

“We grow too soon old and too late smart” – Dutch Proverb

- * The Dutch see the family as the foundation of the social structure.
- * Families tend to be small, often with only one or two children.
- * Relatively few women work outside the house full-time as compared to many other cultures.

- * They are disciplined, conservative, and pay attention to the smallest details.
- * They see themselves as thrifty, hardworking, practical and well organized
- * The Dutch are egalitarian and highly tolerant of individual differences.
- * Their children are raised without gender biases.
- * There is practically no abject poverty in the country because of the social programs.

- * The handshake is the common form of greeting.
- * It is firm and swift, accompanied by a smile, and repetition of your name.
- * Shake hands with everyone individually including children.
- * Very close friends may greet each other by air kissing near the cheek three times, starting with the left cheek.

- * Do not begin eating until the hostess starts.
- * Most food is eaten with utensils, including sandwiches.
- * Salad is not cut; fold the lettuce on your fork.
- * Always start with small amounts so you may accept second helpings.
- * Finish everything on your plate. It is offensive to waste food in the Netherlands.
- * Indicate you have finished eating by laying your knife and fork parallel across the right side of your plate.