

## **The Prince of Orange**

Prince Willem-Alexander, as the eldest child of Queen Beatrix, is first in line of succession to the throne. Since his mother's investiture on 30 April 1980, he has borne the title Prince of Orange, which has been held by the heir to the throne since 1815. The Prince is married to Princess Máxima. They have three daughters, Princess Catharina-Amalia, Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane.

### **Youth**

Willem-Alexander Claus George Ferdinand, Prince of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange-Nassau and Jonkheer van Amsberg, was born in the University Hospital, Utrecht, on 27 April 1967, the first child of Princess Beatrix and Prince Claus. He spent his early childhood at Drakensteyn Castle in Lage Vuursche. Prince Willem-Alexander has two brothers: Prince Friso (born in 1968) and Prince Constantijn (born in 1969). In 1981, the royal family moved from Drakensteyn Castle to Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague.

### **Education**

Prince Willem-Alexander received his primary education at the Nieuwe Baarnse School in Baarn and started his secondary education at the Baarns Lyceum. He continued his secondary education at the Eerste Vrijzinnig Christelijk Lyceum in The Hague, and completed it at Atlantic College in Llantwit Major, Wales, where he gained an International Baccalaureate in 1985.

After completing his military service, the Prince enrolled as a history student in the Arts Faculty of Leiden University in 1987. This gave the Prince a wide-ranging knowledge of a broad spectrum of subjects, including general and Dutch history, economic history, political science and constitutional law, EC law, international law, human rights and economics.

The Prince concluded his studies with a dissertation on the Dutch response to France's decision under President de Gaulle to leave NATO's integrated command structure. He was awarded a degree in history in 1993.

### **Marriage and family**

On 30 March 2001, Prince Willem-Alexander became engaged to Miss Máxima Zorreguieta. On 3 July 2001, the two houses of parliament passed a bill submitted by the government consenting to the marriage.

The civil marriage ceremony was conducted by the Mayor of Amsterdam, Job Cohen, in the Beurs van Berlage on 2 February 2002. The Reverend Carel ter Linden officiated at the church ceremony, which took place in the Nieuwe Kerk, also in Amsterdam.

In spring 2003, Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima moved to Eikenhorst on the De Horsten estate in Wassenaar. Their first child, Princess Catharina-Amalia, was born on 7 December 2003. Their second child, Princess Alexia, was born on 26 June 2005 and their third child, Princess Ariane, on 10 April 2007. All were born at Bronovo Hospital in The Hague.

### **Military career**

The Prince performed his military service in the Royal Netherlands Navy. He is aide-de-camp extraordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.

### ***Navy***

The Prince performed his military service in the Royal Netherlands Navy from August 1985 to January 1987. He spent several months training at the Royal Naval Institute in Den Helder, after which he served on board the frigates HMS Tromp and HMS Abraham Crijnsen. In 1988, he received refresher training, serving as a duty officer on board the frigate HMS Van Kinsbergen. The Prince holds the rank of Commodore in the Royal Netherlands Navy reserve.

### ***Air force and army***

After graduating in 1993, the Prince gained his Military Pilot's Licence with 334 Transport Squadron of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. In 1994, the Prince spent several months at the Netherlands Defence College, studying aspects of the work of the Royal Netherlands Army and Air Force. The Prince holds the ranks of Commodore in the Royal Netherlands Air Force reserve and Brigadier General in the Royal Netherlands Army reserve.

### ***Working visits***

The Prince has paid a number of working visits to the armed forces, for example to the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and the Royal Military and Border Police. In 1995 and 1996, he visited the troops stationed in Bosnia, the Dutch-German Army Corps and NATO manoeuvres in Norway. In 2001, the Prince visited the Dutch units stationed in Ethiopia and Eritrea as part of UNMEE (United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea). In 2004, 2007 and 2009 he visited the Dutch units in Afghanistan.

### ***Civilian life***

After his extensive introductory programme with the armed services, Prince Willem-Alexander spent some time studying Dutch society, with a focus on the legal system. He went on to study government and the constitutional system, and visited ministries and the High Councils of State to learn how central government and other authorities function. He also visited the European institutions. He then completed an introductory programme with the Dutch business community.

### ***Official duties***

The Prince represents the Royal House on official occasions of all kinds. He regularly represents the Queen at international events or accompanies her on state visits. Prince Willem-Alexander frequently pays working visits in the Netherlands, to familiarise himself with social issues. He also visits the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

The Prince occupies many public posts. He and Princess Máxima are patrons of the Orange Fund, which was set up to promote social welfare and social cohesion in the Netherlands.

### ***Water management and spatial planning***

Since 1997, the Prince has been closely involved in the field of water management, in both the Netherlands and elsewhere. He is chair of the Water Advisory Committee in the Netherlands. As Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation he makes a personal contribution to solving water-related problems all over the world. Since 2004, the Prince has also become involved in spatial

planning, a logical extension of his work in the field of integrated water management in the Netherlands.

### **Posts**

- 1998: Patron of the Global Water Partnership, which was established by the World Bank, the United Nations and the Swedish Ministry of Development Cooperation with the aim of achieving integrated water management by turning international environmental agreements into concrete programmes and projects.
- 1999-2000: Member of the committee that coordinated the formulation of the World Water Vision.
- 2000: Chair of the Second World Water Forum in The Hague.
- 2002: Member of the Panel of Eminent Persons convened at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to issue recommendations for the UN conference on sustainable development in Johannesburg. The Prince served on the Panel as an expert on water management.
- 2000-2004: Chair of the Integrated Water Management Commission.
- 2004-present: Chair of the Water Advisory Committee, which replaced the Integrated Water Management Commission.
- 2006-present: Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. This Board was set up in 2004 by Kofi Annan to advise him on practical measures that could be taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation.

### **Water management in the Netherlands**

Since 2004, the Prince has been chair of the Water Advisory Committee. This independent body advises the Minister for Transport, Public Works and Water Management on the feasibility of water policy and its administrative, financial and social impact, doing so either in response to a specific request or of its own volition. The Committee has published reports on subjects such as safety in the Netherlands in the event of flooding, insuring against the consequences of flooding, the new Water Act and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

As Chair of the Water Advisory Committee, the Prince regularly pays working visits to projects all over the Netherlands, and takes parts in workshops and symposiums.

### **Water management internationally**

In December 2006, the Secretary-General of the United Nations invited the Prince to chair the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, an independent body which was set up in March 2004. The Board's task is not only to advise the Secretary-General but also to promote worldwide action in the field of water and sanitation. The Prince believes that solving the problems relating to access to water and sanitation will play a central role in eradicating poverty and bringing about sustainable development. The UN's goal is to halve, by 2015, the number of people who have no sustainable access to safe drinking water or sanitation. One of the main instruments for achieving this goal is integrated water management.

The Prince is deeply committed to these aims. He has therefore visited many companies and organisations that are active in the water sector, both to keep abreast of the latest developments, and, where possible, to provide a contribution himself. He has also visited a number of countries to gain first-hand knowledge of water-related problems and solutions, and to talk to the main stakeholders and policymakers.

As chair of the Second World Water Forum, patron of the Global Water Partnership and chair of the UN Advisory Board, the Prince repeatedly calls on all parties involved to do their part. He believes that if people are more aware of the importance of water, they will turn their words into deeds.

### **Spatial Planning Programme**

Water is not of course an isolated issue. Other interests also play a part in integrated area development – housing, work, transport, nature and recreation. In a small country like the Netherlands, where space is at a premium, it is essential to find out how these interests influence and strengthen each other. The Prince finds it extremely important to take all interests into careful consideration.

He therefore became involved in the Spatial Planning Programme in 2004. This programme was set up by the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment around three important themes: Integrated Area Development, Space and Climate, and European Space. They have formed the basis of a series of working visits paid by the Prince in the past few years.

### **Sport**

The Prince has a passion for sport. It is more than a personal interest, as he is involved with sport at a high level, both in the Netherlands and abroad.

From 1995 until 1998, the Prince was patron of the Netherlands Olympic Committee\* Dutch Sports Federation. In that capacity he attended the Winter Games in Lillehammer in 1994, the Summer Games in Atlanta in 1996 and the Winter Games in Nagano in 1998.

### **IOC**

The Prince has been a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since February 1998. He has also been a member of several IOC Commissions:

- 1999-2003: the Olympic Solidarity Commission (1999-2003)
- 2000: the Nominations Commission
- 2002: the IOC 2000 Reform Follow-up Commission
- 2003: the Evaluation Commission for the XXI Olympic Winter Games in 2010
- 2003-2010: Coordination Commission for Vancouver 2010
- 2007-2010: Coordination Commission for Sochi 2014
- as of 2010: Marketing Commission

As member of the IOC, the Prince of Orange attends all Olympic Games. He is an observer for a number of sports. In 2002, the Prince also attended the Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City.

In his leisure time, the Prince frequently attends major fixtures when the Dutch national teams are taking part. The Prince himself is keen on tennis, running, skiing, sailing, golf, rock climbing, riding, skating and diving. In 1986, he completed the Elfstedentocht, the Frisian skating marathon, and in 1992 he ran the New York Marathon.

### **Flying**

Flying is another of the Prince's great interests. In 1985, he obtained his Private Pilot's Licence (Second Class), followed by his Commercial Pilot's Licence (with an

Instrument Rating) in 1987. In the summer holidays of 1989, the Prince flew as a volunteer for the medical aid organisation African Medical Research and Education Foundation (AMREF) in Kenya and in 1991 he spent a month flying for the Kenya Wildlife Service. In 1989, the Prince obtained a supplementary licence to fly multi-engine jet aircraft. In order to keep in practice, the Prince flies the government PH-KBX aeroplane, and occasionally flies KLM City Hopper's Fokker 70 and Fokker 100. He earned his Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATPL) in 2001.

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