



# NETHERLANDS

**Capital:** Amsterdam

**Language:** Dutch

**Population:** 16 million

**Time Zone:** EST plus 5 hours

**Currency:** Euro (€ or EUR)

**Electricity:** 230V. 50Hz

## Fun Facts



- The Netherlands is often referred to as Holland, although North and South Holland are actually only two of its twelve provinces.
- There are around 16 million bicycles in the Netherlands.
- The Netherlands is the third-largest exporter of agricultural produce—after the U.S. and France—even though only 3% of the Dutch population is employed in the agriculture sector.
- The Van Gogh Museum and the Kröller-Müller Museum of Holland house the largest Van Gogh collections in the world.

The Netherlands' geography and geology are unique and have shaped its history and the character of its people. Named after the land's unusually low location above sea level, about 15% of Holland's 16,000 square miles is reclaimed land. The Dutch were pioneers of dike building and drainage canals, and the country's development has always been influenced by its continuous struggle with the sea.

A millennium ago, the western part of the country, known as Holland, controlled trade between the Baltic Sea, the British Isles, and the Mediterranean territories. In the late-16th century, it became a formidable power when Dutch explorers and merchants brought back valuable commodities from around the world. The best mapmakers of the time were feverishly producing updated versions of maps and globes based on a stream of information being brought back by its enormous merchant fleet. Buoyed by its wealth and status, the Netherlands experienced a Golden Age (1580-1720) in which the arts, trade, and science, as well as freedom of speech and publication, flourished. Many religious treatises were published, and Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Frans Hals created masterpieces that can be admired today in the Rijksmuseum. In 1795, Napoleonic troops invaded Holland, and its status as a world power began to wane. When the Napoleonic empire collapsed, the Netherlands became a royal nation under the house of Orange Nassau. After its occupation during WWII, Holland was able, with the help of the Marshall Plan, to restore its industries; today it holds a strong position in the international market thanks to the quality of its products.

Wherever you are in the country, you are always reminded that you are never far away from a large expanse of water; enormous clouds and moisture in the air cause special effects. The light becomes very mellow while the sun is setting, captured majestically by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh in their paintings.

The best pictures of the exuberantly decorated facades of the old city mansions are along the 17th-century canals of Amsterdam, the vibrant, friendly capital. Imagine the original gardens and hothouses where gardeners struggled to keep alive their prized exotic plants and flowers from overseas—small beginnings of one of the world's most important horticultural industries.



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## VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Netherlands are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Netherlands. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room.

European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.



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## COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Netherlands is 31. When calling to Netherlands from overseas, dial your international access code (011 from the U.S./Canada) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Netherlands are nine digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011 31+###+###+####.



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## CURRENCY

The official currency of the Netherlands is the Euro. Euro coins differ according to country, but they can be used in any EU state. Bank notes are of uniform EU design.

1 EURO (€) = 100 Cents (c)

- Banknote denominations: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, €500
- Coin denominations: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1, €2

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at [www.globusfamily.com/currency](http://www.globusfamily.com/currency).

Credit cards are accepted in the Netherlands, and you should have no problems using them in larger shops and restaurants. Visa and MasterCard are most accepted. Smaller shops may ask you to pay in cash or have a minimum amount required to use a credit card.

Many shops do not accept banknotes of €100, €200, and €500 due to concerns about counterfeiting and burglary.



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## BUDGETING AND SHOPPING

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is €2-3.50.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately €10-15.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately €30-40.



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## TIPPING

In restaurants where the service charge is already included, round up the bill by a Euro or two. When the service charge is not included, 10% is a reasonable amount. Tips are usually left in cash and not added to the credit card payment.

For taxis, round up the fare (€1 for a city ride; €2 for a ride to the airport).

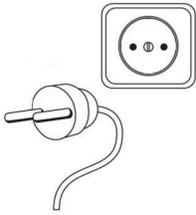
Tip hotel staff €1 for room service.

A few coins will be needed for public restrooms.

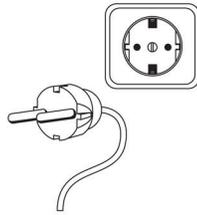


## ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Voltage for outlets is 230V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary.



Type C



Type F



## TEMPERATURES

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Amsterdam.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
34/41°F	32/42°F	37/48°F	40/53°F	46/61°F	52/66°F	55/69°F	55/70°F	51/64°F	46/57°F	39/48°F	36/44°F

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.



## FOOD SPECIALTIES

Cheeses, waffles, fish/seafood, and Indonesian dishes.



## A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

**Dutch:**

**Good morning:** Goede morgen, **Good afternoon:** Goede middag, **Good evening:** Goede avond, **Goodbye:** Tot Ziens, **Yes:** Ja, **No:** Nee, **Please:** Alstublieft, **Thank you very much:** Dank u wel, **How much does it cost?:** Wat kost dit?, **1:** Een, **2:** Twee, **3:** Drie, **4:** Vier, **5:** Vijf, **6:** Zes, **7:** Zeven, **8:** Acht, **9:** Negen, **10:** Tien, **Where is...?:** Waar is...?, **Admission free:** Vrije toegang, **No Smoking:** Verboden te roken, **Entrance:** Ingang, **Exit:** Uitgang, **Restaurant check/bill:** Rekening.

Last Updated 4/27/15