



**Clearwater/St. Pete Ski & Sports Club
Bike & Barge, Netherlands
Apr. 24 – May 5, 2018**



Trip Leader: Gale Zitnik
BikeandBarge2018@SnowShark.org
(813) 418-1805

**Bike and Luxury Barge tour of the Netherlands
Plus 3 days in Amsterdam.**



Co Leader: Linda Stearns
BikeandBarge2018@SnowShark.org
(727) 460-2669

Price: \$2297 per person. Air is on your own. \$500 deposit required to hold space. Only 22 spaces available.

Join Gale and Linda for the Snow Shark's 2018 European trip to Holland during the height of Tulip season.

Fly into Amsterdam, the capital and most populous municipality of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. You will have 3 days to explore this interesting city before embarking on Merlijn on Saturday. Amsterdam is known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system and narrow houses with gabled facades, legacies of the city's 17th-century Golden Age. Its Museum District houses works by Rembrandt and Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and modern art at the Stedelijk. We will be staying in Haarlem, a lovely quaint town just a 15 minute train ride from the center of Amsterdam. Lodging includes a buffet breakfast each morning.

Friday, April 27th is Koningsdag or King's Day, a national holiday celebrating the birth of King Willem-Alexander. There are large scale celebrations throughout the Netherlands and particularly in Amsterdam. Come prepared to wear orange clothing in honour of the House of Orange-Nassau.

Saturday, April 28, Day 1. Embarkation in Amsterdam at 4 pm. After your welcome aboard drink, the Merlijn sails to Weesp while you are treated to your first of 5 3-course dinners for the week.

Sunday, Day 2. The group will bike from Weesp to Nigtevegt where you will be treated to a tour and lunch at a Cheese farm. After lunch, we bike to Breukelen where we rejoin the Merlijn. We then sail to Utrecht and enjoy dinner on board.

Monday, Day 3. We sail during breakfast to Vianen where our bike tour starts. We ride to Schoonhoven which is renowned for its silver; hence it is nicknamed Zilverstad ("Silver City"). After dinner on board, there will be time for an evening walking tour.



Tuesday, Day 4. We bike from Schoonhoven via Kinderdijk to Gouda. The most important aspect of UNESCO World Heritage Kinderdijk is the unique collection of 19 authentic windmills, which are considered a Dutch icon throughout the entire world. Gouda, the historic city in the province of South Holland, is known world-wide for its Gouda cheese, its candles and its delicious stroopwafels.

Wednesday, Day 5. We start with a sailing breakfast from Gouda to Boskoop where we start our bike tour to Leiden, home to the Netherlands' oldest university and the birthplace of Rembrandt. Tonight you'll enjoy dinner on your own in the city.



Thursday, Day 6. Today is the highlight of your tour with a visit to the Keukenhof Gardens, home to the world's largest flower garden. Covering some 79 acres, Keukenhof Gardens combine nature's talents with human design to create incredibly landscaped tulip fields along with narcissi and daffodils, hyacinths, bluebells and many flowers. During breakfast, we sail close to the gardens, where our bike tour starts. After visiting the gardens, we bike along the flower fields to the city of Haarlem. Haarlem was once a major North Sea trading port surrounded by a defensive wall. It retains its medieval character of cobblestone streets and gabled houses. It's the center of a major flower-bulb-growing district, and famous for its outlying tulip fields. Tonight you will again enjoy dinner on your own in the city.



Friday, Day 7. Today we bike from Haarlem via Zaanse Schans, a picturesque place with authentic, wooden windmills and unique Dutch houses, to Amsterdam. Dinner on board.

Saturday, Day 8. After breakfast on board, we disembark at 9 am and prepare for our flight home.

Trip Price: \$2297 per person. Does not include air.

Price Includes:

- Pre-trip party & Trip T-shirt
- 3 nights lodging in Haarlem (double-room) plus buffet breakfast
- 7 night's accommodations on board the Merlijn in a double room with private bathroom. Daily cabin cleaning service, welcome aboard drink, 8 breakfast buffets, 5 lunch boxes + 1 cheese farm lunch and 6 3-course dinners. Unlimited coffee, hot chocolate, tea and ice water. Use of 24-speed bicycle plus bike bag, towel, water bottle and helmets.
- Luggage handling and gratuity for group transfers from Schiphol airport to Amsterdam hotel, Amsterdam hotel to Merlijn mooring spot, Merlijn mooring spot to Schiphol airport. Trip leaders will communicate the recommended flight schedules to and from Schiphol airport since the buses will meet this schedule.
- Membership in the Clearwater/St. Pete Ski and Sports Club

Deposit: \$500 per person with trip application

Balance Due: 2nd payment due **July 24, 2017** and Final Payment due **February 24, 2018**. Trip size is 22, so reserve early.

Cancellation: All cancellations must be received in writing by February 24, 2018. See cancellation policy on the back of the trip application.

Payment: Deposits and payments can be paid by check. You will be billed for final payment. **TRIP PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO ANY NEW TAXES, FUEL SURCHARGES OR FEES IMPOSED BY EITHER THE GOVERNMENT, THE AIRPORT, AIRLINES OR ANY AGENCIES INVOLVED. The final payment will reflect any change needed (more or less) for the Euro/Dollar ratio.**

Trip Insurance: Trip insurance is recommended but is **NOT** part of the package price. Two good sites to consider for this are www.insuremytrip.com or www.travelprotectors.com as a source for your insurance. Your trip **may** have trip insurance as an option. Please contact your trip leader for availability.

Please make checks payable to **Clearwater/St. Pete Ski Club** and mail to:

Linda Stearns
1710 Main Street
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

For more information on booking this trip go to www.SnowShark.org or contact:

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