to charter this boat for our use only
- 22 meals: 2 breakfasts in hotel; on board the barge: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Seven-speed hybrid style Dutch bike with pannier, hand brakes, lock and bike insurance. These bicycles are very suitable for the terrain in the Netherlands
- Visit to Kroller Muller Museum (exhibition van Gogh) and Hoge Veluwe National Park
- Information pack including a comprehensive gear list, route notes and maps
- English speaking tour leader for cycle tours and city walks

Bonus: Services of Ineke Brinkman, native of the Netherlands and member of the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club (NFBTC) prior and throughout the tour.

Items not included:

- Meals and beverages not mentioned
- Helmets – compulsory on all bike tours. Please bring your own well-fitted helmet
- Mandatory travel insurance can be obtained through ineke/Vision Travel
- Gratuities to guide and crew. (recommended a total of 50 Euro's per person to be distributed between guide, captain, cook and extra hands)

Trip grading: The cycling is introductory to moderate; see itinerary for daily distance. The accent is on keeping a relaxed pace to take in all of the attractions, with time to stop and take photos, visit a museum or enjoy the market places. The cycling speed is "easy going." Cyclists who want "more" always have the opportunity to deviate from the group at their own responsibility and to return to the ship before sailing time.

The boat: The Tjidgeest is a good quality floating hotel and belongs to category B+ standard plus with an upper and lower deck. Besides compact cabins with private facilities, there is a very spacious living/dining room with a panoramic view.

Deviations: Should you wish to spend more time in Europe and travel before/after the tour, then please contact Ineke with your departure/return date preferences and perhaps return from a different European city. She will inform you about schedules and difference in fares.

Contacts: For any cycling related questions please speak to the NFBTC experts Rita Dillon and/or Dennis Munn. For securing your berth on this private charter please contact: Ineke Brinkman, CTM, Ambassador for Vision Travel Solutions, 59 Queen Street, St. Catharines, L2R 5G8. Ineke.brinkman@visiontravel.ca; 905.684.0888 ext. 1415; visiontravel.ca/ineke-brinkman

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