

Friesland	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges			
Harlingen	1 hr 15 min		1	_	0			
Franeker	2 hr 45 min	4 hr	0	1	0	0		
Leeuwarden	1 hr 30 min		0		0			
Grau	2 hr 30 min	9 hr 45 min	1		0			
Sneek	45 min		0		0	12		
IJIst	1 hr 45 min		0	1	7			
Bolsward	1 hr 30 min				0		4	
Workum	1 hr 45 min		0		1			
Heeg	30 min		0		0			
Woudsend	45 min	2 hr 15 min	0	0	1	1		
Sloten	1 hr	2111 13111111		U		1		
Lemmer	1 NF		0		0			

Hindeloopen-Stavoren (Le Boat)	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges	
	2 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min	0	0	0	1
Heeg	1 hr	3 NF 30 MIN	0		1	1

6 1	Approx time		No. of	locks	No. lifting b	
Sneek	1 hr 45 min		0		0	
Spannenburg		3 hr		0	_	1
Sparifieriburg	1 hr 15 min	3111	0	Ů	1	-
Lemmer	1111 13111111		U		1	

Flevoland	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges	
Lemmer	2 hr 45 min		2		1	
Emmeloord	30 min		0		1	
Start of Luttelgeestervaart	1 hr 30 min	10 hr 30 min	4	6	-	2
Vollenhove			1		0	2
Vogeleiland	1 hr		1		0	
	4 hr 45 min		2		0	
Elburg	2 hr 30 min	5 hr 30 min	0		2	_
Harderwijk	3 hr	5 Nr 30 min	1	1	0	2
Spakenburg						

	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges	
Spannenburg	3 hr 45 min		1		6	
Ossenzijl	1 hr 30 min	C h-	0		0	
Steenwijk		6 hr	U	1	U	8
Giethoorn	45 min		0		2	
	2 hr 30 min		2		4	
Vollenhove	1 hr 30 min			-		
Start of Luttelgeestervaart	1 III 30 MIN	4 hr 30 min	1	3	0	4
	30 min		0		0	
Luttelgeest						

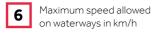
6:4	Approx time No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges			
Giethoorn	2 hr		1		1	
Zwartsluis	- 111	3 hr	_	2	_	1
Zwai tsiuis	1 hr	5111	1	_	0	
Vogeleiland	1111		1		0	
Vogelellal lu						

recht, North & South Holland	Approx time		No. o	flocks	No lifting l	o. of bridges
Spakenburg	1 hr 30 min		0		0	2
Huizen	2 hr 30 min	4 hr	2	2	2	
Muiden	45 min		0		2	
Weesp	1 hr 15 min		1		1	
Nigtevecht (via the Vecht)	1 hr 30 min	7 hr	0	1	2	16
Loenen	2 hr		0		6	
Maarssen	1 hr 30 min		0		5	
Utrecht	5 hr 30 min	_,	3		14	
Oudewater	2 hr 15 min	7 hr 45 min	2	- 5	4	18
Gouda	3 hr		1		10	
Alphen a/d Rijn	2 hr 15 min	5 hr 15 min	0	1	3	13
Leiden	2 hr		0		4	
Lisse	45 min		0		2	
Hillegom	1 hr	9 hr	0	2	3	24
Cruquius	5 hr 15 min		2		15	
Amsterdam	2 hr 30 min		2	_	8	
Ouderkerk Vinkeveen (Le Boat)	2 hr	4 hr 30 min	1 3		7	15
Nigtevecht	2 hr 30 min		2		1	
Vinkeveen (Le Boat)	2 hr 30 min	5 hr	2	4	1	1
Maarssen	2 hr 30 min	0	2		0	_ ^
eveen (via the Rijnkanaal) (Le Boat)	Арр	rox time	No. o	flocks	No lifting	o. of bridge:
Amsterdam	4 hr	7 hr 30 min	1	3	1	8
	3 hr 30 min	7 nr 30 min	2		7	ľ
Edam	3 hr 15 min		0		6	
West-Graftdijk	4 hr 15 min	8 hr 30 min	2	2	10	17
Haarlem	1 hr		0		1	
Cruquius						
Mil	Approx time		No. o	flocks	No lifting	o. of bridge:
Muiden	2 hr 15 min	2 hr 15 min	0	0	1	1
Amsterdam						
	Approx time		No. o	flocks	No	. of
Alphen a/d Rinj				70070	lifting	briage:

Times and the number of locks and bridges shown here are based on the most direct route between stops, using principle waterways. Other routes may be possible - please consult your onboard waterways map. Times are an approximation only and are calculated on the basis of an average speed of 6km/h and an average time of 12 minutes to pass through a lock and 4 minutes to pass a lifting bridge. Your speed, the flow of the water and the time it takes to go through locks and bridges will all affect your progress.

Ouderkerk





Maximum speed allowed in ports/marinas in km/h



 $The \ Netherlands \ has a complex \ network \ of \ waterways \ which \ are \ not \ all \ shown \ here. \ We have \ only \ shown \ principle \ waterways \ which \ allow \ you \ to \ visit \ the \ cities, \ towns \ and \ villages \ that \ feature \ within \ this \ guide.$





VINKEVEENSE PLASSEN

Le Boat's Vinkeveen base is located on the shores of this vast lake that is alive with visitors and watersports lovers in the summer. Take a refreshing swim, cruise among the many islands and eat in one of the excellent lake-side restaurants.

EXITING VINKEVEENS PLASSEN

scenic pace.

You can exit the lake to the south, through
Demmerikse Lock (see back cover for times and
charges) and then along the Angstel River. From here
you can head along the wide and busy AmsterdamRijnkanaal. You'll make quick progress, but you'll share it with large,
commercial barges and many find it quite daunting. For a more
pleasant boating experience, we suggest turning off onto the adjacent
and prettier River Vecht that wends its way at a more leisurely and

AMSTERDAM

Although a lively cosmopolitan city, packed with museums, markets and entertainment for all. Amsterdam has managed to retain much of its traditional character. Grachtengordel is arguably the most charming part of the city with its lattice of waterways and sweet bridges overlooked by canal houses, while the Herengracht canal is the most prestigious canal in the city, and a great place to stroll at night when the grand facades are illuminated. Bike is the best way to get around, or hop on a glass-roofed canal boat for a different perspective. The Anne Frank Museum, the Van Goah Museum and the Rijksmuseum, with its wonderful collection of Rembrandt paintings are three sights not to be missed. If beer is more your thing, the Heineken Experience is the perfect pit stop. Amsterdam is famed for its vibrant nightlife, and the two key areas of Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein are the place to be, whether it's to party or just sit and soak up the atmosphere.

Recommended restaurant: Café Bern's delicious fondue is not to be missed, but make sure you reserve a table in advance. Situated just off Nieuwmarkt.

Amenities: There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here.

Flower market: Every day – Singel Farmers' market: Sat (am) – Noordermarkt Flea market: Mon to Sat - Waterlooplein.



To visit Amsterdam, moor at Weesp and take a 20 minute train ride to the city centre. Or if you'd prefer to take your boat into Amsterdam, you can moor at Six Haven Marina across from the Amsterdam Central Station and take a free 24-hour ferry to the city centre.



EDAM

Famed worldwide for its delicious cheese, this charming town celebrates its heritage loud and proud. At the heart of Edam is the Damplein, a small town square where you'll find the Edam Museum, renowned for its floating cellar. From here, it's just a short walk to the Grote Kerk, the largest three-ridged church in Europe, where you can enjoy impressive views over the surrounding area. Finish off your day with a stop at the elegant Speeltoren Tower, all that remains of the 15th medieval church which once stood on this site.

Recommended restaurant: Het Geheim van Edam, Spui 5. Amenities: There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here. Cheese market: Weds (10.30 am-12.30 pm) July & Aug – Nieuwenhuizenplein.

LISSE

Home of the spectacular Keukenhof Gardens. Lisse is at the heart of the Dutch bulb-growing region. Open in mid-March until mid-May (check website for exact dates - keukenhofnl) the gardens are home to a dazzling collection of more than 7 million flowers which are planted every year. Nearby, the 17th century Keukenhof Castle is open yearround and tours can be arrange by appointment (info@kasteelkeukenhofnl

+31 252 75 06 90). Head into town to find out more about the

history of the region at Museum de Zwarte Tulp. For the best view Keukenhof, Lisse

of the impressive flower fields, take to the pedestrian and cycle paths that wind round their way round the countryside.

Recommended restaurant: Vier Seizoenen on Heereweg - two minutes from the Flower Museum. **Amenities:** There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here.

LEIDEN

Renowned as Rembrandt's birthplace and the home of the Netherlands' oldest and most prestigious university, Leiden is a beautiful city. Less crowded than Amsterdam, it has some of the most beautiful sights in Holland. and a stroll around its waterways and churches is the best way to see them all. The Leiden Loop is a self-quided walk around the historic centre, with key points indicated by signposts. You can also purchase a guidebook at the tourist office. Its 13 museums, including the Natural History Museum and Ethnology Museum, are all within walking distance of each other. The bi-weekly street markets are a great place to pick up fish, flowers or cheese, or provide the perfect place to people-watch.

Recommended restaurant:

Oudt Leyden, for sweet and savoury pancakes. Head for the Beestenmarkt.

Amenities: There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here.

Market: Wed & Sat (8am-5pm) - all over the city, lining the canals.

GOUDA

The city is famed worldwide for its famous cheese, and a weekly market is held in The Markt where you can take part in the centuries-old tradition of handjeklap (clapping hands), a game of bidding and haggling for the best deal. Stop by De Waag afterwards to enjoy a cheese-making demonstration. A visit to St Janskerk is well worthwhile to see the Goudse Glazen, an impressive collection of 70 stained glass windows dating back to the 16th century, and which are explained on an audio tour. If you're feeling active, the Reeuwijkse Plassen north of Gouda is the perfect place to explore on two wheels with miles of car-free cycle tracks.

Recommended restaurant: Kamphuisen, Hoge Gouwe.

Amenities: You'll find shops, supermarkets, bakeries, cafés and restaurants.

Cheese market: Thursdays (10am - 1pm from 7th April -31st August (except the 27th April and 5th May) - The Markt





OUDEWATER

Oudewater is one of the oldest towns of the Netherlands with around 250 protected buildings in the town. While there are a few small boutiques and restaurants, the main attraction here is The Heksenwaag, where witches were tried in the 16th century. They were weighed on the scales and if above a certain weight; they were deemed too heavy to ride a broomstick and therefore must not be a witch. If they passed the weighing they would receive an official certificate. There is now a small museum in the Heksenwaag in honour of this colourful past.



MAARSSEN

On the outskirts of Utrecht, Maarssen was a key place for the peat-bog in the Middle Ages. Later, affluent families of Amsterdam built country houses in the town, many of which have since been restored to their former glory. One such example is the 18th century Goudestein, now used as the town hall and a wedding venue. Visit the romantic old town with its quaint little church.





UTRECHT

Utrecht is a beautiful old city and well worth a daytrip. Top of your list to see should be the Dom Tower. There are regular tours and after climbing the 465 steps to the top, you'll have a beautiful aerial view of the city. The city is home to countless museums. such as the excellent University Science Museum, while the Miffy Museum, dedicated to the cute cartoon rabbit, is perfect for young children St Martin's Cathedral and the botanic gardens are also worth a visit. After dark - follow the Trajectum Lumen, a selfguided trail that leads you around artistically lit locations throughout the historical city centre. Pick up a guide from the tourist information centre

Recommended restaurant:

Frietwinkel, 10 minutes walk from the moorings at Nieuwekade / Weerdsingel.

Amenities: You'll find shops (head to Hoog Catharijne), supermarkets and plenty of cafés and restaurants in Utrecht.

Market: Wed, Fri& Sat -Vredenburg place

We recommend you use the moorings alongside
Nieuwekade / Weerdsingel - look for 'Monicabrug' on your onboard waterways map.



WEESP

Weesp has a wealth of historic streets and attractions (stop by the tourist office for a walking map) and is famous for the having the first Dutch porcelain produced in the town, back in 1759. Nowadays, the town is renowned for Van Houten chocolate, whose factory was based in the town until 1970. The Town Hall museum "Stadhuis" now houses exhibits about both exports. Accessible from the river, Molen De Vriendschap is a fully functional corn mill dating from 1900 which still produces wheat flour. Just a short bike ride away is the nature reserve, The Naardermeer Area, a marshland covering 1080 hectares and home to various rare birds.

Recommended restaurant: De Schalkse, Ossenmarkt. 5 minutes walk from the town moorings.

Amenities: There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here.

Farmers market: Tue (am) – Grote Plein/Nieuwstraat.

MUIDEN

Take a break at one of the bustling lock-side cafes or, for a more scenic view, the IJmeer beaches are just a 10 minute walk away. Or visit UNESCO-listed and incredibly scenic Muiderslot Castle, which dates back to the 13th century and has a colourful history as both a castle and prison – the museum provides a fascinating insight into its medieval past.

Recommended restaurant: Cafe Ome Ko. Follow the Herengracht heading out of town. **Amenities:** You'll find shops, supermarkets, a pharmacy, bakery, cafés and restaurants.

HUIZEN

Huizen's indoor karting and laser quest are sure to entertain kids of all ages for a few hours or, for a more cultural activity, the Huizermuseum houses a collection of the town's traditional costume, and the interior of a fisherman's cottage.

Recommended restaurant: Le Beau Geste, Middenweg - open for dinner only. Head into the Old Town.

Amenities: You'll find shops, supermarkets, a pharmacy, bakery, butchers, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Sat - Oude Raadhuisplein





ELBURG

Medieval Elburg was built as a fortress in a rectangular design and many buildings remain to this day. Gruithuis, reputedly the original town hall, is where herbs typically used in beerbrewing were once traded, as well as the Vischpoort, a 15th century defensive tower. Elburg is also a great place for nature lovers and water sports enthusiasts. Why not take a trip on a Botter', a traditional sailing ship used for fishing? Or head for Veluwemeer Lake where you can hire canoes and kayaks? Or learn to kitesurf? While wandering the cobbled streets, be sure to stop by one of the many restaurants to try the local delicacy, smoked eel.

Recommended restaurant: Restaurant Le Papillon, Vischpoortstraat. Head into the town from the Vischpoort. **Amenities:** There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here. **Market:** Tue (am).



GIETHOORN

Elburg

A cruise in Friesland area wouldn't be complete without a visit to Giethoorn, the most charming town you'll ever see. Nicknamed the "Venice of the North" due to its numerous canals and bridges, this trafficfree island is a delightful place to spend a day. While you can't take your Le Boat cruiser here, you can rent a dingy or enjoy a guided tour aboard a motorboat. Boating has long been a way of life here, and at the Schreur Shipyard you can find out more about the traditional punts, which have been produced here since the 18th century.

Recommended restaurant: Ristorante Fratelli, Binnenpad.

Amenities: A supermarket and gift shop, plus cafés and restaurants.



LEMMER

Lemmer is a beautiful town, decorated by colourful houses along the canal banks. Visit the UNESCO acclaimed Wouda Steam Pumping Station (Ir. D.F. Woudagemaal), built in 1920 and the biggest in the Netherlands and still occasionally used today in extreme weather. Its giant pumps and pistons, the building's architecture and the enthusiasm of the guides make it a great stop. There are also endless possibilities for bikers in and around Lemmer. You can get bicycle maps and information from the Tourist Information Centre, Nieuwburen.

Recommended restaurant: Pizzeria La Gondola, Langestreek. **Amenities:** There are plenty of shops, supermarkets and restaurants here.

JUST SOUTH OF LEMMER

The Orchid Farm (Orchideeënhoeve) in Luttelgeest is a must see if passing this way. Beautiful orchids and butterflies provide a feast for the eyes – travel through the tropics in the Malaysian garden, the butterfly valley and the new Lory garden, full of colourful rainbow lorikeets. The kids can enjoy themselves in the mangrove playground.



HINDELOOPEN

Ranked as one of the most beautiful villages in Europe, it's easy to see why when you wander the quirky cobbled streets and wooden bridges of Hindeloopen, the home of Le Boat's second Dutch base. Start your day at the town's pancake restaurants, then pick up a free map from the tourist office and start exploring - you can also take a guided tour to ensure you take in the best sights. Hindeloopen's maritime history is clear to see with vibrant hand-painted murals and furniture dotted around the town. Head over to Lake IJsselmeer, a popular spot for all kinds of water sports, especially kitesurfing, or you can just relax and watch the action on dry land.

Recommended restaurant: Friese Doorloper pancake house, Kleine Weide

Amenities: You'll find a small supermarket, and a few cafés and restaurants



WORKUM

Jopie Huisman is a fantastic artist who views the common everyday things in a magical way, reproducing this magic in his art. His life story is explained alongside his paintings in a great little Museum in Workum's bustling main street, which also has a fine church and excellent places to eat and drink.



Recommended restaurant:

De Gulden Leeuw, in a courtyard opposite the cathedral. **Amenities:** Lots of restaurants, a supermarket, a bakery and a pharmacy.



BOLSWARD

The rich history of Bolsward city can be admired through its dozens of national monuments such as the 17th century Bolsward Town Hall, a magnificent red-brick building, or the 15th century Martinikerk, the church, which is home to intricate wooden carvings and pulpit carved from a single oak tree. A ten-minute walk from the town centre is one of the country's smallest breweries, producing 'US Heit' beers and several whiskies. Be sure to catch a tour (Thu to Sat - reserve online www.usheit.com).

Recommended restaurant: Brasserie E&D, opposite the Town Hall. **Amenities:** There are supermarkets, shops, and a couple of bakeries – all you would want.

HARLINGEN

This quaint fishing town is known for the hundreds of sculptures dotted about the city. Make sure to visit the "Stone Man", a two-headed statue created in 1774, then head to the beach across the road where you can swim kitesurf or hire a canoe The town remains a major port for shrimp and prawn fishing, and you'll find plenty of restaurants where you can sample the daily catch. If you're a nature lover, why not catch the ferry to the West Frisian Islands or cycle to the beautiful nature reserve. the Hegewiersterfjild, where you'll discover various birds and fish? The Hannema House and Harlingen Pottery Museum are definitely worth a visit.

Recommended restaurant: Seafood restaurant & Oysterbar De Tjotter, a short walk from Noorderhaven moorings.

Amenities: You will find stores, supermarkets, and many cafes and restaurants

Market: Wed (am) & Sat (9am-6pm) – Voorstaat





FRANEKER

In the living room of a lovely Frisian canal-side house is the world's oldest functioning planetarium. This accurately moving model of the solar system was built between 1774 and 1781 by Eise Eisinga. Visit this wonderful museum, see Eisinga's amazing creations and learn about the planets as well as the determination and brilliance of this amazing man. Franeker itself is a typical Friesland city with a handful of interesting museums, a city hall and an inviting array of cafés and restaurants

Recommended restaurant: De Doelen – Grand Café – right in the centre.

Amenities: There are plenty of shops, supermarkets and restaurants here.

LEEUWARDEN

As the capital of Friesland, there are plenty of things to see and do in Leeuwarden. The Nature Museum is located in a 17th century building and is dedicated to exhibitions around the local nature and wildlife Friesland's breed of cattle is renowned across. the world, and the Friday cattle market and annual show are still held regularly. The Oldehover Tower (which leans even more precariously than the Tower of Pisa) offers uninterrupted views of the local countryside, once you climb its 183 steps. At one time there were over 130 windmills standing in the city. Today, there is just one remaining - the Froskepôlemolen windmill.

Recommended restaurant: De Walrus, Gouverneursplein. 10 minutes walk from the town's moorings.

Amenities: There's a vast range of shops and restaurants in Leeuwarden. Kleine Kerkstraat has been twice voted the best shopping street in the whole of the Netherlands.

Market: (9am-5pm) -Wilhelminaplein



SNEEK

Sneek is Friesland's most famous water sports town. Every year in August, there is a large sailing regatta on the lake and all kinds of activities in the town. A visit to the famous 'Waterpoort', the only of its kind and remaining form the 17th century town walls, should not be missed when you are here. The maritime museum gives you a glimpse into the city's nautical past and also has a beautiful collection of Frisian silver. And for children, the model train museum is also very nice to visit. The town is also known for its regional speciality, Beerenburg, a herb-flavoured gin which used to be a medicine in the past. You can taste and buy beerenburg in the original and authentic Weduwe Joustra shop.



Recommended restaurant: Bistro Jikke just across the famous Waterpoort. Amenities: There's a vast range of shops and restaurants here.

LOCKS AND LIFTING BRIDGES

There are four ways to pass a lock or a lifting bridge in the Netherlands. The required method will be clearly displayed on site as you approach. There are four different ways to pass a bridge/lock:

- 1. Lock or bridge will operate automatically using sensors.
- 2. Operation will commence by pressing a button.
- 3. Call the lock/bridge keeper (numbers are indicated on the bridge/lock).
- 4. The bridges are camera operated, please wait close to the bridge.

There is a fee of $\le 1 - \le 3$ to pay at a small number of locks/bridges, so keep some change handy for you to throw into the basket as you pass. The fee for Demmerikse Sluis, to exit and enter Vinkeveen to the south, is ≤ 7 in each direction.

OPENING TIMES:

TIME OF YEAR	DEMMERIKSE LOCK* (The main lock to enter and exit Vinkeveen to the South)	MOST OTHER LOCKS AND BRIDGES
16 th Apr – 16 th Oct	Every day: 9am – 7pm (Closed for lunch: 12:30 - 1:30pm, and afternoon break: 4:30 - 5:30)	Every day: 9am – 7pm (Closed for lunch and dinner – exact times vary)
1 st – 15 th Apr & 17 th – 31st Oct	Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm Sat 10am - 12pm (By appointment only)	Mon - Sat 9am-6pm

^{*}Our base team will make a reservation for you (before the 16th of April and after the 16th of October) and will advise at what time you should be at Demmerikse Lock. If you plan to return to Vinkeveen earlier or later, please let the base team know at least 24hr in advance, so they can change your appointment.

Most locks and bridges are closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday, but most are open on other public holidays. Opening hours can vary on some waterways.

MOORING

Moorings are plentiful in the Netherlands, although you must moor in dedicated moorings which have bollards or rings to tie your lines to. Public moorings along the banks are usually free, although these will have no facilities. Most towns and facilities have public moorings with water, and sometimes electricity, for approximately $\[\le 10 - \le 15 \]$ a night. The fee at private marinas is between $\[\le 20 - \le 30 \]$.



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Disclaimer: We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the rivers and canals can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at guides@leboat.com so that we can revise future editions.

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