inselhüpfen

SAIL & BIKE

Ijsselmeer · Netherlands

Route

from Amsterdam / to Amsterdam

Duration

8 days / 7 nights

Distance

151 - 217 km

Level 2 {{regular}} / 5 {{end}}

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Self-guided sail and bike experience on the Ijsselmeer

Sail [&] Bike along the coast of the Ijsselmeer: Once part of the salty sea, this impressive body of water is now the largest freshwater lake in Holland! Discover this unique area of the Netherlands on two-wheels along wonderful cycling paths and on board a magnificent and comfortably furnished sailing ship. Along the banks, picturesque harbour and trading towns, centuries-old polders (fields of reclaimed land below sea level) and beautiful inland villages are still witness to the regions rich seafaring past. The fresh-water Ijsselmeer is now home to a vast variety of birds, plants, and fish. On this Sail [&] Bike tour, you visit many of these historical towns and polders on both the western and eastern banks of the Ijsselmeer as well as a number of Dutch national parks, traveling as far as the province of Overijssel. No sailing experience is required, just a desire to give it a go.

Itinerary

1st DayAmsterdam (Embarkation) – Monnickendam/Volendam

Individual arrival in Amsterdam. The crew welcomes you on board at 2 pm. Once all guests have checked in, the ship sails (by motor) to Volendam. Once on land again in one of the former fishing villages, you can enjoy a short warm-up cycle through the rural nature reserve of Waterland with its many villages.

2nd Day Monnickendam - Volendam (aprx. 22 or 30 mi./35 or 48 km) / Volendam – Hoorn

A very Dutch start to the day: you cycle to a nearby, family-run cheese and clog shop for a short demonstration on cheese and clog making and, of course, a cheese tasting. You then continue on along the dikes to Purmerend, located in the heart of the polder De Beemster, 11 ½ ft. (3.5 m) below sea level. This sunken tract of land was created more than 400 years ago, when the Dutch transformed an inland lake into pasture. Divided into a tight geometric pattern of squares and rectangles, it has been recognized by UNESCO as “a creative masterpiece”. The next destination of the day is the lovely town of Edam, whose lanes and canals are the perfect place for a stroll. Edam is known worldwide for its cheese covered in red or yellow wax. This practical solution keeps the cheese fresh for a long time and allowed 17th century sailors to take it with them on their voyages or to trade it for spices and other treasures in the East. After the break in Edam, you head along the main Ijsselmeer dike to the ship which awaits you on the Volendam promenade. Here, there will be enough time to visit the souvenir shops. In the evening, the ship sails to Hoorn.

3rd Day Hoorn – Enkhuizen (aprx. 16 or 27 mi./26 or 44 km) / Enkhuizen - Urk

Today’s ride leads through small rural hamlets and villages to Enkhuizen. Along the way, you pass by the De Krijgsman windmill (The Warrior), the tallest windmill in the province of North-Holland and one of a handful of old Dutch windmills still used to produce flour commercially. The area is also known for its many greenhouses, in which various vegetables are grown. In the 17th century, Enkhuizen was one of the wealthiest cities in Holland, thanks to its harbour that shipped then-costly spices from Asia. Here you are sure to be impressed by the stately mansions, canals, churches, and city walls that to this day reflect the city’s history and wealth. Weather permitting, we sail across the Ijsselmeer to the port of Urk in the afternoon. Feel free to help the captain sail the ship or simply sit back on deck and enjoy the crossing, keeping watch for marine bird life. In the evening there is plenty of time for a stroll through the narrow streets and alleyways in the town of Urk. The houses in the picturesque fishing village where built close to one another on elevated ground to protect them from flooding, an engineering feat that is still visible today.

4th Day (Tue) Urk – Vollenhove (aprx. 18 or 27 mi./ca. 30 oder 44 km)

After breakfast, you cycle along the lake on a tarmac cycle path to the former island of Schokland. Schokland, like Urk, lost its status as an island in 1942 when the Northeast polder (Noordoostpolder) was reclaimed from the sea. Surrounded by the reclaimed land, Schokland is now just a slightly higher part of the polder and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. From Schokland, you cycle on across the polder to the city of Vollenhove, which also once lay on the coast of the Zuiderzee before the creation of the Noordoostpolder.

5th Day Vollenhove - Giethoorn (aprx. 25 or 32 mi./40 or 52 km)

Today’s bike tour leads along cycle paths through open countryside to the small town of Blokzijl. From here you enter the Weerribben-Wieden National Park, the largest freshwater wetland in northwestern Europe and a peaceful oasis for

plants, animals, and humans. A bicycle path through the center of the park takes you far away from roads, immersing you in the tranquility of the region. Keep your eyes peeled for a fleeting kingfisher or - if you're really lucky - an otter, the symbol of the park. Cycling on, you pass through Kalenberg, a village that until the 1950's could only be reached by boat. A twisting route through agricultural landscape of narrow strip fields surrounded by dikes leads you to the lovely town of Giethoorn, known as "small Venice of the North".

6th Day Giethoorn - Lelystad (Sailing day)

Today there is a full day of sailing and relaxing on board to look forward to. Once again, you are welcome to help the captain sail the ship. Otherwise feel free to simply sit back on deck and relax. In the early afternoon, the ship arrives in Lelystad, the capital of the province of Flevoland, a region almost entirely reclaimed from the sea. Here you can stretch your legs and visit the Batavia Wharf, an extraordinary shipyard where ships with an important maritime history are returned to their former glory. There is also time to go shopping at Batavia Stad, an outlet center with a number of the famous brands.

7th DayLelystad – Blocq van Kuffeler (aprx. 12 or 18 mi./20 or 29 km) / Blocq van Kuffeler – Amsterdam

In the morning, you disembark for the last half day of cycling. Today's tour leads through the Oostvaardersplassen – a wonderful nature reserve that truly mixes new with old: Created on new polder land it has been left to find its own natural balance with the hope that a self-sustaining ecosystem with almost pre-human biodiversity will result. Sections of the tour lead through forested areas, while others open out to panoramic views of expansive reed beds and marshes. The area is a birdwatchers' paradise! After the tour, the ship awaits you in the small harbour of Oostvaardersdiep for the return voyage to Amsterdam. The weeklong Ijsselmeer adventure comes to an end with a celebrative farewell dinner onboard.

8th Day Amsterdam (Disembarkation)

The tour ends with a delicious breakfast on board. Disembarkation afterwards until 9.30 am. Individual trip home or extended stay in Amsterdam.



Elizabeth · Comfort Class

Port of Embarkation
from Amsterdam / from Enkhuizen
Size
41 m x 6.9 m
Capacity
10 cabins, 35 beds

Special Features

Year of construction
1913 – reconstructed 1991

Cabin features
1913 – reconstructed 1991

Beds
twin beds at ground level, some with the option of a third and fourth bunk available.

Extras
three masts with 445 m² sail surface, seating on deck, saloon with bar, fully functional sailing boat

Elizabeth

The majestic three-mast tall ship, Elizabeth, was formerly a river vessel used for the transport of basalt rocks and sugar beets. The transformation into a passenger boat was executed with great care. The focus was to keep as much of the original characteristics of the flat-bottomed ship as possible as this enables Elizabeth to sail in extremely shallow waters. With all sails set, the total sail surface comes in at a staggering 445 m².

The renovations to a passenger ship insured a sophisticated interior. The large saloon is inviting and provides its guests a great atmosphere, with a comfortable sofa corner, four large tables with chairs as well as a bar.

Two guest cabins are located on deck, with the remaining eight below deck. The most popular place on board is the sitting niche on deck, from which the 360-degree passing panorama can be best enjoyed with a beverage of choice.

Dates, Prices & Services

Included services

- 8-day trip on a tall ship with crew
- 7 nights in a twin cabin with shower/toilet
- Welcome drink
- Full board (7x breakfast, 6 x packed lunch, 7x dinner)
- Daily briefings with the crew
- Bed linen and towels (change of towels on request); cabin cleaning (once a week)
- Wi-Fi/WLAN connection available onboard
- Daily complimentary coffee and tea on board
- Maps and notes for cycling tours (1 set per cabin) + GPS tracks
- Biodegradable water bottle
- Use of a waterproof pannier bag

Not included in the basic tour price

- Journey to/from Amsterdam
- Transfer to/from the docking place in Amsterdam
- Parking fee (own car etc.)
- Beverages on board (tally sheet, to be paid to the captain)
- Beach towel for use away from ship (please bring your own if needed)
- Beverages [&] meals ashore
- Entrance fees [&] excursions
- Fees for ferries
- Rental helmet
- Personal (travel) insurances
- Tips for crew
- SGR Insolvency protection (5€ per person)

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 SGR Insolvency protection (mandatory consumer contribution SGR insolvency protection guarantee scheme: € 5 per person - will be specified separately on the booking confirmation)

Additional services 2027

Double cabin for single use	Surcharge: 50% of the basic tour price
Rental bike with pannier	Hybrid bicycle: 98 euro/week E-bike: 273 euro/week (on request, limited availability)
Limitation of liability (damage) Rental bike	Rental hybrid bike: 14 euro/week Rental e-bike:28 euro/week
Rental helmet (payment with booking)	10 euro per week
Onboard space for own bicycle (only a limited number of spaces are available; reservation	14 euro per week

with booking)	
Onboard space + charge station for own e-bike (only a limited number of spaces available; reservation with booking)	35 euro per week
Parking Amsterdam (Valet Parking)	Prices on request
Ticket for 1-hour canal cruise through Amsterdam (booking/payment in advance; to be collected on board on the first day of the tour)	special price for our guests: 15 euro

Discounts 2027

- Children up to the age of 15 receive a discount of 15% on the cabin price (double occupancy). When travelling with children, we recommend our Multi-Adventure Tours in Greece and Croatia which are specifically curated for families and offer family-friendly pricing.
- If this is your second Islandhopping tour booked directly with us, you will receive our Welcome-back-discount of 3% on the basic tour price.
- If this is your third or more Islandhopping tour booked directly with us, you will receive our Loyalty-discount of 5% on the basic tour price.

Dates

Date	Accommodation	Start City	End City	Base Price
10.07.2027 – 17.07.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
17.07.2027 – 24.07.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
24.07.2027 – 31.07.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
31.07.2027 – 07.08.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
07.08.2027 – 14.08.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
14.08.2027 – 21.08.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
21.08.2027 – 28.08.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
28.08.2027 – 04.09.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
04.09.2027 – 11.09.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
11.09.2027 – 18.09.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.399,00 €
18.09.2027 – 25.09.2027	Elizabeth	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	Amsterdam, Pontsteiger	1.229,00 €

Arrival

Port of Embarkation Amsterdam

On the day of embarkation, your ship should be waiting in the port of Amsterdam at Pontsteiger, Oude Houthaven, Amsterdam.

Embarkation between 1 pm and 2 pm and a welcome tea or coffee from the crew. The ship leaves the harbour at 2.30 pm.

Please do not forget to bring your passport or ID-card.

Arrival by plane

The best international airport to use for this trip is Schiphol. Amsterdam Schipol Airport (AMS) is accessible from virtually all major airports in Europe.

Your flight can be organized as soon as we have confirmed that your tour is taking place.

From the airport to the harbour

It's very easy to find public transport at Schiphol Airport with the train, buses and taxis just a 3-minute walk from the terminal. Simply collect your bags, head to the arrival's hall, and follow the signs. Trains run regularly and only take about 20 minutes from the airport to Amsterdam Centraal. You can buy a ticket in the central arrival hall at the airport.

From the central station to the harbour

The ship's location at Pontsteiger is situated about 1.2 mi./2 km from the Central Station. You can catch a bus from the Centraal Station to the ship's location (approx. 4 minutes). To do so you must get on City Bus 48 (GVB) from Centraal Station (exit: IJ-side), direction Houthavens.

Then get off at bus stop Houtmankade. From here it is a 5-minute walk to the ship. On Saturdays, the busses depart every 15 minutes. The price is around 3 € (one way). You can buy a 1-hour ticket from the driver.

Arrival by car

Address for Navigation System:

Pontsteiger, 1013 AH Amsterdam, Netherlands

If you are planning on travelling to Amsterdam by car, be sure to organise a safe parking place for the week.

The best and easiest way to organise a secure parking place is to make a reservation with us (in cooperation with our partner Boat Bike Tours). The benefits of doing so are a guaranteed and secure parking spot at a favourable rate. Furthermore, the parking place is close to the ship so you will not need to use public transport or taxi to return to the ship after parking.

Parking recommendations in Amsterdam

A – Valet Parking – Centralparking.nl
Only available with reservation in advance. For payment, please follow the instructions mentioned in the confirmation. Price: 145 € – 8 days (as off 2019).

How does the Centralparking Parking Service work?

- Drive to the ship, where you will meet the Valet Parking driver. They will help you with your luggage.
- The driver will take your car to the covered parking lot with 24/7 camera surveillance.
- On day of departure, your car will be waiting for you at the harbour near the ship so that you can drive home immediately after disembarkation.

B – Parking Centrum Oosterdok
Centrum Oosterdok is the cheapest long-term possibility for parking in the centre of Amsterdam. This parking garage is only accessible for cars with a maximum height of 2.10 m.

Parking Centrum Oosterdok offers a total of 1,355 parking spots in a brand new, clean building with video surveillance and is situated close to Amsterdam Centraal Station. The rate for long-term parking is 20 € per 24 hours. You pay between 140 to 160 € per week (depending on the time of your arrival/departure).

Address for navigation:

Oosterdoksstraat 150, 1011 DK, Amsterdam