

DESCRIPTION

Amsterdam

Amsterdam is the capital and largest city of the Netherlands, with a population of 780,152 and the most visited, with over 3,5 million foreign visitors a year. The city is located in the province of North Holland in the western part of the country. It consists of the northern part of Randstad, the sixth largest metropolitan area in Europe, with a population of around 8.1 million.

Its name comes from Amstelledam, showing the city of origin: a dam on the river Amstel. Canals of the 17th century from Amsterdam (in Dutch: 'Grachtengordel'), located in the heart of Amsterdam, added to UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2010.

The city is the financial and cultural capital of the Netherlands. Many large Dutch institutions have their headquarters there, and 7 of the world's top 500 companies, including Philips and ING, based in the city.

The city is built on a polder and it lies under the sea level and that's why we name it a lot of times the Northern Venice. It's constructed by 165 channels, 1281 bridges and narrow streets and above these streets are lifting up houses from wood with 4 or 5 floors. The houses are coloured in the style of 15th century and it has funny sculptures. In the ground floor of these houses are small shops and coffee shops. According to the Dutch drug laws, coffee shops are allowed to sell up to five grams of cannabis per person to their customers, provide customer said to present identification to show that they are more than 18 years.

SIGHTS

Amsterdam has got about 400,000 bicycles and it's the only city in the world, where there are more bikes than cars. Every inhabitant should have one bike. Amsterdam is known after tulips, channels, bridges, cheese, harbours, windmills, museums and cannabis. In this city is always something going on. In the summer are organized concerts at the canals. Every day is organized about 400 concerts. For the fanciers of the antiques is very interesting quarter Jordaan. The Amsterdam Jews changed this city into one of the biggest centres for grinding diamonds in the world. Amsterdam's Hortus Botanicus, founded in the early 1600s, is one of the oldest botanical gardens in the world, with many old and rare specimens.

HISTORY

In the history, the German tribes lived here. Because the Dutch were a good sailors, it early originate a social class of merchants, possessors, shipowners, bankers. A big part of the population was occupying with farming and fishing. In the seventeenth century Amsterdam was the most important part of the world. Amsterdam was founded as a fishing village in the 13th century. According to legend Amsterdam was founded by two Frisian fishermen, who landed on the shores of the Amstel in a small boat with their dog. The damming of the river Amstel gave it its name. It was given city rights in 1300 or 1301.

- 1928 the olympic games were in Amsterdam
- 1980 became Amsterdam the capital of the Netherlands

SPORT

- In Amsterdam is the most popular Kind of sport football. The best association is Ajax Amsterdam. From Amsterdam come also numerous football legends.

ATTRACTIONS

Amsterdam is a unique city. Despite the obvious presence of thousands of visitors, its life remained authentic. To observe it is enough to stroll along the canal streets or to sit for a while in one of Amsterdam many cafés. Nevertheless, there are places in the city you should not miss during your visit.

Rijksmuseum

The Rijksmuseum is the largest museum in the Netherlands, with more than a million visitors each year. Its exhibition called The Masterpieces shows the most famous pieces of Dutch art from the 17th c., usually called the Golden Age of the Netherlands. You may also see the museum treasury, beautiful doll houses from the period and the traditional Delftware.

Amsterdam canal ring

The city old centre is formed from canal rings, which give you the feeling of space, freedom and peace. Walk through these canal streets or better – take a trip with a boat by boarding one of the tourist cruises or by renting the boat yourself. Another way to explore the Venice of the North is to take a ride on a bicycle. Any way you decide for – enjoy this city, one of the most beautiful in the world.

Van Gogh Museum

This modern museum houses some 200 paintings and 550 sketches showing Van Gogh in all his moods. This biggest in the world collection, combined with hundreds of letters by Van Gogh, and selected works by his friends and contemporaries, form the core of the museum's collection

Anne Frank House

Anne Frank House in the center of Amsterdam is the hiding place where Anne Frank wrote her famous diary during the World War II. Just a few empty rooms in the hidden annex to the house will make an unforgettable impression if you realize, that two families lived in these small quarters for more than 2 years hiding from the Nazis. The original of the diary is on display, as a part of the Anne Frank House's permanent exhibition.

Oude Kerk

This huge old protestant church with little houses clinging to its sides remains a calm heaven at the heart of the frenetic Red Light District. Its buildings, especially the Gothic-renaissance style octagonal bell tower, were used by sailors to get their bearings. For some adults, an evening walk in the nightlife area around the church might be interesting.

Amsterdam Brown Café

After a busy day of walking enjoy a simple meal or just a coffee or beer in one of many Amsterdam old cafés called brown. At first it will seem too much from the past and too crowded – but the atmosphere is unique, people are famously friendly, prices low. Relax and watch – most of people around will be locals. Feel like one of them – the real Amsterdammers.

Amsterdam Shopping Streets

Shopping in Amsterdam will be very enjoyable, because you can do it walking all. Amsterdam is also full of small shops. The best shopping streets are :

Kalverstraat

Cornelis Schuytstraat

Utrechtsestraat

Beethovenstraat

Haarlemmerstraat

FESTIVALS

Amsterdam is one of the leading cultural centres of Europe. The city offers an impressive total of 75 festivals every year. The range of festivals is broad and powerful. Top Summer Festivals in Amsterdam are Grachtenfestival, Uitmarkt, Open Garden Days and Amsterdam Roots Festival.

REMARKABLENESS

Industries:

- the shipbuilding industry
- the metallurgy
- the chemical industry

Museums:

- the Scheepvaart museum
- Stedelijk museum
- Rembrandt House Museum

Theatres:

- Concertgebouw
- Stadsschouwburg

Churches:

- Westerkerk
- Amstelkerk
- Oude Kerk
- Nieuwe Kerk

Universities:

- University of Amsterdam
- Vrije Universiteit

Other interesting things:

-their typical houses

- -numerous "coffee shops" selling cannabisThe capital & the largest city of the Netherlands
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- Location - province of North Holland