

The Netherlands

General info:

The Netherlands is a country in Europe. The direct neighbors are Germany and Belgium. The capital is Amsterdam.

It's a small country, approximately 1/7th of Oman (41.543 km² / 309.500 km²), but there are a lot of Dutch (17.4 million)!

Dutch? Yes, in English the people from the Netherlands are called Dutch and their language is called Dutch too!



The Netherlands or Holland?

Netherlands means “low lands”. About one third of the Netherlands lies below sea level, with the lowest point being 6.7 meters below sea level. The highest point is a “mountain” called Vaalsberg with 322 meters.

Only 2 of 13 provinces are called Holland. North and South Holland. Although you find important cities here, the official name is “Kingdom of the Netherlands”.



The Dutch Royal Family

The current monarch is King Willem-Alexander (born 1967), who has been on the Throne since 30 April 2013.

His wife is Queen Maxima and they have 3 daughters: Princess Amalia, Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane.

The monarch has limited power; the King has immunity, but the real power lies with the ministers.

The flag and National Color

The colors of the flag are red, white and blue but the national color is **ORANGE**.

Willem van **Oranje** (1533-1584), inherited the city **Orange** (in France) when he was 11 years old and got the title 'van **Oranje**' ('of **Orange**').

Later he became famous by leading the war for independence against Spain (80 Years' War) and the name “**Orange**” was preserved.

Because of the name the Dutch athletes and their supporters usually wear **ORANGE** instead of the colors of the flag.

Also on the National day (Kings-day on April 27) many people wear **orange**.



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Fun Facts:



Amsterdam

Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands. The city has the highest museum density in the world. You can take a canal tour and discover the historical canal district which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2011. With 165 canals Amsterdam has more than Venice and with 1281 there are more bridges than in Paris!

Tulips aren't native to the Netherlands

The iconic Dutch flower, the tulip, was imported from Turkey in the 16th century. In the 1630s, 'Tulip Mania' gripped the Netherlands, and prices rose until bulbs cost as much as houses! This attracted many farmers to switch to cultivating the flower. But the industry suddenly collapsed in 1637, leaving many people in poverty. Tulips regained their popularity after the bulbs were eaten in World War 2.



Dutch men are the tallest in the world

Dutch men have come out on top as the tallest people in the world in multiple studies throughout the years, at an average of 1.83 m. The women were also found to be tall, with an average height of 1.69 m, losing as the tallest only to women in Latvia.

There are more bicycles in the Netherlands than people

There are over 22 million bicycles in the country and only 17 million residents. Unfortunately theft is very high; particularly in Amsterdam where it is the most common crime. Over 100,000 bikes are reported stolen each year in the Netherlands.



The Netherlands has one of the highest English proficiencies

The non-native English speakers of the Netherlands had the highest proficiency in the world in 2016 and 2017.

The Netherlands is one of the happiest countries in the world

Every year, the United Nations releases their World Happiness Report. The Netherlands ranked 6th in the world for the happiest country in the 2020 report. The country has consistently found its way in the top 10 since the report's original publication in 2012!



Many 12th grade ABA students plan to study in the Netherlands

Who wouldn't like to go to this fun country?! With studies available in English and the majority of Dutch able to speak English, a country exporting the most flower bulbs and beer worldwide, seems a very clever choice! Just buy a really good lock for your bicycle.

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol offers the most direct flights in Europe

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol offers the greatest direct connectivity of all European airports. Another advantage for those ABA students thinking of or going to the Netherlands.

