

'Bitterballen, biking and buildings'

Negotiating Dutch Identities in Travel
Vlogs about the Netherlands



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Abstract

In travel vlogs about the Netherlands a Dutch national identity is put forth by the traveller on YouTube. The Dutch viewer, in turn can reply in the comments section and can show their agreement or disagreement with this national identity. For this research seven travel vlogs about the Netherlands were analysed via the method of thematic analysis to determine the Dutch viewer's thoughts on the national identity portrayed in the travel vlogs about their country. The Dutch viewers were most proud of Dutch cuisine and travel vloggers trying out these dishes. Whenever Dutch viewers did not agree with the travel vlogger, they would debunk their information and provide the information they believed to be correct. Sometimes the viewer would also add to the theme when they felt some information was lacking.

Introduction

The Netherlands officially became an independent country in 1648 with the Peace of Münster, when the war with Spain finally came to an end.¹ From here it took some time before the Netherlands truly became one nation with one story. The rise of nationalism in the 19th century started the development of national identity in the whole of Europe. In the Netherlands the first moment a feeling of one nation was formed occurred during the revolution against the Spanish at the end of the 18th century.² Throughout the centuries certain items gained the label of being typically Dutch and people bonded over certain celebrations and commonplaces. Over time the Dutch kept adding items to their national identity. For example, in the 19th century the Dutch developed an interest in their own Golden Age and became nostalgic for prosperous times. During this period the heroes of the seas were added to Dutch national identity. During the war periods in the 20th century the rise of nationalism slowly came to a halt in Europe.³

Today, national identity is still often discussed and researched. It is explained how through the creation of national identity a sense of community is established. Within national identity there is a presence of a political community.⁴ National identity is aided by the government, who sets the law and regulates what the citizens are allowed to do. The government lays down the rules of broadcast regulations, employment rights and environment rules, taxes and so forth. Through these laws the government is responsible for prioritizing a certain way of life. Besides this bureaucratic framework, other aspects are also important when forming a national identity. Recognizable places and a collective landscape add to national identity. As well as, the sharing of certain customs and manners. There is the familiarity of the use of certain household items and other material commonplaces. Lastly, national identity is created by shared narratives and representations, which are further confirmed by the media, politics and pleasant interactions.⁵ Essentially, nations are determined by a culture community, united by historical memories, myths, symbols and traditions.⁶ This identification with a groups also gives the member something to be proud of.⁷

¹ Friso Wielenga, *A History of the Netherlands: From the Sixteenth Century to the Present Day* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015), no page numbers.

² Patrick Meershoek, "'Het begrip nationale identiteit suggereert: zo is het. Maar zo is het dus niet'," *Het Parool*, January 29, 2018.

³ Meershoek, "Nationale identiteit."

⁴ A.D. Smith, *National Identity* (University of Nevada Press, 1991), 9.

⁵ Tim Edensor, *National Identity, Popular Culture and Everyday Life* (Oxford: Berg, 2002), 20.

⁶ Smith, *National Identity*, 11.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 176.

Van Sas, a Dutch historian, has researched Dutch national identity through his life. He remarks how the debate surrounding Dutch national identity keeps being brought up every ten years.⁸ The debate surrounding Dutch national identity was only reignited last year with the removal of the famous *I Amsterdam* sign, a big sign in front of the Rijksmuseum in bright red and white colours. It was removed because it showed too much individualism according to the Dutch government party GroenLinks.⁹ Van Sas also explains how Dutch national identity is extremely fluctuant. It is difficult to speak of one Dutch national identity since Dutch people also tend to identify as Fries or Limburger, depending on what province the person is from. Some Dutch people also identify with different football clubs, for example the rivalry between Ajax and Feyenoord creates a barrier between people.¹⁰ Comparing the Dutch to 50 or even 200 years shows a lot of change among the inhabitants. Lotte Jensen, an expert in Dutch studies and philosophy, researched how Dutch national identity was shaped during times of peace. Most researchers have focused on periods of war and conflict to research national identity. In these situations, the us versus them debate is sparked and thoughts on national identity become clearer.¹¹ Jensen chose the medium of literature, specifically literature about peace such as poems, songs, plays, sermons and treatises. These forms of literature give a clear image of how people experienced their love for their motherland and saw the future of the Netherlands.¹²

Recent research on Dutch national identity reported on the Dutch own view of their national identity. *Historisch nieuwsblad*, a prominent history platform in the Netherlands, has done surveys among the Dutch population for several years to get an indication of how Dutch people see their own national identity and what this identity consists of. Especially language was rated as important for someone to have the Dutch identity. In June 2019, Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau (SCP) published one of the largest researches ever done among Dutch people concerning Dutch national identity. Their research showed Dutch people do believe there is a Dutch national identity, which is mostly formed through language, national holidays, traditions, habits, symbols, and icons. Other elements included landscape and water management. Democracy and freedom were not necessary typically Dutch, but they are important in creating a sense of community among the Dutch.¹³

⁸ Meershoek, "Het begrip nationale identiteit suggereert: zo is het. Maar zo is het dus."

⁹ Maartje Geels, "I Amsterdam-letters definitief weg van museumplein," *NRC*, November 8, 2018.

¹⁰ Meershoek, "Het begrip nationale identiteit suggereert: zo is het. Maar zo is het dus."

¹¹ Lotte Jensen, *Vieren van Vrede* (Nijmegen: Vantilt, 2016), 9.

¹² *Ibid.*, 20.

¹³ Sjoerd Beugelsdijk, Joep de Hart, Pepijn van Houwelingen and Maroesjka Versantvoort, "Denkend aan Nederland," *Publieksmagazine*, June 26, 2019, 11.

For this research the focus is on a new and different medium, namely travel vlogs on YouTube. Travel vlogging is recording one's travel journey and experiences and sharing it online. In the 21st century, where the internet is accessible everywhere, sharing travel experiences is relatively popular. The internet gave people the opportunity to not only post travel logs online, but to share and communicate with their audience. It further gave people the opportunity to share and post quickly and get instant replies from others. In the early 2000s blogging became popular, which can be seen as the predecessor of travel vlogging. Lee and Gretzel give a definition; blogging is keeping a diary online, on which other people can leave comments and can interact with the author.¹⁴ This phenomenon called blogging has grown from 3 million blogs in 2004 to 164 million in 2011. 28% of all blogs in 2011 were travel blogs.¹⁵

As the quality of video cameras increased, their size decreased, they became cheaper and generally a lot more accessible, a new form of travel recording was created named travel vlogging. A lot of these travel vlogs are posted on a video sharing platform called YouTube, founded in 2005. YouTube opened new doors to video journaling and sharing them with an audience. Travel vlogging is part of a larger trend called video journaling, or for short vlogging. Over the last few years this area of YouTube has grown immensely, with people earning their living by becoming influencers. An influencer is someone who has the power to affect purchase decisions of other individuals because of their authority, knowledge, position or relationship with their audience. The vlogs available on YouTube cover many themes. Some of the themes are: make-up, fashion, mental health, lifestyle and travelling. A section of these vlogs is travel vlogs. These travel vlogs come in all shapes and sizes. Some of the travel vloggers wish to inform their audience, to educate them and to show them potential travel destinations. Others are travelling themselves and like to record their travels and post them online, they have less of an objective with their travels. Within the first group there are individual travellers who earn money with their travels via sponsorships and collaborations. Travel companies themselves are also using vlogs to explore destinations and inform their audience.

Through the creation of the travel vlog an image of the destination is presented by the travel vlogger. They show and talk about certain traditions and discuss culture, history and

¹⁴ Yoon Jung Lee, and Ulrike Gretzel. "Cross-Cultural Differences in Social Identity Formation through Travel Blogging," *Journal of Travel & Tourism Marketing* 31, no. 1 (2014): 37.

¹⁵ C. Bosangit, J. Dulnuan, and M. Mena, "Using Travel Blogs to Examine the Postconsumption Behavior of Tourists," *Journal of Vacation Marketing* 18, no. 3 (2012): 207.

any food or drinks they tried during their travels. They display their idea of national identity of the country they are visiting. They describe what they see and what the people in the country are like. They often also discuss local traditions and the history of the country. The travel vloggers are one of the actors involved in the negotiating of Dutch national identity in travel vlogs. The other actor is the Dutch commenter. Dutch people might be interested in watching these travel vlogs to see how their country is represented. Does this representation correspond to their ideas of their own national identity? The Dutch might have an idea of how their own country should be shown. They have certain things they find important and unique about their country. Essentially, they have an idea of Dutch national identity in their mind and evaluate whether the travel vlogger is confirming their ideas on Dutch national identity.

The viewers of travel vlogs have the opportunity to leave a comment and give their opinion on the content. Anybody who consumes the content can converse with the creator and other consumers. In turn the creator of the content can reply.¹⁶ People in the Netherlands choose to watch travel vlogs about their own country. They then decide to respond to the content shown by the travel vlogger and give their opinion. Ultimately, a dialogue between the traveller and the people in the host country is created.

What sets the research described in this paper apart from previous research on Dutch national identity is the new medium of travel vlogging, which in turn introduced the new actors, the travel vloggers and the commenters. Through this new medium national identity is discussed with a different method from research by Lotte Jensen and SCP. Jensen specifically focused on how Dutch national identity was shaped during times of peace. SCP researched how Dutch people saw their own Dutch national identity. For this research the focus will not only lie on how Dutch people see their own identity, but how they negotiate their identity with the travel vloggers. Travel vloggers create a version of national identity in their travel vlogs and for this research the focus will be on how Dutch viewers respond to the travel vloggers ideas on Dutch national identity.

Negotiating identity is not something new. The term is most often applied when discussing the inclusion of minorities' identities in the larger national identities. Helena Grice, a researcher of American literature, researched how second-generation Japanese Americans have tried to negotiate a national identity that has been imposed on them by external parties.¹⁷

¹⁶ Andrew Tolson, "A New Authenticity? Communicative Practices on Youtube," *Critical Discourse Studies* 7, no. 4 (2010): 279.

¹⁷ Helena Grice, *Negotiating Identities: An Introduction to Asian American Women's Writing* (Manchester University Press, 2002). 156.

In 1941 after the bombing of Pearl Harbour many Japanese Americans were incarcerated, this containment followed with the government imposing a national identity on a group of people, which they could not object to.¹⁸ In this case the negotiating is done by the government, which generally is the one implying the national identity through laws and prioritizing a certain way of life. The other group is a minority, who have a national identity imposed on them by the government.

For this research the negotiating takes place between ones who help create the Dutch national identity, the citizens of the country and a group of outsiders, who create their idea of Dutch national identity through their travels. Through this research it will become clear how a small group of outsiders sees the Netherlands while visiting the country and interacting with the locals. Furthermore, the reaction of the Dutch on the views of the outsiders on the Netherlands will be discussed.

Therefore, this thesis seeks to answer the following research question.

"How are the ideas of Dutch identity negotiated in travel vlogs about the Netherlands?"

The sub-questions are: What is the content of the travel vlogs? In what ways do Dutch viewers respond to the content of the travel vlogs? What subjects are discussed in the travel vlogs and what reaction does this ignite among Dutch viewers?

The lay-out of the thesis will be the following. Chapter 1 consists of the literature review to provide a coherent image what has already been done and how this thesis can add to the existing literature. Chapter 2 will focus on the background to the sources, explaining some important terms and phenomena. Moreover, to create a clear image of what is meant with these terms in this thesis and to give a general idea of online communities. This will be followed with Chapter 3, the methodology and a description of the sources used for this thesis. The theory of thematic analysis is explained as well as the process of selecting the travel vlogs and the coding of the vlogs. Chapter 4 will give an in-depth analysis of the travel vlogs and the comments section. The analysis will look at what travel vloggers show in their travel vlogs about the Netherlands and analyse the reaction of Dutch viewers on these travel vlogs. The analysis has been done to evidently show in which ways Dutch people negotiate their national identity. Chapter 5 will contain the overall conclusion and recommendations.

¹⁸ Grice, *Negotiating Identities*, 159.

Chapter 1 – Vlogging, Blogging and National Identity

Both blogging and vlogging are recent phenomenon, which only became possible as the internet was created. Blogging software was invented in 1999 and gave web users the opportunity to create blogs.¹⁹ The first vlog was created by Adam Kontras in 2000, but vlogging really took off with the creation of YouTube in 2005.²⁰ Since vlogging only became popular on YouTube during the last decade, not a lot of literature has focused on vlogging. The topic of travel vlogging was researched even less. This literature review will first discuss the literature concerning vlogging, to get an idea of what type of research this consists of. This is followed by literature in travel blogging, as this topic has been researched more and will give a general idea of what kind of research has been done about travel writing in the 21st century. Lastly, literature on national identity is discussed, with a focus on research related to Dutch national identity.

Vlogging

Since vlogging is such a recent concept, little research has been done about this topic. Furthermore, most research has been about vlogging related to make-up and mental health, rather than travelling. Gao, Tian and Huang give a general overview of the new trend vlogging and its potential. They use a very technical approach to research what tools can be used for vlogging, as well as, the current available technology.²¹ Tolson gives some new insights into the modern use of YouTube and vlogging. There is a participatory culture on YouTube. Furthermore, vlogging creates a face-to-face communication with the viewer. He uses the case study of make-up tutorials, but his general conclusion is interesting for travel vlogs as well. He argues that YouTube "may be a 'new model' for communicative entitlement [...] creating another space for the sort of creative engagement with consumer culture."²²

Thelwall and Sud focus entirely on the way people can leave their opinion on YouTube videos. They research how these comments can turn into debates.²³ The results showed most commenters were male around the age of 25. In general, comments are rather

¹⁹ Greg Myers, *The discourse of blogs and wikis*, (Wiltshire: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2010), 16-17.

²⁰ Maria Grazia Sindoni, *Spoken and Written Discourse in Online Interactions: A Multimodal Approach* (London: Routledge, 2014), 127.

²¹ Wen Gao, Yonghong Tian, Tiejun Huang, and Qiang Yang, "Vlogging: A Survey of videoblogging technology on the Web," 1-57.

²² Tolson, "Communicative Practices on Youtube," 287.

²³ Mike Thelwall and Pardeep Sud, "Commenting on YouTube Videos: From Guatemalan Rock to El Big Bang," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 63, no. 3 (2012): 617.

short, and the average amount of comments is 76.2 on a video. The videos with most comments were discussing religion.²⁴ Their research indicates the comments section on YouTube is frequently used for discussions among the viewers and creators.

Oh & Oh researched something similar to travel vlogs, namely Americans emigrating to Korea and vlogging about their experience. Their findings showed how a white and western superiority was established by mocking Korean culture.²⁵ For the portrayal of Africa on YouTube not much is different. Wall explains how two African countries, Ghana and Kenya, most often appear in videos created by westerners. Even though the representation is different from the past, not the violent and chaotic nature, these representations continue to be stereotyped. Compared to videos about Africa, which are not created by westerners the videos were more about entertainment, such as music.²⁶

Travel blogging

Quite some research has been done about the influence of travel blogging on destinations and future tourist's decision-making. Pan et al. investigated how travel bloggers experienced Charleston, South Carolina. Furthermore, their research shows how other tourists use travel blogs as an inexpensive resource, that does give them an authentic and unsolicited review of the destination.²⁷ Banyai took a different approach and immediately delves into how travel blogs about Canada indicate what is important to visit at certain destinations. They compared these outcomes to what was currently used in marketing strategies.²⁸ Across the globe in China, Wu and Pearce explored how Chinese tourists created their own little 'Lonely Planets', to pass down to other tourists as a way to inform each other.²⁹ Lee and Gretzel do indeed confirm there are different methods to writing blogs across many cultures. They use the theory of social identity to explain the difference between Korean and U.S. bloggers.³⁰

Travel blogging is not just related to branding, but also to self-branding. Nuenen analyses several travel blogs to understand how authenticity and self-branding work together

²⁴ Thelwall and Sud, "Commenting on YouTube Videos," 626.

²⁵ David Oh, and Chuyun Oh, "Vlogging White Privilege Abroad: Eat Your Kimchi's Eating and Spitting Out of the Korean Other on Youtube," *Communication, Culture & Critique* 10, no. 4 (2017): 702.

²⁶ Melissa Wall, "Africa on Youtube," *International Communication Gazette* 71, no. 5 (2009): 405.

²⁷ Bing Pan, Tanya MacLaurin, and John Crotts, "Travel Blogs and the Implications for Destination Marketing," *Journal of Travel Research* 46, no. 1 (2007): 42-43.

²⁸ Maria Banyai, "Travel Blogs: A Reflection of Positioning Strategies?" *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management* 21, no. 4 (2012): 421-439.

²⁹ Mao-Ying Wu and Philip L Pearce, "Tourism Blogging Motivations Why Do Chinese Tourists Create Little 'lonely Planets'?" *Journal of Travel Research* 55, no. 4 (2016): 537-49.

³⁰ Lee and Ulrike, "Social Identity Formation," 37-54.

in these blogs. Through a discourse analysis Nuenen shows how professional bloggers appease the search for a self-dependent and existential authenticity and combine it with self-branding techniques. The bloggers show the hardships they overcome, while acting as travel and life coaches, while also explaining how this lifestyle is attainable for everyone.³¹ Cox et al. have shown that even though blogs, what they refer to as User Generated Content (UGC), are extremely popular. UGC is not considered to be as credible or trustworthy as other sources of information, namely official travel guides.³² Thevenot even notes the negative impacts blogging and especially travel blogging can have on the tourism industry. Technology's power keeps increasing, which decreases the power of institutions. In addition, travel blogs can have a negative influence when written by an unsatisfied customer.³³ Öz agrees social media, which YouTube is part of, plays an incredibly important role in the tourists' journey from selecting the journey until they arrive home. Social media is also used to make all kinds of decisions during their travels.³⁴ Rulyova and Zagibalov actually research the construction of Russian and Chinese bloggers' own national identity through the representation of others.³⁵ The authors explain how othering helps people create their own national identity. They show how the representation of the Chinese in Russian blogs reflects the problems in Russian society. While the Chinese write straight-forward and there is less reflection.³⁶

National identity

Nationalism generally came about in the late eighteenth century in Europe. It grew immensely during the French Revolution of 1789.³⁷ Throughout the last few centuries nations have let nationalism grow and nations created a national identity. Smith argues that national identity includes "some sense of political community".³⁸ Therefore, a national identity must include a code of law and some sort of territory, a space the members can feel like they belong.

³¹ Tom van Nuenen, "Here I Am: Authenticity and Self-Branding on Travel Blogs," *Tourist Studies* 16, no. 2 (2016): 207.

³² Cox Carmen, Stephen Burgess, Carmine Sellitto, and Jeremy Bultjens, "The Role of User-Generated Content in Tourists' Travel Planning Behavior," *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management* 18, no. 8 (2009): 762.

³³ Guillaume Thevenot, "Blogging as a Social Media," *Tourism and Hospitality Research* 7, no. 3-4 (2007): 289.

³⁴ Mustafa Öz, "Social media utilization of tourists for travel-related purposes," *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 27, no. 5 (2015): 1010.

³⁵ Natalia Rulyova and Taras Zagibalov, "Blogging the Other: Construction of National Identities in the Blogosphere," *Europe-Asia Studies* 64, no. 8 (2012): 1524.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 1542.

³⁷ Elspeth Frew, and Leanne White, *Tourism and National Identity: An International Perspective* (Milton Park: Taylor & Francis, 2011), 2.

³⁸ Smith, *National Identity*, 9.

Identifying with a group also gives the members "a source of pride".³⁹ Anderson's theories on national identity and nationalism have been cited most over the years and has made significant contributions to the discourse on the topic of national identity. He broke away from his predecessors by excluding religion and kinship from what ties a nation together. He also claims communities are imagined. "It is *imagined* because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the images of their communion."⁴⁰ Anderson also claims communities are limited as no community desires or is capable of encompassing the whole population. Furthermore, there is a horizontal comradeship among the community even though there might be inequality within the community.⁴¹

Anderson also explains how language, especially in Europe is intertwined with national identity. The so-called lexicographic revolution in Europe led to the believe that languages are the personal property of certain groups.⁴² A recent study by the Washington Post confirms these ideas. In 2017, Adam Taylor aimed to explore, via survey, how people in 14 different countries define their national identity. From his studies it became clear that language is tied to national identity in all 14 countries. However, the Netherlands had the highest results with 84% of the participants rating language as 'very important'. Another 16% voted being born in this country as 'very important', 8% to have the Dutch nationality and 37% to share the customs and traditions of the Dutch.⁴³

Seton-Watson discusses whether nationalism is a positive or negative force. It binds a group of people together and distinguishes them from other groups. Unfortunately, nationalism can also lead to aggression among different groups. Seton-Watson concludes nationalism is neither good nor bad. All citizens do appreciate national identity even though they might not consciously be aware of it.⁴⁴ Frew and White claim someone's idea of national identity is closely linked to their own national sentiment.⁴⁵ Essentially, the individual must have empathy for something bigger than themselves. Dimitrova-Grajzl et al. conclude national identity has an effect on national pride. In countries with a long history of national

³⁹ Smith, *National Identity*, 176.

⁴⁰ Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (London: Verso, 2006), 6.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 7

⁴² *Ibid.*, 84

⁴³ Adam Taylor, "How Do People Define Their National Identity? By Speaking the Language, Study Says." *The Washington Post*, February 1, 2017.

⁴⁴ Hugh Seton-Watson, "The history of nations" *Times Literary Supplement*, (August 1982): 13.

⁴⁵ Frew and White, *Tourism and National Identity*, 4.

identity a bigger sense of national pride is visible.⁴⁶ National pride means a group sees themselves in a more positive light than other groups.

Whether the Dutch feel as though they have a national identity has been researched a few times in the last two decades. Jensen looks at various moments of peace between 1648 and 1815 to determine how Dutch national identity was created. At the beginning of the creation of the Netherlands its history and religion played an important part in binding the Dutch together and creating one nation. There was also an emphasis on a new Golden Age, which was written about in many plays.⁴⁷ Jensen also emphasises during the creation of national identity certain elements are repeated. Elements that keep turning up again and again become part of the core of a national identity. Throughout the centuries the elements that are most often mentioned are the re-growth of trade, a new golden age, remembrance of the heroes of the seas, and God's providence.⁴⁸ There is also an appreciation for the royal family, though not by every author. These elements are what Jensen describes as having shaped the Dutch national identity in the 17th, 18th and 19th century. The re-occurrence of these elements made them part of Dutch national identity.

Historisch nieuwsblad, one of the most prominent history platforms in the Netherlands, wrote an article last year about the Dutch's view on their own national identity. *Historisch nieuwsblad* undertook surveys in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2018 to research the experience of nationality in the Netherlands and the knowledge of the Dutch on their own history. 92% of the correspondents clearly felt a Dutch national identity existed. Young people were less inclined to answer 'yes' to this question.⁴⁹ This denies Frew and White's claim national sentiment is more present in young people.⁵⁰ To the question what makes someone Dutch the correspondents felt being born in the Netherlands was important, as well as knowledge of traditions and culture and knowledge of Dutch. Other topics mentioned were *zuinigheid* (cost-saving), feelings of freedom, openness, tolerance and being down-to-earth. The respondents were also asked what is most important in the forming of Dutch national identity. 70% of the correspondents rated speaking the language the highest. 60% rated history as most important. Followed with 39% the landscape and the royal family. When asked how proud the Dutch people are of their own history the average score is a 3.7, with 1

⁴⁶ Valentina Dimitrova-Grajzl, Jonathan Eastwood and Peter Grajzl, "The longevity of national identity and national pride: Evidence from wider Europe," *SAGE* (2016): 1.

⁴⁷ Jensen, *Vieren van Vrede*, 35.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 64.

⁴⁹ Annemarie Lavèn, "Nationale identiteit: veel trots, weinig kennis," *Historisch Nieuwsblad*, June 2018. No page numbers.

⁵⁰ Frew and White, *Tourism and National Identity*, 4-5.

being not proud and 5 being very proud. The Dutch are most proud of water management in the Netherlands and sport performances. This research shows certain topics have helped shape the Dutch national identity according to the Dutch correspondents. These are: language, cultural manners, and history. The survey also researched the Dutch knowledge of their own history, even though they are very proud of their history, the correspondents knew surprisingly little about this topic.

The most recent research among Dutch inhabitants on Dutch national identity was done by Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau (SCP) in June of 2019. It was one of the largest reports with 5000 participants. The purpose of this research was to determine what 'the' Dutch national identity is and to create a clear image of the thoughts of different layers of society on this topic.⁵¹ The most important conclusions made by the SCP was the fact the Dutch indicated there is a Dutch national identity. 41% of the participants fully believed a Dutch national identity exists and 42% felt there is some Dutch national identity. To find out what is part of Dutch national identity SCP asked the respondents what they found most typically Dutch. The following 20 subjects were mentioned most frequently, with the first one being Dutch language, followed by Kingsday, Sinterklaas, biking, Elfstedentocht, Dutch flag, Deltaworks, windmills, the diary of Anne Frank, dykes, Nachtwacht from Rembrandt, canals in Amsterdam, oliebollen and appelflappen at New Year's Eve, orange craziness, colour orange, the 4th of May (Remembrance day), tulips, 5th of May (Liberation day), Dutch national anthem and orange feeling.⁵²

From SCP results it becomes clear Dutch people seem to agree on what binds them together, regardless of their background. SCP explains the fact the Dutch language was named as most typical does not mean it is also what binds them together as a nation. However, language is also named as number one at binding Dutch people together. Followed by: freedom, Kingsday, 4th of May (Remembrance day), 5th of May (Liberation day), Dutch flag, Sinterklaas, equality of men and women (according to the law), freedom of speech, Diary of Anne Frank, democracy, orange feeling, biking, gezelligheid (cosiness), colour orange, Dutch national anthem, Elfstedentocht, ice-skating and ice fun, equality for homosexual and heterosexual (according to the law) and oliebollen and appelflappen at New Year's Eve.⁵³ The things that bind the Dutch together are relatively the same as what they find typically Dutch. There is mention of certain laws binding the Dutch together, such as the

⁵¹ Beugelsdijk, De Hart, Van Houwelingen and Versantvoort, "Denkend aan Nederland," 3.

⁵² Ibid., 11.

⁵³ Ibid., 12.

equality laws and democracy, but these are not seen as the most typical Dutch items. The same as with what Dutch people find typical, religion does not play a major role in what binds Dutch people together.⁵⁴ In general, Dutch people also find their relationship with water important to Dutch national identity. The research shows Dutch people find canals, dykes and Deltaworks typically Dutch. Furthermore, the topic of water is what binds Dutch people together. It shows the Dutch have the skills to survive on land below water and to be able to build infrastructure such as the Deltaworks.⁵⁵

SCP's research also shows how a sense of community does not necessarily lead to loyalty for this community. One of fifth participants does not feel responsible for the actions of the Netherlands. One of third participants does not feel as though they have a big voice in the Netherlands and have a lot of influence. Dutch people who feel more connected to the Netherlands do tend to feel more responsible for the actions of the Netherlands.⁵⁶ SCP also looked at reports and interviews with visitors to the Netherlands. The results show the Dutch are known for their direct way of communicating, pragmatic attitude, pragmatic tolerance, egalitarian relations of authority, limited ambition, a need for freedom and involvement with the less fortunate.⁵⁷ The overall conclusion is no opposing parties exist when it comes to national identity in the Netherlands. A lot of traditions, habits and customs bind the Dutch together as a nation.⁵⁸

To conclude, the literature review shows us that quite extensive research has been done about travel blogging, with most of the focus on branding. Particularly, how these travel blogs tend to brand destinations and whether this is a popular method for future tourists to gather information. Research also shows Russian and Chinese bloggers create their own national identity by reflecting the other. The research about travel vlogging is considerably smaller. Therefore, research about vlogging was also consulted to give a clear indication where the state of the research is on this topic. The research about travel vlogging gives clear indication that western vloggers tend to show stereotypes of exotic cultures. Furthermore, US vloggers tend to see themselves as superior over these exotic cultures. The comments section on YouTube are indeed a new underdeveloped dialogue, in which debates are started by people on the content of the videos.

⁵⁴ Ibid.,

⁵⁵ Ibid., 24.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 18.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 27.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 33.

The research on national identity shows it has been around for several centuries, but keeps evolving over time as the inhabitants of a country change. This also counts for Dutch national identity. Jensen's research shows Dutch national identity was firstly shaped through times of peace through the growth of trade, a new golden age, the heroes of the seas and God's providence. Today, Dutch people have a slightly different outlook on their own national identity. First of all, there is not one Dutch national identity as people also identify with smaller groups within the Netherlands. However, the Dutch agree national identity exists in their country. These are shaped by language, culture and history. Dutch people are also proud of Dutch sport performances and water management. Religion does not seem to play an important part in Dutch national identity anymore.

Chapter 2 – Background to the sources

Travel vlogging is less than two decades old, therefore some terms involved with travel vlogging are quite recent and demand some more explanation. Furthermore, the media on which these travel vlogs are posted needs some more explanation as well.

The vlog genre

Vlogging is short for videoblogging, which is a form of blogging in which video is used as the medium.⁵⁹ Vlogging is mostly used by the younger generation as they often carry mobile devices and digital cameras to vlog. Furthermore, they might feel like vlogs can communicate more as it is not just text, but much more expressive. A vlog is a way to communicate with a larger audience. The main message of the vlog is communicated through verbal content and also through nonverbal behaviour of the vlogger. The vlogger also makes other conscious and unconscious choices, which conveys other messages. Certain choices can influence the video quality as well as the sound quality. The appearance of the vlogger is also important, this mostly concerns from what angle they film themselves. The editing of the video has an influence on the final product. These choices are visible in the vlogs and are a communicative signal to the audience.⁶⁰

The vlogger

A vlogger often starts video recording in their free time and has some previous knowledge with video equipment and filming, long before they start posting their vlogs online. With this previous knowledge they also have certain expectations of themselves to have a good audio quality and general high-quality vlogs. The motivations for people to become a vlogger varies. Anyone can watch your vlog once you post it online, this gives the vlogger a voice and the opportunity to hold intelligent conversations. Other vloggers are interested in people's personal story and would like to share their own.⁶¹ Some vloggers even refer to their audience as family at the start of every vlog. Another reason put forth by vloggers is their desire to receive attention. They do not mind being in the spotlight and enjoy entertaining their audience. Most of all, vloggers think vlogging is fun and a great hobby. It also creates lots of

⁵⁹ Wen Gao, Yonghong Tian, Tiejun Huang, and Qiang Yang, "Vlogging: A Survey of videoblogging technology on the Web," *ACM Computing Survey* 42, no. 4 (2010): 2.

⁶⁰ Oya Aran, Joan-Isaac Biel, and Daniel Gatica-Perez, "Broadcasting Oneself: Visual Discovery of Vlogging Styles," *Transactions on Multimedia* 16, no. 1 (2014): 201.

⁶¹ Dasgupta Subhasish, *Technical, Social, and Legal Issues in Virtual Communities: Emerging Environments* (IGI Global, 2012), 74.

opportunities to get in contact with other people and converse with them.⁶² Today, there is a whole community online of vloggers that earn money with their videos.

Online communities

As the term suggests online communities are linked to the internet. Online communities can be defined in many different ways, often the term virtual community is used as well. For this thesis the following definitions will be used. Preece defined social communities by the social interaction, where individuals come together to exchange information and to support each other. Furthermore, these communities can be national, international and both small and large. These communities are created through a form of computer system which mediates and facilitates the communication.⁶³ Gupta and Hee-Woong defined four different aspects in relation to online communities. The first aspect is the community itself, and the individuals in the group. These communities are not limited to space. Unlike most communities the individuals in online communities do not often share a physical space. The second aspect is a location, specifically an online location, where the people in the community can create social and economic relationships. Bonding is another important aspect as it creates a notion of membership and personal relationships within the community. Sometimes people even become addicted to the community. The last aspect is a shared objective or purpose.⁶⁴

YouTube

The platform on which most travel vlogs are placed is YouTube. Other platforms also exist online, such as Vimeo and Dailymotion. For this research the platform YouTube was used for its easy use and large content, its comments section, and YouTube was best known to the researcher. In February 2005, YouTube was created by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, when they had trouble sending videos to their family and friends. In November 2006, it was bought by Google and has been part of their subsidiaries since. Vlogging is especially popular on YouTube as it lets the creator upload, tag and share video clips, making them known to the whole world. On YouTube people are more likely to watch videos, rather than to log on, comment, and/or upload videos. Nevertheless, for many users YouTube is a social

⁶² Subhasish, *Virtual Communities*, 75

⁶³ Jenny Preece, "Sociability and usability: Twenty years of chatting online," *Behaviour and Information Technology Journal* 20, no. 5 (2001): 3.

⁶⁴ Sumeet Gupta, and Kim Hee-Woong, *Virtual Community: Concepts, Implications, and Future Research Directions* Paper presented at the Americas Conference on Information Systems, New York, NY, 2004. 2680-2681.

network site. It works different than the more common social media sites, such as Facebook and Instagram. On YouTube the content of the video is the main method of communication. The people who spend time on YouTube to upload videos, to comment and critique one another are the "social core" of YouTube.⁶⁵ On YouTube people can show their interest with views and likes. More views usually mean more people enjoy your content. Viewers can leave a like or dislike to indicate if they enjoyed the video. Viewers can also leave comments to indicate their feelings concerning the video. The creator of the video can even specifically ask their viewers to leave their opinion in the comments section.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ Jean Burgess, Joshua Green, Henry Jenkins, and John Hartley, *YouTube: Online Video and Participatory Culture* (Digital Media and Society Series. Cambridge: Polity, 2009), 58.

⁶⁶ Will Eagle, *YouTube Marketing for Dummies* (New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, 2019), 56.

Chapter 3 – Method and Sources

In this chapter the method of thematic analysis is explained. This method was used to analyse the travel vlogs. The method of thematic analysis is explained as well as the process and the importance of sample size. This is followed by an explanation of how the travel vlogs were selected. Then the process of identifying the various themes in the travel vlogs and the coding in the software program ATLAS.ti is discussed. The chapter ends with a short summary of who the travel vloggers for this research are.

Thematic analysis

For this research the method of thematic analysis was used. By using the thematic analysis several themes were identified among the travel vlogs, through a qualitative method.

Thematic analysis is often used in the social sciences, such as psychology, but can also be applied to this specific research. Thematic analysis is not necessarily a method that stands on its own. Rather, it is necessary to understand for using other approaches. For example, Ryan and Bernard explain how thematic analysis is more of a process performed within the method of grounded theory. Grounded theory is easily explained as an analysis through which the researcher becomes more and more 'grounded' in the data. These eventually lead to clearer ideas and models of how the concept being studied really works.⁶⁷ Strauss and Corbin explain how "constant comparative analysis, development of theoretical concepts and statements, and theoretical sampling, as well as the usual supporting techniques of theoretical coding and memoing"⁶⁸ are some of the most important aspects of grounded theory.

Braun and Clark give a clear indication how thematic analysis works and which steps need to be taken. Thematic analysis is a very flexible tool and gives the researcher a lot of theoretical freedom. Furthermore, it enables the researcher to create a rich and detailed account of data.⁶⁹ The main problem researchers using the thematic analysis run into is the difficulty of describing how the themes are discovered. Braun and Clark acknowledge this difficulty and remark researchers often use the term 'emerge' when discussing a new theme.⁷⁰ By using the term 'emerge' it gives the reader the impression that the theme suddenly appeared when discussing the research data, as though these themes already reside within the

⁶⁷ W.G. Ryan, and H.R. Bernard, "Data management and analysis methods," in *Handbook of qualitative research*, eds. Denzin, and Lincoln (Newbury Park: Sage, 2000), 782-783.

⁶⁸ Anselm Strauss and Juliet Corbin, *Grounded Theory in Practice* (London: Sage Publications, 1997), 1-2.

⁶⁹ Virginia Braun and Vistoria Clarke, "Using thematic analysis in psychology," *Qualitative Research in Psychology* 3 (2006): 78.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 79

data. An insufficient amount of information is often given by the researcher about the discovery of these themes. The researcher needs to take a more active role and explain exactly to the reader where these themes came from.

Essentially, thematic analysis is "a method for identifying, analysing and reporting patterns (themes) within data."⁷¹ So how are these themes identified within the data set? A theme can be identified because it shows something important about the data set. There is a certain patterned response that can be identified and becomes a theme. Braun and Clark further add that a theme is not necessarily identified because it is often talked about in the data set. On the contrary, it can be something that is only mentioned in a sentence or two.⁷² Ryan and Bernard further confirm themes are identified by the researchers and are often abstract. These themes can be identified before, during and after the collection of the data. They further explain that grounded theorists use a line-by-line reading technique to identify any processes, actions, assumptions and consequences.⁷³

The identification of themes is not something that is the same for every subject and every data set. Therefore, the researcher must judge the data set and identify the themes. Consequently, a certain level of flexibility is needed when using the thematic analysis as rigid rules do not apply. This flexibility also means certain decisions have to be made concerning the data set. Either the focus can be on one particular aspect of the data set or a more general overall of the whole data set.⁷⁴

The process of thematic analysis

The process starts with the researcher noticing certain patterns. Braun and Clarke identify six different phases. The first phase is to become acquainted with the data. It is also useful to read and re-read the data and to write down any initial thoughts. The second phase concerns the creation of the first codes. Followed by the third phase, locating the themes. Phase four concerns reviewing the themes and linking them back to phase 1 and 2. Do the themes work in relation to the first two phases? Phase five focuses on naming the themes and specifying them, along with locating the overall story the themes tell. The last phase is the creation of the report and is the analysis of the identified themes. It is important to locate vivid examples, to

⁷¹ Braun and Clarke, "Using thematic analysis in psychology," 79.

⁷² Ibid., 82.

⁷³ Ryan and Bernard, *Data management and analysis methods*, 780.

⁷⁴ Braun and Clarke, "Using thematic analysis in psychology," 83.

relate the analysis back to the research question and literature. And finally, to produce a report of the analysis.⁷⁵

Sample size

An important question to ask concerning thematic analysis is how to determine the sample size of the research. Fugard and Potts tried to uncover how large a sample must be in order for all themes to be discussed. The sample size could be determined by mathematics. However, more elements are involved which cannot be put into an equation. In the end, it is important to have a small enough sample size to manage and research the data properly. In addition, the data size should be large enough to provide something new and a richly textured understanding of experience.⁷⁶ Therefore, for this research seven travel vlogs contained sufficient data.

The selection of the travel vlogs

To first get a clear indication of what kind of travel vlogs were available on YouTube a lot of different travel vlogs were watched. The first few vlogs were chosen by searching 'travel vlogs Netherlands' on YouTube. Many of the travel vlogs either featured Amsterdam or Rotterdam. After watching several travel vlogs, YouTube began recommending travel vlogs about the Netherlands as well. Again, most of these travel vlogs were about Amsterdam or Rotterdam with a few featuring other places. The travel vlogs about other places were selected to get a better idea of what content these travel vlogs had. It became apparent various types of travel vloggers and travel vlogs exist.

The first group is young individuals or couples whose main motivation is travelling for fun, but also making money with it. These travel vloggers often get sponsorships or work together with local tourist agencies. They are also very active on social media and try to form a good relationship with their audience. The second group is made up of companies, such as Attaché, who create content on YouTube, but also create their own travel guides. The last group is made up of individuals who travel vlog solely for fun. They enjoy travelling and decide to record their travels without earning money for it. The individuals earning money

⁷⁵ Braun and Clarke, "Using thematic analysis in psychology," 87.

⁷⁶ Andrew J.B. Fugard, and Henry W.W. Potts, "Supporting Thinking on Sample Sizes for Thematic Analyses: A Quantitative Tool," *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 48, no. 6 (2015): 670.

with their travels and the individuals travelling for fun were chosen for this research. They give their own personal opinion and are less influenced by official organisations.

The amount of travel vlogs on YouTube is huge, thus a selection had to be made. The first criterion was the content of the travel vlogs. This meant the destination of the travel vloggers, what they did and talked about, and whether they talked about the Netherlands. It became clear some travel vloggers visited the Netherlands and showed some footage, but never talked about the country. Their vlogs were more for personal promotion and to get good Instagram pictures. While the process of selection was happening, it was decided to choose travel vlogs from various cities and places in the Netherlands. Van Sas had explained how not one determined Dutch national identity exists. Not only does it change over time, but people also identify with soccer clubs or provinces meaning 'the' Dutch national identity does not exist.⁷⁷ Travel vlogs from different places would give a better indication of the ideas of Dutch national identity in the whole country.

The second criterion was the content in the comments section. The comments section had to have comments by Dutch people, this was either determined by the person mentioning they were Dutch or indicating with their knowledge they were Dutch. There was not a strict number of comments a travel vlog had to have. Rather the content of the comments was more important. As long as several comments talked about the content of the travel vlog, the travel vlog was deemed suitable. An official selection of travel vlogs was made in February 2019. At this moment it was not entirely clear how many travel vlogs would be needed to have enough data. The aim was to select around nine travel vlogs. The idea was to select three about Amsterdam, three about Rotterdam and three about a yet to be determined location. The first two places that were selected were Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Because these two cities are popular tourist destinations, they had a good number of views and discussion in the comments section.

For Amsterdam Hey Nadine's *A TASTE of Amsterdam | Netherlands* was chosen and LukeLifeCharms' *Welcome to AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND!! *VLOG 337*. Both had very different approaches to the city, Hey Nadine is a professional travel vlogger, while LukeLifeCharms travel vlogs for fun. This means Nadine works together with companies, for this vlog she teamed up with British Airways. Luke does not mention any sponsorships, but describes his method as walking around and then deciding what he wants to do.

⁷⁷ Meershoek, "Nationale identiteit,"

For Rotterdam the Way Away's *Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away* was chosen and vagabrothers' *What to do in ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands* was selected. Both were professional travel vloggers and made money of their travels. However, they had very different approaches to visiting the city. Way Away did a bike and food tour and clearly worked together with a tourist agency in Rotterdam, who showed them around. Vagabrothers team up with two Dutch Instagrammers who show them some locations, but seem to figure out the rest of their content on their own. Also, they focus on the theme of sustainability. A third destination Giethoorn was chosen, a small town but still very popular with tourists. Unfortunately, the travel vlogs visiting Giethoorn were not popular among the Dutch audience leaving only one Giethoorn travel vlog, *Holland's Fairytale Venice of the North*, by Way Away suitable. With this information, it was decided to have the last three travel vlogs be about smaller tourist destinations. This meant Brendon van Son's *I'm in The Motherland! – Netherlands Travel Vlog* to Kinderdijk was selected. The last selected travel vlog by Jason Parker, *The Netherlands – 8 cities You've Never Seen! – Explored by an American* was selected for its diverse content. He visited Utrecht, Haarlem, Delft, Eindhoven, Maastricht, Heusden, 's-Hertogenbosch and Valkenburg. Another reason were the many Dutch comments on his travels. After having selected seven travel vlogs it was decided to transcribe all seven of them, including the comments. After the first coding it was decided these seven travel vlogs contained enough data to discuss the themes that were identified. Therefore, the original idea of selecting nine travel vlogs was changed to seven.

The chosen travel vlogs were transcribed, also including visible content, which was not necessarily talked about. Any subject of significance, architecture, food, or other, were also transcribed. A potential shortcoming is the bias of the researcher in identifying the objects, as the significance is subjective. All the Dutch comments were also transcribed per each travel vlog, including any grammatical errors. The comments were all placed beneath the travel vlogs published on YouTube. YouTube is a website open to everyone, where people can create an account and via this account can publish content or comment on someone else's content. People who would like to remain slightly or fully anonymous can choose to pick a made-up username. Others chose their own name as a user name. Posting a comment makes it visible to anyone watching the travel vlog. Accordingly, the decision was made to include the username of the people leaving a comment on the video. Most of these usernames are not the actual name of the individuals commenting and therefore their identity is protected.

Selection of the themes

To avoid the pitfall mentioned by Braun and Clarke of simply stating themes emerged from the data a short description of how these themes were discovered will be given.⁷⁸ During the selection process each of the seven travel vlogs was watched several times. This created the first general ideas of what themes were discussed. The transcribing of the travel vlogs and comments further gave an idea of what themes could be identified. All the transcripts were put in the software program ATLAS.ti.

ATLAS.ti is a personal-computer software and stands for Archive for Technology, the Lifeworld, and Everyday Language.⁷⁹ It was created to support the interpretation of text, both large amounts of texts and complex concepts. Paulus and Lester claim the use of ATLAS.ti is especially helpful to make the analysis process visible.⁸⁰ ATLAS.ti was specifically designed to still leave the creative and intellectual task to the researcher. The software exists to support, but not to take over.⁸¹ The process starts with many readthroughs and a line-by-line analysis. Then the process of coding is applied, which is the main purpose of ATLAS.ti. The researcher reads through the text and finds sections that are important for their research. In grounded theory these are called indicators and in ATLAS.ti they are called quotations.⁸² These sections are marked with a code. For example, for this research a section talking about food would be coded with the quotation "food", and so forth. After having coded the whole document, it is easy for the researcher to find the various codes again and is able to see how many codes occur of one aspect. So, the first process is open coding as described above. The next step is axial coding, during which existing codes can be assigned to certain sections.⁸³

After the coding the next step is memoing. The purpose of memoing is to interpret the text. Certain sections of texts are first coded and then commented on with a memo. Memoing creates the option to report on the line-by-line analysis and to extract it later from the software.⁸⁴ Throughout the process of coding and memoing certain themes were identified. Various different codes had been applied to the text, however, not all of them had a large number of codes. For example, "weather" was one of the codes, which appeared a few times,

⁷⁸ Braun and Clarke, "Using thematic analysis in psychology," 79.

⁷⁹ Thomas Muhr, "ATLAS/ti – A prototype for the support of text interpretation," *Qualitative Sociology* 14, no. 4 (1991): 349.

⁸⁰ Trena M. Paulus and Jessica Nina Lester, "ATLAS.ti for Conversation and Discourse Analysis," *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 19, no. 4 (2016): 409.

⁸¹ Muhr, "ATLAS/ti," 350.

⁸² *Ibid.*, 355

⁸³ *Ibid.*, 356

⁸⁴ Paulus and Lester, "ATLAS.ti for Conversation and Discourse Analysis," 419.

but were deemed not frequent enough to be a theme. From these codes various themes were identified.

The first few themes identified were very concrete. The first concrete theme was food and drinks. Almost every travel vlog contained the travel vlogger(s) eating food and drinking. Sometimes this was explicitly mentioned other times this was only shown. This led the researcher to conclude it was one of themes in these travel vlogs. The next theme became especially apparent in LukeLifeCharms travel vlog. He spends a significant amount of time showing the viewer bicycles. Noticeably, in other travel vlogs biking was also shown and discussed. Making it the second theme identified. Another concrete theme was marijuana and red-light district. This theme did not necessarily have a large number of codes, but it was deemed significant by the researcher, since it was discussed quite elaborately in the comments section. The next theme already became apparent during the watching of the travel vlogs and was confirmed via coding. Many travel vloggers showed architecture in their travel vlog and talked about certain buildings, windmills and even stairs.

After having identified several concrete themes it became clear some themes were much more abstract. According to Ryan and Bernard themes tend to be abstract.⁸⁵ While reading through the comments sections and transcribing them a lot of comments talked about the locations the travel vloggers visited. Full discussions were held in the comments section to fight over which city was the best in the Netherlands and why. Dutch viewers also highly recommended their own cities and towns and invited the travel vloggers to come visit them next time. The avid discussions and comments quickly made it clear one of the themes was the discussion of the different locations. The theme was eventually named "Comparing different locations" to indicate people did not only recommend places, but also discussed the potential of the destination.

One theme that was identified but was difficult to name was the theme "Providing the viewer additional information". During the many readthroughs and coding it became clear some travel vloggers enjoyed talking directly to their viewers and explaining something extra about the destination they were visiting. Some of these stories were about cheese and football, others about the history of a town and others about mushroom farms. These stories were difficult to fit into any other theme, for example, the cheese story could potentially fit into the "Food and drinks" theme but discusses football as well. Therefore, it was decided to create a separate theme to focus on what happened when the travel vlogger decided to directly speak

⁸⁵ Ryan and Bernard, *Data management and analysis methods*, 780.

to their viewer and give more background information. In the end the following themes were identified: food and drinks, biking, architecture: buildings, stairs and windmills, biking, marijuana and red-light district, providing the viewer additional information and comparing locations.

After all the themes were identified via coding and memoing in ATLAS.ti new codes were applied to research what happened with national identity in the comments section. Through the first round of coding it had become clear what the Dutch viewers in the comments section talked about. However, it was also important to analyse what was exactly happening when they did. Therefore, new codes were applied in the comments section concerning the discussion of national identity, to analyse how people reacted to the themes talked about in travel vlogs. Four different codes were found to be the most prominent within the discussion of national identity. These were: showing pride, debunking information, adding information to a subject and adding another subject to the theme.

The travel vloggers

The *Way Away*, or sometimes referred to by themselves as the Way Away family, consists of a couple called Josh and Ashley Brown from the United States of America. They have 183.491 subscribers, as of the 28th of February 2019. They are not only reachable on YouTube, but also have their own website and are active on other social media platforms. Josh takes care of the video editing and recording, and all the other technical stuff involved with making travel vlogs. Ashley handles all the logistics of traveling and all the planning. They have been married for 10 years and decided to sell all of their belongings to travel the world.⁸⁶ They seem to work together with local companies and tourist organisations to create video content. Their travel vlog called *Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away* was published on the 4th of November 2017. It has 33.290 views, as of the 28th of February 2019. In this video, they were joined by Laura. Laura is a Dutch woman working for the tourist organisation in Rotterdam. In their YouTube description, they link the Rotterdam Partners website. Their content was inspired by the Rotterdam Tourism agency. Their travel vlog called *Holland's Fairytale Venice of the North* was published on the 3rd of November 2017. This travel vlog includes both Giethoorn and Volendam and has 38.572 views, as of the 28th of February 2019. For their travel vlog to Giethoorn and Volendam, they booked the Lindbergh, which organises tours in the Netherlands and Belgium. Therefore, it is

⁸⁶ <https://thewayaway.com/>

questionable whether their tours are fully their own ideas and thoughts, but they do claim they would only do things they are interested in themselves.

LukeLifeCharms has a very different approach to travelling and creating travel vlogs. He is originally from the United States of America. He is a pro-athlete living in Europe. He enjoys making videos for his audience, so they can see the world through his eyes. His travel vlog *Welcome to AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND!! *VLOG 337* was published on the 14th of June 2018. He has 6.391 views on his travel vlog and 16.133 subscribers, as of the 28th of February 2019. He describes his method of travelling as going somewhere and walking around to figure out what to see and do in the moment. In his video he advises his audience to do the same, to not always have a plan, but to be in the moment and to just enjoy the travel experience. This means he wanders around a lot in his travel vlog and really focuses on what he finds special in Amsterdam. For part of his travel vlog he is joined by his friend and colleague Chris. He also has his own website and writes blogs and makes podcasts about being a professional athlete and gives any advice.⁸⁷

Vagabrothers consists of two brothers, Alex and Marko Ayling, from the United States of America. Their travel vlog *What to do in ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands* was published on the 1st of October 2016. The vlog has 127.731 views and they have 830.891 subscribers on YouTube, as of the 28th of February 2019. They founded the vagabrothers in 2012. Their website states they like to share hidden histories, dispel stereotypes, and to celebrate differences.⁸⁸ They have their own website and are active on social media. In their travel vlog they teamed up with two Dutch Instagrammers to take them to some sustainable places in Rotterdam. Their main focus in the travel vlog is sustainability in a big city.

Hey Nadine, or Nadine Sykora, is a Canadian travel vlogger. She has her own website and she is one of the more well-known travel vloggers. She describes herself as a travel vlogger, videographer and youtuber.⁸⁹ She travels the world to share her experience and expertise through social media and her videos. She has visited more than 51 countries in 8 years. She is also a spokesperson at panels of the Canadian Media Producers Association, Google, VidCon, Buffer Festival and the Travel & Adventure Show. Her travel vlog *A TASTE of Amsterdam | Netherlands* was published on the 18th of June 2014. She has 453.928 subscribers on YouTube and her travel vlog on Amsterdam has 81.196 views, as of the 28th of February 2019.

⁸⁷ <http://lukelifecharms.com/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.vagabrothers.com/>

⁸⁹ <https://www.heynadine.com/>

Brendan van Son is a Canadian professional photographer. He has his own website and is active on social media.⁹⁰ Interestingly, his grandparents emigrated to Canada from the Netherlands. Therefore, he feels connected to the Netherlands even though he lived in Canada his whole life and does not speak Dutch. He has 107.563 subscribers on YouTube and his travel vlog about Kinderdijk and a river cruise has 29.304 views, as of the 28th of February 2019. He published his travel vlog *I'm in The Motherland! – Netherlands Travel Vlog* on the 14th of May 2017.

Jason Parker is from the United States of America and is more a street magician than a travel vlogger. Most of the videos on his YouTube channel are him teaching magic. In 2016 he quit his job and sold his house, car and piano. He backpacked in both Europe and South East Asia and spent a month in the Netherlands. 3 of his 7 travel videos are about the Netherlands. He has 20.700 subscribers and his travel vlog *The Netherlands – 8 cities You've Never Seen! – Explored by an American* was published on the 25th of August 2018 and has 99.406 views, as of May 3rd, 2019.

⁹⁰ <https://www.brendansadventures.com/>

Chapter 4 – National identity in travel vlogs

In this chapter the analysis will show national identity is negotiated through four different ways. Firstly, the Dutch show their pride for certain objects or places. This is done by either saying they are proud or explicitly mentioning and showing their appreciation for the travel vlogger including certain items and places in their travel vlog. Secondly, the Dutch debunk any information they deem incorrect. This information does not show the correct Dutch national identity according to the Dutch viewers. The third way is to add information to the subject or place discussed by the travel vlogger. By adding extra information, they confirm this subject or place is part of them being Dutch and deserves more elaboration. Lastly, Dutch viewers negotiate their Dutch national identity through adding new subjects and places. Often this includes information about these subjects and places as well. Not all themes identified in the travel vlogs contain the four different ways Dutch viewers show their Dutch national identity. Furthermore, throughout the analysis it becomes clear it is difficult to speak of one Dutch national identity, Dutch people disagree over certain topics as well. However, national identity is important to every citizen. Seton-Watson claims national identity is at least "passively treasured by nearly all citizens of modern societies, even if they don't know it."⁹¹ Besides the four ways Dutch national identity is negotiated another topic is discussed separately. The theme of biking was very apparent in the travel vlogs, but is rarely negotiated by the Dutch viewers. Since, it is a big theme and is also mentioned in previous researches, such as the report by SCP, the theme of biking is also addressed.

The Dutch pride

One way of showing and talking about Dutch national identity by Dutch viewers is to show pride for the subject or place. The clearest instance of pride among the Dutch viewers can be found in the theme *food and drinks*. Emily Wight, a blogger, writer and recipe developer became fascinated with Dutch cuisine after marrying into a Dutch family. She claims the Netherlands is not necessarily known for its rich cuisine. Wight attributes this to the humility of the Dutch and how they would never brag about their own cuisine.⁹² According to Wight there is more than enough food created by the Dutch to boast about. 4 out of the 7 selected travel vlogs feature eating and drinking in the Netherlands.⁹³ These travel vlogs further

⁹¹ Seton-Watson, "The history of nations," 13.

⁹² Emily Wight, "Dutch Feast," *Arsenal Pulp Press*, 2017, No page numbers

⁹³ The other three vlogs do feature the travel vlogger eating and drinking, but they did not talk about the food they tried and it did not lead to a discussion in the comments section. So, these three travel vlogs are left out.

confirm there is indeed a Dutch cuisine. The foods that will be discussed either appeared in several travel vlogs and/or were specifically labelled as Dutch foods and ignited a response in the comments section.

Especially, Nadine's food vlog, *A TASTE of Amsterdam | Netherlands*, creates a strong feeling of pride for Dutch viewers and the Dutch food. Nadine and her friend Laura spend one day in Amsterdam and try all different kinds of dishes, which she hints at are typically Dutch. Unfortunately, she does not explain how she selected these Dutch foods. Whether she consulted any websites, already knew what to try or she asked someone remains unclear. Nadine and Laura start with a *stroopwafel*, immediately followed by some *poffertjes*. The *poffertjes* are small pancakes made from flour, yeast, milk, eggs and salt. Since the mixture contains yeast, the *poffertjes* rise a little. They are often served in a dozen with powdered sugar and butter. From Nadine and Laura's reaction it is clear they like both dishes. Next, Nadine tries some Dutch fries, with satay sauce. Satay sauce seems a bit unfamiliar to her and she describes it as a savoury peanut sauce, which is technically true.

There is a general appreciation of Nadine trying some, what the commenters, describe as typical Dutch food. PJ De Visser says: "haha i love seeing foreigners eat all our usual food!"⁹⁴ There is a sense of pride, Visser is proud of the Dutch food and loves how a foreigner tries it out and gives their opinion. Laura van den Berg says: "Yay my country! Glad you liked the stroopwafel! And the poffertjes!"⁹⁵ Further adding to the element of pride shown by Visser's comment as well. Sharomy b is also prideful of the Dutch dishes and adds: "I live in the Netherlands and its so fun too see how british people are enjoying the typical dutch things, i'll tell you its not always like that and not always eating that. But so fun too see this. Loved it."⁹⁶ These comments give the reader the impression that these people are proud of their country. They appreciate how Nadine and Laura have made a travel vlog trying these foods and also liking them. This show of pride also means the Dutch people see these dishes as something that is part of their Dutch national identity. Dutch people have tasted these dishes themselves and enjoy eating them too. Moreover, these foods identified as typically Dutch foods is something the Dutch viewers can bond over. They ate these foods growing up in the Netherlands and it is something sentimental to them.

Jason Parker spends a month in the Netherlands and spends some time discussing the food he bought and tried in the Netherlands. He highlights certain foods he finds typically

⁹⁴ Comments section

⁹⁵ Comments section

⁹⁶ Comments section

Dutch. He mentions *drop*, a Dutch liquorice, and warns his viewers to not buy any sweets in the Netherlands with the word *drop* on it. "I don't know why liquorice is popular in the Netherlands. I think it tastes like *bleep*."⁹⁷ He does like the stroopwafel "It's delicious."⁹⁸ The Dutch respondents reply to Parker's comments on *drop*. One respondent bans Parker from the Netherlands because of his dislike for *drop*. "You are hereby banned from The Netherlands for disliking drop."⁹⁹ Interestingly, no one comments on Parker's immense like for stroopwafels. Dutch people clearly feel *drop* is part of their Dutch national identity, the comment seems to suggest a person cannot identify as Dutch without liking *drop*. He also tries some vanilla cheese which is debunked by the Dutch viewers, which will be discussed later. However, their comments do indicate the Dutch are proud of Dutch cheese, but the normal kind. Their comments suggest they recognise it as typically Dutch. However, they seem almost offended a foreigner tries cheese and picks one that is definitely not Dutch cheese. Jason Parker proclaims it is Dutch cheese; he does not know any better. The Dutch viewers disagree, they need to let him know vanilla cheese is not part of their Dutch national identity.

These findings paint a different picture from the findings from the research by *Historisch nieuwsblad* and SCP. The results of those researches showed Dutch people are proud of sport performances and water management in the Netherlands. Neither of these topics are discussed with pride in the comments section. The items that are clearly mentioned with pride are Dutch dishes. This confirms Wight's claim the Dutch do indeed have their own cuisine, but are not necessarily aware of it. When asked during a research what items are typically Dutch people rarely mention food. In the SCP report Dutch people rate *oliebollen* and *appelflappen* at New Year's Eve as typically Dutch and are mentioned again on what binds Dutch people together. These dishes are not tried by travel vloggers as they are linked to a specific holiday in the Netherlands. No other dishes are mentioned as typically Dutch. When Dutch people see someone try a Dutch dish, such as stroopwafels they express their pride for it and mention it is typically Dutch.

Dutch viewers also like to show their pride for their own towns or cities. On Way Away's vlog about Rotterdam Richard K. comments: "So nice to see my hometown get some attention. Usually all you see Amsterdam."¹⁰⁰ He argues the Netherlands is more than just

⁹⁷ "The Netherlands – 8 Cities You've Never Seen! – Explored by an American", YouTube video, 27:56, "Jason Parker," August 25, 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5beE_rchn4, 2:26-2:30.

⁹⁸ Ibid., 2:38-2:42.

⁹⁹ Comments section

¹⁰⁰ Comments section

Amsterdam and Rotterdam is just as important if you want to see the correct version of the Netherlands. He is proud of Rotterdam and glad Way Away chose to do their travel vlog in his city. Another respondent also appreciates Way Away went further than just Amsterdam. They also suggest visiting a part of the defence system against the sea, confirming *Historisch Nieuwsblad* research that the Dutch are proud of their water management and see it as part of their national identity.

In the comments section Dutch viewers also advertise their own cities and towns, which have not been visited by the travel vlogger. In the video about Giethoorn and Volendam, Way Away gets the suggestion to visit the provinces Gelderland and Limburg next time. They explain these are the hillier areas of the Netherlands. Another person recommends Blokzijl, which is close to Giethoorn. Naarden is also advertised as a beautiful place to visit. These places are not generally well-known to foreigners, but Dutch viewers are proud of these areas and want to share them with the travel vloggers. On the other Rotterdam vlog by vagabrothers Groningen gets advertised. APOLONl actually advertises Amsterdam and says there is nothing to see in Rotterdam, but Amsterdam is the place to be. Seewhat is does not agree with this statement and calls Amsterdam a disaster. They argue, Amsterdam is nothing more than an open-air museum. Another commentator also calls Amsterdam better than Rotterdam and tourists should just visit Amsterdam; they call Rotterdam a waste of money. However, another comment calls Amsterdam a tourist theme park, and calls Rotterdam more beautiful. Another suggestion is to visit Spakenburg, which the commenter calls the gem of the Netherlands. Another person recommends Eindhoven and someone else Utrecht. Another suggestion is The Hague.

The places the Dutch viewers are advertising are often their hometown and therefore a sense of pride is visible. The Dutch viewer is proud of their own city or town and thinks it deserves the same attention the travel vloggers are giving to the bigger cities in the Netherlands. From the comments a sense of rivalry also becomes visible between the cities Rotterdam and Amsterdam. This rivalry is not only because these are two major cities in the Netherlands, but they also have two of the biggest football clubs in each city. Rotterdam has Feyenoord and Amsterdam has Ajax. From SCP's report and *Historisch nieuwsblad* it became clear the Dutch are proud of their sport performances. This is also slightly visible in the rivalry between Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

Debunking information

Throughout the travel vlogs, the vloggers provide the viewer with information of the country they are visiting. Unfortunately, travel vloggers generally do not share where they got their information from. Way away joins a biking and food tour in Rotterdam and it is suggested they received their information from the Rotterdam tourist information and the guide that gives them the tour through the city. In Giethoorn and Volendam they join an organised bus tour and join workshops, also suggesting they got their information from Dutch people providing these tours. Since the other travel vloggers do not explain where they got their information from, it does happen their information is received as incorrect by Dutch viewers. In those instances, Dutch viewers respond in the comment section to mention the mistakes the travel vloggers made. Often this also includes extra information that is correct according to the Dutch viewer.

One of the main dishes Way Away tries in their travel vlog in Rotterdam is the *kapsalon*. They make it clear that the *kapsalon* is a typically Dutch dish, which originated from Rotterdam. "This is a local dish, well, it is a national dish".¹⁰¹ They further add: "This is called kapsalon it is chicken, French fries, vegetables, umm, looks like tartar sauce or some kind of dill sauce and ketchup. There is a story about a hairdresser, who went to eat in a shawarma shop, and he was so hungry that he just got everything in it and put it in a tin foil and ate it all. So that now is a national dish."¹⁰² Unfortunately, they do not explain where they got this information. Throughout their travel vlog they are joined by Laura, who they introduced as their guide. Therefore, we can assume she relayed the story to them, so they could share it with their audience. Laura is Dutch and obviously tries to give Way Away a good time.

In the comment section Dutch viewers share their opinion on the information Way Away provided concerning the *kapsalon*. One commentator, Ama Sma explains: "If you want a good kapsalon just go to a turkish deli".¹⁰³ Yusuf Ismail says, "Kapsalon is a Turkish invention and that women dutch women is either lying or is clueless...pity, claiming is as a dutch local food".¹⁰⁴ He goes as far as to call out the Dutch woman Laura. He too suspects she informed Way Away where to go and gave them more information about certain dishes. He disagrees with the story Laura told Way Away. Neither of them clarifies where they got their

¹⁰¹ "Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away", YouTube video, 13:55, "WAY AWAY," November 4, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-zb6fXAkII>, 2:28-2:30.

¹⁰² Ibid., 2:48-3:09.

¹⁰³ Comments section

¹⁰⁴ Comments section

information from. The story Way Away tells about a hairdresser going into a shawarma place and ordering everything, thus, creating the *kapsalon* is correct. According to *Metronieuws*, a local newspaper in Rotterdam, the hairdresser was named Nathaniël Gomes from Cape Verde and the shawarma place, El Aviva, he visited was at the Schiedamseweg in Rotterdam.¹⁰⁵ Amusingly, we now have Laura and Yusuf Ismail both claiming a different version. When comparing this to the story found in the news a third version arises.

For Laura and Way Away the *kapsalon* was created in Rotterdam by a hairdresser, whose ethnicity is not important to their story. They make the *kapsalon* part of their idea of Dutch national identity, which they show in their travel vlog. To them *kapsalon* is something created in the Netherlands and now is a national dish. For Yusuf Ismail the *kapsalon* is a Turkish invention. Whether he means the *kapsalon* was invented in Turkey or in the Netherlands by a Turkish man is unclear. However, for Yusuf Ismail *kapsalon* is not part of his idea of Dutch national identity. Or perhaps he sees it as something the Dutch have claimed as their own, something he accuses Laura of, but should not be seen as Dutch. The third version, which we consider to be the true story because of the newspaper source, does confirm the story of the hairdresser. Furthermore, they call it the Rotterdam invention, claiming it as a Dutch invention. Even though the man who invented it was from Cape Verde, he was living in the Netherlands. His original ethnicity does not seem to matter, but rather that the creation of the *kapsalon* took place in the Netherlands. *Metronieuws* is a newspaper from Rotterdam and therefore explicitly links the *kapsalon* to the city of Rotterdam. Nonetheless, the newspaper also mentions the *kapsalon* is now popular in the whole of the Netherlands, making it part of a Dutch national identity. Overall, we see here how Yusuf and Ama first debunk the information provided by Way Away and then proceed to give them information Yusuf and Ama deem correct.

In their other travel vlog in Giethoorn and Volendam, Way Away shows a clip of different cheeses and also try some cheese themselves. Ashley explains how old cheese is eaten with something sweet like marmalade, and the young cheeses with mustard. She hints an older lady gave her this information in the cheese shop. They are both impressed by the cheese and Josh even wants to buy a whole wheel of cheese, to serve to any guests at home and to impress them. Neither of them states whether cheese is typically Dutch. However, their travel vlog is about the Netherlands and they mention cheese often. They show various shots of cheese, show themselves eating cheese and also mention buying a wheel of cheese.

¹⁰⁵ Author unknown, "De Rotterdamse Uitvinding, de Kapsalon, bestaat tien Jaar," *Metronieuws*, November 20, 2013, <https://www.metronieuws.nl/binnenland/2013/11/de-rotterdamse-uitvinding-de-kapsalon-bestaat-tien-jaar>

Therefore, it can be assumed Way Away sees cheese as typically Dutch. Furthermore, Josh's recommendation to ship a wheel of cheese home indicates he recommends any visitor to the Netherlands should buy some cheese. Therefore, it can be concluded Way Away considers cheese as typically Dutch. The Dutch people in the comments section do not seem to care much about Way Away trying cheese, as barely any comment says anything about this. A reason for this could be that the foods they try have obviously been organised by Dutch people. Way Away did not choose to try these foods themselves, but joined some premade workshops organised by Dutch people. One comment is almost outraged that Ashley put marmalade on cheese, Saartje05 would never put marmalade on cheese and she is Dutch. "I'm Dutch but I've NEVER put marmalade on cheese..."¹⁰⁶ Saartje05 who posted the comment clearly does not agree that putting marmalade on cheese is in any way part of her Dutch identity. With her comment she debunks the information provided by Ashley that old cheese is eaten with marmalade. The cheese Ashley chose was prepared in Volendam, so perhaps it is something people from this area put on their cheese. It is unclear where Saartje05 is from in the Netherlands as she does not disclose this information. It is a possibility marmalade on cheese is uncommon in the region Saartje05 is from. The Netherlands is a small country, but there still remain differences between the regions.

Jason Parker also tried various foods and sweets which he claims are typically Dutch. While in Delft, he visits a cheese shop and later in his travel vlog he does, what he calls a "cheese unboxing."¹⁰⁷ He bought a vanilla cheese and seems to really enjoy it. He also calls it "one of the really big Dutch food products."¹⁰⁸ He specifically identifies cheese as being typically Dutch, to him it is part of Dutch national identity. In the comments section the main question for the Dutch people is whether vanilla cheese is Dutch. Anolis1997 says "I don't get the vanilla cheese it sound disgusting. I'm dutch"¹⁰⁹. BEAU NIEKERK agrees "That's what I thought. Dat dacht ik dus ook."¹¹⁰ And johan bilder even calls vanilla cheese, cheese for tourists. According to them the cheese shop Parker visited was not even real, but only for tourists. He further adds that no Dutch person would ever eat vanilla cheese.¹¹¹ Perkenightshift also explains that no one actually eats vanilla cheese in the Netherlands.¹¹² Which is quite peculiar as it is sold in the shops. The comments by the Dutch respondents

¹⁰⁶ Comments section

¹⁰⁷ Ibid., 18:15

¹⁰⁸ Ibid., 18:18-18:20

¹⁰⁹ Comments section

¹¹⁰ Comments section

¹¹¹ Comments section

¹¹² Comments section

suggest normal cheese is seen as typically Dutch, while the cheese Parker chose is not. They seem to suggest vanilla cheese was only created for the tourists. With their comments they debunk Parker's claim that vanilla cheese is typically Dutch, but they do confirm normal cheese is typically Dutch.

Architecture

Architecture is not necessarily a topic that is often discussed in travel vlogs. The most prominent situation where information regarding architecture is debunked is in Way Away's travel vlog in Giethoorn. They provide more information on Giethoorn itself, which became more popular after Giethoorn was shown in a film, called *Fanfare* from 1958. Every year Giethoorn hosts around 1 million tourists. They have a discussion about the houses in Giethoorn when they notice most of the houses in Giethoorn have thatched roofs. This is an older building style, not regularly used anymore. They give a little bit of background to the use of thatched roofs and how they find it incredible that people still use the "authentic" way of living. Josh and Ashley say:

Ashley: So nice to enjoy how beautiful it is, well actually the houses have the thatched roofs, which is something very unique in this area, something that they did back in the day because it was the cheaper way to roof your house, but nowadays it is not cheap, it's very work intensive. But they've decided to just keep it up in this small town, which is really mean fun to see.

Josh: Yeah, I can appreciate that they're attempting to keep the authenticity, like they're not changing stuff, they're keeping it the way it was but nice, you know. And the cool thing about these thatched roofs is, that even though they are expensive they last about 30 years which you compared to a normal house that's actually a long time.¹¹³

In the comments section, Dutch people do not fully agree with these statements. Iris is pretty sure some of the houses in Giethoorn fall under monument preservation, meaning the building must be maintained with the original materials. "Not sure what the situation in Giethoorn is concerning the rooftops, but, big chance that some of the homes fall under the monument preservation rules by either the local government or national government, which requires you to maintain the building by using the original materials (and sometimes

¹¹³ "Holland's Fairytale Venice of the North", YouTube video, 10:21, "WAY AWAY," November 3, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrJBEyWCUZI>, 3:25-4:02

also the original construction methods) around during the time of construction in order to stay a monument and get some government funding to maintain the building in return"¹¹⁴ Xzaz2 argues the thatched roofs are not only used in Giethoorn, but in other places in northern Netherlands as well. "'Rietendaken' are not only used in Giethoorn, they are very common across the northern Netherlands and they may be expensive but they are a very good isolator."¹¹⁵ John Vroonhoven says the same as xzaz2 and even argues thatched roofs were also used in parts of Germany, Belgium and England. Way Away explained thatched roofs used to be part of the Dutch national identity as houses used to be built with thatched roofs. However, they explain this is now only done in Giethoorn to make it look authentic and is not part of the Dutch identity anymore. The Dutch viewers seem to disagree and argue thatched roofs are used in other parts in the Netherlands and Europe and not just Giethoorn. Thatched roofs are not necessarily Dutch, as argued by the Dutch viewers, as many West-European countries used to have thatched roofs. The information that was provided by Way Away is debunked by the Dutch viewers and to educate Way Away properly the Dutch viewers give their own ideas on thatched roofs in the Netherlands and Europe. They further explain this is not part of their own Dutch national identity, but rather Dutch national identity of the past, which is no longer correct. This further indicates and confirms Dutch national identity changes over time.

In Volendam Way Away also decides to provide the viewer with more information on the fishing village. "It's an old fishing village that because of the way they built the dikes up and removed the sea water all the fresh water came in and they've lost their ability to fish because all the fish died at that time, I mean, this was centuries ago at this point, but now they have a really good reputation, I suppose for cheese in this area."¹¹⁶ The Dutch people in the comment section do not agree with this statement. "Volendam was a fishervillage until the construction of the afsluitdijk which was in 1932... so not centuries ago ^^"¹¹⁷ TheRoepieroepeie says: "...the sea didn't actually go away centuries ago from Volendam. The afsluitdijk, the barrier that blocked the north sea was created early last century and you could still take a fishing vessel out to sea through the sea locks."¹¹⁸ and Arjen Laan even gives a full history lesson about what happened in Volendam. The Dutch viewers clearly are annoyed

¹¹⁴ Comments section

¹¹⁵ Comments section

¹¹⁶ "Holland's Fairytale Venice of the North", YouTube video, 10:21, "WAY AWAY," November 3, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrJBeyWCUZI>, 4:53-5:12.

¹¹⁷ Comments section

¹¹⁸ Comments section

with the incorrect information provided by Way Away. The Dutch viewers immediately debunk the information given in the travel vlog and explain when and what really happened. On the Dutch official tourist websites it says Volendam is a fishing village and not a village known for cheese, as Josh claims.¹¹⁹ Josh does not say where he got the information from that Volendam has not been a fishing village for centuries. Perhaps he heard part of the story during a tour or bus ride, but remembered it incorrectly. Or he had not been provided with the right information in the first place. Another option would be he researched some information himself, but told it incorrectly in the travel vlog. Laura is still travelling with Way Away so she also could have told him this history and had not known herself Volendam's history.

Another way information was debunked by Dutch viewers is to mention the title chosen by Way Away for their travel vlog in Giethoorn and Volendam. Their travel vlog is titled *Holland's Fairytale Venice of the North*, this title alone shows the audience what they can expect. Most people have a picture of Venice in their minds, a quaint city in Northern Italy. This town is most well-known for being built on many small islands and the famous gondola rides. Calling it *Holland's Fairytale Venice* Way Away creates a certain expectation for their audience. For their Dutch audience they might immediately make the link to Giethoorn, a little town in the province of Overijssel. Giethoorn is well-known for its lack of vehicles and the townspeople moving around in boats.¹²⁰ It might be a deliberate choice of Way Away to not mention Giethoorn, but instead relate it to a place most people are familiar with. Simply stating they are visiting Giethoorn might attract less of an audience, compared to naming it *Holland's Fairytale Venice*. Instead of giving Giethoorn its own Dutch identity: an old, original, little town where people travel by boat. They chose to give Giethoorn a more Italian identity, even though the only thing tying Giethoorn and Venice together is the fact that there is a lot of water in both places, as well as, boats.

Yvar dietvorst comments on it, saying: "Just a note, great videos, but giethoorn isn't in Holland. It's Overijssel."¹²¹ Way Away replies they are aware of this, but since most foreigners have never heard of Overijssel they called it Holland. Saartje05 joins the discussion by saying it should be the Netherlands and not Holland, but Way Away does not reply. The Dutch viewers clearly want the information provided to be truthful about the Netherlands. Therefore, they correct Way Away's mistake about the misnaming of the province. Holland is actually referring to the province Noord-Holland and Zuid-Holland. Since Overijssel is a

¹¹⁹ <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/more-destinations/volendam/volendam-3.htm>

¹²⁰ <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/destinations/provinces/overijssel/giethoorn-10.htm>

¹²¹ Comments section

separate province, the name *Holland's Fairytale Venice* could be seen as incorrect. The Dutch viewers debunk Way Away's incorrect mention of the province Giethoorn is located in. Nevertheless, many people use Holland to refer to the whole of the Netherlands.¹²² Way Away's other travel vlog is simply called *Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away*. This gives the impression Rotterdam is a famous and well-known place to foreigners and it does not need to be compared to any other non-Dutch places.

The vagabrothers put more focus on architecture than the other travel vloggers, mostly featuring them in montages. For example, they show the Erasmus bridge and the Markthal. They visit Tropicana, which used to be a popular waterpark in Rotterdam, but is now empty and owned by various sustainable companies. They also show the yellow walkway, which Way Away also showed. In their vlog they explain it connects the north and south of Rotterdam. However, Dutch people in the comments are quick to correct them, it goes from the centre to the north. In the comments section Dutch viewers feel the need to provide more information on the mentioned architecture or debunk the information given. Vagabrothers misinformed their audience that the yellow walkway goes from north to south and the Dutch viewers correct them.

Adding information to the subject discussed

When information is provided by the travel vloggers, which is deemed correct by Dutch viewers extra information can be added in the comment section. Perhaps the Dutch viewers feel the topic was not properly discussed. In their travel vlog in Amsterdam Nadine and Laura sit down at a small café and try a *koffie verkeerd*, literally translated as a wrong coffee. It is a coffee made with a lot of milk. It sets itself apart from the cappuccino and the latte macchiato with the fact it is not made from an espresso and neither does it contain frothed milk.¹²³ Both Nadine and Laura agree it tastes amazing. Neither of them gives an explanation of what *koffie verkeerd* is, they only give the viewer the name on the screen. In the comments section there is one mention of *koffie verkeerd*. Philipje says: "Koffie verkeerd, meaning "coffee wrong", is coffee with milk in it. Since most Dutch people drink their coffee black, it is obvious how it got its name ;)." Philipje is saying *koffie verkeerd* is not part of the Dutch national identity, but rather black coffee is. Since Philipje is the only one mentioning *koffie verkeerd* the other Dutch viewers might not view *koffie verkeerd* as typically Dutch or do not think it is famous

¹²² <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/information/netherlands-vs-holland.htm>

¹²³ <https://www.jacobsdouwegebtsprofessional.nl/koffie/soorten/wat-is-koffie-verkeerd/>

in the Netherlands. Therefore, *koffie verkeerd* does not seem to be part of the Dutch cuisine or the Dutch national identity for most people. This might be linked back to Philipje explaining most Dutch people drink their coffee black. Nadine never claimed out loud it was a typically Dutch drink. Considering she named the travel vlog a taste of Amsterdam the viewer might expect the foods she tries are typically Dutch. Since this is more an assumption Philipje decides to add information about the drink, which Nadine might be aware of herself. Philipje does not debunk any information as Nadine only gives the viewer the Dutch name of the drink and shares her opinion. From Philipje's comment the conclusion can be drawn that *koffie verkeerd* is not typically Dutch, but black coffee is. Dutch people tend to drink black coffee, that is why it is called coffee wrong because people do not drink it that way.

When Nadine and Laura visit a marketplace, Laura tries a raw herring, and this is the first food she does not like. Laura describes it as "eating a raw slab of fish."¹²⁴ Several comments concerning the raw herring make it clear it is indeed raw fish. They want the travel vlogger and the viewers to have the correct information. VeniVidiAjax acknowledges it is one of those typically Dutch foods and explains people either hate it or love it, which suggests Dutch people also either hate it or love it. Nadine and Laura also try an apple pie and discuss how it tastes. The apple pie they try is a bit different from what they are used to, but still tastes good. "It's basically apple tart, but as you can see the apple chunks are actually quite appley, it's quite like full of apple chunks there and let me try it. It's really cold."¹²⁵ DataStorm comments on the apple pie and mentions food he missed that are part of his Dutch national identity. "The apple pie should have been warm, like it came out of the oven 15 minutes ago.... It being cold meant they just bought them in bulk and sell the pies (often just some factory made one). [...] The one I missed in the food items is "Lekkerbek"."¹²⁶ According to DataStorm, Nadine did not eat an apple pie that was typically Dutch as it was served cold, therefore the apple pie was not authentically Dutch. DataStorm also missed a taste of *lekkerbek*, a Dutch fish, which is part of his idea of Dutch national identity.

Nadine and Laura also try out FEBO, where they take out a *kroket* from the wall. FEBO was originally a bakery when it first opened in 1941. However, once the demand for the *kroket* grew, the owner Johan Izaäk de Borst, closed the bakery. Instead he completely focused on an automatic system where *kroketten* and other snacks were sold directly from the

¹²⁴ "A TASTE of Amsterdam | Netherlands", YouTube video, 6:05, "Hey Nadine," June 18, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uDkB0wEH78&t=263s>, 2:08-2:09.

¹²⁵ "A TASTE of Amsterdam | Netherlands", YouTube video, 6:05, "Hey Nadine," June 18, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uDkB0wEH78&t=263s>, 4:28-4:42.

¹²⁶ Comments section

wall. This means you put some money into a slot in the wall and then open a little window to get the snack out of the wall. The name FEBO comes from the name Ferdinand Bol, the name of the street where the first FEBO was opened. Today FEBO stills sells snacks in an automatic way and has more than 70 locations in the Netherlands.¹²⁷ Nadine seems really interested in the concept of taking a snack out of the wall and she explains how the *kroket* seems odd as well. It is something she has never tried before.

Nadine and Laura also try *bitterballen*. On holland.com, an official tourist website about the Netherlands, *bitterballen* is referred to as "Holland's favourite snack."¹²⁸ The website describes *bitterballen* as: "deep-fried and crispy breaded rounds with a tender, savoury filling. Traditionally made with beef, they can also be prepared with chicken, veal or even with mushrooms, for those that prefer a vegetarian option."¹²⁹ Nadine seems to enjoy eating the *bitterballen*. As can be expected, the comments section includes many remarks concerning the *kroket* and *bitterbal*, which are fairly similar snacks.

Dutch viewers warn Nadine not to immediately bite into the *bitterbal* as it is extremely hot. They acknowledge this is typical Dutch knowledge. SpanishLMMD says: "Everyone burns their mouth on bitterballen, always, so you're Dutch as can be! ;)"¹³⁰ They clearly acknowledge that *bitterballen* are not only part of their Dutch identity, but especially the burning of the tongue is part of their Dutch identity. According to SpanishLMMD you are not Dutch unless you burn your tongue on *bitterballen*. They further extend the Dutch national identity to Nadine because she also burns her tongue on a *bitterbal*, indicating it is something that makes someone Dutch.

Other Dutch people feel the need to provide more in-depth information on the creation of the *kroket* and the *bitterbal*. The many Dutch comments providing extra information gives the impression Dutch viewers would have appreciated if Nadine and Laura had provided more information. Some examples are: "Also 3:00 is a kroket, made of various sorts of meat being leftover from slaughter, as are the bitterballen."¹³¹ and "The 'meaty' balls, bitterballen, are actually filled with horsemeat."¹³² Both these comments deal with the insides of the *bitterballen*. They provide more information that seems to be typical Dutch knowledge, any Dutch man or woman is aware what *bitterballen* are made of. Knowing what *bitterballen* are

¹²⁷ <https://www.febo.nl/over-ons/historie/>

¹²⁸ <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/information/traditional-dutch-food/bitterballen.htm>

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Comments section

¹³¹ Comments section

¹³² Comments section

made off is part of their Dutch national identity and is not something tourists from other countries would know about. In all the comments a sense of pride can be found. Dutch people are proud of their Dutch snacks and appreciate Nadine and Laura trying them out. However, the giving of information is more clearly present in the comments. All these dishes are part of their Dutch national identity. This gain ties into Wight's claim the Dutch are unfamiliar with their own cuisine. Here the comments show Dutch people are aware of their own cuisine as many of them can provide more in-depth information concerning the dishes. Not only do they acknowledge this Dutch food, but also proudly share more information and include Nadine in their Dutch identity because she, like them, enjoyed eating these typically Dutch dishes.

Jason Parker is one of the few travel vloggers to spend more time on buildings, stairs and windmills. Perhaps this is a personal interest or the Dutch people he came in contact with advised him to check out certain buildings and places. When travelling to Utrecht he comments on the cathedral: "It's a small, really pleasant city with a really really tall cathedral."¹³³ In Haarlem he shows an *ophaalbrug*, a small bridge that open to let ships pass. He walks over the bridge and shows it opening to let a ship pass. He spends quite a large portion of his travel vlog talking about stairs. He refers to it as Netherlands architecture. He gives a little more information: "in the Netherlands many stairs are incredibly steep. The historical reason for this peculiar architectural safety hazard, that's right tax avoidance. The Dutch could save on taxes by minimizing the width of their houses and now its culture."¹³⁴ He also shows himself climbing up the steep stairs and calls the stairs dangerous. Steep stairs are part of Dutch culture for him. He again refers to typically Dutch steps later in his travel vlog when he is visiting Heusden. Here, he finds extremely steep stairs leading up to a windmill. He shows himself climbing the stairs and it is clear he finds it dangerous and is anxious. He says: "This is crazy."¹³⁵ When Parker visits Delft he climbs the New Church and once again the stairs are extremely narrow. He also visits the castle in Valkenburg, calling it the Netherlands' only fortress. In every city or town he visits he shows a little montage of the place and every montage features old buildings and architecture. When he is visiting Eindhoven, he remarks he does not enjoy it as much as the other places he visited. He calls it a university city and moves on to Heusden. One reason for his dislike could be the absence of old buildings in the city. Either Parker has an interest in older architecture, or it was one of the

¹³³ "The Netherlands – 8 Cities You've Never Seen! – Explored by an American", YouTube video, 27:56, "Jason Parker," August 25, 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5beE_rchn4, 0:28-0:32.

¹³⁴ Ibid., 3:45-4:00

¹³⁵ Ibid., 7:34-7:35.

reasons he visited the Netherlands. He associated the Netherlands with old buildings and is disappointed when he does not find any.

The Dutch viewers are mostly surprised with his comments about the steep stairs in the Netherlands. Their reactions show it was something they had never thought about before. Piet Muijs says: "Fun details about the steps and stairs. Never thought about it. When we were little kids we used to run up and down on those. Never went wrong."¹³⁶ However, Roy Hoekstra does not fully agree with Parker's observations concerning the stairs. "stairs aren't steep at all, only old buildings have weird-ass stairs"¹³⁷ Gerbenvanessen makes a joke about the steep stairs: "when no one is looking we simply use our hands to scramble up stairs on all fours. It's fun."¹³⁸ Even though most Dutch viewers were surprised with Parker's comments on the steep stairs, most agree with him. They simply never noticed as they grew up with steep stairs. Some viewers also make a joke out of it. Through these jokes they give Parker more information about the stairs, and how they do not struggle with the steepness. Furthermore, they share a Dutch inside joke of running up the stairs on all fours. They make it seem this is Dutch knowledge and something only the Dutch would do. Their lack of awareness of the steep stairs in the Netherlands seem to suggest the Dutch viewers do not see it as something typically Dutch and part of their Dutch national identity. While Parker feels it is typically Dutch and he presents it as something that is part of Dutch identity. Especially, the fact that stairs were built steep to avoid taxes. This fact is not debunked by Dutch viewers, but their lack of awareness on this topic seems to suggest they do not find it typically Dutch.

Way Away visits the Markthal in their Rotterdam city travel vlog and eat different cheeses. They learn that cheese gets harder, the older it gets. The tasting of cheese also leads Josh to explain the history behind the Rotterdam cheese. "At a football game, or soccer game many years ago, they had been served some Amsterdam cheese and there is a little bit of rivalry there because it was an Amsterdam versus Rotterdam football game and so they all said, 'No! We need cheese from Rotterdam'. But that didn't exist, so they started making it and that is the first Rotterdam cheese that we had."¹³⁹ We can assume he either got the story from the people at the cheese stand or from Laura the tour guide. Maverick21491 seems annoyed with Josh calling football by its American equivalent soccer. "Its Football for Pete's sake ! Out off all the games called "Football" , "Soccer , from here on known as FOOTBALL is the only

¹³⁶ Comments section

¹³⁷ Comments section

¹³⁸ Comments section

¹³⁹ "Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away", YouTube video, 13:55, "WAY AWAY," November 4, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-zb6fXAkII>, 5:08-5:26.

game actually having feet as its main use of contact with the ball !" Just saying :P"¹⁴⁰

However, his smiley at the end seems to suggest he does not mean to sound aggressive or angry. Angela Kluivert feels the need to add some more information: "The Amsterdam versus Rotterdam football game was Ajax (Amsterdam) versus Feijenoord (Rotterdam) in de Kuip (the football stadium)"¹⁴¹ The story Josh tells is about the creation of Rotterdam cheese. Nevertheless, the Dutch viewers find it more important to give more information about the football match. More information is provided about the football match, even though Josh told the story with a focus on cheese. This confirms *Historisch Nieuwsblad* findings of Dutch people being proud of sport performances, such as football. Football is important for their Dutch identity, maybe even more so than Dutch cheese.

Adding new topics to the theme

Sometimes Dutch people in the comment section feel the travel vlogger have missed some important subjects or places in their travel vlog. The Dutch person often feels proud of certain subjects or places and thinks it needs to be shown in a travel vlog about the Netherlands as it is typically Dutch. When it comes to architecture in travel vlogs about the Netherlands the content is perceived to be lacking by some Dutch viewers. Way Away does show some architecture while in Rotterdam. They start their journey on the largest rooftop urban garden in Europe. They cycle over the Erasmus bridge and show the Euromast. The tour guide gives a bit of background on the Holland American Line building. Laura explains: "It is the office, umm, it was the office for the Holland-America lines. So, the connection between the Netherlands and the USA. Its first connection between the different continents."¹⁴² They also show a shot of the cube houses in Rotterdam and the Markthal, both inside and outside and visit various food stands. They are also shown walking on the yellow walkway, when doing their graffiti tour. The yellow walkway is a yellow bridge built to connect the north of Rotterdam to the city centre. In the comment section, the buildings are barely mentioned. Dutch Nomad Couple comments on Way Away showing the urban area containing the yellow walkway, which is something the Dutch Nomad Couple recognised. Ulrich Lachman did miss some buildings in the vlog. "You have misse the Rotterdam am Summer Carnival in July, the Rotterdam, Museums, the Rotterdam Marathon in April, the largest port in Europe, was the

¹⁴⁰ Comments section

¹⁴¹ Comments section

¹⁴² "Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away", YouTube video, 13:55, "WAY AWAY," November 4, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-zb6fXAkII>, 1:44-1:51.

largest in the world not so long ago and the soccer stadion Feijenoord. Next time to Rotterdam, meanwhile watch it in you tube." Ulrich Lachman does find architecture important and wants people to see the architecture in Rotterdam. Other Dutch viewers do not seem so interested in the architecture and buildings in Rotterdam. Some reasons could be that Way Away does not spend enough time on them or architecture is simply not very important when it comes to showing the Dutch identity in Rotterdam.

When LukeLifeCharms is visiting Amsterdam, he visits the "IAmsterdam" sign, which has since been removed. He points out the sign is a big tourist attraction and taking a photo is a must when visiting Amsterdam. For Luke's travel vlog the Dutch viewers think he actually shows too few buildings in Amsterdam. According to You 2 Amsterdam has more important buildings to show. One of these is the basilica of St. Nicolas, on which You 2 gives some more information. "Saint Nicoalas: The big basilica at the station is called 'The Basilica of St. Nicholas. 'Saint Nicholas is a patron saint of the city of Amsterdam. Despite the fact that a large part of the country is no longer religious, Amsterdam is known as the city that welcomes all believers."¹⁴³ For You 2 the church is important to mention, as well as religion. He not only provides more information on architecture, but also shows religion is part of his Dutch national identity. He further adds religion is not part of the general Dutch national identity as most of the country is no longer religious. This was also confirmed by the researches done by *Historisch nieuwsblad* and SCP, where Dutch people stated religion is not typically Dutch and does not bind Dutch people together.

One theme was only brought up by the Dutch viewers and was not shown or discussed in the travel vlogs. When researching on Holland.com, the official website for tourism in the Netherlands, marijuana and prostitution are not named among the ten the things the Netherlands is famous for.¹⁴⁴ However, among foreigners the Netherlands is considerably well-known for its prostitution and easy access to marijuana in coffeeshops. However, this easy access led to more crime by drug tourists which led to the banning of foreigners from buying marijuana.¹⁴⁵ Both topics are still highly discussed in the Netherlands. Only recently tours through the red-light districts were forbidden by the Dutch government.¹⁴⁶ Interestingly, in the comments section beneath Nadine's travel vlog in Amsterdam some Dutch people feel the need to discuss the topic of marijuana and the red-light district, even though there is no

¹⁴³ Comments section

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/discover-holland/traditional.htm>

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.cityguiderotterdam.com/going-out/clubs-and-bars/coffeeshops-rotterdam/>

¹⁴⁶ Iliana Magra, "Amsterdam to Ban Tours of Its Red-Light District," *The New York Times*, March 21, 2019. Accessed May 30.

mention of these topics in the travel vlog. Hieilue remarks: "This is the first time I've seen a Youtuber not visiting the Red Light District or talking about weed."¹⁴⁷ Dennis Steenssens found it unfortunate Nadine did not visit a coffeeshop: "Too bad you didn't even visit ONE coffeeshop or the cannabis museum =/ It's a very rich culture in Amsterdam."¹⁴⁸ Rolf Jerphanion does not agree marijuana is part of the culture in the Netherlands. According to Steenssens the cannabis of Amsterdam cannot be compared to marijuana bought on a street corner. Jerphanion replies it is unfortunate Amsterdam is known for its marijuana as the city has a rich culture and history. Both viewers seem to agree Amsterdam has more to offer than just marijuana. They acknowledge marijuana is part of the Dutch culture, but it should not be the main thing it is known for. The fact that the topic of marijuana is even brought up by Dutch viewers gives the impression that some Dutch people see marijuana as part of Dutch culture. However, to say it is seen as Dutch national identity is a step too far. This is also confirmed by SCP's and *Historisch nieuwsblad* research where marijuana was not mentioned at all.

Biking

The Netherlands is well-known for its bikes¹⁴⁹ and thus it is no surprise that it is discussed in almost all seven travel vlogs about the Netherlands. The theme of biking does not fully fit into one of the four categories identified concerning Dutch people talking and discussing typically Dutch items and Dutch national identity. The theme of biking was clearly mentioned during the SCP research publishes in June 2019. Biking was the fourth most typically Dutch item mentioned by the Dutch respondents¹⁵⁰ and the 13th item which binds the Dutch together as a nation.¹⁵¹ These results plainly state biking is part of the Dutch national identity and is not only typically Dutch, but make the Dutch feel connected to each other. Therefore, it is surprising how little Dutch viewers respond to the travel vloggers comments on biking in the Netherlands. Almost all travel vloggers refer to biking in the Netherlands, with some explicitly discussing it.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁷ Comments section

¹⁴⁸ Comments section

¹⁴⁹ Author unknown, "Why is cycling so popular in the Netherlands?" *BBC*, August 8, 2013, <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-23587916>

¹⁵⁰ Beugelsdijk, De Hart, Van Houwelingen and Versantvoort, "Denkend aan Nederland," 11.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 12.

¹⁵² The two vlogs that do not feature biking are Hey Nadine in Amsterdam and Brendon van Son on a river cruise. The lack of biking in these vlogs is most likely the result of Nadine focusing solely on food and Brendon travelling via cruise ship.

Way Away in Rotterdam

They state the best way to explore Rotterdam is by bike, according to Josh, this is the way it is meant to be done. To him, biking is part of the Dutch national identity. Ashley comments Laura, who is Dutch, is accompanying them so they are safe on their bikes. This suggests biking in the Netherlands can be a dangerous activity. However, Dutch people know how to deal with this dangerous situation. After their bike and food tour they are shown returning their bikes to an enormous bike parking lot. Curiously, not a single comment from Dutch people in the comment section is about biking.

LukeLifeCharms in Amsterdam

He takes his audience to the biking parking lot right in front of Amsterdam Central station. He says: "the biggest wow factor when you do arrive here. Something you can't miss no matter where you are in Amsterdam and almost where you are in Holland and that's one thing that's here and that is a lot, a lot, a lot of [shows the bikes]"¹⁵³ For Luke biking is a big part of the Dutch national identity. In Amsterdam he has seen bikes everywhere, as well as in the rest of the Netherlands. He explains how all the bikes in front of the train station the first thing is you see when arriving in Amsterdam. He goes through the whole bike parking lot, visiting every level and is amazed every level seems to be full. He compares it to a car parking lot, in which there is always space. He is also seen almost getting in a collision with a biker and calls Amsterdam a dangerous place. Luke also tries a different form of biking, namely the *waterfiets*, which is a small boat with bike pedals. Together with his friend he uses the *waterfiets* to float along the Amsterdam canals. One Dutch person commented: "you keep walking on the fucking cycle paths." This comment shows annoyance by the person. However, this is the only comment concerning biking in the comments section, even though biking appears a lot in the travel vlog.

Vagabrothers in Rotterdam

The vagabrothers chose to immediately open their travel vlog with a comment on biking in the Netherlands. Alex explains: "I was saying Dutch people are the nicest people in the world

¹⁵³ "Welcome to AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND!! *Vlog 337", YouTube video, 15:20, "LukeLifeCharms," June 14, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rckWxi0GWNl>, 3:47-4:00.

until you as a pedestrian set foot in the bike lane. And then, things get extreme."¹⁵⁴ Their travel vlog focuses a lot on sustainability and Marko argues bikes are a big part of sustainability in the Netherlands. They too, show footage of themselves using bikes in the city. The vagabrothers also suggest biking is a big part of the Dutch national identity and as outsiders, they think cyclists in the Netherlands can be dangerous. In the comment section Tristan van Oosten jokingly comments: "Setting food in a bike lane? Do you want to die?"¹⁵⁵

Jason Parker in 8 cities

Jason Parker briefly refers to the Dutch obsession with bicycles: "I was couch surfing again and to speak more on the Dutch obsession with bicycles my host owns a 2000 dollar bicycle which folds up so you could carry it easily into the office with you, pictured here."¹⁵⁶ Jelle Brandt comments on the Dutch obsession with bicycle: "It isn't that bad. Basically Dutch culture isn't cheese, not windmills... no, it's cycling thru the rain for 30 mins with the wind against you... actually ask this to other Dutchman and they'll agree."¹⁵⁷ For Jelle his Dutch national identity is biking through the rain and wind and he is sure this is part of the national identity of many other Dutch people.

It is interesting that Dutch people do not comment much on the travel vloggers' comments on Dutch bicycle culture. They do not defend the behaviour of Dutch cyclists, which the vagabrothers comment on. Rather they show their annoyance with tourists walking on the bicycle path, as the commenter does at LukeLifeCharms' vlog. However, the Dutch viewers do not care much about Luke's amazement to all the bikes parked in front of the train station. Perhaps the Dutch agree with the comments of the travel vloggers. To them cycling is part of the Dutch national identity and they do not need to deny this claim of the travel vloggers. This is confirmed by the comment from Tristan van Oosten, who confirms the claim made by vagabrothers that Dutch cyclists become dangerous when a pedestrian steps foot on the biking path. However, he does add a smiley at the end of his comment, giving the

¹⁵⁴ "What to do in ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands", YouTube video, 12:31, "vagabrothers," October 1, 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22i2TOPPviU&t=244s>, 0:00-0:10.

¹⁵⁵ Comments section

¹⁵⁶ "The Netherlands – 8 Cities You've Never Seen! – Explored by an American", YouTube video, 27:56, "Jason Parker," August 25, 2018, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5beE_rchn4, 1:27-1:37.

¹⁵⁷ Comments section

impression he is making a joke out of it. Dutch viewers do not explicitly show their pride of the cycling culture explained by the travel vloggers.

The fact that one commenter explicitly mentions how cycling through the rain and wind is part of Dutch national identity supports the claim that Dutch people agree biking is part of their Dutch national identity. This fact is widely known, as almost all the travel vloggers feature biking and mention it in their travel vlog. Therefore, Dutch viewers barely feel the need to add additional information or debunk the existing one. This lack of conversation about the biking gives the impression Dutch viewers are not as proud about biking in the Netherlands as they are about food. Neither is it necessary to give more information, or there is no other information to give. The travel vloggers have seen the correct Dutch national identity when it comes to bicycles.

Conclusion

In this research the question how the ideas of Dutch national identity are negotiated in travel vlogs about the Netherlands was tried to be answered. This was done through the method of thematic analysis and coding with the software program ATLAS.ti where various themes were identified. These were: food and drinks, biking, architecture: buildings, stairs and windmills, biking, marijuana and red-light district, providing the viewer additional information and comparing different locations. During the analysis of these themes four different ways Dutch national identity was negotiated were identified. Dutch national identity is shown through pride, debunking information, adding information to the subject mentioned and adding new topics to the theme. Previous research on Dutch national identity has shown the Dutch find language, history, culture, sport performances and water management part of the Dutch national identity. Jensen's research explained how Dutch national identity has been shaped through the centuries by the means of growing of trade, introducing a new golden age, emphasising heroes of the seas and God's providence.

The analysis for this research shows how negotiating the Dutch national identity shows different results in what Dutch viewers chose to focus on in terms of their national identity. Dutch viewers of travel vlogs show their pride for the topic of food and drinks, which is rarely mentioned in previous researches. Only Dutch snacks (*appelflappen* and *oliebollen*) consumed at New Year's Eve are mentioned. Generally, the theme of food and drinks occurs in three of four different ways Dutch people negotiate their identity. Food and drinks are not added in the comments section by Dutch people themselves. Only when Dutch dishes are mentioned by the travel vlogger do Dutch viewers respond. This is not surprising when realising the Dutch are often unaware of their own cuisine. Dutch viewers also show their pride for their own hometowns and happily advertise them to the travel vloggers. They would like the travel vloggers to visit these places next because they have a lot to offer as well.

Way Away has the two vlogs in which most information is debunked. They are also the travel vloggers, who talk directly to their viewers and happily share more information about the country they are visiting. Unfortunately, they do not provide the audience with their sources. The themes that are debunked are Dutch food and drinks, certain architecture and extra information provided on some Dutch history. This confirms *Historisch nieuwsblad* findings how Dutch history is important to Dutch people and their national identity. They would like the travel vloggers to tell the correct story.

Again, the theme food and drinks and architecture occur when Dutch viewers feel the need to add extra information to a subject mentioned in the travel vlog. Dutch viewers also like to add information on sport performances on a subject, which main focus was not necessarily sport performances. However, this does confirm *Historisch nieuwsblad* findings how Dutch people are proud of Dutch sport performances and see it as part of their Dutch national identity.

The theme of biking was discussed separately as it is a topic the Netherlands is well-known for and was featured in almost all seven travel vlogs. Furthermore, SCP's research showed how Dutch people not only find biking typically Dutch, but also feel it binds the Dutch together as a nation. Therefore, it is surprising almost no Dutch viewers comment on the travel vloggers about biking. It appears as though foreigners love talking about biking in the Netherlands and put extra emphasis on this phenomenon. Yet, Dutch people simply brush over this theme. One reason could be Dutch viewers are not proud of biking being part of their national identity or simply agree and feel no need to debunk it. Perhaps the Netherlands is so well-known for its biking culture Dutch viewers do not care enough to comment on this fact, as it is general knowledge. When there are comments on biking it is concerning Dutch aggression on bikes, which the Dutch viewers agree with.

Overall, this research showed a new medium used in the 21st century to negotiate national identity. The results are very different from how the Dutch national identity was shaped during the 17th, 18th and 19th century. Comparing it to more recent researches, it becomes clear Dutch cuisine is much more on the forefront in the negotiation of Dutch national identity in travel vlogs, then it is when Dutch people are asked to fill in a survey. The conclusion could be drawn Dutch people feel a cuisine is part of their identity when they are confronted with it, but not when they have to think of it themselves. This research does show Dutch people are proud of their own cuisine, which had not been discovered before. Furthermore, Dutch people do not feel the need to negotiate certain important dates with the travel vloggers, such as Remembrance Day or Kingsday, which were mentioned in SCP's report. Dutch people rather focus on the content of the travel vlog, rather than start adding a lot of extra subjects. Generally, the Dutch agree with each other what their identity is, with a few differences. Which are especially connected to pride for locations in the Netherlands. Lastly, the main difference between shaping national identity and negotiating identity is the actors involved. During the shaping of a national identity, a nation together decides what is typical, by having it reoccur frequently. While negotiating, specifically for this research takes

places between an outside party and Dutch people. The Dutch people show whether they agree with the idea of Dutch national identity presented by the foreign travel vlogger.

For further research a bigger sample size could be researched to get an even clearer image on how Dutch people negotiate their national identity. Furthermore, it would be interesting to extend this research to other nationalities. To research whether German people also excessively comment on travel vlogs about Germany and whether a German national identity is negotiated in these travel vlogs as well. Overall, the dialogue in the comments section on YouTube are a new opportunity to research the ideas of people and the discussions that are being held online.

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Appendix I

Travel vlog 1: Way Away – Rotterdam City Guide – The Way Away

Josh: Good morning Way fam from Rotterdam the Netherlands and the largest rooftop urban garden in Europe.

Ashley: I'm Ashley, this is my husband Josh and our friend.

Laura: Laura

Josh: We sold everything we had to travel the world and now we want to share with you the way away.

Ashley: So, subscribe down below, hit that like button, the little bell and follow our adventures.

Short intro to who they are (without verbal audio)

Josh: Indeed, we are in Rotterdam, we took the train from Amsterdam this morning and we have begun already a bike and bike food tour in Rotterdam. We have a lot more today, but first things first we have to get some food in us, some fuel. And we will see the city the way it is meant to be done, by bike.

Short montage of their day in Rotterdam, what the audience will see more later.

Next shot on rooftop

Ashley: Our first stop here is at 'Open Dak', which means rooftop. And we're going to have some home-made, fresh banana bread and the they have a caramel sauce. This is our tour guide Laura.

Laura: Yeah

Ashley: She has us for quite a few hours, umm, just to make sure we are safe by bike and to take us to the best places here in Rotterdam.

While eating the banana bread

Ashley: This is how you do it

Laura: You just put some caramel on top, yeah, there you go.

Ashley: Yeah, great start to the tour.

Little montage of the eating and talking, then showing them on their bikes.

Laura: You can see the old building and all the new around it. The building is still, umm, survived. It is the office, umm, it was the office for the Holland-America lines. So, the connection between the Netherlands and the USA. Its first connection between the different continents. So, we're connected. You could say.

Ashley: Yes, that's great.

Montage of the water

At the Garage (restaurant)

Laura: Hello, these are my friends of the day.

Waitress: Hi, welcome, haha.

Shows the restaurant interior and the food and drinks they are having

Ashley: What do you call this again?

Laura: Kapsalon

Ashley: Kapsalon

Laura: Yeah, right now this is a local dish, well, it is a national dish. You can see it in Amsterdam as well. You see kapsalon, you know it is from Rotterdam.

Ashley: We are at our second stop, called de Garage. It's the perfect kind of mix of garage car parts and cute tea cups. We are loving the style here, but we're starting with three other dishes. This is called Kapsalon it is chicken, French fries, vegetables, umm, looks like tartar sauce or some kind of dill sauce and ketchup. There is a story about a hairdresser, who went

to eat in a shawarma shop, and he was so hungry that he just got everything in it and put it in a tin foil and ate it all. So that now is a national dish.

Clip of more beer and them eating and chatting. Going outside and showing the cube houses and other architecture

They also show how poffertjes are made

Laura: It is a lot of an iced sugar, with butter

Ashley: Looks good

Laura: Enjoy

Ashley: Oeh, it's hot, mmm, really good

Show the Markthal, at a cheese stand

Cheeseman: Hello

Ashley: Hello

Cheeseman: First time in Rotterdam?

Ashley: Yes, first time

Cheeseman: You like?

Ashley: Loving it so far. It's been great.

Cheeseman: Do you like cheese?

Ashley: Love cheese, yeah.

Cheese lady: Let's start with taking some port. It's wine from Portugal. The taste was specially developed to go with our cheeses. First is called fenegriek.

To Laura: Hé, ga jij ook proeven of.

Laura: Nee.

Josh: So, two to three-year-old cheese, how's that?

Ashley: Really delicious, it's soft on the inside, although I heard that cheese gets harder, the older it is. Is that true?

Cheese lady: Yes, but if you keep it out of the fridge and just in day temperature, it's soft and the taste is much more flavour.

Outside of Markthal

Josh: Markthal has ton of different foods in there that you can try. We stopped at a cheese factory; it is the Rotterdam cheese. There is a story that goes along with that. At a football game, or soccer game many years ago, they had been served some Amsterdam cheese and there is a little bit of rivalry there because it was an Amsterdam versus Rotterdam football game and so they all said, "No! We need cheese from Rotterdam". But that didn't exist, so they started making it and that is the first Rotterdam cheese that we had. If you want to buy a wheel that's 12 kilograms basically your entire luggage, so maybe get it shipped.

Inside chocolate factory; de Bonte Koe

Ashley: Oh, and you melt them? Oh, they're tiny.

More biking and returning the bikes

Ashley: Our bikes and bites tour has come to an end and it was amazing. Our tour guide Laura was so nice. I feel like we could have just easily have been friends. But it was just such a fun time, I really enjoyed going to each of these places. Something that I've been really liking recently is meeting owners of their businesses. Like when we're in the business, the owners are still working there and are part of the business. I love seeing entrepreneurs just giving everything they have into their dream and what they enjoy doing. It has been really, really good today. Almost all the places we went to we met the owners of the place, which made it even more special. Now I think that we're going to see a little bit of street art in Rotterdam, which I'm really looking forward to because street art is it something I really enjoy seeing in cities. And this city supposedly has some really great pieces.

Josh: Alright so for this street art thing there is an app and we get to select our routes.

Ashley: It was 99 cents guys, fyi, you got to pay for it, but it will show you cool street art.

Laura: Every route has their own theme and there are audio guides, the audio will automatically start after choosing a route.

Ashley: Cool

Laura: Okay, highlights are listed in the overview.

Audio of the app and showing various graffiti

Ashley: What a cool concept to have an app that shows you around the city and shows you different pieces of artwork on city walls. It's so awesome to see something like that. And how they just make it so easy for someone like us, we don't know the city, we don't know anything about it. To actually use the app and find the different pieces of artwork is amazing and it actually tells you about the artist which I always wonder, who the artist was and why they painted it. What the reasoning behind it was, it's really cool. Also, with the app, I think there are four or five different routes you can take. Ranging from 30 minutes all the way until two and a half hours. So, it's a fun way to get to know the city. Today we only have a few like I don't know 12 hours in the city, and this is one of the things we chose to do and I'm so glad we did.

Josh: After all that wandering in Rotterdam we got a little thirsty, so we decided to stop at Phoenix food court to get some drinks.

Ashley: Found our spot. They have mulled cider, hot mulled cider.

Josh: Oh nice, that's a good choice.

Ashley: That's perfect.

Laura: Just what we need.

Ashley: Just what we need.

Tasting some ciders.

Ashley: Yeah, I think I'm going with this one too. Yeah, I really like that one.

Looking at Laura

Ashley: This is good.

Laura: It's good.

Ashley: But I think that one is a little more refreshing for me right now.

Sitting outside drinking

Ashley: Today has been awesome so far. I love that we've been able to check out the city of Rotterdam, but we decided we were a little thirsty, so we came here to the market to get some cider. We scouted it out earlier and I love cider. I'm so happy to just have a glass, enjoy and be right by the river.

Josh: And it's funny because we all chose the exact same one. Independently, not knowing that the other person has done so.

Ashley: And we tried like five kinds.

Josh: Yeah, this is, okay, I think with this place he makes them all from local fruits and there's no additives, which is cool you know. On top of that, this particular one is aged in a wine barrel. So, it's aged like a whiskey might be in a wine barrel. So, it's a mix of a cider like a whiskey and wine and it's got a really interesting flavour almost smoky.

Ashley: Yeah, it's still sweet, but then the aftertaste is oak barrel and you can totally taste it and it's so cool.

Josh: We're going to hang out here for a little bit and then we're going to head out for dinner shortly.

Ashley: We did hear from our local tour guide earlier that this is the local market. There is a market further in town, which is in the touristic area, but this is where the locals come to have a drink together and enjoy after work.

Josh: Yeah, look at this *Turns the camera to other tables*

Ashley: It's pretty awesome, you cannot only, like you can get food as well as a drink and just be happy for hours.

Eating dinner at another restaurant

Ashley: That was fast. There's great service here.

Voiceover Josh: The super Mercado had a really good range of Mexican style dishes and one of the things we learned about Rotterdam, is that they pride themselves on their international community of 189 different nationalities. They claim that 188 are represented. That's a pretty good mix of people. The dishes that we had were delicious although they weren't exactly Mexican as we know it because I'm guessing they just don't get the right spices and the right foods, but everything was delicious.

Later in the evening

Josh: But we are home now, we took the train back to Amsterdam and our little buddy here is saying hi. *Points camera at dog* We went for a run earlier, isn't that right. Yeah, we went for a run.

Sorry to get him riled up for you.

Laura: Yeah, it's midnight crazies.

Josh: He gets to sleep back here with Laura. Alright good night. I apologise for riling him up. So, Ashley what are you up to?

Ashley: I'm watching some YouTube videos.

Josh: Catching up. We've been jam-packed the last couple of days. I hope that the video content is still good, but we've just been go-go-go. So, these videos of The Hague and what Rotterdam today. And then there was one other in between.

Ashley: Giethoorn

Josh: Giethoorn and Volendam, that's right. The days are blurring together already. So, thank you again to Han and the Rotterdam Tourism Board for making today so special. We had an amazing time, we loved it and we would definitely recommend that you check out Rotterdam for sure.

Ashley: Yeah it was such a cool and today was such a fun day. It was great, I think today was my favourite day aside from the food tour here in Amsterdam was cut probably a close second.

Josh: There you go.

Ashley: It was such a good day.

Josh: Straight from the horse's mouth. So, Way Fam, I hope we encouraged you to get out there and travel today and we'll see you in the next video.

Ashley: Good night, ciao

Josh: Good night in Amsterdammish.

Comments section

Dutch Nomad Couple: So funny, I worked for the national newspaper in Rotterdam and it's in the urban area with the yellow walkway. It's such a cool place to hang out, especially Biergarten. Had my goodbye party over there, good old memories.

Richard K.: So nice to see my hometown get some attention. Usually all you see Amsterdam. I hope you had a good time in Rotterdam. 😊

Way Away: Thanks!! We love seeing places other than just the main city. Still even more places to see but we never have enough time.

Richard K.: Had I known you're be in Rotterdam, I'd have loved to have shown you around. Maybe next time, who knows. Enjoy your travels around Europe ☺

Joop van Meteren: Good to see that you are exploring more than Amsterdam. If you still have some time in the Netherlands try to visit a part of our defence system against the sea. I am shure you will be impressed Have a nice time in our country.

Bara Robber Baron: As someone born in Rotterdam, it's nice to see the way it's perceived by fresh eyes. And hell, I didn't know everything, so that's something.

Maverick21491: Its Football for Pete's sake ! Out off all the games called "Football" , "Soccer , from here on known as FOOTBALL is the only game actually having feet as its main use of contact with the ball !" Just saying :P Lovely vid, big cheers from me from Rotterdam :)

Roland de pous: ROTTERDAM IS NR. ONE
WELKOM ALWAYS

Ulrich Lachman: You have misse the Rotterdam am Summer Carnival in July, the Rotterdam, Museums, the Rotterdam Marathon in April, the largest port in Europe, was the largest in the world not so long ago and the soccer stadion Feijenoord. Next time to Rotterdam, meanwhile watch it in you tube.

Way Away: ah, dang! That would have been really cool.

Ulrich Lachman: The world is ok, countries, culture, people, nature, animals, even the weather, every where you go, you always takes the weather with you, etc. See also why the dutch are the best in watermanagement, watermanagement TU-Delft, dikes. Don't forget to visit Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, China, India, Mongolie, Your video are ok. Enjoy life! I have to work.

cici bici: My hometown greetings from cido again ☺

derplinkster: Nah your vids are right on Showing all the cool places to visit

aleyxia van den berg: My hometown!

Angela Kluivert: The Amsterdam versus Rotterdam football game was Ajax (Amsterdam) versus Feijenoord (Rotterdam) in de Kuip (the football stadium)

Ama Sma: If you want a good kapsalon just go to a turkish deli

Yusuf Ismail: Kapsalon is a Turkish invention and that women dutch women is either lying or is clueless...pity, claiming is as a dutch local food

Cal Guy: Rotterdam is a yawn. Financial city geared toward business. Downtown is boring. That street art is sanctioned and paid for by the city. Maybe these vloggers are interested in marketing? But I guess if you behave enthusiastically on a vlog about a destination you can make any place seem cool. I wonder if these vloggers will begin to see and speak about reality more as they mature?

Travel vlog 2: Way Away – *Holland's Fairytale Venice of the North*

Josh: Good morning Way fam from Giethoorn the Netherlands.

Ashley: I'm Ashley and this is Josh and this is our friend.

Laura: Laura

Josh: We sold everything we had to travel the world and now we want to share with you the way away.

Ashley: So, subscribe down below, hit that little bell and give us a thumbs up for more adventures.

Josh: Let's go.

Little intro video

Ashley: So, you might notice we are on a big bus tour today. Josh and I haven't done much of these big bus tours before but it's a great way if you don't have a car, which we don't, to get around the city. Limber sent us on this excursion, we are going to two different areas, this being one of them and the next we're headed to another city.

Josh: And yes, indeed we are in Giethoorn, which I'm probably saying wrong, but I'm trying to say it right. It's a tiny little town, one of the unique things about it is that you're not allowed to drive a car around inside of it. So, we parked the bus outside and we're about to hop on a boat and check out, it's over 180 bridges you said.

Laura: Yeah

Ashley: Something like that

Josh: Ridiculous

Montage of getting on the boat

Josh: You got a few friends (*ducks*) with you this morning

Ashley: Yeah, they're going to follow us around.

Josh: Did you feed them? How did you make them so fast?

Ashley: No, they just like me. I crack them up.

Josh: You told them a joke, huh.

Little montage of bridges, a horse and ducks, people on surfboards

Josh: We're going to have a picnic. Ashley made some nice sandwiches.

Ashley: Yeah

Josh: We're going to enjoy them.

Ashley: You kind of are forced to spend money here.

Laura: "agrees"

Josh: Alright, to wash down our packed lunch, we decided to get some tea and coffee.

Ashley: It's a little chilly outside actually, chillier here than it was in Amsterdam and breezy today, so this is definitely needed.

Josh: Ashley is freaking out over the size of my espresso cup.

Ashley: This is the smallest espresso cup, but usually they just give you the cup and no lid. This is like the tiniest little espresso lid. You have to keep this.

Josh: I'm not keeping that.

Ashley: Haha, keep it, for the memory

Josh: Alright, back out into the cold.

Ashley: The water is only like one meter deep, our boat driver earlier said that if the boat sinks just stand up and walk to the side.

Josh: Don't worry, it will be alright

Ashley: Laura was scared of sharks, but.

Josh: The thing with Giethoorn is that apparently there was a movie filmed here at one point. And that's what made this popular with tourists from all over the world. Now every year Giethoorn hosts about 1 million tourists, so yes this is a bit of a tourist place but not without merit. It is unique, it's really cool-looking and it gives you a little bit of insight into how people lived back in the day.

Ashley: There is also like Airbnb and bed and breakfasts here. And I bet you after 4 o'clock it would be perfect.

Josh: Oh yeah

Ashley: You'd pretty much have the whole place to yourselves, along with the locals. So nice to enjoy how beautiful it is, well actually the houses have the thatched roofs, which is

something very unique in this area, something that they did back in the day because it was the cheaper way to roof your house, but nowadays it is not cheap, it's very work intensive. But they've decided to just keep it up in this small town, which is really mean fun to see.

Josh: Yeah, I can appreciate that they're attempting to keep the authenticity, like they're not changing stuff, they're keeping it the way it was but nice, you know. And the cool thing about these thatched roofs is, that even though they are expensive they last about 30 years which you compared to a normal house that's actually a long time.

Ashley: Yeah, I don't know what a normal house is.

Josh: I think you can get different ratings, but I'd say like 10, 15, 20, up to 30 years or so.

Ashley: It's really cool because if you look real close up the thatched roof, you can see the underside is really light coloured because the water hadn't got to it, but the farther, you know, closer to the water it is, the darker the colour of the thatches.

Little montage of Giethoorn roofs, bridges and inside some shops, showing lots of cheese

Josh: Alright we spend a long time on the bus, but we have arrived at the little village of Volendam. It's an old fishing village that because of the way they built the dikes up and removed the sea water all the fresh water came in and they've lost their ability to fish because all the fish died at that time, I mean, this was centuries ago at this point, but now they have a really good reputation, I suppose for cheese in this area. So, we're going to check out some cheese.

Ashley: Cheese, good cheese.

Little montage of buildings

Josh: Alright now comes the good part, Ashley's trying out some cheeses.

Ashley: Trying the cheese, mm, there's marmalade on top. She said with the old cheeses they like to put sweet jams with it, but the younger cheese's they put mustard, mustard is over there.

Josh: How was it?

Ashley: I love mustard, it's good.

Josh: Oh yeah, a little.

Ashley: Squashing the cheese

Josh: A milk lady I guess

Ashley: Look who got the cheese

Josh: I told Ashley, I really want to buy a wheel of this cheese at some point and there is actually one in there that's like the size of a frisbee, but much thicker, 55 euro. Not too bad.

Ashley: But he asked the other place and it was over 200 euro.

Josh: For something like this size or bigger.

Ashley: Yeah

Josh: I just feel like it's a life goal to buy a wheel of cheese and just take it home and when you have guests over you just bring out the wheel of cheese, you cut up a big slice of it and you're like: "Here you are." and everyone's like wow, you know.

Ashley: Life goals

Josh: You're not impressed?

Ashley: No

Josh: Okay, question for you guys, if you could buy a wheel of cheese, would you do it? Put it in the comments down below.

In another shop

Kendra: Caramel cookie liquor, it's 14.9% alcohol, so if you don't want to try it, it's okay. And I'm serious, it's 14.5% and it'll sneak up on you, you wouldn't even notice it that's really sweet.

Josh: Thank you

Kendra: So, it will taste, in a second you will taste the caramel cookie, so now I'm trying to get you all warm ...

Ashley: It's what I like, what I like. *Takes a sip.* Dang, that's good

Josh: It tastes like drinking caramel.

Ashley: I'm drinking that all the time.

Josh: Do you like it though?

Laura: Yes

Ashley: It would be so good in like a latte or something like a (incoherent). It's so good

Josh: It's dangerous though.

Kendra: So, my name is Kendra and together with Ashley today we're going to teach you how to make a stroopwafel, so a Dutch caramel cookie. So now, Ashley has been instructed to roll the dough into a ball and she is going to show you the dough. How beautiful that is. So now Ashley is going to put it in the middle of the waffle iron and now you get to close this down, it's heavy, and hot so be careful. Little bit of girl power, push, and let it go. It's one of the most famous cookies you guys are on today. So, it's very important Ashley cuts this waffle while it's still hot. As soon as it gets cold, it will start to crumble and there's no cutting it after that. Is she hired or fired? Now the traditional flavours, of course, caramel. So of course, the chef gets the first piece.

Ashley: Professional stroopwafel maker, right here.

Josh: How does it taste though?

Ashley: It's ooey gooey. Delicious.

Back outside

Josh: Hello peeping Tom

Ashley: They have a whole deck which goes straight down to the beach. If we get work done, we can buy this place. Sit down and have some tea on my balcony.

Walking around the harbor

Josh: Al right, we are back at our cute little place but we're watching a little puppy, Laura has taken it out for a little walk in the evening time, he's been so excited to be here all alone and now he needs to go.

Ashley: We got some pizza for dinner; it was the cheapest option so I'm going to pop them in the over. We got the pizzas from the grocery store. It was pretty cool to all those little towns; I don't think we would have seen it unless we went on this tour. So, if you're into that sort of thing, like a big bus tour group, definitely check the link in the description.

Ashley: Josh and I would rather get a car in that kind of situation and go for a road trip.

Josh: Personally

Ashley: But we understand some people feel way more comfortable on buses and doing bus tours. So, we wanted to show something like that for you guys. So, we hope we encouraged you to get out and travel today, tomorrow we are going to a new place here

Josh: Called Rotterdam

Ashley: In the Netherlands where we have never been, so excited to go. Have a good night, Way fam and we'll see you tomorrow.

Josh: Goodnight

Comment section:

bla5102: Volendam was a fishervillage until the construction of the afsluitdijk which was in 1932... so not centuries ago ^^

r.i.p Theo van Gogh: Maybe, whenever you are back in the Netherlands you might check up the hilly areas. In Gelderland and Limburg. They go up till about 300 meters and there are beautiful historic towns and cities like Maastricht. The history of Maastricht goes back to the Romans who called it "Mosa Trajectum" and still has a big stone Roman bridge which is completely intact. Maastricht is about 3 hours by train from A'dam

Eric Burbach: Giethoorn is very upmarket, it's a very expensive village to live in, houses are owned by the rich and famous.

Way Away: Ohhh very interesting! That must be just lately then?

Eric Burbach: post ww2

elmoo1991 to Eric Burbach: that's not true I had high school teachers living there.

Eric Burbach: lucky teachers

TheRedHarigeMan: Not really

Eric Burbach: two word answers are really lazy

Wilbert Everts: Rich chinese people buy all the houses in Giethoorn if it possible

J.A.H. van de Laak: Blokzijl (near Giethoorn) is also very nice. The dikes near that area is awesome as well.

Iris: Not sure what the situation in Giethoorn is concerning the rooftops, but, big chance that some of the homes fall under the monument preservation rules by either the local government or national government, which requires you to maintain the building by using the original materials (and sometimes also the original construction methods) around during the time of construction in order to stay a monument and get some government funding to maintain the building in return.

Way Away: Yep, I'm pretty sure that was something the guide mentioned. Though I can't remember exactly

Jan 54: Back in the days when it was very common to have those old roofs, they said you were rich if you have Dakpannen (baked roofpans) Hij is onder de pannen..... he is under the roof tiles...

Lars Timmers: Haha well that was a traditional Dutch lady handing out the liquor

yvar dietvorst: Just a note, great videos, but Giethoorn isn't in Holland. It's Overijssel

Way Away: True! But people searching the internet have never heard of Overijssel ;)

yvar dietvorst: haha yeah oke fair point

Saartje05: Then it's The Netherlands.....)

EnigmaDrath: [0:42](#) -> You got it almost right, except for the pronunciation of the Dutch "g". It's not the "guh" sound like in English. Instead, pretend you're imitating an angry hissing cat :D "If you could buy a wheel of cheese, would you do it?" I'm Dutch and I've never bought an entire wheel because ... why? XD It's impractical. No way I'd be able to eat it all before it goes bad. I just buy the 1/8 wedges at the supermarket. [8:25](#) -> Double "o" in Dutch (like in stroopwafel) is pronounced "o" as in "go", not as in "boot".

- **Witbaar:** My country really looks like a dollhouse this way ... but maybe it is, and it's ok too ;-)

xzaz2: 'Rietendaken' are not only used in Giethoorn, they are very common across the northern Netherlands and they may be expensive but they are a very good isolator.

Arjen Laan: [5:06](#) Actually, not that long ago, actually, the water changed from salt to fresh in 1932 or thereabout. Fishing did not entirely stop after that, although, obviously, the ecosystem changed. Later, after the flood in Zeeland, in 1953, when planning the Deltaworks, provisions were made to retain as much as an open access to the sea there as possible in order to keep the ecosystem of, especially, the Westerschelde, intact... But unfortunately for Volendam, Urk, Spakenburg, Marken, and all those other quaint little fishing villages on the IJsselmeer shore, that knowledge still needed to be acquired in the 1920's and 30's.

Lisa Kokx: I live in Naarden and I think my town is pretty special as well! It is centuries old and still has this centre with old houses, small streets and a pretty church. It used to be one of the defending points for Amsterdam and what is especially notable is that it's a star shaped fortress (google Naarden for sky view) which is pretty intact as well. I love walking on the strip of land inbetween the two water strips around the city centre.

TheRoepieroepe: ...the sea didn't actually go away centuries ago from Volendam. The afsluitdijk, the barrier that blocked the north sea was created early last century and you could still take a fishing vessel out to sea through the sea locks

John Vroonhoven: The straw roofing is not just typical for that village or area, it's very common everywhere in the NL's really. And also partly in Germany and Belgium and also a lot of English cottages have these kinda roofing. Great vid once again btw!

Wolfie Art studios: * complaining about the weather * i live in holland and i can assure you that it is important to catch every single bit of sun if you find some. it is always cloudy and cold. but i love it XD

Saartje05: The movie was called 'Fanfare'. Thatched houses you will find all over The Netherlands, not only in Ggggggiethoorn (The name comes van Geitenhoorn aka Goat's horn)

Saartje05: I'm Dutch but I've NEVER put marmalade on cheese...

Dionne Sier: We still fish a lot in Volendam. That's why we are also responsible for the near extinction of the eel in that area

Rtyrtyurty yurtyrtyuty: hoeveel vissers zijn er nog in dat inteelt dorp 3 a 4 ? en paling vissen is pas gekomen na de afsluitdijk

NickVerhoog1: It's The Netherlands not Holland.

Mark Roth: huilen

Travel vlog 3: LukeLifeCharms – *Welcome to AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND!!*
**VLOG 337*

Luke: Yo man, that's a pretty hardcore setup man, that's a pretty hardcore setup. Is that the fusion?

Guy: Yeah it is

Luke: You know ... (incoherent)

Little introduction of Amsterdam

Luke: Good morning everyone from a sunny, but a little chilly day here in Amsterdam. No idea what to do, super tired, only got a couple hours of sleep. Me and Chris were today, we're trying to discover some things. We don't really know, we both don't really know too much about the areas here in Amsterdam, so we will find something. We're kind of going to play it by ear.

So right now, we're walking right here on, do you know where we are? Do you know anything?

Chris: Ah yeah

Little shot of pumping fists with a local

Luke: It's been like 20 minutes and we haven't found anything yet, or like 15 minutes.

Chris: It's been 10 minutes.

Luke: Okay, so it's been 10 minutes of us walking around passing all these food places.

Chris: And the place I want to sit down you're an (incoherent).

Luke: No one was eating there. What was wrong with the place down here? Right here (points to said place)

Okay, so we found a place.

Okay, so we found this place and it is not like Mr. Pancakes, where they have a lot of different breakfast stuff, French toast, Belgian waffle, avocado toast, spring detox, fruit bowls. This is the name of the place; I think it means our daily bread. *Shows the menu with the name in French*

The food arrives.

Chris: Alright, alright, alright

Waitress: Are they both for you?

Luke: Yeah, they're both, haha. Dankjewel, dankjewel

Going outside

Luke: Definitely recommend this place, definitely thumbs up place. Man, this place is so dangerous. *Maneuvering away from a biker.*

So, we're splitting up real quick, I got to get some shots by the train station.

Shows all the bikes parked.

Now, this is kind of where I want to come to because this actually kind of when you first out walk out of the train station here in Amsterdam. You have everything you want at the train station. You have all this and you could really feel like, could really feel like the life, the environment even though it is not sunny, you can feel the energy here of Amsterdam. So, I feel like this place here is the perfect place to say, welcome to Amsterdam.

Some more shots of Amsterdam; boats, architecture, people, station

Luke: Oh, and I kind of forgot to tell you guys something about Amsterdam that makes it like the biggest probably, it's probably the biggest wow factor when you do arrive here.

Something you can't miss no matter where you are in Amsterdam and almost where you are in Holland and that's one thing that's here and that is a lot, a lot, a lot of

Shows the bikes

This is nothing, (incoherent) have this as well, you have like a parking lot for the bikes and there's people literally like when you're driving your car, you're driving your car and you have to like find a spot, you go in the parking garage. All bikes down there. Like another level you can go up to. Level number 5, I mean normally when you're up to like this level you can usually find a place to park your bike, I mean I still haven't seen a place to park but I mean you have a lot of options here. Yeah, I mean that's, this is just crazy. I mean I have been here before, so it's not like the first time I've seen it, but if you're not used to seeing it all the time, it's like wow.

Okay, but right now, I got to meet back up with my friend and try to figure out what we're doing on this cloudy, gloomy day, but we're here in Amsterdam staying positive. But literally I really got to find him, okay. Oh, another cool thing or not cool, but another thing about Amsterdam. This thing right here, this is a public toilet, so if you're a guy and you really need to go to the toilet there you're standing up, looking at everybody and going to the bathroom. Everyone just walks by like it's like it is no big deal. I don't buy it, so dangerous.

Exiting the AH

Always stop at this store right here. This is like the best place; they have fresh juices all the time. I've never been to that one, was like three years ago the last time I was here but they have like everything, all fresh, normally they have a bigger selection than that but this will do.

At Dam square

I'm literally, I'm like sitting in this huge square right now. I have really no plan, I kind of just got here to Amsterdam and am definitely glad I did. As you guys can see the sun is starting to come, which is perfect. No idea the name of this square, I did know the name of it, but I can't remember but just letting you guys know for the next couple days there's like no plan, I don't know anything, if you guys can think of something cool or something you want to see leave a comment down below and me and my friend might check it out because he is here for another day I think. I think if I have a thought of the day whenever you're travelling, never be too busy to be running around doing things are either just forget to sit down and just take a moment, enjoy where you are.

Little montage of Dam square

Finally back up with Chris, where we going man?

Chris: I don't know

Luke: I think we're going to try to, I have no idea, I really have no idea, we're just walking around Amsterdam

Shows the Amsterdam Cheese Factory from the outside

Look at this, look at this setup with this guy what's your name man?

Holly: Holly

Luke: Are you guys, what are you doing? You have to explain what you're doing actually.

Holly: Okay, so I've just died and I'm cycling around the world and in each place I'm meeting a person who's been introduced to me by the last person, so where I go next is completely up to them. And I built this rig so that when I'm talking to someone, I can film them and film me without having to hold a camera in their face.

Luke: Yeah, like what I have to be doing every time, I got to have to like turn it to him, what's up man? (incoherent) and then I'll link his channel below, he's new starting out so you guys make some comments and like motivate him like to make some more videos, more more more.

Holly: Awesome man

Luke: Cheers, nice to meet you. Enjoy your time, I appreciate it. If you need any advice reach out to me man.

Just for you guys traveling on a budget, whenever you see this store right here and Europe or anywhere (*points at Primark*) definitely go in there. You can buy t-shirts for like 1 euro, 2 euro, socks for one euro. Definitely a cheap place, 10 euros you can replace almost all your clothes for travel or 20 euros you can replace all, everything.

Little montage

And the sun is finally out.

And just for all the viewers, this place is wheelchair proof, Amsterdam wheelchair proof

Montage of bikes and 'grachten'

We're actually trying to find the big Amsterdam sign, I've been there before, but I can't really remember where it is. Chris hasn't been there yet so that's what we're trying to do. Yeah, I

think the place we're looking for is right on the other side of this building. Ah, yeah here's the sign, everyone's looking for the sign, everybody's been looking for the sign. Here is the sign. Amsterdam sign.

Big montage with the IAmsterdam sign

Yeah and this is kind of, I don't know, if this is like the centre of Amsterdam because always every city I go to I always feel like there's a centre but here I feel like everywhere is the centre here like this is like full of people, by the centrum, by the central station is full of people, absolutely awesome city. Like it's really cool, but it's really packed, like I haven't been here in June, I don't think, in a very long time, but I don't remember it being so packed but it is full of tourists, full of people everywhere, which is full of good energy and outside of this place right here you also have a basketball court for my basketball people out there who like basketball here, basketball here. And you have this (*points at fountain*)

Okay, so now we are finally finished, we're finally finished in the square. No idea, no idea what's next. I'm realizing I'm not a good tour guide guys. I apologize for that, kind of just trying to just enjoy yourself. You guys are traveling, like don't sometimes stress about where we're going to go what we're going to see what we're going to do, like no don't stress, you're here to relax. So, walk around, enjoy yourself, feel like a local and yeah that's kind of what we do. Well, I'm trying to get him to do it, he wants to sit down somewhere and relax, I'm like let's go, let's go. We got to walk around, we got to see Amsterdam, so much to see, so, so much to see, so much to do, so little time. Willy Wonka said that.

Inside a café

Yeah, we'll look out for sharks, for sure, all those sharks out there, yeah we'll look out for them. Oh man, okay left there and we're going on a little adventure. Man you ready? Now I'm not really a good swimmer, so for me this is not really appealing, but we're going to do something a little different. Oh yeah, we found it, thank you, thank you.

Now the goal is just not to, the goal is not to lose my camera.

Talking to the guy in the 'waterfiets'

Chris you take my camera. This was not the best idea we've ever had, ah, my knee keeps scratching this. With every peddle I feel the pain in this player right here. Okay, I guess I'm just going to enjoy my time with him. I already ended the vlog before, but before we'll go there, I'll finish this little trip with a little bit of cinematics of this little cruise, trip, boat, pedals, scratch my leg thing around the canals here in Amsterdam.

Montage of 'waterfietsen' through the Amsterdam canals

Umm, okay, well first of all apologize for the music in the background. I thought I ended this vlog before in the day, but I guess I didn't, I can't find it, but the boat ride was absolutely amazing, the vibes in Amsterdam, definitely a place you have to see at least one time. I hope the ending of this vlog makes you guys feel relaxed and feeling good today and thank you guys all so much for your support, comments, everything. It means a lot to me so please keep them coming. I'll talk to you all later and everyone always remember to work hard, be brave and don't forget to smile, ciao.

Comment section

Piratricks Hendriks: The big square you were sitting is the dam. It is the spot where they put a dam in the amstel river and that's where Amsterdam got it's name from

iTz ReekiTz: you keep walking on the fucking cycle paths

You 2: Efteling: First of all, You need to visit the Efteling, the largest Fairytale theme park in the Netherlands and Benelux. Disney EAT YOU HEART OUT. ... and moving on. Saint Nicoalas: The big basilica at the station is called 'The Basilica of St. Nicholas. 'Saint Nicholas is a patron saint of the city of Amsterdam. Despite the fact that a large part of the country is no longer religious, Amsterdam is known as the city that welcomes all believers. You will see synagogues, churches, temples, mosques, basilicas, cathedrals throughout the country. The wole county celebrates Sinterklaas with the National arrival of Sinterklaas and entry in all villages and towns. Sinterklaas (America's non-religious version 'santaclaus') is old man how gives present to the children. Is friends 'The Black Petes' (in America 'the elves') help him with is task. We also celebrate Christmas, but most of the time without a Santaclaus, we call him 'the Christmasman; . - The most beautiful cathedral (with fairly modern influences) of the Netherlands can be visited in the historic city of 's Hertogenbosch. There are dwarfs, devils and monsters carved into the church ... itself a statue of an angel that you can call with your smartphone. - The big square is called 'de Dam'. It is the historic heart of the city or Amsterdam. The word 'dam' is very common in Dutch place names, for example Amsterdam (Capital), Rotterdam (port city), Edam (famous for their cheese), Schiedam (Jenever and worlds biggest Windmill), Volendam (Old Dutch Village with the Worst Dutch Singers).). Because a large part of the Netherlands is technically below sea level. It would be a kind of Atalantis if there were no windmills and dams.

Travel vlog 4: Vagabrothers – *What to do in ROTTERDAM, The Netherlands*

Alex: I was saying Dutch people are the nicest people in the world until you as a pedestrian set foot in the bike lane. And then, things get extreme.

Shop owner: Pretty aggressive actually. You go mental at that point.

Alex: Yeah, it's crazy

Little opening montage with footage from Rotterdam with a drone

Alex: Good morning vagabuddies. Day two in Rotterdam. We are heading to brunch on this street called, Witte de Withstraat. I hope I pronounced that right.

Eating some breakfast

Alex: All right guys, we've just finished our little brunch and we've been joined by Willem and Bob Sizoo. These guys are some of the best Instagrammers on the gram and you guys are from the Netherlands right?

Willem: Yeah

Alex: What should we do?

Bob: We're first going to the spot with the yellow bridge, and then we'll just go around the area.

Mark: So, one of the themes of today's video is about sustainability, and obviously is important for all the world. But a place like the Netherlands where it's literally below sea level, I think a lot of people are conscious about how to make less of an impact on the earth. Bikes are part of it. *Shows little clip of bikes.* But some of the businesses we're going to see later today are doing some really innovative urban farming techniques. The first place we're going to check out is a bridge that was completely funded through crowd-funding. Now it's become somewhat of an Instagram mandatory stop.

Alex: Guys, it started raining. We're just going to cancel today's vlog.

Marko: We're going to take the metro underground up to where we're going.

Alex: What's happened?

Marko: Our passes are only good for the over ground.

Alex: So, scratch everything we just said. We're not going underground. We're staying over ground.

Our debacle continues.

So, wait, where are we now?

Willem: Then we walk to there.

Alex: Weren't we just here though?

Willem and Bob: No.

Alex: I'm really confused, but we're good.

Bob: It's just one stop and then we walk the rest, wow.

Marko: So, we could have just walked the whole way.

Alex: Sometime taking what seems like the easier option ends up being much more difficult. Yes. *Inside the metro. Outside showing some trams and a car on the roof.*

Alex: What the, what happened to that Beamer?

Marko: We arrived at this building. I believe it's a former industrial building or an office that was going to be torn down. A bunch of creatives have taken it over, built a bridge that connects the north and the south of the city in a very colourful way.

Little montage of the bridge and the view

It's pretty cool. It's like the Yellow Brick Road over Rotterdam.

Alex: Yellow Brick Bridge.

Marko: Yellow Brick Bridge. And you can see on the side all the wooden planks of the people who funded the project for Kickstarter. And essentially the purpose is to connect the north and the south of Rotterdam over these train tracks, which would otherwise divide the neighbourhood.

Alex: So, the bridge idea is pretty cool so, what they've done is create this bridge, they've also created this tunnel, which is open 24 hours a day to make pedestrian access easy in a place where beforehand it was impossible.

Marko: I think it's a really important theme in cities today, not just to be sustainable, but to make public spaces something for everyone. It's pretty cool. It's just a cool project. And at vagabrothers, we're all about building bridges. No more walls... just bridges.

Short clip of Erasmus bridge. And some snapshots of the Yellow bridge. Shows the sign of 'Op Het Dak'

Alex: Where are we going? Top floor?

Willem: Yes

Marko: All right, guys. Our next stop is at the base of the bridge on the top of the building. It's a rooftop bistro with a rooftop garden called 'Op Het Dak'.

Sped up montage of the roof, while talking.

Alex: It's pretty cool. It's kind of like an underground, even though it's on the roof, it's like an underground movement. They came up here and kind of reclaimed the roof of this building and turned it into a functioning, thriving urban farm. I think the coolest aspect of it is that as a consumer, you're literally sitting on a patio overlooking the garden. They just come out here and take the harvest and bring it right back into the kitchen, chop it up, put it on the plate and serve it to you. Got the compost bin here. Oh, look at these little onions. Umm, fennel.

Anybody know about fennel?

Few shots of the 'Op Het Dak' and its garden.

Marko: One of the reasons we've decided to talk about these topics here in Rotterdam is because in recent years Rotterdam has become a hub of sustainability.

Shot of some big buildings and the river.

There's just a lot of citizen initiatives, whether it be to crowd-fund a bridge or to start a garden like this. A lot of people working at the grass-root level to make the sort of change they want to see in the world. It's pretty cool. Anyways, we're having a coffee.

Alex: Because we need one.

Marko: And then, continue our exploration.

Alex: Let's go. Coffee.

Few shots of the trains and the yellow bridge.

Marko: Eureka, we found it. The motto of this store: Denoism is the quest for being a sharp-looking badass. Ends here. Let's go check it out. Get some style.

They also show the street names of the places they visit.

Alex: You know your shopping experience is going to be a good one, when you're greeted by friendly people right off the bat, who offer you a drink, be it coffee or even a beer.

Marko: They offered the beer, but we took the coffee.

Alex: Yeah

Browsing the store

Alex: Dutch and Danish people have some of the best style in the world, in my opinion.

Nick: My name is Nick, the co-founder of this store. It's a hybrid life style store for men, but all denim related. This is the atelier; this is where we make custom tailored denim. Normally, when you buy a pair of jeans, for instance, they use like 500 liters of water to get it from this to a really light denim. They call this dry denim because they didn't use any water during the process.

Marko: And you can wear it on motorcycles. A bit thicker protection.

Alex: Oh, look at this bike. Cool café racer. Marko and I have actually both just purchased motorbikes. So, there's going to be a lot of motorcycle content coming at you guys soon, too. Long Tee. Sold.

And let's just throw that in there.

Marko: I'm going to get an anchor to remember being in the maritime city of Rotterdam. And also, a French-style sailor shirt.

Nick: Nice meeting you guys.

Alex: Yeah. Take it easy. We'll see you next time we are here.

Gets handed a glass of alcohol.

Here we go. Cheers.

Marko: I don't think you can take the whole thing at once. Otherwise you have to give the rest of it to me.

Alex: That place was dangerous, bro.

Marko: I think the quest to be a sharp-looking badass never truly ends. Let us know, what do you guys think? Do you want to see us doing more style, travel fashion videos? Let us know in the comment box and we'll try to accommodate.

Shot of architecture and flowers and the Markthal.

Alex: There's Marko hopping on his bike.

Montage of them cycling.

Marko: Welcome to the mushroom farm.

Alex: All right guys, right now we are in the underbelly of this old, abandoned swimming pool. It's like a water park, I guess. It's the bio dome, bro.

Marko: It's called the Tropicana and now it's an initiative to turn the port of Rotterdam into a green capital of Europe.

Alex: There's a lot of cool individual companies and entrepreneurs down here. We're going to start off with one of the coolest ones: a mushroom farm using a lot of the old equipment from the pool. Let's check it out.

Montage of the empty water park

Nate: Here we have the old parts of the beauty salon. And it's really bizarre to now grow mushrooms in here because it's the complete opposite of beauty. This is one of the growing

rooms, we have many. It's brown and that's because of the coffee waste. If we get clean, fresh, coffee waste, we can grow mushrooms on it very easily.

Montage of the mushrooms.

Alex: I feel like we should also clarify that these are not magic mushrooms. These are gray, oyster mushrooms; edible mushrooms you put in sandwiches and in food.

And right outside of the bio dome, is *Aloha*, cocktail bar and restaurant, right on the river and such a vibe that I need right now.

Bar man: Some bubbles.

Alex: Thank you.

Bar man: You're welcome.

Alex: Cheers, brother.

Marko: It's been a good day so far in Rotterdam. I'm having fun.

Alex: I love good patio bars with lovely cocktails and amazing views. This checks all of the boxes. Check!

Marko: And to bring full circle, this restaurant uses products grown by the mushroom farm in the basement. So, keeping things awesome.

Alex: News break: I look like some Dutch singer. What's his name?

Female: Lil Kleine.

Marko: Kind of, here a little bit and maybe there.

Biking montage and showing the Holland Amerika Line building.

Marko: All right guys, so we just showed up at a new spot, called Fenix food factory. It's essentially a collective of different restaurants, breweries, cider houses, all in a former warehouse.

Alex: This is a great idea. And the fact that you're sitting opposite skyscrapers and this really beautiful skyline. I don't know, it does kind of have a New York feel over. Even though there's the Hotel New York right across the way.

Marko: Yeah, let's go get some food.

Montage of food being made

Alex and Marko: Cheers.

Marko: It's been a nice day

Alex: Thoughts on Rotterdam?

Marko: A fitting place to conclude our day here, talking about the new Rotterdam; the future, sustainability, building new things in the bones of old places. I think it's awesome. I've been very, very impressed by the ingenuity of the locals in making this a leader of sustainability, and also doing it in a cool way. So, cheers to that.

Alex: Rotterdam has blown me away like beyond all expectations. If you guys liked the video, you know what to do; thumbs up, share it with your friends, and subscribe

Marko: And in the meantime, stay curious, keep exploring, and we'll see you guys on the road. Next episode: North Sea Jazz festival.

Comment section:

Laysa & Madin Hacene: hello and welcome in Rotterdam. good vlog! but the yellow bridge do not connect south and north. it start from the centre to north. And the roof of the building called Dakakker.

Saartje de Hond: Did you know the white building with the four towers in the beginning of the video is called The White House and that it was the highest building in Europe once? I was born in Rotterdam but grew up near it. When I was working in Rotterdam I've seen the "Pencil" (7.59) and the famous 'Kubus' houses being built. Also the World Trade Center Rotterdam was built right in the time I was working close by. I remember a guy having lunch

every day sitting on the edge of a new floor. By the time I left he was sitting way up. So right in those years I saw a couple of quite famous buildings being built without realizing they would become famous.

Tim Veldkamp: The south of Rotterdam is on the other side of the Erasmus bridge or the Maastunnel Rotterdam is the biggest city in the Netherlands and has one of the biggest harbours in the world

RedroomStudios: no, Amsterdam is the biggest city in The Netherlands.

S: You have to visit Groningen in The Netherlands. It's the biggest bike city in the whole world and it's a really popular city for students !

Kai den Hollander: Were you hanging out with the architect of the Market Hall? Otherwise you were damn lucky to sit next to him at the Fenix food factory.....

Vagabrothers: hahaha that was a total coincidence but yes we sat next to him and his son. Very friendly people. :)

Sanne Koomans: This is so cool! I live near Rotterdam and study in Rotterdam (in the building next to the yellow bridge ;)), but the way you guys show Rotterdam is so amazing. I've never looked at the city this way, but it IS such a lovely city. Keep up the good work, love your video's!!!

Gerla Berger: this is so crazy because i go to school in Rotterdam and im like: been there, seen that, walked there. its so cool!!

Ruud Morf: Hi guys, you're always in for a stay with me in TOP Rotterdam, "Manhattan on the Meuse " the nickname is. Not Amsterdam is the best place to be, but Rotterdam as you found out ..:-)))

Sofia: Ayeee you were in Rotterdam! I was there like two weeks ago :) Where my Dutch ppl at?

Ty Wynans: Great video! Made me proud of my home town. And it is true we are putting a lot of effort in making our city a sustainable capital.

APOLONl: there is nothing to see in Rotterdam. if you wanna see the Netherlands you should go to Amsterdam its way cooler than Rotterdam. Rotterdammers are proud to hate tourists and send them to Amsterdam. Keep our city tourist free please. Nothing to see here.

Seewhatis: Amsterdam is a disaster. It's nothing more than an open air museum that gets nothing done. Every project that they start goes way over budget en time.

Tristan van Oosten: Setting foot in a bike lane ? Do you want to die ? :P

APOLONl: I lived in both cities and Amsterdam is far better. the channels and stuff tourists should really go there instead of Rotterdam. its a waste of money.

Filegrabber1: Amsterdam really is more like a tourist theme park, Rotterdam is better living imo with more space and just beautiful in its own way.

Gerben T van de Veen: You need to visit Spakenburg the hidden jeem of Nederland on saturday there is a weekly market. And 1e saturday of September it's then fishery day in Spakenburg.

Dennis de With: Being from Roffa aka Rotterdam aria av been swimming in Tropicana way back in the 90s . 010 isnt just a code 010 is a state of mind 010 all day all nite every nite

DEADLINE: Pretty awesome! I wondering what you think of the city of Eindhoven in the South of the Netherlands. I think you'll dig that too!

O4G plays: Ik ben een Nederlander

Emma: It's amazing to see Rotterdam in a new perspective. I live like an hour away, and I have never seen the city like that. I think it's time I do some more exploring. Thank you guys! :)

The Random Sisters: I live in netherland :3

Maritess 1986: You need to visit Utrecht also 😊 love that place

Eliza K: Why didn't you go into the Markthal? It's my favorite! You guys did film the outside tho

Lennart van der Ree: I've lived in Rotterdam my whole life but I never knew that Tropicana opened again.

Vera: Insider tip: take the watertaxi next time, much more exiting than a canal cruise and convenient too. Definitely worth it!

Amnon Hoppe: Used to be much more historical buildings in Rotterdam until Hitler decided to carpet bomb it. But still, your video turned out great

Taco Kramer: the bridges connect north and central not north and south

Fu Talks: So fun to see you guys having fun in ours beautiful Rotterdam:)

Dominique Mulder: Made me so sad, seeing Tropicana deserted. I loved going there, the wildwaterbaan was my favorite :(

Henk Verkaik: Thank you for showing my own city

Naijan Christian: Please do den haag

Boss 010: Den Haag is shit

Robert Rijkers: funny to see Tropicana as a mushroom farm...last time I was there was on a school swimming trip 25years back ;p

Travel vlog 5: Hey Nadine – *A TASTE of Amsterdam | Netherlands*

Nadine: Hello guys and hello Laura.

Laura: Hello

Nadine: So, Laura and I just about to head to Amsterdam with British Airways right now. We're basically going to explore how to have the best summer ever and how we're going to do that?

Laura: By eating lots of food

Nadine: By eating lots of food, let's go.

Laura: So excited

Little montage of the flight and in front of Museum square.

Nadine: Hey Laura, guess where we are?

Laura: I think it may be Amsterdam.

Nadine: I think we made it to Amsterdam. Yes, we have.

Inside the Amsterdam sign. Uh oh, Laura, this was a poor life choice.

Showing the making of a stroopwafel

Nadine: So, I'm about to try a stroopwafel, kind of crunchier waffle and the center of it is a, I believe it's a caramel. Mmmh, this is phenomenal.

So, this is poffertjes, as you can see, they're like little mini pancakes that are made with flour and buckwheat and then they kind of dust a light icing sugar on them. But you can also put syrup. Actually, look at the inside, it's kind of like a doughier pancake. Yeah, but very sweet. Mmh, do you want a pancake?

Showing the market

Nadine: So, right now we're just exploring the marketplaces here, it depends there's lots of different food vendors and random item vendors and more food. It's great.

Showing some food stands, cheese and bread.

Laura: So, I'm trying a traditional dish here called raw herring. It's slimy, it's very fishy. Like I'm not incredibly fussy about food, but that was, it was like eating a raw slap of fish, but not like sushi fish, not like nice fish, like if you'd go to the fish mongers pick up a fish and just eat it raw, that's what it was like.

Seeing chips being made

Nadine: Seriously I see these chip cones everywhere. It's like a savory peanut sauce. It's so good.

At FEBO de lekkerste

The wonder FEBO aka the vending machine food, so hamburgers that come from the wall, like a vending machine. I don't know what to get here Laura. Umm, it's very fascinating, don't know how it's going to taste. It sort of looks like a fried... sausage roll of sorts. Yeah, what do we do? It's almost like a curry beef sausage (*kroket*), so like soft in the middle, like a mashed potato that has been deep fried on the outside, so odd.

Showing the canals and some buildings

Laura: Currently seeing the beautiful canals of Amsterdam on a boat trip.

Nadine: Yeah canal cruise.

Laura: It's pretty fun.

Montage of the canal cruise

Nadine: So, right now we are a lovely café latte here on one of the many brunch places, you can kind of find in Amsterdam. This one is called Mom's, it's really cute and it has got all this amazing, like quirky street art on it. So, you kind of find this a lot in Amsterdam. Just people chilling outside, with the trees and the canals. It's really nice, I like it. It's like the café culture, just sitting and watching and enjoying.

Trying a koffie verkeerd. Amazing!

Trying appeltaart

So, this is a (incoherent), so it's basically apple tart, but as you can see the apple chunks are actually quite appley, it's quite like full of apple chunks there and let me try it. It's really cold, it's a really cold tart. We got the apple bits, the pecan bits. This is very, very fresh.

So, I'm trying 'bitterballen', it's a very traditional Dutch dish, of a, it looks like deep fried balls and usually filled with like a gooey, meaty center. And dipped in a mustard. Very hot! Mmh, it's really different.

All right guys, it is the end of our last day here in Amsterdam, our only day here in Amsterdam. I hope you have enjoyed a taste of all the different, various foods because I know we enjoyed it.

Laura: So bad.

Nadine: Maybe a bit too much enjoyment. So yeah, thank you guys so much for watching and thank you Laura for joining me in Amsterdam.

Laura: Thank you

Nadine: Oh my god. Okay, don't forget to subscribe, if you want more videos like this and go check out Laura because she's amazing.

Nadine and Laura: Bye.

Comment section:

Matthijs Van De Bank: Volgens mij vergeten meer buitenlanders dat Nederland niet alleen uit Amsterdam bestaat

Sigyn Odinson: Jep

Thomas Boon: Jep

MJS: Inderdaad en de beste stroopwafels zijn in Gouda....

Micky Misseyer: Hahaha precies deze.

MJS: Ja.....

Abi: Echt he

Maarten Cardol: Lmao right

Florian Groothuis: Klopt. Alle filmpjes die je ziet komen niet verder dan Amsterdam, af en toe Rotterdam of Utrecht en een verdwaalde windmolen in de Zaanstreek

Maartje Braakman: You make my heart melt saying these Dutch words, I love it so much

Hey Nadine: <3 <3

Bas Sedda: every video of "visiting the Netherlands" or "holiday in the Netherlands" they only go to Amsterdam. if you want to see and experience the Netherlands, Amsterdam is not the place.

Lennard Datema: so true

TheWonderMirror: Its strange watching this being Dutch

Lorelilly: [5:12](#) cringes before she even says its hot Don't bite it like tha... shakes head ik zei het nog zo...

Paul de Groot: they don't have patat in Canada? how are you still alive

Micky Misseyer: Hahahahaha

Adventure Diaries: I am a Canadian with a strong Dutch heritage, but I've never had patat before (i love poutine though). Next week I am going to Holland for the first time and will definitely have to give it a try though. Should be interesting to see which one i like better ;)

lion luites: hello here lion from Netherlands If you like tasty sweet love look to the Arbert cockpit market because they stroopwafel who do so delicious and I love your

country Canadian and ukraine and america have also facebook and many enjoy the beautiful Amsterdam beautiful flowers for your mother good luck.

Grant Smith: Every time I go to the Netherlands i always have to bring Stroopwafels back home as I can't get them in England :(

VeniVidiAjax: Raw haring...tastes like raw fish...yea cause it is raw fish. but when its fresh its delicious.

Ryan Kavanaugh: I was in Amsterdam last week and actually tried it from the same vendor as she did... Surprisingly enough, I didn't mind the sliminess or the taste, but I couldn't get past the little bones

VeniVidiAjax: Yea it's one of those things you either love or hate. I usually take the bones for granted, but most of the time the ones i have are bone free, or maybe 2 or 3. If you have onions the sliminess really just fades away if you ask me.

SpanishLMMD: Everyone burns their mouth on bitterballen, always, so you're Dutch as can be! ;)

Hiellue: A taste of Amsterdam you say? Well you didn't have a taste of me. Okay I had to say that. Now I'm shutting down the creep mode. This is the first time I've seen a Youtuber not visiting the Red Light District or talking about weed. Amsterdam is more than that, not everyone is high over here! It's actually more an exception than the rule

Family videos: i agree it is refreshing to not have bud flashed in your face on these videos, but lets be honest... that is one of the main reasons why people buy those plane & train tickets to visit lovely Amsterdam. i have never been, but people i know have, and weed is always at the top of the list in terms of what they enjoyed about their trip. Amsterdam should be grateful and proud that they are able to host people who want blaze and enjoy the country. i'm sure that vendors are more than willing to sell those waffles to stoners who have the munchies. i know there can be problems with drugs, and drug tourism, but it seems that Amsterdam has a good grip on it. when i do eventually visit, i will try my hardest to smoke somewhere asap, and i want to do it in a safe environment. most countries do not offer that..

Hiellua: The weed seriously isn't that big of a deal over here. Most people who live here don't smoke it but it almost seems like it's the only thing to do over here. Yeah I understand what you are saying. But I just wanted to say that The Netherlands and Amsterdam have to offer much more than weed alone.

Family videos: agreed. i think most people who visit probably find out how much the country has to offer very fast. you don't need to change the image, though, even if people mostly talk about weed & hookers. if thats what it takes for people to buy those plane tickets, then thats what it takes. once they arrive u can show them how cool everything is, and when they return they will tell their friends, family, etc, thus continuing the cycle.

Dennis Steenssens: Too bad you didn't even visit ONE coffeeshop or the cannabis museum =/ It's a very rich culture in Amsterdam.

Rolf Jerphanion: Het is alleen maar wiet man dat kan je overal krijgen. Het is geen cultuur.

Dennis Steenssens: Daar zit je zo verkeerd.. Je gaat de cannabis van Amsterdam toch niet vergelijken met de wacky streetganja die jan met de pet verkoopt op de hoek van de straat zeker.. Cannabis en Nederland is zoals België en hun trapisten.

Rolf Jerphanion: ik begrijp dat het hogere kwaliteit heeft met meer the maar wat ik bedoel is dat je in elk land waar cannabis legaal is hoge kwaliteit kan krijgen. En eerlijk gezegt vind ik het nogal zielig dat amsterdam bekend staat als de wiet hoofdstad van de wereld terwijl er zoveel mooie cultuur en historie is. Ik snap trouwens niet wat iedereen er nou zo bijzonder aan vind. Ik heb het een paar keer geprobeerd en ik voelde me alleen wat chiller maar dan kan ook als ik in bad ga zitten ofzo. Dus ik snap die hele cannabiscultuur van jou echt niet.

Vlammenzee: Next time visit rotterdam please! :), great to see you trying out dutch snacks though ^^.

alexveldin: So wierd to see a video about the country your in

PJ DeVisser: haha i love seeing foreigners eat all our usual food!

suddenlybananas: And them pronouncing the nams is the next best hing. ☺

Hey Nadine: I apologize >.<

suddenlybananas: Haha, it's okay. :P

nathalie martens: [#suddenly](#) bananas indeed.....

George v V: Nadine, you just made a Dutch guy very happy with this video. It filled me with joy to see you, unknown to the awesome dish called bitterballen, eat them with delight and burn your mouth to one! More Dutch than that you cannot be with those.

loortjuh: Yes, it's so funny when that happens! everyone do that. Ik ben ook nederlands ;p

pixiniarts: You had fries/chips without mayo... you haven't lived until you've had that... And no falafel? No trip to Amsterdam is complete without either of those...

vangrails: You can eat falafel everywhere on this planet, bitterballen not.

henry de graaf: no way, i hate mayo on fries give me good Dutch mustard

Laura van den Berg: Yay my country! Glad you liked the stroopwafel! And the poffertjes!

Hey Nadine: they were phenomenal. super sweet though, reminds me of Canada a bit :P

nathalie martens: I am too from the netherlands ;)

DataStorm: The apple pie should have been warm, like it came out of the oven 15 minutes ago.... It being cold meant they just bought them in bulk and sell the pies (often just some factory made one). As for the Haring, you're supposed to pick it up by its tail and put your head back and slide it in for as far as you want your bite, bite it off and eat it like that. The one I missed in the food items is "Lekkerbek", but there are not many places that give A: Kabeljauw instead of Heek (fish species), B: can actually make it right.

Jamie: Wauw this is so funny! What you picked from te wall is called Krokot, it's te same as Bitterbal, but a bitterbal is smaller :p

Jerry Vdm: [2:28](#) FEBO ? Well, I would recommend a regular hamburger joint instead, By the way, croquettes have nothing to do with hamburgers ... just so you know But anyway, enjoy your meal, whatever it turns out to be !

David B: I disagree that herring tastes "slimy and fishy". I happen to think that, at its best, it DOES taste like sushi/sashimi. I have been to that herring stand in Albert Cuyp street market many times and thinks it's lekker!

Sharomy b: I live in the Netherlands and its so fun too see how british people are enjoying the typical dutch things, i'll tell you its not always like that and not always eating that. But so fun too see this. Loved it

Kayleigh S.: So many of my favorite youtubers have come and visited Amsterdam over the past years and never got to meet them there.. I really hoped you liked seeing some of our tiny, yet very amazing country :)

andthenifellinlove: Very fun to watch! Since your response was a little different to the korket, I wanted to tell you that the bitterballen and kroket are basically the same, but butterballen (as you can see) are smaller. Bitterballen are usually shared during parties, and a kroket is something you eat by yourself of on sandwich. :-)

Isabel Kleijberg: t's funny how, as a dutch person, I can directly see that the people around are dutch by their faces

Henk: No one has ever tasted a bitterbal without completely burning their mouth.

philipje: Ah, you ate Hollands Nieuwe Haring. "Hollands Nieuwe" means that it is caught between May and September. There is a huge festival around selling the first barrel of this Hollands Nieuwe (profit goes to a charity), with the fisherboats in Scheveningen (at the coast, next to Den Haag (the Hague)) being decorated with little flags. This festival is called Vlaggetjesdag (little flags day). The patat (called "frietten" below the three rivers in the Lowlands (there is a cultural difference thanks to the Roman occupation & influence of France)) you ate were called "Patatje oorlog", oorlog meaning war. This because it looks messy. Febo is known here as literally fast food. Kinda tasty, especially if you're clubbing and kinda drunk ;). That thing you ate is called a "kroket", and is basically ragout (this is the classical version, there are A LOT of different fillings), covered in batter and fried. Koffie verkeerd, meaning "coffee wrong", is coffee with milk in it. Since most Dutch people drink their coffee black, it is obvious how it got its name ;) And finally bitterballen are basically small "kroketten". Very tasty :p You should've tasted our cheeses!

Grant Smith: The window snack vending machine is called a 'Raampje' and everyone does it over there. My favourite is the Bami which is Indonesian noodles :)

bianca albakar: girls i love that you try the food in the way we eat it, not drown everything in nuttella, hats of for that

jerry Vdm: [3:44](#) This was shot in one of the "would-be artists" neighbourhoods, More or less comparable to South Street in Philadelphia, but slightly more pretentious. And, most importantly, fully government supported, erm,.....without government support, these erm, "Neighbourhoods", would not exist at all ...

Chayenne Noben: The 'meaty' balls, bitterballen, are actually filled with horsemeat

Ilse Borsje: I am from the Netherlands! I love all that food! A fresh warm stroopwafel is my favorite!!

laotravida: so funny to see people from other countries eat dutch food! I am from the Netherlands and i love Amsterdam! :) subscribed immediately!

Woleyy: It's kinda weird seeing your own culture like this, but kudos on the Dutch accent! Also [3:00](#) is a kroket, made of various sorts of meat being leftover from slaughter, as are the bitterballen.

Lekker Gerard: First i Thinks it was stupid but is it great! (I'm dutch) and all you have eat is great but have you eat kaas? (Cheese)

Bénine L. Buijze: Hey! You should visit Rotterdam when you are in the Netherlands next time! Very different from Amsterdam, but definitely charming in its own way! <3

Laura: van Kouwen: You guys should check different Dutch cities! Like Utrecht..

NathalieSunshine: Yay, I'm from Holland! Lovely to see that you enjoyed Amsterdam and our food ofcours! :

Dimphy Gloude-mans: Patat a.k.a. Friet or frietjes :) Haha weird to see my own country trough your eyes.

Guinevere Engel: It's so funny to see this because I'm Dutch. And I eat these things a lot.

JD: that was 100% raw fish with onion cubes XD... i dont like them either and i live there ;-;

Pien Heggen: Now I want bitterballen XD (I'm Dutch)

OpiumToday: You need to Go to Rotterdam instead!

noah slagter: im dutch and i was dying on how you pronounce things

ricksol54: You were so cute when you said the names of the food in dutch

Eric Burbach: Thats because it is raw fish, definitely an acquired taste, slimy and delicious

Maartje Braakman: My hometown <3

Red Dominator: You forgot the cheese greets from holland

Rioma: I always love to see foreign people exploring my country! It's nice to see you discovering new things that are so normal for me. Hope you enjoyed yourself :)

Travel vlog 6: Brendan van Son – *I'm in The Motherland!* – *Netherlands Travel Vlog*

Brendan: It's the last full day here on the Viking River Cruise and we've just floated into the Netherlands. So, keep your eyes open for windmills and wooden shoes.

Little montage of arriving at Kinderdijk at boat

So, quick story time over coffee. There's like a coffee machine on the boat and I swear I had like seven cups today. I have no self-control if there is a coffee machine somewhere, I just have to drink all the coffee and it's so good. Story time: so, as some of you might have guessed because of my last name, my family's origin or at least my dad's side of the family is Dutch. I don't speak any Dutch though, I can say: dankjewel and alsjeblieft. My dad also used to say that my Opa, my grandpa, would always use to say: potverdomme, verrekte jongen. Or something like that, which might mean something like little boy or something like that, but I'm not exactly sure, but that is the extend of my Dutch. My backstory with that, is that my grandparents were Dutch and then just before my dad was born, they moved to Canada. My dad was born in Canada. I think his first language was actually Dutch, I think he only spoke Dutch until he was five or something, until he went to school. So, I do have ties to the Netherlands and it's interesting because growing up in my home town it was very Dutch settled, it was a lot of Dutch kids. And a lot of us kids saw ourselves as Dutch Canadians even though I was like I guess that's third generation Canadian. We still cheered for the Dutch national soccer team, or football team, when they played. We had like very strong ties to the Netherlands and so it's cool to be back in the Netherlands, how cool is this, and I'm so stoked to explore a little bit, because I've only been to Amsterdam, I've only seen Amsterdam, I was only there for like a day, so I'm looking forward to when we get into Kinderdijk in like a couple hours, to seeing some windmills and the tulips should be out and yeah, it's cool, I'm in the motherland.

Montage of the boar trip and seeing some windmills

Okay, so a bunch of people are getting off here for some excursions, me, I see windmills, I'm going to try to fly the drone here as soon as we stop because I don't want to crash again.

Footage with the drone, of the boats, the little town and windmills

This was a really, really cool spot to fly because you've got like the windmills and the canals and then the old town and I'm not the only one flying. Martin's also flying his Mavic.

You're doing a droney?

Martin: Yeah, here we go. Smile, do you want to be in this one? All right here we go, droney

Brendan: Does your drone have a name?

Martin: ...

Brendan: We're back on the move now, we've got like a two-hour float I guess down the river towards Kinderdijk, which is our next stop. I'm going to sit here and do some work, best office in the world, with that background are you kidding me.

Montage of him working

Our timing is impeccable. We literally, we literally just pulled up to Kinderdijk and you can see the windmills, but it just started pouring the second we pulled up.

So, we've only really got two hours and a half, three hours here. So, I'm going to sit here and wait out the rain a little bit and hope it clears.

It's Martin

Martin: Hello Brendan

Brendan: How was the cheese trip?

Martin: Great, we had some great cheese, that was a good visit.

Brendan: Sweet. So, just like that the rain kind of stopped and I'm making a bit of an escape from the boat maybe just to get a little bit ahead of people because this is cool. I'm just going to wander out through here, no idea where I'm going really and find some windmills.

Footage of rainy Kinderdijk

I'm at the windmills now, it's kind of busy. I just asked if I could fly the drone and they said no. Rule for you guys; don't fly the drone when they say you can't and when you're not sure if you can fly the drone ask somebody. Try to follow the rules the best you can. This is a cool spot; we don't need the drone to show how cool this is. Let's go wander.

Footage of Kinderdijk and the windmills

Maybe it's my Dutch heritage, but I'm immediately, immediately drawn to living in that place maybe not the mill itself, but the house next to it. Hashtag house goals, right there.

More footage of the windmills and photos

Definitely in the Netherlands, there's windmills and it's raining, so I'm heading back to the boat.

Walks past wooden shoes

And we're sailing again, I think we've got like a couple hours until Amsterdam there's like a farewell dinner right now, steak and lobster coming up and then, yeah, I think we'll probably end up having a couple of drinks. Probably a pretty good educated guess, that on the last night of a trip like this, there'll be a couple drinks

Footage of the farewell dinner and the 'sluizen'

So, I'm going to end this episode before things get messy and kind of because we're at an interesting precipice of my life here. We're floating through Utrecht, on the way to Amsterdam. Before I was travel writing, I was in University and I kind of came to these crossroads of what I want to do with my life and the crossroads kind of took me, do I go travel for a year or do I come here to Utrecht in the Netherlands to do my Master in political science and conflict resolution and I ended up traveling for a year and I always told myself that I was going to come back and finish my Master in Utrecht and I never did, obviously. And this is the first time I've actually been here, so even though we're just floating through it's kind of interesting to see, that eight years later now I'm in the place I could have ended up instead of going to travel. So, that's a cool little experience, cool little moment and I don't regret it even for the, for the lightest. I don't regret it even in the slightest. It's been an amazing eight years and yeah, it probably would have been a cool crossroad here at Utrecht as well. I feel like life is kind of interesting, I feel like in our life we kind of meet these crossroads and one can take you in a completely different direction than the other and it might be amazing both ways, but I don't regret the way it has ended up, it's been incredible and I do kind of wonder what would happen if I came here, but that is a wonder for another day. I'm calling this an episode and I'll see you guys tomorrow, peace.

Comment section:

battlefield player: the dutch see the nation as "the fatherland" and not "motherland"

Ruussosalsa: welkom in Nederland, verrekte jongen!

Rick Hagemeijer: im telling you one thing dutch people love when there are videos about the country or the people being made

Douwe Dambrink: So funny to watch this if you're Dutch. To bad that You didn't cross the ijsel.

ODDBALL SOK: Glad you ve enjoyed it. Why is it that tourists are only taken to soft cultural "motherlike" exhibitions (tulips, flowers, windmills, zaanse schans) and not to more state society defining exhibitions (fortresses, houses of "power", mercantilism, VoC, old shipyards) ; things that DEFINED the Dutch State as a playmaker in the 17th C. The

Rijksmuseum..yeah okay.. I guess the tour organisers are "ashamed" of the VoC past. Try Hoorn and the WestFries museum and the square statue there...

Ben van Boom: Brendan, on your sail from the river across the Amsterdam Rijn Canal to Utrecht, you crossed my house at about 200 Meters away. Nice to see you are here....i hope you stay another few day's cause the weather is supposed to clear up and get warm now. Keep up your nice work ! Ben van Boom

Jacobus Johannes: Welcome in the motherland. We dutch love Canada (our liberators:)

max to Jacobus Johannes: wij zijn niet eens bevrijd door de canadezen kneus

Thomas de G to max: dat is niet helemaal waar

max to Thomas de G: ik bedoel nie allemaal he

Thomas de G to max: dus je weet waar hij vandaan komt en daarop baseer je je dat hij (zijn regio) niet bevrijd is door de Canadezen? Denk is na max

max to Thomas de G: hij zegt we dutch dus alle nederlander en dan zegt die onze bevrijders (de canadezen) hij bent écht dom vent

Thomas de G to max: jij*? en nog altijd zij je dat we helemaal niet bevrijd zijn door de Canadezen, volgende keer beter Maxje

max to Thomas de G: dat zeg ik niet want het zuiden(oosten) is bevrijd door de Britten en Amerikanen

Saartje05: Nou ECHT wel. Waar ik woon is het gebied bevrijd door Canadezen. Daarom hebben we hier ook een Canadezenbrug. Terug naar school Max.

Saartje05: Dan moet je niet zeggen 'WE zijn helemaal niet eens bevrijd door de Canadezen' want dat is niet waar. Dat jij er dan een draai aan geeft omdat je er op aangesproken wordt typisch iets voor mensen die niet durven toe te geven dat ze fout zitten.

Saartje05: Het oosten is niet bevrijd door Amerikanen. Niet het oosten waar ik woon...

max to Saartje05: julie zijn echt fucking dom he ik bedoel het oosten van noord brabant

Saartje05 to max: fucking dom'. En nee. Je zei niet het oosten van Brabant. Eerst zeg je dat we niet eens bevrijd zijn door Canadezen daarna heb je het over het zuiden (oosten). Misschien moet je duidelijker zijn. En wat is 'fucking' dom? De enige domme hier ben jij.

RON KALKHOVEN: Najaar 1944 is zuid Nederland bevrijdt door de Engelse, Amerikaanse, Canadese en Poolse legers. EINDE DISCUSSIE !

tonymontages: What is weird is that the real dark age cities in the east and south are not a big tourist trap. I'm from Deventer, next year my city is celebrating there 1250 year jubelie/ jubelee/ jubily (i don't know). We've took a tour a view weeks ago en my city is cool ass hell with all the executions and rivalry with the germans and Utrecht and wars with the vikings.

Martijn Hermans: Nice vlog again, and I see you're in my birth city Leiden (I live in Amsterdam now though)!

Jeftha Bisschop: Its Fatherland

Wesley Klijnstra: I live in the netherlands go to the amsterdam waterleiding duinen for some great wildlife deer, foxes, lizards or the veluwe their we have even snakes

Brendan van Son: Are they easy to spot?

Wesley Klijnstra: the deer yes, foxes most of the time around 3 pm, lizards you need to flip things over. but on the veluwe snakes most of the time in high grass or around water (dutch vipers, ring snakes). I tried to find them not so lucky yet. look on my instagram for some photo's wesleyklijnstraphotography their you can see some fox and deer photo's

rontz: The thing your Grandpa said means "my dumb crazy boy" :)

Sierger Koopmans: 99.99% witch is watching this is dutch :)

RON KALKHOVEN: Brendan, really? Wait out the rain? Come on you've got dutch genes.....you don't wait for the rain to stop.....potverdomme verrekte jongen haha

Parzival cynar: NEDERLANDDDDDD IS BAAS NEDERLAND IS ALLES waarom maken zoveel engelse youtubers een video in ons land ons land is niet zo speciaal eigenlijk😂😂

Thomas K: Nice video! You went from Gorinchem to Kinderdijk, that's the best part of Holland (the area where I lived most of my life). Ironic that (kind of) a Dutch guy ends up as a tourist in Kinderdijk, among all the Chinese.

zorro5000100: The Netherlands is more (much more) than only Amsterdam-wooden shoes-tulips-windmills and Kinderdijk.

Robin R. Try fierljeppen over real Dutch ditches ;-)

Pyronode: at [0:14](#) there's the town of druten. the place where I live haha...funny to see it on youtube

Wim V: It's not ootrecht...it is Utrecht.. with an u like as in French tU or german ü.. like in dejavue...it is NOT an OOOOh..

Mahesh Ajit: The Dutch live in the moment because of the weather you need to take the chance when you can~!!

Suzanne Heijblom: Hello Brendan, I was wondering if you have ever been to Son? (Because the literal translation of your last name is "From Son")It is a village in North Brabant.

Vincent Maurice Schuphof: I live also in the Netherlands and never have seen this tourist attractions lol. This is not the normal Netherlands but made special for tourists.

Parzival cynar: you say utrecht very very very wrong😂😂😂 sounds funny but good try :))))

Bennie Leip: No no no be a real dutchman and go outside [4:35](#) 😊 if you have to wait for that we would never got shit done😂 but hope you had a great time 👍 grts from the veluwe (middle of the Netherlands) 🇳🇱

ARNO meesters: im sorry to say brendan, but if u speak about our country, then it wil be fatherland (in dutch - ""vaderland"") just wanted to help u tho

TrendyMommynl: OOOOeeeetrecht :D I lol'd.

Dr.Demon: HAAAAHA POTVERDOMME VERREKTE JONGE

mak868: I can see my house :D from here

Travel vlog 7: Jason Parker – *The Netherlands – 8 Cities You've Never Seen! – Explored by an American*

Jason: Hey guys, it's Jason here and welcome back to the channel. In this video I'm sharing my first hand, authentic, experience visiting eight cities in the Netherlands. Here we are on earth, and here is the Netherlands. Next to Germany and Belgium. I was here for a month, so I ended up seeing quite a few places.

Shows all the places on a map

And my travel went something like this. Let's get started.

Starts in Utrecht and tries to pronounce the name 'Utrecht'

I left Amsterdam taking the 20-minute train ride to a nearby city named Utrecht.

Shows some pictures from Utrecht.

It's a small, really pleasant city with a really, really tall cathedral.

Shows people biking past

I can recommend it as an easy day trip in Amsterdam due to the fast train. Other notable features include a flower market, and canals in a similar style to Amsterdam.

Shows both of these features

Then I took the train back to Amsterdam. By the way, that is totally not the same footage of a train I used earlier but just in reverse, I would never misrepresent facts about important footage between cities so don't even begin to think that I...

Next, I took a train to Haarlem.

While narrating shows some footage from Haarlem

Haarlem is a smaller more calm city outside Amsterdam it's only 20 minutes by train.

Cultural insight #1

I was couch surfing again and to speak more on the Dutch obsession with bicycles my host owns a 2000 dollar bicycle which folds up so you could carry it easily into the office with you, pictured here.

Shows the foldable bike

The next day I took a walk to the local grocery store to stock up on some food.

Shows more footage

Cultural insight / interesting fact #2

This is one thing I love most about most places in Europe, no matter where you're living walk five to ten minutes and you'll be at a grocery store, boom, eating food, boom, no car needed, boooooom.

You can see the food I bought here. I got a nice selection of things. It's interesting to see the marketing used in different countries.

Things he bought eggs, stroopwafels, cookie triple chocolate, strawberries, yoghurt, chocolate, drop, pizza for in the over and some ready-made wraps, shower gel.

Some of it is in Dutch (*Shows strawberries*)

And some of it's not (*Shows pizza*)

Now I know what you're thinking, you're in a foreign country you're thinking I'm gonna try some exotic new candy like this (*drop*) No, don't even think about it. Don't try any candy with the word 'drop' on it unless you want to end up with a mouth full of liquorice don't make the same mistake I did. I don't know why liquorice is popular in the Netherlands. I think it tastes like *bleep*

There is a sweet I highly recommend you try, it's very popular in the Netherlands and it is called the stroopwafel. It's basically two dry waffles with caramel in the middle. It's delicious. That's probably, I should make that a separate fact.

Extra emphasis on the stroopwafel by zooming in on it

More footage of the city of Haarlem, also including an 'ophaalbrug', also showing bikes

Then I took the train back to Amsterdam. Interesting fact about Netherlands architecture, the stairs. This is what stairs are like in Europe, just kidding, but seriously, no I'm only joking. Anyway, in the Netherlands many stairs are incredibly steep. The historical reason for this peculiar architectural safety hazard, that's right tax avoidance. The Dutch could save on taxes by minimizing the width of their houses and now its culture. Now that we have that history out of the way. It's very surprising to experience these in real life, maybe it's not easy to see in my video, but they really squeeze the steps tight. Sometimes when you're walking up half of your shoe is hanging off the edge. It's so precarious you find yourself thinking such thoughts as, is this real or am I to fall to my death? But it's part of the culture. Moving on to the next city, I took the train to Eindhoven.

Shows footage of Eindhoven

Actually, I would not recommend you visit here. I mean it's got these bowling pins, which are kind of cool, but otherwise it's a fairly normal university city. There are other more interesting places nearby, which is why my host recommended Heusden, so we hopped on the train. As you can see Heusden was a fortified town and still today maintains much of this interesting architecture.

Footage of him walking in Heusden

I recommend taking a walk along the outside star pattern that surrounds the town. And strangely enough as I somehow guessed they have cannons. Just checking out some cannons. They're okay.

On a playground

Sometimes you have to take life into your own hands.

More footage of Heusden

I'm not going down into the dungeon. I feel like we're in a labyrinth.

Footage of windmill

Hey, I just wanted to show you guys some Holland style stairs on this windmill over here. So, you don't want to take the wrong step, pretty steep. And you really need a handrail on this thing. This is crazy. Safety, okay. Yeah, it's a little but steep here. There was still time left in the day so I took a train to a city nearby called *struggles with the pronunciation* 's Hertogenbosch. So, I took a train there.

Footage of 's Hertogenbosch

At the time they were celebrating the famous artist of the city, called Jheronimus Bosch. Actually, they were celebrating the 500-year anniversary of his death. I could see why that would be a cause of celebration

Shows various statues of the artist

Most of his work seemed kind of 'eh'. I wasn't too impressed with it, expect for their golden dragon. I really liked that golden dragon. The day was over, so I took the train back to Eindhoven. Then another train back to Amsterdam. I got tired from all that train travel, so I decided to stay in Amsterdam a little while and visited the famous Rijksmuseum. I spent four hours there, but I will show it to you in 30 seconds.

Shows the inside of Rijksmuseum

Okay, maybe that was longer than 30 seconds. It's hard making videos, life is pain. So anyway, then I took a train to go see Delft. Delft.

Shows train footage of tulip fields

Lean back and relax as I take you on a guided meditation we journey to the city of Delft and your inner happiness.

Shows footage of Delft

An hour by train Delft is a charming small city it canals, church towers and is known for Delftware, which is hand painted blue and white pottery. Even though I was only here for half a day I still made time for couch surfing. They have a traditionally themed Dutch cheese shop where you can sample all kinds of cheese, highly recommended. Today I'm checking out Delft and there's this big old tower, you see the top, is it possible yes. Anyway, that one's called the New Tower or the New Church and then I'm going to see the Old Church.

Climbs the church

Climbing up the tower. There pretty narrow steps. Watch your head. I hit my head on this thing. I guess that's the other church. I got that, cool.

Up top here on the New Tower, but it's a nice view and that's what counts in life. So, what I want to do is not drop my phone. Didn't get anyone, oh well. Small steps.

Shows the inside of the church

I hope that didn't make you nauseous. I found where they keep the pot of gold. I didn't get to see the Old Church because surprisingly the whole city starts shutting down around 5pm. So, it was time to take the train back to Amsterdam. Back in Amsterdam my first couch surfing host was leaving on vacation so lucky for me I got to use her flat for a week, it was really nice to have a place to stop for a while, collect myself and think deep thoughts. Also, the first episode of Game of Thrones was coming out in a few days. I was feeling a little not homesick, but I thought watching this episode was some kind of way for me to connect with my former life. This routine I used to have talking with friends about the show afterwards, so I decided to make a big event out of it.

I'm certainly not a cook, but I decided to make a nice dinner just for myself. I went to the grocery store, I got some pasta to cook and garlic bread, fruit, a couple new beers to try. I was going to have some Jason time, just sit down, have some home-cooked food and watch the big season premiere. Sunday evening arrived, I cooked the food and served everything hot and ready, opened a beer, sat down on the couch, turned on the TV and then realised I was on the other side of the world in a totally different time zone. And Game of Thrones would be airing at 4am. So, instead I got drunk and passed out on the floor.

The next day I explored a little more around Amsterdam. So, I'm in the Bijlmer area in Amsterdam and checking out some more unusual playgrounds. Let's take a look at this one here. We've got a pretty standard looking slide here and then we have this thing. I'm not sure how you're supposed to play on this. Maybe. I'm on a playground with a big metal thing. I guess you could lean on it. As you notice they have a lot of spare bricks over here, that is if you're not busy with... oh never mind. Got a small jungle gym over here and something else looks like pull-ups, children can learn to do pull ups when they're small. Or learning to climb ladders when they're a bit bigger, this place does have some nice kind of squashy, square bricks here to jump around on, pretty good. And that's all for this episode of strange playgrounds in Amsterdam.

Cheese unboxing. When I was in Delft, I thought I would try one of the really big Dutch food products, which is cheese. So, I went to a cheese shop there and sampled a bunch of different flavours. They had goat cheese and lamb cheese, is that a thing, lamb cheese. Pretty sure. Anyway, the one I liked the best is this vanilla cheese and it was only like ten euros so maybe 12 dollars. Pretty good price for a hunky chunk of cheese and as you can see this is a cow cheese as indicated by this little label here which says cow or in Dutch it says 'koe' also as indicated by this picture of a cow. Okay so let's check out this cheese. So, this cheese comes in some kind of a waxy substance perhaps it's wax. Excuse me while I cut the cheese. Pardon

me. I can already smell the vanilla and smells delicious. Mmm cheese. It is as vanilly and cheesy as I hoped.

As it turned out I would be in Amsterdam during a special event Kingsday or in Dutch Koningsdag. This national holiday occurs April 27th marking the birthday of Willem-Alexander. Anyone can sell their wares tax free on this day, it's a nationwide garage sale. You'll see people flooding the streets and possibly getting intoxicated here's what things look like even a week before the holiday.

Shows kermis on Dam square

Until finally the big day had arrived Kingsday. It was kind of cold and rainy, but people still came out. *Footage of Kingsday*

After the festival I did a final farewell to Amsterdam and hopped on the train to Maastricht. Say hello to my little friend. So, I'm couch surfing in Maastricht right now and this is my host, he's a very good host. He only demands I feed him seeds occasionally and yeah making himself very much at home. Sometimes he bites my ear, but he hardly ever shits on me. But overall a total sweetie. I wonder if he will let me pet him. Yeah, au, okay. We're still getting to know each other. And I honestly don't know how to get it off of me. Oh, thank goodness. This bird was literally on me all the time and I later developed a strategy to keep him off that's right I became a Sith lord. After hiding under the bedsheets for several hours I decided to go out and see the city.

Footage of Maastricht

In the city centre you'll find a gothic church that was converted into a bookstore, pretty cool. Blah blah blah. I was told there was a castle nearby in the town of Valkenburg so I went to check it out. Now I'm standing outside of the castle of Valkenburg, the Netherlands' only fortress according to this plaque I read and this is what the castle looks like in model form.

Footage of the castle

I'm in a castle. Speaking Dutch lesson number one this sign means, okay, speaking Dutch lesson number one, this sign for example says 'verboden toegang' and what that means is forbidden to have a toe gang which is highly prohibited those always go out of control you first start wearing bandanas and it's all downhill from there. Second room with a well they were so spoiled back then they had two wells.

Afterwards I felt a little adventurous and decided to return to Maastricht on foot taking a three-hour hike along a scenic path that follows the Geul river.

Footage of his hike

This is my new horse friend in the Netherlands, see look he didn't bite my hand of so we're friends. So that's it for the Netherlands, feel free to comment below I always enjoy reading what you guys have to say. And if you want to see more awesome content be sure to subscribe.

Comment section:

Spartacus Aka How that gold taste Aka Fuck crassus

Life advice: make a video about the netherlands and the netherlands will watch, because nobody is more opsessed with the dutch then the dutch

Piet Muijs

Fun details about the steps and stairs. Never thought about it. When we were little kids we used to run up and down on those. Never went wrong. ☺

Sieger Zuiderveld

And.....You completely missed the north, the east and Zeeland. I think you need to get back here...

Roy Hoeksema

Utrecht is not a small city lol, and stairs aren't steep at all, only old buildings have weird-ass stairs

Jason Parker

Well small, compared to Amsterdam :-P

Roy Hoeksema to Jason Parker

Most European cities are small compared to Amsterdam, lol. But I get your point, great video tho!

Jason Parker

Thanks Roy!

Gert Ned

Utrecht is a village on the countryside

Roy Hoekstra to Gert Ned

Utrecht literally is part of a megalopolis. Very fun comment tho.

You 2

Utrecht is a small city. In fact all Dutch cities are small. The biggest city Amsterdam hasn't even a million inhabitants.

Roy Hoekstra to You 2

That doesn't make it small? Just because we can't compete to Asian standards doesn't mean our cities aren't big enough for European or American standards...

ryan to Jason Parker

I'm from the city: Arnhem

Hey by the way I meant nothing negative by saying "small" or "smaller" cities. Just trying to communicate an idea quickly in the video without spending too much time on saying things like: "A smaller city... well... it's not actually THAT small. I mean.. it's kinda small. Well.. it actually depends on your point of view what is small. It's just not the biggest. At least from my point of view... my home city is 1.5 million people... but then again it's spread out over a larger area... whereas many European cities are more compact and people live closer together. So anyway... ahhh what was I talking about??"

You get the point. Already this video ended up being incredibly longer than I anticipated.... so while editing it together at the end, I tried hard to keep the pace fast. Trying to communicate the big picture as quickly as possible. Keep it fun as the primary goal, and at least slightly informative as well. Anyway, I thought these cities were great! And I would be happy to visit the Netherlands again. :)

ryan to Jason Parker

go to Arnhem

You can go to:

Arnhem station
Rozet library
(I live there)
Shopping in center
Kronenburg
Sonsbeekpark
Veluwe

Market on vriday, saturday.

Eusebius Kerk

(my grandma works there)

Korenmarkt

Roy Hoekstra to ryan

Arnhem is one of the most boring cities in the Netherlands tho. And what's with those trolley's? I mean, it's not the 1980's anymore...

Roy Hoekstra to Jason Parker

Visit Groningen next time! It's the unexplored gem of the north. An absolutely beautiful city with a completely historic center and a great historic central station! It's also home to a church with the largest organ in north and western Europe. You can take a walk alongside the beautiful canals surrounding the downtown area, climb the 100m tall Martini Tower, explore the Groninger Museum, visit dozens of concerts and festivals (we always have something going on since we're one of the most vibrant student cities in the Netherlands), and so forth!

You 2 to Roy Hoekstra

it isn't big...even for the usa and eu

Sense008

Yes, it is a small city. Maybe not on dutch scale(where it's 4th in size), but on any scal bigger it is a small city. Amsterdam isn't that enormous either (it's big mind you, but most if not all major european capitals are bigger). The thing here in Netherlands isn't that we have big cities, it's that we have a shit ton of small ones. This was true in the 16th and 17th century too. Urbanisation on our swampy patch of land is much higher than in surrounding regions (hence the 'randstad denomination, there are so many small cities so close to each other that they form a near continous urban area).

Roy Hoekstra to Sense008

Utrecht is a large, even for European standards. Only 30 European cities even reach 1 million je habitants, and almost all of them are located in Eastern Europe/Russia.

Roy Hoekstra to You 2

It's most certainly big for American standards. It exceeds almost all but 5 or 6 American state capitols by population. And considering the fact that it's also larger than almost every Western European city (like 30-40 excluded) it's quite safe to say that it's a large city.

Sense008 to Roy Hoekstra

Utrecht is not near 1 million though. it's just over 330k. don't know ho that is supposed to support your point.

Roy Hoekstra to Sense 008

It's part of a megalopolis consisting of over 3 million people.

Sense008 to Roy Hoekstra

'Part of'being the operating word. Utrecht is not a big city. I already acknowledged de randstad in a previous post. There are plenty of towns that are 'part of' greater london. Because they are part of Greater London does not make those towns big cities all of a sudden.

Mola Diver to You 2

You're talking about the municipality, not the urban area. By the same definition London only has 2000 inhabitants then. Both Amsterdam and Rotterdam metro areas are around 1.5 million each. Rotterdam probably a bit more.

Pieter Sweelinck to Sense008

only the historic centre of Amsterdam has 800.000 + inhabitants. The municipaly has about 2 million. Go and see from a high point in A'dam north and you'll see the urban

area is much bigger. In the Netherlands and Belgium also, I think, the number only goes for the inner city-centres

Sense008 to Pieter Sweelinck

we were talking of Utrecht not Amsterdam. A'dam is much bigger.

Adrian Wielki

All Netherland wre Village hahahhahahhahahahaha.. When u go to east Europa ,Russia .Poland.Hungary.Czech Republic there buildings are fucking Big or America ,Asia .Netherland are Dorp met dorpsse bewouners mostly farmers ;) kiss ;* hahaha

Pieter Sweelinck to Adrian Wielki

rather see a film of Rotterdam . Modern architecture of high standards. Big buildings and lots of skyscrapers. Be honest . Rotterdam metro includes a few million hoor ?! Maar Polen is prachtig en heeft veel mooiere steden dan Warschau.....

a bunch of comments about Poland

patrick pol

that's not true i acually had to move out of my old house because of these steep stairs because my bad knees and bad sense of balance made it very hard to go up or down them and people realy had a tendency to make me use them 10 times a day for no reasons at all just to bother me, strange how nobody bothers me now that im living in an appartment building with a good elevator. apparantly the joke aint funny anymore when i dont have to make an effort going up or down anymore so yeah appartments are better then houses if u ask me and stairs in the Netherlands suck so get yourself an elevator if your gonna live here

gerbenvanessen

when no one is looking we simply use our hands to scramble up stairs on all fours. It's fun.

Jason Parker

☺

Jelle Brandt

Actually true ☺

anolis1997

I don't get the vanilla cheese it sound disgusting. I'm dutch

BEAU NIEKERK

That's what I thought. Dat dacht ik dus ook

johan bilder

He probably never went to a real cheeseshop. That was cheese for tourists. Vanilla cheese... no Dutchman would ever eat that.

Jelle Brandt

It isn't that bad. Basically Dutch culture isn't cheese, not windmills... no, it's cycling thru the raid for 30 mins with the wind agains you... actually ask this to other Dutchman and they'll agree

Refalm

You are hereby banned from The Netherlands for disliking drop.

perkenightshift

Hey Jason... Actually we never eat vanilla cheese in the Netherlands.