

8. The arrival- Orientation week

The location for the orientation week will be a Stayokay hostel. Stayokay hostels are in beautiful areas and have great facilities. Please note that Belgian and short-term students (2/3 months) have a shortened orientation week and will only take part in the orientation for four days. The semester and the year students follow another program of six days. Below you can find an impression of the program of the orientation week:

Monday

On Monday the students will arrive around noon at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and the High School Holland team of Travel Active will greet the students and bring them by bus to the accommodation. In the evening we have dinner together and we will give a presentation about the program and the rules of the orientation week. We will also do some games so we can all get to know each other better.

Tuesday

After breakfast, we will depart to the city of Amsterdam. In the morning we will visit "This is Holland" and get to know the Netherlands better by a 5D show. Then we will go to the Amsterdam Lookout where you have a great view over the city. The program of the afternoon is different for August arrivals and January arrivals, due to the weather. The August students will go on a boat trip on the Amsterdam canals with Plastic Whale. The January students will go ice skating on the Museum Square. In the evening we have dinner again at our accommodation. After dinner the students have some free time.

Wednesday

This day is full of Dutch classes, in the morning, afternoon and evening! But don't worry there are enough breaks in between for coffee and tea and also for lunch. After the afternoon class we will have dinner followed by one more session of language training with lots of fun games to practice the students' Dutch skills.

Thursday

The Belgian and short-term students will have the Meet Your Student Day today. Below you can read what this entails.

After breakfast the other students will start with Dutch classes again. In the late afternoon they will have free time to do whatever they want to do. In the evening after dinner there is time to relax and the option to watch a Dutch movie.

Friday

First there is time for breakfast. After that students will get a lesson on how Dutch traffic works. After this lesson we will ride our bikes and visit the old city of Amersfoort or Alkmaar, depending on the location. After lunch the students will attend a workshop that prepares them for a successful exchange period. The students who need a visa will also visit the Immigration and Naturalization Authorities. In the evening we will plan a fun activity for all students to close the week in a spectacular way!

Saturday

Saturday is a very exciting day: the students will meet their host families. They will come to pick them up. This is such a great part of the week, since now the adventure really starts and the students will go to their new Dutch home with their new Dutch family!

We would like to advise the students to bring the following for the orientation:

- (Legalized) birth certificate and the official translation
- A copy of their insurance
- Towels and toiletries for one week
- Dutch dictionary
- Some information and photos about your home country, family and friends
- A copy of their placement form
- A photo camera and pocket money for one week (about EUR 50,-)
- Good walking shoes
- Last but not least, a good mood!