Cycling is more than transportation, it is transformation. And in Amsterdam, we are showing what happens when you prioritise the bicycle. Cities and citizens become happier, healthier and more prosperous. Cycling stimulates new forms of enterprise, allows communities to flourish, and it helps build the city’s resilience for the future.

On this guided cycle route, you’ll discover what makes Amsterdam a city of the future and cycling’s role in this. You know all about the new North-South Metro line. Well, this is the real way to journey through and discover Amsterdam; the city behind the tourist trail. Connecting opposites, you’ll go from the people-powered and cultural creativity of NDSM to the shiny finance centres and entrepreneurial business hubs of Zuidas. And you’ll experience everything in between.

Following this route, you’ll not only discover the transformative technical, policy and infrastructure innovations, but you’ll also experience the city’s cultural and creative changes. You’ll see how Amsterdam is breaking boundaries and continually reinventing itself. You’ll find out how a city of the future is being created.

THINGS TO VISIT AT NDSM:
- MX3D
- PLLEK
- FARALDA

THINGS TO VISIT AT ZUIDAS:
- GUSTAV MAHLERPLEIN/SQUARE
- CIRCL
- THE EDGE

FRIENDS OF BYCS
- BROMPTON JUNCTION
- FIELTSESBOND
- GEMEENTE AMSTERDAM
- MAATS CYCLING CULTURE
- MOKUMONO CYCLES
- PAKHUIS DE ZWIJGER
- RAPHA CYCLE CLUB
- RECYCLE
- ROETZ BIKES
- THE UPCYCLE
- VANDERER
- VERVOERREGIO AMSTERDAM
- WORKCYCLES
NDSM WHARF
This former ship wharf was one of the first places in Noord to be taken over by artists, squatters and craftsmen alike. It is now one of the biggest cultural and creative incubators of the city. You can peek inside most halls, even on your bicycle, and explore some of the installations and warehouse art villages inside. There are festivals, a huge flea market every month (IJhallen), dance events, art and theatre performances, as well as plenty of bars and restaurants to enjoy in the area.

THINGS TO VISIT AT NDSM:
MX3D: a company of Dutch designer Joris Laarman, which recently created the world’s first 3D-printed steel bridge. You’ll find it in one of the large former shipbuilding halls.
PLEK: a waterfront bar and restaurant that ingeniously uses shipping containers in its construction. It even has its own city beach. Or try Noorderlicht next door for a cool greenhouse restaurant vibe.
FARALDA: a hotel and event space to be found in a large industrial crane.

DE CEEUVEL
De Ceuvel is Amsterdam’s clean technology playground; an award-winning hub for innovative and creative social enterprises on a former polluted shipyard. The site has been converted into a regenerative urban oasis where house boats on land form office buildings and innovation hubs for the circular economy. At Cafe de Ceuvel sample food grown in the next door aquaponics greenhouse. And at the water’s edge you’ll see the work starting next door to build Schoonschip - this will become Europe’s most sustainable floating community where 47 houseboats operate in a closed loop of energy and material flows.

CENTRAL STATION
The Central Station is the country’s largest multimodal hub with more than 250,000 daily users. On the north side of the station, a new tunnel was created and cars were moved underground, so the waterfront could be dedicated to pedestrian, cyclists, and ferry users. And all these people come together at the infamous “shared space”, a hands-off experiment in traffic management. Here, there are no traffic lights or demarcated crossings. Instead, the lack of control sends a clear message: no single street user has the right of way over another. There are around 10,000 bike parking spaces by the station and this is set to almost double by 2030.

HOUT-HAVENS
The Houthavens area - formerly Amsterdam’s timber harbour - is now being transformed into a climate neutral district of 2,000 dwellings on seven (almost) car-free peninsulas. The Tasman Street, one of the four major access routes to Amsterdam, has been placed in a tunnel underground, leaving only local traffic and a new park on the street level. The inverted-U-shaped building, called the Pontsteiger, acts as a modern gate to the district and is an example of how the Amsterdam skyline is changing.

WESTER-GAS-FABRIEK
The Westergasfabriek, or Western Gas Factory, in Westerpark was completed in 1885 and used coal to produce gas for street lighting. Now the once heavily industrialized area has been transformed and besides public parks and community gardens, you’ll find a creative hotspot with a cinema, cafes, bars and restaurants. It’s also home to many music and art festivals, including within the monumental former gas tower. A new hotel opened here recently, the Conscious Hotel - it’s an example of a range of new approaches to sustainable and responsible hospitality happening across Amsterdam. And in this area, you’ll also find the start of the 11km cycle and walking path, the Brettenpad. It follows the remnants of the first railway line between Amsterdam and Haarlem and illustrates the possibility of transforming former train tracks into attractive cycling infra.

THE POPULATION OF AMSTERDAM IS AROUND 835,000 BUT THERE ARE ALMOST 1 MILLION BICYCLES.
AMSTERDAMMERS CYCLE AROUND 2 MILLION KM EVERY DAY.

IN THE CENTRE OF THE CITY, ALMOST 60% OF JOURNEYS ARE MADE BY BIKE.
GWL TERREIN
Amsterdam’s first car-free area: this was the site of Amsterdam’s Municipal Water Company between 1851 and 1989. The 6 hectare site was later transformed into a car-free residential district. Five teams of future residents were in charge of guiding design: building materials, energy, water, vegetation and waste. Consisting of 600 units, its development remains an internationally acclaimed case-study for successful participatory planning.

VONDEL-PARK
Vondelpark is the green heart of old Amsterdam. When it was created in 1865, bikes were not allowed. Today it is one of the most pleasant and busiest commuting routes in Amsterdam, offering a two kilometer ride away from the noise and pollution of motorized traffic. It’s a dynamic public space where everyone shares the path, offering safe and clean mobility for over 20,000 commuters every day.

ZUIDAS
Literally meaning the ‘southern axis’, Zuidas is Amsterdam’s international business district and a centre of research and education. This area is not quite discovered by tourists and the Amsterdammers who don’t work, study or live here. It’s a hotbed of city transformation and an architectural showcase. Since 2017, Zuidas is also the location of one of the most important infrastructure projects in the entire Amsterdam Metropolitan Area: Zuidaslokaal, which is placing a portion of the highway underground. As roadworks are projected to aggravate congestion in the area for the next ten years, Zuidas is being used as a testbed for new mobility solutions, including bikesharing and carsharing systems.

DE HALLEN AREA
The Hallen is a large former tram depot converted into a food market, offices, library, shops, hotel, cinema & more. Inside there is a focus on local makers, with a denim lab on a mission to make the denim industry more sustainable, as well as bike recyclers, and other craft and local art projects. The area around the entrance has recently been made bike-free. In the underground carpark an extra 700 spots for bike parking were created. And together with local businesses and residents even more alternative parking spots are offered.

SCHINKEL EILANDEN
The award winning Schinkel park was built in 2010 along an old tramline to the southern municipality of Amstelveen. The route passes the 1928 Olympic stadium and some areas of the city currently being transformed. The park serves as a best practice in combining recreation and commuting functions. The iconic stadium - built in Amsterdam School style by architect Jan Wils - dates back to when the city hosted the Olympic Games in 1928. The stadium now functions as a concert and event space, and an athletics club. It also houses over 30 businesses.

THINGS TO VISIT AT ZUIDAS:
GUSTAV MAHLERPLEIN/SQUARE: the green heart of Zuidas. The area is noticeable for its many striking high rises. There’s a bike parking below the square (3000 spots) and together with the recently opened underground Strawinskylaan bike parking (3750 spots) and Zuidplein parking (2500 spots) Zuidas public space is pleasant, green and uncluttered; providing people with a quiet, relaxing place to sit, walk, meet and recharge.

THE EDGE: recognized as one of the world’s most connected and innovative buildings, and compliant with the stringent BREEAM environmental assessment criteria. Thanks to the use of innovative technologies like climate ceilings, triple glazing, demand-driven natural ventilation, low-energy building systems and high-performance insulation materials, The Edge perfectly combines comfort with sustainability.

ALMOST 60% OF AMSTERDAMMERS USE THEIR BICYCLE ON A DAILY BASIS. EVEN WHEN IT SNOWS.

YOU CAN CREATE 100 BIKES OUT OF THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES NEEDED FOR A SINGLE CAR.

AS MANY AS 15,000 BIKES ARE PULLED OUT OF AMSTERDAM’S CANALS EACH YEAR.

THERE ARE AROUND 400 KM OF CYCLE PATHS ACROSS AMSTERDAM.