

Carnival traditions in the Netherlands

- In Holland, carnival is a holiday mainly celebrated in the south of the country. The provinces Limburg and Noord-Brabant are the predominantly Catholic provinces of the Netherlands, where most inhabitants celebrate Carnival. Though some people take the Carnival traditions very seriously, most people keep it simple and just drink, sing and dance wearing a colorful outfit.





Costumes and princes

- In the three days of province-wide celebrations, Limburg is overtaken by the colours of the carnival – red, yellow and green. A flag hangs everywhere, enjoying much more popularity than the national one. The typical decoration (of a house, garden, car) includes garlands, lighthouses, statues of animals in the honored colours, hanging, illuminating, cascading. The red, yellow and green are to be found on completely unexpected places – flower bouquet. One house in any given place during the feast bears an abnormally big sign (plus picture) to inform you that here lives the newly proclaimed Prince of the Carnival, His Highness {any name} Third, Ninth, Tenth. The houses following the temporary castle proudly display the same informations, lingerie, shoes, tablecloths, pillows.

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- The spirit of the carnival is deeply enrooted in the hearts of the local people – Limburgians not living in the province anymore come back for the celebration, just as other people do so for Christmas or Easter. Youngsters and elderly will enthusiastically prepare their costumes, trying to be as creative as possible, will actively participate in processions, support and help the local organizing committee and will tell you many, many stories for the carnival in 19..something year, what their outfits as children were, and how it is widely acceptable to go at work, school, university in a costume.

- If you can drink, sing and dance wearing a colorful outfit you're more than welcome to celebrate Carnival in Holland! Make sure you wear a crazy Carnival costume and you'll blend in perfectly.