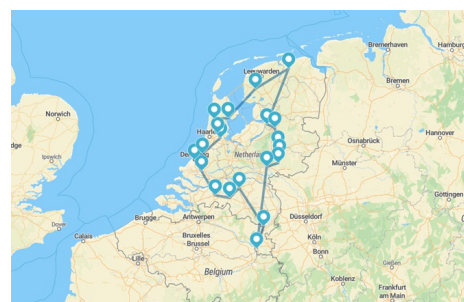




Netherlands, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Lowlands (Nederlanden), a Kingdom to discover

The Netherlands is a Kingdom that has managed to preserve the sumptuous beauty of palatial architecture evoking tales of princes and princesses. Its name matches its geography, where a quarter of the land is at or below sea level. This results in towns overflowing with canals, where water flows in harmony with the elegance of the buildings. A country with 12 provinces, with Holland the starting point. We propose a Tour that combines artistic and lively cities, and unique landscapes. A Tour that will allow you to discover a magical Kingdom beginning with the culturing melting pot that is Amsterdam, where art is an essential element of this vibrant city, before passing through other renowned cities representing global institutions, such as The Hague, or Europeanist, such as Maastricht. A fascinating route topped off with Haarlem's fields of flowers, the landscapes with typical Dutch mills, the polders claimed from the North Sea and architecture that sees classicism mix with modern. Visiting the Netherlands by car is a great option. The entire country enjoys excellent, toll-free roads. It is the best way to discover its most famous urban centres and to explore this wonderful country's best sights.



NATURE

CULTURAL

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.

Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

DAY 2 · AMSTERDAM - HAARLEM - AMSTERDAM

It is impossible to visit anywhere else in the Netherlands without first discovering all that Amsterdam has to offer; it is one of the most charming and characterful cities in Europe. Built around concentric canals, the banks of the city are still home to a large number of historical buildings from the 17th-19th centuries, which give it a distinguished stately appearance that contrasts with the modern lifestyle. The architecture transforms Amsterdam into an open-air museum, together with a varied cultural and artistic offering. This city has the highest density of museums and cultural centres in the world, a tourist attraction of undoubted importance. The Rijksmuseum houses the most famous collection of paintings from the Dutch Golden Age, with Rembrandt's works playing a starring role. A visit to the Van Gogh Museum is also a must. It has on display part of the 900 paintings and 1,600 drawings that the artist known for "The Potato Eaters" and "Sunflowers" created as a reference to post-impressionism. Anne Frank house completes an unmissable cultural tour. The house where the Jewish girl hid herself from Nazi persecution, who left her terrible story in a diary, has been preserved to remind us all of the horror of the holocaust. Outside, visit the well-kept parks dotted around the city, where lively street markets are held and the vibrancy of shoppers is infectious.

Amsterdam has everything you could wish for and more, but a visit to Haarlem, just 30 minutes away, would be the cherry on the cake, before returning to Amsterdam to experience the nightlife of a dazzling city with a magical atmosphere. Haarlem, the capital of North Holland, for centuries has been the centre of the tulip growing district- where those iconic and colourful photos that symbolise the Netherlands are taken. Not surprisingly, Haarlem is popularly known as "Bloemenstad" (city of flowers). Visit its art deco style train station, Grote Markt square, the town hall, Saint Bavo church and the endless gardens and inner courtyards. If you like modern art, do not miss the Hallen Museum. And if you go in May, check out the spectacular Bevrijdingspop Festival (Liberation Pop), where thousands of people come together to celebrate freedom on the 5th, the Netherlands's Liberation Day. Another exciting spectacle is Bloemencorso, the annual floral parade that begins in Noordwijk and ends in Haarlem. Head back to Amsterdam and, to end the day, stroll through the Mirror Quarter, have a refreshing beer at the Heineken factory, take a tour of the Red Light District and enjoy a lively evening in its Coffee Shops. You will be surprised by the atmosphere.

Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

● DAY 3 · AMSTERDAM - ZAANDAM / ZAAANSE SCHANS - ALKMAAR - HOORN - SNEEK - GRONINGEN

Today we propose a route with many points of interest close together, so the Tour will be rather action-packed. We head to the north of Holland, to the northern region, passing through the area of Zaanse Schans where we can see the typical Dutch windmills, most of which have been in use for more than 200 years. It is actually a popular historic district in Zaandam, a genuine open-air museum just half an hour from Amsterdam, which recreates the pre-industrial past of the Netherlands as a place to revel in the nostalgia of a by-gone age. It is free to view the windmills from outside, but if you want to see one inside you would need to pay approx. € 2. (Note: Admission to the windmills is not included. We recommend checking the prices and visiting hours before organising today). The city of Alkmaar, located in the region known as 'West Frisia' (half an hour from Zaandam), is famous throughout Europe for its Cheese Market held from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Fridays from April to October. The event is held in the main square which is filled with cheese rounds, after which different coloured teams take part in a competition. Each two-person team has ropes placed around the neck attached to a large wooden "boat" that is loaded with the cheeses. The teams carry these boats to the Kaasmuseum, where they are weighed and the winner announced. Even if you don't happen to go on a Friday, the city centre is still charming. Its historical buildings along narrow streets and 17th century canals are all well conserved. The outskirts have a historical rural landscape, with 17th century polders. Polders are areas of land reclaimed from the North Sea for agricultural use. The Dutch are true masters of taking land from the sea and the resulting scenery is rather attractive: geometric and orderly. You can visit that of Beemster, which has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Afterwards you can make a stop in Hoorn (half an hour's drive from Alkmaar), with its beautiful harbour on the Inner Sea of Holland and nice old town. At noon, cross the Great Dyke of the North, a prodigious feat of engineering. Make a stop at Sneek (an hour away) to see the Town Hall and the Watergate. After another hour behind the wheel you reach Groningen. The largest city in the north and one of the oldest in the country, it has two museums that stand out: Groningen Museum and the Northern Maritime Museum. Groningen was founded around 1100 and has a very well-maintained historic centre, which earned it the 'Best Centre' award in the category of 'Great Cities' in 2006. The best views are from St. Martin's Tower. This lively and welcoming university city is a great place for an evening stroll. Dine at a restaurant in Grote Markt square and try a local specialty called Groninger koek (cake). Overnight stay in Groningen.

DAY 4 · GRONINGEN - HASSELT - KAMPEN - ZWOLLE - HATTEM - DEVENTER - ZUTPHEN - DOESBURG - ARNHEM

A day to visit the least known, yet most fascinating face of the Netherlands: Medieval Holland. From Groningen crossing the beautiful Friesian scenery we will arrive at the small town of Hasselt where the Medieval Tour begins. It is a tour of seven cities and towns very close to each other, that were once part of the Hanseatic League and that today retain an important monumental heritage. The Tour, less than four hours in total, passes through Hasselt, Kampen, Zwolle, Hattem, Deventer, Zutphen and Doesburg. The starting point is a village with more than 70 monuments included in the National Heritage. One of the most important is the Church of Saint Stephen, finished in 1497 and famous for its majestic organ. Do not miss the shell lime kilns, conical towers where mortar was once made. Continue to Kampen, a town with a trading and marine tradition that goes back centuries. Visit the Church of Saint Nicholas, the Gothic House and the gates to the town. Also worth seeing is the reproduction of the medieval merchant ship 'De Kamper Hanze Kogge' and a visit to the former Town Hall building, where the fish market has been held since since the fourteenth century. We recommend that you take a break from driving and hop on the 'Kamperlijntje' train to Zwolle. It is the shortest independent rail line for passenger transport in the Netherlands. It crosses the Mastenbroeker polder and you will really enjoy it. Head back to Kampen to continue the journey by car to Hattem, where you can visit the Church of Saint Andrew, a Romanesque building started in the 12th century. Nearby, the Molecaten Castle estate is a great place to take a walk and enjoy the views. Continue the Tour to Deventer, where you can visit three places that share the feat of being the oldest in the country: a stone house, the scientific library and Worpplantsoen park. If you like very old buildings, you must visit the Town Hall and the Gothic church of Lebuïnus. Deventer is a city renowned for its culture. July sees the hosting of an interesting open-air theatre festival with more than 150 performances. And in August there is Europe's largest book market with nearly a thousand stalls. The Tour draws to a close with two stops in Zutphen and Doesburg; a chance to lose yourself in its streets and wander around the natural surroundings. Afterwards head for today's final destination: the city of Arnhem. Here we recommend you visit the Kröller-Müller Museum, with works by Van Gogh, and, if you arrive in time and feel like it, why not take a short trip to the National Park of Hohe Veluwe on a free white bicycle. Before enjoying a pleasant dinner in the centre, if you want to do some shopping or simply enjoy looking at one-off items of clothing, why not take a walk through the Fashion District, home to designers, studios and boutiques. A great way to end the day in style. Overnight stay in Arnhem.

DAY 5 · ARNHEM - MAASTRICHT

In the morning we head to the south of the Netherlands, to the region of Limburg, to visit Maastricht (a little over an hour and a half away). Maastricht is probably one of the most beautiful cities in the Netherlands, with a delightful old town that is ideal for walking and enjoying its interesting buildings and atmosphere. Its many attractions include its walls, from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries; the central Vrijthof Square with the Basilica of Saint Servatius; the Sint Servaasbrug footbridge across the River Meuse; the Bonnefanten Museum; the Basilica of Our Lady; and the city's forts, military bastions and maze-like tunnels dating back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We also recommend Mount Saint Peter, which has an old fortress with a network of caves home to hibernating bats. A fascinating city of great importance for a United Europe; the treaty for the creation of the European Union was signed here in 1992. Round off the day with a nice meal in one of the city's cafés. Maastricht is famous for its cuisine and is a global mecca for fine dining, as well as high fashion and for having a different way of life to the rest of the country. Cosmopolitan and elegant, it offers a magnificent scene to close the day. Overnight stay in Maastricht.

DAY 6 · MAASTRICHT - THORN - 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH - TILBURG - BREDA - MILLS OF KINDERDIJK - ROTTERDAM

An action-packed stage. On day six of our tour of the Netherlands you will have to travel the two hours between Maastricht and Rotterdam. But the journey still has a number of interesting stops along the way, so we recommend getting up early. The first is the small town of Thorn, located half an hour from Maastricht. This small Dutch town is teeming with history and is characterised by its small white houses. Our next stop is 'S-Hertogenbosch which is home to Saint John's Cathedral, one of the finest in Holland. Tilburg boasts a beautiful main square and many interesting buildings, the most prominent being the De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art. Last but not least we have Breda which has one of the most beautiful old towns in the region of Brabant. Its main attractions are the castle, the church, and the historic centre in general. In the afternoon, we continue the journey through the Netherlands to the well-known port city of Rotterdam, located 45 minutes from Breda. After such a busy day, we recommend an early arrival at the hotel and a good night's sleep to recharge your batteries. Overnight stay in Rotterdam.

DAY 7 · ROTTERDAM - THE HAGUE - LEIDEN - AMSTERDAM

Spend the morning exploring Holland's second biggest city, Rotterdam, home to the largest port in Europe (a must-visit 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.

Continue the Tour to The Hague, half an hour away, and discover its monumental architecture, and the excellent Mauritshuis art museum and Madurodam, which represents the Netherlands in miniature. In addition to being the seat of the Dutch Government and the King's residence, The Hague is home to numerous international institutions: it is the legal capital of the world, location of the International Criminal Court and the Peace Palace. On the way back to Amsterdam, we have to stop in Leiden (20 km from The Hague); it is a university town noted for being the birthplace of the famous painter Rembrandt. After Amsterdam, the old town has the most canals and bridges in the country. Every summer there is a large parade of boats and other vessels along its canals. The centre of Leiden also boasts many beautiful stately homes, university buildings and museums, with wonderful exhibitions. 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.

Overnight stay in Amsterdam.

DAY 8 · 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 Groningen.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Groningen.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Arnhem.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Arnhem.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Maastricht.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Maastricht.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Rotterdam.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Rotterdam.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Holland direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Rotterdam direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Amsterdam



Zaandam



Alkmaar



Hoorn



Sneek



Oldehove, Groningen



Kampen



Zwolle



Deventer



Zutphen



Doesburg



Arnhem



Maastricht



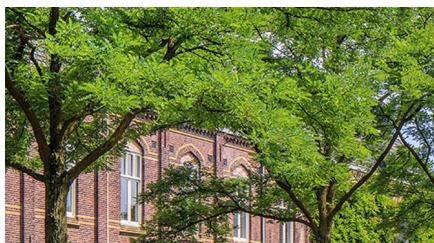
Thorn



's-Hertogenbosch



Tilburg





Breda



Rotterdam



Hague



Leiden



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.