

Gouda, South Holland, Netherlands

Said with a throaty Dutch 'G' (roughly 'KHOW-da,' like clearing your throat — not the English 'Gooda'), Gouda is more than a cheese. It's one of the Netherlands' most intact medieval canal towns, with a fairytale town hall, the longest church in the country, and the world's finest Renaissance stained glass.

🚢 River cruise (pier/quay) ⌚ Typical call: 6-8 hrs 💳 Euro (cards preferred) 🗣️ Dutch (English widely spoken)

📅 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: River cruise ships dock along Turfsingel or IJsselkade — no tender, flat walk to center

Best For: History, food, architecture, photography

Walk to center: 5–15 min from quay to the Markt (market square)

Don't Miss: Sint-Jan's 72 Renaissance stained-glass windows and a warm stroopwafel at the market

🚗 Getting around: 🚖 Taxi ✅ €85–€110 · 🚗 Rideshare ✅ Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Sint-Jan Church & the Goudse Glazen** — At 123 m, the longest church in the Netherlands houses 72 breathtaking 16th-century stained-glass windows that survived the Reformation and WWII.
- **Gouda Cheese Experience** — Interactive museum tracing the history of Goudse Kaas from farm to wheel, ending with a tasting of aged, cumin, and truffle varieties.
- **Thursday Cheese Market (seasonal)** — From April to September every Thursday morning, farmers and traders seal deals with the traditional handjeklap hand-clap ritual, then haul stacked...
- **Museum Gouda** — Housed in a 14th-century former hospital, this local history museum holds 17th-century militia paintings, historic clay pipes, and a stunning 3D...
- **Stroopwafel at Kamphuisen Bakery** — The stroopwafel was invented in Gouda in 1810.

BEST WALKS

- **The Markt & Old Town Loop** 1.5–2 hrs · 2.5 km · Easy — Start at the 15th-century Gothic Stadhuis in the center of the Markt, whose mechanical carillon clock chimes every half hour.
- **Canal Stroll to the City Beach** 1 hr · 2 km · Easy — Walk from the Markt to the Veerstal and take the tiny volunteer foot ferry across the Hollandse IJssel (about €1) to Goudasfalt — a repurposed industrial site with a...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌤️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				🇳🇱 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:44AM–8:38PM · Jun 5:20AM–10:02PM · Aug 6:25AM–9:04PM · Sep 7:16AM–7:55PM · Oct 8:06AM–6:46PM	
Apr	56°	42°	11d	Euro (cards preferred)	
Jun	70°	55°	12d		
Aug	72°	58°	14d		
Sep	67°	54°	10d		
Oct	60°	49°	14d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Watch the bike lanes. Red-paved lanes belong to cyclists who ride fast and have right of way — never walk in them.
- Buy aged cheese at a local shop, not the tourist stalls. Ask for Oude Kaas (2+ years) — it has crunchy flavor crystals unlike anything you'll find at home.
- Public toilets are scarce. Use the facilities at Sint-Jan, the Cheese Experience, or buy a coffee at a café to use theirs.
- Go cashless. The Netherlands strongly prefers card payment — some smaller shops are cashless-only. Visa and Mastercard work everywhere.
- Time your visit for Thursday morning. The traditional cheese market (April–September) is one of the most photogenic events in Holland — and it's free to watch.
- Bring a compact rain jacket. South Holland weather is changeable year-round. The Markt's covered arcades and indoor attractions mean rain rarely ruins a visit.

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