

DISTINCTLY DUTCH

An Introduction to Dutch Customs and Etiquette



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GEZELLIG!

WELCOME TO



Dutch "Cuisine" Starterpack



core ingredient



complete spice rack

deep fry everything into oblivion



holy water

boil vegetables until soggy



mash food into unrecognizable state



add raisins unnecessarily



bread enhancer



OR

✓ EFFICIENCY
✗ FLAVOR

deep-fried mystery meat balls



THIS REALLY ISN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN I SAID WE SHOULD GO DUTCH.



Dutch People

Nutritional Facts

Serving Size : 6 ft/183 cm*

Amount per serving : highly concentrated**

	% Daily Value
Reliability	100%
Stubbornness	250%
Punctuality	110%
Directness	2,000%
Hagelslag	50%
Political correctness	1%
Dairy	90%

*WARNING : May contain traces of stroopwafels.
Do not consume if allergic to strong opinions!*

* average Dutch male

** consume in small doses. Consult your doctor
if you feel insulted or offended in any way.



This is what makes the Dutch happy



Dutch Mentality

The Dutch are:

- Egalitarian
- Committed to compromise and consensus - Polder Model, OR (Works Council)
- Practical, no nonsense
- Well organized (rules & regulations)
- Thrifty (Going Dutch)
- Value and respect privacy (Individual Society)
- Like to complain
- Fond of travel, languages, other cultures
- Blunt - 'honest, straightforward'
- Like to make fun of themselves and each other
- Generous in donations for less fortunate
- Opinionated ('Dutch Uncle') - 'yes, but'
- Hospitable (Gezellig!) in their own way
- Open Society: curtains not closed
- Business minded - Be quick and factual
- Cooperation and trust is valued over performance
- Neighbor oriented: choose neighborhood before house

Golden Rules:

- 1) Tolerance
- 2) Moderation
- 3) Respect
- 4) Consider others

The Dutch don't like:

- Standing Out
- Flashiness
- Overconfidence
- Assertiveness
- Loudness
- Bragging
- Deviousness
- Sneakiness
- Antisocial behavior (by others ;)

Dutch Body Language

The Dutch are very vocal but sometimes use hand gestures to make a point:

- Crossed arms: assertive, stubborn
- Arms in side: passive aggressive or just observing, partly active
- Finger pointing at forehead: you are crazy!
- Moving hand across face and close: something is wrong with you, or: this is too much
- Finger tapping temple: smart, intelligent
- Wagging index finger: warning, making a point
- Pointing index finger at you: stressing a point
- Both hands stretched out: take it easy, you
- Slowly lift index finger - greeting (In countryside)
- Half hand open with thumb and index finger lifted: just a little bit
- Pulling down eyelid: you are in on my joking/ you know what I mean?
- Sharp up-nod of the head: what do you want?
- Moving index finger around ear: I'm on the phone
- Waving hand next to head: Lekker!



Advanced Dutch

hè hè

hé hé

ho ho

ja ja (quickly)

ja ja (slowly)

zo zo

poe poe

nou nou

nou (slowly)

ja, doe!

COCK
WAZEN
SPANISH
ENGLISH
WATER
STREET
and...
BOYCH

finally

wait a minute

wait a minute

don't rush me

I don't believe you

well well

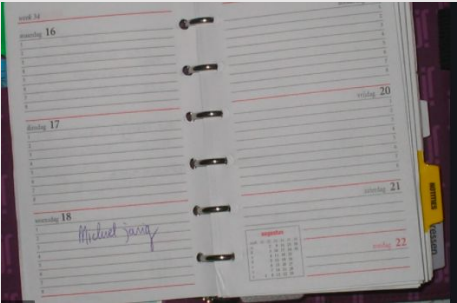
impressed

slightly impressed

I doubt that

no way

Distinctly Dutch:



Holy Grail



Eerst een bakkie doen



FEBO



Animal Ambulance volunteers



Sarah turns 50



Gay Pride

Dutch Birthday Party



Happiest Kids in the World: 3 R's Papa Day



Social Etiquette

Birthdays:

- Always say Happy Birthday
- Greet each person by shaking hands, looking them in the eye, saying 'Gefeliciteerd' and your name, then find an empty chair in the circle
- Bring a small gift
- Birthday Boy/Girl will unwrap in full view and add to gifts on mantle piece
- Host(ess) will offer once, then help yourself to food and drink
- Leave after coffee is served
- Office: Birthday Boy or Girl brings cake; no presents expected

Birth:

- No Showers, No Gender Reveal, No presents
- Receive Announcement
- Make appointment in first 2 weeks (kraamzorg)
- Bring small gift
- Have Beschuit Met Muisjes



Weddings:

- 2 ceremonies: Town Hall, Church
- Followed by reception
- Dinner for family and friends
- Party
- Each guest is invited for either one, two or all events: read invitation carefully!

Death:

- Parents live alone; go to senior flat/serviced apartment, retirement home or nursing home
- Euthanasia is legal under strict regulations
- No lavish funerals or public display of mourning
- Church service or secular gathering: all welcome
- Condolence Reception with coffee and cake
- Subdued colors, not necessarily black
- Royal Family or National Mourning: Flag Half Raised on public buildings and private homes

Do's and Don'ts

- Be yourself
- Be honest
- Be clear
- Make - and keep - appointments
- Be on time
- Respect privacy and family (dinner) time
- Be considerate
- Have humor
- Introduce yourself to your neighbors
- Invite them over for coffee or borrel
- Serve coffee to workmen
- Join social organizations/sports clubs
- Learn the language
- If in doubt: ask!
- Find a Mentor
- Skip lines
- Be boisterous
- Show off (position, wealth)
- Dress too casual in public
- Show annoyance
- Show up unannounced
- Bring lavish gifts
- Make extensive compliments
- Criticize, even constructively
- Cause commotion
- Overstay your welcome (remember the coffee ;)
- Force yourself on others
- Be prejudiced or antisocial
- Talk about money/salary, politics, sports or what you don't like about the Netherlands (even if they agree, they won't appreciate your meddling with/have an opinion on their/Dutch affairs);
- The weather - and Praise - are always safe!
- EVER FORGET A BIRTHDAY!

Want to read more? Check the ASH Library Libguide:

<https://libguides.ash.nl/c.php?g=620204&p=4905241>

Q & A



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BEDANKT!

DOEI!

OR

HOUDOE!