

Tour
Information



Arnhem – The True Story





Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to The Netherlands.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Dutch Embassy: 38 Hyde Park Gate, London SW7 5DP. Tel: (0)20 7590 3200 or (0871) 376 0023 (visa information line). Fax: (0)20 7225 0947.

Email: consular@netherlands-embassy.org.uk

Website: <http://unitedkingdom.nlembassy.org/>

Open Mon-Fri 0830-1730.



Tickets

You will be issued with return train tickets.

Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate. Your ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.

Standard Premier on Eurostar tickets is indicated by two asterisks in the class type section in the top right hand corner. A light meal will be served to passengers travelling Standard Premier on Eurostar. Standard class Eurostar tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although there is a buffet car serving drinks and snacks.

Local train tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although a buffet car is available.

Train Seats

On all legs of the journey you have reserved seat and carriage numbers which are shown clearly on your ticket.



Baggage

As with most trains, passengers are responsible for carrying baggage onto and off the train. Baggage can be stored on overhead shelves or at the entrance to the carriages. Trolleys are available at St Pancras and Lille, but bags do need to be carried on to the platform. Porters are sometimes but not always available at St Pancras.

Travel Editions recommends a luggage delivery service called **thebaggageman**, where your suitcase can be picked up from your home before departure and delivered straight to your hotel; therefore removing the worry about carrying your cases onto and off the trains.

For further information:

<http://www.thebaggageman.com>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Rotterdam transfer by coach to the hotel in Arnhem (approx. 1½ hours).

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Hotel Van Der Valk, Arnhem

The Hotel Van der Valk is situated only 10 minutes' drive from historic Arnhem. It benefits from a spacious terrace and a wellness area with a solarium, a relaxation lounge and saunas.

Bedrooms come with a balcony/terrace and all have private bathroom facilities with bath/shower, minibar, TV, telephone, safe, wi-fi and tea/coffee facilities.

For more information, please go to the hotel's website at: <https://www.hotelarnhem.nl/en>



Food

There are few dishes that can be described as quintessentially Dutch, and those that do fall into this category are a far cry from the elaborate creations of French or Italian cuisine. Almost every large town, however, has a wide range of restaurants specialising in their own brands of international dishes. The spicy and exotic Indonesian cuisine, a result of the Dutch colonisation of the East Indies, is particularly delicious.

A typical Dutch breakfast usually consists of several varieties of bread, thin slices of Dutch cheese, prepared meats and sausage, butter and hagelslag (chocolate sprinkles) or jam, often a boiled egg and a cup of coffee. For lunch, most common are Koffietafel (breads, various cold cuts, cheese and preserves with a side dish of omelette, cottage pie or salad and coffee) and broodjes (sandwiches), served in the ubiquitous sandwich bars – broodjeswinkels.

More substantial dishes are generally reserved by the Dutch themselves for the evening meal: erwtensoep (thick pea soup served with smoked sausage, cubes of bacon, pig's knuckle and brown or white bread), groentensoep (clear consommé with vegetables, vermicelli and meatballs), stampot (hearty, traditional mash-up of potatoes with endive, turnips or some other earthy vegetable, customarily accompanied by smoked sausage), and boerenkool met rookworst (frost-crisped kale and potatoes served with smoked sausage). Seafood dishes are excellent, particularly in Amsterdam, and include *gebakken zeetong* (fried sole), *lekkerbekjes* (fried whiting), *gerookte paling* (smoked eel), royal imperial oysters, shrimps, mussels, and lobster. Lightly salted 'green' herring can be bought from

street stalls (they are held by the tail and slipped down into the throat).

Favourite Dutch desserts include *flensjes* or *pannekoeken* (25 varieties of Dutch pancake), *wafels met slagroom* (waffles with whipped cream), *poffertje* (small dough balls fried and dusted with sugar) and *stroopwafel* (two thin layers of waffle filled with sweet sticky syrup – placed on top of a hot cup of tea or coffee, the syrup filling melts deliciously).

Restaurants usually have table service. Bars and cafes generally have the same, though some are self-service. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, but it is customary to leave small change when paying a bill.



Drink

Dutch beer is excellent, with pilsener-style lagers the most popular. It is always served chilled, generally in small (slightly under half a pint) glasses. The most popular brand in Amsterdam is Amstel. The local spirit, Jenever (Dutch gin), flavoured with juniper berries and served chilled, is usually taken straight and knocked back in a single go, but it is sometimes drunk with cola or vermouth. It comes in many varieties depending on the spices used. Favoured brands are Bols, Bokma, Claeryn and De Kuyper. Other excellent Dutch liqueurs include Curaçao, Parfait d'Amour, Triple Sec (similar to Cointreau) and Dutch-made versions of crème de menthe, apricot brandy and anisette.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – 2 included dinners at the hotel



Destination

Arnhem

A sizable city, Arnhem is best known today as the site of one of the most famous battles of World War II. Given city rights in 1233, it has long been at the centre of conflicts because of its strategic location on the banks of the Rhine River. The Battle of Arnhem, part of Operation Market Garden, was fought in September 1944. Advancing Allied forces, in large part due to a series of mistakes, failed to secure a key bridge and suffered defeat, delaying the Allied advance into Germany until the following spring. The 1977 film "A Bridge Too Far" was based on the events here.

Details of places of interest included in your tour:

Utrecht

This ancient and historic city houses many buildings going back to the early Middle Ages. Until it was overtaken by Amsterdam in the Dutch Golden age, Utrecht was the most important city in the Netherlands. It was and still is the See of the Archbishop of Utrecht, the most important Catholic leader in the Netherlands. The University of Utrecht is the largest in the Netherlands. One of the unique features of the city is the wharf system in its inner canals. Before the city was fully canalised, parts of the Rhine River flowed through the city center. Most prominent of the historic buildings is the Gothic Cathedral of Saint Martin, the construction of which lasted for almost 200 year, beginning in 1254.

for more information on Utrecht, please visit:

<https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Tourism-g188616-Utrecht-Vacations.html>

Hartenstein Airborne Museum

The Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein' was founded in 1949 as a tribute to the British and Polish airborne troops who fought in the Battle of Arnhem / Operation Market Garden in 1944. With Operation Market Garden, the allies tried to conquer the bridges over the Meuse, Waal and Rhine rivers in Holland. The plan was to liberate the north and west of Holland from there. The operation failed and marked the beginning of the 'Hongerwinter', the winter of famine that struck thousands of people in Holland. The museum houses a large collection of authentic weaponry, documents, films and pictures.

In the Airborne Experience, covering 900 square metres, you find yourself in the middle of the battle.

for more information on the Hartenstein Airborne Museum, please visit:

www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/province/gelderland/airborne-museum-hartenstein-1-1.htm

Lonsdale Church

Oosterbeek Church first featured in the fighting at Arnhem on 19th September 1944, when Major Richard Lonsdale, second in command of 11th Bn Parachute Regiment, gathered the survivors of the fighting around St Elisabeth Hospital. Himself wounded, he climbed in the pulpit, and delivered his now famous speech:

You know as well as I do there are a lot of bloody Germans coming at us. Well, all we can do is to stay here and hang on in the hope that somebody catches us up. We must fight for our lives and stick together. We've fought the Germans before - in North Africa, Sicily, Italy. They weren't good enough for us then, and they're bloody well not good enough for us now. They're up against the finest soldiers in the world. An hour from now you will take up defensive positions north of the road outside. Make certain you dig in well and that your weapons and ammo are in good order. We are getting short of ammo, so when you shoot you shoot to kill. Good luck to you all"

For more information about Lonsdale Church, please visit:

<https://tracesofwar.wordpress.com/oosterbeek-perimeter/>

Arnhem Bridge

John Frost Bridge (John Frostbrug in Dutch) is the road bridge over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem, in the Netherlands. The bridge is named after Major-General John Dutton Frost (1912–1993), who commanded the British forces that reached and defended the bridge during the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944. The bridge was featured in the 1977 film A Bridge Too Far, although a different bridge was used for the film. There had been a floating bridge at Arnhem since 1603 but as the city grew in the early 20th century a permanent link across the Lower Rhine was needed. The Rijnbrug (literally Rhine bridge) was constructed between 1932 and 1935, but was destroyed by Dutch engineers in 1940 to slow the German advance during the invasion of the Netherlands. The Germans

had need of the bridge however, and a pontoon bridge acted as a temporary replacement while the road bridge was repaired. The bridge was finished in August 1944.

For more information about Arnhem Bridge, please visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Frost_Bridge

Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery

Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery contains the graves of most of those killed during the landings, and many of those killed in later fighting in the area. There are now 1,691 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 244 of the burials are unidentified and two casualties are commemorated by special memorials. There are also 79 Polish, three Dutch and four non-war (including three former Commission employees) graves in the cemetery. The cemetery was designed by P.D. Hepworth.

For more information about the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, please visit:

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2063800/arnhem-oosterbeek-war-cemetery/>

Nijmegen Bridge

The Battle of Nijmegen or Liberation of Nijmegen occurred in the Netherlands from 17 to 20 September 1944, as part of Operation Market Garden during World War II. The Allies' primary goal was to capture the two bridges over the Waal River at Nijmegen – the road route over the Waalbrug (Waal Bridge) and Nijmegen railway bridge – and relieve the British 1st Airborne Division and Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade at Arnhem, 10 miles (16 km) north of Nijmegen. The Allied infantry units at Arnhem were surrounded by German forces and involved in heavy fighting for control of bridges over the Rhine. Delays caused by hastily-organised German reinforcements at Nijmegen, ultimately led to the failure of Operation Market Garden. It took the Allies longer than expected to secure a land route to Arnhem, where the British and Polish forces were forced south of the Rhine and sustained massive casualties. In addition, fighting at Nijmegen cost hundreds of civilian lives, and caused significant damage to many buildings in the city.

For more information about Nijmegen Bridge, please visit:

<http://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/wwii/%C2%ADnijmegen-the-bridges-to-nowhere/>

Grave Bridge

On September the 17th in 1944 the American 82nd Airborne Division landed on or near their designated landing zones with 7500 paratroopers. First Lieutenant John Samuel Thompson led his men into combat towards the Grave bridge. While the C47 Skytrain was still above houses of the city the jump light came to live. John ordered his men to wait for the approaching fields up ahead, while the other companies jumped.

His decision to wait made them land close to both casemates, but just his squad landed here. He gathered up his men and attacked the bunkers. The Germans had 20 mm Flak guns placed near the bridge for air support. The platoon opened fire killing some Germans and they took out one flak gun with a bazooka. They stopped two trucks with reinforcements, killing and wounding several German soldiers. They secured the south side of the bridge, mined the road to it, dug in and waited for the others to arrive. Later that day the 504th took the north side of the bridge as well and secured the entire bridge.

For more information about the Grave Bridge, please visit:

<https://www.landmarkscout.com/the-john-s-thompson-bridge-one-of-the-bridges-of-market-garden-near-grave-in-the-netherlands/>

Reichswald Forest War Cemetery

Reichswald Forest War Cemetery was created after the Second World War when burials were brought in from all over western Germany and is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the country. Some of those members of the land forces buried there died in the advance through Reichswald Forest in February 1945. Others died crossing the Rhine, among them members of the airborne forces whose bodies were brought from Hamminkeln, where landings were made by the 6th Airborne Division from bases in England. Some of the airmen buried in the cemetery lost their lives in supporting the advance into Germany, but most died earlier in the war in the intensive air attacks over Germany. Their graves were brought in from cemeteries and isolated sites in the surrounding area. There are now 7,594 Commonwealth servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. 176 of the burials are unidentified. There are also 78 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish. Special Memorials to 9 airmen are located at the East boundary wall, near Plot 10. Further Special Memorials to 7 airmen are located within Plot 31,

near the Cross of Sacrifice. The cemetery was designed by Philip Hepworth.

For more information about Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, please visit:

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2003400/reichswald-forest-war-cemetery/>

Dordrecht

Dordrecht's rich history is still clearly visible when you walk past the old inner city harbors, monuments and museums of Dordrecht. Absolute must-sees are the Great Church (Grote Kerk), the renowned collection of paintings of the Dordrechts Museum, the gorgeous interior of the old mayor's house 'Huis van Gijn' and the thirteenth-century Augustine monastery 'Het Hof'. Also highly recommended is the gorgeous view of the rivers' intersection from the Groothoofd.

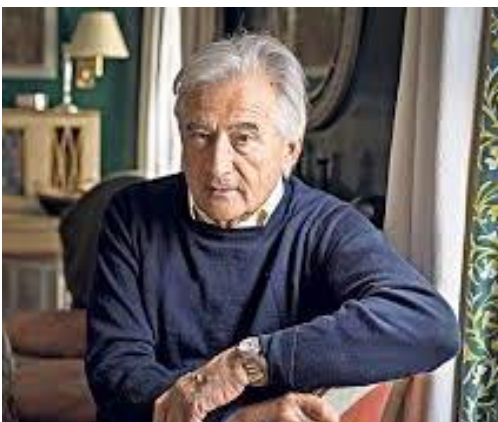
For more information about Dordrecht, please visit:

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/provinces/south-holland/dordrecht-en.htm>

Your guest speaker

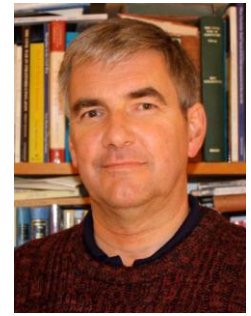
Sir Anthony Beevor

Britain's top-selling and most widely respected military historian, Sir Antony Beevor's previous books include Stalingrad, (winner of the Samuel Johnson Prize in 1999, as well as the Wolfson Prize for History and Hawthornden Prize for Literature), Berlin – The Downfall and D-Day – The Battle for Normandy. His books have appeared in 32 languages and have sold more than seven and a half million copies. His latest book, Arnhem: The Battle for the Bridges, 1944, was published in May 2018.



Your lecturer / guide

Julian Humphrys, who read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now Development Officer at the Battlefields Trust. He has a very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles.



Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Recommended reading

Sir Anthony Beevor, *Arnhem, The Battle for the Bridges*

Cornelius Ryan, *A Bridge Too Far*.

The Basics

Climate – The weather in Holland at this time of year is likely to be similar to the UK. Evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Dutch.

Religion – Roman Catholic (30%), Dutch Reformed Church (11%), Other or non (42%).

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; King's Day; Liberation Day (05 May); Ascension day; Whit Monday; Christmas day (25 Dec); Boxing Day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Special purchases include Delft blue pottery, Gouda cheese and diamonds from Amsterdam.

Shops are open Mon 1200-1800, Tue-Fri 0900-1800 and Sat 0900-1700. In Amsterdam and other big cities, supermarkets are open 0800-2000/2100. In large city centres, shops are open Sunday 1200-1700. In many towns, there's evening shopping till 2100 on Thursday or Friday and stores open on the first Sunday of the month.

Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:
<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Amsterdam

Koningslaan 44

1075 AE Amsterdam

Netherlands

+31 (0)20 676 4343

Open Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 0900-1230. Telephone enquiries Mon-Fri 0900-1300 and 1400-1630. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +31 (0)20 676 43 43.

Travel Editions

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