

The Dutch Travel advisor

Travel in Style



The Holland Journal - Newsletter for Travel Advisors

April 8, 2021

We have a new Holland Journal for you with some news on both the Netherlands and Belgium. Spring has sprung in the meantime, although the snow and hail we have had here in The Netherlands in the past few days would have fooled anyone. Nonetheless, tulips are slowly starting to bloom everywhere, joining the already blooming hyacinths and daffodils, so even though it does not feel like Spring, at least it looks like Spring.



We hope you will enjoy the articles we have for you this month, and we ask you to pay special attention to our appeal with regard to next year April.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay healthy!

COVID-19 Update the Netherlands – Full Lockdown Continues

In March, the number of coronavirus infections was still increasing in the Netherlands, as was the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care units (ICUs). The measures that were in place have therefore been extended. There was one minor adjustment: as of March 31, the curfew starts one hour later, at 10pm instead of at 9pm.



This means that restaurants, shops and museums will remain closed until April 20 at least. At the next press conference on April 13, the government will announce what will be possible after April 20. Currently, the number of infections has started to drop again slightly. We therefore feel confident that soon, the government will start relaxing the corona measures, and that by June, much will be possible again.

For a full overview, please visit our website: www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/news

Book Tulip Season 2022 Now!

As you know, because of the Covid-19 outbreak, many tours that were planned for 2020 were postponed to 2021. Now, a year further, not much has improved unfortunately and everything in the Netherlands will remain closed until mid-April at least, and maybe well into May. As a result, many of those tours that were supposed to take place during this year's tulip season (end of March to the beginning of May) are now being pushed back to 2022.



This means that April of 2022 is destined to be an extremely busy month! In general, April already is our busiest month of the year, and with the addition of the postponed tours from 2020 and 2021, it might end up being our busiest month ever.

To avoid disappointments, we therefore strongly recommend that you let us know as soon as possible, even with only tentative dates, when you have clients interested in visiting the Netherlands during tulip season 2022.

War Museum Overloon

War belongs in the museum. That is the motto of the War Museum Overloon. The War Museum Overloon presents the history of the Second World War. Here, you see how it can be that in five years' time more than fifty million people lost their lives, but also how an oppressed people resourcefully coped with restrictions and shortages. There is attention to the opposition, but also to the persecution. Finally, there is, of course, also attention paid to the liberation, with special attention to the Battle of Overloon.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

In September 1944, the British general Montgomery conceived of the attack plan Market Garden. With air landings at Arnhem and the liberation of a narrow corridor through South Netherlands, it would be possible for the Allies to make a further advance to Berlin. However, the plan only partially succeeded. The Allied forces wanted to broaden and strengthen their corridor, but the German opponent in turn tried to cut the Allies off. On 30 September, the two parties clashed in the vicinity of Overloon. German Panther tanks and American Sherman tanks attacked each other continuously. About a week later, British troops got involved in the fight. Ultimately, it took nearly three weeks before Overloon and Venray were liberated.



Attribution: Poldiri at Dutch Wikipedia

The Battle of Overloon is known as the most intense tank battle that ever took place on Dutch soil. In the museum, you will find several vehicles from the battle, such as a German Panther tank and British and American tanks and cannons. The museum was opened on May 25th, 1946, making it one of the oldest museums in Europe dedicated to the Second World War. It is set in 14 hectares (over 34 acres) of woodland. A feature of the museum is the large number of military vehicles and equipment on display, both German and Allied.

The Dutch Travel advisor organizes a great Second World War day-tour that combines the Overloon War Museum with the equally interesting Airborne Museum:

www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tours/tour-examples/tour-examples-the-netherlands/world-war-2/

New Website for The Dutch Travel advisor: Input Welcome

We are currently having our website redesigned. Since it had been a while, we felt the need for an update and a fresh new design. Also, the new website will be what is called 'adaptive'. It will automatically adjust itself to the device on which it will be viewed. Very necessary in this time and age.

This update process has only just begun, and we therefore ask for your input. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, or if you think that there is currently something missing on our website, please do not hesitate **to let us know**. We welcome any ideas you may have! www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com



Michelin Stars Announced

Ten restaurants in the Netherlands have been awarded a new Michelin star. A nice boost for the hospitality industry after a difficult year. Michelin's inspectors went out for dinner in the restaurants before and between lockdowns and their ratings are based on that visit. New initiatives from the restaurants, such as take-out menus, are not counted in the ratings.

There are celebrations at the Amsterdam restaurants Wils and Daalder: they both received their first star, and Restaurant 212 received two stars. There are even more new stars for: De Nieuwe Winkel in Nijmegen, Meliefste in Wolphaartsdijk, Heemstede Castle in Houten, Zeezout in Rotterdam, Pieters Restaurant in Bergambacht and Tilia in Etten-Leur.

There are currently two three-star restaurants in the Netherlands, eighteen two-star restaurants and 93 one-star restaurants.



The Keukenhof Open For Three Days

As you know, the Keukenhof is currently closed as a result of the extended corona measures. Fortunately, there is some good news: the Dutch government has decided that the Keukenhof can be open for 3 days on Friday April 9, Saturday April 10 and Sunday April 11. This is part of a test program to gradually open the Netherlands again in April. There is a possibility that the test opening will also take place the following weekend. Further relaxations may then be implemented in May.



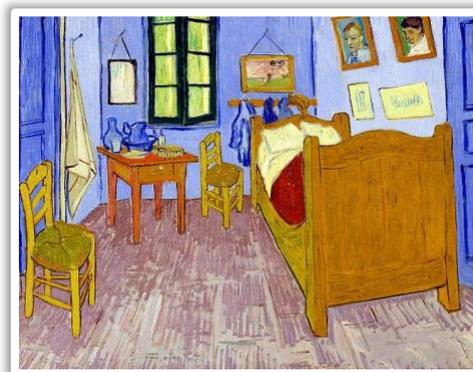
The Keukenhof may receive 5,000 visitors per day this test weekend. Visitors must be tested no later than 40 hours prior to their visit. This is free of cost and is done at a number of established test locations in the country. In addition, visitors have to buy a ticket for the Keukenhof online, with a fixed arrival time, via the Keukenhof website. All regular corona measures apply. <https://keukenhof.nl/en/>

Exhibition: Here To Stay

Collaboration Rembrandt Association with the Van Gogh Museum

The Van Gogh Museum is home to the largest collection of artworks by Vincent van Gogh and his contemporaries. The Museum collects works by these other artists to show the art that Van Gogh admired, and what inspired his own work.

The exhibition *Here to Stay* features works acquired by the museum during the last decade. In this exhibition, a varied group of people, from curators to storage facility staff and residents of the city, introduce their personal stories accompanying these artworks.



The Rembrandt Association is a partner in this exhibition for which it contributed to the gallery texts and the special exhibition app.

Due to the corona measures, *Here to Stay* can only be visited virtually at the moment. Curious about the exhibition? Then visit the *Here to Stay* page on the Van Gogh Museum website. There, you will find a video of the exhibition, various background articles and an overview of the nine supported acquisitions in the exhibition. www.vangoghmuseum.nl/exhibition-here-to-stay-online

WWI Tour Belgium: Ypres and Flanders Fields

If you have clients interested in an exciting, guided day in memory of **World War I**, we highly recommend our wonderful 'Ypres and Flanders Fields' tour in Belgium.

From 1914 to 1918, Flanders Fields was a major battle theatre during the First World War. A million soldiers from more than 50 different countries were wounded, missing or killed in action here. Today, the peaceful region still bears witness to this history. The poem 'In Flanders Fields', by John McCrae, went on to inspire the use of the poppy, which once grew on the battlefields of Flanders Fields, to become an enduring symbol of remembrance across the world.



The imposing **Cloth Hall in Ypres** was built in the 13th century and was one of the largest commercial buildings of the Middle Ages. The whole complex was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. The Gothic-style St. Martin's Cathedral, originally built in 1221, was also completely reconstructed after the war, but now with a higher spire. The **Menin Gate Memorial** to the missing in Ypres commemorates those soldiers of the British Commonwealth. Every evening since 1928 at precisely eight o'clock, traffic around the imposing arches of the Menin Gate Memorial has been stopped while the last post is sounded beneath the Gate by the local fire brigade.

The day-tour also includes a visit to the **Tyne Cot Cemetery**. This Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery is the burial ground for the dead of the First World War in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front. It is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world, for any war.

For a full tour description, visit our web site:

www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/tours/tour-examples-belgium/world-war-i-sites

New Hotel 'Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp' Opening in September 2021

In September 2021, the unique five-star hotel 'Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp' will open in a former monastery at the botanical garden in Antwerp. It will include a gigantic wellness center, a conference center, various function rooms and no fewer than four gastronomic restaurants, including one that will be run by star-chef Gert De Mangeleer. Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp will be the first "5* superior hotel" in Antwerp, and it is also the first hotel in the city to be a member of Leading Hotels of the World.

Accommodations at the new hotel will range from Comfort, Deluxe, Junior Suites and Suites to Botanic Spa Suites and Botanic Garden Suites. No two rooms are alike as they have been integrated into the fabric of the historic building's monastic complex. They exude timeless luxury brought about by a wabi-sabi approach to interior design: serene, beautiful and spiritual. The views open onto the courtyard, spa or Monastery Gardens, adding to the guests' comfort by offering welcome green relief from the city's hustle and bustle.

The unique Botanic Spa Suites and Botanic Garden Suites will provide a private spa treatment space in a serene setting, as well as a sauna and Jacuzzi, and the latest, top-brand gym equipment. Botanic Spa Suites are the largest hotel accommodation available in the whole of Flanders, offering up to 180 m2.

The history of the Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp begins in 1238. The chapel and Gothic infirmary were added in the 15th century; a second infirmary, the altar in the earlier infirmary, and some residential buildings followed in the 16th century. In the 16th century, the famous apothecary Pieter Coudenberg established a garden next to the hospital and introduced many new plants because of their medicinal properties. This garden is considered the precursor of the current Botanical Garden.

www.botanicantwerp.be



Floralia Brussels 2021

After a year of closure, the castle of Groot-Bijgaarden will open the exhibition **FLORALIA BRUSSELS** again, which you can enjoy from **April 3 to May 2, 2021**. Find the enchantment of a million multicolored tulips dancing in the sun at the Castle of Groot-Bijgaarden.

The spring flower exhibition in the park and the greenhouses of the castle of Grand Bigard (Groot-Bijgaarden) offers an unforgettable flower experience.

The park of 14 hectares (over 34 acres) incorporates nearly all spring bulb varieties. For the new flowering time, the gardeners of the castle have planted by hand more than one million bulbs. Special attention goes to the tulips, with almost 400 varieties. Hyacinths and daffodils are also well represented.

www.floralia-brussels.be

