



Netherlands, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Flower Route

Holland is fascinating, especially in spring. This is when it is covered with an real "sea of flowers" and becomes the garden of Europe, shaping bucolic landscapes featuring colourful and infinite fields of flowers - perfectly arranged in primary colours- and topped by hundred-year-old mills. The "Flower Route" is one of the most beautiful and fascinating car journeys in Europe, bringing the traveller closer to the history and idiosyncrasy of the Dutch through the rich world of flowers. You take an unforgettable route peppered with beautiful contrasts, beautiful fine sand beaches like Noordwijk aan Zee and Scheveningen; big cities full of life, art and leisure such as Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht and Delf; picturesque villages full of tradition like Edam, Marken or Gouda ... There are so many reasons to fall in love with this corner of Europe. Undoubtedly, the idyllic landscapes will be one of them. Between March and June, the flowers "explode" in all the colours of the rainbow showing travellers unique landscapes that seem to come from the palette of some of the great Dutch masters. And Holland is the land of flowers par excellence! On your road map, there are kilometres and kilometres of crops, greenhouses, gardens and landscapes of your dreams like Bloembollenstreek, Flevoland, Westland, Kop van Noord-Holland ... The Dutch link with flowers dates back several centuries, and ever since then they have been able to make a living from flowers and horticulture, becoming the world's main exporter. One of its most famous flowers is the tulip, the distinguishing symbol of the Dutch. After the first tulip from Turkey was planted in the Golden Age, it was not long before it became an object of worship and speculation, giving rise to the so-called "tulipmania" and becoming the protagonist of the first economic bubble of the modern economy. Today flowers are an essential aspect for understanding Dutch history and daily life. Prepare to chat with the happy florists; to wander through the lively markets and look at amazing flower auctions like those in Aalsmeer; to visit museums devoted entirely to bulbs and their history; to witness magnificent flower shows such as the "Bloemen Corso" (Floral Parade) of Lisse; to be ecstatic in gardens as spectacular as Keukenhof, where every year more than 7 million flowers are in bloom ... And, throughout the trip, enjoy Dutch culture and cuisine. Do leave without taking some bulbs with you!



NATURE

FAMILIES

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - AMSTERDAM

Flight departure from the city of origin to Amsterdam. Arrival and rental car pick-up. You have the rest of the day off to enjoy this exciting Dutch city. The vibrant, active and creative Amsterdam has been known for decades as one of the world's top tourist destinations. It certainly doesn't lack attractions. Known for its legendary canals and considered one of the most interesting cultural cities in Europe, the city surprises travellers with magnificent works of art by the great Dutch masters that live alongside the latest international trends. Its modern and cosmopolitan characteristics combine perfectly with a unique historical atmosphere, with stately mansions erected in the Golden Age and the unmistakable beauty of its boat-filled canals. A city modeled by water that invites the traveler to explore it on foot, by bicycle and by boat. Become a local: rent a bicycle in Vondelpark and cycle its streets along the banks of the famous canals, declared a World Heritage Site in 2011.

Immerse yourself in the multiculturalism of this cosmopolitan and open, tolerant and daring city. Experience all it has to offer before turning in for the night in order to get the most out of the city the next morning. When is a good time to visit the city? The National Tulip Day marks the start of the tulip season. On these dates, Dam Square becomes a gigantic garden and the city entertains visitors with an attractive agenda full of events and many surprises. Can you imagine a better start to the beautiful and colourful "Flower Route"?

Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

DAY 2 · AMSTERDAM - KOP VAN NOORD HOLLAND - EDAM - VOLENDAM - MARKEN - AMSTERDAM

We wake up in vibrant Amsterdam. A good way to start the day, visiting its cheerful and famous Floating Flower Market, located on the photogenic Singel canal.

You will be surprised to see how it is supported on picturesque barges! This traditional market tells visitors about the past, when the flowers arrived in the city by boats from across the channels. We get back onto our Route. Today will allow you to visit charming places just a short distance from the capital. At the wheel, you will continue to enjoy the sublime Dutch natural scenery, which has given it such international fame.

In the North of Holland (Noord Holland), the polders carve out a landscape where you can usually see typical scenes with hundred-year-old mills, grazing cows, towns that seem to have stopped in time, fields of flowers...

This is all thanks to the audacity of the Dutch and their knowledge of water management, along with the sandy soils and humid climate of the region. And then more of your journey into country's history through its landscapes and flowers! The inland region of Kop van Noord boasts the largest-known area of uninterrupted flower bulbs on the planet. The area between Petten, Den Helder, Nieuwe Niedorp and Wieringerwerf is unique. A privileged strip of land between the North Sea and Lake IJssel blanketed with millions of flowers. Once there, you can walk or cycle through "seas of colours". After exploring the region at your own pace thanks to the freedom of your rental car, you can start your return trip to Amsterdam. Your first stop en route could be Edam, a former whaling port that rose to fame for its excellent cheeses, exported to almost every corner of the world. You'll know Edam cheese for its cylindrical form covered in red wax. Simply, delicious! One of the town's main attractions is its picturesque Kaasmarkt (cheese market), which takes place on Wednesday mornings in July and August. Dotted with historical buildings and quaint streets, the town is also home to the Edam Museum. And then, Volendam is just ten minutes away by car. Another treasure on today's route. Popular with tourists and full of traditions, this seductive fishing village on the banks of the IJsselmeer is always a great choice for a stop-off. You'll be surprised to see that many of the inhabitants are wearing colourful traditional costumes. The town's beautiful scenery boasts fishing boats moored in the harbour, picturesque canals and small drawbridges, which provide its visitors with a unique and romantic atmosphere. And if you have time, you can make one last stop in the truly stunning Marken. Isolated for centuries, a bridge was built in 1957 that linked this islet in Lake IJsselmeer to the mainland. Today, it welcomes visitors with a simply wonderful atmosphere. You can learn more details about its history at the Marker Museum.

Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

● DAY 3 · AMSTERDAM - FLEVOLAND - SCKOCKLAND - URK - AMSTERDAM

You can start the morning by visiting the interesting Amsterdam Tulip Museum. Located in the Jordaan neighborhood, it was sponsored by the local flower bulb company. The museum introduces visitors to the interesting and educational history that surrounds this elegant flower which came from Turkey and that became the favourite flower of the sultans. It went on to star in what is known as "tulipmania", a unique phenomenon that would lead to the first crisis in modern economics. During the visit, you can also learn about the latest cultivation techniques -Holland is a pioneer in this sector- and marvel at the magnificent collection of tulip paintings by Judith Leyster, a well-known painter of the Dutch Golden Age and colleague of the universal Frans Hals. Find the perfect souvenir in the museum store! After a walk through the city, we get on Route, going towards Schokland and Urk. Get ready to discover the most authentic fishing villages in Holland! You'll be amazed to see that they're actually on dry islands! Holland's tireless struggle to regain land from the sea has given shape to unusual landscapes such as the centuries-old 'dry islands' of Schokland (which each year, celebrates the Tulip Festival) and Urk. You can find them in the Noordoostpolder, in Flevoland, the region with the largest area of flower bulbs in the Netherlands. Get ready to feast your eyes on beautiful fields of tulips! In ancient times, these islands were an important port for taking refuge from the dangerous sea of Zuiderzee. Today, these two islands merge into the nearby landscape, separated only by a surprising ring of trees that surrounds them and that will remind you of the former border that once separated the mainland from the wild waters. Savour the delicious local fish dishes while you let your imagination run wild! The area is home to archaeological sites dating back more than 4,000 years. Back on the road. If there's one thing that proves the ingenuity and perseverance of the Dutch people, it's Flevoland. Did you know that this beautiful Dutch region stems from the largest polder-building project in the world? This is the only region in the country that was completely regained from the sea. Less than a century ago, Flevoland was totally awash with water. Discover life in a place completely reclaimed from the sea! The construction of the famous Afsluitdijk Dam gave life to this province of stunning landscapes dotted with 'dry islands' and charming cities such as Almere and Lelystad. You can finish off this intense day by savouring the capital's cuisine. A moonlit boat trip will give you a different perspective of the city. Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

DAY 4 · AMSTERDAM - KEUKENHOF - LISSE / BLACK TULIP MUSEUM - AMSTERDAM

We continue enjoying one of the most charming cities full of personality in Europe. Built around concentric canals, Amsterdam boasts a large number of historic buildings from the 17th-19th centuries on the banks of the canals that give it such great charm. In addition, cool parks, where lively flea markets are held, are dotted around the entire city and, of course, its spectacular museums, especially the Rijks Museum and the Van Gogh Museum, with unparalleled collections of Flemish paintings that invite you to explore the history of a country that has given the world great figures of art and thought. If you finish the cultural visit early, why not take a stroll through the pleasant parks adjoining the museums? You can also visit the Mirror Quarter, Spiegelkwartier, right next to the Rijksmuseum. With your rental car, you can combine visiting the city with an excursion to the tulip fields of the Keukenhof gardens. Located just over an hour from Amsterdam, Keukenhof is one of the obligatory stops of this "Flower Route". You will arrive at this idyllic place after travelling through areas of great beauty, dotted with mills. In spring, the fields of bulbs explode in a thousand colours, making it a spectacular drive. The wooded park of Keukenhof, about 32 hectares, meets visitors with gorgeous aromas and an almost infinite variety of colours. Soon you will understand why this place is known as "the garden of Europe". Very close to Lisse, the Keukenhof is one of the most beautiful and bucolic gardens in the world. You won't be able to stop taking pictures of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths... In total, there are more than seven million bulbs planted here. A paradise that has already attracted more than 50 million visitors from all over the world. Of course, if you want to see the tulips in bloom, you must visit between the months of March and May. (Note: In addition to spectacular gardens, you can also see floral shows, wonderful works of art and interesting exhibitions. You can hire a guided tour in Spanish, English, French, German, Italian, Swedish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese. Another way to explore the park is along its canals, on board the so-called "whispering boats". The trip usually lasts between 50 and 75 minutes). After this pleasant visit, you can visit the town of Lisse and visit the Museum De Zwarte Tulp (Museum of the Black Tulip), dedicated to the cultivation of bulbs and its fascinating history. At the end of April, the town hosts one of its most memorable events: the colourful and fun "Bloemen Corso" (Floral parade). And if you want to see the beautiful landscapes from a different perspective, we encourage you to take a boat trip on the area's lakes. If you are travelling with children, you must visit the Linnaeushof, one of the largest playgrounds in Europe. Before dark, we suggest going back to the centre of Amsterdam for dinner and a few drinks. Experience the atmosphere of the city at night! Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

DAY 5 · AMSTERDAM - UTRECHT - AMSTERDAM

Today we will take a pleasant excursion to the nearby town of Utrecht. Located just over an hour away by car, this historic city embraced by the Oude Rijn river is characterised by its two-level canals: one that acts as street and another, lower and almost touching the water, which gave access to old basements and cellars, which, today, are transformed into graceful bars with terraces. The 112-metre high Dom Tower stands out; it is the highest bell tower in the Netherlands and visible from anywhere in the old town. Other points of interest are the Church of St. Willibrord and the famous Stadskaasteel Oudaen castle. The city dates back to the year 47 AD, when Roman emperor, Claudius, gave the order to build a defensive line along the Rhine. Do not miss Rietveld-Schröder house, a World Heritage Site, considered the architectural masterpiece of the De Stijl modern art movement. Water is again the main feature in these lands, where innumerable canals criss-cross Utrecht. The old walls are the prelude to a beautiful park designed by the famous landscaper, Zocher. If you travel on a Saturday, we recommend visiting the colourful and lively plant and flower market at Janskerkhof. You can also buy flowers in the old canal, the Oudegracht. Half an hour's walk away is the town of Doorn, known in ancient times as Thorheim (home of Norse god, Thor). Surrounded by dense forests, the town was a refuge for Kaiser Wilhelm II after the First World War. Today his remains rest in a mausoleum located in the gardens of the Huis Doorn fortress, where he lived for more than two decades. (Note: Today, the Huis Doorn is a national museum). Lovers of nature and green spaces still have two obligatory stops in the locality: the Kaapse Bossen and the Von Gimborn Arboretum, the latter is a picturesque botanical garden with flowers throughout the four seasons of the year. If you are travelling with children, you can extend today's tour to include Rhenen where you can visit the Ouwehands Dierenpark, where adults and children alike will enjoy the zoo, tropical aquarium and bear forests. Here you can also find the fun Ravotopia, a complete adventure park surrounded by nature. Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

● DAY 6 · AMSTERDAM - HAARLEM - NOORDWIJK AAN ZEE - THE HAGUE

We'll leave Amsterdam behind today to visit The Hague, another great Dutch city. We have around a half-hour drive to the charming city of Haarlem, capital of the province of North Holland. The city, which has a charming historic centre full of beautiful buildings, is a real haven for those who love art and the good life. Its picturesque streets remain relatively unchanged since the Middle Ages. Another jewel of the Dutch Golden Age adds to the city's charming atmosphere: the Frans Hals Museum. Haarlem has a wide range of cafés and restaurants. Any recommendations? Café Colette and the VIQH Art Gallery, a must if you like a sophisticated atmosphere with good wine. From Haarlem to Leiden you can follow the "Bollenstreek", the main bulb growing area of Holland. In March, when the crocuses and tulips begin to bloom, the polders fill with colour and life, giving visitors one of the most beautiful and typical images of Holland. You can choose to visit Leiden today or on the way back to Amsterdam, in the eighth stage of the trip. After capturing the beautiful fields of tulips in your photos, we get back on the Route towards The Hague. En route, you have the option to stop in the beautiful coastal city of Noordwijk aan Zee, and enjoy its beach and sand dunes. We will end the day in The Hague, the administrative capital of the Netherlands. Here resides the Dutch Parliament, the residence of the Queen and the seat of the International Court of Justice. It also has the most famous beach in the Netherlands: Scheveningen. Overnight stay in The Hague.

DAY 7 · THE HAGUE - DELFT - ROTTERDAM - WESTLAND - THE HAGUE (OPTIONAL VISIT TO THE MILLS OF KINDERDIJK AND GOUDA)

After waking up in The Hague, we continue to enjoy the charm of this city's elegant and refined atmosphere. Discover at your own pace its monumental architecture and the excellent Mauritshuis art museum, where you can see Vermeer's masterpiece "Girl with a Pearl Earring", and Madurodam, which represents Holland in miniature. Flower lovers can head to the Japanese garden at Park Clingendael. Among the plants you can see old bunkers, witnesses to the invasion of Holland by the Germans during World War II. We continue enjoying the pretty scenery of the south by car. International demand has meant a boom in exporting products such as dairy, beer, textiles and, of course, the famous Dutch bulbs, through the ports of Rotterdam and The Hague. Our first stop will be Delft, a charming town with its unique pattern of canals and small streets, typical Dutch houses and medieval buildings. It is also famous for its hand-painted ceramics. If you want to learn about this excellent blue porcelain and the history that surrounds it, you can go to the Royal Delft, the only ceramic seventeenth century factory that still stands today. (Note: Visitors will enjoy a tour of the museum and factory, a painting demonstration and a visit to the showcases which exhibit the collection of classic and modern ceramics). And if you want to relax and contemplate everything from another perspective, we recommend leaving dry land for a few minutes to take a pleasant river trip through the canals to see from the water historical buildings, churches and mansions. (Note: River trip not included). Rotterdam, the second largest city in the country, is just a short distance away. Famous for its futuristic skyline and home to the largest port in Europe (a must to enjoy the views) and once the largest in the world until it was ousted from this position in 2004 by Shanghai. Do not miss its fascinating modern architecture, the result of extensive rebuilding of the city after it was bombed and destroyed by German forces during the Second World War. Make sure you visit the cube houses: 40 conventional houses that lean at a 45 degree angle making them the first cube-shaped houses in the Netherlands. The design of each house represents a tree, and all the houses together, a forest. It is possible to pay an admission fee to visit one of them, even a hotel has been created out of some. Also worth a visit are the pencil building (Het Potlood) and Erasmus Bridge, an engineering marvel spanning some 800 metres, with a light blue steel structure and 40 cables that fly over the water below. There are many other sights to enjoy, such as historic Delfshaven, one of the most welcoming neighbourhoods in the city and which has retained a pre-war feel. Visit the wonderful Pelgrumvaderskerk church and the replica of the Delft, an eighteenth-century warship. If you are looking for something very different, take a look around the futuristic Kop van Zuid with its skyscrapers and contemporary architecture. Round off your city visit at the exceptional Boijmans van Beuningen Museum of Art. Combine a visit to the city's main points of interest with the zoo: El Blijdorp. Some of the main attractions include the island of the gorillas and the Oceanium. Remember that between The Hague, Delft and Rotterdam lies Westland: the greenhouse zone of Holland. An essential area for understanding the country's horticultural secrets. If you have time or want to extend your trip by another day, you can go up to the magnificent 19 windmills of Kinderdijk, declared a World Heritage Site and that together make one of the most beautiful and typical scenes in Holland. Another option is to drive to the town of Gouda. Situated a little over half an hour away by car, the town has a lot to offer in addition to its famous cheese and cheese markets which are held in the Stadhuis square. Gouda has one of the most beautiful old centres in Holland. Admire its marvellous historical buildings and stroll along its hundred-year-old canals, dotted with cosy terraces and pretty shops. After this full day, we return to The Hague where we will enjoy the lively nightlife this city located on the shores of the North Sea. Overnight stay in The Hague.

● DAY 8 · THE HAGUE - LEIDEN - AALSMEER (FLORAHOLLAND) - AMSTERDAM

Today is the final stretch of this fascinating road trip. You'll never forget the sublime landscapes and historical towns brimming with leisure and entertainment options. On your way back to Amsterdam, you can stop off in Leiden, if you haven't already done so. Home to the oldest university in the country and famous for being Rembrandt's birthplace, the city boasts a variety of museums, including the Siebold House and the Lakenhal Museum, and wonderful green spaces such as the magnificent botanical garden. Dotted with stately homes, university buildings and museums, the old town of Leiden has one of the largest concentrations of canals and bridges in the whole country. Every summer, there's a major boat parade along its canals, another of the most iconic images of the country. And being a university town, there's no shortage of terraces, cafés and restaurants! After a break, you can set off on the forty-five kilometres between here and the capital city. Before arriving, though, you can stop off at Aalsmeer to visit Floraholland, a vibrant flower market. The town is one of the country's main flower-growing centres, and there's no shortage of landscapes covered by flowers and greenhouses. In addition to learning about new varieties and colours of flowers, you'll find out which ones are named after well-known modern heroes. And Holland is the land of flowers par excellence! (Note: The Westland and Aalsmeer regions are two key points in international flower trade). Depending on your flight time in the morning, you can also visit Aalsmeer first thing (around forty minutes from Amsterdam) to attend the flower auction that takes place every day (the Bloemenveiling). It's one of the largest in the whole world! Discover the exciting and sometimes tense atmosphere in the auction room and how the bidders jostle next to the trailers full of flowers. Don't forget to take some bulbs home with you as a souvenir! Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

● DAY 9 · AMSTERDAM - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Amsterdam.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Amsterdam.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Hague.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Hague.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Holland direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Hague direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.
- ✗ Boat tours.
- ✗ Entrance to historical buildings (some are free).
- ✗ Bike rental.

Destinations Visited

Amsterdam



Edam



Urk



Lisse



Utrecht



Haarlem



Noordwijk Aan Zee



Hague



Delft



Rotterdam



Gouda



Leiden



Aalsmeer



Important remarks

- To avoid queues and crowds, you can book tickets to the most outstanding museums and exhibition halls online and in advance. We recommend trying to visit the museums early in the morning or in the afternoon. To obtain discounts on tickets and save yourself from having to queue, you can purchase cards such as the Holland Pass, the Museumkaart, the I Amsterdam City Card or the Rotterdam Welcome Card. Many museums offer special discounts for minors, students and pensioners.

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to

accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- From March to May, Holland is covered by a giant sea of flowers.