



**MAGIC**  
The Gathering  
**GRAND PRIX  
UTRECHT**  
August 8-10  
2014

# TRAVEL GUIDE

**Venue  
Hotels  
Food  
Drinks  
Site-seeing**

## Index

The Essentials	2
General Information	2
Regional Coördinator	2
The venue	2
Travel Advice	3
From Schiphol Airport to Utrecht	3
From Eindhoven Airport to Utrecht	3
From Rotterdam-The Hague Airport to Utrecht	3
By car	3
Public Transport	3
From the Station to the Venue	4
Hotels	5
Staff Hotel	5
Other Hotels	5
Budget Options	6
Places to Visit	7
Tourist Hotspots	7
Canals	7
St Martin's Cathedral	7
Rietveld Schröder's House	8
Centraal Museum	9
Lesser Known Sightseeing	10
Dick Bruna House & Miffy Square	10
St. Willibrord Church	10
Museum Speelklok	10
Food and Drinks	11
Delicacies	11
Cool Places	12
Local Game Stores	13





# THE ESSENTIALS

## General Information

Utrecht is mostly a university city. It does not attract nearly as many tourists as, for example, Amsterdam, and therefore also lacks a lot of the tourist hazards like pickpockets, overpriced currency exchange and other scams. That's not to say the city is free of crime. Apply common sense: Keep your wallet in a safe place, keep an eye on your bag.

The national (and European) emergency number used in the Netherlands: **112**.

### Regional Coördinator

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### The venue

Jaarbeurs Utrecht

Hall 3 (East Entrance or West Entrance)

Jaarbeursplein 6

3521 AL Utrecht

The Netherlands

[www.jaarbeursutrecht.nl](http://www.jaarbeursutrecht.nl)



## Travel Advice

### From Schiphol Airport to Utrecht

Utrecht may sound like another city far from Amsterdam, but the truth is that it's a short train ride away from Schiphol Airport, the default way to get to the country from most places on Earth. The Schiphol Train Station is located directly beneath the central hall of the airport. Get a one-way ticket to Utrecht Central Station for €8,30 from one of the yellow ticket machines. Four trains an hour go to Utrecht without transfers. The journey should take you about 30 minutes.



### From Eindhoven Airport to Utrecht

Before leaving home, book a shuttle bus to Utrecht ([web](#)). They have several daily trips from EIN to Utrecht. A return ticket will cost around €30,- and the trip takes you about one hour. Taking conventional public transport via Eindhoven Station takes you longer and is comparable in price.

### From Rotterdam-The Hague Airport to Utrecht

Get bus 33 to Rotterdam Central Station and there buy a train-ticket to Utrecht Central Station. One-way will cost you about €12,- and will take 75 minutes.

### By car

Coming from a random direction, take the southern (A12) or western (A2) circumferential highway. From there, simply look for and follow the 'Jaarbeurs' signs. From A2 you should take exit 8 or from A12 exit 17. The Jaarbeurs parking seems to cost €12,- a day, but your hotel may offer something better. Set your GPS device to 'Jaarbeursplein, Utrecht' and you should easily find it.

### Public Transport

Now that you are in Utrecht, you'll find it is a compact city and we hope you can walk from your hotel to the venue. If not, the Utrecht public transport system is fully available on Google Maps - use it to prepare hotel-to-venue planning in advance! You'll find that a lot of buses go to the Central Station, which is convenient, as the venue is very close to the station (follow the 'Jaarbeursplein' signs from inside the station).

Another option for planning your trip: [9292.nl](http://9292.nl)





Now beware, because public transport pricing in the Netherlands isn't friendly to tourists, or locals, as they'll gladly tell you. The public transport e-purse card 'OV-Chipkaart' is used by locals. Possibly your cheapest option however, is to not buy an OV-Chipkaart and just buy one-use tickets in the bus or tram (bring cash, no big bills). These cost €2,60 one way and if you transfer to another carrier you may even have to buy another one. If you are with a group, a taxi might be your cheapest option, charging around €9,- for a 2 km trip. Taxi drivers will likely only accept cash in Euro.

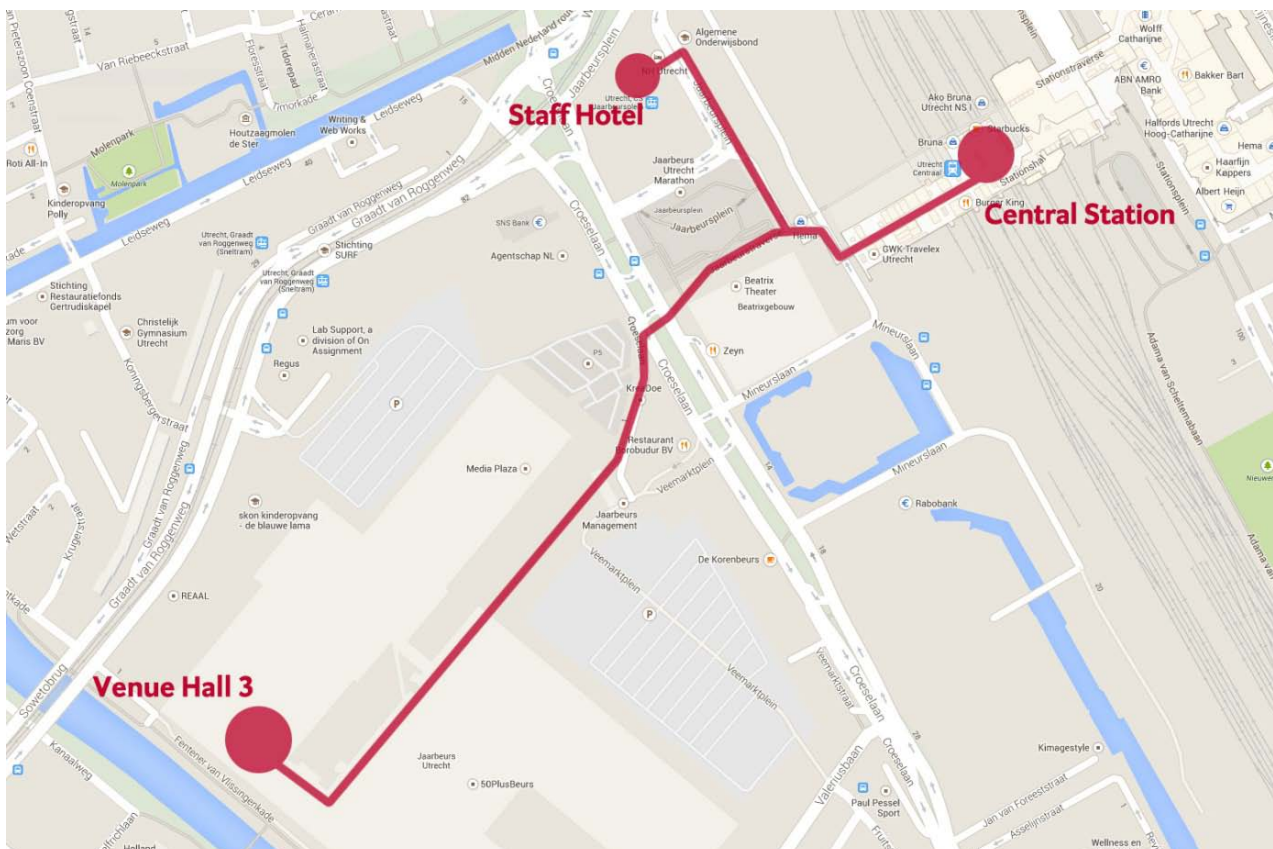
If you still want to get one of those cards, read on. A standard OV-Chipkaart costs a whopping €7,50 (you can get it from machines at the train stations) and does not include any credit - you'll have to preload it with more cash. Most machines do not accept credit cards, only Maestro debit cards. Then, depending on distance, a one-way trip within the city will set you back a bit more than €1,-. Don't forget to check in and check out using one of the sensors near the entrance and exit.

(It is possible to use your [OV-Chipkaart](#) for the national train service as well, but before you can do so, you'll have to install that 'travel facility' to your card, and to avoid that hassle we recommend you just buy a paper ticket for the train, which costs the same.)

### From the Station to the Venue

That's actually quite easy. You'll find signs pointing you towards 'Jaarbeurs' around the station, and if not, ask. You'll only have to cross one busy street and you're at the Jaarbeurs area, and then start the ceremonial searching for the right entrance.

The Staff Hotel is directly outside of the station (exit Jaarbeurs), 100m to the right; the venue is directly outside of the station (exit Jaarbeurs), 200m forward-left.



## Hotels

### Staff Hotel

#### **NH Utrecht**

Average Price: €75,- / Night

Address: Jaarbeursplein 24, 3521AR Utrecht

Distance GP: 350m

Phone: +31 302977977

Website: [NH Utrecht](#)



### Other Hotels

The selection of the hotels shown here is based on the price for a night, the proximity to the train station (Utrecht Central) and to the tournament venue (Jaarbeursplein).

#### **Holiday Inn Express Utrecht - Papendorp**

Average Price: €65,-/Night

Address: Van Deventerlaan 10, 3528AE Utrecht

Distance GP: 4,5 Km

Phone: +31 308201060

Website: [Holiday Inn Express Utrecht - Papendorp](#)



#### **Park Plaza Utrecht**

Average Price: €66,-/Night

Address: Westplein 50, 3531BL Utrecht

Distance GP: 1 Km

Phone: +31 302925200

Website: [ParkPlaza Utrecht](#)



#### **IBIS Hotel Utrecht**

Average Price: €62,-/Night

Address: Bizetlaan 1, 3533KC Utrecht

Distance GP: 2 Km

Phone: +31 302039000

Website: [IBIS Utrecht](#)



#### **Economy Hotel Utrecht (Beurs Hotel)**

Average Price: €65,-/Night

Address: Balijelaan 19, 3521GJ Utrecht

Distance GP: 1 Km

Phone: + +31 302941420

Website: [Economy Hotel](#)





## Budget Options

### **B&B Utrecht Center**

Average Price:

Basic 12 Bed Mixed Dorm: €25,-/Night

Basic 16 Bed Female Dorm: €25,-/Night

Basic 24 Bed Mixed Dorm: €20,-/Night

Address: Lucasbolwerk 4, Utrecht

Distance GP: 3,5 Km

Website: [B&B Utrecht Center](#)

### **Stone Hotel & Hostel**

Average Price: Standard 4 Bed Mixed Dorm: €26,-/Night

Address: Biltstraat 31, 3572 Utrecht

Distance GP: 3,5 Km

Website: [Stone Hotel & Hostel](#)

### **Hostel Strowis**

Average Price:

Basic 4 Bed Female Dorm: €21,-/Night

Basic 14 Bed Mixed Dorm: €18,-/Night

Address: Boothstraat 8, Utrecht

Distance GP: 3,5 Km

Website: [Hostel Strowis](#)

### **Oorsprongpark**

Average Price : 35,-/ Night

Adress : Dondersstraat 12, 3572JH Utrecht

Distance GP: 3 Km

Website : [Oorsprongpark](#)





# PLACES TO VISIT

## Tourist Hotspots

Web : [Utrecht - Tourist Info](#)

### Canals

Utrecht is, like many cities in the Netherlands, crossed by canals, along which you can walk. You can also visit the historical center via the oldest streets in the city.



### St Martin's Cathedral

The Cathedral of Saint Martin in Utrecht, also known as The Dom Church, is one of the main Gothic churches in the Netherlands. Its construction was started in 1254 as a cathedral of the diocese of Utrecht and continued until 1517. Its architecture is inspired by the great Gothic cathedrals in France. It is dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours. Since 1580 the church is Protestant.

The tower of the cathedral (in Dutch: Domtoren) is the most famous part of the cathedral and is the highest in the Netherlands (112 meters).

Top tip: At the back of the church, through the gift shop, you will find a small restaurant with a view of the cloister gardens. The selection of food is quite limited (think apple pie and soup) but prices are very fair and the view is beautiful.







Opening Hours:  
Monday to Friday: 10h00 – 17h00  
Saturday: 11h00 – 15h30  
Sunday: 14h00 – 16h00

Access information:  
Domkerk  
Achter de Dom 1  
3512 Utrecht  
Walk: 10 minutes from Central Station  
Bus: 2/22 GVV, stop: Domplein  
Car: parking Springweg and parking Hoog Catharijne  
Phone: +31 302310403 or +31 302316921

### Rietveld Schröder's House

The Rietveld Schröder House, also known as the Schröder's House, in Utrecht was built in 1924 by Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld for Mrs. Schröder and her three children. She commissioned the house to be designed preferably without walls. Rietveld worked side by side with Schröder to create the house.

The architect sketched the first possible design for the building; but Schröder was not pleased. She envisioned a house that was free from association and could create a connection between the inside and outside.

The house is one of the best known examples of De Stijl-architecture and arguably the only true De Stijl building. Mrs Schröder lived in the house until her death in 1985. The house was restored by Bertus Mulder and is now a museum open for visits. It is a listed monument since 1976 and UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.



## Centraal Museum

The Centraal Museum is located in the former medieval monastery at the Nicolaaskerkhof. Currently, the collection comprises pre 1850 art, modern art, applied art, fashion and the city history of Utrecht.

The heart of the museum is the collection of paintings by the Utrecht Caravaggians, such as Gerard van Honthorst and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Both of them travelled to Rome in the early 17th century to study the works of the Italian master [Caravaggio](#). Along with the mannerists, Abraham Bloemaert, Paulus Moreelse and renaissance-painter Jan van Scorel, the Caravaggians give the collection in Utrecht an international allure.

Open: Tuesdays through Sundays (11h00 – 17h00)

Admission Fees:

- 18-64 years: €11,-
- 13-17 years: €5,-





## Lesser Known Sightseeing

### Dick Bruna House & Miffy Square

The world famous little rabbit Nijntje (Miffy) was born in Utrecht to writer Dick Bruna. Miffy has got her own square named after her, right at the end of the Oudegracht, on the corner with the 1e Achterstraat. Dick Bruna has a small museum dedicated to him, right across the street from the Centraal Museum (Nicolaaskerkhof 10).



### St. Willibrord Church

One of Utrecht's best kept secrets is this neo-gothic church. Doesn't look like much on the outside, gorgeous on the inside. You can find it at Minrebroederstraat 21. The church is open to visitors on Friday afternoon and Saturday.

### Museum Speelklok

Museum Speelklok is a charming museum of automatically playing musical instruments, like musical clocks, music boxes, and barrel organs. During the guided tours that start every hour you can even hear them play. You can find the museum in the former church building at Steenweg 6.



## Food and Drinks

### Delicacies

#### **Stroopwafels**

You cannot leave the Netherlands without having had a stroopwafel or two. You've probably already tasted them at previous GPs, as it seems Dutch judges never fail to bring them to the Friday Judge Dinner. Search a supermarket for these syrupy delights or better yet, find a market stand that sells big fresh stroopwafels. (Vredenburg on Friday, 10h00-17h00)

#### **Bitterballen**

Having some drinks in a café? See if they have 'bitterballen' on the menu. Bitterballen are the little cousins of the Dutch kroket. Both are made of beef ragout in a deep-fried breadcrumb crust. Bitterballen are ideal finger food to go with a drink, while a kroket & bread is found on many a lunch menu. Just add mustard.

#### **Cheese**

Known around the world Dutch cheese, often called 'Gouda', is loved by everyone. There are many different kinds and brands of Dutch cheese and they all taste different, sometimes subtle, sometimes strong. Cheese ripens with age, the older it is the stronger the taste. One of our favorites is 'Old Amsterdam'. You can find cheese in any supermarket, but there are plenty of specialty shops and market vendors with a choice of hundreds of different cheeses.

#### **Beer**

And of course there are beers. Some well-known Dutch brands of beer are Heineken, Grolsch, and Amstel, but it seems any Dutchman who really likes beer just fawns over Belgian beers ;). There are quite a few cafés that offer a wide variety of beers, so I'm sure you will find something to your liking.





## Cool Places



### Le Clochard

What: A bar / restaurant

Where: Ridderhofstad 2. It's a little bit outside the city center, but still within walking distance of the Dom church.

Why: We love the dark wood atmosphere of this place. You can order good food for a very reasonable price, and/or enjoy a drink at the fireplace.

### Café Olivier

What: A bar / restaurant, Belgian style.

Where: Achter Clarenburg 6a

Why: As we said above, Belgian beers have a special place in the heart of many Dutchies. This restaurant offers a wide selection of beers, snacks, and meals, in an amazing building that was formerly a church.

### Opium

What: Oriental restaurant

Where: Voorstraat 80

Why: Modern Asian cuisine in a modern atmosphere. Lovely.

### Neude

What: A square.

Where: Neude

Why: This square right in the center of Utrecht is a popular place to go out. Take your pick of the many cafés and restaurants surrounding the square.

### Broodje Mario

What: A sandwich stand

Where: Oudegracht 132

Why: While the staff might not be known for their friendly service, their sandwiches, pizza slices and take away calzones are considered the best lunch in town.



## Local Game Stores

All four of these local game stores are located within about two minutes from each other.

Subcultures - [Web](#)

(A) Oudegracht 194 (entrance below street level at the canal wharf)

NeverNeverLand - [Web](#)

(B) Oudegracht 202

't Lab - [Web](#)

(C) Oudegracht 207

The Joker - [Web](#)

(D) Oudegracht 230A



**Utrecht Travel Guide 2014**

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