

# Welcome to The Southeast Netherlands

Your **Free**  
Guide

The Noord-Brabant Edition



holland  
**expat center**  
south



The essential guide for  
international newcomers  
moving to The Southeast  
Netherlands

Spring 2013



  
Brainport  
Eindhoven



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Thursday 13.30-19.00

Friday 08.30-12.30

Monday - Friday 09.00-17.00 (telephone & email)

Holland Expat Center South is closed on public holidays.

Holland Expat Center South aims to make the inflow to a new living and working environment as easy as possible for expats and their families. We do this by offering a fast and easy procedure for highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers and their families. Furthermore we provide every expat with the "Welcome to The Southeast Netherlands" guide, which contains useful information on all relevant topics to living in the Brabant region.

For more information, and to register for the Holland Expat Center South Newsletter, please visit: [www.hollandexpatcenter.com](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com).

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## Welcome to the Southeast Netherlands!

Holland Expat Center South is your starting point for information on settling into the Southeast Netherlands. We can offer you information about services offered in the region that will help you enjoy your time here. Keep updated on important information by connecting with us through social media!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are here to help!

Kind Regards,  
The Holland Expat Center South Team



**hollandexpatcenter.com:** The most comprehensive website for expats living and working in the Southeast Netherlands. It contains useful information on Formalities, Taxation, Finance & Insurance, Housing, Education & Careers, Personal & Social Needs, and Culture & Leisure.



**Newsletter:** Subscribe to our newsletter and get up-to-date news about the region!



**Social Media:** We invite you to connect with us!  
Facebook - Holland Expat Center  
Twitter - @holexpatcenter  
LinkedIn - The Holland Expat Center



**Expat Coffee Mornings, Expat Workshop Evenings and Meet & Greet Eindhoven Events:**

Come and meet other expats living in the area, and get important information on expat-related topics! Check our website [www.hollandexpatcenter.com](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com) for more information about our upcoming events.

**Welcome Guide:** The essential guide for international newcomers moving to the Southeast Netherlands. (Get a complimentary copy at Holland Expat Center South or download a version afrom our website.)



*Wim van de Donk  
The Queen's Commissioner  
for the province  
of Noord-Brabant*

**Provincie Noord-Brabant**



## A hearty welcome to Brabant, a province where it is a joy to live and work.

After all, Brabant is an aspiring and innovative province, is open to the world, and devoting considerable attention to sustainability, wildlife and culture. Furthermore, Brabant is a province where high-tech and high touch go hand in hand.

We appreciate the good life here. Working hard, yet also taking time to enjoy our rich cultural life, our stunning wildlife and one another's company. The people of Brabant look out for each other and feel an affinity with one another and the province in which they live. And Brabant boasts an open society. Open to change, progress and new ideas. But also open to members of the international community. Not solely because they contribute considerably to our innovative and internationally oriented knowledge-based economy, but also because these expats enrich our culture. It is therefore important to us to make matters for both you and your company as comfortable and convenient as possible in Brabant.

Brabant's Expat Centers in Eindhoven and Tilburg play an important role in this regard. You are welcome to contact them with any queries you may have, regardless of whether these relate to the various formalities applicable, housing, financial matters or education. It is our intention to offer you the greatest possible service.

Once again, I bid you a hearty welcome to Brabant, and trust that you will enjoy the time you spend here.



*"Enjoy the warm friendship of Dutch, and be respectful of the local customs and culture."*

-- Kandalam Ramanujachary, New Jersey, U.S.A.

## 1. Welcome to The Netherlands!

The Netherlands has always been an outward looking nation. Its coastal location and proud seafaring tradition have ensured that Dutch navigators and adventurers have been featured prominently throughout history in international exploration, colonisation and trade. This has given the country a role in international affairs that is disproportionate to its size, and has resulted in a cosmopolitan outlook and entrepreneurial attitude. The Dutch people also developed a taste for the exotic and have embraced foreign cultures while maintaining their own unique identity.



## History of The Netherlands

The land that now forms The Netherlands has been inhabited for about 100,000 years. However, the country's recorded history really began around 57 BC with the Roman conquest, led by Julius Caesar. During that time, the Romans built the first military forts and cities, and introduced writing. Following the decline of the Roman Empire, The Netherlands became part of the Holy Roman Empire.

Much of what is now the western Netherlands was barely inhabited swampland until around 1000 BC, when local farmers began to drain and cultivate it. This expansion in land helped the country to thrive, and higher productivity allowed workers to become tradesmen. As production exceeded local demand, guilds were established and markets developed. Towns and cities grew rapidly, and were home to a new mercantile middle class.

As the cities grew in wealth and power, they became virtual independent republics and were constantly at war with one another. They were eventually united by the Duke Philip the Good of Burgundy between 1430-1433. Prior to this time the local people usually identified themselves by the town where they lived, or as subjects of the Holy Roman Empire, but this unification is widely considered the moment when the Dutch became a nation. The region's trade developed rapidly, especially in the areas of shipping and transport.

The Netherlands became a possession of the Habsburg dynasty in the 16th century, but in 1548, the Habsburg ruler Charles V granted the Seventeen Provinces of The Netherlands nominal independent status. However, Charles' son Philip II of Spain, a devout Catholic, was appalled



by the success of the Reformation in the region and the rise of Calvinism. In 1568 he passed a sentence condemning all three million inhabitants of The Netherlands to death as heretics. Unsurprisingly this prompted a revolt. Led by William of Orange (an ancestor of the present Queen) the Dutch declared full independence from Spain in 1579, as seven rebellious provinces formed the 'United Provinces'.

The Spanish lost control of The Netherlands after 20 years, although the war dragged on for another 60 years, until a peace treaty of Westphalia of 1648 confirmed the independence of the United Provinces. The country would soon become known overseas as 'Holland' (named after the most dominant of the seven provinces).

During this time Holland became an important trading centre in Northern Europe and founded colonies around the world. The nation flourished during the 17th century: An era known to the Dutch as 'the Golden Age'. However, a slow decline set in following full independence.

Napoleon Bonaparte occupied the country in 1795, encountering little resistance from a nation that largely supported his republican ideals. In 1806 Napoleon restyled The Netherlands into the Kingdom of Holland, with his brother Louis as king, but he quickly annexed the fledgling nation into the French Empire when Louis began to put Dutch interests ahead of those of France. In 1815, following the defeat of Napoleon, the country became an independent monarchy once again. This 'United Kingdom of The Netherlands' originally consisted of what is now The Netherlands and Belgium, but the Belgians declared independence from the North in 1830. In 1848, unrest across Europe prompted King William II to agree to democratic reform and The Netherlands became a constitutional monarchy.

When World War I broke out in 1914, The Netherlands remained neutral. The country declared its neutrality again in 1939 at the outbreak of World War II, but Nazi invaded the country in May 1940, and The Netherlands remained under German occupation for five years. Liberation Day is commemorated each year on 5 May.

The Dutch economy expanded rapidly during the 1950s and 60s. Demand for labour meant immigration was encouraged, first from Italy and Spain, then from Turkey and Morocco. Combined with immigration from former colonies (Indonesia, Surinam and Netherlands Antilles) The Netherlands became the multicultural society it is today. The 1960s and 70s were also a time of social and cultural upheaval. Class and religious divisions began to break down, and today, The Netherlands is regarded as a very liberal country. The Netherlands was a founding member of both the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and participated in the introduction of the Euro in 1999. As a modern industrialized nation it is also a large exporter of agricultural products.



## Government

The Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy: the position of the monarch is laid down in the Constitution. The monarch is the Dutch head of state and, together with the ministers, makes up the government. Queen Beatrix was the head of state of the Kingdom of The Netherlands from 1980 to April 30, 2013, when she abdicated to her eldest son, Willem-Alexander.

The ministers make up the Cabinet, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. The Cabinet's duties include the day-to-day business of the government, preparing legislation and putting it into practice, overseeing local government, and maintaining international relations.

The Council of State is The Netherlands' oldest High Council of State. Founded by Emperor Charles V in 1531, it is still the government's chief advisory body.

All Dutch nationals older than 18 may vote and stand in elections for the House of Representatives. Parliament (the States General) consists of two chambers: the Senate (the upper house, with 75 members, is elected by the provincial councils) and the House of Representatives (the lower house, with 150 members). All Acts of Parliament have to be passed by both houses of parliament.

The Netherlands has many political parties, which is encouraged by the electoral system. Like all Dutch democratic bodies, the House of Parliament is elected by proportional representation. More information: [www.minbuza.nl](http://www.minbuza.nl) (*English - Welcome to The Netherlands*)



## Culture and society

In such a small country with a population of approximately 16.7 million, efficient planning is an essential way of life in The Netherlands. Universal rules and regulations in society, combined with good internal discipline, bring stability to life and reduce uncertainty. There is also a strong need for social and personal order.

Equal rights for everyone are guaranteed by law, and egalitarianism forms a central belief of Dutch society. A downside to this is that decision-making at the governmental and business level can often be slow and involved, since all peripheral concerns must always be taken into account. However, the majority of the population is happy with their quality of life, and the social welfare system is recognised internationally as being excellent.

When socialising, the Dutch enjoy visiting bars and cafés, and cinemas are also very popular. They are keen on sports and fitness, music, social clubs and organised events. They also love flowers! Dutch homes are often full of house plants, and flowers are frequently given as gifts when visiting friends or relatives.



## Climate

📌 *"There's no getting away from the rain. You just have to embrace it and enjoy the green wonderful life it brings."*

-- Lisa Jochim, U.S.A

The Netherlands has a maritime climate. The relatively stable sea temperature moderates many seasonal changes and generally prevents extreme temperatures, both hot or cold.

Summers are generally cool. There are an average of 20 cloudless days per summer. Daytime temperatures range between 18°C and 25°C. The weather can sometimes be hot, but temperatures seldom soar above 30°C.

Winters tend to be mild and wet, with daytime temperatures averaging around 4°C to 8°C. The Netherlands is sometimes called the low sky country, as cloud cover can make winter days seem grey. However, there are usually several weeks each year when the temperature drops below freezing. Cold wind (wind chill factor) can cause the air to feel cooler than it is, but one upside to this is that colder periods are often marked by dry and sunny days.

## Language

Dutch and Frisian (spoken in Friesland) are the official languages of The Netherlands, but most Dutch speak good English. However, most public information is published only in Dutch, which makes it a good idea to



invest some time and energy into learning to read and understand the language, in order to get the most from your stay.

Many people say Dutch is a difficult language to learn, but it actually has simpler rules than for example German. Any effort you put into learning and speaking a few words of Dutch will be appreciated by your hosts, and will help you fit more quickly into life in your new home.

**More information** can be found in Section 6: Language Courses.

### **More information**

The above is a summary of information given to foreigners by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More information on these topics can be found on the Ministry's website: *Welcome to The Netherlands / The Netherlands / General Information*: [www.minbuza.nl](http://www.minbuza.nl)

### **Other useful websites**

The Netherlands Government Information Service's (RVD's) English-language site provides a daily selection of government news, plus background information on government policies and members of the Cabinet: [www.government.nl](http://www.government.nl)

For more detailed information on Dutch history: [www.history-netherlands.nl](http://www.history-netherlands.nl)  
The Dutch Royal House website provides up-to-date information on the royal family: [www.koninklijkhuis.nl/english/](http://www.koninklijkhuis.nl/english/)

The CIA's World Factbook provides all kinds of facts and figures about The Netherlands: [www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/nl.html#Intro](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/nl.html#Intro)

Non-for-profit organisation supporting the international community since 1986: [www.access-nl.org](http://www.access-nl.org)

## Expatriate Tips:

- >> **Encounters** Virtually everyone shakes hands in The Netherlands, both upon greeting and upon departure. In informal situations (with friends or relatives) women and men may also exchange three kisses, on alternating cheeks. Men only exchange three kisses with women, not with men.
- >> **Communication** Many foreigners can find the Dutch direct and abrupt at first. However, there is no intention to be rude. The Dutch say what they mean and speak their minds!
- >> **Meetings** If you come from a country where decisions are made by bosses and meetings are short, you could be in for a shock. Dutch society puts great emphasis on the need for people at all levels to have their say in decision making processes, and on finding consensus. This can slow the decisionmaking process, but it ensures that everyone's view is heard.
- >> **Punctuality** The Dutch find it very important to be punctual. Call if you are delayed, and avoid cancelling meetings at the last minute. Don't forget that meetings usually adhere to a strict agenda, finishing at an appointed time.
- >> **Dress code** Many international managers find that the Dutch dress very casually in the work place. In sectors such as banking and law, the dress code is formal and traditional, but in many other industries it is casual. It is useful to realize that even if outward appearance differs greatly, the focus in The Netherlands is on content rather than form.
- >> **Work-life balance** Dutch people value their personal time. Therefore, avoid asking them to work late or over the weekend. Also, try not to plan business dinners: lunch is usually preferred. If you want to motivate Dutch workers, time off works better than money!
- >> **Dinner** It is common to bring a bottle of wine and flowers if you visit someone for dinner. However, do not expect the host to open the wine for the meal, as they might do in some cultures. The bottle is very often put to one side and will be enjoyed on another occasion.
- >> **Telephoning** People say their name straightaway on the phone (usually both first and last name), at work or at home, both when answering and calling.
- >> **Common expressions** There are two key expressions one should know. First, 'Gezellig!' is a bonding expression used in social situations, which translates loosely to 'Isn't this nice?' Second, 'Doe normaal!' In a country where hierarchy is frowned upon, this expression, which means 'Just behave normally,' has a strong resonance. This warning keeps kids and adults alike in check, and prevents them from stepping out of line and being too outrageous!



📍 *"The Southeast Netherlands is... a quiet place to work and to spend quality time with family."*

-- Tulio Charles de Oliveira Carvalho, Brazil



**Welcome to Brabant!**

Most foreigners have already heard about the multinational electronics giant Philips, and Eindhoven's renowned football team, PSV - one of Europe's best! Culture buffs probably know about the Van Abbemuseum, a contemporary art museum that has an outstanding international reputation; the Design Academy Eindhoven, renown as one of the world's best design schools; or Efteling, a famous amusement park that has won several awards. But Brabant has even more to offer!

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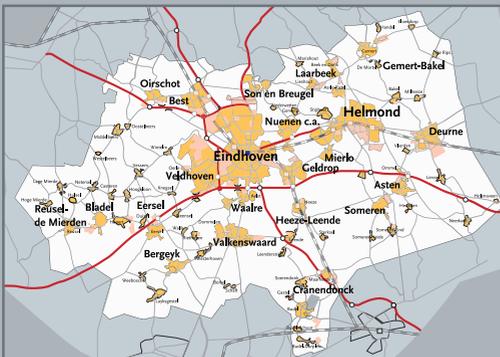
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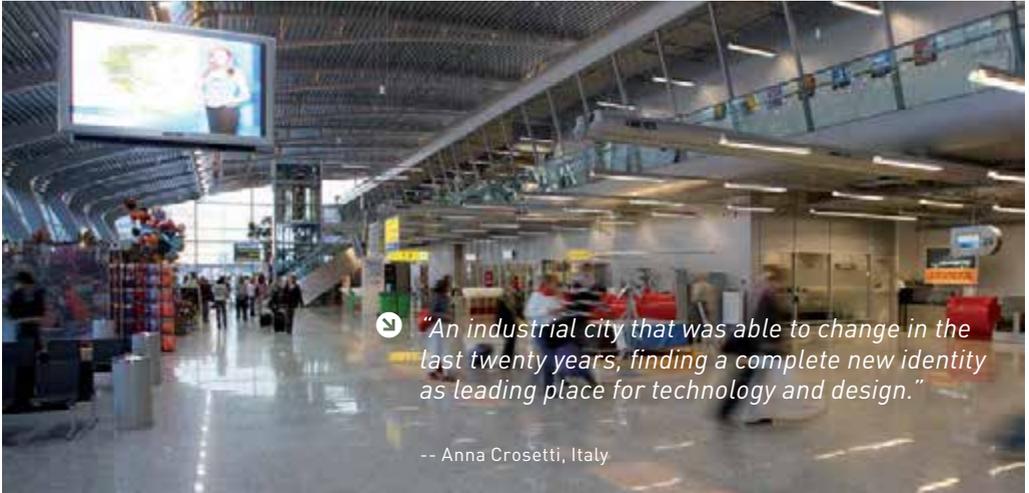


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## Eindhoven

Eindhoven is located between the economic centres of the Dutch Randstad conurbation, and the Ruhr conurbation of Central Germany, Brussels and Antwerp. The region covers an area of 1370 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 3.3% of the total area of The Netherlands, and has 729,000 inhabitants and 54,000 businesses. The economic structure is characterised by the presence of a high-quality industrial base, and a service sector that is experiencing steady growth.

As in most other countries, The Netherlands has three levels of government: the state, the provinces and the municipalities. The SRE is an inter-municipal co-operative union in which municipalities co-operate in order to promote common interests in the Eindhoven region; in other words government by the municipalities for the municipalities. The working area covers 21 municipalities.

High-tech industries and services are located all over the region. Eindhoven and Helmond are the largest cities, and both have a green character and form a thriving regional hub with a fine choice of restaurants, bars, shops and culture venues. Café terraces are popular places to sit and watch the world go by. For those who want a



taste of the countryside, the Eindhoven region is dotted with picturesque villages and plenty of forests.

## Brainport

The Eindhoven region, or Southeast Noord-Brabant, has transformed since the late 19th century from a mainly rural area to a strongly industrial one. New technology has long been its trademark. One of the initial driving forces for this was Philips, which today is one of the world's biggest electronics companies. Started in Eindhoven as a lighting producer, Philips was involved with the first experiments in television and radio by 1925. In the 1970s, Philips Research made key breakthroughs in the processing, storage and transmission of images, sound and data, which led amongst other things, to the invention of the Compact Disc. The region's reputation for high-tech activities has attracted new companies to invest here, and former Philips concerns have also grown into independent companies such as ASML and FEI. Founded in 1956, Eindhoven University of Technology has also contributed to this economic development. Brainport is also an important breeding ground for start-up companies.

As a result of its international reputation for cutting-edge R&D, the Eindhoven region has become known as 'Brainport': a recognised hotspot within The Southeast Netherlands. This area ranks high on the European Innovation Scoreboard and belongs to the top technology regions of Europe. Brainport encompasses 21 municipalities around Eindhoven, which between them are home to 729,000 people and 400,000 jobs. Annual growth is well above the national average.

## A short history of Eindhoven

The site on which Eindhoven stands is the location of one of the oldest settlements in The Netherlands, with a history that dates back some 2500 years. The city of Eindhoven is one of the oldest in The Netherlands. It was granted its town charter in 1232 by the Duke of Brabant. At the



time 'Endehoven' consisted of around 170 houses and a castle. Over the centuries however, Eindhoven's position located on key trade routes made it a target of enemy armies, and it was burned to the ground on several occasions.

In the following decades, Philips (started in 1925 in Eindhoven) grew into one of Europe's largest companies. Eindhoven's position as an important manufacturing centre became firmly established with the arrival of car and truck manufacturer Van Doorne's Automobielen Fabriek (DAF) in the 1920s. Unprecedented growth led to the annexation of the neighbouring villages: Woensel, Gestel, Strijp, Tongelre, and Stratum. These villages are now districts of Eindhoven.

During the Dutch Revolt against Philip II of Spain, Eindhoven changed hands several times. It became part of The Netherlands in 1629. During the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, the textile and cigar industries flourished and Eindhoven began to grow. But the real boom began in 1891 when Philips founded their first light bulb factory in the city.

During World War II, parts of Eindhoven were destroyed by heavy bombing and only a few buildings survived. Significant reminders of the past are the 17th century Mariënhage cloister and the gothic St. Catharina Church (19th century). Recent years have seen a local renaissance, as Eindhoven moves into the 21st century as a city of technology.

Business-services and industry are now two of the biggest employers in Eindhoven, with 37,000 and 18,000 people working in these sectors. They provide 151,000 jobs. Spearhead sectors for Eindhoven are medical technology, lifetec, automotive, mechatronics, high-tech systems and materials, design, and ICT.

The Eindhoven region is part of the province of Noord-Brabant, which also includes Breda, Tilburg and Den Bosch. The five largest cities (Breda, Den Bosch, Eindhoven, Helmond, and Tilburg) form 'BrabantStad': the second largest city network in The Netherlands. The largest city network is the Randstad Holland (Amsterdam, Den Haag, Rotterdam). The region is widely appreciated throughout the provinces of Noord-Brabant and Limburg for the range and high-quality of shopping and cultural facilities.

**More information can be found in Section 8.1: Culture.**

## Facts:

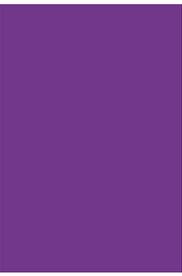
- >> The Eindhoven region has over 729,000 inhabitants living in 21 municipalities with Eindhoven and Helmond as the largest.
- >> Eindhoven is the largest city in the southern Netherlands and the 5th largest in the country.
- >> The Eindhoven region is known for its 'green' character and has many parks and nature reserves. The surrounding countryside is packed with nature reserves, cycling and hiking routes, horseback riding and camping and holiday resorts.
- >> It is a trendsetting centre of innovation and technology. The region is ranked in the 20th position on the EU's Lisbon Index for innovation.
- >> Eindhoven has internationally renowned educational institutes such as the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) and the world-class Design Academy Eindhoven.
- >> 36% of all R&D activities in The Netherlands take place in the Eindhoven region.
- >> Eindhoven is sometimes referred to as 'Light Town' – a reference to Philips Lighting.
- >> The closest big cities are Antwerp, Belgium; and Düsseldorf, Germany. The distance to Amsterdam is 125 kilometres.
- >> Its location on major transport routes – and the presence of a local airport make the region – an important crossroads.
- >> Eindhoven is a city of sports: Besides the PSV football team the area also excels in swimming and horseback riding. There are excellent sports facilities, including swimming pools, hockey fields, ice rinks, an indoor ski and snowboard centre, a climbing wall, country clubs, and several spectacular golf courses.
- >> The cultural climate in the Eindhoven region is diverse: the Van Abbemuseum is internationally recognised for its modern art collection, and The Music Hall (Muziekcentrum Frits Philips) offers a high-quality International Music Master Program.
- >> Eindhoven has a good reputation throughout the region for the quality and diversity of its shopping facilities, from weekly markets to top designer boutiques.



## Helmond

With a population of around 90,000, Helmond is one of the five largest cities in the Dutch province of Noord-Brabant. It is a historical city, with an illustrious past in the textile and metal industry. With its distinguished architecture and distinctive residential areas, Helmond is a town of many surprises. It is brimming with the energy of a European centre of innovation: Brainport. Helmond is also at the heart of De Peel, home to one of The Netherlands' best-loved national parks. The villages of Stiphout, Mierlo-Hout and Brouwhuis also 'belong' to Helmond, and the city enjoys close ties with its twin towns Mechelen (Belgium) and Zielona Góra (Poland).

Helmond is an energetic city with a young, vibrant population. It serves as a congenial centre for the surrounding areas; a fine place to live, work and visit. The range of bars and restaurants could not be more diverse, and the number of specialist shops is growing. But the friendly atmosphere is the city's trump card. This is reflected in the Saturday market, which was voted the best in The Netherlands. The weekly market has been operating since 1538. Helmond attracts lovers of architecture from home and abroad.



The city boasts 60 listed buildings and 200 municipal monuments. Industrial complexes have been magically transformed into creative breeding grounds. The city serves as a base for experiencing the horizons of the De Groote Peel National Park.

Helmond evolved from a settlement dating back to AD 1000, the original castle being built between 1170 and 1175. First mention of the city was in a document by Pope Alexander III in 1179. Duke Hendrik I of Brabant founded the city in 1225, and Helmond was granted a charter in 1232. The castle, which dates back to the 14th century, became part of the ramparts enclosing the fortress. Municipal aspirations until 2030 focus on the city's position as a regional centre, the innovative production industry, development of the canal zone and safeguarding regional mobility.

Helmond's DNA was formed in the 19th century, when country folk first moved to the city. The construction of the canal turned Helmond into an industrial city to be reckoned with. Textiles and metal are in the people's blood: they are hard workers, used to overcoming difficulties, blessed with a sense of humour and the ability to see things in perspective. Pride in the city is palpable. The centre has been beautifully revitalized, the older districts have come to life.

The cultural heritage draws people in from far and wide. Dierdonk, Brandevoort, Boscotondo, Suytkade, 't Speelhuis and the library are iconic examples of urban architecture. Helmond built up its reputation on heavy metals, refined textiles and hard workers. Employers and investors still praise the working climate and drive of the population.

Most signs of industry have disappeared from the city. New, knowledge-based employment opportunities are now concentrated around the High Tech Automotive Campus and Food Technology Park Brainport.



## Eersel

Eersel is a municipality with approximately 18.000 inhabitants divided over six centres (Eersel, Duizel, Wintelre, Vessem, Knegsel, and Steensel). It is located about 15 km from Eindhoven. Eersel is situated in an area also known as the Kempen -- and because it is well-known for its beautiful green scenery and its relaxed atmosphere, it is also referred to as 'the pearl of the Kempen'. This is something that Eersel's residents are proud of and cherish!

The town of Eersel is an important tourist area. The old market square, with the old farming houses is one of the tourist attractions, next to other historic buildings. Besides that this whole area hosts a lot of marked cycle- and hiking routes. Visitors can choose from a variety of accommodation: hotels, hostels and campsites. Eersel has it's own beach: the E3-strand. It is not only used for recreational means as in relaxing, sunbathing and swimming, but also as a natural scene for dance or music festivals during the summer months.

Eersel has a long history, but has a modern side as well. It has a lot to offer to its inhabitants. There is the comfort of modern housing in the beautiful countryside, good schools and a lot of facilities such as sports, organisations and gatherings for a rich social life.

Eersel is attractive for companies because of its strategic position next to Brainport Eindhoven, and because of its relative closeness to Belgium and Germany. Currently, we have more than 1400 enterprises in the six centres together.

## Gilze Rijen

Gilze is located between Tilburg and Breda, and is one of the oldest areas in northern Brabant. To its west, south and east are vast farming areas, and on its southside it is bordered by a forest area including Prinsenbos, Annabos and the Ulvenhoutse forests.



On the east side is vast agricultural and grassland, while on its west lies the nature area of Surae. Earlier, leatherware and the shoe industry were the most important sectors for the area. Today its strength is in a mixed form of activity that takes place in the municipality.

## Son en Breugel

Son en Breugel offers a quality mix in terms of living environment, social climate, security and safety, employment and accessibility, as well as proximity to schools, shops, care, culture, and nightlife.

It is an authentic Brabant town with a population of 15,000, and has its own special character and style, good amenities, a wide range of shops and high quality buildings. All the big city amenities are just a bicycle ride away, and leave you without the big city problems. For both residents and companies, Son en Breugel is conveniently located only 10 minutes away from Eindhoven, via the A50 / A2 highway link to the north of Eindhoven. Connections from Son en Breugel to other major Dutch cities are also good.

## Business at Ekkersrijt

The semi-circular route formed by the A2 and A50 highways running from south (Leenderheide) to north (Ekkersrijt) around the west of Eindhoven is also known as Brainport Avenue, and is a showcase of the bustling high-tech region in The Southeast Netherlands. The strategic location of Ekkersrijt on Brainport Avenue, in combination with the accessibility, is not lost on the development of the 260-hectare terrain,



where both large and small companies are investing in current and future premises.

Ekkersrijt is made up of five zones that each has its own distinct identity. In the east are the two large familiar companies: Beton Son (concrete) and De Rooy (transport carrier). On the other side of the A50 lies the furniture zone. Next to this zone is the Science Park, which is home to high-tech R&D companies. The northern zone, near the Wilhelmina Canal, is home to mainly transport and logistics companies. The master plan for Ekkersrijt involves the creation of a supra-regional work landscape where a blend of work, living and recreation combine to enhance administration and security. Son en Breugel, including Ekkersrijt, has an open fibre-optic network. It is connected to an infrastructure of cameras whereby a regional control room is able to monitor the entire terrain and thus guarantee a high level of security.

A new, well lit 'furniture row' has been created featuring an avenue style layout with a pedestrian promenade. Ekkersrijt will be connected by a 'slow lane' – the cycle lane of the future. This green route is without traffic lights, and will connect all of Brainport's top locations.

The other face of the municipality is its position at the heart of the international community. The Brainport region is The Netherlands' second main economic centre. Son en Breugel is an integral part of this economy, with its strong business and employment environment – 300 companies and around 10,000 jobs – at the very distinctive Ekkersrijt industry park, which includes the high-tech Science Park complex.



### International showcase for knowledge and manufacturing

The Brainport region of Southeast Netherlands is a key economic pillar of the Dutch economy, accounting for a quarter of the country's exports, a third of all private R&D investments and half of all patents filed each year. In 2014, Brainport wants to be among the top three technology regions in Europe.

The main route to this ambition lies literally on Brainport Avenue, a highway of regional lanes, whose entire adjoining area will be transformed into a high-tech and very accessible location for worldclass, knowledge-intensive companies, research organisations, and manufacturing companies. It will be a true breeding ground for innovation. Brainport Avenue is the region's showcase, an area of 3,250 hectares where boldness is the key to developments. Many international names in the field of high-tech systems & materials show what they have in house and the fruits of cooperation.

### Veldhoven

Veldhoven is a diverse community where it is pleasant to live work and relax. Located 7 km from Eindhoven, it offers urban and rural serenity, and nature, with a lot of greenery. There is always something to do in Veldhoven!

The present municipality of Veldhoven was created on 1 May 1921, by merging the former municipalities of Oerle, and Zeelst and Veldhoven-Meerveldhoven. On 1 January 1930 there were 6900 inhabitants in Veldhoven. After World War II, the population increased rapidly, and continues to rise. Approximately 43.000 people live in Veldhoven today, and 25.000 work there. There are many forms of entertainment for residents and visitors of all ages. In the city centre and Kromstraat, you will find great shopping options, good food and terraces.

Also in Veldhoven is the Kempen Campus, where there you can enjoy an unprecedented number of sports and cultural activities. Veldhoven is a growing and thriving suburban town with virtually every service a



resident could need! It is easily accessible by car from its location on the A2 motorway (exits 31 and 32) and A67. Fast, convenient and safe public transport is also available.

## Waalre

Picturesque Waalre is centrally located in the Brainport region, surrounded by a wooded area located 6 kilometres south of Eindhoven. Waalre is a green village with approximately 16,500 inhabitants and 600 hectares of forest for hiking, biking and horseback riding. It is also a quiet village, but the urban bustle is just around the corner! Within minutes you are in Eindhoven, with all of the amenities the city offers. The High Tech Campus in Eindhoven and ASML in Veldhoven are also within cycling distance.



📍 *"Tilburg is...  
a city with great potential."*

-- Yolonda van Riel, U.S.A.

## Tilburg

Tilburg is changing. The textile city of yesterday has become today's economic beacon. It is a city full of talent - although sometimes a bit shy about showing it off. Hard work is being done on projects that will give Tilburg a new appearance. While the population of The Netherlands as a whole continues to decline, the population of Tilburg has grown by 9% in the last 10 years. Home to 205.000 residents, it is the sixth largest city in The Netherlands.

Tilburg came to prominence at the end of the nineteenth century with the rise of its textile industry. Following this industry's decline in the sixties of the last century, the city and surrounding area succeeded in building up a hugely varied local economy. An economy which, partly thanks to its diversity, is thriving and increasingly making its mark in the Netherlands. Time and again, foreign companies choose to locate their Dutch or European headquarters in Tilburg. The knowledge-based economy and creative entrepreneurship are gaining in importance, aided by the city's three universities. Service provision for businesses has been able to expand after the decline of the textile industry, and Tilburg has become the main logistics centre for the south of The Netherlands. Tilburg's geographical position and excellent transport connections - both road and water - make it an excellent location for the transportation sector.



The 'Heart of Brabant' region, in which Tilburg is situated, is highly oriented around Social Innovation. This is particularly developed within the Leisure, Logistics, Life Sciences, Aerospace & Maintenance branches. Crucial within Social innovation is the cooperation between companies, knowledge centres such as universities and government in order to develop new solutions and business cases. This broad cooperation has also enabled the development of many facilities for expats and international students, among which the Expat Center South, Tilburg International Club and Chinese and Japanese School.

Tilburg is also a city of students, which gives the city an outstanding pool of talent for modern knowledge-intensive industries. Approximately 30.000 students attend Tilburg University and the various universities of applied sciences. The link between education and entrepreneurship in various areas – in sports, health care and culture – is strong.

International companies, including FujiFILM, Sony, DHL, Epson, Janssen- Cilag, IFF, Otto, Fabory, Schenker, Bosch Transmission Technology, have chosen to locate their offices in Tilburg. But the large number of small and medium-sized businesses also ensures economic stability. Many new projects have been launched to create the space and facilities necessary for all these new residents and activities, but Tilburg is certainly not resting on its laurels. The town is much too eager to move forward! There is plenty of space for new development.

### **A short history**

The structure underlying the origins of Tilburg is a historical monument in itself. Old maps show a pattern unique to the Netherlands, consisting of twelve residential triangles with farm buildings. For centuries farmers grazed their sheep inside these areas; the people living in



the region were primarily wool merchants. Weavers working in their homes, and later industrialists, processed the wool into fine textiles.

Those small farming communities, which sprang up around herdgangen or herd routes, were located some distance apart and connected by narrow roads, some of which were kilometres long. Labourers, tradesmen and manufacturers built their homes along these connecting roads. As a result, ribbons of weavers' homes, villas, factories and shops rose up all over Tilburg. The Goirkestraat still remains a blueprint of that traditional street pattern.

As the textile industry flourished from the nineteenth century on, more and more labourers settled near their workplace, so new residential facilities became necessary. Massive building projects sprang up and the old farming communities were transformed into residential districts. Schools, convents and churches were founded all over the place to serve the area's spiritual needs. At the height of the rich Roman Catholic culture, there were over twenty churches spread throughout the city.

The flourishing textile industry came to an end in the 1960s, when it lost its dominant position. The low-wage countries gained prominence and the textile barons clung to their traditional style of operational management for too long. Countless Tilburg inhabitants lost their livelihoods between 1957 and 1982, when some forty factories were closed and thousands of workers were out on the street. The priests had nothing to offer to assuage the impact of these developments. From that point on, the decline in church attendance accelerated rapidly.

By that time, the old city structure had changed dramatically. The pattern of farming communities spread across the countryside had transformed halfway through the twentieth century into a close-knit spider web. The irrepressible population explosion caused a shortage in available housing. As a result, new residential neighbourhoods were built on the other side of the ring roads from 1950 on. The construction of De Reeshof, the latest and recently completed expansion, saw the middle of the city move several kilometres westward.



The changing map of the city also showed other developments. The university, for example, spilled over its borders, and therefore moved to the campus to the west of the city centre in 1962. The factory grounds were open for new purposes; under the motto of urban innovation, many historical buildings, churches and traditional neighbourhoods disappeared from the 1960s on. The growing awareness of Tilburg's own city history has been accompanied by the realization that a great deal of cultural heritage was lost in those years.

The ties between old and new in Tilburg have taken an unexpected twist though. Museums and cultural institutes found their homes in old factories and schools, convent gardens became public property, and church buildings were used for contemporary purposes. Those developments will always continue here, and that is precisely what makes Tilburg so interesting. Unpredictable, surprising, lively and young at heart. After the collapse of the textile industry, the Tilburgers struck out boldly in new directions and built their current identity. Knowledge, culture, education, entrepreneurship and creative business are the keywords in Tilburg today – a city filled with variety, and the colorful diversity of more than 205.000 inhabitants.

## Facts:

- >> The city of Tilburg has 205.000 inhabitants.
- >> Tilburg is the 6th largest city in the country.
- >> Tilburg is the logistics centre for the south of the Netherlands.



## Breda

The city of Breda is an attractive city, bringing people together. Literally and figuratively. Whether it's to do with its favorable geographical position or good accessibility, or how people experience the city. Breda invites and unites.

Centrally located between the European regions around the mainports of Rotterdam (Randstad) and Antwerp (Vlaamse Ruit), in the middle of European business centres (Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt), and close to the Ruhr district as well as economic zones in North-West France and South-East England, Breda joins all four points of the compass and cultures; a global hub, linking economic partners and knowledge centres in our global society. Thanks to this favourable geographical Breda offers businesses and trade partners a definite plus, particularly in combination with its excellent accessibility via the network of motorways (A16, A27, A58 and A59) and its links to the European network of high-speed trains. The international airports of Amsterdam (only 54 minutes with HiSpeedTrain), Antwerp and Brussels and – even closer – those of Rotterdam and Eindhoven can be reached quickly and in comfort. Waterways and pipelines criss-cross West-Brabant.



All these together mean that Breda is a multimodal hub. Combined with its proverbial open attitude and hospitality, linked in turn to its deep-seated knowledge, healthy interest and desire for innovation, with its central position in the southwest of The Netherlands, Breda serves as the 'gateway to Brabant'.

Breda and the West-Brabant region combine these advantages with a long tradition of international networking activities, inspired by the Dutch spirit of enterprise, historical ties, and also a good relationship with its Nassau dynasty, artists, and last but not least, the military connection. Freedom, tolerance and respect are deeply rooted in Breda and form the basis for the network city through and through. People and their businesses from all over the world easily benefit from this specific quality: a uniting force.

As far as science, innovation and the development of knowledge is concerned, Breda takes supply chain management as its guiding theme and convincingly translates its essence – the uniting force – into the many other facets of contemporary urban living. This art of living together: seeking connections, sharing efforts and celebrating successes with each link in the growing chain of family and friends of the city.

Breda is and will always be a great place to be. The city's beauty is also reflected in the development of new residential districts and cherishing its natural surroundings and culture.

Breda sees its future in Europe but keeps its feet firmly on the ground. Through networking activities and pursuing specific plans, a rejuvenated city appears on the horizon.

## Innovation

It is only logical that all the knowledge available in Breda demands to be used, for modernization, for enterprise and innovation. That is why we are specifically aiming to bring research, education and enterprise to the city. This trio of activities drives business activity; the city and region offer a favorable business climate. Breda is rolling out the red carpet for innovative enterprise.



Dinalog Campus and Triple O Campus are outstanding locations where knowledge and enterprise unite, where innovation and creativity give a boost to the economy, where people participate in national and international networks; and where atmosphere and image contribute to the art of working and living together in Breda.

### **International business climate**

Breda is keen to share her riches with partners from all over the world. The Dutch language has been enriched here by the concept of 'Beneluxering', the phenomenon whereby international companies have their head offices and base their sales and service activities in West-Brabant, from where they serve a market of 300 million consumers within a mere 24 hours. These businesses benefit from the highly favourable location, the availability of highly qualified personnel and the ability to collaborate with innovative entrepreneurs. Breda knows just how to welcome and provides newcomers with all the facilities they need to get off to a flying start and grow fast.

It is home to a high proportion of American businesses, while the number of companies from Asia has increased noticeably during the past few years.

With just the same ease it is developing new contacts with businesses and organisations in Brazil, Russia and India. BRIC countries: the alliteration with Breda says it all!

### **Higher education**

Breda is where you want to study! And Breda is where you can study! BeBreda.nl lists information about open days, introductions and work placements, so you're up-to-date about what Breda has to offer you as a student!

### **Avans University of Applied Sciences helps you on your way!**

Avans University of Applied Sciences offers innovative higher professional education to 20,000 students in fulltime and part-time study programmes at 19 schools spread out across Breda, 's-Hertogenbosch and Tilburg. There are three locations in Breda.



Its educational programme comprises the sectors Technology, Economics and Management, Healthcare, Law, ICT, Art and Design, Education and Social Studies. In addition to these study programmes, Avans University of Applied Sciences also offers various dual track programmes, a number of Master's degree programmes and a few Associate Degree programmes.

Avans' showpiece is Xplora, a contemporary educational concept in which modern facilities are provided, enabling students to find their own way in a world full of information.

### **Experience NHTV Breda**

NHTV Breda is an ambitious institution for international higher education. In a cross-cultural setting, more than 7,000 Dutch and foreign students attend NHTV. Opt for a bachelor's degree programme in the fields of Games, Media, Hotel, Facility, Tourism, Leisure, Urban Planning or Logistics and Mobility.

NHTV also offers scientific bachelor's degree programmes in the fields of tourism and leisure, and there are ample of opportunities for a master's degree programme and combining working and studying.

### **NLDA: Tradition and modern scientific education**

The NLDA (Netherlands Defence Academy) organises the military education, personal training and academic education for the Ministry of Defence. With this education, the NLDA makes an important contribution to professional leadership. Furthermore, the NLDA carries out scientific research for the Ministry of Defence.

It was in the exciting city centre of Breda, in the Breda Castle, where the KMA (Royal Military Academy) was established in 1828. This location oozes cultural history and tradition, but at the same time you can follow modern scientific education and military education and training here.

Each year, thousands of cadets and two hundred students are trained here to become officers. Breda is home to approximately 200 civilians and servicemen and women, who directly or indirectly guide and support the cadets.



The KMA organises the military and technical education and training of officers for the Royal Netherlands Army, the Royal Netherlands Air Force and the Royal Netherlands Military Police.

#### **A beautiful international meeting place**

The beauty of Breda comes from within, in the historic city centre, and extends well beyond it. Beauty and charm can be found in its historic legacy, in new residential neighborhoods, in the open spaces and the countryside, along the harbour and the canals, and in everyday things. Breda likes to look spick and span and pays attention to the little details. It is our 'art of life'. Living, working, shopping, entertainment, enjoying culture, sports, relaxation and finding peace and quiet in the countryside... Atmospheres, functions and styles interweave with each other. Everyone experiences beauty and quality here in their own way. The city's culture and many events form, as it were, its crowning glory.

#### **Breda is making an effort to strengthen its international climate.**

For many years, expats and inpats in the region of West Brabant have had to transport their children to The Hague, Rotterdam, Eindhoven or even Antwerp for an international education. In August 2011, the gap in international education provision in the region was filled when the International School Breda ([www.isbreda.nl](http://www.isbreda.nl)) opened its doors. The first international school in The Netherlands to offer daycare, primary and secondary education under one roof, the International School Breda is more than just an educational institution.

It has already established itself as a base for social and other events, giving parents, businesses and the wider international community somewhere to come together.

Furthermore there are two expat clubs active in Breda: Breda Expats



([www.bredaexpats.nl](http://www.bredaexpats.nl)) and International Women's Club Breda ([www.iwcbreda.nl](http://www.iwcbreda.nl)).



*“Accept the differences and adapt your lifestyle to how it works here.”*

-- Sujatha, India

## 2. Formalities

By the time you arrive in The Netherlands you should have had your certificates legalised and will have an entry visa if you need one. Everyone must visit their local Town Hall soon after arrival to register in the Population Register (Municipal Personal Records Database) and collect their BSN Number (Burger Service Number or Citizen Service Number). This can also be done at Holland Expat Center South. More information can be found in Appendix V: Town Halls and Community Websites in Brabant.

## 2.1 Moving

Moving is always a hectic time, and there are a lot of formalities to be completed. The exact list of what you need to do depends on your nationality, place of birth, family composition, and your employer's choice of work permit. Consult your HR Manager or your institution's international office for details. Whichever route you take, good preparation is vital.

### What to expect:

- Moving to a new country involves bureaucracy and The Netherlands is no exception.
- Remember that some Dutch rules and procedures will be different from those in your home country.
- Plan time to attend meetings with Dutch organisations.
- Plan time to prepare documents for these meetings.
- Communication (information) is often in Dutch.

There are many things that need to be arranged during the first few days and weeks after your arrive. This section describes what they are and how to go about them.

### What to expect:

- Most people go through the 'culture shock curve'.
- Your arrival and the first few weeks are exciting – this is the 'tourist phase'.
- After the tourist phase, many people feel their mood begin to dip – the honeymoon period is over, but lots of things are still difficult and 'not like they were back home'.

You will need to register with your local Town Hall, which will also issue you with a BSN Number (Burger Service Nummer or Citizen Service Number):

- Birth certificates (legalised)  
Check the website of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for legalisation procedures with your country of origin.
- Marriage certificates (legalised)
- Valid passports (Tip: Make sure it is valid for as long as possible!)
- Valid driving license
- Dutch housing rental (or purchase) contract (or consent of the principal occupant)



## 2.2 Residence Permit

Non-EU citizens must also apply for a residence permit. A residence permit is not required for EU citizens. Valid ID must be carried at all times by everyone over the age of 12 in The Netherlands. Migrants will make their permit application directly to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), with help from their employer. In some cases this application can be done before the work permit has been issued. Consult your HR Manager/International Office for details.

**More information** can be found in [Appendix I: Visas, Work Permits and Residence Permits](#).

## 2.3 Work Permit

Depending on your country of origin and requested residence status, you may also need a work permit. Getting a visa, work permit and residence permit can take between one and four months.

**More information** can be found in [Appendix I: Visas, Work Permits and Residence Permits](#).

## 2.4 BSN Number

During your registration at the Town Hall, or appointment at Holland Expat Center South, you will be registered for a BSN Number.

Everyone residing in The Netherlands has a registration number: BSN (the Citizen Service Number). A BSN is issued to you when you are born and registered at the municipal register. When you start living in The Netherlands later, a BSN will be issued to you when your registration at the municipality is completed. For non-EU citizens this also depends on an action by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND). After you have visited the municipality, you will go to the IND to hand in your application for a residence permit. If the IND accepts the application, it will notify the municipality and your BSN will be sent to your home address. This will take about 10 days after you have registered with the municipality.



### Why do I need a BSN?

You need this number if, for example, you wish to get insurance, open a bank account, receive your salary or apply for benefits.

### Conditions to obtain a BSN:

- You may only obtain a tax and social security number for yourself or your children under 16.
- You must provide your address details.
- You must present a valid passport. You may only present a different identification document if you are a national of an EU member state. Driver's licenses are not accepted as identity cards.

### If you are not a national of an EU member state, Liechtenstein, Norway, Iceland, or Switzerland, the following applies to you:

- You must have a note/sticker in your passport that permits you to stay and work in The Netherlands. You can apply for this note/sticker at the Immigration and Naturalization Service Desks (IND) or Holland Expat Center South.

## 2.6 Driving license

Anyone 18 years or older who has a valid driving license issued in their own country may drive in The Netherlands while here with tourist status (i.e. not registered as a resident). EU citizens and employees who benefit from the 30% tax facility may exchange their driving license without having to take a driving test. Residents who hold a non-EU driving license should exchange their existing license for a Dutch one, within six months of becoming a resident. Others must take a theory and driving exam. These tests are available in English.

It is permitted to drive a car with a Dutch license plate with your original national driving license for a maximum of 10 years. If the national driving license is older than nine years, then you may use it in The Netherlands for a maximum of one year. The national license must always be valid. Ask your HR Manager for the rules governing your case.



### More information

A 'Road Traffic Signs and Regulations booklet' can be downloaded at:  
<http://english.verkeerenwaterstaat.nl/english/>



Deterink Attorneys and Notaries: *T +31 (0)40 262 6600, [www.deterink.com/en/](http://www.deterink.com/en/)*

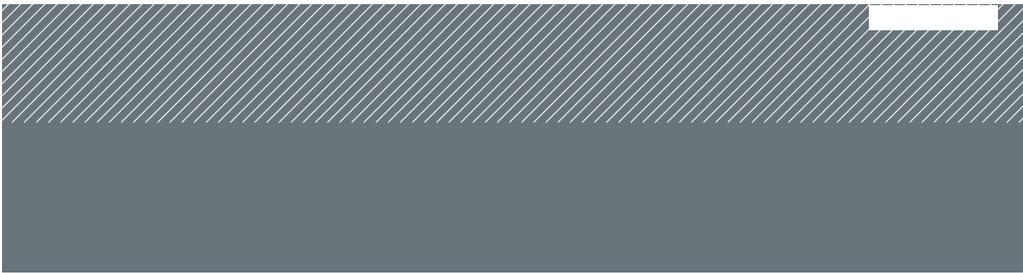
Interdean Relocation Services: *T+31 (1)7 244 7979, [www.interdean.com](http://www.interdean.com)*

Maes Staudt Advocaten: *T +31 (0)40 290 9955, [www.maes-staudt.nl](http://www.maes-staudt.nl)*

Pallas Attorneys-at-Law: *T +31 (0)20 491 9361, [www.pallas.nl](http://www.pallas.nl)*

De Vreede Advocaten: *T +31 (0)20 675 7312, [www.devreede-law.nl](http://www.devreede-law.nl)*

The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program redirects expats to reliable service providers in a wide variety of expat related sectors. For a complete listing of Official Partners of Holland Expat Center South, please visit [www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/).



👉 *"I am able to bike even with my son, but not with an adult at the back. I think you must be really Dutch to be able to do the later."*

-- Lucia Lobont, Romania

### 3. Housing

Wherever you come from, it is essential to realize that the housing available will probably not be the same as you are used to! How you see this depends on your experience in your home country. Most Europeans comment that housing is expensive and the gardens are small. Americans are often used to spacious properties and frequently find that the rooms are small (particularly children's bedrooms), and are more likely to require the more luxurious end of the market. Those coming from places such as Singapore however, where land is also at a premium, may see things differently!



### 3.1 Dutch housing

Dutch homes vary from studio apartments (a single room that includes a sleeping area, living area and cooking facilities), to more traditional apartments with multiple, separate bedrooms, to larger houses (detached, semi-detached and terraced).

#### What to expect (a typical home in Brabant):

- Houses are smaller and more compact than in many countries.
- One bathroom in The Netherlands is the norm. The toilet is often separate and on the ground floor.
- Showers are more common than baths in most houses and apartments.
- Dining rooms are a luxury – normally there is an open kitchen and living room with a dining area.
- Kitchens generally have four gas rings with a microwave. Ovens are not always standard.
- Washing machines are often located in the kitchen or the bathroom. Utility rooms are found only in larger houses.
- Garages tend to be used as storage space in The Netherlands.
- Parking permits are needed in some areas, particularly if you are living in the centre of Eindhoven or Tilburg.
- Houses are well insulated, and newer buildings will be double-glazed.

#### Insights:

- >> The Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in Europe, with almost 400 people per square kilometer.
- >> The high population density explains why many houses are small and compact.
- >> Dutch builders are extremely skilled in maximizing the use of space.
- >> Houses in the Eindhoven and Tilburg areas are less expensive and/or more spacious than in Amsterdam, Utrecht and Rotterdam.
- >> The area offers a wide range of housing – from the city feel to village life in the surrounding countryside.



## 3.2 Renting

Houses for rent are available in three different states of furnishing:

- **Bare (kaal).** There are no carpets, curtains, light fittings, etc., though there probably will be a fitted kitchen. Built-in appliances such as a cooker and possibly a refrigerator or dishwasher may be present.
- **Soft-furnished (gestoffeerd).** The fittings will include everything in the 'bare' category, and also carpets and curtains.
- **Furnished (gemeubileerd).** Generally includes furniture, appliances, cutlery, crockery, bed linen, etc.

### Municipal housing agencies

Municipal housing is not very common in the Eindhoven and Tilburg regions. You can only register for local authority housing after arrival in The Netherlands and must wait for a house to be allocated to you. Be aware that the average waiting time is at least four years.

Housing is inexpensive (€ 300 to € 1200 per month, unfurnished). However, to qualify for this type of housing your income must be within certain limits. In case your income is relatively low in proportion to the rent costs of your house, there is a rent benefit that is granted by the government as a compensation to your costs. This arrangement can also be applied to the housing possibilities that are described below, as long as the monthly rent costs do not exceed a certain amount.

### Housing associations

These provide slightly more expensive housing than the municipal agencies and also have long waiting lists. Register upon arrival. The average waiting time in the rural areas is about three years. The waiting time is even longer in the urban area and is somewhere between four to seven years. Housing is more expensive than renting a house at a municipal housing agency, but still relatively cheap (€ 300 to € 900 per month, unfurnished).



## Private rentals

Estate agents and 'high street' housing agencies manage private rental housing. The rental price for these houses is considerably higher than accommodation found through a municipal agency or an association, but in general these houses are available for immediate tenancy.

Rent varies widely, but in the private market you could expect to pay the following (excluding service costs and utilities):

Type of housing Rental price per month (indication)

- Studio apartment € 300 - € 800
- Two-bedroom apartment € 600 - € 1200
- Three-bedroom terraced house € 1000 - € 1450
- Semi-detached house > € 900
- Detached house > € 1200

Dutch housing rental contracts generally consist of the actual contract plus 'General Terms and Conditions'. The latter document is standard for all properties rented by the agency in question. Major points to look for in the contract are:

- The correct rental price (whether it includes service charges and energy bills, etc.)
- The correct deposit (one or two months rent is normal).
- The correct date of entry.
- Duration of the contract. Most are fixed for one year, with a notice period of one month from either party thereafter. If the house belongs to someone who might want it back at an inconvenient time (e.g. someone on assignment outside The Netherlands), it may be better to fix the contract for a longer period.



- Who is responsible for maintenance and repairs? Make sure it is clear who looks after the garden as well as the building.
- The 'diplomatic clause'. It is advisable for expats to insist on a clause allowing them to break the contract quickly if they need to return to their home country unexpectedly.

### 3.3 Buying a house

Although it is probably better to rent for a while before buying a house, the difference in monthly payments can make purchasing an attractive option for those staying longer. The difference comes largely from the fact that (for the time being at least) the Dutch government repays some of the mortgage interest as tax relief.

Advantages of purchasing a house:

- Buying a property is the first step to building up (personal) assets. Due to savings and tax regulations in The Netherlands it is possible to save money for your house on a tax-free basis.
- Historical figures show that the Real Estate Market in The Netherlands grows faster than inflation, which makes it an attractive investment.
- Due to inflation, your mortgage debt will decrease slightly as well.
- The Dutch tax authorities are providing an annual tax benefit for house owners as well: Owners of a (residential) property will receive a tax refund on the interest paid for the mortgage used for the purchase of this particular house, up to a maximum of 52%.

One of the major reasons why tax accountants will advise you to buy residential property in The Netherlands is because most of the time,



expats will get the maximum tax refund. But before you acquire your new property you need to go through a time-consuming process with quite a lot of third parties involved, such as the real estate agent (property broker), the establishment that is granting you a mortgage (loan) (e.g. bank or insurance company), the civil law notary, and the tax consultants.

Some parts of the process include:

- Starting to look around for the house (research).
- Doing the negotiations with the selling estate agent and making sure that the right conditions for the purchase are accepted
- Taking care of the technical survey.
- Making a proper judgment on the (legal) contents of the purchase agreement.
- Taking care of the mortgage with the requested conditions.
- Collecting the required documents for the mortgage.
- Contacting the civil law notary for setting up the legal deeds for the deed of delivery you the property and the mortgage deed (including translations).
- Taking care of the involved tax matters. For expatriates it is also a complicating fact that they are often not accustomed with Dutch law (continental law), which is different from e.g. Anglo-Saxon law.

The amount of interest repaid by the government depends on the level of income tax you pay. This in turn will depend on factors such as the 30% ruling. This is a complex field and it is advisable to seek help from a professional financial advisor before making a purchase. When buying a house you should also be aware that costs of purchase (including taxes) total around 10% of the cost price, and are paid by the buyer.



Type of housing Purchase price (x1000) Mortgage per month/net.  
(indication, incl. tax refund)

- Studio apartment € 120 - € 160 € 375 - € 475
- Two-bedroom apartment € 140 - € 200 € 425 - € 525
- Three-bedroom terraced house € 170 - € 250 € 450 - € 575
- Semi-detached house € 220 - € 540 € 625 - € 1075
- Detached house > € 500 > €1100

### Who to contact

- House purchases are generally made through a real estate agent (makelaar). There are many agents in Brabant, each with its own housing stock.
- Check with your HR Manager for housing assistance from your company.
- If you need to furnish a new home, Ekkersrijt and Kanaaldijk in Eindhoven, and Koopboulevard Leyparc in Tilburg are good places to look for furniture stores. For cheap second-hand furniture, the 'Het Goed' recycling company has two outlets in the region: at Meerenakkerweg 2 in Eindhoven and Van Linschotenstraat 22 in Valkenswaard. In Helmond there is an outlet called 'Kringloopwinkel Helmond' at Engelseweg 106. Other outlets can be found in the Yellow Pages.

## 3.4 Deciding Where to Live

Most people coming to Brabant will probably choose to live in the area. However, Dutch transportation networks are good and some might prefer to commute from other areas. The train travel time by train from a number of Dutch cities, to and from Eindhoven Central Station and



Tilburg Station are:

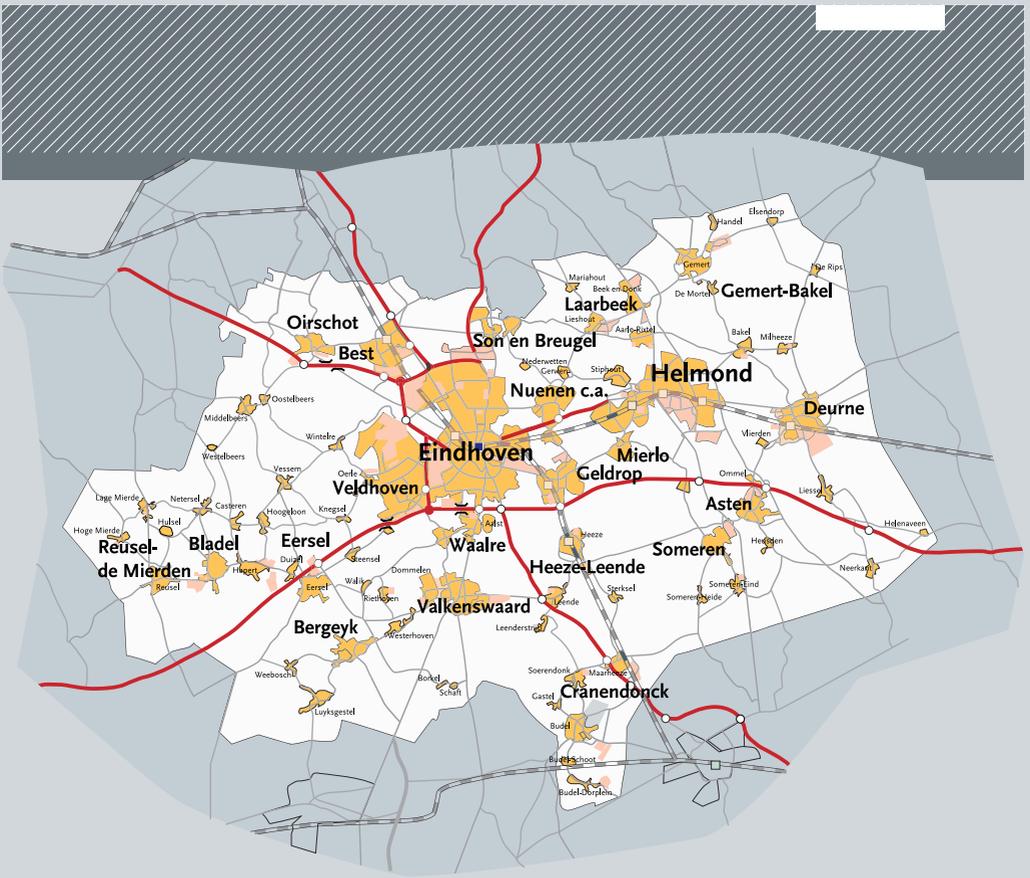
<i>Helmond</i>	<i>0:10</i>	<i>0:35</i>
<i>'s Hertogenbosch</i>	<i>0:20</i>	<i>0:16</i>
<i>Breda</i>	<i>0:40</i>	<i>0:13</i>
<i>Utrecht</i>	<i>0:50</i>	<i>0:58</i>
<i>Rotterdam</i>	<i>1:10</i>	<i>0:47</i>
<i>Nijmegen</i>	<i>1:00</i>	<i>0:50</i>
<i>Schiphol</i>	<i>1:27</i>	<i>1:11</i>
<i>Amsterdam</i>	<i>1:30</i>	<i>1:28</i>
<i>The Hague</i>	<i>1:40</i>	<i>1:15</i>

*Travel time by train between Eindhoven and Tilburg is 0:24.*

It is also possible to commute from Belgium (Antwerp is 90 km away) or Germany (Monchengladbach is also 90 km away). But if you want to explore the idea of living outside The Netherlands while working here, check the legalities first. For most EU citizens there are no issues, but those needing a residence permit may have to live within The Netherlands. Living outside the country may also have tax consequences, so consult your HR Manager. Your institution might also be able to help you with housing.

## The Eindhoven region

The Eindhoven region, Southeast Noord-Brabant, consists of the city of Eindhoven, the city of Helmond, and 19 surrounding communities. Eindhoven has approximately 212,000 inhabitants and is the largest city in the region. The villages surrounding Eindhoven include: Asten, Bergeijk, Best, Bladel, Cranendonck, Deurne, Eersel, Geldrop- Mierlo, Gemert-Bakel, Heeze-Leende, Laarbeek, Nuenen, Oirschot, Reusel-De Mierden, Someren, Son en Breugel, Valkenswaard, Veldhoven, and Waalre.





### [1] Eindhoven North (Woensel North and South)

Woensel lies north of Eindhoven centre, and one of the main routes into the city, Kennedylaan, runs through it. This road continues north as the A50 motorway, giving access to Boxmeer and Nijmegen. The area is well-supplied with shopping facilities, including 'Winkelcentrum Woensel' – Eindhoven's largest shopping area outside of the city centre. Sports facilities include the Bokt and Woensel sporting complexes. There are also several churches, the Catharina and MMC hospitals, Henri Dunant Park, the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), Fontys University of Applied Sciences, and the Eindhoven International Secondary School (ISSE). Here you'll find various types of housing, mostly apartments and terraced houses suitable for those with somewhat tighter budgets, but larger properties are also available.

### [2] Eindhoven East (Tongelre)

Tongelre lies to the east of Eindhoven centre. It is green and open in some parts, particularly in the north, which contains the Karpendonkse Lake and Eckart Forest. Various sports facilities are available, including miniature golf, tennis and outdoor swimming. The DAF Museum is also located here. The area has a wide range of housing to fit every budget. The area is bordered by the inner ring road to the west, and the A270 gives quick access to Helmond.

### [3] Eindhoven South (Stratum and Gestel)

Southeast of the centre, Stratum is bordered to the north by a canal and



industrial area (including the DAF Trucks plant). Genneper Park lies near the city centre, while the area south includes farms and other open areas. There are several churches and sports facilities (hockey, tennis, golf, horseback riding). As in Tongelre, housing in Stratum comes in a wide range of ages and types. There are major road junctions with the A2 going south towards Maastricht, and the A67 going east to Venlo and the German Ruhr region, and west toward Antwerp.

Gestel is home to the High-Tech Campus, where Philips maintains a major presence. A large open area includes the Open Air Museum, extensive parks, and the Environmental Education Centre. There are also several sports facilities, including Tongelreep Swimming Centre, the Ice Sports Centre and various playing fields. The area is bordered to the south by the A67, and has the A2 north going to Tilburg, Breda and Amsterdam. Various types of housing can be found here.

#### [4] Eindhoven West (Strijp)

Strijp is geographically the largest district in Eindhoven, though a large part is taken up by Eindhoven Airport and surrounding industrial areas. To the north are the Tegenbosch and De Herdgang sports centres, and open areas including the Philips-De Jongh park. The Evoluon conference centre, Beukenlaan railway station and Welschap golf course are also found here. Recently, a new project was started in the Strijp area: Strijp-S.

This project is going to turn 66 acres into an inspiring environment with a mix of living, working and recreation. Strijp's proximity to the A2 gives good access to the north, south and west. Housing is primarily modern.



## [5] Eindhoven Centre

Eindhoven town centre is a lively place. The shopping area has many outlets, particularly for clothes and electronics, and there are also supermarkets, specialist food stores, music stores, bookstores, etc. Most of the main hotels and restaurants are found here, as are the railway and bus stations, the Philips Stadium, the central library, various museums, and the Town Hall. You can find residential areas with accommodation to suit most tastes (mainly apartments), though as in most major cities, the convenience of the central location makes prices more expensive.

The following municipalities are adjacent to Eindhoven.

### Best

Situated 13 km northwest of Eindhoven, Best has 29,000 inhabitants. The town claims a long history (dating back to 1700 BC according to some sources) and has developed from an agricultural centre into an industrial centre (there was a major clog maker here in the 19th century) with residential areas. Sports such as badminton, basketball, scuba diving, hockey, martial arts, tennis, golf, football, and swimming are all found in the town, and the central high street has a good selection of shops.

### Geldrop-Mierlo

Geldrop-Mierlo has about 38,000 inhabitants and is located 7 km from Eindhoven. It was once home to a thriving textile industry, but most



people work in other industries today. The community has a number of sports clubs, including badminton, basketball, scuba diving, hockey, taekwondo, tennis, football, and swimming. Basic shops are available, but most people go to nearby Eindhoven for major items, such as clothing.

## Heeze-Leende

Heeze-Leende has about 15.190 inhabitants, spread over three villages: Heeze (9.560), Leende (4.300) and Sterksel (1.330). The community is situated 10 km southeast of Eindhoven and is well-connected with other parts of the region. Great landscapes dominate the panorama in which the three villages are spread over. More than 900.000 people visit the forests yearly and go to the municipality to walk, cycle, or just to enjoy one of the several burgundian terraces. The area is well-known for its annual historical and cultural festival the 'Brabantse Dag' (in Heeze).

## Nuenen

Nuenen was once home to Vincent van Gogh, and is where he painted the 'Potato Eaters'. Located about 8 km northeast of Eindhoven's city centre, it has 23.000 inhabitants. The village has existed for nearly 1.500 years, and although much of the housing is modern, it prides itself on being a quiet and green place to live. The range of available sports includes, golf, gymnastics, horseback riding, squash, tennis, and swimming. Basic shopping can be done in the village, though most people go to Eindhoven to purchase major items.



## Son and Breugel

About 7 km north of Eindhoven, Son and Breugel has 15.000 residents. The old village has been around since about 1.000 AD. There was a large population increase during the 20th century, which means that most people live in relatively modern housing. There is a large (by Dutch standards) area of forest around Son, which is pleasant for walking and cycling. There are also several sports clubs, including badminton, cricket, dancing, hockey, horseback riding, and soccer. As with several other villages, although there are some shops in Son, most people go to Eindhoven for major items. The new Sonniuspark housing development has space for more than 600 homes, from council housing to luxury villas. It is possible to build a house on your own plot of land.

## Waalre

Waalre, 6 km south of Eindhoven, has about 17,000 inhabitants. The village was founded in the 8th century, but as elsewhere in the region, the real growth took place during the 20th century. It prides itself on having 600 hectares of forest open to the public for walking, cycling and riding. Other sports available include badminton, basketball, gymnastics, rowing, fencing, and volleyball. Waalre has some basic shops, but with Eindhoven close by, most people choose to shop there for major items. There are many new homes being built in all price ranges, all over Waalre. For example, 'Waalre North' and the former Land Brabantia. In total, more than 900 homes will be built over the next 10 years. Its high-quality housing and living environment has excellent accessibility (Waalre is located directly off the A2/N2).



## Veldhoven

With its centre just 7 km from Eindhoven, Veldhoven is virtually a western suburb of the city. It is however a separate entity in political terms, and has its own modern shopping centre, with a library and a cinema. There is also a museum and a music school, as well as sports facilities. Around 43.000 people live in Veldhoven and around 25.000 work there. It is where ASML is headquartered.

The coming year will find a large number of homes built, including apartments and homes with a care option for seniors. In the western outskirts, called Silver Ackers, between now and 2030, approximately 2.700 homes will be built in all different price categories.

## Helmond

Helmond is a thriving economic centre in its own right, focusing on the food and automotive industries. For accommodation, Helmond is best known for its new city districts: Dierdonk and Brandevoort. Both are fine examples of innovative architecture designed to create a harmonious living environment.

Brandevoort, in particular, is a new settlement on the fringes of the Noord-Brabant countryside, between Eindhoven and Helmond, where the existing landscape and traditional architecture have combined to create a unique and picturesque community.

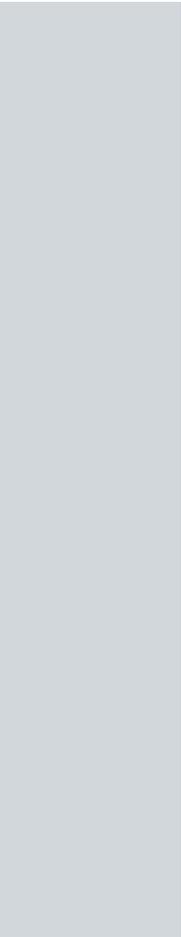
**Dierdonk** is the district known for its open, green character, and for its modern translation of building styles from the 1930s. The structure has been copied in The Netherlands and abroad.



**Brandevoort** has been built in the style of a fortified city, featuring townhouses and canals. It is often referred to as the most beautiful new housing estate in The Netherlands.

**Boscotondo** is a former factory site, which has been transformed into a central area for living and working in the style of a notorious design by the Italian master builder Adolfo Natalini.

**Suytkade** consists of new houses and so-called 'water citadels'. Built along the historic canal, within walking distance of the city centre. Room for offices, clean industry, recreation, bars, restaurants and schools.



### Food Technology Park Brainport

A powerful food industry developed in Helmond back in the 19th century, and the sector now provides more than 13.000 jobs. The Food Technology Park Brainport is set to become a campus operating on the interface of food processing, design and technology. The campus provides space for laboratories, demonstration lines, education, business premises, and leisure facilities.

### High Tech Automotive Campus

The High Tech Automotive Campus in Helmond is an important knowledge and innovation centre, within a cluster with a strong international focus. The campus is the hotspot for smart mobility and (academic) automotive education. The city is a living laboratory, with smart traffic systems, intelligent vehicles that can communicate with each other and their surroundings, hybrid trucks and electric cars.



## The Tilburg region

Tilburg is a medium-sized city located in the South of The Netherlands. Home to 200,000 residents, it is the sixth largest city in The Netherlands. An additional 400,000 people live in its surroundings areas.

**[1] Te Centre** The city centre (with train station Tilburg Centraal) is the most lively part of Tilburg! Good quality apartments can be found in the city centre, and there are also plenty of shopping and entertainment facilities available.

**[2] Tilburg South (Blaak and Zorgvlied)** De Blaak is an area in the south of Tilburg, with green areas and ponds, and a small shopping centre. Furthermore, it has schools, daycare centres and medical services. De Blaak mainly offers residences, and only few apartments. Zorgvlied is a residential area in the south-western part of Tilburg, close to the city centre. In Zorgvlied you will find somewhat older houses, which create nice and spacious surroundings.

**[3] Tilburg West (Wandelbos and de Reit)** Wandelbos and de Reit are neighbourhoods that surround the university campus. There is one shopping centre, called Westermarkt, and all kinds of services are available. Both rental houses and apartments can be found in this area.

**[4] Tilburg De Reeshof** De Reeshof, which has its own train station, is located in the western part of Tilburg and has grown considerably over the last decades. All services can be found in De Reeshof, and there is a shopping centre (Heyhoef). Some parts are very spacious and green, with modern houses. The university is just a bicycle ride away from here.



More information can be found in [Appendix V: Town Halls and Community Websites in Noord-Brabant](#).

### 3.5 Moving

Good preparation is essential for any international move. There are many things to do when leaving your country, but no matter how well prepared you are, you will likely experience some unexpected surprises in the first weeks. A good sense of humor can help!

Arrangements for removals:

- Arrange for a removal company and insurance.
- Check if an exemption of duties form is necessary (normally supplied by removals company).
- Arrange disconnection of household utilities.
- Arrange storage for any items you are not bringing with you.
- Contact your local post office to arrange for your mail to be forwarded.

#### Bringing your pets

Relocating pets can be just as complicated as relocating people. Animals may normally enter The Netherlands if they have had the required immunizations within the correct timeframe, and you have the correct documentation.

- Contact your vet for pet registration, vaccination and export papers.
- Contact the transport company to arrange shipment.
- Arrange collection and transport in The Netherlands.



### 3.6 Utilities

Most utilities (gas, water, electricity, phone, Internet, TV) in The Netherlands are sold in a 'free-market system'. This means there are a number of suppliers competing with each other to supply private and business customers. Exceptions to this are water, where each property has a designated supplier, and the hardware (cables, etc.) used for fixed-line telephones and cable TV. Both the latter are owned by the company that installed them, and there is a charge for their use even if the signals passing through the cables come from another supplier. While this system gives the advantage of lower prices and improving service, it also means that new arrivals may find it complicated to choose suppliers.

Getting connected to utility suppliers is often time-consuming and sometimes difficult for people moving to The Netherlands. The main problem is simply language: although most Dutch people speak English, you may need to navigate through several Dutch-language telephone menus before you can speak to an operator. Be patient and ask for help when needed.

#### Electricity and gas

It is possible to buy these energy sources separately, but is easier to buy them together, and most suppliers offer discounts to do so. When you move into your new home the power and gas meters need to be read, and a supplier needs to be contracted to supply you. Your real estate agent can usually help you complete the necessary forms.

If you decide to change your electricity and gas supplier, you should call your preferred option. Numbers are listed in the Yellow Pages, [www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl), under 'energiebedrijven in Regio Eindhoven'. You will need your address, date of birth and meter readings.



Please note that you will be charged for two services:

- making use of the physical network
- the actual supply of electricity and gas

Your supplier may charge both at once, but you may have to pay two different companies.

### Water

Each address has a single supplier. When you move into your new home, the water meter must also be read, and you must notify the supplier that you are the new resident. Your real estate agent can usually help you complete the required forms. If you need to contact the supplier yourself you will need your address, date of birth and meter readings.

### Fixed-line telephones

It is not always necessary to have a land-line telephone. Nowadays, quite a few expats moving to The Netherlands are choosing to live without one, and use their mobiles to stay in touch.

### Mobile phones

All GSM mobile phones will work in The Netherlands. Even if you have a GSM phone however, it is still advisable to switch to a Dutch SIM card when you arrive, otherwise you will pay more for your calls. Go to a mobile phone supplier in town to get a new card and phone if required. Most shops are run by the supplier of the card/call time. Take your bank account number, passport and address.

### Cable TV

At any address there is one single cable supplier. Ask the outgoing resident or your real estate agent who this is. Call them to set up an account (*numbers are listed in the Yellow Pages - [www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)*). Have your



address and date of birth ready. Be aware that most cable suppliers sell not only basic TV, but also digital TV, Internet and telephone services. In order to take any of these services you must purchase basic cable TV.

### Internet

Internet is available through the telephone or cable television. In each case there are a number of different suppliers, but all take around three weeks to send the equipment and set up the connection.

Once you have called the supplier they will send the modem to your address. If you would like an engineer to assist you, you should ask the supplier (remember also to check how the engineer should be paid). Payment for Internet will always be by direct debit, so you must have a bank account first. For Internet through the telephone network, you must have contracts with two companies:

- The supplier of the physical network.
- The Internet service provider (ISP).

Set up a fixed telephone line, and then call the Internet service provider you wish to use. Phone numbers are available in the Yellow Pages or through the Internet. Have your address, date of birth, phone number and bank account details ready. *For a list of Internet providers see: [www.nlip.nl/ledenlijst/](http://www.nlip.nl/ledenlijst/)*

For Internet service through cable, you must have a contract with a cable supplier who will provide the Internet service. If you can understand a bit of Dutch (or can get someone to assist you), a visit to [www.huisaansluitingen.nl](http://www.huisaansluitingen.nl) will help get you connected to gas, water, energy, cable, and telecoms at the same time. In general, electricity, water, gas, and cable companies are best contacted by phone; Internet providers through the Internet (do this at work); and mobile phone companies via the web for comparison, and then by going to a shop to make a purchase.



### 3.7 Waste and recycling

👉 *“The Netherlands are proud of their recycling system and I must admit it is pretty good. We have a bin for all plastics, a bin for paper, a bin for plastic bottles that can go back to supermarket and make us money, a bin for glass bottles and jars, a bin for organic waste, and a bin for the rest which isn't much.”*

-- Rosalind Van Aalen Grant, England

As in other developed nations, the Dutch are keen to lessen their impact on the environment by reducing waste that goes to landfills and decreasing energy use. Several recycling (kringloop) schemes are in existence, although these may vary slightly depending on the community in which you choose to live. For example, homes in the Eindhoven region are issued two bins by the municipality, which are emptied on alternate weeks. A green bin is used for biodegradable kitchen and garden waste, and a grey bin for other household waste. Also in the Eindhoven region, paper is collected every two weeks, and a mobile van visits every neighborhood every two weeks to collect small chemical waste (klein chemisch afval), such as light bulbs, batteries, and harmful cleaning products.

**Plastic bottles:** When you buy most bottled beers and soft drinks (but not canned drinks), you will pay a small deposit, which is refundable when you return the empty containers to grocery stores. There are machines located inside of the grocery stores where you can deposit these empty plastic bottles. You will receive a receipt, which you can cash at the grocery store.

**Glass and plastic:** Bottle banks for recycling glass (white, green and brown) and plastics can be found outside many supermarkets. It is required to put your plastic items in a bag.

**Clothes and shoes:** There are also collection points for unwanted clothes and shoes. These collection points are usually located near grocery stores, and are an off-white/cream color. Before donating your items, put them in a tied plastic bag.

**Batteries:** Blue bins for used batteries can be found inside certain stores, including most grocery stores.

### More information

Check your local Community Guide for more information about what is available in your area.



Best Intermediair Vastgoed Makelaardij: +31 (0)40 206 2651, [www.birealestate.nl](http://www.birealestate.nl)

Best Western Premier ART Hotel Eindhoven: T +31 (0)40 751 3500, [www.arthoteleindhoven.com](http://www.arthoteleindhoven.com)

Friendly Housing: T+31 (0)40 244 4448, [www.friendlyhousing.nl](http://www.friendlyhousing.nl)

GOETH Vastgoed: T +31 (0)40 213 0223, [www.goethvastgoed.nl](http://www.goethvastgoed.nl)

Hartje Eindhoven: T +31 (0)40 851 6999, [www.hartjeeindhoven.nl](http://www.hartjeeindhoven.nl)

Holiday Inn Eindhoven: T +31 (4) 235 8248, [www.hieindhoven.com](http://www.hieindhoven.com)

HouseHunting: T +31 (0)40 291 0335, [www.househunting.nl](http://www.househunting.nl)

HousingXL: T +31 (0)40 243 0030, [www.housingxl.nl](http://www.housingxl.nl)

Huur Inc.: T +31 (0)40 751 5151, [www.huurinc.nl](http://www.huurinc.nl)

Rots-Vast Groep Eindhoven: T +31 (0)40 244 0244, [www.rotsvast.nl](http://www.rotsvast.nl)

Stoit Groep: T +31 (0)40 214 0660, [www.stoit.nl](http://www.stoit.nl)

Vestia Zuid Nederland: T +31 (0)18 031 8081, [www.vestia.nl/zuidnederland](http://www.vestia.nl/zuidnederland)

The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program redirects expats to reliable service providers in a wide variety of expat related sectors. For a complete list of Official Partners of Holland Expat Center South, please visit [www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/).

### Facts:

- >> Electricity is 220 V, 50 Hz.
- >> The most common heating fuel is natural gas.
- >> Water is usually metered.
- >> Telephones in The Netherlands use different connector plugs than many other countries, which means that phones bought outside of The Netherlands may not work.
- >> The mobile phone system in Europe uses the GSM standard.
- >> There are many telephone companies offering cheap international calling.
- >> Internet and computers made to use mains power systems other than 220 volts and 50 Hz will not work without adaptors.
- >> Television in Europe uses the PAL standard.



👉 *"Be yourself. The expats must respect the Dutch culture, but should not forget their own culture."*

-- Tulio Charles de Oliveira Carvalho, Brazil

## 4. Taxation

Your employer is obliged to withhold a wage tax from your salary. In most situations this will be sufficient and you will not have to pay extra or get a refund.

However, in the following situations (among others) a tax refund may be possible:

- In your arrival year, if you do not work for the entire 12 months.
- In your departure year, if you do not work the full 12 months.
- If you own a house in The Netherlands and pay interest on your mortgage.
- If you have extraordinary burdens above a certain level.

**More information about the Dutch Tax System can be found in Appendix III Taxation.**

## 4.1 The 30% Tax Ruling

Highly skilled migrants and scientific researchers may be eligible for an advantageous income tax regulation known as the '30% ruling'. This ruling means that 30% of their income is entirely free of tax for a certain period of time. An application for the 30% ruling must be made by the employer and the employee.

### How to apply for the 30% tax rule

Each case is specific and not all information is relevant. It is easiest to discuss your eligibility with your HR Manager.

## 4.2 Tax Returns

Note that the Dutch tax year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Even if you do not have to pay additional income tax or are not eligible to receive a refund, the tax authorities may still approach you and ask you to complete an income tax return. In this case you are obliged to complete the form they send you and must return it to the tax authorities.

After several months (but within 3 years) the tax inspector will send you a tax assessment, which will state the amount to be paid or received by you (often nothing). If there is anything to be paid, you must transfer the amount within two months. The tax authorities will give you the bank details. If you are eligible for a refund, the tax authorities will pay the money into the bank account you stated in your tax return.

Since the completion of a tax return is complicated, and the official form is in Dutch, many employers offer assistance to their international employees with this issue. Alternatively you can make use of a tax advisor (for a fee).



### 4.3 Tax Benefits

Information about tax benefits can be found in Appendix III Taxation.



BDO: T +31 (0)76 571 4900, [www.bdo.nl](http://www.bdo.nl)

BOX<sup>2</sup> BVBA: T +32 (0)11 559 910, [www.boxx-expat.eu](http://www.boxx-expat.eu)

Ernst & Young Belastingadviseurs LLP: T +31 (0)88 407 4529, [www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com)

LIMES International: T +31 (0)40 291 0587, [www.limes-int.com](http://www.limes-int.com)

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## 5. Finance & Insurance



## 5.1 Banking

A Dutch bank account is necessary if you are going to live in The Netherlands for some time. There are a number of banks in The Netherlands offering services to private customers, and all cities and most villages have local branches. Opening hours may vary, so check your local bank for exact times. In general, opening hours of banks are 09:00-17:00, Monday to Friday. Some larger branches are also open 10:00-16:00 on Saturday.

Banks offer the following services:

- Automatic cash dispensers at banks and everywhere in the city
- Personal and Internet banking
- Insurance
- Mortgages

When choosing a bank, check if they have a branch in -- or good contacts with -- your home country. This can be handy for money transfers, etc. It is also a good idea to keep your old bank account in your home country. If you do not already use Internet banking, it is recommended to set up an online account.

**TIP >>** To open a bank account the bank will ask for your BSN Number. The BSN will be issued by Town hall after approval of the immigration authorities. Holland Expat Center South can assist you with this.

**More information in Section 2.4: BSN Number**

### Opening an account

You must go in person to the bank to open a bank account, but it is not always necessary to make an appointment at the bank. Simply ask at the information desk to see an advisor.

The following are required to open a bank account:

- Your passport
- Proof of address (confirmation of registration from the Town Hall or rental contract).
- A letter confirming employment from employer or a copy of your work contract.
- Your BSN Number



**TIP >>** If you are a student, the international office of your university might be able to open a bank account for you. Ask them for more details.

### **PIN card/credit card**

A PIN card (check card) is a card with a Personal Identification Number, issued for use with your bank account. The amount paid is transferred directly from your account to the payee account. A maximum daily limit can be negotiated with your bank when you open your account.

**TIP >>** PIN cards are accepted in most shops, restaurants and cash dispensers. However, it is always a good idea to check first in restaurants and shops! Cash dispensers/automatic teller machines (ATMs) do not always accept all cards, so check the signs on the machine.

Credit cards are not widely used in The Netherlands and they are accepted in fewer outlets than PIN cards. It is generally not possible to pay with credit cards in supermarkets. Credit cards are mainly used for bigger purchases, and in restaurants, airports, clothing shops, etc.

### **Chipknip**

The Chipknip is included on your PIN Card. It can be loaded with a pre-paid amount from your account, using the phone or chip automatic dispense (located near cash dispensers). They are mostly used to pay small amounts, for example, parking, bus tickets, coffee, etc. This system is not available in all shops. If your PIN card is stolen, this money is not recoverable. Therefore it is recommended to put a small amount of money on the Chipknip.

### **Cheques/eurocheques**

Personal cheques and eurocheques are not commonly used in The Netherlands. Most payments are made using cash, PIN/credit cards, electronically, or by acceptgiro (see below).

### **Paying bills**

Payment in shops is generally done by PIN card or cash, while restaurants frequently also accept credit cards. In some towns parking must be paid for with a Chipknip card, but most often, cash is also accepted. Payment of household bills is by direct debit, electronic (Internet) banking, or by



acceptgiro (the company selling the item or service sends a paper invoice to the customer, who fills it in and sends it to the bank).

### **Internet banking**

All banks offer Internet banking. Some also offer this service in English. Inquire at your bank.

### **International money transfer**

To enable your Dutch bank to arrange money transfers to your foreign account, you need to provide them with your international banking codes (ABA number for the US, IBAN or BIC for European banks) that is printed on your bank statements.

### **Safety deposit boxes**

The Netherlands is a safe country to live in, but like anywhere it is not crime-free. Keeping precious and valuable items in your home puts them at risk of being stolen if your house is broken into. Some banks have safety-deposit boxes available to customers (for a fee).



ABN AMRO International Clients Amsterdam: *T +31 (0)10 241 1720, [www.abnamro.nl/expats](http://www.abnamro.nl/expats)*  
Rabobank: *T +31 (0)40 293 6493, [www.rabobank.nl](http://www.rabobank.nl)*

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## 5.2 Health insurance

All adults living in The Netherlands and paying income tax here (premieplichtig) are legally obliged to take at least basic coverage. Every adult must therefore have their own policy, and will have to pay for it. Children (under 18) receive the basic coverage free of charge, and they do not need to have their own policy. However, they must be named on the policy of one of their parents. They will receive the same optional coverage as that parent. Students can get a special student insurance via the international office of their university.

### Types of policy

There are two types of policies:

1. The 'standard policy' (naturapolis) – bills are paid directly to the healthcare provider by the insurer, and the insurer can select the healthcare provider.
2. The 'refund policy' (restitutiepolis) - the bill must first be paid by the customer and claimed back from the insurer, but (within limits) the patient may choose where care is received. The type of policy will affect the premium. The refund type is more expensive.

The following are included under basic coverage:

- Medical care (including your local doctor and medical specialists)
- Medication
- Hospital costs
- Limited dental care (only surgical dental care for adults)
- Equipment
- Pregnancy care
- Ambulance transport



There are restrictions. Exceptions that are not covered include:

- Flu vaccinations
- Basic dental care (children are covered)
- Extended physiotherapy

### **Own-risk**

Everyone can choose to carry part of the costs of healthcare themselves (yearly subscriptions charged by local doctors do not count as costs in this case). On 1 January 2011, a national own-risk system became obligatory. An own-risk charge of € 170 per year per person (from 18 years upwards) has to be paid to the health insurance supplier.

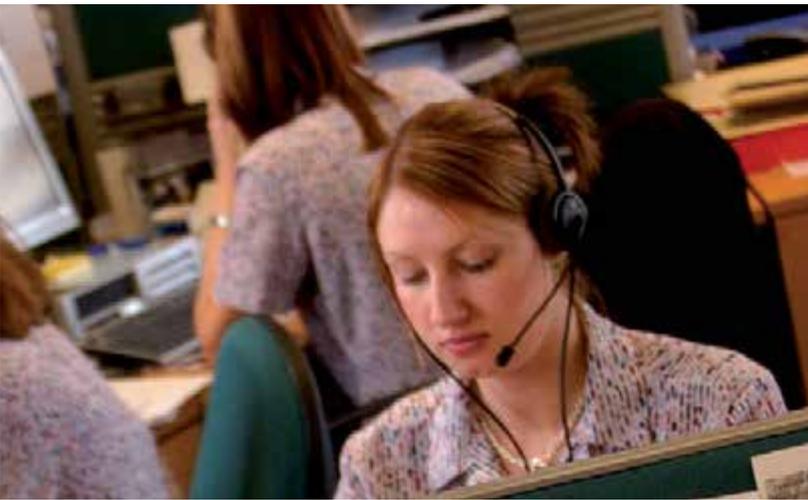
In some cases (if foreign social security applies to you), you are exempt from mandatory Dutch health insurance. If you are an EU citizen and can provide an E106 from your home country you can get a treaty policy and will be insured up to the level of Dutch basic coverage. With a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) you will also have access to Dutch health care. Check with your HR manager.

### **Medical insurance 'to do' list**

- Check your health insurance coverage.
- Check with your HR manager for possible collective insurances.

### **More information**

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport website: [www.minvws.nl/en/](http://www.minvws.nl/en/)



## 5.3 Private Insurances (Other insurance)

### Vehicle insurance

Third-party insurance is a legal requirement for vehicle use in The Netherlands. Fully comprehensive insurance coverage and variants between the two extremes can also be purchased. Note that insurance in The Netherlands is on the car and not the driver. This means that once the vehicle is insured, anyone who meets the specifications of the policy (in terms of age, etc.) is insured to use it. Conversely, the driver may NOT be covered to drive other vehicles.

### Personal insurance

Although not a legal requirement, many people in The Netherlands have personal third party insurance. This covers circumstances where you or your family may accidentally injure a third party or damage their property, e.g. if a tree falls in your garden and damages a neighbour's house.

### House (bricks and mortar) insurance

Building insurance is usually paid by the owners of furnished rented properties (confirm this with the owner), but tenants will still need contents insurance to cover their personal possessions.

### House contents insurance

This covers personal possessions inside the house. Even in furnished accommodation it is normal to take extra insurance for unusual items. Check your insurance policy for details of what is covered.

### Legal costs insurance

In the case of litigation, this insurance covers legal fees and provides legal support when needed.



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CZ Health Care: T +31 (0)46 459 5812, [www.cz.nl](http://www.cz.nl)

The Sociale Verzekeringsbank: T +31 (0)76 548 5000, [www.svb.nl/bbz](http://www.svb.nl/bbz) (Belgium)

T +31 (0)24 343 1811, [www.svb.nl/bdz](http://www.svb.nl/bdz) (Germany)

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## 5.4 Social Security

The Netherlands has a fairly typical European Social Security system: i.e. it is expensive to run, but offers good benefits to those in need. The first Dutch social legislation dates back to 1800. This was only a minor law that set down rules for employing young people and women, but it was the first in what would become the world's most extensive and generous body of social legislation. Today however, the social system is under extreme pressure because it has become too expensive to run. In recent years it has undergone radical reform to prevent abuse and reduce sick leave. Nevertheless, the current system is still regarded as one of Dutch society's finest achievements.

The main principle underpinning the Dutch social system is that everyone should be able to play an equally active role in society, and some people need help in doing so: the old and disabled, low-income families, young people without qualifications, and minorities.

**TIP >>** In some cases it is possible for expats to opt-out of paying for social security in The Netherlands. Obtain form E101 or certificate of coverage before departure.

In general, the following conditions apply:

- The employee must be covered by social insurance legislation in their country of origin immediately prior to their secondment.
- The employee must be a national of a country that has a treaty with The Netherlands. This includes: the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, US, South Korea, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Bosnia, Macedonia, Cape Verde, Croatia, New Zealand, and Serbia.



- The employee must have an employment contract with the seconding employer (i.e. the employer in the host country).
- The employer in the country of origin remains liable for all costs related to the secondment. This means, among other things, that the employer must arrange for payment of social insurance contributions in the country of origin.
  - A. The secondment may not last more than 12 months. In some cases this can be extended.
  - B. The purpose of the secondment must not be to replace another seconded employee.
  - C. The employer must carry out 'substantial activities' in the home country.

You will be insured in The Netherlands if you do not have an E101 or certificate of coverage. This means the following social security items:

- AOW (national old age pension)
- ANW (national survivor's benefit)
- AWBZ (public insurance of extraordinary costs of sickness)
- AKW (child benefit)
- WIA (Disability Act)
- WW (Unemployment Act)
- Zvw (National Health Insurance Act)

The premiums for AOW, ANW, AWBZ and AKW are included in the first two income tax brackets. The WIA premium is paid by the employer. The WW premium is paid partially by the employer and partially by the employee. The premium for the National Health Insurance Act is paid by the employer.

#### **More information**

The SVB provides brochures on social security in several foreign languages: [www.svb.nl](http://www.svb.nl)



⌵ *"Take time to understand your potential challenges for yourself and your family and surround yourself with a support network both here in Tilburg and back home."*

-- Mala Raman, Seattle, U.S.A.



## 6. Education & Careers

Schools in The Netherlands offer a high-quality education. The philosophy behind Dutch education reflects Dutch society and aims to encourage students to be open-minded, and able to think and learn in a creative manner.

## 6.1 The Dutch Educational System

An important decision all parents of school-age children have to make when moving internationally is whether to place their children in local or international education. The choice may depend on a number of factors, such as the planned duration of your stay. Whichever route you opt for there are several pros and cons to both options.

Advantages of a local education:

- Better integration into local society opens up opportunities for social interaction.
- Children can become bilingual.
- There is a far wider selection of educational institutions available for Dutch-speaking students.
- Financial contributions by the parents are lower than at international schools.

### Insights:

- >> Pre-school childcare – nurseries, playgroups and kindergartens – are available, but many have waiting lists. Finding English-speaking childcare will depend on the area where you live.
- >> Children may begin school on their fourth birthday, and it is mandatory from the time they turn five. They normally move from lower school to upper school at 12, and most stay in school until they are 18.
- >> Standard education is generally in Dutch, but Dutch/English bilingual education is becoming increasingly popular throughout The Netherlands.
- >> International education is available. Most international schools use the curriculum and exam structure of the International Baccalaureate Organisation or International Primary Curriculum.



Advantages of an international education:

- Social interaction is with people from a broad spectrum of the international community.
- International schools offer Dutch as a second language, and sometimes even a Dutch stream.
- International schools link better with other educational systems – an important consideration for those who plan to return to their home country or elsewhere after a couple of years.
- International schools are experienced in taking care of children that are only there for a short amount of time.
- Dutch schools often have interrupted school days, and children come home for lunch. This does not happen at international schools.

### Dutch primary education

Education begins at the age of four, and is mandatory from the age of five. Primary schools are state-owned (openbaar) or faith-based (Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, or Jewish). The curriculum is broad, and progress is monitored by standard testing (CITO). The school year begins in August and is broken up by holidays.

### Different types of primary schools

Parents may send their children to a public school or to a special school, which are led by the local authorities and are for everyone regardless of religion or philosophy. One third of all children go to a public school. There are also schools that teach according to a specific method, for example, Montessori, Jenaplan, Vrije Scholen, or Dalton. These schools can be either public or special.



These are the most important different special pedagogical movements:

**Montessori:** Emphasizes on working individual and autonomous and is being supported by 'Montessori' methods and materials. They do not teach in groups, but instead prefer individual teaching. Some of the Montessori schools have a combination of the Montessori and the regular teaching material/methods.

**Jenaplan:** Emphasises independency, but works in groups. The class is a mix of children of different ages. Jenaplan schools believe that children of different ages can learn from one another, like in the average family. Each child receives a custom-made working plan for several weeks that they need to finish by themselves.

**Vrije school:** The 'Vrije Scholen' are meant for children of all convictions according to the vision of anthroposophist Rudolf Steiner. 'Vrije Scholen' follow their own program: no mandatory material, no final exam, and teaching in groups. Students remain with the same teacher from group three until group eight. They not only develop intellect, but also creativity and social skills.

**Dalton:** Students must learn to become responsible for themselves. The teacher's role is to coach the student as much as possible, but the initiative has to come from the student. Students have a final exam.

### Dutch secondary education

Secondary education normally begins at age 12 and continues to the age of 18. In the final year of primary school, parents, children and teachers decide together, with the help of standardized national tests (CITO), which type of secondary school is most appropriate for the child. The options are:



- VMBO (pre-vocational secondary education)
- HAVO (senior general secondary education)
- VWO (pre-university education)

The Dutch system streams children earlier than elsewhere, not only in terms of academic ability, but also in terms of a future career. It also offers relatively little in terms of sports facilities or extra-curricular activities. Most Dutch children belong instead to sports clubs outside school that have excellent facilities.

The school year is similar to that at primary school. The school week is more dynamic than in many countries, with students starting and ending their day at differing times, according to their studies. An increasing number of Dutch schools offer their more academic students a bilingual education. In this system about 50% of subjects are taught entirely in English.

### School holidays

Summer holidays for primary schools last six weeks, and for secondary schools they last seven weeks. Holidays are staggered across three national regions (northern, central and southern). The dates of shorter holidays (autumn, Christmas, spring and May) are decided by the competent authority of the school (usually the school board).

#### 2012-2013 Holidays for Noord-Brabant Schools

- Autumn Vacation: 12 - 21 October
- Christmas Vacation: 22 December 2012 - 6 January 2013
- Spring Vacation: 23 February - 3 March
- May Vacation: 27 April - 5 May
- Summer Vacation: 29 June - 11 August 2013 (Primary grades)  
Summer Vacation: 29 June - 18 August 2013 (Secondary grades)

### More information

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has the exact dates of holidays: [www.minocw.nl/schoolvakanties/](http://www.minocw.nl/schoolvakanties/) (The website is not available in English, but is fairly easy to understand.) An overview in English of school holidays in 31 European countries can be found at Eurydice: [www.eurydice.org](http://www.eurydice.org)

Alternatively, check with the school of your choice.



### More information

The Education Ministry's website offers information on relevant organizations, such as CITO, which administers tests: [www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl) (Click through to their English language pages.)

For information about the Dutch education system from a European perspective, see the information file on Eurydice, the European education information network: [www.eurydice.org](http://www.eurydice.org)

The International Review of Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks (INCA) provides descriptions of the education systems for pre-school, primary and secondary education in several countries including The Netherlands: [www.inca.org.uk](http://www.inca.org.uk)

## 6.2 International Education

There are about 25 international schools in The Netherlands. Publicly funded primary and secondary international schools have a Dutch stream and an international stream. In general, private international schools only have English-language education, but check with the school to make certain. The publicly funded international education (Internationaal Georiënteerd Onderwijs, or IGO) is education in English within the Dutch educational programme intended for specific 'international' target groups.

Students at the international schools are either the children of expat parents who may only be in The Netherlands for a few years, or the children of Dutch parents who may be moving abroad in the near future or are returning from an expatriate assignment. International schools are subsidised by the Ministry of Education and are bound by ministry rules, while others are privately operated. Privately operated schools are generally more expensive than government-funded schools and Dutch schools (which are also government-funded and largely free).

Many international schools employ remedial teachers and have facilities for children who need extra attention. International schools



linked to a Dutch school can also help long-term expat children foster contact with Dutch students.

**TIP >>** Parents should speak to a tax consultant regarding tax exemptions and implications of school fees. Fees vary from school to school, but employers sometimes contribute partly to the cost of educating their employees' children.

### International primary education

The curriculum framework in international primary schools meets the Dutch educational legislation. However, within this framework schools can use either the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP), the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), or the British system. Private schools such as British or American institutes can choose to follow the curriculum and exams used in their country of origin. Check with each school to be sure.

International primary education is offered at the International School Eindhoven, International Primary School Tilburg, and the International School Breda (ISB).

### International secondary education

In the public secondary school system, students prepare for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) examination over four or five years, or take part in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP). Students who pass this stage can then embark on the two-year International Baccalaureate (IB). Private schools might differ on both early and senior secondary years, so check with the school of your choice. After the IB or equivalent exam, students are qualified to take part in English-language education abroad, or can opt to study at Dutch higher education institutions.

International education is not synonymous with 'bilingual education'. Where English in international departments is mainly the language of instruction, the use of English is not the aim (as it is in bilingual education), but rather the means of educating specific groups for internationally recognized qualifications. International secondary education in Eindhoven is offered at the International Secondary School Eindhoven (ISSE).



### More information

A list of all international schools in The Netherlands can be found at the Foundation of International Education in The Netherlands: [www.sio.nl](http://www.sio.nl) Information and the list of publicly funded international schools: [www.intschools.nl](http://www.intschools.nl)

Information on the International Primary Curriculum:  
[www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com](http://www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com)  
[www.stichtingnob.nl](http://www.stichtingnob.nl)

Information on the International Baccalaureate Organisation:  
[www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

## 6.3 Further education & careers for partners

When someone moves from abroad to start a new assignment in The Netherlands, the partner frequently does not have a job waiting for him or her. Studies have shown that the leading cause of assignment failure is related to a family's inability to adjust to this new situation. Partners who may have given up a career to relocate with their family can sometimes feel lost and invisible at first. For most people there are many opportunities available for rewarding work or study, but you may need to be open to considering some things you might not have done at home.

For some, the main hurdle to overcome may be getting a work permit. Check with the working partner's HR Manager whether both are allowed to work under the terms of your existing permit. If not, a separate permit may be required, but you could also consider taking a sabbatical to do unpaid work, or to study.



The Netherlands has first-class colleges and universities that provide a wide variety of courses, and many are available in English. All Master's classes are taught in English. Brabant is home to the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), Tilburg University, The Design Academy Eindhoven and Fontys University of Applied Sciences. The region also offers good quality upper secondary vocational education at the ROC Eindhoven and ROC Ter Aa in Helmond. Elsewhere in The Netherlands (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Leiden, Wageningen, Nijmegen, Maastricht, Groningen and Twente) are top universities with specific orientations.

For others the biggest problem may be getting their non-Dutch qualifications accepted by the Dutch authorities, for instance to work in medicine. This issue is recognized by the Dutch authorities and a range of international qualifications will be accepted once the certificates have been verified.

Language can also be an issue, as many jobs require good written and spoken Dutch. This can be the spur that makes language training really worthwhile, although many people take the opposite route and put their 'foreignness' to good use, by doing work that requires their specific language and cultural skills, for example, work such as teaching or importing/exporting.

### **More information**

For verification of qualifications:

[www.ib-groep.nl/InternationalVisitors/Diploma\\_assessment/Coming\\_to\\_the\\_Netherlands/s40\\_diploma\\_evaluation.asp#/](http://www.ib-groep.nl/InternationalVisitors/Diploma_assessment/Coming_to_the_Netherlands/s40_diploma_evaluation.asp#/)

[www.idw.nl/index2.html](http://www.idw.nl/index2.html)

[www.beroepserkenning.nl](http://www.beroepserkenning.nl)



Unique Multilingual: *T +31 (0)40 239 5200, [www.uniquemultilingual.com](http://www.uniquemultilingual.com)*

AIESEC: *T +31 (0)13 466 2573, [www.aiesec.nl](http://www.aiesec.nl)*

Brainport Talent Region: *[www.brainporttalentregion.com](http://www.brainporttalentregion.com)*

KIT Intercultural Professionals: *T+31(0)20 568 8319, [www.interculturalprofessionals.com](http://www.interculturalprofessionals.com)*

De Parasol Veldhoven: *T +31 (0)40 253 5532, [www.de-parasol.nl](http://www.de-parasol.nl)*

Webster University: *T+31 (0)71 516 8000, [www.webster.nl](http://www.webster.nl)*

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## 6.4 Language Courses

📌 *"If you have time, learn the language. If you understand the language you understand the culture."*

-- Anna Crosetti, Italy

Nearly all Dutch speak good English, and if they hear you speak with a foreign accent, they will probably turn to English immediately! This makes it difficult to practice your Dutch. Nevertheless, learning some of the local language is highly recommended. It will help you



in your daily life, and the locals will appreciate that you have made the effort.

If you want official recognition of your Dutch language skills (in order to work for instance) you will need to follow a course that offers exams within the NT2 (Dutch as a Second Language) structure. This is administered by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science: [www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl)

**More information** can be found in Appendix VI: Useful Search Terms.



EasyNL: T +31 (0)40 211 3101, [www.easynl.nl](http://www.easynl.nl)  
Fonty's Language Centre: T +31 (0)88 507 1733,  
[www.fontys.nl/talencentrum/english/](http://www.fontys.nl/talencentrum/english/)  
Language Institute Regina Coeli: T +31 (0)73 684 8790, [www.reginacoeli.nl](http://www.reginacoeli.nl)  
STE Languages: T +31 (0)40 245 2860, [www.STE.nl](http://www.STE.nl)  
Voorwaartz Taaltraining & Coaching: T +31(0)76 521 9884, [www.voorwaartz.nl](http://www.voorwaartz.nl)

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## 6.5 Volunteering

📌 *“Someone told me to try volunteer work in order to get to know locals. It turned out a very good advice indeed. Not only did I get to know more Dutch people, but I also discovered interesting cultural institutions with which I collaborated.”*

-- Anna Crosetti, Italy

Arrived in The Netherlands with your spouse or partner? Eindhoven welcomes you with many volunteering opportunities; especially, for expat spouses and partners. To make your stay worthwhile in The Netherlands, volunteering is one of the most rewarding and satisfying options to consider. Many organizations require volunteers, including: the food bank, museums, Holland Expat Center South, other cultural organizations, and sports clubs.

Volunteering opens up many avenues along its way. You get introduced to the culture, people, and other expats. It is a platform to learn the language, interact, and co-create. It is possible to do volunteer work for one or more days per week or for a fixed number of hours each month. Whether you wish to do volunteer work on a regular basis or just for once, the choice is yours.

If you are looking for better job prospects or to network amongst peers, volunteering is a good starting point. Volunteering is one of the most preferred options chosen by many spouses and partners. It keeps you occupied, mentally active, and could lead to getting a full-time job. After all, the experience surely adds to your resume!



Eindhoven Cares: T +31 (0)6-3403 8506, [www.eindhovencares.nl](http://www.eindhovencares.nl)  
Vrijwilligers Punt - Center for Social Participation Eindhoven:  
T +31 (0)40 219 3399, [www.vrijwilligerspunteindhoven.nl](http://www.vrijwilligerspunteindhoven.nl)

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*"The clear and almost 'holy' distinction between work and private life is something I love in this culture. As expats, some of us come from faster paced work environments where work is above and beyond everything. I now realize Dutch approach is much more sustainable."*

-- Deniz Akman, Turkey

## 7. Personal & social needs



## 7.1 Dutch manners

👇 *"I love my birthday and I love to celebrate it. So I get quite upset when everyone not only congratulates me but my husband, my daughters, the cat, the dog, my father in law and while we are at it, why not the neighbor too. I mean it's my birthday!"*

-- Rosalind van Aalen, Britain

### Greeting people: corporate environment

In The Netherlands, shaking hands is very important. When someone is introduced to you, he/she will shake hands with you and state his/her name. When you leave, you shake hands again and thank the person in question for the visit /meeting, etc. At the next meeting, shaking hands is not necessary, but still, especially in business situations, it is a common thing to do.

### Addressing people: formal and informal

Dutch people very quickly start calling people by their first name. They address a younger person, a child, a relative, a friend, or an acquaintance with informal je/jij (you). The formal u (you) is used to address people you are not or only slightly acquainted with and higher-ranking businesspersons.

When you meet someone in The Netherlands, you generally call them sir or madam, but soon enough people will ask you to just call them by their first name. In other countries, it takes much longer for people to associate on a first name basis. There is no special rule that tells you how to deal with this in The Netherlands. Just wait and see what the other party says.

The Dutch do not use titles when they talk to someone. In writing, you can state the title, but you will only do that in an official letter. The only exception is the Dutch Queen who will always be addressed as Her Majesty!

### Greeting friends: the 3 Dutch kisses

You might find the custom of social kissing a bit over the top, the Dutch, however, do it frequently! Mind you, it is only done among people who know each other rather well! People kiss each other on the cheeks two or three times, every time they meet. This is not compulsory. If you do not want to be kissed, just extend your hand for a handshake.

### Dining out

When you are invited to a lunch or dinner, the Dutch will make it clear that you are their guest and that they intend to pay the bill, otherwise expect to 'go Dutch' and pay your fair share, or split the bill according to the number of diners. Dutch manners are frank - no-nonsense informality combined with strict adherence to basic etiquette. A waiter or waitress is beckoned by raising a hand, making eye-contact and calling "Meneer" or "Mevrouw" ("Sir" or "Madam"), but not too loudly.

### Tipping

In The Netherlands, you tip people like you do in any other country. Just keep in mind, that everyone in The Netherlands receives a basic salary. In a hotel, give 1 or 2 Euros (porter, room service, cleaning lady) every time they deliver a service. In restaurants and cafés, you give 5% to 10% of the total bill, if the service was good. Leaving some small change on a restaurant table is a common way of giving a tip to the serving staff. Most Dutch restaurants and cafés collect all the tips received during the evening and split the amount among everyone working that evening (also kitchen/ cleaning staff). If you are not satisfied, do not give a tip at all! Tips are generally not expected in bars, but are not uncommon. Taxi drivers generally receive a 3% to 5% tip.

### Going Dutch

In The Netherlands, as in many other parts of the world, men and women are equal. This means that the women in The Netherlands enjoy the same privileges as men. Enjoying lunch or dinner with a (male or female) friend will very often end up in going Dutch (split the bill). When you invite someone, or if you are invited, it is generally the one who does the inviting that picks up the bill.



### Making a phone call

When you make a phone call, always state your name (and if necessary your company name), also if you would like to speak to someone else. Even when you call a cab, order a pizza, or ask for information, it is polite to state your name. When someone calls you, you do the same: Pick up the phone and mention your name. When a Dutch person answers the phone, he/she identifies him-/herself by stating their first name, their last name, or both. The name is usually preceded by 'met', which means 'you're speaking with'. The caller is expected to identify him- or herself as well before asking to speak to another person or talking about something else. If you are making a phone call, first ask if your call is convenient. If your call does not come at a convenient time, offer to call back later. It is best not to make personal calls before 09.00 and after 22.00. On Sundays, you are expected not to call before 10.00. It is also better to avoid meal times (18.00 – 19.30).

### Making friends

Many internationals find it hard to start making friends in a new country. Because of their school activities and play dates, small children make it easier for parents to get to know each other. On the other hand, it is not that difficult to get to know the Dutch and find some new friends. Dutch are very open-minded people, especially in Brabant!

Join a community, group or club, such as your favorite sports club, a gaming club or a card club. Show interest in the country when you are talking to a Dutchman. Many neighborhoods have community centres where a lot of activities are organized for the neighborhood's residents. Do not only associate with other expats during meetings but also try to get in touch with the Dutch actively. Learn a little bit of Dutch, this will help you a lot in finding new Dutch contacts.



### Socialising with the neighbors

A good relationship with your neighbors can be very important. Especially for internationals, it is very good to have nice neighbors who can help you with questions or practical things. You can introduce yourself to your neighbors by inviting them to your house for coffee or tea, or a glass of wine in the evening. In general, your neighbors will in turn invite you over to their house the next time.

It is considered polite to let your neighbors know when you are having a party or renovation or something else that may cause them any inconvenience. The Dutch value their peace and quiet, so they like to stick to an 23.00 rule. This means that your neighbors can come complaining about noise or smells from BBQ's etc. after 23.00 in the evening.

It is a good idea to give your neighbors or a good friend in the neighborhood an extra set of keys to your house (if you know them well enough, of course). In The Netherlands, it is fairly common to ask your neighbors to water your plants or feed the your pet when you are on holiday.

### Private dinner invitations: etiquette

In The Netherlands, food plays a smaller role in hospitality than in many other countries. It is not considered imperative for making someone feel welcome. When you are invited to a dinner party at someone's house, it is appropriate to bring a small gift for the host/hostess. This can be a bottle of wine, flowers, chocolates, or something from your own country. Before dinner, people generally have a drink, which gives you the chance to get to know the other guests. Sometimes, there is a table setting but usually you can choose your own seat. Men should wait until the women are seated before taking a seat themselves. Do not start eating before your host/hostess has started or invites you to start or invites you to start.



### At the dinner table

If you are invited to a Dutch home, observe the following the rules:

- Be on time. You can arrive 15 minutes late, but definitely no later than that! Don't be too early either because your host might not be ready.
- Always wait until you are served or asked to serve yourself.
- Never start drinking immediately. The Dutch always raise their glasses and drink the first drink together.
- When you have finished eating, place your knife and fork side by side at the 12 o'clock position on your plate.
- When you have a business meeting or dinner, you do not have to bring anything, unless it is held at someone's home.
- If you do not know what to wear, or if you do not know if and what you have to bring, just ask! Your host/hostess will know that you are new and explain it to you. You can also ask one of the other invitees for advice.
- Parties may go on very late. Plan to stay for an hour or so after dinner.

### What to expect in the Dutch Corporate Environment

In common business contact, meetings or negotiations will be quick and efficient. Some things can be surprisingly different from the way you are used to. To start with, the Dutch place great importance on planning and efficient use of time. This means that you have to be on time. If you know you are expected in a big building, try to be there five or 10 minutes before the meeting so that you have time enough to find your way. Do not stay longer than necessary. If you are delayed, ring ahead, so always make sure that you have the relevant phone numbers with you!

Do not cancel your appointment on short notice and do not come in uninvited or unexpected.



Some other important things you might need to know:

- Shake hands before and after meetings.
- The Dutch like a short personal presentation without a lot of paperwork.
- The Dutch like to solve problems themselves, by phone or face to face, rather than through a lawyer.
- Be polite. If you have to give a business presentation or product introduction, keep the presentation short and the argumentation brief. In The Netherlands, time is money and the Dutch are provident.
- Jacket and tie tend to be taken off during the day, but of course, this also depends on the kind of company you work in.
- Academic or professional titles are not mentioned in a conversation or in general letters, but will be included on business cards.
- The usual Dutch office lunch is short, cold, and simple. The lunch meal usually consists of some sandwiches with ham and cheese, some milk or coffee and yoghurt or fruit as dessert.
- Exchange business cards during or after a meeting or conversation. There are no fixed rules for this.
- Once decisions are made, implementation is fast and efficient.
- In The Netherlands, commitments are taken seriously and they are honoured. Do not promise anything or make any offers if you do not intend to deliver what you have promised.
- Spouses are sometimes included in a business dinner, though business is not generally discussed if spouses are present.
- In The Netherlands, birthdays are special and they are celebrated at work, too. When it is your birthday, you can bring cake and give everyone a piece of it. Everyone will take time to enjoy the cake, have some coffee with it, relax, and talk together.
- Most Dutch companies give their employees a present on the day before Christmas. In general, these Christmas parcels contain foods, drinks, and sometimes some practical stuff.

### Dress Codes

- The Dutch generally prefer clothing that is casual, unpretentious, conservative, and subdued.
- Corporate rules might expect a traditional suit and tie.



- When conducting business in The Netherlands, foreign men may wear suits and ties, though sport coats are acceptable. Women wear suits or dresses.
- Taking off your jacket in an office is acceptable. It means getting down to business. Do not roll up the sleeves of your shirt. When leaving an office, put your jacket back on.
- Outside the office hours, Dutch people like to walk around in jeans and T-shirts.
- The Dutch do not always dress up for a theatre visit. A lot of people just wear their daily clothing, but they will make sure to look presentable.

### Helpful Tips

- The Dutch avoid superlatives. Compliments are offered sparingly, and to say that something is 'not bad' is to praise it.
- A foreigner does not need to worry too much about expressing his opinion or feeling. The Dutch might argue with you, but seldom take offence.
- The Dutch speak directly and use a lot of eye contact. To a foreigner, they may appear abrupt, but it is just their manner of communicating.
- Smoking is prohibited in many areas. Always ask before lighting up.
- Do not discuss money or prices or ask personal questions when you hardly know someone.

### Dutch Food

The Dutch have always been internationally orientated and nowadays you can expect to find meals varying from Italy to the Orient, and from China to Africa on Dutch dinner tables, especially amongst younger people. The consumption of dairy products is extremely high, which according to some scientists, accounts for the high average height of Dutch men and women. The Dutch generally eat three meals a day. Dinner (around 18.00) is the main meal for most people, but some rural families and older people retain the tradition of eating the main meal at midday. For them, the evening meal is light and often consists of bread, cold cuts, cheese, and salad.



### Typical Dutch food:

- Beschuit met muisjes are crackers with pink/blue and white balls on them called muisjes (mice). The Dutch eat this when a baby is born; the blue ones are for a boy and the pink ones for a girl.
- Stamppot is another typical Dutch dish eaten as soon as it gets colder. Stamppot is made of mashed potatoes and vegetables, like carrots and onions (hutspot), chopped green cabbage (boerenkool) or sauerkraut (zuurkool). The Dutch eat this stamppot with rookworst, a delicious, smoked, juicy sausage, and gravy.
- Pea soup (erwtensoep) is eaten when it is cold, and it is a tradition that you eat it after ice-skating!
- Asparagus (asperges) are a typical spring delicacy. The Dutch like to eat them with ham, eggs and a melted butter sauce or sauce hollandaise.
- Hagelslag is a very Dutch product, used abroad only as cake decoration. But Dutch eat it with chocolate sprinkles on sandwiches. Besides chocolate, there are sprinkles in all kind of colors and flavors.
- Krokot is a crispy crust that is filled with meat. The Dutch eat it with bread (broodje krokot) or at dinner with French fries. The smaller round version of the krokot is the bitterbal, which is usually eaten as a party snack.
- Stroopwafels are the well-known Dutch biscuits: two small waffles with syrup between them that tastes like caramel.
- Haring is eaten raw! On markets and in shopping malls you will find stands selling haring with freshly chopped onions. The Dutch hold the haring by its tail and let it slide into their mouth!

### Post Offices

There are no more post offices in The Netherlands. Instead there are mini-post offices located inside of certain grocery stores, and other stores. To mail a letter go to one of the orange mailboxes on the streets or in shopping malls. But before you put your letter in the mailbox, check the postal code of the address on your letter, and put you letter in the correct slot. (There are two slots in mailboxes: one is for local mail and the other is for the rest of the country and the world. If you are



mailing a letter outside of The Netherlands, you will put the letter into the left slot. Local mail will be put into the right slot.) Also make sure that you have put the correct postage on the letter!

Mailboxes will be emptied everyday in the evening, and mail within The Netherlands will be delivered the next day.

There are three different types of postage available:

- Netherlands: For post within The Netherlands
- Europe: For post outside of The Netherlands, but within Europe
- World: For post outside of Europe

## 7.2 Childcare

A new law deals with the quality, management and finances of childcare in The Netherlands. It starts from the principle that childcare is a matter for parents, employers and authorities. You sign a contract with a childcare organization and pay the bill. Employers can reimburse (tax-free) one third of the costs. You can also ask for reimbursement from the national authorities. In that case your childcare centre must be accredited and registered in the place where you live.

### More information

[www.toeslagen.nl/particulier/kinderopvangtoeslag.html](http://www.toeslagen.nl/particulier/kinderopvangtoeslag.html)

There are many options of childcare to choose from:

### Toddler group (Peuterspelzaal)

The toddler group is focused on bringing children into contact with other children and offering them a place to play together. Toddler groups welcome children ages two to four. Each child will be welcomed twice a week, usually 2½ hours for each visit. The costs are quite modest and often income related, but they are not subject to the childcare subsidy regulation.

### Daycare centre (Kinderdagverblijf)

A daycare centre offers childcare to infants and children until the age of four. The children may be present an entire day or half a day. The days are filled with routines, as in a domestic situation, with a focus on playing, eating and drinking together, and having a morning or afternoon nap. The costs are subject to the childcare subsidy regulation.

### After-school care (Buitenschoolse opvang)

Primary schools must offer after-school care and often work together with an established daycare centre. If the location of the after-school care is not walking distance from the school, then taxis will be hired to transport the children. The costs of the after-school care are subject to the childcare subsidy regulation, including the transportation costs.

### Host parent (Gastouder)

A host parent offers childcare in a domestic situation, either at the host parent's home or at the child's home. Host parents often take care of a few children at a time. Many host parents are represented by a host parent agency (Gastouderbureau) for the administrative procedures, mediation and guidance. The costs are approximately € 6 per hour, and are subject to the childcare subsidy regulation.

### Childcare subsidy

In general, the costs for most types of childcare are subsidized by the Dutch government if both parents have an official labour contract. Some exceptions are applicable to this rule. The subsidy is granted by the Dutch Tax Office (Belastingdienst) and is called 'Kinderopvangtoeslag'. The application procedure for this subsidy and the decision period may be time-consuming. The subsidy is an advance payment that is recalculated at the end of each calendar year. This recalculation process can also be time-consuming.

**For more information about this, and the childcare possibilities at your place of work, contact your HR Manager.**

**More information can be found in Appendix II: Pregnancy and Childbirth.**



Korein Groep: T +31 (0)40 294 8989, [www.koreingroep.nl](http://www.koreingroep.nl)

The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program redirects expats to reliable service providers in a wide variety of expat related sectors. For a complete list of Official Partners of Holland Expat Center South, please visit [www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/).



## 7.3 Understanding the Dutch Healthcare System

The Netherlands has good quality healthcare. The role of the family doctor or General Practitioner (huisarts) in the Dutch healthcare system is central. For many newcomers this is the single most important difference between the medical practice in The Netherlands and that of their home country.

Another difference is the medical culture. In The Netherlands, antibiotics and other medications are prescribed with greater reserve than you may be accustomed to. This has resulted in a very low incidence of antibiotic-resistant infections.

Tests are not done automatically and annual check-ups are not part of the basic service. In general, these extra services are only provided if there is evidence they are necessary. There are private clinics now offering this service, but they are expensive and are not covered by Dutch insurers.

Another cultural difference concerns childbirth. Since pregnancy and childbirth are considered natural conditions, pain relief is not frequently used. Pain relief is possible, but only in a hospital.

**More information** can be found in [Appendix II: Pregnancy and Childbirth](#).

As in many other countries, the relationship between patient and medical services is constantly changing and responding to individual patient needs. In The Netherlands you should not be afraid to ask for the information/services that you want or feel comfortable with. Your insurance company is a good source of information about what is possible and what is not.

The family doctor treats patients for non-surgical problems – with many now doing minor surgical procedures as well – and can answer most general health questions. He/she will also serve as your link with other medical services, such as hospitals, specialists, home nursing, etc. On his/her referral, you can visit a specialist in one of the hospitals in the area. Remember that you can always go to the specialist of your choice instead of the one you are sent to, provided your insurance company has an agreement with that specialist; if not, you will have to pay for it yourself.



The doctor's surgery will usually be near your home, making visits easy to arrange (for you visiting the surgery, or for the doctor visiting you if needed).

You need to register with the doctor once you know where you will be living. You are entitled to an orientation consultation before deciding which practice you would like to join. Be aware that, especially in the smaller towns, once you have registered, it can be difficult or near impossible to change doctors.

In Eindhoven, you often have to accept what you can find as not all practices are taking on new patients. After that you should normally call the doctor to make an appointment. Since he or she will play an important role in your stay, please choose carefully. Be aware that registering is not always easy, because many doctors have waiting lists.

There is a 24/7 medical coverage throughout the community. In practice this means that outside regular hours you need to call the CHP (Centrale Huisartsen Post) to consult a doctor. This coverage system also applies to pharmacists.

### Emergencies

To contact the ambulance, fire and police services, dial 112. Dialing this emergency telephone number will connect you to a central operator who will inquire what services are needed and transfer you to someone who can help you locally.

### Pregnancy and childbirth

Pregnancy and childbirth are culturally influenced and probably different from what you are used to. Many Dutch women prefer to give birth at home, but more and more women are opting to give birth in a hospital. You always have the option to give birth in a hospital, but first check that your insurance will cover this.

All Dutch women start with a first-line (primary) midwife. Midwives work according to a strict protocol. They train for four years and all they do is midwifery. You can choose to have your baby in a hospital,



under the care of your own midwife. Only with a medical indication do you get referred to a second-line midwife in a hospital. Then you are under the care of a gynecologist, but will mostly be seen by and cared for by the second-line midwife.

Know that many hospitals are training hospitals and you may also be exposed to doctors and midwives in training. There are no private hospitals or obstetricians. Even if booked with a specific obstetrician, it does not mean he/she will be at your delivery. A major benefit of first-line midwives is that in your last three months, you will be rotated to see the other midwives so that, when the time comes, you will not be seen by a stranger.

Prenatal care is usually provided by midwives (you may be referred by your family doctor), who will support you throughout your pregnancy and during delivery. Some screenings such as blood tests, ultrasounds or amniocentesis are done in specialist centres. They are not standard – your family doctor will tell you if you are part of a high-risk group and can apply for the tests – although testing is becoming more common.

After delivery in a hospital you are normally sent home relatively quickly. However, you are entitled to home nursing (kraamzorg). Remember to register with the Home Care Association or with private nurses (kraamverzorgingscentra).

**More information** can be found in Appendix II: [Pregnancy and Childbirth](#).

#### **More information**

Parenting in Holland: [www.parentinginholland.com/pregnancy/pregnancy-and-birth/prenatalcare/](http://www.parentinginholland.com/pregnancy/pregnancy-and-birth/prenatalcare/)

ACCESS Babies and toddlers Booklet, a guide to having and caring for children in The Netherlands: [www.access-nl.org](http://www.access-nl.org)

#### **Dental care**

Finding a dentist in The Netherlands is much like finding a doctor, although you do not need to find one that is located in your neighbourhood. After you have registered with a dentist, he/she will generally contact you for a check-up every six months, and will perform most routine procedures him or herself. Note that anaesthesia is usually only given upon request and



dental cleaning is often not part of the basic treatment. For special dental care, orthodontists and oral surgeons have waiting lists. Be prepared.

### Pharmacies and medication

You do not have to register with a specific pharmacy, but it makes life easier if you do, because in most cases they will then send the bill for prescription drugs directly to your health insurance provider. The easiest time to register with a pharmacy is at the same time that you register with a doctor. Pharmacies have 24/7 coverage, based on the same system as doctors.

There is a difference between a drugstore (chemist or drogist) and a pharmacy (apotheek). Drugstores (such as Kruidvat and Etos) supply non-prescription medications, baby items, general toiletries, cosmetics, etc. Pharmacies are the only outlet for prescription drugs. Pharmacies also sell over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, special baby foods, etc., and will provide advice to help ensure that medications do not interact with any other drugs you may be already taking. There is no standard with regard to which medications one can buy with or without a prescription. But the Dutch system is rather restrictive and you may find you need prescriptions for things you were able to buy over the counter at home.

### Alternative medical services

Alternative medicine is becoming increasingly popular in The Netherlands as a complement to traditional Western medicine. The various forms of alternative medicine (acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractic medicine, manual therapy, traditional Chinese medicine, etc.) are organized in associations. To be sure you are dealing with a regulated practitioner, consult the association of alternative medicine: [www.aag-artsen.nl](http://www.aag-artsen.nl) (Only in Dutch). More alternative treatments are being covered by medical insurance companies. Ask your insurer for a list of alternative doctors they cover. Many alternative medications are sold in drugstores.

### Homecare

Homecare (thuiszorg) associations are umbrella associations for all domestic medical services. They are often organised as 'kruisverenigingen' (home nursing associations) where you can borrow medical equipment as well as hire nurses. Baby health clinics (consultatie bureaus) are often part



of these associations. In these clinics every newborn baby and young child is checked regularly by specially trained doctors who provide immunisation programmes and other pediatric care. The child will be referred to a specialist for specific problems.

#### **More information**

Homecare maternity centre: 0900-206 44 44

Post-natal home nursing /post-natal doula care:

[www.kraamzorg-homecare.nl/en/index.html](http://www.kraamzorg-homecare.nl/en/index.html) (In English!)

[www.thebe.nl](http://www.thebe.nl) (Only in Dutch)

#### **Health screening**

There is a nationwide programme that screens women ages 30-60 for cervical cancer once every five years. Screening for breast cancer occurs every two years for women aged 50-75. Screening for other cancers is not routine in The Netherlands. However, if you are in a high-risk group (due to family history, previous illness, etc.) you will be monitored and screened regularly. This must be discussed with your family doctor. He or she will send you to a specialist if necessary. Menopause health checks, as well as pre/peri/post menopause care: [www.careforwomen.nl](http://www.careforwomen.nl)

For male and female health checks: [www.careforhuman.nl](http://www.careforhuman.nl)

There are private medical centres where you can have total body scans done, etc., but be aware that these are private; insurance companies will not cover the costs unless you have expat insurance from your own country.

#### **More information**

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport site: [www.minvws.nl/en](http://www.minvws.nl/en)

The Healthcare in The Netherlands ACCESS Information Booklet:

[www.access-nl.org](http://www.access-nl.org)



Local Hospitals: [www.mediwijzer.nl/zhnbrabant.html](http://www.mediwijzer.nl/zhnbrabant.html)

### Academic Medical Centres

You may ask to be referred to an academic medical centre for more complex diseases: [www.rivm.nl/en/healthanddisease/](http://www.rivm.nl/en/healthanddisease/)

When making an appointment, you can phone the general number and ask for 'patient informatie' (more information). Here you can ask if there is a specialist who speaks your native language.

Then you can phone the clinic and make an appointment with a specific specialist. It is useful to know that certain hospitals have 'super' specialists and all can speak English. This may influence your decision as to which specialist you choose to go to. For instance, the Catharina Hospital for Heart Disease in Eindhoven and the MMC Veldhoven, which has a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). There are also interpreters available in the hospital, who can be present at your consultation, but this service must be requested.

Healthcare 'to do' at the preparation phase:

- Check your health insurance coverage.
- Request medical records.
- Make sure you get your children's full vaccination records.

### Quick facts:

- >> Life expectancy at birth male/female (years): 78/83
- >> Child mortality male/female [per 1000 below age 5]: 5/5
- >> Adult mortality male/female [per 1000 aged 15-60]: 75/56
- >> Total health expenditure per capita (Intl \$): 4.389
- >> Total health expenditure as % of GDP: 10.8

[Source: The World Health Statistics 2009: [www.who.int/countries/nld/en/](http://www.who.int/countries/nld/en/)].  
Figures are for 2009.



## 7.4 Religion

The Netherlands is a tolerant nation and all the major religions are well represented. There are many places of worship. Those listed below are of particular interest to expats.

### Christian - multi-denominational

- **Trinity Church**, Pensioonaat Eikenburg, Aalsterweg 289, Eindhoven. T040283 1962. TrinityChurchEindhoven is a multi-denominational church, serving English-speaking people in the Eindhoven area. Services are held at 10:30 every Sunday morning.
- **Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship**, T 06-24927303. Service is at 10:30 a.m. at Pitstop, Grand Combin 2, Eindhoven. Open Prayer and Bible Study. Meetings: Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. GIAG, Woenselsemarkt 40a, Eindhoven. We love the joy of enthusiastically worshipping God, of learning from His Word, and of the fellowship with Christians and friends from many nations and cultures.
- **St Jans Church**, Vrijthof, Maastricht. Services are held in English at 17.00 p.m. every last Sunday of the month.
- **Pauluskerk**, Heuvelstraat 141, Tilburg. T 013-467 1763, [www.pauluskerktilburg.nl](http://www.pauluskerktilburg.nl). This church is located in the city centre, behind the square Oude Markt. There is a so-called 'open church', on each third Saturday of the month, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.. You are welcome to look around, meet other people by a cup of coffee and sometimes there is music being played!
- **Opstandingskerk**, Professor Cobbenhagenlaan 8, Tilburg. T 013-467 1763. Located close to the Tilburg University (UVT) this church has services at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

### Christian - Catholic

- **Basiliek van Onze Lieve Vrouw**, Kerkstraat 6, Maastricht. Weekly mass is held on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. in the crypt.
- **Vredeskerk**, Ringbaan West 94, Tilburg. [www.parochedebrontilburg.nl](http://www.parochedebrontilburg.nl). Service is held at 10:00 a.m. (almost) every Sunday.



- **Heikese Kerk**, Stadhuisstraat 6, Tilburg. The oldest and most well-known church in Tilburg offers services on Saturday at 6:30 p.m., and at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Catholic Student Parish Maranatha**, Professor Cobbenhagenlaan 19, Tilburg. [mass.chaplain.nl](http://mass.chaplain.nl). A Holy Mass in English takes place every Sunday and holy day at 17.00.

### Christian - Baptist

- **International Christian - Baptist Church of Eindhoven**, T 040 245 2554, [www.ibr-eindhoven.nl](http://www.ibr-eindhoven.nl). Services are held in English.

### Chinese Christian

- **Chinese Christian Church Eindhoven**, Heezerweg 127, Eindhoven. T 040 844 3284. Services are held in Chinese at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday.

### Orthodox

- **Orthodox Parish of Saint Nektarios**, Hoogstraat 301A, Eindhoven. T 040-242 5064, [www.orthodox-eindhoven.nl](http://www.orthodox-eindhoven.nl). Services are held on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- **Orthodoxe Parochie HI**, Johannes Chrysostomos & Servatios, St. Maartenslaan 37, Maastricht. T 043-321 1461, [www.destem-maastricht.nl](http://www.destem-maastricht.nl).

### Jewish

- **Tilburg Synagogue**, Willem II Straat 20, Tilburg. T 013-535 2271.

### Hinduism

Zeelerstraat 186, Eindhoven. Meetings are held every second and fourth Saturday of the month, in English, Hindi and Dutch.



### Muslim

- **Fatih Mosque**, Willemstraat 67, Eindhoven.  
[www.eindhovenfaithmoskee.nl](http://www.eindhovenfaithmoskee.nl)
- **Anwar-e-Medina**, Kastelenplein 169a, Eindhoven. T 040-251 3089,  
[www.anwar-e-madina.nl](http://www.anwar-e-madina.nl).
- **Moskee Elftath**, Sint Lucassingel 70, Maastricht. T 043-343 7120  
Sulimaniye Mosque, Wandelboslaan 2, Tilburg. T 013-535 0392,  
[www.el-feth.nl](http://www.el-feth.nl).
- **El-Feth Mosque**, Academielaan 9, Tiburg. T 013-460 0769

## 7.5 Transport

📌 *“Walking out of the first hotel I stayed at, I almost got run over by a bicycle as I was ‘unknowingly’ on the bike path.”*

-- Paolo Patafie, Canada

### Bicycles

Many foreigners think of The Netherlands as a land full of bicycles, and when you arrive you will discover that this is true! Almost everyone in the country owns at least one bike, and many people bicycle regularly, to get to work or school, or for fun during weekends and holidays. It is an enjoyable and healthy way of getting around. A network of bicycle paths covers the entire country, making getting around by bicycle relatively safe, and best of all, the flat landscape means you do not even have to be fit to join in! It is not required to wear a helmet.

Besides new bicycles, second-hand models are also widely available.



However, make sure that you invest in a good lock, because bicycle theft is common. You can also rent bikes from most railway stations and several bike shops. Look in the Yellow Pages ([www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)) under 'Fietsverhuur'. It is not required to wear a helmet.

### Train transport

The Netherlands has a comprehensive train timetable, and prices are competitive (by Western European standards). See [www.ns.nl](http://www.ns.nl) or telephone 0900 9292 for travel advice. You can also ask for printouts of your journey at the information centre in the station.

Tickets can be purchased at the station. There is an extra fee to purchase tickets from the manned ticket office, so use the ticket dispensing machines found in the stations whenever possible. If you travel a lot by train, there is a yearly discount card that gives you a 40% discount on train fares, although there are a few restrictions (e.g. the discount is not valid during the morning rush hour before 09:00). Ticket dispensing machines also provide information in English. Monthly and annual season tickets are also available. If you buy an undated ticket, it must be stamped in the yellow machine on the platform before you travel. You can be fined if you travel with unstamped tickets. Tickets bought for travel the same day will already be stamped.

### Public Transportation

Despite a love of pedal power, the levels of car ownership in The Netherlands are very high and continues to grow. The road system is good, with a network of major highways connecting all the major towns. But as in many developed countries, traffic jams occur regularly during rush hour. Nevertheless, the car can be a convenient way to cover long distances, particularly when young children are involved or when



visiting places difficult to reach by public transport.

The public transport system in The Netherlands is excellent, reasonably priced (by Western European standards), and many people use it every day to avoid the frustrations of rush hour traffic jams. The country is small, rich by world standards and, with the exception of the major rivers that cross the landscape, has few significant barriers to land-transport systems.

Eindhoven, Tilburg and Helmond have extensive urban bus networks that connect outlying districts and nearby villages with their city centres. Buses on most routes run at least once, and often several times, every hour. Most other communities in the region are served by regional buses that run between villages, and also connect to Eindhoven, Tilburg or Helmond.

Nice to mention is that the Phileas bus that travels between Eindhoven Central Train Station and the Eindhoven Airport, is a futuristic bus concept that combines the capacity of a tramway and the flexibility of a bus. It is also a nice example of high-tech innovation that was developed and deployed in the Eindhoven region!

The entire region (along with the rest of the country) is divided into zones. The fare you pay depends on the number of zones you travel through. Most journeys within Eindhoven, Helmond or Tilburg will cover one or two zones. It is possible to buy a bus ticket on the bus with cash, and on most routes you can also pay with a Chipknip card. Paying by Chipknip is not available on all routes.



## OV-chip card

The OV-chip cards (*OV-chipkaart*) is the new means of payment for the public transport system in The Netherlands, and has replaced all other public transport tickets in The Netherlands. The card is the size of a bank card and contains an invisible chip. It can be loaded with credit in Euros with which you can travel anywhere within The Netherlands, or with a travel product such as a single or season ticket. There are two types of OV-chip cards: A personal one and an anonymous one. Both initially cost € 7,50, and you can then load and reload the chip with a credit up to your liking or need.

**Personal OV chip card:** This card is personified, like a personal ID card. It has your photo on it and personal information, such as your name, birth date and BSN number. When your OV card is lost or has been stolen, it can be blocked within 24 hours. It can only be purchased online at: [www.ovchipkaart.nl](http://www.ovchipkaart.nl).

**Anonymous OV chip card:** This card can be used by more than one person, although never at the same time. When travelling with more than one person every person needs an OV chip card. When this type of card is lost or stolen it cannot be blocked. You can buy this card at the service desk at the train station, and upload the credit at the yellow ticket machines with the pink OV chip card logo (found at various locations, including grocery stores), or at the train station service desk.

When traveling with an OV chip card it is very important to remember to always check in and out!

Hold your OV chip card up to the OV logo on the card reader. You'll hear a beep and see a green light. On the screen text will appear such as, "goede reis" (which means "Have a nice journey!"). At this moment a sort of surety money is deducted from your credit balance.

If you change trains during the same trip you do not check out. But if you change means of transportation during the same trip, you must check out. At the end of your trip you check out in the same way. Hold your OV chip card up to the OV logo on the card reader. Again you'll hear a beep.



The real cost for the trip is now deducted from your credit balance, plus or minus the surety money. Do not forget to check out!

**More information**

<http://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/klantenservice/adresvinder/?taal=en>

**How to find information on public transportation**

There is a single contact number for advice on all (ground-based) public transport on 0900 9292. Stay on the line to be connected to an operator. Or visit [www.9292ov.nl](http://www.9292ov.nl) for comprehensive information.

**Airports**

Eindhoven Airport is served by several low-budget carriers, and has direct flights to and from a number of European cities. For destinations further afield you must travel first to Amsterdam, Düsseldorf (Germany) or Brussels (Belgium). Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport is less than two hours by car, and an hour and a half by direct train. Düsseldorf and Brussels are both about an hour and a half away by car. Train connections to these airports are also possible, but the journey times are longer (about two and a half hours) and requires two (Düsseldorf) or three (Brussels) changes. Weeze Airport (just across the German border) is another popular choice for those with their own transportation. Eindhoven sits at the junction of several major motorways and railway lines and is easily reachable from other parts of Europe by train or car.

**Taxis**

Taxis can be recognised by the lit 'taxi' sign on their roof. They also have blue license plates (the majority of vehicles have yellow plates). They cannot be hailed on the street, but there are taxi stands at most stations and by hotels. If you want one to pick you up from your home, phone a local company the numbers are in the Yellow Pages ([www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)).



When travelling to or from railway stations, the treintaxi (train taxi) can be a cheaper alternative to normal taxis. You may have to share the taxi with others, but you pay a fixed price per ride, regardless of the distance travelled (up to 8 km from the station). When arriving at a station, the 'treintaxi stand' is located near the normal taxi stand. If one is not immediately available a push-button call system located by the stand will connect you to the treintaxi operator. Buying a ticket in advance (from the train ticket dispensing machines) is cheaper than paying the driver. For trips to the railway station call 0900 873 4682 at least half an hour prior to being picked up.

### Dutch road rules

👇 *"Just because you are driving down a main road does not mean you have the right of way. Watch out for the shark teeth or lack of teeth."*

-- Lisa Jochim, U.S.A.

Dutch road rules conform to most European regulations:

- Drive on the right-side of the road and overtake on the left!
- Unless otherwise posted, vehicles coming from the right have priority.
- Mobile phones may only be used with a hands-free system while driving. Even holding a mobile phone in a moving vehicle is considered an offence.
- The maximum speed in town is 50 km/h (120 km/h on motorways except where otherwise stated)

The comprehensive bike paths around Eindhoven, Helmond, Tilburg, and elsewhere, add an element that may be new to non-Dutch drivers. They run down each side of most roads and around roundabouts. When turning (or leaving a roundabout) ALWAYS look out for bicycles crossing your path. In most cases they have the right of way, so take care!

### Parking

In metered parking areas (P zone) you must purchase a parking ticket from a machine that can usually be found by the side of the road. Pay



cash or use your ChipKnip card. Tickets must be displayed in the front window of your car. Fines for failing to do this are expensive. In parking garages you pay before exiting. Paying machines are located by the stairwells and parking can be paid in cash or with Pin/ChipKnip cards. You must submit your paid parking ticket into a machine before exiting the parking area.

### Traffic

Getting around the city is easy, and major access roads into and around Eindhoven are wide and direct. During rush hour (08:00-09:30 and 16:00-17:30), roads can become very busy and queues often form. Nevertheless, except when there are major disturbances, such as road accidents or construction work, traffic usually flows smoothly and it is possible to cross the city in about 30 minutes.

### Importing and registering a vehicle

Foreign-registered vehicles may be used by tourists for up to three months, but residents must register their car immediately. The costs associated with import and registration vary according to the age, origin and condition of the vehicle. In general, you may import your vehicle free of Dutch tax, if you have owned it in your home country for at least six months, and it has more than 6000 km on it. However, there are still costs associated with importing a vehicle.

These include:

- Recycling tax
- Vehicle upgrades (if required to meet EU regulations)
- Registration fee

If you sell your car within one year of immigrating to The Netherlands, then you must pay import duties.

### More information

To start the importation process, contact Dutch customs (Douane) on 0800 0143 to request tax exemption forms. Once these have been completed call the Road Authorities RDW (Rijksdienst voor het Wegverkeer) on 0900 0739 to set up a testing appointment.



### Buying a car

Cars can be bought new or second-hand, and every town has a number of dealerships with both new and used vehicles. There can be significant differences in prices and it is wise to compare several car dealerships as well as researching prices on the Internet. You need proof that you are registered at your address in order to buy a car. This can be issued by Town Hall. You will find Car Dealerships in the Yellow Pages ([www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)) under "auto verkopers."

### More information

Public transport T 0900 9292, [www.ns.nl](http://www.ns.nl) or [www.9292ov.nl](http://www.9292ov.nl)

International trains T 0900 9296, [www.ns.nl](http://www.ns.nl)



## 7.6 Expat Networks & Social Clubs

📌 *“Get out of your shell. Meet/connect with expats & the locals you live with as they can guide you in the right direction so you can find comfort living in a new town faster rather than later on.”*

-- Paolo Patafie, Canada

As an international person, it is important to meet other people who have been through the same experiences that you have and who live in the region. From bars favored by expats, to formal expat organizations, Eindhoven and Tilburg have plenty to offer those in search of making friends from around the world. There are a number of groups in the area especially for expats and their families.

Here are some options:

- **Mums and Toddlers** offers various activities for mothers with young children in and around Eindhoven. [www.mumsandtoddlers.org](http://www.mumsandtoddlers.org)
- **North American Women's Club (NAWC)** meets on the first Tuesday of every month. [www.nawceindhoven.com](http://www.nawceindhoven.com)
- **International Women's Club Eindhoven (IWCE)** promotes networking between English-speaking women of many ages, cultures and backgrounds. Meets on the third Thursday of each month. [www.iwce.nl](http://www.iwce.nl)
- **Genootschap Nederland** promotes links between Britain and The Netherlands. [www.gne-eindhoven.nl](http://www.gne-eindhoven.nl)
- **The Indo-Dutch Association** is for Indian people living in the Association Eindhoven area. [pawanishasha@hotmail.com](mailto:pawanishasha@hotmail.com)
- **International Women's Club Breda** provides a network of companionship and support in the Breda area. [www.iwcbreda.nl](http://www.iwcbreda.nl)



- **Breda Expats** is a multi-cultural group of internationals who get together regularly to socialize, participate in events and share experiences. [www.bredaexpats.nl](http://www.bredaexpats.nl)
- **Regional French-Speaking Association** for French-Speaking people Group in the Eindhoven area. T 040 255 55 61
- **Tilburg International Club** Welcomes and supports its international (TIC) members by providing information, events and social networking opportunities. Leharstraat 147, 5011 KB Tilburg. [www.tilburginternationalclub.com](http://www.tilburginternationalclub.com)
- **The Hub Eindhoven for Expats** is where internationals feel @ home. Join meetings, make suggestions, or organize an event! [www.thehubeindhoven.nl](http://www.thehubeindhoven.nl)
- **Amigos de la Cultura** Spanish and Latin American Hispano-Americana association. T 040 246 5005  
[board@vcwi.nl](mailto:board@vcwi.nl) and [f.arcerivero@chello.nl](mailto:f.arcerivero@chello.nl)
- **ACCESS** A not-for-profit organisation intended to bridge the gap between the international community and English-speaking services available in The Netherlands. They supply free information from their database; offer publications, courses, and events; and have a professional counseling referral service with about 150 volunteers, a management team, and a board of directors. [info@access-nl.org](mailto:info@access-nl.org), [www.access-nl.org](http://www.access-nl.org)
- **Turkish Professionals Network Eindhoven (TPNE)** is an organization of Turkish professionals living in the Eindhoven region. The organization targets a well connected network of Turkish people in order to increase the quality of life for the society. [www.tpne.nl](http://www.tpne.nl)



P&D Care: T +31 (0)13 582 1373, [www.pendcare.com](http://www.pendcare.com)

Easy Dolphin: T +31 (0)6-5539 6955, [www.easydolphin.nl](http://www.easydolphin.nl)

Team Relocations: T +31 (0)20 795 1140, [www.teamrelocations.com](http://www.teamrelocations.com)

The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program redirects expats to reliable service providers in a wide variety of expat related sectors. For a complete list of Official Partners of Holland Expat Center South, please visit [www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/).

⤵ *“Unite with other expats as soon as you arrive and share the experience.”*

-- Natalia Lutovinova, Russia

## What is Your Best Piece of Advice for Expats?

⤵ *“Try to fit in, but don't lose who you really are.”*

-- Rosalind van Aalen Grant, Britain

⤵ *“Get out of your shell. Meet/connect with ex-pats & the locals you live with as they can guide you in the right direction so you can find comfort living in a new town faster rather than later on.”*

-- Paolo Patafie, Canada

⤵ *“Try to embrace your new surroundings, explore your city for ‘hidden gems’ and don't be afraid to ask the locals for advice ... people are almost always willing tell you the good things about their city. You should also try to learn some of the basics of your local language.”*

-- Yolonda van Riel, Tennessee, U.S.A.

⤵ *“Keep an open mind, and embrace the place and its culture. Don't let any preconceived notions or hearsay form an impression about the city.”*

-- Sahana Prakash, Mumbai, India



## 8. Culture & Leisure

Brabant is a great place for arts and leisure. Theatre performances are sometimes in English, films are nearly always shown in their original language, and you can dance or listen to music in any language you like. For those who prefer the great outdoors, the countryside in the region is surprisingly green, and is a lovely area for those who like to bike, or walk, or simply drink a beer on a picturesque terrace on a small Brabant village market square.



The following sections will give you a taste of just some of what the region has to offer in terms of culture, nightlife, and other things to do. Don't forget that the region is also close to other fascinating cities such as Antwerp, Amsterdam, Maastricht, Aachen, and Brussels - all of which can be great places to go for concerts, cultural events or sightseeing trips. The most complete guide to look for in terms of local cultural events in Eindhoven is 'Eindhoven Info', or visit the local tourist office site, [www.vvveindhoven.nl](http://www.vvveindhoven.nl), where you will find information in English.

You can also visit the Eindhoven Tourist Office (VVV) shop at Stationsplein 17, right outside Eindhoven's central railway station, or the Tilburg Tourist Office (VVV) at Nieuwlandstraat 34. They provide information and brochures not only for the region, but for the entire country. The Tourist Office is also a good source of information for new residents as well as for tourists. They sell maps and guides, gifts and souvenirs, tickets for events, and can make hotel reservations. They also sell tickets to concerts and to the larger theme parks in The Netherlands and neighboring countries, including: De Efteling, Six Flags, Walibi, Sea Life, Madurodam, Warner Brothers Movie World, and others.

## 8.1 Dutch Holidays

📌 *"Nothing beats sitting next to a Cookie Monster in the bus, on my way to office on a Carnival morning. Even though I don't participate, it is great to watch."*

--- Deniz Akman, Turkey

Like any other country, The Netherlands has its own special public holidays to celebrate. The country has a historical Christian background so most of the Christian holidays are celebrated. On those days, companies and schools are closed.

To avoid huge traffic jams during holiday periods, school term dates vary by region and depending on the kind of school type. Schools in The Netherlands are divided into three holiday regions: North, Central, and South. School holidays in the North of The Netherlands usually start and end earlier than those in the centre or Southern area. The Noord-Brabant province belongs to the Southern area. Aside from the various public holidays throughout the year, there are further breaks in October (1 week), Christmas (2 weeks), Spring/February (1 week), Easter/April (usually only Easter Sunday and Monday), and May (2 weeks).

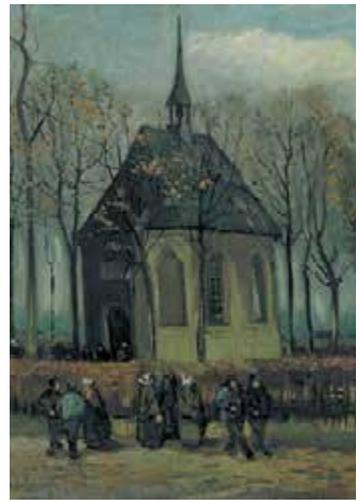
### Children's Holidays

Bear in mind that children have a lot of days off from school in The Netherlands. There is even a ruling according to which the school is allowed a number of free days to allocate to their discretion. It is therefore possible that you have two children in different schools with different days off! Luckily, there are some national holidays, which are the same all over The Netherlands. You can find all the school holidays on [www.holidays-info.com](http://www.holidays-info.com).

### 2013 Dutch Holidays

- New Year's Day (Nieuwjaarsdag): Tuesday 1 January 2013
- \*] Good Friday: Friday 29 March
- Easter Sunday (1e Paasdag): Sunday 31 March
- Easter Monday (2e Paasdag): Monday 1 April
- Queen's Day (Koninginnedag): Tuesday 30 April
- \*] National Remembrance Day (Dodenherdenking): Saturday 4 May
- \*] Liberation Day (Bevrijdingsdag) [Official holiday every 5 years]:  
Sunday 5 May
- Ascension Day (Hemelvaartsdag): Thursday 9 May
- Pentecost (1e Pinksterdag): Sunday 19 May
- Pentecost (2e Pinksterdag): Monday 20 May
- \*] Sinterklaas: Thursday 5 December
- Christmas Day (1e Kerstdag): Wednesday 25 December
- Boxing Day (2e Kerstdag): Thursday 26 December

\* *Not official holidays*



## 8.2 Culture

📍 *“Eindhoven is... relatively small compared to the bigger-city options in Singapore. However, I’m totally enjoying being a part of a vibrant and international community here in Eindhoven, and a city with an interesting events calendar.”*

-- Karen Choo-Haeberle, Singapore

### Music

There are music performances in many places and of many different kinds to suit all tastes. The Muziekgebouw Frits Philips Eindhoven offers a wide selection of classical and world music concerts, and offers an international programme (the International Music Master Programme). The successful Brabants Orchestra also performs at the Muziekgebouw on a regular basis. Churches are another venue for music concerts or choral performances. For opera you might want to visit the opera houses in Antwerp, Brussels or Amsterdam. The City Theatre Eindhoven also occasionally hosts operas performed by travelling opera companies.

For modern music lovers, De Effenaar is the top venue in Eindhoven for pop, rock and dance music. Events are held most evenings (visit [www.effenaar.nl](http://www.effenaar.nl) for a complete agenda), and internationally famous bands and artists often play here (see the Wall of Fame on their website for a list of past visitors). Several bars and cafés around the region host regular musical events by lesser-known artists, many of them local acts. Most of these events are free to attend.

Tilburg is home to the renowned popular music venue, 013, which regularly features national and international acts, festivals, cabaret and the 'Metal



Matinee'. The building is an attraction in its own right, being clad in black and thousands of glimmering CDs. The centre includes a recording studio and several rehearsal rooms. With a Rock Academy and music conservatoire in the city, these are in almost constant use. The Concert Hall is home to the Magogo Chamber Orchestra. Paradox was founded by a number of local jazz musicians to provide a showcase for alternative modern music genres. Performances are notable for a particularly relaxed and informal atmosphere. De Link presents 'unconventional' chamber music, with a special focus on contemporary composers. Many Tilburg cafés and bars present live music, usually with no admission charge.

### Theatre/ballet

The City Theatre Eindhoven (Stadsschouwburg Eindhoven) has undergone major renovations. It is now called Parktheater Eindhoven and has seating for 1500 visitors. This theatre offers a wide range of performances, with a focus on dance and ballet, popular music and theatre, and occasionally opera. They also present an annual Winter Circus - a family event children will not want to miss.

The Theater 't Speelhuis in Helmond hosts similar events to the City Theater Eindhoven, and is distinguished by its striking modern architecture and atmosphere. It was completely renovated in 2002, and now features every contemporary convenience designed to satisfy the needs of the most demanding theatergoer.

Several other places around Eindhoven, for example Valkenswaard, Veldhoven, Nuenen, Geldrop, Son, Someren and Bergeijk, all have their own smaller but equally charming theatres. See your local Community Guide for details.

The Tilburg Theatre Complex includes the Schouwburg, Concert Hall, Studio and the Filmfoyer, offering a very broad range of live theatre, music and film. The professional programme includes over 350 performances and concerts each year, together with some 750 film screenings. The theatre is also used by several amateur companies from throughout the region. NWE Vorst is a vibrant theatre in the city centre which presents theatrical and dance performances for adults and children throughout the year. Many productions by local and regional companies have their première here. One



can often discover a hidden jewel of theatre at the centre for amateur arts named Kunstbalie. The Kunstbalie actively promotes all forms of artistic expression, including music, puppetry, photography, art and film.

### Cinema

Cinemas in the region offer mainstream movies as well as art-house productions, and even movie-theatre performances in smaller venues such as Eindhoven's Plaza Futura. Complete film listings can be found at [www.uitinbrabant.nl](http://www.uitinbrabant.nl) under film. There are also weekly guides to local events, including cinema choices, that can be found in many bars and restaurants. Most films are shown in their original language with Dutch subtitles. A few foreign films aimed at younger children are shown in two versions: the original (subtitled) version, and a version dubbed into Dutch for those who may be too young to read. Make sure to specify which version you want to see when buying tickets.

### Museums

After PSV, the Van Abbemuseum contemporary art museum is probably Eindhoven's best known asset, which enjoys an enviable reputation within the art world. Its vast collection includes works by Picasso, Chagall, Kandinsky, El Lissitzky, Mondriaan and Appel. A huge expansion and renovation project, completed in 2003, quadrupled the exhibition space and enabled the works to be displayed to their full effect in specially designed galleries. The building itself is almost as impressive as its art collection. Exhibitions are held on a regular basis. The Van Abbemuseum also contains an auditorium, a bookshop, a unique multimedia library, and an airy restaurant with a terrace overlooking the Dommel River. The De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art was founded in 1992 and exhibits works by Dutch and international artists. The museum is housed in a former wool mill which has been converted to provide an ideal showcase for contemporary art. De Pont is among the most popular art museums in The Netherlands.

The Audax Textiles Museum not only houses an extensive collection, but is also a 'working' museum, with historic production machinery still in daily operation. There are four main exhibits: textiles technology, industrial heritage, textile-related art and textile design.



A visit to the Brabant Museum of Nature is bound to educate and inform. Since it opened in the 1930s, the museum has helped to increase our awareness of the world around us. It strives to be accessible to all ages and is a popular destination for school visits.

A museum without a permanent home? According to the philosophy of the Stadsmuseum, a museum doesn't need one: 'Not everything has to take place at a fixed location.' This relatively new museum shows the past, present and future of Tilburg.

De Oliemeulen describes itself as "the strangest zoo in The Netherlands." Its exhibits include an interactive reptile house. The museum offers a unique experience, and is particularly fascinating for children.

The Gemeentemuseum in Helmond always has something for both adults and children. You can be transported back in time in the cellars of the castle, can study the wonderfully varied collection of old and modern art, or visit one of the regularly-changing exhibitions. The Designhuis has regularly changing exhibitions, events, symposiums and a gift shop. It forms a platform where design is connected to art and technology. The goal is to stimulate international networking and exchanging of knowledge and cooperation between creative sectors, knowledge centres and the business world.

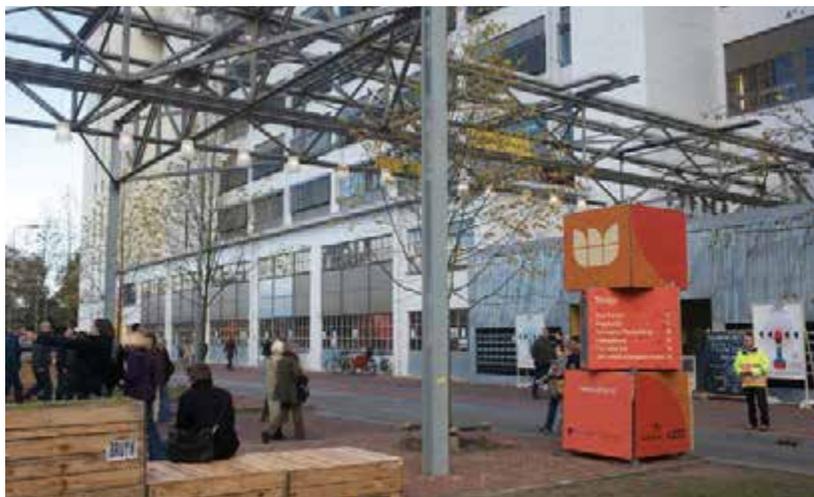
### Van Gogh Brabant

The roots of Van Gogh lie in Brabant. He was born and raised here. He produced his first masterpiece The Potato Eaters here. Five Brabant communities still retain traces of Van Gogh, from his sources of inspiration onto his works. Welcome to Vincent's homeland.

### Vincent van Gogh House

Vincent van Gogh was born and raised in Zundert. Memories of his youth are brought to life in the Vincent van Gogh House. This Zundert initiative brings to life one of Vincent's dreams: a platform for art of the future! View the work of artists who have been inspired by him.

Markt 27, Zundert - T 076 597 8590, [www.vangoghuis.com](http://www.vangoghuis.com)



### Vincent's Art Room

History and the newest technology merge together in Vincent's Art Room! The young Van Gogh attended school in this former palace of King Willem II. Witness how he received his first serious drawing lessons in a reconstruction of this classroom and get to work at once in the digital art room. - Stadhuisplein 128, Tilburg - T 013 542 9197, [www.vincentstekenlokaal.nl](http://www.vincentstekenlokaal.nl)

### Vincent van Gogh Information Centre

Having decided to become an artist, Vincent van Gogh returned to his parents' house in Etten, where he found his first models and where he became inspired by the landscapes. See and hear how Van Gogh laid the foundations for his future masterpieces. Follow walking or cycling routes alongside the places that were important to Vincent.

Markt 4, Etten-Leur T 076 501 6807, [www.vincentvangoghinnen.nl](http://www.vincentvangoghinnen.nl)

### Vincent in Van Gogh Village Nuenen

In Vincent you can witness how Vincent van Gogh lived and painted in Nuenen. Experience everything the way he once experienced it. The most modern audiovisual technology will convince you that you have stepped back into Vincent's time. - Berg 29, Nuenen - T 040 283 9615, [www.vgvn.nl](http://www.vgvn.nl)

### North Brabant Museum

The North Brabant Museum is the leading museum containing the best of Brabant art and history. The museum is the only location in Brabant where paintings by Van Gogh can be viewed. You will see the peasant women from The Potato Eaters here, his father's parsonage and the unspoilt Brabant landscape for which Van Gogh was always home sick. - Verwersstraat 41, 's-Hertogenbosch - T 073 687 7877, [www.noordbrabantsmuseum.nl](http://www.noordbrabantsmuseum.nl)



Several other museums in Eindhoven are more regionally focused, and can give you a good overview of the region and its history. These include the Kempenland museum, which focuses on local culture and history; the first ever Philips factory; and the DAF Museum. The latter has a collection of the company's trucks and cars through the ages that is a must-see for transport lovers.

On the southside of Eindhoven, the Historisch Openluchtmuseum Eindhoven (HOME) is a recreated Iron Age settlement and recreated medieval village. The older thatched dwellings are an interesting experiment to discover how people lived 2500 years ago, and visitors are welcome to join in. This unique 'living museum' even produces some of its own food!

If you want to use your weekends to visit some other places, do not forget the Rijksmuseum, Stedelijk and Van Gogh museums in Amsterdam; the Open Air Museum in Arnhem; the Kröller-Müller Museum near Arnhem; the Boymans van Beuningen and Kunsthal in Rotterdam; the Bonnefanten museum in Maastricht; and the Rubenshuis or Muhka in Antwerp. If you plan to visit a lot of museums in The Netherlands, consider buying a Museumkaart (Museum Card), which will get you unlimited free access for one year to most museums in the country, including nearly all of those mentioned here.



Van Abbemuseum: [www.vanabbemuseum.nl](http://www.vanabbemuseum.nl)

Van Gogh Brabant: [info@vangoghbrabant.com](mailto:info@vangoghbrabant.com), [www.vangoghbrabant.com](http://www.vangoghbrabant.com)



## Public libraries

Public libraries are great places, not only to find books in your own language (many libraries have sections in English, French, German, and other languages), but also to access the Internet and to find information on culture in general. The Central library in Eindhoven (at the Witte Dame, Emmasingel) also organises book reviews and hosts foreign literature clubs. Visit [www.bibliotheekeindhoven.nl](http://www.bibliotheekeindhoven.nl), or to find a library near your home see [www.bibliotheek.nl](http://www.bibliotheek.nl) or look under 'openbare bibliotheken' in your Community Guide. The central library in Helmond is located at Markt 43 ([www.bibliotheekhelmondpeel.nl](http://www.bibliotheekhelmondpeel.nl)). The Central Library in Tilburg is located at Koningsplein 10. Various cultural centres have their own websites, and more and more are including pages in English. Listed below is a selection of the biggest cultural centres in the Eindhoven region. For a complete list look under theatres, cinemas, or concert halls in the Yellow Pages ([www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)) or Community Guide.

## Culture - a selection

- **Pathé Eindhoven Cinema:** Dommelstraat 27, Eindhoven  
T 040 296 1099, [www.pathé.nl](http://www.pathé.nl)
- **Pathé Helmond Cinema:** Frans Joseph v Thielpark 5, Helmond  
T 049 250 9161, [www.pathé.nl](http://www.pathé.nl)
- **Pathé Tilburg Cinema:** Pieter Vreedeplein 174, Tilburg,  
[www.pathé.nl](http://www.pathé.nl)
- **Service Bioscoop Zien Cinema:** Keizersgracht 19, Eindhoven  
T 040 297 4747 or 0900 9363, [www.zienbioscoop.nl](http://www.zienbioscoop.nl)
- **Plaza Futura Film and Theatre Centre:** Leenderweg 65, Eindhoven  
T 040 294 6848, [www.plazafutura.nl](http://www.plazafutura.nl)
- **Euroscoop Tilburg:** Olympiaplein 2, Tilburg, [www@euroscoop.nl](http://www@euroscoop.nl)
- **De Schalm Theatre:** Meiveld 3, Veldhoven T 040 253 3578,  
[www.deschalm.com](http://www.deschalm.com)
- **Parktheater Eindhoven:** Elzentlaan 50, Eindhoven  
T 040 211 1122, [www.parktheater.nl](http://www.parktheater.nl)
- **Muziekgebouw Concert hall:** Heuvel Galerie 140, Eindhoven  
Frits Philips Eindhoven [www.muziekgebouweindhoven.nl](http://www.muziekgebouweindhoven.nl)  
or [www.masterprogram.nl](http://www.masterprogram.nl)
- **De Effenaar:** Rock, pop, and dance music venue:  
Dommelstraat 2, Eindhoven, Tickets: 0900 300 1250 [www.effenaar.nl](http://www.effenaar.nl)



- **Theatre Tilburg:** Louis Bouwmeesterplein 1, Tilburg T 013 549 0390, [www.theaterstilburg.nl](http://www.theaterstilburg.nl)
- **Theatre De NWE Vorst:** Willem II straat 49, Tilburg T 013 532 8520, [www.denwevorst.nl](http://www.denwevorst.nl)
- **013 Pop Podium:** Veemarktstraat 44, Tilburg T 013 460 9500, [www.013.nl](http://www.013.nl)
- **Concert Hall Tilburg:** Louis Bouwmeesterplein 1, Tilburg T 013 549 0390, [www.theaterstilburg.nl](http://www.theaterstilburg.nl)
- **Van Abbemuseum for Contemporary Art:** Bilderdijklaan 10, Eindhoven, T 040 238 1000, [www.vanabbe.nl](http://www.vanabbe.nl)
- **DAF Museum Museum:** Collection of antique cars and trucks. Tongelresestraat 27, Eindhoven, T 040 244 4364, [www.dafmuseum.nl](http://www.dafmuseum.nl)
- **De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art Tilburg:** Wilhelminapark 1, Tilburg T 013 543 8300, [www.depont.nl](http://www.depont.nl)
- **Audax Textiles Museum Tilburg:** Goirkestraat 96, Tilburg T 013 536 7475, [www.textielmuseum.nl](http://www.textielmuseum.nl)
- **Gemeentemuseum Municipal Museum:** Kasteelplein 1, Helmond Helmond T 049 258 7716, [www.gemeentemuseumhelmond.nl](http://www.gemeentemuseumhelmond.nl)
- **Vincentre:** Berg 29, Nuenen VINCENTRE Tel: 040 283 9615, [www.vgvn.nl](http://www.vgvn.nl)
- **Historisch Openluchtmuseum Eindhoven Open Air Museum:** Contains an Iron Eindhoven (HOME) Age settlement and a medieval village: Boutenslaan 161b, Eindhoven T 040 252 2281, [www.historisch-openluchtmuseum-eindhoven.nl](http://www.historisch-openluchtmuseum-eindhoven.nl)
- **Philips First Factory** Philips began producing lamps here in 1891: Emmasingel 31, Eindhoven T 040 232 3180, [www.philipsfabriek1891.nl](http://www.philipsfabriek1891.nl)
- **Jan Visser Museum** The Jan Visser Museum has a great collection that covers the history of Helmond and the farmerlife in De Peel. In addition the development of simple tools to specialized tools is shown. Keizer Mariaalaan 5, 5702 NR Helmond, [www.janvisser-museum.nl](http://www.janvisser-museum.nl)
- **Industrial Heritage Museum** The Industrial Heritage Museum provides an introduction to Helmond's industrial past. Kanaaldijk NW 29C, 5707 LA Helmond, [www.industrieel-erfgoed-helmond.nl](http://www.industrieel-erfgoed-helmond.nl)
- **Edah Museum** At the Edah Museum you can experience more than 100 years in food distribution. You can see store types, marketing concepts and advertising from 100 years ago till now. Oostende 167, 5707 EW Helmond. [www.edahmuseum.nl](http://www.edahmuseum.nl)

- **Waalrese Museum** Permanent exhibition of antique damask from the 16th-19th centuries. In addition, changing exhibitions of the heritage of the municipality Waalre. Willibrorduslaan 4, Waalre T 040 221 6985, [www.waalresmuseum.nl](http://www.waalresmuseum.nl)
- **Vincents Tekenlokaal** Visit Van Gogh's old classroom in Tilburg where he followed a drawing class for two years: Stadhuisplein 128, Tilburg T 013 542 9197, [vincentstekenlokaal.nl](http://vincentstekenlokaal.nl)
- **Natuurmuseum Brabant** Everything about plants and animals: Spoorlaan 434, Tilburg T 013 535 3935, [natuurmuseumbrabant.nl](http://natuurmuseumbrabant.nl)
- **Municipal Museum** The municipal museum is located at two locations: at the castle and at Boscotondo. The goal of the museum is to get children in contact with art and cultural history at the earliest possible age. Next to the city history there is attention to ancient and contemporary art. Throughout the year there are various exhibitions and activities. Kasteelplein 1, 5701 PP Helmond [www.gemeentemuseum.nl](http://www.gemeentemuseum.nl)
- **Rondje Helmond** A great way of getting to know Helmond is taking a 'Round trip of Helmond' (Rondje Helmond). See the sights and get to know the city from a bicycle! For more information visit: [www.rondjehelmond.nl](http://www.rondjehelmond.nl)
- **Parrotpark Veldhoven** The Dutch Foundation for the Refuge and Care of Parrots (N.O.P.) is a refuge center for exotic birds, specifically parrots. Wintelresedijk 51, Veldhoven T 040 205 2772, [www.papegaaienpark.nl](http://www.papegaaienpark.nl)

## 8.3 Shopping

Necessities that every household needs upon arriving in the Netherlands

**1. Bicycle:** You really need one here. And a good one too.

Coming to the Netherlands with children then why not consider a bakfiets? A bicycle with a box attached to transport the children around, much safer than 2 seats, one on the front and one on the back.

**2. A good bin/ storage system:** The Netherlands are proud of their recycling system and I must admit it is pretty good. We have a bin for all plastics, a bin for paper, a bin for plastic bottles that can go back to supermarket and make us money (not millions!) a bin for glass bottles and jars, a bin for organic waste and a bin for the rest which isn't much.

**3. Small fold up umbrella/raincoat:** The weather is so unpredictable here that it is necessary to carry these around.



**4. Shoe rack and coat storage system:** Dutch hallways are gracious in size, yet they have to store endless amounts of shoes, scarves, hats, gloves, bags, coats, jackets ...

**5. An OV chipkaart:** Planning on travelling when you get here with the train or bus? Then you will need one of these. A plastic card getting you from a to b by bus, metro, tram or train. A personal one is best as you can but monthly deals on it and have it automatically put money on when it gets lower than a certain amount.

**6. An agenda, family planner and calendar.** Trust me you cannot function without one in the Netherlands, everything is done by appointment, even play dates with friends. Shall we meet for a drink is followed by the next step of each party involved pulling out an agenda of some sort. Try and live without one for a month and let me know how you fair.

*-- Rosalind van Aalen Grant, Britain*

Eindhoven is also known throughout the region as a great place to shop. The Heuvel Galerie, the Piazza Centre, and the well-known de Bijenkorf department store are all particularly popular. There are plenty of top-end fashion boutiques in the city centre, as well as a range of ethnic and health food stores for those looking for unusual ingredients.

There are weekly markets that set up every day (except Sunday) in different locations around the region, selling a wide range of food and other items at lower prices than you will find in the shops. The markets are popular and are where to head if you want to mix with the locals. Flowers are plentiful and inexpensive in The Netherlands.

Tilburg offers excellent opportunities for shopping and is constantly expanding its shopping centres and shopping streets. In and around Heuvelstraat (the main shopping street) one can find a varied range of shops and boutiques. The side streets contain a veritable treasure trove of antique and secondhand dealers, galleries and unique specialist shops.

Heuvelstraat leads onto Pieter Vreedeplein, a brand new shopping and entertainment centre of nearly 22,000m<sup>2</sup> in the heart of the city was recently opened. In addition to this ultramodern square, a new pedestrian



area is also being developed. Charming little shops and historical city streets make this a wonderful location for a stroll.

Tilburg's shopping experience need not be confined to the city centre; there are also large retail centres in Reeshof (Heyhoef), Tilburg West (Westermarkt) and Tilburg Noord (Wagnerplein). Most shops are open until 21.00 on Thursdays, with regular Sunday openings as well.

Opening hours vary slightly. Many shops are open from 09:30 to 18:00, Monday to Saturday. A few open later (usually at 11:00 or 13:00) on Mondays, while some may close an hour earlier on Saturday. Shops in larger communities stay open late (until 21:00) one evening each week *koopavond* (shopping evening). In both Eindhoven and Helmond this occurs on Fridays. Sunday openings were once a rarity in The Netherlands, but is becoming more popular.

Many shops now open on one Sunday each month for 'shopping Sundays' (koopzondag). Supermarkets are open longer hours than other shops Monday to Saturday (usually 20:00 or 22:00). Some large supermarkets and D.I.Y. shops are open on Sundays.

## 8.4 Special events

The region hosts many annual events, gastronomic weekends, open air music performances, golf tournaments, and many more. Among the most popular events is Carnaval (held the five days before Lent every year) when the whole region lets its hair down, dresses up in crazy costumes, and celebrates in a festival of music and color with events for all ages.

The annual Dutch Design Week in October shows the latest developments in Dutch design by a diverse selection of events, exhibitions and lecturers in different locations throughout Eindhoven. In November the



international light festival GLOW take place. It is an exhibition of art and design installations in public spaces using light as material, tool and/or object. The STRP-festival is a unique festival at the intersection of art, music, technology and popular culture. In Helmond the 'Artimond artfestival' presents a lively cultural weekend in May each year. The annual Jazz festival 'Jazz in Catstow' takes place in August. In the summer, Veldhoven hosts its annual Veldhoven Culinaire event, which offers good food and entertainment over a weekend.

Tilburg is a city of events. From April onwards, posters all over town announce all the performances and events that are coming. Yearly favorites include the 'Tilburg Sings' festival; the Festival Mundial world music festival, with performers from all over the world; the May Market (*MeiMarkt*); the 'Tilburg Ten Miles' athletics event; and Dance Week Brabant and the Incubate festival of independent culture. Then, of course, there is the Tilburg Fun Fair – for 10 days in July, the city centre is transformed into a huge fairground attracting one million people. The Tilburg Fair is the largest event of its kind in the Benelux, and definitely not to be missed! For many years, a recurring feature of the fair has been 'Pink Monday', to which the gay community turns out in force.

Full programmes can be found on the Internet at [www.uitineindhoven.nl](http://www.uitineindhoven.nl) or [www.uitinBrabant.nl](http://www.uitinBrabant.nl). Both sites are in Dutch only, but are simple to use. Weekly and/or monthly programmes on cultural events in and around Eindhoven are available, though not yet in English. The Uit Cultuurkrant gives the full agenda for Southeast Noord-Brabant, while the weekly Uitloper gives events for Eindhoven (both are only in Dutch).

## 8.5 Activities for Children

Noord-Brabant is packed full of organised and non-organised opportunities to keep your children busy.

### Non-organised activities

There are many attraction parks and zoos in the region. The most famous theme parks within easy reach of Eindhoven are the Efteling and Toverland, but Bobbejaanland in Belgium is also nearby. All of these provide a range of thrill rides for children of all ages. For animal lovers,



the Beekse Bergen safari park is near Tilburg, while other nearby zoos include Antwerp (Belgium) and Arnhem (Burgers Zoo).

Philips van Lennepe and Genneper Parks are good for younger children, and are closer to home. They also offer youngsters the chance to pet a few furry friends. Younger children will also enjoy a visit to the zoo in Mierlo (Dierenrijk Europa), or the parrot centre in Veldhoven (papegaaiencentrum), and will certainly love the chance to cuddle a newborn lamb on the nearby Cor Adriaans sheep farm.

If you want to take the children with you to visit a museum, they needn't be bored. The Van Abbemuseum (Modern Art) and Centrum Kunstlicht in de Kunst (KLIK) both offer children's tours, which bring art to life to fascinate the younger minds. You may also want to visit the Nature and Clock museum in Asten (just 15 minutes from Eindhoven), which has information in English and other languages. Or one hour to the north by car or train is the National Railways Museum (Het Spoorwegmuseum) in Utrecht, which will entertain everyone aged from 4 to 104!

For nature lovers, the national park Loonse en Drunense Duinen is near Tilburg, and was chosen as "A day out with the most fun 2012." Tilburg is surrounded by nature and greenery. Just beyond Goirle are the Gorp and Rovert woodlands and the Rechte Hei with its extensive open meadows. To the east, just over the canal, is Moerenburg.

Don't forget how pleasurable it can be to take a walk in one of the many parks in the region, or to go on a rollerblading tour outside the city. There are many skating routes (and cycling routes) that are marked and easy to follow. This can be a fun way to discover green areas outside the towns and cities with your children. The tourist office websites (*www.vvveindhoven.nl* and *www.vvvtilburg.nl*) indicate skate paths.

Typical Dutch and regional events, especially for children are the arrival of Sinterklaas at the end of November; the children's Carnaval (before Lent, usually in February); a tour of Christmas stables in the villages surrounding Eindhoven; and the Lichtjesroute, the annual illumination of a marked route around Eindhoven.

For agendas and special activities, visit *www.uitinbrabant.nl*. Though entirely in Dutch, it is easy to navigate and gives you up-to-date information on activities and events, and offers suggestions for what to do on a Sunday afternoon.



## Organised activities

In general schools in The Netherlands, especially local Dutch schools, offer fewer organized after-school activities than you may be used to. To find music lessons, sports (other than gymnastics and swimming lessons), drama, art, etc., you will usually need to locate an appropriate club in your neighborhood. Why not visit the music schools, scouting clubs, or sports club (hockey, tennis, horse riding, ballet) near to where you live, or ask neighbors where their children go? This can also be a great way to integrate with the locals!

Every village has its own music school (muziekschool) for individual and groups, lessons for virtually any instrument. It is also very common to arrange private music teachers for home lessons through your school, by placing a local advertisement, or via the Internet. For a list of music schools and cultural centres, visit [www.cultuurnetwerk.nl/adressen/noord-brabant](http://www.cultuurnetwerk.nl/adressen/noord-brabant).

With so much water in The Netherlands, swimming lessons are common, and children usually learn to swim beginning at the age of 5. Baby swimming is also popular. Accredited swimming schools teach courses for national diplomas. At most schools, children get an extra year of lessons when aged 7 to 8. Look under 'zwemscholen' in the Yellow Pages ([www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)) or in your Community Guide.

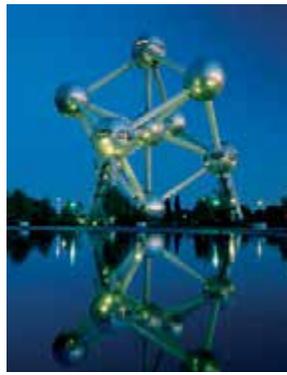
## Culture and recreation for children - selection

- **Safari park** Safari park with more than 1000 animals. Take a bus, Beekse Bergen boat or car through the park, or walk. Near Tilburg. T 0900 233 5732, [www.beeksebergen.com](http://www.beeksebergen.com)
- **De Efteling** An amusement park for all ages, including a Fairytale Park for the younger ones. Kaatsheuvel. Near Tilburg. T 0416 273535 [www.efteling.com](http://www.efteling.com)
- **Aqua Best** Swimming and beach fun and activities, including waterskiing and a children's play centre. Near Best. T 0499 392236 [www.aquabest.nl](http://www.aquabest.nl)
- **Toverland** Theme park with indoor and outdoor activities, open all year. Sevenum. T 077 467 7050, [www.toverland.nl](http://www.toverland.nl)
- **Het Spoorweg- The National Railways Museum** Features trains, museum and a series of rides. Fun for the entire family. Maliebaanstation, Utrecht. T 030 231 8286, [www.spoorwegmuseum.nl](http://www.spoorwegmuseum.nl)

- **Kunstijsbaan Ice skating in Eindhoven.** T 040 238 1200  
*www.ijssportcentrum.nl*
- **Dierenrijk Europa Zoo** in Mierlo. T 049 2668240  
*www.dierenrijkeuropa.nl*
- **The Klimbim Playground** A playground in the woods of 6000m<sup>2</sup>, with 50 specially designed play areas, such as tree houses, a play castle with slide, play houses, a climbing fort with four towers, and a high-speed gondola. Eikenlaan 30, Waalre. T 06 2338 1247  
*www.klimbim.nl*
- **Museum Mini Toy museum** in Asten. De Speeldoos T 049 3692743
- **Natuur en Beiaard Nature and clocks museum**, all in English museum Ostaderstraat 23, Asten. T 049 3697079, *www.museumasten.nl*
- **Best Zoo** Zoo in Best. T 049 9371706, *www.bestzoo.nl*
- **Zoo Antwerpen** Zoo set in a beautiful historic atmosphere. Koningin Astridplein 26, Antwerp, Belgium. *www.zooantwerpen.be*
- **Genneperparken Farm, nature museum** (Milieu Educatie Centrum), herb garden, and a historic museum in Eindhoven. T 040 238 1111  
*www.genneperparken.nl*
- **Children's farm Kinderboerderij De Hazenwinkel** De Twijnder 40, Veldhoven. T 040 255 4250
- **Sheep farm** Sheep farm where you can see (and hold) lambs Cor Adriaans each February/March. Doolstraat 7, Eindhoven. T 040 281 3474
- **Centrum voor de Kunsten, Centre for the Arts** runs various art and drama Kunsten Eindhoven courses for CKE children in Eindhoven. T 040 216 3263, *www.cke.nl*
- **Van Abbe Saturday art course** for children ages 6 to 10. Children's Arts Club Bilderdijklaan 10, Eindhoven. T 040 238 1042  
*www.vanabbe.nl*
- **Music schools Eindhoven** and elsewhere. Almost all municipalities have their own music schools. T 040 216 3263, *www.cke.nl*
- **Regio Scouting** Various scouting organisations are located in Best, Eindhoven Eindhoven, Nuenen, Son and Breugel, and elsewhere.  
*www.eindhoven.scouting.nl*



FasTracKids: T +31 (0)40 202 4158, *www.fastrackkids.com/eindhoven*



## 8.6 Sports

The Netherlands prides itself on being a sporting nation, and if you want to get active there are plenty of options. You can indulge in over 70 different sports, either in an active or a recreational way, with a club or individually.

PSV (Philips Sports Club) is the largest club in the region, and organizes many sports (not just the football team for which it is world-famous), including swimming, field hockey, and many others. There are also good sports facilities in and around Eindhoven, including sports parks, two combi-swimming pools, an indoor ice rink, indoor sports centres, indoor tennis centres, a climbing wall, many neighborhood sports grounds, and even an indoor ski centre! The region also has several golf courses, horseback riding centres, etc.

Eindhoven is host to a variety of major sports events. Some are held only occasionally, while others take place every year, and Eindhoven city council is often a promotional, facilitating and financial partner of the organizing committee. An important annual event is the Eindhoven Marathon. In recent years the European Volleyball Championships, the World Baseball Championships, the National Table Tennis Championships, the European Short Course Swimming Championships, the European Water Polo Championships, and the European Diving and Synchronized Swimming Championships have been held in Eindhoven. The Concours Hippique equestrian event takes place in Eindhoven every year, and in Deurne you'll find the Horse Academy Foundation, a top institute for horseback riding and training.

### Cricket

Many expats are surprised to discover that there is a thriving cricket club in Eindhoven. PSV Tegenbosch welcomes expats and their skills with open arms! For more information contact Martin Hancock at Centiemhof 16, 5551 XV Valkenswaard, or call him at 040 201 4591.

## Football (Soccer)

The best-known professional sports team in the Eindhoven area is the PSV football (soccer) team, which has won many trophies at both the national and European level. PSV is independent from the city council and is sponsored by Philips. Willem II Tilburg is a football team in Tilburg, founded in 1896. There are also many local soccer clubs for the enthusiastic amateur whose skill levels may not quite reach international standards! Look under 'voetbal' in the Sports section of the Community Guide.

## Swimming

Eindhoven is famous for its PSV swimmers, who train in the new Pieter van den Hoogenband Swim Stadium at the Tongelreep National Swim Center. The Eindhoven region also offers natural pools and other (indoor) swimming pools, and there are three swimming pools in Tilburg.

## Hockey

Hockey is very popular in the region. Each community has its own club and there are usually teams for all skill levels, not just for top players. Hockey can be a fun way to mix with Dutch people. Look in the Community Guides under 'hockey'.

## Golf

For golf lovers, the Eindhoven area offers seven golf courses with nine holes. In Tilburg, there are two renowned courses.

## Ice Sports Centre

The centre houses three individual rinks: an ice hockey rink, a training rink and a 400metre rink, and organises countless activities.

## Other Sports

The region has much to offer in many other sports. There are too many sports and sports facilities to name them all, but you will find them listed in the Community Guides or on their website. Look in the Sports section (sportverenigingen) under the following headings:

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| ○ Angling      | hengelsport |
| ○ Athletics    | atletiek    |
| ○ Badminton    | badminton   |
| ○ Basketball   | basketbal   |
| ○ Climbing     | klimsport   |
| ○ Cycling      | wielersport |
| ○ Field sports | veldsporten |



- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ○ Football/soccer      | voetbal                       |
| ○ Golf                 | golf                          |
| ○ Gymnastics           | gymnastiek & turnen           |
| ○ Horse-riding         | maneges or paardensport       |
| ○ Ice skating          | ijssport                      |
| ○ Martial arts         | vecht- & zelfverdedigingsport |
| ○ Motor sport          | auto- & motorsport            |
| ○ Racket sports        | racket sport                  |
| ○ Rugby                | rugby                         |
| ○ Shooting and archery | schietsport/boogschieten      |
| ○ Squash               | squash                        |
| ○ Tennis               | tennis                        |
| ○ Water sports         | watersport                    |

There are also many student associations, specifically for international students: <http://w3.tue.nl/nl/navigatie/portals/studentenverenigingen/> and [www.tilburguniversity.edu/students/studentlife/organizations](http://www.tilburguniversity.edu/students/studentlife/organizations)

## 8.7 Trips outside of Brabant

📍 *“Other countries, like Belgium, Germany, France are close to this part of Netherlands. This makes it easy to explore Europe.”*

-- Sahana Prakash, Mumbai, India

The region has plenty of green spaces. Lovely natural scenery can be found in places such as the Genneper Parks, just a few minutes from the city centre. For those who want to venture farther afield, biking and walking routes through the surrounding countryside will take you through beautiful and unspoilt areas such as Kampina Heide (near Oirschot), the Bakelse bossen (near Helmond-Bakel) the Strabrechtse Heide (Heeze), or the Malpie Vennen (near Valkenswaard). More information can be found at the Tourist Office website ([www.vvveindhoven.nl](http://www.vvveindhoven.nl), [www.vvvhelmond.nl](http://www.vvvhelmond.nl)), or by visiting their offices. They also sell maps with recommended cycling and walking routes.



The region is an excellent base from which to explore other places in The Netherlands or even neighboring Belgium or Germany (both of which are only a short drive away). The Deltaworks in Zeeland, low-lying Holland's most important achievement in the ongoing battle against the sea, is reachable in just one and a half hours, as are the Hoge Veluwe National Park, and the internationally-acclaimed flower gardens of Keukenhof. Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague are great day trips. Why not take advantage of your time in the Eindhoven region and take a boat tour on the Amsterdam canals, discover the history of the royal family in Delft, or wonder in awe at one of the world's biggest harbours in Rotterdam? If you need more European culture you can also drive to Paris in 4.5 hours, or to Brussels or Cologne in about 1.5 hours. And flying to London, Barcelona, Berlin, Milan, Rome – or even Istanbul – for a short break has become very affordable since several low-cost carriers began flying to and from Eindhoven's regional airport (8 km from the city centre).

### Culture and city trips outside Noord-Brabant

- **Amsterdam** Capital of The Netherlands, and home to canals and The Anne Frank House. [www.visitamsterdam.nl](http://www.visitamsterdam.nl)
- **TEFAF**, Maastricht Internally famous annual art fair in Maastricht (MECC). [www.tefaf.com](http://www.tefaf.com) and [www.vvvmaastricht.nl](http://www.vvvmaastricht.nl)
- **Deltaworks**, Zeeland Complex of defenses in the Maas/Rhine delta, including the barrier dam, Zeeland. [www.deltawerken.com](http://www.deltawerken.com)
- **Keukenhof**, Lisse Flower gardens (mainly tulips), near Haarlem. Open in April and May each year. [www.keukenhof.nl](http://www.keukenhof.nl)
- **Brussels** Capital of Belgium and the European Union. [www.brucity.be](http://www.brucity.be) and [www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)
- **Rijksmuseum** The largest museum of art and history in The Netherlands, known for its collection of 17th century Dutch masters. [www.rijksmuseum.nl](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl)
- **Van Gogh museum** The world's biggest collection of Van Gogh's art. [www.vangoghmuseum.nl](http://www.vangoghmuseum.nl)
- **Stedelijk museum** Modern art museum. [www.stedelijk.nl](http://www.stedelijk.nl)
- **Rotterdam** A dynamic, modern harbour city. [www.vvv.rotterdam.nl](http://www.vvv.rotterdam.nl)
- **Boijmans van Beuningen**, Two museums in Rotterdam. and Kunsthal [www.boijmans.rotterdam.nl](http://www.boijmans.rotterdam.nl) and [www.kunsthal.nl](http://www.kunsthal.nl)
- **The Hague** International city of peace and justice, and political centre of The Netherlands. [www.denhaag.com](http://www.denhaag.com)

- **De Hoge Veluwe** One of The Netherlands' oldest and largest national parks. [www.hogeveluwe.nl](http://www.hogeveluwe.nl)
- **Kröller-Müller Arnhem** A world famous art collection (including works by Van Gogh) in the beautiful natural surroundings of the Hoge Veluwe. T 0318 591241. [www.kmm.nl](http://www.kmm.nl)
- **Antwerp** Flemish city famous for shopping and restaurants, only one hour from Eindhoven. [www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com)
- **Leuven** The capital of the province Flemish Brabant. [www.leuven.be](http://www.leuven.be)
- **Aachen** This German city is situated directly on the border with Belgium and The Netherlands. [www.aachen.de](http://www.aachen.de)
- **Rome** The capital of Italy and the centre of classical history. [www.romaturismo.com](http://www.romaturismo.com)
- **Milan** Italy's centre of fashion and design. [www.milanoinfotourist.com](http://www.milanoinfotourist.com)
- **London** The capital of the United Kingdom. [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)
- **Paris** The capital of France. [www.parisinfo.com](http://www.parisinfo.com)
- **Barcelona** City of Gaudi. [www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com](http://www.barcelona-tourist-guide.com)
- **Berlin** Capital of Germany. [www.berlin-tourist-information.de](http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de)
- **Cologne** The 4th largest city in Germany. [www.koeln.de/tourismus/en/](http://www.koeln.de/tourismus/en/)

The region also has many travel agencies that offer personal service in English upon request. For more trip ideas, visit:

- **The Netherlands Tourist Board** [www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com)
- **Eindhoven Tourist Office** [www.vvveindhoven.nl](http://www.vvveindhoven.nl)
- **Helmond Tourist Office** [www.vvvhelmond.nl](http://www.vvvhelmond.nl)
- **Tilburg Tourist Office** [www.vvvtilburg.nl](http://www.vvvtilburg.nl)



Van der Valk Hotel Eindhoven: T +31 (0)40 211 6033, [www.hoteleindhoven.nl](http://www.hoteleindhoven.nl)

Brabant Onderneemt: [www.brabantonderneemt.nl](http://www.brabantonderneemt.nl)

DutchNews.nl: [www.DutchNews.nl](http://www.DutchNews.nl)

Eindhoven-life.com: [www.eindhoven-life.com](http://www.eindhoven-life.com)

IamExpat.nl: [www.IamExpat.nl](http://www.IamExpat.nl)

International Herald Tribune: T+31 (0)35 622 0101, [global.nytimes.com](http://global.nytimes.com)

Veldkamp Productions: T +31 (0)40-368 2760, [www.veldkampproductions.com](http://www.veldkampproductions.com)

VVV Eindhoven Tourist Office: T +31 (0)40 297 9115, [www.vvveindhoven.nl](http://www.vvveindhoven.nl)

XPat Media: [www.XPatMedia.nl](http://www.XPatMedia.nl)

The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program redirects expats to reliable service providers in a wide variety of expat related sectors. For a complete list of Official Partners of Holland Expat Center South, please visit [www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/).

📌 *"While moving to a foreign country might seem exciting and glorious, understand that your whole life as you know it will be challenged from external experiences all the way to questioning your own self-worth and identity. Take time to understand your potential challenges for yourself and your family and surround yourself with a support network both here in Tilburg and back home."*

-- Mala Raman, Seattle, U.S.A.

## What is Your Best Piece of Advice for Expats?

📌 *"Accept the differences and adapt your lifestyle to how it works here."*

-- Sujatha, India

📌 *"The best advice I can offer expats, especially if they are coming from the U.S or Latin America is to not underestimate the cultural differences, both at work and at play, and how they impact you on a personal level."*

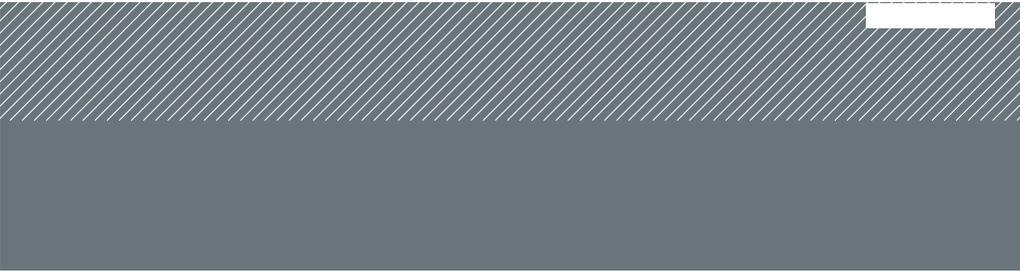
-- Michael Lee, Atlanta, U.S.A.

📌 *"The Dutch are extremely direct in their communication. They may sound blunt for me sometimes, since I come from a culture where communication is more indirect and context driven."*

-- Niki Andreadaki, Greece

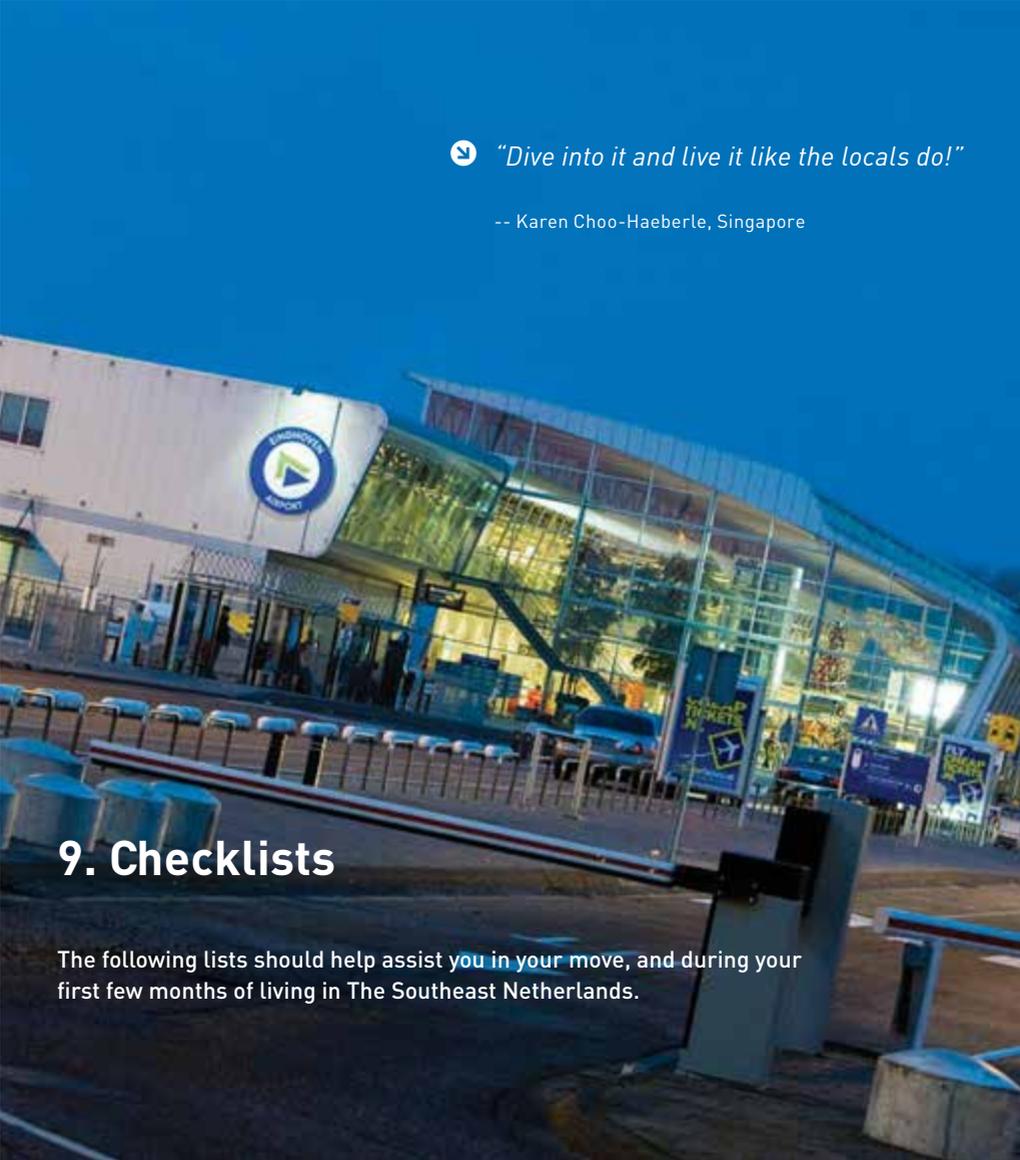
📌 *"Don't ever think of the food from your land while you are in another country. Try to find out the food here which you like, and enjoy it!"*

-- Widiyani, Indonesia



📍 *“Dive into it and live it like the locals do!”*

-- Karen Choo-Haerberle, Singapore



## 9. Checklists

The following lists should help assist **you** in your move, and during your first few months of living in The Southeast Netherlands.

## 9.1 The Preparation Phase

### Things to do before you move.

#### Formalities - to do at this stage:

- Update your passport: make sure it is valid for at least one year after arrival in The Netherlands and if possible, for the full duration the full duration of your planned stay.
- Update your driving license: make sure it has at least one year before its expiration date. If it has no expiration date make sure it is not more than nine years since it was issued.
- Legalization: get your birth and marriage certificates legalized or with an Apostille Stamp. Documents may also need to be translated if not already in English, French, German or Dutch. Different rules apply to different nationalities, so check with your HR Manager for information pertaining to your personal situation.

#### Taxation – to do at this stage:

- Inform your income tax office of the move and complete any necessary forms.

#### Finances - to do at this stage:

- Arrange with your bank how accounts are to be handled during your assignment.
- Cancel standing orders as necessary.
- If applicable, get an E101 form if you wish to pay social security in your home country.
- Check your health insurance. Make sure there will be no period when you are not covered.
- Check with your employer for possible collective insurance.

#### Children – to do at this stage:

- Collect examples of your children's current schoolwork and reports, test results, etc. (in English when possible).
- Check if there is a waiting list for your children's year at the international schools in the Eindhoven region and apply for a spot. Also do this for childcare organizations, if needed.
- Speak to a tax consultant regarding tax exemptions and the implications of school fees.

- Take photos of family, friends and familiar places.
  - Check that your children have the addresses of friends with whom they want to stay in contact.
  - Ensure that favorite toys, personal items, special food, books and games for the journey and the moving-in period are put aside to go with the hand luggage.

### Healthcare – to do at this stage:

- Request medical records. Make sure you get your children's full vaccination records.

### Housing – to do at this stage:

- Start looking at housing websites to get a feel for prices, sizes and locations.
- Check with your HR Manager / International Office for possible housing assistance.

### Pets – to do at this stage:

- Check that animals have appropriate identification (chip) and documentation.
- Get vaccinations up-to-date. Be aware that some must not be done too early.

### Vehicles – to do at this stage:

- Consider whether to bring your car with you.
- Dutch purchase taxes are high, and vehicles for personal use may be imported tax-free under certain conditions. (The most important is that you have had and used the car for more than six months).
- Note that it may be difficult to get vehicles over 10 years old through environmental testing.
- Get a no-claims statement from your current insurance company.

## 9.2 On Arrival

### What to do when you arrive in Brabant.

#### Formalities – to do at this stage:

- Apply for and collect your work permit (if applicable).
- Register at the Town Hall where you will be living.

- Apply for your residence permit (if applicable). In some cases this application can be done before the work permit has been issued.
- Collect your BSN Number at the local Town Hall.
- Receive confirmation that your residence permit will be issued (if applicable).
- Collect your residence permit from the IND (if applicable).

### Transport – to do at this stage:

- Register imported vehicles with the Dutch authorities. People registered as living in The Netherlands may not own and drive a 'foreign' vehicle here.

### Children – to do at this stage:

- Start children (between the ages of 5 and 16 years) in school.

### Education - to do in the preparation phase

- Get your children's reports, test results and other important information from their current school, in English, if possible.
- Check if there is a waiting list for your children's years at the international schools in the region.
- Consult a tax consultant regarding tax exemptions and the implications of school fees.

### Healthcare – to do at this stage:

- Register with a local doctor and dentist.

### Social security, tax and insurance – to do at this stage:

- Set up health insurance.
- If you have an E101 ask your insurer for an E106 (or E128 or EHIC) and arrange registration.
- Register with the Dutch authorities. Your employer will do this for you.
- Set up vehicle insurance.
- Apply for the 30% tax ruling (if applicable).

## 9.3 Settling In

### What to do when settling into living in The Southeast Netherlands.

#### Formalities – to do at this stage:

- Exchange your driving license for a Dutch one (if applicable).
- Return foreign driving license via home country.  
(Be sure to make a copy!)
- Note expiry dates of all permits and licenses – make sure you reapply on time!

#### Healthcare – to do at this stage:

- Register with a doctor, dentist and pharmacy if you have not already done so.

#### Social Security, tax and insurance – to do at this stage:

- Apply for Child Benefit if applicable.
- Apply for spouse tax credit if applicable.

## 9.4 Packing Lists

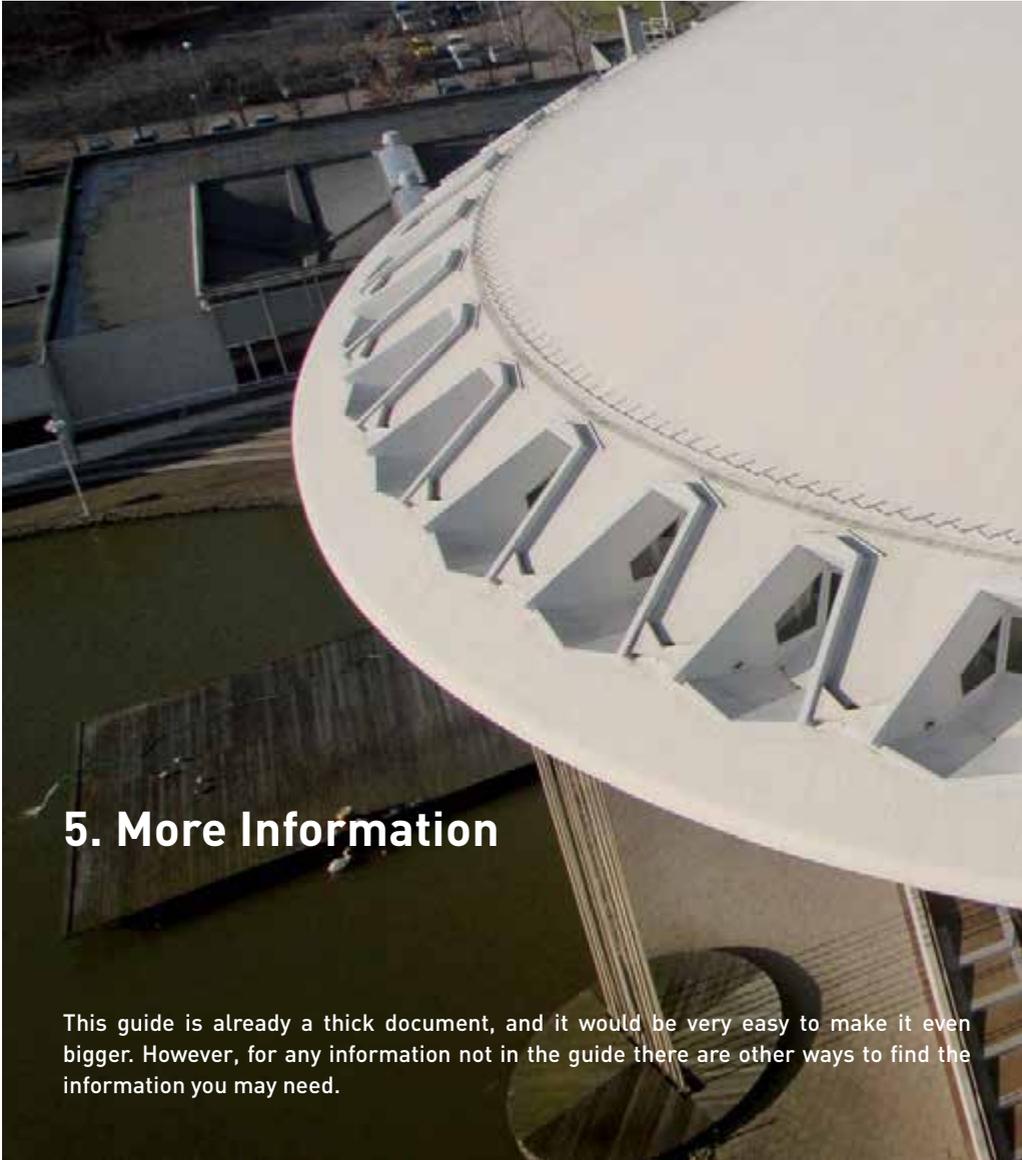
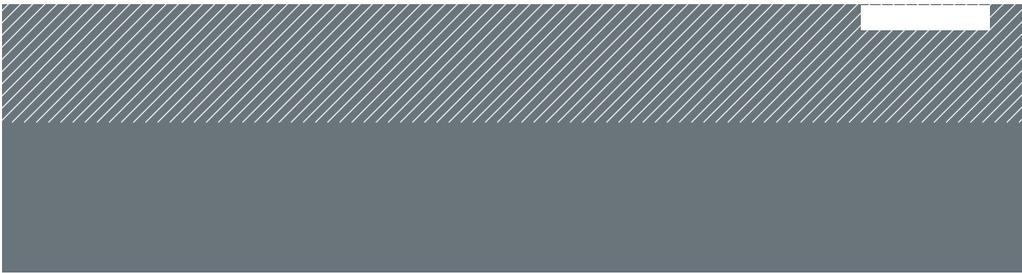
#### What to pack:

- Transformers. Mains electricity is 220V and 50 Hz AC. Most US (and some other non-European) electrical appliances will not work without a transformer (North American electrical supply for example is 110V and 60 Hz).
- Adaptor plugs. These are helpful while you settle in as it takes time to change all the plugs. All Dutch electrical sockets use plugs with two circular pins – standard throughout much of Northern Europe (except the UK and Ireland).
- Lamps. If you move into unfurnished accommodation it is likely that all the light fittings and bulbs will have been removed, so bring a number of lamps with you to provide light until you have installed new fittings. In Dutch houses ceiling lighting is often limited. A flashlight may also prove useful.
- Light Bulbs. If you bring lamps with bayonet fittings, also bring a good supply of light bulbs as you can only buy screw-in bulbs in The Netherlands.
- Office equipment. If you want to use US format stationary, bring stocks with you. (The European format is different.)

- Measuring. Dutch measurement tools are metric.
- Medication used, with a three-month supply.
- Any medical condition requiring attention: bring medical records.

**What not to pack:**

- Appliances more than 60 cm wide – this is the standard space in modern European kitchens.
- Non-European appliances – spare parts may not be available if they break down.
- American electric stoves – they will require rewiring.
- Electrical appliances designed to run on a 60 Hz cycle which include a clock, e.g. microwave, clock radio, etc. – the 50 Hz frequency means they will not keep correct time.
- Non-European VCRs and televisions – Dutch standards are PAL.
- Washing machines that require hot water intake – Dutch homes only provide connection to the cold water supply.
- Clothes dryers – may exceed wattage limits.
- Mobile phones that don't work at 900 MHz or 1800 MHz. Dutch SIM cards can usually be fitted into non-Dutch phones.
- King-size beds that cannot be dismantled – Dutch staircases are often narrow and steep.
- New furniture and equipment from outside the EU – it must be more than six months old to avoid import duty.
- Large oven pans or storage containers – Dutch kitchens are often small.
- Cars owned and/or used for less than 6 months.



## 5. More Information

This guide is already a thick document, and it would be very easy to make it even bigger. However, for any information not in the guide there are other ways to find the information you may need.



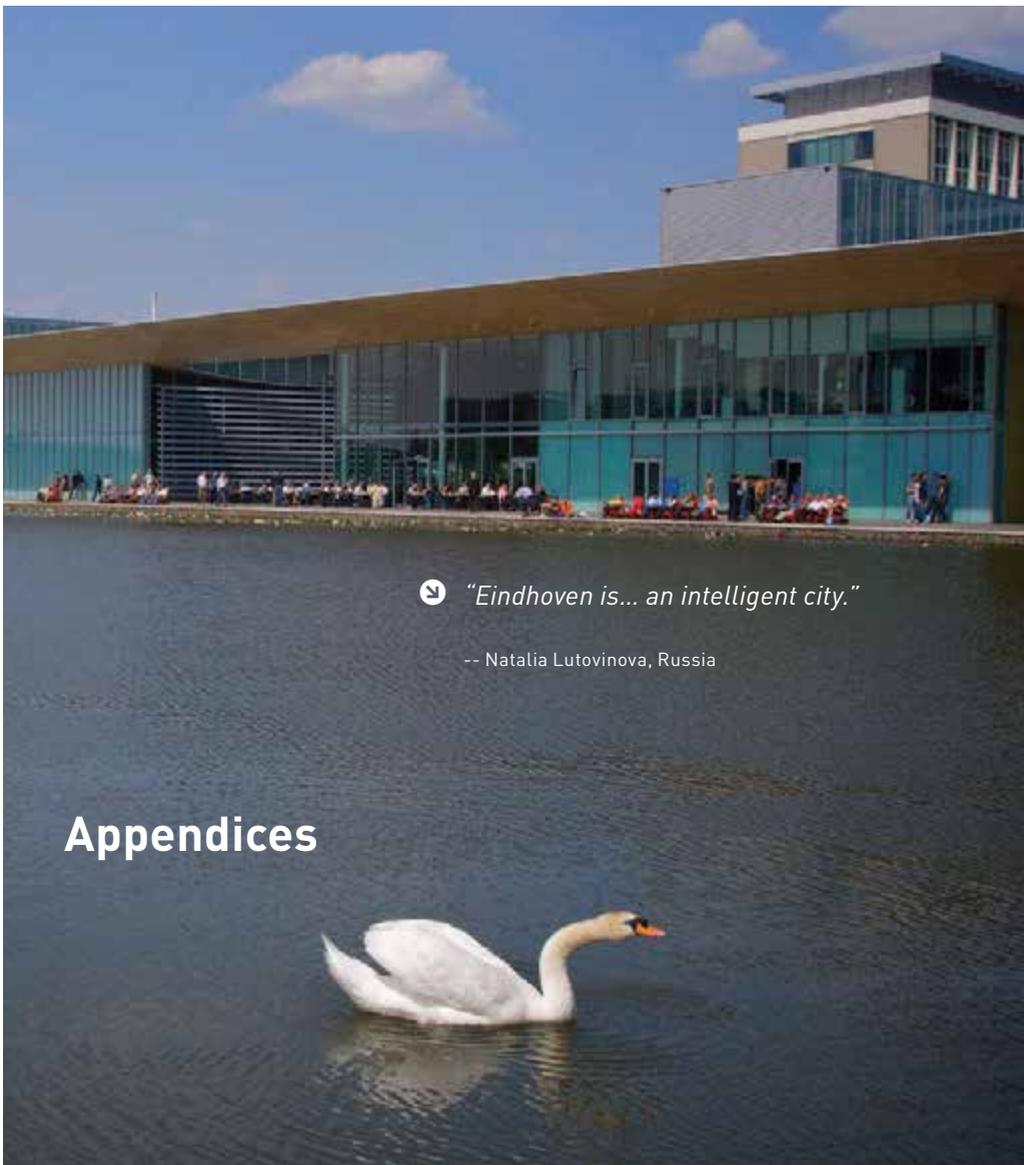
### Common sources of information in The Netherlands are:

- Community Guides (*stadsgidsen* or *gemeentegidsen*) are places where all public services in your community can be found. They give full listings of doctors, libraries, pharmacies, hospitals, etc., in the area. They also provide invaluable information you may wish to refer to in your daily life. This includes details about garbage collection, recycling facilities, and other community schemes. You should be given a guide when you register in your community. If not, ask for one from your local Town Hall. Sometimes it is attached in the White Pages. We have translated the most common search terms for you.
- The Yellow Pages (*Gouden Gids*) is the place where all other (commercial) information can be found, including the names and details of shops, car dealerships, businesses, services, Internet providers, and so on. Again, we have provided you with the most used search terms. See [www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl)
- [hollandexpatcenter.com](http://hollandexpatcenter.com) is a practical guide for internationals moving to The Southeast Netherlands. Its purpose is to support international knowledge workers and their partner and family to make the transition to a new home in a new country as smooth as possible so newcomers can concentrate on settling in and enjoy living there. Our practical online guide for internationals living and working in The Southeast Netherlands.
- Tourist offices (VVV's) are a great source of information on upcoming events, leisure activities, culture, nightlife, shopping, etc. You can either visit their website or go to the tourist information office.

- For any questions related to formalities, immigration procedures, or your financial and insurance situation, it is always recommended that you talk to your HR contact person. Much of the information you need can be accessed, but may be dependent on your individual case (e.g. nationality). Your national embassy is another reliable source of information. (See Appendix V for addresses).
- Should you require further personal assistance on any other matter not covered by your employer, you can also use a relocation consultant.
- We have also mentioned several expat groups and clubs in the region. Many of them are nationality based and could be useful in answering your questions. Remember, whatever problems you may experience when you move, there is probably someone out there who has already been through exactly the same thing, and will have useful advice!
- The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). You will be required to visit the regional office or the Holland Expat Center South in Eindhoven, in order to:
  - Apply for a temporary residence permit.
  - Collect your residence document.
  - Collect a residence sticker.
  - Seek information about regular residence in The Netherlands.

**More information:**

For opening times and the latest information regarding the IND office in your region, go to: [www.ind.nl](http://www.ind.nl)



📍 *“Eindhoven is... an intelligent city.”*

-- Natalia Lutovinova, Russia

## Appendices



# Appendix I

## Visas, Work Permits and Residence Permits

### Visas

Citizens of some countries can enter The Netherlands (with the purpose of residing) without a visa. This includes citizens of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea, US, and Vatican City.

Most other nationalities need a so-called Authorization for Temporary Stay (MVV) visa. Check with your HR Manager, International Office or local Dutch Embassy for more visa information.

Applying for a voluntary visa can be advantageous even for those who do not need them. This is because people with visas have had basic checks on their documents completed before entering The Netherlands. At the Holland Expat Center South, highly skilled immigrants can get their visa and residence permit at the same time, and can therefore start to work immediately!

### Work permits

In order to work in The Netherlands, employees from countries outside the EU (and Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein) must either have a work permit, be accepted into the Knowledge Migrant scheme, or be accepted as a researcher according to EU regulation 2005/71/EG. This also applies to citizens from the new EU member states: Romania and Bulgaria.

All work permits are specific to a given job and the company usually makes the application. There are a number of different types of work permits:

#### ① Work permit – new hire

- A. It is possible to hire people requiring work permits and who have not previously worked for the Dutch company outside of The Netherlands.



B. It must be proven that there is no one within the EU able to fill the position.

② **Work permit – internal transfer**

A. An employee already working for the same company outside The Netherlands may work in The Netherlands if they obtain an internal Transfer work permit.

③ **Short-stay assignments**

A. The employee must already be employed by the company outside of The Netherlands and must be paid in The Netherlands.

B. The employee must be giving or receiving training.

C. Technical Designers in Training (TOiO), postdoctoral researchers (Postdoc) and Assistant Professors

④ **Internships**

A. Employees who are studying abroad (e.g. in the US) may work in The Netherlands on a placement if this is related to and benefits their study.

B. Evidence must be provided by the educational body abroad.

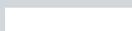
C. A placement programme needs to be provided by the Dutch employer, in order to obtain the internship status.

### **The Knowledge migrant scheme**

This scheme allows highly qualified people to work in The Netherlands for Dutch companies without a work permit. The organisation must first apply for the scheme and then individual employees can join the scheme for that organisation.

Commercial employees must have a gross annual salary above € 37.121,00 if they are younger than 30 years old, and above € 50.619,00 (if they are 30 years or older). The Knowledge Migrant salary levels are applicable for 2011.

Different rules apply for university staff. If the person is employed as part of the scientific staff and receives a salary according to the Collective Employment Agreement for Dutch Universities, there is no income requirement. This also applies to employed PhD students and TOiOs.





## Researchers

If you are a scientific researcher (employed or unsalaried) and you want to come to The Netherlands for longer than 3 months, you might be eligible to get a residence status as a researcher in the sense of Directive 2005/71/EC.

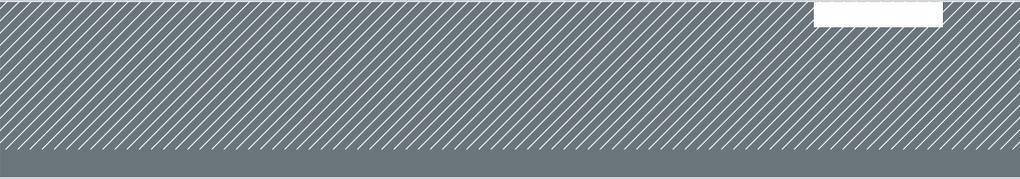
A scientific researcher is someone who has obtained a certificate of higher education that must give the holder access to a doctoral programme. In addition, the scientific researcher must have been selected by a research institution (which is registered with the Dutch immigration authorities), to implement a project for which the certificate in question is required.

It is not necessary to have a salary paid by the Dutch institution. Posted scientists can also apply. It is even possible to bring your partner and children if you are able to provide for them. For further details contact your HR Manager.

### Planning:

- ① Get your birth and marriage certificates legalised. Your HR Manager / International Office can advise you on the correct procedure.
- ② Your employer applies for your entry visa and you can collect it (if applicable). Your HR Manager/International Office can advise you on the correct procedure.
- ③ Travel to The Netherlands.
- ④ Apply for and collect your work permit (if applicable). Your employer will make the application so consult your HR Manager for details.
- ⑤ Register at the Town Hall where you will be living. See Appendix VI for contact details.
- ⑥ Apply for your residence permit (if applicable). In some cases this application can be done before the work permit has been issued. Consult your HR Manager / International Office for details.

- 
- ⑦ Take a test for tuberculosis. (The test is required for specific nationalities and is carried out by the Municipal Healthcare Services (GGD).)  
Consult your HR Manager / International Office for details.
  - ⑧ Collect your BSN at the local Town Hall (if applicable).
  - ⑨ Start work or your studies if given authorisation by the Dutch authorities (this depends on nationality, type of work and residence permit).
  - ⑩ Receive confirmation by post that your residence permit will be issued (if applicable).
  - ⑪ Start work (if not previously given authorisation) or your studies.
  - ⑫ Collect your residence permit from the IND (if applicable).



## Appendix II

### Pregnancy and Childbirth

More information can be found in sections 2.7 and 3.7.

#### Prenatal care

Care is generally provided by midwives (*verloskundigen*) within the community. Midwives have clinics outside the hospital. A woman registers with the midwife at the beginning of her pregnancy and makes regular visits for checkups. The midwives co-ordinate the necessary tests and ultrasound scans, which are carried out in the hospital. At the beginning of the pregnancy these visits are monthly, and increase to three weekly visits in the sixth and seventh months. In the eighth month, visits increase to every two weeks, and in the ninth month visits are weekly.

It is also possible to register with a gynecologist at the local hospital. You will be monitored in the hospital prenatal clinic and your visits will be of the same frequency as when you see a midwife. With each visit to the midwife or gynecologist, the following checks are made:

- Weight (not always done)
- Blood pressure
- Iron levels
- Physical examination (yours and the baby's)
- Urine protein levels (not always done)
- You are invited to ask any questions you have about the pregnancy and birth during these visits.

Genetic testing is carried out when a pregnancy is considered to be in a high-risk category. A high-risk category might be defined by either parent's family history, or if the mother is older than 36 and the father older than 55 years of age.



## Place of birth

There are three options for the place of birth:

### Midwife care with homebirth – *thuisbevalling*

A homebirth used to be the most common choice made. Statistics show this is a safe option in The Netherlands. The midwife carries out regular checkups at a clinic throughout the pregnancy, and supports the mother at home during the birth. If complications arise, the mother is moved to a hospital. Midwives are highly trained and experienced in home birth. Their regular checks involve very careful screening to anticipate problems. However, more women are choosing for a hospital delivery (*poliklinische*) nowadays.

### Midwife care with hospital birth – *poliklinische bevalling*

With this system you see the midwife at a clinic, just as for a homebirth. The midwife will support the mother in hospital during the birth. If the midwife anticipates a problem during pregnancy, labour or delivery, a gynecologist may be called for a consultation. If all goes well, mother and baby can go home within a few hours.

### A hospital birth with a gynecologist – *ziekenhuis bevalling*

The gynecologist will see the mother in the prenatal clinic during the pregnancy and offer support during the birth. You may need a referral from your doctor, and not all types of insurance will cover this care. It is also possible that another doctor will be on duty when you have your baby. Most likely you will be seen and cared for by a second-line midwife.



# Appendix III

## Taxation (Year 2012)

You can have three types of taxable income: in Box 1, in Box 2 and in Box 3. You calculate the amount of tax you owe by applying the tax rates to these taxable incomes. The tax amount you calculated on the basis of the tax rates should subsequently be reduced by one or more tax credits. This is because all taxpayers are entitled to a general reduction of the tax owed: the general tax credit. In addition, you may qualify for supplementary tax credits, depending on your personal situation.

### Tax rate for income from employment and home ownership (Box 1)

The tax rate on income from employment and primary residence is a progressive rate that is charged over four 'brackets'. As a result, you will pay a proportionally higher amount of tax as your income increases. If you are also insured under the statutory pension insurance (AOW), surviving dependants' pension insurance (ANW) and exceptional medical expenses insurance (AWBZ) schemes, you will also pay national insurance contributions on the Box 1 income. The percentage for 2011 national insurance contributions (AOW, ANW and AWBZ) is 31.15%. These contributions are owed on the taxable income in Box 1 up to €33.436. The following table shows the brackets and the corresponding tax and social security rates in 2011.

Income	Tax rate	Social security	Combined rate
Up to €18.945	1.85%	31.15%	33.1%
€18.946 to €33.863	10.80%	31.15%	41.95%
€33.864 to €56.491	42.00%	-	42.00%
€56.492 and more	52.00%	-	52.00%

The primary residence owned is also taxed in Box 1. Income from the primary residence is determined at a deemed income depending on the value of the property, commonly at 0.55% of the value of the property. In addition, the mortgage interest on your primary residence (if situated in The Netherlands) may be tax-deductible. In certain cases (when you live outside The Netherlands, but work in The Netherlands) this deduction is also possible for houses situated outside The Netherlands.



### Tax rate for income from a substantial interest (Box 2)

The income from a substantial interest is taxed at a fixed rate of 25%.

### Tax rate for income from savings and investments (Box 3)

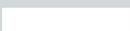
The last box consists of income from investments and savings. A deemed income rate of 4% of the total capital above €20.785 is taxed at a flat rate of 30%, if you have a qualifying partner for tax purposes then the tax free amount in Box 3 is doubled (€41.570). Effectively this results in a tax burden of 1.2% in Box 3.

Resident taxpayers and people who are socially insured in The Netherlands can claim the 'Algemene Heffingskorting' (General Tax Deduction) up to € 1987. A non-working partner may also claim the General Tax Deduction from the tax authorities. In order to claim this, the relevant form must be filled in. Please ask your HR Manager for help. Anyone required to pay taxes or wishing to apply for the General Tax Reduction must file an income tax return with the tax authorities. In some cases, non-resident tax payers can claim the General Deduction as well.

If you are an employee, your income will be taxed on a monthly basis by means of a wage withholding tax.

### The 30% tax ruling

The purpose of this facility is to attract highly skilled professionals from foreign countries who have skills and experience that are scarce in the Dutch labour market. Main criteria to be eligible for the 30% tax ruling are salary level, education level and relevant work experience. Under the 30% ruling, an employer may provide a tax-free allowance of 30% of the total salary of an employee. This 30% allowance is meant to cover the extra costs incurred as a consequence of living abroad (so-called 'extra territorial costs'). This means that extra costs linked with being an expatriate may not be compensated tax free in addition to the 30% allowance (e.g. housing, flights home, language courses, etc.). The 30% tax facility has the effect that the highest tax rate (52%) is reduced to 36,4%.





Under the 30% ruling you can opt to be treated as a non-resident taxpayer. This results in not having to pay income tax on income savings and investments (Box 3).

### Value added tax (BTW)

The Dutch standard VAT rate is 21% and applies to most goods and services. The Dutch VAT rate is average in comparison to the rate in other EU member states.

A 6% tax rate applies to some items, including food and beverages (excluding alcoholic beverages), water, pharmaceutical products and medical aids for persons and animals, books and magazines, passenger transport, hotel accommodation, cinemas, and zoos. Note that for sporting events, theatres visits and musical performances, the standard VAT rate of 19% applies.

A 0% rate applies to exports and intra-community (EU) supplies.

### Road tax

When buying or importing a vehicle it is worth bearing in mind that road tax might be due. The amount of road tax depends on:

- Type of vehicle
- Weight (the heavier, the more expensive)
- Fuel used (petrol, diesel, LPG or LPG/petrol)
- The province in which you live
- Eco friendliness of the vehicle

You have to pay a road tax from the time your name is transferred to the vehicle registration certificate.

## Vehicle Purchase Tax (BPM)

The purchase, lease or rent of vehicles and motorcycles might be subject to a special tax (the so-called 'BPM'). The amount of BPM due depends on the Dutch list price and eco-friendliness (CO<sub>2</sub> emission).

## Local taxes

Categories of local taxes are:

- Property rates - paid by the owner (Onroerende-zaakbelasting, eigenaar)
- Trash disposal (Afvalstoffenheffing) - in some areas this depends on how many times you put your bin out for collection each year!
- Dog Tax (Hondenbelasting) - if applicable
- Sewage disposal (Rioolrecht)
- Street lighting (straatverlichting)

Contact your Town Hall (stadhuis) for specific information.

## Real estate transfer tax

If you buy a house in The Netherlands, you are obliged to pay a real estate transfer tax (normally at a rate of 6%, but temporarily until 1 July 2012 at a rate of 2% of the economic value). This real estate transfer tax is not deductible for income tax purposes, and is usually included in the total amount of the mortgage loan that the bank will offer.

## Child daycare allowance

Child daycare costs may be subsidised by the Dutch authorities when both parents are working. In order to be eligible for the benefit (*Kinderopvangtoeslag*) you need to fulfill certain conditions. The benefit is income dependable. You can apply for the child daycare allowance with the Tax Authorities. (You need to ask for a *kinderopvangtoeslag aanvraagformulier*.) When your employer grants a child daycare allowance, this will be considered taxable income.

## More information on all tax issues:

[www.belastingdienst.nl](http://www.belastingdienst.nl)



## Appendix IV Consulates and Embassies

These contact details can also be found at [www.minbuza.nl](http://www.minbuza.nl) For a complete listing of embassies in The Netherlands, go to:

[www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Netherlands#3099](http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Netherlands#3099)

### Argentina

Javastraat 20  
2585 AN, The Hague  
T 070 311 8411  
[www.embassyargentina.nl](http://www.embassyargentina.nl)

### Brazil

Mauritskade 19  
2514 HD, The Hague  
T 070 302 3959  
[www.brazilianembassy.nl](http://www.brazilianembassy.nl)

### Australia

Carnegielaan 4  
2517 KH, The Hague  
T 070 310 8200  
[www.australian-embassy.nl](http://www.australian-embassy.nl)

### Bulgaria

Duinroosweg 9  
2597 KJ, The Hague  
T 070 350 3051  
[www.embassy-bulgaria.nl](http://www.embassy-bulgaria.nl)

### Austria

Van Alkemadeaan 342  
2597 AS, The Hague  
T 070 324 5470  
[www.bmaa.gv.at/den Haag/](http://www.bmaa.gv.at/den Haag/)

### Canada

Sophialaan 7  
2514 JP, The Hague  
T 070 311 1600  
[www.canada.nl](http://www.canada.nl)

### Belgium

Alexanderveld 97  
2585 DB, The Hague  
T 070 312 3456  
[www.diplomatie.be/thehague](http://www.diplomatie.be/thehague)

### Chile

Mauritskade 51  
2514 HG, The Hague  
T 070 312 3640  
[www.echile.nl](http://www.echile.nl)



## China

Willem Lodewijklaan 10  
2517 JT, The Hague  
T 070 306 5061  
[www.chinaembassy.nl](http://www.chinaembassy.nl)

## Colombia

Groot Hertoginnelaan 14  
2517 EG, The Hague  
T 070 361 4545  
[www.colombiaemb.nl](http://www.colombiaemb.nl)

## Cyprus

Surinamestraat 15  
2585 GG, The Hague  
T 070 346 6499  
[www.msa.gov.cy](http://www.msa.gov.cy)

## Czech Republic

Paleisstraat 4  
2514 JA, The Hague  
T 070 313 0031  
[www.mfa.cz/hague](http://www.mfa.cz/hague)

## Denmark

Koninginnegracht 30  
2514 AB, The Hague  
T 070 302 5959  
[www.ambhaag.um.dk/da](http://www.ambhaag.um.dk/da)

## Finland

Groot Hertoginnelaan 16  
2517 EG, The Hague  
T 070 346 9754  
[www.finlande.nl](http://www.finlande.nl)

## France

Smidsplein 1  
2514 BT, The Hague  
T 070 312 5800  
[www.ambafrance-nl.org](http://www.ambafrance-nl.org)

## Germany

Houthorststraat 36-38  
1071 DG, Amsterdam  
T 010 574 7700  
[www.duitse-ambassade.nl](http://www.duitse-ambassade.nl)

## Greece

Amaliastraat 1  
2514 JC, The Hague  
T 070 363 8700  
[www.greekembassy.nl](http://www.greekembassy.nl)

## Republic of Hungary

Hogeweg 14  
2585 JD, The Hague  
T 070 355 3319  
[www.hungarianembassy.nl](http://www.hungarianembassy.nl)

## India

Buitenrustweg 2  
2517 KD, The Hague  
T 070 346 9771  
[www.indianembassy.nl](http://www.indianembassy.nl)

## Ireland

Dr. Kuypersstraat 9  
2514 BA, The Hague  
T 070 363 0993  
[www.irishembassy.nl](http://www.irishembassy.nl)

## Israel

Buitenhof 47  
2513 AH, The Hague  
T 070 376 0500  
[thehague.mfa.gov.il/mfm/web/main/  
missionhome.asp?MissionID=82&](http://thehague.mfa.gov.il/mfm/web/main/missionhome.asp?MissionID=82&)

## Italy

Alexanderstraat 12  
2514 JL, The Hague  
T 070 302 1030  
[www.italy.nl](http://www.italy.nl) of [www.amblaja.esteri.it](http://www.amblaja.esteri.it)

## Japan

Tobias Asserlaan 2  
2517 KC, The Hague  
T 070 346 9544  
[www.nl.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.nl.emb-japan.go.jp)

## Korea

Verlengde Toweg 8  
2517 JV, The Hague  
T 070 358 6076

## Luxembourg

Nassaulaan 8  
2514 JS, The Hague  
T 070 360 7516

## Macedonia

Laan van Meerdervoort 50C  
2517 AM, The Hague  
T 070 427 4464

## Malta

Scheveningseweg 2  
2517 KT, The Hague  
T 070 356 1252

## Mexico

Nassauplein 28  
2585 EC, The Hague  
T 070 360 2900  
[www.embamex-nl.com](http://www.embamex-nl.com)

## New Zealand

Carnegielaan 10, Level 4  
2517 KH, The Hague  
T 070 346 9324 (General Enquiries)  
T 070 365 8037 (Visas)  
[www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com)

## Norway

Lange Vijverberg 11  
2513 AC, The Hague  
T 070 311 7611  
[www.noorwegen.nl](http://www.noorwegen.nl)

## Poland

Alexanderstraat 25  
2514 JM, The Hague  
T 070 360 2806  
[www.haga.polemb.net](http://www.haga.polemb.net)

## Portugal

Bazarstraat 21  
2518 AG, The Hague  
T 070 363 0217



## Russian Federation

Andries Bickerweg 2  
2517 JP, The Hague  
T 070 345 1300  
[www.netherlands.mid.ru/netherlands/eng.html](http://www.netherlands.mid.ru/netherlands/eng.html)

## Serbia and Montenegro

Groot Hertoginnelaan 30  
2517 EG, The Hague  
T 070 363 6800

## Slovakia

Parkweg 1  
2585 JG, The Hague  
T 070 416 7777  
[www.atue.mfa.sk](http://www.atue.mfa.sk)

## Slovenia

Anna Paulownastraat 11  
2518 BA, The Hague  
T 070 310 8690

## South Africa

Wassenaarseweg 40  
2596 CJ, The Hague  
T 070 392 4501  
[www.zuidafrika.nl](http://www.zuidafrika.nl)

## Spain

Lange Voorhout 50  
2514 EG, The Hague  
T 070 302 4999  
[www.claboral.nl](http://www.claboral.nl)

## Sweden

Jan Willem Frisolaan 3  
2517 JS, The Hague  
T 070 412 0200  
[www.swedenembnl.org](http://www.swedenembnl.org)

## Switzerland

Lange Voorhout 42  
2514 EE, The Hague  
T 070 364 2831  
[www.eda.admin.ch/den Haag\\_emb/e/home.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/den Haag_emb/e/home.html)

## Taiwan

Van Stolkweg 23  
2585 JM, The Hague  
[www.taiwanembassy.org](http://www.taiwanembassy.org)

## United Kingdom

Lange Voorhout 10  
2514 ED, The Hague  
T 070 427 0427  
[ukinnl.fco.gov.uk](http://ukinnl.fco.gov.uk)

## United States of America

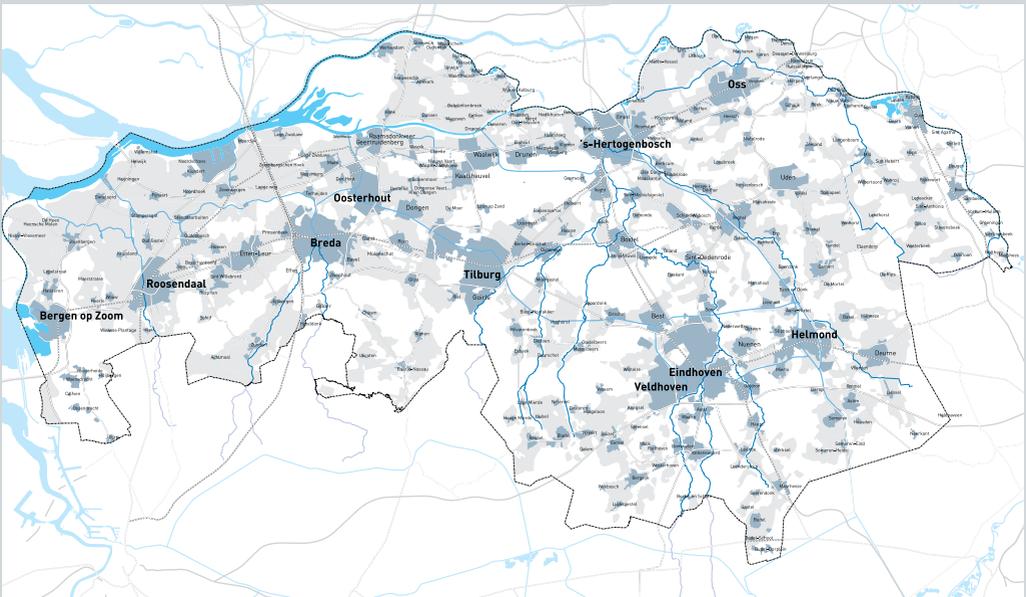
Lange Voorhout 102  
2514 EJ, The Hague  
T 070 310 9209  
[Netherlands.usembassy.gov](http://Netherlands.usembassy.gov)

# Appendix V

## Town Halls and Community Websites in Noord-Brabant

Noord-Brabant is a province of The Netherlands centrally positioned between the port cities of Rotterdam and Antwerp and the German Ruhr area. The five largest cities in the province are: Breda, Eindhoven, Helmond, 's-Hertogenbosch and Tilburg. These cities form the second urban network of The Netherlands, after the Randstad (i.e. the urban agglomeration of Western Holland): 'BrabantStad'.

Please note that most of the following websites are only available in Dutch.



## Aalburg

Grote Kerkstraat 32,  
4261 BE Wijk en Aalburg  
Postbus 40,  
4260 AA Wijk en Aalburg  
T 041 669 8700  
Fax: 041 669 3474  
E-mail: [gemeente@aalburg.nl](mailto:gemeente@aalburg.nl)  
[www.aalburg.nl](http://www.aalburg.nl)

## Alphen-Chaam

Willibrordplein 1, 5131 AV Alphen NB  
Postbus 3, 5130 AA Alphen NB  
T 013 508 6666  
Fax: 013 508 6654  
E-mail: [info@alphen-chaam.nl](mailto:info@alphen-chaam.nl)  
[www.alphen-chaam.nl](http://www.alphen-chaam.nl)

## Asten

Koningsplein 3, 5721 GJ Asten  
Postbus 290, 5720 AG Asten  
T 049 367 1212  
Fax 049 36 71213  
E-mail: [gemeente@asten.nl](mailto:gemeente@asten.nl)  
[www.asten.nl/prod/asten/asten.nsf](http://www.asten.nl/prod/asten/asten.nsf)

## Baarle-Nassau

Singel 1,  
5111 CC Baarle-Nassau  
Postbus 105, 5110 AC Baarle-Nassau  
T 013 507 5200  
Fax: 013 507 8145  
E-mail: [gemeente@baarle-nassau.nl](mailto:gemeente@baarle-nassau.nl)  
[www.baarle-nassau.nl](http://www.baarle-nassau.nl)

## Bergeijk

Burgemeester Magneestraat 1,  
5571 HB Bergeijk  
Postbus 10000, 5570 GA Bergeijk  
T 049 755 1455  
Fax 049 755 1499  
E-mail: [info@bergeijk.nl](mailto:info@bergeijk.nl)  
[www.bergeijk.nl](http://www.bergeijk.nl)

## Bergen op Zoom

Jacob Obrechtlaan 4,  
4611 AR Bergen op Zoom  
Postbus 35, 4600 AA Bergen op Zoom  
T 016 427 7000  
Fax: 016 424 5356  
E-mail: [stadskantoor@bergenopzoom.nl](mailto:stadskantoor@bergenopzoom.nl)  
[www.bergenopzoom.nl](http://www.bergenopzoom.nl)

## Bernheze

De Misse 6, 5384 BZ Heesch  
Postbus 19, 5384 ZG Heesch  
T 041 245 8888  
Fax: 041 245 4635  
E-mail: [gemeente@bernheze.org](mailto:gemeente@bernheze.org)  
[www.bernheze.org](http://www.bernheze.org)

## Best

Raadhuisplein 1, 5683 EA Best  
Postbus 50, 5680 AB Best  
T 049 936 0911  
Fax 049 936 0232  
E-mail: [gemeente.best@gembest.nl](mailto:gemeente.best@gembest.nl)  
[www.gemeentebest.nl](http://www.gemeentebest.nl)

## **Bladel**

Markt 21, 5531 BC Bladel  
Postbus 11, 5530 AA Bladel  
T 049 736 1636  
Fax 049 736 1600  
E-mail: [info@bladel.nl](mailto:info@bladel.nl)  
[www.bladel.nl](http://www.bladel.nl)

## **Boekel**

Sint Agathaplein 2, 5427 AB Boekel  
Postbus 99, 5427 ZH Boekel  
T 049 232 6800  
Fax: 049 232 4495  
E-mail: [info@boekel.nl](mailto:info@boekel.nl)  
[www.boekel.nl](http://www.boekel.nl)

## **Boxmeer**

Raadhuisplein 1, 5831 JX Boxmeer  
Postbus 450, 5830 AL Boxmeer  
T 048 558 5911  
Fax: 048 557 2432  
E-mail: [gemeente@boxmeer.nl](mailto:gemeente@boxmeer.nl)  
[www.boxmeer.nl](http://www.boxmeer.nl)

## **Boxtel**

Markt 1, 5281 AT Boxtel  
Postbus 10000, 5280 DA Boxtel  
T 041 165 5911  
E-mail: [gemeente@boxtel.nl](mailto:gemeente@boxtel.nl)  
[www.boxtel.nl](http://www.boxtel.nl)

## **Breda**

Claudius Prinsenlaan 10, 4811 DJ Breda  
Postbus 90156, 4800 RH Breda  
T 076- 529 3000  
Fax: 076 529 3240  
E-mail: [gemeentebreda@breda.nl](mailto:gemeentebreda@breda.nl)  
[www.breda.nl](http://www.breda.nl)

## **Cranendonck**

Capucijnerplein 1, 6021 CA Budel  
Postbus 2090, 6020 AB Budel  
T 049 543 1222  
Fax 049 543 1200  
E-mail: [info@cranendonck.nl](mailto:info@cranendonck.nl)  
[www.cranendonck.nl](http://www.cranendonck.nl)

## **Cuijk**

Louis Jansenplein 1, 5431 BV Cuijk  
Postbus 10001, 5430 DA Cuijk  
T 048 539 6600  
E-mail: [gemeente@cuijk.nl](mailto:gemeente@cuijk.nl)  
[www.cuijk.nl](http://www.cuijk.nl)

## **Deurne**

Markt 1, 5751 BE Deurne  
Postbus 3, 5750 AA Deurne  
T 049 338 7711  
Fax 049 338 7555  
E-mail: [info@deurne.nl](mailto:info@deurne.nl)  
[www.deurne.nl](http://www.deurne.nl)

## Dongen

Hoge Ham 62, 5104 JJ Dongen  
Postbus 10153, 5100 GE Dongen  
T 016 238 3200  
Fax: 016 231 8922  
E-mail: [info@dongen.nl](mailto:info@dongen.nl)  
[www.dongen.nl](http://www.dongen.nl)

## Drimmelen

Park 1, 4921 BV Made  
Postbus 19, 4920 AA Made  
T 016 269 0190  
Fax: 016 268 6623  
E-mail: [gemeente@drimmelen.nl](mailto:gemeente@drimmelen.nl)  
[www.drimmelen.nl](http://www.drimmelen.nl)

## Eersel

Dijk 15, 5521 AW Eersel  
Postbus 12, 5520 AA Eersel  
T 049 753 1300  
Fax: 049 753 1350  
E-mail: [gemeente@eersel.nl](mailto:gemeente@eersel.nl)  
[www.eersel.nl](http://www.eersel.nl)

## Eindhoven

Stadhuisplein 10, 5611 EM Eindhoven  
Postbus 90150, 5600 RB Eindhoven  
T 040 238 6000  
Fax: 040 243 3585  
E-mail: [gemeente@eindhoven.nl](mailto:gemeente@eindhoven.nl)  
[www.eindhoven.nl](http://www.eindhoven.nl)  
[www.eindhoven.eu](http://www.eindhoven.eu)

## Etten-Leur

Roosendaalseweg 4,  
4875 AA Etten-Leur  
Postbus 10100, 4870 GA Etten-Leur  
T 14 076  
E-mail: [info@etten-leur.nl](mailto:info@etten-leur.nl)  
[www.etten-leur.nl](http://www.etten-leur.nl)

## Geertruidenberg

Vrijheidstraat 2,  
4941 DX Raamsdonksveer  
Postbus 10001,  
4940 GA Raamsdonksveer  
T 016 257 9579  
Fax: 016 257 9533  
E-mail: [info@geertruidenberg.nl](mailto:info@geertruidenberg.nl)  
[www.geertruidenberg.nl](http://www.geertruidenberg.nl)

## Geldrop-Mierlo

Stadhuis  
Hofstraat 4, 5664 HT Geldrop  
Dorpstraat 210, 5731 JL Mierlo  
Postbus 10101, 5660 GA Geldrop  
T 040 289 3893  
Fax 040 289 3800  
E-mail: [gemeente@geldrop-mierlo.nl](mailto:gemeente@geldrop-mierlo.nl)  
[www.geldrop-mierlo.nl](http://www.geldrop-mierlo.nl)

## Gemert Bakel

Ridderplein 1, 5421 CV Gemert  
Postbus 10000, 5420 DA Gemert  
T 049 237 8500  
Fax 049 236 6325  
E-mail: [gemeente@gemert-bakel.nl](mailto:gemeente@gemert-bakel.nl)  
[www.gemert-bakel.nl](http://www.gemert-bakel.nl)

## **Gilze en Rijen**

Raadhuisplein 1, 5121 JX Rijen  
Postbus 73, 5120 AB Rijen  
T 016 129 0200  
E-mail: [info@gilzerijen.nl](mailto:info@gilzerijen.nl)  
[www.gilzerijen.nl](http://www.gilzerijen.nl)

## **Goirle**

Oranjeplein 1, 5051 LT Goirle  
Postbus 17, 5050 AA Goirle  
T 013 531 0610  
Fax : 013 534 3985  
E-mail: [nfo@goirle.nl](mailto:nfo@goirle.nl)  
[www.goirle.nl](http://www.goirle.nl)

## **Grave**

Arnoud van Gelderweg 71,  
5361 CV Grave  
Postbus 7, 5360 AA Grave  
T 048 647 7277  
Fax: 048 647 7222  
E-mail: [info@grave.nl](mailto:info@grave.nl)  
[www.grave.nl](http://www.grave.nl)

## **Haaren**

Monseigneur Bekkersplein 2,  
5076 AV Haaren  
Postbus 44, 5076 ZG Haaren  
T 041 162 7282  
Fax: 041 162 7298  
E-mail: [gemeente@haaren.nl](mailto:gemeente@haaren.nl)  
[www.haaren.nl](http://www.haaren.nl)

## **Halderberge**

Parklaan 15, 4731 GJ Oudenbosch  
Postbus 5, 4730 AA Oudenbosch  
T 016 539 0500  
Fax: 016 531 8858  
E-mail: [gemeente@halderberge.nl](mailto:gemeente@halderberge.nl)  
[www.halderberge.nl](http://www.halderberge.nl)

## **Heeze Leende**

Jan Deckersstraat 2, 5591 HS Heeze  
Postbus 10000, 5590 GA Heeze  
T 040 224 1400  
Fax 040 224 1450  
E-mail: [postbus@heeze-leende.nl](mailto:postbus@heeze-leende.nl)  
[www.heeze-leende.nl](http://www.heeze-leende.nl)

## **Helmond**

Frans Joseph van Tielpark 1,  
5707 BX Helmond  
Postbus 950, 5700 AZ Helmond  
T 049 258 7777  
Fax 049 258 7400  
E-mail: [gemeente@helmond.nl](mailto:gemeente@helmond.nl)  
[www.helmond.nl](http://www.helmond.nl)

## **'s-Hertogenbosch**

Wolvenhoek 1,  
5211 HH 's-Hertogenbosch  
Postbus 12345,  
5200 GZ 's-Hertogenbosch  
T 073 615 5155  
E-mail: [gemeente@s-hertogenbosch.nl](mailto:gemeente@s-hertogenbosch.nl)  
[www.s-hertogenbosch.nl](http://www.s-hertogenbosch.nl)

## Heusden

Julianastraat 34, 5251 ED Vlijmen  
Postbus 41, 5250 AA Vlijmen  
T 073 513 1789  
Fax: 073 513 1799  
E-mail: [info@heusden.nl](mailto:info@heusden.nl)  
[www.heusden.nl](http://www.heusden.nl)

## Hilvarenbeek

Vrijthof 10, 5081 CA Hilvarenbeek  
Postbus 3, 5080 AA Hilvarenbeek  
T 013 505 8383  
Fax: 013 505 4380  
E-mail: [gemeente@hilvarenbeek.nl](mailto:gemeente@hilvarenbeek.nl)  
[www.hilvarenbeek.nl](http://www.hilvarenbeek.nl)

## Laarbeek

Koppelstraat 37,  
5741 GA Beek en Donk  
Postbus 190, 5740 AD Beek en Donk  
T 049 246 9700  
Fax 049 246 9701  
E-mail: [gemeente@laarbeek.nl](mailto:gemeente@laarbeek.nl)  
[www.laarbeek.nl](http://www.laarbeek.nl)

## Landerd

Kerkstraat 39, 5411 EA Zeeland  
Postbus 35, 5410 AA Zeeland  
T 048 645 8111  
Fax: 048 645 8222  
E-mail: [info@landerd.nl](mailto:info@landerd.nl)  
[www.landerd.nl](http://www.landerd.nl)

## Loon op Zand

Nieuwe Markt 5, 5171 EJ Kaatsheuvel  
T 041 628 9111  
Fax: 041 628 9289  
E-mail: [info@loonopzand.nl](mailto:info@loonopzand.nl)  
[www.loonopzand.nl](http://www.loonopzand.nl)

## Maasdonk

Dorpsplein 9, 5386 CL Geffen  
Postbus 5, 5386 ZG Geffen  
T 073 534 2100  
Fax: 073 532 1945  
E-mail: [postbus5@maasdonk.nl](mailto:postbus5@maasdonk.nl)  
[www.maasdonk.nl](http://www.maasdonk.nl)

## Mill en Sint Hubert

Kerkstraat 1, 5451 BM Mill  
Postbus 39, 5450 AA Mill  
T 048 546 0300  
Fax: 048 545 4689  
E-mail: [info@gemeente-mill.nl](mailto:info@gemeente-mill.nl)  
[www.gemeente-mill.nl](http://www.gemeente-mill.nl)

## Moerdijk

Pastoor van Kessellaan 15,  
4761 BJ Zevenbergen  
Postbus 4, 4760 AA Zevenbergen  
T 14 0168  
Fax: 016 837 3580  
E-mail: [gem.moerdijk@moerdijk.nl](mailto:gem.moerdijk@moerdijk.nl)  
[www.moerdijk.nl](http://www.moerdijk.nl)

## **Nuenen, Gerwen en Nederwetten**

Jan van Schijneveldlaan 2,  
5671 CL Nuenen  
Postbus 10000, 5670 GA Nuenen  
T 040 263 1631  
Fax 040 283 3165  
E-mail: [gemeentehuis@nuenen.nl](mailto:gemeentehuis@nuenen.nl)  
[www.nuenen.nl](http://www.nuenen.nl)

## **Oirschot**

Deken Frankenstraat 3,  
5688 AK Oirschot  
Postbus 11, 5688 ZG Oirschot  
T 049 958 3333  
Fax 049 957 4235  
E-mail: [info@oirschot.nl](mailto:info@oirschot.nl)  
[www.oirschot.nl](http://www.oirschot.nl)

## **Oisterwijk**

De Lind 44, 5061 HX Oisterwijk  
Postbus 10101, 5060 GA Oisterwijk  
T 013 529 1311  
Fax: 013 528 5660  
E-mail: [gemeente@oisterwijk.nl](mailto:gemeente@oisterwijk.nl)  
[www.oisterwijk.nl](http://www.oisterwijk.nl)

## **Oss**

Raadhuislaan 2, 5341 GM Oss  
Postbus 5, 5340 BA Oss  
T 041 262 9911  
Fax: 041 264 2605  
E-mail: [gemeente@oss.nl](mailto:gemeente@oss.nl)  
[www.oss.nl](http://www.oss.nl)

## **Oosterhout**

Slotjesveld 1, 4902 ZP Oosterhout  
Postbus 10150, 4900 GB Oosterhout  
T 14 0162  
Fax: 016 242 3174  
E-mail: [stadshuis@oosterhout.nl](mailto:stadshuis@oosterhout.nl)  
[www.oosterhout.nl](http://www.oosterhout.nl)

## **Reusel – De Mierden**

Kerkplein 3, 5541 KB Reusel  
Postbus 11, 5540 AA Reusel  
T 049 765 0650  
Fax 049 765 0699  
E-mail: [gemeente@reuseldemierden.nl](mailto:gemeente@reuseldemierden.nl)  
[www.reuseldemierden.nl](http://www.reuseldemierden.nl)

## **Roosendaal**

Stads erf 1, 4701 NK Roosendaal  
Postbus 5000, 4700 KA Roosendaal  
T 016 557 9111  
E-mail: [info@roosendaal.nl](mailto:info@roosendaal.nl)  
[www.roosendaal.nl](http://www.roosendaal.nl)

## **Rucphen**

Raadhuisstraat 27, 4715 CB Rucphen  
Postbus 9, 4715 ZG Rucphen  
T 016 534 9500  
Fax: 016 534 1375  
E-mail: [gemeente@rucphen.nl](mailto:gemeente@rucphen.nl)  
[www.rucphen.nl](http://www.rucphen.nl)

## **Schijndel**

Markt 20, 5482 NG Schijndel  
Postbus 5, 5480 AA Schijndel  
T 073 544 0999  
Fax: 073 547 8840  
E-mail: [info@schijndel.nl](mailto:info@schijndel.nl)  
[www.schijndel.nl](http://www.schijndel.nl)

### Sint Anthonis

Brink 3, 5845 BH Sint Anthonis  
Postbus 40, 5845 ZG Sint Anthonis  
T 048 538 8888  
Fax: 048 538 1442  
E-mail: [postbus@sintanthonis.nl](mailto:postbus@sintanthonis.nl)  
[www.sintanthonis.nl](http://www.sintanthonis.nl)

### Sint-Michielsgestel

Meanderplein 1,  
5271 GC Sint-Michielsgestel  
Postbus 10000,  
5270 GA Sint-Michielsgestel  
T 073 553 1111  
Fax: 073 553 1212  
E-mail: [gemeente@sint-michielsgestel.nl](mailto:gemeente@sint-michielsgestel.nl)  
[www.sint-michielsgestel.nl](http://www.sint-michielsgestel.nl)

### Sint-Oedenrode

Burgermeester Wernerplein 1, 5492 GD  
Sint-Oedenrode  
Postbus 44, 5490 AA Sint-Oedenrode  
T 041 348 1911  
Fax: 041 347 8060  
E-mail: [info@sint-oedenrode.nl](mailto:info@sint-oedenrode.nl)  
[www.sint-oedenrode.nl](http://www.sint-oedenrode.nl)

### Someren

Wilhelminaplein 1, 5711 EK Someren  
Postbus 290, 5710 AG Someren  
T 049 349 4888  
Fax 049 349 4850  
E-mail: [gemeente@someren.nl](mailto:gemeente@someren.nl)  
[www.someren.nl](http://www.someren.nl)

### Son en Breugel

Raadhuisplein 1,  
5691 AL Son & Breugel  
Postbus 8, 5690 AA Son & Breugel  
T 049 949 1491  
Fax 049 947 2355  
E-mail: [gemeente@sonenbreugel.nl](mailto:gemeente@sonenbreugel.nl)  
[www.sonenbreugel.nl](http://www.sonenbreugel.nl)

### Steenbergen

Buiten de Veste 1,  
4652 GA Steenbergen  
Postbus 6, 4650 AA Steenbergen  
T 14 0167  
Fax: 016 754 3499  
E-mail: [info@gemeente-steenbergen.nl](mailto:info@gemeente-steenbergen.nl)  
[www.gemeente-steenbergen.nl](http://www.gemeente-steenbergen.nl)

### Tilburg

Stadhuisplein 130, 5038 TC Tilburg  
Postbus 90155, 5000 LH Tilburg  
T 013 542 8811  
E-mail: [inwoners@tilburg.nl](mailto:inwoners@tilburg.nl)  
[www.tilburg.nl](http://www.tilburg.nl)

### Uden

Markt 145, 5401 EJ Uden  
Postbus 83, 5400 AB Uden  
T 041 328 1911  
Fax: 041 328 1481  
E-mail: [postbus83@uden.nl](mailto:postbus83@uden.nl)  
[www.uden.nl](http://www.uden.nl)

## Valkenswaard

De Hofnar 15,  
5554 DA Valkenswaard  
Postbus 10100,  
5550 GA Valkenswaard  
T 040 208 3444  
Fax 040 204 5890  
E-mail: [gemeente@valkenswaard.nl](mailto:gemeente@valkenswaard.nl)  
[www.valkenswaard.nl](http://www.valkenswaard.nl)

## Veghel

Stadhuisplein 1, 5461 KN Veghel  
Postbus 10001, 5460 DA Veghel  
T 14 0413  
Fax: 041 338 6308  
E-mail: [info@veghe.nl](mailto:info@veghe.nl)  
[www.veghe.nl](http://www.veghe.nl)

## Veldhoven

Meiveld 1, 5501 KA Veldhoven  
Postbus 10101, 5500 GA Veldhoven  
T 040 258 4411  
Fax 040 254 1395  
E-mail: [gemeente@veldhoven.nl](mailto:gemeente@veldhoven.nl)  
[www.veldhoven.nl](http://www.veldhoven.nl)

## Vught

Secretaris van Rooijstraat 1,  
5261 EP Vught  
Postbus 10100, 5260 GA Vught  
T 073 658 0680  
Fax: 073 656 5965  
E-mail: [gemeente@vught.nl](mailto:gemeente@vught.nl)  
[www.vught.nl](http://www.vught.nl)

## Waalre

Koningin Julianalaan 19,  
5582 JV Waalre  
Postbus 10000, 5580 GA Waalre  
T 040 228 2500  
Fax 040 221 7395  
E-mail: [gemeente@waalre.nl](mailto:gemeente@waalre.nl)  
[www.waalre.nl](http://www.waalre.nl)

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Postbus 10150, 5140 GB Waalwijk  
T 041 668 3456  
Fax: 041 668 3438  
E-mail: [info@waalwijk.nl](mailto:info@waalwijk.nl)  
[www.waalwijk.nl](http://www.waalwijk.nl)

## Werkendam

Raadhuisplein 1, 4251 VZ Werkendam  
Postbus 16, 4250 DA Werkendam  
T 018 350 7200  
Fax: 018 350 7300  
E-mail: [info@werkendam.nl](mailto:info@werkendam.nl)  
[www.werkendam.nl](http://www.werkendam.nl)

## Woensdrecht

Huijbergseweg 3,  
4631 GC Hoogerheide  
Postbus 24, 4630 AA Hoogerheide  
T 016 461 1111  
Fax: 016 461 6331  
E-mail: [gemeente@woensdrecht.nl](mailto:gemeente@woensdrecht.nl)  
[www.woensdrecht.nl](http://www.woensdrecht.nl)



## Woudrichem

Raadhuisplein 1,  
4285 CP Woudrichem  
Postbus 6, 4285 ZG Woudrichem  
T 018 330 8100  
Fax: 018 330 3380  
E-mail: [gemeente@woudrichem.nl](mailto:gemeente@woudrichem.nl)  
[www.woudrichem.nl](http://www.woudrichem.nl)

## Zundert

Markt 1, 4881 CN Zundert  
Postbus 10001, 4880 GA Zundert  
T 076 599 5600  
E-mail: [gemeente@zundert.nl](mailto:gemeente@zundert.nl)  
[www.zundert.nl](http://www.zundert.nl)



# Appendix VI Useful Search Terms

## Sports

### English

Angling  
Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Climbing  
Cycling  
Field Sports  
Football (Soccer)  
Golf  
Gymnastics  
Horse Riding  
Ice skating  
Martial Arts  
Motor Sports  
Racket Sports  
Rugby  
Shooting and Archery  
Squash  
Tennis  
Water Sports

### Dutch Translation

Hengelsport  
Atletiek  
Badminton  
Basketbal  
Klimsport  
Wielersport  
Veldsporten  
Voetbal  
Golf  
Gymnastiek & turnen  
Maneges or Paardensport  
Ijssport  
Vecht- & Zelfverdedigingssport  
Auto- & Motorsport  
Racketsport  
Rugby  
Schietsport/Boogschieten  
Squash  
Tennis  
Watersport

## Medical

### English

Birth  
Baby Health Clinic  
Care  
Dentist  
Doctor

### Dutch Translation

Geboorte  
Consultatie Bureau  
Zorg  
Tandarts  
Huisarts

Drug Store/Chemist  
Emergencies  
Eye Doctor  
Home Care Association  
Hospital  
Gynaecologist  
Maternity Assistant  
Midwife  
Pharmacy  
Pregnancy  
Specialist  
Vet

Drogist  
Spoedeisende hulp  
Opticien  
Thuiszorg  
Ziekenhuis  
Gyneacoloog  
Kraamhulp  
Vroedvrouw  
Apotheek  
Zwangerschap  
Specialist  
Dierenarts

## House/Utilities

### English

(Building) Contractor  
Carpenter/Joiner  
Electrician  
Electricity  
Fault-Clearing Service  
Furniture Store  
Garden Centre  
Gas  
Housing – Rental  
Housing – to Buy  
Locksmiths  
Painter  
Plumber  
(Real) Estate Agent  
Utilities Companies  
Waste/Garbage  
Water  
Window Cleaner

### Dutch Translation

Aannemer  
Timmerman  
Electricien  
Electra  
Storingsdienst  
Meubel winkel  
Tuincentrum  
Gas  
Huur huizen  
Koop huizen  
Sleutelservice  
Schilder  
Loodgieter  
Makelaar  
Nutsbedrijven  
Afval  
Water  
Glazenwasser

## Education

### English

Education Advice

### Dutch Translation

Onderwijs advies

Higher Education  
Middle School  
Primary Education  
Secondary Education  
Testing Bureau

Hoger onderwijs  
Middelbare school  
Lager onderwijs, or Basis onderwijs  
Voortgezet onderwijs  
Test bureau

## Culture

### English

Cinema  
Concert Hall  
Library  
Museum  
Theatre

### Dutch Translation

Bioscoop  
Muziekcentrum or Concertzaal  
Bibliotheek  
Museum  
Schouwburg or Theater

## Religion

### English

Churches/Religious Societies

### Dutch Translation

Kerken/Religieuze genootschappen

## Leisure/Activities

### English

Playgrounds  
Theme Parks  
Swimming Pools  
Ice Skating Rinks  
Sports Parks  
Dance Schools  
Music Schools  
Cultural Education Centres  
Language Course

### Dutch Translation

Speeltuinen  
Attractie parken  
Zwembaden  
IJsbanen  
Sport parken  
Dansscholen  
Muziekscholen  
Centra voor culturele vorming  
Taalonderwijs

## Transport

### English

Airline companies  
Airports  
Bicycle Rental  
Bicycle Shops  
Car Dealership

### Dutch Translation

Luchtvaart maatschappijen  
Luchthavens  
Fietsen verhuur  
Fietsen winkels  
Auto dealer

Car Rental Companies  
Driving School  
Dutch Railways  
Garages  
Taxi Call Centres  
Travel Agencies

Autoverhuur bedrijven  
Auto rijdschool  
Nederlandse Spoorwegen  
Garages  
Taxi centrales  
Reisbureaus

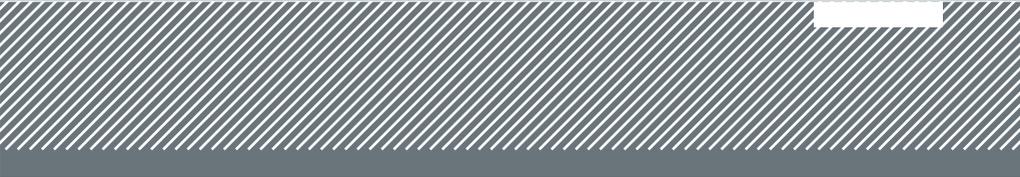
## Other services

### English

Accountant  
Asset Advisors/ Managers  
  
Banks  
Beauty Specialists  
Employment Offices  
Employment Offices (Temping)  
Fire Station  
Immigration Consultants  
Insurance Companies  
Kennels  
Lawyers  
Legal Aid  
Notary  
Police Stations  
Post Offices  
Removals Companies  
Tailor/Dressmaker  
Tax Advisor  
Tax Office

### Dutch Translation

Accountant  
Vermogensadviseurs/  
vermogensbeheerders  
Banken  
Schoonheidsspecialisten  
Arbeidsbureaus  
Uitzendbureaus  
Brandweer  
Immigratie consultants  
Verzekeringsbedrijven  
Kennels, dierenpensions  
Advocaten  
Bureau voor rechtshulp  
Notaris  
Politie bureaus  
Postkantoren  
Verhuisbedrijven  
Kleermaker  
Belasting adviseur  
Belastingkantoor



## Appendix VII Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies (police, ambulance, fire)

112

### In non life-threatening situations

Police

0900 8844

Fire Department

040 260 8608 (Eindhoven)

049 258 7888 (Helmond)

013 532 6326 (Tilburg)

040 252 3188

Animal Ambulance

0900 8861

Central Doctors Post Catharina Ziekenhuis Eindhoven

0900 123 2024

Central Doctors Post Máxima Medisch Centrum Veldhoven

0900 332 2222

Central Doctors Post St. Elisabeth Tilburg

0900 543 7745

Central Dentist Number

Municipal Healthcare Services (GGD)

040 238 9444 (Eindhoven)

049 258 4888 (Helmond)

Legal Support (*Rechtshulp Eindhoven*)

040 265 2400

Legal Support (*Rechtshulp in Helmond*)

049 259 8989 (LEV group)

Legal Support (*Rechtshulp Tilburg*)

013 532 1048

Tax Info Customs (*Bleelastingdienst*)

0800 0143

Car Declaration (*BPM aangifte punt*)

040 254 9285

Municipality Info Eindhoven (*Algemene en Publiekszaken*)

040 238 6000

Municipality Info Helmond

049 258 7777

Municipality Info Tilburg

013 542 8811

*For other municipalities see the Town Halls Appendix V*

UWV WERKbedrijf

040 851 4000 (Eindhoven)

049 278 6780 (Helmond)

013 750 4231 (Tilburg)

Public Transport

0900 9292

International Trains

0900 9296

Tourist Office

040 297 9100 (Eindhoven)

0900 202 0815 (Tilburg)

049 252 2220 (Helmond)



## The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program

The initiative of Holland Expat Center South is to stimulate a fast and easy integration for expats in Brabant by offering a combination of procedures, including the municipal registration and the acquirement of the residence permit from the Immigration and Naturalisation Services.

In order to help assist expats upon arrival and during their first months in The Netherlands, a distinctive collaboration has been set up between Holland Expat Center South and private service providers. This Partnership Program redirects expats to reliable service providers in a wide variety of expat related sectors. Our Official Partners offer information on formalities, housing, taxation, finance & insurance, education & careers, personal & social needs, and culture & leisure.

To join The Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program, partners must meet the following conditions:

- Company information must be available in English on their website, in flyers, forms and in client services.
- Agree to cooperate with our monitoring project.
- Submit recent verifiable references from a minimum of two expats and two international companies they work(ed) with.
- Have a membership with their sector's professional association (where applicable).

We actively monitor the Holland Expat Center South Partnership Program. If you have any comments or concerns about the Partnership Program, please send us an email at: [info@hollandexpatcenter.com](mailto:info@hollandexpatcenter.com).

More information about the Official Partners of Holland Expat Center South can be found on [www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/](http://www.hollandexpatcenter.com/partners/).



# FORMALITIES



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**Maes Staudt Advocaten** is specialized in employment and migration law. We advise clients all over the world on national and European migration issues (service provision, intra company transfers, etc.) and guide them through the procedures. • T +31 (0)40 290 9955 • [info@maes-staudt.nl](mailto:info@maes-staudt.nl) • [www.maes-staudt.nl](http://www.maes-staudt.nl)



**Pallas Attorneys-at-Law** is specialized in international employment law. We are experienced in advising and representing expats and internationally operating companies in a wide range of employment matters. • T +31 (0)20 491 9361 • [adriana.rodriguez@pallas.nl](mailto:adriana.rodriguez@pallas.nl) • [www.pallas.nl](http://www.pallas.nl)



**De Vreede Advocaten** is one of the few law firms that specializes in both Dutch employment law and immigration law. We advise corporate and private clients all over The Netherlands. • T +31 (0)20 675 7312 • [lawyers@devreede-law.nl](mailto:lawyers@devreede-law.nl) • [www.devreede-law.nl](http://www.devreede-law.nl)



# FORMALITIES



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**INTERDEAN**  
RELOCATION SERVICES

**Interdean** provides holistic relocation services to support multinational businesses from diverse industry sectors and their relocating employees. Interdean is conveniently located in 54 countries with 124 offices globally. • T +31 172 44 7979

• [jan.koets@interdean.com](mailto:jan.koets@interdean.com) • [www.interdean.com](http://www.interdean.com)



- local support
- housing
- formalities

**P&D Care** is an organisation that assists international employees with all relevant matters before, during and after arrival in The Netherlands. Our services are designed to ensure you feel at home as quickly as possible. • T +31 (0)13 582 1373 • [info@pendcare.com](mailto:info@pendcare.com)

• [www.pendcare.com](http://www.pendcare.com)



**Team Relocations** is part of The Team Group, an independent company specialising in delivering fully integrated mobility services within the corporate market place. • T + 31 (0)20 795 1140

• [jeroen.doting@teamrelocations.com](mailto:jeroen.doting@teamrelocations.com) • [www.teamrelocations.com](http://www.teamrelocations.com)



# HOUSING



**Best Intermediair Vastgoed Makelaardij** provides the up most variety in rental homes, from apartments till the most luxurious villa. Your needs are linked to our service! • T +31 (0)40 206 2651  
• gerrie@birealestate.nl • www.birealestate.nl



**Best Western Premier ART Hotel Eindhoven** offers you spacious longstay rooms with kitchenette. Ideal for a couple of weeks, but also comfortable to stay when you are searching for an apartment.  
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• www.arthoteleindhoven.com



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*Experts in rentals!*

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• www.friendlyhousing.nl



**GOETH Vastgoed** Housing agency is an Eindhoven based company with years of experience in providing appropriate housing in Eindhoven and surrounding areas. • T +31 (0)40 213 0223  
• info@goethvastgoed.nl • www.goethvastgoed.nl



**Hartje Eindhoven** Right next to the Philips Stadium, is the location of a complete new residential district with a wide range of homes: 16 buildings, 501 apartments. For sale and for rent.  
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• www.hartjeeindhoven.nl



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• www.hieindhoven.com



# HOUSING



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• [www.househunting.nl](http://www.househunting.nl)



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**HUURINC** offers rental houses in Eindhoven and surroundings. Whether you are looking for a studio or a luxurious villa, we provide suitable living accommodation for everyone. Visit our office without an appointment! • T+31(0)40 751 5151 • [info@huurinc.nl](mailto:info@huurinc.nl)  
• [www.huurinc.nl](http://www.huurinc.nl)



**Rots-Vast Groep** is your partner for renting, letting and managing properties for individuals and companies. Whatever your needs and wishes are Rots-Vast Groep will help you find a suitable and enjoyable accommodation! • T +31 (0)40 244 0244 • [eindhoven@rotsvast.nl](mailto:eindhoven@rotsvast.nl)  
• [www.rotsvast.nl](http://www.rotsvast.nl)



**Stoit Groep** Furnished or semi-furnished apartments, family houses, detached houses, villas and short stay all inclusive apartments. Stoit Groep offers you a large amount of directly available, high quality properties on our website. • T +31 (0)40 214 0660 • [info@stoit.nl](mailto:info@stoit.nl)  
• [www.stoit.nl](http://www.stoit.nl)



**Vestia Zuid Nederland** rents out various homes in Eindhoven and Tilburg - including to expats! Our office is based in Tilburg.  
• T +31 (0)18 031 8081 • [klantenservice.tilburg@vestia.nl](mailto:klantenservice.tilburg@vestia.nl)  
• [www.vestia.nl/zuidnederland](http://www.vestia.nl/zuidnederland)



# TAXATION



**BDO** Cross border employers and expats face tax, social security and labour legislation. BDO Tax & Payroll Services ensure, through various (international) services, that all home and host obligations are met. • T +31 (0)76 571 4900 • [marc.van.peer@bdo.nl](mailto:marc.van.peer@bdo.nl)  
• [www.bdo.nl](http://www.bdo.nl)



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• [info@boxx-expat.eu](mailto:info@boxx-expat.eu) • [www.boxx-expat.eu](http://www.boxx-expat.eu)



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• [www.limes-int.com](http://www.limes-int.com)



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• [www.taxpatise.com](http://www.taxpatise.com)



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• [www.abnamro.nl/expats](http://www.abnamro.nl/expats)



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• [kenniscentrumbuitenland@cz.nl](mailto:kenniscentrumbuitenland@cz.nl) • [www.cz.nl](http://www.cz.nl)



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voor het leven  
Sociale Verzekeringsbank

**The Sociale Verzekeringsbank** has departments specialized in social security for cross border workers or students who start living, working, studying or doing business in Belgium (Bureau for Belgian Affairs) or Germany (Bureau for German Affairs).  
• T +31 (0)76 548 5000 • [www.svb.nl/bbz](http://www.svb.nl/bbz) (Belgium)  
• T +31 (0)24 343 1811 • [www.svb.nl/bdz](http://www.svb.nl/bdz) (Germany)



# EDUCATION & CAREERS



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• www.aiesec.nl



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• www.interculturalprofessionals.com



**De Parasol Veldhoven** is an educational-cultural institute in Veldhoven, that offers a variety of courses. Also an English languaged program, with f.i.: learning Dutch, painting/drawing, cooking-workshops, flower arranging, photography, social media.  
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**Webster University** is the only American-accredited university in The Netherlands, offering both Bachelor and Master degrees in English. Our main campus is in St.Louis, USA and we also have campuses in Geneva, Vienna, London, Leiden, Bangkok and Beijing.  
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# EDUCATION & CAREERS



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Dutch for Migrants

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• [talencentrum@fontys.nl](mailto:talencentrum@fontys.nl) • [www.fontys.nl/talencentrum/english/](http://www.fontys.nl/talencentrum/english/)



**Language Institute Regina Coeli** is the foremost specialist in intensive and individual language training for the business community, government institutions and private citizens, within and outside The Netherlands. • T +31 (0)73 684 8790

• [planning@reginacoeli.nl](mailto:planning@reginacoeli.nl) • [www.reginacoeli.nl](http://www.reginacoeli.nl)



**STE Languages** is a leading institute specialised in providing language training courses in The Netherlands. We offer language courses in 20 languages and in different formats. Quality, service, flexibility are key concepts at STE. • T +31 (0)40 245 2860

• [info@STE.nl](mailto:info@STE.nl) • [www.STE.nl](http://www.STE.nl)



**Voorwaartz Taaltraining & Coaching** delivers custom made language and communication training and intensive courses in Dutch as a second language (NT2) for companies throughout The Netherlands. How can we help you go 'Forwardz'?

• T +31 (0)76 521 9884 • [info@voorwaartz.nl](mailto:info@voorwaartz.nl) • [www.voorwaartz.com](http://www.voorwaartz.com)



# EDUCATION & CAREERS



## Recruitment Agencies



**Unique Multilingual** is the No.1 recruitment agency for multilingual professionals who have the ambition to work in an internationally operating company based in The Netherlands. • T+31 (0)40 239 5200  
• [eindhoven@uniquemultilingual.com](mailto:eindhoven@uniquemultilingual.com)  
• [www.uniquemultilingual.com](http://www.uniquemultilingual.com)



## Volunteer Work



**Eindhoven Cares** is a young yet effective organisation that succeeds in activating professionals to take part in volunteer work by making it 100% flexible. • T +31 (0)6-3403 8506 • [info@eindhovencares.nl](mailto:info@eindhovencares.nl)  
• [www.eindhovencares.nl](http://www.eindhovencares.nl)



**Vrijwilligerspunt Eindhoven - Center for Social Participation Eindhoven.** Volunteer work is fun, challenging, educational, and good for your personal development. If volunteer work is something you would like to do, Vrijwilligerspunt will search with you to find a suitable position! • T +31 (0)40 219 3399  
• [bemiddelingcentrum@vrijwilligerspunteindhoven.nl](mailto:bemiddelingcentrum@vrijwilligerspunteindhoven.nl)  
• [www.vrijwilligerspunteindhoven.nl](http://www.vrijwilligerspunteindhoven.nl)



## PERSONAL & SOCIAL NEEDS



**Easy Dolphin Network** offers personal and team leadership coaching, mediation and psychotherapy. By asking, listening and stimulating we support you addressing your life and business issues in a solution oriented way. • T +31 (0)6-5539 6955  
• han@easydolphin.nl • www.easydolphin.nl



### Children



At **FasTrackKids**, your child will enjoy interactive programs that develop key school and life readiness skills, including critical thinking, creativity, confidence, communication and collaboration. For children 6 months to 8 years. • T +31 (0)40 202 4158  
• eindhoven@fastrackkids.com • www.fastrackkids.com/eindhoven



At the **Korein Group** we offer children the best possible chances for development. Call on us for day care, lunchtime and after school care, host parenting and homework assistance.  
• T +31 (0)40 294 8989 • www.koreingroep.nl



## CULTURE & LEISURE

vanabbemuseum



**The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven** is one of the first public museums for contemporary art to be established in Europe. Besides its art's role in society, the museum contains space for hiring, like the auditorium and studio. • T +31(0)40 238 1042 • [www.vanabbemuseum.nl](http://www.vanabbemuseum.nl)

**Van der Valk Hotel Eindhoven** is a 4-star comfort hotel. The hotel features 269 luxury rooms, 24 meeting rooms, 2 restaurants, a sushi bar & lounge and a sports center. • T +31 (0)40 211 6033 • [info@eindhoven.valk.com](mailto:info@eindhoven.valk.com) • [www.hoteleindhoven.nl](http://www.hoteleindhoven.nl)



**Van Gogh Brabant** The roots of Van Gogh lie in Brabant. He was born and raised here. He produced his first masterpiece The Potato Eaters here. Five Brabant communities still retain traces of Van Gogh, from his sources of inspiration to his works. Welcome to Vincent's homeland. • [info@vangoghbrabant.com](mailto:info@vangoghbrabant.com) • [www.vangoghbrabant.com](http://www.vangoghbrabant.com)



**VVV Eindhoven Tourist Information Office** Your visit to Eindhoven starts at the VVV (Tourist Information Office), the address for all tourist information about Eindhoven and its surroundings. Concert tickets, various gift vouchers and souvenirs are also available at VVV Eindhoven. • T 0900 1122 363 • [www.vvveindhoven.nl](http://www.vvveindhoven.nl)

 Media Partners



**Stichting Brabant Onderneemt** is an enterprising, independent business network with ambition and a no-nonsense attitude. We actively create connections between government, education and entrepreneurs (in Brabant). • [www.brabantonderneemt.nl](http://www.brabantonderneemt.nl)

DutchNews.nl

**DutchNews.nl** keeps you up to date with the latest Dutch news - in English - online, by mobile or email newsletter. From politics to personalities, from football to Philips. • [www.dutchnews.nl](http://www.dutchnews.nl)

Eindhoven-life.com

**Eindhoven-Life.com** is for non-Dutch speakers interested in the city of Eindhoven. The website and hardcopy guide offer English info about events, nightlife, culture and much more!  
• [www.eindhoven-life.com](http://www.eindhoven-life.com)



## CULTURE & LEISURE



**IamExpat.nl** is a community-driven, online media platform dedicated to providing “inside” information, news, services and lifestyle suggestions for all English speaking internationals in The Netherlands. • [IamExpat.nl](http://IamExpat.nl)

*International Herald Tribune*

**The International Herald Tribune**, the global edition of The New York Times, creates, collects and distributes world news, entertainment and opinion of the highest journalistic integrity. • T+31 (0)35 622 0101 • [IHTinfo.com](http://IHTinfo.com) • [global.nytimes.com](http://global.nytimes.com)



**Veldkamp Productions** is an audiovisual production company located in Eindhoven. Veldkamp Productions produces high-end television ads, corporate mood films, instruction films, animations, product presentations, television programs and web video  
• T +31 (0)40 368 2760 • [info@veldkampproductions.com](mailto:info@veldkampproductions.com)  
• [www.veldkampproductions.com](http://www.veldkampproductions.com)



**XPat Media** is the organization behind The XPat Journal (popular quarterly magazine for expatriates in The Netherlands), The Holland Handbook (informative annual English-language handbook), [www.XPat.nl](http://www.XPat.nl) and other publications geared towards expatriates.  
• [www.xpatmedia.nl](http://www.xpatmedia.nl)





## Colophon

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### Disclaimer

In the compilation of this guide various sources have been consulted and a number of organisations have lent their cooperation and provided information. Holland Expat Center South has verified this information as far as possible with authorities and experts. Nevertheless we remain dependent on external sources. We cannot, therefore, accept any liability for any errors and their consequences. We advise you at all times to get advice from your HR department or the relevant official bodies.

Holland Expat Center South is a joint initiative of the participating municipalities, the Immigration and Naturalisation Services (IND), Brainport Development, and the provinces of Noord-Brabant and Limburg.



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