

NETHERLANDS RISK ASSESSMENT



City & Country

Netherlands, various

Prepared by

Sussex Abroad Office

Before you go –

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

VISA REGULATIONS

Holders of British passports, endorsed 'British Citizen', don't need a visa to enter the Netherlands. If you hold another type of British nationality or another nationality altogether, you should check entry requirements with the Netherlands Embassy in London. Your passport should be valid for the proposed length of stay.***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

HEALTH

If you're visiting the Netherlands you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Dutch nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation.***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

TERRORISM

Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in the Netherlands. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers. You should be vigilant and follow the advice of local authorities. On 31 August 2018, two foreign tourists were seriously injured in a knife attack at Amsterdam Central Station.

There's a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](#), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
CRIME	Take care particularly in central Amsterdam and especially in and around Central Station. Pick-pocketing and bag snatching are common. Thieves often operate in gangs on the trains to and from Schiphol airport and Central Station as well as on the trams. One thief will attempt to distract you (often by asking for directions or by banging on your window) while another picks your pocket or steals your bag.	Be alert and don't lose sight of your luggage or your belongings. Sleeping passengers make particularly easy targets.
	Opportunist thieves are widespread and can enter restaurants with the excuse of selling you something or looking for	Keep your valuables safely with you at all times and don't leave bags or jackets hanging on the back of a chair.

	<p>someone. Bags have been stolen from between people's feet whilst they were distracted.</p>	
	<p>Young women and those not in groups should be aware of the possibility of drinks being spiked. Don't leave your drink unattended.</p>	<p>If you believe you have been the victim of a spiked drink, seek medical help immediately and, if possible, inform the police. If you are in a group, make sure you leave together.</p>
<p>DRUGS</p>	<p>The Netherlands has a reputation for being tolerant on the use of so-called 'soft drugs'. In reality drugs are prohibited and this tolerance exists only for designated premises in the major cities. Possession of prohibited substances or the purchase of them outside these designated areas can carry a prison sentence. The purchase or smoking of soft drugs in public places is an arrestable offence in Amsterdam. There are specifically designated cafés where the use of cannabis is tolerated. Although popular the sale of both dry and fresh psychoactive mushrooms is forbidden by law. Travellers are advised to exercise extreme caution as combinations of alcohol, cannabis and wild mushrooms are a fatal cocktail and have resulted in several deaths</p>	<p>Don't carry or use drugs.</p>

OTHER	Deaths occur each year due to drowning in the canals of Amsterdam. The majority of these happen as a result of celebrations that include heavy drinking and/or smoking cannabis	Take particular care when travelling beside canals.
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Please also note and be sensitive to the following:

Everybody from the age of 14 must be able to show a valid identity document to police officers and other law enforcement authorities on their request. The documents you can use to prove your identity depend on your nationality:

- If you are a British national living in or visiting the Netherlands you can use your passport.