



Tour Information



Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age





Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Spain. The name on your passport must match the name on your flight ticket/E-ticket otherwise you may be refused boarding at the airport.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

If you are a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

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

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

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 your final documentation is an e-ticket which includes a reference number for your flight. At check-in you will need to quote/show this and you will be issued with your boarding pass.

Online check-in is not available for either the outbound and inbound flight.

Visit the British Airways websites for more information; www.britishairways.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.

Departure Tax

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



Baggage

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 5 cm and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20 cm.

Please contact the airline for further information.

<http://www.britishairways.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.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.

Taking food into EU countries

Please note, you are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.

Transfers

On arrival in Amsterdam, transfer by coach to Haarlem for a museum visit and then on to hotel to check-in.

Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, 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

Hampshire Delft Centre

The family-owned three-star Delft Centre Hotel is located - as its name suggests - in the heart of Delft just behind the New Church, so within a few minutes' walk of the main square and all the main sights. Facilities here include bar, restaurant and comfortable bedrooms with private bath or shower, TV and telephone.

For more information visit their website:
<http://www.hoteldelftcentre.nl/?lang=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. 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

As the Dutch Republic came of age in the 17th century, its northern provinces led the way in a new style of painting that revolutionised Western art and continues to fascinate art lovers to this day. Join expert lecturer Clare Ford-Wille on this tour which visits a host of superb galleries and museums including the renovated Rijksmuseum, housing one of the world's greatest art collections and the exquisite Mauritshuis, which has doubled in size after its recent refurbishment. Lauded by the critics at the reopening last year, it retains its intimate atmosphere along with an outstanding collection of paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Van Dyck and Rubens, among them Vermeer's 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' which is back in its rightful home after a worldwide tour.

Places of interest included in the tour:

The Hague

Home to the Dutch government and Parliament, The Hague is a pleasant and spacious seaside town, with a multitude of squares, parks and more than 700 public gardens, that spreads over a vast area yet with a relatively small population, earning it the title of the "biggest village in Europe." Interspersed with elegant boulevards lined with mansions, it is a stately place with an air of being well kept and well moneyed. Main sights include the *Groenmarkt* main square, the Picture Gallery of William V, the Bredius Museum, Noordeinde Palace and St Jacobs Church.

For more information about the Hague:

<http://denhaag.com/en>

Panorama Mesdag

Panorama Mesdag gives you a 360-degree vista of the sea, the dunes and the fishing village of Scheveningen as it was in 1881. Step back in time and experience a unique view of the cultural heritage – the oldest 19th century panorama in the world on its original site. This cylindrical painting, more than 14 meters high and 120 meters in circumference, was painted by one of the most important painters of The Hague School, Hendrik Willem Mesdag.

For more information about Panorama Mesdag, please visit:

<https://www.panorama-mesdag.nl/english/>

Mauritshuis

The Mauritshuis museum in The Hague houses a world-famous collection from the Dutch Golden Age. At the unique 17th-century palace you can make the acquaintance of "The Girl with a Pearl Earring" by Vermeer, "The Goldfinch" by Fabritius and "The Anatomy Lesson" by Rembrandt. The Mauritshuis is a unique opportunity to see world-famous paintings by the Dutch Masters at one of Holland's most beautiful locations.

In 2022, it will be exactly 200 years ago since Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis first opened as a museum. This will be celebrated in style with a number of high-profile exhibitions and special events.

For more information about the Mauritshuis, please visit:

<https://www.mauritshuis.nl/en/>

Prince William V Gallery

Located In the middle of the historic centre of The Hague, a five-minute walk from the Mauritshuis. The Prince William V Gallery is sometimes referred to as the hidden jewel of The Hague. Prince William V of Oranje-Nassau had the room built in 1774 to exhibit his impressive collection of paintings. The walls hung crowded, so that the richness of his collection was clearly visible. The Prince William V Gallery has been restored to its former glory. More than 150 old masters from the Mauritshuis collection (including works by Steen, Rubens and Potter) are now hanging side by side again. Crystal chandeliers, silk wall coverings and lavish curtains complete the regal appearance.

For more information about the Prince William V Gallery, please visit:

<https://www.mauritshuis.nl/nl-nl/ontdek/galerij-prins-willem-v/>

Delft

Delft, a canal-ringed city in the western Netherlands, is known as the manufacturing base for Delftware, hand-painted blue-and-white pottery. In its old town, the medieval Oude Kerk is the burial site of native son and Dutch Master painter Johannes Vermeer. Once the seat of the royal House of Orange, the 15th-century Nieuwe Kerk houses the family's tombs and overlooks Delft's lively market square.

For more information about Delft, please visit:

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/more-destinations/delft.htm>

Museum Prinsenhof Delft

Museum Prinsenhof Delft was the scene of one of the most important events in Dutch history: the assassination of William of Orange. William of Orange moved into the Saint Agatha monastery in 1572, which was then renamed Prinsenhof, and which eventually became the Museum Prinsenhof Delft. On 10 July 1584, he was shot by Balthasar Gerards as he climbed the stairs to his office. You can still see the bullet holes in the wall of the museum. The Museum presents the history of Prince William of Orange and the creation of the Dutch republic, as well as beautiful 17th century art and, of course, the city's famous Delftware tradition.

For more information about the museum, please visit: <https://prinsenhof-delft.nl/pieterdehooch/?lang=en>

Leiden

Lovely Leiden is a refreshing, vibrant town, patterned with canals and attractive old buildings. It also has a few claims to fame: it's Rembrandt's birthplace, and it's home to the Netherlands' oldest university (and 20,000 students), the Alma Mater of René Descartes. Wealth from the linen industry buttressed Leiden's growing prosperity, and during the 17th century the town produced several brilliant artists, most famously Rembrandt van Rijn – better known by his first name alone. Rembrandt was born in Leiden in 1606 and remained here for 26 years before achieving fame in Amsterdam.

Museum de Lakenhal

Museum de Lakenhal is one of the city of Leiden's cultural treasures. This municipal museum is situated in a monumental building in the old city centre. During the Dutch Golden Age, it was the centre of Leiden's booming textile trade and while its stunning original façade remains intact, the interior of the building has been transformed over the centuries. The museum offers the opportunity to discover more than 400 years of Dutch history as well as some prized works of art, including works by Lucas van Leyden, Rembrandt, Theo van Doesburg, and Erwin Olaf.

For more information about the museum, please visit: <https://www.lakenhal.nl/en>

Amsterdam

One of Europe's great cities and the capital of The Netherlands, Amsterdam started life as a small fishing village and became one of the world's most important ports during the Dutch Golden Age. With narrow atmospheric lanes and charming canals lined with 17th century merchant's houses, Amsterdam is also home to many cultural and historic sites, such as the intensely moving *Anne Frank's house*, the *Flower Market*, the canals such as *Herengracht* and *Singel*, the *Westerkerk Church* and the *Rembrandt House Museum*.

Rijksmuseum

The Rijksmuseum is one of Amsterdam's grandest museums and it showed off its new (and old) look in April 2013, following 10 years of extensive restoration and renovation. Designed by renowned Dutch architect P.J.H. Cuypers, construction of the monumental building began in 1876 and it finally opened in 1885 as the largest museum in the Netherlands. The Rijksmuseum's internationally revered collection features some of the nation's most famous works, including historic art by Vermeer, Frans Hals, and perhaps most notably Rembrandt's 'The Night Watch', which takes pride of place in a beautifully lit hall allowing visitors to enjoy every tiny detail.

For more information about the Rijksmuseum, please visit: <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en>

Rembrandt's House

Rembrandt lived and worked in this beautiful and monumental house between 1639 and 1658. Based on an inventory of the time, the house has been redecorated with furniture, art and objects dating from the 17th century. The Rembrandt House owns the virtually complete and world-famous collection of Rembrandt's etchings. In addition, there are frequent temporary exhibitions showing work of predecessors and contemporaries, and modern and current works of art in the modern wing of the museum.

For more information about Rembrandt's House, please visit: <http://www.rembrandthuis.nl/en/>

Our Lord in the Attic Church

The canal house at Number 40, Oudezijds Voorburgwal, Amsterdam, looks much like the other Queen Anne-style homes that the old city is famous for. Built as a residential home in 1630, in the heart of the oldest part of Amsterdam and bordering the infamous red-light district, this particular steep-gabled building holds a remarkable secret. Making your way through the nearly 400-year-old corridors, kitchens, and bedrooms, there is a narrow and steep staircase that leads to the upper floors. Where, hidden away in the attic, is a magnificently miniature, fully appointed Catholic church. The clandestine church, known in Dutch as a “schuilkerk,” was secreted away in the attic on purpose due to the persecution of Catholicism in Holland in the 17th century. Unable to hold mass in public, Jan Hartmann converted the attic of his home to a church in 1663.

For more information about the church, please visit:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/our-lord-in-the-attic>

Your lecturer/guide

Clare Ford-Wille has lectured in most areas of art history for over 35 years. She still teaches at the University of London, where she obtained her degree at Birkbeck, but also lectures regularly for Morely College, the City Literary Institute, the Victoria and Albert Museum and NADFAS societies throughout Britain, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Every year since 1978 Clare had led art study tours to places of artistic importance throughout Europe and the USA, including Amsterdam, Padova, Vincenza, Bologna and Ravenna.

Clare will give the following two talks during the tour:

‘An Introduction to the Golden Age of 17th Century Dutch Art’

‘The Art Collections in Amsterdam’

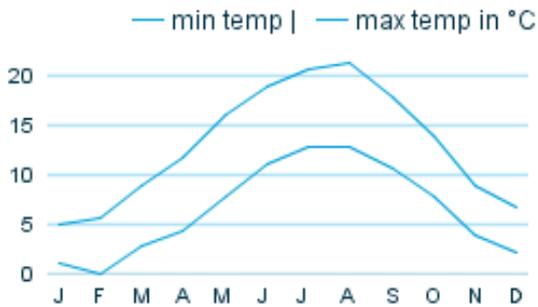
Tour Manager

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.



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 – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

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

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you have got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

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

Travel Insurance

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

If you require medical assistance whilst abroad it is essential that you contact the emergency number of your insurance company to advise them of the situation. 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 action whilst in resort.



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 7841 023807

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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