

London to Amsterdam Cycle

Trip code: LA



“

Great route, challenging, amazingly organised with much needed large lunches, lovely accommodation and overall a very enjoyable trip :)”

Megan, London to Amsterdam Rider 2015

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Overview

 Total 5 days

 Hotels

 Difficulty: 

 Cycling 4 days

 UK, France, Belgium & Holland

 May - September

Cycle through four countries in just four days! This fantastic trip will see you pedalling from the capital of the UK, through Belgium and into The Netherlands to the magnificent city of Amsterdam.

Over four days you will cycle around 300 miles with plenty of time to soak up the different landscapes and cultures we pass through. Each evening we'll be staying in hotels giving you the chance to shower and relax before the following day's ride.

Upon arriving into Amsterdam, we'll have a celebratory group meal. You will then have the following day to explore this vibrant city before travelling back to London on the train.

Highlights

- Riding through the Garden of England, Kent
- The historic city of Bruges, a UNESCO heritage site
- Cycling through the flat, open cycle lanes in Holland
- Picturesque canals, boats and windmills
- The incredible city of Amsterdam

Detailed Ride Itinerary

Day 1: London - Calais (76 miles & ↑ 4300 feet)

We meet early at Blackheath Common at 07:00 for a trip briefing. After a short cycle through the outskirts of London our route passes along country roads through Rochester and Canterbury before meeting our ferry in Dover. We will arrive at the ferry for a late afternoon crossing to Calais. Dinner can be purchased on the ferry. Once in Calais it is a short cycle to our hotel for a well-earned rest.

Day 2: Calais - Bruges (75 miles & ↑ 1000 feet)

After breakfast, we begin our ride east, passing through the town of Dunkirk, before crossing the border into Belgium. Our route then follows the Belgian coast to our overnight stop, Bruges. Bruges is the capital city of the West Flanders region, the historic city centre of which is a UNESCO Heritage Site.



Day 3: Bruges - Rotterdam (86 miles & ↑ 1500 feet)

Don't let the mileage put you off today! During the first 25 miles we cycle northeast to Breskens where we take a foot passenger ferry crossing the Western Scheldt estuary to Vlissingen. Once over, our route crosses several similar inlets but this time on bridged roads.

When we say there are very few hills today, we really mean it – we should fly along the second part of the ride (provided the wind is kind)! Our ride today ends on the outskirts of Rotterdam, the second-largest city in The Netherlands and one of the largest ports in the world.

Day 4: Rotterdam - Amsterdam (55 miles & ↑ 300 feet)

Leaving Rotterdam behind, our route today heads northeast, skirting around the Netherland's governmental hub of The Hague. You'll know we're getting close as we pass Amsterdam's airport in the southwest of the city. A further ten miles and we reach the capital city of Amsterdam, one of the most cycle-friendly cities in the world!

You made it! This evening we should have plenty of time to check into our hotel, grab a shower and have a final celebratory group meal in a nearby restaurant.

Day 5: Amsterdam

Your bicycle and main piece of luggage will be transferred from Amsterdam to London St Pancras Station. You have the day to explore the sights of Amsterdam before getting a train from Amsterdam to London in the afternoon. Here, the trips ends. If you wish to fly or travel to a different onward destination, you will need to take your bike and luggage with you.

This itinerary is a guide only and can sometimes be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Whilst we endeavour to uphold the proposed daily mileages, this cannot be guaranteed due to changes to hotel bookings.

Included

- Cycle Leader(s) and Support Driver(s)
- 4 x night's hotel accommodation
- 4 x breakfasts
- 4 x buffet-style lunches
- Ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- Ferry Crossing from Breskens to Vlissingen
- All luggage transported during your trip
- Bicycle and main luggage transfer back to London from Amsterdam
- Train and Eurostar from Amsterdam to London St Pancras
- GPX route files (if requested)



Not Included

- Bicycle and Helmet
- Transport to and from pick-up and drop-off points
- Evening meals, drinks and snacks
- Optional excursions in Amsterdam
- European Health Card (www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do)
- Personal Travel Insurance

Trip Notes

Trip suitability

You will be cycling for between eight and ten hours each day but this is not a race! This is a group trip and we like to cycle as such. You will be cycling through rolling countryside which can be hilly, and the pace will be determined by your Cycle Leader. If you are unable to keep to this moderate pace, you will be asked to travel in the support vehicle.

The first day of this trip is the hardest and longest but once over to The Netherlands, there are few hills but the mileages are still considerable on Day 3 & 4.

You must prepare before coming on the trip, anything cardiovascular will help as will of course cycling. Importantly you need to do some 6+ hour cycles so you will know what is required. **You will need to get some hill practice in, particularly for the first day's ride!**

We can provide you with a training plan but you will need to be comfortable cycling for several hours at a time through hilly terrain. If you are unsure or require our training plan, please contact us on info@moreadventure.co.uk.

A link to our trip grades that explains in depth our star rating is here: www.moreadventure.co.uk/cycling-grades

Weather & Climate

The weather can vary hugely on this trip so it is essential that you are prepared for sunny (fingers crossed) and poor weather as it can rain at any time of the year and mornings can be chilly. Our recommendations on what clothing to bring will be issued upon booking.

Health

Your health and safety is our number one priority during any trip with More Adventure. For this reason, our leaders are the very best in the business, they all hold relevant outdoor First Aid Certificates and have hands-on practical medical experience in a variety of environments.

It is recommended that you visit your GP well in advance to discuss your trip and any pre-existing medical conditions you have. We will require a comprehensive medical declaration form that may need to be verified by your GP.

Insurance

Personal travel insurance is compulsory on any More Adventure trip. As a minimum, we require your cover to include medical expenses including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and damage/loss of luggage and personal effects (including your bicycle). [John Lewis](#) have Single Trip Cover Insurance plans for between £7 and £15. Click [here](#) to find out more.



We also recommend you take out bicycle insurance for this trip. If you're looking for reasonably-priced, specialist bicycle insurance, we have teamed up with [Yellow Jersey Cycle Insurance](#).

They offer specialist cover for bicycles includes all the standard cover you'd expect but also cover other things like race fee cancellation, crash damage, wheels cover and even theft from inside a vehicle. Use the code **MOREADV5** for up to 15% off.

You must also bring a European Health Card (www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do) which are free and give you access to free healthcare anywhere in Europe.

Please be aware that your More Adventure leader will be checking your insurance documents on the first day of this trip and may refuse you to join the trip if your insurance cover is insufficient. The insurance company's 24 hour emergency contact number will need to be seen by your leader.

Money

Evening meals each evening tend to cost between £13 and £20. You will also need to budget for any excursions, travel around Amsterdam and lunch on day 5. You will need Euros to spend in France, Belgium & The Netherlands.

Accommodation

Accommodation for this trip is in good quality, comfortable hotels. All have hot water showers and excellent amenities.

Food

Breakfast will vary each morning but will generally be continental-style with hot drinks and juices. Lunches will be laid out for you to help yourself at each of our lunch stops. They will include breads, ham, cheese, tuna, salad, fruit, pasta and cereal bars. We will also be stopping at shops along the way for people to buy snacks and drinks.

Evening meals and drinks are not included in the price and we will give you the opportunity to eat out as a group at a local pub/restaurant. Approximate costs per evening meal £13-£20.

Equipment

We recommend road bicycles for this trip. Please contact us if you are unsure whether your bike is suitable.

Bikes are not included in the price. It is very important that your bike is in good working order and that you bring plenty of spares. Please bring at least four spare inner tubes. Your Cycle Leader will assist you with any minor bicycle repairs.

You must bring suitable, reasonably new tyres (e.g. Continental Gatorskin, Bontrager AW3 Hardcase; Schwalbe Marathon Plus). We recommend using [Wiggle \(click HERE\)](#) or [Chain Reaction Cycles \(click HERE\)](#) for the best value and quality in cycling clothing and equipment.

We do not provide helmets but we strongly recommend you bring your own to wear.

Clothing

It is crucial to be prepared for the weather! The trip will continue in all but the absolute worst of weathers. Generally the best clothes to wear while cycling are light and comfortable. Please bring a lightweight waterproof top and a lightweight windproof top. Make sure you bring enough clothes for each day's cycling and for evening meals. Better to "have and not need than to need and not have"!

Luggage

Please bring a suitable bag to carry waterproof, windproof and snacks whilst cycling. This could be a [small pannier](#), a daysack, a [large saddlebag](#) or [handlebar bag](#).

Leaders

This trip is led by at least one experienced and qualified cycle leader who will cycle with the group at all times. They guide and encourage the group, and help deal with any bicycle mechanicals. In addition to this, another experienced and qualified leader drives the support vehicle offering assistance where necessary and transfers all luggage from one hotel to the other.

Please do not book any transport to/from the trip until it has been confirmed by email that it will run.

How to book

1. Find a date that suits you on our website
2. Click 'Book Now'
3. Fill in your personal details (if you are booking for a group, or if you wish to share with a specific member of the group, there is an option here to do so here)
4. Fill in your medical details
5. Invite your friends if you wish!
6. Click on 'Make Payment' and securely pay through Worldpay
7. **Congratulations - you've now secured your place!**
8. You will receive a confirmation email and further information about the trip