

ISLAND HOPPING IN THE NETHERLANDS

Another Boat/Bike adventure

June 25, 2027-July 7, 2027

THIS TRIP IS FOR PHYSICALLY FIT AND VERY ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS



It is a world with two faces, where sand and water dominate during the changeover from low to high tide and where islands of all sizes line up like pearls on a chain. There are tidal channels, seagrass meadows, mussel beds, sandbanks, mudflats, salt marshes, beaches and dunes. The Frisian Seas is the habitat of marine mammals such as seals and porpoises, and the breeding ground and wintering area for millions of birds. The area is one of the last remaining large-scale, low tide ecosystems where natural processes continue to function. Furthermore, you will visit the famous freshwater lake IJsselmeer and its beautiful coastline with many fishing villages and old trading harbor towns.

Highlights of the trip are the North Sea islands of Texel and Terschelling and their beautiful natural areas, small villages and long sandy beaches that you can explore by bicycle. Everyone will have an e-bike. Highlights on the coasts of the mainland in the provinces of North-Holland and Friesland are a combination of rural areas, small villages and picturesque harbor towns: a true “El Dorado” for cyclists.

Leafde fan Fryslan is an imposing four-masted schooner which made its maiden voyage in the spring of 2018. The interior of this recently restyled ship can best be described as refined. On the lower deck there are 12 well-equipped double cabins, 1 smaller double cabin, 1 junior suite and 2 single person cabins. On the upper deck there are 4 magnificent suites with a hotel-style bed, a double glass sliding door and a small private balcony. Sumptuous meals are served in the restaurant and the ship's bar is fully stocked. The salon is the place to be after a day on the pedals, or you can be on deck where you can burn some extra calories by helping to hoist the sails.

The Ship is your hotel. In between cycling excursions, you cruise (sail) along with the ship, which travels to a new destination every day. You dine, sleep and eat breakfast on board. You'll receive a packed lunch every day and you can usually choose between a longer or shorter bike ride. It's also possible to spend a day on board if you like.

Friday, June 25th. The group flight departs LAX. We will arrive in Amsterdam the following day.

Saturday, June 26. We have a ½ day here, you can choose to go out and about and check things out or get caught up on that much needed sleep and acclimate to the Netherlands time zone. (*AIRPORT HILTON, or equivalent*)

Sunday, June 27. After sleeping in and having our breakfast at the hotel, we will be picked up by our private coach and driven to Enkhuizen where we will board our privately chartered ship the **Leafde fan Fryslan**. After everyone is checked in, the captain will give us an introduction to our sailing hotel and our bike tour leaders will give an overview of the next 7 days. Our ship will then depart and sail to our first destination, Medemblik. After dinner our guides will lead us on a walking tour of this historic town now known for its sailing culture. (Breakfast and Dinner included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Monday, June 28. Medemblik, round tour (17 miles or 24.8 miles). After breakfast and our bike fitting, we will head off on our first guided bike ride, which highlights the picturesque village of Twisk. This former peat mining town is known for its historic buildings, including the 15th-century church of St. Martin. The Village is still in a pristine historic state. After our cycling tour, the ship will sail to Texel, the biggest Dutch island in the North Sea. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Tuesday, June 29. Texel, roundtrip from/to Oudeschild (26 miles or 30 miles). The island of Texel is a cyclist's dream destination with its varied scenery, picturesque villages and dedicated cycling paths. Our guides will take us on a tour around the Island. We will make a visit to the seal sanctuary station, Ecomare. While the main mission of the Ecomare is to rescue and cure birds and seals, they also educate visitors on the area and the wildlife. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Wednesday, June 30. Texel – Terschelling (sailing about 5-6 hours). Today is a full sailing day. The captain and a sailor will introduce you to the art of sailing while the impressive ship makes its way to the next island. The Wadden Sea is the largest unbroken system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world, with natural processes undisturbed throughout most of the area. This UNESCO World Heritage property encompasses a multitude of transitional zones between land, the sea and freshwater environment, and is rich in species specially adapted to the demanding environmental conditions. It is considered one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the world and is connected to a network of other key sites for migratory birds. Its importance is not only in the context of the East Atlantic Flyway but also in the critical role it plays in the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds. In the Wadden Sea up to 6.1 million birds can be present at the same time, and an average of 10-12 million pass through it each year. As we are sailing, keep a lookout for seals in the wild. They like to rest on the sandbars. While we are sailing we will enjoy an extensive lunch on board. In the afternoon the ship will arrive on Terschelling Island, which features a number of picturesque villages situated between the polder and sand dunes. Tonight, there is no dinner on board. You can explore the island and try one of the nice restaurants on your own. (Breakfast and Lunch included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Thursday, July 1. Terschelling roundtrip (26 miles) and sailing to **Harlingen**. While the previous day was all about sailing, today is all about cycling. Terschelling has four beautiful villages. West Terschelling is the largest village on the island and has a number of nice shops and pubs. The most noted landmark on this island is the 400 year old lighthouse, Brandaris, that can be seen from well off in the distance. Also worth visiting is the heath land of Boschplaat, which will captivate you with its mud, beaches and dunes. After a day of cycling, we can relax in comfort on the ship. In the late afternoon the ship will sail the Wadden Sea to Harlingen, the most important harbor city of the province of Friesland. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Friday, July 2. Harlingen – Franeker – Makkum (29 miles or 36 miles). The bike tour today goes via Franeker, where a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Planetarium of Eise Eisinga is on the program. After the visit to the planetarium, we will cycle through the beautiful wide Frisian countryside along several rural villages to the small harbor of Makkum on the eastern bank of the lake IJsselmeer. Those on the longer cycling trip will visit Bolsward, one of the Eleven Frisian Cities. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Saturday, July 3. Makkum – Stavoren (19 miles or 30 miles) & sailing to Enkhuizen. From Makkum we will cycle to Stavoren. The short ride leads you via the old trading town of Hindeloopen. This local art of painting, a type of traditional decorative painting is very famous here. In addition, you will find the First Frisian Museum of Ice Skating in Hindeloopen. The long ride takes you along several Frisian lakes and shows a different type of landscape. From Stavoren, the ship will set sail to cross the IJsselmeer to Enkhuizen in the late afternoon. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included). *LEFDE FAN FRYSLAN*

Sunday, July 4. We depart the ship after breakfast, approximately 9:30. We will be picked up by our chartered coach and taken back to Amsterdam where we will spend our next 3 nights. (Breakfast included). *DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON CENTRAL STATION or equivalent*

Monday, July 5 and Tuesday, July 6. Amsterdam will be free time for everyone to do as they choose. (Breakfast included). *DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON CENTRAL STATION or equivalent*

Wednesday, July 7. We will depart our hotel on our chartered coach to go to the airport to catch our flight home. (Breakfast included)

Prices (land/ship only - air price is not currently available):

- Small 2-Person Double Cabin (1 cabin available) \$3,995
- Regular 2-Person Double Cabin (12 cabins available) \$4,220
- Junior Suite 2-Person Cabin (1 cabin available) \$4,525
- Magnificent 2-Person Cabin (4 cabins available) \$5,025
- Regular 1-Person Single Cabin (1 cabin available) \$5,105
- Small Regular 1-Person Single Cabin (1 cabin available) \$4,740

Sign-ups will begin at 6:30 p.m. on January 6th at the Best Western Thousand Oaks Inn. We have room for 38 people (2 of which are single cabin/hotel room). If the number of registrations exceeds 38 people or the requested cabin type exceeds the number of available cabin types, a lottery will be held beginning at 7:30 p.m. Registration package must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Jan 6th to be included in the lottery. If you cannot attend the meeting on this date, then drop off or mail your registration package to Julianne Seeley. Contact Julianne at 805-722-2921 for mailing information.



