

Diving into Oyster Season in the Netherlands

If you've been following along on our [Instagram](#), you may have seen our recent Trivia Tuesday installment with a question on oysters. Although the oyster industry is a small market in the Netherlands, oysters are a community ballast, anchoring towns in long-standing tradition and even offering local solutions to environmental change.

Zeeland: Oyster Capital of the Netherlands

The province of [Zeeland](#) is undoubtedly the heartland of Dutch oyster farming. Here, European flat and Japanese (or Creuse) oysters are bred and cultivated in plots in the Oosterschelde estuary and in the saltwater lake Grevelingen.

For the Dhooge family in the fishing village of Yerseke, oyster cultivation is a multi-generational business. Their farm, [de Oesterij](#), has been in operation since 1906. Now a restaurant and World Oyster partner, they offer the opportunity for visitors and patrons around the world to sample their [unique oyster varieties](#) such as the “Dutch Imperial” and the “Oesterij Special.”

At Yerseke's Oesterij and the Oosterschelde Museum, it is evident just how much the unique maritime history has connected the people to their environment and each other.



Oysters for the Future

Elsewhere in the Oosterschelde estuary, oysters are more than just a culinary delicacy. Zeeland, a province made up largely of reclaimed land, is especially at-risk to the negative effects of climate change. Local authorities and [researchers](#) are utilizing oyster beds to protect against coastal erosion from increasingly erratic weather events and naturally filter the water.

A Seaside Adventure Awaits

It is generally understood that oysters are harvested in the months with the letter ‘r’ in them—meaning September to April. As we kick off oyster season, consider a coastal adventure on your next trip to the Netherlands: whether you simply enjoy eating oysters, are curious about maritime history, or are passionate about the environment, Zeeland has something for you.

Email travel@dutch-tours.com to get planning your Netherlands itinerary.

Photo Credits: Wikipedia, *Oyster pits in Yerseke Netherlands*,
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Oyster_pits_in_Yerseke_Netherlands_01.jpg