

News

Dear all,

A new Holland Journal, filled with interesting information about sights and events within the Netherlands.

As you know, everything we do is custom-made, from a one-day tour to multi-days within the Netherlands and Belgium. We are often asked if we have **sample itineraries** with various possibilities. Now we do! In the last few weeks we have added several sample day tours to our website. These are just examples and we are of course happy to make a detailed itinerary based entirely on your clients' wishes.

<https://www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tours/tour-examples/>

Do you have clients staying in the Netherlands during **Christmas**?

A kind reminder that there are two Christmas Days in the Netherlands: December 25 and 26.

During these days, most shops are closed but most museums are open.

Those restaurants that are open serve mainly a special Christmas menu. Reservations are required.

Important Airport Information:

Throughout the world, there is extra security at Airports, the same goes for Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Entering the Airport, there are random checks for all vehicles and this can cause extra delays.

For International flights we therefore suggest being at the Airport at least three hours before departure.

For flights within Europe we suggest at least two hours.

Depending on the Amsterdam hotel location, it will be a 30-minute drive to reach the Airport.

The famous flower exhibition **Keukenhof** will be open between March 23 and May 21, 2017.

If clients would like to see the best of the best, we suggest visiting the park in the third week of April.

The 2017 theme for the Keukenhof will be Dutch Design. www.keukenhof.nl

A perfect and popular combination day tour including the Keukenhof would be visiting the world's largest flower auction Flora Holland in the morning, followed by an exclusive tour through a local nursery.

A fresh and tasty Dutch lunch will be served at a private family's home, close to the Keukenhof entrance. We have the exclusive rights to have lunch at this typical Dutch family home.

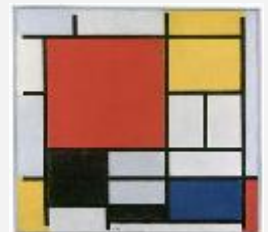
After lunch, there will be a guided tour through the Keukenhof before returning back to your hotel.

Gemeentemuseum: Mondrian to Dutch Design. 100 Years of De Stijl.

The De Stijl movement was launched in Leiden exactly one hundred years ago. The Netherlands is poised to mark the centenary in 2017 with a year-long program of events under the title Mondrian to Dutch Design. 100 years of De Stijl.

Piet Mondrian is among the best-known artists involved in this international art movement. Being the home of both the greatest Mondrian collection on Earth and of one of the world's major De Stijl collections, the **Gemeentemuseum** in The Hague will be at the forefront of festivities in 2017. The museum plans to take the unprecedented and unique step of presenting its entire Mondrian collection – no fewer than 300 works – in a single, great retrospective.

Come to The Hague and explore the life and work of Piet Mondrian and De Stijl as you've never experienced it before. www.gemeentemuseum.nl



Mauritshuis Museum: Vermeer and his Contemporaries from the British Royal Collection

September 29, 2016 – January 8, 2017

The British Royal family owns one of the finest collections of Old Master paintings in the world. The collection was brought together over many centuries by successive monarchs. The paintings normally hang behind closed doors in Buckingham Palace and other Royal residences. The **Mauritshuis** in The Hague has the great privilege of showing twenty-two of them for the duration of this exhibition.

The famous Royal Collection, held in trust by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, contains highlights from the oeuvres of famous painters such as Gerard ter Borch, Gerrit Dou, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriël Metsu and Jan Steen.

The works selected for this exhibition are all genre paintings by Dutch artists of the Golden Age. Here is life as it was lived: peasants fighting, ladies and gentlemen flirting, loving mothers and common shopkeepers.

The highlight of the exhibition is the Lady at the Virginals with a Gentleman 'The Music Lesson' by Johannes Vermeer. 'The Music Lesson' is one of 36 surviving and very rare pieces by Johannes Vermeer. This painting dates from 1660-1662 and shows a lady and a gentleman beside a virginal.

Another of the exhibition's highlights is A Woman at her Toilet by Jan Steen, which dates from 1663. www.mauritshuis.nl



Amsterdam Light Festival

December 1, 2016 – January 22, 2017

The **Amsterdam Light Festival** is an annual light art festival in Amsterdam. Artists, architects and (light) designers from all over the world bring their light artworks and installations alive during the festival every winter. The artworks are placed alongside two routes. Each route has their own theme, set of artworks and visitor experience. Water Colors, the boat route, displays big monumental objects and offers visitors the chance to experience the art from a water perspective. Illuminade, the walking route, shows interactive and innovative installations from upcoming designers in the Plantage neighborhood.

Light art is a relatively young art form that offers artists -because of the LED revolution- completely new expression possibilities, on the intersection of art and technology. The festival aims to stimulate the development of light art and light artists. The festival also aims to bring light art and light artist to a broader audience, by presenting light art in a relatively approachable setting in the public sphere.

Every year Amsterdam Light Festival invites artists to contribute to the festival through a Call for Concepts. 1800 artists from 93 different countries were interested in 2016. This led to 500 concrete submissions from artists from 45 different countries.

Almost all artworks that are presented, are designed and made especially for the festival. A lot of participating artists use concepts and techniques that they have never applied before.

The best way to see these artworks, is from the water.

The Dutch Travel advisor offers a special Amsterdam Light Festival progressive dinner onboard a private saloon boat. During the private three-hour cruise, a high end three-course meal will be served. There is a possibility to do this with Michelin star restaurants. <https://amsterdamlightfestival.com>



Kröller-Müller Museum: The Early Van Gogh

September 24, 2016 - April 9, 2017

When Vincent van Gogh decided to become an artist and taught himself how to draw and paint, he focused his attention on the people who had to work hard for their living, in humble workshops and on farmlands in all weathers.

With his depictions 'of the people, for the people', Vincent strove to sincerely express his compassion for their way of life. Or, as he put it in a letter to his brother Theo: 'I say it again – work against indifference – perseverance isn't easy – but things that are easy mean little'.

In the context of the late 19th century

In this remarkable exhibition, guest curator Auke van der Woud – writer of bestsellers about 19th century Netherlands and curator of the Kröller-Müller Museum from 1974-1981 – places Vincent's choice of subject in the context of the late 19th century.

Quotes and photographs

The works are commented upon by Van Gogh himself with quotes from his letters. The exhibition also includes photographs by Henri Berssenbrugge (1873-1959) who, like Van Gogh, depicted people on the fringes of society.

Over 120 works from the period 1880-1885 from the **Kröller Müller Museum's** extensive Van Gogh collection are on display. The emphasis is on Van Gogh's drawings. This exhibit is so special because his drawings are only on display once every 9 years.

His drawings clearly show how he struggled to master the technique and to depict volume and movement in his figures. Moreover, he sought to depict 'life' itself and if necessary to draw 'inaccuracies' that were 'truer' than the 'literal truth'.

www.kmm.nl



New Museum: Voorlinden

Museum Voorlinden, located in Wassenaar (near The Hague) is a new museum for modern and contemporary art and opened its doors on September 11, 2016.

A bright white building houses the rich and surprising collection, amassed over the last 50 years by Joop van Caldenborgh. In addition to a changing display of pieces from its own collection, Museum Voorlinden will house temporary exhibitions and a number of permanent artworks installed *in situ*.

From September 11, 2016 until January 8, 2017

The opening exhibition brings an ode to the late artist Ellsworth Kelly (1923-2015). It is the first solo exhibition of the American artist in The Netherlands since 1979. Ellsworth Kelly is known for his large format paintings in clear shape and colours. The monochrome works initially appear abstract and perhaps impersonal. Nothing could be less true. Nature, in particular the plant kingdom, and our everyday life are Kelly's sources of inspiration. His work engages directly with his surroundings.

Full Moon: From September 11, 2016

Full Moon offers the visitor an a-historic cross section of and introduction to the collection in Museum Voorlinden. It is an invitation to make one's own connections and comparisons. For the first time, more than 40 artworks from various periods, movements and styles can be seen here together.

www.voorlinden.nl



Floating Flower Market Amsterdam or Flora Holland Flower Auction

We often get asked if the **Floating Flower Market** in Amsterdam is the same as **Royal Flora Holland Flower Auction**. They are definitely not the same, and please let me explain.

The **Floating Flower Market** in Amsterdam (the name promises more than it in reality is) is an area where, as of 1862, you can buy bulbs and flowers. In the past, there were boats that docked, nowadays you will find mainly modern stores that partly overhang the Singel Canal. In our opinion, it is a touristy area, which only takes 10-minutes to see. We strongly suggest never to buy bulbs here because they do not always bloom. They are often not very fresh, have been in various weather conditions and in some cases, have already died a long time ago. Besides this, for the US market you require special certificates.

Royal Flora Holland Flower Auction, located in Aalsmeer at about 35-minutes from Amsterdam, is something that is not to be missed. This is the largest flower auction in the world with over 35-million cut flowers auctioned every day, in over 15 thousands varieties. It is the largest commercial complex in the world, it compares in size to the city of Monaco! An amazing place, but you are required to be there early. The best days for the auction are Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Closed during the weekend.

www.royalfloraholland.com



The Dutch Travel advisor – The Hague – the Netherlands – Phone: +31-653556292 – Fax: +31-842206562

www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com

info@thedutchtraveladvisor.com