

Route WD1- Friesland Circular

Hindeloopen, Stavoren, Workum, Bolsward, IJlst, Sneek, Grou, Princenhof, Akkrum, Joure – Woudsend- Heeg – Koudum or Galadammen - Hindeloopen

i Hindeloopen

A lovely small town on the edge of Lake IJssel that is world famous for its national costume and typical paintings. People here speak their own language!

Narrow wooden bridges and cobbled streets and characteristic Dutch facades with anchors to denote their maritime history are typical of picturesque Hindeloopen.

Large marina and beach make this popular with tourists looking to make the most of the seaside atmosphere.



You leave Hindeloopen through the Yndyk and Jan Broerskanaal cruising to the Morra. Turn right at buoy number 12 on the Morra, cruising down the lake and through the Johan Friso kanaal to Stavoren.



Stavoren

On approach to *Stavoren*, one can either moor in *Marina Stavoren* to your left or turn right and moor at the *Stavoren Boating Association* moorings.

DO NOT ENTER THE LOCK – THIS EXITS ONTO THE IJSSELMEER

When in *Stavoren* please remember **this is the limit of your navigation**, do not be tempted to pass through the locks and enter the *IJsselmeer*. This is a large open expanse of water and not suitable for our craft.

Our insurance does not cover cruising in this area – you have been warned.



Stavoren



Stavoren

Apart from the intrinsic beauty of *Stavoren* and its suitability as an overnight stopover with countless pubs and restaurants, it is also well served by railway to *Leeuwarden* and once in *Leeuwarden* there are regular connections to other major cities in *Holland*. There is also a ferry service available to *Enkhuizen* with increased trips during the summer months. While in *Stavoren*, it is recommended to take an open boat trip aboard *Simmermoarn* with the musical harbourmaster to the *Gaasterland*.

One should check out, *Ponthuus*, this is a museum which gives an insight into the history and culture of *Stavoren* and also *Het Hanzehuis* is worth a visit, it is a ships antiques and curiosity shop.

Stavoren is one of the stops on the “*Elfstedentocht*” (literally, ‘*eleven city ride*’). This is the world’s largest and longest speed skating competition conducted throughout the eleven Frisian cities when the Dutch winter permits sufficient natural ice along canals, rivers and lakes.

Another interesting fact about *Stavoren* is that it has one of the largest water pumping stations in Europe. The water pumping station here is moving water into the *IJsselmeer* at the rate of 6000cubic metres/minute.



Stavoren was granted city rights in 1118, making it the oldest city in Friesland. Trade was very important in *Stavoren* until around the 14th century when the harbour silted up. The locals tell the tale of a rich merchant’s widow who demanded a precious cargo of wheat be brought to her by her ship’s captain but she was so disgusted with the wheat he brought back to her that she had it thrown into the harbour. This is what the locals believe assisted the silting process. Her statue *De Vrouwe van Stavoren* stands by the old harbour.



The lady of Stavoren waits at the harbour for her 'precious cargo'

Stavoren to Workum



Reverse your previous journey back through the *Johan Frisokanaal*, through "*De Morra*" lake, until red buoy 88 on the *HeegerMeer* where you turn to port (left) heading up the relatively narrow channel to *Workum*. After the first lifting bridge as you approach, mooring is possible at the *Workummer Yacht Haven*, or you may want to continue further into the village through more lifting bridges where there are endless mooring opportunities available at the many yacht harbours with great facilities. For a central location choose *Kuperus Watersport*, with visitors' moorings along their quayside frontage.



Even at this early point in your holiday remember not to create a wash (wake) or simply put, waves behind you as you cruise along. Adjust your speed so as not to cause a nuisance to moored craft.

Remember... *You are not in a hurry you are on holiday!*

i - Workum

Workum has many beautiful buildings but is probably best known for being home to a museum dedicated to the popular artist *Jopie Huisman*.



Jopie Huisman Museum

'*Museum Warkums Erfskip*' is another museum in *Workum*, it holds a collection of ceramics, ship models and other crafts and is well worth a visit. The train station in *Workum* connects to *Stavoren* and *Leeuwarden*.



Sint Werenfridus Church- Workum



Market Square- Workum



Again **DO NOT GO THROUGH THE LOCK**, as it **LEADS** to the **IJSSELMEER**

Workum to Bolsward



On leaving *Workum*, head North on the *Workumer Trekvaart*. In the past it was created for horse drawn or in some cases people drawn vessels.

You have four lifting bridges before you arrive on the outskirts of *Bolsward* Town. To moor in the town go through the first lifting bridge at the A7 motorway, then moor on the right or turn left, go through the second lifting bridge and moor along river banks as shown on map. The main town moorings are just north of the Kruiswater bridge in a large basin and more attractive on pontoons under the lime trees.

***i* - Bolsward**

Bolsward has numerous small canals (*grachten*) and is pleasant for an evening stroll. There are a good selection of cafes, restaurants and shops.



City centre – Bolsward



City Hall- Bolsward

Bolsward is another one of the stops on the “*Elfstedentocht*”. A visit to *Sonnema Distillery* offers a tour where you can enjoy a taste of Berenburg- this is a liqueur that includes 71 different herbs.

The past economic success of *Bolsward* is clearly reflected in the beautiful architecture of the town, take for example the city hall (*see above*).



An interesting fact about *Bolsward* is that the town is said to be founded on three artificial dwelling hills, the first is thought to have been built before Christ.

Bolsward to Sneek via IJLST.



You must go back to the south side of the motorway lifting bridge and then head southeast along the “*Wimmerts*” or *Bolswarderzylvaart*. You’ll go through two lifting bridges and the third one before *IJlst* is self-service.

After this there are two more bridges with a waiting area just north of the bridge. After passing through the second bridge, you can either moor on the left, or pass through one more lifting bridge. Moorings are available here on northern banks.

i - IJlst

IJlst is one of the oldest of the 11 Frisian towns and has a long history of shipbuilding.



IJlst



'De Rat'

This traditional wind powered sawmill 'De Rat' was central to the towns industry and is still in operation and open to visitors.



Continue to *Sneek* and then as you enter *Sneek* take southeastern route around town passing through lifting bridges, mooring where you please. Quayside moorings are available throughout the town and in a more popular spot being de Kolk in front of the famous Waterpoort gate (*see below*).

i - Sneek

The town of *Sneek* stands at the centre of a vast network of waterways and has rightly earned itself the title of *boating capital of Friesland*.

Sneek is another stop on the "Elfstedentocht".

This is the *Waterpoort gate* in *Sneek*, claimed to be the only one of its kind in The Netherlands. It is the focal point of the town centre and in the past, it was the main defence of the town.



The *Fries Scheepvaart Museum* on *Klienzand* gives an insight into the towns past through historical paintings and reconstructions of ships interiors. *Het Nationaal Modelspoor Museum* offers a vast range of railway models displays and holds all models of Dutch trains ever built. There are weekly markets held in the town. Train stop on *Stavoren* to *Leeuwarden* line. You can also take a train to *Groningen* city.



You will leave *Sneek* via the *Simmerrak*, then *Houkesleat* ending up at the *Krûswetter* cruising onto the *Sneekermeer*. Either follow the canal and head immediately north or take the longer route and cross the *Sneekermeer*. You can then visit *Terherne*, mooring at *JH De Zandsloot* gives you the closest access to this small village.

i - *Terherne*

Terherne is an island in the middle of the lake and is dominated by water sports and tourism during the summer months.



Now turn right and follow the *Prinses Margrietkanaal* to *Grou*, passing *Jirnsum* on your left. *Grou* is an ideal opportunity for a stop with several mooring locations and facilities available.

i - *Grou*

Grou is located at an exit of the A32. There is a ferry across the canal called *Veerpont de Burd*, which connects the *De Burd* Island. Three restored windmills still survive in the town. An interesting fact about *Grou* is that a nickname for the town is 'Tsiisferduners' (meaning cheese dancers). This nickname originated from a story where a fiddler was paid with cheese after performing at a village dance in the town. Train station in *Grou* is on the line from *Leeuwarden* to *Heerenveen*.



In the past, *Grou* was isolated by road but was well connected by water living up to its title of a fishing village. The main church here is called *St. Piterkerk*. *St. Piter* was a Frisian saint named after the apostle Peter, patron saint of fishermen. *Grou* was the only town in the Netherlands, which celebrated the *St Piter* festival in February instead of the *St Nicholas* festival in December.

Grou to Princenhof



Leave *Grou* and head north again on the *Prinses Margrietkanaal* until you see a windmill on your right. Directly opposite is a distance marker no 57. Take the next channel to your right which will end up at a cross roads within 100metres. Cross over carefully and keep to the centre of channel as banks are rocky. You will see numerous mooring opportunities on your left. Channel turns slowly north and ends at

T-junction. Turn right and head in to old turf cutting area of the *Princenhof*.

i The Alde Feanen and Earnewald

In the heart of Friesland lies the more than 2,000 hectare peat bog The Alde Feanen. A very varied landscape consisting of lakes, bog holes, reed beds, rugs, thickets and swamp forests. The scenic variation creates an enormous wealth of plants and animals. You'll for example find around 450 species of vegetation and over a 100 species of birds breed in this area.

In the visitor centre you can have a look at places in nature where no one is allowed to come via a webcam. For example, a cormorant colony or the nest of a stork can be viewed.



Directly opposite to the Princenhof is the village of Earnewald with several private marinas and several public-mooring locations. There is a visitor's harbour close to the village or alternatively there are berths available at the large JH Westerdijk, which lies on the edge of the Alde Feanen National Park.

i Earnewald

Earnewald is a small village but is a very popular location for hiking trails.



De Princehofmolen (built in 1958) is maintained in Earnewald as a landmark. Its purpose in the past was a draining mill.

Princenhof – Akkrum



Leave *Princenhof* and head south via *Headamsleat* until next junction and then bear right, keeping the *Veen Hoop Jacht Haven* to your left. Continue westwards along the “*Grytmans rak*” and then choose to continue straight, though lock or turn right and along the *Kromme Ee*. Regardless of your choice you will end up on the *Peenster le Lake*. Exit the lake at the south west corner, heading for *Akkrum*.



- Akkrum

As you approach *Akkrum* turn right and cross aqueduct over the A32 motorway. You may choose to stop in *Akkrum* and there are various public moorings or visitor berths in private marinas. The large *JH Tusken de Marren* on the west side of town has ample facilities for visiting boats.

i - Akkrum

Akkrum is another village in *Friesland* with over 3000 inhabitants. *Akkrum* has a railway station servicing places such as *Leeuwarden*, *Zwolle* and *Amersfoort*. It is a favourite recreational village with plenty of shops and eating places to choose from.





Leave *Akkrum* and head for *Joure* via *Meinesleat*. Pass through the *Heerenzeil* lifting bridge and head for the southeast corner of the *Goingarijp Lake*, heading down the *Alde Wei*. There are numerous public mooring places along the channel. You can visit *Joure* or continue under the lifting bridge, then the motorway bridge until *Langweer*.



- *Joure*

The visitor harbour of *Joure* can be approached through an open lock but can be busy in high season. As an alternative there are moorings available on the island opposite the entrance lock or along the *Noorder Oudeweg*.

i - *Joure*

The town of *Joure* is famous for the manufacture of traditional Frisian clocks ('stoelklokken' and 'staartklokken'). Today a handful of skilled tradesmen continue to manufacture these clocks. *Joure* offers a wide variety of attractions in relation to historical, cultural and recreational significance so it is well worth a stop off.

You will also find two beautifully restored windmills in *Joure* (see below) and also the base of a third mill '*Wielinga-Stam*' also survives.



De Groene Molen



Penninga's Molen



Visiting *Joure* today, the largest town in the municipality of *Skarsterlan*, one wouldn't believe it used to be an outskirt of a village called *Westerveer*. *Joure* soon grew bigger than *Westerveer* due to *Joure's* easy accessibility to waterways, which allowed national and international trade to flourish. *Joure* has continued to expand over the last few years mainly due to industrial development.

Langweer – Woudsend



After leaving *Langweer*, head northwest until green buoy 5 and turn left via *Jean Slaat*. Caution you must now enter on the *Prinses Margrietkanaal*. After 75m turn left on the *Johan Frisokanaal* and go to *Woudsend*.

i - *Langweer*

Langweer is a beautiful village with its street is lined with 200-yr old lime trees. It is a famous tourist destination down to its many picturesque streets and water sport opportunities.



Langweer has a rich trading history. In the past it was only reachable by water as it was surrounded by swampland. It was not until 1856 that *Langweer* was connected to the outside world by the Bredyk via Sint Nicolaasga.



Twee eilandjes in de Jelteloot

Johan Frisio Kanaal – Two islands in the Jelteloot

i - *Woudsend*

Woudsend's location at the junction of several waterways and between two lakes makes it a lively centre for water recreation. The old village still has the charm of the days gone by and includes a monk's flourmill, *De Lam*, with its visitor centre and mill shop in the old millers house next door. There is a selection of shops, a small supermarket and restaurants.



Continue down towards the junction at village.

Then cruise past the *Rakken Campsite*, along the *Waldseinster Rakken* until you enter *Heegermeer*. Follow the navigation markers until you arrive at the junction between Green buoys 105 & 107.



- Heeg

The visitors' harbour *Heegerwal* is convenient for access to the town centre. For daytime stops there is a small town quay in the centre. There are even more harbour opportunities on the East side of the town, the largest of which is *JH Gouden Bodem*.

i - Heeg

Heeg makes an interesting stop due to its location beside *Heeger Meer*. This was originally an important fishing village, specialising in eel (palling), which was mostly exported. The wealth generated by this trade is evident in the attractive buildings on *De Syl* and *Harinxmastritte*. The visitor centre, namely '*De Helling*', gives an overview of this industry as well as the traditional building that accompanied it. There are many waterside bars and restaurants here for your convenience.



Having turned immediately left, or having been to *Heeg*, you will end up cruising down *Heegermeer*. As you cruise down *Heegermeer* you may encounter numerous sailing boats, so please remember the simple rule "*give way to sail*". If they pass across your cruising path please still watch out for them as they may have gone about and be on their way back, nearing your course again!

Whilst cruising down *Heegermeer* you may wish to stop off in *Koudum* to the North at green buoy no. 39 but watch for bridge clearance as height is 3.0 metres at road

bridge. Please double check the height of *your* boat, as this is a fixed bridge that cannot be opened.

Pass through Koudum, Koudumer Far and turn right into Yndyk to Hindeloopen.

If you don't stop in Koudum you cruise down on the Fluessen, pass the Aquaduct Galamadammen to the Morra and turn right by buoy JF14JB1 into the Jan Broerskanaal go straight on the Yndyk .



Nije Krúspôle - island in lake Fluessen



Galamadammen Aquaduct



Your journey is now complete.