

Dear friends,

Looking for the fun part?: go straight to the bottom of this e-mail. All others: just continue reading.

In the middle of the vacation season 2011 we think it is necessary to slow down. Just for a minute to discuss safety.



We, ProHolland motor vacations, think the fun of a vacation already starts during preparations. Why-o-why do people pack their backs at the very latest moment possible?? Why-o-why leave home in a rush? But most of all: why-o-why aren't we able to enjoy the preparation? (This isn't common sense.)

Tip: start early!

Home

Do leave your house properly: gas is shut off, heating turned low, alarm system on. But what about the electricity. Did you think about a possible lightning strike? High water levels? Or theft? Are the windows closed and did you ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your belongings? Automatic light switches are perfect. The electronic ones you can program day-by-day are even better.

For more info: ask the local police for tips.

How to get there

Next step is the journey. Some people go by plane, others go for a long ride on their own bikes. The bike ride can be the second phase of having fun. It can be a 'pain in the ass' also. Before driving a day at once maybe it is a good idea to do a little try-out. Pack you motorcycle like you would do during your trip towards the Netherlands and discover your bike is handling different then it normally does. Most of the times: more difficult. Note: don't forget to check the tire pressure. This is very important, not only for your safety, but also: don't be surprised your back tire is gone running low pressure.

Tip: an extra towel can be 'an ass safer.....'



This is you captain speaking.
Due to the birthday of our stewardess
we are going to do 20 looping's.....

And now the plane. Travelling by plane most of the time means crossing time zones. In common words: travelling west to east (or vice versa) means the daytime will change according to your normal rhythm. Best thing to do: adjust as soon as possible to the new hours. Sometimes it is better to stay awake during the flight (drinking coffee) and sometimes it is better to take a nap. **For more info:** surf the web. Lots of good tips and suggestions are available. Your own doctor also knows what to do.

Medicine

First of all: don't forget them.

Second: put more than enough in your luggage.

Third: take the description with you. Maybe the exact brand of your own medicine isn't available in the Netherlands. But for sure we have drugs, which are able to do the same job like your own. In this case our doctor needs to see the original description.

Tip: tell you guide which medicines you need. In case of an emergency he knows what to do or can forward this info to the emergency doctor. Even better: tell it to ProHolland during booking and repeat it to the guide.

A.M.N. Makdoembaka, Artsaris Klieverink 1 1194 RC Amsterdam Z.O. Tel. 020 - 690 19 57	PRAKTIJKBEZOEK: zonder afspraak: 8-12.30 u. na afk. afspraak: 9-12 u.
ZAG	Praktijk en Nummerrek: aanvragen afhalen (naar 5-10 u)
<i>Broodrecept</i>	
nr.	datum: 21 januari 1998
Twintig Surinaamse puntjes en een brood met de volgende keuzes: Panne, knip of Casino wit of bruin	
hr./mevr./kind:	A'dam
adres:	<i>Makdoembaka</i> <small>4.79002/12001</small>

I'm not sure this will help.....

Kids/parents/ friends/ neighbors

We have developed a special searchers form*. Fill it in and leave it at home. Perhaps even better: send it to the ones you think will need it. In case something bad might happen nothing is more frustrating than not be able to contact the people you need to. It is a small thing to do but how often do we leave for a couple of days without telling others where we are?

Tip: the emergency number of ProHolland is 24-7 available during the holiday season. USE IT IF NECESSARY!

* <http://proholland.com/index.php?pid=5#searchersform>

Cell phone

Yes yes yes. There are still mobile phones which operate perfectly in one part of the world, but are useless at the other side. The single-band have this problem. Please be aware if you have such a phone before you tell your loved ones 'just give me a call, I call you back from the Netherlands.'

Tip: they can send ProHolland an email, give us a call (or an sms) an we will forward the message.

Tip 2: in this case don't use the emergence phone.

I.C.E.



Ice or i.c.e. ??

In case of emergency. Put I.C.E. in your mobile phone. Around the world emergency people know what it means. Give I.C.E. to ProHolland: now we know who to contact in case it is necessary.

Tip: every single mobile has it's own identification number. IMEI: International Mobile Equipment Number. The chassis number of your handy. In case you lose your phone, get robbed or what other kind of bad luck, it may be necessary to use this IMEI number. The police need it to identify your mobile phone and the provider sometimes needs it to block it.

You don't know the IMEI? Simply use `*#06#`

Tip: write it down where other people can't find it

Papers / documents

Ever lost your driving licence? Or passport? Or other valuable papers. Some internet providers offer great services to store all the important documents for you. In case 'shi....' happens they provide the information helping you to solve the problems you have. But there are more easy ways to do this: simply scan the documents and send them by mail to your wife. Or a second account on your own name. The mail provider will store the info for a very long time. For free.

Tip: don't save it on a USB. You never know if someone finds it where the info ends up.

Common sense



Whatever we do, all the preparations we do, all the precautionary measures we make.....
In the end it comes all down to common sense. Think before you act. Your intuition often tells you the right thing to do. Just listen to your inner voice. If it tells you to go back: do it. In case you don't feel happy doing what you are doing: stop it. Just behave like you do at home. People find out soon enough you are a foreigner. Or even worse: a tourist flashing around with big cameras and/or expensive watches telling the unwanted 'yes we have lots of cash money.' Just use your common sense.

Yes, we have our share of burglars, pick pockets, thieves and many others 'too lazy to work'. The golden rule is: just make it a little bit more difficult for them to get your money. They will border another tourist. Bad for them, good for you. Common sense.

Tip: be yourself, don't be naif, know other people are watching you and use lots of common sense.

Fun part: this is Dutch, this is common sense

The well-known things about the Netherlands.

Probably you start with things like windmills, tulips and wooden shoes. Sex, drugs, gays, canals. Amsterdam and cows. But there is more. Much more. Think about it. We are small and situated under the sea level. Not all boys and girls have blond hair. And not every dad is using a bicycle to go to his work. More and more families serve more than one cookie during coffee time and we aren't splitting every bill.



Some people think the Dutch are tolerant: sex, drugs, gays. Or ‘soft’ handlers of criminals. Others think we are arrogant. Some say we are strait forward. We call it common sense.

Most think we like to save our money. “Going Dutch” tells it all..... Kijken kijken en niets kopen. Looking, looking but buy..... nothing.

Appointments. Wow, here we have something. Never ever forget an appointment. It is considered very rude to be late (or even worse: not showing up*). A 17.00 o’clock invitation means coffee. A 18.00 o’clock means diner. So now you know. Don’t forget a little present in case you are invited.

* we think it is common sense simply to be there: if you won’t show up what is the use of making an appointment in the first place?

Yes we like to discuss things before we make a final decision. We call it “de Polder-model”. In our government the different political parties have to cooperate with each other in case they like to order a new law. Often they meet in the middle. Maybe it is here, where our tolerance is born. You see everyone happy: common sense.

We pay tax. Lots of it. We pay BTW, BPM, tax to the country, tax to the county, tax to the city, excise and in case you own a dog you have to pay dog-tax too! Hmmm: common sense??? (right now I myself am getting a little confused)

Cosines is key factor #1 living in the most dense country in the world. Or is it tolerance?

Why we are the people we are: common sense I think. We make the best of our situation. Don’t you do the same at home?

The Netherlands are a great place to live. And for sure an even better place to spend a holiday. We would really like to show you around. We invite you to try “the real Dutch experience”. We are more than happy to learn you all about ‘common sense’. At least our common sense!

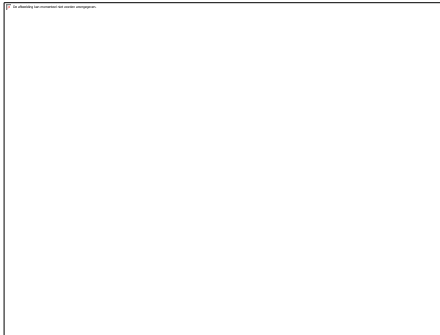


We wish you lots of common sense this summer. Have fun!

p.s. If you don't like the e-mails: just let us know and we'll stop them. (Common sense too, we think)

Yours faithfully,

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p.s. if you aren't interested please let us know and we'll stop the e-mails