

The Dutch Travel advisor

Travel in Style



The Holland Journal – Newsletter for Travel Advisors

April 8, 2020

In these difficult times, the one thought that keeps us going is knowing that this too shall pass! Until that time comes, we will try to keep you informed by means of this newsletter of what is going on in the Netherlands. Here, we have been in a semi-lockdown for over three weeks, and there are initial signs that this is having effect as the spread of the virus appears to be slowing down. Hopefully, we can report soon that things will be returning to normal. In the meantime, please find some useful information below.



Hang on in there and stay safe and healthy!

Our Terms and Conditions during COVID-19

The question we are asked the most in these unprecedented times, is whether we are relaxing our Terms and Conditions. The good news is, we are! In line with the Dutch Government and ANVR (the Dutch Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators), we are currently offering our clients the possibility to postpone their tour(s), transfer(s) and/or hotel(s). The normally non-refundable 25% deposit (and/or any additional payments made) will be transferred to the new postponed dates. We only ask that the new booking takes place within approximately one year after the original scheduled date. We do need to know the new dates before the end of 2020 in order to guarantee the 2020 pricing. For the postponed tour(s), if any non-refundable entrance tickets have already been bought, we will need to charge extra for these tickets since we will need to buy them again.



If any hotel(s) have been booked, we will contact them to check availability and rates for the new dates. And, if the rates are different, the hotel pricing will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Virtual Museum Visits

During the 'lockdown', several Dutch museums have created the possibility to visit their museum and see their collection or exhibition(s) online, now that they are closed until June 1 at least.

The Van Gogh Museum allows you to virtually wander through the museum. The Rijksmuseum shows you the masterpieces from up close. The Jewish Cultural Quarter has opened the Jewish *Virtual* Quarter. The Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague gives you the opportunity to discover the collection of the Mauritshuis in different ways from home. And finally, on the web site of the Museum of Bags and Purses, through a virtual tour, you can discover their exhibition 'Trunk Show' from home.

Van Gogh Museum: www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en

Rijksmuseum: www.rijksmuseum.nl/en

Jewish Cultural Quarter: www.jck.nl/en

Mauritshuis Museum: www.mauritshuis.nl/en

Museum of Bags and Purses: www.tassenmuseum.nl/en



Airborne Museum Renovated

The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II. To honor this occasion, the Airborne Museum at Villa Hartenstein underwent an extensive renovation during the winter of 2019 and 2020 and was set to re-open on March 13.

The museum is dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem in which the Allied Forces attempted to form a bridgehead on the northern banks of the Rhine river in September 1944. Villa Hartenstein served as the headquarters of the British 1st Airborne Division. In the museum, an extensive and diverse collection is displayed consisting of original weaponry, genuine uniforms and equipment used in the battle. The numerous photos and films on display provide a realistic picture which is enhanced by interviews with Allied soldiers. In addition, the museum has an award-winning Airborne Experience exhibition, that depicts the area around Arnhem and Oosterbeek during the battle. The museum also provides German and civilian perspectives. The Battle of Arnhem was featured in the award-winning movie 'A Bridge Too Far'. As soon as it is possible again, the renovated museum will re-open.

www.airbornemuseum.nl/en



The Keukenhof Virtually Open

Due to measures taken to prevent the spread of the Corona virus, the famous annual flower exhibit the Keukenhof will not be able to open its doors this year. In order to still provide people with the opportunity to see the beautiful flowers in bloom, the Keukenhof regularly posts videos taken within the park so that you can still enjoy all the tulips, hyacinths, daffodils etc. from the comfort of your own home.

Please click on the link below to view the videos:

www.keukenhof.nl/en



Workshop Chocolate Praline Making

Last year, we added a new workshop to our 'repertoire' in the Netherlands: a private workshop chocolate praline making at 'Royal' Patisserie Chocolatery Vermeer, well-known in the bulb-growing region and far beyond. When entering the patisserie, the delicious pastries, chocolates, wedding cakes, desserts and savory specialties immediately draw your attention. The owner Robin Peereboom himself is a Dutch Pastry Champion and he even came second at the World Pastry Championship. During the workshop you will learn all about the origins of chocolate, the different types of chocolate and how chocolates are made. At the end of the workshop you can take all the delicious chocolates that you have made with you, to be enjoyed at a later time.



Anne Frank Video Diary

The *Anne Frank video diary* is currently airing on YouTube in fifteen episodes. Luna Cruz Perez plays Anne Frank, sharing her life in the Secret Annex, her thoughts and her feelings with the camera. All characters, locations, and events in the series are based on Anne Frank's diary letters. The *Anne Frank video diary* follows Anne Frank from 29 March 1944 onwards. She is 14 years old and has been living in hiding for over a year and a half. Anne films herself and the events in the Secret Annex, looks back on the time before they went into hiding, talks about the war, and shares her deepest thoughts and feelings. The video diary ends on 4 August 1944, when Anne and the seven other people from the Secret Annex, as well as two of their non-Jewish helpers, are arrested.



The video diary can be watched via this webpage: www.annefrank.org/en

Hollandse Schouwburg Closed for Renovation

On 1 June 2020, the national Holocaust memorial Hollandsche Schouwburg (Dutch Theatre) will temporarily close for an extensive renovation. After this renovation, in the course of 2022, a new National Holocaust Museum will be opened both on this site and in the former seminary across the street. After its re-opening, the story of the persecution of Jews in the Netherlands will once again be commemorated and told from this exceptional, highly significant location.

The **Hollandse Schouwburg** is located within the Jewish Cultural Quarter. As such, it is part of the walking tour which we offer in this area. The walking tour also includes visits to the Jewish Historical Museum and the Portuguese Synagogue. <https://jck.nl/en>



Door P.H. Louw - Eigen werk