



## Country Intelligence Brief

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# Netherlands

Overall Risk Rating

2.00 - Low

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## Ratings Overview

### Security

2.00 - Low

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Civil Unrest      | ● 2.25 |
| Crime             | ● 2.00 |
| Kidnapping        | ● 1.00 |
| Terrorism         | ● 2.00 |
| Armed Conflict    | ● 1.50 |
| Security Services | ● 2.00 |

### Infrastructure

1.50 - Low

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Ground Transport | ● 1.25 |
| Cyber            | ● 3.00 |
| Maritime         | ● 1.50 |
| Air Travel       | ● 1.25 |
| Utilities        | ● 1.25 |

### Environment

2.00 - Low

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Man-Made Hazards | ● 1.50 |
| Seismic          | ● 1.50 |
| Storm Systems    | ● 2.50 |
| Natural Hazards  | ● 2.00 |

### Health and Medical

2.00 - Low

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Disease and Health Threats      | ● 1.75 |
| Medical Facilities and Services | ● 2.00 |
| Mental Health                   | ● 2.75 |
| Food and Water Safety           | ● 1.00 |

### Political

1.50 - Low

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Corruption           | ● 1.50 |
| Government Stability | ● 1.25 |
| Rule of Law          | ● 1.00 |
| Sanctions            | ● 1.50 |

### LGBTQ Security

1.00 - Minimal

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| LGBTQ Legal Environment  | ● 1.00 |
| LGBTQ Enforcement        | ● 2.00 |
| LGBTQ Social Environment | ● 2.00 |

## FactBox

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                   | Netherlands                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Government Type            | Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Population                 | 18,300,000 (2025)                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Languages                  | <p><b>Official Language:</b> Dutch.</p> <p><b>Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken:</b> English, Frisian (Friesland), German.</p> <p><b>Languages that should only be used discreetly:</b> None.</p> |
| International Country Code | +31                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Time Zones                 | UTC+1                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Traffic                    | Drives on the right                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Drinking Water             | Safe to Drink                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Overview

2.00 - Low

The Netherlands presents a low security risk, with the main concerns being localized crime, terrorism, and periodic demonstrations and strikes.

- **Trend:** The overall security environment is highly stable and permissive for business operations, although its role as a NATO and EU member creates some exposure to hybrid threats.

## Current Situation

The Netherlands remains a stable and highly permissive operating environment, supported by strong institutions and effective security services. Petty and opportunistic crime, including theft and pickpocketing, remains the most common security concern for travelers, particularly in major cities and transport hubs.

The terrorism threat remains a persistent concern. Authorities assess a realistic possibility of an attack, primarily from jihadist individuals or small groups, while nihilistic and right-wing extremist threats are also monitored.

Demonstrations and strikes occur regularly, particularly in Amsterdam and The Hague, and can cause localized transport disruption or police activity. Organized criminal activity, including drug trafficking, remains an issue but is generally concentrated within criminal networks and has a limited impact on foreign personnel.

## Outlook

The Netherlands' security environment will likely remain stable and low risk over the next few months. Terrorism will remain a persistent but manageable concern, while demonstrations and strikes will continue to cause occasional localized disruption. Hybrid activity, including cyberattacks, espionage, and potential sabotage linked to geopolitical tensions with Russia, will remain a concern.

## Security

2.00 - Low

The Netherlands remains a generally safe operating environment, but terrorism, organized crime, civil unrest, and state-linked hybrid activity pose persistent security risks. Petty theft is the most likely direct security concern for most foreign nationals, particularly in major cities and crowded public areas. Violent crime is less likely to affect visitors indiscriminately, although organized criminal networks engage in serious violence.

The terrorist threat across Western Europe remains substantial, with the national threat level at 4 out of 5. Jihadist extremism remains the primary driver, while developments involving Iran have increased concerns about potential attacks. Anti-asylum and anti-immigration protests have escalated into violence in several locations during 2026, including attacks on buildings intended to accommodate asylum seekers and clashes with police. Demonstrations concerning migration policy and the establishment of reception centers remain potential flashpoints for localized disorder.

The Netherlands faces a persistent threat from Russian hybrid activity. Sabotage, cyber disruption, espionage, and disinformation could affect infrastructure, public services, and business continuity. Security forces remain generally reliable and capable, although organized crime, evolving hybrid threats, and competing demands on police resources place pressure on law enforcement.

## Civil Unrest

● 2.25

## Current Situation

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Farmer protests remain a recurrent source of disruption in the Netherlands, with demonstrations against government policies continuing to affect roads and critical infrastructure. On Sept. 15, suspected sabotage of railway infrastructure at more than 20 locations caused widespread disruption to rail services, while protesters also blocked roads and set fires near highways. Authorities are investigating the railway incidents, although no group has claimed responsibility.

Pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel protests, opposing war in Israel and the Middle East, are a high likelihood in the Netherlands, and typically manifest in localized, high-risk university demonstrations or peaceful mass demonstrations in city centers. Amsterdam's "Red Line" protests in October 2025 were one of the largest Dutch demonstrations in recent history, with 250,000 demonstrators.

Climate activists continued to stage disruptive protests, including roadblocks and demonstrations targeting fossil-fuel-related businesses, international conferences, airports, and sporting events. Extinction Rebellion (XR) organizes blockades of the A12 repeatedly, including in September 2025 before Budget Day and April 2025, condemning fossil fuel subsidies. Demonstrations can include thousands of activists and have resulted in mass arrests.

Anti-immigration protests, similar to the anti-asylum center protests of September 2025 and Museumplein protests in October 2025 in Amsterdam, may generate violence and arrests. Far-right protests have fewer participants than other mass-demonstration causes, but are more likely to result in vandalism, attacks, and arrests.

#### Triggers

- Rallies organized by right-wing nationalist groups may lead to counter-protests and increase the risk of violence.
- Climate activism, including disruptive actions such as roadblocks and protests targeting fossil-fuel-related businesses, international conferences, airports, and sporting events, is a recurring driver of unrest.
- Farmers' union campaigns for increased investment, often using slow-moving agricultural vehicles, can generate significant protest activity and disruption.
- Israeli conflicts in the Middle East regularly prompt large-scale demonstrations and campus actions by human rights organizations, pro-Palestinian groups, pro-Israel groups, and student organizations.

#### Background

Demonstrations in the Netherlands periodically occur and are generally peaceful and well-policed. Strikes over labor disputes, wages, and education may prompt large gatherings primarily in Utrecht/the Hague, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam. The Netherlands' most disruptive mass protest movements have centered around pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel, and climate/environmental policy. Additionally, farmers' unions have staged a campaign of demonstrations, often involving slow-moving agricultural vehicles, to demand increased investment.

All protests lead to a risk of localized travel disruptions and potential movement restrictions. The government stated in January 2025 it was considering sharper distinctions between peaceful protests and deliberately disruptive actions to better protect the right to demonstrate.

Environmental activism has the potential to generate significant unrest in the Netherlands. Extinction Rebellion, an environmental group that is highly active in the Netherlands, stages frequent protests outside the Hague and blockades of a major roadway in Utrecht, the A12. The group uses mass arrest as a tactic to generate media attention and expend police resources. Protests are typically announced in advance and are likely to result in traffic disruption and some crowd dispersal tactics such as water cannons.

Human rights organizations, pro-Palestinian groups, pro-Israel groups, and student organizations have frequently arranged boycotts, campus occupations, and demonstrations to encourage an end to the war in the Gaza Strip and institutional or business ties with Israel. Violence between police and demonstrators has occurred, particularly during campus occupations, such as the University of Amsterdam protests in May 2024. "Red Line" protests, called for by multiple international organizations such as Oxfam and Amnesty International, have occurred in recent years outside the Hague, drawing hundreds of thousands of demonstrators calling for more stringent policies against Israel.

## Crime

 2.00

Crime in the Netherlands is low, although opportunistic theft is a persistent concern in major cities and transport hubs. Pickpocketing, bag theft, bicycle theft, vehicle break-ins, and burglary occur, with large cities accounting for most reported incidents. Violent crime remains uncommon but is more prevalent in major urban areas and includes assaults, threats, and sexual offenses. Serious violence associated with organized criminal networks, including shootings and explosive attacks, occurs primarily in the context of drug trafficking and criminal disputes rather than indiscriminate attacks against the general population.

Organized crime remains a significant security concern, particularly drug trafficking and associated money laundering, weapons trafficking, and violence. The Rotterdam port is a major focus for international drug-smuggling networks, while criminal groups also operate through logistics, financial, and other legitimate business structures. Dutch authorities continue to target organized criminal networks and their financial infrastructure, but the scale and international links of these networks remain a persistent challenge.

## Kidnapping

 1.00

The threat of kidnapping in the Netherlands is minimal for most foreign nationals. Abductions are uncommon and are primarily associated with organized crime, including disputes over drug trafficking, extortion, and personal or criminal conflicts. Targets are generally individuals connected to criminal networks or their associates, rather than foreign nationals selected because of their nationality. Although the risk to the general population remains limited, individuals with links to organized crime or high-value commercial disputes face an elevated threat. Victims are usually released unharmed and relatively quickly.

## Terrorism

 2.00

The Netherlands faces a persistent terrorist threat, primarily from jihadist extremists and individuals who become radicalized online and may act independently. The National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV) maintained the national terrorist threat level at 4 (substantial) out of five in its June 2026 assessment, indicating a realistic possibility of an attack. Potential targets include public spaces, transport hubs, crowded venues, and locations associated with perceived Western or Israeli interests.

The Netherlands also faces a threat from Iran-linked actors amid the conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. Iranian dissidents and Israeli or US-linked interests may face targeted threats, while sympathizers or self-radicalized individuals could conduct opportunistic attacks. Right-wing extremism and other forms of ideologically motivated violence also contribute to the threat environment. Dutch security services continue to disrupt suspected plots, but the individual nature of radicalization makes attacks difficult to predict.

## Armed Conflict

 1.50

The Netherlands faces no current risk of conventional internal or external armed conflict. Relations with neighboring states remain stable, and the Netherlands remains a core EU and NATO member. However, the country faces an increasing risk of Russian hybrid activity, including cyberattacks, espionage, sabotage, and attempts to disrupt critical infrastructure. Dutch intelligence services have identified Russian preparations for sabotage and assessed that future activity could cause physical damage or disrupt vital processes. Russia has also conducted or supported sabotage operations elsewhere in Europe, increasingly targeting military and logistics infrastructure. The Netherlands' role as a major transport, logistics, and information hub supporting NATO and Ukraine increases its exposure to such activity.

## Security Services

 2.00

Security forces in the Netherlands are generally reliable, professional, and capable, with good emergency response capabilities and well-developed law enforcement services. The National Police Corps is the primary point of contact for most foreign nationals and local staff requiring police assistance. Officers in major urban areas and tourist centers commonly speak English, although language proficiency may vary elsewhere.

Foreign nationals can generally expect professional treatment and effective assistance when reporting crimes or seeking emergency support. The threat of arbitrary detention, abuse, or other harm by security forces is low.

## Infrastructure

1.50 - Low

The Netherlands presents a low operational risk for businesses and travelers. The country has critical infrastructure with reliable roads, rail, utilities, and telecommunications networks, capable of supporting commercial operations and tourism.

Cybersecurity risks in the Netherlands are moderate. Cyberattacks can target institutions, businesses, and government personnel. Cyberattacks on businesses have decreased; however, AI-driven threats are on the rise. Typical attacks include ransomware, phishing, and hacking. The threat of Russian hacking and phishing looms over Dutch infrastructure. The National Cyber Security Centre is committed to advancing Dutch cyber protection.

Air travel in the Netherlands is generally reliable and safe, with its 5 international airports. Air travel disruptions can occur due to adverse weather conditions, occasional labor strikes, and flight cancellations resulting from Middle East air travel restrictions.

Ground transport in the Netherlands is safe and reliable, with a comprehensive network of public and private transport. Rail and road infrastructure, including trains, trams, buses, public bikes, and ferries, are the primary modes of transport. Occasional planned labor strikes disrupt public transport networks. Overall, ground transport poses minimal operational risks to businesses and travelers.

Utilities and telecommunications are generally reliable but can face disruptions. Electricity, water, gas, district heating, and telecommunication services provide consistent service with minimal disruptions. Occasional utilities disruptions occur due to electricity grid congestion, and water shortages due to drought and heatwaves.

Dutch maritime services are generally reliable, with 13 seaports. Adverse weather conditions, severe droughts, labor strikes, and cyber vulnerabilities may disrupt Dutch maritime infrastructure.

## Ground Transport

1.25

The Netherlands has modern infrastructure. Highways and secondary roads are well-maintained and provide easy access to all parts of the country and the rest of Europe through Germany and Belgium. Winter conditions do not normally pose a threat to drivers since state agencies take preventive measures. Congestion during the commuting rush hour can be problematic throughout the country. Travelers should also be aware that cyclists have the right of way at all times, and it is essential to be mindful of cyclists and pedestrians, particularly when driving in urban areas. Tram services through city centers also pose a concern for drivers.

The Netherlands has temporarily reintroduced border controls at all land borders. Authorities have reintroduced border controls to combat irregular immigration and people smuggling. Security force deployments are limited and intelligence-driven, and carried out in such a way as to limit the impact on freight and commuter travel.

## Local Buses

Unrated

Local and intercity buses in the Netherlands pose a low risk to passengers. Services generally operate safely and reliably, with limited exposure to serious crime. Petty theft is the primary security concern, particularly on crowded routes and at busy terminals. The risk of terrorist attacks targeting bus services is low, although buses and terminals remain potential targets for indiscriminate attacks. Road traffic accidents and service disruptions may pose a greater practical risk than deliberate security incidents.

## Mass Transit

● Unrated

Mass transit systems in the Netherlands, including metro, tram, and urban rail networks, generally operate safely and reliably, posing a low risk to passengers. Petty theft is the primary security concern, particularly in crowded carriages and at busy stations. Accidents and service disruptions are uncommon but may occur. The risk of a terrorist attack targeting mass transit is low, although crowded stations and transport hubs remain potential targets for indiscriminate attacks. Passengers should remain alert to unattended items and follow any security instructions issued by transport operators or authorities.

## Taxis

● Unrated

Taxis are readily available in all major cities in the Netherlands. Traffic accidents involving taxis are rare, and crime on taxis poses a low threat to travelers. Overcharging is commonly perpetrated against taxi passengers, especially foreign nationals. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally safer than those hailed on the street.

Ridesharing services or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in most major cities in the Netherlands.

## Train Travel

● Unrated

### Train Safety

Trains in the Netherlands have a good recent safety record. Derailments and rail accidents involving passenger trains rarely occur. Petty crime poses a medium threat at rail stations, especially Amsterdam Central Station.

### Reliability and Availability

The Netherlands has an extensive intercity passenger rail network. Rail travel is available between almost all major cities and many smaller cities and towns. High-speed rail services are available between a few major cities. Trains in the Netherlands generally run on time.

### International Rail Travel

The Netherlands has international rail connections with Belgium and Germany. Connections between the Netherlands and these countries are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to present passes before crossing.

The Netherlands has temporarily reintroduced border controls at all land borders. Authorities have reintroduced border controls to combat irregular immigration and people smuggling. Security force deployments are limited and intelligence-driven, and carried out in such a way as to limit the impact on freight and commuter travel.

## Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions in the Netherlands are generally good. Traffic in the Netherlands drives on the right. Roads in cities are generally well-maintained. Drivers generally follow traffic laws. Police rigorously enforce traffic laws. Serious traffic accidents are rare. Heavy traffic

congestion is pervasive in major cities, particularly Amsterdam. Criminals sometimes steal from parked vehicles. Foreigners planning to drive in the Netherlands must have a valid driver's license. Car rentals are available in most major cities.

### International Road Travel

The Netherlands has international road connections with Germany and Belgium. The Netherlands is part of the Schengen Agreement, which removed all border controls between the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium.

The Netherlands has temporarily reintroduced border controls at all land borders. Authorities have reintroduced border controls to combat irregular immigration and people smuggling. Security force deployments are limited and intelligence-driven, and carried out in such a way as to limit the impact on freight and commuter travel.

### Cyber

 3.00

The Netherlands is a moderate-threat location for cyber-attacks. Attacks are most likely to result from international tensions and cyber-criminals targeting businesses and individuals. The frequency and severity of cyber attacks have increased since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Authorities in the Netherlands state that government agencies and private businesses have sustained increased attacks by Russian-backed hackers. However, the Netherlands has advanced security agencies and protocols that mitigate the overall risk.

There is a realistic possibility that in the Netherlands cyber-criminals may target both organizations and individuals. Most attacks are likely to be financially motivated or linked to hacktivism (use of cyber-attacks to promote political agendas). In general, criminals are constantly developing new cyber-attack techniques to steal people's identities, hack into their accounts, dupe them into revealing personal information, or infect their devices with malware. Phishing is the attempt to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details by mimicking a trustworthy entity (government, bank, PayPal or eBay) in an electronic communication. These emails often attempt to entice users to click on a link that will take the user to a fraudulent website that appears legitimate. Scammers can offer false promises of weight loss, money, sex and sign-up links to malicious sites via postings on websites, emails and SMS.

### Maritime

 1.50

The Netherlands have high level maritime infrastructures and naval forces. There are no maritime concerns.

### Air Travel

 1.25

The Netherlands' main international airport is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS), located 15 km (9 miles) southwest of the city. As one of the busiest airports in Europe, AMS services many major airlines. Other international airports also handle high volumes of air traffic, such as Rotterdam Airport, (RTM), Eindhoven Airport, (EIN), and Maastricht Aachen Airport, (MST). The Netherlands' national carrier KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has a good safety record and is considered safe for use. Facilities and security at Amsterdam Airport are more than adequate.

Public transportation, rental car services, and taxis are available on site; these are considered safe and reliable, although taxis are typically the recommended mode of transport for foreign business travelers.

As a result of an EU ban in connection with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, The Netherlands' airspace is closed to all Russian aircraft and flights.

### Utilities

 1.25

Utilities pose a low risk to business operations in the Netherlands. Electricity supplies are generally reliable, although severe weather and localized infrastructure failures can cause temporary outages. Disruptions can temporarily affect business continuity, transport, and communications, particularly if power failures affect multiple services simultaneously.

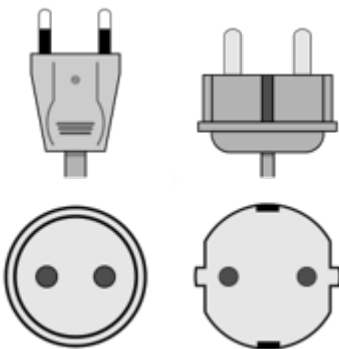
Mobile and internet networks are reliable, and widespread or prolonged connectivity disruptions are unlikely. Localized telecommunications outages may nevertheless impede coordination and access to essential services.

## Electricity

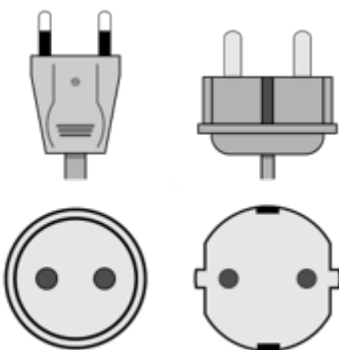
● Unrated

Electricity in the Netherlands is supplied at 230 V, 50 Hz. The Netherlands uses Type C and F plugs.

### Plug Types



### Types de prises



## Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Netherlands is readily available in most public/private accommodations. Internet activity is considered private and secure in most areas - see our Information Security advice sheet.

## Environment

2.00 - Low

The Netherlands has a temperate climate and rainfall is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. The country periodically experiences flooding in low-lying areas following periods of heavy rainfall. Oil spills occasionally occur along the Dutch coast. Local authorities are well-trained to respond to such incidents.

## Man-Made Hazards

1.50

The presence of a high volume of oil transporting vessels in the vicinity the Dutch coasts sporadically lead to incidents that can result in oils spills. Local authorities are well-trained to respond to such incidents, but any accident may result in localized disruptions and protests.

Unexploded Ordonnance (UXOs) and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) exist, leftover from World War II when the national territory experienced intense fighting. Local residents periodically unearth ERWs. This does not generate a threat to safety, although security operations linked to these discoveries generally result in temporary but substantial travel disruptions.

The country implements tight legislation concerning health and safety procedures to be observed in work-related activities and industrial operations. Workplace fatalities are rare and generally linked to human error.

## Seismic

1.50

The Netherlands does not face any substantial risk linked to seismic activity, and no major quake has been reported in the recent past.

## Storm Systems

2.50

The majority of storms occur within the May-October period. When associated with high tides, such storms may lead to flooding, especially in seaside areas and regions close to rivers. Local meteorological authorities periodically issue warnings, and inclement weather conditions are generally forecast in advance. These may lead to overland and air travel disruptions.

## Natural Hazards

2.00

The Netherlands has a moderate climate that is influenced by the country's presence along the North Sea. Temperatures during winter seldom go below 0 C (32 F). However, periodic episodes of heavy snow and frost do lead to temporary travel disruptions. During summer, episodes of extreme heat periodically occur. Temperatures seldom pass the 35 C (95 F) mark, but abnormally high temperatures are occasionally reported, especially during the months of July and August. Wildfires can pose a threat during hot and dry periods.

## Air Quality

Unrated

### Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas, especially in Rotterdam, Breda, and Amsterdam. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

## Health and Medical

2.00 - Low

There are no major specific health concerns in the Netherlands. Food and water are generally considered safe. Medical care of a high standard is widely available. Well-stocked pharmacies are readily available nationwide.

## Disease and Health Threats

1.75

- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Very low risk in the Netherlands.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in the Netherlands.
- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness, including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. Without treatment, the infection can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- **Lyme Disease:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of Lyme disease vary depending on the stage of the disease. Early symptoms include a red, expanding rash that looks like a bullseye, fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle aches, and joint aches. These symptoms generally appear days to weeks after exposure. In some cases, individuals develop chronic symptoms months to years after exposure. The most common symptom is bouts of arthritis with severe joint pain and joint swelling. The risk is nationwide, especially in forested and grassy areas, from March to October.
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unknown animals. No known risk.
- **Tick-borne Encephalitis (TBE):** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Bite prevention is essential. In rare cases, people can become infected by consuming unpasteurized dairy products. Early symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, myalgia, and nausea. These symptoms generally appear two to 10 days after exposure. In some cases, infection can progress to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), which can be life-threatening. The risk is higher in Sallandse Heuvelrug, the Utrechtse Heuvelrug, Twente, and the Achterhoek from March through October.
- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. Low risk in the Netherlands.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, a bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. Low risk in the Netherlands.
- **West Nile Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly between dusk and dawn. Bite prevention is essential. West Nile virus symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. Most people experience no symptoms.

## Health Requirements

● Unrated

### Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

There are no recommendations or requirements for yellow fever vaccination in Netherlands. There is no risk of yellow fever.

### HIV Testing

No known restrictions.

### Health Recommendations

● Unrated

### Recommended Immunizations for Travel to the Netherlands

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers, missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. The Netherlands has not reported any rabies cases, thus most travelers are at low risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.
- **Tick-borne Encephalitis:** Recommended for individuals trekking, working, or engaging in outdoor activities in high-risk, endemic areas, particularly heavily forested areas where the disease occurs and ticks are likely to be found. Currently, a tick-borne encephalitis vaccine is available in many countries. The initial vaccine consists of three doses and requires six months or more for completion. Tick bite prevention is also essential.

### Medical Facilities and Services

● 2.00

Quality healthcare is available throughout the Netherlands, and even the most serious emergencies can be handled by Dutch hospitals. The Netherlands is part of the European Health Insurance network. A European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows access to state-provided healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. Ambulance services are readily available.

### Medications and Pharmacy

● Unrated

Pharmacies across the Netherlands are readily available but may be limited in some rural areas. Supply of most medicines needed by travelers is high. Prior to traveling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of the Netherlands in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any

other relevant documentation.

## Mental Health

● 2.75

Mental health service availability is limited, and conditions are moderately managed.

## Food and Water Safety

● 1.00

Drinking water is generally safe in the Netherlands. However, officials still recommend drinking bottled or otherwise purified water whenever possible to reduce the risk of traveler's diarrhea or other gastrointestinal illnesses. Ensure that food is properly handled and prepared. Wash raw produce before eating. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Consider avoiding street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

## Political

1.50 - Low

The political environment presents a low risk to businesses and operations in the Netherlands. Coalition politics and increasing political fragmentation can contribute to policy disagreements and delays, but the risk of prolonged government instability or significant disruption to the business environment remains low. Strong institutions, an independent judiciary, effective public administration, and established democratic processes provide a stable operating environment.

Free and fair elections are held regularly, and transfers of power are orderly. State institutions are competent and effective, providing reliable services across the country with a low level of corruption. The national media and security forces remain largely independent of political influence. Legislation guarantees religious freedoms and equal rights for minority groups.

## Corruption

● 1.50

The perception of corruption in the Netherlands is low; however, the corruption landscape is worsening. Corruption does not impact the business environment or justice system; however, the government is perceived to have an administrative culture of withholding information from the media and society. Additionally, the country's worsening anti-corruption score is related to decreased political integrity, as the country does not have a formal lobbying register. However, the Netherlands is among the least corrupt countries, and the country experiences a high degree of press freedom.

## Government Stability

● 1.25

Government stability presents a minimal risk to businesses and operations. Coalition governments are vulnerable to internal disagreements and collapse, particularly amid rising political polarization and fragmentation, which can lead to policy delays or early elections. In recent years, most governments have failed to serve full terms, reducing government effectiveness. However, strong institutions and established political processes reduce the likelihood that coalition instability will lead to significant political or operational disruption. Civil liberties are respected both in law and in practice.

## Rule of Law

● 1.00

Rule of law presents a minimal risk. The Netherlands has strong judicial independence, effective law enforcement, and well-established legal and institutional safeguards. Law enforcement agencies are professional and capable, and the rule of law is generally respected and effectively enforced.

## Sanctions

1.50

Sanctions present a low risk. The Netherlands is closely integrated into the EU and international sanctions regime and faces no credible risk of being subject to international sanctions. EU sanctions on Russia and Dutch restrictive measures on foreign actors may create limited economic or political impacts, but these are unlikely to materially affect overall stability or business operations. Russian sanctions against the Netherlands have had a negatively impact on the country's agricultural export sector.

## Legal

Unrated

Foreign nationals in the Netherlands are subject to Dutch law and may face fines, prosecution, detention, or imprisonment for violations, including offenses committed unknowingly. Immigration violations and serious criminal offenses may also result in deportation or entry restrictions, depending on the circumstances. Cannabis remains illegal, despite the toleration of small quantities for personal use and regulated sales through qualifying coffeeshops. Adults possessing up to 5 grams of cannabis for personal use are generally not prosecuted, but the substance may be confiscated; possession or use in designated areas may also trigger enforcement under local rules. Possession, sale, or production of other controlled drugs can result in criminal prosecution and more severe penalties.

Foreign nationals detained in the Netherlands have the right to request notification of their embassy or consulate. Consular officials may provide assistance within their remit but cannot override Dutch legal proceedings or replace legal representation. Detainees should request consular contact and seek advice from a local lawyer. Dual nationals may face limitations on consular assistance where Dutch authorities treat them as Dutch citizens.

## Emergency Contacts

Unrated

### Emergency Contacts

**Ambulance** 112

**Fire** 112

**Police** 112

## Embassies and Consulates

Unrated

### Canadian Embassy

**Address** Sophialaan 7, 2514 JP, The Hague

**Telephone Number** +31 70 311 1600

**Email** [hagueg@international.gc.ca](mailto:hagueg@international.gc.ca)

**Web Site** [https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/netherlands-pays\\_bas/the\\_hague-la\\_haye.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/netherlands-pays_bas/the_hague-la_haye.aspx?lang=eng)

**Opening Hours** Monday to Thursday: 0830-1230 and 1330-1700 Friday: 0830-1400

### Australian Embassy

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**Address** Carnegiealaan 4, 2517 KH, The Hague  
**Telephone Number** +31 70 310 8200  
**Email** [australia.thehague@dfat.gov.au](mailto:australia.thehague@dfat.gov.au)  
**Web Site** <https://netherlands.embassy.gov.au/>  
**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0830-1300 and 1330-1700

#### British Embassy

**Address** Lange Voorhout 10, 2514 ED The Hague  
**Telephone number** +31 70 427 0427  
**Email** [ukinnl@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:ukinnl@fcdo.gov.uk)  
**Web Site** <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-the-hague>  
**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0900-1700

#### French Embassy

**Address** Anna Paulownastraat 76, 2518 The Hague  
**Telephone Number** +33 1 43 17 53 53 37  
**Email** [info@ambafrance-nl.org](mailto:info@ambafrance-nl.org)  
**Web Site** <https://nl.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/presence-francaise/ambassade-de-france-aux-pays-bas>  
**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0900-1800

#### German Embassy

**Address** Groot Hertoginnelaan 18-20, 2517 EG The Hague  
**Telephone Number** +31 70 342 0600  
**Email** [info@den-haag.diplo.de](mailto:info@den-haag.diplo.de)  
**Web Site** <https://niederlande.diplo.de/nl-de>  
**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0900-1500

#### Austrian Embassy

**Address** van Alkemadelaan 342, 2597, The Hague  
**Telephone Number** +31 70 324 5470  
**Email** [den-haag-ob@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:den-haag-ob@bmeia.gv.at)  
**Web Site** <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/oeb-den-haag/ueber-uns/anfahrt-und-oeffnungszeiten>  
**Opening Hours** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 1000-1200 Wednesday: 1400-1600

#### U.S. Consulate General

**Address** Museumplein 19, 1071 DJ Amsterdam  
**Telephone Number** +31 20 575 5309  
**Email** [ACSAmsterdam@state.gov](mailto:ACSAmsterdam@state.gov)

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**Web Site** <https://nl.usembassy.gov/>

**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0800-1600

### U.S. Embassy

**Address** John Adams Park 1, 2244 BZ Wassenaar, The Hague

**Telephone Number** +31 70 310 2209

**Email** USCitizenServicesAms@state.gov

**Web Site** <https://nl.usembassy.gov/>

**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0815-1700

### Spanish Embassy

**Address** Lange Voorhout 50, 2514 EG The Hague

**Telephone Number** +31 70 302 49 99

**Email** emb.lahaya@maec.es

**Web Site** <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/lahaya/es/Paginas/index.aspx>

**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday: 0900-1400

### Spanish Consulate General

**Address** Frederiksplein 34, 1017 XN Amsterdam

**Telephone Number** +31 20 620 38 11

**Email** cog.amsterdam@maec.es

**Web Site** <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/amsterdam/en/Paginas/index.aspx>

**Opening Hours** Du lundi au vendredi : 0900-1400

### Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at: <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com>.

### Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, and carry any important travel and identification documents with them at all times.

### On Arrival

Unrated

- There are no significant measures to undertake on arrival in country.

### In Transit

Unrated

- Public transport is generally safe and self-driving may be conducted.

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## At Your Hotel

● Unrated

- There are no significant measures to undertake at your hotel.

## In the Street

● Unrated

- Petty crime poses the most significant threat to travelers in the Netherlands. They should avoid overt displays of wealth, which is especially important in more crowded areas.
- Travelers should use only small denominations of currency (Euros), and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Reduce the contents of your wallet or purse, and remove unnecessary cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts. Do not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments
- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with them at all times and that it has sufficient battery life and is programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travelers should avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark.
- In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. They should also be wary of people loitering, and note that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by and avoid sustained eye contact with strangers.

## Culture

Unrated

### Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0900-1700

Government: Monday-Friday, 0900-1700

Banking: Monday-Friday, 0900-1700

Business attire is generally semi-formal.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday through Friday between 0900 and 1700. Arriving on time to meetings or social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are uncommon. Scheduled meetings will typically end on time. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay. Alcohol taken during lunch and dinner meetings is considered inappropriate. Only drink alcohol if the host offers.

English is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well received but not expected. Business cards are widely used. Always use Mr./Ms. or a local honorific/title until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to their official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning and departing a business meeting, shake hands with everyone.

### Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with everyone, with direct eye contact. When departing the meeting, shake hands again.

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Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Addressing people by their first names initially
- Talking with your hands in your pockets
- Hugging or backslapping
- Chewing gum

## Religions

● Unrated

Roman Catholic 24%, Protestant 15% (includes Dutch Reformed 6%, Protestant Church of The Netherlands 6%, Calvinist 3%), Muslim 5%, other 6% (includes Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish), none 51%

## Ethnicities

● Unrated

Dutch 77%, EU 6%, Turkish 2%, Moroccan 2%, Indonesian 2%, German 2%, Surinamese 2%, Polish 1%, other 5%

## Significant Dates

● Unrated

# 2026 Significant dates

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Jan. 1     | New Year's Day  |
| April 3    | Good Friday     |
| April 6    | Easter Monday   |
| April 27   | King's Birthday |
| May 5      | Liberation Day  |
| May 14     | Ascension Day   |
| May 25     | Whit Monday     |
| Dec. 25-26 | Christmas       |

## Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards also varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer the official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

## Currency

● Unrated

### Currency Name/Code

The official currency of the Netherlands is the euro (EUR). One euro is made up of 100 cents.

### Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers offer the best exchange rates in the Netherlands. Larger banks may offer the best exchange rates, on average. The Netherlands forbids foreigners from exiting with undeclared currency in amounts greater than EUR 10,000.

### Credit Card

 Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

### Taxes and Tipping

 Unrated

It is not customary to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, or taxi drivers; there may be a service charge on the bill.

### Bank and ATM

 Unrated

#### ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available in the Netherlands. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

#### Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday through Friday 0900-1700. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

## LGBTQ Security



The security environment in the Netherlands is low threat for LGBTQ people but the trend is worsening. The Overall public-security situation is relatively strong, and there is no systematic state violence against LGBTQ individuals. However, national statistics and independent research indicate that LGBTQ people face a significantly greater risk of experiencing crime and violence. A 2024 study by Statistics Netherlands found that 25 percent of LGBTQ people reported being victims of crime in the previous year, and around 10 percent experienced violence, with non-binary people at the highest risk. OSCE hate-crime data show several thousand hate incidents recorded annually, with sexual orientation and gender identity among the most frequently cited bias motives. Within asylum centers, NGOs have reported increased anti-LGBTQ violence against queer asylum seekers. Travelers should regard central urban areas—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, The Hague—as broadly safe but remain attentive around nightlife venues, public transport at night, and during politically charged demonstrations.

### LGBTQ Legal Environment

 1.00

The legal environment in the Netherlands poses a minimal threat to LGBTQ people and is longstandingly protective. Same-sex sexual acts are legalized. The Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage, with full adoption rights for same-sex couples. Anti-discrimination law prohibits unequal treatment based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, and access to goods and services, and hate-speech provisions criminalize incitement against groups defined, among other grounds, by sexual orientation or disability. Transgender people can change their legal gender under a self-determination model, and recent reforms have aimed to streamline administrative procedures. The government's national LGBTQ equality policy and participation in ILGA-Europe's Rainbow Map underline its commitment to maintaining a robust legal framework, even as the country's overall Rainbow score has plateaued in recent years.

### LGBTQ Enforcement

 2.00

The legal enforcement environment in the Netherlands is low threat but grappling with rising caseloads and under-reporting. Police and prosecutors collect detailed statistics on hate crime and work with specialized victim-support services, yet only a fraction of incidents result in

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prosecutions or sentences each year. International reporting notes an increase in anti-LGBTQ violence in asylum centers and occasional shortcomings in protection for LGBTQ asylum seekers, prompting calls for dedicated safe housing and better staff training. Authorities have acknowledged these issues and launched targeted initiatives, but capacity constraints and the complexity of proving bias motives continue to limit outcomes. For most foreign visitors interacting with police—for example, after reporting a crime—professional treatment and access to interpretation can generally be expected.

### LGBTQ Social Environment

 2.00

The social environment in the Netherlands poses a moderate threat to LGBTQ people and the trend is slightly worsening from a high baseline of acceptance. Opinion polls show strong majorities supporting equal rights and same-sex relationships, and Dutch cities host large Pride events that typically proceed without serious incident. At the same time, EU-wide surveys and national data point to persistent everyday discrimination and a disproportionate burden of sexual and physical violence against LGBTQ people, particularly non-binary individuals and transgender women. Minority stress is often compounded for queer migrants, Muslims, and people of color, who may face intersecting racism and homophobia. Public debates over gender identity, asylum, and religion occasionally amplify hostile rhetoric, which can spill over into harassment on public transport or social media. Travelers can generally be open about their identity, especially in major cities, but should stay alert in late-night settings, avoid confrontations with intoxicated individuals or groups of youths, and be cautious when using dating apps to meet new contacts.

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**Active Alerts**

No Alerts

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