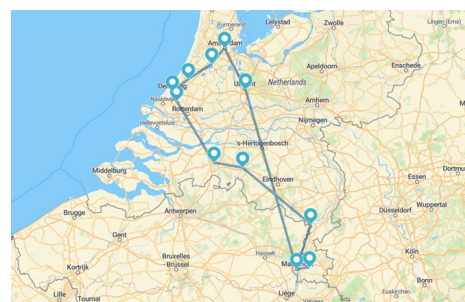




Netherlands, 7 Days · Tailor-made by car

The Dutch Icons Route

Get ready to embark upon the Dutch Icons Tour, an amazing road trip through this fascinating country full of typical icons and breathtaking scenery. Get ready to cruise along its canals, discover the nation's tireless fight against the sea, marvel at the legacy of its historical and architectural heritage, admire world-class art and renowned museums, or cycle through idyllic landscapes dotted with farms, verdant meadows and old windmills. What's more, gourmands will learn about how the country's famous cheeses and beers are made, as well as enjoying the many Michelin-starred restaurants here. Holland is a land of historic cities brimming with fashionable boutiques, great restaurants and wonderful canalside terraces. And it's also full of characterful villages full of traditions and a fabulous past, having once lived off fishing and a complex yet groundbreaking drying system. Discover from behind the wheel a country that's home to major artists such as Van Gogh, beautiful markets, and kaleidoscopic tulip fields that each spring turn the country into a sea of flowers. Make sure you take home some bulbs, traditional clogs, some delicious cheese or a piece of the well-known Delft Blue pottery. Come and explore to Holland by car and discover its most authentic side.



Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - AMSTERDAM - DE HAAR - UTRECHT

Flight departure from the city of origin to Amsterdam. Arrival and rental car pick-up.

Your adventure on Dutch soil begins here! If you have time, you can spend a few hours getting to know Amsterdam and its almost endless range of art and culture. One of the icons of this creative country. Of course, the name of Holland is forever linked to artists of the ilk of Van Gogh. This city is home to a large number of museums and galleries that deserve to be discovered at a leisurely pace. Among our recommendations of today are the magnificent Rijksmuseum, the national museum of Holland. Located in the city centre, it houses a wonderful collection of Dutch historical objects and art. Walking through its rooms will teach you about the history of Holland in an international context, from the year 1100 to the present day. Among its treasures are works by 17th-century maestros such as Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Vermeer and Rembrandt. Don't miss "The Night Watch" (De Nachtwacht) by Rembrandt! And if you want to delve further into the work of this brilliant artist, we recommend you visit his former residence, which today has been converted into a museum. These are two essential stops to help you understand the artistic importance of the Dutch Golden Age. We recommend combining a visit to the Rijksmuseum with another of the city's cultural attractions: the nearby Van Gogh Museum, which houses the largest collection of works by the brilliant 19th-century post-impressionist painter. Here, you'll be able to see outstanding works such as "Sunflowers", "The Potato Eaters" and "Bedroom in Arles". (Note: You can access the museum more quickly via the Voucher Lane. Children under the age of eighteen can enter free of charge. The Van Gogh Museum is open every day of the year except 1st January. You can also visit the museum on Friday evenings).

Before arriving in Utrecht, forty minutes away from Amsterdam, we suggest a brief stop at the beautiful De Haar Castle, one of the largest in the country.

After the visit, it's onward with the journey.

Founded by the Romans and known throughout the world for the famous Treaty of Utrecht (1715), this central city fuses its historical heritage and lively university atmosphere with its beautiful canals (singels), another of Holland's most international images. Utrecht is famous for its enchanting cafés and charming terraces, its hundreds of monuments, churches and convents, its picturesque squares and beautiful parks, its imaginative cultural and gastronomic offerings, and an extensive list of excellent museums such as the Dick Bruna House, Catharijneconvent, the Centraal Museum, the Museum Speelklok and the famous Rietveld Schröder House, a landmark of the De Stijl art style which has been declared a World Heritage Site for its major influence on modern architecture. A short walk through the south of the city will let you see another of its most recognisable snapshots: the magnificent residences built alongside the canals by the nobility in the Golden Age. Do not leave Utrecht without visiting its lively markets or exploring the green landscapes beset by the castles that surround it.

Overnight stay in Utrecht.

DAY 2 · UTRECHT - MAASTRICHT

Wake up in this beautiful historic city that welcomes travellers with open arms. Lively and bustling, Utrecht spreads out around the omnipresent Dom Tower, the city's main landmark and the highest bell tower in the country. Visible from anywhere in the old town, its imposing demeanour and the unmistakable sound of its bells will fascinate you. (Note: If you're here on a Saturday, we recommend visiting the lively plant and flower market at Janskerkhof). Onward journey to Maastricht, located about two hours away. This cosmopolitan city, founded by the Romans and one of the oldest in the country, boasts excellent museums such as the Bonnefantenmuseum (home to a priceless collection of modern art), magnificent historical monuments and basilicas such as the Romanesque Cathedral of Our Lady (Onze-Lieve-Vrouwe). The city cherishes many of the fortifications and walls of yesteryear that narrate the vital role that it played in the history of Holland. Overnight stay in Maastricht.

● DAY 3 · MAASTRICHT - VALKENBURG - MAASTRICHT

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. In the afternoon, we recommend a visit to the town of Valkenburg to see its fascinating Roman caves and the eponymous castle.

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.

Overnight stay in Maastricht.

● DAY 4 · MAASTRICHT - THORN - 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH - TILBURG - BREDA - MILLS OF KINDERDIJK - ROTTERDAM

The journey between Maastricht and Rotterdam shouldn't take you much more than two hours. That said, there are some fascinating stops en route, so we recommend setting out quite early. The first is the small town of Thorn, located half an hour from Maastricht. This characterful Dutch town is teeming with history and is famous for its little whitewashed 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. If you have time, though, you can also go up to the magnificent nineteen windmills of Kinderdijk, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and which together make one of the most beautiful and typical scenes of Holland. Did you know that Holland has more windmills than any other country in the world? The mills have played a key role in the so-called "Dutch miracle". Many were designed to drain water and keep the land reclaimed from the North Sea dry. The picture-postcard image of these windmills built in the mid-eighteenth century pulls in thousands of tourists. Not to be missed! You'll be able to see how many of them are still in operation, and you can also take a boat trip along the canals. (Note: If you're travelling in winter, have a go at ice skating among the mills). 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 5 · ROTTERDAM - DELFT - THE HAGUE

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.

After lunch, head over to Delft, just over sixty kilometres away on the A4. This city is internationally renowned for its connection to Johannes Vermeer, the Royal House of Orange and the famous Delft blue pottery, another icon of the country, which you can admire at the Royal Delft, the last remaining earthenware factory from the 17th century. (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). Finish the day in The Hague, located twenty minutes from Delft, and discover its majestic architecture, the excellent Mauritshuis art museum and the Madurodam, a miniature city that showcases Holland's highlights to scale. 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. (Note: Remember that between Rotterdam, Delft and The Hague is Westland, Holland's area of greenhouses. This is an essential place to learn all about the secrets of horticulture in the country, another of its hallmarks. If you have time or want to extend your trip by another day, you can head to Gouda. The town has lots to offer, in addition to its famous cheese and its world-renowned cheese markets 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).

Return and overnight stay in The Hague.

DAY 6 · 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 7 · 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 Utrecht.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Utrecht.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Maastricht.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Maastricht.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Rotterdam.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Rotterdam.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Hague.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Hague.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Amsterdam.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Amsterdam.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

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

Destinations Visited

Amsterdam



Utrecht



Maastricht



Valkenburg



Thorn



Tilburg



Breda



Delft



Hague



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 as 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.