

Typical Dutch

Tutorial

<http://matchthememory.com/TypicalDutchNL2>

Afsluitdijk (Encloseddam)



The Afsluitdijk (Dutch pronunciation: [ˈɑf.slœyɔd.ɔɛik], English: Enclosure Dam) is a major causeway in the Netherlands, constructed between 1927 and 1933 and running from Den Oever on Wieringen in North Holland province, to the village of Zurich in Friesland province, over a length of 32 kilometres (20 mi) and a width of 90 m, at an initial height of 7.25 m above sea-level.

It is a fundamental part of the larger Zuiderzee Works, damming off the Zuiderzee, a salt water inlet of the North Sea, and turning it into the fresh water lake of the IJsselmeer.

Beside the dike itself there was also the necessary construction of two complexes of shipping locks and discharge sluices at both ends of the dike. The complex at Den Oever includes the Stevin lock (named after Hendrik Stevin, a son of mathematician and engineer Simon Stevin) and three series of five sluices for discharging the IJsselmeer into the Wadden Sea; the other complex at Kornwerderzand is composed of the Lorentz locks (named after Hendrik Lorentz, the famous physicist, who personally did the calculations of the tides that were crucial to the construction of the Afsluitdijk) and two series of five sluices, making a total of 25 discharge sluices. It is necessary to routinely discharge water from the lake since it is continually fed by rivers and streams (most notably the IJssel river that gives its name to the lake)

and polders draining their water into the IJsselmeer.

Deltawerken (Delta works)



For the past 2000 years, the inhabitants of the Netherlands have often had to cope with flood disasters. The name 'Netherlands' gives a clue to the problem: 'Nether' means 'low'. It literally means 'The Low Countries'. When a storm develops and the wind stirs up the waves, the Dutch coastal area can become flooded. The last time this happened on a large scale was just over fifty years ago. Almost 2000 people died following the flood disaster of 1953. In 1953, the Dutch were once again confronted with the power of the sea. The colossal disaster happened on February the 1st. It was to be one of the biggest floods in the history of the Netherlands. to prevent it from happening again.

In 1959, the Delta Law was passed, in order to organise the construction of the dams. The building of the 'Delta Works' was such an enormous project, that it was sometimes referred to as the 'eighth wonder of the world' - and not without good reason.

Virtual tours are available under the address:

<http://www.deltawerken.com/English/10.html?setlanguage=en>

(also in German and Spanish)

Hunnebedden (Megalithes)



Everyone has heard of Stonehenge in England and dolmens and menhirs in France. But who knows of even older and more numerous megalithes in The Netherlands? But there is also a richness of the prehistoric monuments in own country. They are there for over 5000 years. Older than the Egyptian pyramids! Built of huge granite stones, some of them weighing over 25,000 kilograms, dragged to the spot and piled up to form a rectangular stonegrave. There are still 54 of them. 52 in the province of Drenthe and 2 in the adjacent province of Groningen. "Hunnebedden" as they are called in the Netherlands.

Pyramide van Austerlitz (Pyramid of Austerlitz)



The pyramid of Austerlitz is a 36 metre high pyramid of earth, built in 1804 by Napoleonic soldiers on one of the highest points of the Utrechtse Heuvelrug, near Zeist. On top of the pyramid is a stone obelisk from 1894. On this central place in Netherlands in 1804, the French General De Marmont had an army camp (Camp d'Utrecht) where he founded to combat boredom with his soldiers in 1804 of Earth and turf a monument building, inspired by the pyramid of Giza which De Marmont in 1798 itself had seen during the Egyptian campaign of Napoleon. The pyramid Hill got a height of 36 metres and on top came a 13 meter high wooden obelisk. In the summer of 1805 De Marmont departed with his army to southern Germany and fought with it in the coalition war that culminated in the battle of Austerlitz (Slavkov u Brna), the battle in which Napoleon defeated the Russians and Austrians destructive. As a reminder the pyramid got the name Pyramid of Austerlitz.

Grachtenhuizen (Canal Houses)



The Amsterdam Canals have been renowned for their beauty, monumental architecture and picturesque character. However, the Amsterdam Canals have also been extraordinary witnesses to the unprecedented economic, political and cultural flourishing of Amsterdam during the Golden Age.

A canal house (Dutch grachtenpand) is a (usually old) house overseeing a canal. These houses are often slim, high and deep. Because of the danger of flooding the front door is sometimes higher up and only reachable via stairs. The floor of the main storey lies about seven to nine steps above street level. Many stoops disappeared in the 19th century when entrances were moved to the basement.

Terpen en Wierden (Mounds)



Mounds of the bronze age to about 1200 was a large part of the current provinces of Groningen, Friesland and North Holland from salt marshes, interspersed with lakes and bogs. Large parts were in open connection with the sea. The inhabitants lived from hunting, fishing and farming. To protect themselves from floods they threw artificial hills or mounds. That hills we call on terpen or wierden. They were getting bigger, so there also churches and entire villages could be built. Still in many villages in Friesland and Groningen is to see that they were created on a mound.

Bollenvelden (Bulbfields)



From the end of March until the second week of May the flowers in the bulb fields bloom in the Netherlands. It goes without saying that the exact period depends on the weather. Generally speaking, the best time is the second half of April.

The best-known bulb fields are located behind the North Sea dunes, between the cities of Leiden and Den Helder. Other bulb fields, just as lovely, are situated near Enkhuizen (Bovenkarspel, Andijk) and in the province of Flevoland (Noordoost Polder, Oostelijk Flevoland). Walking, cycling and car routes are available from the local tourist information offices in the bulb field regions.

Wipwatermolen/wipmolen Watermill



The major city (or major city water) is the oldest type smock mill in Netherlands and developed from the early fifteenth century post mill. According to some sources the first wipmolens were built in 1407 in Netherlands. This year marks the beginning of the Dutch polder landscape.

Zeespiegel NL **Sea level NL**



The Netherlands is a geographically low-lying country, with about 20% of its area and 21% of its population located below sea level,[11] and 50% of its land lying less than one metre above sea level. This distinct feature contributes to the country's name: in Dutch (Nederland), English, and in many other European languages, its name literally means "(The) Low Countries" or "Low Country". Most of the areas below sea level are man-made, caused by centuries of extensive and poorly controlled peat extraction, lowering the surface by several metres. Even in flooded areas peat extraction continued through turf dredging. From the late 16th century

land reclamation started and large polder areas are now preserved through elaborate drainage systems with dikes, canals and pumping stations. Much of the Netherlands is formed by the estuary of three important European rivers, which together with their distributaries form the Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt delta. Most of the country is very flat, with the exception of foothills in the far south-east and several low hill ranges in the central parts.

Sinterklaas



He is celebrated annually on [Saint Nicholas'](#) eve (5 December) in the Netherlands and on the morning of 6 December in the other countries. Originally, the feast celebrates the [name day](#) of [Saint Nicholas](#) – patron saint of children, sailors, philatelists, the nations of [Greece](#) and [Russia](#), the city of [Bari](#) (Italy) and of [Amsterdam](#), among others. Every year during November children can mail him what they want this year.

Sinterklaas is an elderly, stately and serious man with white hair and a long, full beard. He wears a long red cape or chasuble over a traditional white bishop's alb and sometimes red stola, dons a red mitre and ruby ring, and holds a gold-coloured crosier, a long ceremonial shepherd's staff with a fancy

curled top. He carries the big book of Saint Nicolas that tells whether each child has been good or naughty in the past year. He traditionally rides a white horse. Sinterklaas

His name day is celebrated annually on [Saint Nicholas'](#) eve (5 December) in the Netherlands when presents accompany gifts for children and the whole family.

Zwarte Piet (Black Pete, plural Zwarte Pieten) is a companion of Sinterklaas, usually an adolescent in blackface with black curly hair, dressed up like a 17th-century page in a colourful dress, often with a lace collar, and donning a feathered cap.

Sinterklaas and his Black Pete usually carry a bag which contains candy for nice children and a roe, a chimney sweep's broom made of willow branches, used to spank naughty children. Some of the older Sinterklaas songs make mention of naughty children being put in the bag and being taken back to Spain.