

# The Netherlands

Flowers, windmills... and so much more



Lying astride the mighty River Rhine and bordered by the North Sea on the west and north, Germany to the east and Belgium to the south, The Netherlands has for centuries, been an important centre for Europe's trade with the rest of the world. The sea has featured large in Dutch history (much of the country lies below sea level on reclaimed land protected by dykes) and it continues to play an important role today. Rotterdam is Europe's largest seaport.

The Netherlands is a small country, yet it offers an enormous range of things to see and do – from its outstanding architecture comprising of

17th and 18th century merchants' houses lining its never-ending canals to its intriguing cuisine; from the wealth of art by the famed Dutch masters housed in a variety of museums, great concert venues, avant-garde theatres and dance to the extraordinary beauty of the bulb fields in spring; from the vast skies over the polders to the hundreds of windmills that still line the canals. And some of the liveliest nightlife in Europe!

With so much water and wind, so many boats, sails, bikes, narrow streets with delightful shops, cafés, romantic wooden bridges, cheese and its vibrant orange colour which is their own; quite simply put, there is no place quite like Netherlands.



Alkmaar Cheese Market



**Family activities**

Kinderdijk – Windmills; Museums; Theme Parks – Efteling, Duinrell; Beautiful beaches – The Wadden Islands.

**Events**

Keukenhof Flower Show (March – May); Abraham Bloemaert, The Centraal Museum (October – June); The Vincent Award (October – January); Bloemstillevens, The Royal Picture Gallery (March – June).

**Exploring by road**

Holland is a car-friendly country, known for its well-maintained road network. As there are large number of bicycles, special traffic rules apply to bicycles and mopeds.



**Sightseeing**

Canal cruises; magnificent museums; Keukenhof Gardens and bulb fields (best in April and May); cheese markets; pretty coastal villages; windmills; Delft, renowned for its pottery; The Hague, home of the Government and Royal Family; Madurodam model village; Scheveningen, the country’s oldest beach resort, with its elegant promenade and Belle Époque architecture.

**Accommodation**

The Netherlands offers hotels of all ranges – from first-class to moderate and from classic to boutique.

**Shopping**

What you can buy – Antiques, clogs, cheese, flowers, hand-painted tiles and Delft Blue pottery.

Where you can buy – Markets, street markets and shopping outlets. Street markets are a source of entertainment as well as bargains.

**Entertainment**

There are theatres, cinemas, bars and nightclubs in all major towns. A great way to learn about the country’s multitude of cheeses is to visit the Alkmaar Friday Market, where cheese has been bought and sold for over 600 years.

**Sports and leisure**

Beaches, canals, rivers and lakes offer a wealth of water sports. The almost total absence of hills makes bicycling a pleasure.

Average climate in The Netherlands		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
🌡️	MAX °C	4	6	9	13	17	20	22	22	19	14	9	6
	MIN °C	-1	-1	1	3	7	10	12	12	9	7	3	1
☀️	HRS	2	2	4	5	7	7	6	6	5	3	2	1
☁️	MM	68	53	44	49	52	58	77	87	72	72	70	64

Daily maximum and minimum averages are guides only and may vary.



## Amsterdam

City of canals

Amsterdam rose to spectacular wealth, power and cultural heights in the 17th century when merchants despatched their ships to Dutch colonies in the Far East, the Caribbean and South America's Guinea coast, returning with their holds full of spices and silks. The wise burghers of the time planned their city carefully, creating the rings of concentric waterways that dictate the layout of today's Amsterdam. Today, despite many modern developments, Amsterdam remains one of Europe's most attractive cities, where distinctive 17th century gabled houses and fine civic buildings line the canals.

The historic centre offers a host of shops, markets, restaurants, traditional cafés and modern, trendy bars as well as some of the world's finest museums and galleries housing the works of great Dutch masters.

**Places of interest:** Numerous museums and galleries, including the **Rijksmuseum**, with Rembrandt's 'Nachtwach' and the **Van Gogh Museum**; the Willet-Holthuysen and Toneel museums, displaying the interior and furnishing of 17th century houses; **Anne Frank's House** in the old town; diamond cutting and polishing works.



Dam Square

**For the family:** Bike rides along the canals; the **Amsterdam Arena**, home of Ajax Amsterdam football team; canal cruises; **Vondelpark**, a lovely expanse of urban greenery.

**Best buys:** Diamonds, pottery, ceramics, **Delftware**, antiques, glassware, paintings and cheese. The main shopping area is around **Kalverstraat**, **Damrak**, **Leidsestraat** and near

the **Noorderkerk**. There are also several lively street markets, the best known being **Waterlooplein**.

**Out and about:** **De Zaanse Schans**, with its historic windmills, arts and crafts activities and informative museums; wooden shoe factories; **mediaeval Edam**, renowned for its cheese; **Keukenhof Gardens** with its stupendous floral displays and spectacular works of art; IJsselmeer, the inland sea.





## Dutch Country Side tour

### Full-day coach excursion from Amsterdam

Edam



De Zaanse Schans

This exciting, informative full-day tour covers the magnificent area of Dutch polder landscape north of Amsterdam, **marked by windmills, dikes and ditches.**

After a stop to taste some traditionally made products at a cheese farm, you will visit the picturesque village of **Edam** at the edge of the Zuider Zee, a genuine open-air museum. With a stroll through the old centre, you will quickly discover many beautifully conserved, listed houses, churches, harbours, canals and squares. The centre, with its traditional areas around the **Dam Square** and the **Kaaswaag** – the cheese weighing house,

is a real treasure and presents the true image of a beautiful Dutch town. Here the architectural heritage can be traced back to the middle ages. With its rural atmosphere, numerous monuments and historic streets, a walk through the town can be an unforgettable experience.



Volendam and Marken

We then visit the windmill village of the **De Zaanse Schans**, where you will have the opportunity to see a windmill and wooden shoe factory. The De Zaanse Schans is a characteristic living and working area on the **River Zaan**, with wooden houses and windmills dating from the 17th and 18th century. In museums, workshops and windmills you can experience how the Zaan-siders lived and worked. The De Zaanse Schans is a fully inhabited, open-air conservation area and museum located nine miles north of Amsterdam. The authentic houses, the historic shipyard, the clog-making demonstrations and the windmills especially, attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Your journey continues with a visit to **Volendam** and **Marken**, fishermen's villages along the former Zuiderzee. **Marken**, this small town is situated on a former island and is located near the IJssel Lake. Still linked to their heritage, inhabitants of these villages still dress in traditional attire, ensuring you experience the countryside at its purist. You will see houses on pillars, traditional green painted houses and folkloristic customs and clothing, making this a holiday to remember.

This is a full-day coach excursion, which operates daily and includes the windmill entrance fee and boat trip. Meals are excluded and the order of the itinerary is subject to change.



Cheese Market



De Zaanse Schans

# Windmills and Edam

## Half-day coach excursion from Amsterdam

This excursion takes you north of Amsterdam, to the edge of the Zaan River where you visit the windmill village of 'De Zaanse Schans'. At the turn of the 18th century, this was an industrial area with some 700 windmills in use; today five remain in this community of characteristic green wooden houses, where traditional Dutch crafts are still in daily practice. Here you will see craftsmen at work producing **wooden shoes, cheese and pewterware** and mills demonstrating ingenious, centuries-old techniques for the production of oil, making pigments for paint and the sawing of wood.



Edam Volendam

The return journey to Amsterdam includes a stroll around the attractive mediaeval town of **Edam**, from where the eponymous cheese is exported around the world.

This is a half-day coach excursion, which operates daily. From 1st May to 3rd September 2010 the visit to Edam is substituted by a stop at **Alkmaar Cheese Market**. This excursion includes entrance fees to the windmills.

# Keukenhof Flower Show

## Half-day coach excursion from Amsterdam

This excursion takes you behind the dunes that run from Haarlem to Leiden, where in spring the area's sandy coastal plain becomes a sprawling blanket ablaze with fantastic colours as millions of **tulip, hyacinth and daffodil** bulbs flower in perfect rows. Lovely as this is, the highlight of the day is undoubtedly **Keukenhof Gardens**. Famed for its breathtaking horticultural show, Keukenhof's blooms form a sea



of spectacular floral displays in an immaculate landscape of established trees, flowering shrubs, a huge variety of perennials, water gardens, fountains and a large lake, all interspersed with magnificent sculptures and works of art.

This is a half-day coach excursion, which operates daily from 1st to 16th May 2010 and includes entrance fees to the Keukenhof Gardens.



Keukenhof Gardens

Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam 



**Location:** Old city centre.

This hotel is the epitome of historic elegance and luxury. Its superb old town location is within walking distance of most major landmarks, including the Van Gogh Museum and the Royal Palace. Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam is filled with heritage listed artefacts from the city, dating back to 1578. The hotel is built around the former council chamber in which Her Majesty Queen Beatrix was married. The rooms are modern and luxuriously appointed with delightful views of the canals, the inner garden or courtyard. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

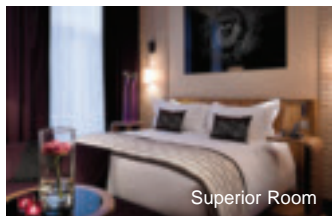
**Facilities:** 177 rooms and suites. Restaurant, two bars, 24-hour room service, beauty salon, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms. Suitable for the physically challenged.

**Superior Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Indoor pool, fitness centre, spa, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath and massage.


**Check-in:** 1500 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Superior Room



InterContinental Amstel, Amsterdam 

**Location:** City centre.

Situated on the banks of the river Amstel, this hotel is a short walk from most of the major historic landmarks. Since the day the doors opened in 1867, this hotel has been revered the world over for its palatial grandeur and residential warmth. The hotel sports a mansard roof and wrought-iron window guards, a graceful Grand Hall and rooms that boast all the elegance of true royalty, complete with antiques and genuine Delft Blue porcelain. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

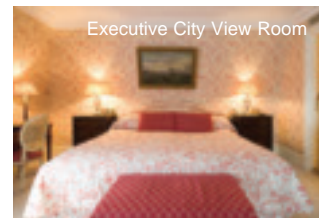
**Facilities:** 79 rooms and suites. Two restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, shop, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms. Suitable for the physically challenged.

**Executive City View Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, DVD player, data ports, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Indoor pool, fitness centre, sauna, steam bath and massage.

**Check-in:** 1500 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Executive City View Room

Hotel Pulitzer, Amsterdam 

**Location:** City centre.

Overlooking two of the city's most picturesque canals, Prinsengracht and Keizersgracht the hotel is ideally nestled in the centre of Amsterdam. This unique hotel comprises of 24 restored 17th and 18th century canal houses with each of the 230 distinctive guest rooms representing a small piece of Dutch history and culture. Though rich in historical splendour, the hotel offers every modern amenity. The famous Anne Frank House is only a few steps away. Another highlight of this hotel is its private salon boat that cruises the picturesque canals of Amsterdam. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

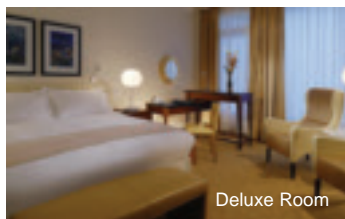
**Facilities:** 230 rooms and suites. Restaurant, two bars, 24-hour room service, shop, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, minibar, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Fitness room.

**Check-in:** 1500 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room



### Hotel Okura Amsterdam



**Location:** Zuid.

This hotel sits on the banks of the famous Amstel Canal and is in close proximity to the cultural, entertainment and financial district of Amsterdam. Superior accommodation and modern amenities are the highlights of this hotel. Hotel Okura Amsterdam is also well-known for its culinary centre where you can participate in live cooking experiences with the hotel's famous chefs and it's award-winning restaurants. Schiphol International Airport is 15 kilometres away.

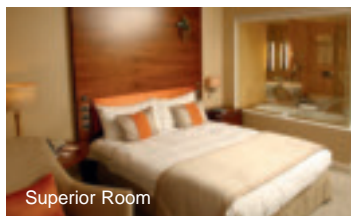
**Facilities:** 301 rooms and suites. Four restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Superior Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, wireless connectivity, minibar, espresso machine, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Indoor pool, fitness centre, sauna, steam bath and massage.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Superior Room



### Hilton Amsterdam

**Location:** Zuid.

Famous for John Lennon and Yoko Ono's 1969 'bed-in for peace', this hotel is a short drive from the old city centre, the Concert Hall, the Van Gogh Museum and the renowned Rijksmuseum. Hilton Amsterdam, with its waterside garden, is situated in the capital's most desirable district for living, working and shopping. The Convention Centre is also in close proximity. Schiphol International Airport is 14 kilometres away.

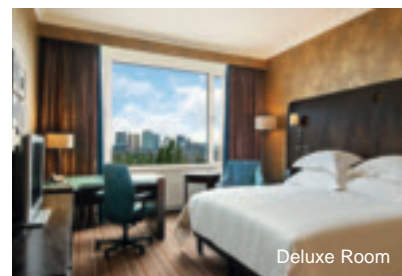
**Facilities:** 271 rooms and suites. Three restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, TV, wireless connectivity, minibar, tea and coffee and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Fitness centre, solarium and bicycle rental.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room

### Movenpick Hotel Amsterdam City Centre

**Location:** City centre.

Located in the heart of the vibrant city of Amsterdam and alongside the water's edge, is the Movenpick Hotel Amsterdam City Centre. This hotel is within close proximity from the old centre of Amsterdam, the cruise terminal and the Central Station. The hotel offers contemporary accommodation with spectacular views over the cruise terminal, historical city centre or River IJ. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

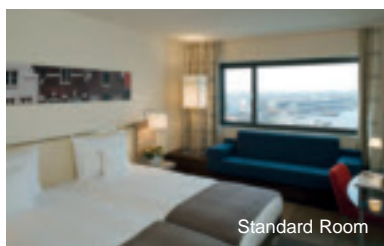
**Facilities:** 408 rooms and suites. Restaurant, bar, 24-hour room service, business centre, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms.

**Standard Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, wireless connectivity, minibar, tea and coffee, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Fitness room, sauna and massage.

**Check-in:** 1400 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Standard Room



Renaissance Amsterdam Hotel 

**Location:** City centre.

Located just a short walk from Dam Square in the historic city centre, this newly refurbished hotel is an ideal base to explore the charming city of Amsterdam. The contemporary-style offers a warm and welcoming new lobby and renovated guest rooms. The highlight is the unique 17th century Koepelkerk, a street side bar in original Amsterdam brown café style. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

**Facilities:** 402 rooms and suites. Two restaurants, two bars, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms. Suitable for the physically challenged.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, data ports, media hub, minibar, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Fitness centre and massage.

**Check-in:** 1500 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room

Amsterdam Marriott Hotel 

**Location:** City centre.

This modern hotel is a five-minute walk from Amsterdam's well-known Leidseplein's fine dining, fashion shopping and entertainment hub. Many attractions including the casino, the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum are in close proximity too. The spacious guest rooms, most of which overlook Dutch gable façade homes and canals have everything you need for business or leisure travel. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

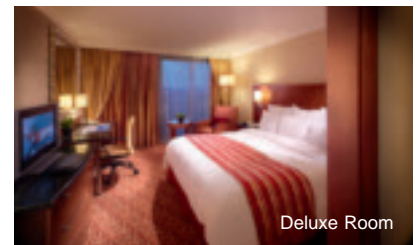
**Facilities:** 392 rooms and suites. Two restaurants, bar, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms. Suitable for the physically challenged.

**Deluxe Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, TV, data ports, minibar, iron and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Fitness centre.

**Check-in:** 1500 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Deluxe Room

Crowne Plaza Amsterdam City Centre 

**Location:** City centre.

This newly renovated stylish contemporary hotel is situated in the heart of Amsterdam right on the edge of the historical Old Town and is within walking distance to many of the historic sights, great shopping, popular restaurants and museums. The rooms are modern and services impeccable. Schiphol International Airport is 20 kilometres away.

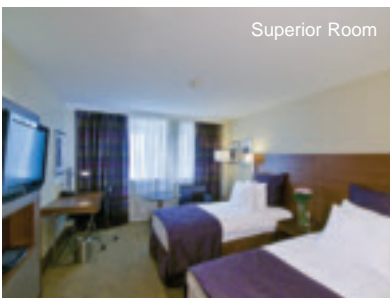
**Facilities:** 270 rooms and suites. Restaurant, bar, 24-hour room service, safety deposit boxes, business centre, babysitting, interconnecting and non-smoking rooms. Suitable for the physically challenged.

**Superior Rooms:** Air-conditioning, hairdryer, bathrobe, TV, data ports, media hub, minibar, iron, tea and coffee and safe.

**Sports and leisure:** Fitness centre, sauna and massage.

**Check-in:** 1500 hours

**Check-out:** 1200 hours.



Superior Room

