

When planning a trip abroad it is good to be aware of any requirements that the country you are visiting has in place, such as driving regulations and what type of passport or visas you might need in order to enter. On these pages you will find useful information about travelling to the Netherlands to help you prepare for your trip.

CULTURE

The Netherlands is a great place to visit and you will find the locals very family orientated and welcoming to visitors. Cycling is a big part of the lifestyle with cycle paths and bike hire easily available, including in the city of Amsterdam, making it a great place for campers and caravanners looking to enjoy the outdoors lifestyle.

The official language of The Netherlands is Dutch. Some of the most common Dutch greetings you may find useful to know when visiting are:

- Dag/Hallo - Hello
- Dag - Goodbye
- Ja - Yes
- Nee - No
- Alstublieft - Please
- Dank u - Thank you
- Spreekt u/Spreek je Engels? - Do you speak English?
- Open / Gesloten - Open / Closed
- Heren , Mannen / Dames, Vrouwen - Gents / Ladies
- Camping / Campsite

Most Dutch people you are likely to meet will speak English very well, however attempting to greet them in their own language will be appreciated. We therefore recommend investing in a phrase book to help you during your stay.

CURRENCY

The currency of the Netherlands is the Euro.

Banking Hours

Monday to Friday: 0900 - 1600 or 1700

- Some banks are open on Saturdays

Credit Cards & ATM

The major credit cards (Mastercard, American Express and Diners Club) are widely accepted by shops, hotels, restaurants and petrol stations. Visa credit cards are not so widely accepted

There are cash dispenser machines (ATMs) throughout the country which accept debit and credit cards.

Travellers' cheques can generally be exchanged at major banks.

DRIVING IN THE NETHERLANDS

Driving regulations in the Netherlands are different from those in the UK. Always remember that the normal rule is to give way to the right each time you reach an uncontrolled intersection. Using mobile phones when driving is forbidden. However, use of a completely hands-free unit is acceptable

Speeding can result in heavy, on the spot fines, and your vehicle and licence could be confiscated. The maximum speed on motorways is 130kph (80mph).

Many drivers underestimate distances and journey times in the Netherlands. Plan your journey carefully, taking into account unknown roads, weather conditions and fatigue. Make sure you take regular breaks.

To drive in the Netherlands you must be 18 years old and have a valid UK driving licence, insurance and vehicle documents. The acceptance of the older style 'all green' driving licence cannot be guaranteed. If you don't own the vehicle you're driving, for instance if you have a leased vehicle, you should get written permission from the registered owner.

Although you are not required to carry compulsory items in your vehicle such as a warning triangle and reflective jackets, the regulations on what must be carried do change from time to time, so it is advisable to check the most up to date information before you travel. For compulsory and recommended equipment and rules of the road including blood alcohol limit, visit www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/touring_tips

It is recommended to keep vehicle doors locked in slow moving traffic and secure your vehicle when it is left unattended. In-car radar detectors and satellite navigation systems warning of the presence of speed cameras or radars are illegal whether in use or not.

Roads and highways are free of charge in the Netherlands. For up to date information on tunnel and bridge tolls [click here](#).

Low Emission Zones (LEZs) are proliferating throughout Europe. While the number and variety of schemes may seem baffling, in fact many apply only to city centres and so will not affect the majority of campers. If you do wish to visit cities while camping, either choose a city centre site and use the link below to check for any access regulations, or camp outside the city's LEZ and use public transport to access the centre. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Please visit our [Travel Planning](#) pages for information on road tolls, weight limits, emissions and more.

HEALTH / SAFETY

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office may make specific travel related recommendations for visitors to the Netherlands. For the most up to date information visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/netherlands

HEALTH

The Department of Health does not make any specific health recommendations for visitors to the Netherlands; however you may like to check with your doctor before departure.

You should get a free [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state-provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as nationals of the country you are visiting. If you don't have your EHIC with you or you've lost it, you can call the Department of Health Overseas Healthcare Team (+44 191 218 1999) to get a Provisional Replacement Certificate. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation.

If you require medication while in the Netherlands, remember to bring a prescription with you.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 for an English speaking emergency service and ask for an ambulance. If you are referred to a medical facility for treatment you should contact your insurance/medical assistance company immediately.

SAFETY

As with anywhere in the world, it is good practise to be vigilant about your property, both in terms of your camping unit and personal belongings, take sensible precautions to protect yourself from petty crime. Don't leave your handbag or luggage unattended. Leave copies of important documents with family and friends in the UK. Carry a photocopy of your passport for ID.

PASSPORTS / VISAS

PASSPORTS

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you don't need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this.

Should you wish to take a pet on your journey, please see our [Guide to European Camping](#) for further information. If you intend to travel on one of our Escorted Tours, please check our [Tour Pages](#) to find out whether pets are permitted.

VISAS

If your passport describes you as a British Citizen you won't need a visa to enter the Netherlands. If you have another type of British nationality, you should check the current entry requirements on the [website of the Dutch Embassy](#) and if necessary confirm requirements directly with them.

For stays of longer than 3 months, contact the Dutch Embassy for information about entry requirements

SHOPPING

Most shops are generally open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, with opening times from 0830/0900 to 1730/1800. Shorter opening hours are usually in force on Saturdays, with most closing for the day at 1600/1700. Many shops will also close one additional day or half-day in the week.

Late night shopping on a Thursday or Friday is common in many towns where most shops will stay open until 2100. Furthermore, shops located in tourist areas will often open at night and at the weekend during the summer.

TIPPING

Service is usually included in restaurant, hotel and taxi bills. However, the bill may be rounded up to show appreciation for good service.

TIME ZONES

GMT + 1 hour, with Summer time (from the end of March to the end of October) being GMT + 2 hours, so that throughout the year the country is always one hour ahead of the UK.

CAMPSITES & TOURS IN THE NETHERLANDS

We have a variety of beautiful Club approved campsites throughout the Netherlands where you can enjoy your time away - [take a look](#).

We also run Escorted Tours to the Netherlands where you can visit many breath-taking areas, all in the comfort of your own unit. Find out more about our [Springtime in Holland](#) and our [Christmas Markets](#) Tours.

