INTRODUCTION
Water is incontrovertibly linked to life in the Netherlands. On the one hand because we have to continually protect ourselves from it due to the fact that over half of the Netherlands lies below sea level. On the other hand, in economic terms the water has been of considerable benefit to us over the centuries. It made us tremendous shipbuilders and we found ways of using the water to drive machines, mills and pumping stations. Unsurprisingly, much of our industrial heritage is to be found on river banks, often fully restored, sometimes in the form of a museum, sometimes as a place of residence or a workshop. Industrial heritage is, in fact, everything produced for the purposes of day-to-day work by the industrial revolution, i.e. bridges, sluices/locks and machines as well as factory buildings. And so on this cycle route you will encounter all these things. It will take you to the cultural city centre of Haarlem, as well as to the open and bustling coastal area of IJmuiden. Get cycling!
1 **Centraal Station Haarlem**  
This station from 1908 is the only Dutch station in the style of Art Nouveau. The station, which is over a century old, is characterized by its many tile pictures and its various entrance and exit buildings. It is a popular location for film recordings, e.g. for the box office hit Ocean’s Twelve and Paul Verhoeven’s Zwartboek (Black Book).

2 **Cruquius pumping station**  
Did you know that Schiphol is situated on reclaimed land? It’s a polder built on the bottom of a reclaimed lake. Cruquius pumping station from 1849 is one of the three steam-powered pumping stations that were used to dry out the area around Schiphol. A world-class, industrial listed building in the Gothic Revival style, the museum houses an original 19th-century steam machine, the largest in the world. The water model shows how the Netherlands would look like without dykes and what a storm surge would cause.

3 **NZH Vervoer Museum**  
Originally this was the museum of the Noord-Zuid Hollandse Vervoer Maatschappij (North-South Dutch Transport Company), the precursor to the Nederlandse Spoorwegen (Dutch Railways). Here you can see old trams and buses, such as the restored Blauwe Tram (blue tram) from 1923 and the American GMC Eaglebus from 1966, which NZH used to carry tourists around Europe.

4 **Droste Haarlem**  
Say the name Droste and every Dutch person will lick their lips as they tell you about the wonderful chocolate they make. The Droste factory on the River Spaarne still bears the image of the world-famous nurse who also features on the Droste cocoa tins. The chocolate fragrance has since disappeared from Haarlem, but luckily the factory is still there.

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**Touristic routes Amsterdam Metropolitan Area**  
**Industrial Heritage route**
Touristic routes Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

Industrial Heritage route
Haarlem Light Factory
This was once truly a factory for light, or a place where gas and electricity were produced for the city of Haarlem. In the 1990s, creative companies established themselves on this site. Nowadays it’s a trendy location where you can dine in the former meter house and dance in the central hall.

Go back to Oudeweg and turn right over the bridge across the River Spaarne. Follow the cycle junction signs:

5 Haarlem Light Factory

6 Sluizencomplex IJmuiden
IJmuiden is the only gateway to Amsterdam’s harbour for large sea-going vessels and cruise boats. Four locks operate here round the clock. The Zuidersluis from 1876 is the oldest of the complex and is in fact only suitable for smaller boats. There is an information centre at the Noordersluis, where you can get an explanation of how the sluice gates and locks work. Had enough of cycling? The Fast Flying Ferry will take you to Centraal Station in Amsterdam in thirty minutes.

FACT!
The Amsterdam - Haarlem line was opened on 20 September 1839 and was the first Dutch railway line.