

## Events in The Netherlands 2024

### Started exhibitions in 2023

#### Exhibition about Antoni van Leeuwenhoek

9 April 2023 - 7 January 2024

The exhibition on Antoni van Leeuwenhoek, a Dutch naturalist and the most important microscopist of the 17th and early 18th centuries, is temporarily on display at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam.

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

#### 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/>

#### 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](#)

### January 2024

#### New Year's Dive Scheveningen

1 January 2024

Every year on New Year's Day at noon hundreds of people take the plunge into the sea to ring in the New Year. This has been a tradition for 40 years. The New Year's Dive takes place in front of the Kurhaus Hotel in Scheveningen.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/scheveningen-new-years-dive.htm>

#### National Tulip Day

20 January 2024

On the Dam in Amsterdam, the opening of the tulip season is organized by the Dutch tulip growers. In a specially created picking garden on the Dam, everyone can pick tulips for free.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/national-tulip-day-1.htm>

### February 2024

#### Wonderlicht Alkmaar

'Wonderlicht' is a theatrical evening walk through the historic fortress in Alkmaar. Visitors experience a beautifully lit route with fire trees, fire pits, braziers, torches and can watch theatre shows along the route. 2024 date tbc.

[www.wonderlichtalkmaar.nl](http://www.wonderlichtalkmaar.nl)

### **Dutch Carnival**

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 2024**

### **Keukenhof**

23 March – 14 May 2024

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 2024**

### **Flower Parade Bollenstreek**

20 April 2024

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 2024, countrywide

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

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

27 April 2024, 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**

April until May 2024

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 Orchideen Hoeve and other attractions.

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

## May 2024

### Liberation Day

5 May 2024

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 2024

### Kaeskoppenstad (exact date tbc)

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>

### Flag Day in Scheveningen

15 June 2024

'Vlaggetjesdag' celebrates the arrival of the New Herring (matjes). In addition, many different activities take place in Scheveningen (The Hague).

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

## July 2024

### Vierdaagse in Nijmegen

16 - 19 July 2024

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/>

### HISWA te water (exact date tbc)

'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.

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

## August 2024

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

23 August - 1 September 2024

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://oudemuziek.nl/festival/>

## September 2024

### Festival Masterly The Hague

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.masterlythehague.com/inhoud.php?lan=uk>

## October 2024

### Leiden's Liberation

2 - 3 October 2024

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.visitleiden.nl/en/highlights/history>

## November 2024

### Christmas market in the Fluweelengrot in Valkenburg

November until January 2024

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

### GLOW Eindhoven

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 2024

### Amsterdam Light Festival

December 2024 - January 2025

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### Saint Nicholas Day

5 December 2024

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 2024

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**

13 December 2024

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/discover-gouda/events/gouda-bij-kaarslicht>

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

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**

At the end of the year, the largest ice sculpture festival in Europe takes place in Zwolle. Only 100 km from the German border, numerous sculpture artists create figures of a special kind from 275,000 kg of ice and snow.

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

### **New Years Eve in Rotterdam**

31 December 2024

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

<http://hetnationalevuurwerk.nl/>

**Subject to change, 50670 Cologne, March 2022**

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