

The Dutch Travel advisor

Travel in Style



The Holland Journal - Newsletter for Travel Advisors

December 16, 2021

As we approach the end of 2021, it is hard to believe that we are still on this rollercoaster ride called Covid-19. The Dutch government was slow to start the vaccination program, but things really picked up speed in April. By August, around 80% of all adults was fully vaccinated. This percentage is currently 85.8% and is still rising, albeit very slowly. Many expected that that would mean the end of the pandemic, but nothing could be further from the truth, the last few months even saw record numbers of infections. But more on Corona in the update below.



Despite all this, we remain hopeful that travel will still be possible next year. And we even expect a good year. Bookings for April nearly approach pre-Corona levels with some days already fully booked. We therefore strongly advise you to contact us as soon as possible if you have any inquiries for the tulip season.

We will leave you with these hopeful thoughts and we wish you all very **Happy Holidays** and all the best for the New Year.

COVID-19 Update the Netherlands

After the peak in November, the number of new coronavirus cases is currently rapidly dropping in the Netherlands. But, even though much is still unknown, the new Omicron variant does give cause for concern and demands a cautious approach. The Dutch government is therefore prolonging the measures introduced on November 28, until at least Friday January 14. This means that until then, everything will close at 5pm. This includes restaurants, museums and non-essential shops. Until 5pm, everything will be open!



For a full overview, please visit our website: www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/covid-update

New Website for The Dutch Travel Advisor



We are proud to announce that earlier this year, we launched our new and improved website. It has a totally new design and look, and the menu is now much easier to navigate.

Please have a look at our updated Tour Examples for both the Netherlands and Belgium. And we have also added a section with restaurant suggestions for Amsterdam, Maastricht, Rotterdam, The Hague, Brussels and Bruges.

Let us know what you think!

www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com

Palace Het Loo Will Re-open on April 15, 2022

2018 was the start of the Renovation of Palace Het Loo. The renovation of the historic palace has now been completed. More than 4,300 m² of asbestos has been removed and all air conditioning systems have been replaced. They will be furnishing the palace rooms until the beginning of 2022, when the renovation of the palace will be completed. The palace will be open to visitors again from April 15, 2022!

IN THE PALACE

Two routes have been set out in the palace: a route in which Willem & Mary (the builders and first residents of the palace) are central, and a route focusing on the members of the House of Orange who lived in the palace in the 19th and 20th centuries. There will also be an information center explaining the history of the palace. Extra lifts make the palace and the roof more accessible for the disabled.

www.paleishetloo.com



Rijksmuseum: Largest Vermeer Exhibition Ever in 2023

In the spring of 2023, the Rijksmuseum, the national museum of the Netherlands, will dedicate a retrospective exhibition to the 17th-century master Johannes Vermeer for the first time in its history. With loans from all over the world, this promises to be the largest Vermeer exhibition ever. The Rijksmuseum itself has four masterpieces by Vermeer, including the world-famous Milkmaid and The Little Street.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Rijksmuseum and the Mauritshuis in The Hague. Preparations for the exhibition are currently underway. Both museums will conduct research into Vermeer's artistry, his artistic choices and motivations for his compositions, as well as into the creative process of his paintings.

The Rijksmuseum's exhibition in 2023 will include masterpieces such as *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* (Mauritshuis, The Hague), *The Geographer* (Städel Museum, Frankfurt am Main), *Lady Writing a Letter with her Maid* (The National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin) and *Woman Holding a Balance* (The National Gallery of Art, Washington DC). Works never before shown to the public in the Netherlands will include the newly restored *Girl Reading a Letter at the Open Window* from the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden.

The Vermeer exhibition will be on view from February 10 to June 4, 2023 in the Rijksmuseum.

JOHANNES VERMEER

Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675) lived and worked in Delft. His work is best known for his tranquil, introverted indoor scenes, his unprecedented use of bright, colorful light and his convincing illusionism. In contrast to Rembrandt, Vermeer left a remarkably small oeuvre with about 35 paintings. As his paintings are generally considered the most prized treasures of every museum collection, Vermeer paintings are rarely lent out. There is currently an exhibition in Dresden with works by Vermeer on the occasion of the restoration of his *Girl Reading a Letter at the Open Window*. This exhibition includes two works by Vermeer, *The Little Street* and the *Woman in Blue Reading a Letter*, from the Rijksmuseum collection

www.rijksmuseum.nl/en



The Milkmaid by Vermeer

Hotel Heritage in Bruges Named 'World's Best Classic Hotel'

We are delighted to report that Relais & Chateaux Hotel Heritage has been chosen as this year's winner of the 'World's Best Classic Hotel' Award by Boutique Hotel Awards. This award is presented annually to a Classic Hotel nominated by travel industry experts, luxury travel journalists, and self-nominations (subject to approval). It is a prestigious honor given to the best of the best within the hotel industry.

"In the heart of Bruges, Hotel Heritage really breathes an easy elegance. Large windows and high ceilings give a feeling of light and space; the traditional rooms are complemented by gadgets such as Bose sound systems, iPads, and automatic lighting."



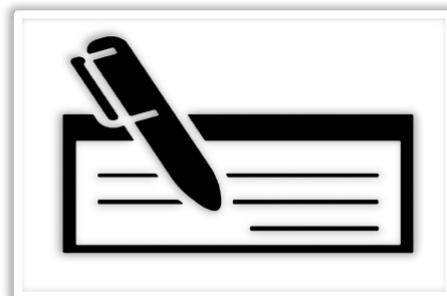
We warmly congratulate the Hotel Heritage with this wonderful award!

www.hotel-heritage.com

Checks No Longer Accepted

Unfortunately, because of new rules and regulations, we will no longer be able to accept US checks. This goes into effect immediately.

Because we do not have a physical address in the US, we are not able to keep our Wells Fargo bank account. We can therefore no longer offer the service of being paid by check. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.



Mauritshuis Museum Anniversary: 200 Years

In 2022, it will be exactly two centuries since the Mauritshuis opened its doors to the public. The museum celebrates this anniversary throughout the year with special exhibitions and events.

On February 16, they will kick off the anniversary year with the opening of the exhibition **'In Full Bloom'**, where they will show the most beautiful flower still-lives from the period 1600-1725. From that day on, the facade of the Mauritshuis will be decorated with an 'impossible bouquet' of flowers, à la the bouquet by De Heem from 1670 (the flowers in this still life have never been able to bloom together because they come from different seasons). The year closes with an exhibition of Dutch masters from the 17th century in collaboration with The Frick Collection in New York.



Next year will be all about the inspiration that the world-famous collection of the Mauritshuis has been for 200 years for countless enthusiasts, visitors and artists all over the world.

www.mauritshuis.nl

New Name: Jewish Museum

The Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam is now simply called: Jewish Museum. The reason for the name change is that the Amsterdam-based Museum not only tells about history, but also about the present and the future. The term 'historical' therefore no longer fits the museum's range of exhibitions and programs.

The children's museum will continue under the name Jewish Museum junior. Although the backbone of the museum remains four hundred years of Jewish history in the Netherlands, director Emile Schrijver also wants to offer space to artists who reflect on the world around them through their work. "We believe that in this way we can make an important social contribution."

The museum contains exhibitions, events and educational programs that are in line with current events. For example, in December the exhibition *Between Worlds* opens with work by the Israeli artist Sigalit Landau, who focuses on climate change, the need for international cooperation and the social position of women.

www.jewish-museum.nl



Vaccinated Only, Booster Shot Required

For everyone's safety, our guides and drivers are fully vaccinated, we therefore only accept bookings from those guests (12 years and older) that are also fully vaccinated.

Furthermore, The Dutch Minister of Health, Hugo de Jonge, has announced that starting from February 2022, the country's authorities will only recognize COVID-19 vaccination certificates that indicate that the holder has received a booster shot.

Accordingly, this means that the Netherlands will shorten the validity of vaccination certificates from 12 to nine months, and all those who don't meet this requirement will be required to follow additional entry rules.

It is believed that those who don't receive the booster shot will continue to be able to travel within the EU provided that they present a negative COVID-19 test result.

www.schengenvisainfo.com/news



Red-Light District Tours No Longer Allowed

We are often asked to organize a guided tour through the famous, or rather infamous Red-Light District in Amsterdam. Unfortunately, on April 1, 2020, the city government of Amsterdam banned all guided tours through this area. The great number of groups that visited the area were considered too disruptive. Walking through the area is still allowed of course, but active guiding is no longer permitted.

The Red-Light District of Amsterdam is the oldest part of the city. The area is called De Wallen in Dutch. The official district name is Burgwallen Oude Zijde. The word 'Wallen' comes from the canals that cross section Amsterdam Red Light District; the Oudezijds Voorburgwal and the Oudezijds Achterburgwal. A 'burgwal' means 'defensive wall' with a canal in front, but now the name is used for the canals itself, which were dug as a defense for the city.

The oldest building in Amsterdam is The Old Church - Oude Kerk in Dutch - and is located in the middle of the Red-Light District, on the Oudekerksplein. This church dates back to the year 1306.

Prostitution has always taken place in De Wallen/ Red-Light District. One reason for this is that Amsterdam's activities (bars, taverns/hotels, shops, companies, etc) always took place in this specific area. In other words, most men were in this part of the city. Another reason is that prostitution has always been here is because Amsterdam's port used to be located where central station is currently located, just next to the Red-Light District. Sailors arrived there by boat, walked to "de Wallen", and spent their first money on booze and women.

