

Amsterdam

Netherlands

Home to 17th-century canals, legendary architecture and picturesque windmills, Amsterdam is one of the few capitals in the world that still cherishes a village vibe. Its creative spread is as alive today as it was in the days of Rembrandt, Breitner or Mondrian. And although the city is known as a liberal-minded paradise, you would miss out on the real Amsterdam if you were just to settle for that image.

Essentials

- 01 The Dutch are quite direct. Some call it honest. Others call it blunt. Don't take it personally.
- 02 Rent a bicycle, it's fun, fast and eco-friendly.
- 03 See Amsterdam from the water in a private saloon boat. At night the canal bridges are lit, providing a perfect setting for a romantic proposal. nauticadam.nl
- 04 Take a tour through the Beurs van Berlage for its exquisite architecture and often great exhibitions.
- 05 Leave your car outside the city. Parking is expensive.

Guide/Info

Hotels

Independent and easy

Lloyd Hotel
34 Oostelijke
Handelskade
+ 31 20 561 3636
lloydhotel.com

Dependable chain

Hilton Amsterdam
138 Apollolaan
+ 31 20 710 6000
hilton.com

Premium

The Dylan
384 Keizersgracht
+ 31 20 530 2010
dylanamsterdam.com

Dining

Fast breakfast

Vlaamsch Broodhuys
Haarlemmerstraat 108
+ 31 20 528 6430
vlaamschbroodhuys.nl

Business breakfast

Café American
97 Leidsekade
+ 31 20 556 3010
diningcity.nl

Mid-morning coffee

De Koffie Salon
130 Utrechtsestraat
+ 31 20 330 4314

Working lunch with colleagues

Stacey's Pennywell
Brasserie
558 Herengracht
+ 31 20 624 4111

Need-to-impress-clients lunch

Incanto
2 Amstel
+ 31 20 423 3681
restaurant-incanto.nl

Lunch on your own

Buffet van Odette
598 Prinsengracht
+ 31 20 423 6034
buffet-amsterdam.nl

Afternoon tea/drink

De Bakkerswinkel
Zeedijk 37
+ 31 20 489 8000
debakkerswinkel.nl

Dinner on your own

Café Bern
Nieuwmarkt 9
+ 31 20 622 0034

Dinner with colleagues

Le Garage
Ruysdaelstraat 54-56
+ 31 20 679 7176
restaurantlegarage.nl

Private dinner

Ron Blaauw
Sophialaan 55 hs
+ 31 20 625 6718
tronblaauw.nl

Big dinner with partner/clients

Restaurant de Kas
Kamerlingh 3 Onneslaan
+ 31 20 462 4562
restaurantdekas.nl

Drink after dinner

Vyne
Prinsengracht 411
+ 31 20 344 6408
vyne.nl

Late drinks

Bitterzoet
Spuistraat 2
+ 31 20 421 2318
supperclub.com

Late bite

Brasserie Bark
120 Van Baerlestraat
+ 31 20 675 0210
bitterzoet.com

On the tiles

Paradiso
6-8 Weteringschans
+ 31 20 626 4521
paradiso.nl

Reading

Books and CDs

Mendo
11 Berenstraat
+ 31 20 612 1216
mendo.nl

Newsstand

Athenaeum
14-16 Spui
+ 31 20 514 1470
athenaeum.nl

Thank yous

Hand-made sweets

Puccini Bomboni
17 Staalstraat
+ 31 20 626 5474
puccinibomboni.com

Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Flowers from Pompon
8 Prinsengracht
+ 31 20 622 5137

Something for the kids

Organic cotton shirts by
Imps & Elfs
41-44 Sloterkade
+ 31 20 346 0180
imps-elfs.nl

Something for someone you love

Lingerie by
Marlies Dekkers
18 Berenstraat
+ 31 20 421 1900

marliesdekkers.nl

Something for yourself

Shoes by Luuks
12 Jacobs Obrechtstraat
+ 31 20 670 4538
luuks.nl

Two-hour tour

- 01 Go to the Noordermarkt on Saturday for some Dutch farmers' produce and bric-a-brac and enjoy the best apple pie at one of the cafés.
- 02 Foam Photography Museum
Images from leading photographers and special edition prints.
609 Keizersgracht
+ 31 20 551 6500
foam.nl
- 03 Cycle to KNSM-island
Explore Amsterdam's modern architecture.

Transport

Rent a bicycle

Mac Bike
macbike.nl

Public transport

Get an OV-chipcard to get around easily on bus, metro and tram.
+ 31 6 2824 7550
wielertaxi.nl

Scooter rental

Mister Green
+ 31 20 771 9026

Fitness

Good gym

Personal Health Club
4 Breiterstraat
+ 31 20 470 2067
personalhealthclub.nl

Yoga

Yoga Garden
10 Ie Rozendwarsstraat
+ 31 20 489 7676
yogagarden.nl

Running route

Run in Vondelpark, the city's largest park south of Leidseplein. Enjoy the rose gardens and lakes but keep off the cycle paths.



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