

## Travelling with Public Transport in the Netherlands

The Netherlands has an extensive train system. There are also buses and, in some cities: trams and metros.

You can plan your travel using one of the following websites:

- \* National Travel Planner - [www.9292ov.nl](http://www.9292ov.nl)
- \* Dutch Railway System - [www.ns.nl](http://www.ns.nl)
- \* Rotterdam Public Transport System - [www.ret.nl/en/homepage.html](http://www.ret.nl/en/homepage.html)

## Tickets

Tickets for the train you can buy at the ticket machines available at every train station. The ticket machines accept debit cards and cash, but not credit cards. You can also buy your ticket at the ticket counter. This will cost a bit you more.

## OV-chipkaart

For trains, but also for all other forms of public transport, there is a new smart-card system: the OV-chipkaart. It is now in use throughout the Netherlands as the official transport payment system for the metro, bus and tram.

There are two types of cards: anonymous, that you can buy from the OV-chipkaart machines; or personal, that you need to apply for online or via the post and submit a photo. Your pass can be loaded from one of the OV-chipkaart machines strategically placed at train and metro stations. You can arrange for your personal card to 'load' automatically from a bank account. You pay for the distance travelled through swiping it upon entering and leaving your transport station. Personal products, such as season or discount tickets can be loaded to your personal OV-chipkaart and you are automatically eligible for discounts. You can now travel on the NS with your OV-chipkaart. Make sure you have minimum EUR 40 uploaded to an anonymous card and that you swipe out on arrival or your travel costs could triple!

The OV-chipkaart website ([www.ov-chipkaart.nl](http://www.ov-chipkaart.nl)) also has an English language section.

## Special needs on the train

You should, if required, call and pre-book assistance, at least three hours in advance of your journey from the Bureau Help for the Disabled ('Assistentieverlening Gehandicapt'): +31 (0)30 - 235 7822. Most wheelchairs can travel on the trains, although width and weight restrictions apply, and those that use a fuel-based motor are not allowed on the train. No transaction costs will be applied for those with a disability purchasing tickets from the ticket office instead of ticket machines

## Taxis

Taxis are expensive; therefore a fixed tariff system is installed by law with € 2,66 as starting tariff and € 1,95 per kilometre. If the taxi has to wait for you, the driver will charge you € 0,32 per minute.

In Rotterdam there are two large taxi providers. Service varies per taxi driver and neither of them can really be recommended:

RTC Rotterdam – T. 010-462 60 60

St. Job Taxi – T. 010-425 7000

## Train-taxis

From some train stations Train-taxis ('Treintaxis') operate; but unfortunately not from the large, main stations: Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam.

These are shared taxis that shuttle people back and forth to the station for a fixed fee per ride (EUR 4.30 each or six for the cost of five in the automatic ticket machines). Tickets can be purchased from the ticket counter or machine in any NS station. You will pay more if you buy tickets from the driver.