

Tour
Information



Rotterdam- Modern Art and Architecture





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Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit.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 (09065) 508 916 (visa information line). Fax: (0)20 7581 348.

Email: consular@netherlands-embassy.org.uk.

Website: www.netherlands-embassy.org.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1700; 0900-1200 (for visa and passport section)



Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. Therefore, you **must** check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling. Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an extra cost.

Online check-in opens 30 days prior to departure and closes 24 hours prior to departure. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit; www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage

We advise that you stick to the baggage allowances advised. If your luggage is found to be heavier than the airlines baggage allowance the charges at the airport will be hefty.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 15kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/help/baggage/cabin-bag-and-hold-luggage>

Labels

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

Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

Transfers

On arrival in Amsterdam, transfer by coach to Rotterdam for your 3-night stay at the four-star Bilderberg Parkhotel .

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. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Bilderberg Park hotel, Rotterdam

The newly renovated Bilderberg Park hotel is in the heart of the lively city port. Its restaurant is well known and inspired by top chef Erik van Loo. A fitness room is also provided. Rooms include a phone, TV, desk, bath and free Wi-Fi.

For more information visit their website:

<https://www.bilderberg.nl/en/rotterdam/parkhotel-rotterdam/>



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. Indonesian cuisine, a result of the Dutch colonisation of the East Indies, with its use of spices and exotic ingredients, 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), *Stamppot* (hearty, traditional mash-up of potatoes with endive, turnips or some other earthy vegetable, customarily accompanied by smoked sausage), *klapstuk* (an accompaniment of stewed lean beef) and *boerenkool met rookworst* (frost-crisped kale and potatoes served with smoked sausage).

Seafood dishes are often 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 caramel syrup melts deliciously).

Restaurants usually have table service. Bars and cafés 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 – two dinners with wine at the hotel



Destination

Rotterdam is the Netherlands' second largest city and its economic powerhouse with one of the largest ports in the world. Devastated by heavy bombing in May 1940, the city has rebuilt very quickly and now arguably boasts some of Europe's best modern architecture, both civic and residential and excellent museums devoted to art and architecture. Architectural and art historian Mike Hope will take you on a very different modern tour with his trademark wit, enthusiasm and knowledge.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Museumpark

The Museumpark is divided into four zones: a paved zone, a romantic zone with trees and a pedestrian bridge, an asphalted city zone for events, and a well-tended orchard. The car park designed by Paul de Ruiter uses split levels and lots of glass for a light, spacious and transparent look. The water reservoir prevents flooding in the city centre during heavy rainfall.

For more information about the Museumpark, visit: <https://en.rotterdam.info/locations/museumpark/>

Het Nieuwe Instituut

The New Institute in Rotterdam is a museum for architecture, design and digital culture, and a platform for the creative industry. There are exhibitions and debates organized on the various design disciplines, such as graphic design, product design, games, fashion, (interior) architecture, urban design and landscape architecture. It is in the Museum Park of Rotterdam. The building, designed by Jo Coenen, was completed in 1993. In 2012 a renovation took place and the original design was adjusted.

For more information about The New Institute: <https://hetnieuweinstituut.nl/>

Sonneveld House

Sonneveld House is one of the best-preserved houses in the Dutch Functionalist style. The villa was designed in 1933 by architecture firm Brinkman and Van der Vlugt for Albertus Sonneveld, a director of the Van Nelle Factory. The architects designed a total concept in which architecture, interior and furnishings are perfectly coordinated and reinforce one another. Light and spacious, the house features

numerous balconies and large areas of fenestration that offer views of the surrounding garden. Almost all items of furniture and lamps in the house were made by the firm of Gispen, some of them specially for the Sonnevelds.

For more information about Sonneveld House: <https://en.wikiarquitectura.com/building/sonneveld-house/>

Museum Boijmans van Beuningen

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands. In 1849 the lawyer Boijmans left his art collection to the city of Rotterdam. With the acquisition of the Van Beuningen collection in 1958 the museum got the second part of its name. The museum houses a unique collection of paintings, sculptures and everyday objects. The collection of prints and drawings is one of the best in the world. Marvel at the beautiful works by Bruegel the Elder and Rembrandt. Follow the development of Impressionism and Modernism in the paintings of Monet, Van Gogh and Mondriaan. Lose yourself in the dream world of the Surrealists Dalí and Magritte. And the art is not only inside: the museum has a wonderful view of the sculpture garden.

For more information about the museum: <https://en.rotterdam.info/locations/museum-boijmans-van-beuningen/>

Van Nelle Factory

The Van Nelle Factory on the Schie in Rotterdam, is considered a prime example of the International Style based upon constructivist architecture. It has been a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2014. Soon after it was built, prominent architects described the factory as "the most beautiful spectacle of the modern age" (Le Corbusier in 1932) and "a poem in steel and glass". The buildings were designed by architect Leendert van der Vlugt from the Brinkman & Van der Vlugt office in cooperation with civil engineer J.G. Wiebenga.

For more information about Van Nelle Factory: <https://www.timetravelturtle.com/van-nelle-factory-rotterdam-netherlands/>

Timmerhuis

The Timmerhuis (formerly Stadstimmerhuis) is a building complex in the Stadsdriehoek district in the center of Rotterdam. The building is a combination of reconstruction architecture by municipal architect JRA Koops and contemporary architecture by OMA architects.

For more information about Timmerhuis:

<https://inspiration.detail.de/timmerhuis-in-rotterdam-113377.html?lang=en>

Cube Houses

Cube houses (Dutch: Kubuswoningen) are a set of innovative houses built in Rotterdam and Helmond in the Netherlands, designed by architect Piet Blom and based on the concept of "living as an urban roof": high density housing with sufficient space on the ground level, since its main purpose is to optimise the space inside. Blom tilted the cube of a conventional house 45 degrees, and rested it upon a hexagon-shaped pylon. His design represents a village within a city, where each house represents a tree, and all the houses together, a forest. The central idea of the cube houses around the world is mainly optimizing the space, as a house, to a better distribution of the rooms inside.

For more information about Cube Houses:

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

Kiefhoek House Museum

The Museum House de Kiefhoek is a museum house in Rotterdam South in the residential area of De Kiefhoek. With this district designed in 1925-1930 by architect JJP Oud, he established his reputation as a modern architect. A maximum living space has been created using a functionalistic urban design layout and a sophisticated housing plan. In the model home visitors can view the equipment, dimensions and design of an original home in the Kiefhoek.

For more information about Kiefhoek House Museum:

<https://urbanguides.nl/en/tour/kiefhoek-ckv/>

Your lecturer/guide – Mike Hope

Mike Hope author, lecturer, curator and designer, has spent more than twenty-five years at four universities (Staffordshire, Portsmouth, Nottingham Trent and Plymouth) and nearly thirty years delivering Summer School Programmes. He has lectured around the world and was a founder board member of The European Academy of Design. Alongside an extensive publication list, he has researched, designed and curated many exhibitions, and advised on stained glass to the Diocese of Exeter. He specialises in Art and Design History, Stained Glass; Churches and Cathedrals; the English Country House and Garden and has also spent fourteen years teaching the Bauhaus Movement.

Enjoy two lectures during your tour:

“Rotterdam 1919-2019 – the Architectural Rebirth and Regeneration of a City”

“Ten Dutch Contemporary Architects You May Never Have Heard Of”

Tour manager

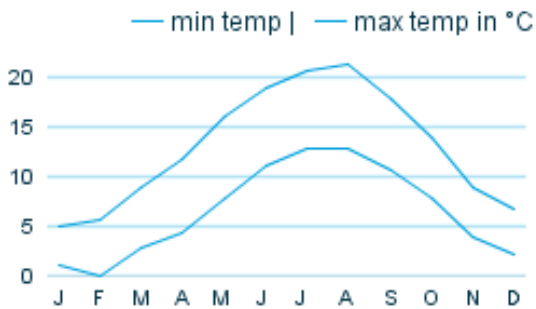
Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your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

Recommended reading

Colin White & Laurie Boucke, *The Undutchables: an observation of the Netherlands, its culture and its inhabitants.*

The Basics

Climate – The weather in the Netherlands 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 – 230 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 – Shops are open Mon 1100-1730, Tues-Fri 0930-1800 and Sat 0900-1700. In big cities, supermarkets are open from 0800-2000/2100. In large city centres, shops are open Sun 1200-1700. In many towns there is evening shopping till 2100 on Thursday or Friday. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Shoes & clothes – 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 in France, 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

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

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.

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