

# Discover the Netherlands:

a quick guide with figures, priority sectors  
and travel information.



Netherlands



Photo: Ts. Khurelbaatar

# Foreword

I am delighted to introduce this brochure to you and to use this opportunity to highlight my role as Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mongolia, which I started in February 2022.

The diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Netherlands were established on March 6, 1972. Both countries have an official representative to maintain our bilateral relations. Mongolia is represented by the Ambassador of Mongolia, based in Brussels; the Netherlands is represented by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, based in Beijing.

The current bilateral relations between our two countries are modest, but good. Ever since Mongolia and the Netherlands have established diplomatic ties, several official visits and consultative meetings between our two countries have taken place. On March 6, 2022, the Netherlands and Mongolia celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations.

An important aspect of our relationship is the Netherlands' support for the process of democracy, reform and development in Mongolia since 1990. The Netherlands continues to support the protection of human rights and democratic values as well as the development of a sustainable market economy in Mongolia. In addition, we are exploring possibilities for further economic cooperation in relevant sectors.

This brochure will introduce many of those sectors, such as the fields of agriculture and water management. It also provides information on visiting or working in the Netherlands. You will discover the variety of what the Netherlands has to offer, while reading about various opportunities for social and economic cooperation between our two countries.

Even though Mongolia and the Netherlands are miles apart in distance, there are lots of aspects that bring us closer together. To this end, I will work diligently to expand and strengthen trade, social and economic cooperation between our two countries during my tenure as Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

**Ms. Delgermaa Byambasuren**

Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mongolia

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Photo: Jan Bijl

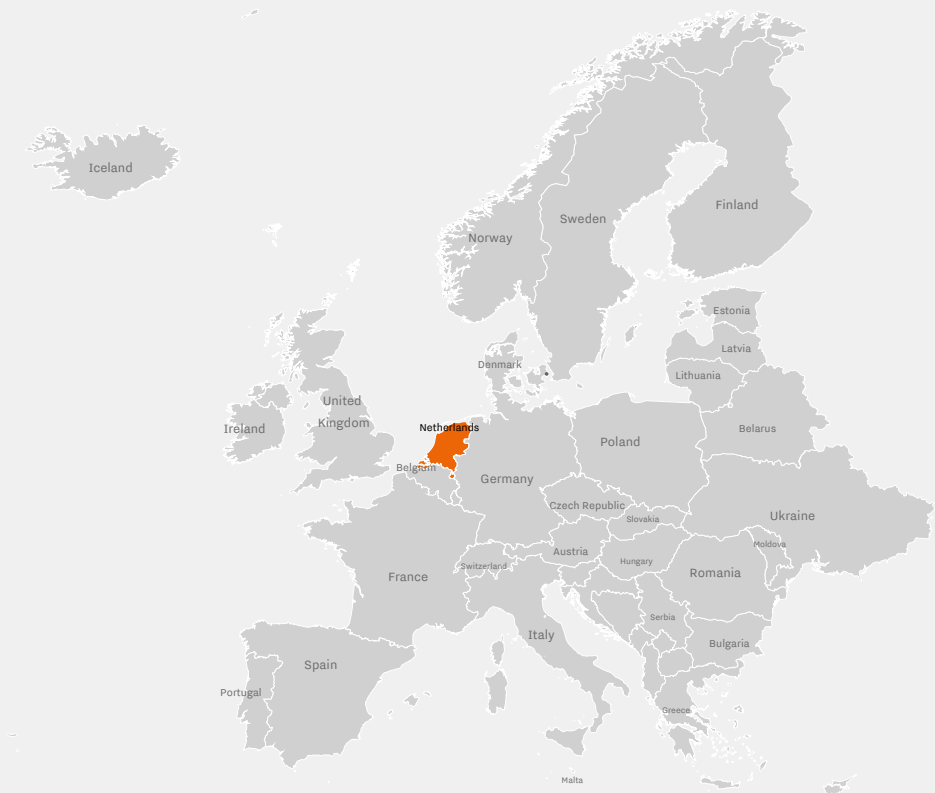
# About the Netherlands

A country with a surface area of more than 41,500 km<sup>2</sup>, a third of which is below sea-level, the Netherlands has vast experience in solving complex social and economic challenges. Partnership is our key to success. With strong cooperation between government, businesses, knowledge institutes and citizens, we strive to build a flourishing and resilient land for our 17 million citizens.

With the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a leading policy framework, the Netherlands is involved in many global partnerships. At home and abroad, we support freedom of speech, gender equality, and fair access to work and healthcare.

We are keen to share knowledge and expertise to meet the world's growing demand for food, water, health, energy, security, and to build back better, together, from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We learn from the past to create a better future. We strive to create pioneering sustainable solutions that enable us all to inspire and connect, to create a more liveable world today and in the future.



Official name:  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

Capital:  
Amsterdam

Seat of government:  
The Hague

Form of government:  
Parliamentary democracy (cabinet of Prime Minister  
and Ministers) within a constitutional monarchy

Head of State:  
King Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands,  
Prince of Orange-Nassau

Administrative structure:  
The kingdom consists of four entities. The Netherlands and three territories in the Caribbean: Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten

Special municipalities:  
The overseas islands of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius, all three of which are situated in the Caribbean Surface area

Surface area:

41,543 km<sup>2</sup>

Location:  
Western Europe,  
bordering Germany,  
Belgium and the  
North Sea

Number of provinces:

12

Number of inhabitants in 2023:

17,834,013

Statistics Netherlands (CBS),  
February 2023

The Netherlands is one  
of the founding members  
of the European Union (EU)

Monetary unit:

euro

Languages:  
Dutch, Frisian and on the  
overseas islands also English  
and Papiamentu

# Visit the Netherlands

Are you thinking of traveling to the Netherlands? Fantastic! Here are 7 main reasons why you should explore our country, along with some unique facts to remember.

## 1. Our past and future go hand in hand

When you think of the Netherlands, the iconic image of windmills, tulips and clogs may come in mind. Yes, they are part of our history and culture. But today, there is so much more to discover! Immerse yourself in the modern-day Netherlands, where you can experience our heritage from a new perspective.

## 2. Bicycles will get you everywhere

Did you know that the Netherlands has more bicycles than residents? The many cycle paths and the extensive network of cycling routes invite visitors to explore our country using this safe and sustainable mode of transport. The bicycle represents freedom, pleasure and an environmentally friendly way for young and old to get around. It is also the optimal way to feel like a local in our country.

## 3. Beautiful beaches and stunning nature

The Dutch coast has been a popular destination for an enjoyable stay for generations. The natural beauty is impressive, with long rows of dunes sheltering broad, sandy beaches that slowly merge into the sea. At the same time, the Dutch interior offers a different view at every turn, with open fields, purple heathlands, and vast forests teeming with wildlife.

## 4. Our unique relationship with water

The Netherlands is inextricably linked to water; you could say it flows through our veins. Our relationship with water is central to our history and has brought us great prosperity. Water management remains a very topical subject in these times. Living in a country that is mostly below sea level requires creativity and ingenuity.





Photo: Ernst Wagenveld

## 5. Tulip fields as far as the eye can see

Dutch history is marked by flowers, plants, vegetables and fruit. Horticulture gives our country a distinctive look, with the famous tulip as the most important icon. Visitors from near and far come to the Netherlands to admire the extraordinary glorious colors in the striking flat landscape.

## 6. The inspirational designs of 'New Dutch'

New Dutch is about architecture and design. But it also covers everything that makes up the typical urban vibe: modern art, the dance scene, fashion designers and street art. Our free-thinking, innovative and creative mindset continuously leads to fresh ideas that amaze visitors and enable them to look at things differently.

## 7. Famous Dutch Masters for you to meet

We make the works and stories of Dutch Masters accessible by showing that these artists were 'normal' Dutch people. Because we know so much about them, we can give visitors a good insight into their lives. And because that period is still well represented in our cities, it is easy to imagine what their surroundings looked like at that time.

If you're traveling to the Netherlands, our up-to-date travel advice gives you practical tips on entry requirements, what you can bring to the Netherlands, and more.

Go to: <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/theme/travel>.

# Doing business with and in the Netherlands

Stemming from the belief that in a world that is rapidly changing, we have to reconsider the roles we play in building peaceful, inclusive and thriving societies, and that working together is the only way forward. By seeking out international collaboration and partnerships, we believe we can unite our ambitions and show that doing business and doing good go hand-in-hand.

## 1. Finding a business partner

Are you looking for a business partner from the Netherlands?

Our Honorary Consul is your first point of contact. She can be reached via email at [delgerbyambasuren@gmail.com](mailto:delgerbyambasuren@gmail.com).

## 2. Investing in the Netherlands

By expanding your business to the Netherlands, you get access to innovation networks, projects and facilities to make vital advances in areas like agri-food, water, energy, mobility and urban planning. You also become part of our international business environment that thrives on superb infrastructure, world-class multilingual talent, business-friendly regulatory authorities, and a collaborative mindset. As the gateway to Europe, the Netherlands provides easy access to key markets and partners in Europe.

For international companies with expansion ambitions in Europe, the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA) is the first port of call. A unit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, NFIA guides foreign companies in their next step in the Netherlands. Visit: [www.investinholland.com](http://www.investinholland.com).



Photo: Ben Wind

### 3. Doing business responsibly

In all cases, the Dutch government expects you to conduct business responsibly. Responsible business conduct (RBC) means that you should take account of human rights, working conditions and the environment in your company's operations.

To identify and prevent potential impacts in your supply chains and operations, you can have a look at the OECD's 'Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct': <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/due-diligence-guidance-for-responsible-business-conduct.htm>.

Fueled by world-class research institutes, research universities and public-private partnerships between science, industry and government, the Netherlands has become the world's second-largest exporter of agriculture, after the United States.

In 2022, the diverse Dutch agricultural sector exported 122.3 billion euros worth of agricultural goods. And diverse the sector is: it covers a wide range of livestock and plant-cultivation sectors that include, arable and dairy farming, cultivation under glass, tree-growing and pig farming.

The Netherlands has defined important goals for 2030, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We aim to contribute to the global efforts in alleviating hunger and malnutrition by:

- increasing production of high quality and nutritious food (SDG 2)
- doubling the productivity of eight million farmers worldwide (SDG 8)
- bringing eight million hectares of land under sustainable management (SDG15)
- and promoting responsible use of raw materials and consumption (SDG 12).

Over the past decades, the Netherlands has established an international reputation of a highly innovative agricultural producer. But the future of farming requires innovation and adopting a new approach. The Netherlands can support other countries in promoting efficient use of natural resources and raw materials, while at the same time increasing food production to ensure adequate supply for the increasing global population.

The Netherlands can play an important role here by providing knowledge and technology across the value chains, ranging from restoring healthy soil conditions, good agricultural practice, logistics, distribution, and consumer engagement. The Netherlands is able to support countries where food security is under pressure by co-creating solutions for the respective local challenges.

### Ready to dig deeper?

Explore the world of agriculture and horticulture. Learn how we work with governments, knowledge institutes and businesses from all over the world to achieve food security.

Let's farm the future together:

<https://farmingthefuture.nl/>









# Water

Water connects and sustains us, but at the same time 90 percent of major disasters are water related. And climate change is accelerating the challenges of too much, too little and too dirty water.

Tackling water and maritime challenges can help address climate change and the other global challenges. But the Netherlands cannot do this alone. We need to work together, share knowledge and harness the power of technology. Only together can we manage water and maritime resources integrally and sustainably.

The Netherlands' location as a densely populated, low lying delta has impacted our history, culture, society and democracy. The Dutch may be famous for building dikes and reclaiming land, but centuries of dealing with water challenges has brought us new insights. Today, the Netherlands harnesses nature itself to build resilient cities and coastal defenses.

Water challenges have taught us to cooperate, to include everyone in the solution and to look beyond our borders for novel solutions. How do we do this? Through partnership, knowledge exchange and collaborative innovation. In return, we are willing to share our advanced water management, delta and maritime technology. Port development, fishing, shipbuilding, dredging are among the many maritime industries that could benefit from global cooperation. Ultimately society itself benefits as integrated water management improves water supplies and sanitation. While wastewater management returns clean water to its natural cycle, enhancing diversity and replenishing this valuable and finite resource.

The Dutch government is committed to contribute to safe and secure water worldwide. That's why in March 2023 the Netherlands co-hosted the UN Water Conference with Tajikistan in New York. We invite all global partners to follow-up to this Conference and value water for a water-secure world.

# Energy

The global energy transition plays a huge role in successfully limiting climate change. Recent geopolitical developments have only emphasized the urgency of transitioning to renewable energies through international collaboration. Believing in the EU strategy, the Netherlands is committed to creating partnerships across borders that will contribute to systematic changes that directly influence the energy transition.

## Clean and renewable energy

Clean energy is a global challenge that the Dutch are meeting head on, using our long experience of caring for the environment and working with nature. The Dutch have built a reputation on:

- creating reliable, affordable, and sustainable solutions that are publicly accepted and competitive
- developing collaborative programmes of government, university and business that stimulate knowledge exchange (Triple Helix)
- building an advanced energy sector and excellent energy infrastructure
- conducting research on relevant topics (e.g. ECN)
- generating expertise in hydrogen, wind, and solar energy, etc.

## Renewable sources

Energy-efficiency and electric transport are top priorities for the Dutch government. Dutch railways already have an extensive electrified rail network powered by renewable sources. More and more local municipalities are implementing electric and hydrogen-fuelled bus lines. At the same time, electric vehicles are becoming more commonplace as the infrastructure that runs them expands.

Renewables are expected to turn the Netherlands from a net importer into a net exporter of electricity in the coming years. Between 2008 and 2018, the share of renewables in the total energy mix increased by half. At present, bioenergy is the primary source of renewable energy. By 2030, wind and solar are expected to become the main sources of renewable energy, making up 70% of electricity generation.

## Low-carbon economy

Flexible and interconnected energy systems are key to our ambition to achieve a cost-effective transition to a low-carbon economy. Together with international partners, we research and work on new energy technologies.





## A unique case: The Netherlands' Hydrogen Valley

The northern region of the Netherlands finds itself with a unique opportunity: to cost-effectively develop an integrated hydrogen ecosystem, which can prove to be a game-changer in global hydrogen developments and accelerate the energy transition.

The Hydrogen Valley has over 30 subprojects running and in preparation with public-private parties taking a cross-sectoral approach under 4 different themes; storage and infrastructure, generating hydrogen as a raw material for industrial use, using hydrogen as heat and power in residential areas, and sustainable mobility.

With Europe's first hydrogen valley, the Netherlands can accelerate the energy transition and development of hydrogen, as well as serve as an example for the international community to follow.



# Smart and green mobility

When it comes to mobility, the Netherlands means business opportunities. The Netherlands is a densely populated country. There is an urgent challenge to use new technologies to solve mobility, environmental and safety issues. At the same time, the Netherlands is a unique, living lab to develop and test smart mobility solutions and roll them out on a large scale.

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## E-mobility in numbers

# 25%

of all public transport buses are already electric in the Netherlands

# 100,000+

electrical charging points in the Netherlands

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## The Dutch:

- are firmly convinced that smart mobility must transcend a national perspective only
- have businesses, knowledge institutes and authorities joining forces to pursue this common objective
- signed multilateral agreements on issues in the field of liability, safety and privacy
- have prestigious knowledge clusters in the automotive, technology and high-tech industry
- have infrastructure that is the best in the world, maritime, air, road and railroad facilities rank consistently high
- are the 1st for connectivity, in view of its high-speed broadband (at least 30 Mbps) available to practically all households (98%)
- have a high-tech sector that leads the world in the development of new technologies and materials.

## Looking for more inspiration?

Take a look at these sustainable and inclusive showcases:

<https://www.nlplatform.com/search?search=smart+mobility>.



Photo: Olivier Groot

# Sustainable and liveable cities

Smart cities are a continuous journey, not a final destination. But our cities change at such a rapid pace, it's difficult to predict what citizens would need and wish for in the upcoming 30 years.

The only way to boost sustainable urban development and build inclusive and future-proof cities is by working together and learning from each other.

Being one of the most densely populated countries in the world, the Netherlands

has always found ways to make optimal use of all its land, all the more so with beautifully architected buildings. This has resulted in a dense network of urban areas with close collaboration, which even attracts a large number of visitors each year. Thanks to multifunctional design, the use of advanced technology and smart transportation, Dutch cities are well on their way to becoming future proof and resilient.





The Dutch are experts on the following topics:

- Circular and climate-neutral buildings
- Climate adaptation
- Smart and Green Mobility and Infrastructure
- Feeding the city
- Urban Healthy Living
- Safety and Security
- Developing technological gems in the areas of integrated and circular solutions, implementation techniques and system breakthroughs
- Working from a social challenge instead of a technology push.

What are you doing to build sustainable and liveable cities?

We're curious to hear!



# Human rights

The Netherlands is a democracy governed by the rule of law. This means that human rights are the cornerstone of Dutch society, as they are the key to human dignity, freedom and development. We have a rich tradition of promoting and protecting human rights, both at home and abroad.

Domestically, many human rights are laid down in the Constitution. For example, article 1 of the Dutch Constitution says that everyone in the Netherlands must be treated equally in equal circumstances. In addition to national legislation, the Netherlands protects human rights via international human rights agreements, many of which derive from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In fact, article 90 of the Constitution states the government shall promote the development of the international legal order. Upholding human rights commitments is a complex task. How the Dutch government aims to achieve this is set out in the 'National Action Plan on Human Rights'.

Do you want to know more about the Netherlands' domestic human rights policy? Go to [government.nl/topics/human-rights/human-rights-in-the-netherlands](https://government.nl/topics/human-rights/human-rights-in-the-netherlands).

The Netherlands has a proactive human rights policy abroad. In addition to promoting and protecting human rights in multilateral institutions such as the EU and the UN, we have a Human Rights Fund and a Human Rights Ambassador specifically devoted to this topic. Within our foreign human rights policy, the emphasis lies on six areas.

- **Freedom of expression and internet freedom.**  
As part of this, the Dutch government promotes the independent position of journalists and media organizations worldwide.
- **Freedom of religion and belief.**  
Everyone should have the right to make their own religious or ideological choices, including the choice to convert to a different religion or not to believe.
- **Equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTIQ+).** The Netherlands was the first country in the world to legalize gay marriage and continues to promote equal rights for LGBTIQ+ people worldwide.
- **Equal rights for women and girls.**  
Core issues which the Netherlands focuses on are: combating violence against women, preventing child marriage, promoting political and economic participation by women and achieving gender equality between men and women.
- **Supporting human rights defenders.**  
The Dutch government supports individuals or organizations that seek to protect human rights, so they can do their work effectively and safely.
- **Tackling impunity for the most serious crimes.**  
The Netherlands is home to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and is committed to fighting impunity.

It is only by cooperating with partners that we can achieve concrete human rights results. That is why the Netherlands seeks local partnerships within our six priority areas. If you want to know more about the Netherlands' human rights policy, please go to [government.nl/topics/human-rights/](https://government.nl/topics/human-rights/) for more information.





# Working and living in the Netherlands

## Working in the Netherlands

Multinational companies, innovative startups and an unbeatable work-life balance inspire people from around the world to further their careers in the Netherlands. Find out why you should join them. Read more about working in the Netherlands here: <https://www.welcome-to-nl.nl/work-in-nl>, with in-depth articles about for example the workplace culture and trending industries.

## Living in the Netherlands

Picturesque cityscapes aside, life in the Netherlands means a heavy dose of art and culture, a well-connected international community, easy connections to the rest of Europe and the joys of traveling by bicycle. Are you ready for it? Find more information on for example health and housing here: <https://www.welcome-to-nl.nl/living-in-the-netherlands>.

## Immigration

Explore the residency permits available to you and the steps involved in applying. The Netherlands welcomes international talent and has a broad range of services dedicated to helping you make the move. For more information, head over to: <https://www.welcome-to-nl.nl/immigration>.

# We look forward to getting in touch with you!

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 Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mongolia

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