



We help you get there

Candidate Information Pack

Utrecht, The Netherlands  
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**Contents**

- 1. Utrecht ..... 3
  - 1.1 Overview..... 3
  - 1.2 Things to do in Utrecht..... 4
- 2. Cost of Living..... 6
- 3. Transport..... 8
- 4. Accommodation..... 10



# 1. Utrecht

## 1.1 Overview



Utrecht, city and municipality, is the capital and most populous city of the Dutch province of Utrecht. It is located in the eastern corner of the Randstad conurbation, and is the fourth largest city of the Netherlands with a population of 316,448 on 1 February 2012.

Utrecht's ancient city centre features many buildings and structures from the Early Middle Ages. It has been the religious centre of the Netherlands since the eighth century. Currently it is the see of the Archbishop of Utrecht, the most important Dutch Roman Catholic leader.

Utrecht is also the see of the archbishop of the Old Catholic church, titular head of the Union of Utrecht (Old Catholic), and the location of the offices of the main Protestant church. Until the Dutch Golden Age Utrecht was the city of most importance of the Netherlands until Amsterdam became its cultural and most populous centre.

Utrecht is host to Utrecht University, the largest university of the Netherlands, as well as several other institutes for higher education. Due to its central position within the country, it is an important transport hub for both rail and road transport. It has the second highest number of cultural events in the Netherlands, after Amsterdam.

## 1.2 Things to do in Utrecht

Although seemingly dull at first, much of Utrecht's old centre has survived intact, its network of canals, cobbled lanes and old gabled houses at their prettiest around the Domkerk, the city's cathedral. Domkerk apart, it's the general appearance and university atmosphere of the old town that is its appeal rather than any specific sight.



Museum Catharijneconvent shows the present, past and future of Christianity in Holland. What makes it unique is that the collection contains both Protestant and Catholic works. The largest Rietveld collection can be seen at Centraal Museum. Opposite Centraal Museum lies the Dick Bruna House, where you can learn everything about Miffy.

When you visit Utrecht, you also have to visit the Dom Tower. The highest and oldest church tower in Holland is Utrecht's main landmark. The Dom Tower was built between 1321 and 1382 and is 112 meters high. Even if you can't see it, you are still likely to hear one of its thirteen bells that weigh between 880 and 18,000 pounds.



Utrecht has eight fortresses, which no longer serve a military purpose. Located in areas of scenic beauty, the fortresses are a sight to be seen. The fortresses of Utrecht are a part of the New Dutch Waterline. This was a strip of land which, when flooded, made up a defense line. The main part of the New Dutch Waterline lies in the province of Utrecht and around the city of Utrecht.



You can visit DierenPark Amersfoort and its many inhabitants all year round. The park welcomes people of all ages. Besides just being a lot of fun, the also park hopes to educate the younger visitors about nature. There you can experience close encounters with 1,500 animals. Sometimes, the only thing that separates you from the animals is a pane of glass. Come nose to nose with impressive tigers, stand face to face with curious giraffes and see eye to eye with playful elephants.



Kasteel de Haar is the largest castle of Holland and is located just outside Utrecht and a half an hour drive from Amsterdam. De Haar has everything you expect from a castle; towers, turrets, moats, gates and suspension bridges. The castle is also home to many art objects. Next to the castle you can find a romantic chapel and beautiful parks and gardens. Without a doubt Kasteel de Haar is one of the most luxurious castles of Europe.

The Railway Museum in Utrecht, Het Spoorwegmuseum, established in 1927 is dedicated to preserving historical equipment from the Dutch national railway. In 1954 the museum was permanently housed in the Maliebaan Station in Utrecht. A major renovation occurred in the late 1900's, with the addition of new and modernized facilities. In 2002 the building was completely remodeled with a more public friendly appeal featuring interactive exhibits, drawing hundreds of thousands of delighted visitors.



## 2. Cost of Living

<b>Restaurants</b>	Avg.	Range
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	17.00 €	15.00 - 20.00
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	52.50 €	30.00 - 100.00
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	7.33 €	6.00 - 8.00
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	3.50 €	3.00 - 4.00
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	3.25 €	2.00 - 5.00
Cappuccino (regular)	2.67 €	2.50 - 3.00
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	2.30 €	2.00 - 3.00
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	2.00 €	1.50 - 2.50

<b>Markets</b>	Avg.	
Milk (regular), 1 liter	0.70 €	0.58 - 1.00
Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)	1.35 €	1.20 - 1.50
Eggs (12)	2.25 €	1.50 - 3.00
Fresh Cheese (1kg)	8.50 €	5.00 - 12.00
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	7.00 €	5.00 - 7.70
Apples (1kg)	2.00 €	1.00 - 1.50
Oranges (1kg)	1.50 €	1.50 - 2.75
Potato (1kg)	1.80 €	1.20 - 2.50

Water (1.5 liter bottle)	0.70 €	0.40 - 1.00
Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)	6.00 €	5.00 - 7.00
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	0.80 €	0.70 - 1.20
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	1.20 €	1.00 - 1.40
Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)	5.40 €	

### 3. Transport

Because of its central location, Utrecht is well connected to the rest of the Netherlands and has a well-developed public transport network.

#### Heavy and light rail

Utrecht Centraal is the main railway station of Utrecht. There are also some smaller stations in the suburbs: Utrecht Lunetten, Utrecht Overvecht, Utrecht Terwijde, Utrecht Zuilen and Vleuten. Utrecht Maliebaan closed in 1939 and has since been converted into the Dutch Railway Museum.

From Utrecht Centraal, there are regular services to all major Dutch cities; direct services to Schiphol Airport began in March 2006 with the opening of the Utrechtboog. International InterCityExpress (ICE) services to Germany as well as regular local trains to all areas surrounding Utrecht also depart from Utrecht Centraal.

#### Bus transport

The main local and regional bus station of Utrecht is located adjacent to Utrecht Centraal railway station. Local buses in Utrecht are operated by GVVU – its services include a high-frequency service to the Uithof university district. Regional buses from the city are operated by Arriva, Connexion, Qliner and Veolia. Utrecht Centraal's bus station is the busiest in the Netherlands.

The Utrecht Centraal railway station is also served by the pan-European services of Eurolines. Furthermore, it acts as departure and arrival place of many coach companies serving holiday resorts in Spain and France – and during winter in Austria and Switzerland.

Transportation	Avg.	Range
One-way Ticket (local transport)	1.89 €	0.95 - 2.50
Monthly Pass	79.98 €	69.95 - 90.00
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	7.50 €	7.50 - 7.50
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	1.00 €	1.00 - 1.00



Gasoline (1 liter)	1.69 €	1.50 - 1.85
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 90 KW Trendline (Or Equivalent New Car)	22,190.00 €	22,390.00 - 35,000.00

## 4. Accommodation

<b>Utilities (Monthly)</b>	Avg.	
Basic (Electricity, Gas, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment	120.00 €	
Internet (6 Mbps, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	9.95 €	
<b>Rent Per Month</b>	Avg.	
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	800.00 €	700.00 900.00
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	500.00 €	
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	1,400 €	1,300.00 1,500.00
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	1,000.00 €	800.00 1,200.00
<b>Buy Apartment Price</b>	Avg.	
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	2,711.00 €	
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Centre	2,272. €	