

An unforgettable trip that combines the best of the "Route of the Golden Age", the "van Gogh Route" and the "Mondrian to Dutch Design Route"

Discover the Netherlands' art of living. The Netherlands can boast being the country with the most museums per square kilometre in the world! Every year, millions of people make their way to the Netherlands to enjoy the country's art and its numerous events and festivals of international acclaim. We invite you to embark on one of the most famous artistic routes in the world. Undertake a transformative life journey through the art and history of this incredible country, an artistic Mecca on the Old Continent. The "Great Route of Dutch Art" brings the traveller to the best of its three most celebrated artistic routes. It is a unique opportunity to discover the most outstanding stages of the "Route of the Golden Age", the "Vincent van Gogh Route" and the "Mondrian to Dutch Design Route". In just a couple of hours you will have an understanding of how Dutch brush strokes changed the course of universal painting forever. The "Great Route of Dutch Art" provides the perfect excuse to enjoy your surroundings at your leisure, thanks to the freedom provided by your rental car, the beautiful Dutch landscapes, the country's great cities and charming villages, its delicious cuisine and authentic way of life, pleasant trips through its timeless canals... You will walk through cosmopolitan lands shaped by the history and inspiration of its great masters, where the most quaint traditions live in harmony with the ideas of today, the most innovative spaces and gourmet cuisine. An inspiring journey that will forever change your view of the world.



Departures:

from January 2021 till December 2021

Destinations:

Amsterdam, Haarlem, Delft, Hague, Leiden, Rotterdam, Dordrecht, Zundert, Eindhoven, Nuenen, S Hertogenbosch, Winterswijk, Arnhem, Otterlo and Utrecht.

Categories:

Cultural and Urban.

Day 1: City of origin - Amsterdam

Flight departure from the city of origin to Amsterdam and rental car pick-up. Your adventure on Dutch soil begins here! Today's first stop is the vibrant, dynamic and creative city of Amsterdam, which for decades has revelled in its reputation as one of the world's top tourist destinations. It certainly doesn't lack attractions. Criss-crossed by iconic canals and considered one of Europe's most enthralling cultural hubs in Europe, the city captivates travellers with magnificent works of art by the great Dutch masters, which sit harmoniously alongside the latest global trends in design, art and architecture. Its modern and cosmopolitan atmosphere blends perfectly with its unique historical feel, dotted with stately mansions built in the Golden Age and the unmistakable beauty of its barge-filled canals. Get ready to start the "Great Route of Dutch Art", one of the most interesting and comprehensive cultural and artistic itineraries in Europe. There are many who consider Amsterdam to be one of the most important capitals of art in the world. With good reason. This city is home to a large number of museums and galleries that deserve to be discovered at a leisurely pace. Among our recommendations of today are the magnificent Rijksmuseum, the national museum of Holland. Located in the city centre, it houses a wonderful collection of Dutch historical objects and art. Walking through its rooms will teach you about the history of Holland in an international context, from the year 1100 to the present day. Among its treasures are works by 17th-century masters such as Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Vermeer and Rembrandt. Don't miss "The Night Watch" (De Nachtwacht) by Rembrandt! And if you want to delve further into the work of this brilliant artist, we recommend you visit his former residence, which today has been converted into a museum. These are two essential stops to help you understand the artistic importance of the Dutch Golden Age. We recommend combining a visit to the Rijksmuseum with another of the city's cultural attractions: the nearby Van Gogh Museum, which houses the largest collection of works by the brilliant 19th-century post-impressionist painter. Here, you'll be able to see outstanding works such as "Sunflowers", "The Potato Eaters" and "Bedroom in Arles". (Note: You can access the museum more quickly via the Voucher Lane. Children under the age of eighteen can enter free of charge. The Van Gogh Museum is open every day of the year except 1st January. You can also visit the museum on Friday evenings). And

to relax after an intense artistic day, what better than discovering the authentic Dutch atmosphere found in its traditional bars and picturesque "brown cafés (bruin cafes)", its lively street markets, traditional stores and designer shops. At dusk, you can enjoy romantic views of the city from the water and under the moonlight. Sail along the famous Singel, Herengracht, Keizergracht and Prinsengracht canals and discover the beautiful bridges along the way! On dry land, the city embraces a cultural diversity which is difficult to find in any other corner of the globe. Overnight stay in and around Amsterdam.

Day 2: Amsterdam - Haarlem - Delft - The Hague

After enjoying the charms of Amsterdam, we arrive at the Route. We have around a half-hour drive to the charming city of Haarlem, capital of the province of North Holland. The city, which has a charming historic centre full of beautiful buildings, is a real haven for those who love art and the good life. Another jewel of the Dutch Golden Age adds to the city's charming atmosphere: the Frans Hals Museum. Among its exhibits you will find the largest collection by this important painter, who was considered, in the 17th Century, the country's best portrait painter for his time. Closely admiring his famous collective portraits (schutterstukken) will place you in an authentic atmosphere. You will feel that you are participating in a conversation among friends! Did you know that his work had a great impact in the centuries that followed? Great impressionist figures such as Monet, Corbet and Manet visited this museum in search of inspiration. Strolling through its exhibition halls will offer you many other surprises. Discover valuable works of other masters of the 16th and 17th Centuries, such as Jan Steen and Jacob van Ruysdael. But man does not live by bread alone. Haarlem has a wide range of cafés and restaurants. Any recommendations? Café Colette and the VIQH Art Gallery, a must if you like a sophisticated atmosphere with good wine. After lunch, we drive to the city of Delft, located some 62.5 kilometres along the A4. Delft is internationally known for its connection to Johannes Vermeer, the Royal House of Orange and the famous blue pottery ceramics of Delft, which you can admire in the Royal Delft, the only 17th Century ceramics factory still standing. (Note: Visitors will enjoy a tour of the museum and factory, a painting demonstration and a visit to the showcases which exhibit the collection of classic and modern ceramics). And if you want to relax and contemplate everything from another perspective, we recommend leaving dry land for a few minutes to take a pleasant river trip through the canals to see from the water historical buildings, churches and mansions. (Note: River trip not included). We finish the day in The Hague, located half an hour's drive away. Overnight stay in The Hague.

Day 3: The Hague - Leiden - The Hague

We continue to enjoy the welcoming Dutch lifestyle, its contagious vitality and excellent cultural offerings and recreation. Elegant and indulgent, The Hague offers the traveller a lot of life on the shores of the North Sea. Internationally known for being the headquarters of the Government, the Dutch Royal Family and the International Court of Justice, its old neighbourhoods, filled with history, elegant mansions, palaces and monuments, are joined by magnificent museums such as the Mauritshuis, a gallery with a lot of history where you will find great works of the Dutch Golden Age, such as "Girl with a Pearl Earring", by Vermeer, and "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp", by Rembrandt. The Hague Municipal Museum is another of the appointments of the day. Located in a magnificent Art Deco building, this magnificent temple of art enables the traveller to contemplate the largest Mondrian collection in the world. Check out his famous "Victory Boogie Woogie" work! (Note: The Hague Municipal Museum has an excellent collection of Modern Art, with works by such figures as Monet, Picasso, Kandinsky and Bacon, among others). Today we recommend a getaway to Leiden, which takes you just half an hour away by car. Headquarters of the oldest university in the country, the city has a wide variety of museums, including Siebold House and the De Lakenhal Museum. Back in The Hague, you can choose between diverse and interesting plans, including: enjoying the atmosphere of its Hofkwartier breweries; visiting fashionable hotspots such as the elegant Passage of The Hague or the central and exclusive Denneweg; tasting the best of Dutch cuisine in the design restaurants of Het Plein and Grote Markt; forgetting about boredom in the Madurodam and the Omnispace... And if you feel like relaxing on the waterfront, you can head to the beach of Scheveningen. Immortalized in a painting by Van Gogh, this coastal area is found just 4 kilometres from the centre of the city. Overnight stay in The Hague.

Day 4: The Hague - Rotterdam

We leave The Hague behind us and, after travelling about 27 kilometres along the A13, we arrive at the avant-garde city of Rotterdam, another of the great cities along this Route. Considered by major publications to be one of the 10 best destinations in the world, its creativity, vanguardism and constant pursuit of reinvention make it unique and worth knowing. And the home of Erasmus is used to breaking the mould. The city's modern urban appearance and amazing skyline have made it "the architectural capital of the Netherlands". Discover a city that never stops reinventing itself, surprising the world with enormous challenges such as De Rotterdam, the largest building in the country at 160,000 m², the Het Plooiend apartment (The Pencil), the Maritime Museum, and the recently opened Markthal (the country's largest indoor market) from the architects MVRDV... No wonder it's known as "Manhattan on the Maas"! You have before you the perfect home for lovers of contemporary architecture, for sybarites and, in general, for all those with good taste. Vibrant, welcoming, cosmopolitan and possessing the largest commercial port in Europe, Rotterdam is a feast for travellers with interesting places such as its old port areas, which have been converted into today's "trendy" areas such as Katendrecht. During today's itinerary, the "Great Route of Dutch Art" stops at two Dutch jewels: the Boijmans Van Beuningen and the Kunsthal museums. Overnight stay in Rotterdam.

Day 5: Rotterdam - Dordrecht - Zundert - Eindhoven

After breakfast among the skyscrapers, it's time to get back on the road. A half-hour drive brings us to Dordrecht with its magnificent museum, the perfect place to admire the beauty and art linked to the Dutch Golden Age. The Dordrecht Museum is one of the most important museums of Fine Art in Holland and a must-see stop on this intense journey. With an impressive collection of Dutch paintings from the 17th Century to the present-day, this charming museum located in the centre of the city exhibits works by great artists such as Bol, Cuyp, Breitner, Mesdag, van Gogh and Schouman. Continue your journey through the country's art and history with a visit to nearby Huis Van Gijn, an elegant house converted into a museum that will bring you closer to the lives and customs of the Dutch upper class in the 18th and 19th Centuries. We continue our journey to Zundert, a key location for following the trail of Vincent van Gogh. It was in this very place that you now find yourself where the great Dutch artist was born and raised. At Vincent van Gogh Huis, which is situated at the location of his birthplace, you can focus in on his early years, admire special exhibitions and get to know valuable works of important artists who were inspired by van Gogh. If you feel like stretching your legs before returning to the car, we recommend you take a walk or bike ride around the area, discovering the landscapes that captivated this unconventional artist during his youth. The last stage of the day's itinerary will take us to Eindhoven, located an hour's drive away. Eindhoven is one of those cities that deserves to be contemplated at night. Popularly known as the "City of Light", since the 19th Century its history has been connected to electricity. It was precisely in these streets with its relaxed and sociable atmosphere where the Philips family would start to conquer the world with its famous light bulbs. Today, you can still follow in the footsteps of this luminous past, since the metropolis is dotted with museums and landmark buildings such as the Philips Museum, the Philips Gloeilampenfabriekje and the

Witte Dame (White Lady), the former headquarters of the company which has since been renovated and converted into a prestigious design centre with exhibitions of young creators. Overnight stay in Eindhoven.

Day 6: Eindhoven - Nuenen - Eindhoven

Today we wake up in Eindhoven, a vibrant city focused on art, culture and design. Here each year celebrates "Dutch Design Week" which, for a few days, catches the eyes of the country and the world. A unique taste for art that you will see reflected in the fantastic Van Abbemuseum, one of the most renowned in Europe, where Modern and Contemporary Art gathers with new technologies. Considered one of the main enclaves of the Route "from Mondrian to Dutch Design", this modern museum exhibits works of geniuses such as Picasso, Chagall, Kandinsky and Rodin. After lunch, we recommend that you take a trip to the nearby town of Nuenen, located about 15 minutes by car. There you will find the Vincent-van-Gogh Village that will explain how Vincent van Gogh lived, worked, and was inspired during his early painting years. A fruitful period in which the artist created a quarter of his work. The exceptional nature and simple lifestyle of the area inspired some of his most famous paintings such as "The Potato Eaters". (Note: From the Vincent Museum you can walk or cycle through 21 places that influenced the artist's life and work during this stage). After returning to Eindhoven, we prepare to enjoy its long and lively nights. We recommend paying a visit to the Stratumseind, the longest street of bars and nightlife in Holland. Overnight stay in Eindhoven.

Day 7: Eindhoven - 's-Hertogenbosch (Den Bosch) - Winterswijk - Arnhem

An intensive and artistic journey awaits us today. Our first stop will be 's-Hertogenbosch. Founded by Henry I of Brabant and commonly known as Den Bosch, this delightful city unfurls before the traveller all the charms of the cities of the Netherlands. Discover its old monuments and cultural centres, as well as the outstanding North Brabant Museum, which occupies the old palace that hosted the local Government and that safeguards works of Vincent van Gogh and other painters; or the Jheronimus Bosch Art Centre, where you can get closer to the life and works of one of the most famous inhabitants of the city: The Bosco. The city offers a wide variety of cafés, terraces and restaurants where you can make a pleasant stop to boost your energy. We continue to advance along the "Great Route of Dutch Art" and further delve into the figure of Piet Mondrian, one of the characters that best represents "De Stijl", an artistic movement that focused on the search for a "totally new art" that would serve as a stimulus to modernise society. (Note: "De Stijl" originated in Leiden 100 years ago). If you have the time, we recommend you take a detour to the Winterswijk, where Mondrian spent the last years of his childhood. Today the old Villa Mondrian, converted into a museum, allows the traveller to take a tour of the life and works of this figure of world art. You will find yourself in one of the best places to admire some of the creator's early masterpieces, as well as the places and objects that inspired him. In the town you can also visit the Freriks Museum which, in addition to exhibiting pieces related to the textile development of the area, exhibits etchings of Pieter Mondrian Sr, the father of Piet Mondrian. We finish the day in Arnhem, the capital of the province of Gelderland. There you can visit the interesting Arnhem Museum, which houses a prestigious collection of modern and contemporary art and design. Arnhem is a cultural and historical city with much to offer. It is well worth taking a stroll through its monumental parks, such as the Sonsbeek and the Zypendaal, as well as visiting Burger's Zoo and the Openluchtmuseum. Take the Eusebiuskerk glass elevator and enjoy incredible views of the city. Overnight stay in Arnhem.

Day 8: Arnhem - Otterlo / Hoge Veluwe National Park - Utrecht

Very close to the centre of Arnhem, about 15 minutes by car, you will find the beautiful natural landscapes of Hoge Veluwe, the largest national park in Holland. Inside the park is the welcoming Kröller-Müller Museum, which houses the second largest collection of the works of Vincent van Gogh worldwide, surpassed only by the Van Gogh Museum. The museum is a response to the dream of a woman: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939) who, with the support of her wealthy husband and the help of a prestigious adviser, managed to create her own house-museum. This was the dream of a lifetime. In love with art, Helene would acquire over 11,500 works of art, including 278 works by Vincent van Gogh, a noteworthy French painting collection from the 19th and 20th Centuries, outstanding pieces of modern art, abstract paintings by Piet Mondrian... Do not miss the Beeldentuin, a spectacular sculpture garden that is considered one of the largest in Europe. Helene could see in life the culmination of a dream that we are all able to share with her today. (Note: In the Hoge Veluwe you will also find the Museonder, the first underground museum in the world). We finish today's itinerary in the beautiful city of Utrecht, located approximately one hour away. Founded by the Romans and known throughout the world for the famous Treaty of Utrecht (1715), this central city fuses its historical heritage and lively university atmosphere with its beautiful canals (singels). Utrecht is famous for its enchanting cafés and charming terraces, its hundreds of monuments, churches and convents, its picturesque squares and beautiful parks, its imaginative cultural and gastronomic offerings, and an extensive list of excellent museums such as the Dick Bruna House, Catharijneconvent, the Centraal Museum, the Museum Speelklok and the famous Rietveld Schröder House, a landmark of the De Stijl art style which has been declared a World Heritage Site for its major influence on modern architecture. A short walk through the south of the city will let you see another of its most recognisable snapshots: the magnificent residences built alongside the canals by the nobility in the Golden Age. Do not leave Utrecht without visiting its lively markets or exploring the green landscapes beset by the castles that surround it. Overnight stay in Utrecht.

Day 9: Utrecht - City of origin

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin. Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Services included in the trip

- Return flight.
- Stay in selected hotel in Amsterdam.
- Selected meal plan in Amsterdam.
- Stay in selected hotel in Hague.
- Selected meal plan in Hague.
- Stay in selected hotel in Rotterdam.
- Selected meal plan in Rotterdam.
- Stay in selected hotel in Eindhoven.
- Selected meal plan in Eindhoven.
- Stay in selected hotel in Arnhem.

- Selected meal plan in Arnhem.
- Stay in selected hotel in Utrecht.
- Selected meal plan in Utrecht.
- Rent-a-car.

Services NOT included

- Accommodation taxes in Holland direct payment in facility.
- Accommodation taxes in Hague direct payment in facility.
- Accommodation taxes in Rotterdam direct payment in facility.
- Accommodation taxes in Eindhoven direct payment in facility.
- Accommodation taxes in Utrecht direct payment in facility.
- Possible toll charges.

Important remarks

- - To avoid queues and crowds, you can book tickets to the most outstanding museums and exhibition halls online and in advance. We recommend trying to visit the museums early in the morning or in the afternoon. To obtain discounts on tickets and save yourself from having to queue, you can purchase cards such as the Holland Pass, the Museumkaart, the I Amsterdam City Card or the Rotterdam Welcome Card. Many museums offer special discounts for minors, students and pensioners..
- - - Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible..
- - - The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs..
- - - A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels..
- - - Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult..
- - - To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle..
- - - This itinerary has been developed in collaboration with the NBTC Netherlands Bureau of Tourism and Congress..