

## The Netherlands' Events Calendar 2023

### January 2023

#### Hortus Botanicus, Leiden

January - December 2023

In 2023, it is all about “water” in the oldest botanical gardens in The Netherlands. Water plants and the new Hortus pond take centre stage.

<https://hortusleiden.nl/en/>

#### 400 years Hanseatic Cities

January - December 2023

In 2023, the nine Dutch Hanseatic cities are celebrating their 400-year history. Authentic mansions, centuries-old monuments and, of course, waterways and water features invites visitors to discover the rich history of the region, while each hanseatic city has its own highlights spanning different traditional to innovative facets from innovation to tradition.

<https://www.visithansaholland.com/>

#### 125 years Escher, The Hague

In 2023, Escher in the Palace celebrates the 125th birthday of M. C. Escher. With over 120 prints in the museum, the most famous work from the oeuvre of M.C. Escher is permanently on display.

<https://www.escherinhetpaleis.nl/?lang=en>

With four exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Den Haag and Escher in The Palace, plus a host of activities in the city organised in collaboration with cultural partners, schools, local communities and companies, in 2023 The Hague will truly be the City of Escher. During the anniversary year a number of buildings in the centre of The Hague will be ‘dressed’ in Escher style.

<https://denhaag.com/en/escher>

#### Museum SieboldHuis, Leiden

Leiden dedicates 2023 to Philipp Franz von Siebold, who arrived in Japan 200 years ago and laid the foundation for his impressive collection. A full activity programme starring Siebold will be organized.

<https://www.sieboldhuis.org/en/>

### February 2023

#### Vermeer exhibition at the Rijksmuseum

10 February - 4 June 2023

For the first time in its history, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is devoting a retrospective exhibition to the 17th century master Johannes Vermeer. This will be the largest Vermeer exhibition ever.

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/press/press-releases/rijksmuseum-to-stage-the-largest-vermeer-exhibition-ever>

The famous painting “Girl with a Pearl Earring” will return to the Mauritshuis in The Hague, from 1 April.

### **Double Silence exhibition at Voorlinden Museum**

11 February - 29 May 2023

In 'Double Silence', Michaël Borremans and Mark Manders invite the viewer into a space and time where the artists themselves enter into a dialogue through their works, as the title suggests, amidst silence or stillness.

<https://www.voorlinden.nl/?lang=en>

### **Dutch Carnival**

19 February - 21 March 2023

In the Netherlands, Carnival is mainly celebrated in the South. The provinces of Limburg and North Brabant are predominantly Catholic provinces, where most residents celebrate carnival. Although some people take carnival traditions very seriously, most keep it simple and celebrate it singing and dancing in colorful costumes and attending one of the many carnival parades.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/celebrate-carnival-in-holland.htm>

## **March 2023**

### **Keukenhof**

23 March - 14 May 2023

As every year, Keukenhof boasts millions of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other bulbous plants that form a colorful sea of flowers. Throughout this year's season there will be various special flower displays events, such as the Holland Heritage Weekend and Dutch Sounds.

<https://keukenhof.nl/en/>

## **April 2023**

### **Exhibition "We were kings"**

7 April - 27 August 2023

"Ancient Egypt in the music of the African diaspora" features in the exhibition at the Rijksmuseum. It is dedicated to the music of artists with African roots and includes video clips, audio clips, concert recordings, photos and album covers to tell the story of well-known and lesser-known musicians and their connection to ancient Egypt.

<https://www.rmo.nl/en/exhibitions/temporary-exhibitions/expected-we-were-kings/>

### **Exhibition Antoni van Leeuwenhoek**

9 April 2023 - 7 January 2024

The exhibition about Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, a Dutch naturalist and the most important microscopist of the 17<sup>th</sup>- and early 18<sup>th</sup> century, will be temporarily on display at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en>

### **Flower Parade Bollenstreek**

22 April 2023

The flower parade with its colourful floats and the luxury vehicles decorated in masses of flowers travel a 42 km route, which starts in Noordwijk in the morning and travels through Sassenheim, Lisse,

Hillegom, Bennebroek and Heemstede. In the evening it reaches Haarlem, where the decorated vehicles are displayed on the historic main square (Grote Markt) in the city centre for the weekend.  
<https://bloemencorso-bollenstreek.nl/en/>

### **King's Night**

26 April 2023, countrywide

The night before King's Day is a highlight in many major cities. For example, special events and festivities take place in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht or Eindhoven.

### **King's Day (King's Birthday)**

27 April 2023, countrywide

The whole country is in a celebratory mood on this day. Young and old take part in the outdoor festivities such as flea markets, theater performances, music and games.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/information/general/the-royal-family/kings-day.htm>

### **Tulip Festival Northeast Polder Flevoland**

21 April – 7 May 2023

The annual festival has the most extensive tulip fields in the Netherlands and is located near the World Heritage Site of Schokland, picturesque Urk, De Orchidee Hoeve and other attractions.

<https://tulpenfestival.nl/en/>

## **May 2023**

### **Liberation Day**

5 May 2023

Celebration of the liberation from the German occupation in WWII. Various events are held, such as 'Liberation Music Festivals'.

<https://www.4en5mei.nl/english>

## **June 2023**

### **Alkmaar historic event: Kaeskoppenstad**

3 - 4 June 2023

Kaeskoppenstad transforms the city center of Alkmaar into d'Oude Stad (old city). This annual event is all about the 16th century. Against the historic backdrop of Alkmaar's Old Town, hundreds of actors show how Alkmaar was 449 years ago.

<https://www.kaeskoppenstad.nl/english>

### **The Ocean Race**

11 – 15 June 2023

For five days, the port of Scheveningen will be the centre of The Ocean Race. From 11 to 15 June 2023, there will be a lot to do in and around the harbour. The port of Scheveningen will be transformed into the place where sailing, water sports and sustainability meet.

<https://theoceanracethehague.nl/en/>

### **Flag Day in Scheveningen**

17 June 2023

'Vlaggetjesdag' celebrates the arrival of the new season's Herring (matjes). Along the docks of the Scheveningen Harbours the celebrations consist of around 30 activities. Shanty choirs, traditional clothing, traditional crafts, Old Dutch children's games, a naval show.... and off course Herring.

<https://vlaggetjesdag.com/contact-route/english/>

### **Holland Festival**

An international music, dance and theater festival in Amsterdam.

[Festival 2023 – Holland Festival](#)

### **Sail Den Helder**

26 June - 2 July 2023

The Sail Event will again be held in combination with the Navy Days, which have been organized by the Royal Navy.

[Sail Den Helder 2023 | Sail Den Helder 2023](#)

### **Rolling Stones Exhibition, Groningen**

30 June 2023 - 1 January 2024

The Rolling Stones - Unzipped is the first ever international exhibition about the world-famous rock band. After London, the United States and Asia, the exhibition will tour Europe and takes centre stage in Groningen (2 hours train journey from Amsterdam) from 30 June 2023.

<https://www.groningermuseum.nl/rolling-stones>

## **July 2023**

### **Vierdaagse Nijmegen**

18 - 21 July 2023

40,000 people come together to participate in the largest walking- and running event in the world - the Vierdaagse. In addition, the 4-Daagse celebrations include various festivals, concerts and food markets taking place in Nijmegen.

<https://www.4daagse.nl/en/>

### **World Gymnaestrada 2023 Amsterdam**

30 July - 5 August 2023

World Gymnaestrada is a global, non-competitive event held every four years with the largest number of active participants of any gymnastics event. Participation is open to all, regardless of gender, age, race, religion, culture, ability or social status.

[www.worldgymnaestrada2023.com/en/](http://www.worldgymnaestrada2023.com/en/)

## **August 2023**

### **European Para Championships 2023**

8 - 20 August 2023

For the first time, the continental championships for several different para-sports will all be combined in and around the same host city - Rotterdam. The event features 7 to 10 different sports, including para-cycling, wheelchair tennis, boccia, goalball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, para-table tennis, judo and para-shooting.

<https://teamtoc.nl/2021/05/26/press-release-european-para-championships-2023/?lang=en>

### **Holland Festival Oude Muziek (Early Music) Utrecht**

25 August - 3 September 2023

Ten days of music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and early Romantic periods. At the same time there will be other concerts, such as carillon, a symposium, video screenings and a market on early music.

<https://www.discover-utrecht.com/event/11671/the-utrecht-early-music-festival>

### **HISWA te water**

30 August - 3 September 2023

HISWA te water is known as the most comprehensive boat show in Europe due to the variety of boats and brands from home and abroad. More than 250 new vessels are presented in the Bataviahaven in Lelystad will be presented.

<https://www.hiswatewater.nl/en/>

## **September 2023**

### **Fringe Festival**

17 September 2023

Eleven days of theater, dance, performance and experiments in small theaters throughout Amsterdam.

<https://amsterdamfringefestival.nl/?lang=en>

### **Festival Masterly The Hague**

21 - 24 September 2023

Modern designers draw inspiration from 17th-century Dutch masters during the three-day art festival. The objects will be exhibited alongside their muses in four stately monumental buildings around the Court Pond in The Hague.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/masterly-the-hague-art-festival.htm>

## **October 2023**

### **Leiden's Liberation**

2 - 3 October 2023

Leiden celebrates the liberation from the Spanish occupation on October 3, 1574. During the festivities there are performances by DJs and music groups, as well as fairs.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/leidens-ontzet.htm>

### **Tonia.Model en Activiste**

17 October 2023 – 2 January 2024

An exhibition at the Singer Laren in Woerden offers an insight into the life of Tonia Stieltjes.

[Tonia. Model en activiste | Singer Laren](#)

## **November 2023**

### **Christmas market in the Fluweelengrot in Valkenburg**

17 November 2023 – 7 January 2024

A very special Christmas market in the Fluweelengrot in Valkenburg. Apart from the Christmas market, there are many different activities in the "Christmas City Valkenburg".

<https://www.christmastownvalkenburg.com/>

### **GLOW Eindhoven**

11 - 18 November 2023

During the annual light art festival GLOW, numerous artists from home and abroad present their thematically coordinated light installations. As soon as dusk falls, numerous building facades in downtown Eindhoven are illuminated and bathed in a new light.

<https://www.gloweindhoven.nl/en>

## **December 2023**

### **Amsterdam Light Festival**

December 2023 & January 2024

The Light Festival, held every year, decorates the entire center of Amsterdam with beautiful and elaborate artworks and light constructions.

[Amsterdam Light Festival](#)

### **Saint Nicholas Day**

5 December 2023

On the evening of December 5, the so-called Pakjesavond (gift-giving evening) takes place. While parents and friends dressed as Sinterklaas and Piet visit the children, gifts are exchanged, songs are sung and sweets are eaten.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/sinterklaas.htm>

### **Royal Christmas Fair**

7 - 23 December 2023

The Royal Christmas Market in The Hague is one of the largest Christmas markets in the Netherlands. Gift ideas, winter fashion and design decorations are to be found among the twinkling lights and well-known Christmas carols.

<https://denhaag.com/en/calendar/royal-christmas-fair>

### **Gouda by Candlelight**

15 December 2023

On this day, many activities and markets take place in the streets of Gouda. When it gets dark, the city is lit only by candlelight. The Gothic town house and the buildings in the old market square are also illuminated by candlelight Christmas. The mayor recites the Christmas gospel. After that, Christmas carols are sung together under the fir tree.

<https://welcometogouda.com/events/gouda-bij-kaarslicht-1>

### **Charles Dickens Festival and Deventer Christmas Town**

9-10 December

Under the motto "Christmas City Deventer", the historic city center of Deventer is in the Advent spirit with numerous activities: in addition to the Christmas market on Sunday, the Dickens Festival takes place with various characters from Dickens' novels.

<https://dickensfestijn.nl/english/>

### **Ijsbeelden Festival Zwolle**

17 December 2023 – 5 March 2024

The best ice sculpting artists in the world come to Zwolle where they work in a large ice hall (De IJsselhallen) with 275,000 kilos of ice and 275,000 kilos of snow. They will be translating the theme "WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD" into a magical and spectacular world of snow and ice sculptures of up to 6 metres tall.

<https://www.ijsbeelden.nl/en>

### **New Year's Eve in Rotterdam**

31 December 2023

In Rotterdam, a huge fireworks display is held annually at the Erasmus Bridge.

<http://hetnationalevuurwerk.nl/>

**Subject to change, February 2023**

---

NETHERLANDS BOARD OF TOURISM AND CONVENTIONS  
[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com)

---