

## HOLLAND MAJOR CITIES - 1



### **Amsterdam – Capital city**

Amsterdam, the Dutch capital, is famous for its 17th-century historical atmosphere, combined with the mentality of a modern metropolis. The small scale of the buildings and the intimacy of the streets, canals and squares offer a unique, village-like feeling. On top of that it's open minded, friendly and very relaxed!

The city has the highest museum density in the world and is home to many cultural highlights, such as the Van Gogh Museum, the Anne Frank House, Hermitage Amsterdam and the Rijksmuseum with Rembrandt's world-famous 'The Night watch'. Other well-known places of interest in Amsterdam are the Royal Palace Amsterdam, the Artis Zoo, the Jewish Historical Museum and the Rembrandt House.

Take a canal tour and discover the historical canal district, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2011. Another popular way to get around Amsterdam is by bike. It will make you feel like a local and it's a great way to experience the unique atmosphere in the city.



### **Rotterdam – World port, world city**

Rotterdam is the second largest city in the Netherlands and it's different from any other Dutch city. Its impressive skyline has earned Rotterdam the nickname 'Manhattan on the Meuse'.

Rotterdam's world port is the largest port in Europe and one of the five largest ports in the world. The city is an architectural and cultural metropolis with many attractions, festivals and museums, a vivacious, young urban culture and a superlative selection of shops, restaurants and cafes.

Well-known architectural highlights are the Erasmus Bridge, the Van Nelle building, the Cube Houses, the Euromast and the Kop van Zuid. Art lovers should visit the Boijmans van Beuningen Museum, which has one of the largest international art collections in Holland.







## HOLLAND MAJOR CITIES - 2



### **The Hague – the political center of Holland**

The Hague is the third largest city in the Netherlands and is also known as “the Residence”, “the Royal Residence” and “the City of Peace and Justice”. The Hague has earned these nicknames because it is the seat of the Dutch government and home to the Royal Family, and houses many international organizations, mostly of a judicial nature, such as the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Walking through The Hague, you are surrounded by monuments, statues and palaces. One of the highlights of The Hague is the political center of Holland, the Binnenhof. The Hague has a rich and diverse cultural heritage and is home to many theaters, museums and festivals. World-class works of modern art and fashion are presented at the Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, while at the Mauritshuis you’ll find the ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring’ by Johannes Vermeer, as well as many other old masters.

Last but not least, since The Hague is situated near the North Sea, you can reach the beach resorts of Scheveningen and Kijkduin by a twenty-minute bicycle ride.



### **Utrecht – at the heart of the Netherlands**

Utrecht is the lively, beating heart of Holland. It was built around the Dom tower, which you can see from any point in the city, so there is no way you can get lost in the historical, car-free city center. Utrecht boasts beautiful canals with extraordinary wharf cellars housing waterside cafés and terraces. Besides the Dom tower, Utrecht boasts hundreds of other monuments that each contribute to the special atmosphere in this centuries-old university town.

Utrecht has some superb shopping to offer. A broad variety of shops and boutiques line the canals and streets in the inner city. The city center is small enough to explore on foot, but big enough to entertain you for days with art and culture. The Rietveld Schröder Huis, the Dick Bruna Huis, the Catharijneconvent, Centraal Museum and Museum Speelklok are just a few of the many extraordinary places to visit.



