

## Bike tips for foreigners in the Netherlands

Welcome to the Netherlands! The bike is one of the main modes of transport in this country. You have chosen to rent a bicycle for during the Strangeness in Quark Matter 2017 Conference. To help make sure you have the best cycling experience, we have the following tips for you:

- **Look around** - One of the main mistakes foreigners make is that they don't look around enough while cycling. Just like in a car, you should check if there are people overtaking you before moving to the left. When you cross a road you should look several times to both sides, even if you have a green light. If you take a turn you should both look and indicate your direction with a fully stretched arm in that direction a few seconds before you make the turn.
- **Drive on the right side** - When you are cycling you should stay on the right side of the road. This way you leave space for other cyclist to overtake you. When you don't have enough room to overtake another cyclist, than you can use your bicycle bell. Bicycle roads can be extremely busy (for example: ~15.000 cyclists use one of the main roads of the university each day) and on some roads you share the road with cars and buses, so not cycling properly can be very dangerous.
- **Park properly** - Make sure to park your bike in a spot destined for a bike and lock it. A lot of bikes are stolen in the Netherlands. Bikes that are in a wrong spot are also removed by the government. There are paid guarded bicycle storages in the city centre (Dutch: Fietsenstalling), which you can use if you want to be sure your bike is parked safely. There are also a lot of other places where you can park your bike, but make sure never to block the road with your parked bike.
- **Other cyclists** - There are a lot of other cyclists that you should be mindful of. Sadly not everyone of these drives safely, and a lot of people drive through red lights. Don't be tempted to do the same. If you cross a red light you are taking a dangerous risk and you can receive a fine from the police. Cyclists and other drivers that come from the right have right of way, so you should let them pass first unless the road signs indicate otherwise.
- **Lights** - If it is dark, you should have your bicycle lights turned on. If you don't, you risk colliding with other people and a fine from the police.

