



Driving & Biking
in
The Netherlands



What we will discuss

- Significant Differences in traffic rules
- Road signs
- Parking
- Driver's License
- Biking Basics
- Public Transportation



Significant Differences with Other Countries

- Traffic: all road users including drivers, bicycles, and pedestrians
- Road: car lane + bicycle lane + sidewalk
- Cyclists are part of traffic
- No Right Turn on a red traffic light (Except sometimes for cyclists)
- Traffic from the right has the right of way in equal intersections
- Dutch traffic is quite safe and organized – **let's keep it that way!**



Dutch Road Signs



Prohibition Signs:
Round, white with red

Warning Signs:
Triangular, yellow or white background, red border



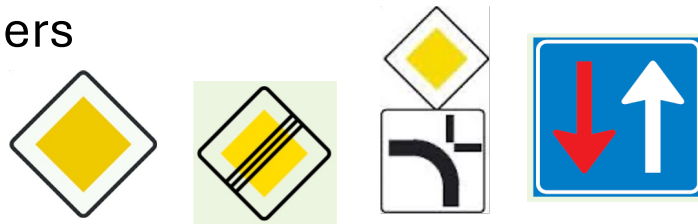
Information Signs:
Blue with white lettering

Priority - the basics

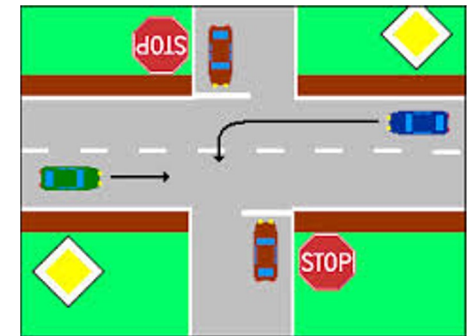
- Unmarked intersections
 - Traffic from the right has the right of way (and may not stop!)

- Marked intersections

- You have priority as indicated by yellow signs with white borders



- You have to yield as indicated by red warning signs



Rotondes (roundabouts)



- **We love them!** (And they are everywhere...)
- Safest intersections but prone to small accidents
- **Yield to traffic already in the roundabout**
- Notice “shark’s teeth” at entrance
- Always travel to the right
- Signal when leaving—or risk a fine!
- **Yield to bikes and pedestrians crossing when entering/exiting roundabout!**



Speedlimits



- In town: 30 km/h except on some through roads where it is 50 km/h
- Outside of town 70 (like N44) or 80 km/h
- Maximum 100 km/h on the highways during daytime (6:00AM-7:00PM)
 - at night this increases to 130 km/h (unless otherwise)
- Digital signs indicate changes to speed limit changes on highways
- Too fast? Automatic speed cameras will send you your fine in 2 days... Now that's convenient!



Parking

- Free street parking unless indicated otherwise
- Most parking machines accept bank cards or pay by app: EasyPark (Look for zone code)
- Blue zones (use of parking dial):
 - 2 hour limit
 - Set your blue parking dial at arrival time



Other important rules

- Seatbelts mandatory
- Children <1.35m (4ft. 5in.) need booster/car seat
- Hands-free mobile phones
- Pass on left, don't drive slow in left lane
- Must have a Netherlands driver's license after 6 month
- **No drinking & driving!**
 - Legal Blood Alcohol Limit is 0.05% (~2 glasses)
 - Applies to scooters and mopeds as well



Obtaining a Dutch Driver's License

- If the 30% tax ruling applies to you
 - No test needed. Exchange in foreign license
 - Complete Medical Form online www.cbr.nl
 - Application through Gemeente (City Hall)
- If the rule does not apply (unfortunately)
 - Sign up with driving school
<https://www.cbr.nl/nl/rijschoolzoeker.html>
 - Take lessons
 - Pass theory exam and practical driving test





Biking in the Netherlands

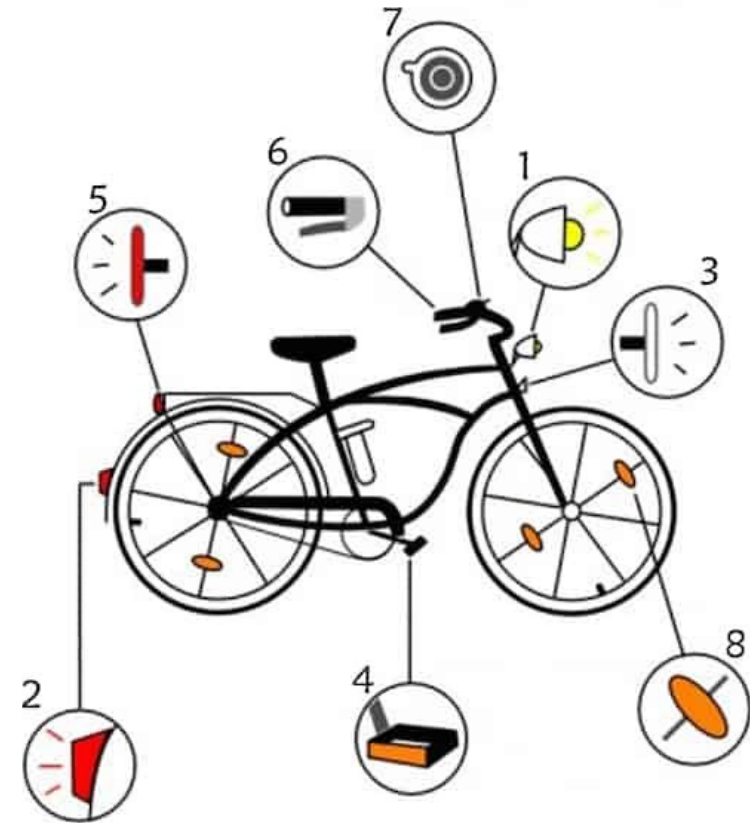
Important Bicycle Information

- There is a very extensive network of bicycle lane in the Netherlands making it a **safe, fun and convenient way to go around**
- Bikes must follow traffic rules, but many do not – look out for them! (cars at fault if crash)
- When biking, use hand signals – point to indicate turns
- Separate traffic lights for bikes at major intersections
- **Bike theft common** – lock your bike!
- Bike Insurance and helmet are optional
- Phoning/texting while biking illegal



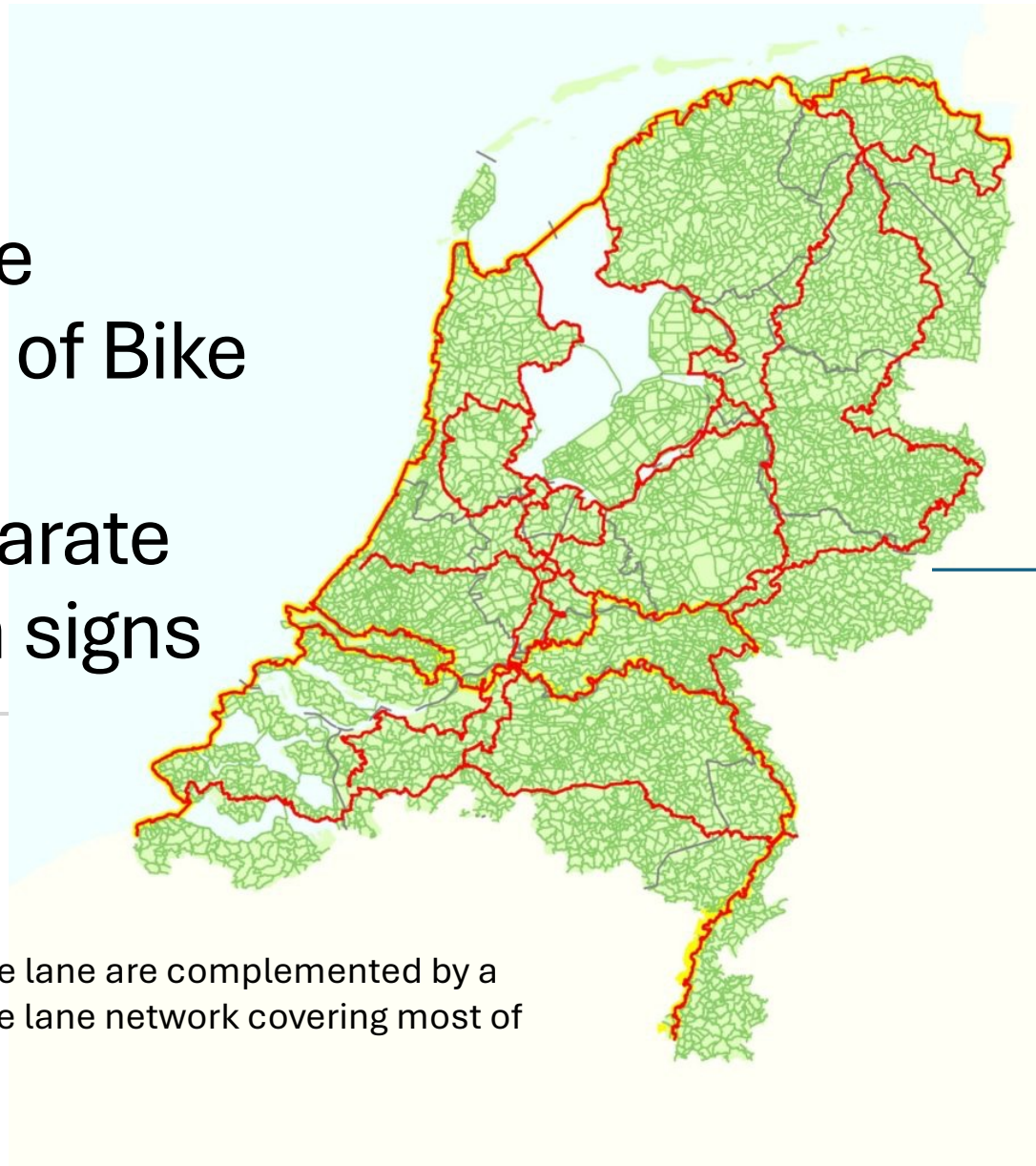
All Bikes Need:

1. Front light (white or yellow)
2. Rear light (red)
3. Front reflector (white)
4. Reflectors on the pedals (yellow)
5. Rear reflector (red)
6. Brakes
7. Bell
8. Reflectors in the wheel or on the side of the tire



Police will check at the start of the winter season for proper lighting

Extensive
Network of Bike
Lanes
with separate
direction signs



Many local bicycle lane are complemented by a long-distance bike lane network covering most of the Netherlands





Except for bikes

Traffic signs for cyclists



Fietspad – or Bicycle Lane



No bike parking



Right turn allowed even when red



Fietspad – or Bicycle Lane



No entry, bikes included

Bikes and phones



- Same rule applies to bikes and cars:
- No biking and holding your phone at the same time!
- \$100 euro fine when caught



Fatbikes are fun... but dangerous

- It's prohibited to ride e-bikes that can go faster than the regulated 25 km
- If a bike is modified to go faster riders are subject to a 310 euro fine and may have the bike confiscated
- Helmets not required for bikes going under 25 km, but highly recommended - your decision
- Fat bikes cause frequent accidents as riders are often too young and these are heavier than regular bikes
- Rules around fatback use may become stricter





“OV” or Openbaar Vervoer

Public Transportation

Public Transportation

- Safe, generally clean and reliable
- Good alternative to travelling by car, especially into city centers
- International trains to Brussels (2 hours), Paris (3 hours), London (4 hours) and many other locations
- Train travel can be complimented with an “OV-Fiets:
 - Bicycles at train stations
 - €3.95 for 24 hours
 - Download season pass onto OV
 - <https://www.ns.nl/en/door-to-door/ov-fiets>



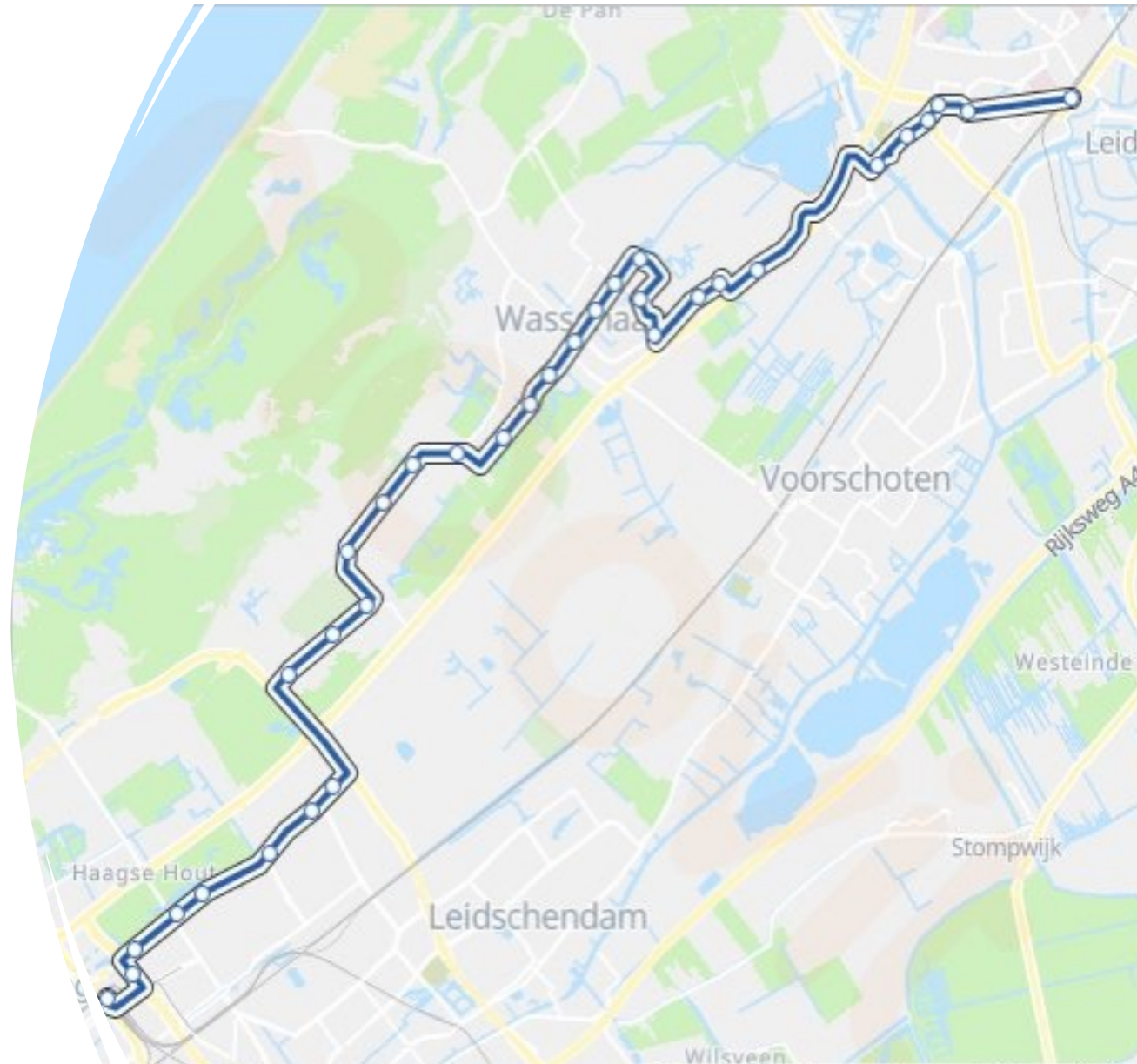
Buying Tickets

- You have to “tap in” and “tap out” (don’t forget)
- Best option is the OV-Chipkaart
 - Works on all Dutch Buses, Trams, Trains, and OV Bicycles (age 4+)
 - Not on international trains
 - Buy at train station or order a card <https://www.ov-chipkaart.nl>
 - Reloadable
 - Generic or personal
- Since this year, you can tap in and out of domestic buses, trains and trams using your (Dutch) ATM card
- International train travel can be purchased online (or at mayor stations) <https://www.nsinternational.com/>



Bus 43

- Bus line 43 connects Wassenaar with Leiden Central Station and Den Haag Central Station
- Both take about 30 minutes and it departs every 15 minutes during day time



A photograph of Max Verstappen, a Dutch Formula 1 driver, celebrating on his Red Bull RB18 race car. He is wearing his racing helmet and suit, with his right arm raised in a fist pump. The car is black and yellow, featuring the Red Bull logo and various sponsor logos like Mobil 1, Honda, and Tezos. The scene is set on a racetrack with a crowd of spectators in the background under an overcast sky. The text "Dutch all think they are driving World Champions" is overlaid in white on the image.

Dutch all think they are
driving World Champions