

RELAX

This guide takes you along all things that make life wonderful in the Netherlands.

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Enjoy!



1. Museums & Arts

Small on land but big on culture, the Netherlands is home to almost 1.000 museums. The most famous are the Rijksmuseum, the Anne Frank house, the van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the Kröller Möller in Otterlo, the Boijmans van Beuningen and the Kunsthal in Rotterdam.

Once a year many museums open their doors for free or at a discount rate in order to attract more visitors. This is during the National Museum Weekend, usually in April of each year.

<http://www.museumserver.nl/>

<https://whichmuseum.nl/plaats/nederland-1/beste-musea>

<https://www.museum.nl/en/museumpass>

<https://www.museumvereniging.nl/nationale-museumweek>

<https://www.tefaf.com>

<https://www.pan.nl/en>

www.christies.com

www.sothebys.com

www.venduehuis.nl

2. Cultural Events & Festivals

There is always a lot going on in the Netherlands. We will list a few major events here all through the Netherlands and mostly in the summer months. Do surf to your municipality site or the local VVV site as well for regular updates and more local events.

<https://www.musicfestivalwizard.com>

Amsterdam Area

www.amsterdamroots.nl

<https://www.dancevalley.com>

www.deparade.nl

<https://pride.amsterdam>

www.uitmarkt.nl

www.grachtenfestival.nl

Rotterdam Area

www.metropolisfestival.nl
www.northseajazz.nl
<https://www.rotterdamunlimited.com>
www.deparade.nl
<https://iffr.com/nl>
www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com
www.wereldhavendagen.nl

The Hague Area

www.deparade.nl
www.parkpop.nl
www.delftmusicfestival.nl
www.crossingborder.nl

Utrecht area and further east & north

www.deparade.nl
<https://lowlands.nl>
<https://www.deventerboekenmarkt.nl/Market>
<https://www.4daagse.nl>

Brabant & Limburg provinces and further South

www.pinkpop.nl
www.reggaesundance.nl
<https://detilburgsekermis.nl>
<https://www.rockwerchter.be/en/>
www.preuvenemint.nl

Friesland province & further North

www.oerol.nl

3. A list of the most visited places in the Netherlands

Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam www.vangoghmuseum.nl

Anne Frank House, Amsterdam www.annefrank.nl

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam www.rijksmuseum.nl

Keukenhof, Lisse www.keukenhof.nl

Delft www.delft.nl

Kröller Müller Museum, Arnhem www.kmm.nl

Delfshaven, Rotterdam <https://www.mustsee.today/en/tour/historisch-delfshaven/>
Madurodam, The Hague www.madurodam.nl
Kinderdijk <https://www.kinderdijk.com>
The archeon, Alphen aan de Rijn www.archeon.nl

4. Sports

Almost all sports can be played in the Netherlands, mostly within an organisation or a club. Certainly in the Randstad you will find several sport clubs where for instance cricket or baseball is played and a lot of fellow expats are member as well.

In this section we will highlight playing golf since that is somewhat different than abroad, we will cover fishing and water sports as well as Formula 1 racing.

Golf

The Netherlands have a good selection of golf courses, although it must be said that it is not a major sport in this country, like it is in other European countries. Nevertheless, golf is becoming increasingly popular in the Netherlands, which is reflected in the increasing number of golf courses (currently 179 golf courses available throughout the country).

What is the GVB?

Before you are allowed on the golf course you will need to have the GVB or *golfvaardigheidsbewijs*. You could compare the GVB to a driving licence, where in this case the GVB shows that you are familiar with the sport in general (etiquette and rules) and that you are not completely hopeless at the game. There are a number of golf courses throughout the country where you can play without the GVB though. Please turn to your IAC for an address in your area.

Most of the golf courses are private golf clubs and will not be open to non-members. Sometimes a club will allow membership for a few expat players. Also, it might open doors if you are a single handicapper, so do let us know of your golf interest.

Again, there are clubs that are open to the general public and welcome any player (with handicap or GVB). Perhaps a colleague at work or a neighbour will invite you for a game. In that case he/she will introduce you to the club and you can enjoy a round of golf together. Be sure to take your handicap card with you.

Most/all clubs have a golf shop, golf pro's for lessons, dressing rooms, storage facilities and a good restaurant. The websites are mostly in Dutch, but the pictures will tell their story and give a good impression of what you can expect.

Green fees differ per golf course: it could amount to anything between €30 and €100 per 18 holes.

Recreational fishing

Free fishing is not permitted in the Netherlands. Per January 2007, the VISpas (the Fishing Pass) was introduced, in a handy credit card format. The VISpas allows you to fish in all waters stated in the accompanying booklet entitled Lists of Fishing Waters (Lijsten van Viswateren).

With the VISpas and accompanying Lists of Fishing Waters booklet in your pocket you are allowed to fish in all waters stated in these lists. You may fish with two rods and use all permissible bait.

You possess one pass as evidence of membership to your club, the federation and Sportvisserij Nederland. This saves a lot of paperwork. You assist with proper control, fish stock management and the organization of competitions.

You are a member of Sportvisserij Nederland, and as a result you help to serve the best interests of Dutch anglers, ensuring thus that you can and may continue to fish for a long time to come.

As a sport angler you will have to pay heed to certain legislation and rules.

If you have questions about the VISpas, please check our Frequently Asked Questions straight away to see if your question is among them!

Choose the VISpas that best suits you immediately!

<http://www.sportvisserij nederland.nl/vispas/english/>

Water sports

Dutch are keen sailors, surfers and love canoeing. You will be surprised how busy the waters can get once the weather has cleared up. In the northern province as well as in the Biesbosch and the lakes around Loosdrecht you will find many marina's and boat rentals as well.

You will need to have the *Klein Vaarbewijs* if you are only cruising the little waters and canals. For boating on the lakes or around the Dutch shores you will need the *Vaarbewijs Aanvullend (VBA)*.

Contact the ANWB for more information, since you might already carry a boating certificate.

ANWB
department *Watersport Actief*
T +31 88 456 4567

For details on canoeing, phone the NKB on 033 462 2341.

Racing

Zandvoort (province Noord Holland) Car racing



Although there were plans for races at Zandvoort before World War II, the first street race was held on June 3, 1939. A real circuit was built on communications roads left by the German army during its occupation in the Second World War.

The circuit was inaugurated on August 7, 1948. The year after the circuit hosted the Zandvoort Grand Prix. The following year, the race was called the Dutch Grand Prix, and it was included in the Formula One World Championship in 1952. It remained on the F1 calendar for 30 out of the next 34 years and was held for the last time in 1985.

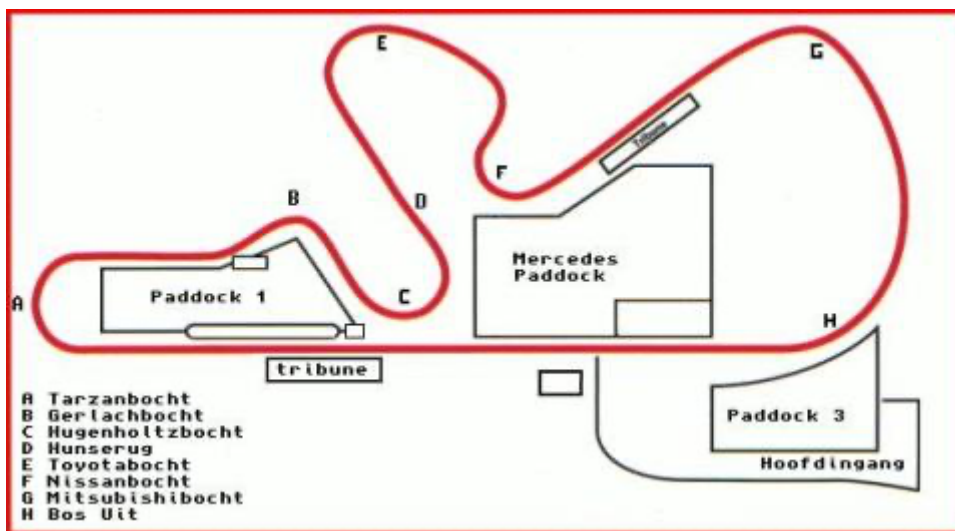
The company that commercially ran the circuit (CENAV) went out of business, marking the end of Circuit Zandvoort. The track, owned by the municipality of Zandvoort, was not used for some time and part of the grounds and approximately half of the track was sold in 1987 to Vendorado, a Bungalow park developer at that time. A plan to save the remaining track was made by a group of people and companies. Circuit Park Zandvoort was born, and the track was remodelled to an interim Club Circuit of 2.6 kilometers (1.6 mi) in the summer of 1989.

In 1995, Circuit Park Zandvoort got the "A Status" of the Dutch government and began building an international Grand Prix Circuit. This project was finished in 2001 when, after the track was redesigned to a 4.3 kilometers (2.7 mi) long circuit and a new pits building was realized (by HPG, the development company of John Hugenholtz jr, son of the former director), a

new grandstand was situated along the long straight. One of the major events currently held at the circuit, along with DTM and A1GP, is the BP Ultimate Masters of Formula 3, where Formula 3 cars of several national racing series compete (originally called Marlboro Masters, before the tobacco advertising ban).

The circuit gained popularity because of its fast, sweeping corners such as Scheivlak as well as the "Tarzanbocht" (Tarzan corner) hairpin at the end of the start/finish straight. Tarzanbocht is the most famous corner in the circuit which provides excellent overtaking opportunities. This corner is reportedly named after a local character who had earned the nickname of Tarzan and only wanted to give up his vegetable garden in the dunes if the track's designers named a nearby corner after him. On the other hand, many different stories about the Tarzan Corner are known.

Circuit Park Zandvoort played host to the first race in the 2006/07 season of A1 Grand Prix.



<https://www.circuitzandvoort.nl>

Assen (Province of Drenthe) Motor racing

The TT Circuit Assen is the place to go if you like motor races. They invested in both circuit and accommodation, but didn't forget the race fans. 8 Big Screen Vidiwalls, each 40 square meters, will surround the TT-track, showing the live TV race images. All persons having a grandstand seat have a direct view to one of the Big Screen Vidiwalls, which are located at all grandstands, so that more than 60.000 spectators can see the Dutch TT.



<https://www.ttcircuit.com>

5. Shopping

In the Netherlands you will notice that shops can be tiny in terms of m². When entering a shop don't become annoyed when a sales person asks if they can be of help to you. Just say the magic words "*Ik wil even rondkijken*" (meaning I'm just browsing), and you will be left alone.

Shopping hours

- Nationally, shops are allowed to be open between 06:00 and 22:00 and on Sundays from 10:00 to 20:00. It depends on the city what you will find. Haarlem for instance advises Monday 13:00 – 18:00, Tuesday – Friday 09:30 – 18:00 and Thursday is shopping evening until 21:00
- Supermarkets daily opening hours mostly are from 07:00 to 22:00 and on Sunday from 08:00 to 20.00

- There are hardly any bank offices left where you can go and do business. It is mostly done online nowadays.
- Post offices still exist but you'll find that a lot of supermarkets or specialised book stores will have a PostNL point where you can buy stamps, drop off parcels etc. <https://www.postnl.nl/en/>

Street markets

Every city, town or village has its markets. Here you may find anything from fruit to cheese and from bicycle-accessories to clothing. If you are budget-conscious these markets with their colourful stands are certainly worth a visit.

Two well-known markets are the *Albert Cuyp* in Amsterdam, every day, except Sunday, and *De Zwarte Markt* in Beverwijk, every Saturday and Sunday.

<https://albertcuyp-markt.amsterdam/?lang=en>

<https://debazaar.nl>

<https://noordermarkt-amsterdam.nl>

Saving stamps or cards

When you pay the cashier at a supermarket or a shop, you may be asked if you would like to receive either *Zegeltjes* or if you have a saving card. Most of the saving cards or stamps are free of charge. In most of the shop who have a saving system, you can use the card to get discount on goods.

Stamps you usually have to glue in a special booklet and, when a sufficient quantity has been collected, they are returned to the store or sent to some specified adress. Sometimes you get paid in cash, sometimes you can choose free articles. You can ask sales personnel for more information.

Deposit (statiegeld)

Some vegetables, beer, fruit juice, soft drinks and many milk products are sold in bottles (*flessen*) or jars (*potten*) with a deposit. When these items are purchased the deposit is included on your bill. When the containers are returned to the store, the customer receives a receipt for the deposit amount. The slip is then given to the cashier for credit on groceries or a cash refund. Products in glass containers, which have no deposit, are marked on the label

or on the glass as 'geen statiegeld' or 'gratis glas'. These bottles should be disposed in the *glasbak* or bottle bank.

The queuing system

No one seems to bother about queuing up for buses or trams, possibly because tickets can be bought in advance and there is usually more than one entrance. However, in banks and many shops, including the meat, bread and delicatessen counters in supermarkets, you may find a ticket machine from which a numbered ticket is taken on arrival. An indicator above the counter shows the number of the next customer to be served, or the number may be called out.

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