



# PAISES BAJOS (HOLANDA)



## GEOGRAPHY / CLIMATE

are a state in Western Europe, on the shores of the North Sea, between Belgium and Germany. Its name, *Nederlanden* is due to the fact that a part of the north and west of the country's territory lies below sea level. To the southeast of the country lie the so-called Upper Highlands, which rise a little above sea level.

It is a territory with a temperate oceanic climate. It is characterized by westerly winds, especially strong in winter. Heavy rains abound and temperatures are moderate. As it is at a fairly high latitude, winters are harsh and frosty. It has a rainfall typical of an oceanic coast, with an annual average of 700-800 mm, frequent rainfall and fog. It is a country of high environmental humidity (77% annual average), increased by drainage channels and river branches, since the network of rivers and canals measure 4832 kilometers in total.



## LANGUAGE

The official language of the Netherlands is Dutch, spoken by more than 98% of the country's population. Dutch is also spoken and has official status in Aruba, Bonaire, Belgium, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Suriname. It is a West Germanic language, belonging to the branch of the Lower Franconian languages, which originated in the Early Middle Ages and was standardized in the sixteenth century.



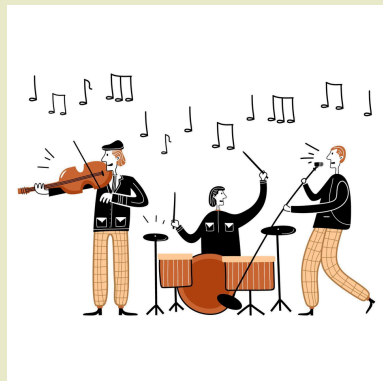
## POLITICAL SYSTEM

they have a parliamentary democratic political system. This system is based on the separation of powers between the executive, the legislative and the judiciary.

Executive power in the Netherlands is vested in the monarch, currently King Willem-Alexander. The legislative branch in the Netherlands is composed of two chambers: the First Chamber and the Second Chamber. The judiciary in the Netherlands is made up of different instances, from local courts to the Supreme Court.

## SOCCER

The Dutch national football team is one of the most important and prestigious teams in the world. It has participated in twelve editions of the World Cup, where it has been runner-up in three editions of the competition: 1974, 1978 and 2010; and was also a semifinalist in two other editions: 1998 and 2014. In addition, he has competed ten times in the European Championship, winning the title in 1988. Also, the team won a bronze medal in the Olympic tournament of 1908, 1912 and 1920. They were runners-up in the UEFA Nations League in the first edition held in 2019. In the 1970s, it received the nickname of the Clockwork Orange due to the color of its uniform and the excellent level of play achieved in those years, total football,<sup>3</sup> when it managed to reach two consecutive World Cup finals, in which it lost.



## MUSIC

One of the most popular forms of traditional music in the Netherlands is folk music, which has been passed down from generation to generation over the centuries. The folk music of the Netherlands includes folk songs, ballads, and instrumental melodies that reflect the daily lives of ordinary people.

## IMPORTANT MONUMENTS

### 1. Kubuswoning Cube House

Cube houses, or *Kubuswoning*, form an urbanization with an innovative structure. They were designed by the Dutch architect Piet Blom and, as their name suggests, they are authentic cubes.

### 2. The mills of Kinderdijk

This country would have a good part of its territory flooded if it were not for the complex drainage system, which requires the action of the mills.

### 3. Efteling

Whether you're travelling with family or adults, it's worth stopping at Efteling. It is the most important amusement park in the Netherlands.



