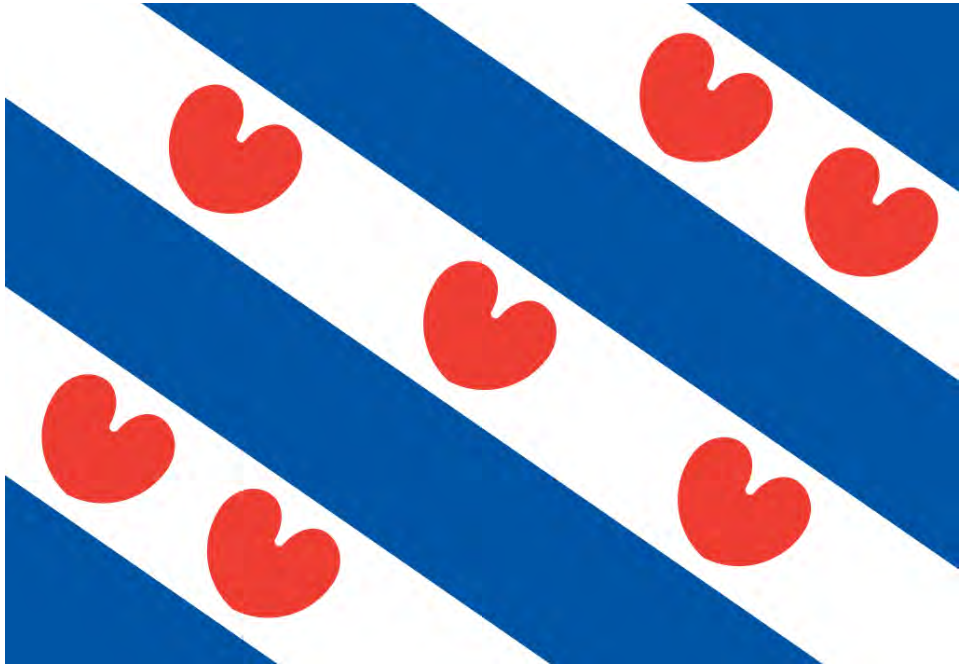
20th European Cycle Tourism Week UECT 2026

11 to 18 July – Heerenveen





Friesland – Netherlands

Friesland



Friesland



Friesland, historically and traditionally known as Frisia, named after the Frisians, is a province of the Netherlands located in the northern part of the country. It is located west of Groningen, northwest of Drenthe and Overijssel, and south of the Wadden Sea. In January 2023, the province had a population of approximately 660,000 and covered a total area of 5,753 km².

LThe province is divided into 18 municipalities. The capital and seat of the provincial government is the city of Leeuwarden, which has a population of 123,107. Other large municipalities in Friesland are Sneek (population 33,512) and Heerenveen (population 50,257).

Frisia



The province was once part of the larger region of Friesland.
The territory consists mainly of grasslands and has numerous lakes.
The official languages of Friesland are Frisian and Dutch.

Friesland



The province is renowned for its speed skaters, and when weather conditions permit, the population participates en masse in cross-country skating. When winters are cold enough for freshwater canals to freeze, the province organises its traditional Elfstedentocht (tour of eleven cities), a 200-kilometre skating circuit.

Another Frisian practice is Fierljeppen, a sport that bears some similarities to pole vaulting. A jump consists of an intense sprint towards the pole (polsstok), a jump to catch it, then climbing to the top while trying to control the forward and sideways movements of the pole over a body of water, ending with a graceful landing on a bed of sand opposite the starting point. Due to all the diverse skills required for fierljeppen, fierljeppers are considered to be very well-rounded athletes with exceptional strength and coordination.

PDuring the warmer months, many Frisians practise wadlopen, the traditional art of walking across parts of the Wadden Sea at low tide. Friesland has many rivers and lakes, which means that regattas with Frisian skutsjes or tjalk boats can be organised on various lakes during the summer.

Elfstedentocht



Fierljeppen



Wadlopen



To discover in Friesland

Water & Mills



Hindelopen



Makkum



Sneek



Stavoren



Terschelling



Skûtsjesilen



SE UECT 2026



HEERENVEEN

MEPPEL

Meppel – Heerenveen 50 km

HEERENVEEN



- Population: 50,257 inhabitants
- Thialf speed skating rink
- City of Sport/sportstadt Heerenveen
- Football club SC Heerenveen
- 2027 Women's Football World Cup





ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- European Cycle Tourism Union (UECT)
    - Responsibilities (electronic registration management, general secretariat, communication)
- Foundation Stichting Drentse Fiets4daagse Meppel
    - Responsibilities (planning road cycling routes, entertainment, local administration)
    - Experience through the organisation of the ‘16th European Cycling Tourism Week UECT’ in 2022 in Meppel.
- Sportstadt Heerenveen and Heerenveen municipality
    - Responsibilities (catering, federal campsite, security)







ORGANISERS SE UECT 2026



UECT
UNION EUROPÉENNE DE CYCLOTOURISME
EUROPEAN UNION OF CYCLE TOURING

FIETS DAAGSE MEPPEL

sportstad heerenveen