

EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM







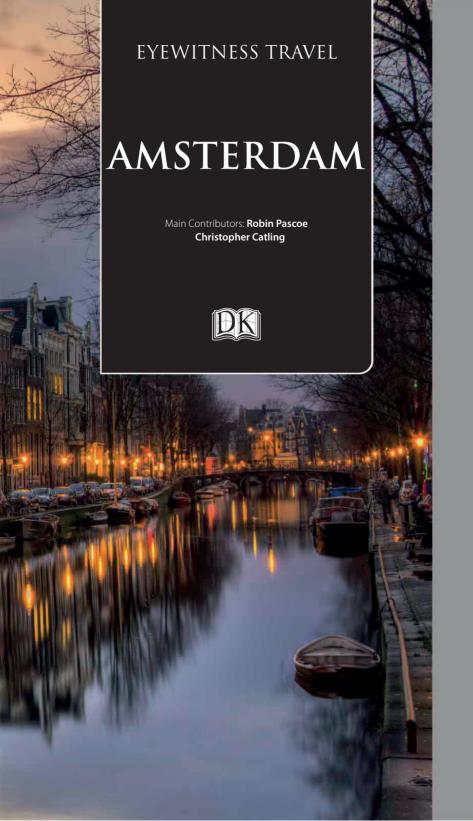


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AMSTERDAM









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Front cover main image: Bunches of tulips at a flower market

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Dutch Renaissance canal house and details of cornices and gables

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

EASTERN CANAL RING

This guide helps you get the most from your stay in Amsterdam. It provides expert recommendations as well as detailed practical information. *Introducing Amsterdam* maps the city and sets it in its historical and cultural context. *Amsterdam Area by Area* describes the important sights, with maps. pictures and illustrations.

Further Afield looks at sights outside the city centre and Beyond Amsterdam explores other places near Amsterdam. Suggestions on food, drink, where to stay and what to do are made in Travellers' Needs, and Survival Guide has tips on everything from travel to Dutch telephones.

Amsterdam Area by Area

The centre of the city has been divided into seven sightseeing areas. Each area has its own chapter, which opens with a list of the sights described. All the sights are numbered and plotted on an Area Map. The detailed information for each sight is presented in numerical order, making it easy to locate within the chapter.

Sights at a Glance lists the / chapter's sights by category: Churches, Museums and Galleries, Historic Buildings, Streets and Canals.

view of the heart of each sightseeing area.

A suggested route for a walk

covers the more interesting streets in the area.

Street-by-Street Map
This gives a bird's-eve



Each area of central Amsterdam has colour-coded thumb tabs

A locator map shows where you are in relation to other areas of the city centre

Area Map For easy reference, the sights are numbered and located on a map. The sights are also shown on the Amsterdam Street Finder on pages 280–87.

The state of the s

Stars indicate the sights that no visitor should miss.

3 Detailed information on each sight All the sights in

Amsterdam are described individually. Addresses and practical information are provided. The key to the symbols used in the information block is shown on the back flap.



Introduction to Beyond Amsterdam Beyond Amsterdam has its own introduction, which provides an overview of the history and character of the region around Amsterdam and outlines what the region has to offer the visitor today. The area covered by this section is highlighted on the map of the Netherlands shown on page 165. It covers important cities, such as Den Haag, Haarlem and Rotterdam, as well as attractive towns and places of interest in the Dutch countryside.

> **5** Regional Map This gives an illustrated overview of the whole region. All the sights covered in this section are numbered and the network of major roads is marked. There are also useful tips on getting around the region by bus and train.

Detailed information on each **6** sight All the important cities, towns and other places to visit are described individually. They are listed in order, following the numbering given on the Regional Map. Within each town or city, there is detailed information on important buildings and other sights.

Stars indicate the best features and works of art.







The Visitors' Checklist provides a summary of the practical information you will need to plan your visit.

The top sights These are given two or more full pages. Historic buildings are dissected to reveal their interiors; museums and galleries have colour-coded floorplans to help you locate the most interesting exhibits.

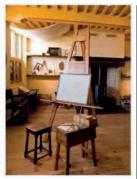




GREAT DAYS IN **AMSTERDAM**

Despite its compact size. Amsterdam has many different aspects and offers a range of attractions to suit all tastes and budgets. The city is home to some of the world's finest art galleries; there are bustling markets for those in search of street life; and for kids, there is a

great choice of things to see and do. Over the following pages, you'll find itineraries for some of the best attractions Amsterdam has to offer, arranged first by theme and then by length of stay. Price guides include transport. meals and admission charges.



Rembrandt's studio in the Rembrandthuis

Two Great Artists

Two adults allow at least €100

- At home with Rembrandt
- Lunch by the Amstel river
- Van Gogh's greatest work

Morning

Of all the great painters that Amsterdam claims as its own two stand head and shoulders above the rest: Rembrandt van Riin and Vincent Van Gogh. Rembrandt's home from 1639 to 1658 is now the Museum Het Rembrandthuis (see pp64-5) and the house has been restored to look as it might have when he lived here at the height of his wealth and fame. The atmosphere is such that one can clearly imagine the great artist and his family inhabiting these rooms. The museum houses an exhibition of Rembrandt's etchings and sketches, along with paintings by his contemporaries, notably his teacher Pieter Lastman. Equally interesting is the

recreation of the artist's studio. complete with chalks charcoal easels and brushes, not forgetting his wonderful "cabinet of curiosities" - a room cluttered with statues, stuffed hirds and small heasts, arms and armour all of which Rembrandt would have used as props in his portraits and still-lives. A great spot for lunch after the Rembrandthuis is Amstelhoeck. the café next to the Muziektheater (see p244), just a minute's walk away. In summer its sunny terrace has a fine view of the Amstel, while in winter

there is a cosy indoor restaurant.

Afternoon

The Van Gogh Museum (see pp136-7) houses the world's largest collection of the Dutch painter's work, with almost 800 paintings and drawings along with Van Gogh's own collection of glorious Japanese prints and an array of paintings by his contemporaries, including Paul Gauguin and Claude Monet. It is a dazzling collection, and vou should allow 2-3 hours to take it in at leisure.

Hidden Histories

Two adults allow at least €100

- Explore life in hiding
- A vanished community
- Living history
- Secret churches

Morning

The Anne Frank House (see pp92-3) receives up to 1.000 visitors a day, so try to get there early. In a tiny secret apartment above Otto Frank's warehouse. the Jewish Frank and van Pels families hid from the Nazis from 1942 until 1944 when they were betrayed and deported to concentration camps. The 13-vear-old Anne Frank began recording life in hiding in her diary in July 1942 and it was published in 1947, two years after her death in Bergen-Belsen. There is a touching statue of Anne outside the Westerkerk (see p92). Completed in 1631, the

Westerkerk's tower is the tallest in the city at 85 m (278 ft) and



View of Prinsengracht from the tower of the Westerkerk

the climb to the top offers a breathtaking view. The Waterlooplein area was the heart of a lewish community who were drawn to the city in the 17th century because of its tolerance The londs Historisch Museum (see nn66-7) is housed in four former synagogues built in the 17th and 18th centuries and contains a collection of religious artifacts as well as documents relating to the Holocaust. The museum also has a great kosher café which serves serving bagels, sandwiches and pastries.

Afternoon

A short walk away, the huge **Portuguese Synagogue** (see p68), with its candle-lit interiors, is still in use by the city's Sephardic Jews. Protestant Amsterdam in the 17th century, however, was less tolerant of Catholic worship. The **Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder** (see pp86–7) is a perfectly restored "clandestine" church which was built at this time.

A Family Day

Family of four allow at least €160

- Messing about in boats
- Ice cream, jugglers and fire-eaters

Morning

Parental pedal-power provides the impetus for the first part of this day out. Amsterdam's canal bikes (see p273) are fourseater pedal boats that move at a gentle pace, passing old canalside houses, houseboats and nesting waterfowl. They can be rented in winter too but for families this is really a summer activity. A good option is to pick up your vessel at the Westerkerk mooring and paddle around the picturesque Keizersgracht, before dropping it off at Leidsestraat. This excursion should take no more than an hour. Then stroll down to the bustling Leidseplein (see p110) with its many outdoor



Hands-on exhibits at the Nemo Science Center Amsterdam

cafés and street entertainers for a well-earned coffee and ice cream.

Afternoon

Take a tram to the **Nemo Science Center Amsterdam**

(see p152). This spectacular building looks like a giant, futuristic ship and is full of hands-on, state-of-the-art interactive exhibits for children of all ages. Allow at least a couple of hours to explore the possibilities of the themed technology, energy, science and humanity zones before heading for the centre's pleasant waterside terrace café-restaurant

Colourful Markets

Two adults allow at least €50

- Antiques and collectables
- Ethnic eating
- Vibrant street life
- Legendary nightlife

Morning

You can buy just about anything in Amsterdam's markets. The **Waterlooplein** (see p65) open-air market still has the definite feel of the hippie era, with stalls selling tie-dyed clothing, exotic statuettes, vintage leather coats, army-surplus equipment and ceramics. Dive further into this open-air labyrinth to find 19th-and 20th-century collectables, from classic rock albums to psychedelic posters, pipes and cigarette holders, china,

glassware, and more. A short walk and tram ride from Waterlooplein, the **Albert Cuypmarkt** (see p124) is the heart and soul of de Pijp, the most cosmopolitan part of Amsterdam. It is an ideal place for lunch – there are many ethnic restaurants on and around Albert Cuypstraat, including Moroccan, Surinamese and Turkish.

Afternoon

There are more than 100 shops and 300 street-stalls along Albert Cuypstraat, selling everything from exotic fruit and spices to Dutch cheese, chocolates, sausage and seafood, flowers, clothes and household goods. This is authentic Amsterdam street life at its best. You could easily spend an afternoon here, before taking a 10-minute stroll back to the **Leidseplein** (see p110) and a night out at one of its too night-time venues.



Eclectic stalls lining the length of the Albert Cuypmarkt

2 Davs

Two adults allow at least €350

- Savour Amsterdam's distinguished history at the Koninkliik Paleis
- Stroll along the atmospheric canals of the delightful Grachtengordel
- Be moved by the Anne Frank House

Day 1

Morning Start the day in the Dam (see pp74-5), a bustling. busy square at the heart of the city. Dodaing the trams. proceed to the Nieuwe Kerk (see nn78-9), one of Amsterdam's most impressive Gothic buildings, Afterwards, pop next door to explore the Koninkliik Paleis (Roval Palace) (see p76), built in the 17th century as the Stadhuis (Town Hall) when the city was at its richest. Inside, the highlight is a magnificent marble chamber. the Citizens' Hall

Afternoon Take a stroll along the Singel (see pp100-2), the first of the four canals that make up the Grachtengordel, or "girdle of canals". This is Amsterdam at its most beguiling, its olive-green canals spanned by hump-backed bridges. Look out for the Museum van Loon (see pp124), an intriguing old canal house, and the Westerkerk (see pp92), with its mighty spire. Next, head for the Anne Frank House (see pp92-3), where the teenage Jewish diarist Anne Frank listened to the church bells from her hiding place.

Day 2

Morning Spend a couple of hours at the Rijksmuseum (see pp132-5), Amsterdam's principal art museum, admiring its fabulous collection of Dutch paintings, especially the Rembrandts, Afterwards, target the Van Gogh Museum (see pp136-7), devoted to the greatest of all Dutch painters, and which contains a remarkable collection of his work. | Tree-lined path in Vondelpark

Afternoon After some lunch visit the city's third major museum the Stedelijk (see pp138-9), a recently revamped gallery devoted to modern and contemporary art. Or. if museum fatique is setting in venture out from the tourist zone to explore the maze-like streets of the Jordaan (see pp89-95) or rest your legs on a canal boat trip (see n272)

3 Davs

Two adults allow at least €450

- Explore the city's waterways on a boat trip
- Admire the superb artistry of Van Gogh at the Van Goah Museum
- Shop till you drop in the bijou shops and stores of the Nine Streets

Day 1

Morning Begin in the charming Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder (see nn86-7) where Catholics once held mass away from the prying eyes of the Protestants, and then proceed to the city's most atmospheric church, Oude Kerk (see pp70-71). Clearing the Red Light District, it's a pleasant stroll to the **Begijnhof** (see p77), a courtyard complex dating back hundreds of years, and the Spui, with its bevy of bookshops.

Afternoon People-watch at the city's main square, the Dam (see pp74-5), and pop into two



of Amsterdam's proudest buildings, the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace) (see n76) which started out as the Town Hall (Stadhuis), and the graceful Nieuwe Kerk (see nn 78-9) Watch the sun set while relaxing on a canal boat trip (see p272).

Day 2

Morning Aim for the Stedelijk Museum (see nn138-9) which hoasts a wonderful collection of modern and contemporary art. You can easily spend a whole morning here, but take a break by wandering the footpaths of the green and leafy Vondelpark (see pp130-31), home to a rowdy bunch of parakeets.

Afternoon Relish the superb artistic legacy of Van Gogh at the Van Gogh Museum (see pp136-7), which delves into the troubled life and times of this brilliant artist. Many of Van Gogh's key paintings are displayed here. Afterwards, be sure to pop into the Riiksmuseum (see pp132-5), the biggest museum in Amsterdam, which has an impressive collection of paintings from the city's Golden Age.

Dav 3 Morning

Stroll the lynchpin of the Grachtengordel (see p89), the Golden Bend (Gouden Bocht: see p114), where opulent old mansions frame the Herengracht canal. Allow an hour to sample the architectural flavour of the area before visiting two handsomely restored canal houses. the Museum Willet-Holthuvsen (see pp122-3) and the Museum van Loon (see p124). You should also drop by the Bijbels Museum (see pp114-15), which wins the quirkiness award for its assorted models of Jerusalem

Afternoon Don't miss the Anne Frank House (see pp92-3). an evocative memorial to suffering and persecution in the house where Anne and a small group of Jews hid from the Germans in World War II. It is extremely popular - so arrive early. Then proceed to the Westerkerk (see pp92), the city's

most impressive church, and stroll on to the chic shops and stores of the **Nine Streets** (www.theninestreets.com) shopping area.

5 Davs

Two adults allow at least €600

- Enjoy fine Dutch paintings at the Riiksmuseum
- Sample the life of a rich Amsterdam merchant at the Van Loon Museum
- Wander the narrow streets of Marken beside the waters of the Markermeer

Day 1

Morning Walk along the busy Damrak, once a canal crowded with merchant ships sailing into the heart of the city. The Damrak ends at the Dam square, and it's here you feel the beat of the city. Investigate two fascinating buildings beside the Dam, the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace) (see p76) and Nieuwe Kerk (see p778–9), where the country's most famous admiral, de Ruyter, lies within the opulent of tombs.

Afternoon Get the full flavour of 17th-century Amsterdam at the Rembrandthuis (see pp64–5), where Rembrandt lived during the happiest years of his life, before bankruptcy overwhelmed him. Also in this corner of the city, drop by Gassan Diamonds (see p243), one of the city's few remaining diamond factories complete with shop and showroom.

Day 2

Morning Begin the day with a visit to the Anne Frank House (see pp92–3), the secret refuge of Anne Frank and several other Jews in World War II; arrive early to avoid the crowds. Afterwards, make the short walk along the canal to the Westerkerk (see p92), where Rembrandt was buried. The church is a key sight in the Grachtengordel (see p89), the canals encircling much of



One of the ornate bedrooms at Museum van Loon

the city. Stop by the eccentric **Bijbels Museum** (see pp114–15) to see its antique bibles.

Afternoon Make a beeline for Herengracht's Golden Bend (see p114), where a string of handsome merchants' houses comprise the prettiest part of the Grachtengordel. Be sure to visit two of them – the Museum Willet-Holthuysen (see pp122–3) and the Museum van Loon (see p124). Allow half an hour for each, followed by some perusing of the fancy shops of the so-called Nine Streets (www.theninestreets.com).

Day 3

Morning If the weather is good, begin the day with an easy stroll round the leafy Vondelpark (see pp130–31); if it's raining, see the city on an enclosed canal boat trip (see p272). Afterwards, make your way to the outstanding Van Gogh Museum (see pp136–7), devoted to the eponymous painter, who inspired many of the modern artists whose works are displayed at the adjacent Stedeliik Museum (see pp138–9).

Afternoon Explore the oldest part of Amsterdam, beginning with the Spui (see p74), one of the most vibrant squares in the city. Then proceed to the quiet charms of the convent-like Begijnhof (see p77) and the fascinating Oude Kerk (see pp70–71), in the Red Light District. Wander along the canal from here and you will soon reach Amsterdam's quaintest museum, the historic Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder

(see pp86–7), which is itself not far from bustling **Centraal Station** (see p81).

Day 4

Morning Be sure to visit Amsterdam's best open-air market, the Albert Cuypmarkt (see pp 124). To get from one end of the market to the other takes about 20 minutes, but allow longer if you are bargain hunting. Drop in at the Heineken Experience (see p124) to learn the legends and sample a drop or two of the namesake brew of the country's largest beer producer.

Afternoon If imbibing lager leaves you in a reflective mood, you can ponder the paintings of the **Rijksmuseum** (see pp.132–5), the city's premier and unmissable art gallery. Alternatively, elude the tourist crowds by delving into the cosy **Jordaan** and **Western Islands** areas (see pp89–95).

Day 5

Escape the city by bike: catch a ferry across the River IJ from Centraal Station (see p81) and cycle across the pancake-flat landscape until you reach the coast. Then follow the cycle trail along the sea dyke as far as the inordinately pretty village of Marken (see p174), about 25km from Amsterdam. Allow time for a fishy lunch at one of the pretty cafés lining the waterfront. Alternatively, you can catch the bus straight to Marken from outside Centraal Station - saving your legs and allowing an extended lunch break.

Putting Amsterdam on the Map Although the Netherlands' seat of government is at Den Haag. Amsterdam is the nominal capital. It is the country's largest city. with a population of almost 790,000, and the most visited. receiving over 9.5 million foreign visitors a year. It stands on precariously low-lying ground at the confluence of the Amstel and U rivers near the Usselmeer and, like much of the Netherlands, would flood frequently but for land reclamation and sea defences. This position places Amsterdam at the heart of the Randstad, a term used to describe the crescent-shaped conurbation covering much of the provinces of Noord Holland. Zuid Holland and Utrecht, and encompassing the cities of Utrecht, Rotterdam, Den Haag, Leiden and Haarlem, Den Helder Western Europe NORWAY Enkhuizen DENMARK Hoorn Alkmaar Newcastle Markermee See inset map below Amsterdam UNITED KINGDOM NETHERLAND Leylstad GERMANY BELGIUM AMSTERDAM RANCE Schiphol Atlantic Ocean ITALY Leider Amersfoort SPAIN Utrecht Den Haag Gouda Rotterdam Hoek van Rotterdam Holland Barendrecht Dordrecht Hull Harwich 's Hertogenbosch Zierikzee RD BRARANT Breda Tilburg Hull ZEELAND Middelburg Bergen Eindhoven op Zoom Zeebrugge Turnhout Ramsgate Antwerpen Albert Kanaal Oostende Antwerpen Brugge Nieuwpoort Mecheler Demer Gent M Hasselt Kortrijk Leuven Sint-Bruxelles Truiden o leper c Oudenaarde For map symbols see back flap



Central Amsterdam

This guide divides central Amsterdam into seven distinct areas, each of which has its own chapter. Most city sights are contained in these areas. The Oude 7iide and Nieuwe Ziide make up the two halves of medieval Amsterdam. while the Museum Quarter was developed in the 19th century and has the three most important national museums. In between lies the Canal Ring, which retains many fine buildings from Amsterdam's Golden Age. while the Plantage (see pp140-49), once an area of green space outside the city, is today best known for the zoological and botanical gardens.



Houses along the Singel

The Singel was the first concentric canal to be cut in Amsterdam. It forms the border between the medieval centre and the newer Western and Central Canal Rings (see pp88-115).



Vondelpark

VONDELPARK

This attractive park in the Museum Quarter (see pp126-39) is a good place to relax after a visit to one of Amsterdam's museums.

Museum MUSEUM

0 metres	500
0 yards	500

YAARIEMMER HOUT

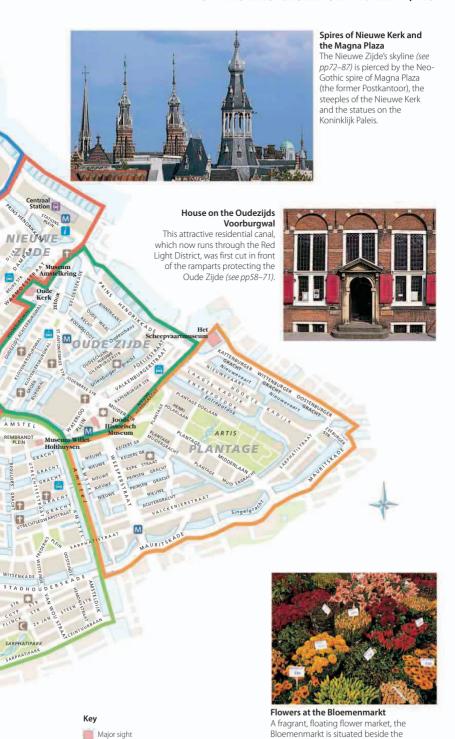
Kerk

Amsterdam Museum

RING

NTRAL

RING



Munttoren on the Singel in the Eastern Canal Ring (see pp116–25).



THE HISTORY OF AMSTERDAM

A msterdam, the greatest planned city of northern Europe, is today one in which beauty and serenity co-exist happily with a slightly seamy underside. Both parts of this split personality continue to draw visitors Most of the racier aspects of Amsterdam spring directly from the city's long tradition of religious and political tolerance. The notion of individual freedom of conscience was fought for, long and hard, during the struggles against Spanish domination in the 16th century. This belief stands firm today, with the caveat that no-one should be harmed by the actions of others - a factor that sparked off the riots involving squatters in the 1970s

The city was founded as a small fishing village in an improbable position on marsh at the mouth of the Amstel river. The waters around the village were controlled by a system of dykes and polders, and the young township expanded prodigiously to become the chief trading city of northern Europe,

and ultimately, in the 17th century, the centre of a massive empire stretching across the world. The construction of the canals and gabled houses in the 16th and 17th centuries coincided with a period of fine domestic architecture. The result is a city centre of unusually consistent visual beauty. By the 18th century, Amsterdam was a major financial centre, but internal unrest and restrictions imposed under Napoleonic rule led to a decline in her fortunes.

The city quietly slipped into a period of obscurity, and industrialization came late. In the 20th century, however, the city entered the mainstream again. Now, well into the new millennium, ambitious architectural projects have given a new lease of life to former derelict areas, such as the Eastern Docklands and westwards along the banks of the IJ; Zuidas, the area south of the ring road also known as the "Financial Mile", is now a major business hub complemented by topnotch cultural facilities.



Plan of Amsterdam (c. 1725) showing the Grachtengordel and Plantage (see pp 140–49)

The Origins of Amsterdam

Amsterdam emerged from the mists of the Low Countries in about 1200, on a watery site at the mouth of the Amstel river. It was a settlement of fisherfolk before turning to trade. The first permanent dwellings were built on terps, man-made mounds high enough to provide protection from flood water. As the settlement grew, it was fashioned by dynastic and religious combat, with feudal struggles between the Lords van Amstel and the counts of Holland, who had the backing of the all-powerful bishops of Utrecht (see p204). This rivalry continued into the next century.

Extent of the City 1100 Today

Farming on polders outside the village walls



Cooking Pot

Sturdy earthenware pots were used for cooking communal meals over an open fire in the kitchen area of 13th-century houses.

Wooden defence walls



Lord Giisbrecht

The 19th-century etchine shows Gijsbrecht van Amstel IV being marched into Utrecht as a prisoner by Guy of Hainaut, brother of the Count of Holland in 179

The Village of Amsterdam in 1300

This medieval artist's impression shows the first tiny settlement on polders along the Damrak. The village was protected by wooden walls, and it is thought that the castle of the Van Amstels may have been located in the area around today's Dam square (see pp74-5).

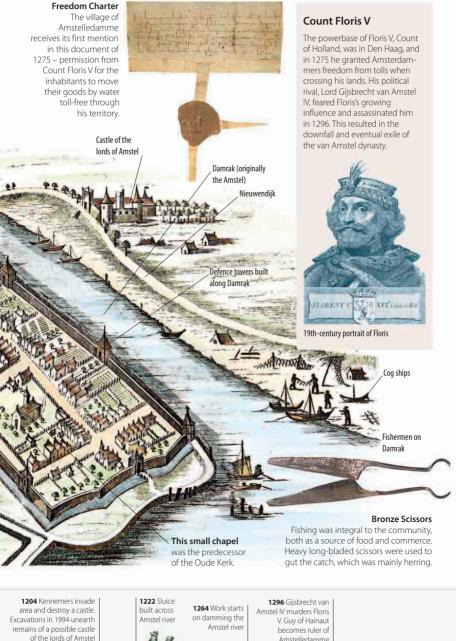
Livestock grazed on reclaimed land called polder.



himself Count of Holland

Small wooden cog ship used for fishing

Primitive boat dating c.1125 Fishermen from c. 6000 BC build huts at mouth of 1015 Local feudal leader renels the Amstel river attack by German tribes and declares



creates Zuiderzee Floris V presents trade privilege to village of Amstelledamme

1170 Major flood

1200

Amstelledamme

1306 Bishop of 1275 Floris V, Count Utrecht gives of Holland, grants Amsterdam further Amstelledamme trading rights freedom from tolls

Medieval Amsterdam

The little town at the mouth of the Amstel fortified itself against both its enemies and the surrounding water. Amsterdam grew rich guickly after the discovery of a method of curing herring in 1385, which preserved the fish longer. enabling it to be exported. The town became a port for handling beer from Hamburg. Elaborate waterside houses with warehouses attached were used to service the trade. The Low Countries were under the rule of the Dukes of Burgundy, and control passed by marriage to the Austrian Habsburgs.



1300 Today



Miracle of Amsterdam This tapestry cushion

depicts a miraculous event. A dying man was given the Sacrament which he regurgitated. Thrown on the fire, the Host would not burn

Canalside House

Farly canal houses were simple structures, built of wood with a thatched roof. From a singlestorev desian with the front and back on different levels. the layouts grew more complex. At the front. side rooms became senarated off from the main room, and the back house was similarly divided up. The family slept on the first floor and goods were stored under the roof



had simple spout gables (see pp98-9).





Flour, beer and other foodstuffs were stored under the sloping roof.

Philip of Burgundy and Isabella of Portugal

Philip was the ruler of the Low Countries after 1419. He married Isabella of Portugal in 1430.

1350



1385 Willem

1304 Lord Giisbrecht van Amstel exiled

Early 1300s Work starts on Oude Kerk (see pp70-71)



c.1380 Work begins on

Beukelszoon discovers method Nieuwe Kerk (see pp78-9) of curing herring

1300

1301 Guy of Hainaut made Bishop of Utrecht

> 1323 Count of Holland designates Amsterdam a toll port for beer

1345 Miracle of Amsterdam

1350 Amsterdam becomes a beer and grain entrepôt

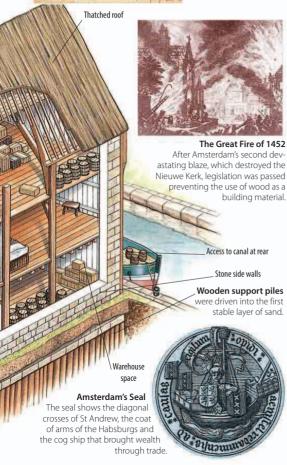
Stained-glass window in the Nieuwe Kerk





Making Beer

The brewing industry expanded after 1323, when the Count of Holland permitted Amsterdam to become a toll port for beer. Hops were introduced early in the century.



Where to see Medieval Amsterdam

Few buildings remain from this period, as fire destroyed two-thirds of the city. The Oude Kerk (see pp70–71) dates from the early 14th century and the Nieuwe Kerk (pp78–9) from 1380. The Agnietenkapel (p63) was built in 1470 and is one of very few Gothic chapels to survive the Alteration of 1578 (pp26–7).



The Waag (*p62*) Built in 1488, this was originally a gateway in the city wall.



No. 34 Begijnhof (*p77*) The oldest wooden house in the city, it dates from about 1420.

Maximilian marries Maria of Burgundy

an iia dy

1477 Charles' daughter Maria marries Maximilian Habsburg of Austria

1452 Second Great Fire of Amsterdam walls built around Amsterdam **1494** Maximilian is Holy Roman Emperor. Power passes to his son, Philip, who marries the daughter of Isabella of Spain

1425

1421 First Great Fire of Amsterdam

1419 Philip the Good of Burgundy begins to unify the Low Countries

1467 Charles the Bold succeeds Philip of Burgundy

Charles the Bold

1475

1480 Defensive

1482 Maria dies and Maximilian Habsburg rules the Netherlands 1500

1500 Birth of Philip's son, the future Emperor Charles V and king of Spain

The Age of Intolerance

By 1500. Amsterdam had outpaced rivals to become the main power in the province of Holland, Trade in the Baltic provided wealth and the city grew rapidly. Spain's Habsburg rulers tried to halt the Protestant Reformation sweeping northern Europe. Dutch resistance to Philip II of Spain resulted in 80 years of civil war and religious strife. Amsterdam sided with Spain but switched lovalties in 1578 - an event known as the Alteration - to become the fiercely Protestant capital of an infant Dutch Republic.





Anabaptists' Uprising (1535) An extremist Protestant cult of Anabaptists seized the Stadhuis. Many were executed after eviction.

Nieuwe Kerk (1395) Rokin Dam square Oudezijds Voorburgwal Oude Kerk (1306)

PERSPECTIVE OF AMSTERDAM

This painted woodcut is a bird's-eve view of Amsterdam by Cornelis Anthonisz (1538), It is a critically important, detailed and precise map, heralding a centuries-long tradition of world-class map makina in the city (see p148).

Schreierstoren



William of Orange William, portrayed in 1555 by Anthonius Mor, led the Dutch against the Spanish until his assassination in Delft (see p197).



1502 Population of Amsterdam 12,000

> 1516 Charles becomes king of Spain

1535 Anabaptists demonstrate on Dam square. Mass executions follow. Start of 40 years of reliaious strife

1530

1550 Edict of Blood decrees death for Protestant heretics

1500

1510 15001506 Charles rules over the 17 provinces of the Netherlands

> 1519 Charles becomes Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V



1543 Charles V unifies

Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, king of Spain and ruler of the Netherlands

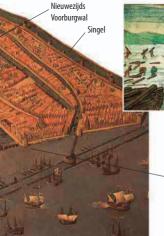
1551 Population of Amsterdam about 30,000 1550

Low Countries



The Guild of St George (1533)

Guilds set up to keep order in the growing city later formed the Civic Guard (see pp84-5), Map-maker Cornelis Anthonisz painted this guild at supper.



The Third Expedition

Gerrit de Veer's copper engraving (1597) shows Willem Barentsz on his search for a passage to the Arctic Sea

Damrak

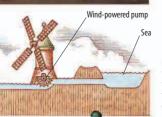
Where to see 16th-Century Amsterdam

Few buildings of early 16thcentury provenance remain but No. 1 Zeedijk (see p69) was built mid-century as a hostel for sailors The Civic Guards' Gallery at the Amsterdams Historisch Museum (pp82-85) contains a series of splendid group portraits of 16th-century militia companies and auilds.



The lower section of the tower

was built in 1512 (see p68). forming part of the city defences.



Silver Drinking Horn

As the auilds arew richer. ceremony played a larger part in their lives. This ornate rinking horn shows St George defending the hapless maiden maiden against the dragon.

Draining the Polders

"Gangs" of windmills were built to drain the low-lying land. Each mill scooped water up, stage by stage, until it drained away into the sea (see p175).



1555 Charles V abdicates, Philip II of Spain succeeds Duke of Alva

1567 Duke of Alva introduces heavy taxation in Amsterdam

1578 Calvinists take civil power and expel Catholics from Amsterdam in the Alteration

> 1581 Philip II becomes king of Portugal

1596-7 Explorer Willem Barents finds route to Arctic Sea

> 1598 Philip II dies. unable to subdue Dutch Protestants 1600

1560

1566 Calvinist iconoclasts demolish religious art in Beeldenstorm

> c. 1568 Beginning of Dutch Revolt under Protestant William of Orange

1570

1579 Northern provinces sign Union of Utrecht 1580

1584 William of Orang assassinated in Delft

1590

1580 Spain absorbs Portugal, and Dutch establish new trade routes to the east



the staircase of his headquarters in Delft in 1584 (see p197).

The Golden Age of Amsterdam

The 17th century was truly a Golden Age for Amsterdam. The population soared; three great canals, bordered by splendid houses. were built in a triple ring round the city; and scores of painters and architects were at work. Fortunes were made and lost, and this early capitalism produced paupers who were cared for by charitable institutions – a radical idea for the time. In 1648, an uneasy peace

> was formalized with Catholic Spain, causing tension between Amsterdam's Calvinist burgomasters and the less religious House of Orange, dominant elsewhere in the country.



1600 Today

Livestock and grain trading



Solf-Portrait as the Apostle Paul (1661) Rembrandt (see n64) was one of many artists working in Amsterdam in the mid-17th century.



Nieuwe Kerk (1395)

The new Stadhuis (now the Koninkliik Paleis) was heing

constructed behind wooden scaffolding.





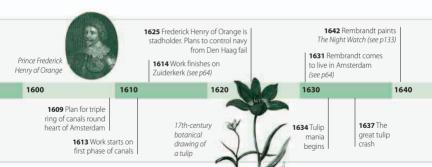


Dam Square In 1656

Money poured into Amsterdam at this time of civic expansion. Jan Linaelbach (c. 1624–74) painted Dam square as a busy, thriving and cosmopolitan market, full of traders and wealthy merchants.

Delft Tiles

Delicate flower paintings were popular themes on 17th-century Delft tiles (see p197), used as decoration in wealthy households.









Giving the Bread

The painting by Willem van Valckert shows the needy receiving alms. A rudimentary welfare system was introduced in the 1640s.

Where to see 17th-Century Amsterdam

Many public buildings sprang up as Amsterdam grew more wealthy. The Westerkerk (see p92) was designed by Hendrick de Keyser in 1620, the Lutherse Kerk (n80) by Adriaan Dortsman in 1671 Flias Boum an built the Portuguese Synagogue (p68) in 1675 for members of the

Apollo (c. 1648) Artus Quellien's statue is in the South Gallery of the Koninklijk Paleis (see p76).

immigrant Sephardic Jewish community (p66).



Rembrandthuis (1606) Jacob van Campen added the pediment in 1633 (see p68).



1660

completed

1672 William III is stadholder. De Witt brothers killed by mob in Den Haag (see p188)

1680

1685 Huguenot refugees reach Amsterdam after Louis XIV abolished Edict of Nantes

1652 Stadhuis burns down

1650

1648 Amsterdam achieves supremacy over Antwerp on the maritime trade routes

1669 Death of Rembrandt

1663 Second phase of canal building

1677 William III marries Marv Stuart, heiress to the English throne

1670

1690 William and Marv

The Golden Age Overseas

Supremacy in the Netherlands led to success overseas for Amsterdam. The Dutch colonized the Indonesian Archipelago, establishing a profitable empire based on spice trading in the Fast The Dutch Fast India Company (VOC) thrived, using vast wooden ships called East Indiamen. In the New World, the Dutch ruled large parts of Brazil and bought Manhattan from its native owners, naming it New Amsterdam, However, war with England radically trimmed Dutch sea-power by the end of the 17th century.



Purchase of Manhattan

Main mast

Officers' cabin.

Mizzen

mast

In 1626 explorer Pieter Minuit bought the island of Manhattan from the Native Americans for \$24

Steering stand



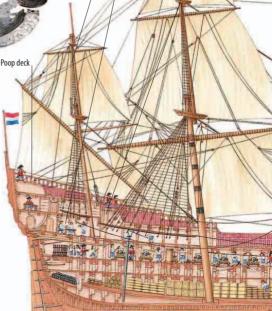


World Map (1676)

Joan Blaeu's map charted the known world, with parts of Asia and Australia missing.

The Batavia

Owned by the VOC, the Batavia was an East Indiaman, with three main masts. She was 45 m (148 ft) in length and carried a complement of about 350, including crew, soldiers and families.



1602 Dutch East India Company (VOC) founded



VOC logo

1620 Pilgrim Fathers depart for the New World (see p187)

1620



Peter Stuyvesant

1642 Abel Tasman discovers Tasmania

1640

1600

1610

1626 Peter Minuit buys Manhattan and founds

New Amsterdam

1609 Hugo Grotius advocates freedomof trade at sea

1621 Dutch West India Company founded

1595 First voyage to Indonesia via Cape of Good Hope

The Dutch Fast India

commercial empire more

powerful than some countries.

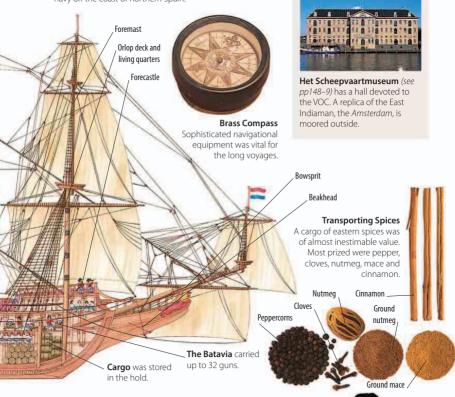
Founded in 1602, the VOC had a monopoly on all profits from trade east of the Cape of Good Hope. It became a public company and many a Dutch merchant's fortune was made. By 1611, it was the leading importer of spices into Furone with ships ranging as far as China, Japan and Indonesia. For nearly 200 years the VOC ran a

Company



Dutch Battle Ships (1683)

Ludolf Backhuysen (1631–1708) painted the Dutch battle fleet routing the rival Portuguese navy off the coast of northern Spain.



1647 Peter Stuyvesant made governor of New Amsterdam

1648 Treaty of Munster ends war with Spain. Dutch Republic recognized

1664 British take possession of New Amsterdam

1665 Admiral de Ruyter (see p79) becomes commander-inchief of the Dutch navv

1672 Rampiaar (vear of disaster). France, under Louis XIV, attacks Holland. War with England breaks out once more



1650

1652 First maritime war with England

Dutch fleet in river Medway in 1667



1660

1667 Dutch sign Breda Peace Treaty with England

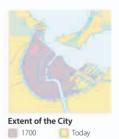
1670

1666 Dutch navy wins battle against British fleet

1688 William III (see p29), invited to take over English throne, becoming King William III

The Age of Consolidation

Though the Dutch Empire declined, the Netherlands remained wealthy. Amsterdam's ships became commercial cargo carriers and by the mid-18th century, the city was the world's financial capital. Tolerance prevailed and the city was flooded with immigrants, including Jews from all across Europe, Dissatisfaction with the ruling House of Orange intensified; althougsh Prussian troops crushed a Patriot uprising in 1787, the Patriots established a short-lived republic, with French backing, only to see Napoleon take over, making his brother Louis king of the Netherlands.



Rathroom

Drying room with Japanese screen



Receiving Visitors (c. 1713)

Amsterdam was cosmopolitan and decadent: in Cornelis Troost's satire, the ladies of a brothel parade before Prince Eugène of Savoy.



Wintertime in Amsterdam (c. 1763)

Petrus Schenk's print shows people skating on the frozen canals. The ice-breaking barges in the background are bringing fresh water to the city.



extravagance of the age. This example is a

17001702 Death of William III. Second stadholderless period begins in the Netherlands

1713 Treaty of Utrecht signed. Dutch Republic becomes isolated French musketeer

1730

1744 France invades Southern Provinces

1697 Tsar Peter the Great of Russia visits Amsterdam to study shipbuilding



Portrait of Tsar Peter the Great (1727) on gold snuff box

1716 Second meeting of the Grand Assembly meets in Den Haaq (see p188). Radical government reforms imposed

1747 Stadholdership becomes hereditary under William IV

1740

1751 Death of William IV. Start of 40 years of political strife

1750



Drawing room Dolls' House Costly dolls' houses were designed for show rather than play, and are a fitting symbol of the



Prussian Troops Enter Amsterdam (1787)

A lithograph by an unknown artist shows Prussian troops entering the city on 10 October 1787, coming to the aid of the House of Orange after pro-French Patriot upheavals.

Pavilioned bed with green canopy





Florin (1781)

By 1750, Amsterdam posessed the most sophisticated and successful banking and broking system in the world.

Lving-in room

Library

Tax Collector Riots (1748)

This print by Simonsz Fokke shows an angry mob raiding the house of a tax collector in lune 1748

Where to see 18th-Century Amsterdam

De Goover windmill (see p146) produced corn for the growing city from 1725. A clandestine church was opened in 1735 in todav's Museum Amstelkring (pp86-7), in response to the Alteration (pp26-7). Fine canal houses include No. 465 Herengracht (n114) and the Felix Meritis Building (n115), designed by Jacob Otten Husly in 1787. Museum van Loon was renovated in 1752 (n124).



Museum Willet-Holthuvsen The elaborate, gilded staircase (see p123) was built in 1740.



Ceramic Plate (c. 1780)

The wealthy lived in great style, sparing no expense. This hand-painted plate is decorated with mythological figures and ornate gold leaf.



1763 Freezing winter

1791 VOC (see pp30-31) goes into liquidation

1790

1760

1766 William V comes of age

1768 William V marries Wilhelmina of Prussia 1780

1780-84 War with England, whose navy destroys Dutch fleet

1787 Patriots' upheaval ends with Prussian army entering Amsterdam 1795 Provinces unite briefly into republic, ruled jointly by Patriots and French

1800

1806 Napoleon Bonaparte takes over republic

1810

ouis Napoleon (1778-1846)

1808 Louis Napoleon crowned king of the Netherlands

The Age of Industrialization

By the end of Louis Napoleon's rule, Amsterdam had stagnated. The decline continued, with little sign of enterprise and scant investment. Industrialization came late and attempts to revive the city's fortunes by digging a canal to the North Sea were less than effective. Politically, the country regrouped round the House of Orange, bringing the family back from exile and declaring a monarchy in 1813. The mid-century saw growth of the liberal constitution: by 1900 the Socialist tradition was well established.



1800 Today



Cocoa Trading Cocoa was one of

Amsterdam's main exports in the 1890s.





The Sweatshop by H Wolter As industrialization increased, sweatshops, with their attendant poverty, became commonplace.

Centraal Station

The station (see p81) was completed in 1889. It became a symbol of the emergent industrial age - a sign that Amsterdam was finally moving towards the future rather than looking back to the Golden Aae.

Renaissance-





Diamond Cutting

concourse

The diamond trade thrived in the late 19th century, when precious stones were imported from South Africa.

1813 House of Orange returns from exile

> 1824 Noordhollandskanaal is dug but proves ineffective

1845 Rioters in Amsterdam call for social reform

1839 Amsterdam-to-Haarlem railway opens (see p179)

Johan Rudolf Thorhecke 1850

Population 245.000



1815 William becomes king of the Netherlands

1831 Low Countries split into north and south. Southern provinces become Belgium



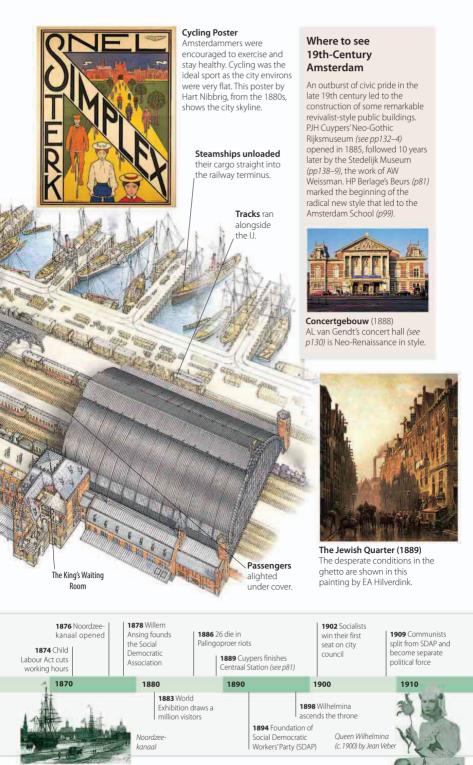
1840 William I abdicates

Succeeded by

King William Lat Waterloo (1815) 1850

1848 New constitution devised by Thorbecke

> 1860s Jews begin to arrive in Amsterdam from Antwerp



Amsterdam at War

The Netherlands remained neutral in World War I. After the war political unrest was rife and the city council embarked on a programme of new housing projects and, in the 1930s, the Amsterdamse Bos was created to counter unemployment. When World War II broke out, the Netherlands again opted for neutrality - only to be invaded by Germany. The early 1940s were bitter years, and many died of starvation in the winter of '44-5. During this time, most of the Jewish population was deported; many, like Anne Frank, tried to avoid detection by going into hiding.





Attic

The van

Pels' room





Bathroom Revolving bookcase (entrance to hideout)

Anne Frank's House

In July 1942, 13-year-old Anne Frank, her family and the van Pels (renamed van Daans in Anne's diary) went into hiding at the rear of this house (see p92). Anne had already begun her diary. She made her last entry in August 1944, three days before being arrested. She died in Beraen-Belsen concentration camp in March 1945.

Potato Riots (1917)

1915

Daan Bout's drawing shows desperate women fighting for vegetables during World War I. Rioting followed and the army was brought in to quell the uprising



1917 Potato riots in the Jordaan 1915 SDAP have majority on city council and shape housing policy

1910

1914 World War I begins. Holland remains neutral

Cartoon satirizing the Netherlands' rejection of Germany's offer of friendship in 1915









1926 ABN Bank built on Viizelstraat

1920

1925 1928 Olympic Games

held in Amsterdam

1920s "Ring" built round southern part of the city. Many canals filled in but work is halted after considerable opposition



Het Schip by Michel de Klerk

At the end of World War I, Amsterdam School architects (see p99) designed new housing projects such as "the ship", to replace the slums in the west of the city.

Amsterdamse Bos

In 1930, as part of a jobcreation scheme, 5,000 unemployed Dutch citizens were drafted in to help develop a woodland and leisure area to the southwest of the city.



Offices at the front of the building

Façade of No. 263 Prinsengracht

Dockworker Statue

The statue (see p55) by Mari Andriessen commem- orates the February 1941 protest by dockers and transport workers against the Nazis' treatment of Jews.

The Deportation of Jews

1940

Pamphlets were distributed by the Resistance vilifying those who stood by and let the Nazis round up the Jews.

Where to see Early-20th-Century

Innovative Amsterdam School architecture is found to the south of the city. HP Berlage, PL Kramer and Michel de Klerk collaborated on De Dageraad (see p153) and were largely responsible for the Nieuw Zuid (p156). Much of this was built in the run up to the 1928 Olympics; it boasts spectacular housing developments and civic buildings.



Tuschinski Theater (1921) The interior of this exotic complex is awash with colour.



1930 Population 750,000. Unemployment worsens. Work on public project of Amsterdamse Bos begins

1939 Outbreak of World War II. The Netherlands chooses neutrality

1935 Work parties sent to Germany

1940 Germany bombs Rotterdam. The Dutch surrender

1942 Deportation of Jews begins

1945 Germany surrenders and western part of the Netherlands finally liberated

1930

1934 Riots in Jordaan

over reduction in social security. Seven die

1932–7 Rise of Dutch Nazi Party under Anton Mussert **1941** 450 Jews arrested. Dockworkers strike **1944** D-Day Landings. "Hunger Winter"

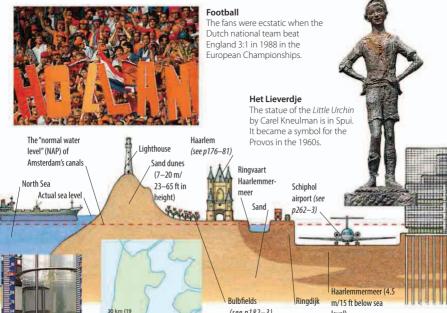
Yellow Star of David, which Jews had to wear during Nazi Occupation



Amsterdam Today

After World War II. Amsterdam suffered a series of social problems: its tolerance made it a haven for the 1960s hippy culture, it became a centre of drug use and trafficking, and the left-wing Provos challenged social order. In the 1970s, riots over the violent evictions of squatters and urban redevelopment led to measures that alleviated the social issues. Now Amsterdam is once again a tranguil, welcoming city for all to visit. Programmes of urban expansion and sympathetic architectural developments have combined to make the city an exciting hub of modernity.





ນການເຄີຍເກີນເກີນ 	Locator Map Normaal Amsterdams Peil The city's water level (NAP), set in 1684, is on display near the Stopera (see p65).		(see p182–3) level) Section of Noord Holland This cross-section shows Holland's polders (see			
			in protect Amster are sup	pp26–7) lying below sea level. Without the protection of dykes and tide barriers, Amsterdam would be inundated. Its buildings are supported by piles which pass through layers of clay and peat into firm sand.		
Wilhelmina Netherlar abdicates after Treaty of 50 years. Juliana joining E	957 The ids signs of Rome, uropean	on city council for first time 1963 The population liks at 868,000		German aristoo ax wins	e at wedding of Princess trat Claus von Amsberg 1975 Nieuwmar riots erupt again destruction of Jewish Quarter	ic rocognizod
1950 1	955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980
	on of the Amsterd ws increased trad	e 1968 First rest to the vasi	sterdam sidents move t Bijlmermeer ousing estate	Abdication by Queen J		1980 Queen Juliana abdicates in favour of Beatrix

King Willem-Alexander Born in 1967, he was crowned in the Nieuwe Kerk (see pp76-7) in 2013 following the abdication of his mother Beatrix



House on the Singel

Central Amsterdam

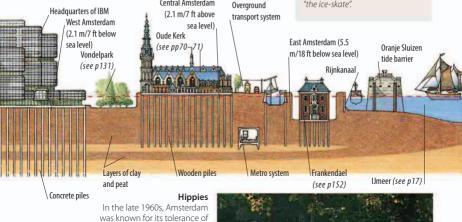
17th-century canal houses often subside as their foundations are shallow. Traditionally they were propped up by wooden support beams, but now technology allows for the replacement of rotten support piles without demolition.

Where to see Modern Amsterdam

Amsterdam has many superb new buildings, particularly in the Fastern Docklands, along the banks of the LL and along the Zuidas (South Axis) A striking 2012 addition to the northern IJ bank is the FYF FIlm Institute building (see n153) designed by Vienna-based Delugan & Meissl Associated Architects.



ING House head office (2002) on the Zuidas was designed by Mever & Van Schooten and is nicknamed "the ice-skate"





1994 For first time since 1918, Christian Democrats do not form part of governing coalition

2000 Law passed legalizing euthanasia

sub-cultures. It became a haven for hippies, who gathered in the Vondelpark (see p131).

> Prince Claus, Reatriv's husband

Museum (see pp138-9) reopens after an extensive renovation project

2013 Rijksmuseum reopens after a 10-year renovation. 2015

1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 KLM - the Dutch 1993 Schiphol Airport (see pp262-3) modernized national airline 1989 Centre-right comes to power in Dutch Parliament

2013 Oueen Beatrix abdicates in favour of her son Willem-Alexander.

2020



AMSTERDAM AT A GLANCE

There are more than 100 places of interest described in the *Area by Area* section of this book. The broad spectrum of entries covers recreational as well as cultural sights and ranges from sublime buildings, such as the Oude Kerk, to oddities like the Hash Marihuana Museum (see p63). The Golden Bend (see p114) and other impressive canalscapes also feature, along with

suggested walks past some of Amsterdam's finest architecture and notable sights, such as Anne Frank House. To help you make the most of your stay, the following 10 pages are a time-saving guide to the best Amsterdam has to offer. Museums, canals, and cafés and bars all have their own sections. Below is a selection of attractions that no visitor should miss.

Amsterdam's Top 10 Attractions



Het Scheepvaartmuseum *See pp148–9*



Van Gogh Museum See pp 136–7



Oude Kerk See pp70–71



Begijnhof See p77



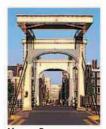
Rijksmuseum *See pp132–4*



Stedelijk Museum See pp138–9



Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder *See pp86–7*



Magere Brug See p121



Koninklijk Paleis See p76



Anne Frank House See pp36–7 & 92–3

Amsterdam's Best: Museums

For a fairly small city, Amsterdam has a surprisingly large number of museums and galleries. The quality and variety of the collections are impressive and many are housed in buildings of historical or architectural interest. The Riiksmuseum, with its Gothic facade, is a city landmark. and Rembrandt's work is exhibited in his original home. For more information on museums see pp44-5.



Anne Frank House This photo of the famous diarist is exhibited in the house where she hid during World War II.



Riiksmuseum

Amsterdam Museum A wealth of historical information is on display here. Once an orphanage. it is depicted in Governesses at the Buraher Orphanaae (1683) by Amsterdam-born Adriaen Backer.

Western Canal Ring

An extensive collection of more than 8,000 pieces,

including paintings by Dutch masters, such as Jan van Huysum's Still Life with Flowers and Fruit (c.1730) (see p132).



Central Canal Ring



Stedelijk Museum

Gerrit Rietveld's simple Steltman chair (1963) is one of many exhibits at this ever-changing contemporary art museum.

Museum **Ouarter**







Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder

Three 17th-century merchant's houses conceal Amsterdam's only remaining clandestine church restored as the Museum Ons'Lieve Heer op Solder (Our Lord in the Attic).



Het Scheepvaartmuseum

This national maritime museum is decorated with reliefs relating to the city's maritime history. Moored alongside is a replica of the East Indiaman, Amsterdam.



Oude Ziide

Tropenmuseum

On display here are exhibits from former Dutch colonies in the tropics, including this wooden Nigerian fertility mask portraying a mother and twins.



Plantage

Fastern Canal Ring

0 metres	500
0 yards	500



Museum Willet-Holthuysen

An impressive collection of furniture, silverware and paintings is housed in this beautifully preserved 17th-century canalside mansion.

Joods Historisch Museum

Four adjoining synagogues are linked to form this museum. The Holy Ark in the Grote Synagoge is the centrepiece of an exhibition on Judaism in the Netherlands.



Exploring Amsterdam's Museums

The richness of Amsterdam's history and culture is reflected by its wide range of museums, which cover everything from bibles, beer and African masks to shipbuilding and space travel. Its national art galleries house some of the world's most famous paintings, including Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. Het Scheepvaartmuseum has the largest collection of model ships in the world, while the Anne Frank House is a stark reminder of the horrors of World War II.

Painting and Decorative Arts

The world's most important collection of Dutch art is on display at the **Rijksmuseum**. This vast museum contains approximately 5,000 paintings, including works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Frans Hals and Albert Cuyp as well as a significant collection of sculptures, prints, artifacts and Asiatic art. A 10-year renovation was completed in 2012.

A short stroll across
Museumplein will bring you to
the **Van Gogh Museum**.
Besides a large collection of Van
Gogh's paintings and drawings,
which traces his entire career,
you can see hundreds of his
original letters to his brother
Theo and the artist's private
collection of Japanese prints.
Works by other 19th-century
Dutch painters are also
displayed here.

Modern art is the focus of the **Stedelijk Museum**. While the collection features works by artists such as Henri Matisse and Vassily Kandinsky, the

emphasis is on paintings, sculptures, drawings, graphics and photographs completed after 1945. Andy Warhol, Edward Kienholz and the Dutch Cobra artist Karel Appel are all represented.

The house where Rembrandt lived for 20 years opened as the **Museum Het Rembrandthuis** in 1911. As well as providing an insight into the artist's life, it contains an important collection of his work, including a series of self-portraits.

The **Museum van Loon**, housed in a
beautiful 17thcentury mansion, is
based on the
outstanding private
collections of the
wealthy van Loon
family

Other wonderful collections of art can also be enjoyed by travelling from

Amsterdam to the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem, the Mauritshuis in Den Haag and the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam.



View of a French-style garden from the Museum van Loon

History

Indonesian mask at the

Tropenmuseum

Various aspects of Amsterdam's absorbing history are documented in several of the city's museums. The **Amsterdam Museum** covers the growth of Amsterdam from its origins as a fishing

village in the 13th century, by means of an interactive display of maps, paintings and archaeological objects. The city's maritime history is

Scheepvaartmuseum, which has a vast collection of model ships. More modern boats are the focus of the

Museum 't

Kromhout, which is housed in one of the few working ship-yards left in the city. In the

Museum Willet-Holthuysen, the richly decorated rooms, Dutch paintings, Venetian glass, silverware and furniture reflect the wealth of Amsterdam in the Golden Age. Catholic ingenuity is revealed at the Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder, where a secret church is preserved in the attic of a 17th-century merchant's home.

Cultural Quarter, a collaboration between the **Joods Historisch Museum**, the **Portuguese Synagogue** (see p68) and the **Hollandsche Schouwburg** (see p144). The **Anne Frank House** provides a poignant reminder that Amsterdam's Jewish

Jewish life in the city is remembered in the Jewish



Rembrandt's The Jewish Bride (1663) in the Rijksmuseum

community was almost wiped out in World War II, and its secret annexe shows what life in hiding was like. Displays on the activities of the Dutch Resistance at the Verzets-

museum Amsterdam provide more fascinating insights on life in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation.

Outside the city, the **Zuiderzeemuseum** recreates the life and traditions of the people who once fished these waters

Specialist Museums

Mummies, sarcophagi and effigies of ancient Egyptian gods are just a few of the displays at the Allard Pierson Museum. The **Biibels Museum** in adjoining canal houses, also focuses on the archaeology of Fgypt and the Middle Fast, and contains the oldest Bible ever printed in the Netherlands

The **FYF Film Institute** screens more than 1,000 films a vear, and Foam is a lively and welcoming photography museum, covering documentary, history and fashion.

The Heineken Experience offers a history of beer- making as part of a tour of this former brewery and free samples at the end. More facts can be absorbed at the Hash Marijuana Hemp Museum, which shows the many uses this product has had through the ages.

The **Tropenmuseum** is devoted to cultures from around the world and Het Grachtenhuis provides an insight into the creation of the triple canal ring.



Model showing the process of precipitation housed in the Artis complex



The open-air reconstruction village at the Zuiderzeemuseum

Technology and Natural History

A hands-on approach is encouraged by Nemo. Holland's national science centre, to explain, for instance, how photography works or how computers process information. The centre is housed in a striking modern building.

Along with hundreds of live animals, the Artis complex (the oldest zoo in the Netherlands founded in 1838) contains a variety of museums and some interesting examples of late 19th-century architecture. A fine example is the Aquarium,

which also houses a small Zoological Museum displaying a collection of skulls and stuffed animals. The dome-shaped Planetarium takes visitors on a tour of the galaxy. The Hortus Botanicus is a tranguil botanical garden with a threeclimate greenhouse and a stunning collection of trees.

Finding the Museums

Allard Pierson Museum p80

Amsterdam Museum pp82-5 Anne Frank House pp92-3 Artis pp144-5 Bijbels Museum pp114-15 FYE Film Institute p153 Foam p120 Frans Hals Museum pp180-81 Hash Marijuana Hemp Museum p63 Heineken Brouwerij p124 Het Grachtenhuis p114 Het Scheepvaartmuseum pp148-9 Joods Historisch Museum pp66-7 Mauritshuis pp190-91 Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam pp202-3 Museum Het Rembrandthuis p64 Museum 't Kromhout p146 Museum van Loon p124 Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder pp86-7 Museum Willet-Holthuysen pp122-3 Nemo *p152* Rijksmuseum pp132-5 Stedelijk Museum pp138-9 Tropenmuseum pp154-5 Van Gogh Museum pp136-7

Verzetsmuseum Amsterdam p147

Zuiderzeemuseum pp172-3

Amsterdam's Best: Canals and Waterways

From the grace and elegance of the waterside mansions along the Grachtengordel (Canal Ring) to the rows of converted warehouses on Brouwersgracht and the charming houses on Reguliersgracht, the city's canals and waterways embody the very spirit of Amsterdam. They are spanned by many beautiful bridges, including the famous Magere Brug (see p121), a traditionally styled lift bridge. You can also relax at one of the many canalside cafés or bars and watch an array of boats float by.



Brouwersgracht

The banks of this charming canal are lined with houseboats, cosy cafés and warehouses

> Western Canal Ring



Bloemgracht

There is a great variety of architecture along this lovely. tree-lined canal in the Jordaan. including a row of houses with step gables (see p93).



Central **Canal Ring**



The best way to see all the beautiful buildings along Amsterdam's longest 17th-century canal is by bicycle.



Leidsegracht

Relax at a pavement café along the exclusive Leidsegracht (see p113).



Museum Quarter





Singel The Poezenboot a boat for stray cats is just one of the many sights to be found along the Singel, whose distinctive, curved shape established the horseshoe

contours of the Canal Ring.





Entrepotdok

The warehouses on the Entrepotdok (see p.146) were redeveloped in the 1980s. The guavside is now lined in summer with lively café terraces that overlook an array of houseboats and pleasure craft.

0 metres	500
Occupie	500
0 vards	500

Oude Ziide

Eastern Canal Ring

Nieuwe Zijde

Plantage



Herengracht

Known as "the twin brothers", these matching neck-gabled houses at Nos. 409-411 are two of the prettiest houses on the city's grandest canal.



Reguliersgracht

Many crooked, brick buildings line this pretty canal, which was cut in 1664. The statue of a stork. located at No. 92, is symbolic of parental responsibility and commemorates a 1571 bylaw protecting this bird.



Amstel

This river is still a busy commercial thoroughfare, with barges carrying grain and coal to the city's port.

Amsterdam's Best: Cafés and Bars

Amsterdam is a city of cafés and bars, about 1,500 in all. Each area has something to offer. from friendly and relaxed brown cafés to lively and crowded designer bars. The cafés and bars vary and each has some special attraction: a large range of beers, live music. canalside terraces, art exhibitions, board games and pool tables or simply a brand of gezelligheid, the unique Dutch concept of "cosiness". Further details of Amsterdam's cafés and bars are given on pp50-51. Addresses are given in the directory on p233.



Van Puffelen

A smart and fashionable clientele is attracted to this intimate canalside café, with its impressive 19th-century interior, reading room and restaurant.



Het Blauwe Theehuis

Built in 1937, this architectural gem has a large, multi-layered terrace overlooking Vondelpark.



This large brown café in the Jordaan is always crowded with regular customers. often local artists.

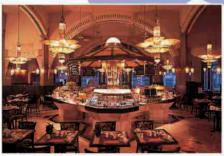


Central **Canal Ring**

Museum Ouarter



and is the place to go to be seen.



Café Dulac The interior of this guirky grand café, situated on Haarlemmerstraat mixes Art Deco style with Gothic-



In De Wildeman

There are more than 80 beers from around the world on offer at this modern proeflokaal (see p50).

Nieuwe Zijde

Oude Ziide



De Jaren

Popular with students, this trendy two-storey café has a superb view of the Amstel and a wide selection of newspapers.

Plantage

Eastern **Canal Ring**



brown café, steeped in cobwebs and atmosphere. It is a dark, friendly and timeless place,



De Kroon

Tastefully restored, this grand café has DJs Thursday to Sunday.







Exploring Amsterdam's Cafés and Bars

Wherever you go in this vibrant city, you are never far from a café or bar. Amsterdammers are at their most friendly over a beer or a Dutch gin, so exploring the city's drinking establishments is an easy way to meet the locals. Table service is standard in most cafés and bars, though not universal. Instead of paying for each drink, bars keep a running total which you settle as you leave. The exception is outdoor terraces, where you pay as you order. Most places are open from about 11am (4pm for quite a few brown cafés) until 1am. Many Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein bars stay open until 4 or 5am at the weekends.

Brown Cafés

The traditional Dutch "local pub", the brown café, is characterized by dark wooden panelling and furniture, low ceilings, dim lighting and a fog of tobacco smoke. It is a warm and friendly place and often a social focus

for the neighbourhood. Some of the best brown cafés are found in old 17th-century canal houses or tucked away on side streets. The tiny and characterful 't Doktertje, just off the Kalverstraat shopping street, is worth a visit, as is the cheap and cheerful Pieper, close to



Sampling the wide range of beers in one of Amsterdam's many tasting bars



De Koninck have a stronger flavour, and the wheat-brewed witbiers like Hoega-arden are white and cloudy. Beers from Amsterdam's 't IJ brewery, such as Columbus, are widely available. The most popular spirit, jenever, is the slightly oily Dutch gin. There is either the sharp tasting jonge (young), or the smoother oude (old) variety. For the complete Dutch experience, drink jenever in a single gulp or order a refreshing pils with a jenever chaser.



Bottle of jonge jenever



Leidseplein. **De Tuin**, in the heart of the Jordaan, is popular with the local artistic community. Most brown cafés are more than just places to drink at and many serve good, reasonably priced food (see pp.232–3).

Proeflokalen and Modern Tasting Bars

Literally meaning "tasting houses", proeflokalen go back to the Dutch Golden Age of the 17th century. In order to increase sales, wine and spirit importers would invite merchants to taste their wares. Today proeflokalen denote bars specializing in either wine. spirits or beer. One of the oldest tasting bars. De Drie Fleschies. dates from 1650, and ienever (Dutch gin) is its speciality. Mulliner's offers a superb range of vintage wines and ports. while In De Wildeman serves beers from around the world. many of them on draught. See the directory on p233 for other good proeflokalen.



ide Senet

Traditional oude

ienever

Hoegaarden, brewed in Belgium



Tarwebok, a strong type of Heineken

Grand Cafés and Designer Bars

Grand cafés first emerged in the 19th century, Today, these large and onulent venues are the haunts of the upwardly mobile and fashion-conscious Café Luxemboura has a street

terrace for people-watching. while Café Schiller is more intimate and has a beautiful Art Deco interior Designer hars cater for a similar clientele, but they are modern, stark and bright in style. Some of the best are the chic Het Land Van Walem. De Bali and the trendy **De Jaren**.



Café Schiller, one of Amsterdam's Art Deco grand cafés

Smoking Coffeeshops

Smoking coffee shops are ones where cannabis is openly sold and smoked. Although technically illegal, the sale of soft drugs is tolerated by the Dutch authorities if it remains discreet (see p257). Many of these cafés are recognizable by their loud music and often



De Koninck, a dark Belgian beer



Columbus brewed in dark winter beer Amsterdam



The beautifully restored De Jaren

psychedelic decor. Smoking coffeeshops appeal to a surprising range of people - old and young alike (under 16s are not permitted) from every social and professional background Rusland and Siberië are two of the smaller more relaxed places, while The **Bulldog Palace** is commercial and tourist-filled. As well as coffee, soft drinks and snacks are generally available. Abraxas has a psychedelically colourful interior. If tempted to smoke in a coffeeshop, ask for the menu listing what is on sale. The cannabis is strong, especially the local "skunk" Be wary of hash cakes and cookies as there is no way to gauge their strength. See the directory on page 233 for other good smoking coffeeshops.

Coffeeshops and Salons De Thé

The more conventional type of coffeeshop is where well-to-do

ladies go for a chat over coffee and cake. A number of these places use the Dutch spelling, koffieshop, or the French salons de thé to distinguish themselves from the many smoking coffeeshops, although the differences are obvious, Many, such as Arnold Cornelis

and Pompadour, are attached to confectioners. patisseries or delicatessens, and have a tempting range of cakes and sweets on offer. Several of the city's

larger stores and hotels also have tearooms. ideal places to sit down in comfort and relax after a busy day sightseeing or shopping. Metz & Co. has a comfortable sixthfloor café that offers one of the most impressive canal views in Amsterdam (see n234)

experience not to be missed is Tazzina which serves excellent coffee. Italian sandwiches and sweets. For something slightly different, try Taart van m'n Tante, a kitsch café serving. scrumntious treats that are baked on the premises

Another canalside

Where to find the Rest Cafés

All the cafés and bars described on these pages are listed in the directory on page 233. The best. as shown on pages 48=9, are also listed helow

Het Blauwe Theehuis

Vondelnark 5

Map 3 C3 Tel 662 0254

Café Americain

American Hotel, Leidsekade 97. Map 4 F2.

Tel 556 3010

Café Dulac

Haarlemmerstraat 118. Map 1 C3. Tel 624 4265.

't Doktertie

Rozenboomsteeg 4, Map 7 B4. Tel 626 4427

In de Wildeman

Kolksteea 3, Map 7 C1. Tel 638 2348.

De Jaren

Nieuwe Doelenstraat 20.

Map 7 C4. Tel 625 5771.

De Kroon

Rembrandtplein 17. Map 7 C5. Tel 625 2011.

De Tuin

2e Tuindwarsstraat 13 (near Anjeliersstraat). Map 1 B3. Tel 624 4559.

Van Puffelen

Prinsengracht 377. Map 1 B5. Tel 624 6270.



Amstel Bock-bier, a

AMSTERDAM THROUGH THE YEAR

Although there is no quarantee of good weather in Amsterdam, the cosmopolitan ambience of this 700-year-old city and the congeniality of the Dutch make it an appealing place to visit whatever time of year you go. Most tourists flock into the city from April to September, when temperatures are mild. Amsterdammers, however, are undaunted by the weather and maintain

an active programme of festivals and outdoor pursuits throughout the year. Crisp autumn days invite long walks along the city's stately canals, followed by a cosy chat in one of Amsterdam's brown cafés. About twice a decade, the winter temperatures drop so low that the canals freeze over. When this occurs a skating race is held between 11 Dutch cities

Spring

Spring begins in late March when daffodils and crocuses blossom overnight all over the city Flower lovers descend on Amsterdam, using it as a base for day trips to Keukenhof, the Netherlands' 28-hectare (69acre) showcase for Dutch bulb growers (see pp 182-3).

March

Stille Omgang (second or third Sat) Rokin Silent night-time procession celebrating the Miracle of Amsterdam (see p24). Opening of Keukenhof (21 Mar). One of the world's largest flower gardens (see p183).

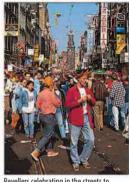
April

National Museum Weekend

(second weekend of Apr.) Cutprice or free admission to many state-run museums.

Bloemencorso (third weekend) The highlight of the bulb season is a flower parade of colourful floats between Noordwijk and Haarlem. Koningsdag (27 Apr). The city

becomes the world's biggest flea market-cum-street party on King Willem-Alexander's official birthday. Transport grinds to a



Revellers celebrating in the streets to commemorate Koninginnedag

halt as people throng the streets during the day and dance the night away. World Press Photo (end Aprearly Jun). Oude Kerk, Exhibits the very best press photographs from around the world.

Mav

Herdenkingsdag (4 May). Commemorations throughout the city for the victims of World War II. Largest in Dam square. Bevrijdingsdag (5 May). Concerts and speeches around the city celebrate the end of the

Kunst RAI (mid May). A large exhibition of contemporary art, held at Amsterdam RAI.

German occupation.

Nationale Molendag (second Sat). Windmills all over the country open to the public. Boeken op de Dam (every third

or fourth Sun, May-September). Dam square fills with book stalls, and sometimes along the Amstel at Muziektheater (see p65) - Boeken aan de Amstel.



Tulip fields in bloom near Alkmaar



Summer, which starts with the three week-long Holland Festival, is a hectic cultural roller-coaster ride. As well as the events listed below, classic European drama is staged in the Amsterdamse Bos (p157), and open-air concerts are held in the Vondelpark (pp130–31). This is the best time for people-watching in one of Amsterdam's street-side rafés and bars.

Summer



A rower training on the Bosbaan in the Amsterdamse Bos

June

Open Garden Days (third weekend in Jun). For one weekend, Amsterdam's most elegant private gardens open

their gates to the public. Visit www.canalmuseums.nl for more information.

Open Air Theatre in Vondelpark (early Jun-end Aug). Theatre, music and children's shows (see p 130).

Holland Festival (3 weeks of June). In venues throughout Amsterdam and in other major cities in the Netherlands, a varied programme of concerts, plays, operas and ballets.

Amsterdam Roots Festival (late June), De Melkweg (pp112–13), Tropenmuseum (pp154–5), Oosterpark, and Concertgebouw (p130). An ethnic programme of music, dance, film and theatre from Africa and other non-Western countries.

July

North Sea Jazz Festival (mid-Jul), the Ahoy Exhibition Centre. Weekend of jazz ranging from Dixieland to jazz rock a short train ride away in Rotterdam. Summer Concerts (Jul-Aug), Concertgebouw (see p130). Annual showcase of classical music

Sunshine Chart

The summer months are the sunniest, but this is no guarantee of good weather.

Amsterdammers will often carry an umbrella even on the hottest of July days as summer rain in the morning often precedes the arrival of bright sunshine later.



Orchestral performance at the Prinsengracht Concert

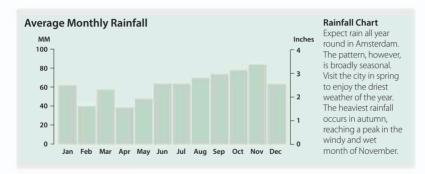
August

Uitmarkt (mid-Aug). A weekend of music and theatre performances at Leidseplein and Museumplein launches the start of the cultural season.

Grachtenfestival (Wed–Sun, around third Sat). Classical concerts on Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht. The main concert is on Saturday on a barge in front of the Pulitzer Hotel (see p219).



Café-goers relaxing and soaking up the sun at de Jaren Terrace



Autumn

Temperatures drop quickly at the end of August, but the cultural heat is maintained with the diary of music, dance, opera and drama promoted in the Uitmarkt (see p53). The Autumn is also a busy time for more sporting types. There is a range of spectator sports to watch, and it is a good time of year to enjoy brisk walks in one of the city's many parks or along the Amstel. By November, many Amsterdammers retreat indoors on rainy evenings to cafés like Schaakcafé Het Hok in the Lange Leidsedwarsstraat.

September Open Monumentendagen

(first or second weekend). A chance to see inside some historic, listed buildings which are normally closed to the public. Jordaan
Festival (third
weekend, including
Fri). Festivals are
held near
Westerkerk and
elsewhere in this
picturesque district,
with fairs, street
parties, talent
contests and music.
Amsterdam Fringe
Festival (10 days in

Festival (10 days in September).
A festival of theatre and dance, with

performances by national and international companies.

Dam tot Damloop (third Sun). The biggest running event in the Netherlands, with around 30,000 athletes taking part. The 16-km (10-mile) course starts in Amsterdam and ends on the Dam in Zaandam. There's also a mini event in Zaandam for children.



Barges moored along an Amsterdam waterfront in autumn

October

Grachtenrace (second Sat), Oosterdok. One of many rowing competitions.

TCS Amsterdam Marathon

(third Sun). Some 1,500 runners circle the city before converging on the Olympic stadium in this 42-km (26-mile) run. A further 10,000 people join in for a 10-km (6-mile) stretch of the race. Camping and Caravan RAI (end Oct). Amsterdam RAI. Annual fair for open-air holiday enthusiasts.

November

PAN (Nov-Dec). Art and antiques fair in RAI. Museumnacht (first Sat). Many museums stay open during the night. There are often theatrical and musical events, too, as well as a special quided tour. Sinterklaas' Parade (second or third Sat). The Dutch equivalent of Santa Claus arrives by boat near St Nicholaaskerk (see p81) accompanied by Zwarte Piet (Black Peter) and distributes sweets to Amsterdam's waiting children.



Sinterklaas parading through Amsterdam

Average Monthly Temperature or 25 20 15 10 5 0 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Temperature Chart

The chart shows the average temperature for each month in Amsterdam. Summer is often cooled by the North Sea wind, both spring and autumn can be chilly, and temperatures in winter are frequently freezing.

Winter

Christmas is a busy tourist season, with visitors and residents thronging to watch Christmas trees being hawked from barges on the main canals. Barrows appear throughout the city, tantalizing passers-by with the smell of freshly fried oliebollen and appelflappen, two sugary treats not to be missed. After Christmas, the talk of the town is whether or not it will be cold enough for the city authorities to permit skating on the city's canals. If the green light is given - which is rare - whole neighbourhoods turn out to skate under the stars.

December

Sinterklaasavond (5 Dec). The traditional Dutch gift-giving day when Sinterklaas and his Moorish helpers visit Dutch children to leave a sack of presents. Friends give poems caricaturing each other.



The Dokwerker Monument in JD Meijerplein



Amsterdammers ice skating on the Prinsengracht

Christmas Day (25 Dec). Increasingly accepted as the main gift-giving day. New Year's Eve (31 Dec). Firework celebrations throughout the city with an organized

display over the Amstel.

January

Jumping Amsterdam (Jan–Feb), Amsterdam RAI. International indoor showjumping competitions. Chinese New Year (Jan or Feb), Nieuwmarkt. Traditional lion dance, fireworks, Chinese exhibitions and stage art.

February

Februaristaking (25 Feb), JD Meijerplein. Commemoration of dockworkers' action against the deportation of Jewish residents by the Nazis during World War II

Public Holidays

New Year's Day (1 Jan) Tweede Paasdag (Easter Monday) * Koningsdag (27 April) Bevrijdingsdag (5 May) Hemelvaartsdag (Ascension Day) * Pinksteren (Whitsun) *

Pinksteren (Whitsun) * Eerste Kerstdag (Christmas Day) (25 Dec)

Tweede Kerstdag (26 Dec)
*Dates change in accordance
with church calendar.







OUDE ZIJDE

The eastern half of Amsterdam became known as the Oude Zijde (Old Side).
Originally it occupied a narrow strip on the east bank of the Amstel river, running between Damrak and the Oudezijds
Voorburgwal (see pp46–7). At its heart was built the Oude Kerk, the oldest church in the city. In the early 1400s the Oude Zijde began an eastward expansion which continued into the 17th century. This growth was fuelled by

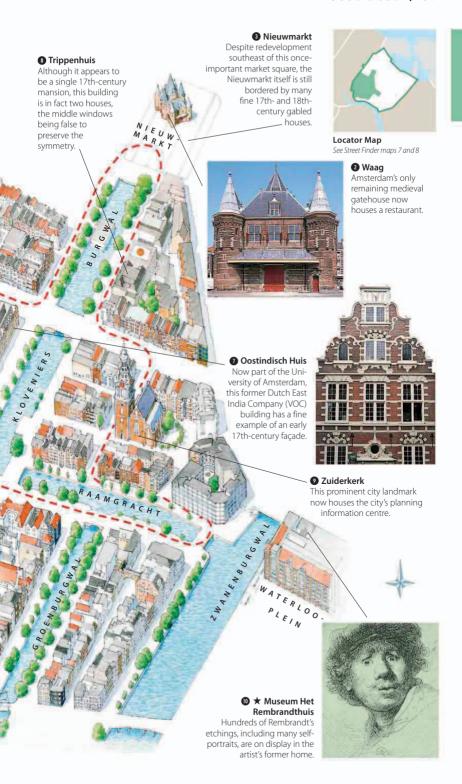
an influx of Jewish refugees from Portugal. The oldest of the four synagogues, now containing the Joods Historisch Museum, dates from this period. These were central to Jewish life in the city for centuries. During the Golden Age (see pp28–30), the Oude Zijde was an important commercial centre. Boats could sail up the Geldersekade to Nieuwmarkt, where goods were weighed at the Waag before being sold at the market.

Sights at a Glance Historic Buildings and Museums Restaurants pp224-31 Monuments Hash Marijuana Hemp Museum A-Fusion Waaq Museum Het Rembrandthuis Rird 2 Agnietenkapel 1 loods Historisch Museum pp66-7 3 Blauw aan de Wal Oudemanhuispoort Bridges (Grand Hotel) Churches and Synagogues Oostindisch Huis Café Bern 7uiderkerk 8 Trippenhuis Café de Engelbewaarder Mozes en Aäronkerk 16 Pintohuis 7 Café de Jaren Portugees-Israëlitische Synagoge Montelbaanstoren 8 De Bakkerswinkel 2 Oude Kerk pp70-71 Scheepvaarthuis 9 Éenvistwéévis Streets and Markets Schreierstoren 10 Ganesha Indian Restaurant Red Light District 11 Geisha Opera Houses 12 Golden Chopsticks 3 Nieuwmarkt Stadhuis-Muziektheater Waterlooplein 13 Greetie 2 Zeedijk 14 Hemelse Modder 15 In De Waag 16 Kilimaniaro 17 Le Fou Fow 18 Looks 19 Me Naam Naan 20 Oliifie 21 Oriental City See also Street Finder pp274-87 0 metres

0 yards

Street-by-Street: University District





Red Light District

Map 8 D2. 14. 16. 24. 25.

Barely clad prostitutes bathed in a red neon glow and touting for business at their windows is one of the defining images of modern Amsterdam. The city's Red Light District, referred to locally as de Walleties (the little walls), is concentrated on the Oude Kerk (see nn70-71) although it extends as far as Warmoesstraat to the west, the 7eedijk to the north, the Kloveniersburgwal to the east and then along the line of Damstraat to the south

Prostitution in Amsterdam dates back to the city's emergence as a port in the 13th century, By 1478, prostitution had become so widespread. with increasing numbers of seaweary sailors flooding into the city, that attempts were made to contain it. Prostitutes straving outside their designated area were marched back to the sound of pipe and drum.

A century later, following the Alteration (see nn26-7), the Calvinists tried to outlaw prostitution altogether. Their attempts were half-hearted, and by the mid-17th century prostitution was openly tolerated. In 1850, Amsterdam



Entrance to one of the clubs in the Red Light District

had a population of 200,000. and more than 200 brothels The most famous of these like the luxurious Madame Traese's catered for rich clients.

Today, the area is criss-crossed by a network of narrow lanes. By day, hordes of visitors crowding in generate a festive buzz, and among the sleaze there are interesting cafés, bars, restaurants and beautiful canalside houses. The city council is trying to make this area more culturally attractive by reducing the number of window-prostitutes, closing the seediest clubs and encouraging entrepreneurs outside the sex industry to open up shops here.

Waaq

Nieuwmarkt 4 Man 8 D3 Tel 422 7772 1 9 14 M Nieuwmarkt Closed upper rooms closed to the nublic

The multi-turreted Waaq is Amsterdam's oldest surviving gatehouse. Built in 1488, it was then, and often still is, called St. Antoniespoort, Public executions were held here and prisoners awaited their fate in the "little gallows room". In 1617, the building became the public weigh house (waaggebouw). Peasants had their produce weighed here and paid tax accordingly. Various guilds moved into the upper rooms of each tower From 1619 the Guild of Surgeons had their meeting room and anatomy theatre here. They added the central octagonal tower in 1691. Rembrandt's Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp, now in the Mauritshuis (see pp 190–91), and The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Jan Deijman, in the Amsterdams Historisch Museum (see pp82-3), were commissioned by the guild and hung here.

After the weigh house closed in the early 1800s, the Waaq served as a fire station and two city museums. It is now home to the café-restaurant In de Waaq (see p224).



The 15th-century Waag dominating the Nieuwmarkt, with an antique market on the left



Part of the commemorative photo display in Nieuwmarkt metro

Nieuwmarkt

Map 8 D3. 19 9. 14. M Nieuwmarkt. Antiques market: Open May-Sep: 9am-5nm Sun Organic market Open 9am-4pm Sat.

An open, paved square, the Nieuwmarkt is flanked to the west by the Red Light District. With the top end of the Geldersekade it forms Amsterdam's Chinatown. The Waag dominates the square and construction of this gateway led to the site's development in the 15th century as a marketplace. When the city expanded in the 17th century (see pp.28-9), the square took on its present dimensions and was called the Nieuwmarkt It retains an array of 17th- and 18th-century gabled houses. True to tradition, an antiques market is held on Sundays during the summer.

The old Jewish Ouarter leads off the square down St Antoniesbreestraat. In the 1970s. many houses were demolished to make way for the metro, sparking off clashes between protesters and police. The action of conservationists persuaded the city council to renovate rather than redevelop old buildings. In tribute to them, photographs of their protests decorate the metro.

4 Hash Marijuana Hemp Museum

Oudezijds Achterburgwal 148 Map 7 C3. Tel 624 8926. # 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. M Nieuwmarkt. Open 10am-11pm daily. Closed 27 Apr. 🔊 🖺 w hashmuseum.com

This museum charts the history of hemp (marijuana). Exhibits refer back 8,000 years to early

Asiatic civilizations, which used the plant for medicines and clothing It was first used in the Netherlands, according to a herbal manual of 1554 as a cure for earache

Until the late 19th century however hemp was the main source of fibre for rope, and was therefore important in the Dutch shipping industry. Other exhibits relate to the psychoactive properties of this plant. They include an intriguing array of pipes and bongs (smoking devices), along with displays that explain smuggling methods. The museum also has a small cultivation area where plants are grown under artificial light. Police sometimes raid the museum and take away exhibits, so there may be occasional gaps in displays.

Agnietenkapel

Oudeziids Voorburgwal 231. Map 7 C4. 14. 9. 14. 16. 24. 25. Closed closed to the public

Previously home to the University Museum, the Agnietenkapel was part of the convent of St Agnes until 1578. when it was closed after the Alteration (see pp26-7). In 1632. the Athenaeum Illustre, the precursor of the University of Amsterdam, took it over and by the mid-17th century it was a centre of scientific learning. It also housed the municipal library until the 1830s.

The Agnietenkapel, dating from 1470, is one of the few Gothic chapels to have survived the Alteration. During restoration from 1919 to 1921.

elements of Amsterdan School architecture were introduced (see p99). Despite these

changes and long periods of secular use, the building still has the

feel of a Franciscan chapel.

The large auditorium on the first floor is the city's oldest, and is used for university lectures. It has a lovely ceiling, painted with Renaissance motifs and a portrait of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and the arts. A series of portraits of scholars - a gift from local merchant Gerardus van Papenbroeck in 1743 – also adorns the walls

The chapel is currently used as a conference centre and is not open to the public.



Entrance to Agnietenkapel, part of the University of Amsterdam

Oudemanhuispoort

Between Oudezijds Achterburgwal and Kloveniersburgwal. Map 7 C4. 1 4. 9. 14. 16. 24. 25. Book market: Open 10am-6pm Mon-Sat.

The Oudemanhuispoort was once the entrance to old men's almshouses (Oudemannenhuis), built in 1754. Today the building is part of the University of Amsterdam. The pediment over the gateway

in the Oudezijds Achterburgwal features a pair of spectacles. a symbol of old age. Tradina

inside this covered walkway dates from 1757 and today there

is a market for second-hand books. Although the building is closed to the public, visitors may enter the 18th-century courtyard via the arcade.

Crest of Amsterdam.

Oudemanhuispoort



The spire of the Zuiderkerk, a prominent city landmark

Oostindisch Huis

Oude Hoogstraat 24 (entrance on Kloveniersburgwal 48). Map 7 C3. Tel 525 7275. 3 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. M Nieuw-markt. Open phone for opening times of VOC room.

The Oostindisch Huis, former headquarters of the Dutch Fast India Company or VOC (see pp30-31), is now part of the University of Amsterdam. Built in 1605, it is attributed to Hendrick de Kevser (see p92). The premises have been expanded several. times, in 1606, 1634 and 1661, to house spices, pepper, porcelain and silk from the Fast Indies

The VOC was dissolved in 1800 (see p33), and for a while the Oostindisch Huis was taken over by the customs authorities. Later the state tax offices also moved in, and the VOC medallion carved in the stone gate was replaced with a lion, the traditional heraldic symbol of the Netherlands

Major restyling in the 1890s destroyed much of the interior decoration, but the facade has remained

largely intact, and the former meeting room of the VOC lords has been restored to its 17th-century state.

Trippenhuis

Kloveniersburgwal 29. Map 8 D3. 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. M Nieuwmarkt. Closed to the public.

Justus Vingboons designed this ornate Classical mansion. completed in 1662. It appears to be one house: it is in fact two. The facade, outlined by eight Corinthian columns, features false middle windows. The house was designed for the wealthy arms merchants Lodewijk and Hendrick Trip, and hence the chimneys look like cannons. The city's art collection

Ornate balustrade of the Oostindisch Huis

was housed here from 1817 to 1885 when it moved to the Riiksmuseum (see pp132-35). The Trippenhuis now houses the Dutch Academy, Opposite at No. 26 is the Kleine Trippenhuis huilt in 1698 It is only 2.5 m (7 ft) wide and has very detailed cornicing, which includes two carved sphinxes.

9 Zuiderkerk

7uiderkerkhof 72. **Map** 8 D4. 🕮 9. 14. M Nieuwmarkt, Closed to the public. € Tower: Apr-Sep: 1-3:30pm Mon-Sat

w westertorenamsterdam.nl

Designed by Hendrick de Keyser in 1603 the Renaissance-style Zuiderkerk was the first Calvinist church in Amsterdam after the Alteration (see pp26-7). The spire. with its columns, decorative clocks and onion dome is a prominent city landmark and the tower is open for private tours.

The Zuiderkerk ceased to function as a church in 1929 Restored in 1988, it is now a meeting and congress centre. The surrounding housing includes Theo Bosch's modern apartment building, the "Pentagon".

Museum Het Rembrandthuis

Jodenbreestraat 4. Map 8 D4. Tel 520 0400. 1 9, 14, M Nieuwmarkt. Open 10am-5pm daily. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec. 🔊 🚰 🗖 🌠 w rembrandthuis.nl

Rembrandt worked and taught in this house from 1639 until 1656. He lived in the groundfloor rooms with his wife, Saskia, who died here in 1642, leaving the artist with a baby son. Titus (see p202).

Many of Rembrandt's mostfamous paintings were created in the first-floor studio. A fine collection of

Rembrandt's drawings includes various selfportraits in different moods and guises. The

interior has been restored to its former glory, and furnished



Facade of Museum Het Rembrandthuis

with objects and art works using the original inventory drawn up when Rembrandt sold the house in 1656. Printing and paint- making demonstrations take place regularly, as do temporary exhibitions.

Stadhuis-Muziektheater

Waterlooplein 22, Map 8 D4, 19 9, 14. M Waterlooplein, Stadhuis: Tel 14020. Open offices: 8:30am-4pm Mon-Wed & Fri. 1-8pm Thu (free concerts Sep-May: 12:30pm Tue), Muziektheater: Tel 625 5455. See Entertainment: pp242-7. 👢 🌠 w het-muziektheater.nl

Few buildings in Amsterdam caused as much controversy as the Stadhuis (city hall) and Muziektheater (opera house). Nicknamed the "Stopera" by protesters, the scheme required the destruction of dozens of medieval houses, which were virtually all that remained of the original Jewish quarter. This led to running battles between squatters and police (see pp38-9).

The building was completed in 1988, a massive confection of red brick, marble and glass. A mural illustrating the Normaal Amsterdams Peil (see pp38-9) is shown on the arcade linking the two parts of the complex. The Stopera has the largest auditorium in the country, with a seating capacity for 1,689 people, and it is now home to the Netherlands' national opera

and ballet companies. There are guided backstage tours.

Waterlooplein

Man 8 D5 1 9 14 M Waterlooplein Market: Open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri. 8:30am-5pm Sat.

The Waterlooplein dates from 1882, when two canals were filled in to create a large market square in the heart of the Jewish quarter. The site was originally known as Vloovenburg, an artificial island built in the 17th century to house the Jewish settlers (see p66).

The original market disappeared during World War II when most of the lewish residents of Amsterdam were rounded up by the Nazis and transported to concentration camps (see pp.36-7). After the war, a popular flea market grew up in its place.

Despite encroachment by the Stadhuis-Muziektheater. the northern end of the Waterlooplein still operates a lively market, selling anything from bric-a-brac and army-surplus clothing to Balinese carvings.

Mozes en Aäronkerk

Waterloonlein 205 Man 8 F4 Tel 622 1305 1 9 14 M Waterlooplein. Closed to the public except for exhibitions.

Designed by the Flemish architect T. Suvs the Elder in 1841. Mozes en Aäronkerk was built on the site of a hidden Catholic church The later church took its name from the Old Testament figures of Moses and Aaron depicted on the gable stones found on the original building. These are now set into the rear wall

The church was restored in 1990, when its twin wooden towers were painted to look like sandstone. It is now used for exhibitions, public meetings, concerts and celebrations.



Bric-a-brac on display at the flea market in Waterlooplein

© loods Historisch Museum

This remarkable museum of Jewish heritage is housed in four monumental synagogues near Waterlooplein, in the heart of the old Jewish quarter. Three permanent multimedia exhibitions present the history and culture of the Jewish people in the Netherlands through paintings, drawings, artifacts, photographs, films and 3D displays. In addition there are temporary exhibitions as well as a Children's Museum.



Galleries of the Nieuwe Synagoge

The side galleries of the Nieuwe Synagoge house part of the permanent collection, while the downstairs area hosts regular temporary exhibitions.



★ Festival Prayer Book

Presented to Amsterdam's Jewish community by printer Uri Phoebus ha-Levi in 1669, this Festival Prayer Book was one of the few to survive the late Middle Ages.

KEY

- 1 The Nieuwe Synagoge was built in 1752.
- (2) Obbene Shul (1685) (Children's Museum)
- (3) Café.
- (4) Dritt Shul (1778)
- (5) The mikveh, or bath for ritual purification.



Jews in Amsterdam

The first Jew to gain Dutch citizenship was a member of the Portuguese Sephardic community in 1597. The Ashkenazi Jews from eastern Europe came to Amsterdam later, in the 1630s. They were restricted to working in certain trades, but were granted full civil equality in 1796. With the rise of Zionism in the 19th century, Jewish identity re-emerged, but the Nazi occupation decimated the community (see pp36-7).

18th-century Torah scroll finial in the shape of the Westerkerk tower

Hanukah Lamp VISITORS' CHECKLIST Nine-branched candelabra are placed in synagogues Practical Information during Hanukah – the Festival Nieuwe Amstelstraat 1 Man 8 F5 of Lights, Similar lamps are lit to Tel 531 0310. Open 11am-5pm mark the beginning of the Jewish daily. Closed Yom Kippur and Sabbath on Friday evenings. Jewish New Year, 🔊 🖶 🗖 🚺 on request, incl. for the visually disabled. wihm.nl Transport 🛅 9. 14. 🚍 Muziektheater. M DE MORE Waterlooplein Main Torah Mantle entrance This beautiful 18th-century cover for the Torah is heavily woven with gold and silver thread. It was used by Amsterdam's community of Portuguese Sephardic Jews. Museum Guide Temporary exhibitions are shown in the Nieuwe ★ Grote Synagoge

Synagoge and in the print room in the basement. The Ark was given to the synagogue by Rabbi The Grote Synagoge has a permanent collection Abraham Auerbach after the building was illustrating the religion, culture and history of the completed in 1671, to a design by Elias Jews in the Netherlands. Younger visitors will enjoy Bouman (see p68). The Neo-Classical entrance exploring the Children's Museum. was added during renovations in 1822-3.

Portuguese Synagogue

Mr Visserplein 3. Map 8 F5 Tel 531 0310. 1 9. 14. M Waterlooplein, Open Apr-Oct: 10am-5pm Sun-Thu, to 4pm Fri; Nov-Mar: 10am-4pm Sun-Thu, 10am-2pm Fri. Closed Jewish hols. & & w portugesesynagoge.nl

Flias Bouman's design for this synagogue was inspired by the architecture of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, Built for the Portuguese Sephardic community of Amsterdam (see p66) and inaugurated in 1675, the huge building has a rectangular ground plan with the Holy Ark in the southeast corner facing Jerusalem, and the tebah (the podium from which the service is led) at the opposite end

The wooden, barrel-vaulted ceiling is supported by four Ionic columns. The interior of the Synagoge is illuminated by more than 1,000 candles.

Treasure chambers in the basement contain a sumptuous collection of ceremonial objects made of silver, gold and silk brocades, and rare manuscripts.



Italianate façade of the 17th-century Pintohuis

Pintohuis

Sint Antoniesbreestraat 69 Map 8 D4. Tel 624 3184. 1 9. 14. M Nieuwmarkt, Closed to the public.

Isaac de Pinto, a wealthy Portuguese merchant, bought the Pintohuis in 1651 for the then enormous sum of 30,000 quilders. He had it remodelled over the next decades to a

design by Flias Bouman, and it is one of the few private residences in Amsterdam to follow an Italianate style. The exterior design was reworked from 1675 to 1680. Six imposing pilasters break up the severe cream facade into five recessed sections and the cornice is topped by a blind balustrade concealing the roof.

In the 1970s the house was scheduled for demolition because it stood in the way of a newly planned main road. However, concerted protest saved the building, and a branch of the public library opened here. The library has since moved and the building is now used solely as an office space.

@ Montel**baanstoren**

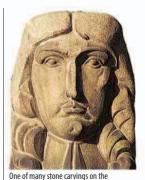
Oude Waal/Oudeschans 2. Map 8 E3. 9, 14, M Nieuwmarkt, Closed to the public

The lower portion of the Montelbaanstoren was built in 1512 and formed part of Amsterdam's medieval fortifications. It lay just beyond the city wall, protecting the city's wharves on the newly built St Antoniesdijk (now the Oudeschans) from the neighbouring Gelderlanders.

The octagonal structure and open-work timber steeple were both added by Hendrick de Keyser (see p92) in 1606. His decorative addition bears a close resemblance to the spire of the Oude Kerk, designed by Joost Bilhamer, which was built 40 vears earlier (see pp70-71). In 1611, the tower began to list, prompting Amsterdam-mers to attach ropes to the top and pull it right again.

Sailors from the VOC (see pp30-31) would gather at the Montelbaanstoren before being ferried in small boats down the IJ to the massive East Indies-bound sailing ships, anchored further out in deep water to the north.

The building, now housing Amsterdam's water authority offices, appears in a number of Rembrandt etchings, and is still a popular subject for artists.



Scheepvaarthuis facade

Scheepvaarthuis

Prins Hendrikkade 108 Man 8 F2 Tel 552 0000 (Hotel Amrâth) 1 2 4, 5, 9, 13, 16, 17, 24, 25, 📟 22, 59, M Centraal Station.

w amrathamsterdam.com

Built as an office complex in 1916, the Scheepvaarthuis (Shipping House) is regarded as the first true example of Amsterdam School architecture (see p99). It was designed by Piet Kramer (1881–1961), Johan van der May (1878-1949) and Michel de Klerk (1884-1923) for a group of shipping companies, which no longer wanted to conduct business on the quav.

The imposing triangular building has a prow-like front and is crowned by a statue of Neptune, his wife and four female figures representing the four points of the compass. No



The medieval Montelbaanstoren, with its decorative timber steeple

expense was spared on the construction and internal decoration of the building and local dock workers came to regard the building as a symbol of capitalism. The doors, stairs, window frames and interior walls are festioned with nautical images, such as dolphins and anchors, Beautiful stained-glass skylights are also decorated with images of sailing ships and compasses

The Scheepvaarthuis is now a luxury hotel the Grand Hotel Amrâth (see p219), with a magnificent hallway and an impressive marble staircase. spanning four floors.

Schreierstoren

Prins Hendrikkade 94-95. Map 8 F1. 1. 2. 4. 5. 9. 13. 16. 17. 24. 25. M Centraal Station. Closed to the public, VOC Café: Tel 428 8291. Open 10am-11pm.

The Schreierstoren (Weepers' Tower) was a defensive structure forming part of the medieval city walls and dates from 1480 It was one of the few fortifications not to be demolished as the city expanded beyond its medieval boundaries in the 17th century. The building now houses a nautical equipment shop.

Popular legend states that the tower derived its name from the weeping (schreien in the original Dutch) of women who came here to wave their men off to sea. It is more likely, however, that the title has a less romantic origin and comes from the tower's position on a sharp (screve or scherpe), 90-degree bend in the old town walls. The earliest of four wall plaques, dated 1569, adds considerably to the confusion by depicting a weeping woman alongside the inscription scrayer hovck, which means sharp corner.

In 1609, Henry Hudson set sail from here in an attempt to discover a new and faster trading route to the East Indies. Instead, he unintentionally "discovered" the river in North America which bears his name. A bronze plaque, laid in 1927, commemorates his voyage.



The Schreierstoren, part of the original city fortifications

2 Zeediik

Map 8 D2. 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, 16, 17, 24, 25. M Centraal Station.

Along with the Nieuwendiik and the Haarlemmerdiik, the Zeediik (sea dyke) formed part of Amsterdam's original fortifications. Built in the early 1300s, some 30 years after Amsterdam had been granted its city charter, these defences took the form of a canal moat with piled-earth ramparts reinforced by wooden palisades. As the city grew and the



Plaque on the Café't Mandje (Little Basket), a gay bar at No. 63 Zeedijk

boundaries expanded, the canals were filled in and the dvkes became obsolete. The paths that ran alongside them became the streets and allevs which bear their names today.

One of the two remaining wooden-fronted houses in Amsterdam can be found at No. 1. It was built in the mid-16th century as a hostel for sailors and now houses Café In 't Aepien (Tel 626 8401), Opposite is St Olofskapel, built in 1445 and named after the first Christian king of Norway and Denmark.

By the 1600s, the Zeedijk had become a slum. The area is on the edge of the city's Red Light

District and in the 1960s and 1970s it became notorious as a centre for drug-dealing and street crime. Following a clean-up campaign in the 1980s, the Zeedijk is now much improved.

Plagues on the gables of some of the street's cafés reveal their former use - the red boot at No. 17 indicates that it was once a cobbler's.

Oude Kerk

The Oude Kerk dates from the early 13th century, when a wooden church was built in a burial ground on a sand bank (see pp22-3). The present Gothic structure is 14th-century and has grown from a single-aisled church into a basilica. As it expanded. it became a gathering place for traders and a refuge for the poor. Its paintings and statuary were destroyed after the Alteration (see pp26-7) in 1578, but the gilded ceiling and stained-glass windows were undamaged. The Great Organ was added in 1724. The church floor consists of around 2,500 tombstones.



The Oude Kerk Today The old church in the heart of the frenetic Red Light District, juxtaposes contemporary art within its medieval interior in spring and autumn.



★ Great Organ (1724) Christian Vater's oak-encased organ has eight bellows and 4,000 pipes. Marbled-wood statues of biblical figures surround it.

- 1) Tomb of Admiral Abraham van der Hulst
- 2 Christening Chapel
- 3 The spire of the bell tower was built by Joost Bilhamer in 1565. François Hemony added the 47-bell carillon in 1658.
- 4 Tomb of Saskia, wife of Rembrandt (see pp64-5)
- (5) Tomb of Admiral Jacob van Heemskerk (1567-1607)
- 6 17th- and 18th-century houses
- 7 Former sacristy



★ Gilded Ceiling

The delicate 15th-century vault paintings have a gilded background They were hidden with lavers of blue paint in 1755 and not revealed until 1955

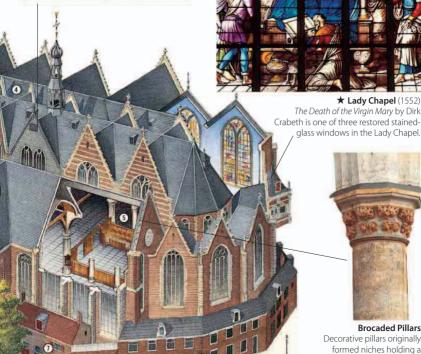
VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Oudekerksplein (entrance through tower). Map 7 C2. Tel. 625 8284. Open 10am- 5:30pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun. 11am Sun. Fall 689 2565. Closed 1 Jan. 30 Apr. 25 Dec. w oudekerk.nl

Transport

· 4, 9, 16, 24, 25,



1412 North transent completed 1330 Church

consecrated to

St Nicholas

1462 First side chapel demolished to build south transept

1500

1552 Lady Chapel added 1658 Carillon installed

1724 Great Organ installed

1979 Church

1951 Church closes

1300

1300 Small stone church built

1250 First wooden chapel

1500 Side chapels added

1400

1390 Pseudo-1565 Spire basilica added to 13threplaced by century tower three-nave hall

1600 1578 Calvinists triumph in the . Alteration

> Stained-glass coats of arms in Lady Chapel



reopens to public

1900

1912-14 Partial restoration of northwest corner

1800

series of statues of the Apostles, all destroyed by the iconoclasts in 1578.

> 1955 Restoration of church begins



NIEUWE ZIJDE

The western side of medieval Amsterdam was known as the Nieuwe Zijde (New Side). Together with the Oude Zijde it formed the heart of the early maritime settlement. Nieuwendijk, now a busy shopping street, was originally one of the earliest sea defences. As Amsterdam grew, it expanded eastwards, leaving large sections of the Nieuwe Zijde, to the west, neglected and in decline. With its many wooden houses, the city was prone to fires and in 1452 much of the area was burnt down. During rebuilding, a broad moat, the Singel, was cut, along which warehouses, rich merchants' homes

and fine quays sprang up. The Amsterdams Historisch Museum, which is now housed in a splendid, converted orphanage, has scores of maps and paintings charting the growth of the city from these times to the present day. One room is devoted to the Miracle of Amsterdam (see p24), which made the city a place of pilgrimage, and brought commerce to the Nieuwe Zijde. Nearby lies Kalverstraat, Amsterdam's main shopping street, and also the secluded Begijnhof. This pretty courtyard is mostly fringed by narrow 17th-century houses, but it also contains the city's oldest surviving wooden house.



Street-by-Street: Nieuwe Zijde

Although much of the medieval Nieuwe Zijde has disappeared, the area is still rich in buildings that relate to the city's past. The Dam, dominated by the Koninklijk Paleis and Nieuwe Kerk, provides examples of architecture from the 15th to the 20th century. Around Kalverstraat, the narrow streets and alleys follow the course of some of the earliest dykes and footpaths. Here, most of the traditional gabled houses have been turned into bustling shops and cafés. Streets such as Rokin and Nes are now home to financial institutions, attracted by the nearby stock and options exchanges. Nes is also known for its venues which feature alternative theatre.

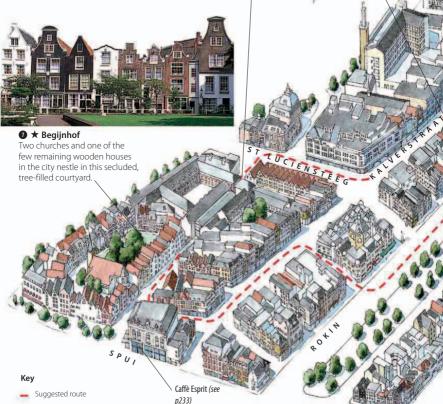
6 ★ Amsterdam Museum

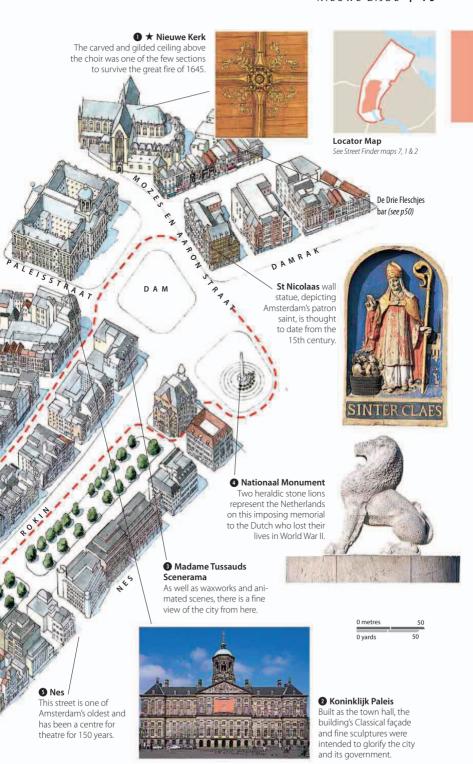
Wall plaques and maps showing the walled medieval city are on display in this converted orphanage that dates from the 16th century.





Kalverstraat, now a busy tourist shopping area, took its name from the livestock market which was regularly held here during the 15th century.





Nieuwe Kerk

Dating from the 14th century, Amsterdam's second parish church was built as the population outgrew the Oude Kerk (see pp70-71). During its turbulent history, the church has been destroyed several times by fire, rebuilt and then stripped of its finery after the Alteration (see pp26-7). It reached its present size in the 1650s. Since 1814 all the Dutch monarchs have been crowned here. A cultural centre hosts impressive exhibitions.



★ Great Organ (1645) Marbled-wood cherubs and angels adorn the elaborate gilded casing of the Great Organ, which was designed by Jacob van Campen



The Nieuwe Kerk is in the back-ground, at the corner of Dam square, in this painting by Jan van de Heyden (1637-1712). It shows the newly completed Stadhuis, which is now the Koninklijk Paleis (see p76).



Gilded Cherubs

Grimacing gilded cherubs struggle to support the corners of the wooden barrel vault above the transept crossing.

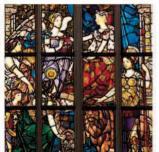
KFY

- Ornate blind windows
- (2) Box pews around the carved pulpit
- (3) Baptistry
- 4 Rood screen by Johannes Lutma (c.1650)
- (5) Orphans' Gallery
- 6 Apse
- (7) Mason's Chapel



★ Carved Pulpit (1664)

It took Albert Vinckenbrinck 15 years to carve the pulpit, which is unusually flamboyant for a Dutch Protestant church.



Stained-Glass Windows

The lower-right section of the colourful arched window in the south transent was designed by Otto Mengelberg in 1898. It depicts Oueen Wilhelmina (see p35) surrounded by courtiers at her coronation

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Dam **Man** 7 B2 **Tel** 638 6909 Open 10am-5pm daily (during exhibitions only: check website). Closed 1 Jan. 25 Dec. 🔊 👪 🗖

m nieuwekerk.nl

Transport

1 2 4 5 9 13 14 16 17 24 25



Brass Candelabra

Magnificent three-tiered brass candelabra were hung from the ceilings of the nave and transepts during restoration work following



★ Tomb of Michiel de Ruyter (1607–76)

1750

Rombout Verhulst's memorial to De Ruyter is in the apse. The admiral, greatly revered by the Dutch, died at sea in battle against the French at Messina.

1421 Fire destroys much of original buildina

1380

date of

earliest

site

Estimated

church on

1452 Damaged in the Great Fire **1540** North transept

Main entrance

> Goblet commemorating beginning of renovation of the church (1647)

> > 1653 Work on tower halted, reason unclear

1841 First royal investiture in Nieuwe Kerk

1847 Gothic structure built to replace tower 1850

1350

1578 Church plundered following the Alteration

razed

(see pp26-7) 1645 Fire destroys all but façade and walls 1646 Work begins on construction of Jacob van Campen's tower

1650

1783 Part of tower torn down 1907 Large-scale restoration 1950

1959 Restoration begins and lasts 20 years



The vast marble-floored Burgerzaal in the Koninklijk Paleis

Koninkliik Paleis

Dam. **Map** 7 B2. 1. 2. 4. 5. 9. 13. 14. 16, 17, 24, 25. **Open** Usual hours are Jun-Aug: 11am-5pm Tue-Sun; Sep-May: noon-5pm Tue-Sun: check website for up-to-date info. 🔊 🔯 € (Tel 620 4060 to reserve a private group tour). w paleisamsterdam.nl

The Koninklijk Paleis, still used occasionally by the Dutch royal family for official functions, was built as the Stadhuis (town hall). Work began in 1648, after the end of the 80 Years War with Spain (see pp30-31). It dominated its surroundings and more than 13,600 piles were driven into the ground for the foundations. The Classically inspired design by Jacob van Campen (1595-1657) reflects Amsterdam's mood of confidence after the Dutch victory. Civic pride is also shown in the allegorical sculptures by Artus Ouellien (1609-68), which decorate the pediments, and in François Hemony's statues and carillon. The full magnificence of the architecture is best seen in the

vast Burgerzaal (citizen's hall) Based on the assembly halls of ancient Rome, this 30-m (95-ft) high room runs the length of the building. It boasts a marble floor inlaid with maps of the eastern and western hemispheres, as well as epic sculptures by Quellien.

Most of the furniture on display, including the chandeliers, dates from 1808, when Louis Napoleon declared the building his royal palace (see nn 32-3).

Madame Tussauds Scenerama

Peek & Cloppenburg Building, Dam 20. Map 7 B3. Tel 523 0623. 3 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. **Open** Jul-Aug: 10am-8:30pm daily; Sep-Jun: 10am-6:30pm daily. Closed 27 Apr. Madametussauds.nl

Located above the Peek & Cloppenburg department store, Madame Tussauds offers thematic and interactive displays featuring royalty,

sporting heroes, popular musicians, film stars and Dutch celebrities Visitors can paint with Rembrandt have a photograph taken with lames Bond or work out with David Beckham

Mationaal Monument

Dam. **Map** 7 B3. 🕮 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25.

Sculpted by John Raedecker and designed by architect JJP Oud, the 22-m (70-ft) obelisk in the Dam commemorates Dutch World War II casualties It was unveiled in 1956, and is fronted by two lions heraldic symbols of the Netherlands Embedded in the wall behind are urns containing earth from all the Dutch provinces and the former colonies of Indonesia, the Antilles and Surinam.

6 Nes

Map 7 B3. 🕮 4, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25.

This quiet narrow street is home to several theatres. In 1614 Amsterdam's first hank was opened in a pawnshop at No. 57. A wall plague marks the site, and pawned goods still clutter the shop window. At night. Nes can be dangerous for the unquarded visitor.



De Engelenbak, one of several theatres located along Nes

4 Amsterdam Museum

See pp82-5.

Begiinhof

Spui (entrance at Gedempte Begijnensloot). Map 7 B4. 1 1. 2. 5. 9, 14, 16, 24, 25, Gates: Open 9am-5pm daily.

The Begjinhof was originally built in 1346 as a sanctuary for the Begjinties, a lay Catholic sisterhood who lived like nuns. although they took no monastic vows. In return for lodgings within the complex, these worthy women undertook to educate the poor and look after the sick. Nothing survives of the earliest dwellings, but the

Begjinhof still retains a sanctified atmosphere. The rows of beautiful houses that overlook its well-kept green include Amsterdam's oldest surviving house at No. 34. On the adjoining wall, there is a fascinating collection of wall plagues with a biblical theme taken from the houses.

the square is dominated by the Engelse Kerk (Énalish Church), which dates from the 15th century. Directly west stands the

Begjinhof Chapel, a clandestine church in which the Begiinties and other Catholics

worshipped in secret until religious tolerance was restored in 1795. It once housed relics of the Miracle of Amsterdam (see pp24–5). Four splendid stained-glass windows and paintings denict scenes of the Miracle

Plague on the Engelse Kerk The occupants request that noise be kept to a minimum and no tour groups are allowed.

The southern fringe of

Houses in the Begjinhof are still

The Begjinhof Chapel, a clandestine church (Nos. 29-30).

was completed in 1680. It contains many reminders of Amsterdam's Catholic past.

No. 19 has a plaque denicting the exodus of the lews from Fayot.





DENER DE

B B



Main entrance from Gedempte Begijnensloot

Het Houten Huis at No. 34 is Amsterdam's oldest house, dating from around 1420. It is one of only two wooden-fronted houses in the city, as timber houses were banned in 1521 after a series of catastrophic fires. Most of the houses in the Begjinhof were not built until after the 16th century.



Engelse Kerk was built around 1419 for the Begijntjes. The church was confiscated after the Alteration (see pp26-7) and rented to a group of English and Scottish Presbyterians in 1607. The Pilgrim Fathers (see p187) may have worshipped here.

Allard Pierson Museum

Oude Turfmarkt 127 Man 7 R4 Tel 525 2556. 14, 9, 14, 16, 24. 25. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Fri. 1-5pm Sat. Sun & pub hols. Closed 1 Jan Easter Sun 27 Apr Whitsun, 25 Dec. 2 & w allardpiersonmuseum.nl

Amsterdam's only specialist archaeological collection is named after Allard Pierson (1831–96), a humanist and scholar The museum contains Cypriot, Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Etruscan and Coptic artifacts. Look out for a case of rather gruesome Egyptian mummy remains, a computer that enables you to write your name in hieroglyphics, a jointed Greek doll from 300 BC and some fine Roman iewellery. Next door is Amsterdam University's special collections department.



Singel between Torensteeg and Oude Leliestraat, Map 7 B2, 1, 2, 5, 13. 14. 17.

The Torensluis is one of the widest bridges in Amsterdam. It was built on the site of a 17th-century sluice gate and took its name from a tower that



Allard Pierson Museum's Neo-Classical facade made of Rremer and Rentheimer stone

stood on the bridge until demolished in 1829 (its outline is marked in the navement) A iail was built in its foundations

In summer visitors can sit out at café tables on the bridge and enjoy pleasant views down the Singel. The statue dominating the bridge is of Multa-tuli, the 19th-century Dutch writer who wrote the well-known book Max Havelaar

Magna Plaza

Nieuweziids Voorburgwal 182. Map 7 B2. **Tel** 626 9199. 11. 2. 5. 13. 14. 17. Open 11am=7pm Mon 10am=7pm Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10am-9pm Thu, noon-7pm Sun, Closed 1 Jan. 27 Apr. 25 & 26 Dec. 😓 w magnaplaza.nl

A post office building has been sited here since 1748. A wall panel on the current building's facade depicts the original office, which was taken out of service in 1854. The present

building was completed in 1899. CH Peters, the architect was ridiculed for the extravagance of its Neo-Gothic design. Critics dubbed the Postkantoor's elahorately decorated style and spindly towers "postoffice Gothic" It has been redeveloped, and is now a shopping mall, the Magna Plaza. The grand dimensions of Peters' design have been well preserved

O Lutherse Kerk

Kattengat 2. **Map** 7 C1. 🕮 1, 2, 5, 13. 17. Closed to the public.

The Lutherse Kerk was designed by Adriaan Dortsman (1625–82) and opened in 1671. It is sometimes known as the Ronde Lutherse Kerk, being the first Dutch Reformed church to feature a circular ground plan and two upper galleries, giving the whole congregation a clear view of the pulpit.

In 1882 a fire started by careless plumbers destroyed everything except the exterior walls When the interior and entrance were rebuilt in 1883. they were made squarer and more ornate, in keeping with church architectural style of that



An outdoor café on the Torensluis bridge overlooking the Singel canal

time. A vaulted copper dome replaced the earlier ribbed version

Falling attendances led to the closure and deconsecration of the church in 1935. The building is now used by the Renaissance Amsterdam Hotel (see n216) as a conference centre and banqueting chamber.

@ Centraal Station

Stationsplein. Map 8 D1. Tel 0900 9292. 1. 2. 4. 5. 9. 11. 13. 16. 17. 24. 25. M Centraal Station, Open 6ammidnight Mon-Fri, 7am-midnight Sat. Sun & public hols.

When the Centraal Station opened in 1889 it replaced the old harbour as the symbolic focal point of the city (see pp34-5) and effectively curtained Amsterdam off from the sea The Neo-Renaissance red brick railway terminus was designed by PJH Cuypers, who was also responsible for the Riiksmuseum (see pp132-3). and Al van Gendt, who designed the Concertaebouw (see n130)

Three artificial islands were created, using 8.600 wooden piles to support the structure. In the design of the station's twin towers and imposing central section there are architectural echoes of a triumphal arch. The imposing façade is adorned with elaborate gold and coloured decoration showing allegories of maritime trade - a tribute to the city's past. Today it is a major



Weather vane on Centraal Station



Decorative brickwork on the facade of the Beurs van Berlage

meeting point as well as the transport hub of the capital, with 1,400 trains operating daily (see p264), and buses and trams terminating here. The station is currently undergoing major renovation.

® Sint Nicolaasbasiliek

Prins Hendrikkade 73. Map 8 D1. Tel 624 8749. 💓 1, 2, 4, 5, 9,13, 16, 17, 24, 25. M Centraal Station, Open noon-3pm Mon & Sat, 11am-4pm Tue-Fri. 12:30pm Mon-Sat: 10:30am, 1pm (in Spanish) Sun. w nicolaasparochie.nl

Sint Nicolaas, the patron saint of seafarers, is an important icon in Holland. Many churches are named after him, and the Netherlands' principal day for the giving of presents, 5 December, is known as Sinterklaasavond (see p55).

The Sint Nicolaasbasiliek was designed by AC Blevs (1842-1912), and completed in 1887. It replaced some clandestine Catholic churches set up in the city when Amsterdam was officially Protestant (see n86).

The exterior is rather grim and forbidding, its twin towers dominating the skyline. The interior was recently enlivened by the replacement of stainedglass windows in the dome.

Museum **Amstelkring**

See pp86-7.

Beurs van Berlage

Damrak 2 Man 7 C2 Tel 530 4141 4. 9. 16. 24. 25. **Open** only during exhibitions. Closed 1 Jan. 2 2 6 11am Sat P

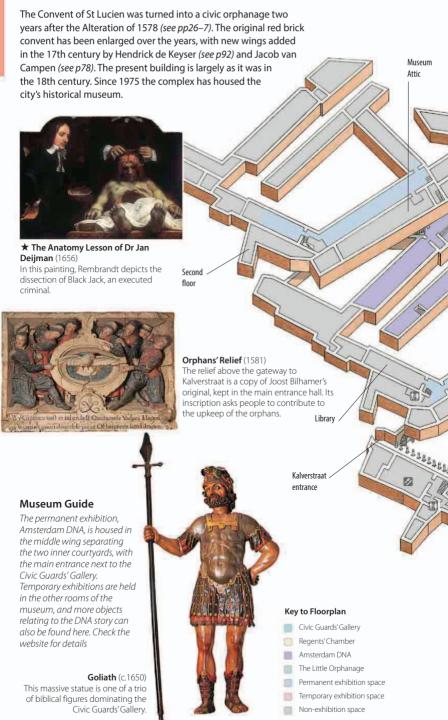
w beursvanberlage.nl

Hendrik Berlage's stock exchange was completed in 1903. Its clean, functional appearance marked a departure from late 19th-century revivalist architecture Many of its design features were adopted by the Amsterdam School (see p.99). It has an impressive frieze showing the evolution of man from Adam to stockbroker. Now used as a venue for concerts and shows, it also houses a variety of changing exhibitions.



Neo-Renaissance façade of the Sint Nicolaaskerk

Amsterdam Museum





★ The Flower Market and the Town Hall (1673) This scene by Gerrit Berckheijde (1638–98) shows the city's original flower market on the Nieuweziids Voorburgwal, which was filled in in the late 1800s. In the background is the Koninklijk Paleis (see p76).

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Kalverstraat 92, St Luciensteeg 27. Map 1 C5. Tel 523 1822. Open 10am-5pm daily. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr. 25 Dec. 2 & 2 Dec.

mamsterdammuseum.nl

Transport

1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 24, 25.



Gilded Silver City Keys

These two silver keys were presented to Napoleon upon his entry into Amsterdam on 9 October 1811 (see p33).



Ground floor

17th-century red brick façade



First floor

Main entrance

St Luciensteeg entrance

Hunting Day (1926) Johan Braakensiek's illustration shows the lively carnival atmosphere in Zeedijk during the celebrations for this two-day event, which took place on the third Monday of August.



Exploring the Amsterdam Museum

At the museum's heart is the Amsterdam DNA exhibition which offers a multimedia introduction to the development of Amsterdam from its humble origins as a small fishing village at the mouth of the Amstel in the Middle Ages to today's cosmopolitan city. Visitors can then explore the other rooms, where aspects of Amsterdam's history are dealt with in more detail, including the city's Golden Age in the 17th century (see pp28-9). A series of Civic Guard group portraits are a highlight of the collection. At "The Little Orphanage" children discover what life was like in the 17th century.

Civic Guards' Gallery

This covered walkway is accessible to all during museum hours and it is free to enter Oueen Juliana (see nn36-7) opened the Civic Guards' Gallery in 1975 to house the group portraits which were popular during the 16th century.

The Civic Guard or town watch, comprised three guilds of marksmen, which merged in 1580. The Guard held an annual banquet, which became a popular setting for the group portrait. For posterity the Guard were usually depicted in their Sunday best as opposed to their quard dress.

This is a rare collection as few portraits were commissioned after 1650. Best-known are Rembrandt's works: highlights are by Dirck Barendsz (see p83) and Cornelis Anthonisz, such as The Meal of the 17 Guardsmen of Company H (1533). These 15 large and imposing works are iuxtaposed with contemporary portraits of Amsterdam citizens and celebrities on the opposing wall.

Regents' Chamber

Built in 1634 this room was the meeting place of the orphanage's directors (regents). Its fine ceiling, added in 1656. shows the orphans receiving charity. Portraits of the regents hang on the walls alongside Abraham de Verwer's two paintings of The Battle of Slaak (1633). The long table and cabinets are 17th-century.

Amsterdam DNA

The Amsterdam DNA exhibition the heart and soul of the museum, is a 45-minute. historical tour of the city. The exhibition explores Amsterdam's main cultural characteristics. including the spirit of enterprise. freedom of thought, civic virtue and creativity. Key moments are examined chronologically via touch-sensitive screens and archival film footage, in a variety of different languages.

The exhibition begins by explaining how the past and present have influenced each other. This is followed by a

chronological history of the city, beginning in the year 1000 when the first settlement was huilt These initial inhabitants constructed a dam across the river Amstel and the village slowly grew, thanks to trade and shipping brought alongside the dam. The city also became a



Terrestrial globe by cartographer Willem Blaeu on display at the museum

popular destination for pilgrims who were inspired by the Miracle of Amsterdam in 1345: a dving man was given the Sacrament which he regurgitated, but when thrown on the fire the Host would not burn. A woman reached into the fire and retrieved the Sacramental bread without being burned by the flames. Many churches were built in response, including one on the very spot where the miracle had taken place, and thousands of pilgrims flocked to the city.

Between 1500 and 1560 the city's population tripled. The Civic Guard became defenders of law and order in the overcrowded city and a display of its armour and weaponry is shown in the exhibition. There is also an opportunity for visitors to have their photo taken posing with the armour. Cornelis Anthonisz's bird's-eye view of Amsterdam (see pp26-7) is the oldest city plan to survive, and is also on display here.

The evolution of Amsterdam continues through the turbulent revolt against Spain and Catholicism in the second half of the 16th century.



Regents' Chamber, furnished with 17th-century pieces and oil paintings



The Gouden Leeuw on the LL at Amsterdam by Willem van de Velde (1665)

During the Alteration, in 1578. Protestants took control of the city and many churches were plundered. The city hecame a haven for Protestant refugees from the Southern Netherlands. With the influx of fleeing tradesmen and artisans Amsterdam prospered, and this became known as the city's Golden Age (see pp28-9).

Amsterdam DNA emphasises the importance of overseas trade and colonial expansion and includes the iconic globe of the famous cartographer Willem Blaeu (see n148) Portraits and busts of dignitaries and governors of Amsterdam's poor houses emphasise the great discrepancy between the rich and poorer inhabitants of the city. The patronage of art flourished in the city's Golden Age and artists flooded into the city. Contemporary paintings, often allegorical in nature, portray rich families, such as Jacob de Wit's Maid of Amsterdam (1741), These artworks by great masters. such as Pieter de Hooch and Rembrandt, are just a few of the superlative exhibits bringing the rich and varied history of Amsterdam to life.

The exhibition further highlights changes to the city during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, beginning with French troops entering the city in 1795. The republic of the Netherlands became a kingdom in 1806, when Napoleon appointed his brother Louis Bonaparte as the country's ruling monarch. Amsterdam fell into a steady decline, as Great Britain became the principal maritime power.

During the latter half of the 19th century, the Dutch economy began to flourish again, thanks to its colonies, and the city of Amsterdam grew dramatically, Socialists campaigned for housing of the poorer classes to improve and art of the day reflected the city's social problems. Works by George Breitner (see p135) and sombre black-and-white photographs depict this less salubrious side of the city.

Amsterdam DNA touches on the further hardship and famine experienced during World War II (see pp36-7). The round-up and deportation of Jews led to a mass strike in the city. By the war's conclusion. in 1945, some 60,000 Amsterdam Jews had perished in Nazi concentration camps.

The exhibition concludes with a celebration of multicultural Amsterdam and its role as a 21st-century capital of freedom – a "thousand-vear-old city on the water" that was founded on, and continues to hold dear and vehemently protect the values of free enterprise and freedom of speech, religion and self-expression.

The Little Orphanage

This exhibition gives children and parents the opportunity to experience life in a 17th-century orphanage. The museum relocated from the Waaq building (see p62) to this large premesis 15 years after the orphanage's closure, and retains many indications of the building's original purpose. This, combined with interactive exhibits and hands-on activities gives families a real taste of the orphanage's place in Amsterdam 400 years ago.

Along with authentically arranged classrooms, kitchens and animal sheds for children to explore are talking exhibits and pop up characters to auide visitors through life in the orphanage. Children also have the opportunity to dress up, milk cows and practice their calligraphy.

The Old Orphanage



Orphan Girls Going to Church (c. 1880) by Nicolaas van der Waaij

The orphanage moved to St Lucien's convent in 1580. It was open only to the children of burghers, excluding the poorest children. As the city grew, so did the number of orphans. In the 17th century, two wings were built to accommodate more children, and a separate entrance for girls was added on St Luciensteeg. The building was used as an orphanage until 1960, but the formal uniform was abandoned in 1919.

Museum Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder

Tucked away on the edge of the Red Light District is a restored 17th-century canal house, with two smaller houses to the rear. The upper storeys conceal a secret Catholic church known as Our Lord in the Attic (Ons' Lieve Heer op Solder), originally built in 1663. After the Alteration (see pp26–7), when Amsterdam officially became Protestant, many hidden churches were built throughout the city. The building became a museum in 1888, and has fine church silver, religious artifacts and paintings. The church have been restored to its original state and modernized. Next door to the church is an exhibition space, café and shop.



Museum Façade

The house on the canal has a simple spout gable and includes the two smaller houses behind. It was built by bourgeois merchant Jan Hartman in 1661.

Main entrance

KEY

- 1 House on the canal
- ② A chaplain's tiny box bedroom is hidden off a bend in the stairs. There was a resident chaplain in the church from 1663.
- ③ Wooden viewing gallery of church
- 4 Sacristy
- ③ Rear house
- 6 Middle house

Canal Room

Located on the first floor, at the front of the house, the canal room is where 17th-century residents would have spent the day.





VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Oudeziids Voorburgwal 40. Map 8 D2. Tel 624 6604. Open 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun

and public hols. Closed 1 Jan, 30 Apr. P Opsolder.nl

Transport

1 4 9 16 24 25

Confessional

The landing where the tiny wooden confessional stands was formerly the living room of the rear house.



★ Our Lord in the Attic

The original hidden church was extended in c. 1735 to create more seating space. It served the Catholic community until St Nicolaaskerk (see p81) was finished in 1887.







★ The Parlour

Restored to its former opulence, the Parlour is an unusually fine example of a living room decorated and furnished in the Dutch Classical style of the 17th century.



WESTERN CANAL RING

At the start of the 17th century, construction of the *Grachtengordel* began here, just west of the Singel. At the same time, city planner Hendrick Staets laid out the marshy area beyond these fashionable canals as an area for workers whose industries were banned from the town centre. Its network of narrow streets and oblique canals followed the course of old paths and drainage ditches. Immigrants fleeing religious persecution also

Sights at a Glance

settled here. It is thought that Huguenot refugees called the district *jardin* (garden), later corrupted to "Jordaan". Historically a poor area, it is famous for its almshouses (hofjes), and the Claes Claeszhofje is a fine early example. The Jordaan now has a more bohemian air. Further north are the characterful Western Islands, created in the mid-17th century to meet the demand for warehouses.

Historic Buildings and Restaurants pp224-31 Monuments 1 Bordewijk 2 Chez Georges Homomonument 4 Huis met de Hoofden 3 Christophe 13 Haarlemmerpoort 4 Daalder 5 De Bolhoed Musaums Anne Frank House 7 Mantoe Pianola en Piano Museum See also Street Finder 8 Pancake Bakery nn274-87 Canals and Islands 9 Pignia 6 Egelantiersgracht 10 Semhar 6 Bloemaracht 11 Stout! Brouwersgracht Western Islands Westerdok Churches Westerkerk Noorder- kerk Markets Noordermarkt Hofies Claes Claeszhofje B De Star and Zon's Hofie 0 yards 250

Street-by-Street: Around the Jordaan



site of Rembrandt's unmarked grave, and was the setting for the wedding of Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus in 1966.

by an interesting mixture of old and new architecture. Pretty views are provided from its numerous bridges.



Homomonument

Westermarkt (hetween Westerkerk and Keizersgracht). Map 1 B4. 🕮 13. 14. 17. E Keizersgracht.

w homomonument.nl

This monument to the homosexual men and women who lost their lives during World War II provides a quiet place of contemplation amid the bustle of the Westermarkt

The pink triangular badge which gav men were forced to wear in Nazi concentration camps later became an emblem of gay pride, and provided the inspiration for Karin Daan's 1987 design. The monument consists of three large pink granite triangles, one of which bears an engraving from a poem by Jacob Israël de Haan (1881–1924)

Westerkerk

Prinsengracht 281. Map 1 B4. Tel 624 7766. 13, 14, 17. Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-3pm Sat, 629 7766, Tower: Open Apr & Oct: 10am-6pm Mon-Sat: May-Sep: 10am-8pm Mon-Sat. 6 w westerkerk.nl

Built as part of the development of the Canal Ring (see pp46-7). this church has the tallest tower in the city at 85 m (272 ft), and the largest nave of any Dutch



Re-creation of Otto Frank's office in the Anne Frank House

Protestant church, It was designed by Hendrick de Keyser. who died in 1621, a year after work began

Rembrandt was buried here though his grave has never been found. The shutters of the huge organ (1686) were painted, by Gérard de Lairesse, with lively scenes showing King David, the Oueen of Sheba and the Evangelists.

The spire of the Westerkerk. which is built in tapering sections, is topped by the Imperial Crown of Maximilian (see pp24–5). The panoramic views of Amsterdam from the top of the tower justify the rather gruelling climb.

Anne Frank House

Prinsengracht 267, Map 1 B4, Tel 556 7105. 🎛 13, 14, 17. 🚍 Prinsengracht. Open mid-Sep-mid-Mar: 9am-7pm daily (to 9pm Sat); mid-Mar-mid-Sep; 9am-9pm Sun-Fri, 9am-10pm Sat: Jul-Aug: 9am-10pm daily: 1 Jan: noon-7pm: 4 May: 9am-7pm: 25 Dec: noon-5pm; 31 Dec: 9am-5pm.

Closed Yom Kippur, 2 2 2 w annefrank.org

For two years during World War II the Frank and van Pels families, both Jewish, hid here until their betraval to the Nazis. In 1957, the Anne Frank Stichting (foundation) took over the house, to carry out "the



The Westerkerk in the 18th century, a view by Jan Ekels

ideals set down in the *Diary of Anne Frank.*" The 13-year-old Anne began her now-famous diary in July 1942. It gives a unique account of growing up under persecution, and of life in confinement (see pp36–7). It was first published in 1947 as *Het Achterhuis* (The Anneye)

Visitors to the Anne Frank House enter the annexe via the revolving bookcase that hid its entrance. Its rooms are now empty, except for the film-star nin-ups in Anne's room, and Otto Frank's model of the annexe as it was during the occupation. Otto Frank's office has been re-created using period furniture. Original documents concerning the Frank family are on display. Get here early or late in the day with nearly one million visitors a vear, the museum gets very crowded. Avoid gueues by ordering tickets online. Last admittance is half an hour before closing.

4 Huis met de Hoofden

Keizersgracht 123. **Map** 7 A1. 13, 14, 17. **Closed** to the public.

Built in 1622, the Huis met de Hoofden (house with the heads) is one of the largest double houses of the period. It has a fine step gable and takes its name from the six heads placed on pilasters along the facade. Legend has it that they commemorate a housemaid who. when left alone in the house, surprised six burglars and cut off their heads. The sculptures are in fact portravals of six Classical deities (from left to right): Apollo, Ceres, Mars,

The design of the building is sometimes attributed to Pieter de Keyser (1595–1676), the son of Hendrick de Keyser.

Minerva, Bacchus

and Diana.



Bikes and boats along the tranguil Bloemgracht

6 Egelantiersgracht

Map 1 B4, 1 13, 14, 17.

Many canals in the Jordaan were named after trees or flowers, and this includes the Egelantiersgracht (sweetbrier or eglantine).

The canal was cut in the 17th century along a drainage ditch. The houses in this

area, built for artisans, are on a more intimate scale than the grand mansions along Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht. As a result.

demand for canalside residences in the Jordaan has boomed. Despite some development, the Egelantiersgracht

retains much of its original character and one of the most charming spots along the canal is the St Andrieshofje at

Head of Apollo on the Nos. 107–114. This *hofje*Huis met de Hoofden was built in 1617, and the

passage through to its courtyard is decorated with splendid blue-and-white tiles.

Bloemgracht

Map 1 B4. 13. 14. 17.

The Bloemgracht (flower canal) was a centre for dye and paint manufacture in the 17th century. Today, only one paint maker remains, and this quiet canal is called the Heren-gracht (gentlemen's canal) of the Jordaan, because of the fine gable houses along its banks.

The most beautiful are the three houses at Nos. 87 to 91. Built in 1642 in the traditional "burgher" style of the period, they feature stepped gables and a strong use of glass. Their gable stones, which served as house names until numbering was introduced in the 19th century, depict a farmer, a townsman and a seaman.



Stone plaque on the *hofje* founded in 1616 by the merchant Anslo

Claes Claeszhofje

1e Egelantiersdwarsstraat. **Map** 1 B3. 3, 10, 13, 14, 17. **Open** on & off.

This is a group of hofjes, the earliest of which was founded in 1616 by a textile merchant, Claes Claesz Anslo. They were renovated by the Stichting Diogenes, a foundation which now rents out the houses to art students.

One of the oldest and most distinctive is the "Huis met de Schrijvende Hand" (house with the writing hand), Egelantiersstraat 52. Once the home of a teacher, it dates from the 1630s.

• De Star Hofje and Zon's Hofje

De Star Hofje: Prinsengracht 89–133; Zon's Hofje: Prinsengracht 159–171. Map 1 C3. ∰ 3, 10, 13, 14, 17. Star: Open 6am–6pm Mon–Fri, 6am–2pm Sat. Zon Open 10am–5pm Mon–Fri.

These two charming *hofjes* are within a short walk of each other. De Star was built on the site of the Star Brewery in 1804

and is officially known as Van Brienen *hofje*. Legend has it that a merchant, Jan van Brienen, founded this almshouse in gratitude for his release from

> a vault in which he had been accidentally imprisoned. The peaceful courtyard has a lovely flower garden.

Zon's hofje was built on the site of a clandestine church, known as Noah's Ark, now indicated by a plaque in the courtyard. The church's original name of Kleine Zon (Little Sun) gave the hofje its name.

Noorderkerk

Noordermarkt 44–48. **Map** 1 C3. **Tel** 626 6436. ∰ 3, 10, 13, 14, 17. **Open** 10:30am–12:30pm Mon, 11am–1pm Sat. ∰ 10am & 6:30pm Sun.

Built for poor settlers in the Jordaan, the North Church was the first in Amsterdam to be constructed in the shape of a Greek cross. Its layout around a central pulpit allowed all in the encircling pews to see and hear well

The church was designed by Hendrick de Keyser (see p92), who died in 1621, a year after building began. It was completed in 1623. The church is still well attended by a Calvinist congregation, and bears many reminders of the working-class origins of the Jordaan. By the entrance is a sculpture of three bound

The lush garden in the courtyard of De Star hofje

figures, inscribed: "Unity is Strength". It commemorates the Jordaanoproer (Jordaan Riot) of 1934 (see pp36–7). On the south façade is a plaque recalling the strike of February 1941, a protest at the Nazis' deportation of Jews.

There are regular concerts on Saturday afternoons.



Visitors to the Saturday morning fair in Noordermarkt

Noordermarkt

Map 1 C3. 3 3, 10, 13, 14, 17. General Market: Open 9am–1pm Mon;
Boerenmarkt (organic fruit and yegetables) Open 9am–5pm Sat

Since 1627, the square that surrounds the Noorderkerk has been a market site. At that time it sold pots and pans and vodden (old clothes), a tradition that continues today with a flea market. Since the 18th century. the area has been a centre for bed shops, and bedding. curtains and fabrics are still sold on Monday morning along the Westerstraat. On Saturday mornings, the vogel-ties (small birds) market sells various birds and rabbits. Around 10am, the boerenmarkt takes over, selling health foods ethnic crafts and candles

• Pianola en Piano Museum

Fifteen instruments and some 15,000 piano rolls are on show here, celebrating the automatic pianos that were introduced in 1900. There are regular performances often with live pianists.



A flower-filled houseboat on Brouwersgracht

© Brouwersgracht

Map 1 B2. 1 3.

Brouwersgracht (brewers' canal) was named after the breweries established here in the 17th and 18th centuries. Leather, spices, coffee and sugar were also processed and stored here. Today, most of the warehouses are smart residences that look out on an array of houseboats moored between the canal's pictur-esque hump-backed bridges.

Prime examples of these functional buildings, with their spout gables (*see pp98–9*) and shutters, can be seen at Nos. 188 to 194. The last distillery in the area, the Ooievaar, is just off

Brouwersgracht on Driehoekstraat (Triangle street). The Dutch gin, *jenever*, has been made here since 1782. Visit one of the many *proeflokalen* or tasting houses (*see p50*) around the city to sample it.

B Haarlemmerpoort

Haarlemmerplein 50. **Map** 1 B1. 3. **Closed** to the public.

Originally a defended gateway into Amsterdam, the Haarlemmerpoort marked the beginning of the busy route to Haarlem. The present gateway, dating from 1840, was built for King William Il's triumphal entry

into the city (see pp34–5) and officially named Willemspoort. However, as the third gateway to be built on or close to this site, it is still referred to as the Haarlemmerpoort by Amsterdammers.

Designed by Cornelis Alewijn (1788–1839), the Neo-Classical gatehouse was used as tax offices in the 19th century and was made into flats in 1986. Traffic no longer goes through the gate, since a bridge has been built over the adjoining Westerkanaal. Beyond the Haarlemmerpoort is the peaceful Westerpark (see p153), a pleasant retreat



Plaque with shipping motif on a house in Zandhoek, Realeneiland

Western Islands

Map 1 C1. 🕮 3.

This district comprises three islands built on the IJ in the early 17th century to provide space for warehouses and shipyards. Some of these are still in use and many of the period houses have survived.

Bickerseiland was bought in 1631 by the merchant Jan Bicker, who then developed it. Today, the island is residential with a mix of colourful apartment blocks on one side of its walkway and a jumble of tugs and houseboats on the other.

Photogenic Realeneiland has one of the city's prettiest spots, the waterside street of Zandhoek. Here, a row of 17th-century houses built by the island's founder, Jacobsz Reaal, overlook the sailboats moored along Westerdok.

Prinseneiland, the smallest island, is dominated by characterful warehouses, many of which are now apartments. The walk on pages 158–9 explores the area in more detail.



The "house with the writing hand" (c. 1630) in Claes Claeszhofje

Dutch Hofjes

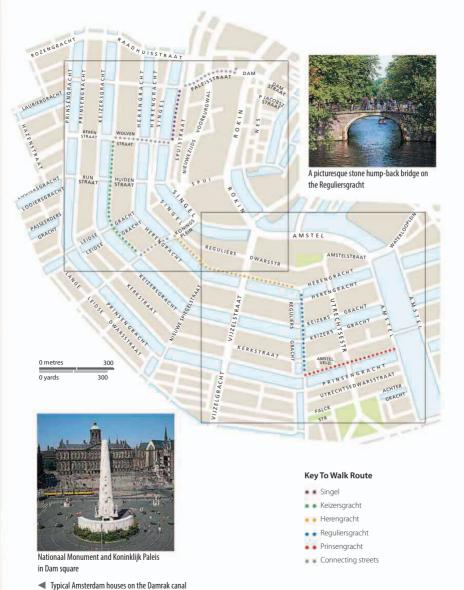
Before the Alteration (see pp26-7), the Catholic Church usually provided subsidized housing for the poor and elderly, particularly women. During the 17th and 18th centuries, rich merchants and Protestant organizations took on this charitable role and built hundreds of almshouse complexes, which were planned around courtyards and known as hofjes. Behind their street façades lie pretty houses and serene gardens. Visitors are admitted to some but are asked to respect the residents' privacy. Many hofjes are found in the Jordaan and some still serve their original purpose (see p77).



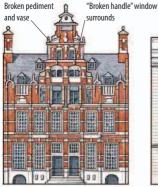
A CANAL WALK AND GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURE

With the increase in wealth and civic pride in Amsterdam during the 17th century, an ambitious plan was formed to build a splendid ring of canals round the city (see pp28–9). Conceived in 1609, and added to in 1664 by Daniel Stalpaert, the scheme grew to encompass wide canals lined with

opulent town houses in a variety of architectural styles (see pp98–9). The houses on the canals of Singel, Keizersgracht, Herengracht, Reguliersgracht and Prinsengracht, illustrated on pp100–107, form a fascinating walk through Golden Age Amsterdam.



Amsterdam has been called a city of "well-mannered" archi-tecture because its charms lie in intimate details rather than in grand effects. From the 15th century on, planning laws, plot sizes and the instability of the topsoil dictated that facades were largely uniform in size and built of lightweight brick or sandstone, with large windows to reduce the weight. Canal house owners stamped their own individuality on the buildings, mainly through the use of decorative gables and cornices, ornate doorcases and varying window shapes.



Bartolotti House (1617)

The contrasting brick and stone. flamboyant step gable, with its marble obelisk and scrolls, is typical of the Dutch Renaissance style of Hendrick de Keyser.



Pediment carvings symbolize

Felix Meritis Building (1778)

The Corinthian columns and triangular pediment are influenced by Classical architecture. This marks the building (see p115) by Jacob Otten Husly as Dutch Classical in style.



Ground Plans

Taxes were levied according to width of facade, so canal houses were often long and narrow, with an achterhuis (back annexe) used for offices and storage.

Cornices

Decorative top mouldinas, called cornices, became popular from 1690 onwards when the fashion for gables declined. By the 19th century, they had become unadorned.



Louis XV-style with rococo balustrade (1739)



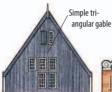
19th-century cornice with mansard roof



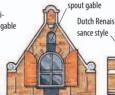
19th-century dentil (tooth-shaped) cornice

Gables

The term gable refers to the front apex of a roof. It disauised the steepness of the roof under which goods were stored (see pp24-5). In time, gables became decorated with scrolls, crests, and even coats of arms.



No. 34 Begijnhof (c. 1420) is one of few remaining timber houses (see pp24-5).



The style of gable on No. 213 Leliegracht (c. 1620) was used for warehouses



Step gables like the one on No. 2 Brouwersgracht were in vogue between 1600-65.



Leaning Facades

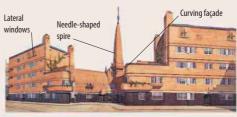
Canal houses were often built with a deliberate tilt, allowing goods to be winched up to the attic without crashing against the windows. A law dating from 1565 restricted this lean to 1:25, to limit the risk of buildings collapsing into the streets.

Amsterdam School Architecture

Members of the Amsterdam School, a loose grouping of like-minded and idealistic architects, built many distinctive housing estates between 1911 and 1923 (see p153). They believed in the ability of unusual architecture to enhance residents' lives many of whom were rehoused from appalling slums. Michel de Klerk's development, Het Schip (1921). is on the corner of Zaanstraat Spaarndammerplantsoen in northwest Amsterdam (www.hetschip.nl). It is typical of the lively style of the Amsterdam School.



Michel de Klerk (1884-1923)



Het Schip (the ship), built to resemble an ocean-going liner



Dutch Hofies

Almshouses (hofies) were built throughout the Netherlands by rich benefactors in the 17th and 18th centuries. By providing accommodation for the elderly and infirm (see p95), the hofjes marked the beginning of the Dutch welfare system.



Sign of a sailor's hostel



Symbol of a dairyman

Wall Plaques

Carved and painted

stones were used to

identify houses before

street numbering was

introduced in the 19th

owner's occupation.

century. Many reflect the



Noah's Ark - a refuge for the poor







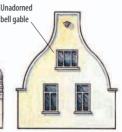
No. 298 Oudezijds Voorburgwal has a bell gable dating from the 18th century.



No. 419 Singel has a neck gable, a common feature from 1640 to around 1840.



No. 119 Oudezijds Voorburgwal has an ornate 17th-century neck gable.



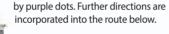
No. 57 Leliegracht has a plain bell gable, popular from the late 17th century.

Ħ

Dam Square to Herengracht 487

The walk along Amsterdam's finest canals begins in Dam square (see p76). Following the grey dots on the map, leave the square past the Koninkliik Paleis (see p76), cross Nieuweziids Voorburgwal and Spuistraat down Paleisstraat, and turn left along the left bank of Singel, marked







trader Julius Carle Bunge. Known as the Bungehuis, it was completed in 1934.

first constructed.

The three neck gables on Nos. 353-7 Keizersgracht

date from the early 18th century (see pp98-9).

The step gable at No. 279 Singel dates from the 19th century – most along this canal were built between 1600-65 (see n98).



Huidanetraat



No. 345a Keizersgracht is a narrow house sharing a cornice with its neighbour.

In 1708, No. 333 Keizersgracht was rebuilt for tax collector Jacob de Wilde. It has been converted into apartments.



The Sower at Arles (1888)

In March 1878, Vincent van Gogh (see pp136-7) visited his uncle, who ran a bookshop and art dealership at No. 453 Keizersgracht.





Nos. 289-293 Singel

These houses stand on an alley once called Schoorsteenvegersteeg (chimney sweeps' lane) home to immigrant chimney sweeps

Yab Yum Brothel

This famous former brothel, with its opulent interior, was located at No. 295 Singel.



Keizersgracht

This photograph of the "emperor's canal" is taken at dusk, from the corner of Leidsegracht. The Westerkerk (see n92) is in the distance.

Behind the contrasting 18th-century facades at Nos. 317 and 319 Singel are two second-hand bookshops, which are well worth browsing through.



The unusual office block at

No. 313 Keizersgracht was built in 1914 by CN van Goor.

No. 319 Keizersgracht

was built by the architect Philips Vinaboons (1608– 78) in 1639. It has a rare. highly decorated facade covered with scrolls, vases and garlands.

Peter the Great (1716) The Russian tsar sailed up Keizersgracht to No. 317, the home of his friend Christoffel Brants, Legend says the tsar got drunk and kept the mayor waiting while at a civic reception.



Directions to Keizersgracht

At Raamsteeg, cross the bridge, take the Oude Spiegelstraat, cross Herengracht and walk along Wolvenstraat to the left bank of Keizersgracht.



Keizersgracht



Jacob de Wit

The artist (see p124) bought Nos. 383 and 385 Keizersgracht. living in No. 385 until his death in 1754.

No. 399 Keizersgracht

dates from 1665, but the facade was rebuilt in the 18th century. Its achterhuis (see p98) has been perfectly preserved.

No. 409 Keizersgracht

Built in 1671 on a triangular piece of land, this house contains a newly discovered, highly decorated wooden ceiling.



Leidsegracht

This canal marked the end of Daniel Stalpaert's city expansion plan of 1664 (see p28). It has a mixture of fine 17th- and 18th-century canal houses.



house at No. 323 Keizersgracht was built in 1728. It has a raised cornice embellished

The Louis XIV-style

with two hoisting beams, one functional and the other to provide symmetry.





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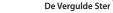


Gerrit Rietveld

Rietveld (see p138) designed the cupola on the then Metz & Co building, and a line of plain, inexpensive furniture for the store.

Directions to Herengracht

Turn left on to Leidsestraat, and walk to Koningsplein, then take the left bank of the Herengracht eastwards towards Thorbeckeplein.



(gilded star), at No. 387 Keizersgracht, was built in 1668 by the municipal stonemasons' yard. It has an elongated neck gable (see p98-9) and narrow windows.



No. 401 Keizersgracht houses a museum of photography known as Huis Marseille.

No. 469 Herengracht

The modern office block by KL Siimons replaced the original 18th-century houses in 1971.





Jan Corver Amsterdam 19 times, Corver built No. 479





Herengracht



104 | A CANAL WALK

home of the Russian

Herengracht 48 to the Amstel

The second half of the walk takes you along Herengracht. winding past grand, wide-fronted mansions. It then follows Reguliersgracht and Prinsengracht down to the Amstel. Many of the fine houses have recently been converted into banks, offices and exclusive apartment blocks.



Locator Map



The facade of No. 495 Herengracht was rebuilt and a balcony added by Jean Coulon in 1739 for hurgomaster and

No 507 Herengracht was home of mayor Jacob Boreel, His house was looted in retaliation for the burial tax he introduced into the city.

Riots in 1696

Herengracht (1790)

A delicate watercolour by Tsar Peter (see p103) staved J Prins shows the at No. 527 Herengracht. "gentlemen's canal" from Koninasplein. ambassador after a night of drunken revelry at No. 317







Herengracht

The house at No. 491 Herengracht was built in 1671. The facade, rebuilt in the 18th century, is decorated with scrolls, vases and coats of arms.

> Directions to Reguliersgracht At Thorbeckeplein, take the bridge to the right, which marks the beginning of

Reguliersgracht. Follow the left bank.

No. 493 Herengracht This 17th-century house was given a Louis XV-style facade in 1767

by Anthony van Hemert.

The Kattenkabinet at

No. 497 Herengracht was created by financier B Meiier in 1984. It is devoted to exhibits featuring the cat in art.

Three houses boasting typical neck gables, at Nos.

art expert Jan Six.

17, 19 and 21 Reguliersgracht, are now much sought after as prestigious addresses.

The Nieuwe Amsterdammer

A weekly magazine aimed at Amsterdam's Bolshevik intelligentsia was published at No. 19 Reguliersgracht from 1914-20.



and 39 Reguliersgracht lean towards the water, showing the danger caused by subsidence when building on

marshland.



Keizersgracht



Reguliersgracht Bridges

Seven arched stone

which was originally

bridges cross the canal.

designed to be a street.



All registered houseboats have postal addresses and are connected to the electricity mains.

The sober spout-gabled building at No. 1075 Prinsengracht was built as

Nos. 1059 and 1061 Prinsengracht

the splendour of the Grachtengordel,

where the height of the steps was

considered an indication of wealth.

have tiny basement entrances, rare amid

My Domestic Companions

Society portraitist Thérèse van Duyl Schwartze painted this picture in 1916. She owned Nos. 1087, 1089 and 1091 Prinsengracht, a handsome row of houses where she lived with her extended family.





Amstelveld in the 17th Century

This etching shows the construction of a wooden church at Amstelveld, with sheep grazing in front of it.

Directions to Prinsengracht

Turn left by the church, take the left bank of Prinsengracht and walk to the Amstel river.



Reguliersgracht

Prinsengracht

The Amstelkerk (see n121) now contains a restaurant and offices. while the square itself is a popular play area for local children.





The spout-gabled

(see pp98–9) 16th-century

the Sun and the Moon.

warehouses at Nos. 11 and

13 Reguliersgracht are called



Utrechtsestraat





Herengracht (c. 1670)

GA Berckheijde's etching shows one side of the canal bare of trees. Elms were later planted, binding the topsoil, to strengthen the buildings' foundations.

No. 543 Herengracht was built in 1743 under the supervision of owner Sibout Bollard. It has a double-fronted façade with an ornate balustrade and







The Amstel

Turn left and follow the broad sweep of the Amstel river, up past the Magere Brug (see p121) on up Rokin and back to the Dam, where the walk began.







CENTRAL CANAL RING

The extension of Amsterdam's three major canals continued from the early 17th century (see pp28-9), as the merchant classes sought to escape the overcrowding and industrial squalor in the old city, around the Amstel. They bought plots of land along the new extensions to the Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht, and in the 1660s the wealthiest built opulent houses on a stretch of Herengracht known as the Golden Bend. Designed and decorated by

the best architects of the day, such as Philips Vingboons (see p103), the mansions built here were often twice the width of standard canal houses (see n98). Today. many of these grand buildings are owned by institutions. Other architectural landmarks include the Neo-Gothic Kriitberg. with its soaring steeples, the imposing Former City Orphanage and the Art Nouveau American Hotel overlooking the busy Leidseplein.



Street-by-Street: Leidsebuurt

The area around Leidseplein is one of Amsterdam's busiest nightspots. There are various films to be seen at the many cinemas, plays at the Stadsschouwburg and lively programmes of music at De Melkweg. In contrast, there is fine architecture to admire around the Canal Ring, such as the Former City Orphanage on Prinsengracht, the lavish De Krijtberg on the Singel and scores of grand houses on the Golden Bend.

Bijbels Museum In addition to bibles, there are several archaeological finds from Egypt and the Middle Fast on display here.

6 Leidsegracht

Cut in 1664, this canal was the main waterway for barges heading for Leiden.



4 Stadsschouwburg

This historic theatre, built in 1894, is the venue for Amsterdam's Holland Festival in June (see p.53).





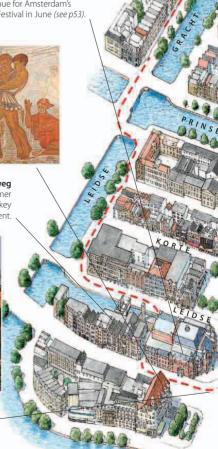
3 De Melkweg

This converted milk-processing factory and former hippie hang-out survives as one of Amsterdam's key venues for alternative entertainment.



Leidseplein

Young people flock to this square to watch street performances and enjoy the vibrant nightlife. —





• Leidseplein

Map 4 E2. 1, 2, 5, 7, 10.

Amsterdam's liveliest square, Leidseplein is also a busy tram intersection and centre of night-time transport.

The square developed in the 17th century as a wagon park on the outskirts of the city – farmers and peasants would leave their carts here before entering the centre. It takes its name from the Leidsepoort, the massive city gate demolished in 1862, which marked the beginning of the route out to Leiden.

During the day, the square is buzzing with fire-eaters, buskers and other street performers playing to café audiences. It is also popular with pickpockets. At night, it is the focal point for the city's youth, who hang out in the many bars, cafés, restaurants, nightclubs and cinemas in and around the square.



Street performer in Leidseplein

American Hotel

Leidsekade 97. **Map** 4 E2. **Tel** 556 3000. **1** 1, 2, 5, 7, 10. **2**

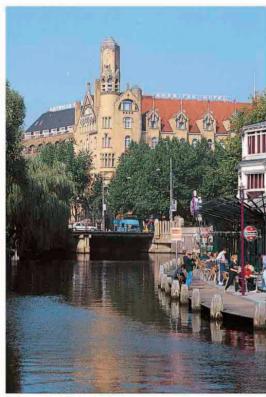
Leidseplein was fast becoming a fashionable entertainment area when the American Hotel was built overlooking it in 1882. The hotel got its name because its architect, W Steinigeweg, studied hotel design in the United States, and adorned his Neo-Gothic creation with a bronze eagle, wooden figures of native Indians and murals of American landscapes, Within 20 vears it was deemed passé and the hotel was demolished. The present building is by Willem Kromhout (1864–1940) and was completed in 1902. His design marked a radical departure. interpreting the Art Nouveau style in an angular Dutch fashion. The building's turreted exterior and elaborate brickwork anticipated the progressive Amsterdam School (see p99), A carved stone plague on the Leidseplein side of the hotel shows the original building.

The Café Americain (see p48), decorated in Art Deco style, remains one of the most elegant in Amsterdam. It retains its period furnishings and stained-glass windows. The rest of the hotel was redecorated in the 1980s. Samples of the original furnishings are in the Rijksmuseum (see pp132–5).



Lijnbaansgracht 234a. **Map** 4 E2. **Tel** 531 8181. ∰ 1, 2, 5, 7, 10. Box office: **Open** from 4:30pm daily. Performances: 8:30pm approx. *See Entertainment p249.* ₩ **melkweg.nl**

De Melkweg (Milky Way) is a multimedia centre situated in a former dairy behind the Stadsschouwburg. It opened in 1970 and soon gained a dazzling reputation as an alternative cultural meeting place. Nowadays, it offers a wide range of entertainment, including live music, film, video, theatre, dance and a photographic gallery. The



The American Hotel seen from Singelgracht

theatre has a stage for new international acts, and De Melkweg's annual Amsterdam Roots Festival (see p53) promotes the latest in world music and film



De Melkweg's star-lit facade

Stadsschouwbura

Leidseplein 26. Map 4 F2. Tel 624 2311. 1. 2. 5. 7. 10. Box Office Open noon-6pm Mon-Sat; two hours before performance Sun. See Entertainment p242. 8 5 5 w ssba.nl

This Neo-Renaissance building is the most recent of three successive municipal theatres in the city, its predecessors having burned down. The theatre was designed by Jan Springer, whose other credits include the Frascati building on Oxford Street in London, and All van Gendt, who was also responsible for the Concertgebouw (see p130) and for part of the Centraal Station (see p81). The planned ornamentation of the theatre's red-brick exterior was never carried out because of budget cuts. This, combined with a hostile public reaction to his theatre, forced a disillusioned Springer into virtual retirement.

Public disgust was due. however, to the theatre management's policy of restricting use of the front door to patrons who had bought expensive tickets

The whole building has heen given a face-lift Until the Muziektheater was completed in 1986 (see p65), the Stadsschouwburg was home to the Dutch national hallet and opera companies. Today, the theatre stages plays by local groups such as the resident

Toneelgroep Amsterdam, and international companies. including some Englishlanguage productions.

An auditorium, located between the Melkweg and the Stadsschouwburg, is used by both centres for concerts and dance performances.

Former City Orphanage

Prinsengracht 434–436, Map 4 E1, 1. 2. 5. 7. 10. **Closed** to the public.

The orphanage opened in 1666 with space for 800 children. By 1811, the building housed more than 2.000 children, over half of the city's orphans. To control their rising numbers, a royal decree was passed permitting the relocation of orphans to other towns. When this act was implemented in 1822, there was widespread protest from local people and accusations that the authorities had stolen children. Once all the children were relocated, the orphanage was closed.

Conversion of the former city orphanage into the Empire-style Palace of Justice designed by the city architect Jan de Greef. was completed in 1829. Balustrades run along the roofline and the monotony of the imposing Neo-Classical facade is broken up by Corinthian pilasters. The building once housed the Court of Appeal, but since the Court moved to new premises in 2013 it sits empty awaiting new owners.



No. 39 Leidsegracht, on the right

4 Leidsegracht

Map 4 E1, 1 1, 2, 5, 7, 10,

The Leidsegracht was for a few vears the main route for barges from Amsterdam to Leiden. It was cut in 1664 to a plan by city architect Daniel Stalpaert, and is now one of the city's smartest addresses.

Cornelis Lely, who drew up the original plans for draining the Zuiderzee (see p167), was born at No. 39 in 1854. A wall plague shows Lely poised between the Zuiderzee and the newly created IJsselmeer.



The elongated Neo-Classical façade of the former city orphanage



Boats moored along the Golden Bend

Golden Bend

Map 7 A5. ∰ 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. Kattenkabinet Herengracht 497. Tel 626 5378. Open 10am–4pm Mon–Fri (to 5pm Jul & Aug), noon–5pm Sat & Sun. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 24–26 Dec. 31 Dec.

The stretch of the Herengracht between Leidsestraat and Viizelstraat was first called the Golden Bend in the 17th century, because of the great wealth of the shipbuilders. merchants and politicians who originally lived along here. Most of the mansions have been converted into offices or banks. but their former elegance remains. The majority of the buildings are faced with sandstone, which was more expensive than brick and had to be imported. The earliest mansions date from the 1660s. One very fine and largely untouched example, designed by Philips Vinaboons in 1664 (see p101), stands at No. 412. Building continued into the 18th century, with the Louis XIV style predominating. No. 475 is typical of this trend. Built in 1730, it is often called the jewel of canal houses. Two sculpted female figures over the front door adorn its monumental sandstone façade. The ornate mansion at No. 452 is a good example of a 19th-century conversion. The Kattenkabinet (cat museum) at No. 497 Herengracht is one of the few houses on the Golden Bend which is accessible to the public. The museum is well worth visiting for its interesting collection of feline artifacts.

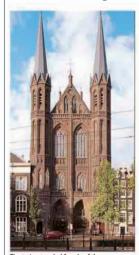
O De Krijtberg

Singel 448. Map 7 A4. Tel 623 1923. 1, 2, 5. Open half an hour before the services; 1:30–5pm Tue–Thu & Sun. 12:30pm, 5:15pm, 5:15pm, 5:15pm, 5:15pm, 5:15pm Sun, 12:30pm, 5:15pm Sun, 8

w krijtberg.nl

An impressive Neo-Gothic church, the Krijtberg (or chalk hill) replaced a clandestine Jesuit chapel (*see p86*) in 1884. It is officially known as Franciscus Xaveriuskerk, after St Francis Xavier, one of the founding Jesuit priests.

Designed by Alfred Tepe, the church was constructed on the site of three houses; the presbytery beside the church is on the site of two other houses, one of which had belonged to a



The twin-steepled façade of the Neo-Gothic Krijtberg

chalk merchant – hence the church's nickname. The back of the church is wider than the front. The narrowness of the façade is redeemed by its two magnificent steepled towers.

The ornate interior of the building contains some good examples of Neo-Gothic design. The stained-glass windows, walls painted in bright colours and liberal use of gold are in striking contrast to the city's austere Protestant churches. A statue of St Francis Xavier stands in front and to the left of the high altar; one of St Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, stands to the right.

Het Grachtenhuis

Herengracht 386. Map 7 A4. 1 1, 2, 5.

Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sun (daily
Jun-Aug). Closed 27 Apr, 25 Dec.

This ornate canal house was designed in 1663–5 by Philips Vingboons, who was also the architect of the Bijbels Museum (see below).

Once the home of merchants and bankers, the house is now a museum, telling the story of town planning and engineering for the creation of Amsterdam's triple canal ring. The ground floor has been restored to its 18th-century splendour, complete with original wall paintings. The upper rooms showcase detailed models, films and 3D animation on the construction of the canals, along with the stately mansions that line the route.

Bijbels Museum

Reverend Leendert Schouten founded the Bijbels Museum in 1860, when he first put his private collection of biblical artifacts on public display. In 1975, the museum moved to its present site, two 17th-century

houses in a group of four designed by Philips Vingboons. known as the Crombout Houses after the original owners

The Bible Museum is packed with artifacts that aim to give historical weight to Rible stories Displays feature models of historical sites, and archaeological finds from Egypt and the Middle Fast, Highlights include a copy of the Book of Isaiah from the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Delft Rible dating from 1477. The museum also has a beautiful garden, two ceiling paintings by Jacob de Wit and two well-preserved 17th-century kitchens.

Antiekcentrum **Amsterdam**

Elandsgracht 109, Map 4 D1. Tel 624 9038. 3 7, 10, 13, 14, 17. Open 11am-6pm Mon & Wed-Fri. 11am-5pm Sat & Sun

Closed Tue, public hols, 20 (5) w antiekcentrumamsterdam.nl

A vast network of ground-floor rooms in a block of houses has been turned into the Amsterdam Antiques Centre The market covering an area between the Elandsgracht and the Looiersgracht, boasts the largest collection of art and antiques in the Netherlands.

Around 100 stalls sell everything from glassware to dolls. On Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays anyone can rent a stall here. In one corner, a café serves lunch and dinner



The Palladian facade of the 18th-century Felix Meritis Building

Pelix Meritis Building

Keizersgracht 324. Map 1 B5. Tel 623 1311, 1 1, 2, 5, 10, 13, 14, 17, Box office & enquiries Open 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, if there is an event, 9amstart of event: Sat-Sun 90 mins before start. See Entertainment p242. 🔊 🔀 (w felix.meritis.nl

This Neo-Classical building is best viewed from the opposite side of the canal (see p98). Designed by Jacob Otten Husly. it opened in 1787 as a science and arts centre set up by the Felix Meritis society. The name means "happiness through merit". An association of wealthy citizens, the society was founded by watchmaker Willem Writs in 1777, at the time of the Dutch Enlightenment (see pp32-3).

Five reliefs on the facade proclaim the society's interest in natural science and art. The building was fitted out with an observatory, library, laboratories

and a small concert hall Mozart Edvard Grieg and Johannes Brahms are among the distinguished musicians who have given performances here.

In the 19th century it became Amsterdam's main cultural centre and its concert hall inspired the design of the Concertaebouw (see p.130)

The Dutch Communist Party (CPN) occupied the premises from 1946, but cultural prominence was restored in the 1970s when the Shaffy Theatre Company used the building as a theatre and won acclaim for its avant-garde productions.

The building is now used as a European Centre for Arts and Sciences, a place where politics and culture meet.

Househoat Museum

Prinsengracht, opposite no. 296. Map 1 B5. Tel 427 0750. 1 1. 2. 5. 7. 10. 13. 14. 17. **Open** Mar–Oct: 11am–5pm Tue-Sun, Nov-Feb: 11am-5pm Fri-Sun. Closed Jan. 27 Apr. 25, 26 & 31 Dec. M w houseboatmuseum.nl

Moored on the Prinsengracht canal on the edge of the Jordaan, the Hendrika Maria is a showcase of life ahoard an Amsterdam houseboat, Built in 1914, it served as a barge and transported coal, sand and gravel until the 1960s when it was converted into a houseboat. Coffee is served in the spacious living room.



Vintage robots on sale at the Antiekcentrum Amsterdam



EASTERN CANAL RING

Stretching south from Munttoren, part of a former city gate, this area lies wholly beyond the line of the medieval city wall. From the 1660s, the Grachtenaordel was extended further east towards the Amstel. One of Amsterdam's prettiest canals, Reguliersgracht with its seven bridges, was cut at this time. Today, houses on the major Canal Ring, such

as the Van Loon, with its grand facade and fine interior, convey a sense of life in the Golden Age (see pp28-31). Beyond is the 19th-century De Piip, a working-class district built to relieve the overcrowded Jordaan. De Piip is now a lively multicultural area, and home to the Albert Cuypmarkt, the city's biggest street market.



Street-by-Street: Amstelveld The eastern end of the Grachtengordel is quiet and largely

residential, especially around the Amstelveld, with its pretty wooden church and houseboats. A short walk will take you past shops and numerous cafés. particularly on the bustling Rembrandtplein. As you wander down the broad sweep of the Amstel river. Amsterdam suddenly loses its village atmosphere and begins to feel like a city.



● ★ Rembrandtplein

Looking on to the former Botermarkt (butter market) and the cast-iron statue of Rembrandt, there are dozens of cafés dating from the 19th century. Café Schiller including the De Kroon at No. 17 (see p49). (see p51)



★ Museum Willet Holthuvsen

This double canal house contains a number of period rooms, including this fine Blue Room hung with heavy blue damask, and a magnificent 18th-century staircase.

REMBRAND



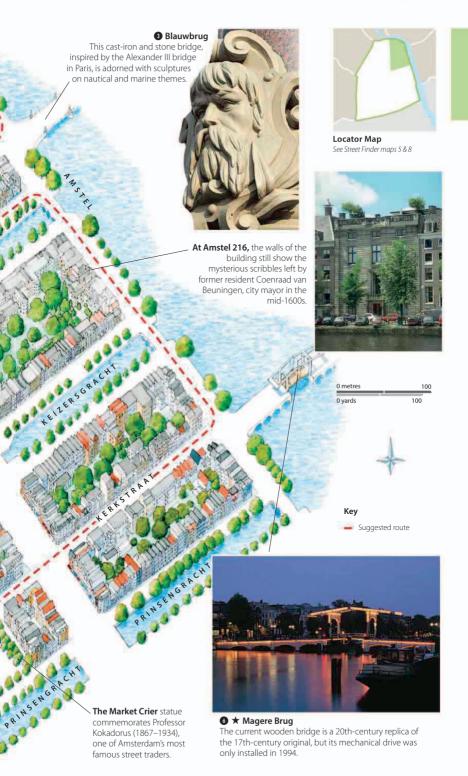
Amstelkerk

This wooden church was meant to be a temporary structure while money was raised to build a big new church on Rembrandtplein, but the grand scheme fell through. Today, the church houses offices and a restaurant (see p121).



ERSGRA

MSTE



Rembrandtplein

Map 7 C5. 2 4, 9, 14.

Formerly called the Boter-markt, after the butter market held here until the mid-19th century, this square acquired its present name when the statue of Rembrandt was erected in 1876. Soon afterwards.

Rembrandtplein developed into a centre for nightlife with the opening of various hotels and cafés The Mast (renamed the Mille Colonnes Hotel) dates from 1889, and the NH Schiller hotel (see p216) and the Café Schiller (see p51) both opened in 1892. De Kroon (see p49), which epitomizes a typical grand café. dates from 1898. The popularity of Rembrandtplein has persevered, and the café terraces are packed during summer with people enjoying a pleasant drink and watching the world go by.

Museum Willet-Holthuysen

See pp122-3

Blauwbrug

Amstel. **Map** 8 D5. 9, 14. M Waterlooplein.

The Blauwbrug (Blue Bridge) is thought to have taken its name from the colour of the wooden bridge that originally crossed this particular stretch of the Amstel in the 17th century. The present bridge is made of stone. It was built in



Outdoor café on Rembrandtplein

preparation for the World Exhibition, which attracted thousands of visitors to Amsterdam in 1883.

The Blauwbrug is decorated with sculptures of medieval boats, fish and the imperial crown of Amsterdam and is surmounted by ornate lamps. The design was inspired by the plans for the elaborate

Alexander III bridge in Paris.

• Foam Museum

Kaizersgracht 609. Map 5 A3.

Tel 551 6500. ∰ 16, 24, 25.

Open 10am-6pm Sat-Wed,
10am-9pm Thu & Fri.

Closed 27 Apr. ※ ※ ☑ □

My foam.org

Three elegant canal houses have been joined together and renovated to create a labyrinth of modern rooms

filled with photographs.
Foam (Fotografiemuseum
Amsterdam) is dedicated
to exhibiting and
celebrating every form of

photography, from historical to journalistic, to cutting-edge and artistic

The museum holds four major exhibitions a year and 15 smaller ones, showcasing both established figures of the art form and emerging local talent. Some of the most recent exhibitions at Foam have included Annie Leibovitz's "American Music", a retrospective on Henri Cartier-Bresson and "50 Years of World Press Photo"

More than just a museum, though, Foam prides itself for being an interactive centre for photography, a place where amateurs can learn more about the art by meeting professionals, attending lectures and taking part in discussion evenings, or just stop for a coffee and a browse of the well-stocked bookshop.

Stadsarchief Amsterdam

Vijzelstraat 32. Map 4 F2. Tel 251 1511.

16, 24, 25. Open 10am-5pm TueFri, noon-5pm 5at & Sun. Closed public hols.
(a) (with permission).

2 2pm 5at & Sun. □

w stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl

The Stadsarchief, which houses the city's municipal archives. has moved from its former location in Amsteldiik to this monumental building. Designed by KPC de Bazel, one of the principal representatives of the Amsterdam school of architecture, the edifice was completed in 1926 for the Netherlands Trading Company. In spite of much renovation work at the end of World War II and in the 1970s, the building retains many attractive original features, such as the colourful floor mosaics (designed by de Bazel himself) and the wooden panelling in the boardrooms on the second floor. There is a permanent display of treasures from the archives in the monumental vaults.

In 1991 the building, affectionately known as "The Bazel", was declared a national monument.

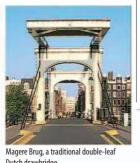


Magere Brug

Amstel, Map 5 B3. 1 4

Of Amsterdam's 1,400 or so bridges, the Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge) is undoubtedly the city's best-known, instantly associated with Amsterdam. The original drawbridge was constructed in about 1670. The traditional story has it that it was named after two sisters called Mager who lived on either side of the Amstel, However, it appears more likely that the bridge acquired the name from its narrow (mager) design. At night many lights illuminate the bridge.

The drawbridge was widened in 1871 and most recently renovated in 2010, though it still conforms to the traditional double-leaf style. Since 2003 traffic has been limited to bicycles and pedestrians. The bridge is made from African azobe wood, and was intended to last for at least 50 years. Several times a day, the bridge master lets boats through, then jumps on his bicycle and opens up the Hoge Sluis bridge.





The Amstelkerk, built as a temporary church in the 17th century

Amstelkerk

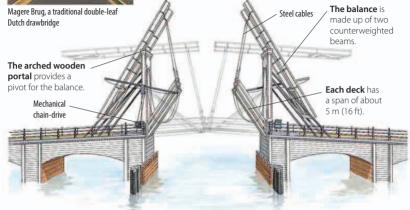
Amstelveld 10 Map 5 A3 Tel 520 0060. 1 4. **Open** 9am-5pm Mon-Fri. Closed public hols.

Designed by Daniel Stalpaert in 1668 the wooden Amstelkerk was originally intended to be only a temporary structure, while in the meantime money was going to be raised for a large new church on the Botermarkt (now Rembrandtolein) Unfortunately the necessary funds for the grand scheme were never forthcoming, and so the temporary Amstelkerk had to be kept and maintained. In 1825. the Protestant church authorities attempted to raise money to renovate the Amstelkerk's plain interior in a

Neo-Gothic style. It was not until 1840 however when Frederica Flisabeth Cramer donated 25,000 guilders to the project, that work could begin. The interior walls, pulpit, pews. and organ, which was made by Jonathan Batz, all date from this neriod The windows however are older and date from 1821.

In the late 1980s, the Amstelkerk underwent a substantial and radical conversion which cost some 4 million guilders, Glass-walled offices were installed inside the building. However, services and concerts are still held in the nave, which was preserved in all its Neo-Gothic magnificence. The excellent top-class caférestaurant Nel is housed in a side building.

How the Magere Brug Works



Museum Willet-Holthuysen

Named after its last residents, the museum allows the visitor a glimpse into the lives of the merchant class who lived in luxury along the *Grachtengordel* (Canal Ring). The house was built in 1685 and became the property of coal magnate Pieter Holthuysen (1788–1858) in 1855. It passed to his daughter Louisa (1824–95) and her husband, Abraham Willet (1825–88), both fervent collectors of paintings, glass, silver and ceramics. When Louisa died childless and a widow in 1895, the house and its many treasures were left to the city. Room by room, the house is being restored and brought back to the time Abraham and Louisa lived here.

KEY

- 1) Ticket office
- ② Front room
- ③ Ballroom
- (4) Bedroom
- ③ Hall
- (a) The Blue Room porcelain collection includes Chinese vases made during the Kangxi dynasty (1662–1722).

Portrait of Abraham Willet

Painted in 1877 by André Mniszech, a Polish artist, this full-length portrait shows the master of the house dressed in a traditional 17th-century costume.



★ Blue Room

Hung with heavy blue damask, the room boasts a chimney piece by Jacob de Wit (see p124), and was the exclusive preserve of the men of the house.





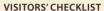
Collector's Room

Abraham Willet called this small, low-ceilinged room his antique room. Decorated in dark red velvet, it was used to entertain quests at informal gatherings.



Staircase

The staircase was built in 1740 and has an elaborate gilded balustrade. The lower walls are painted to look like marble.



Practical Information

Herengracht 605, Map 8 D5. Tel 523 1822. Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec. [6]

w willetholthuysen.nl

Transport

1 4 9 14



★ Dining Room

The wallpaper is a careful copy of the 18th-century silk original. The elaborate 275-piece Meissen dinner service provided up to 24 places.



Kitchen

The 18th-century kitchen has been restored using items salvaged from similar houses, including the sink and pump.

Albert Cuvpmarkt

Albert Cuypstraat. Map 5 A5. 4, 16, 24, 25. Open 9:30am–5pm Mon–Sat.

The market running along Albert Cuypstraat began trading in 1904, shortly after the expansion of the city was completed. The wide street, once a canal, is named after the Dutch landscape painter Albert Cuyp (1620–91). It is located in the Pijp district, originally built for workers.

Described by the stallholders as "the best-known market in Europe", it attracts some 20,000 visitors on weekdays and often twice as many on Saturdays. The goods on sale at the 325 stalls range from fish, poultry, cheese, fruit and vegetables to clothes, and prices are among the cheapest in Amsterdam.



Smoked fish in Albert Cuypmarkt

• Heineken Experience

Stadhouderskade 78. **Map** 4 F3. **Tel** 523 9222. **17** 7, 10, 16, 24, 25. **Open** 11am-7:30pm Mon-Thu, to 8:30pm Fri-Sun; last tickets 2 hours before closing. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec, 26 Dec.

w heinekenexperience.com

Gerard Adriaan Heineken founded the Heineken company in 1864 when he bought the 16th-century Hooiberg (haystack) brewery on the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal.



Formal rose garden at Museum van Loon

The original Stadhouderskade building was erected in 1867. His readiness to adapt to new methods and bring in foreign brewers established him as a major force in Amsterdam's profitable beer industry.

In 1988, the company finally stopped producing beer in its massive brick brewery on Stadhouderskade, as it was unable to keep up with the demand. Production is now concentrated in two breweries, one in Zoeterwoude, near Den Haag, another in Den Bosch. Today, Heineken produces around half of the beer sold in Amsterdam, has production facilities in dozens of countries and exports all over the world.

The Stadhouderskade building now houses the Heineken Experience, where visitors can learn about the history of the company and beer-making in general. Extensive renovations accommodate the increasing number of visitors. There is also a tasting bar, mini brewery and a "stable walk", offering the opportunity to view Heineken's splendid dray horses. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Museum van Loon

Keizersgracht 672. **Map** 5 A3. **Tel** 624 5255. **1** 16, 24, 25. **Open** 11am–5pm Wed–Mon. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec.

Van Loon was the name of one of Amsterdam's foremost families in the 17th century. They did not move into this house on the Keizersgracht, however, until 1884. Designed by Adriaan Dortsman, No. 672 is one of a pair of symmetrical houses built in 1672 for the Flemish merchant Jeremias van Raey. It was redecorated in 1752 when Dr Abraham van Hagen and his wife Catharina Elisabeth Trip moved in

The house was opened as a museum in 1973, after many years of restoration. It is now a delightful canalside museum. retaining the original charming character of the house. It contains a collection of Van Loon family portraits, stretching back to the early 1600s. The period rooms are adorned with fine pieces of furniture, porcelain and sculpture. Some of the upstairs rooms contain sumptuous illusionistic wall paintings, popular in the 17th and 18th centuries. Four were painted by the classicist artist

1711). Outside, in the formal rose garden, is the original 18th-century coach house, now restored and housing the Van Loon family coaches and livery worn by the servants.

Gérard de Lairesse (1641-



© Tuschinski Theater

Reguliersbreestraat 26–28. Map 7 C5. **Tel** 0900 1458. 1 4. 9. 14. Box office Open 12:15-10pm. 7

Ahraham Tuschinski's cinema and variety theatre caused a sensation when it opened in 1921. Until then, Amsterdam's cinemas had been sombre places, but this was an exotic hlend of Art Deco and Amsterdam School architecture (see nn98-9) Its twin towers are 26 m (85 ft) in height. Built in a slum. area known as the Duivelshoek (Devil's Corner), it was designed by Heyman Louis de Jong and decorated by Chris Bartels, Jaan Gidding and Pieter de Besten. In its hevday. Marlene Dietrich and Judy Garland performed here.

Now converted into a sixscreen cinema, the building has been meticulously restored. both inside and out. The carpet in the entrance hall, replaced in

Detail of Tuschinski Theater facade

main auditorium

1984. is an exact copy of the original. Visitors may take a quided tour but the best way to appreciate the opulence of the Tuschinski Theater is to go and see a film. For just a few extra

euros, you can take a seat in one of the exotic boxes that make up the back row of the huge semi-circular, 1,472-seater



View of the Munttoren at the base of Muntplein

Munttoren

Muntplein, Map 7 B5, 14, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. Tower Closed to the public. Shop Open 9:30am-6pm Mon-Sat. 11am-6pm Sun.

The polygonal base of the Munttoren (mint tower) formed part of the Regulierspoort, a gate in Amsterdam's medieval city wall. The gate was destroyed by fire in 1618, but the base survived. In the following year, Hendrick de Kevser (see p92) added the clock tower, capped with a steeple and openwork orb. The carillon was designed by Francois Hemony (see p70) in 1699, and rings every 15 minutes. The tower acquired its name in 1673, during the French occupation, when the city mint was temporarily housed here. A shop in the tower sells Delftware

Bloemenmarkt

Singel. Map 7 B5. 🕮 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 16, 24, 25. Open 9:30am-5pm daily.

On the Singel, west of Muntplein, is the last of the city's floating markets. In the past. nurserymen sailed up the Amstel from their smallholdings and moored here to sell cut flowers and plants directly from their boats. Today, the stalls are still floating but are permanent. Despite the sellers' tendency to cater purely for tourists, the displays of fragrant seasonal flowers and bright spring bedding-plants are always beautiful to look at.



Florist arranging his display at the Bloemenmarkt



MUSEUM QUARTER

Until the late 1800s, the Museum Quarter was little more than an area of farms and smallholdings. At this time, the city council designated it an area of art and culture and plans were conceived for constructing Amsterdam's great cultural monuments: the Riiksmuseum, the Stedeliik Museum and the Concertgebouw, The Van Gogh Museum followed in 1973, its striking extension being

added in 1999. The Museumplein has two memorials to the victims of World War II. The plein is still used as a site for political demonstrations. To the north and south are turn-of-the-century houses, where the streets are named after artists and intellectuals, such as the 17th-century poet Roemer Visscher, To the west, the Vondelpark offers a pleasant. fresh-air break from all the museums.

Sights at a Glance

Museums and Workshops

- Riiksmuseum pp132-5
- Coster Diamonds
- 3 Van Gogh Museum pp136-7
- 4 Stedeliik Museum pp138–9

Concert Halls

6 Concertaebouw

Historic Buildings

- Hollandsche Manege
- Nondelkerk

Restaurants pp224-31

- 1 Brasserie van Baerle
- 2 Café Toussaint
- 3 Cobra Café
- 4 The College Hotel
- 5 De Bakkerswinkel
- 6 De Griekse Taverna
- 7 Due Napoletani
- 8 Het Blauwe Theehuis
- 9 Le Garage
- 10 Momo
- 11 Pheun Thai

14 The Seafood Bar

- **15** Solo
- 16 Srikandi
- 17 Valerius
- 18 Willems



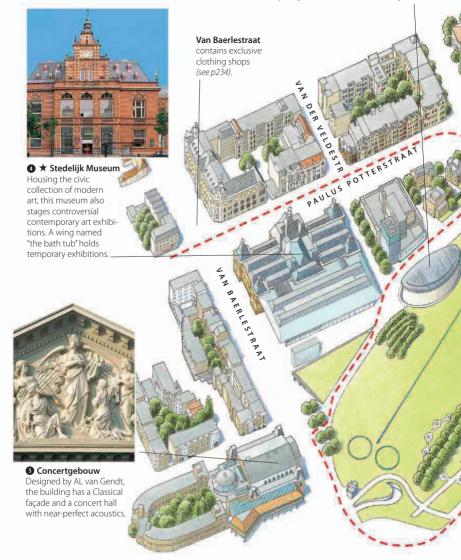
Street-by-Street: Museum Quarter

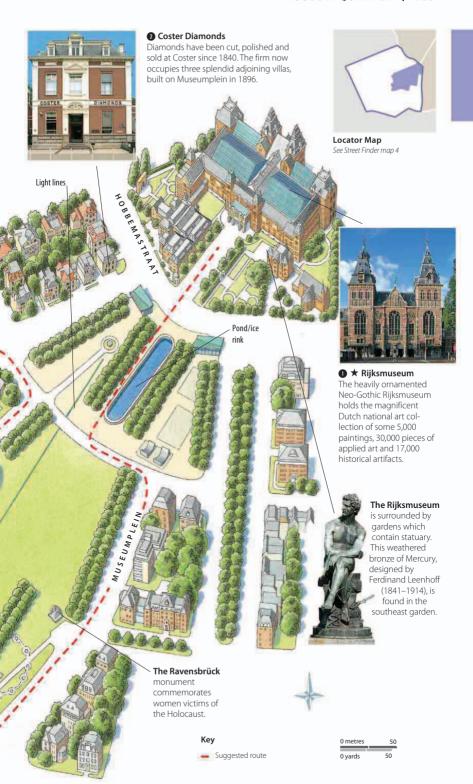
The green expanse of Museumplein was once bisected by a busy main road known locally as the "shortest motorway in Europe". But dramatic renovation between 1996 and 1999 has transformed it into a stately park, fringed by Amsterdam's major cultural centres. The district is one of the wealthiest in the city, with wide streets lined with grand houses. After the heady delights of the museums, it is possible to window-shop at the up-market boutiques along the exclusive PC Hooftstraat and Van Baerlestraat, or watch the diamond polishers at work in Coster Diamonds.



3 ★ Van Gogh Museum

This wing of the museum, an elegant oval shape, was designed by Kisho Kurokawa and opened in 1999. It is dedicated to temporary exhibitions of 19th-century art.





Rijksmuseum

The Rijksmuseum is a familiar Amsterdam landmark and possesses an unrivalled collection of Dutch art, begun in the early 19th century. The museum opened in 1885 to criticism, most vehemently from Amsterdam's Protestant community for its Catholic Neo-Renaissance style. The main building, designed by PJH Cuypers, underwent extensive renovation for

10 years, reopening in 2013. The collection has over a million pieces, 8,000 of which are on display.

> Winter Landscape with Skaters (1618) Painter Hendrick Avercamp specialized in intricate icy winter scenes



Second floor

First floor

★ The Kitchen Maid (1658) The light falling through the window and the stillness of this scene are typical of Jan Vermeer (see p196).



The Gothic façade

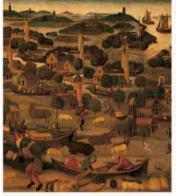
of PJH Cuypers' building is red brick with elaborate decoration, including coloured tiles

Gallery Guide

The entrance to the main building is through the atrium. Around 8,000 art works are on display, chronologically telling the story of 800 years of Dutch history. Paintings, sculpture, historical objects and applied arts are shown side by side, emphasising contrasts and connections. A pavilion between the main building and the Philips Wing houses the Asiatic Collection.

Key to Floorplan

- Special collections
 - Medieval and Renaissance art
- Golden Age
 - 18th-century art
- 19th-century art
- 20th-century art
 Asian Pavillion
- Non-exhibition space



Entrance

★ St Elizabeth's Day Flood (1500)

An unknown artist painted this altarpiece, showing a disastrous flood in 1421. The dykes protecting Dordrecht were breached, and 22 villages were swept away by the flood water.

Entrance



Cuypers Library

Auditorium

Basement

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Musaumetraat 1

Map 4 F3. Tel 674 7000.

Open 9am-5pm daily (garden.

shop and café to 6pm).



Transport

2. 5. 7. 10. A Stadhouderskade.

★ The Night Watch (1642)

The showpiece of Dutch 17th-century art, this vast canvas was commissioned as a group portrait of an Amsterdam militia company.

St Catherine (c.1465) This sculpture by the Master of Koudewater shows the saint stamping on Emperor Maxentius, who allegedly killed her with his sword.



Jan Steen's Woman at her Toilet was painted in about 1660

Genre Painting

For the contemporaries of Jan Steen (1625–79), this cosy everyday scene was full of symbols that are obscure to the modern viewer. The dog on the pillow may represent fidelity, and the red stockings the woman's sexuality; she is probably a prostitute. Such genre paintings were often raunchy, but nearly always had a moral twist (see p191) - domestic scenes by artists such as ter Borch and Honthorst were symbolic of brothels, while other works illustrated proverbs. Symbols like candles or skulls indicated mortality.

Exploring the Rijksmuseum

The Rijksmuseum is almost too vast to be seen in a single visit, with its 80 galleries and 8,000 works of art and historical objects. It is famous for owning arguably the best collection of Dutch art in the world, from early religious works to the masterpieces of the Golden Age. Paintings, applied arts, furniture and sculpture are displayed side-by-side, and the Asiatic collection has its own pavilion. If time is short, visit the 1600-1700 floor, taking in Frans Hals, Vermeer and scores of other Old Masters, to finally arrive at Rembrandt's The Night Watch at the centre of the building.

1100-1600

Alongside a small collection of Flemish and Italian art, including portraits by Piero di Cosimo (1462-1521), are the first specifically "Dutch" paintings. These works are mostly religious. such as The Seven Works of Charity (1504) by the Master of Alkmaar, Jan van Scorel's quasi-Mannerist Mary Maadalene (1528) and Lucas van Leyden's triptych, Adoration of the Golden Calf (1530). As the 16th century progressed, religious themes were superseded by pastoral subjects; by 1552, paintings like Pieter Aertsen's The Egg Dance were full of realism, the keystone of Dutch art during this period.

A collection of religious sculpture and liturgical objects includes Our Lady of Sorrows (1500-1510) a terracotta bust of the Virgin Mary in mourning.

1600-1700

During this century the Netherlands developed into a wealthy and powerful nation. with the arts profiting from the prosperous climate. By the Alteration in 1578 (see pp26-7). Dutch art had moved away completely from religious to secular themes. Artists turned to realistic portraiture, landscapes, still lifes, seascapes, domestic interiors, including genre work (see p133), and animal portraits. Rembrandt (see n64) is one of the most famous artists who lived and worked around Amsterdam at this time. Rembrandt's works can be found in the Gallery of Honour, including Portrait of Titus in a Monk's Habit (1660). Self Portrait as the Apostle Paul (1661). The Jewish Bride (see p44) and the incredible Night Watch



Feeding the Hungry from a series of seven panels by the Master of Alkmaar

(see p133). Look out too for the work of his pupils, who included Nicolaes Maes and Ferdinand Bol. Don't miss Jan Vermeer's (1632–75) serenely light-filled interiors including The Kitchen Maid (see p132) and The Woman Reading a Letter (1662). Of several portraits by Frans Hals (see pp180–81), the best known are The Wedding Portrait and The Merry Drinker (1630). The Windmill at Wiik by Jacob van Ruisdael (1628-82) is a landscape by an artist at the very height of his power. Other artists who feature in the collection include Pieter Saenredam, Jan van de Capelle, Jan Steen (see p133) and Gerard ter Borch.

1700-1800

Exhibits from the 18th century deal with the impact of revolutionary France on Amsterdam, ending in 1815 after the Napoleonic Wars. In many ways, Dutch painting continued the themes and quality of 17th-century portraiture and still lifes, with the evocative Still Life with Flowers and Fruit by Jan van Huvsum (1682–1749) standing out. A trend developed later for elegant "conversation pieces" by artists such as Adriaan van der Werff (1659–1722) and Cornelis Troost (1696-1750). Most had



The Wedding Portrait (c. 1622) by Frans Hals

satirical undertones like The Art Gallery of Jan Gildemeester Jansz (1794) by Adriaan de Lelie (1755-1820), showing an 18th-century salon whose walls are crowded with 17th-century masterpieces. Another highlight is the mahogany-panelled reception room from Matthiis Beuning's Keizersgracht mansion, complete with stuccoed ceiling, and chimney painting by Jacob de Wit.

1800-1900

The early 18th century is represented by the Dutch romantics, who all reinterpreted the art of landscape painting but in contrasting styles. Artists such as Johannes Tavenraat and Wiinand Nuiien excelled in painting stormy and dramatic scenes, while Andreas Schelfhout preferred to paint more temperate and serene landscapes, lit by golden sunsets. The so-called Hague School was made up of a group of Dutch artists who came together around 1870 in Den Haag, Their landscape work captures the atmospheric quality of subdued Dutch sunlight. One of the prizes of the 19th-century collection is Mornina Ride on the Beach (1876) by Anton Mauve (1838-88), painted in soft pearly colours, which hangs alongside the beautiful polder landscape, View near the Geestbrug by Hendrik Weissenbruch (1824-1903). In contrast, the Dutch Impressionists, closely linked to the French Impressionists. preferred active subjects shown in The Bridge over the Singel at Paleisstraat, Amsterdam (1890) by George Hendrik Breitner (1857 - 1923).

1900-2000

A small collection of 20thcentury works under the Rijksmuseum museum's roof completes the tour. Along with clothing, photography and sculpture, works by artists le Corbusier and Karel Appel are on display. The F.K. 23 "Bantam" biplane, designed by Frederick



Still Life with Flowers and Fruit (c. 1730) by artist Jan van Huysum (1682–1740). one of many still lifes exhibited in the Riiksmuseum

Koolhoven for the British Aerial Transport Company in 1918 is a highlight of this section.

Asiatic Art

Rewards of the Dutch imperial trading past are on show in the pavilion between the main building and the Philips Wing. Some of the earliest artifacts are the most unusual: tinv bronze Tang dynasty figurines from 7th-century China and gritty, granite rock carvings

from Java (c. 8th century). Later exhibits include a lovely - and extremely explicit -Hindu statue entitled Heavenly Beauty, inlaid Korean boxes and Vietnamese dishes painted with curlytailed fish and a superbly modelled bronze Shiva Nataraja (Dancing Shiva). This veritable hoard of delights is testament to the sophistication and skill of artists and artisans in early Fastern cultures.

Special Collections, Philips Wing and the Gardens

The Special Collections gallery in the basement is a treasure trove of glassware, costumes, naval models, delftware. porcelain and much more. Temporary exhibitions will be

> held on the upper floor of the Philips Wing, which will reopen in 2015. The ground floor will become a café-restaurant. The gardens, regularly the backdrop for sculpture exhibitions, have been redesigned using Cuypers'

> > adding elements like a children's playground.

original plan and

Late 7th-century Cambodian

Head of Buddha

Coster Diamonds

Paulus Potterstraat 2–6. **Map** 4 E3. **Tel** 305 5555. **2** 2, 5.

Open 9am–5pm daily.

Costerdiamonds.com

Coster was founded in 1840. Twelve years later, Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, honoured the company by giving them the task of repolishing the enormous *Koh-i-Noor* (mountain of light) diamond. This blue-white stone is one of the treasures of the British crown jewels and weighs in at 108.8 carats. A replica of the coronation crown, with a copy of the fabulous stone, is found in Coster's entrance ball.

More than 2,000 people visit the factory each day to witness the processes of grading, cutting and polishing the stones. Goldsmiths and diamondcutters work together to produce customized items of iewellerv, which are available over the counter. For serious diamond-buvers, such as the iewellers who come to Amsterdam from all over the world, there is a series of private sales rooms where discretion is assured A few doors down is a small museum, in which the history of the diamond is traced.



The stately façade of the Coster Diamonds factory and showrooms

Van Gogh Museum

See pp136-7.

Stedelijk Museum

See pp138-9.



Facade of the award-winning Concertgebouw (1881) by AL van Gendt

6 Concertgebouw

Concertgebouwplein 10. **Map** 4 D4. **Tel** 0900 671 8345. **₹** 2, 3, 5, 12, 16, 24. Box office **Open** 1–7pm Mon–Fri, 10am–7pm Sat & Sun. 8 Mon 5pm, Sun 12:15pm. **₹** 20 7 by arrangement. **▼** Concertgebouw.nl

Following an open architectural competition held in 1881, AL van Gendt (1835–1901) was chosen to design a vast new concert hall for Amsterdam. The resulting Neo-Renaissance building boasts an elaborate pediment and colonnaded façade, and houses two concert halls. Despite Van Gendt's lack of musical knowledge, he managed to produce near-perfect acoustics in the Grote Zaal (main concert hall), which is renowned the world over.

The inaugural concert at the Concertgebouw was held on 11 April 1888, complete with an orchestra of 120 musicians and a choir of 600.

The building has been renovated several times over the years. most recently in 1983, when some serious subsidence threatened the building's foundation. To remedy this, the whole superstructure had to be lifted up off the ground while the original supporting piles, which rested on sand 13 m (43 ft) underground, were removed and replaced by concrete piles sunk into the ground to a depth of 18 m (59 ft). A glass extension and new entrance were added by Pi de Bruiin in 1988. The original entrance was relocated round to the side of the building. Though primarily designed to hold concerts, the Concertgebouw has become

multi-functional; it has played host to business meetings, exhibitions, conferences, political meetings and occasional boxing matches.



Bandstand in Vondelpark

Vondelpark

Stadhouderskade. Map 4 E2. 11, 2, 3, 5, 12. Park Open 24hrs daily. Openair theatre Open Jun–last week Aug: Wed–Sun.

In 1864, a group consisting of prominent Amsterdammers formed a committee with the aim of founding a public park. and they raised enough money to buy 8 hectares (20 acres) of land. JD and LP Zocher, a fatherand-son team of landscape architects were then commissioned to design the park in typical English landscape style. They used vistas, pathways and ponds to create the illusion of a large natural area, which was opened to the public on 15 June 1865, as the Nieuwe Park. The park's present name was adopted in 1867, when a statue of Dutch poet Joost van den Vondel (1586-1679) was

erected in the grounds. The committee soon began to raise money to enlarge the park, and by June 1877 it had reached its current dimensions of 47 hectares (110 acres). The park now supports around 100 plant species and 127 types of tree. Squirrels, hedgehogs, ducks and garden birds mix with a huge colony of greedy, bright green parakeets which gather in front of the pavilion every morning to be fed. Herds of cows, sheep. goats and even a lone llama graze in the pastures.

Vondelpark welcomes more than ten million visitors a year. and is popular with the locals for dog-walking, jogging, or just for the view. Free concerts are given at the openluchttheater (open-air theatre) or at the handstand in the summer

Hollandsche Manege

Vondelstraat 140. Map 3 C2. Tel 618 0942. III 1. Open 10am-5pm daily.

The Dutch Riding School was originally situated on the Leidsegracht (see p113), but in 1882 a new building was opened, designed by AL van Gendt and based on the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. The riding school was threatened with demolition in the 1980s, but was saved after a public outcry. Reopened in 1986 by Prince Bernhard it has been restored to



Facade of the Hollandsche Manege

its former glory. The Neo-Classical indoor arena boasts ailded mirrors and moulded horses' heads on its elaborate plasterwork walls. Some of the wrought-iron stalls remain and sound is muffled by sawdust. At the top of the staircase, one door leads to a balcony overlooking the arena, another to the café.

Over the second of the seco

Vondelstraat 120 Map 3 C2 🗐 1 3 12. Closed to the public.

The Vondelkerk was the largest church designed by PJH Cuypers, architect of the Centraal Station (see pp34-5). Work began on the building in 1872, but funds ran out by the following year. Money gathered from public donations and lotteries allowed the building to be completed by 1880.

When fire broke out in November 1904 firefighters saved the nave of the church by forcing the burning tower to fall away into Vondelpark. A new tower was added later by the architect's son, JT Cuypers, The church was deconsecrated in 1979 and converted into offices in 1985

Vondelpark Pavillioen

Vondelpark 3. **Map** 4 D2. 🛅 1, 3, 12.

Vondelpark's pavilion, which was commissioned by the committee that founded the Vondelpark, opened in 1881 as a café and restaurant. A flamboyant, Neo-Renaissance style building, the pavilion was the favourite haunt of Amsterdam's bohemian crowd and its salons often featured contemporary art exhibitions. After World War II, the pavilion reopened as a cultural centre and from 1972 it was the home of the Filmmuseum. Renamed EYE Film Institute, the museum moved to a new location on the Badhuisweg across the IJ. behind Centraal Station (see p153).

The AVRO, one of the Netherlands' public broadcasting corporations, has bought the pavilion with the intention of renovating and modernizing it to accommodate a multimedia café and restaurant. The pavilion will host talk shows, debates and concerts.



The fairy-tale Vondelkerk, at the edge of the Vondelpark

Van Gogh Museum

The Van Gogh Museum is based on a design by De Stiil architect Gerrit Rietveld (1888–1965) (see p138). The building was completed after Rietveld's death and opened in 1973. A freestanding wing, designed by Kisho Kurokawa, was added in 1999. When Van Gogh died in 1890, he was on the verge of being acclaimed. His brother Theo, an art dealer, amassed a collection of 200 of his paintings and 500 drawings. These, with around 850 letters by Van Gogh, and selected works by his contemporaries, form the

core of the collection.



★ Vincent's Bedroom in Arles (1888) One of Van Gogh's best-known works, this was painted to celebrate his achievement of domestic stability at the Yellow House in Arles. He was so delighted with the colourful painting that he did it twice



★ Sunflowers (1888) The vivid vellows and greens in this version of Van Gogh's Sunflowers have been enriched by broad streaks of bright mauve and red.

Museum Guide

The museum owns the world's largest Van Gogh collection. Paintings from his Dutch period and from his time in Paris and Provence are on the first floor. The study collection, occasional exhibits of Van Gogh's drawings and other temporary exhibitions are on the second floor. Works by other 19th-century artists are on the ground floor and third floor. The Exhibition Wing houses temporary exhibitions. Every Friday night the central hall is turned into a bar with lounge chairs and DJs.

Other 19th-century paintings Temporary exhibitions Third floor Stairwell Second floor (study collection) First floor 19th-century art

Entrance

Ground floor

Key to Floorplan

Works by Van Gogh

Study collection & Print room

An Artist's Life

Vincent Van Gogh (1853-90), born in Zundert, began painting in 1880. He worked in the Netherlands for five years before moving to Paris, later settling at Arles in the south of France. After a fierce argument with Gauguin, he cut off part of his own ear and his mental instability forced him into an asylum in Saint-Rémy. He sought help in Auvers, where he shot himself, dying two days later.



VISITORS' CHECKLIST

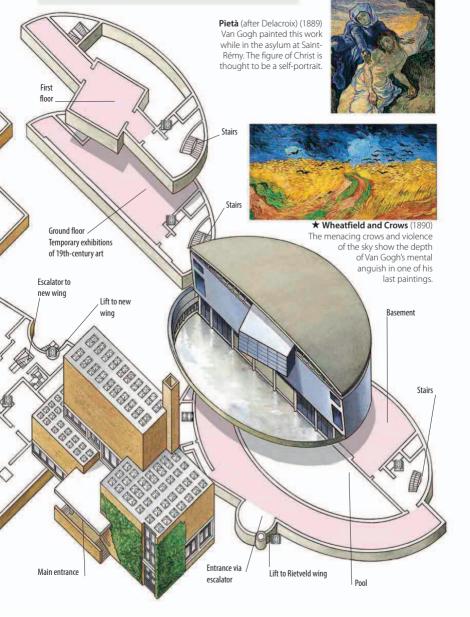
Practical Information

Paulus Potterstraat 7 Man 4 F3 Tel 570 5200. Open 9am-5pm Sat-Thu (to 6pm May-Aug & 27 Dec-5 Jan), 9am-10pm Fri, Closed 1 Jan. 2 2 0 5 0 7

w vangoghmuseum.com

Transport **2** 3, 5, 12

Van Gogh in 1871



Stedelijk Museum

Built to house a collection left to the city by Sophia de Bruyn in 1890, the Stedelijk Museum became the national museum of modern art and design in 1938, displaying works by artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Mondriaan, Chagall and Cézanne, and designers like Rietveld, Wirkkala and Sottsass. The renovated museum and its spectacular new wing (nicknamed the "bathtub") holds collections from present-day artists in a larger exhibition space, with a caférestaurant and a terrace overlooking Museumplein.



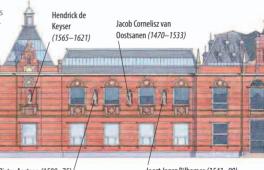


Portrait of the Artist with Seven Fingers (1912) Marc Chagall's self-portrait is heavily autobiographical; the seven fingers of the title allude to the seven days of Creation and the artist's Jewish origins. Paris and Rome, the cities Chagall lived in, are inscribed in Hebrew above his head.

The Stedelijk's modern addition, the giant "bathtub", appears to float given its continuous glass walls at ground level; it remains a love-itor-loathe-it addition to the city's architecture.

The Museum Building

The Neo-Renaissance building was designed by AW Weissman (1858– 1923) in 1895. The facade is adorned with turrets and aables and with niches containing statues of artists and architects. Inside, it is ultra-modern. The museum also stages performances, film screenings and large-scale events.



Pieter Aertsen (1509-75)

Joost Jansz Bilhamer (1541-90)



Gerrit Rietveld's Red Blue Chair (1918)

De Stiil Movement

The Dutch artistic movement known as De Stiil (The Style) produced startlingly simple designs which have become icons of 20th-century abstract art. These include Gerrit Rietveld's famous Red Blue Chair and Pieter Mondriaan's Composition in Red, Black, Blue, Yellow and Grey (1920). The movement was

formed in 1917 by a group of artists who espoused clarity in their work, which embraced the mediums of painting, architecture, sculpture, poetry and furniture design. Many De Stiil artists, like Theo van Doesburg, split from the founding group in the 1920s, and their legacy can be seen in the work of the Bauhaus and Modernist schools which followed.



Composition in Red, Black, Blue, Yellow and Grey by Mondriaan

Dancing Woman (1911) Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880–1938) was inspired by the primitive art of African and Asian cultures, and by the natural qualities of the materials he worked with. Man and Animals (1949) Karel Appel (born 1921) was a member of the short-lived, experimental Cobra movement. The human figure, dog fish and mythical Flahorate hell creature are painted in the naive style of a child. tower Jan van der Heyden Thomas de Keyser Jacob van Campen (1596-1667) (1595-1657)

Untitled (1965)

(1637 - 1712)

Jasper Johns (born 1930) believed viewers should draw their own conclusions from his work. This huge canvas, with its bold rainbow (red, blue and yellow streaks and slabs), invites the viewer to think about the symbolism of colour.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Museumplein 10. Map 4 D3. Tel 573 29 11. Open 11am=5pm Tue & Wed. 11am-10pm Thu. 11am-6pm Fri-Sun, P 🖾 🔠

Stedelijk.nl

Transport

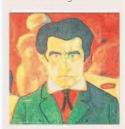
m 2 3 5 12

Permanent Artists

Works by Dutch American Willem de Kooning Russian artist Kazimir Malevich and sculptor Jean Tinquely are usually on show in the museum.



Willem de Kooning's (1904-97) work was abstract expressionist, often focussing on the female figure:



Kazimir Malevich (1878-1935) founded Suprematism, an abstract movement which experimented with colour.



Jean Tinguely (1925-1991) created humorous, moving sculptures, welded together from junk and recycled metal.



PLANTAGE

Known as the "plantation", this area was once green parkland beyond the city wall, where 17th-century Amsterdammers spent their leisure time. From about 1848, it became one of Amsterdam's first suburbs. The tree-lined streets around Artis and Hortus Rotanicus are still popular places to live. In the 19th century. many middle-class Jews prospered in the area, mainly in the diamond-cutting industry.

They formed a large part of the Diamond Workers' Union, whose history is recorded at De Burcht (Vakbondsmuseum). From the Werf't Kromhout, once a thriving shipyard. there is a fine view of De Goover Windmill. one of the few in Amsterdam to survive. The national maritime collection is kept at Het Scheepvaart-museum, a former naval storehouse.

Sights at a Glance

Museums

- De Burcht
- Hollandsche Schouwburg
- Museum 't Kromhout
- Het Scheepvaartmuseum pp148-9
- Werzetsmuseum
- Hermitage Amsterdam

Historic Buildings and Structures

- Entrepotdok
- Muiderpoort
- De Goover Windmill
- Amstelsluizen

Sights of Scientific Interest

- Δrtic
- 6 Planetarium
- 6 Aguarium

Botanical Gardens

Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam

Theatres

12 Koninklijk Theater Carré

Restaurants pp224-31

- 1 Aguada
- 2 Amstelhaven
- 3 Rloom 5 Elkaar
- 4 De Pizzahakkers
- 6 La Rive (Amstel Hotel)
- 7 Meneer Nilsson
- 8 Neva
- 9 Paerz
- 10 Palorma
- 11 Tempura



Street-by-Street: Plantage

With its wide, tree-lined streets and painted, sandstone buildings, the Plantage is a graceful and often overlooked part of the city. Though it seems like a guiet part of town, there is a lot to see and do. The area is dominated by the Artis complex. It has a diverse range of popular attractions which can get very busy on sunny days. The area has a strong Jewish tradition, and several monuments commemorate Jewish history in Amsterdam, including a basalt memorial in the Hollandsche Schouwburg. The cafés of the Entrepotdok offer a pleasant setting for a relaxing coffee, within earshot of the zoo.

Entrepotdok

This was the largest warehouse development in Europe during the 19th century. It has been redeveloped and transformed into an attractive quavside housing, office and leisure complex.

2 De Burcht (Vakbondsmuseum) Inspired by an Italian palazzo, this was the headquarters of the Dutch Diamond Workers' Union

6 Planetarium Part of the Artis complex, the domed

Planetarium explores man's relationship with the stars. Interactive displays show the positions of the planets.

















The old glasshouses have been restored, and this new one put up to hold tropical and desert plants.



♠ ★ Hollandsche Schouwburg

Little remains of this former theatre, now a sombre monument to the deported Jews of World War II.



★ Artis

More than 900 species, including a pride of lions, live in the zoo complex, which occupies , a beautifully laid out garden site.



Locator Map
See Street Finder maps 5 & 6





Tropical plants in the Hortus Botanicus

• Hortus Rotanicus **Amsterdam**

Plantage Middenlaan 2. Map 6 D2. Tel 625 9021. 🕮 9, 14. M Waterlooplein. Open 10am-5pm daily. Closed 1 Jan. 25 Dec. & in Énglish by arrangement. P M dehortus.nl

This botanical garden began as a small apothecaries' herb garden in 1682 and now boasts one of the world's largest botanical collections. Its range of flora expanded when tropical plants were brought back by the Dutch East India Company (see pp30-31), In 1706, it became the first place outside Arabia to succeed in cultivating the coffee plant

The glass-domed Palm House huilt in 1912 contains an exceptional collection of palms. conservatory plants and cycads, including one that is more than 400 years old. The restored Orangery has a café and terrace. where art shows with a botanical theme are held.

A modern glass and aluminium construction, designed by Moshé Zwarts and Rein Jansma, was opened in 1993 to make room for the tropical, subtropical and desert plants. There is also a butterfly house.

De Burcht

Henri Polaklaan 9, Map 5 C2. Tel 624 1166. # 9, 14. Open for guided tours in Dutch only, one Sun each month. Reservations essential: book by phone or via website.

& w deburcht.nl

This red-brick crenellated building, known locally as "the castle", was designed by HP Berlage (see p81) in 1899. It housed the head-quarters of the Union (ANDR) Founded in 1894 the ANDR was the first largest and wealthiest union in the Netherlands

The building has a beautiful interior with murals by the socialist artist Richard Ronald Holst of the Amsterdam School (see p99), and a spectacular arched fover. It has been restored and now houses

the research and conference centre for the Dutch Trade Unions. The building can only be visited by booking a tour.

Hollandsche Schouwburg

Plantage Middenlaan 24. Map 5 C2. Tel 531 0310. 1 9. 14. Open 11am-5pm daily Closed Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur, 👃 w hollandscheschouwburg.nl

Part of the Jewish Historical Ouarter (see p44), this former theatre is now a memorial to the 104.000 Dutch Jewish victims of World War II Thousands were detained here before deportation to concentration camps. Post-war. the building was abandoned until 1962 A basalt column with a base in the shape of the Star of David now stands on the site of the stage Written behind it is: "To the memory of those taken from here".

Following its restoration in 1993 the Hollandsche Schouwburg became an education centre. On the ground floor, a candle illuminates the names of the war victims. Unstairs, there is a permanent exhibition on the persecution of the lews in the Netherlands from 1940–45.

Artis

Plantage Kerklaan 38-40. Map 6 D2. Tel 0900 278 4796. 9. 14. Open 9am-5pm daily (Apr-Sep: to 6pm. Jun-Aug: till sunset Sat). 🔊 👢 🥢 11am Sat & Sun. Wartis.nl

Artis (Natura Artis Magistra, to give the zoo its full name) is the oldest surviving zoological complex in the Netherlands. Since its inception in 1838, its aim has been to promote the knowledge of natural history. and since it opened, the general



General Dutch Diamond Workers' Decorative tiles on the staircase of the Vakbondsmuseum



Lush greenery and colourful butterflies inside the Artis Butterfly Pavilion

public have been allowed in to admire the collection of plants trees and animals.

The complex has more than 900 animal species, as well as three greenhouses, the Planetarium Aquarium Amfibarium, Insectarium and Zoölogisch Museum.

The zoo's attractions include big cats, giraffes, penguins, gorillas, hippos and seals. In the Insectarium displays explain the versatility and adaptability of these creatures. The Butterfly Pavilion, which is the largest of its kind in the Netherlands houses thousands of butterflies in a large greenhouse filled with vegetation.

Artis also has a pleasant garden with several themed areas, such as the Dutch and Japanese gardens. Some of the trees are older than Artis itself. dating back to the 1750s.

Over the coming years, Artis is expanding, and plans are in place to restore the Groote Museum, a natural history museum currently in disrepair.

6 Planetarium

Plantage Kerklaan 38-40, Map 6 D2. Tel 0900 278 4796. 19 9, 14. Open 9am-5pm daily (Apr-Sep: to 6pm, Jun-Aug: till sunset Sat); shows every hour. 🕹 🏈

Budding astronomers should not miss the show at the Planetarium, which takes place on the hour every hour. In this large, domed building a

powerful projector shows films on several themes. One film is Spacetrip, which takes visitors on a journey through the galaxy and beyond, travelling at speeds even faster than the speed of light. Other films concentrate on the life of an astronaut or the magical world of the coral reefs. Although the commentary is in Dutch, just watching the beautiful images is still an eniovable experience

Around the edge of the Planetarium stellar and planetary systems are mapped out using models, photographs, videos and push-button exhibits. There are also educational computer games and displays on exploration and astronomy.

Aquarium

Plantage Kerklaan 38-40. Map 6 D3. Tel 0900 278 4796. 19 9, 14. Aguarium Open 9am-5pm daily (Apr-Sep: to 6pm, Jun-Aug: till sunset Sat). Zoölogisch Museum Open as above. 👃 🌠

Perhaps the best feature of the Artis complex is its Aquarium. which opened in 1882 in a grand Neo-Classical building. Mainly housed on the first floor. there are now four separate aquatic systems: one freshwater and three saltwater. Together they hold almost a million litres (220,000 gallons) of water. These tanks, each kept at a different temperature, contain almost 500 species of fish and marine

animals that can be viewed at close quarters. They range from simple invertebrates to piranhas, sharks and massive marine turtles. Look out for the vivid coral fish and charming sea horses housed at the far end of the gallery.

The basement has four large tanks accommodating different biotypes. Among the various waterscapes, visitors see life in the Amazon, a coral reef and even an Amsterdam canal Also in the basement is the Amfiharium This hall contains a substantial collection of frogs toads and salamanders in all shapes, sizes and colours.

The building also houses the small Zoölogisch Museum. which is as old as the park itself. The museum has a more academic flavour, and its exhibition halls hold temporary shows on such themes as the history of the dodo. There is even a stuffed hippo who once resided at Artis. A semi-circular room at the end of the building holds the Heimans Diorama of a Dutch landscape.



Tropical fish at the Aguarium, home to almost 500 marine species



Spout-gable facades of former warehouses along Entrepotdok

Entrepotdok

Map 6 D2. 14. 22.

The redevelopment of the old VOC (see pp30-31) warehouses at Entrepotdok has revitalized this dockland area. It was once the greatest warehouse area in Furope during the mid-19th century, being a customs-free zone for goods in transit. The guayside buildings of Entrepotdok are now a lively complex of offices, homes and eating places. Some of the original facades of the warehouses have been preserved, unlike the interiors. which have been opened up to provide an attractive inner courtyard. Café tables are often set out alongside the canal. On the other side, brightly coloured houseboats are moored side by side, and herons doze at the water's edge.

Muiderpoort

Alexanderplein, Map 6 E3, 9. 10, 14. Closed to the public.

Formerly a city gate, the Muiderpoort was designed by Cornelis Rauws in about 1770. The central archway of this Classical structure is topped with a dome and clock tower. Napoleon entered the city through this gate in 1811 and, according to legend forced the citizens to feed and house his ragged troops.

O De Goover Windmill

Funenkade 5 Map 6 F2 🕮 10 22. Closed to the public.

Of the six remaining windmills within the city's boundaries. De Goover, also known as the Funenmolen is the most central Dominating the view down the Nieuwevaart, the mill was built around 1725, and was the first corn mill in the Netherlands to use streamlined sails.

It first stood to the west of its present site, but the Oranie Nassau barracks, built in 1814.



The grand dome and clock tower of the Muiderpoort

acted as a windbreak, and the mill was then moved piece by piece to the Funenkade. The octagonal wooden structure was rebuilt on the stone foot of an earlier water-pumping mill, demolished in 1812.

By 1925, De Gooyer was in a very poor state of repair and was bought by the city council. which fully restored it. Since then the lower part of the mill with its neat thatched roof and tiny windows, has been a private home, though its massive sails still creak into action sometimes. Next to the mill is the IJ brewery (see p50), one of two independent breweries in the city.

Museum 't Kromhout

Hoogte Kadijk 147. Map 6 D1. Tel 627 6777, 1 9, 10, 14, 22. Scheepvaartmuseum or Dappermarkt. Open 10am–3pm Tue (May-Sep: noon-4pm & 1st and 3rd Sun of month). w machinekamer.nl

The Museum 't Kromhout is one of the oldest working shipyards in Amsterdam, and is also a museum. Ships were built here as early as 1757. In the second half of the 19th century. production changed from sailing ships to steamships. As oceangoing ships got bigger, the yard, due to its small size, turned to building lighter craft for inland

waterways. It is now used only for restoration and repair work. The museum is largely dedicated to the history of marine engineering and work carried out at the shipvard with engines maritime photographs and a well-equipped forge.



Werf't Kromhout Museum and working shipvard

• Het Scheepvaartmuseum

See nn148-9.

Koninklijk Theater Carré

Amstel 115–125. Map 5 B3. Tel 0900 252 5255. 1 4. 7. 9. 10, 14. M Weesperplein. Box office Open 10am-8pm daily. See Entertainment p246. & 8 11am Sat (phone in advance), 🔀 👢 🥢

w carre.nl

During the 19th century. the annual visit of the Carré Circus was a popular event. In 1868, Oscar Carré built wooden premises Carving on for the circus on the facade of banks of the Amstel river. Koninkliik The city council Theater Carré considered the structure a fire hazard, so Carré persuaded them to accept a permanent building modelled on his other circus in Cologne. Built in 1887, the new structure included both a circus ring and a stage. The Classical façade is richly decorated with sculpted heads of dancers, iesters and clowns.

The Christmas circus is still one of the annual highlights at the theatre, but for much of the year the enlarged stage is taken over by concerts and big-show musicals, such as The Sound of Music, Chicago and Mamma Mia.

Amstelsluizen

Man 5 R3 1 4 7 9 10 14 M Weesperplein

The Amstelsluizen, a row of sturdy wooden sluice gates spanning the Amstel river, form part of a complex system of sluices and pumping stations that ensure Amsterdam's canals do not stagnate. Four times a week in summer the sluices are closed while fresh water from large lakes north of the city is allowed to flow into Amsterdam's canals, Sluices to the west of the city are left open. allowing the old water to flow, or be pumped, into the sea.

The Amstelsluizen date from the 18th century and were operated manually until 1994. when they were mechanized.

Verzetsmuseum

Plantage Kerklaan 61. Map 6 D2. Tel 620 2535, 19 9, 14, Open 10am-5pm Tue-Fri. 11am-5pm Sat-Mon & public

hols. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec. 2 & 6 0 0 0 w verzetsmuseum.org

Located in a building that used to be the home of a Jewish choral society, the Resistance Museum holds a fascinating collection of memorabilia recording the activities of Dutch Resistance workers in World War II. It focuses on the courage of the 25,000 people actively involved in the movement. On display are false documents, film clips, slide shows. photographs, weaponry

and equipment.

By 1945 there were 300,000 people in hiding in the Netherlands, including Jews and anti-Nazi Dutch, Subsequent events organized by the Resistance, like the February Strike against deportation of the lews (see n37) are brought to life by exhibits showing where the refugees hid and how food was smugaled in. The museum includes a special children's wing. Verzetsmuseum Junior, in which the real-life war-time experiences of children are told

Hermitage Amsterdam

Amstel 51 Map 8 F5 Tel 0900 437 648 243. 🕮 4.9.14. M Waterloo-plein. Hermitage. Open 10am–5pm daily. Tree for under 16s. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr. 25 Dec. 🖶 🥢 🗖 🚰 w hermitage.nl

The State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg decided upon Amsterdam as the ideal city to open a branch of the Russian museum. This satellite museum would display rotating temporary exhibitions drawn from the Hermitage's rich collection.

The Hermitage Amsterdam opened in early 2004, in a side wing of the Amstelhof (a former old people's home), with a spectacular exhibition of fine Greek gold iewellery from the 6th to the 2nd century BC. Other exhibitions have included the collection of the last Tsars Nicholas and Alexandra. The Amstelhof building has been fully restored and the Hermitage now occupies the whole complex, with two exhibition wings, an auditorium and a special children's wing that encourages children to discover their own creative talents.



The Hermitage Amsterdam, housed in the former Amstelhof, overlooking the Amstel river

• Het Scheepvaartmuseum

Once the arsenal of the Dutch Navy, this vast Classical sandstone building was built by Daniel Stalpaert in 1656 round a massive courtvard. It was supported by 2,300 piles driven into the bed of the Oosterdok. The Navy staved in residence until 1973, when the building was converted into the Maritime Museum, A renovation project has returned the building to its former glory, and the artillery courtyard now has a stunning glass roof. Visitors of all ages enjoy the museum's interactive exhibitions and displays of maritime objects.



★ Tale of the Whale

This exhibition tells the story of the whale, starting with the first whaling exhibitions in the 16th century, when whales were thought to be fearsome sea monsters. It covers the current efforts to preserve them from extinction.

Yacht Models

The museum has a fine collection of beautifully decorated model boats. It features examples of pleasure craft through the ages, from the 17th century to the present day. Each one is a work of art with exquisitely painted details.





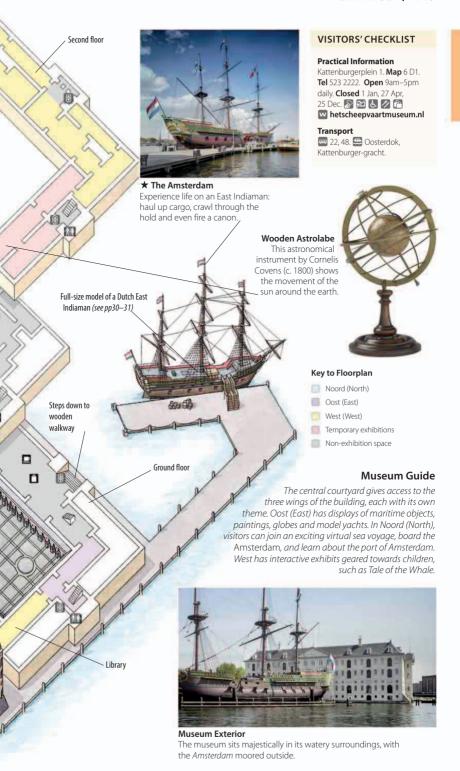
Classical sandstone facade

Main entrance

Artillery Courtyard

The navy used to store its artillery in the arsenal's internal courtyard. The design of its modern glass roof is inspired by navigational lines on old maps.

First floor





FURTHER AFIELD

Great architecture and good town planning are not confined to central Amsterdam, Parts of the Nieuw Zuid (New South) hear testament to the imagination of the innovative Amsterdam School architects (see 999) under the auspices of the Municipal Councils. Many fine buildings can be found in De Dageraad Housing complex and the streets around the Olympic Quarter. If you are seeking old-world charm, the historic small town of Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, nestling on the southern fringes of the city, prides

itself on being older than Amsterdam. There are also fine parks just a short tram ride from the city centre, which offer a whole host of leisure activities. Visitors can view the lakes. woods and parkland of the Amsterdamse Bos (see pp36-7) from the deck of an antique tram which tours the park from the Electrische Museumtramliin. The more formal horticulture of the Amstelpark can be viewed aboard a miniature train. There is also a clutch of instructive museums to be found in the suburbs of Amsterdam

Sights at a Glance

Historic Monuments, Buildings and Districts

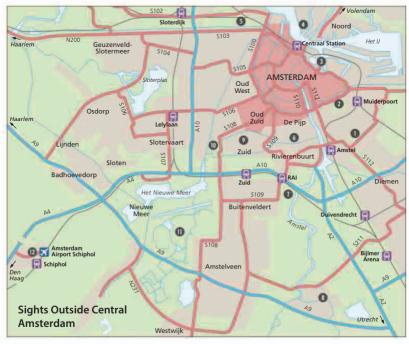
- Frankendael
- De Dageraad Housing
- Ouderkerk aan de Amstel
- Olympic Quarter

Museums and Exhibition Halls

- 2 Tropenmuseum see pp 154-5
- 3 Nemo Science Center Amsterdam
- A FYF Film Institute
- Electrische Museumtramliin
- Schiphol Airport

Parks and Gardens Kev Westerpark Central Amsterdam Amstelpark Greater Amsterdam Amsterdamse Bos Major road Minor road

0 kilometres





The back of the Frankendael, with its well-tended formal gardens

• Frankendael

Middenweg 72 Map 6 F5 🗐 9 41. Restaurant: Tel 665 0880. Open dawn-dusk

During the early part of the 18th century, many of Amsterdam's wealthier citizens built country retreats south of Plantage Middenlaan on reclaimed land called the Watergraafsmeer. The elegant Louis XIV-style Frankendael is the last survivorthe best views of the ornamented facade are from Middenweg. This is also the best place to view the fountain made by Ignatius van Logteren in 1714, complete with reclining river gods, in the front garden.

The formal gardens at the back of the Frankendael are open to the public. They have been painstakingly reconstructed over the past few years and now offer a peaceful refuge of shrubs and ancient trees. The coach house has a café-restaurant Merkelhach



Ignatius van Logteren's fountain in the grounds of the Frankendael

Tropenmuseum

See nn154-5.

Nemo Science Center Amsterdam

Oosterdok 2 Man 2 F4 Tel 531 3233 22 48 **Open** 10am=5pm Tue=Sun (daily during public hols) Closed 1 Jan. 27 Apr. 25 Dec. 2

€ Ø 🖰 W e-nemo.nl

In June 1997 Holland's national science centre moved to this dazzling curved building which protrudes 30 m (99 ft) over water. Nemo is the largest science centre in the Netherlands and presents technological innovations in a manner which allows visitors' creativity full expression. You can interact with virtual reality operate the latest industrial equipment under expert supervision and harness science to produce your own art. The Centre is divided into five themed zones (Interactivity, Technology, Energy, Science and Humanity), each of which is revamped every three years to keep pace with scientific evolution. Visitors – who in this setting might equally be termed explorers - can participate in games, experiments, demonstrations and workshops or take in lectures, films and even educational stage shows.

From June to August and at special events, the roof, named BovenNEMO (above NEMO. is turned into a beach and visitors are welcome to bring picnics and enjoy the views of the city.



Striking architecture of Nemo Science and Technology Centre



The sleek, modern interior of the EYE Film Institute

A FYF Film Institute

Upromenade 1. Map 2 E2. Buiksloterweg. Tel 589 1400. Ticket office: Open 10am-10pm daily (to 11pm Fri & Sat), Exhibitions Open 11am-5pm daily. Basement Open 10am-6pm daily. & 💷 🖺 w eve.nl/en

Located on the northern bank of the river IJ, the EYE Film Institute is a merger between the Filmmuseum and several other cinematic organizations. For almost 40 years the Filmmuseum was housed in the Vondelpark Pavillioen (see p131). The Institute's film collection tells the story of the Netherlands film industry. from silent films at the end of the 19th century to digital technology and 3D cinema. There is also a wide display of film memorabilia, including photographs, posters, soundtracks and technical equipment.

Housed in a sleek, modern, building the EYE Film Institute has four cinemas, an exhibition space and a café-restaurant with a waterside terrace. In the basement, visitors can view films for free; watching clips or complete films in specially designed viewing cabins, each with a cinemascope screen and a small sofa. EYE's information specialists can be found on the basement level on weekdays to answer questions about the collections and film history.

Westerpark

Polonceaukade. 10. = 21, 22. Westergasfabriek Tel 586 0710. Museum Het Schip Spaarndammerplantsoen 140. Map 1 B1. Tel 418 2885. Open 11am-5pm Tue-Sun. hourly. westergasfabriek. com w hetschip.nl

The wasteland around Amsterdam's former gasworks (Westergasfabriek) was transformed into a 14-hectare park in the early 2000s. Facilities in this green area include playgrounds, bars, restaurants and several performance spaces.

The gasworks itself has been redeveloped and is being rented out to various associations that organize festivals, performances and exhibitions. The Westergasfabriek is now one of the city's foremost cultural destinations.

Nearby is Het Schip (The Ship). one of the most iconic buildings by the Amsterdam School (see p99). Designed by Michel de

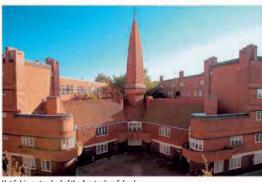
Klerk in 1919, this apartment block contains 102 homes and the Museum Het Schip displaying a restored workingclass house

O De Dageraad Housing

Pieter Lodewijk Takstraat. 🔢 4, 12, 25. Open 11am–5pm Fri–Sun. 7 tours denart from Burgemeester Tellegenstraat 128: phone 418 2885 to book w hetschip.nl

One of the best examples of Amsterdam School architecture (see p99). De Dageraad housing project was developed for poorer families following the revolutionary Housing Act of 1901 by which the city council was forced to condemn slums and rethink housing policy in Amsterdam.

Socialist architect HP Berlage (see p81) drew up ingenious plans for the suburbs, aiming to integrate rich and poor by iuxtaposing their housing. After Berlage's death, Piet Kramer and Michel de Klerk of the Amsterdam School adopted his ideas Between 1918 and 1923 they designed this complex for a housing association known as De Dageraad (the Dawn). They used a technique called "apron architecture" in which an underlayer of concrete allows for tucks, folds and rolls in the subtly coloured brick exterior, which was then interspersed with decorative doors and windows. Each house mirrors the one opposite and there is a corner tower at the end of every block.



Het Schip, a standard of the Amsterdam School

Tropenmuseum

Built to house the Dutch Colonial Institute, this vast complex was finished in 1926 by architects MA and JJ Nieukerken. The exterior of what is one of the city's finest historic buildings is decorated with symbols of imperialism. such as stone friezes of peasants planting rice. When the building's renovation was completed in 1978, the Royal Tropical Institute opened this museum of exciting, unusual objects from around the world. The displays focus on development issues regarding life, education and colonization. Children enjoy participating in the interactive exhibition in Tropenmuseum Junior.

★ Pustaha – Book of Divinations Made of wood and tree

bark, this volume contains prescriptions applied by the village healer-priest.



Moroccan Bride

The gold embroidery is one of the most remarkable aspects of this Moroccan weddina dress.

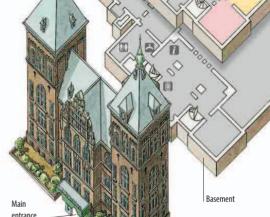


Great Hall

★ Bisi Poles The roots of massive mangrove trees were used to make these exotic, painted ritual totem poles from New Guinea

Gallery Guide

Temporary exhibitions are held in the Great Hall and Gallery on the around floor, and the Park Hall on the second floor. On the upper floors, the permanent exhibitions combine static and interactive displays covering diverse topics. The shop on the ground floor has a wide range of aifts and there is a café-restaurant as well.





VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Linnaeusstraat 2 Man 6 F3 Tropenmuseum: Tel 568 8200. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sun (daily during school holidays). 10am=3nm 24 Dec 31 Dec Closed 1 Jan. 27 Apr. 5 May. 25 Dec. w tropenmuseum.nl: Tropenmuseum Junior: Tel 568 8300. Open for Junior, Family & Workshop programmes, Sat-Sun, school hols and most public hols (phone for further information or see website) Closed 1 Ian 27 Ann 5 May, 25 Dec. 2 & 2 P

m tropenmuseumjunior.nl

Transport

3, 7, 9, 10, 14.

Javanese Stone Friezes

★ Diorama (1819)

of life in Surinam

The stone friezes decorating the main stairs are copies from a Javanese monument from about AD 800. This section shows two Buddhas praving under ornate temple awnings.



Wooden Hook

This wooden hook is carved in the shape of a naked male figure wearing a tribal mask. The item comes from New Guinea, in the South Pacific.

Key to Floorplan

- SE Asia & Textiles in Indonesia
- W Asia & N Africa
- Latin America & the Carribean
- Man & the Environment
- Music, Dance & Theatre
- Africa
- Dutch Colonialism
- Dutch New Guinea
- Temporary exhibition space
 - Non-exhibition space



Jeepney

Old army trucks left behind by the Americans after World War II are used as taxibuses, or jeepneys, in Manila, in the Philippines. The one housed here is a typically colourful example.



Amstelnark's Rieker windmill

Amstelpark

Europahoulevard 1 4 M RAI 62. Open dawn-dusk.

Situated in the suburb of Buitenveldert, southwest of Amsterdam, this large park was created in 1972. Among its attractions are a rose garden. rhododendron walk and model garden with nursery.

The park offers good facilities for children, including a playground, pony rides, minigolf and mini-football. The wellpreserved Rieker windmill (1636) stands at the southern tip of the park, and art exhibitions are held in the Glazen Huis (Glass House) and the Papillon Gallery. From Easter to October, you can tour the park in a miniature train.

Ouderkerk aan de Amstel

M 🖨 Biilmer. 📟 175 & 300 from Biilmer station Wester Amstel Garden Onen 9am-4:30nm Mon-Eri (also mid-Anr-Oct: noon-4:30nm Sat & Sun)

This pretty village at the junction of the Amstel and the Bullewijk rivers has been a favourite with Amsterdammers since the Middle Ages. They had no church of their own until 1330 (see pp68–9), and worshippers had to travel to the 11th-century Ouderkerk that gave the village its name The Old Church was destroyed in a tremendous storm in 1674 and a fine 18th-century church now stands on its site. Opposite is the Beth Haim Jewish cemetery, where more than 27,000 lews from Amsterdam have been buried since 1615. The elders of the Jewish community bought this land to use as a burial ground because Jews were forbidden to bury their dead inside the city.

Today Ouderkerk aan de Amstel is popular with cyclists who come to enjoy the ambience of its waterfront cafés and restaurants. The skyline is dominated by the 50-m (160-ft) spire of the Urbanuskerk, a Catholic church designed by PJH Cuypers (see pp34-5) and

consecrated in 1867. A short walk upriver along Amsteldiik. there are two 18th-century country houses. There is no access to the first, but the wooded garden of the second Wester Amstel (huilt in 1720) is open to the public.

Olympic Quarter

172, 174, 197,

Development of the western side of the Nieuw Zuid (New South) began during the run up to the Olympic Games, held here in 1928. Many of the streets and squares were given Grecian names, like Olympiaplein and Herculesstraat

The Stadium was designed by J Wils and C van Eesteren. Its stark vertical lines and soaring torch tower recall the work of the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Once threatened with demolition, it is now a sports venue.

The sturdy bridge across the Noorder Amstel Kanaal at Olympiaplein is typical Amsterdam School design. It is the work of PL Kramer and the sculptor H Krop, Beyond the bridge, the Amsterdams Lyceum (a secondary school) shows the style at its best.



The peaceful waterfront at Oudekerk aan de Amstel, south of Amsterdam



Pedalos on a lake in the Amsterdamse Bos

© Flectrische Museumtramliin

Amstelveenseweg 264. Tel 673 7538. **16. 15.** 62. 142. 145. 170. 172. 174, 197, 370, Open Faster-Oct: 11am-5:30pm Sun. w museumtramliin.org

Not a museum, as the name suggests, but a tram ride that operates from Haarlemmer-

meerstation and the southern tip of the Amsterdamse Bos The tramcars which date



about 20 minutes and provides a good view of the Olympic Stadium.

Amsterdamse **Bos**

Amstelveenseweg. Electrische Museumtramlijn (see entry 10). 3 142, 166, 170, 172, Theatre Tel 643 3286. w amsterdamsebos.nl

This woodland park is the largest recreational area in Amsterdam. It was laid out in the 1930s in a bid to reduce unemployment in the city (see p37). Extensive wooded areas, interspersed with grassy meadows, lakes, waterways and even a hill, were created on reclaimed land that

lies 3 m (13 ft) below sea level. The park was enlarged periodically until 1967, when it reached its present size of more than 800 ha (2.000 acres).

Today, the marshy areas around Nieuwe Meer and the lakes at Amstelveense Poel and Kleine Poel are nature reserves. Other highlights include an animal enclosure, a goat farm,

> the Vogeleiland botanical gardens and the Bosmuseum with its exhibits on the natural and social history of the park.

Among the facilities are an extensive network of planned walks, cycle paths and bridle ways, as well as water sports and an open-air theatre (see p241) during the summer.

O Schiphol Airport

Evert van de Beekstraat 202. Tel 0900 0141 🗐 Schiphol Airport w schiphol.nl

Attracting over 135,000 people each day this modern forwardthinking airport (official name: Amsterdam Airport Schiphol) is one of the world's most efficient and user-friendly, with different colour-coded signs to help visitors navigate around this huge area (see pp262-3).

The airport has a wide variety of exciting extras to help pass the time while waiting for a flight. The Riiksmuseum has a small selection of classic works of art for the public to view located on Holland Roulevard at Schipol airport. The museum is situated beyond passport control, and entrance is free to everyone with a boarding pass.

The airport also boasts a small casino between gates E and F (open from 6:30am to 7:30pm) to help pass the time, as well as a haven for the sore and weary traveller in the form of a chair massage.

The "Silence Centre" is open between 9am and 5pm. This is a place of worship for all religions, or simply a place for quiet contemplation.

In addition to the vast number of shops, bars and restaurants at the airport. there is also a Panorama Terrace offering great views of the aircraft.



The entrance to Amsterdam's modern Schiphol Airport



TWO GUIDED WALKS

Many of Amsterdam's most important historical landmarks, and several fine examples of 16th- and 17th-century architecture, can be enjoyed on both of these walks. The first takes the visitor through the streets of the Jordaan, a peaceful quarter known for its narrow, pretty canals, houseboats and traditional architecture. The route winds through to the man-made Western Islands of Bickerseiland, Realeneiland and Prinseneiland, built in the 17th century to accommodate the expansion in Amsterdam's overseas trade. The area, with its rows of warehouses and wharves, is a reminder of the

city's erstwhile supremacy at sea. The city's maritime heritage is also evident on the second walk, which starts off from the Schreierstoren, where women waved their husbands off to sea in the 17th century, and finishes at the Nederlands Scheepvaart Museum. On the way, the walk passes the original city boundaries, countless converted warehouses and along streets named after the spices brought in by the East India Company (VOC). On any weekday, there is also the opportunity to spend a few pleasurable hours browsing round the Waterlooplein flea market.

0 kilometres



The Drieharingenbrug across Prinsengracht (see pp 160-61)

Westerkerk overlooking the Prinsengracht canal

A Walk around the Jordaan and Western Islands

The Jordaan is a tranquil part of the city, crammed with canal houses, old and new galleries, restaurants, craft shops and pavement cafés. The walk route meanders through narrow streets and along enchanting canals. It starts from the Westerkerk and continues past Brouwersgracht, up to the IJ river and on to the Western Islands. These islands have now been adopted by the bohemian artistic community as a fashionable area to live and work.

Prinsengracht to Westerstraat

Outside Hendrick de Keyser's Westerkerk (1) (see p92) turn left up Prinsengracht, past the Anne Frank House (2) (see p92), and cross over the canal. Turn left down the opposite side of Prinsengracht and walk along Bloemgracht - the prettiest canal in the Jordaan Before crossing the second bridge, look out for the three identical canal houses called the Drie Hendricken (the three Henrys) ③ (see p93). Continue up 3e Leliedwarsstraat, lined with an eclectic mix of old and modern gables, turn right and walk past the St Andrieshofie 4) one of the numerous well-preserved almshouses in the city. It is worth pausing to take a look across Egelantiersgracht at No. 360, a rare example of an Art Nouveau canal house

Follow the bank to the end. turn left on to Prinsengracht. passing the Café't Smalle, and turn left into Egelantiersstraat. In 1e Egelantiersdwarsstraat can be



Ornate step gables (1642) at Nos. 89 and 91 Bloemgracht

Kev

Walk route

found a group of 17th-century almshouses, known as the Claes Claeszhofie (3) (see p94), Follow this tiny street past several cafés as well as many unusual shops selling clothes, bric-a-brac, pottery and paintings, to Westerstraat



Simple wooden gable with hoisting hook on Westerstraat

Westerstraat to Bickerseiland

Cross the street – Westerstraat originally bordered a canal, now filled in - and turn right. The gabled houses are typical of the late-17th-century style of the Jordaan. Walk along for one block and take the first left into 1e Boomdwarsstraat, then right to the Noorderkerk (6) (see p94). Each Monday morning, a lively flea market takes place in the Noorder-markt (see p94). Continue on to the south side

0 vards



Plague on No. 8 Zandhoek, a former sailors' hostel

of the Lindengracht. To the left, at Nos. 149-163, is the Suvckerhofie (7), a former refuge for abandoned women. Turn right and you will pass a wall plague on No. 55 Lindengracht depicting fish swimming in trees and echoing an inverted view of houses reflected in the city's canals. The statue on Lindengracht is of the writer and educationalist, Theo Thiissen. Turn left down Brouwersgracht (see p95), which is lined with colourful houseboats. Cross the first lift bridge and go into Binnen Oraniestraat, then under the railway bridge on to Bickerseiland which is named after one of the city's most wealthy 17th-century LINDENGRACH families

WESTER (1)



The tranquil, tree-lined Egelantiersgracht



(9) A view of houseboats and gabled houses from Galgenstraat

Taanstraat, first looking back along Vierwindenstraat where there stands a series of sombre old warehouses, once used for storing grain, hemp and flax. At the end, turn right down 7andhoek (sand corner) (10) (see p95), with its rows of charming 17th-century houses. The name originates from the sand market which once took place here.

Follow Zandhoek and cross the wooden bridge (a 1983 replica of the original). Stay on the canal and follow the footpath that runs along Bickersgracht, Keep vour eves on the water and you might see a blue-grey heron looking for fish. Walk along Grote Bickersstraat and you will find yourself back where you started, at the bridge leading on to Prinseneiland. To leave the islands and return to the city centre, retrace your steps to Haarlemerdijk and turn left.

Tips for Walkers

Starting point: Outside the Westerkerk on the Prinsengracht. Length: 4.5 km (2.8 miles). **Duration:** One and a half hours. Getting there: Buses 142, 144, 170 and 172. Trams 13 and 17 from Centraal Station.

Stopping-off points: The Jordaan is packed with cafés and bars. On the Egelantiersgracht, 't Smalle is particularly atmospheric and there are bars in Noordermarkt, Haarlemmerdijk and Hendrik Jonkerplein. De Gouden Reaal in Zandhoek is ideal to rest in before the trip home.

A Two-Hour Walk along the Historic Waterfront

Begin the walk at the Schreierstoren (see p69), once a defence tower in the medieval town wall. The route follows the development of Amsterdam as a great trading city, as wharves, warehouses and houses were built to accommodate the boom in overseas trade and in population. The city's expansion was carefully planned; as existing waterfronts became overcrowded, more islands were created to the east, slowly reclaiming the surround-ing marshy countryside. The walk takes in a number of reminders of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) (see pp30–31), such as the streets named after spices, and ends up at the imposing Het Scheepvaartmuseum.



1) 16th-century stone tablet near the main door. Schreierstoren



Gables and façades along the right bank of Krommewaal

Schreierstoren to St Antoniesbreestraat

From the Schreierstoren ①, walk along Prins Hendrikkade, turning at Kromme Waal and following the right bank, with its series of rich façades and gables, to Lastageweg ②. Lastage is an area which was developed for trade after the fire of 1452 (see p25). The expansion which followed in the 16th century (see p27) brought Lastage within the city walls.

Continue to Rechtboomssloot and turn right and keep going until you reach Geldersekade, one of the town boundaries in the 15th century, Follow along Recht Boomssloot, then along the side of Krom Boomssloot, until you see the Schottenburch warehouses 3 at Nos. 18-20. Built in 1636, these are among the oldest in the city and are now converted into apartments. Next door is an Armenian church. converted from a warehouse in the mid-18th century. Then follow Snoekjesgracht, turning left into St Antoniesbreestraat (4).

Lift bridge on Staalstraat, crossing

Groenburgwal



Walk route

square and continue to Zandstraat. Continue on to Kloveniersburgwal and turn left along the canal on to Staalstraat. where another left turn takes you past the Saaihal (7) (the draper's hall), with its unusual trapezoid gable. The first

bridge crosses the Groenburgwal, with splendid views of the Amstel to the right and Zuiderkerk to the left. The next bridge leads to the Stopera (8) (see p65), and Waterlooplein flea market (9) (see p65). Follow the market stalls and half way along turn left towards

Onstardak

Indenhreestraat transformed since it was the heart of lewish Amsterdam To the left on Indenbreestraat is the Museum Het Rembrandthuis (10) (see p.64). Cross the road and continue on to Nieuwe Llilenhurgerstraat and on to the island of Hilenburg huilt in the late 16th

> century to take housing for the poor. On the right can be seen the vast Gassan Diamonds factory (1). with two synagogues in the vard, a reminder of the time when diamond polishing was one of the few trades open to Jews (see n66).



(12) The 16th-century Montelbaanstoren, part of the city defences

streets on these man-made islands. Peperstraat was named after a commodity imported by the VOC (see pp30-31) in the 17th century. From here. turn right on to the main road of Prins Hendrikkade and then into Nieuwe Foeliestraat. Turn left onto Rapenburg, then left again onto Rapenburger Plein, Take the bridge across Nieuwe Herengracht to the gateway of the Entrepotdok (3) (see p144). Turn

> left into Kadiiksplein. continue along Prins Hendrikkade and across the Nieuwevaart bridge from which you can see Daniel Stalpaert's

Oosterkerk, Continue on to the Eastern Islands, built in 1658 to create more shipvards. Het Scheepvaartmuseum (4) (see pp148-9) dominates the Oosterdok to the left. To return to the centre, follow Prins Hendrikkade westwards

Uilenburg to the Eastern Islands

Turn left into Nieuwe Batavierstraat and then right at Oude Schans, a broad canal with former warehouses and quavs full of eccentric-looking houseboats. On

Oosterdok

Wall plague at

Museum Het

Rembrandthuis

the opposite bank of the canal is the Montelbaanstoren (2) (see p68). an old defence tower. At the

bend, cross over the Rapenburgwal bridge until you reach Peperstraat, Like other



(9) Antiques and bric-a-brac at Waterlooplein flea market

Tips for Walkers

Starting point: The Schreierstoren on Prins Hendrikkade. Length: 6 km (4 miles).

Duration: 2 hours.

Getting there: Some buses go along Prins Hendrikkade, but it is easier to take a tram to Centraal Station (see p81) and walk along the IJ. To pick up the walk halfway, trams 9 & 14 go to Waterlooplein.

Stopping-off points: There are brown cafés (see pp50 and 232) along the start of the walk and at the Stopera (see p65). There are also bars on Schippersgracht and within the Entrepotdok.







BEYOND AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam is at the heart of a region known as the Randstad, the economic powerhouse of the Netherlands. The city is a haven for tourists; within easy reach are the ancient towns of Leiden and Utrecht, as well as Den Haag and Haarlem with their exceptional galleries and museums. The Randstad extends south as far as Rotterdam, a thriving modern city full of avant-garde architecture.



Much of the land comprising the Randstad has been reclaimed from the sea during the last 300 years, and the fertile soil is farmed intensively. Production is centred around early season greenhouse crops, like tomatoes and cucumbers and the incomparable Dutch bulbs. Spreading to the southwest in spring, dazzling colours carpet the fields, and the exquisite gardens at Keukenhof (see p183) are the showcase of the bulb industry.

Reclamation continues apace, and Flevoland, the Netherlands' newest province, consists entirely of polder. This flat marshy land, interspersed with drainage channels, has been created since 1950 by draining 1.800 sg km (695) sq miles) of the IJsselmeer. The flat terrain provides shelter for wild birds such as herons, swans and grebes, which nest along the reed-fringed canals. The area beyond Utrecht, to the east of Amsterdam, is much less populated than the Randstad, with vast tracts of unspoilt forest, moorland and peat bog, home to red deer and wild hoar

North of Amsterdam, the traditional fishing communities that depended on the Zuiderzee before it was closed off from the sea in 1932 (see p172-3), have now turned to tourism for their income.

The coast round Zandvoort, Iving to the west of Amsterdam, takes the full brunt of vicious North Sea storms in winter, but maritime vegetation and wild birds find shelter among the sandbanks of the exposed coastline.



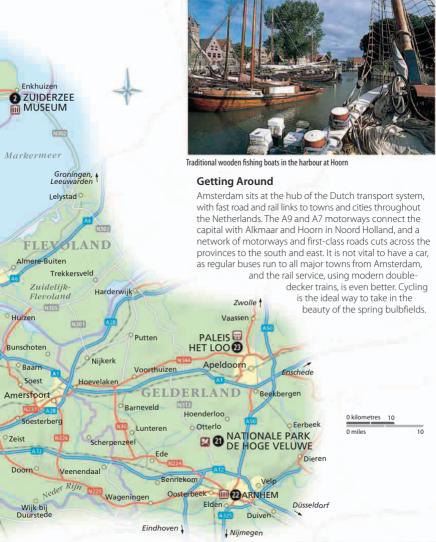
Lift bridge and canalside café at Enkhuizen — a popular haunt for visitors to the Zuiderzee Museum







Suspension bridge crossing the Maas river at Rotterdam



Sights at a Glance

- Alkmaar
- 2 Zuiderzee Museum
- 3 Hoorn
- A Fdam
- Monnickendam
- Marken
- Volendam
- Zaanse Schans
- Haarlem
- Aalsmeer
- 12 Lisse
- Keukenhof
- Leiden

- 1 Den Haag
- Scheveningen
- 1 Delft
- B Gouda
- Rotterdam
- 20 Utrecht
- Nationaal Park de Hoge
 Veluwe
- 2 Arnhem
- 23 Paleis Het Loo

Tour

Tour of the Bulbfields



Catamarans at Scheveningen



Renaissance façade and bell tower of Alkmaar's Waaggebouw (1582)

Alkmaar

40 km (25 miles) NW of Amsterdam.

3 94,000.
Waaggebouw,
Waagplein 2–3. (072) 511 4284.
Cheese market: Apr–Sep:
10am–12:30pm Fri; main market: Sat.
wwwhartvannoordholland.nl

Alkmaar is an attractive old town with tree-lined canals and an historic centre, scene of an unsuccessful siege by the Spanish in 1573. It is one of the few Dutch towns to maintain its traditional cheese market, held every Friday in summer. Local producers lay out Gouda cheeses and some rounds of Edam in the Waagplein, and from here porters take them off on sledges for weighing. The porters, who sport colourful straw hats, belong to an ancient guild and indulae in

good-natured rivalry. The streets around the Waagplein are packed with stalls that sell everything from cheese to locally made pottery.

Ⅲ Waaggebouw

Waagplein 2. **Tel** (072) 515 5516. **Hollands Kaasmuseum Open** 10am–4pm Mon–Sat

Open 10am–4pm Mon–Sat.

The focal point of the cheese market is the imposing Waaggebouw (weigh house), which was altered in 1576 from a 14th-century chapel. It now contains the Hollandse Kaasmuseum, where local cheese-making techniques are revealed. On the hour, mechanical knights, under the clock of the Waaggebouw, stage a jousting tournament, while a clarion blower sounds his trumpet.

ff Grote Kerk

Kerkplein, Koorstraat 2.

Tel (072) 514 0707. Open
Apr–Jun: 10am–4pm Thu–
Sat; Jul–Aug: 10am–4pm
Tue–Sun. orotekerk-alkmaar.nl

This imposing Gothic church contains the tomb of Floris V (see p23), whose body was exhumed and brought here when the building was completed in 1520. The 17th-century organ, built after designs by Jacob van Campen (see p76) and painted by Cesar van Everdingen,

2 Zuiderzeemuseum

See nn172-3.

4 Hoorn

40 km (25 miles) N of Amsterdam.

A 68,000.
Veemarkt 44.

(0229) 218 343.
Sat; mid-Jun-Aug:

Wed (for tourists).
Vevhoorn.nl

Hoorn was the capital of the ancient province of West Friesland and one of the great seafaring towns of the Golden Age (see pp.28–31).

The collection of ornate patrician houses around Rode Steen, Hoorn's main square, attests to the town's prosperous history.

Several famous maritime heroes were born here, including Willem Schouten (1580–1625), who

named the tip of South America Cape Horn after his birthplace and Abel

Tasman (see pp30–31). A statue in Rode Steen commemorates Jan Pietersz Coen (1587–1629), a famous explorer who went on to found Batavia, now known as Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia (see pp30–31).



Rode Steen 1. **Tel** (0229) 280 022. **Open** 11am–5pm Tue–Fri (also Mon Apr–Oct), 1–5pm Sat & Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 3rd Mon in Aug, 25 Dec.

wfm.nl

Painted unicorn.

Westfries Museum

The Westfries Museum, in the beautiful Statencollege (1632), was built to house an assembly of representatives of the seven principal towns of West Friesland. The richly adorned 17th-century façade bears the regional coats of arms.

Within the imposing halls, intimate chambers, cellars and loft with prison cells, Hoorn's rich past is detailed by a series of themed rooms, each one highlighting a star exhibit. There is much to enjoy here, from archaeological displays to 17th-century rooms filled with furniture and antique clocks.



Porters carrying cheese on sledges in Alkmaar's traditional market



Wooden clogs outside a restored fisherman's cottage in Monnickendam

4 Fdam

22 km (14 miles) N of Amsterdam. 7.200. Damplein 1, (0299) 315 125. A cheese market: Jul-mid-Aug: 10:30am-12:30pm Wed; general market: every Wed. w vvv-edam.nl

The name of Edam is known throughout the world for its ball-shaped cheeses wrapped in wax - red for export, and vellow for local consumption. In the summer, cheese lovers should head for the kaasmarkt (cheese market), held in the main square which is called Jan van Nieuwenhuizenplein. The kaasmarkt's single-gabled weigh house dates from 1592 and has a gaudy painted facade. Cheese-making is now an automated process and some factories around the outskirts of the town offer guided tours for visitors

Edam itself is exceptionally pretty, full of narrow canals bordered by elegant, gabled Golden Age canal houses and crossed by wooden lift bridges. The imposing Grote Kerk is noted both for its 16th-century carillon, and its outstandingly beautiful stained-glass windows (1606-24). The harbour to the east of the town was built in the 17th century, in the days when Edam was a prominent whaling centre.

IIII Edams Museum

Damplein 8. Tel (0299) 372 644. Open Apr-Oct: 10am-4:30pm Tue-Sat, noon-4:30pm Sun. Closed 27 Apr. W edamsmuseum.nl This amazing Gothic building (1530) is home to an eccentric

museum of local history. The

timbered interior and steep narrow stairs look like the inside of a ship. The house is said to have been built for a retired sea cantain who could not bear sleeping on dry land. The unusual floating cellar has a floor that rises and falls with fluctuations in the water table. Just as strange are the 17th-century portraits of oddlooking locals, such as Trijntje Kever, who was said to be almost 2.8 m (9 ft) tall

Monnickendam

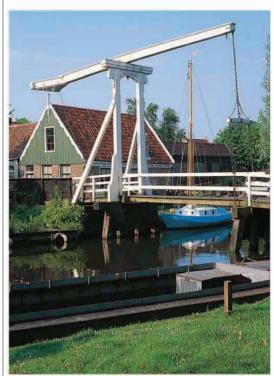
16 km (10 miles) N of Amsterdam 10.000. 📟 🚺 Zuideinde 2. (0299) 820 046. Sat. w vvv-waterland.nl

Visitors flock to this beautifully preserved port to admire the gabled houses and the renovated fishermen's cottages in the narrow streets around the harbour. Freshly smoked local eel can be bought here and the fish restaurants are a popular draw for tourists

The Waterlandsmuseum de **Speeltoren** is dedicated to the history of Monnickendam. It is housed in the clock tower of the Stadhuis, with its an ornate 15thcentury carillon. When bells chime the hour, the clockwork knights in armour parade around the tower

Waterlandsmuseum de Speeltoren

Noordeinde 4. **Tel** (0299) 652 203 Open Apr-Oct: 11am-5pm Tue-Sat: Nov-Mar: 11am-5pm Sat & Sun. M despeeltoren.nl



Lift bridge on one of the canals at Edam

2 7uiderzeemuseum

Enkhuizen was one of several villages around the edge of the Zuiderzee whose fishing-based economy was devastated when access to the North Sea was blocked by construction of the Afsluitdiik in 1932 (see p167). The village's fortunes were revived with the opening of this museum complex. The binnenmuseum (indoor museum) focuses on the Zuiderzee history, including an impressive display of historic boats. The buitenmuseum (open air museum) consists of rescued buildings, reconstructed to create a typical Zuiderzee village, with demonstrations of local crafts.



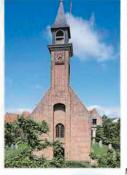
★ Houses from Urk

Buildings from the little island of Urk have been rebuilt in the open air museum. Daily life on the island in 1905 is recreated by actors in role play.



Marine Hall

Housed in an old warehouse of the Dutch East India Company (see pp30-31), the indoor museum's Marine Hall contains sailing and fishing boats. A small pleasure boat is rigged up for children to play in.



The Church

The builders of this late 19th-century church, from the island of Wieringen, disguised the organ in a cupboard to avoid the tax that was then levied on church organs.





Lime Kilns

Bottle-shaped kilns were used to burn shells dredged from the sea bed. The resulting quicklime was used as an ingredient in mortar for bricklaying. These kilns are from Akersloot in Noord Holland



★ Contemporary Delft blue design

Modern Dutch culture is presented on traditional Delft blue tiles in this installation by Hugo Kaagman, Icons such as the Internet Explorer sign are scattered throughout the piece.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Wierdijk 12-22 Enkhuizen: 50 km (31 miles) NF of Amsterdam. Tel (0228) 351 111. Indoor Open Indoor museum: 10am=5pm daily. Closed 25 Dec. Open Air. Open Apr-Oct: 10am-5pm daily. Closed Nov-Mar. & & // P W zuiderzeemuseum.nl

Transport

Enkhuizen. Eleaves from behind train station.



Fish Smoking

Herrings, the main catch of the former Zuiderzee, are preserved by smoking them over smouldering woodchips. They are then ready for visitors to eat.

0 metres	5
0 yards	50

KFY

- 1 Barges carry visitors to the open air museum.
- (2) Smoke-houses from Monnickendam
- (3) Reconstruction of Marken harbour
- (4) Shed for refitting barges
- (5) A working windmill shows how excess water was cleared from the dykes to create polders (see pp26-7).
- **6** Houses brought from the nearby island of Urk.
- (7) Houses in this area are from Zoutkamp, a fishing village once on the Zuiderzee.



Keeping House in 1930

This interactive exhibition allows you to experience Zuiderzee life in the 1930s. A "housewife" sits down with visitors and describes her daily life over a cup of tea.

Marken

16 km (10 miles) NE of Amsterdam.

⚠ 2,000. ☐ ☐ [(0299) 820 046. ☐ Sat. ₩ vvv-waterland.nl

Marken was once an island fishing community that had changed very little over 200 years. However, the construction of a causeway link between the village and the mainland in 1957 brought an abrunt end to its isolation.

The village is popular with tourists, who are drawn here by its old-world character. The locals sometimes wear traditional dress, and the gabled timber houses are painted in shades of black and green.

Marken's transition from fishing community to tourist centre is neatly symbolized by the **Marker Museum**, which consists of six historical houses, one of which is furnished as a traditional fisherman's abode.

Marker Museum

Kerkbuurt 44. Tel (0299) 601 904.
Open Apr–Sep: 10am–5pm daily
(from noon Sun); Oct: 11am–4pm
Mon–Sat. noon–5pm Sun.



Yachts and pleasure boats in Volendam's marina

Volendam

The harbour in Volendam is overrun with tourists, but the village is still worth exploring for the narrow canals and streets behind the main dykes, an area known as the Doolhof. The residents wear traditional costume: tight bodices, winged lace caps and striped aprons for the women; baggy trousers and jerseys for the men.

Artists flocked to Volendam in the late 19th century to paint views of this pretty town. Many stayed at the Spaander Hotel at No. 15 Haven, and the walls of the hotel's café are covered with paintings accepted by the owners in lieu of payment.

@ Zaanse Schans

Schansend 7, Zaandam 13 km (8 miles) N of Amsterdam.

Koog-Zaandijk.

So

Zaandam. Tel (075) 681 0000.

Open 9am—5pm daily. Closed 1 Jan, 25 Dec.

for some buildings and parking.

Zaanseschans.nl

Part of the town of Zaandam, Zaanse Schans was created in 1960 as a monument to village life in the 17th century. Shops, cottages, windmills, houses and historic buildings from all over the Zaan region have been relocated here to create a museum village in which people can live and work.

The local community is dedicated to preserving the traditional Dutch way of life, and Zaanse Schans is run as a piece of living history. The inhabitants operate the carefully restored windmills themselves. Of the 1,000 windmills found in the region, 13 have been preserved and six are found on the Zaanse Schans. These include a mustard mill, an oil mill and a mill for sawing logs for building timber.

In summer, cruises can be taken in open-topped boats along the surrounding dykes. They depart on the hour from next to the mustard mill and take around 50 minutes.



A typical 17th-century gabled timber house in Marken

Windmill Technology

Windmills have been a familiar feature of the Dutch landscape since the 13th century. They had many uses, including grinding corn, crushing seed to make oil and driving sawmills. However, as much of the Netherlands lies below sea level, their most vital function was to drain the land of lakes and marshes, and extend the shoreline to create fertile farmland called *polder*. Subsequently, the windmills have had to cope with the constant threat

of flooding. To help prevent this, canals were dug to drain water from the soil; the mills then pumped excess water via a series of stepped canals until it drained into the main river system. Today, most land drainage is carried out by electric pumps driven by wind turbines. Of the thousands of windmills that once dotted the Dutch countryside, about 950 survive, many preserved in working order.



Modern aerogenerators, or wind turbines, are widely used in the Netherlands. They harness strong gusts of wind to create electricity without the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels such as gas or coal.

canvas sail

Smock mills, shaped like peasants' smocks, were drainage mills used, from the 17th century, in groups known as gangs. The Archimedes' screw rotated to force the water upwards.

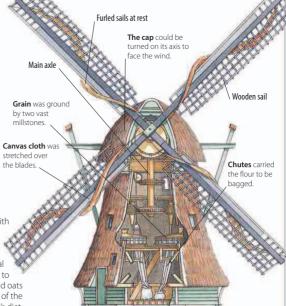
Drive shaft

Upper channel



The sails of this traditional windmill transmit power via mechanical gears. A rotating cog operates an adjacent wheel to drive the water pump.

Flour mills, thatched with reeds and shaped like giant pepperpots, were vital to Dutch daily life. Sophisticated internal mechanisms were used to grind the wheat, barley and oats which formed the basis of the community's diet.



Archimedes' screw

Street-by-Street: Haarlem

Haarlem is the commercial capital of Noord Holland province and the eighth largest city in the Netherlands. It is the centre of the Dutch printing. pharmaceutical and bulb- growing industries, but there is little sign of this in the delightful pedestrianized streets of the historic heart of the city. Most of the sites of interest are within easy walking distance of the Grote Markt, a lively square packed with ancient buildings, cafés and restaurants. Old bookshops, antique dealers and traditional food shops are all to be discovered in nearby streets.



The Hoofdwacht is a 17th-century former quard house.



Stadhuis

Lieven de Key's allegorical figure of Justice (1622) stands above the main entrance. She carries a sword and the scales of justice.





Grote Markt

The tree-lined market square is bordered with busy pavement restaurants and cafés. It has been the meeting point for the townspeople for centuries.

Statue of Laurens Coster According to local legend

Coster (1370-1440)

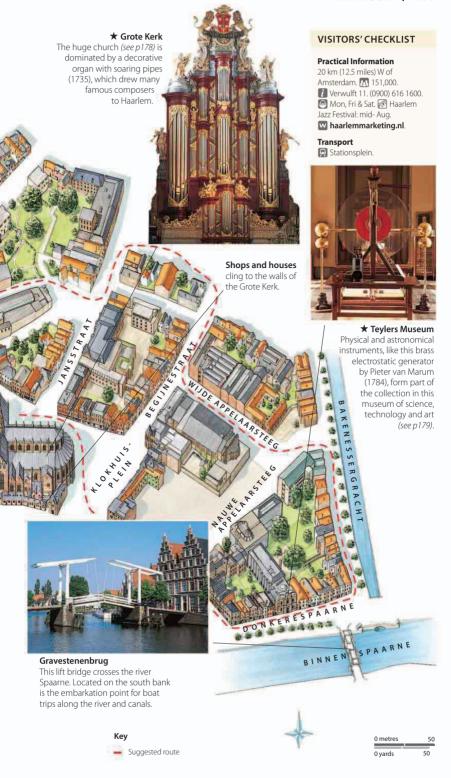
the claim

Haarlem-born Laurens Jansz

invented printing in 1423.

the Grote Markt celebrates

16 years before Gutenberg. The 19th-century statue in



Exploring Haarlem

Haarlem became a city in 1245, and had grown into a thriving clothmaking centre by the 15th century. But in the Spanish siege of 1572-3 the city was sacked, and a series of fires wreaked further destruction in 1576. The town's fortunes changed in the 17th century, when industrial expansion ushered in a period of prosperity lasting throughout the Golden Age (see pp28-31). The centre was largely rebuilt by Lieven de Key (1560–1627) and still retains much of its character. The Grote Kerk continues to overlook the city's hofies (almshouses), and the brick-paved lanes around the Grote Markt are little changed.



Grote Markt, Haarlem (c.1668) by Berckheyde, showing the Grote Kerk

IIII Frans Hals Museum

See nn180-81.

ff Grote Kerk

Grote Markt 22. Tel (023) 553 2040. Open 10am-4pm Mon-Sat (Apr-Oct: to 5pm), Closed 25 Dec-2 Jan, Easter, Whitsun, 5 May, 27 Apr. &

w bavo.nl

The enormous Gothic edifice of Sint Bavo's great church, often referred to simply as the Grote Kerk, was a favourite subject of the 17th-century Haarlem School artists Pieter Saenredam (1597-1665) and Gerrit Berckhevde (1639-98). Built between 1400 and 1550, the church and its ornate bell tower dominate the market square. The construction of a stone tower commenced in 1502 but the pillars started to subside and the tower was demolished. A new wooden tower, covered in lead, was erected and finished in 1520. Clinging on to the exterior of the south wall is a jumble of 17th-century shops and houses. The rents raised from them helped to maintain the church.

The church has a high, delicately patterned, vaulted cedarwood ceiling white upper walls and 28 supporting columns The intricate choir screen, like the magnificent brass lectern in the shape of a preening eagle, was made by master metal worker Jan Fverens in about 1510. The choirstalls (1512) are painted with coats of arms, and the armrests and misericords are carved with caricatures of animals and human heads. Not far away is the simple stone slab covering the grave of Haarlem's most famous artist Frans Hals The Grote Kerk boasts one of

Europe's finest and most flamboyant organs, built in 1738 by Christiaan Müller. In 1740 Handel tried the organ and pronounced it excellent. It found favour with the infant prodigy Mozart, who shouted for joy when he gave a recital on it in 1766. The organ is still used for concerts, recordings and teaching.

Stadbuis

Open by appt only. Haarlem's Stadhuis (town hall) has grown rather haphazardly over the centuries and is an odd mixture of architectural styles dating from 1250. The oldest part of the building is the beamed medieval banqueting hall of the counts of Holland (see n23) originally known as the Gravenzaal. Much of this was destroyed in two great fires in 1347 and 1351 but the 15th-century panel portraits of the counts of Holland can still he seen

Grote Markt 2 Tel (023) 511 5115

The wing of the town hall bordering the Grote Markt was designed by Lieven de Key in 1622. It is typical of Dutch Renaissance architecture. combining elaborate gables. ornate painted detail and Classical features, such as pediments over the windows

In a niche above the main entrance is a plump allegorical figure of Justice, bearing a sword in one hand and scales in the other as she smiles benianly upon the pavement cafés in the market below. To the left, in Koningstraat, an archway leads to the university buildings behind the Stadhuis, where there is a 13th-century cloister and library.

IIII De Hallen Haarlem (Vleeshal and Verweyhal)

Grote Markt 16. Tel (023) 511 5775. Open as Frans Hals Museum (p.181). Closed 1 Jan. 25 Dec. 2 W dehallen.nl

De Hallen Haarlem (the halls) is the collective name for two buildings in the Grote Markt

which are part of the Frans Hals Museum (see nn180-81). The Verwevhal accommodates exhibitions of Dutch Expressionism. the Cobra School, Impressionism and contemporary works. It is named after the painter Kees Verwev. whose Impressionist still lifes are an



Detail on Vleeshal facade by Lieven de Kev



The west gate of the Amsterdamse Poort (1355)

important feature of the collection The heavily ornamented Vleeshal (meat market) is situated just to the west of the church and houses temporary exhibitions of modern art. It was built in 1602 by the city surveyor Lieven de Key, and has a steep step gable which disguises the roof line. The extravagantly over-decorated miniature gables above each dormer window bristle with pinnacles. A giant painted ox's head on the building's facade signifies its original function.

Amsterdamse Poort

Nr Amsterdamsevaart. Closed to public.

The imposing medieval gateway that once helped protect Haarlem lies close to the west bank of the river Spaarne.

The Amsterdamse Poort was one of a complex of 12 gates quarding strategic transport routes in and out of Haarlem. The gate was built in 1355. though much of the elaborate brickwork and tiled gables date from the late 15th century

The city defences were severely tested in 1573, when the Spanish, led by Frederick of Toledo besieged Haarlem for seven months during the Dutch Revolt (see nn26-7). The city fathers agreed to surrender the town on terms that included a general amnesty for all its citizens. The Spanish appeared to accept, but once inside they slaughtered nearly 2,000 people - almost the entire population of the city.

M Teylers Museum

Spaarne 16 Tel (023) 516 0960 Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, noon-5pm Sun & holidays, Closed 1 Jan. 25 Dec. 👢 🗖 🚾 teylersmuseum.eu

This was first major public museum to be founded in the Netherlands. It was established in 1778 by the silk merchant Pieter Tevler van der Hulst to encourage the study of science and art. The museum's eccentric collection of fossils drawings and scientific paraphernalia is displayed in Neo-Classical splendour in a series of 18th-century rooms. The two-storey Oval Hall was added in 1779, and contains bizarre glass cabinets full of minerals and cases of intimidating medical instruments. A significant collection of sketches by Dutch and Italian masters are

shown a few at a time. There is also a multimedia room

IIII Historisch Museum Haarlem

Groot Heiligland 47. Tel (023) 542 2427. **Open** 11am–5pm Tue–Sat, noon-5pm Sun (& Mon Apr-Sep). Closed 1 Jan. Faster, Whitsun, 25 Dec. w historischmuseumhaarlem nl

Haarlem is well known for its hofies (almshouses) that were set up to minister to the poor and sick (see n95). Almshouses began to appear in the 16th century. and were run by rich guild members, who took over the role traditionally filled by the

monasteries until the Alteration

of 1578 (see nn 26-7)

St Flisabeth's Gasthuis was built in 1610, around a pretty courtvard. A stone plaque carved above the main doorway in 1612 depicts an invalid being carried off to hospital. After extensive restoration, this almshouse was opened as Haarlem's principal

■ Haarlem Station

historical museum

Stationsplein. Tel 0900 92 92. The first railway line in the Netherlands opened in 1839 and ran between Haarlem and Amsterdam (see pp34-5). The original station, built in 1842, was reworked in Art Nouveau style between 1905–8. It is a grandiose brick building with an arched façade and square towers. The green and beige interior is decorated with brightly coloured tiles depicting modes of transport. Other highlights include the timberwork of the offices



17th- and 18th-century gabled houses along the river Spaarne in Haarlem

Frans Hals Museum

Hailed as the first "modern" artist Frans Hals (c 1582–1666) introduced a new realism into painting. While contemporary painters aimed for an exact likeness. Hals captured the character of his sitters through a more impressionistic technique. In his eighties, he still painted passionate portraits, such as The Governesses of the Old Men's Home (1664). The Old Men's Home, one of many in Haarlem, became the Frans Hals Museum in 1913. Besides his work. there is a selection of Dutch painting and applied art from the 16th and 17th centuries



★ Banquet of the Officers of the Civic Guard of St George (1616)

The characteristics of each of the 12 Civic Guards and the opulence of their banqueting hall are superbly portraved in this formal group portrait by Frans Hals.



The Market Square at Haarlem with the Great or St Bayo's Church, the Meat Market and the Fish Market (1696) This painting by Gerrit Adriaensz Berckheyde depicts the old Vleeshal (Meat Market) and the fish market; both buildings date from 1603





18th-century doll's house

Precise attention to detail and texture was the hallmark of Floris van Dijck (1574-1651). The damask tablecloth shown in the painting was a product of Haarlem's thriving linen industry.

Key to Floorplan

- Works by Frans Hals
 - Renaissance Gallery
- Old Masters
 - The Hals Phenomenon
- Frans Hals' Workshop
- Non-exhibition space



Doll's House (c. 1750) This 11 room house, which belonged to Sara Rothé, is made to a scale of 1:10. Its

to a scale of 1.10.1ts representation is so realistic that it offers a good view into what it was like inside an 18th-century canal-side mansion (see pp32–3).

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Groot Heiligland 62, Haarlem. **Tel** (023) 511 5775. **Open**

11am-5pm Tue-Sat; noon-5pm Sun & public hols. **Closed** 1 Jan,

Transport
Haarlem

★ Mercury (1611)
Hendrick Goltzius (1558–1617)
painted a lot of biblical and
mythological scenes. This canvas
was commissioned by a wealthy
Haarlem burgomaster as
____ one of a series of three.



Museum Guide

The entrance leads into a modern wing with a museum shop. The best route is anti-clockwise; displays of Frans Hals' work, other portraits, still life and many other paintings are usually reordered each year. Exhibits of modern ant are held in De Hallen Haarlem (Vleeshal and Verweyhal) which are in the Grote Markt (see p.178).

Portrait of Cornelia Claesdr Vooght (1631) Frans Hals's portrait of the wife of Nicolaes van der Meer, sheriff and officer of the civic guard, is painted in classic Baroque style. The prominent Haarlem couple are depicted in separate paintings, both of which can be seen here.





Main entrance

An Allegory on Tulip Mania

(c. 1640)

Small courtvard

Jan Breughel II's painting ridicules the obsession with tulips that was gripping Holland at the time.

© A Tour of the Rulbfields

Occupying a 30-km (19-mile) strip between Haarlem and Leiden, the Bloembollenstreek is the main bulb-growing. area in the Netherlands. From late January, the polders bloom with a series of vividly coloured bulbs, beginning with early crocuses and building to a climax around mid-April when the tulips flower. These are followed by lateblooming flowers like lilies, which extend the season into late May. If you don't have a car, the VVV (see p255) has details on a variety of tours. Alternatively, hire a bicycle at Haarlem railway station, cycle to Leiden and take the bike back to Haarlem on the train.

Tips for Drivers

Amsterdam

1208

Haarlen

Starting point: Haarlem. Length: Approx 30 km (19 miles) Stopping-off points: In addition to the places named below all of which have a selection of restaurants, cafés and bars, it is worth diverting to Noordwijk aan Zee. This lively seaside town, with its lovely dune-backed beach, is a perfect picnic spot. Good viewpoints en route are marked on the map.

The museum contains exhibits that explain how polders and how they have kept sea and flood water at Sand dunes lining the coast Amsterdamse Waterteidina (3) Vogelenzang Duinen The first nurseries in Vogel-

② Linnaeushof Named after an 18th-century botanist, this huge park contains one of Europe's largest adventure playgrounds.

1 De Cruquius Museum

dams work and

hav

(5) Lisse There is a small bulb-

museum in Lisse and boat trips are available on Kager Plassen lake, nearby.

0 kilometres 0 miles Kov Tour route Roads

⑦ Katwijk

A rare, early-17th-century lighthouse is situated just to the north of this seaside town, which stands at the mouth of the Oude Riin.

enzang were established in

nurseries (sadly they recently went bankrupt).

Noordwijk

Rijnsburg

1789 - the Frans Bozen

Visitors to this park are

greeted by the heady

Noordzee

scents and brilliant colours of millions of bulbs in bloom

(4) Keukenhof

6 Sassenheim

West of the town lie the remains of Burcht Teylingen, an 11th-century castle where Jacoba of Bavaria, the deposed Countess of Holland, died in 1436.



A tulip field in the Bloembollenstreek

Dutch Rulhs

The most cultivated bulbs in the Netherlands include gladioli, lilies, daffodils, hvacinths, irises, crocuses and dahlias, Tulips, however, are still far and away the country's most cultivated flower. Originally from Turkey, the tulip was first grown in Dutch soil by Carolus Clusius in 1593



Aladdin tulins



China pink tulins



Tahiti daffodils



Minnow daffodils



Blue jacket hyacinths



An array of bulbs in flower in the wooded Keukenhof park

Aalsmeer

10 km (6 miles) south of Amsterdam. 23,000. . Zijdstraat 12. (0297) 324 454. Tue. w beleefaalsmeer.nl

Aalsmeer is home to the world's largest flower auction, the Bloemenveiling Floraholland (see www.floraholland.nl), Visitors can watch the proceedings from a viewing gallery above the trading floors. As the 3.5 billion cut flowers and 400 million pot plants sold here annually all have a short shelf life, speed is of the essence. A reverse auction is held. The price lowers as the big-screen auction clock counts down. Buvers can stop the clock at any price point and state the quantity they want. The price continues to drop until the entire lot is sold.

② Lisse

35 km (22 miles) west of Amsterdam. 22,000. **T** Grachtweg 53. (0252) 414 262. w vvvlisse.nl

The best time to visit Lisse is at the end of April, when the Bloemencorso flower parade passes through the town.

The Museum de Zwarte Tulp (the Black Tulip Museum) has displays on the history and life cycle of bulbs. Imported from Turkey in the early 17th century,

by the mid-1630s "tulip mania" gripped the nation (see pp28-9). At the height of the boom rare bulbs were sold for their weight in gold. By February 1637 however, the market had collapsed.

Museum de Zwarte Tulo

Grachtweg 2a. **Tel** (0252) 417 900. Open 1-5pm Tue-Sun, Closed 1 Jan. Easter Sun, 27 Apr. Whitsun, last Thu in Sep, 5 Dec, 15 Dec-15 Jan.

w museumdezwartetulp.nl

Keukenhof

Stationsweg, Lisse, Tel (0252) 465555. 54 (Leiden Centraal Station) or 58 (from Schiphol airport); ask for the bus & entry deal. Open late Mar-mid-May: 8am-7:30pm daily (last adm 6pm).

keukenhof.nl

Set in a wooded park on the outskirts of Lisse, this spectacular flower garden was set up in 1949 as a showcase for Dutch bulb growers and is now planted with some 7 million bulbs. It is at its most spectacular from late March to late May, when drifts of daffodils, hyacinths or tulips are in bloom. The flowers are complemented by the snowy blossom of Japanese cherry trees early in the season, and by splashes of azaleas and rhododendrons later in the year.

Street-by-Street: Leiden

Leiden is a prosperous university town, with its origins in Roman times. It grew due to its position on a branch of the Riin (Rhine) and is still an important commercial crossroads. During termtime, the streets are crowded with students cycling between lectures or packing the cafés and bookshops. A number of exceptional museums document Leiden's turbulent history, including the Golden Age, when the town was a centre for worldwide trade (see pp30-31). The wall plaque on the façade of Rembrandt's house in Weddesteeg marks his birthplace in June 1606 (see p64).

★ Riiksmuseum van Oudheden This squat statue of a

kneeling treasury scribe is among the many Egyptian artifacts in the museum

John Robinson

(see p187) lived in the Jan Pesijnshofje.

ANGEBRUG



The botanical gardens (see p186) are owned by Leiden University, and were laid out initially as a study aid for botany students in 1590.



Many of the gabled houses

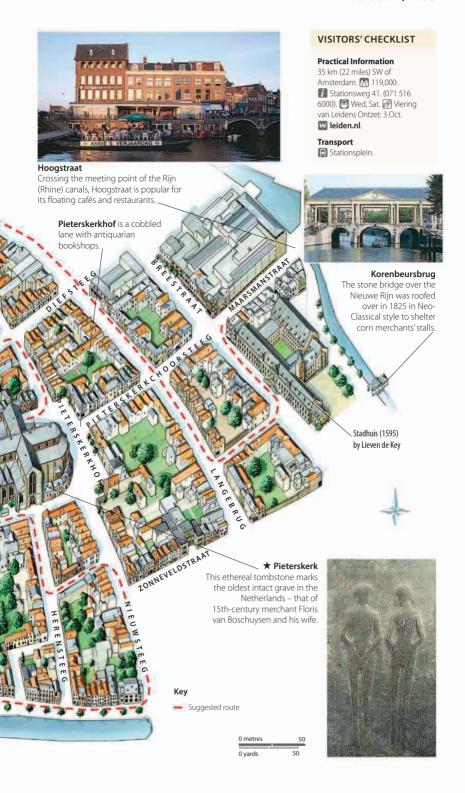
along Leiden's canals have shops and cafés on the around floor.

Het Gravensteen

The university's law faculty lies behind the Classical façade of this complex of buildings, which grew up between the 13th and 17th centuries.



HOUTSTRAAT



Exploring Leiden

Leiden is famous for its university, the oldest and most prestigious in the Netherlands. It was founded in 1575 by William of Orange, a year after he relieved the town from a year-long siege by the Spanish (see pp26–7). As a reward for their endurance, William offered the citizens of Leiden a choice of the building of a university or the abolition of tax. They chose wisely, and the city's reputation as a centre of intellectual and religious tolerance was firmly established. English Puritan dissidents, victims of persecution in their homeland, were able to settle here in the 17th century before undertaking their epic voyage to the New World.

IIII Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal

Oude Singel 28–32. **Tel** (071) 516 5360. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue–Fri, noon–5pm Sat & Sun (renovation planned for 2013–15 so check website for opening times).

The Lakenhal (cloth hall) was the 17th-century headquarters of Leiden's cloth trade. Built in 1640 in Dutch Classical style by Arent van 's Gravesande, it houses the municipal museum, with temporary exhibitions of modern art and furniture from the 16th century onwards.

The pride of the collection is Lucas van Leyden's Renaissance triptych of *The Last Judgment* (1526–7), rescued from the Pieterskerk during the religious struggles of 1566 (*see pp26–7*). A wing built in the 1920s offers a silver collection, furniture and exhibits covering the local

weaving industry. Not to be missed is a big bronze hutspot, or cauldron, allegedly left behind by the Spanish when William of Orange broke the siege in 1574. The cauldron contained a spicy stew which the starving people ate. This meal is now cooked every year on 3 October, to commemorate Dutch victory over the Spanish.

Hortus Botanicus der Riiksuniversiteit Leiden

Leiden's botanical garden was founded in 1590 as part of the university. The varied trees and shrubs include a 350- year-old laburnum. Carolus Clusius, who was responsible for introducing the tulip to the Netherlands in 1593 (see pp28–9), became the



Arched gazebo within the Clusiustuin in the Hortus Botanicus

first professor of botany at Leiden University. Today the Hortus Botanicus contains a modern reconstruction of his original walled garden, called the Clusiustuin. Other delights include hothouses full of exotic orchids, rose gardens and an exquisite Japanese garden.

Museum Boerhaave

Lange St Agnietenstraat 10. **Tel** (071) 521 4224. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue–Sun, pub hols (open daily mid-Jul–Aug). **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 3 Oct, 25 Dec.

Maria Maria

This museum is named after the great Dutch professor of medicine, botany and chemistry, Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738). Its collections reflect the development of mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry and medicine. They range in time from a magnificent 15th-century astrolabe to the electron-

microscope and the surgeon's equipment of yesteryear. It is located in the former Caecilia Hospital.

III Museum Volkenkunde

Steenstraat 1. **Tel** (071) 516 8800. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue– Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 3 Oct, 25 Dec.

This outstanding ethnological museum, founded in 1837, houses collections from non-western cultures. Individual displays are linked together to create



Lucas van Leyden's triptych of *The Last Judgment* in the Stedelijk Museum de Lakenhal

a worldwide cultural journey that shows both the differences and connections between cultures. Temporary exhibitions feature living conditions across the world, from the Arctic wastes to the hills of China, adding to this eclectic museum's wide appeal to people of all age groups.

IIII Stedelijk Molenmuseum de Valk

2e Binnenvestgracht 1. **Tel** (071) 5165 353. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue–Sat, 1–5pm Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 3 Oct, 25 Dec.

w molenmuseumdevalk.nl

This towering grain mill, built in 1743, is Leiden's last remaining mill. It is an imposing seven storeys high, and now restored to its original working state. A tour takes in the living quarters on the ground floor, the repair workshop and a retrospective exhibition on the history of Dutch windmills.

Pieterskerk

Pieterskerkhof 1a. **Tel** (071) 512 4319. **Open** Apr-Oct: 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, 1:30-4pm Sat & Sun; Nov-Mar: 1:30-4pm daily. **Closed** 3 Oct, 31 Dec. **W pieterskerk.com**

The magnificent Gothic church was built in the 15th century in rose-pink brick, and stands in a leafy square surrounded by elegant houses. Now a community centre, the church is worth visiting for its austere interior and its organ, built by the Hagenbeer brothers in 1642 and

The Pilgrim Fathers

The Netherlands was proudly Protestant by the 17th century giving refuge to Puritans fleeing persecution in England, Preacher John Robinson (1575–1625) established a church in Leiden in 1609, inspiring his congregation with visions of a new Jerusalem in the New World The Pilgrim Fathers set sail from Delfshaven in 1620 in the Sneedwell, which proved unseaworthy. Putting in at Plymouth, England, they crossed the Atlantic in the Mavflower to found Plymouth, Massachusetts Robinson was too ill to travel. dvina in Leiden in 1625.



The Mayflower crossing the Atlantic Ocean

enclosed in gilded woodwork. The floor of the nave is covered with worn slabs marking the burial places of 17th-century intellectuals like Puritan leader John Robinson and Golden Age artist Jan Steen (see p135).

De Burcht

Nieuwe Rijn. Battlements. **Open** daily. De Burcht is an odd 12th-century fortress with crenellated battlements. It sits between two channels of the Rijn (Rhine) atop a grassy, manmade mound, which is thought to be of Saxon origin. The top of the citadel offers superb views over Leiden.

IIII Rijksmuseum van Oudheden

Rapenburg 28. **Tel** (071) 516 3163. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue–Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 3 Oct, 25 Dec. **2** L

The Dutch museum of antiquities, established in 1818, is Leiden's main attraction. The centrepiece of the collection is the Egyptian Temple of Taffeh, reassembled in the main exhibition hall in 1978. It dates from the 1st century AD, and was dedicated to Isis, Egyptian goddess of fertility, from the 4th century AD.

The museum's rich collection of Egyptian artifacts occupies the first two floors. There are also impressive displays of musical instruments, textiles and shoes, expressive Etruscan bronzework and fragments of Roman mosaic and frescoes.

The presentation has been designed with children in mind with interactive exhibits and multimedia reconstructing daily life in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.



A lift bridge across the Oude Rijn in Leiden

[©] Den Haag

Den Haag ('s-Gravenhage or The Hague) is the political capital of the Netherlands, home to prestigious institutions such as the Dutch Parliament and International Court of Justice, located in the Vredespaleis (see p192). When Den Haag became the seat of government in 1586, it was a small town built around the castle of the counts of Holland. That same castle, much rebuilt, now stands at the heart of a city which is home to half a million people. It is surrounded by public buildings, such as the Mauritshuis (see pp190–91), and protected to the north by the remains of a moat which forms the Hofvijver (lake). To the west is the seaside town of Scheveningen (see p193).

Mauritshuis

See pp190-91.

Binnenhof

Binnenhof 8a. **Tel** (070) 757 0200. **Open** for guided tours only; book via website. **Closed** Sun & public hols.

By the side of the Hofviiver is the Binnenhof courtvard. In the centre of this stands the fairytale, double-turreted Gothic Ridderzaal (Hall of the Knights). This was the 13th-century dining hall of Floris V Count of Holland (see n23) Since 1904 the hall's function has been mostly ceremonial; it is used for the opening of the Dutch Parliament by the monarch (Prinsiesdag, the third Tuesday in September), and for other state occasions. It is open to visitors when parliament is not in session. A tour takes in one of the two former debating chambers

Museum Bredius

Lange Vijverberg 14. **Tel** (070) 362 0729. **Open** 11am–5pm Tue–Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan & 25 Dec.

Dr Ahraham Bredius was an art historian and collector as well as director of the Mauritshuis (see pp190-91) from 1895 to 1922. On his death in 1946, he bequeat-hed his vast collection of 17th-century art to the city of Den Haag. This beguest is displayed in a distinguished 18th-century merchant's house on the north side of the Hofviiver, and features around 200 Golden Age paintings – famous works by Dutch Masters such as Rembrandt (see p68) and Jan Steen (see p135), and others by lesser-known artists.

The building itself has undergone considerable renovation and boasts a fine collection of antique furniture, delicate porcelain and elaborate silverware.



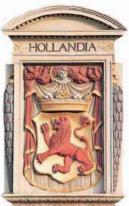
The Hofvijver and parliament buildings in Den Haag

f) Grote Kerk

Rond de Grote Kerk 12. **Tel** (070) 302 8630. **Open** mid-Jul-mid-Aug, or book a quided tour op (070) 345 1298

w grotekerkdenhaag.nl

In its present form, the Grote Kerk dates mainly from 1539, but major rebuilding between 1985 and 1987 has restored it to its former glory. Its most impressive feature is a stained-glass window which depicts Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor (see pp26–7), kneeling at the feet of the Virgin Mary. The church is at the centre of Den Haag's shopping area.



Coat of arms on façade of Rijksmuseum Gevangenpoort

Rijksmuseum Gevangenpoort

Buitenhof 33. Tel (070) 346 0861.

Open 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, noon-5pm Sat & Sun. Closed 1 Jan, 25 Dec. (2014)

(every hour: obligatory. Last tour: 345pm) (2014) gevangenpoort.nl

The Gevangenpoort (prison gate) was originally the main gateway to the 14th-century castle of the counts of Holland. Later, it was turned into a jail, becoming infamous during a period of violent social unrest in the late 17th century when burgomaster Cornelis de Witt (see p29) was confined and tortured here. Both he and his brother Jan were subsequently tried for heresy, and torn limb from limb outside the prison gate by a rioting mob.

Now a prison museum, on display is a unique collection of torture instruments,



Paintings in Galerii Prins Willem V

accompanied by a stereo soundtrack of blood-curdling screams

IIII Galerii Prins Willem V Buitenhof 33. Tel (070) 302 3456. Open noon-5pm Tue-Sun. Closed 1 Jan. 25 Dec. 2 6

w galerijprinswillemv.nl

In his youth, Prince William V (see p32) was a collector of Golden Age paintings, His collection was opened to the public in 1774 inside this former inn which the prince had converted for use as his kabinet - the 18th-century Dutch word

for an art gallery. The Galerii is the oldest art gallery in the Netherlands The 18th-century fashion for covering every available inch of wall space with paintings has been retained and so several pictures are hung high and close together. Many of Prince William's original purchases are still to be seen. Old Master paintings by Rembrandt Jan Steen and Paulus Potter (1625-54) are included in a collection that consists principally of typically Dutch Golden Age landscapes, genre works, "conversation pieces" and recreations of historical events (see p.1.34).

IIII Haags Historisch Museum

Korte Vijverberg 7. **Tel** (070) 364 6940. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, noon-5pm Sat=Sun Closed 1 Jan 25 Dec

w haagshistorischmuseum.nl

Den Haag's history museum is in the Sebastiaansdoelen, a Dutch Classical mansion built in 1636 and the former headquarters of the Civic Guard of St Sebastian. Exhibitions tell the story of Den Haag's growth since the Middle Ages. The displays are changed periodically and are drawn from

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

56 km (35 miles) SW of Amsterdam. 75 497.000. 71 Spui 68. (070 361 8860). **Open** noon–8pm Mon 10am-8pm Tue-Fri 10am=5pm Sat_noon=5pm Sun Mon. Wed. Fri. Sat.

M Vlaggetiesdag Scheveningen: last Sat in May or first Sat in Jun: Prinsiesdag: 3rd Tue in Sep. w denhaag.com

Transport

Koningin Julianaplein. Centraal Station: Stationsplein. Station Hollands Spoor (HS).

the city's collection of landscapes, portraits and genre paintings (see pp134-5) as well as 17th- and 18th-century furnishinas.



The 17th-century façade of the Haags Historisch Museum



The Mauritchuic

The Count of Nassau, Johann Maurits. commissioned this graceful house while he was the governor of Brazil. It was completed in 1644 by Pieter Post and Jacob van Campen in Dutch Classical style with influences from Italian Renaissance architecture, and enjoys wonderful views across the Hofviiver (see n188). The mansion was bequeathed to the state after Maurits's death in 1679, and has been the home of the Royal Picture Gallery since 1822. The collection is small, but almost every painting is a superb work by one of the Old Masters. This, combined with the exquisite presentation in elegant period rooms, makes the Mauritshuis one of the finest galleries in the Netherlands.

★ The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp (1632) Rembrandt's painting of surgeons examining a corpse reflects the burgeoning contemporary interest in anatomy and science.

Gallery Guide

The Mauritshuis is a small gallery set on three floors. The arrangement of the paintings changes frequently in order to cover all aspects of the collection, but you can check the current display on the museum's website. Information sheets and an audio tour are available in Enalish. The museum is closed for renovations until mid-2014. During the closure, highlights of its collection can be seen at the Haags Gemeentemuseum (see p192).



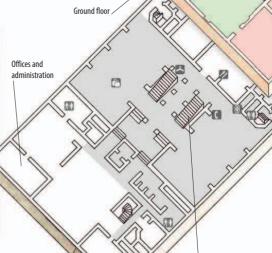
Basement

Vase with Flowers in a Niche (c 1618) Ambrosius Bosschaert the Flder captured the beauty of early summer flowers, but the flies buzzina around remind us of mortality.



Portrait of a Man from the Lespinette Family (c. 1485-90) Thought to be a work by Antonello da

Messina until the 19th century, this tightly framed portrait has now been attributed to Hans Memling.



Main stairwell

First floor

Main stairs

(first floor)



VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Korte Vijverberg 8, Den Haag. **Tel** (070) 302 3456. **Closed** for renovation until mid-2014.

& Mauritshuis.nl

Transport

Den Haag Centraal.

Key to Floorplan

- Portrait Gallery
- 15th- and early-16th-century work
- Late-16th- and 17th-century work
- Golden Room
- 17th-century painting
- 18th-century painting
- Non-exhibition space

The Way You Hear It is the Way You Sing It (c.1665) A serious moral is implicit in Jan Steen's allegorical genre painting (see p 133) warning adults not to set a bad example to their



★ Hunting for Lice (c.1652–53)
Gerard ter Borch's painting is a scene
of obsessive domesticity. It reflects
the pre-occupation of the
17th-century Dutch with cleanliness
and social respectability.



Main / entrance

> ★ Girl with a Pearl Earring (c. 1665) Trin haunting portrait was painted during the most successful middle period of Jan Vermeer's career. The model may have been his daughter, Maria.

Wredespaleis

Carnegieplein 2. **Tel** (070) 302 4137. **Open** Tue–Sun (visitors' centre).

Sat & Sun only; compulsory (check dates and book tickets via website). **Closed** public hols and when court is in session.

In 1899, Den Haag played host to the first international peace conference. This then led to the formation of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which had the aim of maintaining world peace. To provide a suitably august home for the court, the Scottish-born philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919) donated £1 million towards the building of the mock-Gothic Vredespaleis (peace palace), which was designed by French architect Louis Cordonnier.

The enormous palace was completed in 1913, and many of the member nations of the Court of Arbitration contributed to the interior's rich decoration. Today the Vredespaleis is the seat of the United Nations' International Court of Justice, which was formed in 1946 as successor to the Permanent Court of Arbitration

Haags Gemeentemuseum Stadhouderslaan 41. Tel (070) 338

The Gemeentemuseum is one of the town's finest museums. The building was the last work of HP Berlage, the father of the architectural movement known as the Amsterdam School (see p99). The museum was completed in 1935, a year after his death, and is built in sandy-coloured brick on two storeys round a central courtyard.



Vredespaleis, home to the International Court of Justice

The exhibits are displayed in three sections. Highlights of the superb applied arts section include antique Delftware, Islamic and Oriental porcelain and the world's largest collection of paintings by Piet Mondriaan (see p 138).

Costumes and musical instruments dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries are too fragile to be on permanent display, though selected items are regularly exhibited.

The labyrinthine basement is the stage for the "Wonderkamers" – the Wonder Rooms – which hold quirky displays of artworks from all the collections, aimed especially at teenage visitors.

IIII Panorama Mesdag

Zeestraat 65. **Tel** (070) 364 4544. **Open** 10am–5pm Mon–Sat, noon– 5pm Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 25 Dec.

w panorama-mesdag.com

This painted cyclorama is important both as a work of Dutch Impressionism and as a rare surviving example of 19th-century entertainment. The vast painting is 120 m (400 ft) around and lines the inside wall of a circular, canopied pavilion. The artwork shows the old fishing village of Scheveningen.

The astonishingly realistic effect of the painting is achieved through the brilliant use of perspective, enhanced by natural daylight from above. It was painted in 1881 by members of the Dutch Impressionist School, led by HW Mesdag (1831-1915) and his wife, Sientie (1834-1909). George Hendrik Breitner (1857-1923) later added a group of cavalry officers charging along the beach on horseback. The building itself has been renovated and extended. creating more space for temporary exhibitions.



Haags Gemeentemuseum (1935), designed by HP Berlage

M Omniversum

President Kennedylaan 5. Tel (0900) 666 4837. **Open** daily. 🔊 📳 🗖

w omniversum nl

The Omniversum is a cross between a planetarium and a space-age cinema, and is especially appealing to children. It has a high-tech sound system and a massive dome-shaped screen, on to which films and lasers are projected. These are combined to create stunning three-dimensional images of space exploration, volcanic eruptions and life beneath the ocean's surface.

IIII Madurodam

George Maduroplein 1 Tel (070) 416 2400, **Open** daily, **2** & **7** w madurodam.nl

Madurodam is a model of a composite Dutch city, built to a scale of 1:25. It incorporates replicas of the Vredespaleis and Binnenhof in Den Haag, the canal houses of Amsterdam Rotterdam's Europoort (see p201) and Schiphol airport, along with windmills, polders, bulbfields and a nudist beach. At night it is illuminated by 50,000 tiny lights.

The model city was opened by Oueen Juliana in 1952. It was conceived by JML Maduro as a memorial to his son George, who died at Dachau concentration camp in 1945.



Miniature church in a miniature city. Madurodam

Scheveningen

45 km (28 miles) SW of Amsterdam. 52.000. III A Thu. w denhaag.com

This resort is a 15-minute tramride from the centre of Den Haaq. Like many Dutch seaside towns, it had its heyday in the 19th century and is now a mixture of faded gentility and seediness. Even so, it has retained its popularity as a holiday destination, mainly due to stretches of clean, sandy beaches as well as a pier, built earlier last century. There is no

shortage of places to eat. including some good seafood restaurants. The imposing French Empire-style Kurhaus. now a luxury hotel with its own casino was built in 1885 when Scheveningen was still an important spa town

Modern amenities include the Sea Life Scheveningen, nearby. where visitors can walk in seethrough tunnels for underwater views of stingrays, sharks and other forms of sea life. It is also a sanctuary for all kinds of wounded marine creatures.

The town has swallowed up the original fishing village of Scheveningen Haven, which has still managed to maintain some of its traditional fishing industry. The south side of the harbour is the departure point for tourists' fishing trips.

Close by is the MuZee **Scheveningen**, which combines exhibits of marine life from around the world with displays on life in the village at the turn of the 20th century.

MuZee Scheveningen Neptunusstraat 92. **Tel** (070) 350 0830. Open Tue-Sun. Closed 1 Jan,

25 Dec. 🖶 w muzee.nl

Sea Life Scheveningen Strandweg 13. **Tel** (070) 354 2100. Open daily, Closed 25 Dec. 🔊 👢

w visitsealife.com



Holiday-makers on Scheveningen's popular sandy beach

Street-by-Street: Delft

The origins of Delft date from 1075 and its prosperity was based on weaving and brewing. However, a massive explosion at the national arsenal destroyed much of the medieval town in October 1645. The centre was rebuilt in the late 17th century and the sleepy old town has changed little since then – gabled Gothic and Renaissance houses still line the tree-shaded canals. Activity centres on the market square, bordered by the landmarks of the Stadhuis and Nieuwe Kerk. Visitors can dip into the scores of shops selling antiques and expensive, hand-painted Delftware. Tours of local factories are available, and their shops are often reasonably priced.



Prinsenhof Here you can see bullet holes where William of Orange

was murdered in 1584.



The 13th-century Oude Kerk contains tombs of eminent Delft citizens like Antonie van Leeuwenhoek. inventor of the microscope.

> Oude Delft is lined with Renaissance canal houses



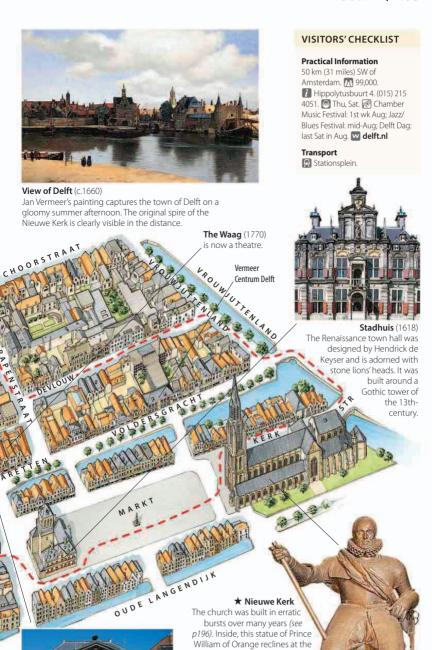
Chapel of St Hippolytus

This simple, red-brick Gothic chapel (1396) was used as an ammunition store during the Alteration (see pp26-7).



Suggested route

0 metres 0 yards



Vleeshal (1650)
The façade of the old meat market is decorated with animal heads. After 1872 it was used as a corn exchange.

heart of his elaborate mausoleum.

Exploring Delft

The charming town of Delft is known the world over for its blue-and-white pottery, but is equally famous as the resting place of William of Orange (1533-84), one of the most celebrated figures in Dutch history. He commanded the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule from hisheadquarters in Delft, and his victory resulted in religious freedom and independence for the Dutch people (see pp26-7). Delft was also the birthplace of artist Jan Vermeer (1632–75), whose talent was so underrated during his lifetime that he died in extreme poverty.

(†) Oude Kerk

Heilige Geestherkhof. Tel (015) 212 3015. Open 9am-6pm Mon-Sat (Nov-Jan: 11am-4pm Mon-Fri. 10am-5pm Sat: Feb-Mar: 10am-5pm Mon-Fri). 2

w oudekerk-delft.nl

Although a church has existed on this site since the 13th century, the original building has been added to many times. The ornate, but leaning, clock tower was built in the 14th century.

and the flambovant Gothic north transept was added in the early 16th century. The interior is dominated by the carved wooden pulpit with overhanging canopy. The simple stone tablet at the east end of the north aisle marks the burial place of Jan. Vermeer. In the north transept lies Admiral Maarten Tromp (1598-1653), who routed the English fleet in 1652, Admiral Piet Hevn (1577-1629), who captured



The Nieuwe Kerk in Delft's market square



The imposing Renaissance pulpit (1548) of the Oude Kerk

the Spanish silver fleet in 1628 is in the chancel

1 Nieuwe Kerk

Markt **Tel** (015) 212 3025 **Open** 9am-6pm Mon-Sat (Feb-Mar: 10am-5pm Mon-Sat : Nov-Jan: 11am-4pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat).

M nieuwekerk-delft.nl

The Nieuwe Kerk was built between 1383 and 1510, but much of the original structure was restored following a fire in 1536 and an explosion at the national arsenal in 1645. Work on the church continued for many years, and it was not until 1872 that PJH Cuypers (see pp34-5) added the statuesque 100-m (320-ft) tower to the Gothic facade.

The burial vaults of the Dutch royal family are in the crypt of this empty, cavernous church, but the most prominent feature is the mausoleum of William of Orange. The richly decorated tomb was designed by Hendrick de Keyser (see p92) in 1614 and is carved from black and white marble, with heavy gilded detailing. At its heart is a sculpture of William in his battle dress, and at each corner stand bronze figures representing the Virtues. Close to William is his dog, who died days after him, and at the foot of the tomb is a trumpeting angel - symbol of Fame. Due to the installation of temporary exhibits, opening times vary. Check the church's website before visiting.

Delftware

The blue-and-white tin-glazed pottery, known as Delftware was developed from majolica and introduced to the Netherlands by immi-grant Italian potters in the 16th century. Settling around Delft and Haarlem, the potters made wall tiles. adopting Dutch motifs such as animals and flowers as decoration. Trade with the east brought samples of delicate Chinese porcelain to the Netherlands, and the market for coarser Dutch maiolica crashed. By 1650, local potters had adopted the Chinese model and designed fine plates, vases and bowls decorated with Dutch landscapes, and biblical and genre scenes. In 1653 De Porceleyne Fles was one of 32 thriving potteries in Delft, Today, it is one of two Delftware factories still in production, and is open for quided tours (www.rovaldelft.com).



Hand-painted 17th-century Delft tiles

M Vermeer Centrum Delft

Voldersgracht 21. **Tel** (015) 213 8588. Open 10am-5pm daily. Closed 1 Jan, 25 Dec. P Fri & Sun (in Dutch only). & P P w vermeerdelft.nl

Little is known about the life of Delft's most famous and enigmatic artist, Johannes Vermeer (1632–75). In a series of beautifully designed displays. the Vermeer Centrum uncovers some of the mysteries surrounding this artist

In the basement visitors are introduced to the artist and the city where he lived all his life. Life-size copies of all his paintings are on display. including The Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665-67). On the upper floors, some of his painting techniques are explained, particularly his use of perspective, colour and light.

Changing exhibitions focus on the symbolic messages in his paintings.

IIII Stedeliik Museum Het Prinsenhof

St Agathaplein 1. **Tel** (015) 260 2358. Open 11am-5pm Tue-Sun, Closed 1 Jan, Easter Sun, 30 Apr, Whitsun, 25 Dec. prinsenhof-delft.nl

This tranquil Gothic building. formerly a convent now houses Delft's historical museum hut is hetter known as the place where William of Orange was assassinated.

He requisitioned the convent in 1572 for his headquarters during the Dutch Revolt. In 1584, by order of Philip II of Spain (see pp26–7), William was shot by Balthasar Gerards. The bullet holes in the main staircase wall can still be seen

The museum houses a rare collection of antique Delftware. displayed alongside tapestries. silverware medieval sculpture and a series of portraits of the Dutch royal family.

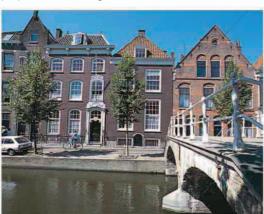
IIII Roval Delft

Koninkliike Porcelevne Fles. Rotterdamseweg 196. Tel (015) 251 2030. Open 9am-5pm Mon-Sat (daily Apr-Oct). Closed 1 Jan. 25 & 26 Dec. 🔊 🌠 P P w royaldelft.com

There were once more than 30 Delftware factories in the area "De Porcelevne Fles" (established in 1653) is the only factory still producing the typical white pottery with delicate blue hand-painted decorations known as Delftware. A visit includes a tour of the factory and the opportunity to watch the artists at work

There is a small museum displaying authentic pieces produced by the factory. Vermeer's dining room has been faithfully recreated, and the Royal Treasury shows the Delftware especially designed for the Dutch royal family.

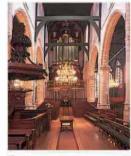
If you fancy trying your hand at creating your own decorative masterpiece, it is possible to sign up for a workshop of earthenware painting with Delft Blue paint. The lunchroom serves afternoon tea (advance booking required), allowing you the chance to sip tea and nibble petit fours from fine Delft Blue crockery.



Fine gabled façades along Binnenwaterslot in the centre of Delft

St Janskerk, Gouda

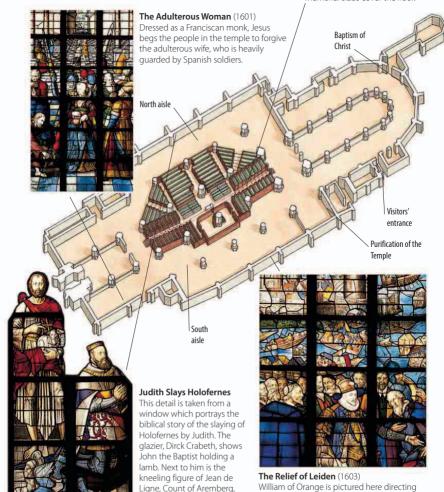
The original Catholic church of 1485 was rebuilt in Gothic style after it was razed by fire in 1552. Between 1555 and 1571, a series of remarkable stained-glass windows were donated to the church by wealthy Catholic benefactors such as Philip II of Spain. After the Alteration (see pp26-7) the church became Protestant, but even the iconoclasts could not bring themselves to destroy the windows – in fact Protestant patrons, such as the aldermen of Rotterdam, continued to donate windows until 1603. Depicting contemporary figures and events, the stained glass is rich in political symbolism. using biblical stories to make coded reference to the conflict between Catholic and Protestant, and Dutch and Spanish that led to the Dutch Revolt in 1572



At 123 m (403 ft) the nave is the longest in the Netherlands. Memorial slabs cover the floor.

Leiden's heroic resistance to the Spanish siege

of 1574 (see p186).



who commissioned the

window

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Achter de Kerk 16. **Tel** (0182) 514 119. **Open** 9am–5pm Mon–Sat (Nov–Feb: 10–4pm; pub hols 11am–5pm). **Closed** 1 Jan, 25 & 26 Dec **Tel 2 5**

w sintjan.com



Purification of the Temple
The window was donated by
William of Orange (see p26) in 1567.
The detail shows dismayed traders
watching Jesus drive the
moneylenders from the temple. It
represents the Dutch desire to expel
the Spanish from their country.



Baptism of Christ (1555) John the Baptist is shown baptizing Christ in the river Jordan. The window was donated by the Bishop of Utrecht.



View over Gouda with St Janskerk in the background

Gouda

50 km (33 miles) S of Amsterdam.

7, 72,000. Markt 35. (0182)
589 110. Cheese market: mid- Jun-Aug: 10am-12:30pm Thu; general market: Thu & Sat; antiques: May-Aug, Wed. Welcometogouda.com

Gouda received its charter from Count Floris V (see p.23) in 1272. Situated at the confluence of two rivers, the town became the centre of a successful brewing industry in the 15th century. The growth of the cheese trade during the 17th century brought more prosperity. Today, the name of Gouda is synonymous with its famous full-hodied cheese There is a cheese market in summer, and the twice-weekly general market offers local cheeses and crafts. There is also a Candle Festival the second or third Tuesday in December, All these markets take place in the huge square around the Stadhuis which, dating from 1450, is one of the oldest town halls in the Netherlands. The building bristles with pinnacles and miniature spires in Flemish Gothic style. The main attraction of the town is the stained-glass windows in St. Janskerk

Museum Gouda

Achter de Kerk 14. **Tel** (0182) 331 000. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue–Fri, noon–5pm Sat & Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec. umsuseumgouda.nl

An arched gatehouse (1609) leads into the leafy courtyard of this delightful museum. The Catharina Gasthuis was built in the 14th century as a hospice for travellers, later becoming an almshouse for the elderly. Converted into a museum in 1910, it houses Civic Guard portraits and landscapes by Dutch Impressionists.

Museumhaven Gouda

Between Mallegatsluis and Guldenbrug, **Open** daily.

museumhavengouda.nl

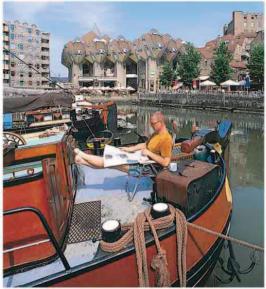
Gouda was once an important inland shipping port where goods were moved from large sailing vessels to flat-bottomed boats that could navigate the shallow canals. Eighteen such boats are moored at the museum harbour, where visitors can explore Gouda's shipping history. The restored boats are privately owned and so cannot be boarded



Early 17th-century gatehouse of the Museum Gouda

© Rotterdam

Rotterdam occupies a strategic position where the Riin (Rhine). Furope's most important river, meets the North Sea, Barges from Rotterdam transport goods deep into the continent, and ocean-going ships carry European exports around the world. This made Rotterdam a prime target for aerial bombardment during World War II, and the city's ancient heart was destroyed. Much of the city has been rebuilt in experimental styles. resulting in some of Furope's most original and innovative architecture. The Europoort is now Europe's largest container port, stretching for 40 km (25 miles) along the river banks.



Oudehaven, with the futuristic Kubuswoningen houses in the background

Exploring Rotterdam

Much of Oudehaven, the old harbour area of Rotterdam, was bombed in World War II. It has largely been rebuilt in daring and avant-garde styles. The pencilshaped Gemeentebibliotheek (public library) is in a similar style to the Pompidou Centre in Paris. Kop van Zuid, the former port area on the south bank, now has Renzo Piano's KPN Telecom head office and the Luxor Theater by Australian architect Peter Wilson.

Piet Blom's Kubuswoningen (cube houses) of 1982 are extraordinary apartments, set on concrete stilts and tilted at a crazy angle. Residents have specially designed furniture to fit the sloping rooms. Pavement cafés have sprung up along the

harbour guayside, and apartment blocks have now replaced the old wooden warehouses.

In the Golden Age, maritime trade brought wealth to Dutch towns with access to the sea. Delft (see pp194-7) lacked a harbour, so its citizens built a 12-km (7.5-mile) canal from the town to the Nieuwe Maas river and constructed Delfshaven - a purpose-built village complete with harbour which remains a pretty corner of the city, with 18th-century warehouses converted into restaurants and cafés.

Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam See pp202-3.



Cabin on the warship De Buffel

Maritiem Museum Rotterdam

Leuvehaven 1 Tel (010) 413 2680 Open 10am - 5pm Tue - Sat. 11 - 5pm Sun & public hols: Jul & Aug: also Mon. Closed 1 Jan. 27 Apr. 25 Dec. 🔊 👢

Prince Hendrik, brother of King William III (see pp34-5), founded this museum in 1873. Its main highlight is an iron-clad warship. called De Ruffel built in 1868 Completely renovated, it boasts opulent officers' quarters with the atmosphere of a gentleman's club, and a small

M Kunsthal

Westzeediik 341. **Tel** (010) 440 0301. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun & public hols. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec. 🔊 🚹 🗖

fleet of barges and steamships.

w kunsthal.nl

From costume and art, to inventions and photography, the Kunsthal delivers exciting exhibitions that alternate between "high art" and pop culture. The building was designed by Rotterdam's Rem Koolhaas, whose designs include the Beijing headquarters for China Central Television.



Peaceful canal houses in a quiet corner of Delfshaven

III Nederlands Fotomuseum

Gebouw Las Palmas, Wilhelminakade 332. **Tel** (010) 203 0405. **Open** 10am–5pm Tue–Fri, 11am–5pm Sat & Sun. **Closed** 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec.

The restored former warehouse Las Palmas houses the Dutch Photography Museum, which has extensive archives covering Dutch photographers.
Exhibitions showcase treasures from the archives alongside works by foreign photographers, comparing and contrasting the works. Prints are available at the museum shop.

III Wereldmuseum

Willemskade 25. Tel (010) 270 7172.

Open 10:30am–5:30pm (restaurant to 10pm) Tue–5un. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec.

☑ 및 ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ Wereldmuseum.nl

During the 17th century, the city fathers amassed a superb ethnological collection. The Wereldmuseum displays 1,800 artifacts from Indonesia, the Americas and Asia, and presents audiovisual displays of theatre, film, dance and music. A caférestaurant offers river views



Euromast against the skyline

Euromast

Parkhaven 20. Tel (010) 436 4811.

Open Apr–Sep: 9:30am–11pm daily;
Oct–Mar: 10am–11pm daily. Platforms close at 10pm

© ■ ©
© euromast.nl

Visitors ride a high-speed lift up the first 100 m (328 ft) of the Euromast to enjoy sweeping views of Rotterdam. This lower section, built in 1960, has a viewing platform with a restaurant and exhibition area. In 1970 the Space Tower added

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

65 km (40 miles) SW of Amsterdam. (A) 616,000. (7) Coolsingel 195–197. 010 790 0185. (8) Retrodam Film Festival: end Janbegin Feb; North Sea Jazz Festival: 2nd weekend of Jul.

w rotterdam.info

Transport

Stationsplein. 6 km (4 miles) NW.

another 85 m (272 ft) to make this the tallest construction in the Netherlands. An exterior "space cabin" ascends 58 m (190 ft) from the viewing platform.

Spido

Havenrondvaarten Willemsplein 85. Tel (010) 275 9988. Europoort: **Open** daily. Boat tours: **Open** daily **Closed** 1 Jan, 25 Dec. Sympton.nl

These wharves and quays service about 32,000 container ships a year. A boat tour is an ideal way of seeing the city's port, built between 1958 and 1975. Cyclists and motorists follow the 48-km (30-mile) Haven Route (harbour route) along the Nieuwe Maas.



Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen Rotterdam

The museum is named after two art connoisseurs FIO Boilmans, who begueathed his paintings to Rotterdam in 1847, and DG van Beuningen, whose heirs donated his collection to the state in 1955. The resulting collection is one of The Netherlands' finest. First displayed in the nearby Schielandshuis, the collection was moved to the present gallery in 1935. Known for its supreme series of Old Master paintings, the collection also covers the whole spectrum of art, from the medieval works of Jan van Evck to rare glassware. Surrealist paintings and contemporary art.



The museum's grounds include a sculpture garden



Three Marys at the Open Sepulchre (1430) Brothers Jan and Hubert van Evck collaborated on this colourful work, which shows the three Marys at the tomb of the resurrected Christ.

First floor

Nautilus Cup (1590) A beautiful example of Dutch Renaissance art, this cup contains ornamental motifs relating to the sea and is crowned with Neptune sitting on a dolphin.

Key to Floorplan

- Old Masters
- Art: 1750-1945
- Applied Arts and Design
- Free entrance exhibition space
- Temporary exhibition space
- Non-exhibition space

Thetis Receives Achilles' Armour from Vulcanus (1630-32) This oil sketch by Peter PaulRubens is one of a series inspired by Achilles' life.





Pavilion

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Museumpark 18-20 Rotterdam Tel (010) 441 9400.

Open 11am-5pm Tue-Sun. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr, 25 Dec. & // W boijmans.nl

Transport

Centraal Station

★ The Tower of Babel (c 1553)

Pieter Bruegel took his theme from the Old Testament, and showed the elaborate tenstorev edifice teeming with frenetic activity.

Museum Guide

The museum is vast and the displays change regularly. Signposting to the museum's main sections is clear. however, and attendants are well adept at directing visitors. For Brueghel and Rembrandt follow signs to the Old Masters Collection, and for Dali and Magritte look for the Modern Art section.

Rasement

Ground floor

Tower

★ The Pedlar (c.1502) Hieronymus Bosch's painting shows mankind trying to avoid the hazards of life, but with sin out to trap him at every turn.



Courtvard Exhibition entrance

> ★ Titus at his Desk (1655) Rembrandt portraved his sickly son in introspective mood, bathed in a tender light which heightens the ghostly pallor of his brooding features.

Collections entrance

@ Utrecht

Utrecht was founded by the Romans in AD 47 to protect an important river crossing on the Riin (Rhine). The town was among the first in the Netherlands to embrace Christianity. In 700. St Willibrord (658-739), a missionary from northern England, established a bishopric here, known as Het Sticht. Utrecht grew in importance as a religious centre throughout the Middle Ages, extending its control over much of the Netherlands until 1527, when Bishop Hendrik of Bayaria was obliged to sell all his temporal powers to Charles V (see pp26-7). The city centre still retains many of its medieval churches and monasteries, but these now stand alongside modern blocks and a vast undercover shopping complex. The Oudegracht (old canal) threads its way through the city, flowing 5 m (16.5 ft) below ground level to prevent flooding. Today, it is lined with broad quays, cellar bars and cafés.



The Gothic Domtoren

.... Domtoren

Via VVV Utrecht, Domplein 9. Tel (030) 236 0010. Severy hour. Apr-Sep: 11am-4pm daily (from noon Mon. Sun; Oct-Mar: noon, 2pm & 4pm Sun-Fri; 11am-4pm Sat. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr. 25 & 26 Dec. 28

The soaring Domtoren is a Gothic masterpiece and one of the tallest towers in the Netherlands at 112 m (367 ft) high. It was completed in 1382, on the site of the small. 8th-century church of St Willibrord. In 1674, the tower, which has always stood apart from the Domkerk, survived a massive hurricane that destroyed the nave of the cathedral The Domtoren continues to dominate Utrecht's skyline.

1 Domkerk

Achter den Dom 1 Tel (030) 231 0403 Open daily: phone for times, & M domkerk.nl

Construction of the cathedral began in 1254. Today, only the north and south transepts, two chapels and the choir remain. along with the 15th-century cloisters and a chapter house (1495) now part of the university. It was here that the Union of Utrecht (see p27) was signed in 1579 by John, Count of Nassau, brother of William of Orange. Outside the church is a giant boulder, dated 980 and covered with runic symbols. It was presented to Utrecht by the Danish people in 1936, to commemorate Denmark's early conversion to Christianity by missionaries from Utrecht.

IIII Nederlands Spoorweamuseum

Maliebaanstation. Tel (030) 2306 206. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sun & public hols. Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr.

彩色沙角 w spoorwegmuseum.nl The headquarters of the Dutch railwavs are based in Utrecht, so it is fitting that the town has a superb railway museum in the restored 19th-century Maliebaan station. Inside there are specialist technical displays, engines and modern rail accessories. Outside. children can explore steam engines, carriages, trams and signal boxes. The museum includes five new railway "worlds" each with its own theme



Organ in the Speelklok museum

M Nationaal Museum van Speelklok tot Pierement

Buurkerk on Steenweg 6 **Tel** (030) 2312 789. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sun. Closed 1 Jan. 27 Apr. 25 Dec. 7 🕹 💷 🛍 w museumspeelklok.nl

This magical place - literally "from musical clock to street organ" - is located in the 13th-century Buurkerk, one of Utrecht's oldest churches It has a collection of mechanical musical instruments from the 18th century to the present day. Fairground organs compete with clocks, carillons, pianolas and automated birds. These instruments are demonstrated on auided tours, during which visitors are encouraged to sing and dance along.

IIII Centraal Museum

Nicolaaskerkhof 10. **Tel** (030) 2362 362. Open 11am-5pm Tue-Sun. Closed 1 Jan. 27 Apr. 25 Dec. 🔊 🔘 Centraalmuseum.nl



Steam engine and guard's box, Nederlands Spoorwegmuseum



Gerrit Rietveld's Schröderhuis (1924), part of the Centraal Museum

collection is a series of portraits by artist Jan van Scorel (1495-1562) On visiting Rome van Scorel absorbed ideas from Italian Renaissance painting and he became the first Dutch artist to paint group portraits. These established the tradition leading to the superb 16th-century Civic Guard portraits (see p83).

Another of the museum's highlights is Gerrit Rietveld's Schröderhuis, Prins Hendriklaan 50. Designed in 1924 and regarded as the apogee of De Stiil architecture (see p138) (tours by appointment).

The museum also holds exhibitions of contemporary art. fashion and design.

1 Pieterskerk

Pieterskerkhof. **Tel** (030) 2311 485. Open noon-4pm 1st & 3rd Sat (May-Jun: every Sat: Jul-mid-Sep: 11am-4:30pm Tue-Sat).

Built of tufa (limestone) with red sandstone columns, the church was completed in 1048. A rare Dutch example of German Romanesque architecture.

Museum Cathariineconvent

Lange Nieuwstraat 38. Tel (030) 231 3835. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Fri (from 11am Sat, Sun & public hols). Closed 1 Jan, 27 Apr. 🔊 🖶 🗖 🖰

w cathariineconvent.nl

The beautiful former convent of St Catherine (1562) is now

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

57 km (35 miles) SF of Amsterdam. 7 234,000. Domplein 9 (030 236 000). A Wed & Sat. Holland Festival Oude Muziek end Aug-beg Sep: Netherlands Film Festival: end Sep-beg Oct. w visit-utrecht.com

Transport

Hoog Catharijne.

home to this fascinating museum. It deals with the often-troubled history of religion in the Netherlands and also houses an award-winning collection of medieval art Sculptures, gold and silver work, manuscripts, paintings. ecclesiastical clothing and iewel-encrusted miniatures are displayed in rooms round the cloister

On the upper floors of the museum is a series of model church interiors, highlighting the variety of Dutch religious philosophies through the ages. They range from the lavish statues, paintings and elaborate altar in a Catholic church to the more austere. unadorned interiors typical of Protestant churches.



Utrecht City Centre

- Nationaal Museum van Speelklok tot Pierement
- Domtoren and Domkerk
- 3 Pieterskerk
- Museum Cathariineconvent

0 metres	200
0 yards	200

• Het Nationale Park De Hoge Veluwe

Made up of 5.400 ha (13.344 acres) of woodland, fen, heath and sand drifts, the Netherlands' largest nature reserve is home to thousands of rare plants, wild animals and birds. Also located in the park are the Museum Kröller-Müller, with more than 250 works by Van Gogh, and an outdoor sculpture garden, the Beeldentuin, Beneath the Visitors' Centre is the Museonder. with audiovisual displays about the earth's sub-surface. including an earthquake simulator. Cars are allowed on the main roads of the reserve, and parking areas are provided.



Jachthuis St Hubertus

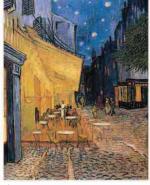
This hunting lodge was built in 1920 by HP Berlage (see p81) for the park's wealthy patrons, the Kröller-Müllers.

Franse

Berg

Oud-Reemster

Oud-Reemst



★ Museum Kröller-Müller

Besides Van Gogh's Café Terrace at Night (1881), the museum has a collection of early Flemish masters and works by modern artists.



of the striking modern sculpures on display in this 11-ha (27-acre) sculpture park. The Beeldentuin also provides an elemental setting for works by Auguste Rodin, Alberto Giacometti and Barbara Hepworth.





Pliimen

Otterlose 7and



Picnicking

Tables are provided near the Visitors' Centre. Picnicking is allowed everywhere except in areas set aside for the animals

For map symbols see back flap



Free White Ricycles

At the Visitors' Centre bikes are available for exploring the park



Kemperberg

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

80 km (50 miles) SE of Amsterdam Tel (0900) 464 3835. Open Apr: 8am-8pm: May. Aug: 8am-9pm: lun lul 8am-10nm Sen 9am-8pm: Oct: 9am-7pm: Nov-Mar: 9am-6pm. 2 & 2 Regulations: Do not camp, or disturb the animals. Vehicles must not leave the road. Do not light fires outside designated areas. Keep dogs on a leash

w hogeveluwe nl Museum Kröller-Müller: Houtkampweg 6. Otterlo. Tel (0318) 591 241. Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sun &

public hols. Closed 1 Jan. 2

Transport

108 from Apeldoorn or Ede-Wageningen, change to 106 or 400 at Otterlo Entrances: Otterlo, Schaarsbergen, Hoenderloo, Nationale Park Visitors' Centre: Otterlo



0 kilometres 0 miles



Game Hides and Observation Points

Special viewing areas (see map) allow the wildlife, like red deer, moufflon sheep and wild boar, to remain undisturbed.

KEY

- (1) Bosje van Staf game observation post
- ② Nieuwe Plijmen game observation post
- (3) Visitors' Centre and Museonder
- 4 Otterlo entrance
- (5) Camp site
- 6 Hoenderloo entrance
- ① Schaarsbergen entrance

@ Arnhem

80 km (50 miles) SE of Amsterdam 148,000. 🖟 📼 🚺 Stationsplein 13. 0900 112 2344. 🚍 💋 🚯 🕇 🖨 Sat. W vyvarnhem nl

Capital of Gelderland province. Arnhem was all but destroyed between 17 and 27 September 1944, in one of the most famous battles of World War II. The city still retains a number of reminders of the conflict such as the John Frost Bridge, scene of some of the heaviest fighting. The bridge is named after the commanding officer of the 2nd Parachute Battalion, which fought to hold the bridgehead for four days.

Airborne Museum Hartenstein

Utrechtseweg 232, Oosterbeek. Tel (026) 3337 710. Open daily.

Closed 1 Jan. 25 Dec. 2 L airbornemuseum.com

The museum traces the course of the struggle to take Arnhem. using models, slides, taped commentaries and original film footage The collection is in Villa Hartenstein near Ooster-beek used by the Commander of the 1st British Airborne Division. General Urguhart.



John Frost Bridge, Arnhem

M Nederlands Openluchtmuseum

Schelmseweg 89. Tel (026) 357 6111. Open Apr-Oct: 10am-5pm daily; Dec-mid-Jan: 11am-7pm daily: mid-Jan-Mar & Nov: 11am-4:30pm (park only). Closed 1 Jan, 24 Dec. 🔊 👢 w openluchtmuseum.nl

Situated in a wooded park, this museum recreates the traditional architecture and folklore of the Netherlands from 1800 to 1950. Founded in 1912, about 100

farmhouses, barns, windmills and workshops have since been erected here, many of them furnished in period style. The museum staff dress up in traditional costume

@ Paleis Het Loo

Stadholder William III (see n32) built Het Loo in 1686 as a royal hunting lodge. Generations of the House of Orange used the lodge as a summer palace. Because of its magnificence, it was regarded as the "Versailles of the Netherlands". The main architect was Jacob Roman (1640-1716); the interior decoration and layout of the gardens were the responsibility of Daniel Marot (1661–1752). The building's Classical facade belies the opulence of its lavish interior: after extensive restoration work was completed on both in 1984, the palace was opened as a museum.



Coat of arms (1690) of William and Mary, future king and gueen of England.

KFY

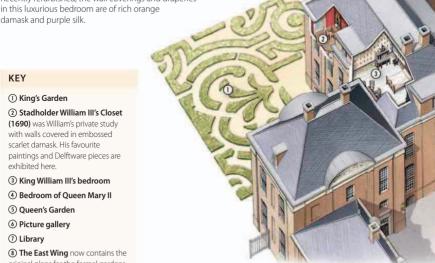
(1) King's Garden

(2) Stadholder William III's Closet

damask and purple silk.

(1690) was William's private study with walls covered in embossed scarlet damask. His favourite paintings and Delftware pieces are exhibited here.

- 3 King William III's bedroom
- 4 Bedroom of Queen Mary II
- (5) Oueen's Garden
- **6** Picture gallery
- ① Library
- (8) The East Wing now contains the original plans for the formal gardens.



Classic Cars

This 1925 Bentley, nicknamed Minerva, was owned by Prince Hendrik, husband of Queen Wilhelmina. It is one of the royal family's many vintage cars, which are on display in the stable block (1910).



* Old Dining Room (1686) In 1984, six layers of paint were removed from the marbled walls, now hung with tapestries depicting scenes from Ovid's poems

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

85 km (53 miles) SF of Amsterdam, Koninklijk Park 1. Apeldoorn, Tel (055) 577 2400. Palace & Gardens: Open 10am-5pm Tue-Sun, Closed 1 Jan. 🔊 gardens only. 🖶 🌠 🥢 w paleishetloo.nl

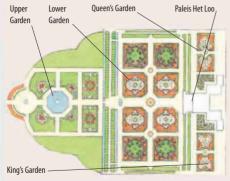
Transport

Apeldoorn, then bus 102.

Main entrance

* Formal Gardens

The gardens combine plants, statuary and fountains in Classical style. The Fountain of the Celestial Sphere stands in the Lower Garden.

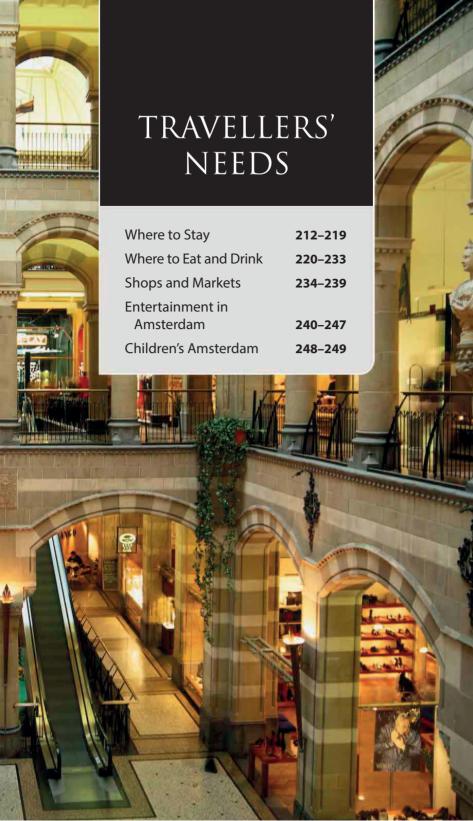


The Formal Gardens

Old prints, records and plans were used as the guidelines for recreating Het Loo's formal gardens, which lie in the vast acres behind the palace. Grass was planted over the original walled and knot gardens in the 18th century, and this was cleared in 1975. By 1983, the intricate floral patterns had been re-established, replanting had begun, the Classical fountains were renovated and the water supply fully restored. The garden reflects the late 17th-century belief that art and nature should operate in harmony.

Layout of the formal section of the gardens





WHERE TO STAY

Amsterdam offers a choice of top-quality, centrally located accommodation options to suit every budget. These range from luxurious five-star hotels to the more basic, budget-friendly options. In between, there are some bed-and-breakfasts (B&Bs) or family-run, small canalside hotels, often

with good views. Accommodation can even be found on the water, in the form of canal boat rentals. During the busy summer months, most lodgings can be full, and it is wise to book well in advance. The listings on pages 216–19 include hotels that suit every taste and price range.



Lovely garden at the Canal House in Western Canal Ring (see p217)

Choosing A Hotel

Most of Amsterdam's hotels are clustered in a few areas. The most popular places to stay, unsurprisingly, are along the scenic canals. The neighbourhoods near the museums and Vondelpark are also popular. More suited to budget travellers is the area around Centraal Station and the Red Light District, where it is possible to find one or two gems in less picturesque surroundings.

Hotels in Amsterdam are generally expensive. However, the recent impacts of economic crisis on travel has seen prices drop and special offers increase. Visitors may also find the rooms to be smaller than in other European cities The most beautiful Hotels are and typical of the city are found along the main canal belt, the Grachtengordel. Many of these buildings are listed monuments and thus cannot be altered, so vou will often come across verv steep stairs and no lifts.

Hotels in the Museum Quarter tend to be a little more spacious and are often set in elegant villas, redesigned old schools, or other commercial buildings. This sedate area is near many of Amsterdam's cultural hotspots such as the Rijksmuseum, the Concertgebouw and the Van Gooh Museum.

Hotels which are aimed at the business traveller are mostly clustered around the RAI exhibition centre in the south, near the office blocks of Nieuwe Zuid or close to Centraal Station. The location of a hotel in Amsterdam, however, does have little effect on the price; the cost of a hotel outside the centre will differ little from a hotel of a similar standard that is situated in the heart of the town.

The Amsterdam Tourist Board (VVV) publishes a comprehensive list of accommodation in the city, which is available at Schiphol Airport, VVV offices and Netherlands Board of Tourism and Conventions (NBTC) offices around the world.

Room Rates

There are no hard and fast rules as to whether a hotel's advertised rates always include breakfast or the compulsory 5.5 per cent City Tourist Tax, though the price guide in the following listings does factor in any additional charges, Generally, breakfast tends to be included. except in hotels at the very top and bottom ends of the price scale. If are staving in the Grachtengordel, note that rooms with canal or garden views generally cost more, irrespective of the hotel grading.

There are several tips that can help budget-conscious travellers. For those travelling in a group, many hotels have larger or family rooms for



Hotel de l'Europe, overlooking Muntplein (see p219)



Well-equipped room with canal views in DoubleTree hotel, Nieuwe Zijde (see p216)

sharing, or will add beds for a fraction of the room price Accommodation with shared bathrooms is also quite light on the pocket. For those travelling alone, single occupation of a double room is usually a bad idea and will rarely invite a discount. The best option for single travelers is to make use of one of the many hostels in the city. Some can be particularly unique and charming: especially those located in canal boats along the picturesque waterways.

Special Offers

Many hotels, especially private ones, have lower rates between November and March, although they tend to peak around Christmas and New Year. Some even throw in a complimentary boat trip and/or free museum admissions. When booking, it is always worthwhile to ask about any special offers that might be available when you visit.

Chain hotels, of which there are many, almost always have promotion packages on, so a little research and early booking always gets discounted rates. Some chains offer cheaper weekend rates. For good deals in all classes of hotels, whether chain or private, it is worth checking a reputable reservations website such as Hotels.nl and Booking.com.

The websites of agencies such as Expedia, Lastminute.com and Kayak usually have good offers as well. On some

of these, travellers can save money by booking flights and hotels together.

Booking and Paving

The busiest times of year for Amsterdam hotels are April (tulip season and Oueen's Day), August and the Christmas and New Year period. If you want to visit during these times, it is advisable to book a room months ahead to get a good deal Watch out for holidays such as Queen's Day, when rooms may be booked up to a vear in advance.

Amsterdam is such a popular city that it is often difficult to book a last-minute room at any time of the year, so planning ahead - especially if you intend to stay in a Grachtengordel hotel - is recommended.

Booking a room via telephone. website or email is invariably straightforward as most hotel staff are familiar with English, All the chains and finer hotels take credit card payments as do an increasing number of privatelyowned hotels.

Many establishments will ask for a deposit to hold a reservation. This could be anything from 10 per cent up to the cost of a first night's stay. For hotels that don't accept credit cards, the final bill settlement will need to be in cash. Costs for cancellations vary: the later you cancel, the more you pay. Many hotels will charge up to 100 per cent of the cost for last minute cancellations.

If you arrive in Amsterdam without a room reservation then the VAV centre at Schinhol Airport, Centraal Station or Leidseplein can book one for you but this service will incur a small fee. Hotels can also be found and booked through the VVV website

Hotel Gradings

The star system used by Benelux Hotel Classification ranges from one (may have shared hathrooms) to five stars (rooms must be of a minimum size and the hotel must have plenty of amenities). These stars relate entirely to facilities and not to location or attractiveness, you therefore may find that a small. cheap hotel on a canal is more charming than a bland, corporate one, but that the more "appealing" of the two will have fewer stars



The elegant foyer of the InterContinental Amstel Amsterdam (see p219)



Spacious bedroom in the boutique Canal House in the Western Canal Ring (see p217)

What to Expect

The only establishments that have on-site restaurants are the larger chains or very expensive hotels. On the other hand, quite a sizeable number of hotels, including the smallest ones, have bars that provide at least some snacks. The rest of the lodgings usually provide just bed and breakfast, although bigger places may also have communal lounge areas.

Breakfast usually comprises a continental buffet, which largely includes coffee, bread rolls and conserves, cheese, meats and boiled eggs. While in the past only the most expensive hotels provided a hot buffet, these days the trend is for most hotels to feature a good breakfast spread.

Make sure to get a description of the room before booking, or you may not find the splendid canal vistas you had hoped for. Most rooms are on the small side and come with a TV and telephone. An increasing numbers of hotels – even budget ones – now provide Wi-Fi, though this is not always free of charge. Bathrooms can be tiny and, as with Amsterdam apartments, bathtubs are a luxury rather than standard.

Travelling with Children

Amsterdam is generally a childfriendly place, and although some of the more exclusive places discourage younger travellers, most places welcome them. Many of the chains and bigger hotels allow children (usually up to two) to stay free in their parents' rooms and some provide free breakfasts. Others may offer reduced rates or charge a small fee to rent babies' cots. In many hotels, babysitting services are available for a fee.

Gav Hotels

Amsterdam is a gay-friendly city, so there are no problems staying anywhere. If, however, you do want to sample the city's gay hotels, the most popular and well known is the Golden Bear (n218), at the heart of the Kerkstraat gav scene. ITC, near Rembrandtplein, is also popular with both gay and lesbian travellers. The city lacks lesbian-only accommodation, but the Quentin, near Leidseplein is a popular choice. The Bent Guide to Amsterdam gives a full overview of all things gay and lesbian and is available at Pink Point and the **Vrolijk** bookshop. The

information kit on gay Amsterdam can also be ordered from **GAYtic** (see p.254).

Disabled Travellers

While charming, the cobbled streets, tall or narrow houses and steep stairs can cause problems for disabled tourists. Since so many hotels on the canal belt have a protected status and cannot be renovated, there are few lifts. Wheelchair access is therefore often only viable in chain hotels or topprice establishments.

Hostels

Hostels are very popular in Amsterdam, and generally cater to a, young back-packing crowd. Most hostels, with the exception of Staokay, are privately owned and have dorm accommodation, though some have private rooms as well. Many places also have cheap, cheerful bars on site. A relatively new hostel in the Amsterdam-Zuidoost, Hostelle offers women-only accommodation. Note that some hostels have curfews as well. Those near Centraal Station can be less pleasant than elsewhere, so do exercise caution when booking.

Camping

Amsterdam is well served by campsites. While none of these are in the city centre, they are easily accessible via good public transport links Open between March and October Gaasper Camping is good for families. with watersporting opportunities nearby. The Amsterdamse Bos site is set in acres of recreational woodland perfect for children. To the north. Vliegenbos is great for exploring pretty Waterland villages (Apr-Sep). Open yearround. Zeeburg is the nearest to the city centre. Rental huts are available, and a tram stop is located within walking distance.

Self-catering

There are few self-catering options in Amsterdam as anartment space is at a premium. The VVV's hotel brochure lists letting agents, who sometimes stipulate a minimum stay of a week. The website City Mundo is also a good place to research possibilities Of the hotels recommended in this guide. Sunhead of 1617 (see p216) and Hotel Acacia (see p217) offer the best self-catering options.

Staving in Private Homes

Since real estate is at a premium and Amsterdam flats tend to be tiny, questhouse stays in people's homes are severely limited Nevertheless **Bed and Breakfast Holland** is an

excellent resource for finding places that are available.

Beyond Amsterdam

The NBTC's website lists more than 2.000 hotels throughout the Netherlands with comprehensive information about each of them. Although this guide does not cover hotels outside Amsterdam, the information about booking and paving, hotel gradings, hostels and camping applies across the entire country.

Recommended Hotels

The hotels recommended in this quide feature a wide selection to suit every budget and requirement. These include the most luxurious and best design. choices, getaways with character. lodgings catering to families and business travellers as well as good-value options in Amsterdam.

The DK Choice identifies accommodation that has heen chosen for one or more exceptional quality. A hotel may feature state-of-the-art luxury and top-class amenities. situated at a historic waterside location or it may be particularly comfortable and offer excellent value for money. Whatever the reason, these guarantee a memorable stav.



Smart façade of Hotel Zanderbergen in Museum Quarter (see p218)

Choosing a Hotel

NBTC

PO Box 63740, 2502 JL Den Haag

Tel 070 370 5705.

w holland.com

Centraal Station: Stationsplein 10, 1012 AB. Leidseplein: Leidseplein 26, 1017 PT. Schiphol Airport: Arrivals Hall 2 at Schiphol Plaza.

Tel 702 6000

w iamsterdam.com

Special Offers

Booking.com w booking.com

Expedia

w expedia.com

Hotels.nl

w hotels.nl

Kavak w kavak.com

Lastminute.com w lastminute.com

Gay Hotels

ITC

Prinsengracht 1051. 1017 JE. Map 5 A3. Tel 623 0230.

w itc-hotel.com

Pink Point

Westermarkt, 1016 DH. Map 1 B4. Tel 428 1070.

w pinkpoint.org

Ouentin

Leidsekade 89, 1017 PN. Map 4 D1.

Tel 894 3004.

w quentinhotels.com

DIRECTORY

Paleisstraat 135, 1012 ZL. Map 7 B3. Tel 623 5142.

w vrolijk.nu

Hostels

Hostelle

Frankemaheerd 2, 1102 AN. Amsterdam Zuidoost.

Tel 770 3504

w hostelle.com

Stavokav

Stadsdoelen (city centre). Map 7 C4. Tel 624 6832.

w stayokay.com

Camping

Amsterdamse Bos

Kleine Noorddiik 1 1187 NZ. Amstelveen. Tel 641 6868.

w camping amsterdamsebos.nl

Gaasper Camping

Loosdrechtdreef 7. 1108 AZ. Tel 696 7326.

w gaaspercamping.nl

Vliegenbos

Meeuwenlaan 138, 1022 AM. **Tel** 636 8855.

w vliegenbos.com

Zeeburg

Zuider IJdijk 20, 1095 KN. Tel 694 4430.

w campingzeeburg.nl

Self-catering

City Mundo

w citymundo.nl

Staying In Private Homes

Bed & Breakfast Holland w bedandbreakfast holland.com

Where to Stay

Rusiness Oude Ziide

Radisson Rlu Hotel Rusland 17 1012 CK Tel 623 1231 Man 7 (4

W radissonblu com Spacious rooms with timber ceilings and modern decor. Hotel also offers conference facilities

Nieuwe 7iide

DK Choice

DoubleTree €€ Oosterdoksstraat 4, 1011 DK Tel 530 0800 Map 8 F1 w doubletree3.hilton.com

A large hotel with stunning harbour views, DoubleTree offers four-star amenities including a fitness room and a DVD library. Every room is equipped with an iMac computer, which also functions as a TV. Sixteen conference halls available, plus remote printing facilities.

NH Barbizon Palace

Prins Hendrikkade 59-72, 1012 AD Tel 556 4564 Map 8 D1

w nh-hotels.com

Simply decorated rooms and a Michelin-starred restaurant.

Park Plaza Victoria Hotel

Namrak 1–5, 1012 LG Tel 623 4255 Map 7 C1 w parkplaza.com/amsterdam Built in 1890 this hotel offers beautiful surroundings plus a spa

and video conference facilities. Renaissance Amsterdam Kattengat 1, 1012 SZ Tel 621 2223 **Map** 7 C1

w renaissanceamsterdam.com Excellent hotel with an impressive 17th-century Koepelkerk dome.



The stylish foyer of DoubleTree hotel in Nieuwe Zijde

Eastern Canal Ring

NH Schiller €€ Rembrandtplein 26, 1017CV Tel 554 0700 Man 7 C5

€€ w nh-hotels com

Charming hotel in a historic building with Art-Deco furnishings and stained-glass windows.

Museum Quarter

Memphis €€ De Lairessestraat 87 1071 NX

Tel 676 5851 **Map** 3 C4 w embhotels.nl

Smart and stylish hotel with mod cons such as flatscreen TVs. iPod docks and tea/coffee facilities.

Marriott €€€ Stadhouderskade 12.1054 FS Tel 607 5555 Map 4 D2

w marriott.com

Large chain hotel with rooms in warm tones. Facilities include a business centre, 24-hour gym and sauna. Pets welcome.

Further Afield

citizenM

€€

Prinses Irenestraat 30, 1077 WX Tel 811 7090

w citizenm.com

A thoroughly modern and stylish hotel with touch-screen check-in. Online reservations only.

Savov Hotel Amsterdam

Ferdinand Bolstraat 194, 1072 I W Tel 644 7445 **Map** 4 F5

w savoyhotel.nl Large, bright rooms at this conveniently located hotel. Facilities for small conferences.

Amsterdam Hilton

Apollolaan 138, 1077 BG Tel 710 6000 Map 3 C5

€€

w amsterdam.hilton.com

Famous for John Lennon and Yoko Ono's bed-in, this luxury hotel offers excellent business facilities

Bilderberg Garden Hotel Dijsselhofplantsoen 7, 1077 BJ

Tél 570 5600 **Map** 3 C5

w bilderberg.nl

Located in a quiet, upmarket area, this hotel has extensive conference facilities. Comfortable lounge area for post dinner drinks.

Mövenpick Piet Heinkade 11, 1019 BR

Tel 519 1200 Map off map w moevenpick-amsterdam.com Waterfront hotel with wonderful views over IJ river. Free shuttle service to Centraal Station.

Price Guide

Prices are based on one night's stay in high season for a standard double room inclusive of service charges and taxes.

un to €150 66 £150_£250 eee over €250

Canalside/Waterside Oude Ziide

Kloveniersburgwal 20, 1012 CV

Tel 330 6241 Map 8 D3 w misceatdrinksleep.com

Themed rooms include the Rembrandt Room and Baroque Room. Serves breakfast till noon.

Nieuwe Ziide

€€ Singel 303-309, 1012 WJ

Tel 624 5146 **Map** 7 A3 w estherea.nl

Elegant, family-run hotel with a library, a canal view lounge and a 24-hour bar. Attentive staff.

Western Canal Ring

Chic & Basic Herenaracht 13-19, 1015 BA

Tel 522 2345 Map 2 D3 w chicandbasic.com Simple rooms set in several 300-year-old canal houses.

Rooms are white and minimalist. Hotel Brouwer Singel 83, 1012 VF

Tel 624 6358 Map 7 B1 w hotelbrouwer.nl

Simple rooms named after Dutch artists. Great canal views.

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Sunhead of 1617 Herengracht 152, 1016 BN

Tel 626 1809 Man 7 A2

w sunhead.com

Cosy and romantic B&B with magnificent views. Impressive breakfast spread.

The 't Hotel €€ Leliegracht 18, 1015 DE

Tel 422 2741 Map 7 A2 w thotel.nl

Lovely hotel featuring 1920sinfluenced furniture and light, airy rooms.

The Times Hotel €€ Herengracht 135-137, 1015 BG

Tel 330 6030 **Map** 7 A2 w thetimeshotel.nl

Set in canal houses dating from 1650, this hotel offers a mix of tradition and modern comfort.

Canal House

Keizersaracht 148, 1015 CX **Map** 7 A1 Tel 622 5182

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w canalhouse nl

Boutique hotel with 17th-century facade and period features. Pretty garden and excellent breakfast.

Central Canal Ring

De Levdsche Hof

Leidsearacht 14, 1016 CK Tel 638 2327 Man 7 A5

w freewebs.com/levdschehof Family-run hotel with a homely. genteel feel. En suite rooms with fridge and tea/coffee facilities.

Amsterdam Wiechmann Prinsenaracht 332, 1016 HX

Tel 626 3321 **Map** 1 B5

w hotelwiechmann.nl Cosy rooms with chintzy decor and eccentric knick-knacks. The breakfast room has canal views.

Eastern Canal Ring

Seven Bridges Hotel

Reauliersgracht 31, 1017 LK Tel 623 1329 Map 5 A3

w sevenbridgeshotel.nl

Set in a former 17th-century merchant house, rooms feature antique furnishings.

DK Choice

Ranks Mansion

€€€ Herenaracht 519-525, 1017 BV Map 7 B5 Tel 420 0055

w carlton.nl/banksmansion Set in an iconic former bank building, Banks Mansion has a "full service concept" everything from breakfast to movies to the bedroom minibar is included in the price. The rooms feature Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired decor, pristine bathrooms and a pillow menu.

The hotel won the Tripadvisor

Travellers' Choice award in 2013.

Plantage

Hermitage Nieuwe Keizersgracht 16, 1018 DR Tel 623 8259 Map 5 B3

w hotelhermitageamsterdam.com Smart 1733 canal house with en suite rooms simply decorated in shades of grey and silver.

Hotel Adolesce

Nieuwe Keizersgracht 26, 1018 DS Tel 626 3959 Map 8 F5

w adolesce.nl

Clean, unfussy budget option with en suite rooms. No breakfast, but 24-hour access to food and drinks in the lounge.



Cosy room with wooden furniture at Canal House in Western Canal Ring

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The Bridge Hotel Amstel 107-111

Tel 623 7068 **Map** 5 B3 w thebridgehotel.nl

Decent budget hotel with simple

but bright rooms. Housed in a former stonemason's workshop.

Family-friendly **Oude Ziide**

Résidence Le Coin

Nieuwe Doelenstraat 5, 1012 CP **Map** 7 C4

Tel 524 6800

w lecoin.nl Spacious, apartment-style rooms with bright, modern decor, big windows and kitchenettes.

Nieuwe Ziide

Hotel Des Arts

Rokin 154-156 1012 | F Tel 620 1558 **Map** 7 B4

w hoteldesarts.nl

Cosy place with colourful, splitlevél family rooms.

Avenue

Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 33, 1012 RD Tel 530 9530 **Map** 7 C1

w avenue-hotel.nl

Set in nine canal houses, this hotel has various family rooms. Packed lunches available on request.

Citadel

Nieuwezijdsvoorburgwal 98-100, 1012 SG

Tel 627 3882

Map 7 B2 w hotelcitadel.nl

Basic, modern rooms with great cityscapes of Amsterdam.

Rho Hotel Nes 5-23, 1012 KC

Tel 620 7371 **Map** 7 C3 w rhohotel.com

Elegant hotel with a delicious buffet breakfast and private parking. Pets welcome.

Western Canal Ring

Hotel Acacia

Lindenaracht 251, 1015 KH **Map** 1 B3

Tel 622 1460 w hotelacacia.nl

Quiet, comfortable and recently renovated hotel. Studios and family rooms available.

Central Canal Ring

Hotel Nadia

Raadhuisstraat 51, 1016 DD Tel 620 1550 Map 7 A2

w nadia.nl Centrally located hotel with small

babysitting available on request.

and basic rooms. Baby cots and

La Bohème Marnixstraat 415, 1017 PK

Tel 624 2828 Map 4 F2

w la-boheme-amsterdam.com

Simple and homely hotel with free babysitting service.

Eastern Canal Ring

Hotel de Munck

Achtergracht 3, 1017 WL

Tel 623 6283 Map 5 B3

w hoteldemunck.com

Bright, cheerful hotel situated in a former sea captain's house, with group and family rooms.

Museum Quarter

Hotel Hestia

Roemer Visscherstraat 7, 1054 EV Tel 618 0801 **Map** 4 D2

w hotel-hestia.nl

Small, private hotel aimed at families and groups. Rooms for up to five. Pets welcome.

Hotel Jupiter

2e Helmerssraat 14, 1054 CJ Tel 618 7132

Map 4 D2 w jupiterhotel.nl

Family-run, cash-only hotel with shared facilities. Good continental breakfasts.



Imaginative fairy-tale garden at Hotel Droog in Oude Ziide

Hotel Museumzicht

organic breakfasts.

lan Luiikenstraat 22, 1071 CN Tel 671 2954 **Map** 4 F3

w hotelmuseumzicht.com Basic hotel with 50s and 60s-style vintage decor. Serves great

Hotel Zandbergen

Willemsparkweg 205, 1071 HB Tel 676 9321 Map 3 C4 w hotel-zandbergen.com

Modern hotel with family rooms for up to six. Also has a spacious penthouse with a kitchenette.

Stavokay City Hostel Vondelpark

Zandpad 5, 1054 GA Tel 589 8996 Map 4 D2

w stayokay.com/vondelpark Great value hostel with accommodation ranging from double rooms to 20-bed dorms.

Best Western Apollo Museum Hotel

P.C. Hooftstraat 2, 1071 BX Tel 662 1402 Map 4 F2 w apollohotelresorts.com/museum Well-equipped chain hotel with

amenities such as buffet breakfast, cots and airport shuttle service.

Plantage

DK Choice

Amsterdam House

's-Gravelandseveer 3-4, 1011 KM Tel 626 2577 Map 7 (4

w amsterdamhouse.com Amsterdam House has wellfurnished bedrooms and apartments in colourful accents. For a memorable on-the-water experience, rent a houseboat with fully-equipped kitchens and bathrooms, TV and stereo. Also serves organic breakfasts. Pets welcome. Great for groups.

Rembrandt

Plantaae Middenlaan 17, 1018 DA Tel 627 2714 Map 8 F5

w hotelrembrandt.nl

Housed in a listed building with period features and murals. Also has a library and garden.

Hotels with Character Oude Ziide

DK Choice

€€€ Hôtel Droog Staalstraat 7B. 1011 II

Tel 523 5059 **Map** 7 C4 w hoteldroog.com

Hôtel Droog, the eponymous creation of the famous Dutch design group, offers excellent hospitality with an almost art gallery guality. It has just one apartment for quests but boasts many unique features, including an courtyard fairytale garden, a café, a beauty salon, a fashion boutique, an art gallery and a design store.

Nieuwe Ziide

Die Port van Cleve

Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 176, 1012 SJ **Map** 7 B2 Tel 714 2000

w dieportvancleve.com Original site of the Heineken brewery, built in 1864. Big, luxurious rooms and suites with a Delfts Blauw theme. Excellent restaurant.

Hotel Sint Nicolaas

Spuistraat 1A, 1012 SP Tel 626 1384 **Map** 7 C1

w hotelnicolaas.nl

Set in a former harbour office and mattress factory, this hotel offers uniquely-shaped en suite rooms with plush furnishings.

Kamer 01

Singel 416 1016 AK

Tel 625 6627 **Map** 7 A4 W kamer01 nl

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Cosy B&B with just two rooms. Situated in a listed 1585 building with authentic original features.

Western Canal Ring

The Toren €€€

Keizersaracht 164. 1015 CZ Tel 622 6352 **Map** 7 A1

W thetoren nl

Award-winning hotel located in a former merchant's house and World War II hiding place.

Central Canal Ring

Back Stage Hotel

Leidsearacht 114, 1016 CT Tel 624 40 44 Map 4 D1

w backstagehotel.com

Hotel for music lovers: black-andwhite, rock'n'roll themed decor and iPod docks in all rooms

The Golden Bear

Kerkstraat 37, 1017GB

Tel 624 4785 Map 4 F1

w goldenbear.nl

Located in two 1731 buildings, this popular gay hotel has bright and cheerful rooms.

Dikker & Thiis Fenice Hotel €€

Prinsenaracht 444, 1017 KF Tel 620 1212 **Map** 4 E1

w dtfh.nl

Luxury hotel in an 18th-century warehouse. Traditional ambience and an in-house art gallery.

Eastern Canal Ring

Between Art and Kitsch Ruvsdaelkade 75, 1072 AL

Tel 679 0485 Map 4 F4

w between-art-and-kitsch.com Homey B&B with basic amenities. Rooms furnished with pastiche

Baroque decoration and Art-Deco touches.

Cake Under My Pillow

Jacob van Campenstraat 66, 1072 BH Tel 751 0936

w cakeundermypillow.nl Charming B&B with individually

themed rooms and a communal kitchen. Free baked treats.

Museum Quarter

Atlas Hotel van Eeghenstraat 64, 1071 GK

Tel 676 6336 **Map** 3 C3

w hotelatlas.nl

€€

Peaceful Art-Nouveau villa with ornate gables and stained glass. The rooms are decorated with original artworks.

€€

Conscious Hotel Museum Square

de Lairessestraat 7 1071 NR Tel 671 9596 Map 4 D4 W conscioushotels com

Fco-friendly hotel filled with plants. Serves organic breakfasts.

Sandton Hotel De Filosoof Anna van den Vondelstraat 6. 1054 GZ Tel 683 3013 Man 3 (2 w sandton.eu/amsterdam Retreat hest suited to hudding intellectuals as rooms are based

on a philosophy or philosopher.

Extensive library. **Further Afield**

Bicycle Hotel

van Ostadestraat 123, 1072 SV Tel 679 3452

w bicyclehotel.com

Solar-powered panels and bicycle rentals at this eco-friendly hotel.

Lloyd Hotel

Oosteliike Handelskade 34, 1019 BN Tel 561 3636

W lloydhotel.com

Lloyd hotel offers a choice of oneto-five star rooms. Hosts events focusing on art and culture.

Luxury Oude Ziide

The Grand €€€ Oudezijds Voorburgwal 197, 1012 EX Map 7 (3 Tel 555 3111 w sofitel-legend-thegrand.com

Deluxe hotel set behind a lush courtvard. Modern decor with a stunning marble fover.

Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam €€€

Prins Hendrikkade 108, 1011 AK Tel 552 0000 Map 8 F2

w amrathamsterdam.com This impressive early 20th-century building is decorated with stained glass and wood panelling.

Hotel de l'Europe €€€ Nieuwe Doelenstraat 2-14, 1012 CP Tel 531 1777 **Map** 7 C4 w leurope.nl

Simple rooms and opulent suites both available Excellent restaurant.

Nieuwe Zijde

The Convent Hotel Amsterdam

Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 67, 1012 RE Tel 721 9178 Map 7 B2

w accorhotels.com

Set in a former convent, this hotel is furnished with top-of-the-range luxuries including an on-site sauna.

NH Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky

Dam Square 9. 1012 IS Tel 554 9111 **Map** 7 C3

666

W nh-hotels nl

Fabulous space with opulent decor. Luxury suites plus compact rooms. Winter Garden glasshouse is a must-visit for brunch.

ccc Swissôtel Amsterdam Namrak 96. 1012 LP

Tel 522 3000 Man 7 B2 w swissotel com

Contemporary interiors hidden hehind 19th-century facade. Great location just off of Dam Square.

Western Canal Ring

The Dylan 666 Keizersaracht 384, 1016 GB

Tel 530 2010 Map 1 B5 w dylanamsterdam.com Refined and tasteful hotel with a

Central Canal Ring

Michelin-starred restaurant.

Amsterdam American Hotel €€ Leidsekade 97, 1017 PN

Tel 556 3000

w edenamsterdamamericanhotel.nl Stunning Art-Deco hotel with sleek, modern design. Lovely fountained terrace

666 Ambassade Herenaracht 341, 1016 AZ

Tel 555 0222 **Map** 7 A4

w ambassade-hotel.nl

Spread across 10 canal houses. Ambassade offers spacious rooms and has an brilliant library.

Hotel Pulitzer €€€ Prinsengracht 315, 1016 GZ Tel 523 5235 **Map** 1 B5 w pulitzeramsterdam.com

Set across 25 adjoining 17th- and 18th-century canal houses. Timber ceilings run throughout.



Handsome exterior of Ambassade Hotel in Central Canal Ring

Eastern Canal Ring

Hotel Seven One Seven €€€ Prinsenaracht 717 1017 IW

Tel 427 0717 Man 4 F2

W 717hotel nl

Small and exclusive hotel with suites named after famous writers and musicians, and decorated with fresh flowers

Museum Quarter

The College Hotel Roelof Hartstraat 1, 1071 VF

Tel 571 1511 Man 4 F5

w the college hotel.com

This is a stylish boutique hotel with chic decor Staff are students training in the craft of hospitality.

DK Choice

Conservatorium €€€ Van Baerlestraat 27, 1071 AN

Tel 570 0000 Map 4 D3 w conservatoriumhotel.com

This former 19th-century bank is now the sleek hotel Conservatorium, designed by architect Piero Lissoni. The hotel boasts high ceilings and a beautiful atrium. Many of the rooms are duplexes furnished with luxury linen. state-of-the-art technology. and offer amazing views. Excellent spa facilities and a fitness centre as well

Fusion Suites €€€ Roemer Visscherstraat 40, 1054 FZ

Tel 618 4642 **Map** 4 D2

w fusionsuites.com

This hideaway provides large luxury suites with rich antique furnishings and an emphasis on personal service. Some rooms include whirlpools.

Plantage

InterContinental Amstel Amsterdam

Professor Tulpplein 1, 1018 GX

Tel 622 6060 Map 5 B4 w amsterdam.intercontinental.com

€€€

A favourite with royalty and rock stars, this sumptuously decorated hotel offers first-class service. Michelin-starred restaurant.

Further Afield

Okura Ferdinand Bolstraat 333, 1072 LH Tel 678 7111

w okura.nl

Superior hotel with a Michelinstarred Japanese restaurant, a panoramic champagne bar and a luxury spa.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Though the Netherlands may not enjoy the gastronomic reputation of France or Italy. there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy good food at reasonable prices, especially in Amsterdam, Many cafés and bars serve tempting snacks, or lekkerties, and some eetcafés provide full three-course menus at reasonable prices (see pp232-3). In addition to the many Dutch restaurants, renowned for their quality, atmosphere and good value.

their generous portions, there are myriad eateries offering a range of international culinary delights, especially Thai, Italian and Indonesian. Most restaurants have a good selection of local and international wines, and there are cosy bars and a plethora of pubs in the city as well. The restaurant listings in this guide (see nn224-31) have been selected for

Where to Eat

Amsterdam is a small city, and most of the restaurants listed in this guide are fairly centrally located. The highest concentrations of restaurants are along the Zeediik and the Red Light District in Oude Ziide: along Spuistraat in the Nieuwe 7iide: and around the Jordaan in Western Canal Ring, A wide range of restaurants can also be found along the Leidseplein in Central Canal Ring, on Reguliersdwarsstraat and Utrechtsetraat in the Eastern Canal Ring and along the Van Baerlestraat in the Museum Quarter Cheap meals are particularly easy to find and eniov in many of the city's eetcafés. For lunch, there are numerous bakeries, coffee or bagel bars and cafés.

What to Fat

The wide range of international dishes available in Amsterdam reflects the multicultural nature of the city. Many fine dining restaurants fuse French culinary techniques with Mediterranean Asian or seasonal Dutch ingredients. There is also an increasing emphasis on organic produce and use of sustainably sourced fish

Since Indonesia was once a Dutch colony, Amsterdam is one of the best places in Europe to sample its diverse flavours. Much of the cooking may lean more towards Chinese, but it is possible to sample some genuine Indonesian food, Suriname was another former colony, and the cuisine is a wonderful mix of Indian African Indonesian Dutch Chinese and Portuguese flavours Most Surinamese restaurants lie outside the city centre, but the Kam Yin (p225). close to Centraal Station, is a good place to enjoy this amazing cuisine. Japanese and Thai restaurants are very popular and offer affordable meals, Italian, Spanish and Mediterranean cuisines are other favourites, with a number of authentic, regional or familyrun restaurants around the city.



Elegantly laid-out table at Srikandi in the Museum Quarter (see p230)

Indian Mexican and African food can also be easily found. and vegetarians are well catered for. Some of the best-loved vegan and vegetarian eateries can be found by the canalside in Jordaan area

What to Drink

Beer is the preferred drink in most Dutch cafés and bars (see pp48-9), and all have a wide selection of local and imported brews. Wine is widely available. and nearly all restaurants in the city offer a good choice. Fine dining places serve excellent French, International and organic wines, while many Spanish and Italian restaurants also feature local wines. The listings on the following pages include several restaurants that boast an exceptional wine list. Cocktail fever has also swept through the city, with many establishments also offering a good range.

Restaurants specializing in traditional cuisine tend to have the best selection of jenevers (Dutch gin). For an authentic



Bottles on display in the bar at Nomads in Central Canal Ring (see p228)

ienever experience, visit a good proeflokalen (tasting house) and sample the huge range of delicious flavours available

How Much to Pay

As across Europe, almost all of the restaurants in Amsterdam display a menu in the window This gives the prices, which include VAT (RTW) and sometimes service charges. Prices vary markedly in the city and a meal at a luxurious restaurant can cost more than €50 per head, However, Amsterdam also has a wide choice of places serving meals at under €30 per nerson. The cost of drinks is invariably extra and the mark-up levied by a restaurant, especially on wine, can be high.

Opening Times

Although the Dutch do not view lunch as the main meal of the day, many of the better restaurants in town are now beginning to open during the day Many designer bars and brown cafés also serve lunch from around noon to 2 or 3nm Dinner is served from 6pm onwards, and last orders are often taken as early as 10pm in most restaurants. However, some restaurants, particularly those in the central areas, have started to remain open until considerably later, especially on the weekends. Many places do not open at all on Mondays, although this is also changing, especially during peak tourist periods.



The picturesque terrace of Café De Jaren in Oude Zijde (see p224)



Charming glass dining room of De Kas restaurant (see p231)

Making a Reservation

When visiting one of the city's more celebrated restaurants, it is always wise to reserve ahead. However some of the most popular and affordable restaurants do not take bookings. The listings indicate places where booking is advisable. Popular brown cafés and designer bars can also become crowded in the evening, but few of them take reservations.

Reading the Menu

The menus at many restaurants are written in Dutch, English and French or German, Most waiters and waitresses in the city speak good English, and often another European language, so it is rarely a problem ordering a meal anywhere in Amsterdam.

Etiquette

Most restaurants in Amsterdam are relaxed so smart casual dress is suitable almost everywhere. Although there is nothing to stop you from dressing up for special occasions, few places insist on a tie. For eating out with children, see page 249.

Smoking

Since July 2008, smoking has been banned in all Dutch cafés. restaurants, hotels and other public areas. The ban also includes "smoking" coffeeshops (see p49) where, in theory, owners must provide special rooms for their smoking clientele.

Disabilities

Disabled visitors will be able to get into the majority of groundfloor restaurants in the city. However toilets can be difficult to get to as access is often via steep stairs.

Tippina

A service charge of 15 per cent is sometimes automatically included in the bill in restaurants. cafés and bars. This rarely goes to the server however so most locals leave a gratuity of about 10 per cent on the table.

Recommended Restaurants

The restaurants and cafés recommended in this guide have been chosen over a wide range of cuisines to suit every budget and taste. These include the top place in town to get pannenkoeken (pancakes) relaxed cafés that can be visited for a simple sandwich or salad as well as sophisticated Michelinstarred restaurants that offer an unforgettable fine dining experience

The DK Choice designation identifies restaurants that are especially good for a particular reason. These may include an exceptionally romantic place to dine, a restaurant with splendid views or fabulous outdoor seating or a café offering amazing cuisine or a signature dish at excellent value.

The Flavours of Amsterdam

From its street-corner fish-stalls to its cafés and top-flight gourmet restaurants, eating out in Amsterdam can be full of surprises. Traditional Dutch cuisine may be simple. wholesome and hearty, but the variety of food on offer in the city is huge and influenced by culinary styles from across the globe. Holland was once a major colonial power and its trading ships brought back exotic ingredients, ideas and people from former colonies to settle. Dutch chefs branched out and tried new flavours, and as such, "fusion" food has long been a feature of Amsterdam's menus.



Fdam cheese



Sampling pickled herring at one of Amsterdam's many fish-stalls

Home-Grown Staples

The typical Dutch menu offers good, solid fare. Plainly prepared fish or meat is served with wellcooked vegetables. Pork, hams and all kinds of sausages are popular. The North Sea provides plenty of fresh fish, especially cod, herring and mackerel, as well as its own variety of tiny brown shrimps. Leafy green vegetables, such as cabbage,

endive (chicory) and curly kale make regular appearances. frequently mashed with the ubiquitous potato. Sauerkraut arrived from Germany long ago and is now considered a native dish, as are French fries dowsed in mayonnaise, which are a Belgian import. The world famous Gouda and Edam cheeses are sold at various

stages of maturity, and with flavourings such as cloves. cumin or herbs.

The Melting Pot

Amsterdam has long had a reputation for religious and political tolerance, Refugees who found a safe haven there brought along their own styles



Local Dishes and Specialities



Brown shrimp

Dining out in Amsterdam is almost guaranteed to come up with some curious guirks. Cheese, ham and bread are standards at breakfast, but you may also find ontbijtkoek (gingerbread) and hagelslag (grains of chocolate) to sprinkle over bread. Ham and cheese are also lunchtime staples, often served in a bread roll with a glass of milk, though more adventurous sandwiches and salads are creeping in.

Numerous pancake houses provide both sweet and savoury snacks throughout the day. The evening is the time when Amsterdam's eateries have the most to offer. The soups and mashed vegetables of Dutch farmhouse cooking sit alongside spicy Indonesian delights, as well as innovative cuisine from some of Amsterdam's fine chefs.



Erwtensoep is a thick pea and smoked sausage soup, which is often served with rye bread and slices of ham.



Baskets of wild mushrooms at an organic market

of cooking. In the 16th century. Jews fleeing persecution in Portugal and Antwerp were some of the first foreigners to make their home in the city. Today Amsterdammers count as their own such Jewish specialities as pekelylees (salt beef), pickled vegetables (often served as salad) and a variety of sticky cakes, now found mostly in the more old-fashioned tea-rooms

The 20th century saw an influx of immigrants from Turkey and several North African countries. Large Arab and Turkish communities have become established in Amsterdam, As a result. restaurants with menus that feature Middle-Eastern style stuffed vegetables, succulent stews and couscous, are almost everywhere. Falafel (fried chickpea balls) are readily

available from road-side takeaways and are now one of the city's favourite late-night snacks. Ethiopians, Greeks, Thais, Italians and Japanese are among other waves of immigrants to make their culinary mark, and most recently traditional British fare has become popular.



Gouda on offer in an Amsterdam cheese shop

Indonesian Legacy

The Dutch began colonizing Indonesia in the 17th century and ruled the south-east Asian archipelago right up until 1949. Indonesian cuisine has had a marked influence on eating habits in Holland, Ingredients once regarded as exotic have crept into Dutch dishes. It is now common-place to spice up apple pies and biscuits with cinnamon, which is sometimes avan usad ta flavour vegetables. Coconut and chillis are very popular flavourings, too, and sampling a riisttafel (see below) is considered one of the highlights of any trip to Amsterdam

The Riisttafel

Dutch colonialists in Indonesia often found that the modest local portions failed to satisfy their hunger. To match their larger appetites, they created the riisttafel (literally "rice-table"). It consists of around 20 small spicy dishes, served up with a shared bowl of rice or noodles. Pork or chicken satav (mini kebabs with peanut sauce) and kroepoek (prawn crackers) usually arrive first. A selection of curried meat and vegetable dishes follows, with perhaps a plate of fried tofu and various salads, all more or less served together. A sweet treat, such as bananas fried in batter, rounds it all off.



Shrimp croquettes are shrimps in a creamy sauce, coated in breadcrumbs and deep-fried until golden.



Stamppot is a hearty dish of curly kale, endive (chicory) and crispy bacon mixed with mashed potato.



Nasi goreng, an Indonesianstyle dish of egg-fried rice with pork and mushrooms, is also popular for a rijsttafel.

Where to Eat and Drink

Oude Zijde

Trendy fusion restaurant serving small, tapas-sized portions. Try the beef with black peppers, crispy chicken steak or sushi.

Café Bern € European Map 8 D3 *Nieuwmarkt 9, 1011 JR*

Tel 622 0034

Café popular with locals. Signature dishes include cheese fondue and entrecôte (steak). A range of spirits and house wines on offer.

Café de Engelbewaarder €
Brown Café Map 8 D4
Kloveniersburgwal 59, 1011 JZ
Tel 625 3772

Traditional brown café. Weekly changing menu with European and seasonal dishes. Pinball machines. Live jazz on Sundays.

De Bakkerswinkel €
Bakery Map 7 C2
Warmoesstraat 69, 1012 HX
Tel 489 8000

Everything in this café is homemade, down to the jam. Stop here for breakfast, lunch or high tea. Sample traditional English scones.

Tel 320 7302 Closed lunch Good-value authentic Indian restaurant. Popular choices include tandoori grills (marinated meat or seafood, cooked in a clay oven).

Hong Kong-style eatery with a diverse menu. Mouthwatering treats such as traditional sautéed lobster and steamed oysters.

Le Fou Fow
Japanese
Stormsteeg 9, 1012 BD

Tel 06 5050 6189 Closed Mon & Tue
Cosy, casual eatery serving
delicious ramen noodles. Go for
the tonkotsu (pork) noodle soup.

 Bird
 €€

 Thai
 Map 8 D2

 Zeedijk 72–74, 1011 HB
 Tel 620 1442

 Closed lunch daily

Serves lunch only.

Decorated with paintings and murals, Bird is renowned for its Thai curries. Great-value à la carte and set menus. There's also a further Thai snackbar across the road.

Café de Jaren €€ European Map 7 C4 Nieuwe Doelenstraat 20–22, 1012 CP Tel 625 5771

Multistorey grand café with a waterside terrace. The menu includes soups, sandwiches and more hearty meals. Good wine list.

Éenvistwéévis Seafood Map 5 C1 Schippersgracht 6, 1011 TR Tel 623 2894 Closed Sun & Mon The chef at this intimate restaurant combines the catch of the day with organic, seasonal ingredients to create fresh and flavoursome dishes

Geisha
Asian
Map 8 E2
Prins Hendrikkade 106a, 1011 A1
Tel 626 2410
Closed Sat lunch, Sun
Geisha serves modern and varied
Asian cuisine in stylish interiors.
Favourites include Kobe steak,
Szechuan lobster and lychee
sorbet. Sample cocktails or sake
with Asian titbits at the bar.

DK Choice

Greetie €€ Dutch Map 8 F3 Peperstraat 23, 1011 TJ Tel 779 7450 Closed lunch This traditional restaurant is very popular with locals. The menu changes every two months and features authentic Dutch cuisine. Specialities include grilled sugarbread with duck liver, bloedworst (blood sausage) with apple compote and trekdron (liquorice) ice cream. Reservations recommended.

Hemelse Modder
International

Map 8 E2

Oude Waal 11, 1011 BZ

Tel 624 3203

Closed lunch
This restaurant fuses international
cuisine with strong Mediterranean
influences. Do not miss the
signature namesake "Heavenly
Mud" chocolate mousse.

In de Waag European Map 8 D3 Nieuwmarkt 4, 1012 CR Tel 422 7772

This fusion kitchen is set in a 1488 guildhouse, and is atmospherically

Price Guide

Prices are based on a three-course meal for one, with half a bottle of house wine inclusive of tax and service charges.

€ up to €30 €€ €30-€50 €€€ over €50

lit by 300 candles. An eclectic menu and delectable desserts. Above the restaurant is the room where Rembrandt sketched the "Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp".

Kilimanjaro
African
Map 8 F4
Rapenburgerplein 6, 1011 VB
Tel 622 3485
Closed lunch; Mon
Friendly, pan-African restaurant.
Specialities from across the vast
continent include West African
antelope stew. Charming terrace.

Me Naam Naan €€
Thai Map 8 D3
Koningsstraat 29, 1011 ET
Tel 423 33 44 Closed lunch; Mon
Authentic Thai restaurant serving
classic cuisine. Do not miss the
koeng choechie (shrimps and Thai
aubergine in spicy red curry).

Olijfje ←€€
Mediterranean Map 8 E4
Valkenburgerstraat 223 D, 1011 MJ
Tel 330 4444 Closed Junch; Mon
Everything at restaurant Olijfje is
freshly made with quality olive



Guests enjoying a meal at the popular Café De Jaren, Oude Zijde



Relaxed, candle-lit interior of Olijfje in Oude Ziide

oil. Good-value Mediterranean cuisines including tapas, grilled dishes and organic chicken. No pork served.

Oriental City

Map 7 C3 Chinese Oudezijds Voorburgwal 177-179, 1012 FV

Tel 626 8352

Multistorey Chinese restaurant specializing in Cantonese and Szechuan dishes. The diverse menu features crispy duck and ovsters. Sunday brunch dim sum are a must-try.

Blauw aan de Wal €€€ **Map** 8 D3 Mediterranean Oudezijds Achterburgwal 99, 1012 DD Tel330 2257 Closed Mon & Sun Hidden in a narrow alleyway. this is a stylish restaurant with rustic brick walls and wooden beams. Serves delicious Mediterranean fusion food Outstanding wine list.

Bridges €€€ Seafood Map 7 C3 Oudezijdes Voorburgwal 197, 1012 EX Tel 555 3560

Refined seafood restaurant in the Grand hotel. Modern interior with wall mural by artist Karel Appel. Offers exquisitely prepared crab, lohster and delicate, divine fish tartaar. Fantastic wines.

Nieuwe Zijde

Café Barco € European Map 8 F2 Oosterdokskade 10, 1011 AE Tel 626 9383 Closed lunch Laid-back café with a lovely deck terrace, set on an old canal barge. Typical European fare including simply prepared meat and fish and a few vegetarian options. Live music Thursday to Saturday evenings.

Català Map 7 A4 Spanish

Spuistraat 299. 1012 VS Tel 623 1141

Small tapas bar with rustic interiors and a pavement terrace good for people-watching. Popular fish dishes such as rice with shellfish. grilled swordfish and monkfish. Try the famous pata negra jamon (lberian ham).

Getto Food & Drink International

fillina.

Map 8 D2 Warmoesstraat 51, 1012HW Tel 421 5151 Closed Mon This gay-friendly restaurant serves home-style cooking. Burgers are named after famous Amsterdam drag gueens: Jennifer Hopeless has bacon. guacamole and melted cheese

Greenwoods Enalish **Map** 7 B1 Singel 103, 1012 VG

Tel 623 7071 Welcoming English-style tearoom. Choose between the breakfast, lunch or tea menus. Highlights include the full English breakfast with sausages and baked beans, and the Classic High Tea with real clotted cream.

DK Choice

Kam Vin

Surinamese, Chinese Map 8 D1 Warmoesstraat 6, 1012 ID Tel 625 3115

An Amsterdam institution. Kam Yin is a great place for quick, delicious food. Extensive menu including traditional Surinamese roti (pancake with vegetables or meat), broodie pom (chicken casserole sandwich) and Chinese rijsttafel. This simple restaurant is well worth a visit.

Moti Mahal Indian Map 7 C1 Nieuweziids Voorburawal 34, 1012 SB Tel 625 0330 Closed lunch Long-standing authentic Indian restaurant. Locals enjoy dishes such as butter chicken, tikka masala and vindaloo Relish the delicious kheer badami (rice pudding with nuts and raisins).

Suchi lananese Man 7 R4 Taksteea 3 BG, 1012 PB

Tel 422 8978 Closed Wed No-frills restaurant serving delicious sushi rolls and lamb

chops. A range of fixed menus available – try *Unadon*, which includes miso soup, Japanese salad and marinated eel

Tibet Map 8 D2 Chinese Lange Niezel 24, 1012 GT Tel 624 1137

Relaxed eatery with eclectic decor. Choice of Chinese Szechuan dishes alongside staple Tibetan fare such as momo (dumplings). Asian lunch (rice or noodle dishes) also served.

Van Kerkwiik **Map** 7 B3 International Nes 41, 1012 KC Tel 620 3316

Café-like atmosphere with small wooden tables. A daily changing menu offers an eclectic mix of cuisines from French and Italian to Moroccan and Indonesian

1 o Klac €€ International Map 8 D1 Stationsplein 15, 1012 AB Tel 625 0131

Grand café-restaurant in a former first class waiting room on platform 2B in Centraal Station. Extensive menu consisting of bar snacks, meal-sized salads and Argentinian steak.



Unique boat setting of Café Barco, Nieuwe Zijde

Azul €€
Portuguese Map 7 B2
Sint Nicolaasstraat 43, 1012 NJ
Tel 221 9460 Closed Mon & Tue
Traditional Portuguese restaurant
with colourful wall tiles. Extensive
fish menu including sardines,
pulpo (squid) and shellfish dishes.
Locals love the porco preto ibérico
(Portuguese Iberico ham).

Tel 482 2222 Immensely popular Parisian brasserie. Feast on delights such as guinea fowl marinated in sage and olive oil Book ahead

De Compagnon
French

Map 8 D1

Guldehandsteeg 17, 1012 RA

Tel 620 4225

Closed Sun
Intimate fine-dining restaurant
with an organic seasonal menu.
Perennial favourites include
goose liver and côte de boeuf
(prime rib). Exceptional wine list.

Kapitein Zeppos
Mediterranean
Gebed Zonder End 5, 1012HS
Tel 624 2057

Tucked down a tiny alley, lit by fairy lights, this café-restaurant has an eclectic decor with an open roof. Seasonal menu including cheese fondue served in a bread bowl. Occasional live music.

DK Choice

Visrestaurant Lucius €€ **Map** 7 A3 Seafood Spuistraat 247, 1012 VP Tel 624 1831 Closed lunch Named after the freshwater fish esox lucius (pike), French bistrostyle Visrestaurant Lucius specializes in delicious seafood. Popular with locals, the restaurant serves simply cooked dishes with emphasis on fresh ingredients. The excellent plateau fruits de mer features a selection of shellfish such as lobster, crab, oysters and langoustines.

Graves €€€ French **Map** 7 B2

Tel 4207741 Closed lunch; Sun Graves offers French haute cuisine paired with the finest French wines. A la carte as well as a fouror six-course chef's menu.

Vermeer European Map 8 D1
Prins Hendrikkade 59–72, 1012 AD
Tel556 4885 Closed lunch; Sun
Michelin-starred restaurant in NH
Barbizon Palace hotel. Offers
French-inspired, seasonal delights
made with locally sourced organic
ingredients. Try the nine-course
tasting menu. Inspired wine list.

Western Canal Ring

DK Choice

Pancake Bakery International Map 7 A1 Prinsengracht 191, 1015 DS Tel 625 1333 Closed Breakfast Family-run bakery serving a variety of pancakes. Choose from a variety of international favourites such as Egyptian with lamb, paprika and garlic sauce, and Italian caprese with onion, tomatoes, mozzarella, pesto and fresh basil. Alternatively try the classic Dutch with bacon and cheese or syrup and powdered sugar. Enjoy them with the house wine.

Piqniq €
Café Map 1 C3
Lindengracht 59, 1015 KC
Tel 320 3669 Closed dinner
Piqniq serves a selection of
miniature home-made goodies
such as mini-sandwiches, bitesize quiches and cakes. Also
offers gluten-free options.

Semhar €
Ethiopian Map 1 A4
Mamixstraat 259–261, 1015 WH
Tel 638 1634 Closed lunch; Mon
Friendly and spacious restaurant
serving traditional Ethiopian and
Eritrean food. Speciality pancakes



Entrance to the delightful café-restaurant Kapitein Zeppos in Nieuwe Zijde

served with every meal. Be sure to try the exotic beers (palmnut, banana, coconut and quinoa) or the Ethiopian coffee.

Bordewijk €€€ Mediterranean Map 1 C3 Noordermarkt 7, 1015 MV Tel 624 3899 Closed Mon & Sun Renowned designer restaurant offering superb food made with seasonal ingredients. The menu comprises fresh pasta, wild game, and signature offal dishes.

Excellent wine list. Book ahead.

restaurant offers a seasonal
Burgundian menu. The five-course
set meal consists of salad, fish,
Scottish beef with morel sauce
and dessert. Fine wine selection.

 Daalder
 €€

 French
 Map 1 C3

 Lindengracht 90–92, 1015 KK
 Tel 624 8864

Fine French dining with a twist. The weekly three- or four-course chef's menu features delicacies such as sea bass on bread crust, black Angus beef and glazed pork cheek. Suggested wines with each dish.

De Bolhoed €€ Vegetarian Map 1 B3 Prinsengracht 60–62, 1015 DX Tel 626 1803 Vegetarian restaurant offering imaginative international dishes

imaginative international dishes with a daily vegan choice. Delectable desserts include banana cream pie. Delightful canalside terrace. Reserve ahead. 1 ~6 €€ International Map 1 C3 Haarlemmerstraat 62. 1013 F Tel 620 2997 Closed lunch: Sun-Tue The hugely popular Lof relies on seasonal food. The delicious offerings vary daily and range from French to Asian cuisines.

Mantoe €€ Afahani **Map** 1 B4 Tweede Leliedwarsstraat 13 Tel 421 6374 Closed Mon & Tue Amsterdam's first Afghani restaurant. Mantoe offers a daily "surprise" four- or five-course menu comprising specialities that are spicy and rich in flavour.

Stout! International Map 1 C3 Haarlemmerstraat 73, 1013 Fl Tel 616 3664

This hip restaurant offers creative international fare, with inspired combinations of flavour. Try the Stout Plateau of 10 small treats or the catch of the day. Live DJ on Saturday nights.

Christophe 666 Fine Dining Map 1 B4 Leliearacht 46, 1015 DH Tel 625 0807 Closed Junch: Sun & Mon Traditional yet modern finedining restaurant. Mediterranean twists are given to classics to create dishes such as braised pork with honey, carrots and polenta. Order the Boat Box takeaway for an elegant picnic.

Central Canal Ring

Bagels and Beans Map 7 A5 Café Keizersaracht 504, 1017 FJ Tel 330 5508 Closed dinner Casual chain café with high ceilings, newspapers and free Wi-Fi. Offers a variety of breakfast, brunch and lunch menus

Goodies Mediterranean **Map** 7 A4 Huidenstraat 9, 1016 ER Tel 625 6122 This informal diner serves freshly

prepared food using organic ingredients. The menu comprises meal-sized salads, tapas-style dishes, excellent ravioli and home-made cakes.

Pancakes! Amsterdam Map 1 B5 Dutch Berenstraat 38, 1016 GH Tel 528 9797 Choose from a variety of Dutch and international pancakes. All

the ingredients are sustainably



Sophisticated dining room in the Puri Mas restaurant in Central Canal Ring

sourced, and the flour comes from a Dutch grain mill in Hoofddorp, just outside of Amsterdam Good kids menu

Pancake Corner Dutch **Map** 4 F2 Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 51, 1017 RP Tel 627 6303

Basic creperie with a varied menu. Popular picks include pancakes with spinach and goat's cheese and pizza-style options. Try the chunky banána pancake with chocolate sauce, whipped cream and walnuts.

Puri Mas Indonesian **Map** 4 F2 Lange Leidsedwarsstraat 37-41. 1017 NG

Closed lunch Tel 627 7627 This popular Indonesian restaurant offers good-value set menus. The riisttafel is served with four types of rice dishes. Vegetarian, glutenfree and halal meals on request.

Stoop en Stoop **Map** 4 E2 Dutch Lange Leidsedwarsstraat 82, 1017 NM Closed Sun lunch Tel 620 0982 Cosy Dutch eatery offering generous, hearty meals with an emphasis on fish and meat dishes. Excellent spare ribs, mussels and chicken satay. Good beers



Bright, modern decor of Stoop en Stoop in Central Canal Ring

Akitsu €€ Japanese **Map** 1 A5 . Rozengracht 230, 1016 SZ Closed lunch; Mon Tel625 3254

Authentic Japanese restaurant with an open kitchen. Guests can choose to sit on tatami mats to eat their meal. Try the locals favourite, bluefin tuna.

Aphrodite €€ Map 4 F2 Grack Lange Leidsedwarsstraat 91, 1017 NH Tel 622 7382 Closed lunch: Mon Cosy little Greek restaurant with modern interiors and a pleasant ambience. Extensive menu featuring grilled and baked meat and seafood dishes.

DK Choice

Balthazar's Keuken €€ International **Map** 1 B5 Flandsaracht 108, 1016 VA Tel 420 2114 Closed Sun-Tue The shabby-chic Balthazar's Keuken is owned by chefs Karin. and Alain. With an open kitchen and a clutter of hanging pots and pans, the place gives the feeling of dining at someone's home. Guests are offered a weekly changing three-course menu with up to five appetizers and pre-chosen wine.

Brix €€ Fusion **Map** 1 C5 Wolvenstraat 16, 1016 EP Tel 639 0351

Hip restaurant with a dynamic fusion kitchen. Choice of small dishes such as polenta, plus hearty fish and chips, full pasta meals as well as snacks and desserts.

Los Pilones Mexican Map 7 A5 Kerkstraat 63, 1017 GC Tel 320 4651 Closed lunch This cantina serves the best Mexican food in the city.

Favourites include nachos, tacos and tortillas. Do not miss the enchiladas with chocolate sauce. Many different brands of tequila.



Middle Fastern-style decor with floor mats and cushions at Nomads. Central Canal Ring

€€

Nomads €€ Map 1 A5 Middle Eastern Rozenaracht 133 Tel 344 6401 Closed lunch Inspired by nomadic culture, the

decor here features warm lighting and soft cushions. Three-course menu and smaller dishes. D.Is. live music, belly dancers or storytellers most evenings.

Proeverii 274 Map 1 B5 Dutch

Prinsenaracht 274, 1016 HH Tel 421 1848 Closed lunch

Warm and romantic restaurant in a beautiful canal house. Small, but creative menu features organic and fresh regional produce. Good wine choices. Book ahead.

Restaurant Portugalia €€ Map 4 F1 Portuguese Kerkstraat 35, 1017 GB

Tel 625 6490 Closed lunch Family-run restaurant serving simple cuisine. Try the cataplana (single-pan) dishes such as clams, smoked pork and potatoes in a cream sauce. Vegetarian options and children's menu available.

€€ Struisvogel French/International Map 1 B5 Keizersgracht 312, 1016 EX

Tel 423 3817 Closed lunch Set in the cellar of a canal house. this cosy restaurant specializes in unusual meats such as springbok (antelope) and wild Scottish deer. Try the apple raisin crumble with vanilla ice cream.

Te Pas €€ Map 4 E2 French Lijnbaansgracht 274, 1017 RL

Tel 773 5990 Closed Junch: Sun TV chef Evert te Pas and brother Hugo create a celebration of local, sustainable and organic foods to cheer the spirit. Serves fresh fish dishes and home-made sausages. Reserve ahead

Blue Pepper 666 Map 4 D1 Indonesian Nassaukade 366, 1054 AB Tel 489 7039 Closed lunch

Traditional Indonesian fare with a modern twist. The 14-course riisttafel is a fantastic gourmet experience. Smaller four- or fivecourse rice tables also available.

Hosokawa Map 4 F2 Japanese Max Euweplein 22, 1017 MB

Tel 638 8086 Closed lunch: Tue Authentic, upmarket Japanese restaurant. Guests can watch the meals being prepared in the open kitchen. Signature dishes include sushi and teppan-yaki.

666 Restaurant Vinkeles French Map 1 B5

Keizersgracht 384, 1016 GB Tel 530 2010 Closed lunch; Sun Famous Michelin-starred restaurant serving French cuisine. Sit among 18th-century bakery ovens or on the 19th-century salon boat. Try the Aniou duif (pigeon).

Eastern Canal Ring

Azmarino

African Map 5 A5 Tweede Sweelinckstraat 6, 1073 FH Tel 671 7587 Closed Mon: lunch Decorated with traditional African furnishings, Azmarino offers a classic menu of mild and spicy meats, eggs in red sauce, and enjera (pancakes) with meat or vegetable sauces.

Razar International

Map 5 A5 Albert Cuypstraat 182, 1073 BL Tel 675 0544

This colourful restaurant serves a mouthwatering range of North African, Morroccan and Turkish cuisines. The signature dish,

Rizarre Razar is a fantastic mixed grill featuring a selection of meats, fish and vegetables.

Golden Temple Map 5 A3 Vegetarian

Utrechtsestraat 126 Tel 626.8560 Closed lunch A varied menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Try an Indian or Nepali thali (selection of small dishes), a Mediterranean or

Kinafisher Café Man 4 F4 Ferdinand Bolstraat 24, 1072 l K

Middle Fastern *mezze* platter

Tel 671 2395 Good-value food including goat's cheese croquettes, club sand-

wiches and spicy lamb burgers. The day menu has meat, fish and vegetarian dishes. Free Wi-Fi.

Village Bagels **Map** 4 F2 Café

Vijzelstraat 137, 1017 HJ Tel 427 2213

Housed in a listed building, this café offers real New York-style bagels, fresh juices and espresso.

7uchi Japanese Map 7 C5 Amstel 20, 1017 AA

Tel 330 6882

A large, bright restaurant with a conveyor belt of delicacies. Plates are colour-coded according to price. Soups, tempura and grill dishes can be ordered separately. Try the green tea ice-cream.

Antoine €€ French Map 5 A3

Kerkstraat 377, 1017 HW Tel 422 2766 Closed lunch; Sun Elegant fine-dining restaurant. Dishes include smoked duck liver with cranberries and apples, and Black Angus steak with

aubergine tapenade. **Arabic Lounge**

Moroccan **Map** 5 C1 Prins Hendrikkade 194, 1011 TD Tel 627 9657 Closed Sun & Mon Enjoy North African cuisine in antiquated Dutch surroundings. The Moroccon tagine is served in an urn-shaped clay pot. Occasional live music and belly dancers.

€€

Bouchon du Centre €€ French

Map 5 A4 Falckstraat 3, 1017 VV

Tel 330 1128 Closed Sun-Tue French bistro with red-and whitechecked tablecloths and blackand white-floor tiles. Traditional fare includes blood sausages and a range of cheese from Lyon. By reservations only.

Ruffet van Odette €€ Brasserie Man 4 F2 Prinsenaracht 598 1017 KS Tel 423 6034 Closed Tue Light and sunny eatery with a great terrace. Popular dishes include truffle cheese omelette. steak sandwich and sticky toffee cake. Reservations recommended.

Coffee & Jazz €€ Indonesian Map 5 A3 Utrechtsestraat 113 1017 VI Tel 624 5851 Closed Sat-Mon This relaxed restaurant has a topnotch Indonesian chef Sample the world-famous chicken satay, or give the chef free rein to surprise. Occasional live jazz.

De Waaghals 66 **Map** 4 F3 Vegetarian Frans Halsstraat 29, 1072 BK Tel 679 9609 Closed lunch International cuisine made with organic produce. The menu focuses on a different country every month. The Brazilian menu. for example, may offer roasted pumpkin, bean stew, cheese balls and avocado dip.

Le Zinc... et les Autres €€ French Map 5 A3 Prinsenaracht 999, 1017 KM Tel 622 9044 Closed Junch: Sun & Mon Stylish restaurant housed in a beautifully restored warehouse. Hearty, rustic cuisine, such as fish soup with seasonal seafood and saffron potatoes. Good wine list.

Rose's Cantina South American **Map** 7 B5 Reguliersdwarsstraat 38-40, 1017 BM Tel 625 9797 Closed lunch Established restaurant with an emphasis on Mexican dishes like tacos and guesadillas. The speciality, Rose's house burger served with pickled jalapeños. cheese and bacon, is a must.

Thai Map 5 A3 Utrechtsestraat 87, 1017 VK Tel 622 0577 Closed lunch Authentic Thai cuisine served in minimalist interiors. Enjoy classics such as fish cakes and red and green curries. The à la carte menu offers beef, seafood, chicken and vegetarian dishes.

€€

Take Thai

Vamos A Ver €€ Spanish/Catalonian Map 5 A5 Govert Flinckstraat 308, 1073 C Tel 673 6992 Closed lunch; Tue No-frills restaurant offering excellent Catalonian fare. Wide selection of tapas. Specialities include paella (Spanish rice dish) and zarzuela (seafood stew).

Sluizer €€€ International Map 5 A3 Utrechtsestraat 41-45, 1017 VH Tel 622 6376 Closed lunch Two great restaurants under one roof – Specialties and Fish – offer extensive à la carte and changing choice menus, with international meat, fish and vegetarian options.

DK Choice

Utrechtsedwarstafel €€€ Map 5 B3 Fine Dining Utrechtsedwarsstraat 107 1017 WD Tel 625 4189 Closed lunch: Sun-Tua Fine dining in an intimate and informal setting. Guests choose the menu type, number of courses (three to five) and the details are left to the owners. Expect exceptional culinary delights such as melted bleu d'auvergne (French blue cheese) with caramelized pears. An essential part of this amazing experience is presentation of the food and pre-chosen wine.

Museum Ouarter

Cobra Café **Map** 4 E3 Braccaria Hobbemastraat 18, 1071 ZB Tel 470 0111 Closed dinner Trendy, modern brasserie with an international menu, in the museum square. Large, sunny terrace for summer dining.

De Bakkerswinkel Map 4 F5 Rakery Roelof Hartstraat 68, 1071 VM Tel 662 3594 Closed dinner Mon Part of a home-grown chain. this bakery has delicious scones with clotted cream home-made cakes, quiches, sandwiches, savoury pastries and wonderful cheesecake

Furonean Map 3 C3 Vondelpark 5, 1071 AA Tel 662 0254 Closed winter; dinner Mon-Wed Housed in a 1937 octagonal concrete, steel and glass structure with a huge terrace overlooking the Vondelpark, European menu.

of both dinner and finger foods.

€€

Het Blauwe Theehuis

Brasserie van Baerle

Reserve ahead

Franch

Map 4 F4 van Baerlestraat 158. 1071 BG Tel 679 1532 Closed Sat & Mon lunch French-style brasserie, popular with Dutch celebrities. Classic. mouthwatering dishes such as roast poussin, steak tartare, eggs Benedict and Caesar salad. Exceptional wine list.

Café Toussaint €€ Map 4 D1 International Bosboom Toussaintstraat 26. 1054 AS Tel 685 0737

Charming café with an open kitchen and a romantic terrace. Emphasis on healthy, international fare such as soups, sandwiches and tapas. Good for vegetarians.



Tables laid out at the cheerful De Waaghals restaurant in Eastern Canal Ring



Lobster on display at The Seafood Bar

De Griekse Taverna €€ Grook Man 4 F4 Hobbemakade 64-65, 1071 XV Tel 671 7923 Closed lunch Authentic Greek taverna serving typical dishes such as moussaka (baked aubergine dish) and 18 different sorts of mezze. Traditional live music and dancing in the evenings. Book ahead.

Due Napoletani €€ **Map** 4 F4 Italian Hobbemakade 61-63, 1071 XI Tel 671 1263 Closed Tue Chic Italian cuisine served in a cosy and informal setting. Sayour the popular pasta al parmigiano. Warm and friendly staff.

Pheun Thai €€ Map 4 F4 Thai Hobbemakade 71, 1071 XM Tel 427 4537 Closed lunch Authentic Thai food. Specialities include shrimp soup with lemon and fish with sambal (spicy South Asian condiment). Great-value three- or four-course set menus.

Pompa €€ Mediterranean Map 4 D3 Willemsparkweg 6, 1071 HD Tel 662 6206 Warm and friendly eatery offering a three-course daily menu of Mediterranean fare. Tapas as well as platters including the Vegetariano with peppers, tzatziki, hummus and grilled aubergine.

Sama Sebo €€ Indonesian **Map** 4 E3 P C Hooftstraat 27, 1071 BL Tel 662 8146 Closed Sun The oldest and most famous Indonesian restaurant in town with authentic food. Order the rijsttafel, comprising 17 dishes, or assemble one from the à la carte menu. Reserve ahead.

The Seafood Bar Seafood **Map** 4 D3 van Baerlestraat 5, 1071 AL Tel 670 8355 Trendy seafood bar with a relaxed ambience. The menu changes

every three months thouah some favourites, including fish and chins and fruits de mer (seafood platter), remain

Map 4 D4 European van Baerlestraat 35-37 1071 AP Tel 662 2655 Closed Mon Deluxe grand café

situated in a former fire station. Inspired mix of Italian and French cuisine The Scronning cocktail features Venetian lemon ice, vodka and prosecco.

Map 4 E2 Indonesian Stadhouderskade 31, 1071 ZC Tel 664 0408 Art and music create an authentic atmosphere to savour traditional Indonesian fare. Known for the rijsttafel, featuring 18 dishes. Very good vegetarian options. Reservations required.

Srikandi

Valerius Map 3 C4 International Banstraat 14, 1071 17 Tel 471 3976 Closed Sun. Mon & Tue dinner Modern café with a deliciously varied international menu. Starters from Moroccan savoury pastries to Italian aubergine- stuffed ravioli: mains include excellent risotto and lamb marinated in honey

Willems €€ French Map 3 C4 Willemsparkweg 177, 1071 GZ Tel 752 1973 Closed Sun & Mon lunch French inspired cuisine, Popular dishes include oysters, salmon, risotto and steak tartare. The signature six-course Willems Keuze menu includes a fish course and cheese plate.

and coriander.

l e Garage €€€ French Map 4 F4 Ruvsdaelstraat 54–56. 1071 XF Tel 679 7176 Closed Sat & Sun lunch Housed in a renovated garage. This elegant bistro with plush red seating is a celebrity haunt. French inspired fare with an emphasis on organic produce. Superb wines.

DK Choice

Momo €€€ Asian/Fusion Map 4 F4 Hohhemastraat 1 1071 X7 Tel 671 7474 Closed Sun lunch An uber-trendy bar-restaurant, Momo offers quality Asian fusion cuisine packed with flavour. Choose from a selection of tapas-sized dishes or go for a fixed set menu of 10 dishes. Regulars enjoy delicacies such as Wagyu beef, sushi with soft shell crab and duck with foie aras. Live DJs at the weekends.

The College Hotel Fine Dining **Map** 4 F5 Roelof Hartstraat 1, 1071 VF Tel 571 1511 The renovated gymnasium of an 1895 school building is home to a renowned gourmet restaurant. Classic Dutch cuisine with a modern twist.

666

Plantage

Aguada International Map 5 C3 Roetersstraat 10, 1018 WC Tel 620 3782 Closed lunch Tiny, family-run café-restaurant with an informal atmosphere. The changing menu includes a range of international cuisine such as Indian, Italian and Dutch, to name a few. Try the speciality, cheese fondué.



The atmospheric dining room at The College Hotel in the Museum Quarter



The beautifully decorated Chefs Table at Ciel Bleu in Plantage

Palorma Map 5 C2 Italian Plantage Kerklaan 28, 1018 TC Tel 625 3434

This takeaway restaurant serves fantastic Italian food made with the freshest ingredients. Large portions and reasonable prices. Great vegetarian lasagne.

DK Choice

De Pizzabakkers Map 5 C2 Italian Plantage Kerklaan 2, 1018 TA Tel 625 0740

De Pizzabakkers is the place for excellent, authentic Italian pizzas. The crispy, thin pizzas are baked in a traditional wood oven and toppings are made using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The menú also includes a range of antipasti, salads, tasty desserts and vegetarian choices. Guests can enjoy a good prosecco while waiting and kids get some dough to play with. Accepts credit or debit card only.

Amstelhaven €€ Map 5 C4 European Mauritskade 1, 1091 FW Tel 665 2672

Unique bar-restaurant with a huge waterside terrace; many patrons arrive by boat. More of an event venue than a restaurant. Live DJs, music, concerts and performances held regularly.

Bloem **Map** 6 D2 European Entrepotdok 36, 1018 AD Tel 330 0929

The place to go for a delicious and healthy breakfast, lunch or dinner. The bread, fruit, vegetables and meat are all organic, and the fish is sustainably sourced.

Elkaar Mediterranean **Map** 6 F3 Alexanderplein 6, 1018 CG Closed Sat lunch Intimate restaurant with a Mediterranean kitchen. Choice of à la carte or changing three-. four- and five-course menus. Try the deer ham with nuts and red port dressing. Extensive wine list.

Meneer Nilsson Mediterranean Map 5 C2 Plantage Kerklaan 41, 1018 CV Tel 624 4846

Enjoy tapas from across the Mediterranean, Feast on grilled vegetables with goat's cheese, patatas bravas (potato in spicy tomato sauce) or Black Angus steak Great cocktails

Nova €€ French Map 8 D5 Amstel 51, 1018 F J Tel 530 7483 Closed dinner Sleek, understated museum café

in the Hermitage Amsterdam. Fixed and à la carte menus with fish, meat and vegetarian dishes. Excellent wines.

Paerz €€ French Map 6 D2 Entrepotdok 64, 1018 AD Tel 623 2206 Closed Mon & Tue

Enjoy seasonal, French-inspired cuisine in warm and cosy interiors. In summer, dine on the sunny terrace with fine canal views. Good-value chef's menu.

Tempura **Map** 5 C2 Japanese Plantage Kerklaan 26, 1018 TC Tel 428 7132 Closed lunch; Mon Japanese style-brassiere with an extensive menu of sushi, yakitori and tempura as well as grilled and vegetarian dishes. Specialities include squid and St.Jacques sashimi. Good set menus.

La Rive €€€ French/Mediterranean Man 5 R4 Professor Tulnnlein 1 1018 GX Tel 520 3264 Closed Junch: Mon Michelin-starred restaurant in the deluxe Intercontinental Amstel hotel The flavourful French and Mediterranean cuisine is made using highest quality seasonal produce. Outstanding wines.

Further Afield

Map 3 A4 Indonesian Amstelveenseweg 158–160, 1075 XN Tel 675 5000 Closed lunch One of the better-known Indonesian restaurants in town The decor is stylish and intimate. Order one of the huge riisttafel.

Ciel Bleu Fine Dining **Map** 4 F5 Ferdinand Bolstraat 333, 1072 LH Tel 678 7450 Closed Sun Michelin-starred French restaurant situated in the luxurious Okura hotel. Ciel Bleu is known for its innovative dishes and terrific views of Amsterdam

DK Choice

De Kas

Mediterranean Kamerlingh Onneslaan 3, 1097 DE Tel 462 4562 Closed Sat Junch. Sun: Christmas Dine among lush plants in this upmarket, organic restaurant set within a 1920s greenhouse.

€€€

The Michelin-starred chef owner and grower Gert Jan Hageman uses herbs and seasonal vegetables grown in the adjacent nursery. De Kas offers two- and three-course fixed menus, and good vegetarian options are available as well. Reserve the chef's table in the kitchen or the romantic terrace in summer.



Beautiful glass façade of the waterfront De Kas restaurant

Light Meals and Snacks

In addition to the normal assortment of burger joints, pizzerias and the like, most Dutch cafés and bars serve food ranging from simple bar snacks to a three-course meal. Those that offer lunch-time snacks and an evening meal are generally known as *eetcafés*. While the choice of dishes tends to be limited, the quality is generally high and prices are often very reasonable. Some *eetcafés* have started serving more adventurous dishes and generally offer a good vegetarian selection. However, café and bar kitchens close early and it is difficult to get a meal after 9pm. For more information on cafés and bars, including a selection of the top ten in Amsterdam, see pages 48–9.

Bars and Street Stalls

Almost all bars serve a range of snacks. The standard selection of nibbles includes olives, chunks of Dutch cheese served with mustard and borrelnoten (nuts with a savoury coating). More substantial tapas-like snacks include bitterballen (deep-fried meatballs), vlammetjes (deep-fried batter envelopes similar to meat and vegetable spring rolls) and osseworst (a spicy mincebeef sausage).

Given the maritime tradition of the Netherlands, it is worth trying the fish dishes available in bars and from stalls on the street, such as herring served with onion or gherkins. Pizza, sandwiches and hamburgers are also commonly available from stalls. However, the most popular snack from street stalls is french fries or patat frites, which are served with mayonnaise in a plastic tray or a paper cone (see p.222).

Pancake Houses

Pancakes (pannenkoeken) are a popular, value-for-money light meal in Amsterdam. The French-style crêpe is believed to have been adopted in the Netherlands during the Napoleonic occupation (see pp32–3) as a way of using up leftovers.

These days there is nothing penny-pinching about the wide range of sweet and savoury toppings available at most pancake houses in Amsterdam. It is not uncommon to find up to 70 varieties on offer and you can usually combine any of these to create the pancake of your

choice. The best places include De Carrousel, Boerderij Meerzicht, The Pancake Bakery and Upstairs. Portions may seem small, but they are deceptively filling. Pancakes and waffles served with syrup are also available as the staple snack at smoking coffeeshops (see p51).

Brown Cafés and Bars

The term eetcafés is usually applied to traditional brown cafés (see also p48). These often offer much better value and a more relaxed ambience than many small restaurants. Outstanding brown cafés include De Prins, Het Molenpad, Café du Lac, Ruis onder de Bomen, De Reiger, and De Engelbewaarder, which have extensive and appealing menus. Not surprisingly, they often get crowded and it can be hard to find a free table.

The majority of basic eetcafés just offer filling homemade fare. such as sandwiches, soups. salads, omelettes and chips. The only unfamiliar dishes you are likely to come across are uitsmijter (a large open sandwich with roast beef or ham, topped with fried eggs) and erwtensoep (a thick pea soup with pork). Of the cheaper, more down-toearth varieties of eetcafés, De **Doffer** serves filling food that is excellent value. BIHP combines international cuisine with an art gallery in the basement. De Doffer has the attraction of a billiard room. Both places attract a young, lively crowd and are popular with students. Van **Puffelen** offers more formal

French-style dishes. All meals are served in the back extension, and adjacent building, of this intimate brown café, which has an impressive 19th-century interior. For the best French fries in the city, head to **Vleminckx Vlaamse Fritschuis**

Designer Bars

An extensive range of food is offered in some of the more up-market designer bars (see p51). This type of bar is invariably more expensive than other types of cafés and bars in the city and in most cases the quality of the fare does not justify such inflated nrices Café Schiller housed in a beautiful Art Deco building on Rembrandtplein, is an honourable exception. Amid. portraits of 1930s cabaret stars painted by Frits Schiller, you can eniov a value-for-monev selection of snacks and meals in an evocative period bar. Both Walem and De Balie also serve tasty food in a stylish setting. Morlang, next door to Walem, is less chic but the food definitely is better value, and the trendy Caffé Esprit is very popular with Kalverstraat shoppers.

Specialist Cafés

If you feel like trying some-thing different, sample the delicious food at the Flemish cultural centre De Brakke Grond. where international dishes with a Belgian twist are served in both the café and the restaurant De Zotte also serves down-to-earth Flemish food and stocks a huge variety of Belgian beers. While the quality of the food may not be that exceptional, the portions certainly are large enough to soak up the strongest of beers. Café-restaurant Stanislavski occupies almost the entire ground floor of the Stadsschouwburg (see p113). Named after the famous Russian theatre director, it has an atmosphere reminiscent of Paris or Berlin. Here, you can while away your day from breakfast until the small hours, enjoying the food and mingling with the eclectic theatre crowd.

Pancake Houses

Boerderii Meerzicht

Koenenkade 56 Ameterdamea Roc

Tol 670 2744

De Carrousel

Twoodo

Weteringplantsoen 1.

Map 4 F3.

Tel 625 8002.

The Pancake Bakery

Prinsengracht 191. Map 1 B4.

Tel 625 1333.

Unstairs

Grimburgwal 2. Map 7 B4.

Tel 626 5603.

Brown Cafés and Bars

BIHP

Keizersgracht 335.

Map 1 B5

Tel 622 4511

Café du Lac

Haarlemmerstraat 118. Map 1 C3.

Tel 624 4265

De Doffer

Runstraat 12-14. Map 4 F1.

Tel 622 6686

't Doktertje

Rozenboomsteeg 4. Map 7 B4.

Tel 626 4427.

De Engelbewaarder

Kloveniersvoorburgwal 59

Map 8 D3

Tel 625 3772.

Molenpad

Prinsengracht 653.

Map 4 E1.

Tel 625 9680.

Pieper

Prinsengracht 424. Map 4 E1.

Tel 626 4775.

De Prins Prinsengracht 124.

Map 1 B4.

Tel 624 9382.

DIRECTORY

Van Puffelen

Prinsengracht 375–377

Man 1 R4

Tel 624 6270.

De Reiger

Nieuwe Leliestraat 34.

Map 1 B4

Tel 624 7426

Ruis ander de Roman

Van der Helstnlein 9 Tal 364 0354

Do Tuin

26 Tuindwarestraat 13 (near Westerstraat)

Map 1 B3.

Tel 624 4559

Vlamincky Vlaamse Friteshuis

Voetboogstraat 33.

Map 7 R4 Tel 624 6075

Proeflokalen and **Modern Tasting**

Bars

De Drie Fleschies

Gravenstraat 18. Man 7 R2

Tel 624 8443.

In De Wildeman

Kolksteea 3

Map 7 C1.

Tel 638 2348.

Mulliner's Wiinlokaal

Lijnbaansgracht 266-267.

Map 4 E2.

Tel 627 9782.

Whisky Café L&B Limited

Korte Leidsedwarsstraat

82-84

Map 4 E2

Tel 553 5151.

Grand Cafés and Designer Bars

Do Ralio

Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 10.

Map 4 E2.

Tel 553 5130.

Het Blauwe Theehuis

Vondelnark 5 Map 3 C3.

Tel 662 0254.

Leidsekade 97

Café Americain American Hotel

Map 4 F2

Tel 556 3000

Caffè Esprit

Spui 10, Map 7 B4. Tel 639 2589

Café Luxembourg

Spui 22-24.

Map 7 B4.

Tel 620 6264

Café Schiller

Rembrandtolein 26. Man 7 C5

Tel 624 9846

De Jaren

Nieuwe Doelenstraat 20-22

Map 7 C4.

Tel 625 5771.

De Kroon

Rembrandtplein 17.

Man 7 C5

Tel 625 2011

Walem

Keizersgracht 449.

Map 7 A5 Tel 625 3544

Morlang

Keizersgracht 451.

Map 7 A5. Tel 625 2681.

Smoking Coffeeshops

Ahravas

Jonge Roelensteeg 12. Map 7 B3.

Tel 625 5763.

The Bulldog

Leidseplein 15. Map 4 E2. Tel 627 1908.

The Grasshopper

Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 59. Map 7 A4. Tel 624 6753.

Happy Feelings

Kerkstraat 51. Map 4 E1.

Tel 423 1936.

Rusland

Rusland 16

Man 7 C4 Tel 627 9468

Sibariä

Brouwersgracht 11.

Map 1 C3

Tel 623 5909.

Coffeeshops and Salons De Thé

Arnold Cornelis

Flandsgracht 78

Map 1 B5

Tel 625 8585

Bagels & Beans

Ferdinand Bolstraat 70

Map 4 F4

Tel 672 1610.

Coffee Company

Haarlemmerdijk 62.

Map 1 C2. Tel 624 4278

Konditorei Taart van

m'n Tanto

Ferdinand Bolstraat 10.

Map 4 F3.

Tel 776 4600.

Pompadour

Huidenstraat 12.

Map 7 A4. Tel 623 9554.

Tazzina

Brouwersgracht 139.

Map 1 B2. Tel 330 4649.

Specialist Cafés

De Brakke Grond

Nes 43.

Map 7 B3.

Tel 422 2666.

De Zotte Raamstraat 29.

Map 4 E1.

Tel 626 8694.

Stanislavski

Leidseplein 25.

Map 4 E2.

Tel 795 9995.

SHOPS AND MARKETS

A msterdam has a huge range of shops and markets, so if you are present-hunting, you will find no shortage of ideas. Most of the large clothing and department stores are to be found in the Nieuwe Ziide. especially along Kalverstraat (see p74), but there are many other shopping areas to discover. The narrow streets which cross the Canal Ring, such as Herenstraat and Hartenstraat, contain a diverse array of specialist

shops selling everything from ethnic fabrics and beads to unusual games and handmade dolls. The best luxury fashion is to be found on the classy PC Hooftstraat and Van Baerlestraat. However, if you are looking for a bargain, take time to explore the street markets and numerous secondhand shops. Here you can pick up recent fashion items and worn leather iackets cheaply.



Atrium of the Magna Plaza in the former Postkantoor

Opening Hours

Shops are usually open from 9am or 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday and from 1pm to 6pm on Monday (see p253), Many shops are now also open on Sundays. In the city centre, shops stay open until 9pm on Thursdays. However, legislation does allow shopkeepers in the city centre to remain open between 7am and 10pm seven davs a week. Retailers are most likely to take advantage of this law in the run up to Sinterklaas (see p55) and during Christmas.

How to Pay

Cash is the most popular method of payment, so if you intend to use a credit card, ask if they are accepted before buying. Although cards are becoming more widely accepted, department stores often require purchases to be paid for at a special till, and smaller shops may only accept them for nonsale items and goods costing

more than €45 Travellers' cheques are accepted in most shops and, if you have a bank account in the Netherlands direct debits are popular. Some tourist shops take foreign currency, but offer a poor rate of exchange.

VAT Exemption

Most Dutch goods are subject to value added tax (BTW) of either 19 per cent for clothes and other goods, or 6 per cent for books Non-FU residents are entitled to a refund, subject to certain conditions Shops which stock the relevant forms will have a sign saving "Tax free for tourists". On leaving the country. present your goods, receipt and the form at customs who will refund you 10 per cent of the purchase price of your goods. Refunds are only made on

Sales

purchases above €50.

Sales take place mainly in January and July but smaller shops and boutiques may offer discount items at any time. Uitverkoop describes anything from a closing-down sale to a stock-clearance sale, while korting merely indicates that discounts are being offered.

Towards the end of a sale. further discounts, which will be calculated at the till, are often subtracted from the markeddown price. Beware of clothes

rails marked, for example, VA 40 or Vanaf 40 as this sign means "From 40" – the items cost €40 or more, rather than exactly €40.

Department Stores and Malls

Perhaps Amsterdam's bestknown department store is De Bijenkorf on Dam square, often described as the Dutch Harrods. It has a huge perfumery, and

> men's and women's clothing plus toys soft furnishings and household goods. At Christmas it devotes a whole floor to decorations. Maison de Bonneterie offers more exclusive designer wear. Among the less expensive stores, Hema is very popular for household

goods, children's clothes and underwear, Also popular for basic items is Vroom &

Dreesmann. The only shopping malls in central Amsterdam are the Kalvertoren (Kalverstraat, near Singel) and Magna Plaza, which is housed in the old Postkantoor building (see p80). The impressive, vaulted interior of this former head post office now contains a huge assortment of upmarket boutiques and shops.



Amsterdammers' love of street trading is most graphically illustrated on 27 April during King's Day (see p52), when



Stoeltie Diamonds (see p238)

Amsterdam turns into the biggest flea market in the world. as local people crowd the city to sell off all their unwanted junk. Such is the crush of eager bargain-hunters that the entire city centre is closed to traffic during the festivities.

As Amsterdam still resembles a collection of small villages. every district has its own local market The best-known of these hecause of its size is the Albert Cuvpmarkt (see p124) in the Piip district, which sells a wide assortment of food, both Dutch and ethnic. This market is also good for cheap clothes and reasonably priced flowers.

Apart from the local markets. Amsterdam has a wide range of specialist markets. Seasonal flowers are on sale at the Bloemenmarkt (see n125) Another market popular with tourists is Waterlooplein flea market (see p65). Despite the crowds, vigilant collectors can still seek out the odd bargain among the bric-a-brac: there is also a selection of new and second-hand clothes for sale.

Browsers will be fascinated by the hundreds of stalls at the Antiekcentrum Amsterdam (see p115), which sell anything from antique dolls to egg cups. Every Wednesday and Saturday on the Nieuweziids Voorburgwal there is a specialist market for stamp and coin collectors. On Fridays there is a secondhand bookmarket on Spui. Gourmets should head for the Noordermarkt (see p94), which holds an organic food market on Saturdays. The best prices,



Azzurro, a smart boutique on PC Hooftstraat

however are to be found about 25 km (16 miles) northwest of Amsterdam in the port town of Beverwiik, where the Beverwijkse Bazaar open weekends, is one of Europe's largest indoor flea markets. Next door the market continues with a cross-section of Oriental merchandise, including rugs, carpets, pottery, crafts and food.



Smoked fish on display at the Albert Cuvpmarkt

Specialist Shops

Dotted throughout Amster-dam are dozens of small specialist shops. One of the more unusual is Condomerie Het Gulden Vlies, located in a former

squat, which sells condoms from all over the world. Equally unusual is Christmas Palace which sells festive adornments all year round and Party House which has a vast collection of paper decorations. Capsicum Natuurstoffen has a huge selection of exotic silks and linens, while Coppenhagen Kralen has more than 1.000 different types of beads. It is also worth making time to explore Joe's Vliegerwinkel for its wide range of kites Simon Levelt for tea and coffee, or Hoov & Co. for an array of wonderfulsmellina herbs.

Books, Newspapers and Magazines

As books are subject to Value-Added tax in the Nether-lands. you may find them slightly more expensive than at home. English-language books are generally available, particularly at The American Book Center.

Waterstone's and The English Bookshop. Holiday reading can be picked up very cheaply at second-hand book-shops, such as De Sleate. Collectors of comics should not miss a visit to

Lambiek. Most city-centre newsagents stock foreign papers. Het Financieel Dagblad has a daily business update in English and publishes a weekly English-language edition. Day by Day is a useful listings magazine, as is the monthly Time Out magazine.



A selection of seasonal flowers, including sunflowers, roses and lilies

What to Buy in Amsterdam

Amsterdam has hundreds of tourist shops selling souvenirs, but those looking for something different will find a better selection of genuine Dutch items in one of the city's specialist shops or even at an ordinary supermarket. Authentic Delftware is only found at a handful of licensed dealers, but there are still many jewellers selling anything from uncut stones to second-hand diamond rings. Dutch cheese, chocolate and locally produced beers and ienevers offer a flavour of the city, while a bunch of flowers is always appreciated.



Finely detailed model canal houses can be be bought singly or by the row





Sweet and salty varieties of drop liquorice



Dutch Sweets

Handmade Belgian chocolates and Droste pastilles are both delicious, but salty liquorice is an acquired taste.



Handmade Belgian chocolates

Flowers

Bulbs and cut flowers are a colourful reminder of the city and, due to greenhouse production, many blooms are available all year round.

Tulip bulbs





A bunch of fresh tulips

Gouda Cheese

There are many types of Gouda of different maturity (see p238). Any shop will be happy to let you try a slice before making a purchase.





Two popular brands of beer

Beer in Amsterdam

A huge variety of imported, bottled beers are sold in Amsterdam as well as many local brews (see p238).





Sturdy stone flagons of jonge and oude ienever (see pp50-51) - also available in flavoured varieties



Old Maps and Prints

Historically famous for cartography, Amsterdam has a good selection of new and old maps, and many second-hand bookshops stock etchings.



Reproductions of old maps of Amsterdam and Russia





Chain-link, diamond-encrusted bracelet

Diamonds

Diamond-cutting was first established in Amsterdam during the 16th century. The city is still one of the major diamond centres.



Different coloured brilliant-cut diamonds

Roval Delft

In response to the demand for Chinese design, more than 30 factories sprana up in Delft in the 17th century, producina distinctive blue-and-white ceramics (see p197). Today, only De Porceleyne Fles still makes real Delftware. Items from this factory are sold with a certificate of authenticity.

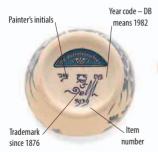


Pynaker tobacco jar influenced by Japanese Imari ware



Plate painted in traditional Delft blue





Genuine De Porcelevne Fles marks



Delft-blue vase



17th-century plate made for rich family



Decorative 17th-century fireplace tile

Antique Delft

Old Delftware is highly sought after and expensive, but Delft fireplace tiles can be picked up more cheaply.

Where to Shop in Amsterdam

The Netherlands is justly famous for its flowers, beer and cheese. A wide choice of these indigenous products is available in Amsterdam, which has also long been regarded as the world centre for diamonds. Owing to the large numbers of overseas settlers living in Amsterdam and the cosmopolitan outlook of its residents, it is easy to find a selection of foreign goods in the city. These range from Indonesian beads to French designer wear.

Fashion and Clothes

Van Baerlestraat and PC
Hooftstraat contain numerous
designer boutiques such as **Azzurro**, offering top names like
Alexander McQueen and the
leading French and Italian
designer labels. The smart set
from the Canal Ring haunt the
stylish **The People of the Labyrinths** and **Pauw** for their
timeless clothes and accessories.

Boutiques in the Nieuwe Zijde offer less pricey items. The French designer **Agnès** B has her own shop along Rokin selling classic designer wear. If leather's your thing, try **Robin & Rik** on Runstraat for handmade leather clothes and accessories. Along Kalverstraat, **Sissy Boy** specializes in refined classic suits as well as eye-catching designs.

Fanatics of second-hand clothes will find well-priced and stylish selections at shops such as **Zipper**. For the widest choice of fashionable boots and shoes, **Dr Adams** is almost a Dutch institution.

Antiques and Furnishings

While you can pick up the odd bargain on Waterlooplein (see p65) and at the Noordermarkt (see p94), the best place for antiques is around Spiegelgracht. A wide selection of shops sells everything from 17th-century tiles to icons. Peter Pappot specializes in paintings by Dutch and French expressionists. It is also interesting to visit an auction house. Both Sotheby's and Christie's have branches in Amsterdam, Antiekcentrum Amsterdam (see p115), has a potpourri of odds and ends. while Fanous Ramadan has a colourful collection of Arabic lampshades, pottery and

furniture. Antiekcentrum Amsterdam (see p115) is a good place for antiques.

Flowers and Bulbs

No Dutch person would dream of visiting a friend without a bunch of flowers, so Amsterdam is crowded with flower shops. Worth visiting are **Madelief**, for a vast assortment of colourful domestic blooms, and **Gerda's Bloemen en Planten**, for its stock of tropical flowers.

Cut flowers are cheapest at Albert Cuypmarkt (see p124), but Bloemenmarkt (see p125) has a better selection, as well as hundreds of bulbs and tubers. It also sells potted plants, but due to customs regulations, these usually can't be exported.

Diamonds

Amsterdam has a long tradition of cutting and polishing diamonds (see p34). It is still possible to purchase loose stones and diamonds in a new setting at one of the city's many diamond-cutting centres, such as Gassan Diamonds or Coster Diamonds (see p130). The city is also well stocked with jewellers, several specializing in diamonds. The best second-hand jewellery can be found in the fascinating antique shops around Spieceloracht.

Cheese

cheese at street markets and specialist shops such as **Wout Arxhoek** or **De Kaaskamer**. Instead of buying the red-wax-covered Edam, try one of the many varieties of Gouda. Mature Gouda (overjarige kaas) has a rich, salty taste and crumbly texture.

You can buy a good selection of

while young Gouda is softer and more buttery. This cheese is also sold with cummin (leidsekaas) or cloves (nagelkaas) (see p222).

Chocolates

Verkade and Droste are the best-known makes of chocolate in the Netherlands. For a treat, visit **Pompadour**, for its delicious hand-made chocolates, or another Amsterdam favourite **Purcini Bomboni**

Beers and Spirits

The Dutch are knowledgeable beer drinkers. Along with brandname lagers like Heineken, Grolsch and Amstel, there is also a huge range of bottled beers on offer. Local specialities include Zatte, a rare, bottle-fermented beer and Wieckse Witte, a white beer. Specialist shops like **De Bierkoning** offer the widest choice and best advice.

The Dutch spirit *jenever*, the "father" of gin, is often sold in stone bottles and flavoured with herbs or fruit (see p.50).

Pottery and Glassware

Blue-and-white pottery is stocked by most shops, but only items with a certificate are real Delftware. **Rinascimento** sells the real thing from De Porceleyne Fles, one of the original Delft potteries.

The Jordaan is the best place to hunt for modern pottery, while **Glasgalerie Kuhler** has a stunning range of modern glass, and **Het Klei Kollektief** offers an ever-changing choice of bright ceramics.

Posters and Prints

The best places to find good reproductions of paintings are in museum shops. **Art Unlimited** offers an excellent selection of the less famous Dutch scenes.

A range of old etchings can be found at **Hoogkamp Old Prints** and among the stalls at the Oudemanshuispoort in the Oude Zijde (see p63).

Department Stores

De Rijenkorf

Dam 1. **Man** 7 R2 Tal 0800 0818

Homa

Kalvertoren, Kalverstraat 212. Map 7 B4. Tel 311 4800 Nieuwendiik 174-176 **Man** 7 B2

Tal 311 /800

Maison de Bonneterie

Rokin 140-142 Map 7 B4 Tel 531 3400

Vroom & Dreesmann

Kalverstraat 203 **Man** 7 B5 Tel 0900 235 8363

Markets Outside The City

De Beverwiikse Razaar

Montageweg 35. 1948 PH Beverwiik. Tel 0251 262 626

Specialist Shops

Capsicum Natuurstoffen

Oude Hoogstraat 1. Map 7 C3. Tel 623 1016

Christmas Palace

Singel 508. Map 7 B5. Tel 421 0155

Condomerie Het Gulden Vlies

Warmoesstraat 141. Map 7 C2. Tel 627 4174.

Coppenhagen Kralen

Rozengracht 54. **Map** 1 B4. Tel 624 3681.

Jacob Hoov & Co

Kloveniersburgwal 12. Map 8 D3. Tel 624 3041.

Joe's Vliegerwinkel

Nieuwe Hoogstraat 19. Map 8 D3. Tel 625 0139.

DIRECTORY

Party House Rozengracht 92h

Map 1 R4 Tel 624 7851

Simon Levelt

Prinsengracht 180. **Map** 1 B4 Tel 624 0823.

Rooks Newspapers and Magazines

The American Book Center

Spui 12 Map 7 A4 Tel 625 5537

The English Bookshop

Lauriergracht 71. Map 1 B5. Tel 626 4230

Lambiek

Kerkstraat 132 **Man** 4 F2 Tel 626 7543

De Sleate

Kalverstraat 48-52. Map 7 B3 Tel 622 5933

Waterstone's Bookseller

Kalverstraat 152 Map 7 R4 Tel 638 3821

Fashion and Clothes

Abercrombie & Fitch

Leidsestraat 34-36. Map 7 A5 Tel 0800 023 1030.

Agnès B

Rokin 126. Map 7 B4. Tel 627 1465.

Dr Adams

Oude Doelenstraat 5-7. Map 7 C3. Tel 622 3734.

Azzurro

PC Hooftstraat 142a. Map 4 D3. Tel 671 6804.

Van Baerlestraat 48. Map 4 D3. Tel 673 2665.

The People of the Labyrinths

Van Baerlestraat 44 Map 4 D3 Tel 664 0779

Robin & Rik

Runstraat 30. Map 7 B4. Tel 627 8924

Sissy Boy

Kalverstraat 210. Map 7 B4. Tel 626 0088

Zipper

Huidenstraat 7. Man 7 A4 Tel 623 7302

Antiques and **Furnishings**

Antiekcentrum Amsterdam Elandsgracht 109.

Map 1 A5 Tel 624 9038

Christie's

Cornelis Schuvtstraat 57. Man 3 C4 Tel 575 5255

Fanous Ramadan

Runstraat 33 Map 4 F1 Tel 423 2350

Kitsch Kitchen

Rozengracht 8-12. Map 1 B4. Tel 462 0051.

Peter Pappot

Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 30-34 Map 4 F2.

Tel 624 2637.

Sotheby's De Boelelaan 30. Map 7 B4. Tel 550 2200

Flowers and **Bulbs**

Gerda's Bloemen en Planten

Runstraat 16. Map 4 E1. Tel 624 2912

Madelief Haarlemmerdijk 93.

Map 1 C2. Tel 625 3239.

Diamonde

Gassan Diamonds

Nieuwe Uilenburgerstraat 173-175 Man 8 F4 Tel 622 5333

Chassa

De Kaaskamer

Runstraat 7. Map 4 F1. Tel 623 3483

Wout Aryhoek

Damstraat 19 Map 7 C3 Tal 622 0118

Chocolates

Pompadour

Huidenstraat 12 Map 7 A4 Tal 623 0554

Puccini Bomboni

Staalstraat 17 Map 8 D4 Tel 626 5474.

Beers and Spirits

De Bierkoning

Paleisstraat 125. Map 7 B3. Tel 625 2336.

Pottery and Glassware

Fleur de Lvs

Beethovenstraat 41. Map 4 D5 Tel 662 1737.

Galleria d'Arte Rinascimento

Prinsengracht 170. Map 1 B4. Tel 622 7509.

Glasgalerie Kuhler

Prinsengracht 134. Map 1 B4. Tel 638 0230.

Het Kleikollektief

Hartenstraat 19. Map 7 A3. Tel 622 5727.

Posters and **Prints**

Art Unlimited

Keizersgracht 510. Map 7 A5. Tel 624 8419.

Hoogkamp Old Prints

Spiegelgracht 27. Map 4 F2. Tel 625 8852.

ENTERTAINMENT IN AMSTERDAM

A msterdam offers a diverse array of worldclass entertainment. A variety of performances are staged in hundreds of venues throughout the city, ranging from the century-old Concertaebouw (see p130) to the innovative Musiekgebouw aan het IJ (see p244). The Dutch passion for American jazz draws many international greats such as BB King and Pharaoh Sanders to annual events such as the

Blues Festival and Drum Rhythm Festival (see p52). The city's most popular events take place in the summer, and include the Holland Festival (see n53) and the Amsterdam Roots Festival (see p53). There is a huge choice of multilingual plays and films throughout the year. There is also plenty of free entertainment to be enjoyed from the multitude of street performers and live bands in late-night bars and cafés.

Entertainment Information

One of the most useful sources of entertainment information is

Uitkrant, a free listings magazine (see p261). It is printed monthly and available as are a variety of other Dutch-language listings, from theatres, cafés and bars, libraries and



The Amsterdam Tourist Board (see also p259) publishes an English-language listings magazine every two weeks called Day by Day. It can be picked up for a nominal price at Tourist Board offices and some newsagents, or free issues can

he found in select- ed hotels

and restaurants; or check out the monthly Time Out magazine. For music listings look out for the Pop & Jazz

Uitliist published by the AUB (Amsterdam Uithuro). Daily newspapers includina De Volkskrant Het Parool NRC Handelsblad and De Telegraaf publish a

selection of listings on Wednesdays, although they are mainly excerpts from Uitkrant.

Booking Tickets

Late-night bar in the Red

Light District

Amsterdam's major classical music, opera and dance performances, such as those by the Dutch National Ballet, are likely to be sold out weeks ahead of time. It is advisable to book tickets in advance to ensure the

day, time and seats of your choice. For most other events, it is possible to buy tickets on the day. The AUB has a last-minute window (noon-7:30pm daily) selling tickets for same-day shows

The main reservations office for entertainment and all cultural activities is the AUR which is located in the Stadsschouwburg (see p113), accessible via the corner entrance, in Leidseplein. You can make reservations, pick up tickets in advance (a booking fee is charged) and obtain information in person or over the telephone. You can also make bookings at the venue itself, or through Tourist Board offices. Tickets to major rock concerts can be obtained at the Tourist Board, AUB and at some of the large record shops in the city centre. Although some of the most popular club dates need to be booked in advance, entrance



The Stopera complex, home to the Dutch national opera and ballet companies



The Neo-Classical-style pediment of the Concertgebouw (see p130)

to clubs like the Paradiso and De Melkweg (see np112-13) can usually be bought at the door.

Going to the cinema is very popular with Amsterdammers so it is advisable to book tickets in the afternoon for evenina performances during a film's opening week. Most multi-screen cinemas provide a Dutch-speaking automated booking service All booking offices are usually open from Monday to Saturday, between 9am and 6pm, or later. Theatre sign Credit cards are usually on Nes



(see p76)

not accepted and it is

Reduced-Price Tickets

Entry to some performances can be obtained at bargain prices for holders of the Cultureel Jongeren Passport (CJP). Valid for one year, it is available to anyone under the age of 30 for €15. Some hotels include reduced-price entry to certain events as part of their package deals - check details with your travel agent. Half-price last-minute tickets can be bought at the AUB last-minute ticket office. Several venues. such as the Concertgebouw (see p130), have free lunchtime concerts throughout the year. On Fridays (Apr-Oct), the

Westerkerk (see p92) puts on free organ recitals.

Facilities for the Disabled

Most major theatres cinemas and concert halls in Amsterdam have unrestricted wheelchair access, and assistance is always available. A number of the city's smaller venues, however, are housed in old buildings not designed with the disabled in mind. Venues like De Kleine Komedie (see n242) will make special arrangements if they are notified beforehand Cinemas also provide facilities for the hard of hearing and visually impaired. Always telephone the box office a couple of days before your visit and specify what you require.

Open-Air Entertainment

Since Amsterdammers are avid supporters of theatre and of all sorts of music, there are plenty of open-air venues operating throughout the summer. In the

heart of the city, the Vondelpark open-air theatre (see p.130) stages a wide variety of free concerts and theatre performances. The restored turn-of-the-century Vondelpark Pavillioen (see n131) is housed in the Vondelnark As well as heing a café and restaurant it also hosts events and live music on its outdoor terrace throughout the year.

The Prinsengracht classical music concert (see p53) is performed in August on a group of canal barges. On the outskirts of the city, the scenic Amsterdamse Bos, (see p157) is the setting for productions of Shakespeare. Chekhov and other classical dramatists, staged in the 1.800 seat open-air amphitheatre. In the south, Amstelpark (see p.156) is the venue for the De Parade where dance theatre and circus acts perform inside a large tent, taking place at the end of July (see p242). Many Amsterdammers also enjoy rowing on the Amstel; you'll find several rowing clubs dotted southwards along the river going.

Useful Addresses

AUB/Last-Minute **Ticket Office**

Leidseplein 26. Map 4 F2

Tel 795 9950.

w amsterdamsuitburo.nl

Amsterdam Tourist Board

Stationsplein 10. Map 8 D1. Leidseplein 26. Map 4 E2.

Tel 702 6000

w iamsterdam.com



Customers enjoying café life in the popular Thorbeckeplein

Theatre, Dance and Film

Theatre and dance are important aspects of cultural life in Amsterdam, and performances take place throughout the year in dozens of venues all over the city. Experimental theatre can be found in one of the oldest streets in the city, along the Nes (see p76). Theatres on the Nes, such as De Brakke Grond, are also popular venues for radical theatre productions. The city's main locations for dance include the Felix Meritis, Meervaart, Muziektheater, Stadsschouwburg and the Dutch Dance Laboratory, for experimental productions. The Dutch love cinema and, though Amsterdam has only a few large cinema complexes, there is a surprising number of venues that show a variety of films, from first-run, mainstream and art. to foreign-language, revival and gav.

Theatre and Cabaret

Amsterdam has more than 50 theatre venues and boasts a number of English-speaking companies. The Toneelgroep Amsterdam is the resident theatre company at the **Stadsschouwburg**, and the **Felix Meritis** (*see p115*), **De La Mar**, **Westergasfabriek** and **Bellevue** are important venues for touring theatre companies.

Experimental theatre can be found at a range of locations throughout Amsterdam, including the **Westergasfabriek**. The **Compagnietheater** is a small company that specializes in translating and staging the classics, as well as promoting works by young playwrights. The Orkater musical theatre company often holds performances at Stadsschouwburg and the Theater Bellevue

The annual Holland Festival (see p53) in June offers a prestigious series of opera, theatre and dance performances. It features international talent such as Peter Brook, Peter Zadek and John Jesurum. The International Theatre School Festival presents innovative performances at the Compagnietheater. Nearby, on the Nes (see p76), Frascati and De Brakke Grond feature productions by young directors and performers, the latter focusing on Flemish companies.

Downriver from the Muziektheater, near the smart Amstel Inter-Continental (see p219), the **Koninklijk Theater Carré** plays host to long-running international musicals such as les Misérables and Cyrano The Koninklijk Theater Carré is often the setting for elegant premières attended by members of the Dutch royal family. Closer to the Muziektheater and also facing the Amstel is the charming 17th-century De Kleine Komedie. It can seat an audience of up to 500 and offers a perfect setting for cabaret. It also features stand-up comedy and occasionally has Englishlanguage theatre productions. Although De Kleine Komedie is closed throughout the summer. such is its reputation throughout Europe, that bookings must be made at least three months in advance. Stand-up comedy and improv nights (in English) also can be found at the

Rozentheater.

Summer outdoor theatre can be seen at the Vondelpark openair theatre (see p.130) and at the Amsterdamse Bos (see p157), a woodland park on the edge of town. Here, a pathway lined with Classical Greek statuary leads to a 1,800-seat amphitheatre, the venue for performances of works by classic playwrights like Shakespeare, Chekhov, Ibsen and Miller. In the south of Amsterdam, the Amstelpark (see p156) is the venue for De Parade, a tent city erected each summer in late July and early August where international dance, theatre and circus acts perform before a rapturous audience. Merrymaking often carries on into the early morning hours.

Dance

The Netherlands possesses two world-class ballet companies, the Dutch National Ballet and the Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT). The Dutch National Ballet is housed in the 1,600- seat **Muziektheater** (see p65), which provides magnificent views along the Amstel river, and is renowned for its classical and modern repertoire

The Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) regularly performs in venues throughout the city. Ballets from its former artistic director, Jiri Kylian, are often performed, together with works by the groups's current choreographer, Paul Lightfoot, In addition to the core company. the NDT also has one other group, the Nederlands Dans Theater II, a vounger company made up of dancers aged 18-21 who perform the work of established choreographers such as Hans van Manen. The company also performs the works of choreographer Lionel Hoche.

Dance is often performed at Stadsschouwburg and at the Felix Meritis. Westergasfabriek, the former gasworks, also holds dance performances.

Amsterdam is a laboratory for

experimental dance, and many innovative performances can be seen throughout the city. They are not confined to any one venue though, so it is best to check the entertainment listings, such as Uitkrant (see p261), for full details. Experimental dance can be enjoyed regularly at top venues like the Stadsschouwburg and the De Meervaart. Companies to look out for include Introdans, who combine jazz with flamenco alongside other varieties of ethnic dance. and Opus One, who mix iazz, classical ballet and tap. Needless to say, the Nederlands Dans Theater's repertoire also includes experimental dance routines.

During the first two weeks of July the Stadsschouwburg and surrounding theatres host The Julidans International Festival for Contemporary Dance. Young and established choreographers and dance groups give daring and often ground-breaking performances, to great acclaim. The programme can be found on www.iulidans.nl The Holland Festival in June (see p53) is used as the principal platform for nremières of shows by ton choreographers from both the Nederlands Dans Theater and the Dutch National Ballet. The International Thetre School Festival also in June focuses increasingly on dance, with performances taking place in the historic street of Nes (see p76), which is one of the very oldest parts of the city.

Film

Amsterdammers love the cinema, and there are more than 45 venues in the city. All films are screened in the original language with subtitles. Movie lovers should not miss the plush Art Deco Tuschinski Theater (see p125). Built between 1918 and 1921, this cinema features a luxurious fover, stained-glass windows, tables, sofas and lamps, First-run films often open at the Tuschinski and this is often the place to catch public appearances by film stars.

It is easy to find out which films are showing where, as each cinema has a listing at its

entrance, and details are also posted in bars and cafés.

Programmes change on a Thursday, and most new film listings, carried in the daily newspapers are printed on the Wednesday De Filmkrant is a free monthly film magazine that carries complete listings: these are written in Dutch but very easy to understand. It is also possible to check online at www.amsterdam.filmladder.nl

Ticket prices vary from around €7 to €10, depending on whether it is a matinée or an evening screening, although some longer films can command a slightly higher admission price.

Some of the larger cinema complexes carry afternoon matinées during the week and these usually begin at 2pm. At the weekend the schedule varies Some of the cinemas, such as the mainstream Pathé City and the arthouse Kriterion, often schedule several showings of children's films at the weekend. For adults, the Kriterion offers a great selection of arthouse and mainstream films with latenight screenings of cult and erotic movies

Evening shows usually begin at either 6:30pm or 7pm, and there is a second showing at 9pm or 9:30pm, although a few cinemas

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also have an 8pm screening. Some cinemas have an intermission known as the "pauze" This is a 15-minute obligatory break that is usually scheduled to coincide exactly with the most exciting scene of the film

If you suddenly get the urge to see a film and don't particularly mind what it is, check out Leidseplein (see p.1.12), one of the biggest gathering areas in the city where cinemas, cafés, restaurants and hars abound

One first-run and art-house cinema that can be found within a 2-minute walk of Leidseplein is the eight-screen Pathé City theatre.

For arthouse films there is also the Cinecenter situated on a side street just off the main square across from De Melkweg (see p112); and for a real treat. Filmtheater de Uitkiik, which is a short walk along Leidsestraat to Prinsengracht, This small. venerable 158-seat venue specializes in movie classics and. best of all, refuses to indulge in the dreaded "pauze". Dating from 1913. De Uitkiik is Amsterdam's oldest operational cinema The Movies near Haarlemmerpoort (see n95) is a movie house specializing in films with a psychological connection. The theatre also houses a pleasant pub and restaurant.

Theatre/Cabaret

Compagnietheater

Kloveniersburgwal 50.

Map 7 C3. Tel 520 5320.

w compagnietheater.nl

De Brakke Grond

Vlaams Cultureel Centrum. Nes 45. Map 7 C3. Tel 626 6866. w brakkegrond.nl

De La Mar Theater

Marnixstraat 402. Map 4

E2. Tel 0900 335 2627.

w delamar.nl

De Kleine Komedie

Amstel 56-58. Map 5 B3. Tel 624 0534.

w dekleinekomedie.nl

Felix Meritis

Keizersgracht 324. Map 1 B5. Tel 626 2321.

w felix.meritis.nl

Frascati

Nes 63. Map 7 B4. Tel 626 6866.

w theaterfrascati.nl

Koninklijk Theater Carré

Amstel 115-125. Map 5 B3. Tel 0900 252 5255.

w theatercarre.nl

Rozentheater

Rozengracht 117. Map 1 A5. Tel 0900 BOOM CHICAGO

w boomchicago.nl

Stadsschouwburg

Leidseplein 26. Map 4 E2. Tel 624 2311. w ssba.nl

Theater Bellevue

Leidsekade 90. Map 4 D1. Tel 530 5301.

w theaterbellevue.nl

Westergasfabriek

Haarlemmerweg 8-10. Map 1 A1. Tel 586 0710.

w westergasfabriek.nl

Dance

De Meervaart

Meer en Vaart 300. Tel 410 7777.

w meervaart.nl

Het Muziektheater Amstel 3. Map 7 C5.

Tel 625 5455. w hetmuziektheater.nl

See also venues under Theatre/Cabaret

Film

Cinecenter

Lijnbaansgracht 236. Map 4 F2

Tel 623 6615

Filmtheater de Uitkijk

Prinsengracht 452. Map 4 E2.

Tel 623 7460

Kriterion

Roetersstraat 170 Map 5 C3.

Tel 623 1708

Pathé City Theater

Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 15-19. **Map** 4 E2. Tel 0900 1458.

The Movies

Haarlemmerdijk 161. Map 1 B2. Tel 638 6016.

Classical Music and Opera

Amsterdam is a city with a long and rich tradition in classical music and opera. The principal orchestral venues house some of the world's finest musical events. The city has also acquired a reputation as a centre for early music and organ recitals, with performances in traditional settings such as the English Reformed Church or the Oude Kerk. In summer, concerts can be enjoyed as you relax in one of the city's beautiful parks.

Orchestral, Chamber and Choral Music

Amsterdam's music centre-piece is the Concertaebouw. renowned for its acoustics and home to the celebrated Royal Concertaebouw Orchestra. International orchestras and soloists come here regularly and each summer it hosts Robeco SummerNights concerts which are famous for showcasing voung talent. Farly music is also performed here often by the world-famous Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century.

The Beurs van Berlage (see p81) was originally the city's stock and commodities exchange and is now used as a concert venue. Many international orchestras and chamber choirs perform here. The RAI is principally a convention centre, but is often the setting for classical music and opera events. Museum
Geelvinck, a pretty 18th-century

Geelvinck, a pretty 18th-century canal house, hosts intimate chamber music concerts featuring fortepianos from its collection. Modern classical music, opera and choirs can be heard at De Melkweg (see pp112–13) and the Paradiso (see p247).

The **Bethaniënklooster**, near the Nieuwmarkt, is host to varied and interesting concerts. Leading international chamber groups and soloists perform in the intimate setting of the old refectory of this former convent, where the oak wood ceiling contributes to the extraordinary acoustics.

The Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, a 15-minute walk from Centraal Station, is Amsterdam's new grand location for innovative modern music concerts, festivals and multi-media events.

Music in Churches

Churches in Amsterdam offer concerts throughout the year. The historic church organs in the **Oude Kerk** (see pp70–71), **Nieuwe Kerk** (see pp78–9) and **Waalse Kerk** are magnificent.

Carillon concerts are often held in the Oude Kerk and at lunch time on Tuesdays in the **Westerkerk** (see p92). This church also hosts free organ concerts on Fridays at 1 pm, April to October.

The 17th-century English Reformed Church holds concerts that range from Baroque to modern. Free lunchtime summer concerts are given by new ensembles and young musicians. The Thomaskerk, built in the 1960s, holds a free lunch-time concert every other Tuesday (except in July and August). Concerts are also held in the Waalse Kerk and Noorderkerk (see p.94).

Opera

Built in 1988 the Muziektheater houses the Stadhuis (town hall) and the Dutch National Opera. Its nickname the Stonera is a combination of both names (see n65). It is one of Europe's most up-to-date theatres and features an internationally famous repertoire, as well as lesserknown and some experimental works. Opera can also be seen at the Stadsschouwburg (see p113) on Leidseplein. More experimental opera is performed at nightclubs such as the Paradiso and De Melkweg (see n247) Also check the Holland Festival listings for world premières (see p53).

Open-Air Concerts

The Prinsengracht concert (see p53) takes place in late August. Musicians perform on barges on the canal in front of the Pulitzer Hotel (see p216). In summer, concerts also take place in the Vondelpark open-air theatre and the Amsterdamse Bos (see p157).

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Orchestral, Chamber and Choral Music

Bethaniënklooster

Barndesteea 6.

Map 8 D3. Tel 625 0078.

w bethanienklooster.nl

Beurs van Berlage

Damrak 243. **Map** 7 C2. **Tel** 531 3350.

w beursvanberlage.nl

Concertgebouw

Concertgebouwplein 2–6. **Map** 4 D4.

Tel 0900 671 8345.

w concertgebouw.nl

Museum Geelvinck

Keizersgracht 633. Map 5 A1. Tel 715 5900.

Muziekgebouw aan het IJ

Piet Heinkade 1.

w geelvinck.nl

Tel 788 2000. w muziekgebouw.nl

RAI

Europaplein 8.
Tel 549 1212. w rai.nl

Music in Churches

English Reformed Church

Begijnhof 48. **Map** 7 B4. **Tel** 624 9665.

Nieuwe Kerk

Dam. **Map** 7 B2. **Tel** 638 6909.

Oude Kerk

Oudekerksplein 23. **Map** 7 C2. **Tel** 625 8284.

Thomaskerk

Prinses Irenestraat 36. Tel 622 5170.

Waalse Kerk

Oudezijds Achterburgwal 159. **Map** 7 C3. **Tel** 623 2074.

Westerkerk

Prinsengracht 281. **Map** 1 B4. **Tel** 624 7766.

w westerkerk.nl

Opera

Muziektheater

Amstel 3.

Map 7 C5. Tel 625 5455.

w muziektheater.nl

Pop, Rock and Nightclubs

Amsterdam is bursting with live music. From the omnipresent street entertainers to a whole variety of music venues and nightclubs, as well as countless music cafés, it is hard to avoid the city's rock and pop and club scene. Concerts and clubs tend to be cheap and relaxed, with few venues having a strict door policy or dress code. Local bands and musicians are encouraged. and many venues receive subsidies from the local council, so tickets, with the exception of the big-name concerts, rarely cost more than €8. Some of the best bands can be enjoyed for the price of a drink. Fierce competition means that venues and clubs come and go. For the latest information and gig guides, consult the free Pop & Jazz Uitliist, available from cafés and libraries as well as the AUB ticket service and Tourist Board offices (see p241). Both AUB and tourist offices sell advance tickets for major concerts. The free magazine Uitkrant and Englishlanguage Day by Day also carry concert listings (see p240).

Pop and Rock

Many big names tend to by-pass Amsterdam and head for Rotterdam's Ahov and Utrecht's Vredenburg stadiums instead. However, mainstream pop and rock concerts are held at the RAI. Amsterdam Arena (home to Aiax football club) the Heineken Music Hall and Ziggo Dome. The Ziggo Dome is housed in what appears to be a sleek black box, located behind the Amsterdam Arena, seats almost 16,000 for acts such as Lady Gaga and Radiohead. Middle-of-the-road artists tend to put on shows in large theatres, such as the Theater Carré (see p147) and the Theater Bellevue (see p243), Club Air and Escape nightclubs (see p247) host a variety of hot dance and soul acts

For most Amsterdammers. rock and pop are synonymous with two venues - Paradiso and De Melkweg. Paradiso, housed in a converted church iust off Leidseplein, is more prestigious. De Melkweg is housed in a former dairy, hence the name, the "Milky Way" (see pp112-13).

Both the Paradiso and De Melkweg offer an extremely varied and entertaining programme: rock, pop, dance, rap and world music. The standards range from charttoppers and cult heroes to local hopefuls trying their luck at one of the regular talent nights. Big-name bands which come to play in Amsterdam invariably turn up at one of these two places. The seventh floor of a former newspaper office is home to Canvas, a grungy caférestaurant where you can enjoy a mix of musical styles played by local DJs. Followers of rock'n'roll should visit the Cruise-Inn. The Arena is part of the well-known hotel (see p219). where tourists and locals cram in to dance to the latest music played by live DJs. The Waterhole, located near Leidseplein, features live

rock nightly. Blues music alternates with rock at the loud and crowded Maloe Melo. Sweaty and beersoaked, this place may not seem particularly inviting, but the atmosphere is convivial. From May to September, free concerts are held every Sunday afternoon in the Vondelpark open-air theatre (see pp130-31). often featuring some of the country's top pop acts. The Drum Rhythm Festival (see p52). held annually at the end of May, is a high-spirited celebration of the sheer diversity of popular music. Cutting edge musicians from around the world come to Amsterdam for a weekend extravaganza featuring drumand-bass, asian underground,

jungle, hip-hop, R&B, soul, triphop, world music and more.

1277

There may well be more jazz venues in Amsterdam than anywhere else in the world. The relaxing rhythms of jazz music are perfectly suited to the mood of the brown cafés and bars (see nn48-51)

The city's jazz flagship is the Bimhuis, a venue that takes its music seriously. Commonly known as the "Bim", it is the best venue in Amsterdam for contemporary jazz and has an international reputation. In late 2005 Rimhuis moved next to the Muziekaehouw Piet Heinkade 1.

Café-restaurant Casablanca in the Red Light District on the Zeediik, offers live jazz three or four times a week (always on Friday, Saturday and Sunday). More traditional than the Bimhuis, the music here is played by both veterans and newcomers alike.

The many jazz cafés dotted around the city are very popular Most of them are small brown cafés where local bands perform. Late opening and free entry boost their appeal, although drinks cost a little above average. Most cafés hold weekly iam sessions, when anyone can take the stage.

Around Leidseplein are the Alto Jazz Café and the Bourbon Street Alto is best on Wednesday evenings when Hans Dulfer, the so-called "father" of the Amsterdam jazz scene, is in residence. His daughter Candy is a regular attraction at the

De Heeren van Aemstel. De Engelbewaarder has popular iam sessions on Sunday afternoons. The Vondelpark (see pp130-31) is also a popular jazz venue in the summer, when free open-air concerts are held here.

The Dutch passion for jazz turns to frenzy in the summer, when there is a festival held in almost every town. In July, the North Sea Jazz Festival (see p53), held in Rotterdam, attracts some of the biggest names in the world of jazz.

World Music and Folk

In the Netherlands the worldmusic scene has been heavily influenced by its many immigrant communities. The West Indian Indonesian Maghreh West African Surinamese and Turkish traditions are thriving, and are actively encouraged by the city's authorities.

Occupying a disused church in the western part of the city Podium Mozaïek is a multicultural arts centre staging plays, music and dance performances. The venue attracts voung artists from around the globe, but particularly Turkey and North Africa

Several venues regularly schedule world music events. including De Melkweg and Paradiso. De Melkweg hosts a colourful Amsterdam Roots Festival (see n53) in June. The MC Theater is housed in one of the disused gasworks buildings in Westerpark (see p53). It features an international mix of theatre music and film. The Tolhuistuin. next to the EYE Film Institute often stages performances by Middle Fastern musicians and writers. De Badcuvp, in the lively Piip neighbourhood. swings with salsa, tango, African music and dance options. The venue often holds free workshops highlighting Cuban dance and salsa traditions.

The indiaenous folk music of the Netherlands is an acquired taste. It sounds like a mix of traditional German folk music French chanson and old sea shanties. Large cafés around Rembrandtplein, including Jantjes Verjaardag and Café Tante Roosje, provide folk music for tourist consumption. For a more authentic experience. head for the Jordaan. In bars like De Twee Zwaantjes and Café Nol regulars sometimes burst into iovous sona.

Many of Amsterdam's Irish pubs feature live music. Some of the best include Mulligan's, and the huge and extremely popular O'Donnells, where you can hear authentic fiddle playing almost every weekend. The Old Nickel holds regular folk and jazz nights.

Clubs and Discos

Amsterdam is well-known for its lively nightclub scene There is little pretension here and the mood is relaxed and carefree Most clubs open at 11pm but don't really get going before 1am. They usually close at 4am during the week, and 5am on Friday and Saturday nights. Entrance prices are relatively low and drinks are reasonably priced Few clubs enforce a strict dress code, but they do reserve the right to refuse admission. It is an established custom to tip the doormen on the way out.

Amsterdam was one of the very first cities to embrace house music during the late 1980s It still dominates most clubs, but there is now more variety on offer. DJs and music vary from one night to the next. so check listings for details.

Club Underground is presented as the successor of the exclusive Roxy which. before it burned down, was where the beautiful people of Amsterdam gathered to rub shoulders with whichever stars were in town. More has a members-only policy, though it often only applies during busy times.

Even harder to get into is Jimmy Woo, famous for its tough door policy. Inside it's Hong-Kong hip, with plenty of black leather and a great sound system. The Westergasfabriek, to the north of the Jordaan, is a huge former gasworks. Its buildings now house a collection of music and dance spaces.

Amsterdam's students have established their own club. called Dansen Bij Jansen. The two sweaty dance floors in this rambling club are always packed at weekends. You will need a student card to get in. but provided you look the part there should not be a problem.

The leading non-house club in town is The Sugar Factory, with its varied and enjoyable menu of soul, funk and iazzdance. The Odeon has been recently renovated. Here, you can party your way up from the brasserie in the basement to the dance palace on the first floor.

The city's biggest dance hall is Escape Lounge, attracting a predominantly young crowd who usually come from out of town each weekend The discos around Leidseplein are basically just extended hars with only small dance floors, catering for tourists and attracting a much wider age range of people. On the whole, mainstream and chart music tend to be played Ritterzoet attracts a more alternative crowd and often stages live music from a wider variety of music genres.

Gav and Lesbian Clubs

Clubbing is at the heart of Amsterdam's gay scene. The techno sounds and camp floor shows at many venues attract a trendy clientele. Crowds are often mixed and most gay clubs will rarely turn away women or straight men.

Gay nightlife used to centre around Reguliersdwarsstraat. EVE is a bar and grand café. Drop in for a drink during the day or join the dance crowd later Café Reality attracts a Surinamese crowd and offers a mix of disco and salsa. Nowadays, the focus has moved to Zeediik, where bars like De

Engel van Amsterdam and The Oueen's Head are popular.

Prik, near the Dam, is a straightfriendly gay bar, and gets pretty busy almost every night. De Trut is housed in the basement of a famous former squat and packs in a mixed crowd on Sunday nights. The decor is seedy, but the dance floor is big and the drinks are cheap.

If you're interested in a mixed lesbian/gay disco head to Club Roque, with music from the Top 40. Details of other events are listed in the monthly Gay & Night magazine, available at many gay bars, the Pink Point kiosk and online at www.amsterdam 4gays.com. **Gayforcing** organizes gay and lesbian bridge afternoons. The decor is imaginative and the atmosphere friendly. Saarein II is frequented by lesbians and gays and offers a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Pop and Rock

Arona

's-Gravesandestraat 51 Man 6 D4 Tel 850 2400

w hotelarena.nl

Canvas

Wihautstraat 150 (7th floor)

Map 5 C5 Tel 716 3817

w canvas7.nl

Cruica-Inn

Zuiderzeeweg 29 (Amsterdam-Noord).

Tel 692 7188

w cruise-inn.com

Heineken Music Hall

Arena Boulevard 590.

Tel 0900 687 4242

w heineken-musichall nl

Maloe Melo

Lijnbaansgracht 163. Map 4 D1

Tel 420 4592 w maloemelo.nl

De Melkweg

Lijnbaansgracht 234a.

Map 4 F2 Tel 531 8181

w melkweg.nl

Paradiso

Weteringschans 6-8.

Map 4 E2. Tel 626 4521

w paradiso.nl

The Waterhole

Korte Leidsedwarsstraaat 49. Map 4 E2.

Tel 620 8904.

waterhole.nl

Winston International

Warmoesstraat 123-9.

Map 7 C2. Tel 623 1380.

w winston.nl

Ziggo Dome

Arena Boulevard 6175.

Tel 0900 235 3663 w ziggodome.nl

Jazz

Alto Jazz Café

Korte Leidsedwarsstraat 115. Map 4 E2. Tel 626 3249.

w jazz-cafe-alto.nl

DIRECTORY

Rimhuis

Piet Heinkade 3

Tel 788 2188

w bimhuis.nl

Bourbon Street

Leidsekruisstraat 6–8

Map 4 F2

Tel 623 3440

w bourbonstreet.nl

Rriv

Wolvenstraat 16. **Map** 7 A3

Tal 630 0351

w cafebrix.nl

Casahlanca

Zeediik 26F

Map 8 D2

Tel 776 7407.

w cafecasablanca.nl

De Engelbewaarder

Kloveniersburgwal 59.

Map 8 D3.

Tel 625 3772

De Heeren van Aemstel

Thorbeckeplein 5. Map 7 C5.

Tel 620 2173.

w deheeren

vanaemstel.nl

World Music and Folk

De Badcuvp

Sweelinckstraat 10.

Map 5 A5

Tel 675 9669.

w badcuvp.nl

Café Nol

Westerstraat 109.

Map 1 B3.

Tel 624 5380.

Café Tante Roosie

Rembrandtplein 5. Map 7 C5.

Tel 820 8257.

w tanteroosje.nl

Jantjes Verjaardag

Reguliersdwarsstraat 108-114.

Map 6 F4.

Tel 778 4093.

w jantjesverjaardag.nl

MC Theater

Polonceaukade 5.

Map 1 A1 Tel 606 5040

w mconline.nl

Mulligan's

Amstel 100

Man 7 C5

Tel 622 1330

w mulligans.nl

O' Donnell's

Ferdinand Bolstraat 5. Map 4 F5. Tel 676 7786

w odonnellsirishpub.

The Old Nickel

Nieuwe Bruasteea 11. Map 8 D1. Tel 624 1912

Podium Mozaïek

Bosen Lommerweg 191. Tel 580 0380

w podiummozaiek.nl

Tolhuistuin

Tolhuiswea 5. Map 2 F2 Tel 624 1912

w tolhuistuin.nl

De Twee Zwaanties

Prinsengracht 114. Map 1 C3

Tel 625 2729 w detweezwaantjes.nl

Clubs and Discos

Barkode

Wagenstraat 3-7.

Map 8 D5. Tel 620 1375. w barkode

amsterdam.nl Bitterzoet

Spuistraat 2.

Map 7 C1

Tel 421 2318.

w bitterzoet.com

Club Air

Amstelstraat 16. Tel 820 0670.

Map 8 D5.

w air.nl

Club Underground Rozengracht 133.

Map 1 A5. Tel 416 2211.

Dansen Bii Jansen Handboogstraat 11.

Map 7 B4. Tel 620 1779.

w dansenbijjansen.nl

Escane

Rembrandtolein 11–15 Map 7 C5 Tel 622 1111

w escape.nl

Jimmy Woo

Korte Leidsedwarsstraat 18 Map 4 F2 Tel 626 3150

w iimmywoo.com

Odeon

Singel 460 Map 7 C5.

Tel 521 8555.

w odeontheater.nl

Sugar Factory

Liinbaansgracht 238. Map 4 E2. Tel 627 0008.

w sugarfactory.nl

Gay and Lesbian Clubs

Club Roque

Amstel 178. Map 7 C5. w clubroque.nl

EVE

Reguliersdwarsstraat 44. Map 7 B5. Tel 689 7070.

De Engel van

Amsterdam Zeediik 21 Map 8 D2

Gayforcing

Gay & lesbian bridge club.

w gayforcing.nl

Pink Point

Westermarkt. Map 1 B4.

Tel 428 1070. w pinkpoint.org

Prik

Spuistraat 109.

Map 7 B2. Tel 320 0002.

w prikamsterdam.nl

The Queen's Head

Zeediik 20.

Map 8 D2 Tel 420 2475.

Reality

Reguliersdwarsstraat 129.

Map 7 C5.

Tel 639 3012

Saarein II

Elandsstraat 119.

Map 1 R5 Tel 623 4901.

De Trut

Bilderdiikstraat 165.

Map 3 C1.

w trutfonds.nl

CHILDREN'S AMSTERDAM

As a lively, cultural city, Amsterdam can be a fascinating place to visit with children. Its network of canals is fun to explore and many of the squares are alive with street musicians and performers. The city's many parks offer a wide range of outdoor activities and the streets are lined with tempting shops,

restaurants, cafés and food stalls. Even in summer, there is no guarantee of good weather, but you can always find something to do on wet days. Some theatres and museums are geared for children and there is nearly always an English-language film showing that is suitable for children.

Practical Advice

If you are visiting Amsterdam with a very young child, a baby sling or pouch is essential. While the city centre is small enough to be covered on foot, manoeuvring a heavy pushchair around the cobbled streets can be tough going. Negotiating one of the city's notoriously steep flights of stairs or getting on a crowded tram or canal boat with a pushchair is virtually impossible, and they are actually banned in some of the museumc

For sightseeing, it is worth taking a boat trip. Details of the options available are given on pages 276-7 Most of the operators offer discounts to children under 12 and allow toddlers to travel free. Trams are another entertaining and efficient way to get around (see p268), although they tend to be crowded at peak periods. Like all other forms of public transport in the city, children under four go for free and under-12s travel at half-price.

Children are welcome at the majority of hotels in Amsterdam (see p214). Some of the bigger ones even provide babysitting facilities. If your hotel does not offer this, Babysit Centrale

Kriterion provides reliable cheap child care. The service is 24-hour but bookings must be made daily from 4:30-8pm.

Theatres and Museums

Many theatres such as the Circus Elleboog and De Krakeling, hold children's shows on Wednesdays or Sundays and the Vondelpark (see p130) stages weekly open-air shows in summer

Seasonal attractions include the Christmas circus at the Koninkliik Theater Carré (see p147). The Amsterdam Tourist Board's monthly publication Ultkrant contains a complete listing, which is easy to understand. despite being written in Dutch (see p261). Many of Amsterdam's museums have sections which are

geared for children Nemo Science Center (see p152) is one of the best for older children, with its wide range of hands-on exhibits and buttons to press. Adventurous 6- to

12-year-olds will like the exhibitions at Tropenmuseum Junior (see pp154-5), which brings to life the cultures and traditions of the developing world. Would-be pirates love climbing aboard the Amsterdam. a full size replica of an 18th-century East Indiaman moored outside Het Scheepvaartmuseum (see pp148-9).

The waxworks at Madame Tussauds Scenerama (see p.76) are also worth a visit, although small children may be upset by a few of the more gruesome exhibits. The **Aiax Experience** and World

of Aiax Tour are popular with football fans. Most of Amsterdam's museums offer

substantial discounts to children, and toddlers under four normally get in free.



Zoos and City **Farms**

Artis zoo (see pp144-5) incorporates both covered and open-air animal pens, along with a Planetarium and the Aguarium. Cheaper, but less extensive, animal-viewing options in and around the city include the animal enclosure in the Amsterdamse Bos (see p157), donkeys and llamas in the Vondelpark (see p130) and free-roaming Highland cattle in the Amstelpark (see p156).

Sports and Recreation

Amsterdam's parks provide a whole range of activities for children. The Vondelpark (see p130) has well-maintained



Crocodiles basking in the Reptile House of Artis zoo (see pp144-5)



The full-size replica of the Amsterdam, outside Het Scheepvaartmuseum

playgrounds, free puppet shows and face-painting sessions at the Milk Bar in summer The Amstelpark (see p.156) and Amsterdamse Bos (see n157) also have a range of activities. The Flectrische Museumtramliin (see p157) runs regular round trips to and from the Amsterdamse Bos in vintage trams. You can also camp in designated sites in this park (see p215). On a rainy day, head to TunFun, an indoor recreation centre for children aged up to 12.

There are a number of indoor swimming pools around Amsterdam. The best is Miranda Bad, a tropical paradise with water chutes, a beach and a wave machine. Indoor pools tend to close in the summer and are replaced by open-air pools, like the municipal one in Twiske, a rural park north of the IJ. The seaside, which is only a short train ride away, has miles of clean, sandy coastline.

Perhaps the most fun can be had simply exploring Amsterdam's network of canals by hiring canal bikes (see p273). When the canals are frozen during a hard winter, your children will enjoy the thrill of skating around the city.

Eating Out

Children may not be welcome in some of the more expensive restaurants, but most places are tolerant, and many cafés and cheaper places have a children's menu such as

chicken, chips and appelmoes (apple purée) At the Kinderkookkafé the food is cooked and served by children. Advance dinner reservations (at least a month) are essential both for eating and for kids who want to cook

Amsterdam also has a good selection of pancake houses (see p232). Other treats include pofferties, which are tiny pancakes loaded with butter and icing sugar.

Shopping

Alongside an assortment of large toyshops, there are also a few small shops that sell traditional wooden and handcrafted toys. Look out for the exquisite dolls'-house furniture at De

Kleine Fland

For something out of the ordinary in the way of children's clothes, go to 't Schooltie.

DIRECTORY

Babysitting Service

Rahysit Centrale Kriterion Roetersstraat 170 Tel 624 5848 w kriterionoppas.org

Theatres and Museums

Aiax Experience

Utrechtsestraat 9 (cnr Rembrandtnlein) Map 7 C5 Tel 428 6325 World of Aiax Tour: Tel 311 1333. w amsterdamarena.nl

Circus Ellebooa

Laan van Spartaan 4, 1061 MA Tel 623 5326. w elleboog.nl

De Krakeling

Nieuwe Passeerdersstraat 1. Map 4 D1. Tel 624 5123. w krakeling.nl

Recreation Centres

Miranda Rad

De Mirandalaan 9 Tel 252 4444 w mirandabad.nl

TunFun

Mr Visserplein 7. Map 8 F4. Tel 689 4300. w tunfun.nl

Children's Cafés

Kinderkookkafé

Kattenlaantie, Vondelpark 6 (path at Overtoom 333). Map 3 B3. Tel 625 3257. Open 10am-5pm daily. w kinderkookkafe.nl

Shops for Children

De Kleine Eland

Elandsgracht 58. Map 1 B5. Tel 620 9001.

't Schooltie

Overtoom 87. Map 4 D2. Tel 683 0444.



Children resting weary legs after a hard day's play





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Amsterdam is a cosmopolitan city, and visitors should find its citizens helpful, friendly and often multilingual. The official networks for helping tourists are efficient and straightforward. Telephones, parking meters and cash dispensers may seem familiar to Euro-pean visitors, but other tourists will need to follow instructions closely. One of the

particular pleasures of visiting the city is to enjoy the relatively car-free environment, which leaves more room for alternative forms of travel. Trams, water transport, bicycles and pedestrians are all given a much higher priority in the centre than motor vehicles. Indeed, the ideal way to explore the city is on foot (see p266) or by bicycle (see pp270–71).



l amsterdam sign in the Museumplein

When to Go

High season for tourists runs from April to September, with another peak around New Year During school summer holidays (June to August), it can be hot and humid: hotels and travel prices are also more expensive. and many tourist sights are over-crowded. For the annual national holiday, Oueen's Day (April 30), it is often difficult to find hotel rooms unless you book well in advance. In winter there can be heavy snow or ice. Early spring and late autumn are the quietest times, but the weather can be rather cool.

Visas and Passports

For a stay lasting up to three months for the purpose of tourism, EU, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand nationals need only a valid passport. Other nationalities should check with the Netherlands embassy in their home country. Under the Schengen visa open-borders agreement, a visitor from a Schengen country can travel freely throughout the Schengen zone with only a valid form of ID and no passport. Immigration

procedures have tightened and you may have to prove that you have sufficient funds for your stay and a return ticket. In the Netherlands, everyone over the age of 14 is required to carry ID, and this includes tourists. You can be fined for not having the correct ID. As a visitor, you will be asked to show a stamped passport.

Customs Information

EU nationals over the age of 17 are entitled to import unlimited goods for personal use, except for tobacco and alcohol on which duty has already been paid. The limits are: 800 cigarettes, 400 cigars, 1 kg of tobacco, 10 litres of spirits, 20 litres of fortified wine, 90 litres of wine and 110 litres of beer. Duty-free tobacco and alcohol are no longer available to EU citizens. However, some other duty-free goods are available at Schiphol airport after passport control. Citizens of non-EU countries must abide by the following restrictions: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 litre of spirits or 2 litres of sparkling or fortified wine, 16 litres of beer or a

reasonable assortment of these products; other goods or gifts up to the value of €430 per adult.

Bulbs bought in Amsterdam must have a certificate of inspection from the Plant Protection Service if being taken to the USA or Canada

Non-EU members can reclaim VAT on returning home, or at the Departure Lounge at the airport. Phone the **Customs Information** line, or see www.vatfree.nl

If you are leaving the EU with more than €10,000, this must be declared.

Tourist Information

Amsterdam prides itself on its accessibility to visitors, and has a comprehensive network of tourist information centres. I amsterdam brings together the Amsterdam Tourism and Convention Board (ATCB), the Tourist Board Offices VVV and other tourist services and businesses under one cooperative organization.



The neo-Gothic façade of the Rijksmuseum (see pp132–5)

Lameterdam's main office is located in front of Centraal Station The Dutch Tourist Board, the VVV, which is pronounced. "fav-fav-fav". has several branches and offers multilingual information on sights entertainment events transport and tours. They will also book hotels, plays, shows, excursions and concerts (for a small fee) Tourist Board leaflets and mans are also available from museums. The AUB

Uithuro can provide information and tickets to cultural events

For information before you travel, the NBTC (Netherlands Roard of Tourism and Conventions) produces their own brochures and maps.

Be wary of using agencies unrelated to the Tourist Board or Lamsterdam:

the accommodation they offer can often can be uneccessarily expensive or of poor quality.



Admission Prices

Many of the art museums in Amsterdam are

free or offer discounts to those under the age of 18. They do not offer discounts for international students or seniors (see p254). Nemo, a favourite family-orientated museum. charges the same price for all visitors above the age of three. The three main discount cards are the Lamsterdam City Card. the Museum Card (Museum-

kaart) and the CJP (see n254). The L amsterdam City Card offers free travel on all free access to





I amsterdam City Card

Language and Smoking Etiquette

The Dutch have been linguists for centuries, and most students learn English, some German and French. However, it's appreciated if you can handle a few niceties, such as saying Dag (Good day) before asking a Dutch person whether they speak English. The Dutch are quite liberal in many ways, but they retain a few conventions. Expect to shake hands often, and if you are out with a crowd it's polite to introduce yourself. When eating out in a group, the Dutch tend to pay for their share of the bill unless it has been made clear that you are being treated.

The Netherlands has a smoking ban in all public places, including bars, cafés, restaurants and hotels for smoking tobacco. Some clubs and cafés do turn a blind eve. especially in coffeeshops, however, new laws are being introduced to stop tourists

and 20 free and 65 discounted offers. The card is available from all tourist offices and online and is valid for either 24 (€42), 48 (€52) or 72 (€62) hours.

The Museum Card costs €44.95 for adults and €22.50 for under 25s (plus a €4.95 administration fee) and provides admission to almost 400 museums throughout the Netherlands This includes 33 museums in Amsterdam, but excludes special exhibitions. The card is valid for a year, and you will recoup the cost after three visits. The card can be bought from all tourist offices. online and at museums.

Opening Hours

Opening times in Amsterdam vary enormously, but each shop has its hours of business posted on the door. In the city centre, shops are generally open 9am-6pm Monday to Wednesday and Friday; 9am-9pm Thursday, until 5pm Saturday and noon-5pm



Taking a break outside Café 't Smalle

Sunday, Most of the national museums are closed on Monday, and open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday and 1-5pm on Sunday. A few museums also open on Friday evenings to 10pm and adopt Sunday hours on national holidays, Bank and post office hours in the city tend to be weekdavs only, between 9am and 4 or 5pm, although some big-city banks are also open Saturday morning, ATM machines operate 24 hours.

Public Conveniences

For such a practical nation Amsterdam is short on public conveniences and visitors more often use department stores, hotels, museums and cafés. In clubs, cafés and concert venues with attendants you will pay a minimum of 50c, with large stores charging 30c upwards and a similar fee for using baby-changing rooms.

Taxes and Tipping

Value-Added (or Sales) Tax is 21 per cent in the Netherlands and will usually be included in the price auoted. The exceptions to this are electronic and computer goods Non-EU residents can shop tax free in two ways: either shop at places affiliated to the Global Blue scheme, or shop anywhere and ask for a tax receipt, then claim the tax back (see p252).

Service is always included in bars and restaurants. It is usual though to tip taxis and in restaurants, mostly between 5-10% to round up the bill.



The Pink Point next to the Homomonument

Travellers with Special Needs

Information and assistance are available for disabled travellers to Amsterdam. One of the most useful websites is run by the

Amsterdam Foundation for People with a Disability

(Stichting Gehandicapten Overleg Amsterdam) The site reviews the accessibility of restaurants. hotels, cafés, public buildings and public toilets

At Schiphol airport, help is available through Axxicom Airport Caddy. The service is free but must be booked at the same time as your flight. The main train stations have also improved the ease of travel for passengers with special needs. Tactile guidance lines assist visually impaired travellers. mobile ramps make it easier for wheelchair-users to get on and off trains and those with a functional disability can arrange free travel for a travelling companion. Many trains have wheelchair-access doors, and most double- decker trains have wheelchair-accessible toilets.

All main pedestrian crossings are equipped with sound for the blind. Most foreign Disabled Parking Disks from recognized organizations are valid in the city, but if the parking sign has a licence number on it. it is reserved

Senior Travellers

Senior travellers will enjoy the relatively easy pace of Amsterdam. Those wishing to avoid loud, drunken crowds in the evenings should choose a hotel either in the canal district or the Museum Quarter, and

avoid areas with high concentrations of bars and clubs (such as the Leidseplein or Rembrandtolein). New Year's Eve can be a problem for anyone who cannot move quickly or easily, as locals tend to go crazy with fireworks on the streets, especially around the Nieuwmarket area.

There are discounts on public transport (trams, buses, metro) for seniors. To be eligible for travel discounts, take your passport to a GVB office (see p269) when purchasing your ticket. There are no senior discounts on offer for either the Museum Card or the L amsterdam City Card (see n271)

Gay and Lesbian Travellers

Few other cities are better oriented towards gav and lesbian tourism than Amsterdam, Most listings magazines include a special section for gay and/or lesbian events (see p261), and the Pink Point of Presence, next to the unique Homomonument at the Westerkerk, is a great place to pick up tourist information. Around the corner, **COC** (the national gay and lesbian organization) provides general information on gay and lesbian life in the city.

GAYtic is another tourist information service specifically oriented to gay and lesbian visitors. They offer an information kit that can be ordered in advance of your journey and collected when you arrive. The kit contains maps, magazines, discounts and information on parties and events. They also sell tickets to special events, and the I amsterdam Card.

Travelling on a Budget

Amsterdam is not a drastically expensive city to visit but keep in mind that eating out and entertainment can be more costly than in other European countries

The Lamsterdam website and some magazines list free events and festivals in the city. In summer you can enjoy a picnic in the Vondelnark or free evening entertainment on the Vondelnark Pavilliioen outdoor terrace.

The Lamsterdam City Card and the Museum Card do not offer discounts for kids, and there are no discounts for children on public transport, except for children under four who travel free

For students, the ISIC (International Student Card) offers discounts in youth hostels. theatres, restaurants, some museums, shops and a few travel agencies but not on local transport. The European Youth Card (CJP) is a good alternative for travellers under the age of 30 who are not students. It offers similar discounts in 38 countries in Europe

Responsible Travel

The Dutch take environmental issues very seriously and are constantly striving to improve sustainability on a variety of levels. Amsterdam has a growing awareness of ecotourism, with a few companies offering eco-tours, like Wetlands Safari, which provides canoe tours through the reed lands north of Amsterdam (see p267).

There is a steadily increasing number of choices for the environmentally aware visitor. The Conscious Hotel group has two eco-friendly hotels near the Vondelpark (see p217). There is an excellent organic farmers'



De Kas restaurant

market on Saturdays at the Noordermarket in the Jordaan. where a dazzling array of local organic produce, bakery goods. meat, fish, cheese and other dairy products are beautifully displayed This market is a favourite with locals and often crowded. Be sure to explore the array of farmers' cheeses to discover what Dutch cheese should taste like

Another organic market is held on the Haarlemmerplein on Wednesday afternoons. although it is very small.

Amsterdam's most famous organic restaurant, De Kas, is housed in a beautiful old greenhouse saved from

demolition by its chef. Gert Jan. Hageman, Here, they serve the fruits of their own labours, using herbs and vegetables from the greenhouse, combined with locally sourced organic meat and fish Brouwerii't II housed in an old windmill, is a small micro-brewery producina organic beer. For an unusual local souvenir, visit the shop La Savonnerie with soans made from organic products.

Time

The Netherlands is on Central European Time, which means Amsterdam is 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time From

late March to late October clocks are set forward 1 hour Australia is 10 hours ahead in winter (8 in summer): while New York is 6 hours behind Central European Time

Electricity

The voltage in the Netherlands is 220, 50-cycle AC, and compatible with British equipment, but since the Dutch use two-pin continental plugs vou will need an adaptor.

American visitors need to convert their equipment or buy a transformer. Dutch wall sockets require a larger plug than those used in the USA

DIRECTORY

Embassies and Consulates

Ireland

Scheveningseweg 112. 2584 AE Den Haag. Tel (070) 363 0993.

w embassyofireland.nl

UK Consulate

Koningslaan 44. Map 3 B4.

General enquiries:

Tel 676 4343

w britain.nl

UK Embassy Den

Tel (070) 427 0427.

w britain.nl

US Consulate

Museumplein 19.

Map 4 E3.

Tel 5755309

Haaq

w amsterdam. usconsulate.gov

US Embassy Den

Tel (070) 310 2209.

w netherlands. usembassv.gov

Customs Information

Tel 0800 0143 (freephone).

w belastingdienst.nl w vatfree.nl (online

refund service)

w global-blue.com

Tourist Information

AUR Uithuro Leisdeplein 26.

Map 4 F2

Tel 020-795 9950. w amsterdams

uithuro nl

Tourist Board (VVV)

Offices Leidseplein 26

Map 4 E2. Schiphol Airport Arrivals Hall 2.

Tel 201 8800.

w jamsterdam.com

Stationsplein 10.

Map 8 D1. Tel 201 8800.

Netherlands Board of Tourism and Conventions (NBTC)

PO Roy 458 Leidschendam, 2260 MG.

Tel 070 3705 705. w nbtc.nl

w holland.com

Portland House.

Bressenden Pl, London SW1F 5RS.

Tel 020 7539 7950. Fax 020 7539 7953.

USA

215 Park Ave South, suite 2005, New York, NY Tel (1) 212-370 7360.

Travellers with Special Needs

Amsterdam Foundation for People with a Disability

w toegankeliik amsterdam.nl

Axxicom Airport Caddy

Skyport, Kantoor 1167. Schiphol Airport. Tel 406 9806

Email assistentie@ airportcaddy.nl.

w airportcaddy.nl

NS Bureau Assistentiever lening Gehandicapten (NS **Disabled Assistance** Office)

Tel 030 235 7822.

w ns.nl

De Zeeland

Tel 065 087 6368. w zeilenalacarte.nl

Beach Wheelchairs at

Zandvoort Tel 023 571 6119.

Gay and Lesbian Travellers

coc

Rozenstraat 4. Map 1 B4.

Tel 020 6263087.

w cocamsterdam.nl

Gavtic

Spuistraat 44.

Map 7 R1

Tel 020 330 1461.

w gaytic.nl

Pink Point Westermarkt 4

Map 1 B4. Tel 281 070.

w pinkpoint.org

Responsible Travel

Do Kas

Kamerlingh Onneslaan 3. Tel 0202 462 4562.

w restaurantdekas.nl

Brouwerii 't IJ

Funenkade 7. Map 6 F2.

Tel 020 528 6237.

w brouwerijhetij.nl

La Savonnerie

Prinsengracht 294.

Tel 020 428 1139.

w savonnerie.nl

Personal Security and Health

Amsterdam is one of the safest cities in Europe – there are few "no go" areas, and violent crime is rare. However, petty theft is rife, and pickpockets do haunt tourist areas and public transport. Sadly, there has also been a change in attitude towards "tolerance" most noticeably in that there have been attacks on gay clubs. For the most part, this should not impact tourists, but for those who do find themselves in trouble, the city has efficient emergency services and facilities, including a Tourist Assistance service

Police

If you have been the victim of a serious crime, call 112. If the crime is petty theft or of a less serious nature, use the general number listed in the Directory box, or simply go to the nearest police station. Almost all police officers will speak some English. If your property has been stolen, or you have been in an incident that has required medical treatment, you will need to file a police report for insurance purposes. It is important to have all information regarding the incident with you when you go to the police station. If you require any help you can contact the Bureau

Slachtofferhulp (Victim Support), or ask the police to contact them on your behalf.



Fire engine



Police cars



Ambulance

What to be aware of

Theft is the main problem for visitors to Amsterdam, (see Lost and Stolen Property), but you should also be aware that bar and club areas like Leidsenlein and Rembrandtsplein, the Red Light District and city parks can be dangerous for lone tourists in the very early morning hours. In general, wandering at night in most Amsterdam neighbourhoods is safe, and women are fine to walk about on their own

The Red Light District was once a very busy, bustling area that felt quite safe due to the constant stream of people Now after several measures to "clean up" the area, the number of visitors has dropped, and some streets can be very seedy. Keep in mind that you are not

> allowed to photograph prostitutes in the Red Light District without their permission, and you may be asked to pay a fee to do so.

You are required to have your ID on you at all times, and can be fined if found without it. It is illegal to carry a weapon; consume alcohol in most public places; buy, sell or use hard drugs; buy cannabis outside of coffeeshops: urinate on the street and cycle in pedestrian areas. Uniformed police may perform on-the-spot body searches, or ask for ID

Attracted by the canals, mosquitoes



Members of the armed Dutch nalica farca

can be an irritant during summer. Repellent sprays. antihistamine creams, mosquito nets and plug-in devices are available from large pharmacies.

In an Emergency

For serious emergencies, dial 112: this will put you through to a general number for the police. ambulance and the fire brigade. An operator will answer (most speak English) and you will be asked which service you need. and where you are calling from If the operator decides it is not an emergency that requires immediate intervention, they may direct you to call the

Central Medical Service, or report to a hospital with a first aid department, or in the case of a crime, to report to the nearest police station. If you feel you need extra support, call the Bureau Slachtofferhulp or GAYtic. (see pp251-5) who provide a similar service but for gay and lesbian travellers.

Lost and Stolen Property

While Amsterdam is safer than most American and European cities, theft is still some cause for concern. Pickpockets work crowded tourist areas, trams and the train between the city centre and Schiphol airport. especially in summer. Use your common sense and be alert to vour surroundings.

Bicvcle and car theft. particularly of foreign vehicles, is also a problem. You must report lost or stolen property in order to claim on your insurance.

Local police stations hold recovered items for a day or so before sending them to the Central Lost Property Office. For anything lost on the train ask at the station All recovered property is stored at the station for five days, before it is sent to the depot at Utrecht, Call 0900 321 Pharmacy sign 2100 to submit a trace

request. Bus and tram drivers check their vehicles after each iourney, and any items found are handed in at the depot. From there they are sent to the Central Lost Property Office. who can tell you if your belongings have been found 48 hours after the day you lost them. If you lose your passport. inform your embassy (see n255). Lost credit or debit cards should be reported to the card issuer (see n258).

Hospitals and

Minor problems can be dealt with by a chemist (droaist). For a pharmacy (apotheek). These are open from 8:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday.

outside normal hours are posted in all pharmacy windows and in the afternoon newspaper Het Parool The Central Medical Service

> (Centrale Doktersdienst) can also direct you to the nearest pharmacy, and can refer you to a duty GP or supply the name of a dentist. Minor accidents can be treated

in hospital outpatient clinics. open 24 hours a day: the VVV or I amsterdam (see p252) can advise on these. In an emergency, go to a hospital with a casualty unit, or call an ambulance (112).

Travel and Health Insurance

Travel insurance is available through most travel agents and insurance companies, with a wide variety of policy options. and is highly recommended in case of loss, theft or medical emergencies that require repatriation help.

All FU members can receive medical and dental treatment in the Netherlands at a reduced charge. Before travelling, British visitors should obtain the Furopean Health Insurance Card (FHIC) - online at www.ehic.org. uk or at post offices – and seek a refund for any non-private treatment on their return home You will never be turned away by a doctor even if you do not have an FHIC with you, however. you may have to pay more for treatment

Druas

Soft drugs, such as hashish and cannabis, are part of a very Dutch solution: they are decriminalized, but not legal. This allows the government control over the coffeeshops (where cannabis is sold), while it earns money through the businesses. A law banning foreign tourists from entering coffeeshops came into effect in 2013, though Amsterdam police currently turn a blind eve. Smoking on the streets is discouraged, but some coffeeshops now have outside areas to smoke (see p253). Hard drugs are a different matter: anyone caught with them by the police will certainly be prosecuted Paddos or magic mushrooms were hanned in 2009. Never try to take drugs out of Amsterdam or the Netherlands: penalties are stiff.

Pharmacies

Police

and Police

Bureau

Ambulance, Fire

Slachtofferhulp

(victim support)

w slachtofferhulp.nl

Main Police Stations

Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal.

Lijnbaansgracht 219.

Zeemanstraat 58.

Police General

Number

Map 4 E2.

Map 7 C2.

Map 7 A4.

104.

Beursstraat 33.

Tel 0900 8844.

Tel 0900 0101.

Tel 112 (emergency only).

medicine on prescription, go to Details of pharmacies open

DIRECTORY

In an Emergency Central Medical

Service (Centrale Doktersdienst)

Tel 08800 30600.

Gavtic

Spuistraat 44. Tel 020 330 1461.

Lost Property

GVB Service Desk

Arlandaweg 100. Tel 0900 8011. w gvb.nl

Lost Property on Trains

Tel 0900 321 2100. w ns.nl

Central Lost Property Korte Leidsedwars-

straat 52. Tel 251 0222. Map 4 E2. w verlorenof

gevonden.nl

Hospitals

Academisch Medisch Centrum (AMC)

Mieberadreef 9. Tel 020 566 9111.

Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis (casualty unit)

1e Oosterparkstraat 279. Map 6 D4.

Tel 020 599 9111. **Sint Lucas Andreas**

Jan Tooropstraat 164. Tel 020 510 89 11.

Ziekenhuis

VU Medisch Centrum

De Boelelaan 1117. Tel 444 4444.

24-hour first aid: Tel 444 3636

Pharmacies

Dam Damstraat 2.

Map 7 C3. Tel 020 624 4331.

Iordaan

Westerstraat 180. Map 1 B3. Tel 020 624 9252.

Koek, Schaeffer & Van Tiien

Viizelaracht 19. Map 4 F3. Tel 020 623 5949.

Medicijnman

Utrechtsestraat 86. Map 5 A3. Tel 020 624 4333.

Het Witte Kruis Rozengracht 57.

Map 1 A5. Tel 020 623 1051.

Banking and Currency

Amsterdammers are still partial to cash transactions. although the banking system has started encouraging more use of debit cards to pay for all transactions. including small amounts. Surprisingly, credit cards are not as universally accepted in the Netherlands as in many other countries. The larger hotels, shops and most restaurants will take the major cards, but the golden rule is to ask first if in doubt, or check the front door for logos. Amsterdam has an excellent foreign exchange network. and transactions are virtually hassle-free for visitors. particularly English-speakers. There is no limit to the amount of currency you can bring into the country.

Banks and Bureaux de Change

You can change currency in offices such as GWK (arenswisselkantoren), In general, the GWK gives the best overall rates. Their offices are found in the airport main train stations and some tourist areas. The only hank in the Netherlands that still offers an exchange service for tourists is the **ING** bank found in the city centre: American Express also offer this service. All of the above charge. a commission for the service Independent bureaux de change charge an exorbitant commission and give a poor exchange rate. However, they can be the best option if you are exchanging small amounts, as at the official GWK offices the commission rates go down as the amount exchanged goes up. If you arrive by ferry, don't change any money on the boat and visit the GWK just after disembarkation. This stays open for night arrivals. Avoid changing money in hotels, as their charges can be high.



ATM at a branch of ING

ATMs

Most ATMs will handle cards from the main international banks and many credit cards. Your withdrawal limit may be lower than from your own bank. and there can be an extra service charge. Check on the machine itself if it accepts the same system as your card (for

example. American Express. MasterCard Diner's Club.

Cirrus, Visa or Maestro). When a foreign card is inserted most ATMs will offer you a choice of language; after requesting English, it should be simple to follow the directions. This is the easiest method to withdraw cash on a credit card. ATMs are plentiful and can be found outside post offices, banks and GWK offices, and in the main train stations. They can be identified by the small sign above them showing the name of the bank that services them.

Traveller's Cheques and **Credit Cards**

Traveller's cheques are not used much. No banks will exchange them for cash, and many shops and restaurants do not like to take them. While they may be useful for paying hotel bills, remember that management is not obliged to pay you the change if the cheque is larger than the bill. Pick a well-known name such as American Express, and exchange the cheques for cash at an American Express office. The GWK will also accept traveller's cheques.



GWK exchange counter at Schinhol airport

Banks will not advance you cash against credit cards, but most ATMs accept the major cards. Some restaurants require a minimum purchase to use a credit card. Carry some cash. iust in case

DIRFCTORY

Banks and Bureaux de Change

American Express

Postbus 7319, 1007JH. Tel 504 8000

ING

Rokin 90.

Map 7 B4.

GWK

Tel 0900 0566 (general number). Centraal Station, Map 8 D1. Kalverstraat 150. Map 7 B4. Damrak 1-5. Map 7 C1. Leidsestraat 103. Map 4 E2. Schiphol Airport Station. Amstel Station

Lost or Stolen Cards and Cheques

American Express

Tel 1800 528 4800 (US).

Tel (+44) 1273 696 933 (UK).

Tel 020 504 4800.

Diner's Club

Tel 020 654 5500

MasterCard

Contact your bank.

Tel 0800 022 3110.

The Euro

The Euro (€) is the common currency of the European Union. It went into general circulation on 1 January 2002, initially for 12 participating countries. The Netherlands was one of those 12 countries

EU members using the Euro as sole official currency are known as the Eurozone. Several EU members have opted out of ioining this common currency.

Euro notes are identical throughout the Eurozone countries, each one including designs of fictional architectural structures and monuments. The coins, however, have one side identical (the value side) and one side with an image unique to each country. Both notes and coins are exchangeable in each of the participating Euro countries.

Bank Notes



The euro has eight coin denominations: €1 and €2; 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents, 5 cents, 2 cents and 1 cent. The €2 and €1 coins are both silver and gold in colour. The 50-, 20- and 10-cent coins are gold. The 5-, 2- and 1-cent coins are bronze.





Communications and Media

Amsterdam, and its citizens, are plugged in, logged on and wired up, so there are plenty of options for visitors to check their emails or surf the net when visiting the city. For more traditional communication methods, KPN Telecom and Post NL handle telephone and postal services, respectively. Both companies are among the most forward-thinking in Europe. With the exception of children's programmes, most Dutch television stations do not dub programmes or films, and several listings magazine are bilingual or exist in English.

International and Local Telephone Calls

The advent of Skype and VoIP has had a huge effect on the public telephone system. More and more homes are switching over and choosing to save money by relinquishing more traditional land lines, especially for international calls. There are also Internet/telephone businesses that offer such low rates for international calls that it can be cheaper than phoning home from a hotel, or from your mobile.

The Dutch White Pages (Telefoongids) and the Yellow Pages (Gouden Gids) have a combined website (www detelefoongids.nl) available in English, Names are listed in alphabetical order. However, if the last name begins with a de. van. van der. etc vou must look under the name that follows these articles. IJ is read as a "v" and comes at the end of the alphabet, not in the "i" section. 0800 numbers are free, 0900 numbers are charged a perminute or per-call rate.

Mobile Phones

There are four main GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) frequencies in use, so if you want to ensure your phone will work while you are away you should have a quad-band phone. Tri-band phones from the EU will usually work in the Netherlands, but US mobile phones may not. Contact your service provider.

To use your mobile phone abroad, you may need to enable the "roaming" function on your phone. It is also more expensive to make and receive calls while abroad, despite efforts to decrease roaming charges.

A cheaper option is often to purchase a local SIM card to use in your phone. You can only do this if your handset is "sim free" or unlocked. Some of the local/ international networks are Hi (KPN), T-Mobile, Vodafone, Telfort, Orange and Ben. KPN Hotspots gives you Internet access for smart phones; simply send an SMS to: HOTSPOTS. number 4222, and you can log on for 15 minutes for a small fee which is charged to vour phone.



Colourful Dutch pictorial phonecard

Public Telephones

Public telephones can be found on main streets out of the city centre and at train stations and post offices, but they are starting to disappear in cafés and bars. The city's payphones take phonecards. and some take credit cards, but there can be heavy charges for this form of payment. Phonecards can be bought at post offices, supermarkets, newsagents and train stations. Instructions for using the telephones are in English and Dutch. When you phone popular numbers such as airports, you may be offered a choice of languages, or

Reaching the Right Number

- National directory inquiries, dial 1888 or visit www. detelefoongids.com
- Local operator, dial 1888.
 International operator, dial 0900 8418 Mon–Fri.
- To phone the USA or Canada, dial 001 followed by the number.
- To phone the UK, dial 0044 followed by the number, omitting the 0 from the area code.
- To phone Australia, dial 0061 followed by the number.
- To phone New Zealand, dial 0064 followed by the number.
- To phone the Irish Republic, dial 00353 followed by the number

encounter an electronic voice that announces how many people are in the queue before you. Most hotels have IDD (International Direct Dialling) units, but be aware that the telephone costs are likely to be inflated.

Internet

Amsterdam is the first major European city to offer Wi-Fi access through a network that covers the whole city. KPN provides the Hotspots Wi-Fi system (for a fee), while free public Wi-Fi is available, on request, outdoors. There is a good range of free options to log on in some cafes, within your hotel or the library, and out in the parks.

There are many Internet cafés in Amsterdam where, for a modest fee, you can check your email account and get online. Opening hours vary, but some are open until late at night. Many cafés and some coffeeshops also offer free Wi-Fi. The Coffee Company, found on main streets in the centre, is one such option. Some hotels have free Wi-Fi, others have closed circuit systems where you have to pay a fee, or log on through a modem in your room. The main branch of the OBA (Amsterdam



Internet access at OBA (Amsterdam Public Library)

Public Library), near Centraal Station is Holland's largest library and offers Internet access for a small fee at its 600 computer terminals.

Postal Services

Amsterdam's post offices are distinguished by the Post NI logo. In all neighbourhoods. there are sub post offices (postagentschap) inside shops. newsagents or tobacconists. Stamps (postzegels) can be bought in all of the above places, and in larger supermarkets and souvenir shops. If you send mail outside the Netherlands you will have a choice of Priority or Standard Post. Letters up to 20g can be sent anywhere in Europe - not iust within the FU - for a universal flat rate, while destinations further afield cost slightly more. It is worth sending important documents by registered mail.

Postboxes are scattered throughout the city. On the postbox there are two slots (see illustration below). A sign on the post box indicates when the next collection will take place.



Dutch postbox

Newspapers and Magazines

Most foreign newspapers reach the city centre by lunchtime on publication day. The Het Parool is the Amsterdam paper that is read throughout the Netherlands and the de Volkskrant and NRC Handelshlad are the most respected national newspapers.

Listings can be found in all of the above Dutch newspapers. but posters and listings in the city's bars and cafés may be a quicker, easier quide to entertainment in Amsterdam NI 20 and the Uitkrant (published by the AUB Lithuro see n255) are free easily available and have excellent listings, but both are in Dutch. The Tourist Board also produces a number of free Englishlanguage leaflets providing details of festivals and cultural highlights (see p240). Amsterdam gay and lesbian magazines Gay&Night and Gay News (bilingual English/Dutch) and Time Out Amsterdam can be bought from most newsagents.

Television and Radio

The main TV channels serve standard European and US fare. but all hotels and homes have cable TV, with 30 or so channels available, including British. French, German, Belgian and Italian stations, British and American shows are subtitled on the Dutch and Belgian channels but are dubbed on the French, Italian and German

English-language stations include BBC1, BBC2, BBC World, Discovery Channel, CNN and CNBC. Comedy Central and MTV

both have some Dutch programming. News is broadcast on Dutch Radio 1 (98.9MHz), pop music on Radio 3 (96.8MHz) and classical music on Radio 4 (94 3MHz). It is also possible to pick up BBC Radio 4 on 198kHzAM and the World Service on 648kHzAM

DIRECTORY

Mobile Phones

Dam

w ben.nl

Hi (KPN)

w hi.nl

Orange

w orange.com

Tolfort

Heiligeweg 38.

Map 7 B4.

w telfort.nl

T-Mobile

Rokin 64a

Map 7 B3

w t-mobile.nl

Vodafone

Rokin 32

Map 7 B3.

w vodafone.nl

Internet

A Internet

2e van der Helststraat 17.

Saved Brothers

Ferdinand Bolstraat 139. Tel 020 675 1562.

Coffee Company

Leidsestraat 60. Tel 020 4218275

Internet City

Sint Antoniesbreestraat 3 L/M. Map 8 D3.

Tel 020 428 5323

OBA (Amsterdam Public Library)

Oosterdokskade 143. Map 8 F2.

Tel 0900 242 5468.

Postal Services

Post NL

Singel 250, 1016 AB.

Map 7 A2.

Tel 0900 0990.

w postnl.nl

GETTING TO AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam is one of Furone's most popular destinations. As you would expect of a cosmopolitan city of this size, it is easily accessible by plane, coach, car, ferry and train. In addition, travellers from the UK are able to reach Amsterdam via the Channel Tunnel, although passengers must change train at Brussels. Each method of travel has its own benefits and disadvantages, and the choice will largely

depend on whether time, money or comfort is the main priority. Whichever method of transport you choose, it is always worth making a few inquiries to find the best deal. Not only is there an ever-increasing selection of "packages" and special-interest holidays on offer, but also prices can fluctuate widely depending on the time of year you travel (new operators and ventures will emerge all the time).



Entrance to Amsterdam's Schiphol airport

Airports

Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, the fourth largest in Europe, is a maior international transport hub and one of the world's most modern. efficient, clean and userfriendly airports. Schiphol has one terminal hub consisting of three departure halls and four arrival halls, which stream into Schiphol Plaza, In the Plaza you will find a tourist information desk, two bureau de change desks, a bank, the national rail service NS office and leftluggage facilities. All signs are posted in both Dutch and in English. Also in the Plaza are dozens of high street shops, fast food restaurants, bars. cafés, newsagents and a fully stocked grocery store. For passengers leaving Amsterdam, the facilities after passport control contain one of the largest tax-free shopping centres in Europe, a museum, a casino, a masseuse, and dozens of restaurants and bars, not to forget a wedding service called "Say Yes and Go", www.schiphol weddings.nl. For business people and those in transit, there is an amazing range of facilities available, from phone. post and fax services, to business centres and conference rooms. Wireless LAN gives you Internet access throughout the airport.

There is an immense choice of

Tickets and Fares

flights to Amsterdam from the UK and the Republic of Ireland. with at least eight carriers operating direct flights. These include the airlines Aer Lingus, British Airways and KLM. Cheap flights are advertised in national newspapers, listings magazines and on the Internet, and are also available through discount agencies. Smaller operators, such as EasyJet, Transavia, Cityjet and Jet2, can be less expensive than the national airlines. Watch out for flight prices that do not include airport and security taxes and associated surcharges, such as checked-in luggage, as these

can be expensive. Dozens of inclusive package deals are available, and if organized through a reliable agency, they can be far cheaper than booking a flight or ferry and separate accommodation.

Amsterdam is also a popular staging post for overseas visitors to Europe. You can fly from many US cities to Schiphol, and operators running non-stop services on scheduled flights include **US** Airways, Delta/KLM, United Airlines and American Airlines. Other operators fly via the major European capital cities. such as Paris and Rome, but London is probably the cheapest transatlantic destination, with uniquely varied connections. Fare prices vary according to season, but APEX (which must be bought a least 2 weeks in advance) is the cheapest year-round option. The leader in the field of charter flights from the USA is Martinair, which offers midrange prices on non-stop flights from a number of cities. Cheaper still are the fares of the "seat consolidators" and "last minute" websites, which buy



Self-service check-in at Schiphol airport

up unsold seats from the major carriers and sell them off at a huge reduction. For bargain. flights check out the free weeklies and travel sections of newspapers Several companies offer excellentvalue package tours. KI M has the widest range of options. but can be expensive, so it's well worth shopping around.

The cheanest route for visitors from Australia and New Zealand will also usually require a London stopover as scheduled flights direct to Amsterdam are expensive. STA Travel and Flight Centre, which has offices in Australia. New Zealand and the LISA is a source of expert advice for independent travellers and can arrange all connections

On Arrival

Arrival and Exit signs will direct passengers arriving from Schengen countries: to baggage carousels and Customs. All other passengers will be streamed into the huge central shopping and amenities area of the "Schiphol

World Avenue" and should follow the Arrivals and Passport Control signs to the around floor, After passport control is a hall with baggage carousels and Customs. If you have nothing to declare. simply walk through the doors marked Exit to enter Schiphol Plaza There are

sometimes spot checks at Customs, and this can take some time. Bringing food produce, such as raw meats. cheeses and other dairy products into the country is banned. Additionally, you must declare any of the following: merchandise imports, protected animal and plant species, works of art and antiques, narcotics, arms and ammunition you may be bringing with you. Failure to do so may result in heavy fines, and in some cases, arrest.



A KI M flight departing from Schiphol airport

Transport from the Airport to the City

There are several ways of aettina into the centre of Amsterdam 18 km (11 miles) to the northeast. These include car rental (although driving in Amsterdam is not recommended), taxis, buses and trains Car rental firms are arranged around the edge of Schiphol Plaza, by the exits. Once you have arranged the rental, there are courtesy buses to the parking lots. There are two forms of taxi available: the TCA (see p267) and private taxis at the rank just outside the Plaza A taxi to the city centre will cost anywhere from €40 to €60, depending on where you

> are going. You also have the option of the Schiphol Travel Taxi. which must be reserved in advance and can be booked online as either a private taxi or, for a lower fare, shared. A shared fare starts at around €20 for a single trip, and €35 for a return, and private rates start at €40 for a

single and €75 for a return. Keep in mind that a shared taxi may take a longer time than expected, as it may make several stops before your destination.

Sian showing

departure gates

One bus travels into the centre of Amsterdam from just outside of Schiphol Plaza: the 197. It stops at Leidseplein, from where you can transfer to the tram system, in about 30 minutes. Single tickets cost €4 and can be bought on the bus, or you can also use the OV-chipkaart (see p269). The most popular way to get to the

city centre, however, is by train. and it costs about the same price. The Schiphol NS station is located directly below the airport, and tickets for the airport train as well as other domestic train travel are available from the vellow ticket machines in Schiphol Plaza Some of the machines take change and some will also take credit cards (with an extra fee for use).

Trolleys, which are free of charge, can be taken right on to the platform via the lifts. Trains run four to seven times an hour between 6am and midnight. after which they run hourly. The journey takes about 20 minutes and the fare is €3.90, regardless of whether you take the slower Sprinter or intercity train or the faster Fyra, which takes 15 minutes to reach Centraal Station. There are also rail connections from Schiphol to most stations in the Netherlands Rail services are clearly signposted. Tickets for international travel can also be nurchased from the ticket offices. at one end of the Plaza. A small handling fee of 50c is charged.



Railway platform at Schiphol Plaza, destination Amsterdam



A high-speed Thalys train

Arriving by Train

All trains arrive at Amsterdam Centraal Station, including those from Schiphol airport. The Eurostar runs between London and Brussels via the Channel Tunnel. Passengers for Amsterdam must change at Brussels. The journey time is about 7 hours, and there are a range of comfort classes, discounts for seniors and children, special tickets for bicycles and combination packages which includes the cost of a hotel and/or car rentals

Thalys runs a high-speed service between Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, ten times a day, with a variety of special offers, package deals and half-price last-minute deals. The FYRA high-speed train, www.nshispeed.nl, is scheduled to run between Brussels and Amsterdam in the future; the train currently runs between Breda and Amsterdam.

Students and those under 26 can benefit from discount rail travel both to and within the Netherlands. The Interrail Global pass allows travel for up to 22 days within one month, and the Interrail One Country pass allows three–eight days of unlimited travel in the Netherlands. For more information, contact **Rail Europe**; you don't even have to be a student to qualify for some deals.

Amsterdam Centraal Station has all the amenities of a big terminus, but can be very crowded with commuters during peak hours and is a magnet for pickpockets. Most tram and bus routes start here

(see pp268–9); head for Stationsplein by the main entrance, following signs to the Amsterdam Tourist Board (VVV). The tram stops are only a few metres from the entrance, and the bus stops are across the bridge, in front of the station. The Tourist Board office and the GVB municipal transport authority office are located in the white pavilion building found on the water in front of the station.

Centraal Station is being extensively reorganized until 2017. Parts of the station may be closed and stops moved.

Arriving by Ferry

The Dutch railways, Nederlands Spoorwegen (NS), in conjunction with **Stena Line** and Greater Anglia, operate a boat-train service called the Dutchflyer which runs from London to Amsterdam via Harwich and the Hook of Holland. The total journey time is about 12 hours, and a variety

of deals are offered, including combined packages that include hotels and day trips and short stays. P&O Ferries operates an overnight service from Hull to Zeebrugge or Rotterdam, which is a 10-hour iourney. **DFDS Seaways** run an overnight service from Newcastle to Umuiden (note that the ticket price does not include the journey from Umuiden to Amsterdam, which is a bus ticket that must be booked separately), and ferry trips can also be booked as a three-day mini-cruise.

Arriving by Car

An ever-expanding motorway system makes it easy to reach the Netherlands from most countries in western, central and southern Europe.

A valid driver's licence is sufficient for driving in the Netherlands, although many carhire firms and the motoring organization ANWB (Royal **Dutch Touring Club)** favour an international driver's licence To take your own car into the Netherlands, you will need proof of registration, valid insurance documents, a road safety certificate from the vehicle's country of origin and an international identification disc. Major roads (marked N) are well maintained but Dutch motorways (labelled A) have narrow lanes, traffic lights and sometimes no hard shoulder. European routes are labelled E. There are four levels of speed limit: 100 km/h (60 mph) or



Stena Line's Dutch Flyer on the London-Amsterdam route

120 km/h (75 mph) on motorways, 80 km/h (50 mph) outside cities and 50 km/h (30 mph) in urban areas. From the A10 ring road, the S-routes (marked by blue signs) will take

you to the centre of Amsterdam The ANWR

provides a breakdown service for members of foreign motoring organizations. A non-member can pay for the ANWB's services. or become a temporary ANWB member for the duration of vour stav.

If you break down on a major road or motorway, use the vellow telephone pillars. Once in the city, be careful of cyclists and trams (see p266). Trams take precedence and cyclists need ample space. Take care when turning, and allow cyclists priority. Much of the city centre is one-way, and when driving in the canal area, remember that the water should be to your left. Pavements in the are usually

very narrow, so keep an eye out for people walking in the streets. Main roads, with priority, are marked by a white diamond

with a vellow centre: otherwise assume priority is from the ANWB logo right.

Arriving by Bus and Coach

Long-distance bus or coach travel can be a cheap, if sometimes tiresome, option for those visiting Amsterdam. The **Eurolines** bus service offers routes either through the Channel Tunnel or by ferry from Dover to Calais There are three daily services in summer from London Victoria station to Amstel Station (from where there is a Metro connection to Centraal Station), and at least one service a day in winter. Eurolines also offers cheap deals the further in advance you book, and some package deals. Fares can start for as little as £19

one way There are also discounts for students, children and seniors. One advantage of coach travel is that you are allowed to take two medium suitcases in the hold Folding bikes are accepted only on the Furolines coach service to Amsterdam

Coaches travelling to Europe offer comfortable services. such as reclining seats, air conditioning toilet facilities and DVD entertainment. The super-long coaches also offer increased legroom.



A Furnlines hus

DIRFCTORY

Schiphol Airport Information Service

Tel 0900 0141

w schiphol.com

Airlines in the UK and Ireland

Aer Lingus

Duhlin

Tel: 0818 365000

Tel 0871 718 5000 (UK).

Tel 0900 265 8207 (NL).

w aerlingus.com

British Airways

Tel 0844 493 0787 (UK).

Tel 020 346 9559 (NL). Tel (800) Airways (USA)

w britishairways.com

Citviet

Tel 0871 663 3777 (UK). Tel 020 654 5720 (NL).

w cityjet.com

EasyJet

w easyjet.com

let2

Tel 0871 226 1737 (UK). Tel (+44) 203 059 8336 (NL and other countries).

w jet2.com

KLM

Tel 0871 231 0000 (UK).

Tel 020 474 7747 (NL).

Tel 186 6434 0320 (USA).

w klm.com

Transavia

Tel 0906 680 0065 (UK). Tel 0900 0737 (NL).

w transavia.com

Airlines in the US

American Airlines

Tel (800) 433 7300 (USA).

Tel 0900 555 7770 (NL).

w aa.com

Delta

Tel (800) 241 4141 (USA).

Tel 020 721 9128 (NL).

w delta.com

United Airlines

Tel (800) UNITED-1 (USA).

Tel 020 346 9381 (NL).

w united.com

US Airways

Tel 1800 428 4322 (USA).

w usairways.com

Sta Travel

Tel 134-STA (134-782) (Australia)

Tel 0800 474 400 (New Zealand).

Tel 0333 321 0099 (UK). Tel 1800 781 4040 (USA).

w statravel.com

Arriving by Train

Dutchflver

Tel 08445 762 762 (UK). Tel 0174 315 811 (NL).

w stenaline.co.uk

Eurostar

Tel 08432 186 186 (UK).

w eurostar.com

Rail Europe

Tel 1 800 622 8600 (USA). Tel 1 800 361 7245

(Canada). Tel 0844 848 4064 (UK).

w raileurope.co.uk

w raileurope.com (USA/ Canada).

Thalvs

w thalys.com

w nshispeed.nl

Arriving by Ferry

DFDS Seaways

Tel 0871 522 9955 (UK).

w dfds.co.uk

w dfdsseaways.nl

P&O Ferries

Tel 08716 645 645 (UK). Tel 020 200 8333 (NL).

w poferries.com

Stena Line

Tel 0844 770 7070 (UK). Tel 0174 315 811 (NL).

w stenaline.co.uk

Arriving by Car

ANWB (Royal Dutch Touring Club)

24-hour emergency service

Tel 088 269 2888.

Arriving by Bus and Coach

Eurolines

Tel 0871 781 8178 (UK). Tel 088 076 1700 (NL).

w eurolines.co.uk

The best way to see Amsterdam is on foot or bicycle. Almost everything of interest is within comfortable walking distance or a short cycle away. The city's layout is quite simple, with its concentric canals (grachten) and interlocking roads, but it can seem confusing at first. Remember that starting from the innermost canal, the Singel, the main canals after that are arranged in the

alphabetical sequence of Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht (on the outside). If walking or cycling are not your style, there is a range of other options: an excellent public transport system, scooters, water taxis, canal boats – but don't drive. Amsterdam can be a nightmare for even the most experienced local drivers, and there are very limited parking facilities.

Green Travel

The Dutch are experts at "greening" their travel options: trams are electric, families are much more likely to travel by bicycle or use a local car-share scheme rather than own a car and buses are fitted with special exhaust filters. The city's infrastructure is oriented to bicycle traffic, and public transport is frequent.

Amsterbike offers electric scooters as a quiet, clean way to explore, and Wielertaxis are electrically assisted bike taxi. The bike taxi can carry up to two people and cost less than conventional taxis. Mokumboot and Canal Motor-boats offer eco-friendly electric boats to rent and Wetlands Safari offer canoe tours (April–September).

Walking

Make sure that you are wearing sensible shoes – the brick-cobbled streets can be tiring, as well as hazardous. One main drawback to a stroll around town used to be dog mess, but this has improved a lot since the late 1990s. Local traffic remains

a hazard to tourists – trams have their own path in the middle of the road; buses and taxis zip about, sometimes moving between tram lanes; and traffic lanes and bicycles are everywhere, often going in every direction. It is important that pedestrians look both ways when crossing tram routes (trams can be almost silent), and keep off the cycle paths. Cars won't stop at pedestrian crossings without lights.

Guided Tours

Organized group tours offer many options to learn more about the city, and are led by a number of operators.

Amsterdam City Walks organizes guided walks in English that focus on the history and archaeology of Amsterdam and also take in the Red Light District.

Guided tours from **Mee in Mokum** take you around the
historic parts of the city and have
some of the best, most informed
and most entertaining guides. If
you are travelling as a group, try
the Red Light tour or the historic
pub crawl offered by **Pretty City**

Tours. The latter takes you to some of the city's oldest brown cafés (see p50), where there is ample opportunity to sample authentic Dutch food and drink.

With **Amsterdam City Tours** you can explore the city either by boat, bike or on foot. They also offer

bus tours to the neighbouring towns north of the city.

Sandeman's New Amsterdam Tours offers daily guided walking and bike tours of the city. Walking tours leave from the Dam, bike tours from Centraal Station. Other possibilities include a Red Light District tour and coffeeshop tour.



Green Wheels car-sharing hire cars

Driving in Amsterdam

The small inner city streets and canals, the plethora of all sorts of traffic, not to mention the serious parking shortages and high charges, all make Amsterdam unsuited to driving. However, if vou do choose to drive, be careful of cyclists and trams in the city. Trams take precedence; take care when turning; and allow cyclists priority. Much of the city centre is one-way, and when driving in the canal area. remember that the water should be to your left. The ANWB provides a breakdown service for members of foreign motoring organizations (see pp264-5). The car-sharing scheme Green

Wheels offers a "pay-as-you-go" plan, cheaper than owning your own vehicle.Rentals are charged by the hour. To sign up you need to have an international licence.



Pedestrian crossing, Dam square

Parking

Although the city is ill-suited to motor traffic, provision is made for drivers. However, parking is difficult, and theft rife, so if you're staving in a hotel it's better to hook with a secure parking facility and leave your car

there while in the city. If you are visiting the city from outside, park on the outskirts in a "P&R" (nark and ride) and use public transport into the centre. In town use a car park rather than a meter or roadside space. If you do park in a public place, remove vour car radio and all other valuables

Parking space is at a premium in the city. especially on-street parking in the centre, and many outlying neighbourhoods. In the city centre, meters are limited to 2 hours and are in use until midnight. In the areas outside

Green Travel

Piet Heinkade 11A

Tel 020 419 9063

w amsterbike.eu

Zandhoek 10a

Makumbaat

bootverhuur.nl

Wetlands Safari

w wetlandssafari.nl

Wielertaxi (bike taxis)

Tel 06 5355 2669.

Tel 06 282 47550.

wielertaxi.nl

Guided Tours

Amsterdam City

Tel 0299 411 111.

w amsterdamcity

Tours

tours.com

com

Tel 020 422 70 07.

Canal Motorhoats

w canalmotorboats.

Stadionkade 73b. Tel 06

1468 3277. w mokum

Amsterhike

the canal ring/centre, all-day passes can be bought. Most meters take coins and/or parking cards but in some of the more residential areas the meters only take a local bank debit card Avoid out-of-order meters as you could get fined: you will

> have to pay your fine in cash at the Stadstoezicht or Service

Centres If you use a car park, you must obtain a ticket by putting money in the ticket machine, which can be some way from the parking place. Illegally parked cars will be fined, but you won't get clamped until you have five unpaid parking fines. There are

now several 24-hour covered car parks, such as O-Park and Byzantium, All car parks located within the city are denoted by a white P on a square blue background.

Tayis

There have been a lot of problems in Amsterdam with small, unregulated taxi firms and dishonest or aggressive drivers. especially around Centraal Station As a result the municipality has introduced regulated taxi stands (kwaliteitstaxisstandplatsen) that can only be used by taxis with a seal of approval known as kwaliteitstaxi's (quality taxis), with their registration number displayed on the windscreen. The rules are posted at Centraal Station and most large taxi ranks. The best ways to find a cab are to pick one up at a main taxi rank or phone TCA Tavicentrale which runs a 24-hour service You will find that the response is fast, apart from Friday and Saturday nights, Rates are quite high, so give only a small tip, unless your driver has been particularly helpful. Other firms include **Sneltaxi** or **Amsterdam** Online Tavi

8595

A pay-and-display parking sign

DIRFCTORY

Amsterdam City Walks Tel 06 1825 7014.

w amsterdamcity

walks.com

Sandeman's New **Amsterdam Tours**

Meeting points: Nationaal Monument, Dam (walking tours): Centraal Station (bike tours).

w newamsterdam tours.com

Mee in Mokum

Tel: 020 625 1390.

w gildeamsterdam.nl

Pretty City Tours

Tel 020 626 2016.

w prettycitytours.nl

Parking

Parking Amsterdam Centraal

Prins Hendrikkade 20a. Map 2 D3.

Q-Park

Tesselschadestraat 1g. Map 4 D2.

Marnixstraat 250. Map 4 D1, Nieuwezijds Kolk 18.

Map 7 C1, Van Baerlesraat 33B. **Map** 4 D3.

Tel 0900 446 6880.

Breakdown

ANWB Contact Center Tel (088) 269 22 22 ANWR Alarm Center Tel (088) 269 28 88.

Parking Pass

Service Centres

Burgerweeshuispad 301 (metro 50 to

Amstelveensewea). De Clercostraat 66-68.

Map 6 D5. Amstel 1. Map 8 D4.

w cition.nl

Stadstoezicht

Tel 14020.

w stadstoezicht. amsterdam.nl

Car Rental

Adams Rent-a-Car

Nassaukade 346. Map 4 D1. Tel 020 685 0111.

Nassaukade 380.

Map 4 D1.

Tel 088 284 7020.

Green Wheels Tel 088 210 0100.

w greenwheels.nl

Hertz

Overtoom 333.

Map 3 A3. Tel 020 612 2441.

Taxis

Amsterdam Online Taxi

Tel 06 1963 2963.

w amsterdamtaxionline.com

Schiphol Travel Taxi

Tel 0900 8876.

w schipholtraveltaxi.nl

Sneltavi

Tel 036 536 3200.

w sneltaxi.nl

TCA Taxicentrale

Tel 020 777 7777.

w tcataxi.nl

Using Public Transport

Amsterdam's integrated public transport system (GVB), for which Centraal Station is the central hub, is very efficient. The only way to travel on the Metro, trams and buses is with an OV-chipkgart, a smartcard that is reusable and can be topped up electronically. The 9292, the national public transport information office, provides information via phone or its website on all public transport within the city and the rest of the Netherlands, but does not make reservations.



One of Amsterdam's modern blue-and-white trams

Amsterdam's trams are the

Trams

most common form of public transport in the city. Routes are shown on a free transport map obtainable from the GVB office. The most useful routes an south from Centraal Station along Damrak or NZ Voorburgwal (Nos 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 16), diverging after the Singel. Lines 13, 14 and 17 are also useful if you need to travel west into Jordaan. Trams start operating at 6am on weekdays and 7am at weekends. They finish just after midnight, when night buses take over. Blue boards above the tram and bus stops give the name of the stop and the route numbers it serves. Information inside the shelters shows the stops and approximate times. Many, but not all, are wheelchair accessible

To enter, choose either the front door, or the door two-thirds of the way towards the back, where the conductor sits. On entering the tram you will need to hold your OV-chipkaart in front of the grey machine to calculate your fare, or buy a disposable OV-chipkaart

(see n269), good for 1 or 2 hours. If you have a voung child or heavy suitcase, you may need to keep one foot on the entrance strip when you board to make sure the door stays open until vou have boarded safely. Tram stops will

generally be

announced, but if you're not sure where to get off, don't be afraid to ask for guidance. Press a hutton inside the tram to open the doors. You may leave through any but the conductor's or driver's door. Remember that many stops are in the middle of the road so take care when you get off. You will need to swipe your OV-chipkaart again on leaving the tram so that the correct fare can be deducted from vour card automatically, or with the disposable ones - so that you can transfer to

another tram and continue to use it for the full time period.

Rucac

I ike the trams, the majority of Amsterdam's huses set out from Centraal Station, but they soon branch out from the city centre and largely complement the tram network. They have the same stops and OV-chinkaart ticketing system as the trams, but you must board by the front door Local buses depart from in front of the station building: regional buses heading north of the city have their own hus terminal which is located at the back of Centraal Station, facing the IJ. Bus 22 has a useful route. connecting the eastern and western parts of the city via Centraal Station, Take this bus to visit the Scheepvaartmuseum (see pp148-9), Artis (see pp144-5), or as an alternative to tram 13 or 17 to visit the Jordaan and Western Islands.

Night-bus stops have a black square with the number on it: night buses are numbered from 348 to 392. Night buses run all night, but the service is every hour (every half-hour from Friday to Sunday). so be prepared for a wait, or else fork out a little more to





A bus serving the north of the city from Centraal Station

take a taxi (see p267). Also note that night buses are more expensive than everyday trams or buses, with fares starting at €4.50 per ride

Metro

Amsterdam's underground system comprises only four lines, three of which start from and terminate at Centraal Station. Mainly used by commuters, the Metro is not particularly useful for tourists as it only covers four stations in the centre all on the eastern side -Amsterdam CS Nieuwmarkt Water-looplein and Weesperplein.

The Metro runs for around half an hour longer than trams on weekdays, and uses the same OV-chipkaart ticketing system as trams and buses. Take care late at night, when some innercity stations may have drug dealers

The North-South line, the fourth Metro line, is currently being constructed to link the area of the city north of the river IJ with the city centre on the southern shore, and eventually run all the way to Schiphol airport. The project is impressive, digging through an unstable substratum directly under the

METRO

Distinctive sign for a

Metro station

historic centre of Amsterdam. athough this has caused SNELTRAM subsidence of up to 23cm (9 inches) deep in some houses. It is planned to open in 2017, with a cost of €1.4 billion.

Trains

The Dutch national railway company Nederlandse Spoorwegen, or simply NS, runs a busy network which is considered one of the best in the world. It is reliable clean and reasonably priced. Both the 9292 office and the NS Service Centre, located in the western hall of Centraal Station, can provide information on rail trips Special fares are also available. for example Family Royers. which allows you to stop off en route to your destination, or Railrunners, which are cheap tickets for kids aged between 4 and 11, 9292 does not sell tickets but the NS Service Centre and national ticket offices do. Tickets can also be bought from the vellow machines which can be found at the front and back entrances of Centraal Station. There is a button to press for English instructions and machines take credit cards (some also accept cash), Information and bookings for rail travel abroad is available from the NS Service Centre.

Tram, Bus, Metro and Train Tickets

You can buy an OV-chipkaart from the GVB. Tourist Board offices and newsagents, as well as disposable cards on the trams, buses or Metro. The size of a credit card, this smartcard works much like a rechargeable telephone card, with each trip being deducted from the credit available. There are two kinds: a disposable one-time use card for durations of either 1 (€2.70) hour or one to seven days (€7.50–€31), and a reloadable pass (€7.50, usable for five vears), which allows users to top up the balance (up to €30).

> OV-chipkaarts can be topped up at any of the ticket vending machines and "add value" machines located at all Metro stations and stops. Centraal Station and some supermarkets. In order to validate a journey, users need

to hold the OV-chinkaart in front of the grey card readers on entering and leaving a Metro or train station or when getting on and off trams and buses. On all forms of transport, you will he charged a distance fee so. there are no differences in terms of one form of transport being cheaper. Children under 4 travel free, and seniors and 4–11 year olds have to purchase their discounted cards in advance at a GVR office The "Amsterdam All in One Travel Pass" includes a return train ticket to Schiphol airport and a 24/46/72/96-hour pass (including night buses) that can be bought at the GVB or at Schiphol airport Tourist Information The All Amsterdam Transport Pass includes all forms of public transport (except trains) and a one-day ticket for the Canalbus (see p.266), plus discounts for sights and museums



Always swipe your OV-chipkaart to validate vour iournev

DIRECTORY

9292 (Openbaar Vervoer Reisinformatie)

Tel 0900 9292

W 9292.nl

Amsterdam City Center Line w css-pts.nl

GVB (Gemeente Vervoer Bedriif)

Stationsplein 14. Map 2 E3.

Tel 0900 8011 (GVB info).

w gvb.nl/english

NS (Nederlandse Spoorwegen)

Centraal Station, Map 2 E3.

Tel 0900 9292 (national).

Tel 0900 9296 (international)

w ns.nl (national) mshispeed.nl (international)

Getting Around by Bicycle

The bicycle is the ideal form of transport in Amsterdam. More than half a million people cycle to school or work, and use a bicycle to do the shopping or go out in the evening. The city's traffic system is biased in favour of bicycles, with an excellent network of integrated cycle lanes (fietspaden), dedicated traffic lights and road signs, and special routes linking different parts of the city. More and more tourists, too, are adopting this way of exploring Amsterdam and its environs.



Amsterdam is the ideal place to explore by bicycle

Rules of the Road

Amsterdam's traffic is composed of a chaotic mix of trams, buses taxis, cars and bicvcles, often split into their own lanes. Remember to always ride on the right and that other road users will not necessarily recognize vou as an inexperienced tourist and may assume you know how to avoid them. If you are unsure or unsteady, it is worth heading to one of the inner city parks for a bit of practice first.

Motorists and other cyclists have priority when entering the road from the right, unless otherwise stated. Trams have priority, so

stav well clear. Many novices









Traffic lights for bicycles



No entry except to bicycles and mopeds





A row of bicycles for hire

unsympathetic to cyclists. Don't carry passengers on your bike, or ride on footpaths or pavements, or you could be fined. Be aware that you are legally obliged to have or wear a clear light on the front, and a red, reflective light on the back and could be fined if you don't.

Although the locals don't bother, it is a wise precaution to wear a helmet.

Hiring a Bicycle

Bicycle hire shops abound in Amsterdam, Rental costs start at around €10 per day for a basic. back-pedal brake bike with costs decreasing per day for longer rental periods and increasing for bikes with gears and/or hand brakes. Tandems are more expensive and may be difficult to manoeuvre on some narrow streets.

Deposits are handled in one of two ways: either a cash deposit, varying from €50 to €150, with a valid, original passport (or in the case of EU citizens, a valid driver's licence). which must be left behind for the duration of the rental, or a credit card imprint.

As well as a range of bicycles and brake systems, Macbike and Orange Bike also offer extras such as children's seats. saddlebags and even rain gear for those classic Dutch grey and wet days. For those wanting someone or something else to provide the pedal power, many of the bicycle hire firms also rent scooters (some will require a driver's licence), or for the more green oriented, check information on bike taxis and electric scooter rentals (see pp266-7).

Taking your own Bicycle

The easiest way to take your own bicycle to the Netherlands is strapped to a bike rack on your car. Your bike travels for free if vou are a walk-on passenger on the ferry to the Netherlands: when you book your ticket, simply inform the clerk. On your arrival in the Netherlands, if you want the cycle to go with you by train you are required to buy a ticket for it and enter the train at the doors marked for bicycles.

To take your bicycle by air, you must make a cargo booking with the airline at least a week in advance. It will have to be included in your 20 kg (44 lb) luggage allowance, and you must pay any excess baggage or handling costs.

Buying a Bicycle

Be careful when buying a bicycle that it is not listed as stolen, as you will be held responsible for buying stolen goods and will have a hard time selling it at the end of your holiday A chean bike for sale on the street will almost certainly have been stolen, and an expensive one from a specialist shop will probably end up being stolen too. It is worth buying a second-hand bargain if you are staying for a few weeks. There are a number of reputable second-hand dealers that will also buy back used

hikes. Some of the hire companies also buy and sell used bikes

Bicycle Security

Ricycle theft is rife so it's essential to secure your bike even when parking for just a few minutes. Fasten both front wheel and frame to a post or railings with a metal U-shaped lock or chain Locals recommend a lock on the back wheel as well. Hire shops are happy to advise on security matters, and will normally provide a lock in the rental price.

Bicvcle Tours

Guided bicycle tours are a popular way to discover the city and its environs at a sedate pace. The price of the tours usually includes bicycle hire, and they tend to run from March through November, Mike's Bike **Tours** City tour includes canals

and houseboats. the Red Light District Vondelpark and the lordaan while their Countryside tour visits a windmill and a cheese farm or clog factory. Yellowbike's City

tour includes all of the above, as well

DIRFCTORY

as the Museum district and the harbour. The Countryside tour is a 35-km (22-mile) route through the Waterland district north of Amsterdam, and almost exclusively uses paths through a nature reserve, passing small brooks and waterways and tiny. old villages along the way. Orange Bike offers the most extensive range of inner city tours Cycletours Holland only offers countryside trips.

If you want to go it alone. both the Tourist Board and NS Information (see p255) provide maps with routes, cycle lanes and refreshment stops. The Arena Hotel (see n219) produces information with suggestions and maps for cycle trips around and outside the city. City tours can take 3 hours, and country trips around 7 hours. For an alternative scenic route, take the tram to the Amsterdamse Bos (Amsterdam Woods) and hire a bicycle or scooter there (Apr-Sep only).



Cycle tours a popular way to see the city

Bicycle Hire

Amsterdamse Bos **Fietsverhuur**

Roshaanweg Tel 020 644 5473. Open Apr-Sep

Bike City

Bloemaracht 70. Map 1 A4.

Tel 020 626 3721. w bikecity.nl

Damstraat Rent-a-Bike

Damstraat 20-22. Map 7 C3.

Tel 020 625 5029. w rentabike.nl

Holland Rent-a-Bike

Damrak 247. Map 7 C2. Tel 020 622 3207.

MacBike

Centraal Station Oost. Stationsplein 5.

Map 8 D1.

Tel 020 528 7688. Waterlooplein 199.

Map 8 D5. Weteringschans 2.

Map 4 E2.

w macbike.nl

Orange Bike

Oudezijds Voorburgwal 147. Map 7 C3. Tel 020 354 1781.

w orange-bike.nl

Frederic Rent A Bike

Brouwersgracht 78. Map 1 B2.

Tel 020 624 5509.

Star Bikes Rental De Ruvterkade 127.

Map 8 F1 Tel 020 620 3215.

Bicvcle Tours

Cycletours Holland

Buiksloterweg 7A. Map 2 F2. Tel 020 521 8490.

w cycletours.com

Mike's Bike Tours

Kerkstraat 134. Map 4 F2. Tel 020 622 7970.

Yellow Bike

Nieuwezijds Kolk 29. Map 7 C1.

Tel 020 620 6940 w yellowbike.nl

Second-Hand

Bicvcles Groeno

2e H de Grootstraat 12. Map 1 A4. Tel 020 684

4270. w groeno.nl

MacBike

Marnixstraat 220. Map 4 D1.

Tel 020 626 6964.

w macbike.nl

Getting Around on the Canal

The name Amsterdam evolved from the 13th-century dam on the Amstel that was built to allow the city to grow and develop into a working system of 165 canals and 1,300 bridges, earning it the name the "Venice of the North". Today. the inner canals are used more for pleasure boating and living than transport or trading, but firms like courier company DHL are rediscovering the ease and speed of using the canals. Canal boats offer a variety of tours, and boat trips are particularly well suited to those without the time to explore on foot or by tram, or to the elderly and families with children.



Embarkation point for P Kooii

Canal Tours

There are many operators in Amsterdam offering canal tours with foreign-language commentaries. Boats depart from a number of embarkation points, mainly from opposite Centraal Station along Prins Hendrikkade, the Damrak and along the Rokin, Many rondvaartboten (tour boats) have glass tops, some of which can be opened in fine weather. It is not always necessary to book seats for tours, but it is wise to do so for lunchtime, evening and dinner cruises, especially during the peak tourist season.

Night cruises can feature cheese-and-wine refreshments a stop at a pub or a romantic candlelit dinner. Lovers offers a comprehensive selection of such cruises in addition to its daytime trips. Besides city-centre tours, Lovers also operates special services from Centraal Station to Artis (see pp144-5), and a 'hopon-hop-off' Museum Line, stopping near Amsterdam's

P. Kooij, as it has the most opentopped boats. Instead of just the stag do or hen party, you can now take the plunge and get married while you cruise. Blue Boat Company offers to arrange everything, from the tour and reception to the actual wedding. If you are looking for a sailing trip out of the city, try De Muider Compagnie.

Canalbus

The Canalbus service runs every 30 minutes along four routes. with 19 stops located near the major museums, shopping areas and other attractions. You can embark or alight at any of the stops along the routes, and it is claimed that the Canalbus is the first boat of its kind in Europe to run on gas.

Tickets for a one-, two- or three-day pass can be purchased, and the Canalbus operates a pizza cruise on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings, from April to November starting from Pier 6 on Damrak at 7pm. It is generally advisable to reserve a place beforehand at a Canalbus kiosk, as they are very

popular and can get fully booked very quickly, especially in summer. You can also find out more information about other ticket offers

You can purchase an All Amsterdam Transport Pass from the Canalbus kinsks which, among other discounts. entitles you to a one-day travel pass on both the Canalbus and the public transport system in Amsterdam. A basic one-day pass costs €30.50. Other combination tickets include entrance to one of the main museums with a day ticket: the Riiksmuseum (€33). Van Gogh Museum (€37) and the Hermitage on the Amstel (€38) The same company also runs Canal Hopper (a sloop hire), and Canal Bike services (see p273).

Museum Boat

Amsterdam's Museum Line is less of a tour and more of a way to get around easily and in style to all the major city sights and shopping areas Boats run every 20 minutes daily, between 10am and 5pm, from opposite Centraal Station. You can buy a day ticket, which allows unlimited use for one day and includes a 50 per cent discount on museum admission prices. Tickets can be bought at the Centraal Station embarkation stage or any landing points. An adult day ticket costs €20, and a child's day ticket is €13. Details of landing stages are on the transport map on this quide's inside back cover. It takes about 2 hours of cruising to complete a full circuit.



major museums. On hot days, try | Canal tour on the Oude Schans, the Montelbaanstoren in the background



A pleasant canal-side café

Water Taxis

Water taxis are more convenient than canal boats for sightseeing as they work just like a land taxi: they take you exactly where you want to go and charge per minute. They are also expensive - for an 8-seater, the tariff has a starting cost of €7.50, and €1.75 per minute, per person in the inner city. They also offer tours as part of their "VIP Experience". including food, drink and a guide, which must be booked in advance Among the itineraries offered are an "Architecture" cruise, a "Hidden City" cruise, a "Candlelight Pub" cruise, and a tailor-made "After Dinner" cruise. If you want to use one of these boats you will need to book in advance from Water Taxi. VIP cruises range in price from €32.50 per person (pub cruise) up to €99 per person (dinner cruise, only bookable for groups of eight). If vou want a more romantic experience, book a private "Honeymoon" cruise for €119.50 for half an hour

Boat Hire and Water Rules

If you fancy being captain, both Amsterdam Boat Guide and Canal Motorboats offer a variety of eco-friendly electric boats to rent, with no navigation licence required (see p267), or you can use your legs for pedal power (see Canal Bikes) or rent a sloop. Either way, there are some basic rules. In general, you may cruise on the canals and in the harbour, with some exceptions.

Port control and police patrol boats can give both warnings and fines if you stray into a zone not accessible for pleasure or pedal boats. Keep to the right (starboard) side. Maximum speed is 18 km (5 miles) per hour: cruise ships and vessels longer than 20 m (65 ft) always have right of way. Pedal boats must not enter the harbour and are banned from the western port.



Sightseeing by canal bike

Canal Bikes

Canal bikes are two- or fourseater pedal-boats, Propelling them requires considerable energy, but when you've had enough, you can stop for a drink. You can pick up or leave a pedal-boat at any of the canalbike moorings in the city: Prinsengracht at the Westerkerk. Keizersgracht near Leidsestraat, Leidseplein between the Marriott and American hotels. and along the Singelgracht just outside the Rijksmuseum. There is a €20 deposit and costs €8 per person, per hour. Between November and March, only the Singelgracht, Prinsengracht and Leidseplein moorings are open.

DIRECTORY

Canal Tours

Amsterdam Canal Cruises

Stadhouderskade 78

Map 4 F3, Tel 020 679 1370. w amsterdamcanalcruises.nl

Blue Boat Company

Stadhouderskade 30. Map 4 F2. Tel 020 679 1370.

w blueboat.nl

Canalbus & Canal Bike

Weteringschans 24.

Map 4 F2

Tel 020 217 0501

w canal.nl

De Muider Compagnie

Kriin Taconiskade 432. Tel 0294 262 413

w muidercompagnie.nl

Gravline

letty 4-5 Damrak

Map 8 D1

Tel 020 217 0501

w grayline.com/amsterdam

Rederii Plas

Jetty 1-3. Damrak.

Map 8 D1.

Tel 020 624 5406.

w rederijplas.nl

Lindbergh Damrak 26

Map 8 D1

Tel 020 622 2766. w lindbergh.nl

Lovers

Opposite Prins Hendrikkade 25-27.

Map 8 D1.

Tel 020 530 1090.

w lovers.nl

Museum Line

Stationsplein 8. Map 8 D1.

Tel 020 530 1090.

w lovers.nl

P. Kooii

Opposite Rokin 125.

Map 7 B4.

Tel 020 623 3810.

w rederijkooij.nl

Tours and Tickets

Tel 020 420 4000.

w tours-tickets.com

Water Taxi

Stationsplein 8.

Map 8 D1.

Tel 020 535 6363. water-taxi.nl

STREET FINDER

The page grid superimposed on the *Area by Area* map below shows which parts of Amsterdam are covered in this *Street Finder*. The map references given for all sights, hotels, restaurants, shopping and entertainment venues described in this guide refer to the maps in this section. A complete index of the street names and places of interest marked on the maps follows on pages 284–7. The key, set out below, indicates the scales of the maps and shows what other features are marked on them, including transport terminals, emergency services and information centres. All the major sights are clearly marked so they are easy to locate.

0 metres	500
0 yards	500

Central Canal Ring RINKERSTRAAT OVERTOON OVERTOON Museum Quarter

1

Western

Key to Street Finder

Major sight

Place of interest

Other building

Metro station

Train station

V Tram route

Bus route

Tour boat boarding point

4 Canalbus boarding point

4 Museum boat boarding point

h Parking

Tourist information office

Hospital with casualty unit

Police station

5 Church

Synagogue

■ Mosque

= Railway line

Pedestrianized street

Scale of Maps 1-6

0 metres	200	1:11.250
0 vards	200	1:11,230

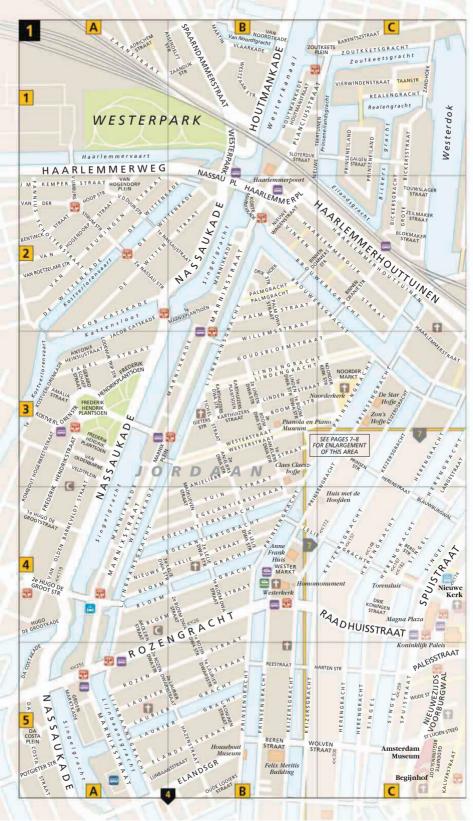
Scale of Maps 7-8

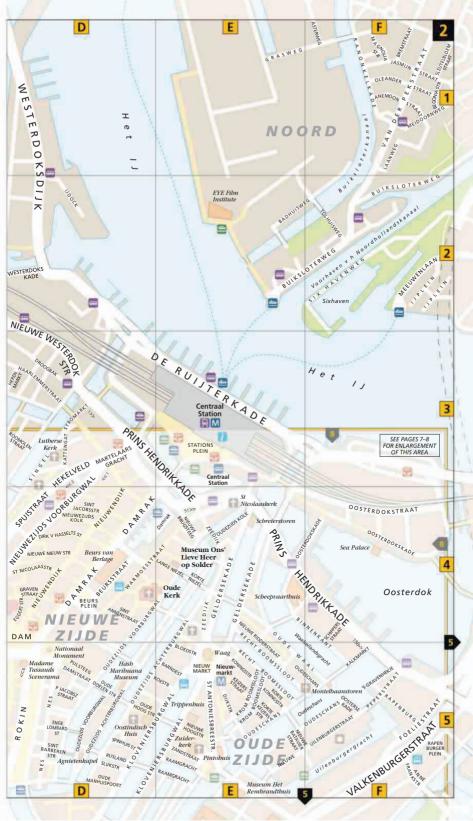
0 metres	150	
		1:7,500
Overde	150	

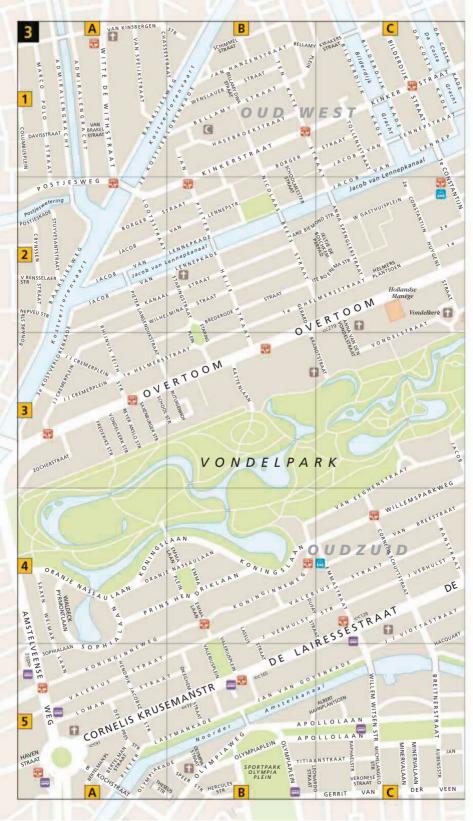
Fresh fruit for sale in the Noorder-markt (see p94)

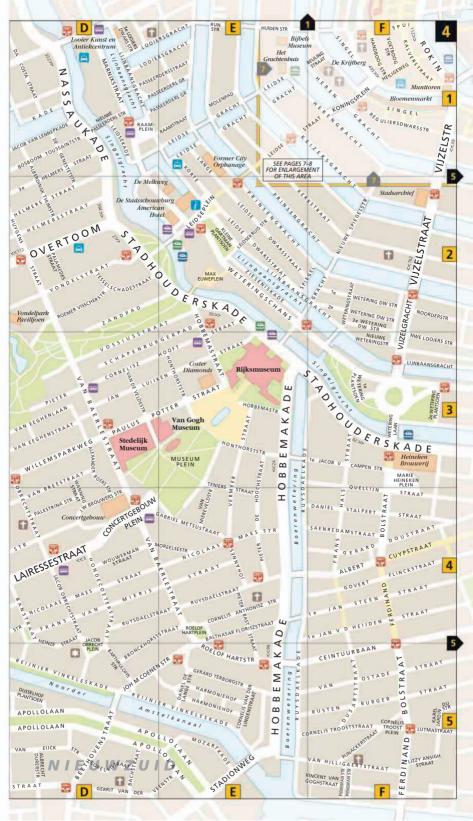


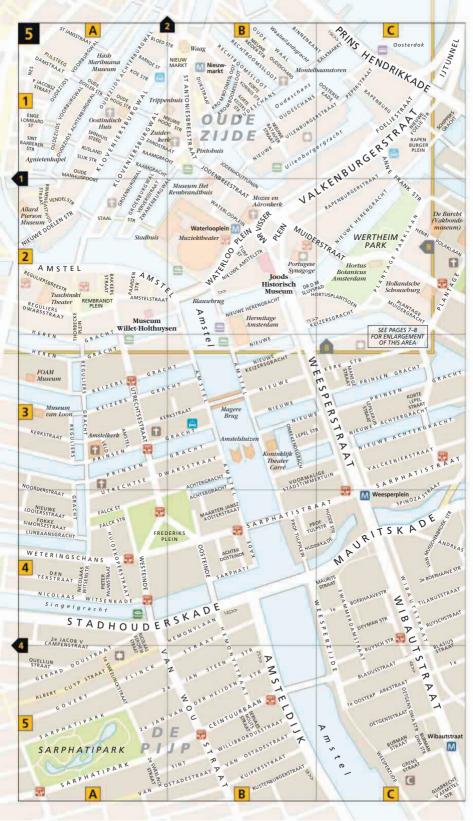
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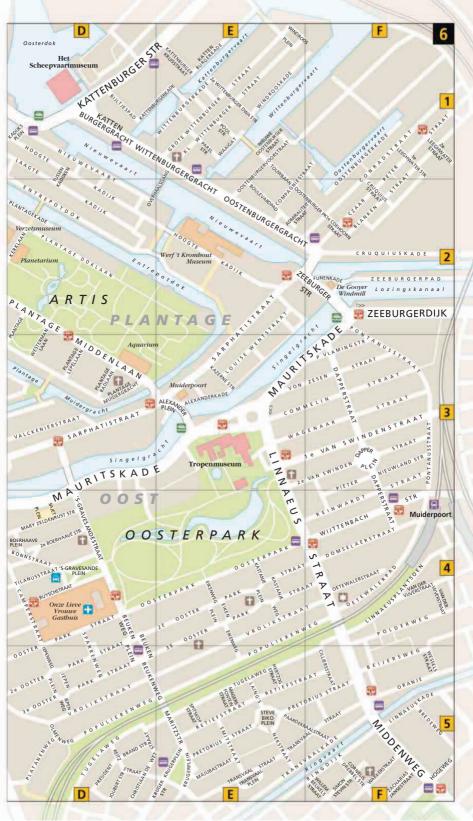


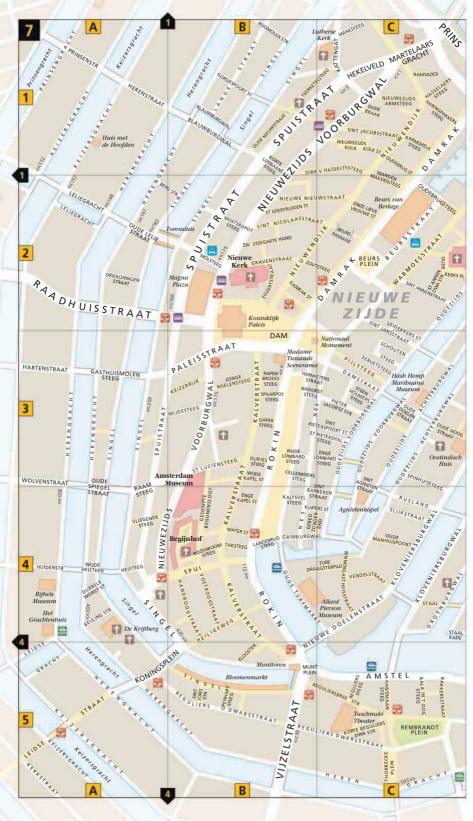


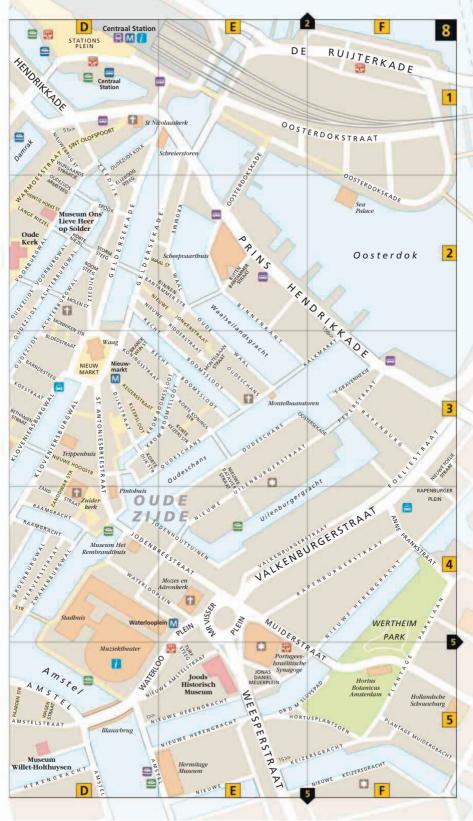












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Phrase Rook

Communication Essentials

Noo

Alstublieft

Dag Slaap lekker

Danku

Dardon

Morgen Middag

Avond

Gisteren

Vandaag

Morgen

Hior

Daar

Wat?

Waar?

Hoe?

Wanneer?

Waarom?

Hallo

In Fmergency

Helpl Ston Call a doctor Call an ambulance

Call the police

Call the fire brigade Whore is the talanhana7

18/1---talanhana?

No

Please

Hallo

Thank you

Evenso mo

Goodhya

morning

afternoor

evening

vesterday

tomorrow

today

horo

thora

What

When?

Why?

How?

Where?

Good night

Heln! Stop! Haal oon doktor Dalass amhulance Roen de nolitie

Roep de brandwee Waar is de dichtstbiiziinde tolofoon? Meaniahas dichtsthiiziinde ziekonhuis

Heln Stop Haal uhn dok-tur Pall ihn ahm-hew luhne-uh Roon dub noe-loot

500 Roon duh brahnt vheer

Vhaar iss duh nearest dikhst-baiy-zaiynduh tay-luh-foan Vhaar iss hat pagrast dikhst-baiy-zaiyn-duh zee-kuh-houws

Vaa

Nay

Hallo

Dahah

Ahls-tew-bleeft

Slaan lek-kah

Mor-ghuh Mid-dahah

Ah-vohnd

Ghis-tern

Mor-ghuh

Vhan-eer

Vhaar-om

Haar

Dagi

Vhat

Vhaai

Hoo

Vahn-daagh

Dahnk-au

Pahr-don

Making a Telephone Call Ik wil graag

I'd like to place distance call interlokaal Pal Blocks and

telefoneren Ik wil 'collect call'hellen collect I'll try again later Ik probeer het later nog wel eens Can I leave a Kunt u een

message?

Could you speak a little nlease? Land nell

Ik vhil ahraakh a lona inter-loh-kaahl tay-lub-foo-nob-rub Ik vhil 'collect call hal-luh Ik nro-heer het later nokh vhel ayns

cnrok

Hayft ew.

Kuhnt ew uhn **boat**skhahn **dohr**-ahavuh Vhilt aw what habr- up der praah-tuh Low-kaahl ahuh-

Shopping

How much does this cost? I would like Do you have I'm just looking

Do vou tako crodit cards? Do you take traveller's cheques What time do you open? What time do you close? This one That one ovnoncivo chean

size white black red yellow green hlue

Hoeveel kost dit?

Ik wil graag Heeft u...? Ik kiik alleen even

boodschap

doorgeven?

praten?

Wilt u wat harder

Lokaal gesprek

Noomt 11 crodit carde aan? Noomtu reischeques aan? Hoe laat gaat u open? Hoe laat gaat u dicht? Deze Dia dinir goedkoon maat wit zwart rood aeel

groen

hlanw

bakker

bank

antiekwinkel

boekwinkel

kaaswinkel

patatzaak

slager banketbakkerii

Hoo-vavl kost dit lk vhil ahraakh

Ik kaivk allevn av-

wih Navmt ew credit cards aan Navmt au raine sheks aan Hoo laat ghaat ew onuh Hoo laat ahaat ew dikht

Day-zuh down ahoot-koan maat vhit zvhahrt roat ghayl ahroon blab au

Useful Phrases

How are you?

Verv well, thank VOL How do you do? See vou soon That's fine Where is/are? How far is it to 7

How do Laet to ...? Do vou speak Enalish? I don't understand Could you speak slowly I'm sorry

Hoe gaat het ermee? Heel goed, dank u

Hoe maakt u het? Tot ziens Prima Waar is/zijn? Hoe ver is het naar ?

Hoe kom ik naar...? Spreekt 11 engels? Ik snap het niet Kunt u langzamer praten?

Sorry

groot

vrij

gratis

Hoo ghaat het er-may Hayl ghoot, dahnk ew Hoo maakt ew het Tot zeens

Pree-mah Vhaar iss/zayn... Hon yehr ico het naar Hoo kom ik naar Spraykt ew eng-uhls

Ik snahp het neet Kuhnt ew lahng zahmer praa-tuh

ahroaht

klaivn

vharm

Types of Shops

antique shop bakery bank bookshop butcher cake shop cheese shop chin shop chemist (dispensing)

anotheek delicatessen delicatessen department store warenhuis fishmonger viswinkel greengrocer groenteboe hairdresser kapper market markt krantenwinkel newsagent nost office nostkantoor schoenenwinkel shoe shon supermarket supermarkt sigarenwinkel tobacconist

travel agent reisburo ahn-**teek**-vhin-kul bah-ker book-vhin-kul slaakh-er hahnk-at-hahk-er-aiv kaas-vhin-kul pah-taht-zaak ah-poe-taiyk daylee-kah-tos-suh vhaar-uh-houws viss-vhin-kul ahroon-tuh-booi kah-per krahn-tuh-vhin-kul pohst-kahn-tor sahoo-nub-vhin-kul sew-per-mahrkt

see-ghaa-ruhvhin-kul raivs-bew-roa

Useful Words

big small hot cold good bad enough well open closed left riaht straight on near far uр down early late entrance

exit

toilet

occupied

free (unoccupied)

free (no charge)

klein warm koud goed slecht aenoea goed open gesloten links rechts rechtdoor dichtbii ver weg omhoog naar beneden vroeg laat ingang uitgang wc bezet

khowt ghoot slekht ghuh-noohkh ghoot open ghuh-**slow**-tuh links rekhts rehkht dohr dikht baiy vehr vhekh om-hoakh naar buh-nay-duh vroohkh laat in-ahahna ouht-ghang vhav sav buh-zett ghraah-tiss

Siahtseeina

art gallery galerie hus station hucctation cathedral kathedraal kerk church closed on public op feestdagen holidays gesloten day return dagretour garden tuin bibliotheek library museum mucaum railway station station return ticket retourtie enkeltje single journey tourist information VVV stadhuis town hall train trein Ov-chipkaart travel pass

ahaller-ee bube-stab-shown kah-tuh-draal kehrk op **fayst**-daa-qhuh ahuh-slow-tuh dahgh-ruh-tour touwn bee-bee-yo-tayk mew-zay-uhm stah-shown ruh-tour-tvuh

eng-kuhl-tyuh fay fay fay staht-houws traivn

oh-vay-chip-kaahrt

Staving in a Hotel

Do you have a vacant room? double room with

twin room

single room room with a bath

porter Lhave a reconvation 7iin er nog kamers vrii? oon two persoonskamer met een twee persoonsbed een kamer met een lits-iumeaux aannarcaans-

kamor

kamer met had douche krujer Ik hoh aereserveerd Zaivn er nokh kaamersyran uhn **tvhay**-per double soans-kaa-mer met

uhn **tvhav**-ner soans hel uhn **kaa-mer** met uhn lag-zioo-moh avn-ner-snans-kaamor kaa-mor met heht

donch krouw-vuh lk hehn ahuh-ravcabr-voort

chower

Eating Out

Have you got a table? I want to reserve a table The hill please

Lam a vegetarian

waitross/waito menu cover charge wine list glass hottle knifo fork snoor breakfast

dinner main course starter, first course dessert dish of the day har café

Menu Decoder

rare modium well done

aardappels

aziin

bote

biefstuk

bier, pils

brood/broodie

carbonado

chocola

citroen

cocktail

garnalen

gebakken

gegrild

gekookt

gerookt

groenten

ĥam

iis

haring

hutspot

ienever

kabeliauw

knoflook

koffie

kroket

lamsvlees

kaas

kin

gepocheerd

geroosterd brood

droog

aand

ei

cake, taart, gebak

Is er een tafel vrij? Ik wil oon tafol rocorvoron Mag ik afrekenen

Ik ben vegetariër

meneer/merrouw de kaart het couvert de wiinkaart het glas de fles hat mas de vork de lenel het onthiit de lunch het diner het hoofdgerecht het voorgerecht het nagerecht het dagmenu hot cafe

het eetcafe raro medium doorbakken

aard-uppuhls aah-zaivn

beef-stuhk beer, pilss boate broat/broat-vuh

'cake', taahrt, ghuhhahk

kahr-how-naa-duh show-con-laa see-troon cocktai droakh avnt

aiv ahahr-naah-luh ghuh-bah-ken ghuh-ghrillt ghuh-koakt ghuh-posh-eert ghuh-roakt

ghuh-roas-tert broat ahroon-tuh haa-ring huht-spot aivss

yuh-nay-vhur . kaas kah-buhl-**vouw** kin knoff-loak coffee

kool, rode of witte coal, roe-duh off vhit-uh kravft crow-ket

lahms-flayss

Ik whil uhn tah-fuhl ray-cohr-yoor-uh Mukh ik ahf-rav-

Iss abruhn tah-fuhl

kuh-nuh Ik ben fav-ahuh taahr-ee-er Sehr-veer-ster/oh-bei duh kaahrt het koo-vehr

duh **vhaivn**-kaart het ahlahss duh flore hot moss duh fork duh lay-pul het ont-haivt duh lernsh

het dee-nav het **hoaft**-ahuh-rekht het **vohr**-ahuh-rekht het naa-ghuh-rekht het dahah-munh-ew het kaa-fav

het ayt-kaa-fay 'rare 'medium

dohr-bah-kuh

potatoes vinegar steak heer

butte bread/roll cake, pastry nork chan chocolate

lemon cocktail dry duck egg prawns fried grilled boiled poached smoked toast

vegetables herring hot pot ice, ice cream ain cheese

chicken

garlic coffee cabbage, red or white lobster ragout in bread-

crumbs, deep fried

lokkorbokio minoraalwator

mostord niet scherp naling pannenkoek parat frites pofferties

riict riisttafel rode wiin rookworst rundyloos 63116 schaaldieren cchorn schol

soon stampnot cuikar thee tosti uion uitsmiiter varkensylees

vers fruit verse ius vie vloos wator witto wiin worst ----

Numbers

zestia zeventia tachtia negentig honderd 1000 duizend 1 000 000 miljoen

Time

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

one minute one hour half an hour half past one a day a week a month a vear Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

lek-kah-hek-vuh meener-aahlvhaatei

moss-tehrt neet skehrp ab loc paa-ling pah-nuh-kook pah-taht freet pay-pei poffer-tyuhs

raiyst raivs-tah-ful roe-duh vhaivn roak-whorst ruhnt-flavss COLUME skaahl-deeh-ruh ckahrn sahol soun stahm-not souw-ker

vahr-kuhns-flavss fehrss frouwt vehr-suh zihew fiss flavss vhaa-tor vhih-tuh vhaivn

ouht-smaiv-ter

whorst

tav

toss-tee

ouw-yuh

TOLUAR

aan

twoo

drie

vier viif zes zeven acht negen tien elf twaalf dertien veertien viiftion zection zeventien achttien negentien twintig eenentwintig dertig

een minuut een uur een half uur

veertia

viiftia

half twee een dag een week een maand een jaar maandag dinsdag woensdag donderdag vrijdag zaterdag zondag

fried fillet of haddock mineral water

mild oil 00 pancake

chine pepper tiny buckwheat pancakes rice Indonesian meal rad wina cmoked caucage hoof calico shellfish hot (cnicy) nlaice soun carreage stem sugar

tea cheese on toast onions fried egg on bread with ham nork fresh fruit fresh orange juice fish/seafood most

water white wine sausane calt

avn

tyhay dree feer faiyf 7055 zav-vuh nay-guh ρlf tvhaalt dehr-teen feer-teen faivf-teen 70CC-toon zayvuh-teen ahkh-teen nay-ghuh-teen tvhin-tukh avnuh-tvhin-tukh dehr-tukh feer-tukh faivf-tukh

zess-tukh zav-vuh-tukh tahkh-tukh nayguh-tukh hohn-durt douw-zuhnt mill-yoon

uhn meen-awt uhn owi uhn hahlf ewr hahlf tyhay uhn dahah uhn vhayk uhn maant uhn iaar maan-dahah dins-dahgh vhoons-dahgh donder-dahah

vraiy-dahah zaater-dahgh zon-dahah