

Experiencing the best Holland has to offer while avoiding the tourist crowds at certain places? The smaller cities of Leiden and Delft have all the Dutch characteristics: cheese markets, famous painters, typical canals, rich history, churches with stained-glass windows, windmills, lovely squares and ancient cobbled alleys. Added to that, a laid-back and lively atmosphere, relatively low numbers of visitors and short distances between the sights, these cities make for a great exploration of what Holland has to offer. You end this trip true Dutch-style: with an excellent cycling route through the sand dunes to the North Sea coast near Leiden.

## Trip Itinerary

### FRIDAY - DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN DELFT



Upon arrival to Delft railway station, it's an easy few-minute walk to your hotel. Alternatively you could take a taxi from the railway station (not included).

Delft is a charming city with many canals and characteristic buildings and courtyards, that is famous for being the place that painter Johannes Vermeer lived in the 17th century. A leisurely stroll to the center, and alongside the typical canals and cobbled squares will take you to the Vermeer Centre, where you can learn all about this painter who spent all his life in Delft (1632-1675). He only made 37 paintings during his life, and at the Vermeer Centre you can see reproductions of all of these, including *the Milkmaid* and *View of Delft*. Have a look into his studio and allow yourself to be taken back in time to 17th century Delft. Don't skip the market square and the Old and New Church also (entrance fee not included). The Museum Prinsenhof is also worth a visit.

A slight bit more affordable than a Vermeer painting, Delft is also famous for its typical blue earthenware. This blue-on-white pottery was once introduced as a cheap alternative to porcelain imported from China and is still being made today. This afternoon you will visit a small workshop where you can see how Delftware pottery is still being produced according to the ancient techniques. A guide will show you how the pottery is made and you're even allowed to see the atelier where painters decorate these by hand, like centuries ago. A great souvenir!

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:** If you're interested in trying your hand at painting Delft Blue, we can arrange a workshop for you here. Do note that it will take another 7 days for your pottery/tile to be baked and dried. You can have it sent to your home address at an additional cost, though. **PRICE PER PERSON: € 40**

## SATURDAY - DAY 2: DELFT - LEIDEN



After enjoying your breakfast take the train to Leiden. From Leiden railway station, it is hardly a 10 minute walk to your hotel in the historic centre of Leiden. Leiden is an atmospheric university city with countless beautiful museums, canals and inner courtyards lovingly called '*hofjes*'. The town center itself is gorgeous: countless old buildings, charming canals and you will see bicycles everywhere (which is typical for a Dutch university town). The Leiden University, founded in 1575, is the oldest university of the Netherlands. The rest of the day you are free to stroll around the amazing historic centre and/or visit any of the many museums that Leiden has to offer (entrance fees not included). For example you can visit the Lakenhal Museum with a collection of paintings from the past 4 centuries including several 'Rembrandts'. But you can also choose to visit the Museum of Archeology or the Museum of Ethnology which are both located in the centre as well.

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:** In the afternoon your private guide will pick you up from your hotel with, of course, bicycles. Your local guide will show you all the hotspots of Leiden such as the canals, de Burcht, the historic buildings, the bridges, the *hofjes* (courtyards) and many churches. He can also give you tips on where to spend your free time in Leiden. So after this introduction, you can surely find your own way here. **PRICE PER PERSON (with 2 / 4 / 6 people): € 85 / € 50 / € 35**

## SUNDAY DAY 3: LEIDEN - END



Another wonderful aspect of the charming city of Leiden is its proximity to the Dutch coast. We will arrange e-bikes for you at your hotel, which you can take on a self-guided bike tour to Noordwijk - about 10 km one way. On the way you will pass through the typical Dutch dunes, a landscape unique in the world. On the beach itself you can go for a walk or enjoy a drink in one of the beach-cafes. If you like to eat fish this is also the place to order a fresh catch. Return to Leiden by bicycle in late afternoon. At the end of the day travel to your home destination by yourself (train not included in price). End of program.

## Trip Details

HOTELS	STANDARD	COMFORT	LUXURY
Delft	Hotel Bridges House	Hotel Royal Bridges (deluxe room)	Hotel Royal Bridges (senior suite)
Leiden	City Hotel Rembrandt	Hotel Steenhof Suites (deluxe suite)	Huys van Leyden (standard room)



Explore the best of Holland away from the crowds

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**INCLUDED:**

- overnight in hotels on double/twin room
- 2 breakfasts
- information package about route, sights and restaurants
- entrance fee Vermeer Centre Delft on day 1
- train Delft - Leiden on day 2 (second class)
- self guided bike excursion on day 3 with e-bike rental + route description

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- travel to Delft on day 1 and from Leiden on day 3
- all other meals and items not mentioned above
- optional excursions
- tourist tax (about € 5,50 per person)

PRICES	STANDARD	COMFORT	LUXURY
Price per person based on <b>2 persons</b> 1 double/twin room	€ 230,-	€ 340,-	€ 425,-
Price per person based on <b>3 persons</b> in 1 single and 1 double/twin room	€ 265,-	€ 420,-	€ 530,-
Price per person based on <b>4 persons</b> in 2 double/twin rooms	€ 230,-	€ 340,-	€ 425,-
Price per person based on <b>5 persons</b> in 2 double/twin rooms and 1 single room	€ 270,-	€ 415,-	€ 490,-
Price per person based on <b>6 persons</b> in 3 double/twin rooms	€ 230,-	€ 340,-	€ 425,-

\* Prices are per person, in EURO, and are subject to availability; this is only an offer and no reservations have been confirmed.

**Book this weekend**