

10-Day Best of Holland Bike & Barge Tour

Special Tour for Friends & Family of Kathleen & Mayoma

June 17 – June 27, 2023

Total Cost: \$2,750 (Transportation to and from
Europe not included)

Deposit: \$1,000 (paid at time of registration)

Final Payment: \$1750 due by 1/1/23

Rider Limit: 18 – NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS!

Tour Leaders: Ralph Nussbaum & Francien van der Lee

Tour Rating: Easy

Special Tour Cancellation Policy:

This is a private tour. We have chartered the entire barge. If you need to cancel, you will need to work with Kathleen and/or Mayoma to find a replacement. If a replacement is found you will receive a full refund of monies paid minus a \$100 cancellation fee. If a replacement can't be found, you will lose the entire cost of the tour.

WE STRONGLY ADVISE YOU PURCHASE TRIP INSURANCE!



THE BIKE AND BARGE EXPERIENCE:

This tour is specifically set up for the friends and family of Kathleen Schindler and Mayoma Pendergast. Since 2014, Ralph & Carol have run nine Bike and Barge Tours in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy. It may be worth pointing out that Ralph and Carol both speak Dutch. Ralph grew up in Amsterdam and Carol has learned the language from his family. Francien will be our Dutch guide who we got to know in 2014 and has been leading tours in Europe for us ever since. This tour is limited to only 18 participants (plus Ralph & Carol), as that is all the Sarah, our floating barge hotel, will hold. We will be fed three meals each day on board the Sarah. (Actually, we will pack lunch each morning, so we can eat it as we cycle through the beautiful Dutch countryside.) The Sarah has ten comfortable cabins (108 sq.ft.). There are six twin cabins with two single beds, two twin/triple cabins with two single beds and a bunk bed (perhaps for an older grandchild???) and two double cabins each with one double bed. Each cabin has a private shower, toilet and basin. Furthermore, you will find a mini safe and hair dryer in each cabin. They all have a ventilation system, central heating and windows that can be opened. The cabins are not air conditioned, but the corridor is, thus also cooling the cabins. This shouldn't be an issue since the average summer temperature is a high of 68 and a low of 50.

Each of us will have the free use of a high end 21 speed hybrid bike equipped with a lock and nice pannier, so there is no need to bring your bike with you. (They even provide a helmet and water bottle, though you may wish to bring your own!) We plan on riding no more than 25 to 35 miles per day on mostly flat roads or on the best bike paths in the world. This tour is intended for the intermediate rider, comfortable on a bicycle saddle for 4-5 hours at a time. Holland is very flat, so hills won't be an issue but there is always the possibility of a headwind and rain is a consideration any time of year.

Note: The entrance fees for all of the museums and other attractions listed on our tour are covered in your registration fee. One dinner will be on our own so that the crew has an evening off.

TOUR DESCRIPTION:

As the tour name indicates, we are going to be treated to the very best that Holland has to offer. This ten-day tour will highlight not only the natural beauty of these two provinces (North and South Holland) but also the history and architecture of this beautiful region. The Sarah will dock in and around the most important cities in Holland. We of course start and end in Amsterdam and then along our loop we will visit Alkmaar, Haarlem, Leiden, The Hague, Delft, Rotterdam and Gouda. But we will not only explore the bigger cities, but this tour is also about picturesque villages and beautiful scenery. We will have time to explore each of these sometimes as we ride through them on our bikes, at other times with a guided evening walk led by our Dutch guide. For the art lovers, we will see where Rembrandt, Frans Hals, and Vermeer lived and worked. We will also enjoy Holland's beautiful coastline with its dunes and beaches.

This tour includes several major attractions: the open-air windmill museum of Zaanse Schans, a tour of a working windmill, the Cruquius Museum, the Delft porcelain works, the UNESCO site of Kinderdijk, a cheese-making farm and the world's largest flower market. We will definitely come away with not only an appreciation for bike and barge cruising but for everything that is Dutch.

Day One Saturday, June 17: Amsterdam: (10 km)



We will start our tour in Amsterdam. The Sarah, our barge/hotel will be docked at the Oosterdok which is very close to Amsterdam's Central Station in the heart of the city. We meet there at 2:00PM. After unpacking our luggage in our cabins, an introduction to the tour and our crew will take place at 3:00PM. After that our rental bicycles will be distributed and our tour leader will take us on a short test ride. We will also take time for an explanation about the basic Dutch traffic rules and safety issues. Upon our return, our first gourmet dinner on board will be served.

Day Two Sunday, June 18: Amsterdam – Zaanse Schans (30 km / 45 km)

We depart Amsterdam on our bikes via one of the many bicycle only ferries directly from the very center of Amsterdam. We then continue via small villages through the beautiful flat green [polder](#) landscape. We will bike through the Twiske natural area just north of Amsterdam. The longer option goes through 'Waterland' northeast of Amsterdam. We will spend the night at the Zaanse Schans open air museum (free entry) with its traditional Old Dutch wooden houses, windmills and the cheese and clog factory.



Day Three Monday, June 19: Zaanse Schans – Alkmaar (40 km / 50 km)

Today we will bike through the "Land of Leeghwater", a green polder area between Amsterdam, Alkmaar and Hoorn. Stroll through the former whaler's village De Rijp and pass by the windmills of Schermerhorn. We will take the opportunity to tour an old windmill where we will learn about water management and how the Dutch keep their feet dry. Our ship, Sarah, will be waiting for us near the historical city center of Alkmaar. This town is known as a Dutch cheese city. As you wander through the streets you'll be amazed by the beauty of Alkmaar's Old Town, with its well-preserved 17th century buildings and narrow, winding canals. After dinner we will take the first of several evening city walks.

Day Four Tuesday, June 20: Alkmaar – Haarlem (45 km / 55 km)

From Alkmaar our bike tour leads us along the coastal area to the beach. We'll take some time for a scrumptious Dutch pancake lunch there. Then we continue and a little local ferry takes us to the other side of the canal between Amsterdam and the North Sea as we head to Haarlem. It has a very old and intact inner city with a big market square, terraces and a dominating church. There's great shopping in Haarlem too! After dinner we'll do another pleasant city walk.



Day Five Wednesday, June 21: Haarlem – Leiden (42 km / 50 km)



After enjoying breakfast, we will pedal today from Haarlem to the Museum de Cruquius where we see one of the largest beam steam engine pumping station that drained the Haarlem lake. Then it's on to the vibrant university city of Leiden. We get there by riding along the North Sea coast through beautiful seaside dunes and the resort towns like Noordwijk and Katwijk aan Zee. Leiden is the birthplace of the celebrated artist, Rembrandt van Rijn. Its picturesque old city center is crisscrossed with canals lined by beautiful 17th-century buildings and is very definitely a must see.

Day Six Thursday, June 22: Leiden – Delft (35 km / 45 km)

From Leiden we will cycle to Delft, famous for its Blue porcelain (Delftware), where you will have the opportunity to visit a porcelain studio (Delftse Pauw). Another major attraction in the beautiful city center of Delft is the royal crypt of the House of Orange. The longer cycling tour brings you to the seaside resort Scheveningen and to The Hague, where you can visit the Binnenhof (Parliament) and the Peace Palace (Vredespaleis) and then continue on to Delft. Dinner in town is on your own to give Sarah's crew a well-earned night off.



Day Seven Friday, June 23: Delft – Rotterdam (34 km / 45 km)

Today's bike tour goes from Delft via Schiedam to Rotterdam. With its vibrant waterfront, Rotterdam is Europe's largest port. Rotterdam is known as a city of great architecture, featuring many examples of



innovative construction. During World War II the German army invaded the Netherlands and bombed Rotterdam on May 14, 1940. The heart of Rotterdam was almost completely destroyed; 900 people were killed and 80,000 made homeless. The city was gradually rebuilt, and the city council began developing an active architectural policy. The modern building and the skyline make this a unique Dutch city. In the afternoon our tour guide will take you for a guided walk through her city.

Day Eight Saturday, June 24: Rotterdam – Kinderdijk – Gouda (40 km / 50 km)

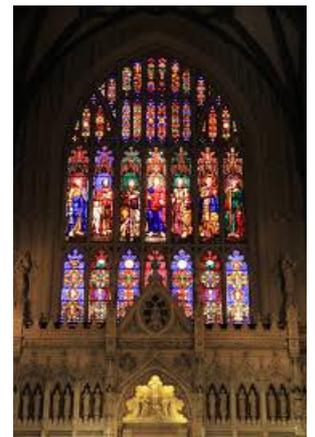
From Rotterdam you can start cycling or you can hop on the "Waterbus", a fast ferry that will bring you and your bicycle over the river in 30-40 minutes to Alblasterdam. From there we cycle just a few miles to Kinderdijk, world famous for an impressive row of 19 large windmills. These 19 windmills have a UNESCO cultural heritage listing and are a definite highlight of our tour – so don't forget to bring your camera! From Kinderdijk we will cycle to a cheese farm where the owners will show us the traditional way of making cheese. Then on to the city of Gouda your destination for the day. Again, we can look forward to an after-dinner city walk.



Day Nine Sunday, June 25: Gouda – Kudelstaart (45 km / 55 km)



In the morning we will visit the St. Jan church in Gouda, famous for its stained-glass windows. The highlight of today's cycling tour is the naturally idyllic beauty of the South Holland landscape with acres of ponds and lush fields. Our destination for the day is the village of Kudelstaart where the barge will be waiting for us. Along the way you will cycle along numerous small canals and past picture-perfect farms and small villages.



Day 10 Monday, June 26: Kudelstaart – Aalsmeer – Amsterdam (30 km / 40 km)

If you are keen for an early start to the day, you can visit the largest trade center for plants and flowers in the world at Aalsmeer. The market is a hive of activity; it is guaranteed that you will never have seen so many flowers in one place. After a late breakfast you can either stay on board the Sarah as it cruises through the city of Amsterdam to its mooring place or you can cycle into the city along the Amstel river (and perhaps visit where Ralph grew up in Amsterdam-Zuid). Once you reach Amsterdam take the opportunity during the afternoon and evening to go for a canal cruise, discover Anne Frank's House, the Rembrandt House Museum, the Royal Palace of Amsterdam and Dam Square, the very center and heart of the city.



Day 11 Tuesday, June 27: Amsterdam

We have come to the end of our wonderful tour. After one more scrumptious Dutch breakfast we will disembark the Sarah. Some of us will head home while others may stay a few more days to explore more of Amsterdam or other great places in Europe.



OUR FLOATING HOTEL, THE SARAH

