

Holland



The Netherlands is a world leader in the field of art and culture. It is a country in which the arts flourish with outstanding museums and an impressive variety of classical and innovative music and theatre. The Dutch however, aren't bogged down in their clichés, even though bikes, dykes, windmills and blazing flower fields are pretty much the norm outside the major cities. This program was conceived to allow you to enjoy life the way the locals do and to taste Holland by grabbing a bike and exploring in and around the town of Rembrandt's birth, Leiden.



A typical Dutch canal

- *Do as the locals do and grab a bike.*
- *Visit the house where Rembrandt was born and developed his painting skills*
- *Enjoy Leiden and surroundings with a bicycle tour*
- *Go on a boat trip through the canals of Leiden*

Bicycle Program

Leiden

When walking through Leiden it's rich history still seems very much alive. This is where Rembrandt was born and developed his painting skills and where in 1593 an elderly botanist named Carolus Clusius planted a handful of tulip bulbs in a small garden at the University of Leiden. The act is considered by the Dutch as the birth of their famous flower business. Leiden has 12 museums, all worth a visit. The priceless and unique collections on show enjoy international fame. Leiden's atmosphere is largely determined by the first university in Holland (1575), which has developed into a world-famous centre of science.



Canal with partician houses

New Amsterdam

Leiden is also known as one of the places where some of the Pilgrims (as well as some of the first settlers of New Amsterdam) lived for a time in the early 17th century before their departure to the New World.

Sights

Main attractions are the Museum of Antiquities with an excellent collection of artifacts from Egypt, Greece and Rome, the Hortus Botanicus one of the oldest botanical gardens in the world, planted in 1578 and the Pieterskerk with the tomb of John Robinson, leader of the Pilgrim Fathers. Most of the sights are very close to each other, on or near the Rapenburg, a major canal in the centre. Leiden has a large number of shops in the historic city centre. Also, every Wednesday and Saturday a large general market is held along the banks of the Rhine, a market that has existed for over 900 years! A great diversity in restaurants establishes Leiden as a truly culinary city.

Location

Leiden is a very charming university town, halfway between Amsterdam and The Hague. Those wishing to explore the area will find The Hague 15 kilometres away and Amsterdam city centre at a 35 kilometre distance.



Town center Leiden

Rembrandt & Leiden

Rembrandt was born on July 15, 1606, in Leiden and is generally considered one of the greatest painters in European art history.

He was the youngest son of Harmen Gerritszoon van Rijn, a miller, just as his grandfather and great-grandfather before him. Rembrandt was born in a house in the Weddesteege in the former Noord Rapenburg district.

Rembrandt's youth is closely intertwined with the history of Leiden at the start of the Golden Age.

Rembrandt was also a proficient engraver and made many drawings. His contributions to art came in a period that historians call the Dutch Golden Age in which Dutch culture, science, commerce, world power and political influence reached their pinnacles.



Two participants on their bikes



Sample Itinerary Cycling Program in Leiden, Holland

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Arrival and information meeting at hotel (1 hour)	Bicycle tour region Leiden (4 hours)	Optional activities to be decided	Boat trip through canals of Leiden	Bicycle tour region Leiden (3 hours)	Excursion to the coast of Leiden (4 hours)	Museum with guide
Tour center of Leiden with Guide (2 hours)				Painting workshop		

BICYCLE PROGRAM LEIDEN, HOLLAND AT A GLANCE

QUICK FACTS

- 1 Small groups: up to 15 participants
- 2 Duration 1 week
- 3 Designed for active travellers who prefer around 50/50 organized activities with free time
- 4 Low Bureaucracy

INCLUDED

- 1 Transfers from and to Amsterdam's airport
- 2 50/50 balance between organized activities and time to explore on your own
- 3 7 nights lodging and breakfast in a Hotel in the center of Leiden
- 4 Painting workshop
- 5 One group activity
- 6 Tour center of Leiden with guide
- 7 Canal excursion
- 8 Full-coverage health and accident insurance
- 9 Bilingual staff
- 10 Materials, equipment and value-added taxes
- 11 Activities as stated in description
- 12 7 day's bicycle hire
- 13 Entrances to museum De Lakenhal in Leiden

Not included: Transportation outside of excursions, meals not specifically mentioned in brochure and personal expenses

START DATES

- May 7, 2007
- Jun. 14, 2007
- 16 July , 2007
- Aug 6, 2007
- 10 Sept, 2007
- Oct 8, 2007