

















Rotterdam and Zeeland: MS Normandie

Sailing and cycling around Zeeland province

Explore the captivating province of Zeeland, known as the "Land in the Sea," situated in the western part of the Netherlands. This picturesque region is primarily composed of islands and peninsulas, with the Eastern and Western Scheldt estuaries extending deep into the Zeeland landscape. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the Oosterschelde National Park, the largest national park in the Netherlands, renowned for its remarkable diversity of bird species and captivating low-tide landscapes.

Join us on an exciting cycling adventure, starting from the vibrant city of Rotterdam, known for its laid-back and harmonious atmosphere. Journey through the province of Zeeland, where you'll discover charming historic towns like Zierikzee and Middelburg, as well as marvel at the

impressive Delta Works, Holland's extraordinary storm surge barriers. Indulge in the local culinary delights, such as delectable mussels, oysters, and Eastern Scheldt Lobster, while not forgetting to savor a meal at one of the numerous renowned fish restaurants in the area.

Experience the enchanting beauty of Zeeland, from its unique geography to its rich cultural and gastronomic offerings, making your visit truly unforgettable.

Details about the sailing and cycling holiday through Zeeland

Cycle with us from the energetic city of Rotterdam which is like no other city in the Netherlands, to the province of Zeeland. Discover the historic cities of Zierikzee, Middelburg and the Delta Works, the most impressive storm surge barrier in the Netherlands.

The highlights of this Bike and Boat tour around the Netherlands at a glance:

- **Neeltje Jans:** Visit the locks of the Oosterscheldekering, the impressive structure of the Delta Works and the largest storm surge barrier in the world.
- **Flood Museum:** Stories about the Flood of 1953, about reconstruction, about the Delta Works and stories about flood risk management.
- **Kinderdijk:** Nineteen world-famous windmills on the UNESCO World Heritage List, located on the dike within two drives from eight windmills.

Worth knowing about the Bike and Boat tour through Zeeland

On the eight-day sailing and cycling holiday, you have the convenience of unpacking your suitcase only once, because you will stay on the modern ship MS Normandie with a wonderful feel-good atmosphere. In the evenings, MS Normandie offers a cosy place in the saloon to share your experiences of that day with others. Your luxurious outside cabin is equipped with a bathroom with a shower and toilet.

The restaurant serves a breakfast buffet and a 3-course dinner, as well as a packed lunch on the go. After each cycling day, you will be welcomed on board with coffee/tea and a delicious sweet treat to recover from all the impressions of that day. If you want to skip a day of cycling then you stay on board and sail with the ship to the next destination!

Approximate timings (subject to sailing conditions)

Day 1: **Rotterdam** (Embarkation at 1600) | Depart: 1800

Day 1: **Dordrecht** | Arrival: 1930

Day 2: **Dordrecht** | Depart: 0630

Day 2: **Wilemstad** | Arrival: 0900 | Depart: 1000

Day 2: **Hellevoetsluis** | Arrival: 1100

Day 3: **Hellevoetsluis** | Depart: 1000

Day 3: **Bruinisse** | Arrival: 1430

Day 4: **Bruinisse** | Depart: 1000

Day 4: **Veere** | Arrival: 1200

Day 5: **Veere** | Depart: 0915

Day 6: **Veere** | Depart: 1800

Day 7: **Dordrecht** | Arrival: 0100 | Depart: 1100

Day 7: **Rotterdam** | Arrival: 1300

Day 8: **Rotterdam** (Disembarkation at 0900)

Tour information



Easy



8 Days / 7 Nights



Self-Guided



Meals included




Total cycling distance: approx.
251 - 268 km

To the online version



Itinerary

DAY 1	Arrival in Rotterdam. Rotterdam – Dordrecht	
<p>Individual arrival in Rotterdam. Embarkation around 4 pm. Perhaps you still have time to visit the large market hall of Rotterdam, our answer to the Sistine Chapel. Around 6:00 PM we leave for the oldest city in the Netherlands, Dordrecht, impressively situated between three major rivers. After dinner, visit this undiscovered pearl with the Grote Kerk and the Damiate Bridge. The Times put the city in a list of 30 European undiscovered destinations for a reason!</p>		
DAY 2	Dordrecht – Willemstad – Hellevoetsluis	approx. 45 km
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<p> ca. 45 km</p>		


DAY
3

Hellevoetsluis – Bruinisse approx. 45 km

Before you start your bike ride to Bruinisse, you first make a discovery tour through the large harbour with a detour to the old lighthouse in the south of the city.

You cycle to the Zeeland island of Goeree-Overvlakkee over the Haringvliet, you pass the Haringvliet sluices with the seal sanctuary A Seal and the special bird observatory Tij. In the shape of an egg of the sandwich tern, 8 meters high and 11 meters long, you have a 360-degree view of a colony of sandwich terns, but also the vast Haringvliet and the Haringvliet locks. Only accessible at low tide.

You cycle through small villages like Stellendam, agricultural places like Melissant and water sports places like Herkingen with a large marina. You cycle over the Grevelingendam and pass the mussel beds en route to the mussel village Bruinisse. A walk through the harbour north of the city is a must for any visitor.

 ca. 45 km


DAY
4

Bruinisse – Middelburg - Vlissingen approx. 45 km

On today's bike ride you will pass the "Watersnoodmuseum". Here you will learn all about the great flood of 1953 and the "drowned" village of Viane, which was submerged and never rebuilt.

You continue cycling towards Zierikzee, a real port city with a rich history and one of the 10 most beautiful Dutch monument cities. No fewer than five hundred monuments can be admired in and around the city! The "Dik Trom" towers high above the city. A detour to the historic centre with its cosy local boutiques is definitely worth it.

You continue the cycle route over the Zeeland Bridge to Middelburg, the capital of Zeeland. The city has a rich past and a beautiful Gothic town hall that has even been voted the second most beautiful building in the Netherlands. Numerous shops and cafes invite you to visit, and a yoghurt ice cream at the Vismarkt of St. John (a household name in Middelburg and the surrounding area) should certainly not be missed. Your ship awaits you in the seaside resort of Vlissingen, located a few kilometres away on the Western Scheldt, with the longest beach promenade in the Netherlands.


 ca. 60 km

DAY
5

Vlissingen – Neeltje Jans – Veere

approx. 35 - 50
km

Today you can choose from three different routes. Whichever you choose, you will experience the "picture book Holland" today. Admire, for example, the former work island of Neeltje Jans, which was reclaimed especially for the construction of the Oosterscheldekering, the impressive structure of the Delta Works. You have the opportunity to admire the locks not only up close, but also from the inside. The destination of today's cycling tour is Veere, a beautiful seaside resort where richly laden ships from Scotland used to dock.

 ca. 35-50 km

DAY
6


Veere – Dordrecht

approx. 40 km

Today you have another chance to admire the picturesque, typically Dutch landscape and explore the Walcheren peninsula. The beaches are among the cleanest in the Netherlands and the De Manteling nature reserve consists of forests, dunes, stately avenues and classic country estates.

Discover the lively tourist cities of Veere and Middelburg. In Veere, walk over the old city walls, you will pass cows, tow boats and old cannons up to the Stenen Beer. An old bastion from the time of Napoleon that you can still walk through! Visit the monumental city center of Middelburg with many historic buildings and the 900-year-old abbey.

Around dinner the ship sails to Dordrecht and you can enjoy the beautiful surroundings through which you sail.


 ca. 40 km

DAY
7

Dordrecht – Kinderdijk – Rotterdam

approx. 40
km

On the last cycling stage of this sailing and cycling holiday you will visit the most famous windmills in the Netherlands on the Kinderdijk. Dating back to the 18th century, the 19 well-preserved mills have been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. There are two mills open to the public, it is well worth a visit! You continue along the Maas to Rotterdam. Take the opportunity to take a harbor cruise through Europe's largest deep-water port and admire the skyline and impressive architecture from the water.

 ca. 40 km

DAY
8

Return journey from Rotterdam

After breakfast there is disembarkation until 09:00.

Route information

The quality of the bike paths is perfect. The cycle path is mostly on paved roads, the routes are flat and can be classified as easy, but sea breezes can be expected.



Prices and dates

Price calculation and check availability: **Rotterdam and Zeeland: MS Normandie**

Price promise: If you receive a quote for the same tour elsewhere, please **let us know** and we will match it!

Place of arrival: Rotterdam

Season 1
25.05.2024 | 01.06.2024 | 08.06.2024 | 15.06.2024 | 03.08.2024 | 10.08.2024
| 17.08.2024 | 24.08.2024 |
Saturday

Rotterdam and Zeeland: MS Normandie, Main Deck, NL-ZLSRR-08I-H

Base price	1,009.00
Fixed price for double cabin in single use	1,459.00

Rotterdam and Zeeland: MS Normandie, Upper Deck, NL-ZLSRR-08I-O

Base price	1,139.00
Fixed price for double cabin in single use	1,659.00

Our rental bikes

	Price
Unisex E-Bike	199.00
7-Speed Unisex Bike	89.00
Own Bike	29.00

Prices per person in GBP

Included services and travel information

Services

Including

- 7 nights in outside cabins on board the MS Normandie in the selected cabin category
- Full board: 7x breakfast buffet, 6x packed lunch for cycling or lunch snack, 6x coffee and tea in the afternoon, 7x 3-course evening menu
- Welcome cocktail
- Travel folder 1 x per room (German, with route and overview maps, detailed route description, places of interest, important telephone numbers, luggage labels)
- GPS data available on request
- Tour guide on board

Not included

- Bike rental
- Excursions
- Gratuities
- Drinks
- Personal expenses

Arrival information

- Airport: Amsterdam Schiphol
- Train: Rotterdam Central Station, approx. 2 km from the pier. Then take the metro and a short walk or take a taxi (approx. €40 per journey)
- Parking: De Boompjes parking garage. Costs approx. €165 per week

General information

- A minimum number of 70 people applies for this trip (at least 21 days before departure)
- International companies sell this tour, most of them are German guests
- Embarkation takes place between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- Bicycles on board are equipped with a hand brake, freewheel or coaster brake (limited availability, please specify when booking as a non-binding preference) and bicycle bag
- It is possible to bring your own bicycles, but due to the limited space on the sundeck, you can only bring your own bicycle on request and only to a limited extent. Any damage to your bike is at your own risk
- Daily cycling tours are individual and unaccompanied, the tour guide remains on board. It is not mandatory to cycle the route, you can also stay on board and sail to the next port
- This trip is not suitable for people with reduced mobility
- If the cycling stages and rest times allow, an excursion program is offered, this can only be booked on board and paid in cash. Depending on the composition of the participants, the excursions can be offered bilingually German-English
- Sailing times, schedule and program changes are in principle reserved. For example, if a route cannot be completed due to low tide, high tide or bad weather, the captain reserves the right to change the route for your safety (this is not a valid reason to cancel your trip free of charge)
- Engine and generator noises can be heard in the cabins at the front and rear of the ship.
- We recommend wearing a bike helmet. Please bring your own bike helmet (no onboard selling).

Accommodation



MS NORMANDIE

Enjoy a great bike tour where you get to sleep on board a boat each evening. The MS Normandie is a very middle-class barge with a friendly and comfortable atmosphere.

Beds: 100

Cabinsize: 10-11 m²

Crew: 17

Length: 91,20 m

Width: 10,50 m

Draught: 1,60 m