

Amsterdam Area Guide

Authentic Haarlem • Amsterdam Beach
Flowers of Amsterdam • Castles & Gardens
New Land • Old Holland

INCLUDING
MAPS, TIPS &
DAY TRIPS

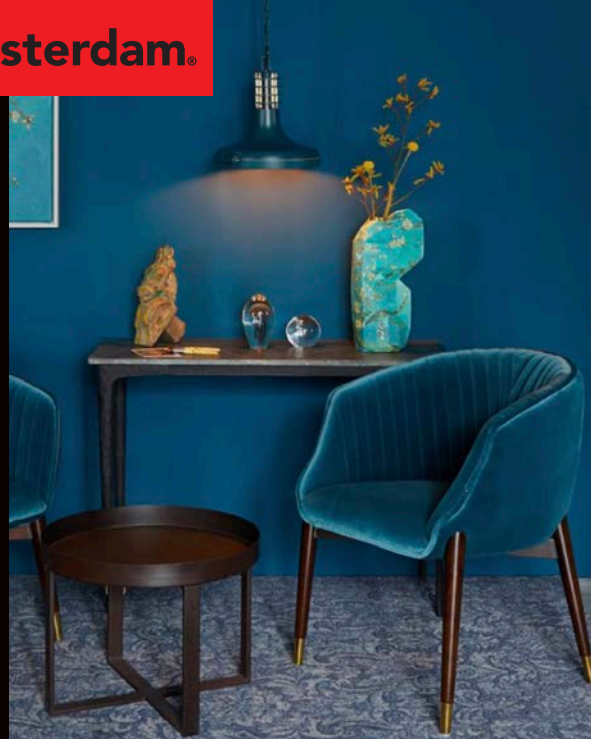
I amsterdam.

iamsterdam.com/area

I amsterdam. Store

Find the perfect gift from Amsterdam-based brands or a fun souvenir for friends back home and get the inside scoop on what's happening around town or buy your tickets for museums and events at the I amsterdam Store. Popular with locals and visitors alike, it captures a little of what makes the city such a beautiful and creative place.

Amsterdam Central Station, IJ-side
www.iamsterdam.com/webshop



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 20 minutes from Amsterdam

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 30 minutes from Amsterdam

DISCOVER THE AMSTERDAM AREA

To truly experience Amsterdam, be sure to head out beyond the borders of the city centre and explore the greater Amsterdam Area. In less than 30 minutes from Amsterdam, you'll find excellent shopping cities such as Haarlem, golden beaches and wild dunes at Amsterdam Beach and historic harbour towns in Old Holland. Visit the famous tulip fields around Keukenhof, the magical medieval Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot or the wild nature areas and cutting-edge architecture in New Land, reclaimed from the sea.

The Amsterdam Area is easy to explore by public transport, with most destinations being accessible by train or bus within an hour from Amsterdam. Whether you have a half-day to explore or are looking for a full day trip, this guide highlights the best experiences to be had in the Amsterdam Area.

Find out more about the Amsterdam Area on: iamsterdam.com/area

I AMSTERDAM CITY CARD

Visit world-class museums in Amsterdam and the surrounding area, hop on a ferry, take a cruise through charming canals and sample local delicacies. All for free with the I amsterdam City Card – or with a significant discount! In addition, the City Card gives you unlimited access to the public transport system of the city of Amsterdam for 24, 48, 72, 96, or 120 hours.



Valid with iamsterdam.com/citycard



AMSTERDAM AREA



AMSTERDAM & REGION TRAVEL TICKET (ARTT)

The Amsterdam & Region Travel Ticket (ARTT) entitles you to unlimited travel in the city of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Area – day and night – on bus, tram, metro and train. Purchase your ARTT at the I amsterdam Store or various other locations in and around Amsterdam.

1-day ticket €19.50
2-day ticket €28.00
3-day ticket €36.50

Find more information on
iamsterdam.com/area

I amsterdam Store

Amsterdam Centraal Station, IJ-side
(northside of the station)
iamsterdam.com/store



Make the most of your time in the Amsterdam Area with the I amsterdam City Card

I amsterdam.
city card

from
€65

You'll enjoy free entry to top museums and attractions, making it the perfect way to experience the Amsterdam Area. Venture out of Amsterdam's city centre and you'll be rewarded with magnificent windmills, 17th-century art, fields of flowers and carefully preserved Dutch traditions. And there's no better way to do all this – and save money – than by using the I amsterdam City Card.

For more info go to
iamsterdam.com/city-card
or scan the QR code



Explore 17th-century art

A must-see for anyone interested in the Dutch Masters, the Frans Hals Museum celebrates Haarlem's most famous native painters.



Prepare for battle at Amsterdam Castle Muider Slot

Amsterdam Castle Muider Slot is like something from a fairy tale. Located in the fortified town of Muiden and only 30 minutes from Amsterdam Centraal Station, the enchanting castle and surrounding gardens make a great day of fun for the whole family. Enjoy free entrance with your I amsterdam City Card.



Old Holland by bike

Rent a bike at Rent & Event in the historic village of Volendam and explore the beautiful Dutch countryside. On your way, you will pass windmills, cheese farms, lakes and iconic green meadows. Free 24 hours bike rental is included in your I amsterdam City Card.



You will get all this and more with the I amsterdam city card

- Free entrance to museums & attractions
- Free canal cruise
- Free public transport
- Free bike rental
- Discount and freebies in various cafés, theatres, restaurants & music halls

Purchase your I amsterdam City Card at the I amsterdam Store at Amsterdam Centraal Station or online: iamsterdam.com/city-card

AUTHENTIC HAARLEM



photo Cris Toala Olivares

HOW TO GET THERE

Haarlem

Start your journey at Amsterdam Centraal Station. Buy your Amsterdam & Region Travel Ticket at the I amsterdam Store (or a separate ticket inside the station).

- Direct train service from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Haarlem Station – 15 minutes.

Plan your journey on Google Maps or use the 9292 app.

For centuries, Haarlem has been a hub of art and culture: from works by master painter Frans Hals and historic architecture to modern galleries and quirky museums. There's something for everyone. Grab some retail therapy at the concept stores and vintage shops that line the Gouden Straatjes (Golden Streets). Explore the local craft ateliers or relax in the city's lush green areas. When the sun sets, head out for a lively evening at one of Haarlem's Michelin-starred restaurants, friendly cafés, world-class concert venues or cutting-edge theatres.

iamsterdam.com/haarlem

ARTS & CULTURE

HOLY HISTORY

Haarlem is home to many great churches of varying architectural styles. The skyline of Haarlem's market square is dominated by the Gothic, cross-shaped Grote Kerk (also known as the St. Bavokerk). ① Work on the church started in 1400, but the 78-metre tall spire wasn't completed until 1520. You can see the resemblance in style to the white stone steeple of the late-15th-century Bakenesserkerk located nearby. ② By contrast, the Nieuwe Kerk – constructed between 1613 and 1616 by the Flemish city architect Lieven de Key – has distinctive Renaissance-style elements. ③

MUSEUM VAN DE GEEST | DOLHUYSEN

A former mental health institute and sick house now transformed into a fascinating museum, Museum van de Geest (Museum of the Mind) explores the mind and motivations of people who lived on the fringes of society, whether they wanted to or not. Discover works by thinkers and scientists who dealt with



Teylers Museum
photo Kees Hageman

disabilities or mental illness, including artists like Edvard Munch, best-known for painting 'The Scream', and Vincent van Gogh. Audio tours in English are available. ④ museumvandegeest.nl

TEYLERS MUSEUM

A perfectly preserved world of the 18th-century Enlightenment awaits behind the heavy monumental doors of the oldest museum in the Netherlands. Visitors can rediscover the 'newest' scientific experiments of the time, including recently excavated fossils and drawings, and accounts of journeys of discovery. Wandering amongst the collection of authentic display cases is like leafing through an antique

encyclopedia, allowing each object to tell its own story. The free audio tour is highly recommended. You can also learn more about the museum's founder at the beautifully restored Pieter Teylers Huis. Explore this unique national monument, home to stately period rooms and lavish 18th-century interiors. ⑤ teylersmuseum.nl

GROTE MARKT (MAIN SQUARE)

Flanked by cafés and restaurants – plus plenty of historic buildings – Grote Markt, previously called 't Sant, is the original centre of Haarlem and is considered by many to be the most beautiful urban square in the country. In the 13th and 14th centuries, gallows loomed over 't Sant, jousting tournaments were held in the square, and traders pedalled their wares. The City Hall ⑥ (which also houses the Tourist Information Centre) stands on the spot of the Counts of Holland hunting lodge. The wooden building was almost entirely destroyed by a fire in the 14th century but was rebuilt in a flamboyant style. Opposite the City Hall on Grote Markt looms the Gothic Grote Kerk, or St. Bavokerk, whose 78-metre steeple has dominated



Grote Markt (Main Square) with St. Bavokerk
photo Hans Guldemond

Haarlem's skyline for centuries. Built between 1370 and 1520, the church is UNESCO-protected and contains beautiful Renaissance artworks. Famous painters Frans Hals and Pieter Saenredam are buried here, and the renowned Müller organ – one of the finest in the world, standing 30 metres high with about 5,000 pipes – was once played by Mozart at the age of ten. ① bavo.nl

FRANS HALS MUSEUM

A must-see for anyone interested in the Dutch Masters, the Frans Hals Museum celebrates Haarlem's most famous native. Situated in the almshouse where Hals spent his final years, the museum focuses on the 17th-century Haarlem School and boasts the world's largest collection of his paintings. The jewels in the crown are the eight group portraits of the Civic Guard that reveal Hals' exceptional attention to each figure's character and political positioning. Also, look out for paintings by other contemporary artists, including Hendrick Goltzius, Jacob van Ruisdael, Pieter Saenredam and Jan Steen. The collection is spread across two locations, Hal at Grote Markt ⑦ and Hof, just a seven-minute walk away. ⑧ You'll find art from the 16th and 17th centuries and a stimulating mix of modern and contemporary pieces at both. franshalsmuseum.nl

MUSEUM HAARLEM

Past meets present at Museum Haarlem, where the city's history takes centre stage in an engaging permanent exhibition. Several temporary exhibitions a year highlight Haarlem's historical

or artistic heritage in a more comprehensive way. These are combined with lectures, guided tours, city tours and children's workshops. Open seven days a week, Museum Haarlem is the ideal starting point to explore the city. ⑨ museumhaarlem.nl

MOLEN DE ADRIAAN

In the heart of Haarlem, the Molen de Adriaan, originally built in 1778, is a windmill that sits along the river Spaarne on the foundations of the tower that once defended the city centre. When the windmill burned down in 1932, a central focal point of the city was lost. It took 70 years for local citizens to raise enough money to rebuild it. The view of old Haarlem from the platform above the river is not to be missed. ⑩ molenadriaan.nl



photo Cris Toala Olivares

KOEPELKATHEDRAAL

This unique cathedral is ranked amongst the top five most important churches in the world built between 1850 and 1950. Designed by Joseph Cuypers in a range of architectural styles, the building features 12 towers and a 65-metre-tall dome. Explore it fully with a guided tour or admire artefacts in the church's museum. ⑪ koepelkathedraal.nl



DAY TRIP HAARLEM CULTURE

Half day

Haarlem is brimming with history, architecture and an exciting cultural scene.

Make the most of your I amsterdam City Card by stuffing as much culture as possible into your Haarlem trip!

START at Amsterdam Centraal Station. Trains to Haarlem depart every 10 minutes (check the screens), and you're there in just 15!

MARVEL at the masterpieces of Haarlem's golden boy, 17th-century portrait painter Frans Hals. The Frans Hals Museum is located a 20-minute walk from Haarlem Station (Groot Heiligland 62). ⑦ ⑧

REFUEL with lunch or a cup of coffee at one of the many cafés and restaurants on the Grote Markt square in the city centre. ①

DISCOVER the charmingly eccentric Teylers Museum (the Netherlands' first and oldest museum), which focuses on art, history and science (Spaarne 16). ⑤

WASH DOWN your day of culture with a typical Haarlem craft beer at the Jopenkerk (Gedempte Voldersgracht 2), a former church-turned brewery. ⑫

OUT & ABOUT

LOCAL BREWERIES

Beer is definitely a religion for some, but former church-turned brewery Jopenkerk takes it to extremes. Brewing Jopen craft beers onsite according to old recipes and modern innovations, the former Jacobskerk has been beautifully restored – with vaulted ceilings and stained glass intact – and also houses a grand café and restaurant. ¹² jopenkerk.nl

Hidden amongst the city's 17th-century brick interior is this nifty Uiltje, 'Owl Bar'. The owners rolled up their sleeves and transformed 120 square metres of prime Haarlem real estate into the city's first uncompromised craft beer bar with a constant carousel of 30 draught beers and more than 120 bottles. A hoppy paradise with beer chilled differently according to type and origin. ¹³ uiltjecraftbeer.com



PHILHARMONIE HAARLEM

Located at the heart of old Haarlem, the Philharmonie is the city's finest concert hall and home to the perfectly preserved late Romantic Cavaillé-Coll organ. This striking 19th-century building features numerous galleries with high ceilings



and state-of-the-art technical installations. The language-no-problem programme includes dance performances, pop concerts, classical music, and plays in English or without any speech. ¹⁴ theater-haarlem.nl

HAARLEMMERHOUTPARK

Haarlemmerhout is the Netherlands' oldest green monument. Located on the south side of Haarlem, 'The Wood', as it is popularly called, has an area of 60 acres complete with a deer park, petting zoo and pancake house and is host to excellent summer music festivals. Located on the edge of Haarlemmerhout, Paviljoen Welgelegen has been the seat of the government of the province of North Holland since 1930. Built during the revolutionary year of 1789, it became a retreat for Napoleon and Wilhelmina of Prussia, the mother of King William I. During office hours, you can visit Paviljoen Welgelegen for free. ¹⁵

RIVER SPAARNE

On the Spaarne river, which winds its way through Haarlem, you'll find De Waag (Weighing House) ¹⁶ dating from 1599, where traders weighed cheese and butter. The Renaissance-

style building has two virtually identical stone façades and characteristic round-arched and cross windows. Settle down at a riverside café to admire what has been one of the most striking features of the Haarlem skyline for centuries.

SMIDTJE CANAL CRUISE HAARLEM

Discover Haarlem's beautiful historic city centre from a different perspective: the water. Cruise along the canals and Spaarne river aboard a Smidtje Canal Cruise boat. Learn about famous landmarks such as the Molen de Adriaan windmill, the Teylers and Frans Hals Museums, and the Jopenkerk brewery. ¹⁷ smidjtjecanalcruises.nl



TIP BIKE RENTAL

Explore the city, nearby beach and dunes at your own pace. Rent a Bike Haarlem has English- and German-speaking staff who will walk you through everything you need to know, or even guide you. ¹⁸ rentabikehaarlem.nl

A TASTE OF HAARLEM

DE DAKKAS (ROOFTOP DINING)

This lush greenhouse perched atop a car park offers local, fresh and seasonal cuisine along with stunning views of Haarlem. Indulge in sun-drenched breakfasts, lazy lunches and dinners under the stars, as well as special events including rooftop acoustic music, yoga and cinema. The chefs harvest directly from their roof gardens and provide locally brewed beers. ¹⁹ dedakkas.nl

HAARLEM CULINAIR 4-7 AUGUST 2022

This annual culinary festival sees restaurants from Haarlem and the surrounding area serve up an array of delicious (and affordable) dishes against the backdrop of St. Bavokerk on the city's Grote Markt square. As well as food from around the world and regional dishes made with local produce, visitors can also enjoy speciality beers and wines – and a whole load of live music. ¹ haarlemculinair.nl

DIJKERS

Located in two stunning listed buildings on a historic street in the centre of town, Dijkers allows guests to drink in the city's rich history while enjoying a delicious bite to eat. The crackling fire adds to the restaurant's cosy atmosphere, which is the perfect place to enjoy a coffee, lunch, drink, or an affordable dinner. ²⁰ restaurantdijkers.nl

MENEER FRANS

Located in a monumental building, Meneer Frans is a hip catering spot that has been serving up a mouth-watering

menu since 2014. This shop-in-shop concept (you'll find Meneer Frans within the Van Duivenboden Interieur store) offers breakfast dishes, homemade cakes, salads, flammkuchen, sharing boards and other hearty organic delicacies. ²¹ meneerfrans.nl

KLEINE HOUTSTRAAT

Part of the city's Gouden Straatjes (Golden Streets), the Kleine Houtstraat boasts boutique shops, unique concept stores and enticing restaurants. And once you experience it for yourself, it'll come as no surprise to learn it's been voted 'Best Shopping Street of the Netherlands' – twice. ²² visithaarlem.com/en

VOOGES

A stone's throw from Haarlem station, VOOGES is a true all-rounder: kick-start your day with a great morning coffee and breakfast, enjoy a mid-afternoon lunch or savour the flavours of a delicious dinner. ²³ vooges.nl/centraal



DAY TRIP BIKE TO THE BEACH

Full day

Haarlem is just a short bike ride from rolling white sand dunes, broad beaches and lively beach cafés.

START at Amsterdam Centraal Station and take the train to Haarlem (15 minutes). When you arrive, head to Rent a Bike across the station square to arrange your wheels. ¹⁸

PEDAL along the winding River Spaarne, passing a picturesque restored windmill, the Molen de Adriaan. ¹⁰

FOLLOW the Kampersingel and the Raamsingel to marvel at the magnificent Cathedral of St. Bavo. ¹ Continue on through the dunes and to Zandvoort aan Zee.

STROLL along the beach, stopping at one of the inviting cafés. When you're done, return to Haarlem. Make sure to return your bicycle by 18:00 when Rent a Bike closes.

DINE just across from the St. Bavokerk at Toujours. This recently renovated 'Urban Frenchy Bistro' adds some funky American spice to classic French fare. Enjoy no-nonsense food in an inspiring hip setting. ²⁴ restauranttoujours.nl

LAST CALL (if you still have the energy) can be ordered at one of the cafés on Oude Groenmarkt.

MAP AUTHENTIC HAARLEM



Visitor Centres & Highlights

A Haarlem Tourist Information (VVV Haarlem)

- 1 Grote Markt & Grote Kerk (St. Bavokerk)
- 2 Bakenesserkerk
- 3 Nieuwe Kerk
- 4 Museum van de Geest | Dolhuys
- 5 Teylers Museum
- 6 City Hall
- 7 Frans Hals Museum Hal
- 8 Frans Hals Museum Hof
- 9 Museum Haarlem
- 10 Molen de Adriaan
- 11 KoepelKathedraal
- 12 Jopenkerk
- 13 Uiltje Craft Beer
- 14 Philharmonie Haarlem
- 15 Haarlemmerhout Park
- 16 De Waag
- 17 Smidjtje Canal Cruises
- 18 Rent a Bike Haarlem
- 19 Restaurant DeDAKKAS
- 20 Restaurant Dijkers
- 21 Restaurant Meneer Frans
- 22 Kleine Houtstraat
- 23 Restaurant VOOGES
- 24 Restaurant Toujours



TIP EASY-TO-USE CYCLE ROUTES

If you like what you see on these pages and fancy taking in more without the fuss of planning a route yourself, then let us guide you through the best the area has to offer. Simply download our easy-to-use digital routes and, phone in hand, follow us around the city. iamsterdam.com/cycleseeing

HAARLEM HAS AN OPEN MIND

Come sign the *universal declaration of the open mind* in Dolhuys Haarlem. This beautifully restored medieval building once operated as shelter for the sick and insane and is now housing the Museum of the Mind. We use our cultural programs to put mental health on the public agenda, also for people who believe they are normal. So either way you're welcome!

MUSEUM VAN DE GEEST DOLHUYNS HAARLEM

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Scan QR code with your phone or tablet
or
[Go to survey.iamsterdam.com/areaguide](http://Go.to/survey.iamsterdam.com/areaguide)

AMSTERDAM BEACH

Zandvoort Beach photo: Griet Toala Olivares

From wild parties to sweeping dunes and blissed-out beaches to blustery coastal paths, there's something for everyone at Amsterdam Beach, no matter what the season. Spring and autumn are great for sandy strolls or tranquil hikes, and catching a breath of fresh air (or as the Dutch like to call it: *uitwaaien*). Winter walkers embrace the coastal air as the bravest of the brave take a dip in the North Sea. Come summer, sun-lovers bask on the beautiful golden beaches of (among others) Zandvoort aan Zee and visit the hip cafés, restaurants and trendy beach clubs. Alternatively, IJmuiden is characterised by its raw beauty – from the rugged beach to the industrial port, with its formidable harbours and an enormous lock system – and the North Sea wind makes this spot a haven for wind and watersports fans.

iamsterdam.com/beach

HOW TO GET THERE

Zandvoort

- Direct train service from Amsterdam Centraal to Zandvoort aan Zee – 30 minutes.

IJmuiden

- Take bus 382 from Amsterdam Sloterdijk Station to IJmuiden aan Zee – 45 minutes.

National Park

Zuid-Kennemerland

- Train service from Amsterdam Centraal Station to station Overveen – 25 minutes. From there it's just a short walk to the Visitors Centre.
- National Park South Kennemerland can also be visited from station Santpoort Noord. The entrance is a 10-minute walk away.

Plan your journey on Google Maps or use the 9292 app.

COASTAL ADVENTURES

ZANDVOORT BEACH

Just half an hour from Amsterdam, visit the charming town of Zandvoort for a seaside stroll or to hop from one sunny beachside terrace to the next. Enjoy the exceptionally wide sandy beach and the amazing views from the beautiful promenade that extends for several kilometres north and south of town. Zandvoort is one of the Netherlands' oldest beach resorts, with the first bathhouse put into use back in 1829. This was the start of the development of a luxury bathing resort frequented by many people of renown – including Empress Elisabeth of Austria – and it remains one of the region's most popular beaches. Come on a cloudy day to take in the peaceful stretches of sand or see Zandvoort in full swing during one of the many themed events hosted here year-round. ¹

visitzandvoort.com

DUTCH GRAND PRIX 2-4 SEPTEMBER 2022

Thrill-seekers have the chance to feel like a racing superstar all year round at Circuit Zandvoort, a motorsport race track hidden among the dunes of this unassuming beach town. Hop in a Lamborghini, Aston Martin or McLaren and test your driving skills, while the younger ones can practice theirs in a go-kart. In September, the Netherlands get set for the Formula 1 Dutch Grand Prix 2022, which hits the tarmac in Zandvoort for an unmissable weekend of high-speed manoeuvres and screaming engines. In the run-up to this big event, visitors can enjoy Zandvoort Beyond, the

side-events programme. ²
zandvoortbeyond.com

WIND AND WATER SPORTS

With a complete range of water sports on offer, the wide sandy beaches at IJmuiden, Wijk aan Zee, Zandvoort and Bloemendaal are the ideal place for thrill-seekers to get their fix! The Netherlands has a big surfing and windsurfing scene and you'll find plenty of schools and rental options along the coastline. Or, for some proper adventure, test out your paddle power on a thrilling sea kayaking adventure through the choppy waves. Other sports available include sea rafting, kitesurfing (a spectacular version of windsurfing that allows for very high jumps and incredible manoeuvres) and stand up paddleboarding. And, if you're not into getting wet, there are still plenty of ways to get your heart pumping at the beach. Try blokarting, a unique wind-powered go-kart that lets you zoom along the coast very fast – no rules, no jams, no oncoming traffic.

DRINKS WITH A VIEW

Zandvoort's dozens of beach clubs, restaurants and pavilions offer the perfect place to relax, with wind-screened terraces and delicious food and drink options. May we suggest a luxurious sunset cocktail at Mango's Beachbar? ³ Choose between views of the rolling dunes or the crashing waves.

PRIDE AT THE BEACH 31 JULY - 2 AUGUST 2022

Rain or shine, it's time to break out the beachwear as Pride Amsterdam heads to the beach at Zandvoort aan Zee. This three-day celebration of LGBTQ+ pride and diversity has a sun-soaked twist,

encompassing a colourful parade and a variety of events, games and parties at the local beach bars. ¹
visitzandvoort.com/calendar

EXPERIENCE WILDLIFE

If you're looking for more peace and quiet, Zandvoort offers access to two large nature parks (see page 17), which guarantee the chance to spot Konik horses, fallow deer, Scottish Highland cattle and the impressive bison all year round. Every October, the famous sand dunes fill with the calls of male deer, noisily hunting for a mate. This must-see sight (and unforgettable sound) is also a great excuse to visit the town centre, beach and racetrack – all hosting their own activities to help Zandvoort go 'wild'.
visitzandvoort.com/calendar



TIP WHILE YOU'RE THERE

You can't get from Amsterdam to Zandvoort without passing through Haarlem. The capital of the North Holland province has been the region's historical heart for about 800 years. In addition to picturesque architecture, canals, famous churches and a charming central square, Haarlem is a destination for boutique shopping, spectacular museums and fine-dining. Our advice: stop in Haarlem for a bite and drink on your way back to Amsterdam. See page 11 for more information.

RUGGED BEACHES

ESCAPE TO THE SEA IN IJMUIDEN

The wild beach at IJmuiden is the perfect location for a stroll on the sand or a frolic in the waves. The fresh gusts of wind coming in from the North Sea ensure that IJmuiden is a haven for sports like kitesurfing and flyboarding. Or, take a walk to the end of the long pier to marvel at Zeesluis IJmuiden - Europe's largest lock complex. To try your hand at fishing, head to the colourful port, home to many fishing boats. Feeling hungry? Enjoy some fresh fish straight off the boats at the harbour's many excellent restaurants. ⁴ ijmuidenaanzee.nl

EXPERIENCE HISTORY

IJmuiden is seaside beauty at its rawest. Behind the beach, the wide, bunker-studded dunes – great for cycling through – frame the sea, on which there is always an enormous ship disappearing over the horizon. The Bunker Museum ⁵ is housed in five fascinating German bunkers from the Second World War. At the mouth of the North Sea Canal is Forteiland IJmuiden ⁶, an impressive fortress dating from 1880. This former military defence offers plenty of history, adventure and relaxation, and is part of the Defence Line of Amsterdam, a unique UNESCO World Heritage Site. Open every first Sunday of the month from March to November. bunkermuseum.nl ijmuidenaanzee.nl

HARBOUR FESTIVAL 25-26 JUNE 2022

This Spring, IJmuiden's Trawlerkade will be taken over for two days by exhibits dedicated to art and culture, fishing and offshore industry. havenfestivalijmuiden.nl

THE NORTH SEA

As one of the biggest fishing harbours in Western Europe, IJmuiden has a strong connection to the sea. Learn more about the North Sea Canal at SHIP ⁷ – an interactive display that provides prime views of the ships passing through Europe's largest lock complex. The permanent collection at the IJmuiden Sea and Harbour Museum ⁸ offers a distinct overview of maritime activities past and present in the region. zeehavenmuseum.nl ship-info.nl

NATURE & DUNES

EXCITING BEACHES

Noordpier beach at IJmuiden is particularly popular for kitesurfing, due to the exceptional wind and wave flow caused by the pier. There's a surfing centre right on the beach where you can learn the basics, as well as rent wetsuits and gear, and while you probably won't master kitesurfing in a single day, it's all the more reason to come back. IJmuiden aan Zee beach is also great for active water sports and racing kite buggies across the sand. The quieter IJmuiderslag beach is a fantastic spot for Nordic walkers, nature lovers and dog walkers. Again, this beach is also perfect for wind and water sports. ⁹

ZUID-KENNERLAND NATIONAL PARK

The Zuid-Kennemerland National Park, a glorious expanse of some 3,800 hectares of dunes, attracts two million visitors each year. Living here are over 100 different species of birds, red deer, rabbits and roe deer as well as large grazers



Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen photo Cris Toala Olivares

such as Highland cattle and a small number of wisent – a European bison that, with a bit of luck, you may get to see from a distance. There are various marked footpaths (ranging from 1-25 kilometres long) through beautiful valleys, lakes and magnificent viewpoints. The Visitors' Centre De Kennemerduinen offers bike rentals, hiking maps, cycling routes and information on the landscape and history of the area. ¹⁰ np-zuidkennemerland.nl

AMSTERDAMSE WATERLEIDINGDUINEN

South of Zuid-Kennemerland National Park lies another extraordinary nature reserve, the Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen (water pipe dunes), an area which supplies drinking

water to the residents of Amsterdam. It's an excellent place for a walk, run or hike, but bicycles aren't allowed in – helping to protect the dune landscape. Instead, a dedicated cycle path connects the park to the coastline. It's not uncommon to see grazing deer and wild foxes romping through the underbrush. ¹¹ visitandvoort.com

MANORS IN THE DUNES

The Dutch dunes are full of beautifully preserved historical manorial estates, open to the public for fine or brasserie-style dining and overnight stays. Duin & Kruidberg Country Estate ¹², dating from 1682, offers 75 luxury hotel rooms within the Zuid-Kennemerland National Park. Beekestijn ¹³, meanwhile, is an 18th-century estate created from an older property as a summer residence for a wealthy Amsterdam regent, whose gardens are an outdoor museum. duin-kruidberg.nl buitenplaatsbeekestijn.nl



TIP ROUTES

Bike rental and walking/cycling routes are available at regional Tourist Information Centres (VVV).



Duin & Kruidberg Country Estate photo Cris Toala Olivares

Explore

IJmuiden
Rauw aan Zee!

Harbour festival IJmuiden 25 & 26 June 2022

Come to IJmuiden's largest nautical and cultural event. Enjoy the beautiful ships and live music at the quay. It will be an amazing festival.

Other tips:

- Public Day Fort Island IJmuiden
- Vissenloop – 21 May
- Bunker Day – 4 June

Learn all about 'Zeesluis IJmuiden', the world largest lock, in SHIP. Or discover the treasures of the Sea and Port Museum.

More information?
Visit ijmuiden.nl






.ijmuiden

MAP AMSTERDAM BEACH

Visitor Centres & Highlights

- A** WV IJmuiden aan Zee
- B** Visitors Centre De Kennemerduinen
- 1** Zandvoort (Beach)
- 2** Circuit Zandvoort
- 3** Mango's Beach Bar
- 4** IJmuiden Pier
- 5** Bunker Museum
- 6** Forteiland IJmuiden
- 7** SHIP
- 8** IJmuider Sea en Harbourmuseum
- 9** Noordpier
- 10** Zuid-Kennemerland National Park
- 11** Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen
- 12** Duin & Kruidberg Country Estate
- 13** Buitenplaats Beekestijn

-  Bus
-  Centrum Bus stop
-  Railway

0 1 2 3 km



FLOWERS OF AMSTERDAM



photo Koen Smilde

The Netherlands is synonymous with flowers – not just its iconic kaleidoscopic bulb and flower fields, but also its billion-euro industry. Leave the cobbled streets and calm canals of Amsterdam behind, and within just an hour you'll be biking through a vibrant floral landscape (from March to May, dependant on flower type), sailing through – and learning about – the region's horticultural past, taking in the excitement of the world's largest flower auction in Aalsmeer, or celebrating at local festivals and annual flower parades. What's more, you can stroll through the renowned spring gardens of Keukenhof and its millions of blooms or visit a historic pumping station.

iamsterdam.com/flowers

HOW TO GET THERE

Keukenhof

- Take bus 852 from Amsterdam RAI Station to bus stop Keukenhof – 35 minutes.

Royal FloraHolland

- Take bus 357 from Amsterdam Elandsgracht bus station to bus stop FloraHolland – 55 minutes.

Cruquius Steam Pumping Station

- Train from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Haarlem. Transfer to bus 340, bus stop Cruquius, Ringvaartbrug – 45 minutes.

Plan your journey on Google Maps or use the 9292 app.

THE NETHERLANDS IN BLOOM

BIKING THE BULB FIELDS

A bike is by far the best option when you want to explore somewhere at your own pace. You can rent bikes from Rent-a-Bike van Dam at the main entrance of Keukenhof for €15 a day (€10 for three hours), including a cycle route map. There are four signposted and marked routes in total, ranging from 5 to 25 kilometres long, available in nine languages. Combine your flower bike tour with a trip to the beach with route number 3. ¹ rentabikevandam-keukenhof.com

PICK YOUR OWN

Amsterdam's flower strip has been the top producer of unique flowers, particularly tulips, for hundreds of years. Annemieke's Pluktuin (picking garden) ², an organic tulip nursery in Hillegom offers visitors the chance to wander through the tulip fields and pick your own vibrant bunch to take home. Thanks to the fertile sandy soil in the region, you'll also find beautiful organic

fruit farms such as Landgoed de Olmenhorst (Olmenhorst Estate) ³. This green oasis of apple and pear orchards in the village of Lissebroek is over 160 years old. You can enjoy a stroll through the grounds or high tea on the terrace all year round. Or in Autumn, when the fruit is ripe, join one of the pick-your-own events.

annemiekespluktuin.nl
olmenhorst.nl

MUSEUM DE ZWARTE TULP

Located on the Dorpsplein 't Vierkant square in the centre of Lisse, Museum De Zwarte Tulp (Black Tulip Museum) tells the history of the Netherlands' bulb

region as well as the origins and the development of bulb culture through an interactive exhibition for the whole family. There's also a significant collection of botanical prints alongside paintings, glass, silver and porcelain, and changing exhibitions of contemporary art. ⁴ museumdezwartetulp.nl

DAHLIA DAYS

With a bloom period that lasts from August to October, the Dahlia is a stunning flower that delights from summer to autumn. And during the Dahlia Days, fans of this flower can revel in several specially dedicated events in and around Lisse. Keep an eye on the website for the latest dates. ⁵ vvvlisse.nl/en

KEUKENHOF 24 MARCH-15 MAY 2022

Nowhere is the Dutch cult of the tulip celebrated in a more glorious fashion than at the 'the most beautiful spring garden in the world', located in the bulb region south of Amsterdam. Open for just eight weeks each year (in accordance with the tulip's national flowering season), Keukenhof boasts a staggering seven million blooms



Keukenhof photo Laurens Lindhout

planted across a 32-hectare park. Over 500 growers present their most beautiful blooms, and leading florists create truly unique displays with them. You can easily spend an entire day in the gardens, but the rest of Lisse and the surrounding bulb area is also worth exploring. ¹

KEUKENHOF CASTLE

It may be perpetually outshone by its showy neighbour Keukenhof Gardens, but this castle boasts an impressive history with 17th-century roots. Inside, you'll find portraits, artefacts and period furniture. The estate now measures some 240 hectares and is home to 15 listed buildings, an art museum, café, petting farm and walking paths. For details of upcoming events



The Style Outlets

and exhibitions, please check the website. ⁶

kasteelkeukenhof.nl

THE STYLE OUTLETS

The Style Outlets, offering almost 100 international and national brands, is the ideal destination for a shopping

break. Along with fashion, you'll find stores selling sporting goods, accessories and home furnishings, and various restaurants. The outlet is very easy to reach by public transport due to the nearby Halfweg train station. ⁷

amsterdam.thestyleoutlets.nl/en

RENT-A-BIKE VAN DAM
With a smile, for a smile!

BOOK ONLINE!

RENTABIKEVANDAM-KEUKENHOF.COM

Keukenhof HOLLAND

The most beautiful spring garden in the world

24/03 15/05 2022

www.keukenhof.nl

WORLD OF FLOWERS

ROYAL FLORAHOLLAND

Royal FloraHolland in Aalsmeer – just 15 kilometres outside of Amsterdam – is the world's biggest flower auction (a whopping 400 football fields' worth in size). It's so large that the workers get around the site by bike. Royal FloraHolland handles more than 21 million cut flowers and 2 million potted plants each day, mainly for export. The unusual sales method used gave rise to the phrase 'Dutch auction'. Dealers bid by pushing a button to stop a 'clock' that counts from 100 down to 1; meaning that the price is lowered – rather than raised – until a buyer is found. Bidders risk either paying too much for the goods or not getting them if someone else bids first. The best action is before 9:00 so you'll have to get up early to see it, but there are flowers stretching as far as the eye can see. The smell is divine, and with an (optional) knowledgeable, multilingual guide, you'll witness the auction process first-hand. Open weekdays 07:00-11:00; Thursday until 09:00 (closed on public holidays). ⁸

royalfloraholland.com



Blooming fields near Lisse photo Cris Toala Olivares

FLORIWORLD

FloriWorld is a must-visit for anyone fascinated by plants and flowers. From surreal VR and impressive floral displays – both real and virtual – to live flower auctions, this year-round interactive experience will immerse you in the wonderful world of flora. Discover how these green-growing beauties impact your daily life, and what effects they may have on your health. And the best part: you can bid on your own bouquet in the auction hall at the end of the tour! ⁹

floriworld.com

FLOWER ART MUSEUM

The Flower Art Museum is the world's first museum entirely dedicated to floral-inspired contemporary art. Located in the former water cellar of Aalsmeer (opposite the water tower), this 1,000-m2 museum organises exhibitions with renowned artists and challenging themes in which flowers and plants play the leading role. ¹⁰

flowerartmuseum.nl

AALSMEER FLOWER FESTIVAL 18 JUNE 2022

Enjoy a colourful weekend full of flowers, art, music and food during the Aalsmeer Flower Festival. The seventh edition of this event is spread out over



FloriWorld

several locations, where you will find the most beautiful flowers and plants the city has to offer. Locations include the horticultural museum, a rose nursery, a floral design school and a spectacular waterfront venue. Visitors can travel around by bus and boat, and there is also a bike tour available. aalsmeerflowerfestival.nl

LISSE FLOWER VILLAGE

Every spring, visitors from around the world descend on the village of Lisse to visit the famous Keukenhof gardens and the blooming fields that surround it. But the town itself has more to offer than that! It's a charming spot to stroll, (window) shop and grab a tasty bite to eat. Need more time to take in an event or the theatre, cinema and Museum De Zwarte Tulp? Cosy up in one of the many charming hotels or B&Bs. When you're ready, leave town to set off on your own biking adventure around the breathtaking fields, lakes and dunes at your doorstep. ^A

vvvlisse.nl

WATER & HISTORY

CRUQUIUS STEAM PUMPING STATION

Four metres below sea level, the municipality of Haarlemmermeer harbours a historic pumping station with the world's largest steam engine. In the middle of the 19th century, the Cruquius steam engine was used to drain a lake in order to create new land. The only pumping station saved from demolition, Cruquius is now part of a fascinating museum. Learn about the Dutch struggle against water, marvel at a model of how the Netherlands would look without dykes, and experience a live steam engine demonstration. ¹¹ haarlemmermeermuseum.nl



Cruquius steam pumping station
photo Kees van der Veer

BOAT CRUISES

The combination of horticulture, recreation and nature make Aalsmeer unique. To make sure you don't miss a thing, take an open or covered boat tour

through a maze of islands, and let knowledgeable skippers fill you in on the region's horticultural history. Tours can be booked from May to October. westeinderrondvaart.nl ¹²

Travel to Keukenhof quickly, frequently and economically.

You could, for instance, take the metro (line M52) from Amsterdam city centre to Europaplein (RAI), and change to the **Keukenhof Express** (bus line 852) operated by Arriva.

The **Keukenhof Express** takes you to the main entrance of Keukenhof in just 35 minutes and departs up to 8 times an hour.

For more information, alternative travel options and purchasing combitickets, visit keukenhof.nl/ov



Combiticket
Bus return +
Admission Keukenhof

Child 4-17 €15,50
Adult from €29,50



GOEDE REIS

WESTEINDER LAKES & WATER TOWER

In Aalsmeer, the Westeinderplassen (Westeinder Lakes) offer plenty of watersports, from swimming to sailing lessons and boat rentals. Everyone is welcome to moor their boat at Starteiland. The area is famous for its horticultural industry, and the small islands still grow strawberries and lilacs – just as they did long ago. You can discover this from the water or at the Historical Garden (April-late October). The 50-metre-high Art Deco water tower is one of Aalsmeer's showpieces. At the foot of the tower, you'll find Westeinder Paviljoen restaurant, which offers a breathtaking view of the lake and is a perfect spot for a surf break. ¹³ historischetuinaalsmeer.nl

FORT VAN HOOFFDORP

This fortress island has undergone a large-scale renovation in recent years. With the redesignation, Fort van Hoofddorp has been transformed into a unique meeting place with space for hospitality, landscaping and cultural activities. Here you will find a restaurant, terraces, a wine

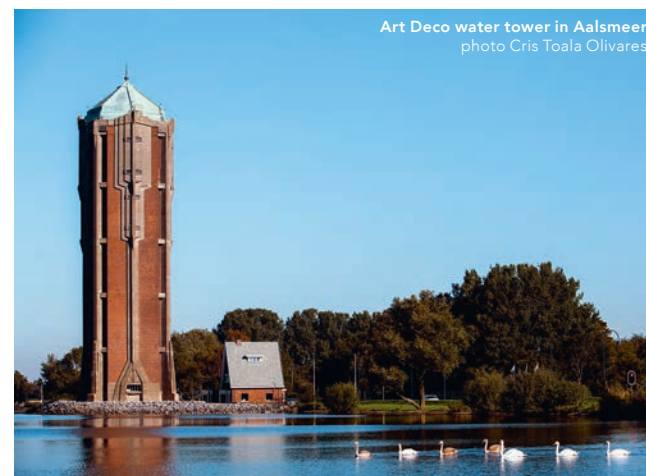
bar, an open-air theatre and an education centre. ¹⁴ fortvanhoofddorp.nl

ON THE ROCK

This restaurant, business venue and wedding location is located on the rocky banks of the Westeinderplassen in Aalsmeer. A beautiful location, to which the restaurant owes its name. At On The Rock, the view and sunset are spectacular every season and especially lovely from the large waterfront terrace. ¹⁵ ontherock.nl/en

DE ZUILEN

De Zuilen is a beautiful garden estate that boasts 3,500 square metres of groomed, walkable grounds and courtyards filled with Roman and Greek statues, fountains and columns, from which the estate gets its name. From 1 April to 31 May, De Zuilen's gardens bloom with narcissus, hyacinths and tulips, the latter of which is cultivated by a tulip specialist. The restaurant, bar and sunny terrace are open from Friday to Monday. ¹⁶ de-zuilen.nl



Art Deco water tower in Aalsmeer
photo Cris Toala Olivares



DAY TRIP A BLOOMING LOVELY DAY Half day

Get up early and head to the Royal FloraHolland flower auction before sailing across some of the Netherlands' most picturesque lakes and waterways.

START at Elandsgracht bus stop in Amsterdam. Take bus 357 to Aalsmeer and get off at stop FloraHolland (55 minutes). ⁸

TAKE IN the hustle and bustle of the auction floor, watch traders bid against the clock and be amazed at the amount of beautiful blooms traded daily from more than ten countries. Remember: the earlier you get there, the more you'll see.

JUMP ON bus 357 again (direction Aalsmeer) and get off at the Hortensiaplein stop. Walk to Westeinder Rondvaart ¹² (20 minutes, westeinderrondvaart.nl), take a boat tour on the Aalsmeer lakes and marvel at the countless islands teeming with flora and fauna.

WALK around Aalsmeer and take in the numerous historical monuments before jumping on the bus 357 from Hortensiaplein back to Amsterdam.

MAP FLOWERS OF AMSTERDAM



CASTLES & GARDENS



Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot
photo Mike Bink

Home to many old castles, fortified towns and ruins, this picturesque fortress stretch – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – offers a fascinating glimpse into medieval times. And if water is more your thing, you'll find a number of lakes located just outside of Amsterdam. Perfect for a day of fun and exploration on – and in – the water, there's a wide range of options available when it comes to renting a sailboat, electric boat, canoe or surfboard. What's more, you can relax in the quiet, green and unspoilt back garden of Amsterdam and retrace the footsteps of the wealthy 17th-century merchants who escaped the city to their estates along the River Amstel and River Vecht.

iamsterdam.com/castles

HOW TO GET THERE

Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot, Muiden

- Direct train from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Weesp Station, transfer to bus 110 to bus stop Muiden, Centrum – 60 minutes.

Naarden

- Take bus 209 from Amsterdam Bijlmer ArenA Station to bus stop Westwalstraat, Naarden – 40 minutes.
- The train from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Naarden-Bussum takes 30 minutes.

Amstelveen City Centre

- Tram 5 from Amsterdam Zuid Station to Amstelveen Stadshart – 15 minutes.

FORTRESS STRETCH

AMSTERDAM CASTLE MUIDERSLOT

Muiden is home to the grand Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot – built around 1285 – which looms over the mouth of the River Vecht. Take a tour through the impressive knight's hall, towers, dungeon and armoury or dress up like a real knight and try your hand at jousting. A great day of fun for the whole family.

1 April-31 October: open daily;
1 November-31 March:

Tuesday-Sunday. ¹
muiderslot.nl

WEEPS TOWN

Just 15 minutes by train from Amsterdam Centraal Station, the charming town of Weesp looks like a miniature version of Amsterdam thanks to its many canals. With a lovely museum situated in an 18th-century town hall, boutiques and plenty of terraces along the water, Weesp is an ideal destination if you want to enjoy a typical Dutch town. ²

visitgooivecht.com/weesp

FORTEILAND PAMPUS

Once built to defend the city of Amsterdam, this unique fortress island is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pampus offers you a 40-minute Xperience trip through the abandoned fortress, a black light scavenger hunt for children, an audio tour in English or German that shares the secrets of 400 years of history, a cosy restaurant and interesting historical artefacts to discover all over the island. Check the website for opening times and accessibility. ³

pampus.nl



DEFENCE LINE OF AMSTERDAM

Both Muiden and Weesp are fantastic starting points for exploring the Stelling van Amsterdam (the Defence Line of Amsterdam), a 135-kilometre ring of fortifications around the city that once protected it from invaders and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list in 1996. Special bike routes (in English) take you past the most beautiful highlights, among them Forteiland Pampus, Fort aan de Ossenmarkt, Fort Uitermeer and Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot.

defencelineamsterdam.com

NAARDEN & DUTCH FORTRESS MUSEUM

Naarden is one of the most remarkable examples of a preserved fortified town. From the air, the town's unique layout resembles a gigantic snowflake, comprising six bastions, a double rampart and a double ring of canals. The history of Naarden is explained at the fascinating Dutch Fortress Museum, which features canons, weapons, uniforms and an audio-visual presentation. Experience how the soldiers protected Amsterdam and its surroundings from enemies from the Far East, and explore the dark corners of the fortress,

where the soldiers once fought, lived and slept. ⁴

visitgooivecht.com/naarden

MUIDEN TOWN

Besides Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot, the fortified town of Muiden offers a cosy harbour with historical flatboats and lovely terraces. Time seems to pass more slowly on the banks near the lock. For some of the best views, head over to Café Ome Ko. A former hangout for skippers and sailors, it's the oldest pub in the city and has been pouring beer since 1810. It is said that even Napoleon Bonaparte visited once on horseback. ⁵

visitgooivecht.com/muiden



TIP ROUTES

Travel by boat from Amsterdam IJburg or Almere to Forteiland Pampus and Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot and get a 25% discount with your I amsterdam City Card. Ferries run Tuesday-Sunday, April-October from IJburg (take tram 26 from Amsterdam Centraal Station to the Pampuslaan stop). ⁶

amsterdamtouristferry.com

LEISURE LAKES

LOOSDRECHT LAKES

The Loosdrechtse Plassen (Loosdrecht Lakes) are perfect for water sports: sailing, rowing, canoeing, waterskiing and speedboating are all possible here. If taking a boat out yourself is not your thing, then join a sailboat or speedboat excursion or just relax on a terrace and admire the view from dry land. Check the website for rental options. ⁶ visitgooivecht.com

UITHOORN

Just to the south of Amsterdam is Uithoorn, with its charming Thamerkerk church from 1834 right on the River Amstel and close to Westeinderplassen. The Fort aan de Drecht, completely renovated in 2000 and part of the Defence Line of Amsterdam, can also be seen here. The more-than-a-century-old former military installation is located on the edge of Uithoorn. A variety of walking and cycling routes have been marked out in Amstelland (the area around the Amstel River), or discover the area from the river itself. ⁷

HUIZEN

Huizen – literally 'Houses' – was originally an agricultural village about two kilometres



Loosdrecht Lakes photo Cris Toala Olivares

from the sea. It later expanded to become a coastal town, boasting the IJsselmeer's most vibrant fishing industry. In recent years Huizen has developed into a modern village bordering the Gooimeer (Gooi Lake), with several marinas and a lively historic centre offering great shopping as well as the medieval Dutch Reformed Church. Built around the Oude Haven (Old Harbour) where you can still see beautiful flatboats, some of them over 100 years old, Huizen's Nautical Quarter includes a lovely hotel, restaurants and convivial cafés. To get there take bus 320 from Amstel Station to Huizen bus station. ⁸ visitgooivecht.com/huizen

RIVER VECHT BY BOAT & BIKE

Why choose between land and water when exploring the lovely country estates of the River Vecht? De Fietsboot (the Bike Boat) lets you hop on and off and continue by bike as you please! defietsboot.nl

SINGER LAREN MUSEUM

At the end of the 19th century, the quiet, picture-perfect beauty of Laren attracted artists like

Jozef Israëls, Anton Mauve, Albert Neuhuys and Hein Kever – to become known as the Laren School of Painting. Situated in a former villa built in 1911, the Singer Laren Museum houses an art collection and sculpture garden. Starting 9 March 2022, the new Nardinc Wing will be open to the public with an exhibition showcasing work from the Nardinc collection, including pieces by Jan Sluijters and other modernists. Take bus 320 from Amsterdam Amstel Station to bus stop Ziekenhuis Tergooi (30 min). Rent an Urbee e-bike at the bus stop and cycle to the museum (10 min). ⁹ singerlaren.nl



TIP BOATING AROUND

Connected by rivers, canals and small channels, the picturesque lakes just south of Amsterdam make for a perfect getaway. Rent a sailboat, electric boat, canoe or surfboard and explore, enjoy and relax. visitgooivecht.com

GOOI & VECHT-STREEK

HILVERSUM

The area known as the Gooi & Vechtstreek provides enough inspiration for a wonderful day out or weekend away. In contrast to the picturesque historic villages of Bussum, Naarden, Huizen, Laren, Blaricum and Muiden, the region is also home to the thriving cultural centre of Hilversum. Also known as the 'Media City' of The Netherlands, this vibrant city offers architectural surprises, concept stores, artisanal bakeries and impressive museums with outstanding contemporary photography. visitgooivecht.com

MUSEUM HILVERSUM

Located in Hilversum's 250-year-old town hall, this inspiring museum has a special focus on new media arts and photography. On top of a changing programme of roughly 10 exhibitions a year, the museum hosts both World Press Photo and De Zilveren Camera – the most important journalistic photo competition in the country. Keep an eye on the agenda for lectures, performances or media labs and drop by the cosy café for refreshments during your visit. museumhilversum.nl ¹⁰

FOODHALL MOUT

In Hilversum's Foodhall Mout, you can eat the best street food from all over the world. From Italy to Asia, from vegan to meat. The menu includes the

tastiest breakfasts, lunch dishes and small dishes to share. Mout is also home to a local brewery the Gooische Bierbrouwerij. ¹¹ mouthilversum.nl

PINETUM BLIJDENSTEIN BOTANICAL GARDEN

Tucked away in a residential suburb within walking distance from the centre of Hilversum, Pinetum Blijdenstein is a stunning botanical garden. Whilst the greenhouses are packed with various tropical plants, the grounds are home to a variety of tree species including blooming rhododendrons and one of the most important collections of conifers in the world. Pinetum regularly organises exhibitions, tours, lectures and activities for green-fingered little ones. ¹² pinetum.nl

Discover
Castles &
Gardens
visitgooivecht.com

gv/visit
gooi & vecht

30 minutes
from Amsterdam

f i t i n
[visitgooivecht](https://www.instagram.com/visitgooivecht)



Singer Laren Museum

AMSTEL-VEEN

FOREST & CITY CENTRE

Amstelveen owes its existence to the Amstel River, which once played a crucial role in connecting Amsterdam to the rest of the Netherlands. Today, it is one of the greenest and most diverse municipalities in the Amsterdam Area with plenty of options for recreation and entertainment. Alongside two national monuments – the Amsterdamse Bos (Amsterdam Forest) and the Heemparken (a botanic gardens dedicated to native flora) – you'll also find Stadshart Amstelveen, a covered shopping centre with over 200 luxury stores. ¹³ visitamstelveen.nl

COBRA MUSEUM

The Cobra Museum is a must-see for modern art lovers, with changing exhibitions featuring the great names of the mid-20th-century CoBrA movement, such as Karel Appel, Constant, Corneille and Jan Sierhuis. There are also major temporary exhibitions of work by individual artists and their contemporaries from related movements, as well as temporary exhibitions of



Cobra Museum photo Matthijs Immink

modern and contemporary art. ¹⁴ cobra-museum.nl

SCHOUWBURG AMSTELVEEN

With two theatre stages and a cinema, Schouwburg Amstelveen is one of the larger regional theaters in the Netherlands. The programme offers a range of cabaret, music, dance, music and drama performances to delight all ages. ¹⁵ schouwburgamstelveen.nl

MUSEUM JAN

Situated in Amstelveen's 'Old Village', Museum JAN specialises in glass art and Dutch design. Over the years it has assembled a rich collection of modern work by the masters in this field, as well as other sculptures and paintings. ¹⁶ museumjan.nl

P60

This club and live music venue with outstanding acoustics hosts smaller touring bands and acts as well as up-and-coming local musicians. The club nights focus on techno, electro and indie. ¹⁷ p60.nl

AMSTERDAMSE BOS

The Amsterdamse Bos (Amsterdam Forest) is three times the size of New York's

Central Park and entirely man-made. Spanning an impressive 1,000 hectares, this exceptional green space is among the largest city parks of Europe. You are guaranteed a large dose of nature, wandering the activity-packed central zones framed by quieter forests and fields of rustic flora and fauna. Along the various walking or cycling paths, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife as the lush forests and open water of this nature area make a cosy home for marsh harriers, kingfishers, squirrels, grass snakes and even some highland cattle. ¹⁸ amsterdamsebos.nl/english

RIDAMMERHOEVE GOAT FARM

Right in the heart of the Amsterdamse Bos, Ridammerhoeve is an organic goat farm which produces a range of dairy products – all for sale at the café and farm shop. Enjoy a goat's milk hot chocolate or an organic sandwich with goat cheese on the terrace. Younger guests will find lots to entertain themselves amongst the animals, with opportunities to feed and pet the baby goats depending on the time of year. The farm also organises all kinds of activities including cheese-making workshops, high teas and birthday parties. ¹⁹ geitenboerderij.nl

AAN DE POEL

With captivating views over De Poel lake at sunset, the ambiance of two-Michelin-star restaurant Aan de Poel perfectly complements the food. Guests can enjoy personalized attention from chef Stefan van Sprang, immaculate presentation and a selection of over 600 wines. ²⁰ aandepoel.nl

Ouderkerk aan de Amstel
photo Cris Toala Olivares



ALONG THE RIVER AMSTEL

OUDERKERK AAN DE AMSTEL

Featuring some of Amsterdam's most breathtaking rural views and bustling riverside terraces, historical Ouderkerk aan de Amstel is a charming spot to spend an afternoon. It's just an idyllic bike ride along the River Amstel from the centre of Amsterdam. This medieval village is separated from the surrounding cities of Amsterdam and Amstelveen by the Ronde Hoep nature reserve and photo-ready fields dotted with windmills and stately riverside homes. It's the ideal destination when you're looking for a local (bike) trip that offers a little bit of everything. ²¹ amstelgoed.nl/en

LOETJE AAN DE AMSTEL

In the 17th century the Amstelzide, on the outskirts of Amstelveen and Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, was an important stopover point for travellers along the Amstel. Nowadays this area is a lovely neighbourhood with plenty of cafés and restaurants boasting exquisite riverside views. Loetje aan de Amstel has been a landmark for over 30 years. Regulars and out-of-towners alike flock here for its homemade fries and juicy steaks, which many have proclaimed to be the best in the Netherlands. ²² loetje.nl/en

BETH HAIM CEMETERY

In the heart of the medieval village of Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, you'll find the Beth Haim cemetery. Opened in 1614, it's the oldest Jewish cemetery in the Netherlands and is filled with ornate gravestones

carved in marble and featuring beautiful inscriptions in Dutch, Portuguese and Hebrew. The graves belong to Spanish and Portuguese Jews who fled to the Netherlands in the 17th century, as well as their descendants. ²³ bethhaim.nl/english



Beth Haim Cemetery
photo Cris Toala Olivares

MAP CASTLES & GARDENS

Visitor Centres & Highlights

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| A VV Muiden | D VV Bussum | G VV Kortenhoef |
| B VV Weesp | E VV Huizen | H Gooi & Vechtstreek Visitor Centre |
| C VV Naarden | F VV Hilversum | |
-
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Amsterdam Castle Muiderstot | 10 Museum Hilversum |
| 2 Weesp | 11 Foodhall Mout |
| 3 Forteiland Pampus | 12 Pinetum Blijdenstein Botanical Garden |
| 4 Naarden & Dutch Fortress Museum | 13 Amstelveen |
| 5 Muiden | 14 Cobra Museum of Modern Art |
| 6 Loosdrecht Lakes | 15 Schouwburg Amstelveen |
| 7 Uithoorn | 16 Museum Jan |
| 8 Huizen | 17 P60 |
| 9 Singer Laren Museum | 18 Amsterdamse Bos (Amsterdam Forest) |
| | 19 Goat farm |
| | 20 Restaurant Aan de Poel |
| | 21 Ouderkerk aan de Amstel |
| | 22 Restaurant Loetje aan de Amstel |
| | 23 Beth Haim cemetery |



NEW LAND



Architecture in Almere photo Richard Terborg

The Dutch have waged war against water for centuries to protect their towns, and the province of Flevoland is the most recent conquest. Lying at four metres below sea level, it is a testament to the innovative engineering that Flevoland is renowned for. No other landscape in the Netherlands breathes '20th century' as much as Flevoland does. Its modern polder cities act as architectural museums and feature the work of renowned designers such as Rem Koolhaas. In beautiful and complementary contrast, natural areas such as New Land National Park and Natuurpark Lelystad are fantastic spots for a hike or a day of bird-watching.

iamsterdam.com/newland

HOW TO GET THERE

Almere and Lelystad City Centres

- Direct train service from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Almere Centrum – 20 minutes.
- Direct train service from Almere Centrum to Lelystad Centrum – 14 minutes.

You can download an audio tour specially made to enjoy during the journey by train from Amsterdam to New Land here: www.visitflevoland.nl/en/audiotours

New Land National Park

- Train service to Almere Oostvaarders Station. From there, it's a 20-minute walk to the Visitor Centre – 60 minutes.

From Lelystad Centrum it's a 20-minute bike trip.

Plan your journey on Google Maps or use the 9292 app.

NEW LAND

EXPLORING THE POLDER

Wherever you walk in Flevoland, you're actually walking on the seabed, the former Zuiderzee. A system of dykes holds back the surrounding water, the level of which is, on average, 5 metres higher. The Zuiderzee posed a looming and constant threat to the inhabitants of the surrounding area, with thousands of people losing their lives during storm floods. The idea to drain the Zuiderzee had been raised as far back as the 17th century, but it took modern engineering to complete the project. In the 20th century, work began on reclaiming more than 1,800 km² from the inland Zuiderzee, creating the Netherlands' youngest province, Flevoland, and cities like Almere and Lelystad in the process. Today, the area's remarkable history, modern architecture, friendly beaches and a unique nature reserve make New Land well worth a visit. [visitflevoland.com/en](http://www.visitflevoland.com/en)

BATAVIALAND

Take a journey spanning 7,000 years of Dutch history at Batavialand. ❶ The shipyard shows how the Dutch have mastered shipbuilding over the centuries, building robust ships that were capable of traversing Dutch and international waters. Climb aboard the famous reconstruction of the VOC ship, the *Batavia*, and find out how these powerful 17th-century trade ships were constructed. Want to see where the battle against the water started in Lelystad? Visit Werkeiland ❷ and find out.

batavialand.nl/en/shipyard

Presenting a broad outline of the history of Flevoland, from the prehistoric Swifterbant people to the largest reclamation project ever: the Zuiderzee project. The collection includes 6,000-year-old archaeological finds from the days when Flevoland was still an extensive marshland, as well as archives with thousands of photographs, documents and much more. There's plenty for children to do, including presentations that let them step into the shoes of a dyke builder, archaeologist or lock keeper. Fun experiments and games teach them about one of the Netherlands' key challenges: water management. ❶ batavialand.nl/en/museum

LAND ART

During the creation of the Flevoland polder, the engineers and planners decided to mark the momentous occasion with art. They turned to an art form that spoke to their imagination: Land Art. The result is a collection of nine Land Art works – the highest concentration anywhere in the world – by world-famous artists such as Robert Morris, Anthony Gormley and Daniel Libeskind. All nine can be visited in a single day.



Landart Lelystad photo Visit Flevoland

Discover these gems by yourself (by car) or during an organised bus tour (in summer) – and take in the amazing history of Flevoland's creation at the same time. ❸ visitflevoland.nl/landart

URBAN ART

Scattered around New Land you'll find some impressive street art created by local and international artists. On Weverstraat, Lelystad, a hyper-realistic hand emerges from the depths of the sea in French artist SCKARO's work. The piece references the 10,000-year-old civilisation that scientists found evidence of at the bottom of the North Sea. In the centre of Almere you will find a permanent art work by Kamp Seedorf, which serves as a meeting point for locals and a place for performances. <https://visitlelystad.nl/en/murals>



VOC ship Batavia photo VisitFlevoland

NEW NATURE

NATUURPARK LELYSTAD

Discover endangered species and impressive wisents (bison) in the beautiful setting of Natuurpark Lelystad, an important link in the circle of wildlife. The nature park features an extensive system of hiking and cycling trails and several picnic areas. The visitor centre offers information on tours and packages, and there's a shop where you can rent bikes. They will provide you with all the information you need about Natuurpark Lelystad and other stunning nature reserves, such as Lepelaarplassen. ⁴ visitlelystad.nl/en/gebied/natuurpark

NEW LAND NATIONAL PARK

New Land National Park is a truly unique landscape in the Netherlands. It's rugged, wide, full of contrast, there's always water nearby – and of course, there's the well-known dyke: a constant reminder that you are indeed on a former seabed. This unpolished landscape is home to many animals. There are tens of thousands of birds,



Konik horses Oostvaardersplassen photo Visit Flevoland

large groups of wild herbivores, horses, red deer, foxes, sea eagles, beavers, otters, grass snakes, butterflies and dragonflies. ⁵ ⁶ nationaalparknieuwland.nl

OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN

The Oostvaardersplassen is the largest man-made nature reserve in the world and is one unlike any other in Europe. During their annual migration, tens of thousands of birds stop to refuel or breed in the lake complex. You can also find yourself face to face with wild cattle, horses and red deer crossing the open landscape. The visitor centers in Almere en Lelystad are a great

starting point to experience wildlife. ⁷

FLORIADÉ 14 APRIL - 19 OCTOBER 2022

In 2022, Almere will host Floriade, an international garden expo that takes place in the Netherlands every ten years. This edition's theme is 'Growing Green Cities', transforming some 60 hectares of land near Almere's city centre into an innovative garden expo to showcase the importance of nature and greenery in the cities of the future. What's more, almost everything built for this six-month-long event will become a permanent part of a new residential district. Visitors to the expo can also enjoy a spectacular gondola ride above the festival grounds on a purpose-built ropeway showcasing the potential for sustainable use of urban cable cars. ⁸ floriade.com

SANDY BEACHES

Did you know that Almere boasts over 42 kilometres of coastline? Or that it has the largest catamaran beach in all of Europe? The lengthy coastline is sprinkled with beautiful beaches

where you can relax or swim to your heart's content. Many of Almere's beaches feature restaurants and cafés serving refreshments, and most of them have public toilet facilities and showers. ⁹ For the more adventurous, Batavia beach in Lelystad ¹⁰ is the ideal location for flyboarding and surfing. visitalmere.com/en

DE KEMPHAAN CITY ESTATE

Close to Almere centre, the De Kemphaan city estate is the perfect destination for an adventurous day away from the hustle and bustle. Children of all ages will delight in the climbing forest, lively organic city farm, centre for rescued monkeys, and canoe beaver safari with a forest ranger. Take a break at one of the local restaurants located at De Kemphaan or even spend



Marker Wadden photo Allwrite Visit Flevoland

the night in one of the estate's luxurious lodges. ¹¹ kemphaan.nl/en

MARKER WADDEN

Marker Wadden is a unique nature reserve still in development. The small islands, in between Lelystad and Enkhuizen, are constructed with sand, clay and silt from

the Markermeer. As new plants blossom both under and above water, it is quickly becoming a natural paradise for fish and birds. Delve deeper into the Marker Wadden by taking an expedition on the Abel Tasman sailboat. On the island, a guide from Natuurmonumenten will explain the environment's fascinating features. ¹²



Be inspired at Floriade Expo 2022

For six months Almere (less than 30 min. from Amsterdam) will provide the stage for the International Horticultural Exhibition Floriade Expo 2022. The park will provide a plethora of greenery and sustainable technology with its theme: Growing Green Cities.

Open daily from 14 April - 9 October 2022.

Opening hours: 10.00 - 19.00.

For more information see floriade.com



Floriade Park

NEW CITIES

ALMERE CITY CENTRE

Approximately 400 shops with international allure thread through modern architectural highlights in the centre of Almere, one of the youngest and fastest-growing cities in the Netherlands, nestled in a green polder just north of Amsterdam. Shop for everything from local curiosities to world-famous brands and then head to the 'restaurant squares' of Stationsplein, Belfort restaurant square and Grote Markt. While you dine on Dutch and international delicacies, your kids can play right where you can see them.¹³

See Almere's architecture from an insider's perspective with a

guided tour of the city centre or other neighbourhoods. Or grab the walking tour flyer at the Tourist Information Centre (VVV Almere) and explore Almere by yourself. Bike rentals and information about guided tours are available as well. Alternatively, join a guided Segway tour with Segs in the City. **B** visitalmere.com/en

FAMOUS ARCHITECTS IN THE CITY CENTRE

Almere's modern skyline elegantly fuses modern design with elements of nature. Here you will find work by many world-famous architects, including the iconic undulating designs of Rem Koolhaas and his firm OMA, who conceptualised the pedestrian-friendly planning for the city centre. The new

Discover Almere Photography Tour is your guide to the centre of Almere. Download this free interactive audio tour and let photographer Richard Terborg introduce you to the most impressive architecture the city has to offer. ¹³ visitalmere.com/photography

BATAVIA STAD FASHION OUTLET

Amid all this culture and nature is the premium outlet centre Batavia Stad Fashion Outlet. This charming, reconstructed 17th-century village is a shopping paradise. More than 250 international fashion and lifestyle brands such as Hugo Boss, Michael Kors and Tommy Hilfiger are waiting to inspire you with the latest trends, must-have items and more. It's not just your wardrobe needs that will be

Almere City Centre



sated after a day of shopping in this outlet centre; you can also indulge yourself with jewellery, chocolate and even innovative cookware. Tired of shopping? Relax at one of the hip cafés or pleasant restaurants. ¹⁴ bataviastad.com

THE KUNSTLINIE THEATRE

At first glance, The Kunstlinie Theatre appears to be floating, jutting over Weerwater lake in a dramatic horizontal slice. Japanese architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa opted for stylistic simplicity and transparency in their designs, using glass facades to fill the building with light and reflect the beautiful natural surroundings. ¹⁵ kunstlinie.nl

AGORA THEATRE & RESTAURANT APPLAUS

The attention-grabbing Agora Theater is located in a bright orange building designed by Ben van Berkel. Inside you'll find a theatre, cinema, and congress centre which form the cultural heart of the city. Swing by for a bite to eat at the highly-rated Restaurant Grand Cafe Applaus – a modern yet intimate setting to enjoy a delicious meal devised

by head chef Martijn van Wegen. Whether it's for a cappuccino on the sunny terrace, a relaxed business lunch, a selection of appetisers or the sumptuous five-course menu, Applaus has got it covered. ¹⁶ agora-lelystad.nl restaurantapplaus.nl

BRASSERIE BAKBOORD

Let the exquisite sea views, casual ambience and landscapes of Almere carry you away as you dine on the waterside terrace at Brasserie Bakboord. The restaurant prides itself on freshly caught seafood, home-made and seasonal produce from its own organic vegetable garden. This harbourside eatery has long been considered one of the best in Flevoland. ¹⁷ brasseriebakboord.nl/en

AVIODROME AVIATION MUSEUM

Discover a world full of adventurous airplane action for young and old in the Luchtvaart Museum Aviodrome – dedicated to 100 years of civil aviation. Admire more than 100 old and new aircraft inside and outside. Board a Boeing 747 and experience the adrenaline of a real pilot in the flight simulator and 4D film theatre! Enthusiastic volunteers give free guided tours daily, taking you into the world of airplanes and aviation from then and now. ¹⁸ aviodrome.nl

CABLEPARK ALMERE

Calling all (water-based) thrill-seekers! Spend a day whizzing around the Weerwater lake on water skis or a wakeboard, aided by a kilometre-long cable track that allows users to reach speeds of up to 30km/ph. Experienced water sporters can make the most of the various obstacles on

the course to try out tricks, while beginners can get acquainted with the sports on the dedicated training track. All equipment required to hit the water is available for hire. After working up an appetite, grab a seat on the restaurant terrace and take in the tremendous views of the Almere skyline. ¹⁹ cableparkviewwalmere.nl



DAYTRIP YOUNGEST PROVINCE

Half or full day

START at Amsterdam Centraal Station. The best way to experience New Land is to take the train to Lelystad Centrum. The views from the train are spectacular, as you can even spot native species in the Nieuw Land National Park along the way. Tip: take a seat on the left side of the train for the best views.

DISCOVER the history of the reclamation of Flevoland at Batavialand Museum. Next to the museum is a replica of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) ship *The Batavia*. ¹

VISIT Almere City Centre to admire the stunning modern architecture of this new city. Special 'architecture routes' are available from the Tourist Information Centre. **B**

REFUEL at one of the many eateries on Belfort restaurant square before you hop on the train back to Amsterdam Centraal Station from Almere Centrum Station. ¹³

Experience New Land and be amazed



 **Lelystad**
geeft lucht

MAP NEW LAND

Lelystad



Amsterdam City



Almere

Markermeer

Nieuw Land National Park

Visitor Centres & Highlights

- A** Tourist Info Lelystad
- B** VVV Almere (10 minute walk from Almere Centrum Station)
- 1** Batavialand
- 2** Werkeiland
- 3** Exposure (Land Art)
- 4** Natuurpark Lelystad
- 5** New Land National Park Visitor Centre (Lelystad)
- 6** New Land National Park Visitor Centre (Almere)
- 7** Oostvaardersplassen
- 8** Floriade
- 9** Almeerderstrand (Beach)
- 10** Batavia Beach
- 11** De Kemphaan City Estate
- 12** Marker Wadden
- 13** Almere City Centre
- 14** Batavia Stad Fashion Outlet
- 15** De Kunstlinie Theatre
- 16** Agora Theatre & Restaurant Applaus
- 17** Brasserie Bakboord
- 18** Aviodrome
- 19** Cablepark Almere

OLD HOLLAND



Zaanse Schans photo Cris Toala Olivares

The Zaan region is a magnificent piece of perfectly preserved industrial heritage, and a visit here is like travelling back in time. For those who wish to soak up this legacy, the former Zuiderzee boasts numerous historic harbour towns and picturesque old fishing villages. The strategically positioned Edam, Volendam, Marken and Monnickendam, for example, were once dedicated to two things: fishing and trading. Several traditional cheese farms keep the old-fashioned Dutch craft of cheese-making alive, with staff demonstrating their artisan skills. With its green meadows, traditional farmhouses, and two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Amsterdam Waterland offers an abundance of activities for anyone who enjoys the outdoors.

iamsterdam.com/oldholland

HOW TO GET THERE

Zaandam

- Direct train service from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Zaandam – 15 minutes.

Fishing Villages

- Take a bus from Amsterdam Noord metro station to Monnickendam (15 minutes), Marken (30 minutes) and Volendam (30 minutes), or take a bus from Amsterdam Central Station to Edam or Volendam.

Purmerend

- Take bus 301 from metro station Noord to bus stop Tramplein, Purmerend – 20 minutes.

Plan your journey on Google Maps or use the 9292 app.

HARBOUR VILLAGES

MONNICKENDAM

The beautiful harbour town of Monnickendam is home to dozens of monumental buildings. In the 17th century, shipyards and smokehouses were established here, and they never left: even now, the historic buildings and street names are reminiscent of its industrious past, when trades and crafts flourished. During the summer, you can experience these bustling scenes of fish smoking and fishing boats again during the 'fish days' in the picturesque inner harbour (check the website for 2022 dates).

laagholland.com

VOLENDAM

Volendam is known for its traditional costumes, music and fish. The characteristic tiny houses, made incredibly picturesque by the beautiful harbour, create an atmosphere of friendliness and romance. Art Hotel Spaander, on the waterfront, opened in 1881 to accommodate the artists who flocked to Volendam to paint. It soon became a meeting



place for painters from all over Europe. The more than 1,400 works of art in the hotel attest to this heyday.

The Volendams Museum is undoubtedly one of the most unconventional museums in the Netherlands. Visitors can glimpse into some of the more unique elements of early Dutch life in the region including true-to-life old interiors, fishing equipment and costumes. ¹ laagholland.com volendamsmuseum.nl 

EDAM


Edam is one of the Netherlands' true treasures. In the 14th and 15th centuries, the fortress town

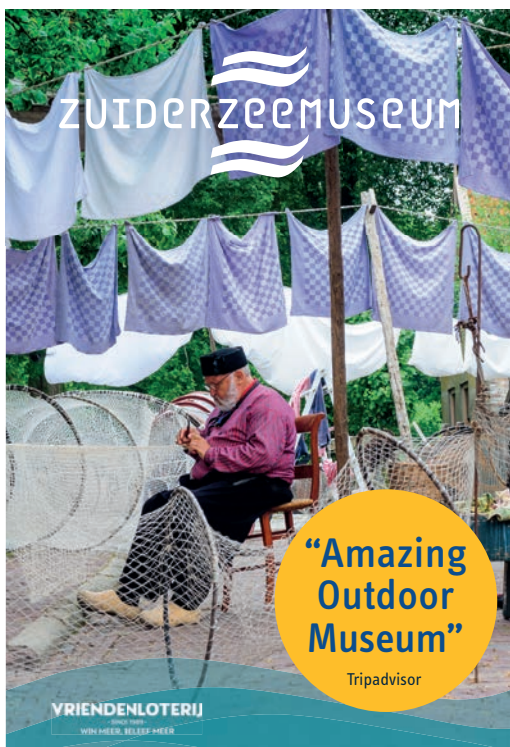


Cheese Market Edam

was one of the country's most important commercial centres, with thriving shipbuilding, timber and cheese-trading industries. It continues to be known around the world for its cheese. Until 1922, farmers from the surrounding area sailed to Edam's cheese market, where their produce was weighed and sold. You can see these old practices for yourself when the cheese market is revived every Wednesday in July and August (10:30-12:30). ² laagholland.com

MARKEN

So picture-perfect it's like stepping into a 17th-century Dutch landscape painting, historic Marken with its characteristic green wooden houses – 145 of which are national monuments – was an island in the Zuiderzee until 1957, when it was connected to the mainland by a dyke. You may recognise the light-house, the 'Horse of Marken', from adverts for Heineken beer. Board the Volendam Marken Express (ferry, sails year-round) to travel between the old fishing villages of Volendam and Marken. ³ laagholland.com markenexpress.nl 



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INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

HEMBRUG TERREIN

Once a hub for the production of ammunition and weaponry, Zaandam's Hembrugterrein has now transformed into a cultural centre housing several restaurants, museums and creative venues. The focal point is Het HEM, a former munitions factory in an exceptional architectural space where multidisciplinary art programmes unfold. The ever-changing events line up encompasses everything from visual art to dance, music, theatre and philosophy. Just around the corner, you'll find The Museum of Humanity featuring dozens of thought-provoking portraits of people from all over the world to pose questions about what it means to be human. The GVB ferry service runs between Hem-pontplein (Amsterdam West) and Zaandam over the North Sea Canal. The ferry service operates 24/7. At night, you can also take a ferry from Amsterdam Centraal Station. ⁴ hetthem.nl museumofhumanity.nl

INTEL HOTELS & CLAUDE MONET

'Zaandam is quite remarkable,' wrote Claude Monet, 'and there is enough to paint for a lifetime.' Indeed, the region does seem to have inspired him: during his short stay here in 1871, Monet created 25 paintings. But what would Monet have painted had he walked around Zaandam today? Probably the Inntel Hotels Amsterdam Zaandam. ⁵ A modern interpretation of the traditional green Zaan houses, the 12-storey structure is the showpiece of the Inntel Hotels chain. The blue house at the top

is based on Monet's eponymous painting in 1871 in Zaandam. Replicas of Monet's 25 Zaandam paintings can be seen in the MonetAtelier ⁶ along the River Zaan in the centre of Zaandam. The Monet Atelier is located in the rebuilt 'Luchthuis aan de Zaan', a house from one of Monet's paintings. The Zaan Museum ⁷ also owns a real Monet; definitely worth a visit. zaans.nl/visitors

ZAANSE SCHANS

The Zaanse Schans is an open-air museum that's fun for all ages. Open year-round, Zaanse Schans is a free park with a collection of historic windmills. While the attraction can be visited any time of year, the majority of the windmills are open to visitors from April to October. Besides windmills, you can also visit the souvenir shops, see clogs being made or visit a cheese farm. ⁸ dezaanseschans.nl

HISTORIC ZAANDIJK & GORTERSHOEK

Across the water from the Zaanse Schans, you will find the protected village of Gortershoek with its beautiful 17th- and 18th-century merchant houses. ⁹ To get there, cross the bridge over the River Zaan, or take the pedestrian ferry departing from the Zaanse Schans (May-Sept, €1). One of the former Gortershoek merchant houses is now the Honig Breethuis Museum. It houses an exhibition on the history of Zaanse paper, original hand-painted wallpaper from the 18th century, beautiful porcelain and much more. ¹⁰ honigbreethuis.nl

AROUND THE ZAAAN

During the 1600s, wood was sawn, and sails and ropes were



woven in the windmills of the Zaan region. On the water and close to Amsterdam, the strategic location saw the area flourish during the 17th-century. The 11-kilometre waterfront of the River Zaan connects some 75 vintage industrial buildings, including windmills and the vast Industrial Wall at Wormer. It makes for a surprisingly beautiful view of the river. At the start of the River Zaan is the Czar Peter House ¹¹ – one of the oldest wooden houses in the Netherlands – where Peter the Great spent a week learning the craft of shipbuilding in 1697. Nowadays, it's open to the public. The city of Zaandam itself is a lovely place to spend a few hours. zaans.nl/visitors



TIP VERKADE EXPERIENCE

At the heart of the Zaan Museum, you will find the Verkade Experience. A treat for young and old alike, the Verkade Experience transports you back to the chocolate-and-biscuit factory of the early 20th century, where the original machines are still churning away. ¹² zaansmuseum.nl/en

WATERLAND

BROEK IN WATERLAND

Surrounded by fields, Broek in Waterland's rural setting belies its strong links with the Netherlands' maritime past. ¹³ But in the 17th and 18th centuries, the village was the home of many successful ship owners, captains and merchants. Their wealth made it one of the most prosperous villages in the area. The charming wooden houses – carefully restored and painted in authentic 'Broeker' grey – now attract artists and other creative types. The village is best explored on foot or by bike. The charming Tea House Overleek ¹⁴ rents out silent, electrically propelled, 'whisper boats' to navigate the area. laagholland.com



PURMEREND

North of Broek in Waterland you will find Purmerend. The town's economy was built on trade and it is still a busy market town. Regular theme markets are organised, such as

the weekly Dinsdag Markt on Tuesday, which winds through the historic streets with traders selling North-Holland cheese, fresh produce, fish, clothing and toys. laagholland.com

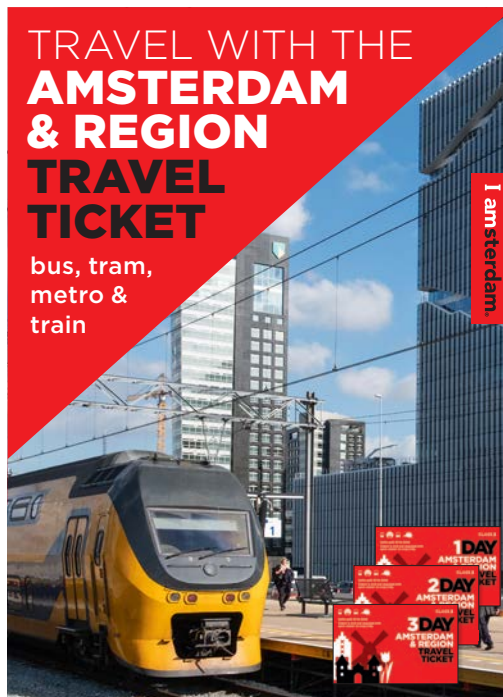
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THE BEEMSTER POLDER

Lying approximately 3.5 metres below sea level, this might seem an unlikely place to live! But in the 17th century, the Dutch conquered the water here and transformed the inland lake De Beemster into a polder, conveniently organised in perfectly geometrical quadrants. Later, 'stolp farms' and historic villages sprung up in the landscape, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. ¹⁵ laagholland.com

NATURE AREAS

The lush windmill-studded landscapes and waterways that make the Dutch countryside so famous can all be found in Old Holland. Het Twiske ¹⁶ is a green recreational area with options for sailing and watersports, as well as some spectacular cycle routes. At Twiske Haven, you can rent

canoes, rowboats, pedal boats and sailboats. Nearby, the reed-lined channels and islands of the Oostzanerveld ¹⁷ meadows are a protected area inhabited by rare birds and plants. You can observe these species from the water by renting boats or

taking a guided nature cruise. If you'd rather explore on foot, pass by the visitor centre to get acquainted with the best walking trails, bird hides or the most scenic spots for a waterside picnic. twiske-waterland.nl



**DAY TRIP
EXPLORE
WATERLAND
BY BIKE**

Half or full day

Did you know that the 'real' Netherlands – a landscape full of windmills, dykes, boats and cows – is just a short bike ride from Amsterdam?

BIKE if you're feeling adventurous! Rent a bicycle at Amsterdam Centraal Station, then take the ferry behind the station to Buiksloterweg. From there, follow the white bicycle signs along the dyke

and through the countryside to Broek in Waterland (45-60 minutes).

If you don't feel like pedalling, take bus 314 or 316 from Amsterdam Centraal Station to bus stop Dorp, Broek in Waterland in just 15 minutes!

STROLL around the charming village of Broek in Waterland. ¹³ full of restored wooden houses that were home to wealthy merchants and seafarers in the 17th and 18th centuries. Enjoy a traditional Dutch pancake at the atmospheric De Witte Swaen restaurant in the village. ¹⁸

If you are travelling by bus, you can either return to Am-

sterdam or take a short ride to historic Monnickendam (bus 315). If by bike, navigate to Monnickendam using cycleamsterdam.com (15 minutes).

ENJOY a high tea beside the water with homemade cakes and fresh sandwiches at Tea House Overleek. ¹⁴

FLOAT through Waterland's unique watery landscape, inspiration to 17th-century painters such as Rembrandt and Ruisdael, in a silent, electrically-propelled 'whisper boat'. Boats and kayaks can be rented at Tea House Overleek. ¹⁴ Check their availability online. theetuinooverleek.nl/rentaboat

MAP OLD HOLLAND



DISCOVER THE AMSTERDAM AREA BY BIKE



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