



Holland Journal

Edition 61, October 28, 2010

Dear Holland Specialist / Travel Agent,

A lot is happening; museums that have been closed for renovation, have opened recently or will be opening soon. Also in this newsletter Winter in The Hague and a former prison soon to be converted into a hotel.

First I would like to let you know that the recent Holland FAM tour was a big success.

A pleasant surprise was in many ways the reaction!

After the tour I received several "Thank You" emails, and I would like to share one of them.

If you would like join the next FAM / Educational tour or if you have any questions, please contact us.

Dear Edwin, I do not know where to begin to thank you for the incredible FAM trip you so efficiently organized for the wonderful kaleidoscopic visit to the Netherlands! It was masterfully planned for us to experience the ultimate in museums – art and the historical - magnificent concert hall, galleries, private gardens, former palaces and stables, diversity of culture, cathedrals, Madurodam, site inspections...and so much more!

The time and thoughtfulness you invested in ensuring that we experienced not only the highlights but also being exposed to the special "feel" of different cities and towns in a very unique way, was special.

I came away in awe of all that the Netherlands has to offer, and I shall be delighted to pass on the opportunity to my clients for their enjoyment of the best of the best!

Thank you so VERY much for everything you did to make the FAM so outstanding and memorable – the best ever – and I shall always remember the hospitality, magnificence of architecture and rich history, beauty of the Netherlands and its great people.

*Fiona Hatfield, Protravel International Inc.
A proud member of Virtuoso.*



The **Civic Guards Gallery (Schuttersgalerij)**, part of the Amsterdam Historical Museum has recently closed for renovation. All of the twelve old Dutch group portraits from the 17th century, so called militia paintings have left Amsterdam for the first time in their existence.



The paintings, belonging to the Amsterdam Historic Museum are lent to the Art Historic Museum in Vienna, Austria. The reason why the pieces were never lent to other museums is because of their size. The biggest painting by Govert Flinck measures including the frame: 3 x 5,5 meters (9.84 feet x 18 feet).

All twelve paintings will be in Vienna until November 21 2010, after that date they will be transported to Munich. In the spring of 2011 all paintings will return to the remodeled Civic Guards Gallery. www.ahm.nl



The largest ice attraction in Europe, called **Paradise**, is coming this winter to the Malieveld in The Hague. Visitors can take a glide down the ice slide, visit an ice theatre and of course ice skate from mid-December to mid-February.

Paradise will measure 20.000 square meters and more than a quarter of this surface will be ice. Two large ice skating rinks will be connected to each other. The 20-metre high ice slide will be mounted on an ice mountain.



Apart from the winter sports, expect food pavilions, an igloo where games can be played and an indoor ice theatre, which will host performances.

Paradise will be open from December 18, 2010 until February 13, 2011 from 10am until 10pm (Sunday through Thursday) and until 11pm on Friday and Saturday. Entrance fee Euro 12,00.

www.paradise.nl/actueel/nieuws/nederland-heeft-primeur-op-ijspark-gebied/510

At the same time a Royal Winter Village will be held on the Lange and Korte Voorhout and will present itself as Christmas market with food and shopping stalls including an ice skating rink.

Royal Winter Village will be open from December 17, 2010 until January 9, 2011 daily between 10am and 10pm. No entrance fee. www.royalwintervillage.nl/home

On September 1 2010 crown Prince Willem Alexander opened both renovated museums **Gallery Prins Willem V** and the **Prisoners Gate Museum**.

Both museums have been closed for several years for a major remodeling operation. The museums are two worlds apart next to each other and now joined by an adjoining entrance. One world is a world of great luxury, beautiful paintings in a fancy surrounding. The other museum is a prison gate, dark and gloomy.

Gallery Prince Willem V is the first public collection in the Netherlands that was displayed for the public. The history goes back as far as 1774 when Stadholder Willem V exhibited the most important paintings of his collection together in this special build gallery. Willem V opened this gallery for the public so they could enjoy his marvelous private collection. Once "the Atomic lesson" by Rembrandt was one of the pieces in the gallery, nowadays to be seen in the Mauritshuis.

All of the paintings are still placed in the way that was very popular in the 18th century. All the walls are covered. Back then the people believed in showing off their wealth.

The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from Noon until 5pm
Entrance fee Euro 5,00, children up to 12 years old Euro 2,50.

www.mauritshuis.nl/index.aspx?SiteID=106



The Prisoners Gate Museum dates back to the 14th century when it was only one gate of the three gates to be led to the Inner Court (Binnenhof). Soon it was made into a prison and a complex of cells was build next to it. It was not just a prison, the complex also had a torture chamber.

In 1882 the building was transformed into a prison museum and ever since it is a popular place to visit!

The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am until 5pm, Saturday and Sunday from Noon. Entrance fee Euro 7,50, children up to 12 years old Euro 5,50.

www.gevangenoort.nl

Museum Mesdag, the private collection of Hendrik Willem Mesdag and his wife Sientje van Houten must be one of the best-kept secrets of the museum world in the Netherlands.

The collection, partly housed in their former private residence consists of a superb collection of paintings by French and Dutch masters of the 19th century. In the museum you will also find a large collection of drawings and objects from both the Netherlands and Asia, among exhibits works of art from other collections like modern art and art by contemporary artists.

Hendrik Willem Mesdag is mostly known for his Panorama painting, which is to be seen at the Panorama Mesdag Museum, just around the corner from the Mesdag Museum. From 1866, Mesdag and his wife began to collect. Their collection became so big; their private house became too small. In 1887 the couple had a special museum built in the garden. The house, museum and collection were donated to the Dutch Government in 1903. The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam has been responsible for the running of the Mesdag Museum since 1991.

Since May 2008 the museum is under a large renovation but in the spring of 2011 it will be again open to the public. More about the exact opening date and prices in the next journals. www.museummesdag.nl





Right in the hart of the city Roermond (province of Limburg), the Van der Valk hotel chain has bought the former prison, where **The Arrest House Hotel** is going to open their doors in the spring of 2011.

The monumental building is a complex of two separate buildings; the former prison from 1863 and the former Episcopal Palace from 1666.

In the front of the building there will be a lobby with reception, a restaurant and the hotel bar. The prison itself will be converted in a hotel; the 150 prison cells will be made into 48 luxurious trendy hotel rooms. The fenced-in garden will be made into a terrace.

Inside the building the old details will be preserved. Interesting to know is that within the 3-stories building the original prison stairway and galleries will be used.

More about the exact opening date and prices in the next journals.

www.hetarresthuis.nl

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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The Dutch Travel advisor
Edwin Groeneweg
The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: +31-653556292
Fax: +31-84-2206562

E-mail: info@thedutchtraveladvisor.com

www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com

Skype: [the.dutch.travel.advisor](https://www.skype.com/partner/the.dutch.travel.advisor)

Your tour guide for Holland