

# JOHNS HOPKINS A L U M N I

## The Netherlands Bike and Barge Tour August 26 - September 4, 2010

**Experience the quintessential sights and sounds of Holland by bicycle and barge.**



The end of August is a great time to visit the Netherlands -- children are back in school and vacation time is winding down for adults, leaving the roads nearly empty. The Netherlands Bike and Barge Tour explores the province of Noord Holland and the island of Texel. Discover an area of inland waterways on an exclusively chartered barge and follow your guide along Holland's excellent system of bike trails. Biking distances are generally between 25-35 miles per day with frequent stops for sightseeing, visiting pastry shops and relaxing.

Each morning after breakfast we depart as a group while the barge motors on to the next town. We then rejoin the barge later in the afternoon. Enjoy the scenery that changes day to day as we bike

through unique Dutch villages and countryside, along sand dunes and over land reclaimed from the sea. Once in Amsterdam, discover this wondrous city's museums, canals, architecture and so much more.

### **Land cost per person**

**based on double occupancy: \$2240**

**Single supplement: \$700 (singles are limited)**

### **What's Included:**

- Group transfer from and to the Amsterdam airport
- One night in a central Amsterdam hotel
- Seven nights on a deluxe passenger barge
- Daily breakfast and dinner
- English-speaking guide
- Use of our bicycles
- All entrance fees
- Our famous t-shirt



# Daily Itinerary

## AUGUST 26 OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO THE NETHERLANDS

### AUGUST 27 AMSTERDAM

Your IBT guide will meet you and your fellow alumni at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and take you by coach to Zaanse Schans. On view at this museum-village are painted wooden shoes at the shop of a *klompenmaker* and real working windmills. After lunch we'll check into our hotel in Amsterdam. Join us tonight for our welcome dinner.

### AUGUST 28 PURMEREND

Today we check into our home for the next seven nights, the barge *Iris*. On board and settled in, we will spend the afternoon enjoying the journey to Purmerend in Noord Holland. Meanwhile, your guide will fit each bicycle to its individual rider. Before dinner, the captain will discuss onboard safety procedures.

### AUGUST 29 ALKMAAR

Rules of the Dutch road (and bicycle path) and the IBT Corner System are outlined after breakfast, and then we're off on quiet bicycle paths to Alkmaar, our destination for the night. We are traveling on polder, land reclaimed from the sea.



### AUGUST 30 TEXEL

Today's ride will take us through the dunes in Noord Holland, again on wonderful and quiet bicycle paths. Here the land is considerably lower than the sea, and the dunes protect the land from being flooded. In SintMaartensvlotbrug we meet our barge again and continue motoring to the island of Texel (pronounced *tessel*).

### AUGUST 31 TEXEL

Texel is the most popular of several islands off the coast of Friesland: in the summer the population increases by 400%!

Off season, the sheep outnumber the residents as sheep farming is a big industry here. In addition, Texel also grows tulips and crocuses. We'll visit EcoMare, where sick seals and birds are cared for. After dinner you are welcome to visit a local cafe to sample a Heineken and mingle with the locals.

### SEPTEMBER 1 ENKHUIZEN

We leave the island of Texel early and motor to Den Oever, back on the mainland in the province of Noord Holland. From here we can see the Afsluitdijk, a solid four-lane highway connecting the provinces of Noord Holland and Friesland. The barge will continue without us as we start a marvelous bicycle ride on a dike along the IJsselmeer (*meer*=lake). We'll stop in Medemblik, a charming town with a castle. Nearby, the Dutch broke the dike on purpose to stop the German invasion in WWII, alas to no avail. Our day ends in Enkhuizen.

### SEPTEMBER 2 AMSTERDAM

We'll bike to the part of the province called West Friesland that has farms with unique chimneys. Enkhuizen is a town where there is much to see and do: plenty of nice restaurants, shops and very old, decorated gables on the homes. Our day's ride takes us to Hoorn, a charming town with a busy port. If you are interested in buying *klompen*, wooden shoes, your guide will tell you where to get them. After lunch in Hoorn we board our trusted barge and head for Amsterdam, or Mokum, as the locals call it.

### SEPTEMBER 3 AMSTERDAM

Today we'll have a guided walking tour and explore some offbeat neighborhoods in Amsterdam. The river Amstel (the founder of IBT was born at #196) runs through the center, and its many canals and numerous bridges are part of the ambience. Discover one of the city's famous museums, and enjoy your last chance for good coffee or a Heineken on an outdoor terrace. Join us tonight for our farewell dinner.

### SEPTEMBER 4 DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S.





## The Iris

The barge we charter in the Netherlands, the *Iris*, is a classic river barge that can carry 24 passengers in 12 cabins and has an upper deck with a spacious sitting area, dining salon, a bar and a sun deck.

Passengers are accommodated in a climate-controlled cabin with twin lower beds and a private bath, and can unpack without packing again until the last day of the tour. Breakfasts and dinners are taken aboard. The barge moves only during the day, never at night. Now and again she is underway during meals, producing a changing vista from the dining table.

## Tour Specifics

**Flight Arrangements:** Participants are responsible for making their own flight arrangements, although IBT can refer participants to a partner travel agent. Please contact our office prior to purchasing your airline tickets so we can advise you of the designated meeting time at the Amsterdam Schiphol airport.

**Enrollment Policy:** We require a deposit of \$500 per person to secure a place on the tour. Once you have decided to enroll, please contact us and we will hold your place for one week, pending receipt of your deposit.

**Cancellation Policy:** If cancellation notice is received more than 60 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$200 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received 30 to 60 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$400 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received less than 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$500 per person cancellation fee.

**Please note:** In the unlikely event that a tour is cancelled, IBT will refund payment; however, IBT is not responsible for expenses incurred by registrants, including non-refundable tickets. As such, IBT encourages all tour participants to purchase a travel protection plan. An information brochure on travel insurance will be included in your enrollment confirmation.



**Questions and reservations, please contact the tour operator:**

**International Bicycle Tours**

P.O. Box 754 • Essex, CT 06426 • Tel (860) 767-7005

Fax (860) 767-3090 • E-mail: [ibt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibt@sbcglobal.net)

***If you wish to contact us by telephone, you may reverse the charges by calling us collect within the U.S. Please state that you are with Johns Hopkins and we will accept the collect call.***