

TRAVEL GUIDE

Top 30 things to do while studying at Fontys Venlo



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1. Amsterdam

Of course we start this list off with our capital city Amsterdam. Cruise past canal houses, visit the Van Gogh museum, see how Anne Frank lived and enjoy the amazing atmosphere of this vibrant city. Click on this link for the top 20 things to do in Amsterdam:

<https://www.iamsterdam.com/en/see-and-do/things-to-do/top-20-things-to-do-in-amsterdam>



2. Windmills Zaanse Schans and Kinderdijk



The most beautiful places to see typical Dutch windmills. The Zaanse Schans is a typical Dutch picture with the wooden windmills and houses from the 18th and 19th centuries, attractive bridges and of course clogs, the famous Dutch wooden shoes. This place is world famous and visited by many many tourists.

<https://www.dezaanseschans.nl/en/>

Kinderdijk, a little less touristic and with more windmills. The mills, which have different functions, are situated in a beautiful green landscape along the water. You can also view the mills from a guided boat trip.

<https://www.kinderdijk.com/>

3. Traditional Dutch villages Volendam and Marken

The most famous traditional Dutch fishing villages are Volendam and Marken. Volendam is known worldwide for its fishing culture, the beautifully colored houses, the dyke and the traditional Dutch costume photos you can be part of. You can visit Volendam in combination with Marken. Marken has monumental wooden houses, white drawbridges and a fishing port. It is a photogenic village with many visitors in high season.

<https://www.iamsterdam.com/en/plan-your-trip/day-trips/old-holland/smalltown-harbours/volendam>



4. Keukenhof



The biggest and most beautiful spring garden in the world with 7 million flowers including the famous Dutch tulips! More than a million visitors from all over the world visit the Keukenhof every year. The best time to visit is in spring (mid-March to mid-May).

<https://keukenhof.nl/en/>

5. The Efteling

The Efteling is the most popular amusement park in the Netherlands, with more than 4.5 million visitors a year. Are you looking for exciting rollercoasters, enchanting attractions or spectacular parkshows? Everyone will find what they are looking for at the Efteling, the biggest theme park in The Netherlands.

<https://www.efteling.com/en/park>



6. Giethoorn



Because of the beautiful houses and many canals, Giethoorn is also called 'Venice of the Netherlands'. The village has several museums displaying its history and the local area. The best way to see Giethoorn is by boat, which will take you to places that are otherwise inaccessible. You can also discover the area by bicycle.

<https://giethoorntourism.com/>

7. Seaside towns Scheveningen, Zandvoort, Bloemendaal and Noordwijk

The Dutch coast is a great place to explore. Seaside towns have a certain appeal and are often an ideal combination of beach, nature & culture. Some of the best-known seaside resorts are Scheveningen with its iconic pier, Zandvoort with the racing circuit and the chic Bloemendaal and Noordwijk. Best time to visit is april until October.

<https://scheveningen.com/en/>
<https://www.visitzandvoort.com/>
<https://www.visithaarlem.com/en/what-to-do/surrounding-area/beach/bloemendaal>
<https://www.noordwijk.info/en/discover-noordwijk/visit-noordwijk>



8. Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht



Besides Amsterdam, you should also visit the other big cities of the Netherlands:

Rotterdam is the second-largest city in the country located in the South West of the Netherlands. Rotterdam is a city with many faces; a cool port city, trendy nightlife city, chic shopping city and a real artist hotspot. But above all, Rotterdam is the architectural city of the Netherlands, in which innovation is central and where the skyline is constantly changing.

<https://en.rotterdam.info/>



The Hague is the third-largest city of the country and has a beach directly on the North Sea coast. The city boasts many monuments, chic hotels, and is the political heart of the country. The government is run from the historic Binnenhof and the King's office palace can be found on the Noordeinde. Also visit the Peace Palace, where the United Nations and the International Court of Justice are located.

<https://denhaag.com/en>



Utrecht is the lively, beating heart of the country, an ancient university town built around the Dom Tower. Utrecht is known for its city center with wharf cellars along the canals housing cafes and terraces by the water. And don't forget to visit the largest and most luxurious castle of the Netherlands, Kasteel De Haar.

<https://www.visit-utrecht.com/>

9. National Parks The Hoge Veluwe and The Biesbosch

The Hoge Veluwe

The Veluwe is one of the largest, most beautiful and versatile nature reserves in the Netherlands, with extensive flora and fauna. You can (rent a) bicycle and hike through the beautiful forest and heathland landscape that was once formed by glacial moraines. You can spot deer, wild pigs and foxes.

<https://www.hogeveluwe.nl/en>



The Biesbosch

This water-rich nature and recreation area is one of the most beautiful places in the Netherlands. The Biesbosch mainly consists of waterways, but also has walking and cycling paths in the forest and along the river. Many species of fish, birds and even beavers live in the nature reserve! A nice place to explore by boat or kayak which you can rent during your visit.

<https://np-debiesbosch.nl/english-information/>



10. Gouda and Woerden Cheese markets



The Dutch are sometimes called cheese heads because cheese plays an important role in the Dutch economy. Dutch people love cheese and eat about 15 kilos cheese per year per person. There are five cheese markets, namely in Alkmaar, Edam, Hoorn, Gouda and Woerden.

Today, the cheese markets are more tourist demonstrations or reconstructions from earlier times. Gouda and Woerden are the most traditional. The cheese markets are located in the middle of a beautiful historic city center where you can also visit museums to see how cheese is actually made.

<https://welcometogouda.com/>

<https://www.beleefwoerden.com/en>



11. Maastricht

Maastricht is the capital city of the Limburg province and has a lot to offer for a fun day out. The cozy atmosphere, summer terraces, historic buildings, museums and markets make the city a popular destination in Limburg. If you like good food and drinks, you don't have to look far here. The main attractions of Maastricht are the bubbly Vrijthof, the Old City Gate, the Sint Servaas Bridge and the Basilica of Sint Servaas. Enough to see and experience!

<https://www.visitmaastricht.com/>



12. Valkenburg



Discover the secrets of the Castle ruins in Valkenburg and wander through underground tunnels. The tunnels lead to the Velvet Cave, one of the oldest marl caves in Limburg. The center of Valkenburg contains numerous atmospheric pubs and restaurants. From the pleasant city center you can easily walk to Valkenburg Castle and the Roman Catacombe.

<https://www.visitzuidlimburg.com/discover/>

13. The Meinweg

A beautiful environment with changing landscapes and unique flora and fauna in an oasis of tranquility. The Meinweg has a so-called terraced landscape. This means that there are three plateaus, the highest of which is 80 meters above sea level. Enjoy the oak forests, the clear streams, the heather and the wide grasslands. In the National Park De Meinweg there are various possibilities to make a tour accompanied by a guide.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/provinces/limburg/de-meinweg-2.htm>
<https://www.natuurparkenlimburg.nl/np/de-meinweg>



14. Hoensbroek Castle



You can relive the Middle Ages in the enchanting surroundings of Hoensbroek Castle. The castle was built in 1250 and you can admire more than 40 furnished castle rooms. In this huge castle, adventures from distant pasts come to life. Discover the beautiful ballroom, climb the Medieval tower and shiver in the ancient dungeon.

<https://www.kasteelhoensbroek.nl/en/>

15. Snowworld Landgraaf

Snowworld in Landgraaf is the largest indoor ski village in Europe. Wide slopes, lifts and ski instructors, everything for the real winter sports feeling is available. Every day is the perfect day for winter sports here; there is always fresh snow, good service and expert guidance.

<https://www.snowworld.com/landgraaf/en>



16. Boarder triangle/tripoint



Drielandenpunt (three country point) is one of the most famous sights in Limburg, at 322 meters it is the highest point in the Netherlands. This is the point where the borders of the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium meet. You can experience a great view from the two lookout towers. The Skywalk watchtower is 34 meters high and has a platform made of glass.

<https://www.drielandenpunt.nl/omgeving/wat-te-doen/>

17. Themepark Toverland

Get enchanted by amusement park Toverland! Swing through the air on cool roller coasters such as the Troy - the fastest and longest wooden roller coaster in Europe. Toverland is packed with cool rides and shows. With 6 different worlds, there is something for everyone. From cool areas full of excitement and action to imaginative experiences for all.

<https://www.toverland.com/en/>



18. The Maasplassen



Water sports and recreation on the Maasplassen in the heart of Limburg. The diversity of the Maasplassen area makes it an absolute mecca for all water sports enthusiasts. You can swim here, surf, sail, dive, row, canoe or choose a faster or more extreme water sport such as water skiing, flyboarding and wakeboarding. In the summer months the beautiful beaches and hip beach clubs are the place to be.

<https://vvvmiddenlimburg.nl/en/water-sports-recreation-maasplassen-limburg-netherlands-holland>

19. Designer Outlet Roermond

The Designer Outlet shopping center is located on the edge of the city center of Roermond and attracts millions of visitors every year. Here you will find 200 international designer brands (including Nike, Guess, Prada, Armani etc.), 185 shops and 25 restaurants and cafes. A wonderful day of shopping with attractive prices and special offers.

<https://www.mcarthurglen.com/outlets/en/nl/designer-outlet-roermond/>



20. GaiaZOO



This zoo was nominated 'Best day out in the Netherlands' in 2020 thanks to its new and unique zoo concept. At GaiaZOO you can take a journey around the world in just one day; you can feel like you're in the African Savannah. Meet the world's most beautiful animals face to face, such as the mighty gorillas, impressive rhinos, stately giraffes and lions. Enter the squirrel monkey forest, where the monkeys climb and swing through the branches above your head!

<https://www.gaiazoo.nl/en/>

21. The inner city of Venlo

Venlo has a historical city centre. With its many shops, the Vleesstraat (the main street), connects the south of the city center with the north and the central market square with the old town hall in the middle. From the central market square you can wander through the winding lanes, home to unique shops and inviting places to eat and drink. From the central market it's just a few minutes walk to the newest district in the city centre, the Maasboulevard. The Maasboulevard is a contemporary urban space with numerous shops displaying known brands. The best place for a night on the town is the Parade. Here you will find a large number of bars and restaurants. A lovely street with welcoming terraces and museums just around the corner.

You have probably already explored most of the city centre but have you already visited these hidden treasures?

- Bar Café de Klep, a unique place that serves beers from all over the world. (Keizerstraat 13)
- Beej Benders supermarket and restaurant, stroll around the fresh market and have a lunch in the restaurant. Step into a limitless experience of food and drink. (Monseigneur Nolensplein 54)
- Milk and Cookies, the best coffee in town! Also try one of the delicious breakfasts they offer (Parade 64)
- Bij de Buren, in the nicest street in Venlo, enjoy dishes from their international kitchen (Keizerstraat 6) and don't forget to visit De Keizerin accross the street for a nice cocktail.
- Tante Toer, in Spain they call it tapas, in Greece mezze and in Italy antipasti. Tante Toer's specialty is the extensive menu of small dishes (Jodenstraat 45)

<https://www.venloverwelkomt.nl/en/>



22. Taurus World of Adventure



You will experience an afternoon or evening of flashy gaming fun at Taurus. Bowling is given an extra dimension here through exciting light and sound effects. Come and play laser games in the gigantic laser arena, play games, play pool or escape the cells of Prison Island.

<https://www.taurusworld.nl/>

23. Arcen

Arcen is the jewel in the crown of tourism in Venlo. In this picturesque village you can wander around the fairytale Castle Gardens, you can immerse yourself in the Arcen Thermal Bath, a source of health, well-being and relaxation. You can walk past Hertog Jan's large copper brewing kettles and find the secret behind this tasty beer and visit pancake restaurant De Bosrand to enjoy traditional pancakes. Guests can also play mini golf on the most beautiful course in Limburg.

<https://www.venloverwelkomt.nl/en/discover-venlo/arcen>



24. Escape Room



Escape Room Venlo hosted by Team Trapped is an incredible real-life escape experience for friends, family and colleagues. Is your team sharp enough? Escape from reality and create lasting memories. Real-life escape games require utmost concentration and active participation of all players. There is not a second to waste when time slowly ticks away.

<https://www.teamtrapped.com/en/#!/cal-d/2020-09-17/cw/5750f83f8c488c746ec3cc6c0c66b6ce>

25. Limburgs Museum

A visit to the Limburgs Museum is a journey of discovery through time. Meet the Romans and see medieval castles in Limburg. Inspiring tales that evoke your own memories. Discover more about Limburg's history and culture.

<https://www.limburgsmuseum.nl/en/>



26. Mind mystery



The park of illusions and curiosa. Emerge yourself into the world of Siebrandt, a curious inventor. During one of his experiments, an enormous explosion took place and Siebrandts house was turned upside down... Visit this house and experience many more mind blowing illusions.

<https://www.mindmystery.nl/en/>

27. VVV Venlo

Venlo's local football team is happy to welcome you in their stadium De Koel. VVV - Venlo play football in the Euro division, the highest football division in the Netherlands. Buy a ticket, cheer for the team, sing along with the fans and experience a typical Dutch football match.

<https://www.vvv-venlo.nl/nl/home>



28. The City Cinema and film house De nieuwe Scène



Sit back, buy yourself a huge bucket of popcorn and enjoy a film. From blockbusters to award-winning films and of course everything in between. You can experience it all on one of the 4 beautiful screens in the city cinema. Film reservations can be made online.

De nieuwe Scène is a so-called film house where smaller artistic films are shown.

<https://citycinema.nl/>

<https://www.nieuwescene.nl/>

29. FunForest and Klimtuin Fliegerhorst

Interested in climbing? Venlo offers two great locations to do just that!

FunForest: Walk over wobbly bridges and experience the spectacular bungee jump. Here you have adventurous climbing routes with the highest courses at fifteen meters high! Zip from one tree to another in beautiful natural surroundings.

<https://www.funforest.nl/en/>



Climbing park Fliegerhorst: The Fliegerhorst is a historical war memorial on which various facets of mountaineering can be practiced. There are various possibilities: climbing, abseiling, lead climbing, via ferrata, bouldering, zip lines, dry tooling, slacklining and even camping.

<https://www.fliegerhorst.nl/>



30. Jaomerdal, the Groote Heide, the Black Water area



For all you nature lovers, we have 3 areas of nature for you to visit that are close to the city centre.

First of all we have the Jaomerdal, which is located close to Fontys. Originally this area was a sandy and hilly terrain that was mined to extract clay and gravel. These created puddles which are now used for swimming in the summer (swimming is not always allowed for safety reasons).

The Groote Heide is a nature reserve that is full of diversity. Varied nature and historical elements surprise every time. The area is wonderful for walking, cycling or other forms of recreation. For more information and (hiking) brochures, you can also visit the Info Center: Hinsbeckerweg 55 in Venlo.

The Black Water area (het Zwarte Water) is a varied nature reserve which consists of moist and dry forest types, grassland and heather remnants. The area is characterized by the versatility of soil types. A nice place for a walk and relaxation.

A. Events in Venlo

Of course the city of Venlo hosts all kind of events, for a complete overview and the agenda visit this website:

<https://www.venloverwelkomt.nl/en/agenda>



B. Public transport within the Netherlands

The Dutch public transport system is excellent, wherever you want to travel to, you can get there easily and comfortably by taking the train, bus, tram, metro or ferry. '9292' is a collaboration between all the public transport services in the Netherlands, and they provide all information regarding public transport in the Netherlands for travellers. You can explore travel possibilities through their website and their mobile app. The handy thing about this is that they give the opportunity for you to completely plan your journey via public transport, from door to door. Whether you will be travelling by train, metro, on foot or by ferry during your journey, you can select a departure or arrival time and start planning.

If you are travelling solely by train, you might be better off using the NS app (NS = Dutch railways): its up to date app provides fast and accurate information regarding changes and delays.

Almost every form of public transportation uses the OV Chipcard. This payment system replaces buying single tickets and can be used by checking in whenever you board a bus, train or metro. While this saves a lot of money, there's almost no opportunity to take advantage of extra discounts. Also, the OV Chipcard needs to be purchased (cost: €7,50) and is not refundable. If you're only here for a short period of time and you don't plan on using public transport regularly, then purchasing single train tickets (when needed) could be a better option. When buying a train ticket without the OV Chipcard, you'll pay just €1 on top of the regular ticket price. For travel between one city to another, this might be more practical.

When using an OV Chipcard, remember to check out whenever you leave your mode of public transport. The chipcard system calculates your ticket price depending on where you check in and out.

How to save money when travelling by train:

1. <https://www.ns.nl/spoordeelwinkel> (ask a Dutch speaker to help you, since the website is in Dutch)
 2. A few times a year shops such as the Kruidvat, Xenos, Blokker, Hema and Albert Heijn sell discounted train tickets. The best thing to do, is to check their sites every once in a while (or in the shop window if you happen to be walking past). Remember to read the terms and conditions, sometimes you can only use the tickets at off-peak hours or on the weekends.
 3. Group tickets off-peak hours, out together and/or back home together.
- Passengers who want to use an off-peak hours group ticket (Groepsticket Daluren) must travel together on the train for the whole journey. The main rule is that the fellow passengers must always travel together with the main ticket holder. The fellow passengers can get on at a later station on the same route. The ticket is only valid during off-peak hours, i.e. weekdays before 06:30, between 09:00 and 16:00, and after 18:30. It is also valid at weekends and all day on public holidays. Not valid on King's Day (Koningsdag, 27 April). An off-peak hours group ticket is therefore not valid for travel during peak hours, even when the journey started before the peak period. The ticket is for a single journey. The group can buy a ticket for the return journey along with their outward journey. The return can also be for a later date.

Price:

4 people €32 (8,00 per person) 5 people €33,50 (6,70 per person) 6 people €35 (€5,85 per person) 7 people €36,50 (€5,21 per person)

<https://www.ns.nl/producten/en/meest-gekocht/p/groepsticket-daluren>