



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

The Netherlands – Leeuwarden

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Amsterdam
- ✓ **Language:** Dutch (*Nederlands*)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 108,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 167
- ✓ **Currency:** Euro (€)
- ✓ **Country code:** +31 (058)
- ✓ **Visa:** Schengen visa, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

50BC-400AD: Romans. 1-100AD: Frisians. History of endless floods. 1300: Low Countries united. 1489-'90: Plague. 1500s: Protestant reformation. '68: William I of Orange revolt against Spanish. Holy office condemned all Dutch to death: 80 years War, Dutch Revolt. '81: Independent from Spain (recognized in 1648). 1602: VOC, Dutch East Indian Company: Indonesia, colonies. '30: Conquered Brazil → '61: sold to Portugal. '88: Start war with France. 1780-'83: War with UK. '84: Peace of Versailles (France/UK/NL). 1914-'18: Neutral WWI. '22: Women voting power. '32: 31-KM dam Zuiderzee: IJsselmeer lake (*now drained*). '39: WWII, NL neutral. '40: Nazis invade, Rotterdam air-bombed, NL surrenders. Brutal Nazi occupation. '42: Japan declares war (occupies Indies). '44-'45: Allied forces, NL fighting site. Near-starvation. 8 may: Liberation. NL in UN. '49: Dutch East Indies independent: Indonesia. NL joins NATO. '52: ECSC → EEC later. '53: Dykes breached: 2000 die. '63: Colony New Guinea → Indonesia. '75: Colony Surinam independent → emigration wave to NL. '80: Queen Juliana replaced by Beatrix. '85: 50 US cruise missiles in NL (protests). '93: Euthanasia regulated (2000 legal). 2001: Gay marriage & adoption legal. '02: € introduced. (Right) politician Fortuyn killed. '06: 1400 soldiers to Afghanistan (NATO). '09: Attack on royal family, 7 civilians die. Extreme-right parties win votes (Wilders). Racism intensifies. '10: soldiers out of Afghanistan. '10: Antilles dissolved (nations).

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 5m. Climate: Sea climate (Cfb)

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Historic City Centre, Oude Stadsbegraafplaats (*cemetery*), Saint Boniface Church, [Jacobijnerkerk](#) (*Grote Kerk*), [Blokhuispoort](#), [Historisch Centrum](#), Provinciehuis, [Galerie De Roos van Tudor](#), [Museumhaven](#), [Tresoar](#), Waag

☺ Join the (*tip-based*) [Friesland Free Tour](#): Sat 12PM in English. They have several more in Dutch (*click Dutch flag on website*).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums:** [Fries Museum](#), [Prinsessehof National Museum of Ceramics](#), [Natuurmuseum Fryslan](#), [Boomsma Museum](#), [Frisian Resistance Museum](#), [De Grutterswinkel](#), ['t Andere Museum](#), [Pier Pander Museum](#), [Fogelsangh State](#), [Oldehove](#). *Almost all have student discounts!*

👍 [Friese Food Tour](#) (*get route at VVV*).

👍 Playground: [Monkeytown](#). Iceskating: [Elfstedenhal](#).

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Albert Heijn, Jumbo, Lidl (*cheap*), Aldi (*cheap*), Spar.

⌘ **Markets:** Bilgaard (*Wed 1PM-5PM*), W. Alexanderplein (*Wed 8AM-12PM*), Biologische Markt (*Fri 8AM-4PM*), Wilhelminaplein (*Fri 9AM-5PM*), Waagplein (*Sat 9AM-5PM*).

⌘ **Local food:** Frikandel (*deep-fried meat sausage*), Kroket / Bitterballen (*deep-fried ragout snack*), Bamischijf / Nasischijf (*deep-fried noodles patty*), Kaassouflé (*deep-fried cheese pastry*), Raw Herring with Onion (*fish*), Kibbeling & Lekkerbekje (*deep-fried fish*), Mussels with fries, Boerenkool met Worst (*mash pot*), Stampptot & Hutspot (*mash pot*), Sudderlapjes (*slowly simmered beef*), Slavink (*minced meat wrapped in bacon*), Patatje Oorlog (*fries with mayonnaise, ketchup and onions*), Worstebroodje (*bread with sausage inside*), Stroopwafel (*cookie*), Tompouce & Vlaai (*cake*), Cheese, Snert (*pea soup with meat*), Poffertjes (*little pancakes with sugar*), Wentelteefjes (*sweet 'croque monsieur'*), Oliebollen (*deep-fried dough with sugar*), Appeltaart & Appelflappen (*apple cake*), Drop / Salmiak (*sweet or salt liquorice*), Ontbijtkoek (*'healthy' cake*), Vla & Griesmeelpudding (*standard dessert*). On bread: Calvé Pindakaas (*best peanut butter in the world*), Hagelslag, Vlokken, Muisjes, Schuddebuikjes, Kokosbrood, Chocopasta, Appelstroop. Follow the [Friesse Food Tour](#) for a journey along the Frysian kitchen.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe and also in The Netherlands. Every supermarket has its own vegan/vegetarian section and there are many vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Leeuwarden](#).

Mama Said

☠ The Netherlands is very safe and assaults or robberies are uncommon.

☠ Marihuana is legal and for sale at 'coffeeshops' and smart shops. Magic truffles are legal too. Harddrugs are available but not legal!

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are not cheap in The Netherlands. Book via [this Booking.com link](#) and receive a \$15 discount.

❖ Campsites are located outside of the city. Citycamping De Wetterpôle is closest to town.

❖ The cheapest way to go: [Couchsurfing](#) or house-sitting! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

☼ Kings Day: 27-Apr

☼ Liberation Day festivals: 5-May (Bevrijdingspop)

☼ Into The Grave: Metal music, Aug.

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Central area. Well-known bars are [Neushoorn](#) (*live music stage*) and [Cafe de Kantelaar](#).

◆ **Theatre:** [De Harmonie](#), [De Bres](#), [Schaaf City](#), [Acta](#), [Koepeltheater](#).

Free-Riding?

■ Leeuwarden has a very compact city center, everything is walkable.

■ The Dutch and biking is a match made in heaven. High-quality bikes, splendid bicycle lanes and considerate traffic: this is the main way of transport.

■ The main way to go from city to city is by train, operated by NS. It's worth checking promotions at [Spordeelwinkel](#) or websites listing discounts (*like [this one](#)*) as it's very expensive. You'll need a (*temporary*) charged OV-chipcard with at least €20 on it or a more expensive 1-way ticket. Find a travel-planner [here](#). Within the city transport is arranged by bus, destinations displayed on the front (*you can also use the OV-chipcard for that*).

■ Airport: Vliegbasis Leeuwarden (LWR) & Schiphol Amsterdam Airport (AMS).

■ Hitch-hiking is very safe in the Netherlands, but it's not very common. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) to get a cheap(er) ride.

Next?

➔ In the Netherlands: Sneek, Groningen.

➔ International destinations close by: Germany.

The Earth Becomes My Throne