

# TRAVEL GUIDE

**MAGIC**  
The Gathering  
**GRAND PRIX  
UTRECHT**

## MODERN MASTERS

**2015 EDITION**

**May 28-31 2015**

**Venue  
Hotels  
Food  
Drinks  
Site-seeing**



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# 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

Richard Drijvers

[rdrijvers@gmail.com](mailto:rdrijvers@gmail.com)

+31 (0)6 48 78 1278

### The venue

Jaarbeurs Utrecht

Hall 3&4 (East Entrance or West Entrance)

Jaarbeursplein 6

3521 AL Utrecht

The Netherlands

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



## Travel Advice

### Note on traveling by train

Every time you travel by train, you have to pay a €1 surcharge for a throw-away travel card (OV Chipkaart). If you plan on staying in The Netherlands a bit longer, or on coming back in the future, it may be worthwhile to buy a reusable OV Chipkaart which costs €7,50. You can then load this card with credit. This card is valid for 5 years and can be used on all public transport throughout The Netherlands. Every time you travel by train you have to check in at the station of departure and check out at your final destination. When you switch trains, you do not have to check in/out, but when you switch modes of transfer (e.g. train to bus), you do.

### 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 €9,50 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 P+R Westraven (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 P+R Westraven you can then take the tram to Utrecht Central Station for €2,70.

### 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 €13,- and will take 75 minutes.





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## 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.

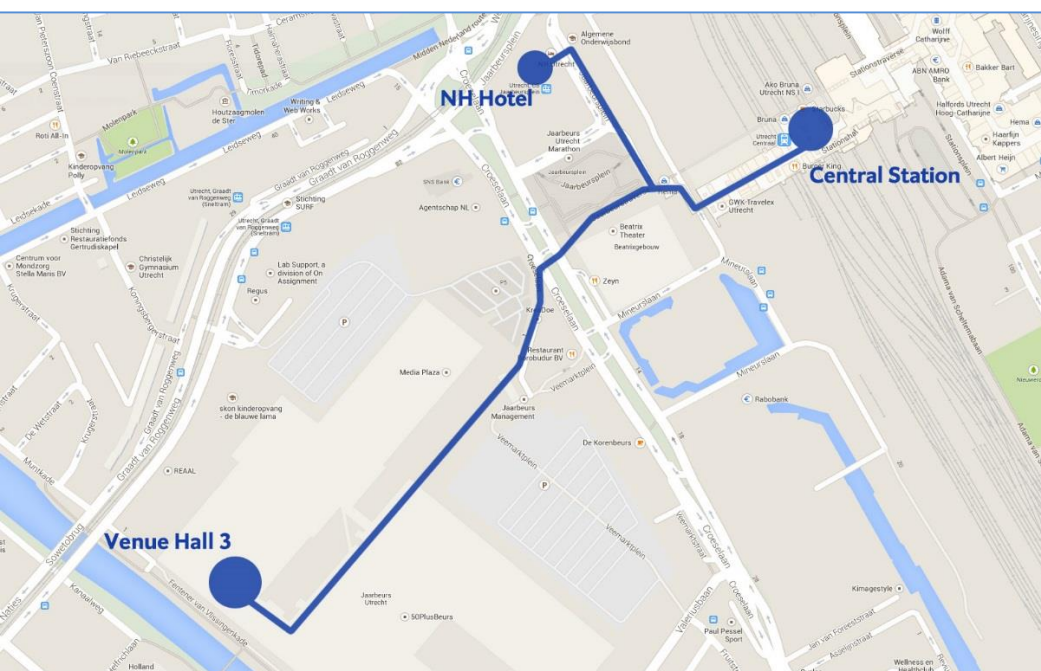
The last bus usually leaves around 0:30. After that, a taxi is the best bet.

Call to: [+31 30 320 0600](tel:+31303200600) or [+31 30 260 3060](tel:+31302603060) or [+31 30 266 1313](tel:+31302661313).

## 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

**Note:** also see [this thread](#) on JudgeApps

### **NH Utrecht**

Average Price: €95,- / Night

Address: Jaarbeursplein 24, 3521AR Utrecht

Distance GP: 350m

Phone: +31 302977977

Website: [NH Utrecht](#)

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

Average Price: €99,-/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: €79,-/Night

Address: Westplein 50, 3531BL Utrecht

Distance GP: 1 Km

Phone: +31 302925200

Website: [ParkPlaza Utrecht](#)

### **IBIS Hotel Utrecht**

Average Price: €110,-/Night

Address: Bizetlaan 1, 3533KC Utrecht

Distance GP: 2 Km

Phone: +31 302039000

Website: [IBIS Utrecht](#)

### **Apollo Hotel**

Average Price: €115,-/Night

Address: Vredenburg 14, 3511BA Utrecht

Distance: 2 Km

Phone: +31 302331232

Website: [Apollo 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](#)





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## Budget Options

### B&B Utrecht Center

Average Price:

Basic 16 Bed Mixed Dorm: €25,-/Night

Basic 18 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:

Basic 4 Bed Female Dorm: €23,50/Night

Basic 8 Bed Mixed Dorm: €20,50/Night

Address: Biltstraat 31, 3572 Utrecht

Distance GP: 3,5 Km

Website: [Stone Hotel & Hostel](#)

### Hostel Strowis

Average Price:

Basic 4 Bed Female Dorm: €24,-/Night

Basic 14 Bed Mixed Dorm: €20,-/Night

Address: Boothstraat 8, Utrecht

Distance GP: 3,5 Km

Website: [Hostel Strowis](#)

### Oorsprongpark

Average Price : €47,50,-/ 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.



#### Amsterdam

If you've already seen most of Utrecht on your previous visits, or you have a bit more time to spend, you could go on a trip to Amsterdam. It's only half an hour away, and trains run every 15 minutes (€7,40 one way + €1 if you buy a disposable ticket at the machine, see also the section on public transport). It's not advisable to travel to Amsterdam by car, as parking spots are hard to come by and will cost you an arm, a leg, and your firstborn child. Once there, you have the entire city at your disposal: Take a canal cruise, visit one of the many museums, relax in the Vondelpark, or even take a walk through the (in)famous red light district. We could write an entire additional travel guide on Amsterdam but that is a matter for another GP. Visit [www.iamsterdam.com](http://www.iamsterdam.com) for more information about visiting Amsterdam.





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## 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: 10h00 - 16h00

Tuesday to Saturday: 11h00 - 17h00

Sunday: 12h00 - 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



### Railway Museum

What can we say, a museum with trains. If you like trains, you should visit this museum!

Open: Tuesdays through Sundays (10h - 17h)

Het Spoorwegmuseum

Maliebaanstation

3581 XW Utrecht

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

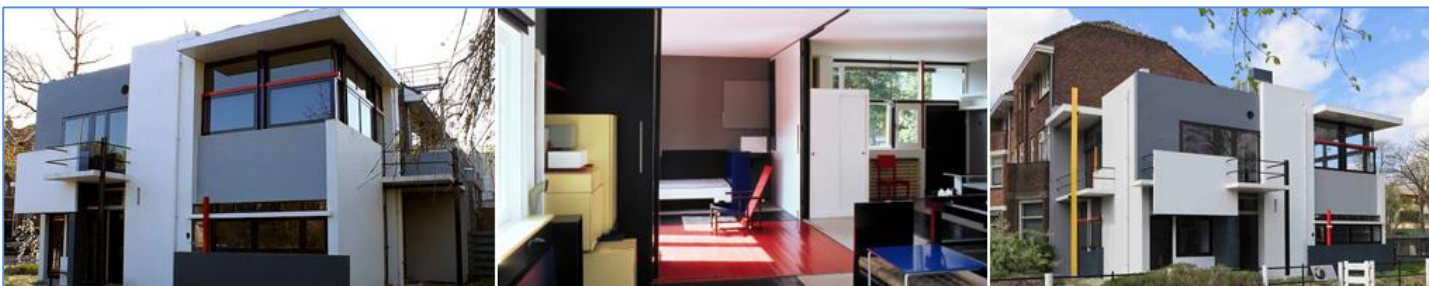


### Rietveld Schröder's House

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.





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## 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. The church is open to visitors on Friday afternoon and Saturday. You can find it at Minrebroederstraat 21.

### 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

#### Meneer Smakers

What: Utrecht's hip hamburger bar!

Where: Nobelstraat 143

Why: Awesome inexpensive homemade burgers, hand made fries and great vegetarian options.

#### Kimmade

What: Vietnamese street food

Where: Mariastraat 2

Why: Delicious, freshly made Asian food. The restaurant is tiny, not suitable for dining all evening, but perfect for a quick, cheap, delicious and healthy bite to eat.

#### 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 2015**

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