



NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE ALUMNI BIKE TOUR DUNKIRK TO HAARLEM

July 6 - July 20, 2019



SIouxLAND TRAVEL

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Discover

The Netherlands

In 1998, Eurotrail organized its first bike tour for Northwestern College alumni. This tenth tour will take us from the beaches of Dunkirk through the battle fields of the First World War in Flanders and picturesque merchant towns in Belgium like Bruges to the province of Zeeland, where Delta Works and dikes keep the water out of the Low Countries, to Dordrecht, Gouda and Haarlem. We will bike through beautiful a varied landscape, on flat and quiet country roads or biking paths, pausing at castles, nature areas, historical cities and quaint villages. On some evenings we will enjoy lectures on the history of the Low Countries. In this all-inclusive tour, you will be spoiled with gourmet food, excursions and cultural experiences.

Comments from participants on other tours:

- ◆ "Twelve days of joy, education, variety, fun, friendship and excellent, caring leadership make this the tour of a lifetime!"
- ◆ "It has been an outstanding tour!! We have had a marvelous time and have learned so much! Every day was packed with great things!"
- ◆ "Thank you for a totally awesome time! Every day was a delight! We were treated like Royalty!"

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Saturday, July 6

Departure from the U.S.

Sunday, July 7

Arrival in Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, if possible before 9 AM, so we can worship at the English Reformed Church at 10:30 AM. After a walking tour of Amsterdam, we will try out our bikes. At 3 PM we will check into our Hotel NH City Center and have some time to relax. Afterward we will enjoy dinner and a canal ride.

Monday, July 8

We will take a coach or the train to Dunkirk in France, a harbor city that has played an important role in trade and wars, including the defeat of the Spanish Armada. We will visit the Museum Dunkirk in 1940, which tells the story of Hitler's offensive and the evacuation of more than 330,000 Allied soldiers of the "Dunkirk pocket". Afterwards, we will cycle to the medieval town of Bergues, where we will stay in Hotel Au Tonnelier. The very popular French comedy "Welcome to the Sticks" was made on this town. (8m)

Tuesday, July 9

We will bike from France into Belgium and stop at the Sint Sixtus Abbey in Westvleteren, where we might try some hard-to-get beer, considered by some the best in the world. We will continue on Ypres, which was destroyed during World War I and fully restored afterward. We will visit the St. Martin's Cathedral and attend the 'Taps' – a Last Post Ceremony to commemorate the 44,000 missing British soldiers, which is held nightly since 1927 – at 8 PM at the Menin Gate. We will stay in Albion Hotel in Ypres. (34m)

Wednesday, July 10

We will bike to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 – one of the best war museums in the region with a good exposition, trenches and a dug-out. Afterwards we will bike to the Tine Cot war cemetery. We will end the day at the controversial Peace Tower in the medieval town of Diksmuide, where we will stay the night. (28m)

Thursday, July 11

We will visit the Kathe Kollwitz museum in Koekelare and castle Wijnendale in Torhout and then bike on to Bruges, arguably the best-preserved medieval city anywhere in Europe. We will stay in hotel Flanders, in the historic city center, a hotel with swimming pool. (30m)

Friday, July 12

We will spend the day in Bruges, visiting several museums, shopping and relaxing.

Saturday, July 13

From Bruges we will visit picturesque Damme and bike to the Dutch province of Zeeland.

Tour Leaders:

James Kennedy is a NWC alumnus and dean of Utrecht University College. He also taught eight years in the U.S. at Northwestern College, Valparaiso University and Hope College. He has published books on modern Dutch history: the sixties, euthanasia and secularization. His wife, Simone Kennedy, is a local politician.

Hotels:

All of our hotels are located in nature areas or quiet streets and have private facilities.

Food:

Breakfast buffet, lunch, snacks and refreshments are included in the price. Each night we will savor an excellent multi-course dinner, prepared by superb chefs.

Nights:

After dinner, we may enjoy city walks or lectures on Dutch history

We will visit Sluis and cycle along the North Sea coast, taking the ferry to Vlissingen. In Middelburg we will stay in Hotel aan de Dam and enjoy a guest lecture. (33m)

Sunday, July 14

We will attend a Dutch church service in Middelburg (optional) before biking to the old town of Veere, taking the ferry to another island and biking across the long Delta Works dam to Neeltje Jans, considered an engineering marvel. We will bike through beautiful Zierikzee, and stay in Hotel Schuddebeurs in a nature area just north of Zierikzee. (32m)

Monday, July 15

We will visit Dreischor, the most beautiful 'ring'-village in the Netherlands, where houses are built in a ring around the church. We will then bike on to the Flood Museum to remember the 1953 North Sea Flood. The museum is located in four caissons that were used to close the final gap in the dikes. We will leave the province of Zeeland and stay overnight in Willemstad, a fortress town built around 1600. We will stay in Hotel Het Wapen van Willemstad. (38m)

Tuesday, July 16

We will bike near the Moerdijk, the Netherlands' great industrial and harbor area, and then through the nature area Biesbosch to the town of Dordrecht, Holland's oldest city. The Synod of Dordt convened in this city exactly 400 years ago (1619) to settle a divisive controversy on predestination and free will. We will stay in hotel Dordrecht. (27m)

Wednesday, July 17

From Dordrecht we will bike past the 19 windmills of Kinderdijk to the silver town of Schoonhoven and along beautiful rivers lined with old farms to Gouda, the city of cheese and syrup waffles, where we will admire the stained-glass windows of the St. Jan, the picturesque city hall or do some shopping. We will stay in hotel Best Western Gouda. (33m)

Thursday, July 18

From Gouda we will bike through Holland's Green Heart along rivers and through villages to Alphen aan de Rijn, where we will visit Archeon, an open air museum about prehistoric and Roman times in The Netherlands. On our way to Leimuiden and Hoofddorp, we will enjoy some eel at an eel-smoker. We will stay in Novotel in Hoofddorp. (29 m)

Friday, July 19

We will bike up and down to Haarlem, to visit the Corrie ten Boom house, the enormous St. Bavo Church and the museum of the Dutch painter Frans Hals. We will also have some time for shopping in the city center. (19m)

Saturday, July 20

Departure by train to Schiphol airport (regular nightly departures available).

Price:

\$ 2,999 per person

This includes:

- Hotels (*Double occupancy. Additional \$700 for single supplement*)
- All meals, beverages and snacks.
- Entrees to all sights, museums, castles, boats and ferries
- Bike rental
- Transportation to and from the airport
- Baggage transfer

Minimum of 10 participants, maximum of 24.

Reservation Form

This reservation form is for one or two people. Please send this form with your \$300 per person deposit to Siouxland Travel & Tours, 110 Central Ave NW, Orange City, IA 51041:

Full Name as it appears on your Passport:

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

What room accommodations do you prefer:

- Single accommodations (\$700 single supplement)
- Twin beds: share room with _____
- Double beds (if available)

Do you need to fly out of an alternative airport to meet up with the group?

- yes, I prefer to fly from: _____
- no

Dietary allergies: _____

Do you have Frequent Flyer Number or Known Traveler Number (KTN)?

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of this reservation form.

Signature/date

Signature/date

Terms and Conditions

Payment

The deposit of \$300 per person is due with the reservation form. The second and third payment of \$1350 each are due on March 1, 2019 and June 1, 2019. You will receive an invoice for every payment.

Cancellation and Refunds

Notice of cancellation must be received by Siouxland Travel in writing. Those who cancel after booking and before 50 days prior to departure will receive a full refund minus a \$150 handling fee per person. Cancellation between 50 days prior to departure and 10 days prior to departure will result in a 70% refund. (Airfare not included.) Those who cancel after 10 days prior to departure or interrupt the tour after it has begun, pay 100% of the tour price and will receive no refund. Hollandtrail reserves the right to cancel the tour at any time and in such case a full refund of the tour price will constitute full settlement and conclusion to the participant.

Health, Passport and Insurance

Tour participants are completely responsible for their own well-being and fitness prior and during the tour and should receive their physician's approval to engage in the tour. Participants must be in the possession of a valid passport. Siouxland Travel recommends travelers purchase short-term traveler's insurance that covers baggage, accidents and sickness, trip interruption and trip cancellation insurance. We also recommend that you take your own bicycle helmet along.

Extension of vacation

If you wish to spend more time in the Netherlands or another country before or after the biking tour, let us know, and we will try to assist you as much as we can.

Tour Price

We reserve the right to change prices without notice if the currency exchange rate varies significantly between the time of booking and departure. You will then get an opportunity to cancel the tour for a full refund. Participants can lock in the tour price by paying sooner; the tour price is guaranteed once final payment is received.

Release and Assumption of Risk

Due to unforeseen circumstances Hollandtrail might alter accommodations, routes or sights from those mentioned in the itinerary. Participants must recognize that during the tour accidents and illnesses may occur and that forces of nature or transportation modes may cause inconveniences, delays and/or cancellations. Hollandtrail will not be liable for any personal injury, property loss or property damage to any tour participant. The tour operator, while taking every precaution with the participant's property, is not liable for any loss, damage or inconvenience in the handling of that property. The participant assumes all of the above risks and will hold operators harmless from all liability, and any and all action or demand which they now have or which may arise, in connection with the tour or any other activity arranged for the client by the tour operator and their agents. These terms are considered as accepted when the participant makes payment for his or her tour, and that acceptance also serves as a release and assumption of risk from the participant's heirs, executors and administrators, and for all members of the participant's family.

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For additional information, go to www.nwciowa.edu/alumni/netherlands-tour