

# Travel Scene



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## The Netherlands See William of Orange's palace in Gelderland

By Iris Sanders-Jones  
special writer

The people of Apeldoorn were outraged when the government stripped the white stucco surface from Het Loo and returned "their palace" to its 17th century splendor, but William and Mary would have been delighted. Het Loo, which means "open space in the woods," looks now exactly as it did when William of Orange built it as a hunting lodge in 1685.

The royal woods are still there too, full of red deer and wild boar, but the woods have several 20th century touches. The extravagant hunting lodge built by a Mr. and Mrs. Kroll-Müller in 1920 is still there.

The stunning Kroll-Müller art museum and sculpture garden is a national treasure. And Netherlands regularly walk or bike the network of paths through the country's largest nature preserve. Sometimes they use the hundreds of "white bikes" left in the National Park de Hoge Veluwe for their free use.

Het Loo and Apeldoorn are at the north end of the national park. The 17th century has also been restored at the south end, near Arnhem, where community-minded Gelderland established an open-air museum to preserve the 17th and 18th century traditions disappearing from Dutch life.

I call the Netherlands Open-Air Museum the Greenfield Village of Holland, although it was built in 1912, long before Henry Ford built his museum in Dearborn.

The site of all this old and new Dutch life is the province of Gelderland, specifically the area known as the Veluwe. Put your finger in the dead center of the Netherlands, two hours east of Amsterdam, where the map sports a large green and purple splotch. Those colors represent the



A tourist sits on the steps of the Het Loo palace in the Netherlands and contemplates his guide book as a big statue contem-

woodlands and heather-covered heath of the Veluwe.

Veluwe means "poor soil." Science says that glaciers pushed mounds of sand across Gelderland, but I prefer

the Dutch version: Giants dumped sand out of their clogs while walking through.

The Veluwe has been known for its woodlands and sheep-pasturing

plates the tourist. William of Orange built the Het Loo as a hunting lodge in 1685.

heath for centuries. The area was described by a 17th century Englishman as "one of the best hunting countries in the world but good for little else."

It's not hunting that attracts most people. The Dutch go to bike, jog and play in the royal woods, to tour the palaces, museums and other attractions, such as the Apenheul, an inno-

vative ape sanctuary in Apeldoorn. They also go to frolic on the grand sand beaches left around inland lakes when the Dutch turned sea into land beside the old Zuider Zee. The Dutch didn't invent dikes, but they may be the only people in the world who can create a new province out of the sea.

"Gelderland is one of 11, pardon me, 12 provinces of the Netherlands. It's hard to keep track." That was Gonnie Sobkowiak, pronounced "coney" with a guttural C. North and south Holland are two of the 12 provinces, which is why the Netherlands are often nicknamed Holland.

Gonnie was walking with us through the Netherlands Open-Air Museum, a pleasant and informative way to explore the life of all the Dutch regions. We walked across wooden bridges, down gabled streets, into the kind of sod farmhouse where Vincent Van Gogh was born, through the paper mill and were on our way to lunch when I stopped dead in my tracks.

There was a windmill exactly like De Zwaan, which stands on Windmill Island in Holland, Mich. No surprise to the well informed. The Reverend Albertus van Raalte left Arnhem in 1846 to establish Holland, Mich.

Arnhem was still a medieval city then but it's a modern city now thanks to the destruction wrought during World War II. If you saw the movie "A Bridge Too Far," you saw the battle of Arnhem. Many refugees spent 100 days in the relative sanctuary of the Open-Air Museum during the battle.

The museum shows how ordinary people lived while the royal family was retreating over the centuries to the Het Loo Palace in Apeldoorn, 27 kilometers north. If the kings called William confuse you, this William of

MICKY JONES

## Berlin Wall B'ham woman visits homeland to hammer symbol of tyranny

By Helga M. Scherloh  
special writer

When I first heard the Berlin wall was coming down, I sat on the living room carpet of my home in Birmingham and cried. Aware of the continued status of my children, there was no way I could tell these two all-American kids how I felt at that moment.

They weren't there on the morning of Aug. 13, 1989 when I walked off the train in my German hometown of Augsburg into throngs of people waving newspapers, wiping away tears of anger and shouting. The Communists are building a wall in Berlin. They're actually building a damn wall across the city.

My kids weren't there when I heard that my classmate Philip had been shot and killed at the wall. I'm glad my kids weren't there and

**As we descended into Frankfurt at 5 a.m. my eyes grew moist and I reached for my daughter's hand, "We're here honey. We're home."**

— Helga M. Scherloh  
Birmingham resident

### reader's report

yet I want them to know about Germany, where it has been, where it is

and where it might be going. To witness the changes taking place, I returned to Germany last summer with my daughter Elisabeth, 12. As we descended into Frankfurt at 5 a.m. my eyes grew moist and I reached for my daughter's hand. "We're here honey. We're home."

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## European travel inexpensive in aftermath of Persian Gulf war

John Schroth of Bedford has been thinking and worrying for several months about his planned trip to Europe this spring. He and his wife have been overseas several times, visiting family in Hungary and Romania and they were ready to go again in May.

They planned to fly to Frankfurt, Germany, rent a car and spend two weeks on the continent.

Then Desert Storm came along. They started asking questions. When will the war end? Should we still go to Europe? Is it safe to fly? Thousands of Americans asked themselves the same questions while European bookings slowed to a trickle and then stopped.



crossroads

Iris Jones

An editorial in the London Times said "Americans are wimps." They were not referring to our soldiers in Desert Storm, who have been lauded by the British. They were talking about our travelers, who were suddenly afraid to visit Europe, even though it was a couple thousand miles from the conflict.

John Schroth decided to put his plans on the back burner while continuing to explore potentially good legs. He had his eyes on Travel Charter International of Troy, which has scheduled weekly flights to Frankfurt on Condor, a subsidiary of Lufthansa, the German airline. Travel Charter also flies American Trans Air to Amsterdam and London.

Their rates were good, and in January they got better. That's when British Airways decided to dramatically lower its rates to London. A few days later, Northwest announced the best rates I have seen.

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## Local author reveals favorite locales in French countryside

We asked Monique Wagner of Birmingham, author of *From Paris to the Pyrenees: An Outline of French Civilization*, to tell us about her favorite locales in France. Wagner, a specialist in French literature and culture, has just published her latest book, *The Frenchman's Foot*, a collection of travel stories from her travels in France.

But first, she describes a travel companion, her partner in crime, a Frenchman, who is a part of her life. Wagner, who is a part of the Frenchman's Foot, has just published her latest book, *The Frenchman's Foot*, a collection of travel stories from her travels in France.

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She and her husband spent several months each year exploring France. The Frenchman's Foot is a collection of travel stories from her travels in France.

In the accompanying article Wagner offers a taste of the area that she loves as much as the French.

By Monique Wagner  
special writer

The most popular tourist itineraries in France lead west from Paris to the Loire Valley and south to the Mediterranean by way of the Antenne due Midi. The Midi is attracting more and more attention, especially the Southwest. The ancient name of Aquitaine was re-



This bewildered old Frenchman examines a truffle, a.k.a. black diamonds for their price of \$200 a pound. They grow on the roots of certain trees in the area of France known as either Dordogne or Perigord.

stored to that area recently when France was newly divided into regions.

This is the former domain of Alenore d'Aquitaine, Queen of France as wife of Louis VII, and, after their divorce, Queen of England as wife of Henry II. You saw her in the film "Lion in Winter."

Tourists go to that portion of Aquitaine known interchangeably

as Dordogne or Perigord. They go to explore Paleolithic man, especially the cave at Lascaux where prehistoric paintings were discovered by hiking schoolboys in 1940. Deterioration of the colors forced its closing in 1963, but an exact replica has been created a few hundred yards away.

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