

Introducing the Netherlands

Creating resilient and sustainable solutions for local challenges

How do the Dutch make a difference?

Through their interactive approach to finding innovative solutions to the big challenges facing the world today. The Dutch way of thinking and working has been shaped by centuries of living in the low-lying delta of the Netherlands. Through the ages, the Dutch have joined forces to find ingenious ways to tackle challenges like water, urbanisation, energy, food, health and security. By being inventive, pragmatic and open to new challenges, the Dutch have created a flourishing and resilient land.

The Netherlands is a constantly evolving ecosystem of cities, industry, agriculture and nature, all integrated through smart infrastructure. It is a source of knowledge and experience that the Dutch are keen to share with others. Learning from the past to create a better future. Together, seeking sustainable solutions for the most liveable world.



The Netherlands
Your partner in sustainable solutions

Worldwide ranking

- 1st** Best performing European Healthcare system (Euro Health Consumer Index, 2017)
- 1st** Production and auctioning of cut flowers and flower bulbs
- 1st** World's largest flower exporter
- 2nd** Number of patent applications per million inhabitants in the world (WIPO, 2016)
- 2nd** Best at Global Innovation Index (GII, 2018)
- 2nd** Largest exporter of agricultural products in the world (WTO, 2017)
- 4th** At WEF's ranking of most competitive economies in the world
- 4th** At RISE's global energy policy ranking
- 5th** Largest exporter of goods in the world (652 billion US dollars)
- 5th** Greatest place to live (World Happiness report, 2017)
- 6th** At World Bank's Logistics Performance Index
- 7th** Largest foreign investor in the world (1,256 billion US dollars)
- 7th** Largest recipient of foreign investment in the world (801 billion US dollars)
- 8th** Largest importer of goods in the world (507 billion US dollars)

Facts & Figures

- **Official name** Kingdom of the Netherlands
- **Form of government** Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy
- **Head of State** His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau
- **Capital** Amsterdam
- **Seat of government** The Hague
- **Administrative structure** Twelve provinces and the overseas territories of Aruba and Curaçao and St. Martin. The overseas islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, all three of which are situated in the Caribbean, are 'special municipalities of the Netherlands'
- **Surface area** 33.800 km²
- **Location** Western Europe, by the North Sea, bordering Belgium and Germany
- **Number of inhabitants** 17.2 million (July 2018)
- **Number of inhabitants per km²** 509 (July 2018)
- **Currency** Euro
- **Languages** Dutch and Frisian (On the overseas islands also English and Papiaments)
- **GDP per capita** 42,926 euros (FocusEconomics, 2017)
- **33% of Dutch GDP** is derived internationally
- **1.3 bicycles** for each person in the Netherlands
- **Unemployment rate** 5,4% (average 2007-2018)
- **Moderate inflation** 1.6% (average 2007-2018)
- **90% of all Dutch people** speak English

Sources: The Netherlands Compared, CBS, DNB, World Bank, IMF, OECD, WTO, UNCTAD, EIU, IMD Business School