



## Cycling the Pieterpad Hybrid bike & E-bike – 3 days

Maximum number of participants: 12 persons

This trip is a fantastic way to see the best of the North. You'll start right at the edge of the Netherlands in Pieterburen, where the air is salty and the views of the Wadden Sea go on forever. From there, you'll pedal south through Groningen's famous Wierdenland—think wide-open skies, flat polders, and cute villages tucked away on ancient mounds.

After a night in the lively city of Groningen, the scenery shifts completely. You'll leave the flatlands behind for the rolling heathlands and forests of Drenthe. Following the winding Drentsche Aa river, you'll cruise through some of the oldest landscapes in Europe before finishing up in Assen. It's the perfect mix of peaceful nature and cozy village stops.

### The Highlights

- **The Sea Dyke View:** Start your trip with a climb up the dyke in Pieterburen. If the weather is clear, you can see the islands out on the horizon—it's the perfect "starting line" photo op.
- **The "Wierden" Villages:** You'll pass through spots like **Winsum and Eenrum**. These are built on man-made hills from centuries ago, and they are incredibly charming to cycle through.
- **A Night in Groningen:** You get to swap the quiet countryside for the buzz of a student city. Grab a drink on a terrace or explore the historic centre before heading to your hotel by the lake.
- **The Ballooërveld:** This is Drenthe at its best. It's a rugged, open area with heather, sheep, and quiet sandy tracks that make you feel like you've travelled back in time.

### The Route at a Glance

**Day 1:** Arrival in Pieterburen

**Day 2:** Pieterburen to Groningen (56 km)

**Day 3:** Groningen to Assen (47 km)

**Good to know:** Waddenhoes Guesthouse is the best rated accommodation in Pieterburen. It has 2 apartments with 4 rooms, 2 apartments with 2 rooms and 2 separate rooms. For this tour you may opt to share a room (with someone you know and/or person of same gender) or to request a room for single use: please notify when applying.

**Day 1 - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of October:**

**Arrival Pieterburen**

Welcome to Pieterburen – Starting Point of the Pieterfietspad! Have you arrived on time? Perfect! Take the opportunity to relax at the village restaurant or hop on your bike to explore the sea dyke. Enjoy breathtaking views of the ever-changing Wadden Sea.

Overnight in Pieterburen.

**Accommodation:** Waddenhoes Guesthouse



**Day 2 - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of October:**

**Cycling from Pieterburen to Groningen (ca. 56 km)**

Your journey starts with a ride to the sea dyke. As you gaze over the Wadden Sea, you'll spot various islands in the distance. From there, head south through the charming areas of Kleine Huisjes and Broek. You'll find yourself in the Groninger Wierdenland, crisscrossed by numerous maren. Surrounding you is a vast, flat landscape dotted with beautiful villages like Eenrum and Winsum, perched on small hills (called wierden). The route leads you along the river beds of the Reitdiep, the oldest cultural landscape in Western Europe, bringing you to the historic city center of Groningen. Here, you can admire stunning monuments and enjoy the vibrant urban atmosphere. Take plenty of time to soak in the lively spirit of this student city before settling down by the Hoornsemeer for the night.

Overnight in Groningen.

**Accommodation:** Flonk Hotel Groningen Zuid



**Day 3 - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of October:**

**Cycling from Groningen to Assen (ca. 47 km)**

Starting by the Hoornsemeer, you'll follow the banks of the Drentsche Aa, which will reappear throughout your journey, serving as your winding, watery guide. Enjoy the beautiful landscape around the Paterswoldsemeer and on the Hondsrug, a 20-meter-high "megaflute" that offers stunning views over the valley. After Noorderlaren, you'll truly be in Drenthe. The well-known and tourist-friendly Zuidlaren invites you to relax at one of its charming terraces. Be sure to grab a 'Zuidlaarder Bol' along the way! The picturesque village of Zeegse is part of the National Beek and Esdorp Landscape of the Drentsche Aa. The route continues through the "velden," including the peaceful and expansive Ballooërveld. These rugged lands feature small ponds, heathlands, and forests, providing a unique natural experience. After Balloo, we'll take a short detour from the route for an overnight stay in the capital of Drenthe, Assen.

Trip ends in Assen.