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Netherlands

Official Name: Kingdom of the Netherlands

LAST UPDATED: MAY 25, 2017

Embassy Messages

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Quick Facts

- **PASSPORT VALIDITY:**
A passport must be valid for at least six months beyond planned date of departure from [the Schengen area](#).
- **BLANK PASSPORT PAGES:**
Two pages required for entry stamp
- **TOURIST VISA REQUIRED:**
Not required for stays under 90 days
- **VACCINATIONS:**
None
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY:**
10,000 Euros or equivalent
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR EXIT:**
10,000 Euros or equivalent

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Embassies and Consulates

[U.S. Embassy The Hague](#)

Lange Voorhout 102

2514 EJ The Hague

Telephone: +(31) (0) 70 310 2209

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +31 (0) 70 310 2209

Fax: +(31) (0) 70 310 2207

CONSULATES

[U.S. Consulate General Amsterdam](#)

Museumplein 19

1071 DJ Amsterdam

Telephone: +(31)(20) 575-5309

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(31)(0) 70 310-2209

Fax: +(31) (0) 20 575 5330

USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov

Note: All consular services are provided by the U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam.

Destination Description

See the Department of State's [Fact Sheet on The Netherlands](#) for information on U.S. - Netherlands relations.

Entry, Exit & Visa Requirements

The Netherlands is a party to the Schengen Agreement. Visit the [Embassy of the Netherlands](#) website for the most current visa information.

- We recommend your passport be valid for at least six months beyond your planned date of departure. For additional details about travel into and within Schengen countries, please see our [Schengen fact sheet](#).
- You may enter the Netherlands for up to 90 days for tourist purposes without a visa. Further useful information, in English and Dutch, can be found on the website of the [Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service](#) . Additional information is available on the [Dutch Board of Tourism and Conventions](#) website.

Information on work, residency, and immigration requirements in the Netherlands can be found on the website of the [Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service](#) . For further information, contact: the [Embassy of the Netherlands](#) at 4200 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20008; one of the Dutch consulates in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, or Miami; or one of the various honorary Dutch consulates throughout the United States. Additional information is available on the [Dutch Board of Tourism and Conventions](#) website.

HIV/AIDS RESTRICTIONS: The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of the Netherlands.

Find information on [dual nationality](#), [prevention of international child abduction](#) and [customs regulations](#) on our websites.

Safety and Security

Terrorism: Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Europe. European governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks; however, all European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. U.S. citizens should be aware that attacks can take place without prior warning.

When visiting or living in the Netherlands, you should:

- Be aware of your local security situation and take appropriate steps to bolster your personal security.
- Address specific safety concerns to Dutch law enforcement authorities who have responsibility for the safety and security of all residents and visitors in the Netherlands.
- Avoid demonstrations and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Even events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational. Large public gatherings can affect roads and means of transportation to and from the cities in which they occur.

Demonstrations occur regularly. Large, public demonstrations take place for a variety of political and economic issues. Demonstrations tend to take place on politically significant holidays and during international summits hosted in the country.

- Demonstration organizers must obtain prior police approval, and police routinely oversee participants.
- Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.
- Avoid areas around protests and demonstrations.
- Check local media for updates on the situation and traffic advisories.
- Security messages issued regarding demonstrations are now posted on the U.S. Mission's website

Crime: While the rate of violent crime in the Netherlands is low, tourists are often targeted by pickpockets, bag snatchers, and other petty thieves and are active in and around train, tram, and metro stations in the city center; and aboard public transportation, especially to and from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. Thieves often work in pairs: one distracts you, often by asking for directions, while the other moves in on your unguarded property. Use your hotel safe, and keep baggage locked or secured when you are away. Avoid leaving valuables in automobiles, especially electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets, GPS devices, and mobile telephones. Never leave your personal items or baggage unattended.

Most retailers in the Netherlands only accept a "chip and pin" card and will not accept a standard U.S. credit card containing only a magnetic strip. ATM and credit card users are advised to keep an eye on their cards at all times. If you feel uncomfortable using your card for any reason, use cash. Contact your credit card provider for further guidance.

Scams: U.S. citizens overseas are frequently the victims of online financial scams. Funds lost in such scams are rarely recovered. Information on fraud schemes can be found on the U.S. Embassy and Consulate's [website](#), the [Department of State's international financial scams](#) page, and the [FBI](#) pages for information. If you suspect you have been targeted by a scam based in the Netherlands, you may report it to Dutch law enforcement authorities through the following police [website](#) and through the Fraud Help Desk [website](#) .

Do not buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if they are widely available, as you may be breaking U.S. and local law.

Victims of Crime: Report crimes or emergencies to the local police by dialing 112, or 0900-8844 for non-emergency cases. See above for contact information for the U.S. Embassy The Hague and U.S. Consulate General in Amsterdam.

Remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes.

See our webpage on [help for U.S. victims of crime overseas](#).

We can:

- help you find appropriate medical care
- assist you in reporting a crime to the police
- contact relatives or friends with your written consent
- explain the local criminal justice process in general terms
- provide a list of local attorneys
- provide our information on [victim's compensation programs in the U.S.](#)
- provide an emergency loan for repatriation to the United States and/or limited medical support in cases of destitution
- help you find accommodation and arrange flights home
- replace a stolen or lost passport

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) of the Netherlands provides financial compensation, under specific circumstances, for victims of crime and for those who have suffered injuries as a result of such incidents. For more information, contact the [Dutch Ministry of Justice](#) at +(31) (0) 70 465 6767.

Domestic Violence: U.S. citizen victims of domestic violence may contact the Embassy for assistance.

For further information:

- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier for us to locate you in an emergency.
- Call us in Washington at +001-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or +001-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and the [Europe Travel Alert](#).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
- See the [Traveler's Checklist](#) for useful travel tips.

Local Laws & Special Circumstances

Criminal Penalties: You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

Furthermore, some laws are also prosecutable in the United States, regardless of local law. For examples, see our website on [crimes against minors abroad](#) and the [Department of Justice website](#) .

Arrest Notification: If you are arrested or detained, ask police or prison officials to notify the U.S. Embassy or Consulate immediately. See our [webpage](#) for further information.

Despite common misperceptions, marijuana and hashish are controlled substances in the Netherlands, and although not enforced in defined tourist areas, possession is a crime that can result in a fine. “Coffee shops” are havens for petty criminals who prey on tourists and other individuals under the influence of drugs. Persons who visit “coffee shops” have become victims of pickpocketing, identity theft, sexual assault, and other crimes. Visitors are cautioned against using such substances, as they are often counterfeit and can cause illness or death. It is illegal to take any controlled substance, such as marijuana, into or out of the Netherlands.

Faith-Based Travelers: See our following webpages for details:

- [Faith-Based Travel Information](#)
- [International Religious Freedom Report](#) – see country reports
- [Human Rights Report](#) – see country reports
- [Hajj Fact Sheet for Travelers](#)
- [Best Practices for Volunteering Abroad](#)

LGBTI Travelers: There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBTI events in the Netherlands. See our [LGBTI travel information](#) page and section 6 of the [Department of State's Human Rights Report](#) for further details.

Travelers Who Require Accessibility Assistance: Dutch law guarantees equality and the right to access for people with disabilities. Information about accessibility in and around Amsterdam for travelers with disabilities is available on Amsterdam’s main online portal for visitors and local residents. See [I amsterdam link](#).

Students: See our [students abroad](#) page and [FBI travel tips](#).

Women Travelers: See our travel tips for [women travelers](#).

Health

Good medical facilities are widely available.

- Dial 112 for emergency medical assistance.
- Pharmacies ("Apotheek") are widely available and can assist with emergency prescription needs. Some common medications are not available in the Netherlands without a prescription, and some prescription drugs cannot be imported into the country.
- Carry an adequate supply of prescription drugs in their original container in your carry-on luggage. Please carry a letter from your pharmacist or medical doctor with you, as some drugs are subject to confiscation by local customs agents.
- If you are traveling with any pre-existing medical condition, bring a letter from your physician that describes your medical condition and any prescription medications, including the generic name of any prescribed drugs.

We do not pay medical bills. Be aware that U.S. Medicare does not apply overseas.

Make sure your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas. Most care providers overseas only accept cash payments. See our webpage for more [information on insurance providers for overseas coverage](#).

We strongly recommend supplemental insurance to cover medical evacuation.

While vaccinations are not required for travel to the Netherlands, you can stay up-to-date on all [vaccinations recommended](#) by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further health information go to:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Travel & Transportation

Road Conditions and Safety:

- Lanes in the center of many urban two-way streets are reserved for buses, trams, and taxis.
- In cities, pedestrians should be mindful of trams and buses, which often cross or share bicycle and pedestrian paths. Serious and sometimes fatal accidents involving pedestrians or bicyclists colliding with trams and buses occur each year.
- Motorists should be especially mindful of the fact that bicyclists have the right-of-way; motorists must yield to bicyclists.
- Pedestrians should not walk along bicycle paths, which are often next to the sidewalk and usually designated by red pavement.

Traffic Laws:

- A valid driver's license issued by a Department of Motor Vehicles in the United States is valid for use in the Netherlands while in tourist or visitor status. Please check [here](#) for more information.
- You must use seat belts and child seats.
- Driving is on the right side of the road, as in the United States.
- Speed limits are strictly enforced by radar. Traffic cameras are common throughout the Netherlands and it is possible to receive a ticket for traveling even 2-5 km/h over the limit. Different limits may apply to certain hours of the day, as posted.
- Drivers must yield the right-of-way to vehicles and bicyclists coming from the right at intersections or traffic circles unless otherwise posted.
- The maximum allowable blood-alcohol content in the Netherlands is 0.05 percent.
- The maximum allowable blood-alcohol limit for those who have had a driver's license for less than five years is 0.02 percent.
- Use of cellular telephones for talking or texting while driving without the use of a hands-free device is prohibited, and is punishable by significant fines.
- Bicyclists and pedestrians should be particularly cautious during the winter months, when paths, roads, and especially bridges can become icy and extremely slippery.

Public Transportation: Rail is often a convenient alternative to driving, particularly in the areas around Amsterdam, The Hague, and Rotterdam, where road congestion is frequent. Rail network information is available at <http://www.ns.nl/en> . It is relatively safe to travel by rail from city to city, compared to some other European countries.

Taxi service in the Netherlands is safe but expensive. Trams and buses are both convenient and economical, but are often frequented by pickpockets.

Please refer to our [road safety page](#) for more information. Also, we suggest that you visit the [Netherlands Board of Tourism and Conventions](#) .

Aviation Safety Oversight:

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of the Netherlands' Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of the Netherlands' air carrier operations. Further information may be found on the [FAA's safety assessment page](#) .

Maritime Travel:

Mariners planning travel to The Netherlands should also check for U.S. maritime advisories and alerts at www.marad.dot.gov/msci . Information may also be posted to the U.S. Coast Guard homeport website (<https://homeport.uscg.mil>), and the NGA broadcast warnings website (<https://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal> select "broadcast warnings").

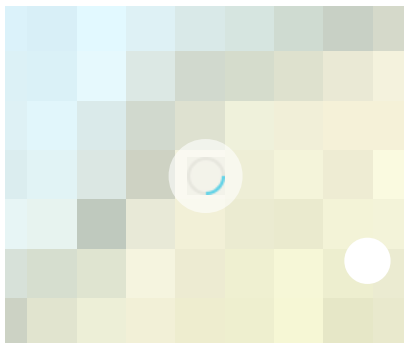
Please see Fact Sheet for this country.

Assistance for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Consulate General
Amsterdam
Museumplein 19
1071 DJ Amsterdam

- Telephone
+(31)(20) 575-5309
- Emergency After-Hours Telephone
+(31)(0)70 310 2209
- Fax
+(31)(0) 20 575 5330
- Email
USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov
- U.S. Embassy and Consulate in the Netherlands

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