

# The Dutch Travel advisor

## *Travel in Style*



## The Holland Journal - Newsletter for Travel Advisors

June 1, 2021

In the Netherlands, the month of May started off cold and wet, with disappointing Corona numbers, infection rates that were much too high and a vaccination program that didn't seem to get going fast enough.

That only goes to show how much can change in a short space of time. In the course of the month, the infection rates have begun to drop dramatically, and the vaccination program is finally picking up speed. And not unimportantly, we are finally experiencing some nice weather.



Society is on the brink of opening up, and as of June 5, we will be able to visit museums again and eat out in restaurants. Please spread the word among your clients: Holland will be back in business very soon! As we mentioned earlier, April 2022 is already filling up quickly, so do not wait too long to contact us if you have clients interested in coming to the Netherlands next year. In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy.

## COVID-19 Update the Netherlands – Nearly Everything to Reopen

The number of people being admitted to hospital with COVID-19 is falling rapidly. And more and more people are being vaccinated. The government has therefore decided to bring forward step 3 (out of 5) of the reopening plan by a couple of days. As of Saturday 5 June, most locations in the Netherlands will be open, subject to certain conditions.

This means that museums will reopen on June 5 and indoor seating at restaurants will be possible again. It is expected that at the end of June, more restrictions will be relaxed further.



For a full overview, please visit our website: [www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/news](http://www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/news)

## New Terms & Conditions

As of May 15, new Terms and Conditions apply to all new bookings with the Dutch Travel advisor. With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we understand the reluctance that some clients still feel when committing to a new booking, even though we ourselves are convinced that with the vaccination programs progressing well in most countries, Covid-19 will soon be a thing of the past. However, to remove any obstacle from new bookings, we have decided to amend our Terms and Conditions.



We already offered the possibility to turn a deposit into a credit, but we are now offering the possibility for a full refund should Covid-19 still be a reason for having to cancel a booking with us.

For bookings made after May 15, 2021: any payment made will be refundable until 1 month prior to arrival if the Covid-19 virus makes traveling to the Netherlands and Belgium impossible due to closed borders and sights. For cancellations within one month prior to arrival, the 'old' Terms and Conditions apply. To hotel bookings, we always apply the hotel's own cancellation policy.

For the full new Terms and Conditions, please visit our website:  
[www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/terms-and-conditions/](http://www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/terms-and-conditions/)

## Floriade Expo 2022 – VIP Package

The countdown to Floriade Expo 2022 has really started. On April 14, it was exactly 1 year until the opening of the world horticultural exhibition. More details and information on the Expo are now becoming available. We recently learned that it will be possible to book a special VIP Package which will consist of a full-day arrangement with an official welcome, coffee, luxury lunch, a private guided tour (highlights and theme according to preference), a champagne drink, a gift and full-day guidance.



If you are interested in more information and pricing, please [drop us a line](#). For more information on the Floriade Expo and the 'regular' tour we offer, please visit our website: [www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tour-examples/floriade-2022](http://www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tour-examples/floriade-2022)

## City in the Spotlight: Utrecht

*In every Newsletter, to show that the Netherlands has more to offer than just Amsterdam, we will feature a city that is not Amsterdam.*

Utrecht, even though with a population of over 357,000 it is the fourth-largest city in the Netherlands, and very close to Amsterdam, is a much lesser-known city. It is only located 25 miles south-east of Amsterdam.

Utrecht's ancient city center features many buildings and structures dating as far back as the High Middle Ages. It has been the religious center of the Netherlands since the 8th century. Utrecht was the most important city in the Netherlands until the Dutch Golden Age, when it was surpassed by Amsterdam as the country's cultural center and most populous city.

In 2012, Lonely Planet included Utrecht in the top 10 of the world's unsung places.

Below, the main attractions in Utrecht:

In the heart of Utrecht lies Cathedral Square, the Domplein, where you'll find **St. Martin's Cathedral**. Most often referred to by locals as the **Dom Church** (Domkerk), this fine building is considered to be one of the most important churches in The Netherlands. While the original structure was built in 1254 on the site of an earlier Romanesque church, today this impressive cathedral consists of the 14th-century choir, the 15th-century transepts, and two chapels. The original much larger structure incorporated the massive nearby **Domtoren**, the tower that became separated after the destruction of the nave during a tornado in 1674. The ruins were only cleared away in 1826, when the Domplein was laid out, with restoration finally completed in 1988.



In the former hospice of the Order of St. John, **St. Catherine's Convent Museum** (Museum Catharijneconvent) deals with the history of Christianity in the Netherlands. Opened in 1978, it's the country's largest collection of medieval art treasures, with sections devoted to church interiors, religious beliefs, and medieval monasteries.

One of the more unusual of Utrecht's most popular tourist attractions is **Museum Speelklok** – or Musical Clock Museum in English – dedicated to music boxes, barrel organs, and other devices and instruments capable of playing music without human involvement (other than switching them on or cranking their handles). The museum was established in 1956, and its displays – many of them hands-on and interactive – include mechanical musical instruments from the 18th century to the present day, as well as domestic instruments, from tiny music boxes to massive fair organs, most of which can still be played.



A highlight of a visit to Utrecht is strolling along the beautiful **Oudegracht**, the **old canal** running through the city center. Starting in the southeast section of the city, the Oudegracht traces, in part, what was once the original route of a section of the Rhine, while the northern section includes segments of a canal built around AD 1000 that connected the Rhine to the River Vecht.

Located in the old Maliebaan train station, Utrecht's **Railway Museum** (Spoorwegmuseum) is the country's national railway museum and is a must-see for train buffs. Founded in 1927, highlights of this large, well-stocked tourist attraction include a cross section of the country's transit history, particularly its railroads and tram systems, with plenty of models and old vehicles to enjoy along the way. Exhibits deal with the early years of railways, including its heyday of the 1900s, and an operational workshop. In addition to the museum's impressive collection of locomotives (including nine well-preserved steam engines) and rolling stock, kids will love the model railway and playground.



A fun diversion for those with green thumbs – or those who simply enjoy lovely green spaces and gardens – involves paying a visit to the **Utrecht University Botanic Gardens**. Centered around the old, abandoned Fort Hoofddijk, this delightful 22-acre site, while a relatively new creation (it was laid out in the late 20th century), can trace its roots back to the early days of the university in the 17th century. All told there are six unique gardens to explore. Favorites include the Birders Den (no surprise, it's popular with birdwatchers), and the Bee Hotel with its diverse array of pollinating insects. The tropical greenhouses are also worth exploring.



## 140 Years Panorama Mesdag

Panorama Mesdag in The Hague celebrates its 140th anniversary this year. Mesdag's Panorama of Scheveningen from 1881 is the radiant centerpiece of the celebration of the jubilee year.

In a series of special presentations and exhibitions, the panorama as an art form and the panoramic artist's view - then and now - are central.



### Opening anniversary year Museum Panorama Mesdag

The anniversary year of Museum Panorama Mesdag started online on Friday April 16, 2021. The following special exhibitions were announced:

#### **Sara Vrugt: One hundred thousand trees and a forest of wire - Opening soon**

The year 2021 kicks off with a special first for Museum Panorama Mesdag: One hundred thousand trees and a forest made of thread by the Hague textile artist Sara Vrugt will be exhibited for the first time.

#### **The painters of Panorama van Scheveningen - Mesdag, Blommers, De Bock, Breitner and Mesdag-van Houten - Opening soon**

The exhibition 'The painters of Panorama van Scheveningen' is at the heart of the anniversary year 2021. It tells the story of the creation of the Panorama of Scheveningen. For the first time, much of the preparatory material will be on display: photographs, oil sketches, sketchbooks and raster drawings.

#### **Siebe Swart - Time and tide wait for no man - October 17, 2021 - February 27, 2022**

The anniversary year closes with a series of monumental black and white panoramic photos of Dutch seascapes and landscapes that photographer Siebe Swart (1957) has been working on since 2016: Time & Tide wait for no man.

<https://www.panorama-mesdag.nl/home/en/>

## Royal Christmas Fair in The Hague: December 9 - 22, 2021

The Royal Christmas Fair in The Hague is one of the biggest Christmas markets in the Netherlands. Twinkling lights and familiar Christmas carols at the romantic Lange Voorhout are bound to get you in the ultimate Christmas mood. Among this year's 100 stalls you'll be able to find gift ideas, wintery fashion and design decorations.

### Original Christmas gifts

Royal Christmas Fair The Hague is a unique Christmas market where you can do extensive Christmas shopping in an atmosphere of good cheer. This is the number one spot for finding lovely, original Christmas gifts. A thick layer of snow completes the fairytale decorations. And a mug of hot chocolate or Glühwein is the perfect accompaniment.

### Cultural program

With mulled wine, winter coats, Christmas lights, wood carvings, candles and all kinds of Christmas gifts, you can also enjoy a program of children's choirs, theatre groups and storytellers.



## Location

The L-shaped Lange Voorhout in The Hague merits its reputation as one of the finest urban ensembles in Europe. Its rows of linden trees were first planted by Emperor Charles V, and are supposed to have inspired the layout of Berlin's great boulevard Unter den Linden. It was here in the 17C and 18C that the famous and fashionable came to see and be seen, particularly during the Sunday church parade. Close your eyes and it's easy to imagine the clip-clopping of hooves of the many horses that once rode along this shell-lined lane.

## Exhibition at Museum Van Loon: *Herstory - women, stories, change*

The Museum Van Loon soon hopes to open its doors again soon and kick off with the exhibition *herstory - women, stories, change* in collaboration with Atria, knowledge institute for emancipation and women's history.



Stories from history are often told through the eyes of male. The role that women played in the course of history therefore remains underexposed. Museum Van Loon is filled with portraits of women, each with their own story. In *herstory - women, stories, change* we get to know some of these women from the 19th and 20th centuries better. Atria places their stories - embedded in a well-to-do social environment - in a broader social context. Scenes from the lives of women show how they brought about change in their own environment; illustrate how their actions helped to change the spirit of the times; and show how historiography along female lines forms an impactful addition to existing male narratives. The stories are sketched by means of portraits, photographs, personal objects and books.

The exhibition *herstory - women, stories, change* was scheduled to open on International Women's Day, 8 March. Unfortunately, due to the extension of the national lockdown, they have had to postpone the exhibition. Hopefully they will be able to open their doors for you again soon!

This exhibition is also a precursor towards a larger exhibition about women that is planned for the fall of 2024. This exhibition will feature a variety of historical women as well as women of today.

[www.museumvanloon.nl/programma](http://www.museumvanloon.nl/programma)