

LIFE

=

GOOD



DUTCH BIKING SURVIVAL GUIDE

1/4 POSTERS

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PART 3

**TRAFFIC
RULES
YOU MUST
NEVER
FORGET**



BIKING IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Rules

Just because the locals don't follow them, it doesn't mean you shouldn't. It might even save yourself from getting yelled at and being called a horrible disease (see p. XXX). We already cover these basic rules elsewhere in the book. But our friends in the bicycle rental industry say we can't repeat ourselves enough. So read and learn. It could spell the difference between eating a pizza and becoming a pizza.

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- 1** **TRAFFIC FROM THE RIGHT HAS RIGHT-OF-WAY.**
Unless there are sidewalk bumps or shark teeth slowing down those from the right.

 - 2** **AT NIGHT, YOU NEED WORKING BIKE LIGHTS**
on both the front and the back.

 - 3** **YOU CANNOT HOLD A PHONE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC THINGY IN YOUR HAND**
while riding a bicycle. Not even a vibrator.

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- 4** **DO NOT TRAVEL IN PACKS.**
Two cyclists can ride side-by-side but only if you don't hinder other traffic – may it be pedestrians, other bicyclists, motorists or bungee jumpers.

 - 5** **YOU CAN ONLY TURN RIGHT AT A RED LIGHT IF THERE'S A SIGN THAT SAYS 'RECHTSAF VOOR FIETSERS VRIJ'** (cyclists free to turn right).
But yes, please look out.

 - 6** **YOU MAY PARK ON THE SIDEWALK**
unless a sign forbids it.

 - 7** **YOU CAN ONLY PASS OTHER CYCLISTS ON THE LEFT.**
With other vehicles, you can pass on the right.

 - 8** **TRUCKS OFTEN HAVE BLIND-SPOTS. BE CAREFUL!**
They might decide to suddenly turn right!

 - 9** **YOU CAN ONLY TRANSPORT CHILDREN UNDER 8 ON A DESIGNATED SAFE SEAT.**

 - 10** **PLEASE JUST LET THOSE PEDESTRIANS CROSS AT ZEBRA CROSSINGS**
without having to fear for their lives.

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PART 4

VIEZE VUILE
TERINGLEIER

A QUICK GUIDE TO ^{LUL} SWEARING ^{KLOOTZAK} IN DUTCH ^{KRIJG DE TYFUS} ^{ACHTERLIJKE} IDIOOT

To behave as a biker in the Netherlands, you'll need some swear words. Here is a quick guide.

Teringslijer

[tuberculous-sufferer]

MEANING: The Dutch are not known for being overly posh. Even with the smallest of traffic infractions, they are always ready to swear at you. Dutch swearing tradition is largely cantered around diseases that have not been found in the Netherlands since the Middle Ages. Think: cholera, small pox or tuberculosis. For instance, *teringslijer* means sufferer of tuberculous. They're also big on cancer – as well as improvisation. So, feel free to let loose. It will make no sense, but it will feel good.

TRY: *Teringslijer kanker hond!*
You tubercular cancer dog!

Pannenkoek

[pancake]

MEANING: You mix some flour, eggs, milk and a pinch of salt. You then throw a spoon of this mixture ('batter'), into a pan and cook it. It's seen as both cheap and rather tasteless.

TRY: *Kijk zelf uit waar je fietst, pannenkoek!*
Watch out yourself where you bike, you pancake!

Gortepapslurper

[porridge slurper]

MEANING: The Netherlands is not known as the country of refined cuisine or table manners. Centuries ago, for example, they made a porridge from barley and butter-milk. You would then eat it with a spoon or just slurp it back. Few people are sentimental about this dish. In fact, the Dutch rarely use this term of abuse, so use it if you want to them to look puzzled.

TRY: *Smerige gortepapslurper!*
Filthy porridge slurper!

Kaaskop

[cheese head]

MEANING: Immigration (and a bit of emigration) has happily helped soften the appearance of the average Dutch person. In the past, the Dutch were not known for their delicate facial features. For example, the Dutch also often call each other 'potato heads'.

TRY: *Met je bolle kaaskop!*
With your round cheese head!

Dominee

[pastor]

MEANING: The Dutch often surf between the roles of merchant and pastor. Traditionally, they are traders who like to buy (for little) and sell (for a lot). Meanwhile, the church has also left its mark: the Dutch like to tell you – and other cyclists – how things should be done.

TRY: *Ga zelf naar rechts dominee!*

Go to the right yourself, Reverend!

Zakkenwasser

[bag washer]

MEANING: This term of abuse was first used in the late 1960s. It means dull. Bag washers were probably people who washed jute bags. It wasn't exactly considered an elite profession.

TRY: *Steek je hand uit, zakkenwasser!*

Stick your hand out, bag washer!

Mierenneuker

[ant fucker]

MEANING: They call someone who calls out the smallest mistakes an ant fucker. About 20 years ago, a judge ruled that you could call an official (in this case, it was a parking attendant) with impunity for being an ant fucker, because the standard dictionary deems this word to be 'informal' and not 'offensive'. So if you cycle on an empty sidewalk and you are stopped, you can say:

TRY: *Er liep toch niemand, mierenneuker!*

No one was walking there, ant fucker!

Bal gehakt

[meat ball]

MEANING: Dummy. Weakling. Not-so-nice person without a backbone. Meatball has been a swearword for seemingly unnecessary people since the 1970s. A 1980s swearing dictionary defined the word as 'someone who makes stupid statements'. There you have it.

TRY: *Ga uit mijn ogen, bal gehakt!*

Leave, meatball!

**PUT
THE FUN
BETWEEN
YOUR
LEGS**



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