

## Typical Dutch top 25

25 Hagelslag. Chocolate sprinkles. To put on your bread. Or on top of your custard.



24 De Deltawerken. The massive man-made protection of our low lands against the sea. Start to finish this defense took us 33 years to complete (1953-1986).



23 Regelgeving / bureaucratie. Rules, regulations and bureaucracy. Being a very dense country we need many agreements to live in peace. Sometimes it seems we have rules for everything, sometimes it feels like we are over-regulated.

22 Boerenkool met worst. Great food!! Curly kale. First it has to freeze. After this happened you harvest the curly kale, because it is much smoother to eat and more tasteful. Together with a smoked sausage and bacon it is great food during the colder part of the year.



21 Hufterigheid. Hmmmmmmm..... We tell what we think. More than often we think the truth is the most important thing whatever the consequences are. We think it is allowed to say everything as long as we don't end up in terms of abuse. Often it would be wise not to say everything. Often it is wise not to speak at all.

20 Rookworst van de Hema. Hema is a retailer selling all kinds of stuff you need in life: towels, make-up, clothes, toys, boots. One day they came up with a smoked sausage. And it was good. Damn good. Some restaurants even buy the sausage from this store and put it on their menu together with its name: worst van de Hema (sausage bought by the Hema).



19 Afsluitdijk. World's longest sea barrier: a dike crossing the sea for 32 kilometers connecting the provinces of Noord-Holland and Friesland. It protects a huge part of the Netherlands against flooding.



18 Kopje koffie. Dutch people are drinking lots of coffee. At least 150 liters a person each year. At work we drink it. When we go out we drink it and privately we drink it. On this last occasion it always comes together with a cookie. One cookie with every cup of coffee. Only one.



17 Zegeltjes sparen. Collecting seals. We are real collectors. Loyalty points can be collected at 'every' store. Once your card is complete you are allowed to choose something from the store for free. We are fond of everything that is 'free' (or 'no charge').



16 Inpolderen. Gaining land from the sea. We are masters in it!



15 The weather. Or better: complaining about it. The best thing is: everyone seems to be an expert about it. But not many people can predict the weather trustworthy.

14 Gezelligheid. Cosiness. I can't explain this special Dutch feeling. You have to experience it before you really know what it is all about.

13 Klagen. Complaining. In general. We are heavily complainers. We like to complain instead of do something about it. In the end we solve the problem, but first we spend lots of time discussing it making it more dark than it already is.

12 Koninginnedag. Queensday April 30<sup>th</sup>. It no longer exist. These days it is Kingday April 26<sup>th</sup>. We will experience our first Kingday this year (2014). We know for sure it will beat Quensday!!



11 Draaiorgel. Barrel organ. These days barrel organs are getting more rare every year. The people can't stand them anymore. Live music, street musicians and DJ's are more popular.



And now the top 10 best known Dutch things.

10 Kaas. Cheese. Do I have to explain??



9 Fietsen. Bicycles. Yes it is very common to use a bicycle to go to work. Even when it rains. It is estimated there are 18 million (18.000.000) bicycles in the Netherlands. About 84% of all Dutchman owns one or more bikes.



8 Drop. Dutch bitter-sweet candy with a very peculiar taste. Again you have to visit our country and taste the original traditional made drop to know what it is. The first one won't taste good but be honest your first beer wasn't that good either!



7 Haring. Herring. Raw eaten together with onions. Take the herring by its tail. Tilled your head backwards. Open your mouth. Take a bite. That's the way you do it.



6 Elfstedentocht. The province of Friesland has 11 cities. All connected by canals. During severe winters it is possible to skate from one city to another. This calls for a contest: who is able to visit all eleven cities using skates in as minimal time as possible. World's longest ice tournament was there: the elfstedentocht. 200 kilometers. Last edition: 1997



5 Tulpen. Tulips. I think a photo will do.



4 Oranje. Orange. The family color of our royal family. Their family name is also Orange. We like to be united being Dutch and the only way to show it is by expressing it in orange.



Yes we love orange....

3 Klompen. Wooden shoes. Great to keep your feet warm during the winter time. Great protection too: who needs safety shoes when wearing wooden shoes. And easy to repair: a few nails will do.



2 Sinterklaas. Saint Nicholas. No not Santa Claus. We celebrate something different at December 5<sup>th</sup>. Gifts for everyone, but most of all for the children.



1 Molens. Windmills. No further comment.



Have fun and hope to see you in the Netherlands!