

Holland / Germany – Amsterdam to Aachen



Trip Summary

Holland's tulips, windmills, and canals are quick to capture the imagination. While those are spectacular, they are only a small part of what the Netherlands has to offer. This seven-day multisport adventure dives deep into the rest of the experience. Kayak through the canals of Amsterdam. Sip wine at Maastricht's wineries overlooking hillside vineyards. Cycle along the trails that the impressionist masters walked for inspiration. Wander museums both indoor and out, filled with masterpieces from the world's most famous artists. Stay at a castle made into a hotel, and see medieval cathedrals along the way. Savor Holland's eclectic cuisine and hop across the border to savor German and Belgian gastronomy. This multisport adventure takes you by bicycle and foot from Amsterdam's colorful tulip markets to Aachen's famous cathedral.

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam / Arnhem

Meet your guide in the morning for a walking tour around Amsterdam • Learn about Amsterdam's illustrious past as well as its renaissance architecture from your experienced guide • Let floral scents relax you as you walk past local stands of colorful tulips • See Amsterdam through another perspective as you cruise the canal-ways of Amsterdam by kayak past quaint households and houseboats • Have lunch along the Amstel River which gives the city of Amsterdam its name • *Overnight at Hotel Groot Warnsborn (L, D)*

Day 2: Rheden / Arnhem

After breakfast, head out to find inspiration on the trails trodden by some of the Dutch landscape masters • Follow meandering streams on winding paths • Catch juniper-scented breezes while exploring the heath • Dive into the Dutch history of WWII seeing where the action in "A Bridge Too Far" took place • Hike through Holland's eastern woodlands and marvel at the mansions hidden in the trees • Tonight enjoy the famous Dutch/Indonesian cuisine "Rijsttafel" • *Overnight at Hotel Groot Warnsborn (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Hoge Veluwe Nature Reserve / Arnhem

Meet your guide for a quick briefing about cycling in the Netherlands, then head out to immerse yourself in Dutch culture at the Arnhem Open Air Museum, followed by the bike paths of the Hoge Veluwe Nature Reserve • Ride through a fantastic array of terrains including heathlands, sand dunes, and woodlands • After lunch, enjoy art both inside and outside the Kröller Müller Museum by Van Gogh, Monet, Picasso, and other masters • Tonight you'll have an evening on your own • *Overnight at Hotel Groot Warnsborn (B)*

Day 4: Arnhem / Maastricht / Vaals

This morning, transfer to the more pastoral landscapes of Southern Limburg • Walk the cobblestone streets of Maastricht, considered one of the most beautiful towns in the Netherlands • Experience a deep sense of history among the headstones of the American War Memorial, where the Dutch honor fallen soldiers that helped liberate the Netherlands from Axis occupation • Ride the rolling hills that make the eastern Netherlands a cycling destination, enjoying quaint villages and a countryside sprinkled with forgotten castles • Over the next three nights we'll have a chance to dine in three different countries! • *Overnight at Hotel Kasteel Bloemendaal (B, L, D)*



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Day 5: Vaals / Aachen

Mount your bicycle for an unforgettable ride through three countries • Starting from our Castle we'll enjoy an epic day of cycling, experiencing three distinct cultures that share a robust and complex history • Today's sights include the UNESCO World Heritage site of Charlemagne's Chapel in Aachen and the highest point in the Netherlands at just over 1,000 feet • *Overnight at Hotel Kasteel Bloemendal (B, L)*

Day 6: Maastricht / Vaals

Spend the day hiking through the rolling hills of the Netherlands and Belgium's border region • See where Hitler's Invasion of Belgium began at the (then) world's largest fortress • Cross over Belgium's cultural divide, from French influence to Dutch, Wallonia to Flanders • Venture out into vineyards covering wide valleys or explore underground caverns that hid people and famous artwork from the Nazi's in WWII • Enjoy some free time in Maastricht before heading back for a lovely dinner at the hotel • *Overnight at Hotel Kasteel Bloemendal (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Vaals / Amsterdam

Your guides will transfer you back to Amsterdam (2 hrs, 15 min) in time for your flights home or to your onward destination • *No overnight (B)*

*** Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Hiking: Sightseeing walks accompanied by your guide through the Dutch landscape or on city tours.

Cycling: Cycling 10 to 30 miles per day on predominantly flat or rolling hill terrain.

Blokarting: Lessons with an experienced guide to start. Safe, fun and easy for anyone to learn. Blokarting is sailing across a sandy beach on wheels. You don't need any sailing experience! Dependent upon weather and tide; alternative activity may be offered.

Discovery: Known as the nexus of Europe, we'll begin our trip in the Netherlands, historically blending its own deep-rooted culture with the cultures of neighboring Germany, Belgium, and France. Walk the narrow streets of Amsterdam reveling in the mixture of renaissance architecture and modern cosmopolitan feel. Explore the landscapes that inspired the great Dutch landscape painters, as well as see modern art on display along-side the impressionist masters. Travel the way locals do, cycling through the rolling countryside, as well as enjoying the convenience of ample urban bike paths. Hike the pastoral eastern and southern regions of heaths, woods, and hillside vineyards. Come explore Holland and Germany with the experts in adventure travel!

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

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Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 – 3: Hotel Groot Warnsborn

The Hotel Groot Warnsborn sits in the center of both the tranquil Veluwe forests and is within easy reach of many of the attractions of Amsterdam. This stately hotel also boasts a French restaurant with spectacular forest views. Take time to enjoy the amazing property with its lush garden, beautiful lawn and its sporting facilities. The rooms are spacious and offer a wonderful view of the surrounding area. Leave the hotel on foot and you will soon find yourself immersed in the fabulous forests of the Veluwe, in every direction.

Nights 4 – 6: Hotel Kasteel Bloemendal

This castle turned hotel is the epitome of elegance. Relax in palatial rooms, or enjoy a meal in the world-class restaurant. Surrounded by forested hills, Hotel Kasteel Bloemendal is a sanctuary where you can recover from the day's adventures. The hotel is situated in an extraordinary area, where the borders of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany meet, providing a host of cultural experiences.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Amsterdam. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of the Sir Albert Hotel, Albert Cuypstraat 2-6, Oud Zuid, 1072 CT Amsterdam, for a walking tour of Amsterdam. After lunch, kayak through the famous canals of Amsterdam.

After breakfast on Day 7, we transfer you back to Amsterdam (2 hours, 15 minutes) and take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in the city.

Trip Price

\$3,198 (Single supplement: \$580)

Trip Length

7 days / 6 nights

2020 Dates

June 7 – 13

August 2 – 8

September 20 – 26

Host City

Amsterdam (AMS)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Explore Holland & Germany's magical
countryside the way the locals do -
by bicycle and on foot*

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Trip Reservations

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Bikes and other necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy & Single Supplements

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.