

## Amsterdam



Amsterdam is the cosmopolitan capital of the Netherlands situated in the north-west of the country. It is a city with a fascinating history, impressive 17th-century architecture and a ring of beautiful canals and bridges.

With more bicycles and trams than cars, the city has a laid-back atmosphere. Highlights of any visit to include the art treasures of the Van Gogh Museum, Stedelijk Museum and Rijksmuseum; Anne Frank's House and concerts by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Other attractions include a stroll around the flea and flower markets, the nearby bulb fields, an abundance of coffee shops that sell more than just coffee, vibrant nightlife and a thriving club scene.



### **The Anne Frank House**

The Anne Frank House is a museum with a story. It's situated in the center of Amsterdam and holds the hiding place where Anne Frank wrote her famous diary during World War II. Anne Frank was a normal girl in exceptional circumstances. For more than two years she described the events of her daily life in hiding in her diary. The original version of the diary is on display as part of the Anne Frank House's permanent exhibition. The collection and temporary exhibitions focus on the wartime persecution of Jews, contemporary fascism, racism and anti-Semitism.

Visiting the Anne Frank House has been a moving experience for millions of people from all over the world.

### **Anne Frank Foundation**

The Anne Frank Foundation was founded in 1957 to save the Anne Frank House from being demolished. In 1960, the house was opened as a museum and since then it has been visited by millions of people from all over the world. The Foundation also develops educational programs and activities.

### **Maintenance and future of the Anne Frank House**

The Anne Frank House has two parts. In 'Het Achterhuis', the rear part of the house or annex, Anne, her family, and four other Jews went into hiding for over two years. In the front part of the house was the company that belonged to Otto Frank, Anne's father. When the house was turned into a museum, it attracted more people than had originally been anticipated. Due to a lack of room, the front part of the house was used as an entrance and exhibition room. As a result, the historical role of this part of the house became less clear. Therefore the project 'Behoud en Toekomst

Renovatie Anne Frank Huis' (Preservation and Future Renovation of the Anne Frank House) was set up. In 1999, the annex was returned to its original condition and the front part of the house was reconstructed. The adjoining building is now used as an entrance.

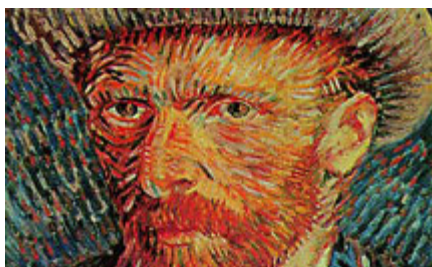
### **The House**

In the original Anne Frank House, the visitor experiences how Anne, her family and the other people were living while hiding from the occupying Germans. The front part of the house, where the office and the storage room was, has been returned to the original style. Anne Frank's story is told using quotes from her diary. The story explains the function and atmosphere as described in the diary. To reinforce the story, original objects, documents and photos are on display for visitors to see.

### **Location**

Anne Frank House  
Prinsengracht 263  
1016 GV Amsterdam  
More information

[www.annefrank.org](http://www.annefrank.org) 



### **Van Gogh Museum**

The largest collection of Vincent van Gogh's paintings in the world.

The Van Gogh Museum is the museum with the world's largest collection of works by Vincent van Gogh: more than 200 paintings, 500 drawings and 700 letters as well as the artist's own collection of Japanese prints.

The museum also houses an extensive collection of works of art by other 19th-century painters and sculptors. The permanent collection is housed in the main building, which was designed by Gerrit Rietveld. The exhibition wing, designed by the Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa and completed in 1999, offers a wide range of exhibitions related to 19th-century art.

### **Work of Vincent van Gogh**

The work of Vincent van Gogh contains all his paintings as well as his written documents. They provide a unique insight into his life and work. Van Gogh's work is organized chronologically into five periods, each representing a different phase of his life and work: the Netherlands, Paris, Arles, Saint-Rémy and Auvers-sur-Oise.

### **Work of other Artists**

This part of the museum shows an extensive permanent collection of other 19th century artists. These artists were contemporaries and friends of Van Gogh, and include Paul Gauguin and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Van Gogh met

these artists in Paris, a period in his life that was formative in the development of his painting style. It was in Paris where he got acquainted with the painting style of the Impressionist's; the handling of light and color, and treating their original themes from the town and country.

### **Location**

Paulus Potterstraat 7

1071 CX Amsterdam

On Fridays the Van Gogh Museum is open until 10 p.m.

[www3.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?lang=en](http://www3.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?lang=en) 



### **Rijksmuseum Amsterdam Airport Schiphol**

Visit the only airport museum in the world! The Rijksmuseum Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is located inside the airport terminal, after passport control, on Holland Boulevard, the corridor connecting Piers E and F. The museum is open daily from 7 am to 8 pm and admission is free.

Ten works by famous masters of the Dutch Golden Age such as Jacob van Ruisdael, Ferdinand Bol and Jan Steen are permanently on display in the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Different temporary exhibitions are held several times a year.

The Rijksmuseum Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is a unique joint initiative by the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. The Rijksmuseum is the first museum in the world to have a branch at an airport and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol is the first airport to house a museum inside its terminal. The Museum Shop located beneath the museum offers high quality souvenirs made especially for the museum.

### **Cycling tours**

Bicycle tours in the best and safest country for cycling. Touring season: April-November. Freedom concept: start-and finish any date, any place. Excellent equipment and dedicated route support.

[www.tulipcycling.com](http://www.tulipcycling.com) 

### **Events in Amsterdam**

#### **Event: Queen's Day Celebration**

**When: Apr 30, 2008**

Throughout the Netherlands, the Dutch celebrate the (previous) Queen's birthday, known as Queen's Day, with a full-on party. Boosted by the arrival of over a million people, Amsterdam holds an internationally-renowned street party, which goes on through the night until the evening of the next day.

The main areas of activity in Amsterdam are Damrak, Leidsestraat, Rokin and Spui. Vondelpark caters for children and bands play on Prinsengracht and Rembrandtsplein. Gay celebrations are centered around the Homomonument and Reguliersdwaarsstraat. There are also parades, craft shows, flea markets, children's parties, bands, street theater and fireworks.

If you are a royal-watcher, there is the chance to catch sight of Queen Beatrix, who each year chooses one or two cities or towns to visit.

[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com) 

**Event: The Keukenhof International Floral Exhibition**

**When: March 20 – May 18, 2008 daily from 8am-7:30pm**

Keukenhof 2008 Theme: China, Olympic Games – Beijing

Keukenhof is an unforgettable experience and the best place to get a taste of Spring! 7 million bulbs are planted every year making it a glorious visual feast. In 2008 many of the activities will focus on the theme of China, emphasizing the world's largest sporting event. Highlights will be a dragon mosaic with Chinese figures, a Chinese Garden, Olympic exhibitions and Chinese events.

[www.keukenhof.nl](http://www.keukenhof.nl) 

For more information about The Netherlands, please visit:

[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com) 

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