

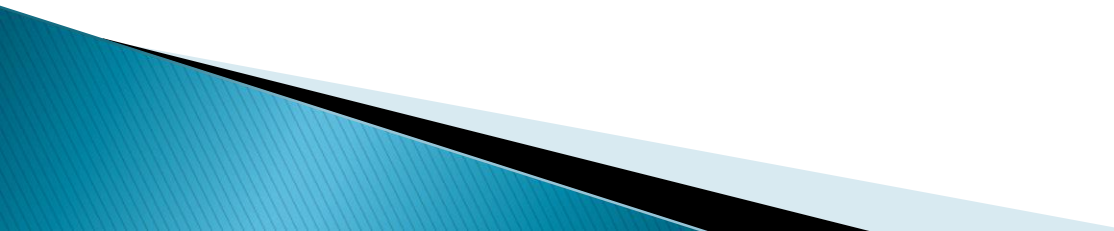
# The Netherlands

By Eoin Craven

# Introduction

The Netherlands (also called Holland) is a country that borders Belgium and Germany in the North of Europe. The native language is known as Dutch. The Netherlands is famous for its canals, windmills, tulip fields and its many, many cyclists. The Netherlands is also home to lots of museums such as the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and the Anne Frank House. You could also visit Madurodam and even The Seven Bridges Canal.

The Netherlands has two main cities: Amsterdam and The Hague. The Hague is definitely less touristy because it has less fun things to do. It focuses more on politics, but still has some interesting history behind it. Amsterdam, on the other hand, is more commonly known as the Capital City of The Netherlands because it's bigger (in size and in population), it is touristy, and it looks fantastic.





# Marvellous Museums

- ▶ Rijksmuseum

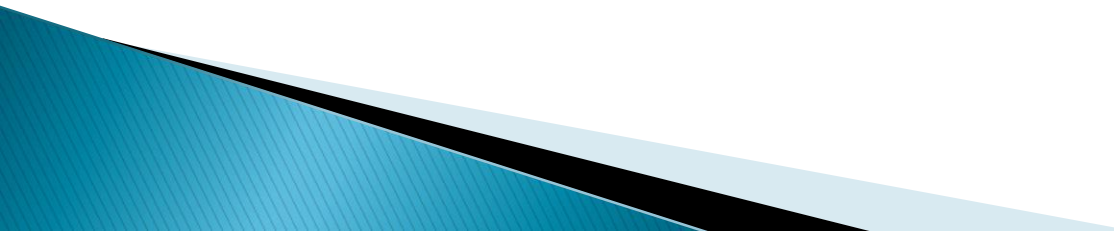
The Rijksmuseum is dedicated to the arts and culture of Amsterdam. The museum was founded in The Hague on November 19<sup>th</sup> 1798 and was later moved to Amsterdam, close to the Van Gogh Museum. The current museum was built by Pierre Cuypers and first opened in 1885.

- ▶ Van Gogh Museum

The Van Gogh Museum displays the artwork of the famous painter, Vincent Van Gogh. Some of his most famous pieces of art were *Sun Flowers*, *Starry Night* and *The Potato Eaters*. The Vincent Van Gogh Museum opened on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1973. It has the largest collection of Van Gogh paintings in the world. In 2017 it had around 2.3 million visits making it the 23<sup>rd</sup> most visited art museum in the world, and the top in The Netherlands.

- ▶ Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House was the home of a Jewish refugee diarist who was called... wait for it... Anne Frank. She wrote in her diary every day during WWII. Since 1960, Anne Frank's House has been a museum revealing her life during the war. In 2013 and 14, the Anne Frank House had about 1.2 million visits, making it the 3<sup>rd</sup> most visited museum in The Netherlands, alongside the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum.







Rijksmuseum



Van Gogh Museum



Anne Frank House



Starry Night



The Potato Eaters



Sunflowers

# Other Tourist Attractions

- ▶ Madurodam

If you're only passing the Netherlands and want to get an overview of the whole country quickly, Madurodam is the perfect place. It lets you explore the whole of The Netherlands in [insert time here]. Madurodam is a mini model Netherlands: you can walk around The Netherlands watching all of the Coca Cola trucks speed by the motorway and take part in some fun activities while you're there. When I went there with my class, we tried to fit as many people as possible in a giant clog! Name one other place where you can do that.

- ▶ Seven Bridges Canal

It's not really a tourist destination, but the Seven Bridges Canal is a boat ride around Amsterdam. What's even better is that you pass Anne Frank's House on the way. But I know what you're thinking. Why is it called the Seven Bridges Canal? The most famous place you pass on the canal is a row of seven bridges, and you can get some pretty good pictures if you time it correctly.





Madurodam Entrance



Madurodam Inside



← Seven Bridges Canal

# Fabulous Festivals

- ▶ Sinterklaas Parade

The Sinterklaas parade is one of the biggest Saint Nicholas parades in the world. From mid-November until early December, a colourful parade takes place in Amsterdam for the Patron Saint of children. In The Netherlands, Saint Nicholas is very important to the Dutch people. They gather in Dam Square to watch acrobatic stunts and bands and most importantly to eat spiced cookies called speculaas.

- ▶ Scheveningen Fireworks Festivals

Over the course of two weeks in December, the Scheveningen Fireworks festival takes place in The Hague, but this isn't a normal fireworks display. No, this is actually a competition. Teams battle to out-firework each other, whoever has the most impressive firework display wins a trophy. Since lots of people in the competition are good, this makes the scheveningen fireworks festival one of the best in the world. And even better, it's right next to a cafe on a beach so you'll have a nice view from there.

- ▶ GLOW Parade

This parade celebrates the electronics company, Philips, by lighting up a six kilometre long route through the city of Eindhoven. They display fancy lighting on important buildings such as Catharina Church. You could also take part in a Glow Run where you have a fun run dressed in reflective clothes through the city.





The Sinterklaas Parade



Speculaas



Fireworks Festival



Catharina Church, GLOW Festival



# Fantastic Foods

- ▶ Haring (Hollandse Nieuwe)

The Dutch new herring is possibly the most well-known Dutch food. It is often served with chopped raw onions and gherkins. And what would a Dutch meal be without the traditional way of eating it. For the herrings, you would hold it up by its tail and take a bite upwards. You could also put it in a sandwich and have a broodje haring.

- ▶ Stroopwafel

The Stroopwafel is a unique kind of cookie and easily the most famous Dutch pastry. Originally made in Gouda (a place of South Amsterdam), the Stroopwafel is two thin waffles stuck together with syrup. It directly translates to syrup waffle in English.

- ▶ Drop (Liquorice)

The consumption of liquorice in The Netherlands is higher than any other place in the world with more than two kilograms a year by an average Dutch person. You can see Drop in almost every shop you go to in The Netherlands. There are two main kinds, salty and sweet.

- ▶ Kaas (Cheese)

As the Dutch have been making cheese since 800 B.C., it's been one of if not the biggest food in The Netherlands. If you ever go there, there is a high chance you'll come across a cheese factory of some sort. Lots of the famous types of cheeses are named after Dutch places, like for example Gouda (which we came across earlier) or Edam.





Dutch Herring



Stroopwafel

Gouda→



←Edam



Dutch Liquorice

# Fun Facts

- ▶ Dutch men have the tallest average height in the world at 183cm (6ft)!
  - ▶ The Netherlands is the world's biggest flower exporter producing around 4.3 billion tulip bulbs a year!
  - ▶ The Dutch own the most bicycles per person in the world with over 22 million in total!
  - ▶ The Dutch have the oldest national anthem dating back to around 1570!
  - ▶ The Netherlands has the biggest pub in Europe called The Drie Gezusters (Three Sisters) pub!
  - ▶ There are over 1000 windmills in The Netherlands!
  - ▶ The Netherlands is the lowest country in Europe with one third of it below sea-level!
  - ▶ There are over 1200 bridges in Amsterdam!
- 





Tulip Field



Probably Over a Million Bikes

Windmills →



← Drie Gezusters Pub

THANK YOU

