

# READY TO PLAN FOR YOUR TRIP?

# Holland in Bloom

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

## WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Time Zone:** Holland is 6 hours ahead of the US Eastern Time Zone and 7 hours ahead of the US Central Time Zone.

**Weather:** Average High/Low

City	April.
Amsterdam	56°F/40°F

**Packing:** Bags with wheels are not suitable as a carry-on bag in Europe where motorcoaches have very limited space. The European Union does not allow these bags in the passenger section of the motorcoach. *Packing Note:* Washcloths are not standard in European hotels. Feel free to bring them with you. If you use them regularly, packing a washcloth or bringing a packet of facial cleanser wipes is a good idea.

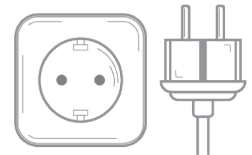
**Currency:** The unit of currency in the European Union is the Euro. Currency exchange rates fluctuate on a daily basis. A helpful web site for referencing current rates is [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com). Mastercard & Visa are the most widely accepted credit cards and debit cards in Europe. Discover is not accepted in Europe. ATMs will give you the best exchange rate while traveling.

**Language:** English is widely spoken in the Netherlands. The Dutch are very multi-lingual.

**Accommodations:** Although there are chain hotels in the UK & Europe, standardized hotel rooms that we enjoy in the US & Canada are the exception rather than the rule. Due to the fact that hotels are often located in older buildings, small and irregularly sized rooms in buildings that are bit maze-like are normal. Rooms with twin beds very close together, queen beds made by connecting two twin beds, hand-held shower heads, and elevators the size of broom closets are all quite normal in the UK and Europe, even in luxury hotels. Some properties may not have air-conditioning.

**Electrical Current:** The electric current is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket.

However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts, then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.



**International Driver & Guide Gratuities:** Your driver and guide will be with you for the majority of your tour. Should they meet expectations, providing a gratuity is suggested to show your appreciation. The suggested gratuity to your driver and your guide is 8.00 Euro per person, per day.

**Public Facilities:** Outside of your hotel room some of the restrooms will have pay toilets or attendants collecting at the door. You may wish to have local coins available for these situations. All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold water faucets may be the opposite of North America and hot water can be extremely hot.

**Value Added Tax (VAT):** There is a Value Added Tax in the EU. This tax is levied on most goods with the exception of food and many services. In certain cases, the Value Added Tax on goods that are exported to the United States can be reimbursed to you upon completion and submission of a special form. There may be a service charge for the forms deducted from your reimbursement.

# HOLIDAY VACATIONS

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