

















Around the IJsselmeer

Explore Hanseatic cities, Afsluitdijk and Zuiderzee

The IJsselmeer was created with the construction of the Afsluitdijk, a monumental feat of engineering designed to protect the Netherlands from the once-tempestuous Zuiderzee. This sprawling freshwater lake retains the enchanting allure of a sea and serves as a haven for sailors, kitesurfers, and windsurfers. It stands as a testament to the country's commitment to flood control and water management.

The mainly flat terrain surrounding the IJsselmeer is not only beautiful but also perfect for cyclists. As you traverse this region, you'll be captivated by the stunning scenery, with picturesque villages dotting the landscape. The area is also steeped in maritime history, with a legacy of fishing, shipbuilding, and trade that has left its mark on the local culture and architecture. The IJsselmeer beckons to nature enthusiasts and history buffs alike, making it a must-visit destination in the Netherlands.

Book this holiday: Around the IJsselmeer

Details about the cycle tour around the IJsselmeer

On your journey around the IJsselmeer, you'll come across a delightful array of towns and villages, each of which has managed to preserve its traditional Dutch charm. From the winding, cobblestone streets of Enkhuizen to the vibrant and bustling harbor of Hoorn, the region exudes a timeless allure.

As you make your way around the lake, you'll traverse national parks that are home to some of the most unique and rare animals and plants. Along the route, you'll also encounter picturesque fishing villages, steeped in history and character. These places, once thriving trading metropolises, reflect a rich heritage that has left its mark on the architecture and culture of the region.

And of course, your journey wouldn't be complete without a visit to the iconic city of Amsterdam, a melting pot of diverse cultures, set against a backdrop of captivating waterways. This intriguing blend of history, culture, and the magnetic draw of water characterizes the enchanting landscape surrounding the IJsselmeer.

The highlights of the Zuidersee cycling holiday at a glance

- **Amsterdam:** Canal belts, Anne Frank House, Rijksmuseum, Vondelpark, Amsterdam Red Light District, Royal Palace on Dam Square and Leidseplein
- **Volendam:** Let yourself be photographed in traditional Volendam costume and the cosy harbour with old Dutch ships
- **Weerribben-Wieden National Park:** The largest continuous peat bog in northwestern Europe. A labyrinth of lakes, ditches, swamp forests, vast reed plots and flowery meadows
- **Freshwater lake:** IJsselmeer is a vast freshwater lake in the Netherlands, formerly known as the Zuiderzee. It was created with the construction of the Afsluitdijk to protect the country from the Zuiderzee's unpredictable waters.
- **Sports destination:** IJsselmeer is a popular destination for sailors, kitesurfers, and windsurfers due to its ideal wind conditions.
- **Dutch architecture:** The region surrounding IJsselmeer boasts charming towns and villages, maintaining traditional Dutch character and architecture.

Worth knowing about the bike tour around the IJsselmeer

You will cycle along a beautiful route that runs alongside the former Zuiderzee (IJsselmeer) on paved (farm) roads, occasionally using smaller service roads and well-maintained bicycle paths. It can be quite windy along the IJsselmeer. You will pass by several traditional fishing villages and historic towns.

This tour has been graded as **Easy**. Find out more about our **cycling holiday difficulty levels**.

Book this holiday: Around the IJsselmeer

Tour information



Easy



8 Days / 7 Nights



Self-Guided



Luggage transfers included



Total cycling distance: approx.
330 km

To the online version



Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrival in Harderwijk

Individual arrival in Harderwijk. In the afternoon, the informative welcome meeting and the handing over of the rental bicycles (if booked) will take place. Afterwards, discover the medieval Hanseatic city. A walk through the city inevitably leads past the Church of Our Lady, a basilica with a three-part elevation from the 14th and 15th centuries.

DAY
2

Harderwijk - Bussum / Naarden

approx. 50 - 55 km

Look forward to the Arkemheen-Eemland National Park and the broad, flat landscape with its extraordinary vegetation. Black-tailed godwits fly over vast areas. You cycle along the banks of the Randmeren to Huizen, the twin village on the Eemmeer with a costume and fishing museum. Naarden is a beautiful city in the green Gooi region and one of the best-preserved fortified towns in Europe. The city was one of the most important defences of the New Dutch Waterline, which will still impress you today.


 ca. 50 - 55 km

DAY
3

Bussum / Naarden - Amsterdam


approx. 30 km

You will pass the medieval castle "Muiderslot" during your trip along the IJsselmeer. We continue to Amsterdam, enjoying the historic buildings, beautiful museums and the cosy atmosphere. Take a tour through the canals, stroll through the Vondelpark, visit the floating flower market and shop in the old city centre. Amsterdam is truly unique! The short stage gives you enough time to explore the beautiful city.


 ca. 30 km

DAY
4**Amsterdam - Volendam** approx. 30 km


After a few kilometres of cycling, you will reach the typical old Dutch town of Monnickendam, a real water town. Enjoy a relaxing cycling day along the IJsselmeer to Volendam or Katwoude. You will pause in traditional fishing villages, whose past as thriving trading towns cannot be overlooked. Volendam is famous for its traditional costumes and is considered the home of a particularly delicious smoked eel. Be sure to take a walk on the Volendamse Dijk.

 ca. 30 kmDAY
5**Volendam - Enkhuizen** approx. 46 km

In Edam, you will quickly notice that there is more than the world-famous cheese. Hoorn is a small shopping paradise with countless terrace cafes and restaurants to enjoy and relax. The picturesque town of Enkhuizen attracts thousands of tourists every year. Some love this place for its many historic buildings and monuments, others for its harbour and optimal water sports opportunities. Take a city walk to visit the Zuiderzee Museum with its replica of the old Zuiderzee city.

 ca. 46 kmDAY
6**Enkhuizen - Lemmer** approx. 40 km

With a ferry (not included) you cross the waves of the IJsselmeer and get off in Stavoren. Discover the nostalgic charm of the oldest of the eleven Frisian cities in the Netherlands. Today you will spend the night in the nearby village of Oudemirdum or in Lemmer and the surrounding area. The pleasant centre of Lemmer with its many terraces right on the water, the cafes and the many sights, such as the old lock, are buzzing with a zest for life.


 ca. 40 km

DAY
7**Lemmer - Kampen** approx. 48 - 68 km

With a ferry (not included) you cross the waves of the IJsselmeer and get off in Stavoren. Discover the nostalgic charm of the oldest of the eleven Frisian cities in the Netherlands. Today you will spend the night in the nearby village of Oudemirdum or in Lemmer and the surrounding area. The pleasant centre of Lemmer with its many terraces right on the water, the cafes and the many sights, such as the old lock, are buzzing with a zest for life.

 ca. 48 - 68 kmDAY
8**Kampen - Harderwijk** approx. 45 km

You reach Elburg along the dam. The original 'blunt' you can see here are the traditional sailing ships that were once used for fishing. You continue your journey along the Veluwemeer and eventually reach the starting point, Harderwijk, where the journey ends.

 ca. 45 km

Route information

All routes are predominantly flat. You'll be cycling on well-paved (farm) roads, occasionally using smaller service roads. These routes are part of the extensive Dutch cycle network, known for its excellent signage, making navigation easy and enjoyable.



Prices and dates

Price calculation and check availability: **Around the IJsselmeer**

Place of arrival: Harderwijk

	Season 1 04.05.2024 - 31.05.2024 08.09.2024 - 24.09.2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Season 2 26.04.2024 - 03.05.2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Season 3 01.06.2024 - 07.09.2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Around the IJsselmeer, Cat. B, NL-IJRHH-08B			
Base price	809.00	869.00	899.00
Single room surcharge	199.00	199.00	199.00
Around the IJsselmeer, Cat. A, NL-IJRHH-08A			
Base price	839.00	919.00	959.00
Single room surcharge	229.00	229.00	229.00

Hotel information:

Category A: You will stay in carefully selected 3*** and 4**** star hotels, usually in a central location.

Category B: You will stay in decent hotels and guest houses, usually 3***, some of which are located on the outskirts of town.

Additional nights

Place of arrival: Harderwijk

	Season 1 May 4, 2024 - May 31, 2024 Sep 8, 2024 - Sep 24, 2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Season 2 Apr 26, 2024 - May 3, 2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Season 3 Jun 1, 2024 - Sep 7, 2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
--	---	---	--

	Season 1 May 4, 2024 - May 31, 2024 Sep 8, 2024 - Sep 24, 2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Season 2 Apr 26, 2024 - May 3, 2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Season 3 Jun 1, 2024 - Sep 7, 2024 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Harderwijk			
Double room p.p. Cat. B	85.00	85.00	85.00
Double room p.p. Cat. B	85.00	85.00	85.00
Single room surcharge	63.00	63.00	63.00
Harderwijk			
Double room p.p. Cat. A	85.00	85.00	85.00
Double room p.p. Cat. A	85.00	85.00	85.00
Single room surcharge	63.00	63.00	63.00

Our rental bikes

	Price
21-Speed Unisex Bike	99.00
Unisex E-Bike	219.00
30-Speed Bike PLUS	155.00

Prices per person in GBP

Included services and travel information

Services

Including

- 7 nights in the chosen category, including breakfast
- Personal welcome meeting (German, English)
- Luggage transfer(s) max. 1 piece of luggage 20 kg per person
- Travel folder 1 x per room (German, English with route and overview maps, detailed route description, places of interest, important telephone numbers, luggage labels)
- GPS data available on request
- Service Hotline

Not included

- Tourist tax, if applicable, to be paid locally
- Ferry Enkhuizen-Stavoren

Arrival information

- Airport: Amsterdam Schiphol
- Train: Harderwijk Station
- Parking: Category A: Free parking spaces at the start hotel, reservation not possible. Category B: Parking at the hotel, approximately €10 per day, reservation is not possible