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Subject: Re: Travel Destination: Holland  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 11:06:46 GMT  
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On Jan 23, 3:29 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > I'm putting together a short tour of Europe mid-Feb and plan
- > to set aside 3-4 days to travel in Holland. What's
- > on your list of things I \*must\* see or do while I am there?

I'd think that you wouldn't need to travel for going Dutch, but maybe that is just me. Mountaineering is right out, but I don't think your were expecting to do that in the first place. One of the advantages of going to the Netherlands in February is that there are not a lot of tourists at that time, the downside is that you'll find out why that is so.

Two of the three big museums in Amsterdam are closed (rather reduced in size) for renovation works. The "Stedelijk Museum" (modern art and design) has a temporary location near the central station, with a view to die for over the city from the restaurant. The "Rijksmuseum" (Rembrandt, old masters) has a limited exhibition as well. The Van Gogh museum is fully available. For a great view of the city: go to the roof of the science museum (Nemo). For guided tours of Amsterdam, these are probably the most enjoyable ones:  
<http://www.gildeamsterdam.nl/MIMEngels.htm>

The Eise Eisinga museum in Franeker (<http://www.planetarium-friesland.nl/>) is a great combination of science and history.

And then there are the usual suspects: Zaanse Schans, Marken, Volendam, Enkhuizen. You could also investigate the saying: God created the world, the Dutch created their own country. One way of doing so is to go to Lelystad, specifically the Batavia werf: <http://www.bataviawerf.nl/>. A shipyard rebuilding historic ships, and a display of archeological find in the area. Yes, this land has been reclaimed only about 50 years ago now, but that doesn't mean you can't do archeology: ships are a lot easier to recover if you don't need divers.

Enjoy your stay,

Maarten

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Subject: Re: Travel Destination: Holland  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 14:31:45 GMT

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Maarten writes:

- > One of the advantages of
- > going to the Netherlands in February is that there are not a lot of
- > tourists at that time, the downside is that you'll find out why that
- > is so.

Alas, I don't always get to choose my travel schedule. Have to take what I can get. Still, I'm hardly ever disappointed. :-)

Thanks for this. I appreciate it.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Travel Destination: Holland

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 14:35:57 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > Folks,
- >
- > I'm putting together a short tour of Europe mid-Feb and plan
- > to set aside 3-4 days to travel in Holland. What's
- > on your list of things I \*must\* see or do while I am there?

Just Holland? Or other parts of the Netherlands as well? :o)

Dunno about "must" but I enjoyed a coffee verkeerd on the square in Alkmaar watching all the blokes jog about with their kaas boats :o) Dunno if they have it in mid Feb though. A walk through the dunes just north of Beverwijk is pretty neato - so much open space always seemed incongruous to me (I suspect it's manufactured open space, but I'm not sure).

And if you've got a car, you do have to visit the delta werken down south. Pretty impressive project to protect people and wildlife that was conceived after the '53 flood.

The Frisian islands are neato in a relaxed sort of way, but I dunno about Febuary. Brrr...

There's also a cool old cathedral in Utrecht - the Domkerk? Can't remember. Built in the

1200's or somesuch. I remember climbing up the worn stone steps of the tower thinking about all the poor monkly buggers who made the climb before me.

And then, of course, there's Amstel-o-dam... :o) There a bzillion things to do and see (various museums, Anne Frank's house, "cafes") and it's the only place where I've seen grannies out for their evening walk, prostitutes, policemen, and pick pockets all plying their trades in peaceful coexistence in canal-crossed neighbourhoods built in the 1400's. Quite surreal. Good chips and mayo tho' (well, better than here).

cheers,

paulv

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Subject: Re: Travel Destination: Holland  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 23 Jan 2008 14:43:38 GMT  
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Paul van Delst writes:

> Just Holland? Or other parts of the Netherlands as well? :o)

I'm a tramp-around sort of guy. Cold doesn't scare me much.  
It's 5 below here this morning. ;-)

Thanks for the tips. I just heard an NPR story on the 1953 flood yesterday. That would be something to see. I'm also planning to see the movie A Bridge Too Far again. One of my favorite movies and it takes place on the ground I'll be walking. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Travel Destination: Holland  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 13:15:33 GMT  
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On Jan 23, 2:43 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > I'm a tramp-around sort of guy. Cold doesn't scare me much.
- > It's 5 below here this morning. ;-)

This is a scientific group, so that is either impossible, or doesn't impress me a lot ;-)

- > Thanks for the tips. I just heard an NPR story on the
- > 1953 flood yesterday. That would be something to see.

Yes, that is rather impressive as well. There is a museum on Neeltje Jans

<http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=51.625813,3.7050962&z=13& t=h&hl=en>  
with history of the flood and the building of the dams.

- > I'm also planning to see the movie A Bridge Too Far
- > again. One of my favorite movies and it takes place
- > on the ground I'll be walking. :-)

Be aware though the movie was shot at a different location (Nijmegen) than the actual bridge that was too far (Arnhem).

Maarten

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