



Tour Information



Zundert Flower Parade





Travel

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.

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

Visas

If you're 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](#)

Different rules apply to Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania. If you visit these countries, visits to other EU countries do not count towards the 90-day total.

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

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.

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

Train Seats

On the Eurostar 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 for check-in.

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.

Border Control

You may have to show your return ticket and money.

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.



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

Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



Destination

The pretty town of Zundert comes alive each year to celebrate the oldest flower parade in Europe featuring huge, elaborate and impressive sculptures while music and street theatre add to the carnival atmosphere. Our tour is based in the vibrant city of Rotterdam and takes in some of Holland's lesser-known towns that merit further exploration including Dordrecht, the oldest town in Holland and 's-Hertogenbosch.

Details of places of interest included in your tour:

Zundert Flower Parade

Lively festivities and colourful flowers fill Zundert on the first weekend of September when the town hosts the big parade of flower floats accompanied by live music and street theatre. The impressive creations, often mounted on lorries, use only dahlias and each of twenty hamlets cultivates its own blooms to create a float with skills which are handed down from generation to generation. Since it began in 1936, the celebrations have gone from strength to strength and attract up to 50,000 spectators annually.

For more information about the Zundert Flower Parade:

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/plan-your-holiday/events/flower-parade-zundert.htm>

Rotterdam

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. Rotterdam is famous for its modern architecture, with landmarks such as the cube houses, the market hall, the Erasmus bridge and its many skyscrapers. Its diverse nightlife boasting a variety of bars, pubs and nightclubs. And it is well known for its port, which is the largest in Europe.

For more information about Rotterdam:

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/rotterdam.htm>

Dordrecht

Visit Holland's oldest city and enjoy countless monuments and museums, ancient warehouses and the busy merchant streets that commemorate the wealthy history of this city by the water. Sites to see include its Grote Kerk church, Museum Simon van Rijn and city gate, dating from 1325.

For more information about Dordrecht:

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

Kinderdijk

You will find the Kinderdijk windmills in the beautiful, water-rich area near Dordrecht. Nineteen magnificent windmills, built around 1740, stand here as part of a larger water management system to prevent flooding. Today they symbolize Dutch water management and in 1997 they were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Why? The Kinderdijk windmills were built to keep the low-lying land of the Alblasserwaard dry. Arranged opposite each other, they form an iconic Dutch image that many photographers use. Once there, you can view the many waterways, dykes, mills and locks and discover how the Dutch have been using the water to their advantage for over 1000 years. Without exaggeration, Kinderdijk is an absolute must if you want to know the (history of) Dutch windmills and waters.

For more information about Kinderdijk:

https://www.holland.com/be_nl/toerisme/bestemmingen/provincies/zuid-holland/de-molens-van-kinderdijk.htm

's-Hertogenbosch

's-Hertogenbosch, which we call Den Bosch these days, is a wonderful city full of historic buildings, wonderful museums, great shops and welcoming cafés and restaurants. Go for a stroll and discover the medieval architecture, take a boat tour of the centuries-old canal system, or go for a bicycle ride along the fortresses. Den Bosch has many beautiful attractions on offer. Even more importantly, it has a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Jazz cafés, little restaurants, trendy bars.

For more information about 's-Hertogenbosch:

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

Reading recommendations

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

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.

Important Information

FLOWER PARADE. This is a locally organised event over which we have no control, in the unlikely event of the total cancellation of the parade due to adverse weather or any other cause, only the grandstand ticket price will be refunded under such circumstances and no reimbursement made for travel expenses such as flights, accommodation, meals etc.



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 – 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 – Shops are open Mon-Sat 1000-1800/1900. Department stores often remain open longer, up to 2100 on Friday. Outside main areas, some shops may close at lunchtime.

Please note that most museums are closed 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 – 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 you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're 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're 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

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)

Before you travel, make sure you've 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're travelling to an EU country.

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

For further information about the GHIC 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 7841 023807

00 44 7831 133079

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

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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