

HOLLAND'S KEY FACTS

Surface area:	41,543 km ² /16,039 sq mi (18.41% water)
Total population:	over 16.5 million
Population density:	406 people per km ² /653 per sq mi
Capital city:	Amsterdam (inhabitants: 805,166 in 2013)
Government:	The Hague
Official languages:	Dutch, Frisian (only spoken in Friesland)
Type of government:	Constitutional monarchy - parliamentary democracy
Religion:	45% No religion, 27% Roman Catholic, 17% Protestant, 6% Muslim, 1% Hindu, 1% Buddhist
Currency:	Euro
National holidays:	King's Day (27 April) Liberation Day (5 May)
Highest point:	323 m/1060 ft (Vaalserberg, Limburg)
Lowest point:	-6.7 m/-21 ft 11 in (Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel, Zuid-Holland)

Average temperature in July: 17.4 °C

Average temperature in January: 2.8 °C



HOLLAND? OR THE NETHERLANDS?

Internationally, 'Holland' is often used to indicate the Netherlands. The official name of the country is the (Kingdom of the) Netherlands. The Netherlands consists of twelve provinces. Two of them, North and South Holland, are the two most densely populated provinces. Due to the maritime and economic power of these provinces in the 17th century, the Netherlands became known throughout the world as Holland. To make matters even more confusing, the inhabitants of the Netherlands are referred to as the Dutch.

People: With over 16.5 million people and a population density of 488 people per km², the total size of the Netherlands is 41,500 km². Amsterdam is the capital, but the government resides in The Hague. More than 40% of the total population lives in the Randstad, the agglomeration of the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht.

Language: The official language is Dutch. The only officially recognized regional language is Frisian. It is spoken in the province of Friesland in the north of the Netherlands. Many Dutch people also speak German and English.

Landscape: Water dominates the Dutch landscape. Three major European rivers (Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt) reach the ocean via the Netherlands and create an important delta. 26% of the Netherlands is below sea level. Over the course of an age-long battle against the water, the Dutch constructed a water system consisting of dykes, polders and weirs. The flat green polder landscape with black and white cows is typical of the Dutch countryside.

Economy: The Netherlands is known as a politically stable country with a sound financial policy. The Netherlands is one of the most open economies in the world and is one of the world's top 5 biggest exporters.

Orange relates to the Dutch Royal Family and represents the national identity of the Netherlands. That is why Dutch fans dress up in orange. During certain sports events, the whole country turns orange and people become infected with what we like to call the 'orange fever'.



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