

Dear Friends,

Being Dutch means talking about the weather. The last six months temperatures are below average. The conclusion must be: spring time was bad. Especially the last few weeks are cold and wet. Cold is no problem riding a motorcycle, but I hate the rain. But as always: others don't agree, they don't mind a rainy day. In both situations the fastest way to get warm (or dry) again isn't sitting still next to a heating, but get busy for half an hour. Get your heart pumping so you heat yourself up again.

Best part of it all: the water falling down right now can't fall down again so summertime has to be better!!

Last update (8-7-2013): we have beautiful sunny warm weather right now. Maybe nature wants to compensate ?

Discovering new things....

We know the Netherlands are small. Sometimes we think we know it all. But again and again time proves we are wrong. Some people tipped us to visit the carnival parade in Goor. 'Wait till the end!' they told us. After 25 normal parade vehicles (which took about 2 hours to pass by) the parade changed a 'little'. It became this:



For sure we will do our utmost best to visit this event next year, but then we will do it together with guests, next to other new places, high lights and new things we discover all the time !!

If you are interested to see more pictures of this 'Mad Max parade': we will upload them to the Photo Gallery of our website www.proholland.com

Scheduled departures.

There are still a few places available in some of the trips. So it is still possible to join us. For departure dates, prices and all other necessary information: www.proholland.com or just send us an e-mail info@proholland.com

For all other kind of visits to the Netherlands: we have enough crew members available to assist you in any way possible. Again: just send us an e-mail explaining your needs and we will do our utmost best to help you out.



'Fun part': Time flies and I fell down.....

Like so many other people I'm often in a hurry. Asking people what they are doing the answer will be: busy-busy-busy. Everyone seems to be busy. I'm joining this 'hype'.

So being busy (read: late) I was looking to gain time somewhere somehow. My appointment was within 45 minutes and I had to drive for at least 60 minutes..... I started my motorbike and drove off immediately. Racing through the first corner and fell down in the second one! Cold tires, chock wide open, lose sand in the corner, braking too heavily but most of all: not thinking about what I was doing.

Lesson learned: Spend more time preparing. Leave more early. Being a little late isn't 'the end of the world'. But most of all: focus! In case you are riding together with guests : don't use a tight time schedule.

Note: no I don't post a photo of the motorbike laying on its side!(but I can tell you this: rider and bike 'o.k.')

Fun part: TT Circuit Assen



I'm not sure which one is the bigger fun part: the races or the night before. This time I'll tell you something about the race track in 'the fun department'.

The last weekend in June is a special weekend at least for motor-minded-Dutchmen. This weekend the MotoGP circus is visiting the Netherlands. It is a perfect event to celebrate. So many visitors will visit the races, but first they celebrate the 'TT night' in Assen. The entire town is converted into a huge carnival. Don't hold back your imagination, everything which pops up you can see or do in Assen the night before the races!!

In case you are interested to know what the night before is all about: use Google. Surge 'TT nacht'

Back to the TT race track. Tourist Trophy Assen. At the island of Man the very first motorcycle competition was organized in 1907, it was called the TT. Next to The Island of Man the competition at Assen is the only one which is authorized to use the extension TT: Tourist Trophy. The Tourist Trophy race track Assen. We Dutch-man simply call it: the TT Assen. It is a world famous race track, which goes back to 1925. From this year up till today every year MotoGP races were driven at this circuit except during the years of WWII.

The local MC at Assen organized a race at July 11th 1925. The very first race at Assen. This first track was 28,4 km long and it contains even a piece of dirt road. Other parts were boulders. It crossed villages (Borger, Schoonloo and Grollo) and most roads which were used were normal roads, open to public. Piet van Wijngaarden was the winner of this first edition driving a Norton 500 cc with an average speed of 91,4 km/h!. In the years to follow the circuit changed every year and after a couple of years most streets were paved with tarmac. In 1936 a society was founded which is also the owner of today's race track.

In 1951 the average speed was already 161,4 km/h. In 1954 the last race was driven at the old long circuit. Average speed: 169,7 km/h. A new 7705 meters long track was build and ready to use. Parts of the old circuit were re-used. Still most of the race track were public roads.

The race track we use nowadays is a small part of this 7705 meters long track and of course it is now a permanent race track. In 1984 it was shortened to 6049 meters. In 1989 they widen it from 7 to 10 meters.

In 2006 they removed most of the Northern part of the TT race track. Main reason: creating a more compact circuit to build more galleries. Again the track was shortened. This time by no less than one kilometer. The Northern part is now a slow part with many corners. The longest straight is now 970 meters. Most corners are banked. The tarmac isn't slippery at all. The combination of these two facts makes high corner speeds possible. Drivers with 'balls' and experience love this high speed circuit (even including to slow northern loop the average speed is 170 km/h or more).

Most MotoGP drivers regret the new slow northern part of the circuit. But this part is the best part for spectators to see the motorbikes.....

Until the beginning of the 1980's the circuit was only used once a year: TT Assen (motoGP races). These days the circuit is used nearly every weekend for all kinds of races. From cars to motorbikes. From carts to trucks. But also bicycle races, concerts, festivals etc. Ferrari, Ducati or other brand days are very popular too. And of course: superbike races!!

Winners of the MotoGP races (or its equivalent) after 1950 in Assen:

Rank 1.	Italy 18 times
Rank 2.	United Kingdom 15 times
Rank 3.	Unites States of America 9 times
Rank 4.	Australia 8 times
Rank ?.	The Netherlands 2

2013 winner: Valention Rossi (Italy)

The only two Dutch TT winners of the MotoGP (in those days 500 cc)



Wil Hartog Suzuki 500 1977



Jack Middelburg Yamaha 500 cc 1980

Yes, it is possible to visit the MotoGP races during your time in the Netherlands.

Have fun!

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NB: if you aren't interested please let us know and we'll stop the e-mail