

# Prinsjesdag / Prince's Day / Budget Day

Tuesday September 17 10:00 - 14:00

**Prinsjesdag** is the traditional start of the parliamentary year for the First and Second Chamber in The Hague. On the third Tuesday in September, King Willem-Alexander delivers the Speech from the Throne in which the government announces its most important plans for the coming year. Before the reading of the Speech from the **Throne**, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima travel in the Glass Carriage, followed by other important members, with a carriage ride from [Noordeinde Palace](#) via the [Lange Voorhout](#) to the location where the Speech from the Throne will take place this year.

## Budget Day 2024 Program

- 12:45 pm - Glass Carriage rides from the Royal Stables to Noordeinde Palace
- 1:00 pm - Departure of the royal procession carriage tour from Noordeinde Palace to the Royal Theatre
- 1:15 pm - Speech from the Throne from the Royal Theatre
- 1:50 pm - Glass Carriage departs from the Royal Theatre towards Noordeinde Palace
- 2:00 pm - Balcony scene at Noordeinde Palace

## Route driving tour during Prince's Day

Due to the renovation of the [Binnenhof](#), an alternative route is being used. The usual route has been in use since 1925, when it was no longer possible to pass under the Stadhouderspoort at the front of the Binnenhof due to a raising of the street. The Glass Coach now travels via the Noordeinde onto the Kneuterdijk, over the shell path of the Lange Voorhout and the Korte Voorhout to the Royal Theatre. The United Assembly of the States General and the reading of the speech from the throne by the King take place here.

During the traditional parade, a salute is fired every minute by the 11th Mounted Artillery Division (Yellow Riders) battery on the Malieveld.



## Balcony scene

At around 13:50 the Royal Family will depart again in the Glass Carriage to [Noordeinde Palace](#). After King Willem-Alexander and the other members of the Royal Family have returned to Noordeinde Palace, the balcony scene follows at around 14:00, in which the royal family is cheered on by the people on the balcony. This balcony scene was introduced in the 1960s for safety reasons. Before that, if the weather permitted on Prince's Day, the family would transfer from the Glass Carriage to an open carriage that rode through The Hague with trotting horses after returning to the palace.





## History of Prince's Day

The word 'Prinsjesdag' was already used in the 17th and 18th century for the celebration of the birthdays of the Princes of Orange. Especially that of stadtholder Prince Willem V led to large popular festivities. This also happened for his son when he was welcomed by an elated population after his exile in 1813 and crowned king. People then started using the word 'Prinsjesdag' for every festive event of an Orange. Birthdays, weddings and therefore also for the opening of the States General.

## Glass Carriage

The **Glass Coach** is the pride of the Royal Stables, and for good reason. The Glass Coach is the oldest carriage of the Royal House and is only used on special occasions. For example, the carriage was seen at the wedding of Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard and the wedding of Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus.

King William I ordered the Glass Coach in 1821 from the Brussels carriage builder Pierre Simons, who delivered the coach in 1826. The Glass Coach that William I received combined practical and ceremonial functions in an excellent manner. Technically speaking, the coach belonged to the absolute top in carriage construction. The rich decorations conferred the right status on the royal user and the national and princely symbolism, which was applied in many and varied ways in and on the coach, could hardly escape the public's notice.

The strikingly large carriage has a simply shaped dark blue body that is finished with a wide gilded frame of laurel and oak leaves. The name of the carriage comes from the glass that protects the beautiful, but fragile, ornamental border that is applied under the windows on the body of the carriage. The interior is upholstered in purple and beige velvet and provided with

embroidered trimmings, the seat cushions are filled with a stuffing of horsehair. The canopy is made of embroidered beige and sky-blue silk.



### **Traffic measures during Budget Day**

During Prinsjesdag, some streets in the city centre of The Hague will be closed and garages will have limited access. It is recommended to come by bike or public transport. Some tram and bus lines will take a different route. Check the [HTM website](#) for more information.

The municipality will place fences at streets that will be closed for Prinsjesdag. The carriage route will be closed on both sides between 12:45 and 14:30. Pedestrians can cross the route at the flags until 11:30. From 11:30 to 14:30, the pedestrian crossings will be closed.



<https://www.koninklijkhuis.nl/onderwerpen/prinsjesdag>

On Prinsjesdag, the King delivers the Speech from the Throne in the United Assembly of the States General. In it, the government outlines its most important plans for the coming year. Prinsjesdag takes place annually on the third Tuesday in September.

The Minister of Finance also presents the House of Representatives with the Budget Memorandum and the National Budget. Budget Day marks the start of the new parliamentary year.

## **History**

Prinsjesdag was originally the name of the birthday of Stadtholder Prince Willem V (1748-1806) on March 8. In that time, the Patriotic era, Prinsjesdag was one of the most popular folk festivals in our country. Later, the name

Prinsjesdag was used for festivities around a member of the Royal House.

From the 1930s onwards, it became customary to call the annual opening day of the [States General](#) Prinsjesdag (Prince's Day). In the amendment of the Constitution in 1983, the term of office of the States General was changed from one year to four years. From that year onwards, the session of the First and Second Chambers was no longer officially opened on Prinsjesdag, but the beginning of the new parliamentary year was marked by the delivery of the Speech from the Throne.

Between 1815 and 1904, the Speech from the Throne was delivered in the meeting room of the House of Representatives. Since 1904, this has been done in the Knight's Hall at the Binnenhof in The Hague. As a result of the measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the Speech from the Throne was delivered in the Grote Kerk in The Hague in 2020 and 2021. Since 2022, due to the renovation of the Binnenhof, the Speech from the Throne has been delivered in the Koninklijke Schouwburg.

The Constitution states on which day Prince's Day falls. This was not always the third Tuesday in September. In the 19th century, the opening of the States General first fell on the first Monday in November and later on the third Monday in October.

In 1848, an annual budget was introduced. To give the House more time to discuss it, the opening of the States General was brought forward to the third Monday in September.

A constitutional amendment in 1887 moved Prince's Day from Monday to Tuesday. MPs who lived further away from

The Hague no longer had to travel on Sunday to be on time for the opening.

## **Budget Day program**

**September 17, 2024**

From 11.30 am

The members of the Senate and the House of Representatives leave the temporary parliament buildings for the Royal Theatre.

Arrival of members of the House of Representatives at the Royal Theatre.

From 12:00

Line-up of the military guard of honour at the Royal Theatre.

Arrival of First Chamber members at the Royal Theatre.

From 12.45 pm

Arrival of the committee of induction and expulsion, the vice-president of the Council of State, the president of the Senate and the president of the House of Representatives at the Royal Theatre.

1:00 p.m.

The President opens the Joint Session of the States General.

**1:00 p.m.**

Departure of the [Royal Procession](#) from Noordeinde Palace to the Royal Theatre.

1:15 p.m.

The King, Queen Máxima, the Princess of Orange, Princess Alexia, Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien arrive at the Royal Theatre. Here the King delivers the Speech from the Throne. In it, the government outlines the most important plans for the coming year.

Around 2:00 PM

Arrival of the Royal procession at Noordeinde Palace. The Royal party then appears on the balcony of Noordeinde Palace.

3:30 p.m.

The Minister of Finance presents the briefcase containing the Budget Memorandum and National Budget to the House of Representatives.

## **Prince's Day 2024**

On September 17, 2024, it is Prinsjesdag. The King will deliver the Speech from the Throne during a Joint Session of the States General. The Speech from the Throne contains the government's most important plans for the coming year. After that, the Minister of Finance will present the Budget Memorandum and the 2024 National Budget in the plenary hall of the House of Representatives.

The King delivers the Speech from the Throne in the Royal Theatre in The Hague. Queen Máxima, the Princess of Orange, Princess Alexia, Prince Constantijn and Princess Laurentien are present. They arrive with the [Royal procession](#) from Noordeinde Palace. After the Speech from the Throne, the Royal party departs for Noordeinde Palace. This is where the balcony scene traditionally takes place.



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