

Public transport ticketing in the Netherlands

These notes are designed to make travelling in the Netherlands a reasonably simple experience for delegates to the LRTA AGM in Den Haag in September 2011. The Netherlands is currently introducing what is basically a nationwide version of the Oystercard known as the ov-chipkaart. These notes do not give comprehensive coverage of this ticketing system and are not designed to. The information was gleaned from travelling in the Netherlands in June 2011.

The first point to make is that Den Haag seems to be a bit behind Rotterdam and Amsterdam and will be upgrading its ticketing system in September. What and when is happening the HTM service centre did not know when I asked them at the beginning of June. However the strippenkaart is not valid in South Netherlands anymore.

Probably the most useful for most delegates is the 24 hour ticket (stamp it to validate) if still available, a paper ticket at present. This cannot be purchased from the driver - but see locations at the end of these notes - and in fact there are two versions.

- HTM the day pass covers the urban area marked in red below and costs about €4.50
- HTM plus day pass covers the area marked in red and blue and costs €6.80. It is valid on lines 3 and 4 of Ransstadrail plus the temporarily truncated Delft line. A not very frequent bus connects the two.

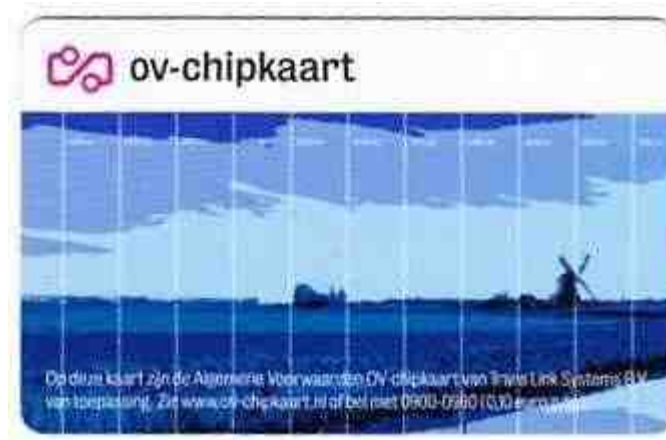
Ominously the prices do not now seem to be available on the HTM website and it may be replaced in September with a system similar to Amsterdam or Rotterdam where one purchases a "disposable" chipkaart. Alternatively you can have a day ticket loaded on to a personal or anonymous chipkaart. Please read the following notes on the chipkaart.

If you want to go and see that nice man you met in Belgrade last year and who is now living in Scheveningen when you get there on Friday night then there are single tickets available from tram drivers at €2.50 for 30 minutes and €3.50 for 60 minutes. These are not valid on Den Haag – Rotterdam Ransstadrail. I am not sure if these, or any ticket, can be purchased from drivers on the Ransstadrail services.



Zones for Den Haag day ticket

The ov-chipkaart.



A chipkaart

If you are spending more time in the Netherlands, plan to visit it within the next 5 years or are a ticket buff then you may want to get an ov-chipkaart. There are basically two types, the personal and the anonymous plus the “disposable” ones already mentioned. These latter can vary from system to system, i.e. Amsterdam has a special ticket which comprises a return train ticket from/to Schipol airport plus a 1/2/3/4/5/6 day ticket.

The former is a ticket that can only apply to you and you must have a Dutch bank account to facilitate it. I shall now ignore it for that reason apart from to say that you do not get the over 65 discount unless you have one of these.

The anonymous one is one that anyone can use so if it gets lost you lose all the credit. To travel on NS you need credit at the start of the journey of €20 and to travel on a bus or tram €4. You have to swipe in **and** out on **all** vehicles, otherwise you will get penalised (so Jim Harkins is advised not to change shirts whilst on a tram or bus journey) and you get charged the €20 or €4 although you can try and get a refund as there is a claim form on line. **Note** that you have to swip in and out even if you have a day ticket.

For each journey there is an initial payment and then the cost is calculated by kilometer. Rates differ over the Netherlands vary. If you swap from one mode of transport to another then the initial charge is not repeated if you swipe in within 35 minutes of the last swipe out. Andy Steel calculates this just gives time for a quick beer.

Den Haag does remind tram passengers to swipe out and Amsterdam does the same in English. Rotterdam is more commercially minded!

There is a basic cost of €7.50 for this ticket and then you add credit to it. This can be done at machines and customer service desks. I found the Rotterdam metro machines would not accept a visa card but would a MasterCard. In fact the most popular card is the Maestro card which is also useable on NS machines. The machines will not take notes (they might be Greek!) but will accept coins so consider saving some small change. There are a lot of locations selling these and I am not going try and list them all but the AKO shop at Schipol sells them with €10 credit on (for €17.50 obviously) and some Den Haag central locations are included at the end of these notes.

Note that Rotterdam and Amsterdam service centers will sell you a day ticket and put it on a chipkaart, not use existing credit to purchase one. No doubt Den Haag will follow. You cannot put more than one day ticket on at a time so it cannot be used for more than one person.

The important thing is planning. Plan where you are going and what ticket you need well before you make your journey.

If anyone has any particular query re the chipkaart please email me at;

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These notes have been produced in good faith but are not comprehensive. Neither I nor Pinnacle Travel nor the Light Rail Transit Association accept any liability for any loss incurred through relying on these notes.

*M V Ballinger
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Appendix 1 Where to buy HTM tickets in advance.

Overview abbreviations tickets

Dal DH	Off-peak Return Hague
Dal plus DH	Off-peak Return Hague plus
DH Day	Day ticket Hague
DH Day plus	Day pass plus Hague
Night	Night Map
RandstadRail zone maps	RR Zone Map
Subscriptions	Abon

HTM Sales Hague – districts in The Hague – Center

Location

Type of ticket

obacco-MaMagazines, Vlamingstraat 6	DH Dal - Dal plus DH - DH Day - Day DH Plus - N
ral Station HTM Service Desk* Central Station	DH Dal - Dal plus DH - DH Day - Day DH Plus - N
HTM Service, Desk Station Hollands Spoor	DH Dal - Dal plus DH - DH Day - Day DH Plus - N
HTM Service, Wagenstraat 35	DH Dal - Dal plus DH - DH Day - Day DH Plus - N
ELKA Cigar Warehouse, Brouwersgracht 3	DH Dal - Dal plus DH
VVV The Hague, Hofweg 1	DH Dal - Dal plus DH - DH Day - Day Plus DH
MCH Westeinde Lijnbaan 32	DH Dal - Dal plus DH

* Note Central station is being rebuilt and it may be hard to find the temporary HTM service centre. Try the bus station next door.

Web Sites;

HTM	http://www.htm.net/
Dutch journey planner	http://9292.nl
The chipkaart page	http://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/
Den Haag public transport museum	http://www.hovm.nl/2/index2.php
Ranstadrail	http://www.randstadrail.nl