



LIVING & WORKING IN BRABANT

INTRODUCTION

Brabant offers a high quality of life with security, economic stability and social tolerance. The province is one of diverse cultures and friendly people, where the work-life balance is respected and industrial activities are concentrated in designated areas to preserve the natural landscape.

Brabant's diverse natural landscape includes polders, woodland, moorland and sand drifts, with country estates, fortified cities and historical centers set in amongst them. The region can be explored on foot or by bicycle along the province's cycle routes, stretching for 2,500 km.

Brabant residents are famous for their warmth, hospitality and love of good food. Fairness and a good social atmosphere are central to their way of life.

Brabant offers great leisure opportunities for all interests



Extensive sports facilities including golf and tennis clubs



Major theme parks



Theatres, museums and exhibition centers



A thriving club life



International shops, stores and restaurants

Expat Center South

The Expat Center provides support and advice to expats in the Netherlands and is also a starting point for settling into the southern part of the Netherlands.

The center gives support on nearly every aspect of expat living, such as formalities, housing, living, culture, education, jobs, taxes, leisure, and other personal and social needs.

The expat center regularly organizes events during which expats can meet other expats. These events can be purely social and can be workshops and conferences around a specific expat-theme.

www.hollandexpatcenter.com

ADDRESS

Holland Expat Center South
Vestdijk 27a
5611 CA Eindhoven
+31 (0)40 – 238 6777
eindhoven@hollandexpatcenter.com

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm



TILBURG LOCATION

Spoorlaan 181
5038 CB Tilburg
+31 (0)40 238 6777
tilburg@hollandexpatcenter.com

BREDA LOCATION

Mozartlaan 35
4837 EH Breda
+31 (0)76 560 7870
breda@hollandexpatcenter.com

Healthcare

Insurance & access

The Netherlands has one of the best healthcare systems in the world and all residents in the Netherlands have access to the Dutch healthcare system. The Health Insurance Act requires all inhabitants to take out a health insurance policy, with a monthly fee of about € 90,- to € 300,- depending on the insurance policy and additional services.

Where to go

The first point of entry for the Dutch healthcare system is the General Practitioner (GP). A GP treats patients for basic problems and can refer patients to other healthcare services if the patient needs specialized treatment, hospitalization, physiotherapy, or other.

To visit a GP, you can call a GP's office in your region to make an appointment. If you are living in the Eindhoven region, you have the option to register as a patient at the international health care center SGE International.

SGE International

The Eindhoven region is home to a health care center specifically aimed at internationals, called SGE International. Consultations are in English or Dutch, for other languages assistance in finding an interpreter is offered.

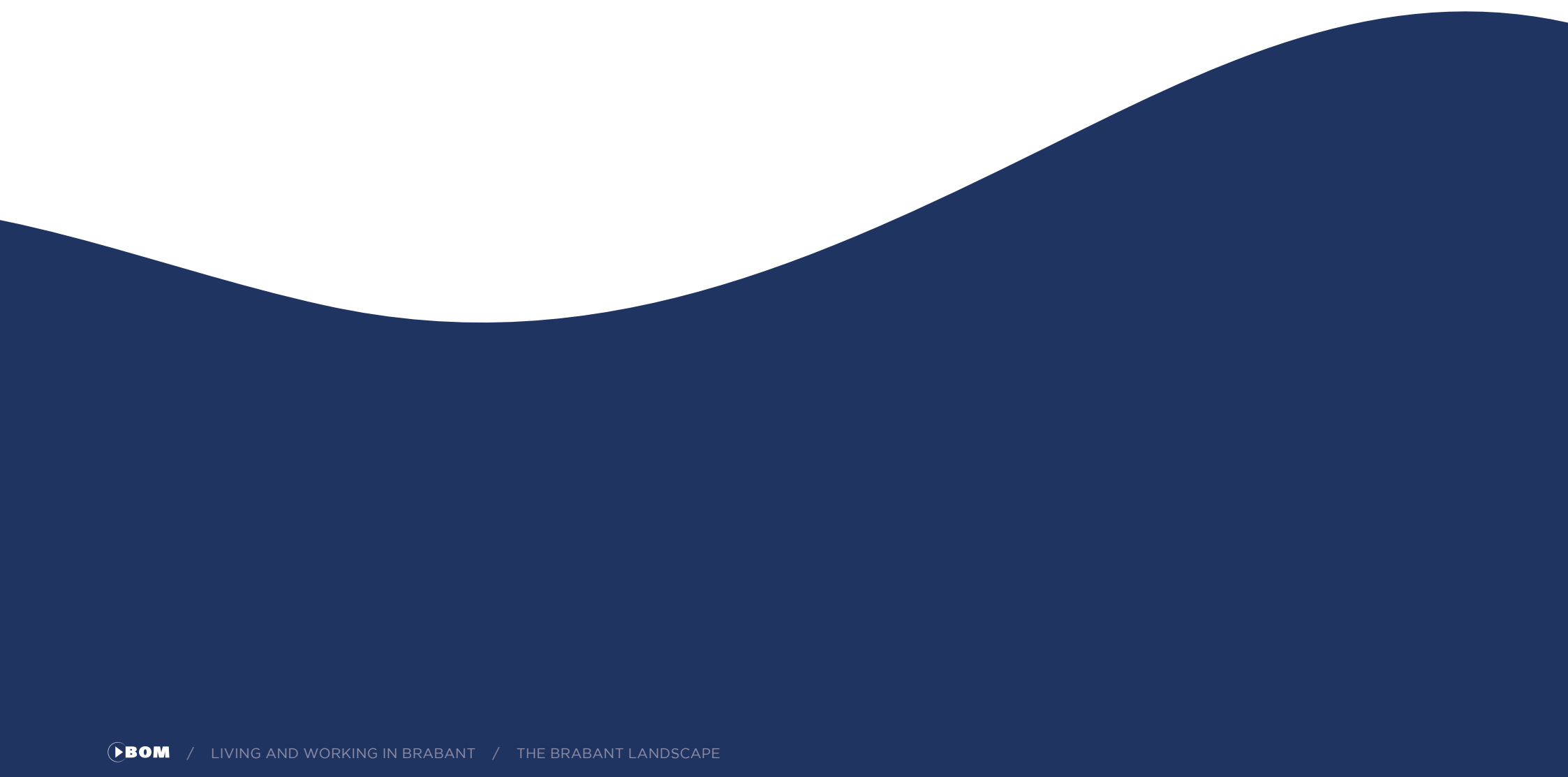
SGE INTERNATIONAL

Dominee Theodor Flienerstraat 133
5631 MD Eindhoven
+31 40 711 67 30
international@sge.nl
www.sgeinternational.nl

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 am – 5 pm

THE BRABANT LANDSCAPE



Central location

Brabant is separated from the rest of the Netherlands by two large rivers, the Meuse and the Rhine. Brabant is bordered by the provinces of South-Holland and Gelderland to the north, Limburg and Germany to the east, by Zeeland to the west, and by Belgium to the south.

Brabant is in the middle of the Benelux region, the economic union formed by Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, and enjoys a strategically central location to the main European markets. The industrial areas of northern France, Germany (Ruhr) and the United Kingdom are within easy reach.

The urban landscape of Brabant has seen considerable change in the twentieth century. The economic prosperity of major cities like Eindhoven, Breda, Den Bosch and Tilburg have lead to urban growth. Brabant has a higher number of large and medium-size towns than the average province in the Netherlands, and is also the most industrialized, with a dense network of roads and railways.



Natural landscape

Brabant's natural landscape can be divided into three regions, each with its own flora and fauna, encompassing rich diversity:

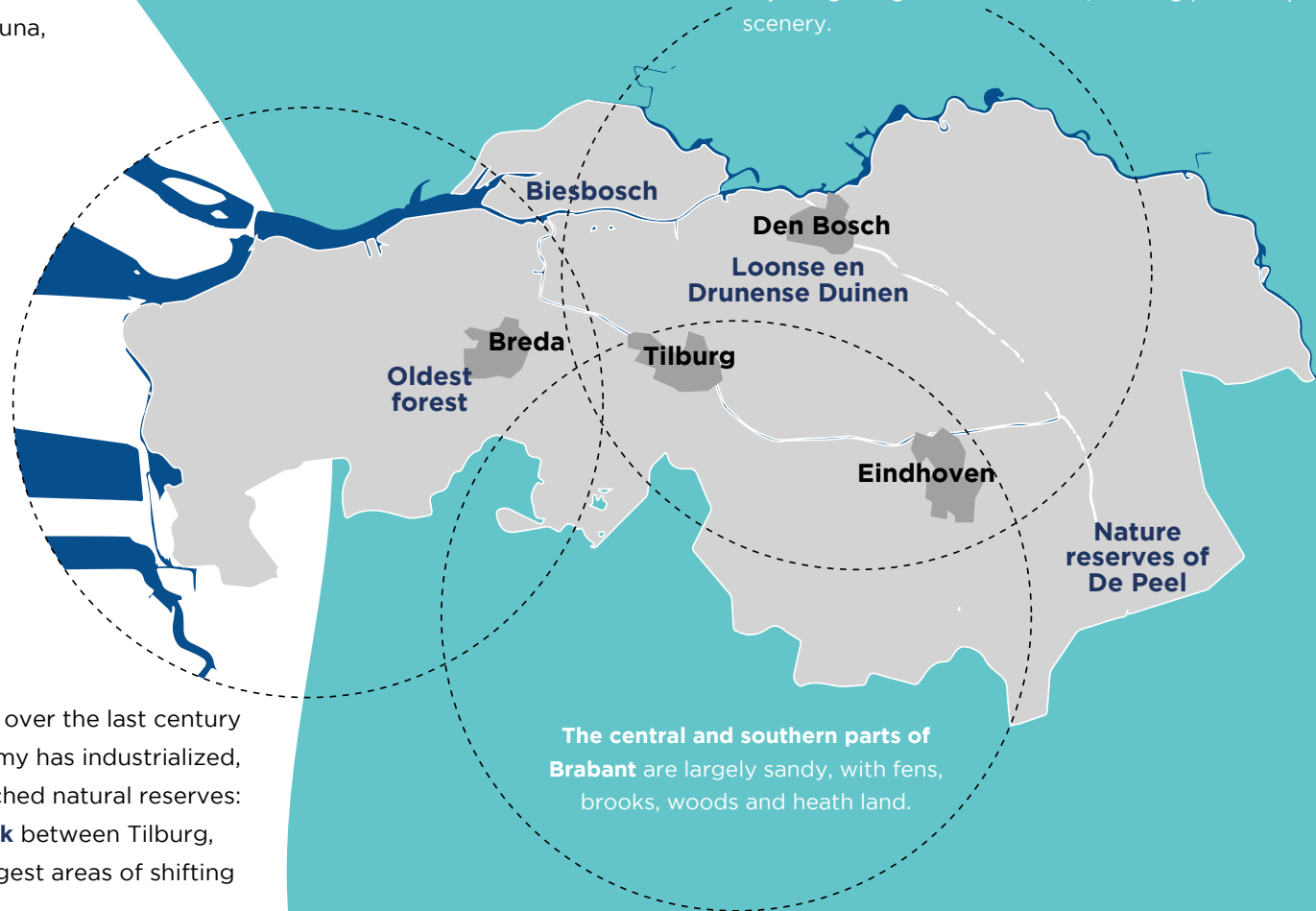
- Northern Brabant
- Central and Southern Brabant
- Western Brabant

The western landscape is characterized by large polders, which are stretches of land reclaimed from the sea. The clay soil ground is flat, with only the outlines of villages and towns visible on the horizon.

Although Brabant has changed significantly over the last century as the population has grown and the economy has industrialized, the province still has many beautiful, untouched natural reserves:

- **Loonse en Drunense Duinen National Park** between Tilburg, Den Bosch and Waalwijk, is one of the largest areas of shifting sand in the Netherlands
- **The oldest forest** in the Netherlands is near Breda
- **The nature reserves of De Peel** lie on the border with Limburg
- **The Biesbosch** between the Rhine and the Meuse, is a unique area of creeks, swamps and wetlands

The northern edge of Brabant was largely formed by the Meuse, and is still dominated by the river. The area is characterized by flood plains, dykes, dyke houses and adjoining villages and meadows, forming picturesque scenery.

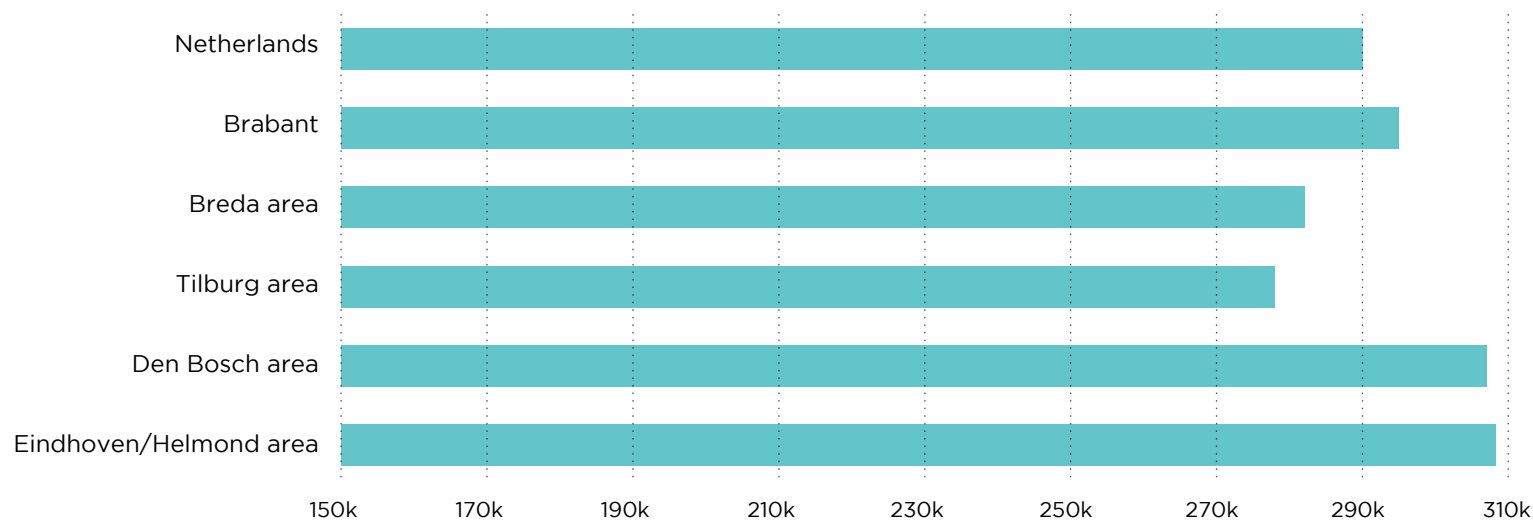


HOUSING

Owners market

Sufficient, adequate and affordable housing is an important indicator of the quality of life in any given area. Brabant has more houses in the € 200,000 - € 500,000 and over € 500,000 categories than the national average.* At the regional level, the eastern regins is the most expensive, while the Tilburg area is the cheapest in terms of housing.

**AVERAGE MUNICIPAL REAL ESTATE VALUATIONS
IN € 1,000 (WOZ-VALUE FOR TAX PURPOSES), 2021**

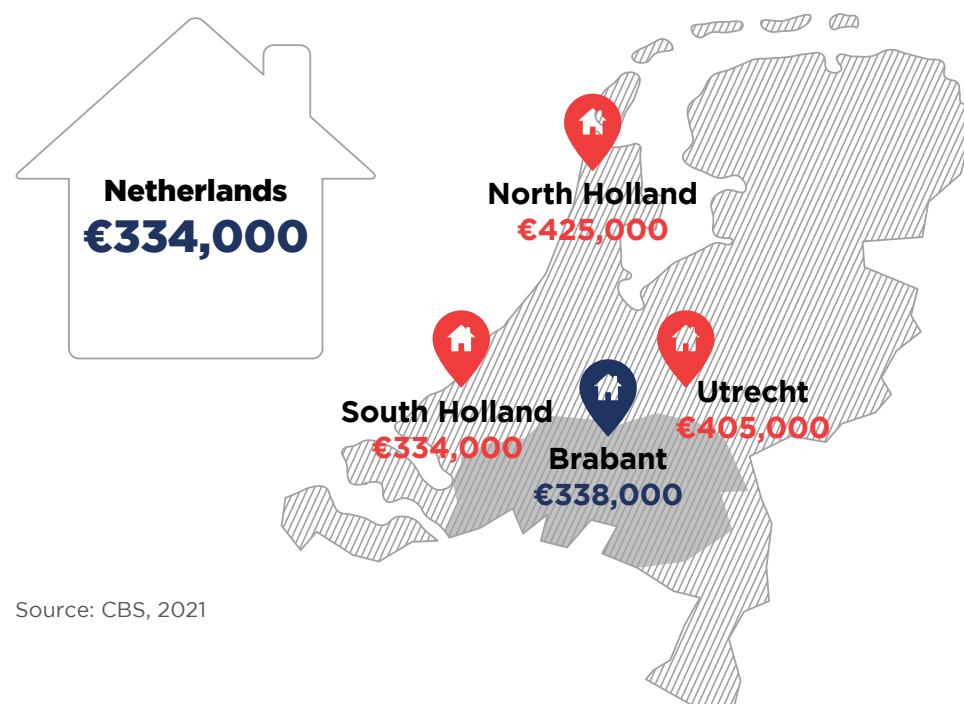


* According to municipal real estate appraisals
Source: CBS, 2021

The table below compares housing market prices in Brabant to the Netherlands as a whole and to the provinces of Zuid-Holland, Noord-Holland and Utrecht, which form the Netherlands' 'Randstad'. As the table shows, housing prices in Brabant are lower than in the Randstad, with the exception of the province of Zuid-Holland.

AVERAGE SELLING PRICES EXISTING HOUSES BY REGION 2017-2020 (IN €)

Average	Brabant	Netherlands	South Holland	North Holland	Utrecht
2017	269,000	263,000	254,000	333,000	316,000
2018	291,000	287,000	280,000	374,000	349,000
2019	310,000	308,000	305,000	397,000	372,000
2020	338,000	334,000	334,000	425,000	405,000



Source: CBS, 2021

Rental market

Rental prices for apartments in Brabant vary from € 300 per month (single bedroom) to € 2,000 per month (three bedroom). Rental prices for single-family houses range from € 1,000 per month (two bedroom) to € 1,600 a month (four bedroom).

The Den Bosch area is the most expensive for rental housing, while the Breda area is the least expensive. Furnished apartments range from € 1,000 to € 1,500 a month.

The main housing agencies in Brabant are (all websites available in English):

VESTEDA

www.vesteda.com

ROTS-VAST GROEP

www.rotsvast.nl

STOIT GROEP

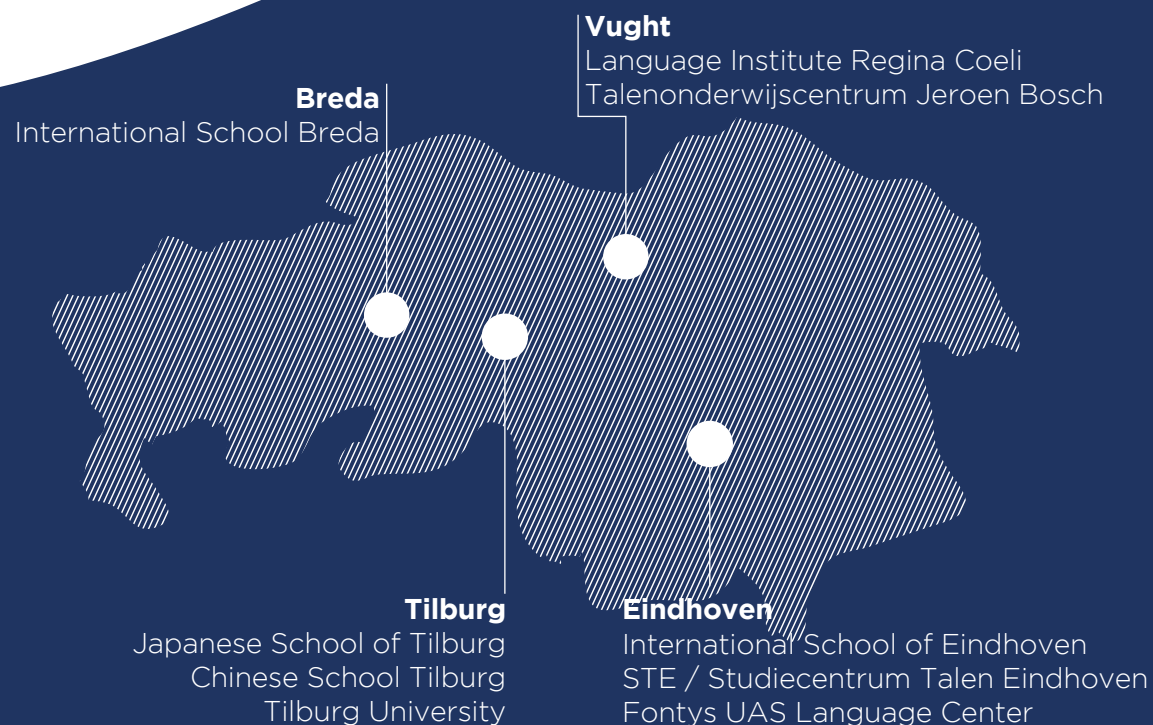
www.stoit.nl

HOUSEHUNTING WOONBEMIDDELING

www.househunting.nl

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

In addition to an extensive and high quality national education system there are many international schools in the Netherlands



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL EINDHOVEN

Eindhoven houses the International School Eindhoven (ISE), for children from 4 to 18 years old, and has about 1,000 students. The student population is expected to expand for two more years due to economic growth in the region, and the availability of the school contributes to Eindhoven's competitive edge over other top technical regions in attracting international knowledge workers and their families.

The ISE Secondary Division is situated in northwestern Eindhoven and includes a spacious outdoor area with two basketball courts, a playing field, picnic tables and bike sheds. The building has a gym hall with changing rooms.

Courses at the ISE are taught in English, following the internationally recognized curriculum of the Geneva-based International Baccalaureate Organization. The international nature of the school (48 nationalities) ensures that extensive English courses are available and that the interpretation of cultural differences receives adequate attention.

www.isecampus.nl



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BREDA

The International School of Breda (ISB) opened its doors in August 2011, with primary education, secondary education, day care and after school activities under one roof. The school is located in a beautiful leafy suburb close to the city center of Breda.

Since the introduction of a new nursery class in August 2013, the ISB Primary School now welcomes children 3 to 11 years of age. The school uses the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) alongside the Early Years, Literacy and Numeracy strategies from the United Kingdom. In 2013, the ISB Secondary School received IBO World School status. The school offers 11 to 16-year-old students the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program, and students 16-18 the IB Diploma Program, which is also available to Dutch students.

The ISB is part of the Dutch International Schools Organization that provides education for children of internationally mobile parents. Dutch International Schools are located throughout the Netherlands and are partly funded by the Dutch government.

www.isbreda.nl



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | BREDA

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

JAPANESE SCHOOL OF TILBURG

The Japanese School that started in 1990, provides Saturday education in language, culture and history for about 50 children between 4 and 16 years old. The school plays an important role in Tilburg's extensive Japanese network, which includes prominent companies like Epson, Sony, Fujifilm and Iris Ohyama.

www.js-tilburg.org



LANGUAGE INSTITUTES

LANGUAGE INSTITUTE REGINA COELI

Martinilaan 12
5262 BR Vught
073-684 8790

www.reginacoeli.nl

Regina Coeli (RC) is one of the best language institutes in Europe and specializes in intensive and individual language training for the business community, government institutions and private citizens within and outside the Netherlands, and is accredited to the Netherlands Bar Association as a training institute. The Regina Coeli method®, personal training given by highly qualified and motivated native speakers, is supported by a state-of-the-art audio multimedia language laboratory, leading to fast and structured improvements in language skills. Students can choose between full-time, part-time, group or in-company training, all tailor-made.

Price indication: € 5,340 including VAT (21%) for forty hours (intensive, dinners included)



TALENONDERWIJSCENTRUM JEROEN BOSCH

Taalstraat 36
5261 BE Vught
073-657 9053

www.instituutjeroenbosch.nl

Jeroen Bosch Taleninstituut is a major, well-qualified, cultural and lingual training center, offering tailor-made courses in twenty-five languages. All teachers are highly qualified native speakers and only teach in their mother tongue. Students can choose between a speed course (one week), an intensive training (one week, including working lunches and dinners) or evening training (once a week over a number of weeks), for all different levels.

Price indication: € 2,500 including VAT (19%) for thirty intermediate-level teaching hours (intensive, or flexible program).



LANGUAGE INSTITUTES

STE / STUDIECENTRUM TALEN EINDHOVEN

Aalsterweg 3
5615 CA Eindhoven
040-245 2860

www.ste.nl

For more than thirty years Studiecentrum Talen Eindhoven BV (STE) has been a leading institute specialized in providing language training for industry, offering tailor-made courses geared to the wishes and needs of the business community. The center in Eindhoven employs more than eighty highly-qualified trainers, most of them native speakers, who provide courses in more than twenty languages in different formats: individual or group, intensive or extended, in-company or at STE. STE is recognized by CEDEO, a member of PAEPON and an official partner of the Expat Center Brabant, whose main purpose is to help expats settle in and become familiar with their new living and working environment.

Price indication (group training): about € 695 no VAT (2 hours per week for 15 weeks). Intensive Dutch language course: € 1,370.



TILBURG UNIVERSITY

Warandelaan 2
5000 LE Tilburg
013-466 8000

www.tilburguniversity.edu/education/languages

One of the nine different languages offered at the Language Center at Tilburg University is 'Dutch for Foreigners'. The courses are intended for adult non-native speakers of Dutch who are preparing for a higher education in Dutch or for work in the Netherlands. The minimum requirement for participation in these courses is a secondary education diploma that qualifies the applicant for admission to higher education in the Netherlands (an institute for higher professional education or university). The Language Center offers courses at four levels: daytime intensive courses for beginners (Level I) and intermediate level learners (Level II), and evening courses for advanced learners.

Price indication: prices vary from € 480 to € 700, depending on the course intensity.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE (VVV)

The “Vereniging Voor Vreemdelingenverkeer” is the Dutch Tourist Information Service and has an office in every town and city in the Netherlands, identified by the blue sign. The VVV is a good source of local information, leaflets, brochures, maps and city plans. Most information is free or available for a small fee.

Brabant residents are known throughout the Netherlands for their sociability. The province is full of terraces, cafes and restaurants that serve ‘Brabanders’ and the one million tourists that visit Brabant every year. The flamboyance and exuberance of Brabant is best seen at the annual Carnival in February, when the entire region is turned upside down for four days and nights and singing crowds rule the streets of towns and villages.

Brabant residents can enjoy a wide variety of leisure activities.





EINDHOVEN

Eindhoven is home to the orchestra South Netherlands Philharmonic, the soccer club PSV, the Zuidelijk Toneel theatre company and the Van Abbe museum. The museum was donated to the city in 1936 by Henri van Abbe, a cigar manufacturer, and has an extensive collection of twentieth-century art.

DEN BOSCH

Brabant's Roman Catholic heritage can be seen in the numerous monasteries, convents, and churches throughout the province. Den Bosch, the capital of Brabant, has the largest cathedral in the Netherlands, the spectacular thirteenth century St. John's Cathedral. Much of the historic inner city of Den Bosch has been preserved and beautifully restored, making it well worth a visit. The city is also home to the Noordbrabants Museum, the provincial museum, which has an extensive regional collection.

TILBURG

Tilburg is the historical center of the Dutch textile industry and now home to the Audax Textile Museum for textile techniques, industrial culture, textile design and art. The museum is a creative workshop where craftsmen and experts can be seen working together with students, designers and artists.

BREDA

Breda's historic city centre has many monuments, of which the cathedral from the 15th century, De Grote Kerk, is the most impressive. Breda can be discovered by foot, by boat or from one of the many terraces and restaurants. Van Gogh's place of birth, Zundert, is located close to Breda. The village is home to the Vincent Van Gogh Huis, a lively art center that includes an exhibition on his life and work.

OIRSCHOT

Oirschot is a picturesque historic Dutch village situated in the heart of Brabant. The gothic church Sint-Petruskerk is more than five centuries old and the old town hall dates from 1513. Older still is the Boterkerkje (Butter Church), one of the few remaining Roman ruins in the province. Oirschot boasts 320 protected buildings of historic value including schools, farms and shops.

WILLEMSTAD

Willemstad is a beautifully preserved walled town on the Moerdijk. A walk through the ancient city and over the ramparts brings the 'Eighty Years' war with Spain back to life. The town's small harbor has a unique atmosphere and is a favorite spot for yachtsmen to moor and enjoy the picturesque view over the town.

DE EFTELING

Brabant is perhaps best known for its theme parks, of which De Efteling, near Tilburg, is the oldest and largest, with roller coasters, a hotel and a holiday park. De Efteling has won several international tourism awards and welcomes millions of Dutch and foreign visitors every year.

NUENEN

Vincent van Gogh's renown is greater than ever and his paintings fetch phenomenal sums. He was born and brought up in Brabant, which was a source of inspiration for much of Van Gogh's early work. Nuenen, next to Eindhoven, has been the residence of Vincent van Gogh for two years, and visitors have plenty of opportunities to walk in his footsteps. Nuenen offers more than 22 locations that remind us of Van Gogh, among which a Vincent museum and a special cycling path.

HEUSDEN

The old fortified town of Heusden is a beautiful historic city full of monumental buildings, including wind mills, a harbour, and a fish market. Also, many stores, galleries, bars and terraces give Heusden a great ambiance to be enjoyed by Dutch and foreign visitors.

TOP 5 ATTRACTIONS



**NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE TOP FIVE ATTRACTIONS
IN BRABANT IN 2019**

1	De Efteling	Kaatsheuvel	5,260,000 people
2	Safaripark Beekse Bergen	Hilvarenbeek	1,150,000 people
3	Sportiom	Den Bosch	880,000 people
4	Chassé Theater	Breda	375,000 people
5	Dierenrijk Nuenen	Nuenen	260,000 people

Sources: NBTC, websites attractions

RESTAURANTS

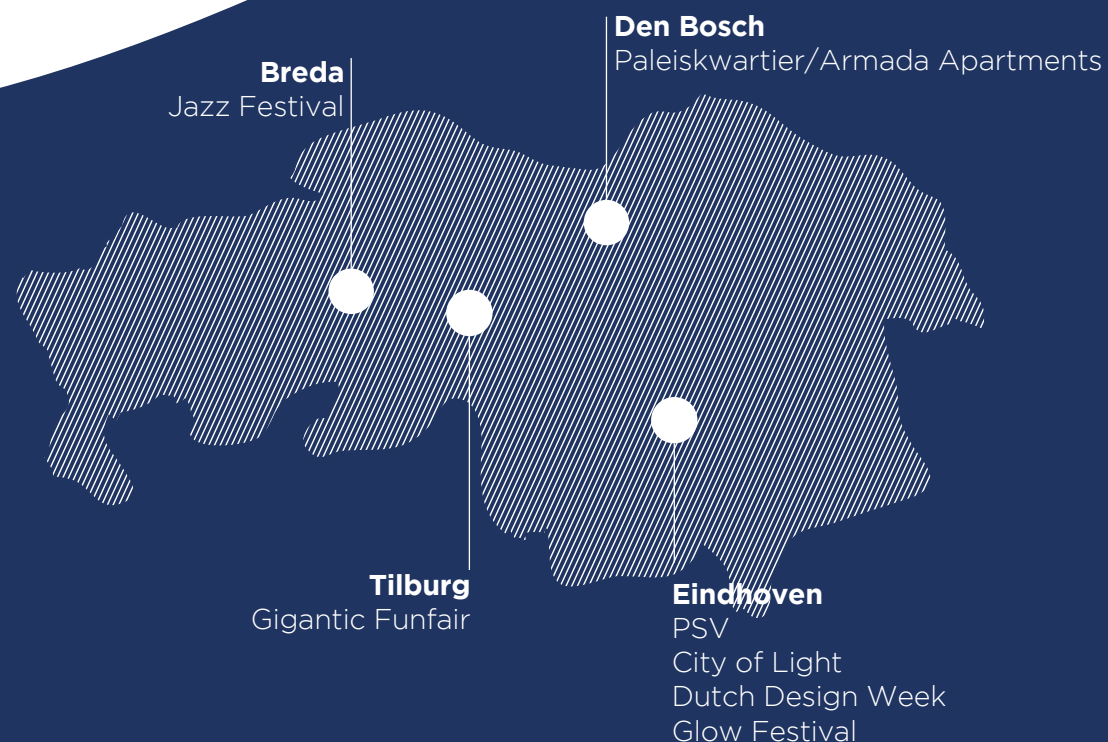


**PROMINENT RESTAURANTS IN BRABANT
(AT LEAST 1 MICHELIN-STAR)**

Restaurant	City	Restaurant	City	Restaurant	City	Restaurant	City
1 De Lindehof (**)	Nuenen	6 Monarh (*)	Tilburg	11 Wollerich (*)	Sint-Oedenrode	16 Vista (*)	Willemstad
2 De Treeswijkhoeve (**)	Waalre	7 Noble (*)	Den Bosch	12 O&O (*)	Sint Willebrord	17 Versaen (*)	Ravenstein
3 Tribeca (**)	Heeze	8 Sense (*)	Den Bosch	13 Oonivoo (*)	Uden	18 Eden (*)	Valkenswaard
4 Noble (*)	Cromvoirt	9 Wolfslaar (*)	Breda	14 Wiesen (*)	Eindhoven	19 Derozario (*)	Helmond
5 Zout & Citroen (*)	Oosterhout	10 Tilia (*)	Etten-Leur	15 Zarzo (*)	Eindhoven	20 Mijn Keuken (*)	Wouw

Source: guide.michelin.com

SPECIAL EVENTS AND LOCATIONS



BREDA

BREDA JAZZ FESTIVAL

Breda hosts the oldest and biggest jazz festival of Europe. Enthusiasts from the Netherlands and abroad gather in the city to enjoy many jazz performances in a four day long festival. The Breda Jazz Festival hosts jazz artists from all around the world, and attracts about 250,000 visitors per year.



DEN BOSCH

PALEISKWARTIER/ARMADA APARTMENTS

The Paleiskwartier is a new city center west of the Central Station in Den Bosch. It is a multifunctional location that optimally combines facilities for living, working and relaxing. The Paleiskwartier is within walking distance of the historic city center, has direct connections to the major roads around the city and is close to the train station. The area is characterized by a long, narrow water basin (over an underground car park), which flows into a cascade and pond. Apartments with terraces on the sunny side are situated along the basin, while live-work space units are built on the railroad side. The planning, architecture, zoning, and market demand are in perfect balance, creating synergy between living, working and leisure. Leading away from the Paleiskwartier, the Onderwijsboulevard accommodates schools and higher vocational institutions for approximately 23,000 students.



The Armada development forms the centerpiece of the Paleiskwartier. Armada apartments are built on a once derelict and contaminated field site and have been designed to make careful use of the site, creating enclosed gardens that form microclimates for the residents to enjoy. The Armadas have attracted great attention and were awarded an architecture prize by the public of Den Bosch in 2003. The project was also nominated for the MIPIM Awards in Cannes. Recently, the Armada Housing project won the Regeneration Achiever Award in London, the prize for the best regeneration project.

TILBURG

GIGANTIC FUNFAIR

The famous Tilburg funfair is the largest in Europe with over 230 attractions covering a total length of 4.5 km. In 2017 the fair attracted 1.4 million visitors. Located in the middle of downtown, the fair provides two weeks of fun and thrills at the height of summer. In 2004, Tilburg won the Dutch national funfair prize.



EINDHOVEN

PSV

The Philip's Stadium in Eindhoven is home to PSV, a top international soccer club. The stadium is one of Eindhoven's most prominent buildings, situated in the city center, close to the train station. It has a capacity of 35,000 and ranks among the best stadiums in the Netherlands, with grandstands close to the pitch, covered and heated seating, excellent lighting, and a very high quality grass pitch. PSV is so popular in Brabant that every game is completely sold out.



EINDHOVEN, CITY OF LIGHT

Eindhoven and light are irrevocably connected, in large part due to the multinational company Philips, which started as a manufacturer of light bulbs and is based in the city. Special emphasis is laid on the meaning of light in everyday life, in themes as light, design and sports. Every year in November the cityscape of Eindhoven changes for eight days when Glow, a light art festival, takes place.



DUTCH DESIGN WEEK

The 'Dutch Design Week' event increases international recognition for design. Supported by the Eindhoven design community, the event aims to contribute to a stimulating and dynamic design climate in cultural, social and economic terms in the region and to position Eindhoven as an international Design Capital. The event includes congresses, lectures and workshops, attracting about 250,000 visitors.



FACILITIES

A total of 1,000 sites offer overnight accommodation in Brabant, of which about one third are hotels, pensions or youth hostels. The remaining number is made up of holiday resorts and camping grounds. The 435 hotels provide a total of 12,820 rooms with 27,670 beds.

TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS IN BRABANT, 2021

	Total accommodation	Hotels/pensions/youth hostels
Accommodation sites	1,020	435
Rooms		12,820
Beds / Places to sleep	148,450	27,670

Source: CBS

HOTELS IN BRABANT (WITH AT LEAST FOUR STARS), 2021

Hotel	City	Website
Fletcher Stadspark Hotel	Bergen op Zoom	http://www.fletcherstadsparkhotel.nl/
Hotel en Residence De Draak	Bergen op Zoom	http://www.hoteldedraak.nl/
H.C.R. De Druiventros	Berkel-Enschot	http://www.druiventros.nl/
Hotel de Reiskoffer	Bosschenhoofd	http://www.hoteldereiskoffer.nl/
Hotel Restaurant de Baronie	Boxmeer	http://www.hoteldebaronie.nl/
Apollo Hotel Breda City Centre	Breda	http://www.apollohotelsresorts.com/breda
Bliss Hotel	Breda	http://www.blisshotel.nl/
Golden Tulip Keyser Breda Centre	Breda	http://www.hotel-keyser.nl/
Hotel Merlinde	Breda	http://www.hotelmerlinde.nl/
Hotel Princeville	Breda	http://www.hotelprinceville.nl/
Mastbosch Hotel	Breda	http://www.mastbosch.nl/
Novotel Breda	Breda	https://www.novotel-hotel-breda.nl/
Van der Valk Hotel Cuijk - Nijmegen	Cuijk	http://www.hotelcuijk.nl/
Best Western Plus City Centre Hotel Den Bosch	Den Bosch	http://citycentrehoteldenbosch.com/
Golden Tulip Hotel Central	Den Bosch	http://www.hotel-central.nl/
Mövenpick Hotel 's-Herthogenbosch	Den Bosch	http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com/hertogenbosch
Fletcher Kloosterhotel Willibrordhaeghe	Deurne	http://www.willibrordhaeghe.nl/
Crown Hotel Eindhoven Centre	Eindhoven	http://www.edenhotels.nl/
Holiday Inn Eindhoven	Eindhoven	http://www.hieindhoven.com/
Hotel Parkzicht	Eindhoven	http://www.hotelparkzicht.nl/
Inntel Hotels Art Eindhoven	Eindhoven	http://www.inntelhotelsarteindhoven.nl/
Novotel Eindhoven	Eindhoven	https://www.novotel-hotel-eindhoven.nl/
Park Plaza Eindhoven	Eindhoven	http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/neteindh
Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne	Eindhoven	http://www.pullman-eindhoven-cocagne.com/
Van Der Valk Hotel Eindhoven	Eindhoven	https://www.hoteleindhoven.nl/
NH Collection Eindhoven Centre	Eindhoven	http://www.nh-collection.com/nl
Hotel Nijver	Geldrop	https://www.kaffeepeijnenburg.nl/

Source: www.hotelsterren.nl

HOTELS IN BRABANT (WITH AT LEAST FOUR STARS), 2021

Hotel	City	Website
Efteling Hotel	Kaatsheuvel	http://www.efteling.com/
Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Jagershorst-Eindhoven	Leende	http://www.jagershorst.nl/
Hotel De Korenbeurs	Made	http://www.korenbeurs.nl/
HUP	Mierlo	http://www.hup.eu/
Hotel Nuland	Nuland	http://www.valk.com/nuland
Sauna Hotel Bron Apart	Nuland	http://www.bronapart.nl/
Hotel de Leijhof Oisterwijk	Oisterwijk	http://www.leijhof.nl/
Landgoed De Rosep	Oisterwijk	http://www.rosep.com/
City Hotel Oss	Oss	http://www.cityhotel.nl/
Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Oss	Oss	https://www.fletcherhoteloss.nl/nl/
Hotel de Weverij	Oss	http://www.deweverij.nl/
Hotel Central	Roosendaal	http://www.hotelcentral.nl/
Fletcher Hotel 's-Hertogenbosch	Rosmalen	http://www.fletcherhotelshertogenbosch.nl/
Auberge du Bonheur	Tilburg	http://www.bonheurehorecagroep.nl/
Mercure Hotel Tilburg Centrum	Tilburg	http://www.mercure-tilburg.nl/
Van der Valk Hotel Tilburg	Tilburg	http://www.hoteltilburg.nl/
Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Teugel Uden-Veghel	Uden	http://www.teugelresort.nl
Hotel Arrows	Uden	http://www.hotelarrows.com/
Van der Valk Hotel Uden-Veghel	Uden	http://www.hoteludenveghel.nl/
NH Eindhoven Conference Centre Koningshof	Veldhoven	https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-eindhoven-conference-centre-koningshof
Van der Valk Hotel 's-Hertogenbosch-Vught	Vught	https://www.hotelvught.nl/
NH Waalwijk	Waalwijk	https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-waalwijk
GoldenTulip Zevenbergen	Zevenbergen	http://www.goldentulipzevenbergen.nl/

Source: www.hotelsterren.nl

FACTS ABOUT THE NETHERLANDS

The traditional image of the Netherlands is of windmills, tulips and wooden clogs, but a modern, lively side of the Netherlands is even more to be experienced. The Netherlands is small, but within its confined borders are great variety, history and a picturesque landscape.



The Netherlands

Officially the Netherlands, the country is also often called Holland, coming from the provinces of North- and South-Holland. The Dutch use both titles. Most of the country is flat, with low horizons and endless skies; the southeastern province of Limburg is the only hilly area, but even there the highest “mountain” is only 322.7 meters above sea level.

The Netherlands covers 41,500 square kilometers (0.4 % of the USA), is 160 km broad from east to west and 300 km long from north to south. The efficient public transport system and motorway network make the entire country easily accessible. The Netherlands has a great geographic position in the center of northwestern Europe, between the major urban areas of the German Ruhr, London, Brussels, Antwerp and Paris. In combination with Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and the Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands’ strategic position makes it the ‘gateway to Europe’.

The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, and its 16.8 million inhabitants are experts at making the most of every centimeter. Amsterdam is the Dutch capital, with The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht and Eindhoven the other cities of major importance. The Netherlands is made up of twelve provinces, including one province (Flevoland) that has been fully reclaimed from the sea. Each province is noticeably different with its own landscape, architecture and way of life.



History

1433

The Netherlands is geographically part of the 'Low Countries' region, which has a long history of occupation by its more powerful neighbors such as France, Germany and Spain.

1482

The Burgundians ruled the area from 1433, and were succeeded by the Hapsburg emperor Maximilian in 1482. Maximilian's grandson, Charles V, became King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor.

1555

On his abdication in 1555, his son Philip II took over. Philip II was a fanatical Catholic and his suppression of Protestantism in the Low Countries led to revolt under the leadership of William I of Orange-Nassau (Willem van Oranje).

1579

In 1579, seven provinces signed the Union of Utrecht, an alliance against Spain, identifying the Netherlands as a nation for the first time. For centuries, the Dutch have been a maritime and trading nation. By the mid-seventeenth century, Amsterdam's merchant fleet had made the city one of the most prosperous in Europe. The major source of this

1795

wealth came from the Dutch East India Company, which was trading in Asia. The Netherlands tried to maintain a monopoly of trade with the countries it effectively controlled; at its height, the Dutch empire circled the world, from the East Indies to South America. In 1795, the Netherlands was invaded by the

1815

French and made part of the French Empire. Following the defeat of Napoleon, Frederick William of the House of Orange-Nassau returned to the Netherlands and was crowned William I of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, uniting Protestant Holland and Catholic Belgium in 1815.

1830

Belgium withdrew from the kingdom in 1830 and at that moment, the Netherlands formed to what it still is now.

Background information



GOVERNMENT

The Dutch head of state is King Willem-Alexander, although actual political power lies with the Prime Minister. The Netherlands is a parliamentary democracy, seated in The Hague.



LANGUAGE

Dutch is the official language of the Netherlands. English is taught in schools as the second language and the Dutch easily switch to English for tourists and foreign visitors.



BUSINESS HOURS

Commercial and government offices are open from 8:30/9:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday.



MONEY

The Netherlands has used the Euro since January 1, 2002, falling under the common monetary policy of the European Central Bank together with Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.



EXPATRIATE HOUSING

www.househunting.nl
www.stoit.nl
www.rotsvast.nl
www.directwonen.nl
www.funda.nl
www.jaap.nl



BANKS AND THE GWK TRAVELEX OFFICES

Dutch banks are open Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 18:00. In large towns some banks stay open later on Thursday or Friday evenings. To change money outside office hours the GWK office (Grens Wissel Kantoor or Frontier Exchange Office) at any major train station is usually open until later in the evening and on weekends.



GWK SERVICES INCLUDE

- Travel insurance, also for foreign visitors to the Netherlands
- Cash advances against all major credit cards
- Cashing Eurochecks and traveler's checks
- Sale telephone cards
- Western Union Money Transfer service within fifteen minutes to/from Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and the U.S.
- Various other banking services

Background information



CREDIT CARDS

Large hotels, restaurants and stores accept most major international credit cards (Visa, Mastercard). Acceptance of credit cards at smaller hotels, restaurants and shops should be checked in advance and customers should be prepared to show official identification such as a passport.



TIPPING

At hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars a 15% service charge and VAT are included in menu meal prices. When taking a taxi, a tip is included in the meter setting but it is common to round up to the nearest Euro.



POST OFFICE

Each town and village has at least one post office, mostly located in supermarkets or bookstores. Most post offices are open from 09:00 till 18:00, with evening and Saturday hours varying from city to city.



ELECTRICITY

Electrical power in the Netherlands runs on 220 volts. Hotels may have a 110-volt or 120-volt outlets for electric razors, but travelers are advised to bring a power converter and adapter for two-prong, round-prong sockets.



CLIMATE

The Netherlands has a mild, damp climate. The average temperature in January is 2°C and in July 19°C. The spring and autumn bring unsettled weather. The driest period is in spring, but rain and cloudy skies are possible all year round. As the Dutch say, “if you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes and it will change”.



CLOTHING

Dutch people dress fairly conservatively, so at business meetings, lunches or dinners most men will wear jackets and ties and most women dresses or tailored suits. Visitors should bring along medium-weight clothing in summer, heavier, warmer clothing for spring and autumn and an overcoat for winter. A raincoat is a good idea at any time of year.

Background information



MEDICAL CARE

Citizens of non-European Union countries are usually not covered by reciprocal medical agreements offering free emergency care. If visiting a doctor or dentist, foreigners will have to pay immediately in cash and should ask for a receipt to claim the money back from their medical insurance.

If their medical insurance does not include medical care overseas, travellers may want to take out special travel insurance before leaving home. If travellers are bringing prescriptions for medicine, they should ask their doctor to include the Latin name of active ingredients. Medical facilities throughout the Netherlands are excellent, and in most cases communicating in

English should not be a problem. U.S. and Canadian embassies keep lists of doctors and dentists who speak English and understand American medical practices. Hotel receptionists will be able to locate medical help quickly at any time.

Drugstores (drogisterij) sell toiletries. The pharmacy (apotheek) sells prescription medicines. Foreigners will have to pay for medication in cash at the pharmacy and should ask for a receipt to claim the money from their insurance. In all major cities, pharmacies operate on a duty schedule to ensure that at least one is open during the night and on weekends. Hotel porters or receptionists will be able to provide information on the nearest pharmacies and drugstores available in the area.

Background information



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Holiday	Date in 2022	Date in 2023	Additional Information
New Year's Day	January 1st	January 1st	New Year is celebrated at 12 am with an abundance of fireworks
Easter Sunday	April 17th	April 9th	Shops could be closed
Easter Monday	April 18th	April 10th	Shops could be closed
King's Day	April 27th	April 27th	Shops closed. Parties, fairs and markets all over the Netherlands
Ascension Day	May 26th	May 18th	Shops could be closed
Whit Sunday	June 5th	May 28th	Shops could be closed
Whit Monday	June 6th	May 29th	Shops could be closed
Christmas	December 25th	December 25th	Shops could be closed
Boxing Day	December 26th	December 26th	Shops could be closed

Sinterklaas, on December 5th, is the day on which the Dutch celebrate St. Nicholas, the legendary children's friend with a white beard and a bishop's habit. Children are given presents and sweets. Although a day of celebration, December 5th is not a public holiday and shops are open if it falls on a weekday.