



City Guide

AMSTERDAM

QUINTESSENTIALLY

Amsterdam

From its humble beginnings as a 13th-century fishing village on a river bed to its current role as a major hub for business and tourism, Amsterdam has long-since been a centre of culture and commerce. The city of Amsterdam prides itself on abundant cultural life and a diverse population. Each area of Amsterdam has its own character and charm, and a unique variety of shops, restaurants, cafes, museums, and attractions.

With an abundance of five-star hotels, designer shopping, and fine dining restaurants, Amsterdam is a true leader in European luxury travel. Discover the finer side of Amsterdam life with our guide to the city's most exclusive places to sleep, eat, drink, shop, and play.



ACCOMMODATION

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CONSERVATORIUM HOTEL

VAN BAERLESTRAAT 27, 1071 AN AMSTERDAM

Situated next door to Museumplein, with its world-renowned attractions and major shopping brands, the Conservatorium Hotel combines a landmark heritage building with a graceful, contemporary design, offering guests a selection of restaurants, a lounge and the 1,000-sq. m. Akasha Holistic Wellbeing facility. It's no wonder that this destination hotel has made such a vivid impact upon the city, earning itself the nickname of 'Amsterdam's living room'.

ANDAZ AMSTERDAM

PRINSENGRACHT 587, 1016 HT AMSTERDAM

Once the city library, this canal side Hyatt hotel is more than a design dream; highlights include a gorgeous garden, a luxury spa and delicious dining in a relaxed farm-to-table restaurant.

HOTEL TWENTYSEVEN

DAM 27, 1012 JS AMSTERDAM

This is a sensational suite boutique hotel located in the heart of Amsterdam's Dam Square, overlooking the monument and Royal Palace. Attentive service, stylish design and meticulous details make this an elegant home-from-home while staying in the city.

WALDORF ASTORIA AMSTERDAM

HERENGRACHT 542-556, 1017 CG AMSTERDAM

This is the most legendary and bespoke hotel Amsterdam has to offer. Awarded best Waldorf Astoria three years in a row, the Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam is a collection of six 17th century canal palaces in the center of the city. Discover Dutch heritage at its most exceptional - a short walk from luxury shops, museums, and theaters; this architectural masterpiece boasts breathtaking views of the canal or the courtyard garden from its guest rooms, suites, and lofts. Delight your senses with world-class dining at Spectrum and Goldfinch Brasserie.

THE DYLAN

HERENGRACHT 384, 1016 GB AMSTERDAM

The Dylan is set along the Keizersgracht canal, in the heart of Amsterdam. The on-site restaurant Vinkeles has a Michelin star, and the rooms and suites are exquisite, some of them specially designed by the well-known Dutch designer, Remy Meijers. Work out in the fitness centre, make the most of the massage service and luxuriate in the pretty garden with terrace.

Q U I N T E S S E N T I A L L Y



RESTAURANTS

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GRAPHITE AMSTERDAM

PAARDENSTRAAT 15III, 1017 CX AMSTERDAM

When you arrive in the center of Amsterdam, you will see a black-painted door and blinded windows, unknowing there is a speak-easy restaurant hidden beyond the facade. The restaurant layout is dark and intimate: the tables of two are each surrounded by a curtain, to gain more privacy while dining. The dishes will even surprise you more - in stark contrast to the restaurant's appearance, the recipes are light and fresh with sweet and sour characters, vegetable juices, flowers, and herbs.

RON GASTROBAR

SOPHIALAAN 55HS, 1075 BP AMSTERDAM

This is a Michelin restaurant that's geared to every occasion – business lunches, romantic dinners for two, or group reservations. It's all about enjoying the experience of French and international dishes.

VINKELES

THE DYLAN HOTEL, KEIZERSGRACHT 384, 1016 GB AMSTERDAM

The Michelin-starred menu is part French, part Dutch, with a smattering of molecular gastronomy. Though it sits in the pretty boutique hotel The Dylan on Keizersgracht, the location is secondary to the regionally inspired dishes that showcase beautiful local ingredients. The Texel lamb is a must.

BORD'EAU

HOTEL DE L'EUROPE, NIEUWE DOELENSTRAAT 2-14, 1012 CP AMSTERDAM

Executive Chef Bas van Kranen creates a light menu of seasonal favourites that are beautifully presented. Occupying a prime location on the Amstel River with stunning views of the centre, the Michelin-starred restaurant also boasts one of the finest wine lists in the world, as recognised by Wine Spectator 2018.

& MOSHIK

OOSTERDOKSKADE 5, 1011 AD AMSTERDAM

The globally inspired dishes at this two-Michelin-starred restaurant transport diners to the Riviera, the tropics, and nearby Bloemendaal, depending on which ingredients capture chef Moshik Roth's fancy. Roth likes to make his guests feel they're on a voyage of discovery as they take in Amsterdam's stunning views.

Q U I N T E S S E N T I A L L Y



NIGHTLIFE

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BLUESPOON BAR

ANDAZ HOTEL, PRINSENGRACHT 587, 1016 HT AMSTERDAM

Bar Manager Aga and Head Bartender Martin deliver revolutionary craft cocktails and the atmosphere is laid-back in this lounge space overlooking Prinsengracht canal. Enjoy Marcel Wanders' iconic designs; slink off into a cosy corner to relax, or join Martin at the bar to get close to the cocktail-blending action.

BAR TWENTYSEVEN

HOTEL TWENTYSEVEN, DAM 27, 1012 JS AMSTERDAM

The bar boasts an impressive and unique selection of whiskies, and you can sample a healthy range of probiotic cocktails, made with exclusive ingredients such as in-house brewed organic pineapple beer. The graceful interiors are dotted with velvet lounge chairs clustered around tables that are illuminated by candlelight. A lovely spot for an intimate night out after a busy day in the city.

MAD FOX

SPIJSTRAAT 175 B, 1012 VN AMSTERDAM

Tumble down the rabbit hole through corridors underneath the city until you reach a world of nocturnal luxury and thirst-quenching extravagance. MAD FOX is the only Amsterdam club to offer bespoke table and bottle service, unveiling a unique, high-end style of clubbing to the city.

WORLD CLASS ROOM

UTRECHTSESTRAAT 30A, 1017 VN AMSTERDAM

The best cocktails in the city are served at this speakeasy cocktail bar, located above a large restaurant. If you have a reservation, a representative from the bar will meet guests at the restaurant's check-in and lead you upstairs to the kitchen. Once there, it's merely a matter of typing in the code, then entering the exclusive bar through a door disguised as a refrigerator.

SHELTER AMSTERDAM

OVERHOEKSPLEIN 3, 1031 KS AMSTERDAM

The experience starts when you take the ferry to the north of Amsterdam. The Shelter is in fact tucked under the famous A'DAM Tower and inside it's an equally mysterious affair. With its industrial-chic interior – including thick concrete-stripped walls, this is Amsterdam's answer to the underground clubs of London and Berlin in the 1970s.



RETAIL

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MUSEUM KWARTIER

The small area surrounding the most international shopping street in Amsterdam, the P.C. Hooftstraat, has garnered somewhat of a reputation for being a bastion of luxury shopping for clothes, accessories and design items.

SPIEGELSTRAAT

You'll find more than 70 antique dealers and art galleries, offering a dazzling array of fine historical objects, classic and contemporary art, and exotic folk art. It's a treasure trove, ranging from Old Masters and ancient goblets to 18th-century clocks and ceramics by living artists.

CORNELIS SCHUYTSTRAAT

This pretty street in the heart of Amsterdam Old-South is where posh locals go for grocery shopping. You'll find a lovely mix of traditional convenience stores, exclusive fashion boutiques, casual eateries, and restaurants.

9 STREETS

NINE SIDE STREETS OFF THE PRINSENGRACHT, KEIZERSGRACHT, HERENGRACHT AND SINGEL

Take the time to walk around the nine picturesque little streets in the Amsterdam canal belt, to get a feel for the city. This area is full of quirky shops, wonderful family-run eateries and coffee places.

DE BIJENKORF

DAM 1, 1012 JS AMSTERDAM

The Bijenkorf is the Netherlands' largest premium department store and it carries a gorgeous selection of the best fashion brands and luxury products from the likes of Off-White, Moncler, Gucci, Saint Laurent, Isabel Marant, and Buddha to Buddha.



CULTURE

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ANNE FRANK HUIS

PRINSENGRACHT 263-267, 1016 GV AMSTERDAM

While living in this house over the course of two years, Anne Frank religiously wrote of her experiences in hiding from the Nazi occupation. Her story is world-famous and this house, now a museum, is monument to her courage and determination as a young Jewish child facing persecution. Get there early - the queues tend to grow long in all weathers.

VAN GOGH MUSEUM

MUSEUMPLEIN 6, 1071 DJ AMSTERDAM

The Van Gogh Museum displays some 200 paintings, 500 etchings and drawings, and 700 private letters. To fully digest everything, you should either dedicate a day to the museum or to an era of Van Gogh's life. The collection is split into: his realistic works (1880 to 1887), including the famous *The Potato Eaters*, and his Impressionist period (1887 to 1890), which includes perhaps his best-known work, *Vase with Sunflowers*. There are also works by some of his contemporaries, including Paul Gauguin and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

NEMO SCIENCE MUSEUM

OOSTERDOK 2, 1011 VX AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam isn't all about heritage museums and Old Masters. The Dutch are known for their innovative spirit and sense of enterprise, pushing boundaries in the fields of technology and science. NEMO offers a variety of playful exhibitions that use sensory and immersive experiences to lead visitors through the world of NEMO. Everyone can join in with the fun and learning, especially children in NEMO's Laboratory section.

REMBRANDTHUIS

JODENBREESTRAAT 4, 1011 NK AMSTERDAM

As one of the most remarkable museums of its kind, Rembrandthuis (where Rembrandt once lived) is essentially a time capsule, displaying the artist's studio and living quarters, alongside artefacts that shed light on his inimitable techniques. The house also contains over 290 of his etchings and items that were recently unearthed during a survey of the grounds. Aside from Rembrandt, the house features a rotating series of exhibitions dedicated to Dutch artists.

RIJKSMUSEUM

MUSEUMSTRAAT 1, 1071 XX AMSTERDAM

This museum is easily the greatest crowd-pleaser because of the sheer number of artworks held under one roof. The museum's collection takes the visitor on a journey through the history of Holland, from the Middle Ages to present day. World-famous works from the Dutch Golden Age include Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* and Johannes Vermeer's *The Milkmaid*, as well as photography by Gustave Le Gray, Jacques-Henri Lartigue and the entire works of Edouard Isaac Asser. Watches, jewels, furniture, sculptures, clothes, weaponry and ship models are just some of the art forms represented here.

Q U I N T E S S E N T I A L L Y



WELLNESS

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AKASHA SPA

CONSERVATORIUM HOTEL, VAN BAERLESTRAAT 27, 1071 AN AMSTERDAM

The most striking feature of this unique-approach spa is the Watsu pool. For the uninitiated, a Watsu pool is a chest-deep pool of warm water that you enter with a therapist. They guide you through a series of muscle-stretching techniques and massages whose movements are augmented by the gentle action of the water on the lymphatic system. But there are other practices here based on the four elements of air, earth, water and fire, which bring balance to the body's energy meridians, in turn regulating the proper functioning of major organs. Precious materials are drawn on for their healing properties; gold, diamond and pearl facials act favourably on the skin's texture and resilience to external factors, such as pollution and stress. More widely recognised therapies like reflexology and seven chakra massage are also part of the holistic offering. With the pool, gym and relaxing lounge bar, you should leave positively rejuvenated and ready to improve your lifestyle to support your wellbeing.

GUERLAIN SPA AT WALDORF ASTORIA

WALDORF ASTORIA, HERENGRACHT 542-556, 1017 CG AMSTERDAM

Guerlain is one of the finest exponents of exclusive expert skincare and body treatments, supported by a comprehensive range of ultra-luxurious products. To fully benefit from the Guerlain experience, consider one of their signature treatments from the pamper menu. When in Amsterdam, why not opt for The Amsterdam Cure – a whopping six- to seven-hour marathon treatment option that covers every aspect of your wellbeing and beauty needs, or the Fusion experience, which comes in at a rather more conservative hour-and-a-half, but which delivers on harmonising the body's rhythms. For a total immersion, stray beyond the treatment rooms and enjoy the swimming pool with waterfall.

AWAY SPA AT W AMSTERDAM

SPUISTRAAT 172, 1012 VN AMSTERDAM

Tucked inside W Amsterdam, Away Spa has attracted a lot of attention with its signature 'wow-factor' philosophy that seems to fit right into this city of contrasts – the tongue-in-cheek sitting perfectly well with the stylish. Away Spa has garnered some respectable industry awards, including Best Luxury Boutique Spa Netherlands from the World Luxury Spa Awards and the highlights include the low-lit swimming pool and whirlpool. The treatment list offers state-of-the-art high frequency facials to stimulate cell renewal, and cold plasma anti-ageing treatments, which are said to address the 10 signs of ageing. Book us in please!

Essential Information

Local Office

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Official Language

Dutch

International Dialling Code

+ 31

Emergency

112

Currency

Euro (EUR)

Time

UTC+2h

Tipping

Restaurants: round up to the next euro or 7 to 12 per cent

Taxis: 5 to 10 per cent

Hotel Porters: 2 to 5 euros

Cycling

Amsterdam is a maze of cycle paths; cycling is the mode of transport of choice and cyclists get around at all speeds, so keep your wits about you when crossing roads and stepping off the pavement.

Caffeine Complex

Make sure you don't mistake a coffee shop for a café. The latter will provide you with a cappuccino and cake, the other will sell you hash cakes and marijuana, which is legalised for personal consumption here.

Tulips

The city is dotted with flower markets and has been since the times when a single tulip bulb was worth the value of a house. If you're visiting during the tulip season (April - June) plan a day away from Amsterdam to see the thousands of tulips in all their technicolour splendour. Keukenhof Gardens, Noordoostpolder, Lisse and Noordwijkerhout are where you want to be heading.