

Travelling to Leeuwarden

### **By plane**

Travelling from [Schiphol Airport](#) (Amsterdam) to Leeuwarden (190 km from Groningen)

Most people fly in via Amsterdam International Airport Schiphol. From the airport, Leeuwarden is easy to reach via excellent train connections (approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes). The train station is at lower level beneath the airport, within walking distance of the luggage claim areas. The Dutch railway system is run by the [Nederlandse Spoorwegen](#) (NS). You will recognize it by its yellow and blue colours. Just follow the yellow illuminated signs that direct you 'To the trains'. Every half an hour (10.04, 10.34, etc.) there is a train to Leeuwarden at platform 1 or 2. Trains at 10.34, 11.34 etc. go directly to Leeuwarden. Trains at 10.04, 11.04 etc. go to Groningen, but with a transfer in Zwolle you can connect to the train to Leeuwarden, usually located at the other side of the platform, platform 7. More information about buying train tickets is provided below. You cannot purchase train tickets on the train.

Other alternative airports in the proximity of Leeuwarden:

Groningen [Airport Eelde](#) (70 km from Leeuwarden)

Groningen Airport Eelde has flights from and to: Copenhagen, London Southend, Antalya, Gdansk, Algarve, Gran Canaria, Crete, Gran Canaria, Mallorca, Brussel and Munchen. Not all flights have a daily service.

Groningen is easily reached from Groningen Airport Eelde by shuttlebus. The bus connection between Groningen Airport Eelde and the centre of Groningen makes it fast and easy to travel to your destination within 20 minutes. The shuttlebus is scheduled in accordance with the scheduled flights to London, Copenhagen and Gdansk, and makes a stop at the Central Station, from here you can take the train to Leeuwarden (3 times/hour), this railway is run by Arriva (the red trains). More information about buying a ticket: [www.arriva.nl](http://www.arriva.nl)

[Bremen Airport](#) (Germany) (240 km from Leeuwarden)

Bremen airport might also be convenient for cheap intra-European flights. There is a direct bus connection from the Bremen airport to Groningen. The bus stop is situated close to the entrance/exit of the Ryanair terminal of the Bremen airport. It takes about 3 hours to reach Groningen Central Station (CS), from here you can take the train to Leeuwarden (3 times/hour).

[Weeze Airport](#) (Germany) (250 km from Leeuwarden)

Weeze airport might also be convenient for cheap intra-European flights because it hosts discounters Ryanair, AirBerlin, Germania etc.

[Eindhoven Airport](#) (NL) (240 km from Leeuwarden)

Eindhoven Airport might be another convenient option for cheap intra-European flights. From Eindhoven Airport you can take bus 401 to the train station. From the train station you can take the train via Nederlandse Spoorwegen to Leeuwarden, this trip takes about 3 hours.

## **Traveling by train in the Netherlands**

Information on travelling by train is available on the [NS website](#).

The journey from Schiphol Airport takes approximately two hours and Leeuwarden is the last stop. The trains are quite comfortable and (most trains) feature free wireless Internet in all classes and 220V AC outlets in first class. Food and drinks are not sold on the trains, please make sure that you purchase these beforehand at the airport.

### **Buy Tickets**

You will have to purchase a single-use chipcard (this is your train ticket) to Leeuwarden and to activate this chip-card before you board the train. Be careful: passengers travelling without a valid ticket will be fined. You can buy either a first-class ticket or a second-class ticket.

There are two ways of purchasing a ticket:

1. The ticket counter and the yellow and blue ticket-vending machines that you will find in the luggage claim hall and by every entrance to the train terminal. You can purchase tickets from the machines only by using your Credit Card or a Debit Card with the Maestro logo.

If you use a single-use chipcard or OV-chipkaart please make sure you check in and out; hold your OV-chipcard up against the NS card reader in one of the gates or free-standing posts.

2. You can also buy your ticket online and simply print it yourself. This allows you to take care of everything whenever and wherever it suits you. All you have to do, is complete the journey details, pay for the order, download and print your e-ticket. This means that you can board the train straight away!

## **Public transport in Leeuwarden**

[more information](#)

### **By car**

Please note that car traffic in the city centre of Leeuwarden is restricted and street parking is very limited. Also be aware of the numerous cyclists that may not exactly follow the traffic regulations. There are seven parking garages near the city centre, more information can be found [here](#).

Taxis in Leeuwarden <http://www.etaxleeuwarden.nl/>

Note: most hotels are within walking distance from Leeuwarden central station. You can check this easily with google maps and can save you money!

## **Planning your journey in the Netherlands**

You might find the website <http://9292.nl/en> very useful for planning your journey in the Netherlands. The planner combines all available public transportation - trains, buses, trams, metro,

and boats - to provide an optimal route. It also informs you real-time about the current delays and disruptions in public transportation.

### **Visa**

The LOC strongly advises participants requiring a visa and/or other travel documentation to enter The Netherlands, to make their application in their home countries at least two months before the intended date of travel. Visa Information is available from the Dutch immigration and naturalisation service.

### **Ferry Terschelling-Harlingen**

The symposium ends on the island of Terschelling (transport to the Island is part of the Symposium). Traveling back from the island is not included. You have to book your return ticket online at the [ferry company](#) and preferable do this at the same time as your registration, to be sure to have a seat on the day you wish. From Harlingen you can take the train back to Leeuwarden and continue your travel tot he airport.