

## ISHAM NEWS | 19 DEC 2017 GETTING AROUND

The Netherlands is a very small country: *we've got everything except distance*. You may plan any trip to any city in the country and you can easily get back the same day. Longest possible tours from Amsterdam to Maastricht or Groningen take somewhat over 2 hours by train. We plan to organize a bus-tour to visit some of the major mycological centers under the motto above; if you're interested, just follow ISHAM News for the announcement.

Very pleasant day-trips are possible for you or your accompanying persons; you don't need to stay in Amsterdam. Public transportation is excellent; check this site <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism.htm> for means of transportation and recommended places to go. Trains between major cities run every 10-15 minutes. June and July are part of the nice and mild summer season in The Netherlands, when the country is overwhelmingly green, and people enjoy life on terraces and bicycles everywhere; it looks as if nobody is working. For example the small city of Leiden, with its many musea and with one of the oldest universities of Europe, is only 30 minutes away from Amsterdam center. Special recommendation in Leiden is the Boerhaave Museum <https://rijksmuseumboerhaave.nl/> of medical history, where you can look through the original microscopes of Antoni van Leeuwenhoek and wonder how he was able to see anything at all.



In just some minutes by train you can proceed to another beautiful city of 17<sup>th</sup> century Holland: Delft. In one of the houses lining the canals Johannes Vermeer painted his world famous *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. The real painting can be admired in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, but the atmosphere of Vermeers time is still preserved in the city which has remained practically unaltered over 300 years. The bridges, canals, specialized shops, and the market with beautiful city hall and church tower are worth a visit. Delft artists of The Netherlands 'golden era' (longtime ago) tried to copy Chinese ceramics – and failed, but their '*Delft blue*' acquired a decorative style by itself and became highly appreciated worldwide.

If you stay in the train along the same route, you will arrive at Rotterdam, which is the opposite of the cute historical cities like Leiden and Delft: Rotterdam is modern and dynamic, with one of the world's largest sea harbors and full of big novel buildings. It emerged after having been destroyed totally during the first days of the Second World War. If you like modern architecture and the atmosphere of a metropole with fancy cafes and unexpected encounters, you certainly should spend some hours there. One of the latest highlights is the market hall, an apartment building folded to a tube with a heavily decorated public space in its interior. Especially by night the hall is spectacular. Unfortunately Dutch summer evenings are extremely long, with the sun still shining at 22.00 – but there are many places nearby to enjoy as well. For example, the water taxis to Café Rotterdam, at the other side of the river Maas, with its industrial atmosphere and magnificent view on the skyline, is unforgettable.





The countryside is incredibly green because it rains a lot – in all seasons, including summertime. Don't ever go out without umbrella, even on a sunny day with a clear blue sky because this can change within minutes. Nevertheless solar energy is a big thing in The Netherlands. Teams from the universities of Delft, Eindhoven, and Enschede have won the Australian Solar Energy Challenge, a contest of sun-driven cars over a distance of 3021 kilometers across the desert, many times in several categories. Perhaps this is because we have to take special care of every sunbeam that accidentally hits our country. We certainly hope that some sunbeams will be visibly when you visit the Amsterdam congress.