

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT BRABANT

The 'COVID-19 precautions' in the Netherlands are being relaxed gradually. Our freedom of movement is increasing. Now we can start making cautious (holiday) plans once again. To go out and about. Close to home at first, then maybe to the Netherlands. Be inspired by everything our beautiful province has to offer. We are really looking forward to welcoming you to North Brabant.

Obviously we are asking everyone to follow the [safety precautions](#) that have been prescribed by the Dutch government.

These precautions mean that the information on [visitbrabant.com](https://www.visitbrabant.com) may not be accurate. Be sure to check the website of the location you wish to visit.



North Brabant is situated in the south of The Netherlands, centrally located and just an hour's drive from Amsterdam and Düsseldorf in Germany. It is the most hospital, welcoming part of the Netherlands, with more than 2.5 million inhabitants, known locally as 'Brabanders'. The biggest cities are Eindhoven (pop. 230,000), Tilburg (pop. 210,000), Breda (pop. 180,000) and 's-Hertogenbosch (pop. 150,000).

Local tourist information points

The province's tourist information points are the ideal place to obtain information about local cities, the area, local sights, opening times, etc. Opening times vary by location, so it's best to check beforehand.

Paying for things in the Netherlands

- In some locations, you can ONLY pay by debit card, so make sure that you always have one with you.
- In many locations, a credit card is also accepted.
- There are no specific rules for tips, but 10% is a general rule of thumb if the service has been satisfactory. It's perfectly normal to round amounts up.

General opening times of shops

In North Brabant's largest cities – Breda, Eindhoven, Tilburg and 's-Hertogenbosch – the shops on the cities' main streets are open every Sunday from 12:00 until 17:00 or 18:00.

In general, most shops in most places open as follows:

Monday	12:00 to 18:00
Tuesday	09:00 to 18:00
Wednesday	09:00 to 18:00
Thursday	09:00 to 18:00
Friday	09:00 to 18:00
Saturday	09:00 to 17:00
Sunday	Closed



Late-night shopping is common in many locations, with shops open until 21:00, typically on a Thursday or Friday. Opening times on public holidays vary from city to city, village to village.

Banks

Banks are open from Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 17:00. You can obtain cash from any bank during the day and from most supermarkets during opening hours using your debit card. Public cash machines may be closed at night.

General telephone numbers

- General emergency number: 112
- Police: 0900-8844

Travel documents

You must keep a valid identity card with you at all times while travelling within Europe.

Traffic

The road network in the Netherlands is well signposted and in excellent condition. A significant proportion of the network is motorway. Major roads away from motorways are of excellent quality. You should pay close attention to traffic signage indicating maximum permitted speeds.

- The maximum permitted blood alcohol level for driving is 0.5‰.
- At roundabouts, you have priority over vehicles approaching from the right, unless specified otherwise.
- Hands-free calling is the only permitted method of telephoning while driving.

Parking

Parking is increasingly paid for. Most parking machines accept credit cards. Mobile parking using digital payments (smartphone, SMS) is also increasingly popular – Parkmobile is a useful app for this.

Electric vehicles

The number of charging points for electric vehicles in the Netherlands continues to expand, including in Brabant. It is important to check in advance where you can charge your electric vehicle. Websites such as oplaadpalen.nl can help you with this. You will need a charging cable and pass to charge your vehicle at a charging post.

Please note! Not all international charging passes work with all charging posts, so please check in advance. It is also important to check whether or not you need to pay for the parking at the charging post itself as this can vary between locations.

Cycling



- The Netherlands is a nation of cyclists and the facilities for cyclists are of high quality.
- Recreational cycling in the Netherlands is easy and you can plan out your own route using an official cycling network.
- There are ample charging points for electric bicycles, fietsoplaadpunten.nl/nederland/noord-brabant for further information
- Holding a mobile phone while cycling is prohibited and is punishable by fine.

Public transport – train

Tickets: You can use a disposable chip card (chipkaart) or the anonymous OV chip card. The disposable chip card is for one-time use only. They can be purchased at ticket machines or at [Nationale Spoorwegen](https://www.ns.nl) (NS) service desks in railway stations. With this ticket type, there is a €1 surcharge per journey. You must check in and out.

The anonymous OV chip card can be used more frequently and can also be purchased at NS ticket machines or service desks. There is a one-off fee of €7.50, but the card can also be used on buses, trams, metro trains and ferries. You must charge your OV chip card at a NS ticket machine before travel. Please note! To travel by train, you must have a minimum balance of €20 on your card. You also need to check the OV chip card in and out on the posts in the station.

Please note! NS ticket machines only accept debit cards.

Facilities vary from station to station. All stations have an NS ticket machine to allow you to purchase tickets. Larger stations also have a service desk or information desk.

All stations have yellow information boards detailing the timetable from the early morning until evening. There are also departure boards above the platforms showing the time of the next train and its destination. Should the timetable change, it will be announced and displayed on the departure board above the platform. You should always keep an eye on the departure board.

Public transport – bus

There is a good network of urban and regional buses in the Netherlands. To travel by bus, you must have a disposable chip card or anonymous OV chip card. You can always purchase disposable chip cards on the bus itself, but it is more expensive this way.

Please note! Buses only accept debit cards as payment.

Drinking water

The tapwater in North Brabant is of excellent quality and is safe to drink.

Public holidays in the Netherlands 2020

New Year's Day	Wednesday 1 January 2020
Good Friday	Friday 10 April 2020
Easter Sunday	Sunday 12 April 2020
Easter Monday	Monday 13 April 2020
King's Day	Monday 27 April 2020
Liberation Day	Tuesday 5 May 2020
Ascension Day	Thursday 21 May 2020
Pentecost	Sunday 31 May 2020
Whit Monday	Monday 1 June 2020
Christmas Day	Friday 25 December 2020
Boxing Day	Saturday 26 December 2020



School holidays in the Southern Netherlands

(as mandated by the government) Please note! These holiday periods are guidelines for schools

Spring holiday	22 February to 1 March
May holiday	25 April to 3 May
Summer holiday	11 July to 23 August
Autumn holiday	17 October to 25 October
Christmas holiday	19 December to 3 January 2021

