

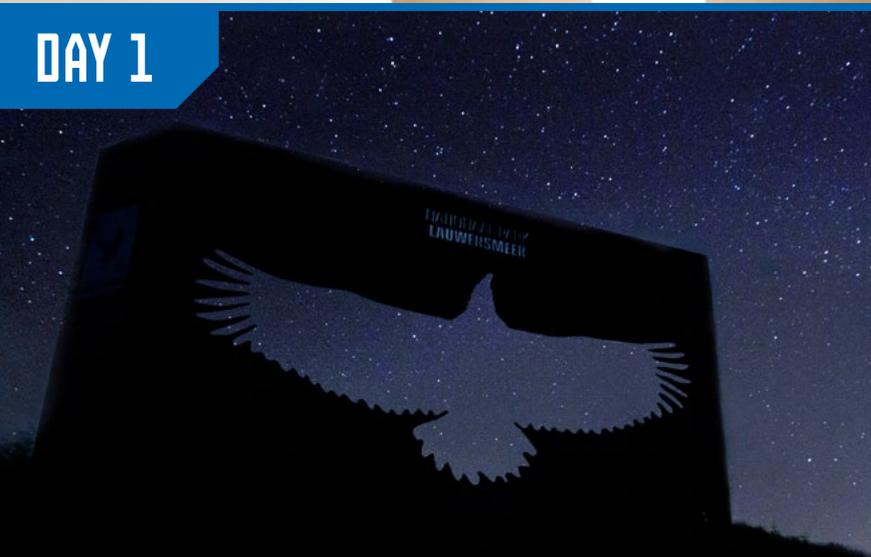
SAMPLE TRIP ODE AAN HET FRIESE LANDSCHAP

4 or 5-day trip

Discover all the beauty of Friesland in a four-day trip. Travel from the vast Wadden coast and unique National Parks, to historic cities and cultural highlights. This northernmost province of the Netherlands has it all.



DAY 1



We start the trip in the north of our province, near the coastal village of Holwerd. It's a special village, which until recently had to contend with a large exodus. Fortunately, the residents came up with a solution: Holwerd aan Zee. The village would swap the seawall for a seaport, so that nautical tourism also became an option.

Just outside Holwerd we visit Wachten op Hoogwater (Waiting for High Tide), a meters-high iron artwork by Jan Ketelaar, along the middle of the seawall. We then make our way to Dokkum, one of the eleven cities that grace Friesland. Well, we say city, but in Friesland the cities are sometimes smaller than our villages! We stop by a beer brewery in Dokkum, where we go on a tour and of course sample the Dokkumer beer.

Then we visit the city's unique frozen fountain, which was also designed in association with the Capital of Culture year. Afterward, we spend some time in the authentic shopping center, where you can go to a proper shopping spree.

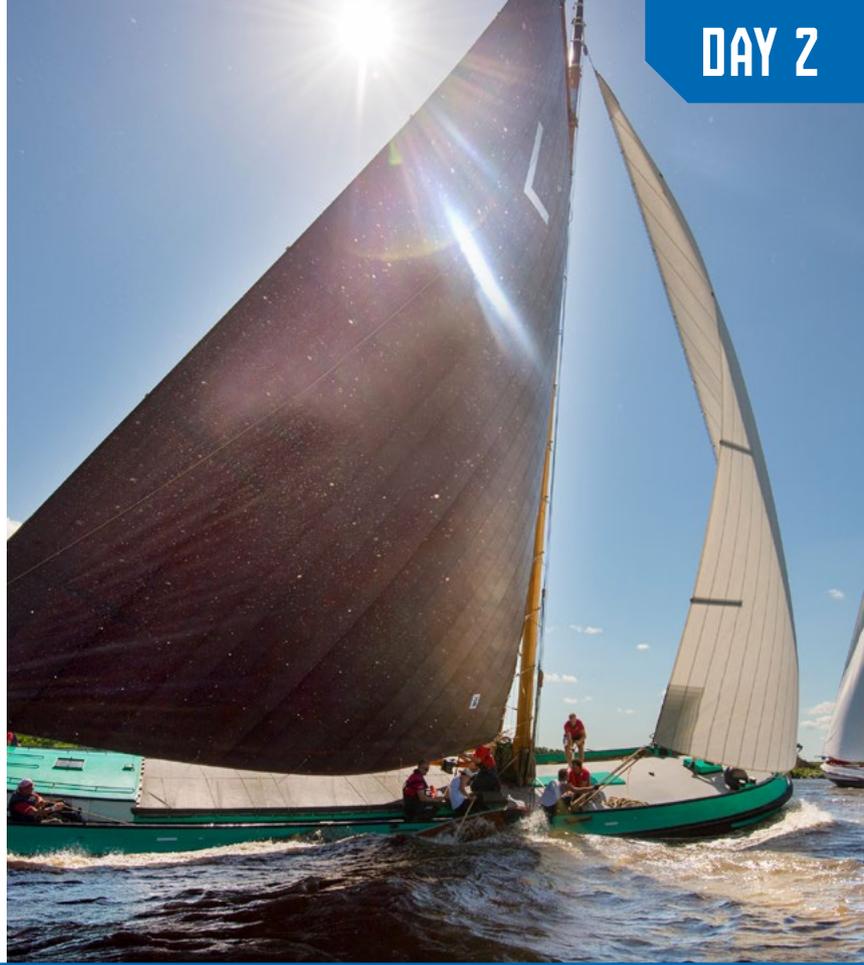
After working up a big appetite, we move on to Lauwersoog. A unique National Park where the Wad meets land and which is also one of the few Dark Sky Parks in the Netherlands. We enjoy a delicious dinner made with regional products in the special harbor restaurant T'Ailand, while looking out over the Wadden Sea.

It would be a mistake to think that the day is over just yet. After dinner, we visit the Lauwersnest visitor center to participate in a Dark Sky Excursion with the Staatsbosbeheer (Forestry Service). After this impressive tour in the pitch dark, we return to the hotel.

The second day is spent in the heart of Friesland. In the Alde Feanen National Park, we step aboard an electric whisper boat to take a quiet trip through this unique area. This covered boat is powered by solar energy and can accommodate twenty-five people. Weather permitting, we'll have lunch outside in the fresh air.

In nice weather there are also plenty of outdoor activities available here, tailored to the needs of the group. For example, go for a calm or, if preferred, a rigorous bike ride, take a walk with a forest ranger or go for a stand-up paddle on the water. Is the weather not cooperating? Then visit the Skûtsje Museum. Skûtsjes are traditional Frisian sailing ships that used to race on the Frisian waterways every year.

We have dinner locally at the restaurant Vrijheid. This restaurant, in the village of Grou, has a fantastic waterfront terrace and offers numerous packages.



After visiting two National Parks, it's time for some history. On the third day we visit Hegebeintum, a unique village on the highest terp (man-made mound) in the Netherlands. Once you arrive you can see how high the village rises above sea level. It's a very special view! A guide gives us a tour of the terp and tells us all about the origin of this place.

Then we continue our way towards the city of Franeker, which is home to the oldest working planetarium in the world, adorning the ceiling in the living room of its creator, Eise Eisinga. There are (multilingual) volunteers on hand who can tell us everything about the operation of the installation.

We get our lunch in one of Franeker's atmospheric cafes, which are often within walking distance, then continue to visit another city. We may make a short stop at the special mist fountain, an ode to astronomer Jan Hendrik Oort, located next to the church in the city center. A visit to one of the other eleven cities is also a nice option to fill the afternoon. In Friesland everything is, at most, a mere half hour's drive away. Depending on the group size, dinner is possible at a restaurant such as Omke Jan in Woudsend, a water village in Southwest Friesland.



We end the trip with a good dose of culture.

Leeuwarden-Friesland was the 2018 European Capital of Culture, and with good reason. The province is an excellent holiday destination for culture lovers. There are numerous festivals in the summer, such as the special Oranjewoud Festival. A festival that celebrates classical music in the woods of Oranjewoud. If you are here during this period, we recommend you spend a day visiting this special festival.

Outside the season, we visit Museum Belvédère, which is beautifully situated in the Oranjewoud Estate, a park that used to be owned by the Dutch Royal Family. The ultramodern building stands out in this beautiful environment and displays a permanent and a changing collection of paintings throughout the year. We have lunch at the Tjaarda Hotel, which is located nearby.

After lunch we drive to the capital Leeuwarden, where we can visit the Museum of Friesland or enjoy a guided tour with one of the very knowledgeable city guides of Leeuwarden. You can choose from different themed routes such as street art, World War II or Frisian Stories. We end the trip with a dinner in one of the many modern, traditional or cozy restaurants in Leeuwarden.



Want to stay an extra day? We don't blame you. Friesland is beautiful! In high season, you can spend an additional fifth day at one of the following festivals or events.

LEEUWARDEN SPECTACLE-MUSICAL THE TOUR

A spectacular musical that stimulates all senses. A story about the legendary Elfstedentocht.

Oct 2021 - Mar 2022

TERSCHELLING DEROL

One of the best theatre festivals in Europe. For ten days the island of Terschelling is transformed into a large stage for theatre, dance, street theatre, visual arts and music.

11 to 20 June 2021

FRISIAN LAKES SKÛTSJESILEN

Skûtsjesilen are the Frisian sailing competitions with historic ships. The final takes place on the Sneekermeer.

Second half of July 2021

SPANGA OPERA SPANGA | *Carmen*

Opera Spanga combines nature and culture. The natural environment, combined with daring direction, remarkable decorations, imaginative lighting and surprising costumes, make for an unforgettable evening.

Mid August 2021

OPTIONAL: DAY 5

