

# The Dutch Travel advisor

## *Travel in Style*



## The Holland Journal – Newsletter for Travel Advisors

December 3, 2018

This time, we have dedicated our newsletter entirely to one of our favorite cities in The Netherlands: **Maastricht**. In this newsletter, we will provide you some background information on the oldest city in the Netherlands, which dates back all the way to Roman times; we will provide you with some ideas on tours in Maastricht; and we will showcase our favorite hotel in the city.

If you have clients that have a little bit more time to spend in The Netherlands, or if they have already been before and are looking for a more off-the-beaten-path experience, please recommend this beautiful city and its gorgeous surroundings. We are convinced they will love it as much as we do!



## Recommended Tour: Maastricht

Historic Maastricht is the oldest city in the Netherlands with complex and lively cultural overtones added over centuries by the Romans, Germans and French. This rich cultural palette is the secret behind the city's attractiveness, drawing visitors to the historic city center and for this reason we recommend exploring the many highlights this spectacular city has to offer. Besides this, it is the hometown of the famous violin player André Rieu as featured in this edition of the Holland Journal.



The center of Maastricht is compact and easy to explore on foot. Large areas are pedestrians-only and most sites are within walking distance. The **old St. Servaas bridge** links the old center with the trendy Wyck district, and from the adjacent Céramique district you can cross back over the river via the designer suspension bridge, the 'Hoeg Brögg', and cut through the park back to the center. The numerous (art) museums, historic churches, historic buildings, culinary delights, and shopping, it's all there and close at hand. The restored Stokstraat quarter includes the old ramparts, various parks and the famous **Vrijthof Square**. In December, the Vrijthof square is a place to come together and celebrate winter.

A must-do when visiting Maastricht is a guided tour through the **Kazematten**. Between 1575 and 1825, at the west side of Maastricht, a network of passageways and mine galleries were made. These passageways and galleries were used to enter the city from underneath.

During a private tour, your clients will find out all the answers to this unique monument where subterranean and impressive bomb-free areas alternate with gunpowder rooms, stairs to galleries and others. There is a constant temperature of about 58F in the Kazematten.

The Dutch Travel advisor offers custom-made tours to Maastricht and its surroundings including an exciting walking tour through the city center, showing your clients all the highlights including some of the off the beaten sights the city has to offer.

The guide will show your clients Maastricht from the city's underground cultural treasures and characteristic towers, to its lively and vibrant events, exhibitions and breathtaking performances. They can even have a look inside the magnificent Dominicanen Church which houses one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world.

Maastricht and its surroundings have a lot to offer, be sure to include it on your clients' itinerary on their trip to the Netherlands. The next edition of the Holland Journal will feature more about the area around Maastricht. For a sample itinerary, please visit our website:

[www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tours/tour-examples/maastricht/](http://www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tours/tour-examples/maastricht/)

## TEFAF Maastricht 2019

TEFAF (The European Fine Art Fair) is widely known as the world's leading organization of fine art, antiques, and design. The upcoming edition will run from March 16 - 24, 2019. TEFAF creates a community of the world's top art dealers and experts to inspire lovers and buyers of art everywhere. It gives international dealers the platform to present museum-quality works of all periods and genres to a wide range of collectors and experts.

The exquisite Fair consists of nine sections which are spread across 100,000 square feet. A total of 35,000 objects are being offered for sale. Next to the traditional areas of Old Master paintings and antiques that cover approximately half of the Fair, you can also find modern and contemporary art, photography, jewelry, 20th century design and works on paper.

TEFAF Maastricht is a yearly delight for thousands of art lovers and can be included in one of our custom-made off-the-beaten-path to Maastricht.

The Dutch Travel advisor has the intention to do a TEFAF tour in 2020. More information will follow shortly. If you have clients you think might be interested, please be sure to let us know.

[www.tefaf.com/fairs/tefaf-maastricht](http://www.tefaf.com/fairs/tefaf-maastricht)



## André Rieu Concerts Maastricht 2019

André Rieu is a famous Dutch violinist and orchestra leader born in historic Maastricht. He is well-known to the general public through his performances of popular classical works by, among others, Johann Strauss. He has been popular with a wide audience around the world for over thirty years.

In 2019, André Rieu organizes the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of his spectacular open-air concerts on the Vrijthof in Maastricht, as a token of appreciation for his home base. On July 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, 2019 André will be putting on a magnificent spectacle during this brand-new edition of his much-loved concerts.

These concerts are often attended by world-famous artists.

Tickets for his open-air concerts sell quickly. A visit to one of André's open-air concerts can be included in one of our private tours to Maastricht. If you have clients interested in attending one of these concerts, be sure to contact us as soon as possible.

## Magical Maastricht 2018

This winter, Maastricht is being transformed into 'Magical Maastricht' from December 1st until December 31, 2018. There is one place in particular that you cannot miss visiting and that's the **Vrijthof**. This square has attracted people since Medieval times and there is no place in Maastricht that quite encapsulates the Christmas spirit as the Vrijthof.

The **Christmas Market** is spread out around the spectacular ice rink on the Vrijthof, which is the central décor of the winter village. Here you can discover the charming stalls filled with fantastic local products. On the Christmas Market you can also find a grand **Ferris wheel**. From the Ferris wheel you can take in the impressive views over a twinkling Maastricht. The Christmas Market is open from December 1 until December 31, 2018 from 10am until 10pm. Opening hours may differ during the Holidays.

On Friday December 7, 2018 at 6pm Santa will arrive in the Netherlands on the Vrijthof with a festive **Christmas parade**. The parade will guide Santa and his elves to his cozy grotto on the Vrijthof.



On the square you can also explore the world of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol in **Dickens Village**. It is a recreated small village with the Christmas atmosphere as it used to be. The lovely thing about this village is that real old crafts are still being carried out such as a candle maker, wood worker or craft baker. You can participate in a workshop and create your own Christmas present!

When visiting Magical Maastricht follow the **Magical Light Route** through the historic city center. When following the route from the beginning to the end you will discover historical icons, cultural and culinary hotspots. On this 4.6 km route, you will discover the unique vibes of each district in the center, all linked to one another by festive Christmas lights. You can explore the Magical Light Route from December 1, 2018 until January 7, 2019.

## Kruisherhotel Maastricht

The 5-star classified **Kruisherhotel Maastricht** is located in the center of Maastricht in the former 15th-century Kruisheren monastery. The spectacular gothic church and cloister has been transformed into a 60-room, ultra-modern city center hotel, where medieval architecture meets contemporary styling. A Design Hotels™ member, the luxury Kruisherhotel has striking interiors. Each of the individually designed guestrooms feature dramatic and original details. Overlooked by original stained-glass windows, the notable Kruisheren Restaurant, is artfully elevated at mezzanine level and serves freshly-prepared regional dishes.



Throughout the complex, use has been made of the notable designs of masters such as Le Corbusier and Rietveld as well as modern designers like Marc Newson, Piet Hein Eek, Philippe Starck and Roderick Vos. [www.oostwegelcollection.nl/kruisherhotel-maastricht](http://www.oostwegelcollection.nl/kruisherhotel-maastricht)

## Restaurant Château Neercanne

**Restaurant Château Neercanne**, the only terraced castle in The Netherlands, has a rich cultural and culinary tradition, having been awarded its Michelin-starred status every year since 1986. Located a short scenic drive from the city center of Maastricht, the French-orientated restaurant offers a breathtaking view over the historic baroque gardens of Château Neercanne and the Jeker countryside.



Château Neercanne's notorious restaurants each have their own distinctive offering and character. Renowned for its artisanal gastronomic offering, Château Neercanne offers a range of culinary options prepared by passionate Chefs. Made with fresh, authentic regional products, each menu is complemented by a carefully curated wine list.

**L'Auberge**, with its Michelin Bib Gourmand, serves an original lunchtime menu in a truly unique setting. **Turret De Gulden** and **Marl Caves** both offer exclusive, private dining.

Not only does Château Neercanne has a rich culinary tradition, it also has a rich history. It was originally built in 1698 by Baron Daniël Wolf van Dopff, the Military Governor of Maastricht. He used the castle as his country estate, regularly throwing fabulous receptions and feasts.

[www.oostwegelcollection.nl/en/restaurants-bars](http://www.oostwegelcollection.nl/en/restaurants-bars)