

## Getting around the Netherlands



*During your stay in the Netherlands you will most probably want to visit other Dutch cities such as Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and many others. Fortunately, the Dutch rail system is superb, however it's very pricy. For instance, it costs about 20 euros just to get from my city to Amsterdam, and another 20 euros to get back, bringing that down to a total of 40 euros. When I first learnt about this, I thought I wouldn't get to travel much of the Netherlands. However, I decided to do some research of my own and learnt the 'NS' which is the Dutch railway company, had many deals which ran throughout the year, but they just don't advertise them.*

*On the website <https://www.ns.nl/spoordeelwinkel> NS lists many deals, I managed to buy a day-return ticket to Amsterdam for 19 euros which was basically a 50% discount. With this ticket, NS also put in an extra voucher for a small lunch at Bakker Bart. So, my advice would be to always purchase your train tickets online rather than using the ticket machines. Also unlike in Budapest, the Netherlands doesn't offer monthly student passes to Non-Dutch students, so even travelling within your own city is pricy and usually about 3.50 euros one way regardless of the distance, but that's why we all use bikes which are also the fastest way of getting from point A to B. Alternatively NS has a **Discount Card** which costs 56 euros annually. If you have this card, you will get a 40% discount on your your ticket purchases, but I felt I didn't really need this because through the deals I'm enjoying discounts of up 50% and more.*

*Now, the ticket deal I mentioned before from NS is unfortunately a day-return ticket meaning that you have to return on that day, but fear not as I've discovered other sites that also sell NS tickets for two single journeys allowing you to return on any day you fancy. On the website <https://www.socialdeal.nl/> they have single tickets selling for 12.50 euros one way, and this ticket can be used to travel to a station of your choice regardless the distance. On weekends*

*the ticket sells for 10 euros even giving you more value for your money. They also offer an unlimited day ticket for 19 euros, allowing you to visit multiple cities if you wish but the ticket is only valid outside rush hours but valid throughout the day on weekends. Since NS uses a scanning system, this means that if you do travel inside rush hours when you aren't supposed to the system will catch you when you're trying to checkout so always keep an eye on the clocks.*

*Lastly, there's also a company called Flixbus and it's relatively cheap, however if you're an impatient person then I'd recommend using the train as it is more comfortable and faster, also the price difference is minor. For example, visiting Amsterdam with Flixbus is about 8 euros but if you use NS with the deals I provided above then you could spend 10 euros on weekends and 12.50 euros on weekdays which is worth it.*

