

Grape Occasions

Amsterdam MUST GOs

www.GrapeOccasions.com

Activities

- **Biking all over town:** This is THE mode of transportation. We biked everywhere. Bikes rule the roads (above pedestrians and cars) and have their own lanes. We always rented from [MacBike](#) for friends.
- **Boating the canals:** on an official tourist boat (I always took friends on the sunset wine cruise from [Blue Boat Company](#)). small private boat or gorgeous salon boat! But there are so many more canal cruise options now as we saw on our Oct 2024 visit.
 - o [Pure Boats](#) - boutique Amsterdam canal cruise company
 - o [Friendship Amsterdam](#) - luxury canal cruises
 - o [Flagship Amsterdam](#) - saw these all over
- **Museums:**
 - o Rijksmuseum (Rembrandt, Vermeer, etc.. - the Dutchies)
 - o Van Gogh
 - o Anne Frank House
 - o Rembrandt Museum
 - o Amsterdam Historisch Musuem (historical tour of the city)
 - o Heineken Experience - very fun with tasting at the end
 - o Hermitage (new St Petersburg museum's Amsterdam outpost)
- **Music:** Concertgebouw, Heineken Music Hall, Grachtenfestival (summer music festival on the canals)
- **BEST events:** Queen's Day in April, New Year's Eve

Eating

- Must have **Dutch treats**...croquettes, frites, pannenkoeken and stroopwaffle ☺
- **Our favorite spots...**
 - o **Febo** - frites & croquettes, Dutch version of McDonald's but SO much better
 - o **Saturnino** (Reguliersdwarsstraat 3-5) - great Italian
 - o **Krua Thai** (Staalstraat 22) - best Thai in town, probably some of best Thai ever! And get the Pepper leaf appetizer!
 - o **Stroopwaffle** from Albert Cuyp Market
 - o **Vlaamse Friteshuis** (Voetboogstraat 33): best frites (French fries!) place is just off touristic shopping street Kalverstraat and get the frietjes sauce!
 - o **Pancakes! Amsterdam** (Berenstraat 38) - great pannenkoeken spot in the Negen Stratjes (9 Little Streets shopping area). There are [several locations now](#).

Places to See

- **Neighborhoods:**
 - o We lived in the De Pijp neighborhood & Utrechtstraat (with cheese shop, bakery, Coffee Salon, cute shops)
 - o Jordaan including Nine Little Streets (Negen Straatjes) - cute shopping street in the Jordaan with lots of great shops
 - o Dam & Central Station
 - o Museumplein
- **Red Light District** & even Casa Rossa for a sex show if you want ☺
- **Coffee Shops:** these are for pot, cafes are for coffee ☺
- **Albert Cuyp Market:** in our neighborhood, largest outdoor market in Europe

- **Shops:**
 - o Bloemenmarkt - floating flower market
 - o Hema – Dutch Target (but remember all the stores are small!)
 - o Blokker – Dutch Walmart
 - o Albert Heijn - the local grocery store chain, for local treats
- **Churches:** Oude Kerk, Nieuwe Kerk, Westerkerk , Zuiderkerk
- **Ajax Museum:** football fans like this at the Ajax Stadium, Amsterdam Arena

Excursions

- **Keukenhof:** the beautiful spring tulip place open in March and April
- **Zuiderzee Museum:** reconstruction of a typical Dutch fishing village off the North Sea in Enkhuizen
- **Delft:** where the famous blue & white pottery comes from
- **Gouda:** the place and name of the famous cheese

Hotels

- **Amstel Hotel:** the fancy place to stay on the Amstel River
- **Hotel Pulitzer:** you'll recognize from the movie Ocean's 12, also a great place for a cocktail

Iamsterdam is the official visitors' site for more great info.