

CMTC-OVM

Practical information for meeting participants



We as CMTC-OVM organisation welcome our foreign guests to the Netherlands! Very often people are combining visiting our conference with a vacation and to explore parts of the Netherlands. The intention of this small document is to give you practical information in order to have an even more beautiful stay in the Netherlands!



België = Belgium
 Duitsland = Germany

Transport

Name	Description	Website
Public transport	The Netherlands has a well organised public transport system. This consists mainly of trains, trams, buses and metro. Access is arranged by means of an electronic chipcard (OV-chip).	http://www.ns.nl/en
Car	You can rent a car also at Schiphol airport. To and from the airport by car might be rather time consuming due to traffic jams.	http://www.schiphol.nl/index_en.html
Parking	Parking meters in cities hardly accept coins anymore. Use a (credit/debit) card. Parking in downtown Amsterdam for instance is very expensive. Use Park & Ride and you receive public transport tickets. Parking garages accept credit cards.	
Bike	Yes! This is a very fast way of transport in the city! We have many types of bikes! One of them is the 'e-bike'. Mostly this type of bike is used by elderly people and they go fast! So when driving a car beware of this too!	

Few interesting cities

Name	Description	Distance from Amersfoort (km)	Website
Amersfoort (U)	City with a long history (over 1000 years), lots of different architecture styles. If there would be no dikes Amersfoort would be at sea. Walking tour can be arranged and also climbing the tower in the center (approx. 450 steps (in phases), 80 m high.	-	http://www.vvvamersfoort.nl/en
Amsterdam (NH)	This city doesn't need a description ... about anything is possible here ... The best way of transport is public transport.	60	http://www.iamsterdam.com/en/
Antwerp (B)	Ancient city with a special statue ... a man throwing a hand ... They speak Flemish here.	175	http://www.visitantwerpen.be/
Brugge (B)	Ancient city at the coast. Many chocolate shops.	250	https://bezoekers.brugge.be/en
Brussel (B)	Capital of Belgium. Brussel is divided in two areas due to language border (Flemisch and French).	190	http://www.brussels.be/artdet.cfm/7457
Delft (SH)	This is for instance the city where the Royal Family members have their graves in a church. The famous Delft Blue pottery.	90	http://delft.nl/delften/Tourists
Den Bosch (NB)	This city is famous for not only a beautiful ancient center but also for their Bossche Bollen (cake with chocolate and whipped cream)! Very close to the train station is this special bakery.	75	http://www.bezoekdenbosch.nl/en
Den Haag (SH)	This is where the Dutch Government is located but also the International Court of	95	http://denhaag.com/en

	Law (Peace Pallace).		
Enkhuizen (NH)	A fishermen's town with a rich history.	95	http://www.enkhuizenboeit.nl/en/
Maastricht (L)	Has a huge history of about 2000 years. Many ancient churches etc. Close to the 3-country point. You will discover here that the Netherlands are not entirely flat!	200	http://www.visitlimburg.com/
Paris (F)	By high speed train from Amsterdam in approx. 3 hours. Need to reserve a seat in advance.	500	http://next.paris.fr/english
Valkenburg (L)	Rather touristic town with Xmas atmosphere and Xmas caves.	200	http://www.opstapinvalkenburg.nl/en/
Rotterdam (SH)	Big city (also called Manhattan at the Maas). This town has no ancient center while this was bombed away at the start of WW2. Huge harbor also for cruise ships and the Holland-America line. Special bridges. Boat rides.	85	http://www.rotterdam.nl/discover_rotterdam
Veere (Z)	Small romantic town in Zeeland.	200	http://www.vvvzeeland.nl/en/
Vlissingen (Z)	Town in Zeeland with a lot of history. Here was de famous admiral and ruler of the world seas born (17th century). The statue of Michiel Adriaenszoon de Ruyter is at the dike.	200	http://www.vvvzeeland.nl/nl/eilanden/walcheren/vlissingen

- B = Belgium
- F = France
- NB = North Brabant (state)
- NH = North Holland (state)
- L = Limburg (state)
- SH = South Holland (state)
- U = Utrecht (state)
- Z = Zeeland (state)








Musea

Name	Description	Location	Website
Flehite	Contains a lot of local artifacts going back to the iron age (thousands of years ago).	Amersfoort	https://museumfleHITE.nl/#
Kamp Amersfoort	Former concentration camp WW2 incl. tour. Opening hours limited.	Amersfoort	http://www.kampamersfoort.nl/
Kinderdijk	In total 19 windmills from the 18th century. Close to Rotterdam so you can combine this.	Kinderdijk	https://www.kinderdijk.com/
Muiderslot	Castle built around 1285 and has a lot of authentic material.	Muiden	http://www.muiderslot.nl/?lang=en
Open Lucht museum	Shows the way people have been living in the Netherlands for centuries.	Arnhem	http://www.openairmuseum.nl/
Neeltje Jans	Shows how we are protecting ourselves against the sea. The Dutch are also working at different other locations such as the USA to apply these concepts again.	Vrouwenpolder	http://www.neeltjehans.nl/en/
Paleis het Loo	Royal palace with gardens.	Apeldoorn	https://www.paleishetloo.nl/en/#2016-09-01
Rijksmuseum	Paintings of eg. Rembrandt.	Amsterdam	https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en
Sint Servaas basiliek.	Contains artifacts of 3/4th century. Glass stain windows.	Maastricht	http://www.sintservaas.nl/english/htm/
Van Gogh museum	Paintings of Vincent van Gogh.	Amsterdam	https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en

Zuider Zee museum	Starting from the City of Enkhuizen, you will travel along the Afsluitdijk (the Great IJsselmeer Dam) to the islands in the Wadden Sea and from there to several old cities in the province of Friesland such as Hindeloopen and Makkum. Then you move on to the former island of Urk and, via the villages of Nunspeet and Spakenburg, to the final destination: Volendam.	Enkhuizen	http://www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl/en/10/home/
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Beware: some musea are closed during the winter season so always check the website!

Food

<p>Herring (raw and salty fish with onions). This is very often a challenge for foreigners! Either you like it or not. The Dutch way of eating this is rather special as well ... you grab it by its tail, bend your head backwards and bite it ... piece by piece. These will be served during lunch.</p>	
<p>Kibbeling (fried fish). This is white fish with a special dip and local spices baked in hot oil. Very popular with children as well!</p>	
<p>Paling (smoked eel). This is rather expensive fish. The smoking is a special technique and there is even a Dutch competition regarding smoking paling.</p>	
<p>Mussels. They are a typical local product from the state Zeeland. Cooked in a pan with vegetables and you use the shell of an empty mussel to grab to other mussels. Also very popular in Belgium. Served with French fries and mayonaise. Mayonaise is for the Dutch what ketch-up is for the Americans.</p>	
<p>Pancakes (pizza size, sweet, spicy, ...). What should we say about this typical Dutch food ... After the meeting on Saturday we are going to an old farm, actually the stable, and have pancakes. They serve over 200 different flavours and you can also compose your own pancake. Beware of the size!</p>	
<p>Poffertjes. They look like tiny pancakes and served with some butter (melting) and powder sugar. The luxurious version has warm cherries and whipped cream (whipped cream in the Netherlands is with sugar).</p>	
<p>Stroopwafel. This is a worldwide famous cookie! You can get them fresh and warm on markets and some special shops. When you buy a package yourself you can put a stroopwafel for about 20 seconds on top of a cup of hot tea or coffee.</p>	

<p>Bolus (turt). Specialty in the south-west of the Netherlands in the state Zeeland (Sealand). It is cake with cinnamon and sugar.</p>	
<p>Vlaai (pie). This is a speciality of the south east state Limburg. There are many different types. There are 3 ways of slicing them ... the south way: 8 pieces. The Dutch way: 10 pieces. The Den Haag (town in the west) way: 12 pieces (which is normally refused). We serve a selection on Saturday morning when you have registered.</p>	
<p>Oliebol (fried cake, with or without raisins). The tradition is that they will be eaten around 31st of December and New Years Day. However, you can get them at many markets all over the Netherlands all year.</p>	
<p>Kroket and bitterbal. There are about 10 different types (content is mashed meat or vegetables, etc.) and fried in hot oil. The difference between kroket and bitterbal is in fact only the shape. Beware: the inside is very hot (temperature) while the outside might already be cooled off! They are normally served with mustard. These will be served on Friday evening during the reception of foreign guests and also during lunch.</p>	
<p>Saté. This is in fact Indonesian (Indonesia was a Dutch colony) and is either grilled pork or chicken meat on a stick with peanut butter sauce. Served with French fries and mayonaise. Mayonaise is for the Dutch what ketch-up is for the Americans.</p>	
<p>Bossche Bol. There is in fact only one bakery in 's Hertogenbosch (Den Bosch) where they are made ... This is bakery 'Jan de Groot' near the train station. https://www.bosschebollen.nl/ It is whipped cream inside special cake covered with chocolate.</p>	

Other items

Item	Description	Additional info
Cell phone	The NL is well equipped for (smart)phones and wifi hotspots. Beware of roaming costs so switch off roaming unless you have a bundle for instance.	
Chocolate factory	A small factory in the south of the NL in the state Limburg. Approx. 200 km from Amersfoort.	http://gerubachocolade.nl/en/the-geruba-store/
Coffee shops	A lot of foreign people think that this where you get coffee .. no ... this is were they sell pot legally. These shops are in many cities.	http://bit.ly/1qUysIN
Country borders	Traveling between Schengen countries is without borders between countries. This is at the German border ... 	http://bit.ly/1lnN3q1
Credit card	The use of credit cards is limited in the Netherlands. Normally you can't pay in for instance super markets. Might be handy to have cash with you.	
Currency	All countries in the European Union are using the same currency. The exchange rates are visible on this website.	http://www.x-rates.com/table/?from=EUR&amount=1
Shopping times	Cities like Amsterdam have hardly closing times during the tourist season. Check local websites for details.	
Xmas show	There is huge Xmas show you have never seen before! Including live animals. About 200 m from the hotel 'van de Valk' (conference hotel) at the garden center Eurofleur.	