

The 3 Best Reasons for Visiting the Netherlands in Winter

As of January 22, we have officially made it through the 10 darkest weeks of winter. As the days grow steadily longer, take advantage of all the Netherlands has to offer! From nature walks to city tours to trying Dutch food, there's certainly something for all, no matter the time of year.

1. **Uitwaaien.** The Dutch word *uitwaaien* means to go outside in windy weather to clear your mind—the perfect antidote to the winter blues.

Nature trails and bike paths cross the Netherlands and are beautiful year-round. For a walk through wintry forests and heathlands, try Hoge Veluwe (and warm up afterwards in the Kröller-Müller Museum). The swamps of the nature reserve 't Roegwold (see [below](#)) are great for gazing across the water and birdwatching. Or let the sea breeze clear your mind when you hike Schoorl dunes.

2. **City strolls and exploration.** The smaller cities across the Netherlands are bustling hubs of community and culture, especially in the winter.

Following the holiday markets, many cities host additional winter festivals, light shows, and cultural events. In the province of Gelderland, the oldest city in the Netherlands, Nijmegen, hums with the Winter Weeks festival. Tour the historic city center, the parks, and the De Bastei Museum to hear stories of its 2,000+ years of history.

3. **Indulge in hearty Dutch cuisine.** What better way to cap off a day of windy walks and museum strolls than a warm meal?

The Dutch have perfected winter comfort food. *Erwtensoep*—a thick pea soup made with onions, carrots, leek, celeriac, and pork—gives a warm hug from the inside out. For lovers of meat and potatoes, *stamppot*—potatoes mashed with kale and other vegetables, often served with a sausage—is for you. And for a sweet treat, try *poffertjes*, tiny pancakes coated in powdered sugar and butter.

Explore the Netherlands year-round: email us at travel@dutch-tours.com for more.

