

Newsletter

Smiling Faces au Pairs

October, November, December 2008

Enjoy the Netherlands to the fullest! That is what Smiling Faces au pairs hopes you'll do. That is why we organize fun activities to meet other people, get to know the Netherlands but above all to give you a nice experience. In this newsletter you will find information about outings, fun things, gifts, arrivals & departures and language courses.

Sinterklaas

The most important holiday of the year is around the corner! (For the kids at least...)

Typical Dutch; Sinterklaas. This very old holy man lives in Spain, but will celebrate his anniversary in Holland. This celebration is on the 5th of December. It is much more a celebration for the kids.

They sing songs, they make a drawing for him and put it in the shoe in front of the fire place (very old custom, but well it is a very old habit) and they sing a song; 'Sinterklaas kapoentje' and they hope he and his helpers ('zwarte pieten') will visit their house at night, take the drawing and leave presents!

As you've read in the dossier about the Dutch culture it is a bit similar to Santa Claus at Christmas.

Pretty soon the kids will be talking about 'Sinterklaas' and his 'Pieten' and all they'll want to eat is 'kruidnootjes' and chocolate coins. Sinterklaas will come to The Netherlands in the 15th of November. Enjoy the festivities!

For more information on Sinterklaas, check you dossier on the Dutch culture.



Smiling Faces outings

Au pair holiday

Last August all au pairs had the chance to discover Holland on board of a traditional Dutch sailing ship! Guadelupe from Mexico tells us her experiences.

The sailing trip was a interesting, recreational and funny experience, I had the opportunity to meet different places such as: Alkmaar, Enhuizen, Volendam, Medemblik, etc. Also I met people from many parts of the world like Guatemala, Peru, Philippians', Germany, Mexico and of course from Holland. During the trip we made a lot of things for example we made teams to prepare the dinner, we ate food from different countries every day! Inside of the boat we played, watched movies, danced and talked about everything. Outdoor we walked around of each city, danced, shopping and we did many things just for have fun. Really it was a fantastic experience that I won't forget it!



Explore Amsterdam

The NAPO was organizing another au pair day, this time in Amsterdam. Andisa and Mai joined the outing and tell us about it.

Hi I am Andisa Malimba, one of the au pairs who went to the NAPO outing that took place on the 21st of September 2008 in Amsterdam.

The outing was nice! We start with the meeting by the Sport Cafe in Amsterdam, as we were waiting for the Napo to arrive. We started talking and we met other au pairs from different agencies under NAPO and some au pairs we met at the Efteling we could still recognize each other. That was really nice!

I also loved the way we were divided because it was easier to talk to each other and getting to know who lives close to you in Holland. So now I met a lot of people who are staying close to where I am staying in Holland.

I loved to walk around Amsterdam and doing this with other people. I hope the next time we will pick one museum or a cruising boat!!

Last but not least the food was good and the after party was very good as well, I loved it because it was not formal and we enjoyed ourselves and I guess everyone loved the free drinks part and the band was very nice!

The competition was also good as well I won! Anyway all in all it was fun, we enjoyed it, loved it, made and made a lot of friends there!

Thank you!
Andisa

I am Mai from Vietnam and just have been in Holland for a month. It's the first time I travel abroad without friends or relatives. I have a very nice family in Holland and they treat me as a member of the family...But people said that there is no tree without a bend, there is no life without a friend", yes.. friendship is very important for everyone and so do I! I didn't have many friends here until that Sunday I went to Sport cafe in the Outing day, I met a lot of au pairs there, I didn't think there are so many au pairs like that. I met a nice Vietnamese girl and we were very happy to know each other.

I also met a nice American au pair, Abby is her name and she is so friendly. After having drinks in Sport cafe together we were divided in 9 groups and I also met other nice girls in my group, Cristina and Vanessa. We shared with each other everything about the feeling, the happiness as well as some difficulties of having a new life in Holland...

They made me more confident to show my feeling, and I recognized that it's more easy to make friends than I thought, they are all friendly and easy-going!!

We had a very nice and humorous leader, he took us to some famous places in Amsterdam such as Redlight district, Dam square, Nieuwmarkt and he also introduced about history as well as the famous thing of each place. It's was very interesting for us to know more about this famous ancient city.

After seeing some places we took a luxury bus to go to other place where we had a nice buffet together and there was Caribbean brass drum with nice guys, they played drum and we all danced together. We took lots of photos to keep all our sweet memories, and that day was so great day that we'll never forget! At the end of the day we exchanged our phone number, email, and address.. It was too hard to say good bye after a really nice time together but we all know that in our hearts we will never be alone, we will meet again, in another beautiful day...thanks for being my friends!

Best regards,
Mai



New au pair day



Smiling Faces Au Pairs is proud to announce a typical Dutch event: On board with Sinterklaas on the original PAKJESBOOT 12

We are very proud to invite you for our outing on **Sunday the 23d of November** for a typical Dutch event. We will take you and a lot of au pairs for a fascinating harbor trip in Rotterdam. This trip will take place on the original PAKJESBOOT 12. This vessel is one and only boat of Sinterklaas. You have probably heard of this holy man who is one of the best friends of the Dutch children.

Every year Sinterklaas travels from Spain (where he lives) to Holland to celebrate with all the Dutch families his birthday on the 5th of December. Ask your host family about this great man and join us on board of Pakjesboot 12 and meet Sinterklaas.

Especially for au pairs we will meet Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piets during our outing on the 23d of November. We will explore the Rotterdam harbor (one of the biggest harbors of the world) on board of the boat of Sinterklaas. And of course you will meet de Zwarte Piets and Sinterklaas himself.

Do not miss this! And subscribe now, there are only 100 seats available. Will you be the lucky one?

When : **Sunday 23d of November 2008**

Where : Parkhaven, Rotterdam (near the Euromast)

Time: 14.00 clock!

Cost : € 25,- (this includes the boat trip, Coffee, tea and hot chocolate, 'pepernoten', meet and greet with Sinterklaas, workshop how to make Pepernoten for your host family, instruction card how to make a 'Zwarte Pietje' out of your host children, special Sinterklaas gift and dinner on board!!)

Program:

- 14.00 : gathering at the dock of the harbor : Parkhaven in Rotterdam (next to the entrance of the Euromast)
Embarkation on board of Pakjesboot 12 with Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and 'pepernoten'
- 14.45 : a word of welcome by Smiling Faces
- 15.00 : start the harbor tour
You will see one of the greatest harbors of the world.
During the trip we will inform you about *how to make 'pepernoten' at home* and you will get *information how to make from your host child a 'Zwarte Piet'*.
- 16.00 : Sinterklaas on board!! He will tell the story about his life and the celebration of Sinterklaas.
- 17.00 : Dinner buffet (French Fries, Chicken-sate with peanut sauce, bread, salads and sauces)
- 18.00 : Sinterklaas gift for all the au pairs & end of the Sinterklaas tour

In order to let everything go smoothly, we would like to know in advance if you are joining us. You need to register by the application form and the costs for participating need to be paid in advance. We can only have 100 persons on this special Sinterklaas event!



APPLICATION FORM: SINTERKLAAS **23d OF** **NOVEMBER**

Au Pair's Name:

Nationality:

City:

Agency:

Please return this form to Smiling Faces as soon as possible but no later than **the 4th of November 2008**

Activities in the Randstad area

Nothing to do on your weekends? Visit one of these websites, they are full of fun ideas.

Isic.org

Fodors.com

Virtualtourist.com

Thego.nl

Eatdrinketc.com

amsterdam.digicity.nl

Eng.cityvox-nl.com

Rotterdamsuitburo.nl

Uit010.nl

Uitaandemaas.nl

Videoland.nl

Pathe.nl

Tvgids.nl

Expatica.com

Discounts with your IYTC card

worldwide fun

cultural things

Things to do in Holland

Things to do in Amsterdam

Things to do in Amsterdam

Things to do in Amsterdam

Things to do in Rotterdam

Things to do in the 010 zone

Things to do in Zuid-Holland

DVD rental

Dutch cinemas

TV guide, movies start around 8.30 pm

concerts & other

Birthdays & other celebrations

Happy birthday to everybody listed below!

October 4

October 16

October 19

October 21

October 28

November 3

November 4

November 9

November 27

December 2

December 5

Trang from Vietnam

Gabriella from Mexico

Guadalupe Toledo from Mexico

Nadia from South Africa

Natalie from Moldavië

Julissa from Peru

Dayde from Peru

Laksmi from Indonesia

Michelle from South Africa

Natalie from Peru

Sinterklaas from Spain

In the Netherlands it is quite normal to send a card to someone who celebrates his or her birthday. So if you want to join our custom, send these birthday girls a card!

This is also possible by e-mail. Go to www.hallmark.com and you can send a free birthday e-card!
No address? Send us an email and you will receive the Au Pair address list.



SF communities on the web

Meet the other SF au pairs online

Online communities are a big hit, so of course we can't miss out. Join us at one of the following web communities. You'll find links to the other au pair's profiles, this newsletter, information on outings, tips on all sorts of things and much more.

www.facebook.com

www.hi5.com

www.friendster.com

Smiling Faces Gifts

Invite your friend to become an au pair and win...

A present worth 50 euros!



How would you like to get a **free fragrance**?
Or see movies at the **cinema for free**?
Or from now on **travel by train with a discount of 40%**?
You can! If you recruit a friend!

You have to send us the details of your friend from your home country who wants to be an au pair in the Netherlands. If she gets placed, you can select your present.
For more information about the SF profile, you can contact us at info@smilingfaces.nl.

Presents:

- * Gift certificate for € 50.- to be spend at Douglas (perfume & cosmetics)
- * Gift certificate for € 50.- to be spend at Dutch cinemas (Pathé theaters)
- * NS kortingskaart, card for 40% discount on travelling by train in the Netherlands (value: € 55.-)

FREE SF key cord

For all the Smiling Faces au pairs there is a new 'Delfs Blauw' Smiling Faces key cord available. Your keys and cell phone always at the reach of a hand. Very handy and very trendy! If you haven't got it yet, you can send your key cord request to us by email; info@smilingfaces.nl.

FREE IYTC-NAPO card

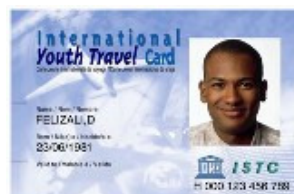
Travel further, stay longer and experience more!

NAPO and ISIC have worked together to make the International Youth Travel Card (IYTC) accessible for au pairs in The Netherlands.

With the IYTC-NAPO card you can get discounts on travelling, tourist attractions, entertainment, accommodations and going out. You can also access some of their services for young travellers.

Because we want our au pairs to have good time here, we will give it to you for free! If you'd like to get this card, please send us an email and attach a digital picture. If you don't have a digital picture you can send us a picture by post.

For more information on the IYTC-NAPO card, visit <http://www.isic.org/sisp/index.htm?fx=home>.



Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals

We'd like to welcome the newly arrived Smiling Faces au pairs! Welcome to the Netherlands, we hope you'll enjoy your stay and a very pleasant time with your host family.

When?	Who?	Where?
September	Yeny from Peru	Abcoude
September	Suci from Indonesia	Rotterdam
September	Natalie from Peru	Rotterdam
September	Aglahen from Mexico	Rotterdam
September	Ivon from Mexico	Rotterdam
September	Vitra from Indonesia	Noordwijk
September	Livia from Indonesia	Muiderberg
September	Michelle from South Africa	Rotterdam

Departures

Karen Reyes, Sue Mari, Irina Todirasco, Kelly, Yeni, Fiorella, Irina Chirilov, Karen Casto, Karin, Marly will be leaving us soon, we hope you've had an incredible time and have a good trip home!

Fleur, Kim ánd Marije!

Next to Fleur and Kim also Marije joins the Smiling Faces team.

Marije is 21 years old and studies International Business and Languages. Marije started also the 1st of September and she will be the contact person who also speaks Spanish! She also will help with searching new agents in South Africa.

Courses

Dutch course and au pair training

For au pairs

Smiling Faces developed especially for au pairs a Dutch course to learn the basics of communication with your host children. In this course we also discuss the difficulties you might experience and we train you how to solve them.

You will get homework every week and workable tips to make your life as an au pair as nice as possible. Please ask your host family to subscribe for this special course at info@smilingfaces.nl.

It is a part of your au pair program and the family will pay for it.

Au pairs who are not placed by Smiling Faces can join the course as well.

Recent graduates

Congratulations to; Andisa Malimba, Lilani Rittles, Laurita Aguinaga

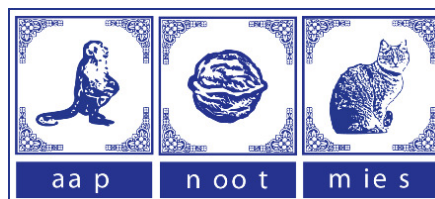
New course starts:

Place Hoflaan 113, Nieuwe Park Rozenburgschool in Rotterdam, Kralingen

Time 1900h – 2200h

Dates Every Wednesday (7 weeks), the next course will start in January

We are trying to organize a Smiling Faces Dutch course for au pairs in the area of Amsterdam. We will let you know when we have more information about this.



English courses

Recommendation for Rotterdam

They have 18 levels in English, you will have to conduct a test and a short interview to assess your level. Courses are taught, mostly in the evening, on a weekly basis for 15 weeks. They start 3 times a year and have a maximum of 12 people.

The course fee is € 250 excluding the book, which is € 25. The new courses will start in January. For more information visit: www.british-english.nl.

