INTRO

THE NETHERLANDS

Nestled in the heart of Europe, the Netherlands is a small country that boasts a rich history, picturesque scenery, and vibrant culture. From the iconic windmills and tulip fields to the bustling cities and charming canals, the Netherlands offers something for everyone, making it a popular destination for travellers from all over the world.

BLOG

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands, and I was blown away by the country's commitment to sustainability, rich culture, and impeccable tidiness. During my trip, I visited Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Arnhem, and other smaller towns, each offering its own unique perspective on what makes the Netherlands such a special place.

One of the first things that caught my eye was the country's impressive sustainability efforts. The Netherlands is a world leader in sustainable practices, with a strong focus on renewable energy, clean water management, and reducing waste. In fact, the country aims to become fully carbon neutral by 2050, and it is well on its way to reaching this goal. The widespread use of bikes and the development of bike lanes make it easier for people to get around while reducing their carbon footprint. Windmills, a symbol of Dutch heritage, are also a significant source of renewable energy in the country.

Culture is another aspect that I found fascinating in the Netherlands. From the famous tulip gardens to the famous works of Vincent van Gogh, there is no shortage of cultural experiences in this country. Dutch cuisine, with its focus on seasonal ingredients and fresh flavours, is also a highlight of the country's cultural scene. The Dutch are proud of their cultural heritage, and it is reflected in their museums, festivals, and daily life.

Lastly, the tidiness of the Netherlands was something that I was not expecting. Everywhere I went, I saw well-maintained streets, tidy parks, and clean waterways. The Dutch have a strong sense of community, and it shows in their efforts to keep their cities and towns clean and beautiful. It was a pleasure to walk around and take in the sights and sounds of the country, and I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride in the way the Dutch care for their environment.

In conclusion, my trip to the Netherlands was an eye-opening experience. From its impressive sustainability efforts to its rich culture and impeccable tidiness, the country has left a lasting impression on me. Whether I was exploring the bustling streets of Amsterdam, admiring the modern architecture of Rotterdam, or taking in the beauty of the tulip gardens in Arnhem, I was continually amazed by what I saw. If you're looking for a destination that is both environmentally conscious and culturally rich, the Netherlands is a must-visit.

The Netherlands borders the North Sea, which could be a little bit different “sea-experience” when you get there. It is obviously colder considering that is located in the North Atlantic Ocean, at a high latitude, which means that it is far from the equator and is exposed to cold, Arctic air masses. Additionally, the North Atlantic Drift, a warm ocean current that originates in the Gulf of Mexico, does not reach the North Sea. Even though it may not have the average warmth of other seas, it can still be a rewarding and memorable experience.

1. King's Day (Koningsdag) - celebrated on April 27th to mark the birthday of the current king, King's Day is a nationwide celebration filled with street parties, music, and other festivities.
2. Carnival (Carnaval) - a pre-Lent festival that is celebrated in various cities throughout the Netherlands, including Maastricht and Breda. It is a colorful and lively celebration filled with costumes, parades, and music.
3. Tulip Festival (Tulp Festival) - held in the spring, this festival celebrates the tulip, which is one of the most important symbols of the Netherlands. The festival features tulip gardens, parades, and markets filled with tulip-themed goods.
4. Amsterdam Dance Event (ADE) - held annually in October, this festival is a celebration of electronic dance music and features performances by some of the world's most renowned DJs and producers.
5. Grachtenfestival - held annually in August, this festival is a celebration of Amsterdam's canals and features boat parades, concerts, and other events along the city's waterways.
6. Christmas (Kerst) - Christmas is a popular time to celebrate in the Netherlands, with festive markets, parades, and other events taking place throughout the country.

My all-time favourite celebration was undoubtedly King's Day (Koningsdag). Held annually on April 27th to mark the birthday of the current king, King's Day is a nationwide celebration filled with street parties, music, and other festivities.

I arrived just in time for the festivities to begin and was immediately struck by the energy and excitement in the air. The city was awash with orange, the national colour of the Netherlands, as people of all ages took to the streets to celebrate.

One of the highlights of King's Day for me was the street market, where vendors sold everything from food and drinks to handmade crafts and vintage clothing. I was amazed at the variety of items on offer and the lively atmosphere of the market.

Another highlight was the music, which was everywhere I turned. From street performers to DJ stages, the sounds of King's Day filled the air and kept the party going all day long. I especially enjoyed the live bands, which played everything from traditional Dutch folk music to contemporary pop and rock.

ITALY

HUNGARY

MEXICO

LONDON