

le boat

FRIESLAND

Region Guide





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.



<i>Friesland</i>		<i>Approx time</i>		<i>No. of locks</i>		<i>No. of lifting bridges</i>	
	Harlingen						
		1 hr 15 min	4 hr	1	1	0	0
	Franeke	2 hr 45 min		0		0	
	Leeuwarden	1 hr 30 min	9 hr 45 min	0	1	0	12
	Grau	2 hr 30 min		1		0	
	Sneek	45 min		0		0	
	IJlst	1 hr 45 min		0		7	
	Bolsward	1 hr 30 min		0		4	
	Workum	1 hr 45 min		0		1	
	Heeg	30 min	2 hr 15 min	0	0	0	1
	Woudsend	45 min		0		1	
	Sloten	1 hr		0		0	
	Lemmer						

		<i>Approx time</i>		<i>No. of locks</i>		<i>No. of lifting bridges</i>	
	Hindeloopen-Stavoren						
		2 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min	0	0	0	1
	Heeg	1 hr		0		1	
	IJlst						

		<i>Approx time</i>		<i>No. of locks</i>		<i>No. of lifting bridges</i>	
	Sneek						
		1 hr 45 min	3 hr	0	0	0	1
	Spannenburg	1 hr 15 min		0		1	
	Lemmer						

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

		<i>Approx time</i>		<i>No. of locks</i>		<i>No. of lifting bridges</i>	
	Spannenburg						
		3 hr 45 min	6 hr	1	1	6	8
	Ossenzijl	1 hr 30 min		0		0	
	Steenwijk	45 min		0		2	
	Giethoorn	2 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min	2	3	4	4
	Vollenhove	1 hr 30 min		1		0	
	Start of Luttelgeestervaart	30 min		0		0	
	Luttelgeest						

		<i>Approx time</i>		<i>No. of locks</i>		<i>No. of lifting bridges</i>	
	Giethoorn						
		2 hr	3 hr	1	2	1	1
	Zwartsluis	1 hr		1		0	
	Vogeleiland						

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 7.5km/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.

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 beer-brewing 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: Stadscafé de Tapperij – Beer lover? This is the place to be.



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

Market: Tue (am).

GIETHOORN

Giethoorn



A cruise in Friesland 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 traffic-free 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



Wouda Steam Pumping Station, 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 STIP-office / Tourist Information Centre, Nieuwburen.



Recommended restaurant: Pizzeria La Gondola, Langestreek.



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

JUST SOUTH OF LEMMER

*Orchideeënhoeve Orchid Farm
in Luttelgeest*



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.



Rainbow Lorikeets, Orchideeënhoeve

WOUDSEND



Woudsend is a charming waterside village, making it perfect for a day of exploring and relaxing. Nestled between the Heegermeer and Sloterveer lakes, it offers scenic walks, cycling routes, and plenty of character. The historic center is worth a visit as it boasts beautiful cobbled alleys, unique shops, and a number of restaurants to choose from. Don't miss landmarks like the Karmelkerk, a neo-Gothic church, or the historic Hellingbrege, which tells the story of Woudsend's trading past. For something a little different, make sure you visit the Het Lam windmill to pick up some freshly ground flour for your next baking project. You'll also enjoy exploring the galleries on Midstrjitte and Lewâl, which showcase beautiful art and captivating stories.



Recommended restaurant: Café Restaurant De Watersport, next to Eewalbrug – a great spot for boat watching right on the water.



Amenities: There are supermarkets, shops, and a couple of bakeries – all you need and more.

Farmer's Market: Thurs (11am-17pm), mid-July – August.

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. Be sure to visit the traditional Chocolaterie Koldewijn (open Wed – Sun) for chocolate treats and tasty teas.



Recommended restaurant: Friese Doorloper pancake house, Kleine Weide.



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

STAVOREN



Stavoren

Stavoren is fully surrounded by water from the IJssellake, making it only accessible by boat. Take a walk along the harbour to discover the colourful houses often referred to as "Copenhagen in Friesland". Then visit the Blokhuis, an impressive-looking stronghold that held its ground until 1580, after which it was merged with the city walls.



Recommended restaurant: Restaurant De Posthoorn – offering delicious seafood dishes and a fantastic view of the harbour.



Amenities: Plenty of shops, supermarkets, 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.



Museum in Workum



Recommended restaurant: De Gulden Leeuw, in a courtyard opposite the cathedral.



Amenities: Lots of restaurants, a supermarket, a bakery and a pharmacy.

BOLSWARD

Bolsward Town Hall



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: Wijnberg stadsherberg van Bolsward, near the Town Hall.



Amenities: There are supermarkets, shops, and a couple of bakeries – all you would want.

MAKKUM



Makkum

Makkum is a lively and historic village known for its expansive beach and bustling boulevard. As one of the top kitesurfing hotspots in Southwest Friesland, there's no better place to learn! With consistently favourable winds and shallow waters, the lake is particularly suited for beginners, and local surf schools provide lessons to help you get started. Beyond the water, Makkum has a charming village center for you to explore on foot or by bicycle.



Recommended restaurant: Restaurant Café De Zwaan, in the village center.



Amenities: Many restaurants, a supermarket, a bakery and a pharmacy.

Market: Wed (am) – Lieuwkemastraat

IJlst



IJlst is known as "the city of wood" and is home to the iconic Rat wood sawmill, which continues to produce timber and offers a fascinating glimpse into its historical past. You can learn more about IJlst's rich wood-working heritage at the Museum Houtstad IJlst. One of the most distinctive features of IJlst is its 'overtuinen' waterside gardens, a unique legacy where old laundry bleaching areas have been transformed into beautiful community gardens. These gardens play host to the Overtuinen fair, held every June, where visitors can explore around 50 stalls offering antiques, crafts, flowers, and delicious treats. For a taste of local culture, IJlst also offers the opportunity to try fierljeppen, a traditional Frisian sport of pole vaulting across wide ditches, adding a bit of adventure to your visit.



Recommended restaurant: Restaurant d'Ald Wal – with a waterside view not to be missed.

Amenities: Lots of restaurants, a supermarket, a bakery and a pharmacy.



Market: Overtuinen Fair – annual market held only on the first Sat of June in the town's characteristic 'overtuinen' waterside gardens.

SNEEK



Waterpoort Gate, Sneek

The boating capital of Friesland, Sneek's reputation comes from its week-long regatta, held each August. The town's centrepiece is the beautiful Waterpoort Gate, the only of its kind in the Netherlands and all that remains of the 17th century town walls. The National Maritime Museum offers an insight into the town's nautical past, while the Model Train Museum boasts thousands of engines and carriages. The town is also known for its regional speciality, Beerenburg, a herb-flavoured gin produced across the Netherlands, which you can buy at the Weduwe Joustra shop.



Recommended restaurant: De Walrus, Leeuwenburg. 5 mins walk from the Koopmansgracht moorings.



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

Market: Tue (am) & Sat (9am-5pm) – Grootzand.



Sneek

LEEUWARDEN



Oldehover Tower, 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.



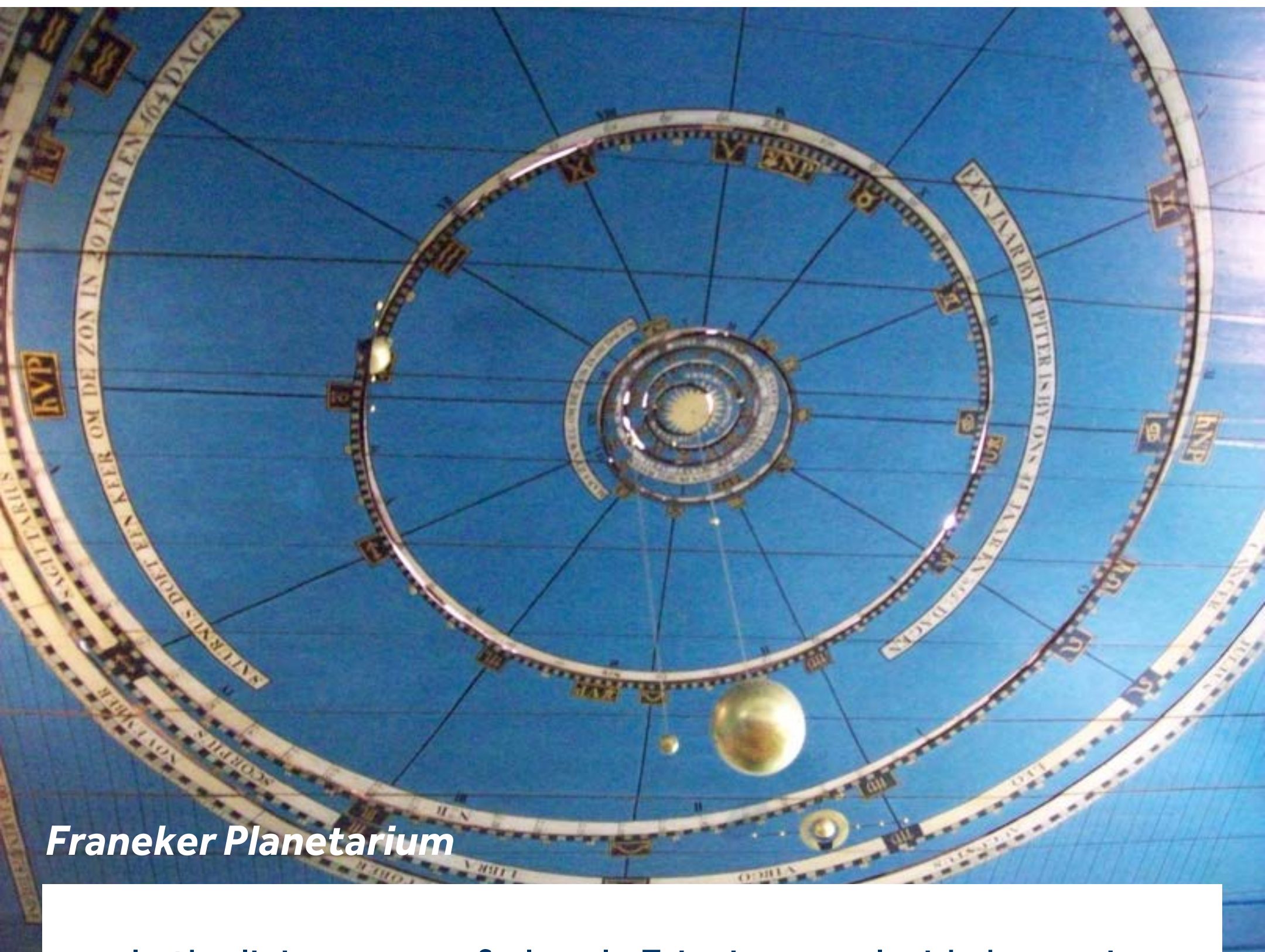
Recommended restaurant: De Walrus, Gouverneursplein. 10 minutes walk from the town's moorings.



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

FRANEKER



Franeker Planetarium

In the living room of a lovely Friesian 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.

HARLINGEN

Harlingen Harbour



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? For a spot of culture, the Hannema House and Harlingen Pottery Museum are definitely worth a visit.



Recommended restaurant: Eetcafe Nooitgedagt – a great dinner spot.



Amenities: There are a number of shops, supermarkets, cafés and restaurants.

Market: Wed (afternoon) & Sat (9.00-18.00) – Voorstaat

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).

There is a fee of €1 – €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	DEMMEKSE LOCK*	MOST OTHER LOCKS AND BRIDGES
	(The main lock to enter and exit Vinkeveen to the South)	
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 – 31 st 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 €10 – €15 a night. The fee at private marinas is between €20 – €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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