

Copenhagen Amsterdam Paris 2018

Ride a single stage or both

Friday 06 July, 2018 to Sunday 29 July, 2018

Whether you're on the bike coasting past the windmills of the Netherlands or through the countryside in rural France, kicking back on a brewery tour in Bruges, experiencing a food and canal tour of Amsterdam, stepping out onto the famous Roubaix Velodrome or learning about some of the history of Villers Bretonneux on its 100th anniversary - this tour has an itinerary that gets the blood pumping with excitement. From the moment you join the city of cyclists in Copenhagen at the start of the ride, until you raise your glass in a champagne toast in Paris as you prepare to watch the Tour de France cyclists arrive on the Champs Elysees, you will experience some of the best European experiences on offer all wrapped up into an easy, fun and rewarding cycling holiday.

Location	Distance	Date	B	L	D	A
Copenhagen (pre-tour)	NA	Fri 6 Jul 2018	--	--	Y	Y
Copenhagen to Rødvig	80km	Sat 7 Jul 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Rødvig to Maribo	100km	Sun 8 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Maribo to Baltic Sea Coast	75km	Mon 9 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Baltic Sea Coast to Lübeck	55km	Tue 10 July 2018	Y	--	--	Y
Lübeck to Hamburg	70km	Wed 11 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Hamburg Rest Day	NA	Thu 12 July 2018	Y	--	--	Y
Hamburg to Bremen	115km	Fri 13 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Bremen to Cloppenburg	85km	Sat 14 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Cloppenburg to Coevorden	105km	Sun 15 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Coevorden to Kampen	70km	Mon 16 July 2018	Y	--	--	Y
Kampen to Amsterdam	110km	Tue 17 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Amsterdam Rest Day	NA	Wed 18 July 2018	Y	Y	--	Y
Amsterdam to Gouda	90km	Thu 19 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Gouda to Antwerp	120km	Fri 20 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Antwerp to Ghent	55km	Sat 21 July 2018	Y	--	--	Y
Ghent to Bruges	50km	Sun 22 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Bruges Rest Day	NA	Mon 23 July 2018	Y	--	--	Y
Bruges to Roubaix	75km	Tue 24 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Roubaix to Arras	83km	Wed 25 July 2018	Y	--	--	Y
Arras to Amiens	85km	Thu 26 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Amiens to Beauvais	70km	Fri 27 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Beauvais to Paris	115km	Sat 28 July 2018	Y	--	Y	Y
Paris Tour de France arrival	NA	Sun 29 July 2018	Y	--	--	--
Total distance cycled	1608km		23	1	16	23
Average daily distance	85km					

Meal and accom inclusions noted as B, L, D, A (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Accom)

Copenhagen (pre-tour) — NA — Fri 6 Jul 2018 — - - D A

Day 1 (pre tour) Highlights: World-renowned bicycle-friendly city, Tivoli Gardens Amusement Park, the statue of The Little Mermaid, the freetown of Christiania.

Copenhagen is a wonderful place to start this tour. We suggest arriving at least a few days early to make the most of your time here and to 'see the sights'. Note that our pre tour hotels often sell out quickly so it is a good idea to book early. The Danes are well known for their love of bicycling and Copenhagen is renowned for cycling infrastructure that cities across the world are trying to emulate. With over 390km of designated bike lanes, it is truly a cyclist heaven. The world also looks to Copenhagen for the latest innovations in design, architecture, fashion and savours the extraordinary culinary revolution that has taken place here over the last decade.

Copenhagen to Rødvig — 80km — Sat 7 Jul 2018 — B - D A

Day 2 Highlights: Kalvebod Fælled, Mosede Fort & Beach, Køge oldest half-timbered house in Denmark

You'll leave Copenhagen on one of its many extraordinary bike paths to the Kalvebod Fælled nowadays one of the biggest recreational areas around Copenhagen. Stop for lunch in Køge, a century-old market town with an impressive medieval section surrounding the central square which is home to the oldest half-timbered house in Denmark. Continue cycling south, past Stevens Klint to our hotel on the Baltic beach of Rødvig.

Rødvig to Maribo — 100km — Sun 8 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 3 Highlights: Præstø Fjord, pedal over a 3 km bridge, beer factory

Continue pedaling southeast today through rural Denmark and then along the Præstø Fjord, one of the many fjords in the area that features salt marshes. Further along, we'll leave the Seeland peninsula and cross over onto Lolland Island, the fourth largest island in Denmark and mostly one of transit as it is the closest to Germany. Enjoy a freshly poured beer in our destination town of Maribo which boasts its own brewery.

Maribo to Baltic Sea Coast — 75km — Mon 9 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 4 Highlights: Goodbye Denmark and hello Germany, ferry to Fehmarn Island, Baltic Sea Coast

A short 20km ride brings us to the port town of Rodby where we'll catch a ferry leaving Denmark and entering Germany via the Femer Bælt! From the small island of Fehmarn, we'll join the mainland to then pedal another 50km south to our hotel near the East German Baltic Sea Coast.

Baltic Sea Coast to Lübeck — 55km — Tue 10 July 2018 — B - - A

Day 5 Highlights: Coastal riding, Lübeck - Queen of the Hanseatic

Ride along the beach and enjoy the waterfront of the Timmendorfer Strand before heading inland to Lübeck. Before entering town, you'll catch a free shuttle bus that takes you through the Herrentunnel underneath the Trave river. Lübeck is referred to as the Queen of Hanseatic cities. Its extensive Brick Gothic architecture is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. And make sure you enjoy Lübeck's beloved delicacy - some of the best marzipan in the world made by Niederegger.

Lübeck to Hamburg — 70km — Wed 11 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 6 Highlights: Hamburg

'The gateway to the world' might be a bold claim, but Germany's second-largest city and largest port (despite being located on a river 100 km from the coast) has never been sleepy. Hamburg has engaged in international business trade since joining the Hanseatic League back in the Middle Ages, and this 'harbourpolis' is now the nation's premier media hub and its wealthiest city.

Hamburg Rest Day — NA — Thu 12 July 2018 — B - - A

Day 7 Highlights: Guided harbor cruise of the Hamburg Port

Enjoy a harbor cruise this morning and some free time to visit some of the local attractions like the impressive Rathaus (city hall) or one of the museums in the newly popular warehouse district. Or perhaps you'd like some shopping in the main streets around the train station, or a stroll along the Alster River and harbor to see the bustle.

Hamburg to Bremen — 115km — Fri 13 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 8 Highlights: Elbe River, Altes Land, Bremen

We'll leave Hamburg along the Elbe River to then turn south into the "Altes Land," or Old Country, reclaimed marshland which is now fertile farmland, producing apples and cherries. Notice the small villages and farm houses with richly decorated half-timbered houses that characterize the region. Our destination is the city state of Bremen, important both historically as a hotly contested city-state between the Holy Roman Empire and Sweden in the 17th Century. In modern day Germany it is one of the largest cities of the area. Bremen is also famous for the Brothers Grimm tale ostensibly set there (The Town Musicians of Bremen) even if in the fairy tale the animal musicians never actually make it to Bremen!

Bremen to Cloppenburg — 85km — Sat 14 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 9 Highlights: Oldenburg Schloss, Ahlhorner Fischteiche nature reserve

It's a relaxing ride west to Oldenburg where you might want to enjoy coffee and a thick slice of German cake in the pedestrian city center. Alternatively, enjoy a visit to the Oldenburg castle, home to the Oldenburg monarchs until 1918. Continue south through rural countryside and the Ahlhorner Fischteiche nature reserve with its small ponds and opportunities for bird-watching. Once at our destination, the small town of Cloppenburg, take time to visit the oldest outdoor museum village in Germany. Try to watch some of the Tour de France on TV this afternoon and tomorrow as the cyclists roll around the Amiens, Arras, Roubaix region - we will be rolling through the same places in 10 days time.

Cloppenburg to Coevorden — 105km — Sun 15 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 10 Highlights: Cross the German-Dutch border, Coevorden

Today you'll start your ride in Germany and end in the Netherlands, cycling along quiet country roads and bike paths. As we exit Germany, we'll cross the Ems river and its delta. Keep your eyes peeled for an "auf wiedersehen" and a "welkom" sign as they are the only indicators that you are crossing from one country to another! Our destination, Coevorden was reconstructed as an ideal Renaissance city in the 17th century.

Coevorden to Kampen — 70km — Mon 16 July 2018 — B - - A

Day 11 Highlights: Dutch bike paths, Zwolle, Kampen

Pedal along the famous Dutch network of bike paths which make the Netherlands one of the most cycling-friendly countries in the world. Visit the small city of Zwolle ("hill" in old Dutch), built on a hill in between four rivers.

Continue pedaling to one of the best-preserved city centers in the Netherlands, the Hanseatic city of Kampen. The City center was built on the banks of the IJssel River, a Dutch branch of the Rhine river. Stroll around town to visit the ancient city walls and gates, as well as the numerous ancient buildings and churches spanning from the 15th to the 19th centuries.

Kampen to Amsterdam — 110km — Tue 17 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 12 Highlights: Waterfront riding, bike paths, Amsterdam

We'll ride due west today following small bike paths that border inlets from the North Sea that spread deep into the Netherlands, reminding us that many parts of the country are at, or below, sea level and that water management is crucial here. We'll finish the day in Amsterdam, a magical city built on canals. Our hotel overlooks the IJ, the body of water that acts as Amsterdam's "waterfront" and that connects the North Sea to the interior's water ways. We'll enjoy a walk and dinner tonight together.

Amsterdam Rest Day — NA — Wed 18 July 2018 — B L - A

Day 13 Highlights: Canal and boat tour of Jordaan neighborhood, the city

Today we welcome our riders joining the second stage of this tour and farewell those who may be leaving us after the first stage. Enjoy a leisurely morning and then meet up for a unique food and canal tour of the city, where we will taste a variety of Dutch specialties and getting a tour of the Jordaan neighborhood by boat. You'll have time this afternoon to visit any number of the city's attractions - between museums like the Anne Frank house, canals, quaint neighborhoods, hip locales and lively night scene there is plenty to explore. If you are arriving early to Amsterdam for stage 2 or staying a little longer after stage 1 please book early as our tour hotel often sells out quickly.

Amsterdam to Gouda — 90km — Thu 19 July 2018 — B - D A

STAGE TWO SOLD OUT. Day 14 Highlights: Hollandic Waterline defense system, Utrecht, Gouda

Follow bike paths out of Amsterdam and head into the region of the Hollandic Waterline, a defense system born in the 17th Century where castles and military forts could be used to turn Holland into an island to keep out invaders through integrated systems of flooding. A century later the water froze creating a bridge for the French army to attack. Our first stop of the day is the tiny, quaint center of Utrecht and its unique bars dug into old working tunnels. Enjoy lunch at one of these outdoor cafés before heading to Gouda (pronounced Gowda), famous for its orange cheese. Enjoy a visit to the town's cheese museum before dinner together tonight.

Gouda to Antwerp — 120km — Fri 20 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 15 Highlights: Kinderdijk Windmills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Antwerp

Leave early today to enjoy time at a unique UNESCO World Heritage Site along our route: Kinderdijk. Nineteen majestic windmills align to form a memorable and stunning sight. After exploring here keep pedaling south through Dordrecht to reach Antwerp, historically known as the city of diamonds but also birthplace of the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens. Our hotel is centrally located so that you can visit the famous painter's art in the city's cathedral, the historic city center, or the diamond district. The Red Star Line Museum is a bit further out but well worth the effort. The museum documents the time when 2 million emigrants shipped off to North America between 1873 and 1934.

Antwerp to Ghent — 55km — Sat 21 July 2018 — B - - A

Day 16 Highlights: Antwerp, Ghent, Jan van Eyck's "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb"

A short ride permits a late start as we leave Antwerp and head west through historic marshes. These marshes

provided fodder for sheep and Ghent became one of the richest cities in the world during the Middle Ages because of its wool industry. While not as wealthy as it once was, this lively university city is still one of the prettiest cities in Belgium. Admire its traditional tall Flemish buildings towering over the small streets and plazas.

Ghent to Bruges — 50km — Sun 22 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 17 Highlights: UNESCO World Heritage Site Medieval City Center of Bruges

Another short ride today takes us to Ghent's historic and cultural rival Bruges and its city center which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll along the canals that were once main arteries of the city and don't miss a visit to the medieval square and City Hall which features the fantastic architecture that characterizes this unique city. Bruges is bustling with sites to see including the stepped gable houses, market square with the belfort, and historic neighborhoods such as the "Beguinage", an architectural complex created to house a community of lay women from the 13th century.

Bruges Rest Day — NA — Mon 23 July 2018 — B - - A

Day 18 Highlights: City Walking Tour. Brewery Visit

We'll enjoy a leisurely guided walk of the city as well as a visit to the city's brewery. Although not one of the elite Trappist breweries present in the country, we'll learn about how this important export is made and imbibe in some tasty samples. A fitting part of a rest day in Belgium.

Bruges to Roubaix — 75km — Tue 24 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 19 Highlights: Cycling West Flanders, Kortrijk, Roubaix velodrome visit

We'll leave Bruges today and head south through West Flanders. One of Europe's most densely populated areas, this region is known for its ferocious WWI battles, and its beer. We will pass by important historical towns like Kortrijk along the way and enjoy a lunch amidst the Medieval and Renaissance architecture before continuing into northern France. This industrial area is also known for its famous one day bike race the Paris-Roubaix. We'll enjoy a guided visit to the Roubaix velodrome where the race has ended every year since 1943.

Roubaix to Arras — 83km — Wed 25 July 2018 — B - - A

Day 20 Highlights: Paved cobblestones of Roubaix, Douai, Medieval city of Arras

10 days ago the Tour de France cyclists rode from Arras to Roubaix, today we do it in the opposite direction (and a slightly easier route!). We'll ride a few of the cobblestone streets that characterize the annual Paris-Roubaix bike race, before returning to pavement to continue our ride around Lille and then south to Douai and Arras. In Arras check out the amazing belfry, listed since 2005 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, enjoy the impressive Town Hall, or visit the underground maze 10 meters below ground, or visit the Roman city ruins before enjoying one of the town's restaurants or cafés.

Arras to Amiens — 85km — Thu 26 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 21 Highlights: Australian WWI Memorial and Museum at Villers Bretonneux, Amiens

We'll cycle south today and cross the Somme River, the site of multiple deadly battles in WWI, a war that devastated this region of northern France. We're headed to Villers-Bretonneux where Australians erected a WWI memorial commemorating their fallen military personnel. This town was the site of two battles in 1918 that heavily impacted the Australian regiment and has forever tied the small town to Australia. The local school quadrangle is decorated with Aboriginal-painting style motifs and a large overhead banner reads 'Do Not Forget Australia'. 2018 marks the 100th year anniversary of these battles, and if you wish, you can spend time at the memorial and at the museum in town before riding or shuttling the final 20km to our hotel in Amiens.

Amiens to Beauvais — 70km — Fri 27 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 22 Highlights: Amiens, UNESCO Site Gothic Cathedral, the newly formed French region “Hauts-de-France”, Beauvais

We can enjoy a later start this morning to explore Amiens, with its UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gothic Cathedral, and the Jules Verne museum at the prolific author's former home. We'll pedal south, departing Amiens via the road that the Tour de France cyclists arrived in on 10 days ago. This is one of France's newest regions, the “Hauts-de-France” which was formed in 2014 and named in 2016, and is composed of two smaller regions. On our way to Beauvais, heavily damaged in both WWI and WWII, we'll cycle through a mix of agricultural and wooded areas. Today the city is known for its airport, Paris Beauvais, which is a major hub for low cost airlines. The city center does merit a visit.

Beauvais to Paris — 115km — Sat 28 July 2018 — B - D A

Day 23 Highlights: Seine River, Arc de Triomphe, Paris

We continue south to enter Paris passing by two natural parks following the Oise River before meeting up with the Seine River at Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, built at the confluence of the two rivers. A mix of hidden bike paths and larger city streets will bring us into the center of Paris where we'll enjoy a champagne toast celebrating our arrival before a festive dinner together near our hotel.

Paris Tour de France arrival — NA — Sun 29 July 2018 — B - - -

Day 24 Highlights: Tour de France finish

This morning the tour officially finishes after breakfast but the fun is far from over - in just a few hours the Tour de France arrives! Today you can wander the streets and see the sights of this wonderful city and, as an optional extra, you can participate in the historic race finale by choosing from various companies who offer tour-end viewing packages (ask us for more details). Others are scouting around, grabbing their best vantage points for the last day of the great race as it enters the city. Others may choose to avoid the hullabaloo and visit the many sites this amazing city offers! If you wish to stay longer in our Paris hotel we can give you the contact details and some preferred booking rates (this hotel often sells out, so please book early - see 'pricing' tab on our website for more).

