

TIPP:
TAKE THE
FERRY THERE
OR BACK

HOLLAND STORY-ROUTE

Round trip by bike Amsterdam Muiderslot



OUTWARD ROUTE
70 MIN (17KM)
RETURN ROUTE
110 MIN (24KM)

Nederlandse
**Kastelen &
Buitenplaatsen**



The castles and country houses of the Netherlands

There are more than 700 castles and country homes in the Netherlands. These unsung historic buildings and stunning gardens takes you on a tour through Dutch history, from the Middle Ages to the splendours of the Dutch Golden Age in the 17th century and the wealth and prosperity of the 18th century, which also produced the world-famous paintings in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Mauritshuis in The Hague. It is time to shed more light on these estates and the history they tell through their valuable art collections, lavish interiors and magnificent gardens. A tribute to the opulent country life in the Netherlands through the ages. For more information about Dutch castles and country estates:

www.holland.com/kastelen



From Amsterdam to Muider Slot and back

This route takes you on a safe and relaxed journey by bike from Amsterdam to Muider Slot and back. Amsterdam Castle Muider Slot is one of the most picturesque castles in the Netherlands and a national treasure with a long and rich history. Today it is a national museum with a wealth of treasures for the public to discover. Follow the medieval routes to learn about its exciting history; view the collection of weapons and armour; the Golden Age route will take you through rooms decorated in 17th century style; admire the beautiful gardens; visit the Waterschild pavilion; and don't forget the falconer.

The cycle route is not signposted, but the map and the directions will guide you on a carefree journey. The trip to the magnificent Muider Slot takes you almost entirely along the banks of the IJ and the IJmeer, the former Zuiderzee. Your journey starts at Amsterdam Central Station, where the Amstel river flows into the IJ, and ends at the mouth of the river Vecht in the former Zuiderzee, the strategic point where Muider Slot was built. As you cycle along the 12th century Diemerzeedijk you will get a sense of the country's constant battle against water, but also encounter a

series of forts that testify to how the Dutch have used water to defend themselves. You will pass ports from the past and the present with their stories of water's important role as a mode of transport. Above all, however, the route takes you through a beautiful and varied landscape, with a visit to Muider Slot to crown a perfect day. Like the outward trip, the return journey is almost entirely on the waterfront. Along the ancient Vecht and Gaasp rivers, the 19th century Amsterdam-Rhine Canal, the 17th century Weespertrekvaart and the Amstel, the river from which Amsterdam takes its name, the route literally follows the age-old transport route from Muiden to Amsterdam. You pass through the pretty village of Weesp and then on to the pastoral landscape of the city's outskirts, before cycling through the beautiful 19th century architecture of the capital's expansion and finally arriving back in Amsterdam's historic centre.

The trip from Amsterdam to Muider Slot is 17 kilometres and takes roughly 1 hour and 10 minutes. The return journey is 24 kilometres and takes about 1 hour and 50 minutes. The distance is ideal to combine with a visit to the castle and a refreshing drink in the castle's tavern. Alternatively, you could take the ferry for the outward or return journey (www.veerdienstenamsterdam.nl).

Travel in comfort with public transport and hire a bicycle at the train station

Make it easy for yourself and buy a TripKey card. This convenient card can be ordered in advance and is valid for travel on the train, bus, tram and metro anywhere in the Netherlands. It can also be used to hire a bicycle for your trip to Muiderslot at Amsterdam Central Station. You can book your personal TripKey card online at home and it will be waiting for you at one of the collection points. The locations of the collection points include Schiphol Airport and the Amsterdam Ticket Shop (Kerkstraat 155A). The TripKey card costs € 3.50 (plus a deposit of € 15). See www.tripkey.nl. To plan your journey by public transport, visit OV9292 at <http://9292.nl/>



START AND END POINT
AMSTERDAM CENTRAL STATION
NORTH SIDE, DE RUIJTERKADE



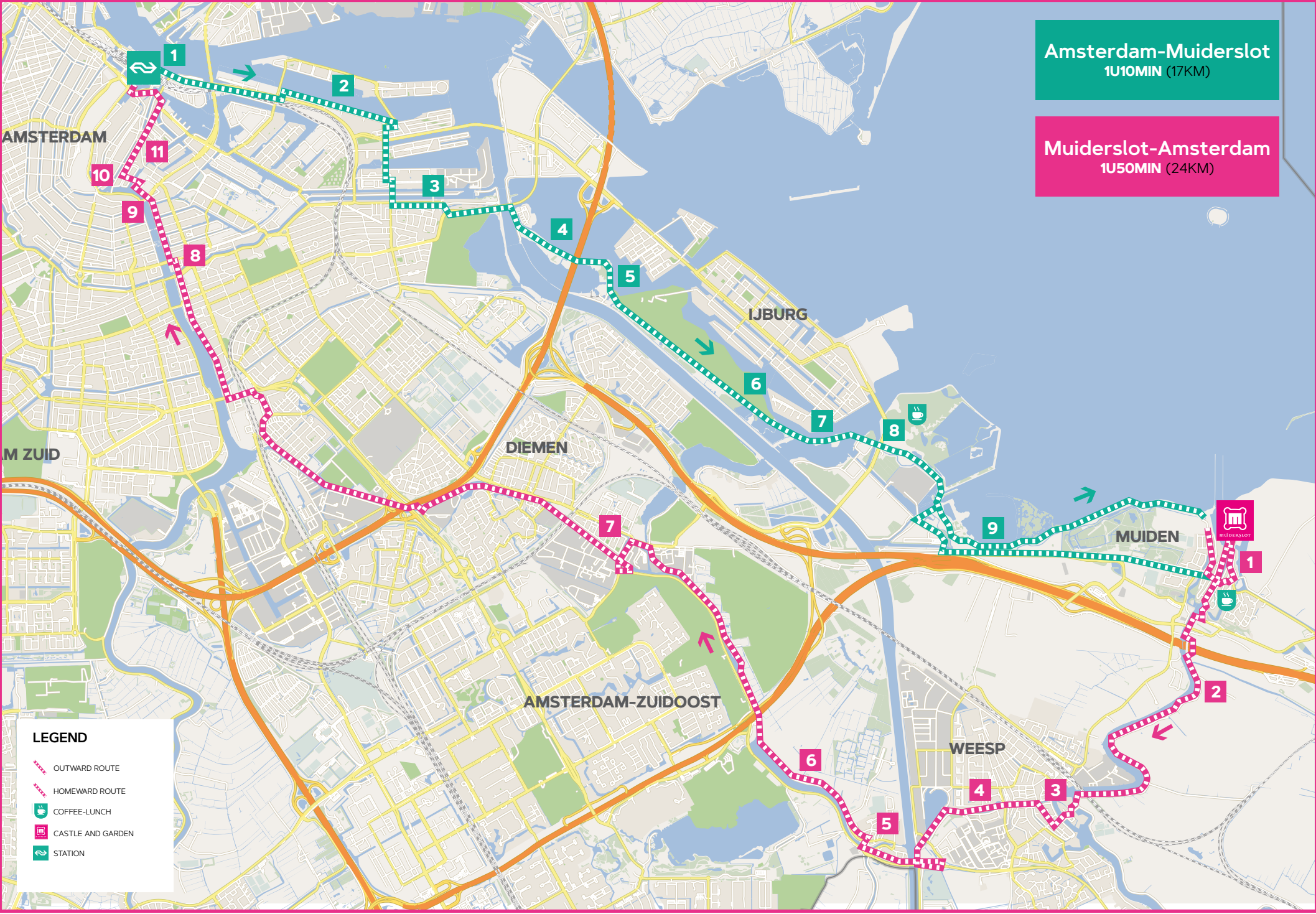
Muiderslot: magnificent medieval castle

The Netherlands' most famous castle is Rijksmuseum Muiderslot in Muiden. This fort at the mouth of the river Vecht was built around 1280 by Count Floris V. It was destroyed shortly afterwards, in 1296, by Bishop Willem van Mechelen. In 1380, a new castle was built on the ruins of the old one. Today, almost 650 years later, the castle is in perfect condition and every year tens of thousands of curious visitors come here to spend a day imagining themselves as a knight or damsel of yore. Over the years Muiderslot has been a court, a prison, the official residence of the castle wardens. One of the most famous of these wardens was the author and poet P.C. Hooft, the 'Dutch Shakespeare', whose name many people today associate with the exclusive shopping street in Amsterdam, the P.C. Hooftstraat. He lived at the castle from 1609 to 1637. During that period, Muiderslot was an important centre of the arts and science and a regular meeting place of a group of leading Amsterdam artists that later became known as the Muiderkring.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Muiderslot, Herengracht 1, Muiden. The castle museum (with café) is open from 1 April until 31 October: Monday to Friday, 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, midday until 5.00 p.m.; and from 1 November until 31 March: Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays, midday - 5.00 p.m. The castle is closed on 25 and 31 December and 1 January.

For the programme of events and admission prices, see www.muiderslot.nl.



Amsterdam-Muiderslot
1U10MIN (17KM)

Muiderslot-Amsterdam
1U50MIN (24KM)

LEGEND

- OUTWARD ROUTE
- HOMEWARD ROUTE
- COFFEE-LUNCH
- CASTLE AND GARDEN
- STATION



DEPARTURE POINT:AMSTERDAM CENTRAL STATION, NORTH SIDE, DE RUIJTERKADE



Points of interest

1 Central Station was designed by Pierre Cuypers and opened in 1889. Cuypers was also the architect of the Rijksmuseum. The mouth of the Amstel river where it flows into the IJ was closed off for the construction of the railway station, which is built on more than 8,500 wooden piles!

2 A port area grew up along the Veemkade at the end of the 19th century. It was also the site of the departure terminal for passenger ships to destinations including the Dutch East Indies. The names of many of the former warehouses in the area refer to the country's international trading history. Since 1990, the area has been redeveloped to create a modern residential neighbourhood.

3 This is the point where the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal flows into the IJ. The canal is the busiest in Western Europe and is the main artery for inland shipping between the Ruhr region in Germany and the port of Amsterdam.

4 The magnificent Gemeenlandshuis was built in 1727 for the Water Board for Zeeburg and Diermerdijk, which was responsible for managing the Diermerzeedijk, the dike that runs along the Zuiderzee between Amsterdam and Muiden.



5 The Diermerzeedijk was erected in the 12th century to protect the country against flooding from the Zuiderzee. The risk of flooding was greatly reduced with the construction of the Afsluitdijk in 1932.

6 On the other side of the water is IJburg, a neighbourhood that has been built since 2000 on four artificial islands created from deposited sand.

Route Amsterdam-Muiderslot

1 With your back to the station, turn right along the water towards Muziekgebouw aan het IJ/KNSMeiland. At the junction with Piet Heinkade (with a sign for S116 to the right), turn left and then immediately right around Pakhuis de Zwijger into a waterside pedestrian area (do not cross the bridge for cyclists!).

2 At the water turn right and follow Veemkade to the end. Turn right into Verbindingslaan, follow the bend and turn left into C. van Eesterenlaan. At the end of the road turn left and then immediately right into Veelaan. Cross the water (two small bridges in quick succession), turn left into Zeeburgerdijk and follow the red bicycle path.

3 Cross over the busy Zuiderzeeweg and immediately turn left, follow the bicycle path up to the bridge with the red railing across the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal. On the other side of the bridge, go to the right, dismount and carry your bike down the steps. At the water turn left and follow the Diermerzeedijk all the way to Muiden.

4 to 9 The route takes you through Diemerpark, underneath the A10 motorway and past Fort Diemerdam. Along the way you will be able to see Pampus island, which is part of the Amsterdam Defence Line, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Keep cycling straight on towards Muiden. When you arrive in Muiden, turn left at the T-junction. Cross the bridge and turn left again and you will see Muiderslot in front of you.

NOTE! The last part of the Diermerzeedijk is closed to cyclists from November to April for the protection of migrating birds. Follow the detour: in front of the closed gate turn right towards Junction15/Muiden/Almere. At the end of the path turn left into Pampusweg. When you reach the A1, turn left in the direction of Muiden. Follow the road into Muiden, cross the bridge and turn left and you will have arrived at Muiderslot. From November to March, Muiderslot is only open at the weekend and during school holidays.



7 On the left you can see Pampus island, a fort that is part of the Amsterdam Defence Line, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There used to be a sand bank here that prevented ships with heavy loads from entering the port of Amsterdam. Vessels had to either wait for high tide or be hoisted across the sand bank with a wooden structure (known as a ship camel). During the lengthy wait, the ship's crew would often relieve the intense boredom by drinking heavily. This is the origin of the Dutch expression 'lying off Pampus' to describe someone who is in a drunken stupor.

8 Fort Diemerdam was built in the late 19th century as one of the 45 forts making up the Defence Line of Amsterdam,

a defensive perimeter around the capital. In 2012, the beautiful Paviljoen Puur, a restaurant in the shape of a snail's shell, was built on the site of a former soldiers' shelter. The restaurant is open to the public on Sundays. www.paviljoenpuur.nl

9 Here you see the 'Baai van Ballast', which was created in the 1970s when the building company Ballast Nedam excavated sand here for the construction of the Venserpolder neighbourhood in Amsterdam. The reeds abound in beautiful marshland birds and grass snakes.

DEPARTURE POINT: MUIDERSLOT, HERENGRACHT 1, MUIDEN

Route Muiderslot - Amsterdam

1 With your back to Muiderslot, turn left into Ton Kootsingel. Turn right into Vestingplein and keep to the right. Before the bridge turn left and follow Herengracht around the bend to the left and then turn right. Turn right into Lange Muiderweg and then right again after the Fort H restaurant and then left to pass under the motorway. This is the site of one of the largest aqueducts in Europe.

2 Follow the east bank of the Vecht towards Weesp along Lange Muiderweg.

3 In Weesp, turn right and cross the water, cycling past Fort Ossenmarkt. Cross the bridge and turn right, then take the first left (Kerkstraat). Cycle around the church and turn right into Nieuwstraat.

4 At the T-junction before the Vecht turn left, then keep to the right and cross the bridge. Follow the Binnenveer - which later becomes the Buitenveer - for 1.6 kilometres until you reach the tall arched bridge over

the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal. Go under the bridge and turn left towards Bussum and then turn left in the direction of Diemen/Amsterdam.

5 Cross the bridge over the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal and at the traffic lights turn right towards Driemond.

6 Follow this path along the Gaasp until the end. Before reaching the provincial road turn left and follow the red bicycle path around the bend to the left. After the bridge across the Weesper Trekvaart turn left and after 100 metres cross the provincial road. Turn right towards Diemen-Zuid and follow the bend in the bicycle path.

7 Before you reach the water follow the bicycle path to the left and cycle along Weesperstraat and Weesper Trekvaart. At the bend cross the road and turn left to follow Prins Hendrikkade along the water. At the intersection with a drawbridge, go briefly to the left, then cross over and



TIP: TAKE THE FERRY TO RETURN TO AMSTERDAM

From 1 April to 29 October, the Amsterdam ferry service (Veerdienst Amsterdam) operates a daily service (except on Monday) from the Amsterdam-IJburg terminal to Muiderslot. You can now take the bicycle with you on the ferry. Tickets can be bought as you board, in cash or with a bank card and PIN. For information and to make reservations (single or return tickets), visit www.veerdienstamsterdam.nl



Points of interest

1 On your left is the Muizenfort, which is part of the Defence Line of Amsterdam. Its name is said to come from the mouse-grey uniforms worn by the soldiers who were stationed here during the period of mobilisation for the Second World War.

2 The river Vecht rises in Utrecht and flows into the IJmeer at Muiden. It has been an important artery for transport from the North Sea to the Rhine since Roman times. The river is now famous for the varied landscape of windmills, castles, fields and parks, as well as the many villas that are to be found mainly along the southern stretch of the river.

3 Like Muiden, Weesp is a fortified town and was part of the New Dutch Water Line. Fort Ossenmarkt is a reminder of that part of its history. Weesp is crowded with pavement cafes and interesting shops. It makes a nice pit stop!. Tip! If you would like to discover more about Weesp, download the

free audio tour at www.vvvgooienvecht.nl/audiotours.

4 The Haantje is one of the 27 windmills in Weesp. They were used, among other things, for the important jenever (Dutch gin) and beer industry, to which Weesp owed its prosperity in the 17th and 18th centuries.

5 Driemond (or Three Mouths) derives its name from the fact that three waterways converge here: the Gein, the Gaasp and Smal Weesp.

6 The Gaaspermolen, constructed in 1707, drained the surrounding polders and pumped the water into the Gaasp. It still serves as an auxiliary pumping station for the Amstel, Gooi and Vecht Water Board (Lange Stammerdijk 20)

7 You are now following the Weespertrekvaart, which was constructed in 1639 to shorten the time of

immediately go straight on along Venserkade along the water.
In the bend opposite Actemium, turn right onto the bicycle path and then right again across the bridge.

On the other side, immediately turn left towards Amsterdam-Centrum.
Follow this east bank of the Weespertrekvaart. Just after the Amstel Tower, turn left in the direction Centrum/Amstelstation.
Follow the signs marked Centrum.
Go under the railway line and turn right.
You are now cycling along the Amstel on Weesperzijde.

8 After the bicycle underpass, the Amstel Hotel is on your left. Cross over at the end of the road, then turn left and immediately right again and follow Weesperzijde.

9 Cross the busy Weesperstraat and follow the red bicycle path that passes in front of the Stopera (city hall and opera house).

10 After the bend turn left and cross the B. Bijvoet bridge and then the Staalbrug. Turn right into Kloveniersburgwal towards Central Station.

11 Continue following the signs for Central Station, passing in front of the Waag in Nieuwmarkt, and finally back to the departure point.





the journey between Amsterdam and Weesp. Natural waterways like the Gaasp were also part of this navigation system. Almost all transport was by water in those days; there were scarcely any roads. With a frequent service and many stops, the canal ferry was the public transport system of its day.

8 The Amstel Hotel was built in 1863 according to a design by Samuel Sarphati. Four wings were planned, but only one was actually built. Today it is the best-known five-star hotel in Amsterdam.

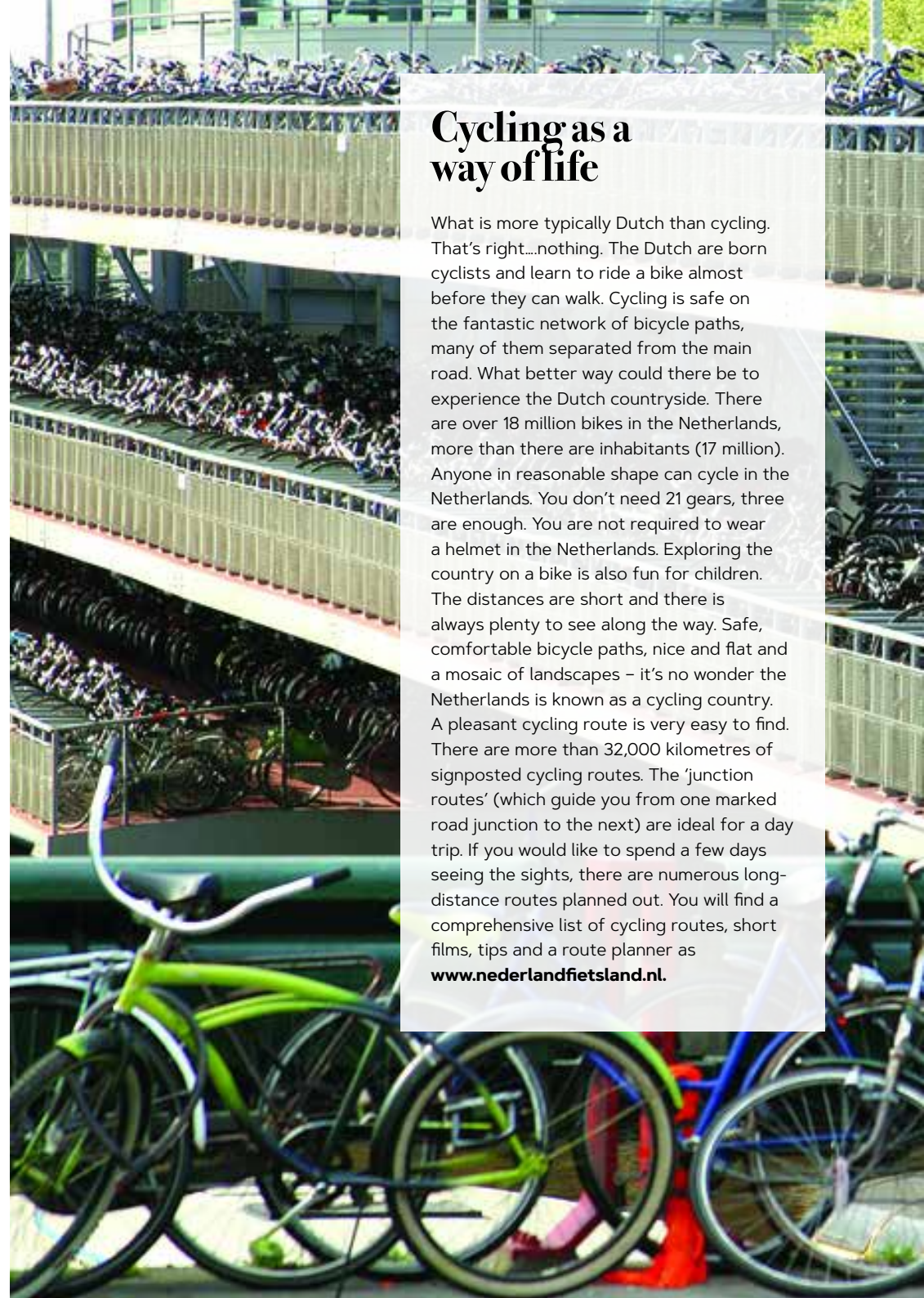
9 This building houses both the city hall (stadhuis) and the opera house, hence the contraction to Stopera. Many houses had to be demolished to make way for the construction of the building in 1986, including a house in which Rembrandt had lived.

10 The Kloveniersburgwal is named after the Kloveniers, a militia that defended the city. Their weapon was a 'klover' (a musket), hence the name. The Kloveniers are depicted in Rembrandt's most famous painting, 'The Night Watch'.

11 During the Middle Ages, the Waag in the Nieuwmarkt was Amsterdam's eastern gate. It later became a weigh house. A number of guilds had their offices on the first floor of the building. The symbols of the guilds of painters, blacksmiths, surgeons and masons can still be seen carved over the entrance to the towers.

Cycling as a way of life

What is more typically Dutch than cycling. That's right...nothing. The Dutch are born cyclists and learn to ride a bike almost before they can walk. Cycling is safe on the fantastic network of bicycle paths, many of them separated from the main road. What better way could there be to experience the Dutch countryside. There are over 18 million bikes in the Netherlands, more than there are inhabitants (17 million). Anyone in reasonable shape can cycle in the Netherlands. You don't need 21 gears, three are enough. You are not required to wear a helmet in the Netherlands. Exploring the country on a bike is also fun for children. The distances are short and there is always plenty to see along the way. Safe, comfortable bicycle paths, nice and flat and a mosaic of landscapes – it's no wonder the Netherlands is known as a cycling country. A pleasant cycling route is very easy to find. There are more than 32,000 kilometres of signposted cycling routes. The 'junction routes' (which guide you from one marked road junction to the next) are ideal for a day trip. If you would like to spend a few days seeing the sights, there are numerous long-distance routes planned out. You will find a comprehensive list of cycling routes, short films, tips and a route planner as www.nederlandfietsland.nl.





The national castle line and other routes

Muiderslot is part of Inside Holland's Castles, a campaign by some of the most beautiful castles and country houses in the Netherlands to encourage more international visitors to experience this unsung aspect of the country's cultural heritage. Together these estates tell the history of these magnificent estates and their famous residents over the centuries through their valuable art collections, opulent interiors and magnificent gardens.

For more information about the fantastic properties on this route, as well as other castles and estates around the country, visit the website www.holland.nl/kastelen and click on the article on routes. There are also free downloads available for individual routes, which are available in handy printable format and also easy to read in black and white.



Credits

An initiative of:



NBTC
Holland Marketing



With thanks (for financial assistance and/or content) to:



Design: De Boer & Van Dorst, Typetank

Illustrations: National Cultural Heritage Agency, NBTC Holland Marketing, RBT Gooi en Vechtstreek, Muiderslot, Frenk Volt, Mike Bink, Beemflights.

This route planner was previously published by Muiderslot. It has been supplemented with information about Muiderslot and NBTC Holland Marketing's national castle line. The route planner is also available in German. The route has been described with the greatest possible care. The publisher cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies.