

An aerial photograph of a Dutch polder landscape. The scene is dominated by a dense network of dark brown canals that meander through vibrant green fields. In the lower right quadrant, a traditional windmill with a dark body and a red roof stands near a small white building with a red roof. The background shows a more developed area with clusters of houses and a road. The overall lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

FRANS LEMMENS  
MARJOLIJN VAN STEEDEN

# NL365 A YEAR IN THE NETHERLANDS

TERRA



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## WELCOME TO THE NETHERLANDS

Think of a few themes that define the last thousand years of history in the Netherlands and you will probably come up with trade, water, survival, tolerance and partnership. The struggle to hold back the sea, the region's oldest and most powerful adversary, has made the inhabitants of the Low Countries a resourceful, headstrong, creative and co-operative people.

At a time when the rest of Europe was governed by feudalism, the marshy river deltas gave rise to some of the earliest forms of democracy, born out of the collective need to drain the land. The tolerance of dissent, while opportunistic in its origins, was much stronger in the 17th-century Dutch Republic than elsewhere in Europe.

In the following centuries the economy went from strength to strength, dominated by trade and shipping but supported by other industries such as fishing and agriculture. The country was able to exploit its position on the North Sea coast and at the mouth of three major European rivers. These factors continue to shape the Netherlands today. That is the subject of this book: the elements that make the Netherlands so quintessentially Dutch.

Besides looking at the past, we face forward, focusing on economic activity and innovation. Our country enjoys high international prestige across a range of industries. Maintaining and strengthening our world leading position requires sustained investment by the Dutch government in developing technologies, such as protecting the land from the water and improving cultivation processes in greenhouse horticulture.

It has been a fascinating challenge for us to illustrate these aspects of the Netherlands, along with many others. *NL365 – A Year in the Netherlands* showcases the versatility, dynamism and ingenuity of the Netherlands from January 1 to December 31. We hope you enjoy this photographic journey through our country.

Frans Lemmens and Marjolijn van Steeden





## WE ARE BACK WHO'S NEXT?



◁ **4 March** A white-tailed eagle – also known as ‘flying door’ – takes off in the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve. This imposing bird of prey, Europe’s largest eagle, started breeding in this country again in 2006.

△ **5 March** A grey wolf in GaiaZOO in Kerkrade in Limburg. The wolf has returned to the Netherlands after an absence of more than a century. In 2019, the first pups were born in the Veluwe nature reserve.

*Following pages* **6 March**  
A beaver crosses a footpath in Rhoon. His lodge is in a so-called tidal willow forest along the Oude Maas. Since their introduction in 1988, the beaver population has increased considerably.



Van  
Gogh  
Museum  
Amsterdam



## GETTING THEIR SKATES ON



◁ **6 January** Ice skating on Keizersgracht in Amsterdam. The 17<sup>th</sup>-century canals have been added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

△ **7 January** Classic skating scenes near the windmills of Kinderdijk-Elshout, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





## PREHISTORIC MEGALITHS



◁ **18 August** A blinding – literally and figuratively – sunrise above the flowering Brunssummerheide heathland in Limburg.

△ **19 August** Megaliths are the oldest constructions in the Netherlands; some date back more than 4,000 years. The photo shows a site near Havelte in Drenthe.

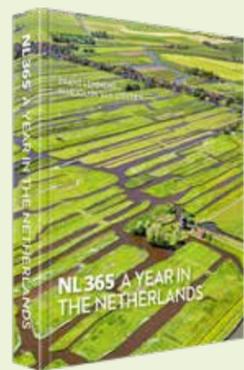
*Following pages* **20 August** Festival-goers in front of their tents, having breakfast at the Lowlands music festival in Biddinghuizen, Flevoland.



## Terra presents a unique photo document: Each day of the year a photo of the Netherlands

*NL365 - A Year in the Netherlands* is without a doubt one of the most comprehensive photo books ever published about the Netherlands. The book combines iconic images of windmills, the Amsterdam canals and tulips with contemporary themes, such as agricultural innovation, dance festivals, Dutch design and modern architecture. The rich history of the stubborn but tolerant Dutch people is also portrayed. Top photographer Frans Lemmens and his partner Marjolijn van Steeden bring together all the disciplines in which they excel. Their approach - a photo of the Netherlands every day of the year, from January 1 to December 31 - has turned it into a truly unique photo document.

This extensive English book is a feast for the eyes and an ode to a special and beautiful country.



Frans Lemmens and Marjolijn van Steeden traveled the world for many years and made travel reports for magazines, such as National Geographic Traveler. The Sahara desert was their specialty for years, but the photogenic Netherlands was not forgotten either. Since 2010, their own country has even been the focus of their work, which has led to this unique coffee table book.

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## COLOPHON

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Uitgeverij Terra is part of Uitgeverij TerraLannoo bv  
P.O. Box 23202  
1100 DS Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
info@terralannoo.nl  
terra-publishing.com

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f terrapublishing

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f FransLemmensPhotography  
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franslemmens.com

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This book uses paper that is certain to have not caused forest destruction. Terra believes it is important to use natural resources in an environmentally friendly and responsible manner.



This publication underwrites the international positioning strategy of the Netherlands and endorses its key philosophy of Solving Global Challenges Together.

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### VERKOOP, DISTRIBUTIE EN MARKETING NEDERLAND

TerraLannoo  
Postbus 23202 | 1100 DS Amsterdam  
T +31 (0)20 236 42 70  
info@terralannoo.nl

VERKOOP  
Verkoop binnendienst  
Karina Walsemann  
verkoop@terralannoo.nl  
T +31 (0)20 236 42 72

Key accountmanager buitenboekhandel  
New Business manager  
Willemijn van de Ven  
willemijn.vandeven@terralannoo.nl  
M +31 (0)6 21 86 69 09

Vertegenwoordiger boekhandel  
Hans ter Laak  
hans.terlaak@terralannoo.nl  
M +31 (0)6 11 02 21 22