A Custom Designed Itinerary & Travel Guide to

Amsterdam, Netherlands

By

INDULGENT VACATIONS & DESTINATIONS, INC.

INDULGENT REF: F1900209

Day 1 - Amsterdam

Welkom to Amsterdam! Upon your arrival to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol on KLM flight #535, ETA 6:55AM, you will be met at the baggage claim area by your English-speaking driver (**please look for someone holding a sign with “YOUR NAME” on it**) and privately transferred to the Bilderberg Hotel Jan Luyken a 4-star boutique hotel located in the city center, for a 3-night stay in a superior room with breakfast and free Wi-Fi. The Hotel Bilderberg Jan Luyken is a charming boutique hotel which is located at the heart of the lively museum district in Amsterdam, opposite the Rijksmuseum, Stedelijk Museum and Van Gogh Museum. Based in an authentic mansion, this exceptionally welcoming hotel and it is the ideal base for exploring Amsterdam. The famous P.C. Hooftstraat, renowned for its chic stores, the Leidseplein with its many restaurants and bars and the Vondelpark are just around the corner. Visit the Wines & Bites hotel bar for a good cocktail, delicious snacks or an aperitif. The balance of your day is at leisure.

**A transfer meeting point informational flyer is included with your final documents giving special instructions to meet your transfer.** Included with your holiday package is a: I amsterdam card. **Your cards must be...**
picked up at the airport upon arrival; I Amsterdam Visitor Information Centre, Arrivals Hall 2; Holland Tourist Information...your driver is aware that you must pick up your cards prior to your transfer to the hotel. Upon arrival at the redemption location, please present your voucher and photo ID. Your passes include entrance tickets to multiple museums and attractions.

Amsterdam has been an important center of European cultural life since the 17th century boasting over forty museums. Sightseeing and shopping are focused at Dam square, east of the center of town lies the Old Town and the former Jewish Quarter, and to the west you’ll find the charming Jordaan, Amsterdam’s Greenwich Village. It is one of the most charming neighborhoods in a city that defines charm. The narrow alleys and leafy canals are lined with quirky specialty shops, good restaurants, and designer boutiques. Along the Gouden Bocht you’ll see some of Amsterdam’s most opulent 18th-century architecture. Built by wealthy merchants, the houses are wide, with elaborate gables and cornices, richly decorated facades, and heavy, centrally placed doors. The Royal Palace, built in the mid-17th century as the city’s town hall, is a high point of the Dutch Classicist style. During the French occupation of the Netherlands, Louis Napoléon, decided that this was suitable for a royal palace and it has been the official residence of the House of Orange ever since. Queen Beatrix prefers to live in a palace outside The Hague, using this one only on the highest of state occasions. Discover the secret gardens of the Begijnhof. Once home to destitute women, the gardens are now landscape gems of architectural beauty. You’ll find the entrance just off the Spui. The best way to orient yourself to Amsterdam is to take a sightseeing tour by canal boat. (one is included with your Guided City Bus Tour) The tours take you past most major sights including the Anne Frank House, Rembrandt’s home and the Rijksmuseum. You can return later to visit these sites on your own. If your primary interest is museums, then take a Museum Boat Tour that combines a canal trip with museum visits. This tour makes stops at nearly twenty museums. Amsterdam is also home of world acclaimed Heineken Beer.
This morning after breakfast, make your way to your meeting point and redeem your voucher at Lindbergh Tour & Tickets, Damrak 26, Amsterdam, by your 8:30AM meeting time for your Amsterdam Guided City Tour & 1 hour canal cruise; your tour begins promptly at 9:00AM. On this extensive bus excursion, you will see all the highlights that Amsterdam has to offer, from the historical monuments in the city center to the modern architecture of the 21st century. Your cheerful live English guide will tell you about the most prominent places of interest in the city and make your bus tour interesting, informative and fun. Your two and half hour tour also includes a drop off for a photo stop at a windmill at the river Amstel and a visit to a diamond factory.

Also included for today is your Amsterdam City Hop on Hop off Tour tickets. With great views from the top of the bus, strategically placed stops and an interesting commentary, this truly is the best way to see the sights and a fun way to get around Amsterdam. You can hop on and off as many times as you like aboard this open-top double-decker bus. Tours depart from 11 strategically placed bus stops – Route Map Key and a Stop & Highlights List are included with your final documents. The first tour begins at 9:20AM and the last tour is at 5:30PM; the bus departs approximately every 15/20 minutes from each stop. Tickets are valid for 24 hours from first use, and includes free Wi-Fi. You can redeem your voucher at Lindbergh Tour & Tickets, Damrak 26, Amsterdam – same place as your Guided City Tour meeting point and voucher redemption.

From the grace and elegance of the waterside mansions along the Grachtengordel (Canal Ring) to the rows of converted warehouses on Brouwersgracht and the charming houses on Reguliersgracht, the city's canals and waterway embody the very spirit of Amsterdam. They are spanned by many beautiful bridges, including the
famous Mager Brug, a traditionally styled lift bridge. You can also relax at a canal-side café or bar and watch an array of boats float by.

The 17th Century was truly the Golden Age for Amsterdam. The population soared; three great canals, bordered by splendid houses, were built in triple ring around the city; and scores of painters and architects were at work. Fortunes were made and lost, and this early capitalism produced many paupers, who were cared for by charitable institutions - a radical idea for the time. In 1648, an uneasy peace was formalized with Catholic Spain, causing tension between Amsterdam's Calvinist burgomasters and the less-religious House of Orange, which was dominant elsewhere in the country.

For a small city, Amsterdam has a surprisingly large number of museums and galleries. The quality and variety of the collections are impressive, covering everything from bibles and beer to shipbuilding and space travel. Many are housed in buildings of the historical architectural interest. The Rijksmuseum, with its Gothic façade, is the city landmark, and Rembrandt's work is exhibited in his original home.

Amsterdam is also a city of cafés and bars, about 1,500 in all. Each area has something to offer, from friendly and relaxed brown cafés - a traditional Dutch local pub characterized by dark wooden panellin grand furniture, low ceilings, dim lighting and smoke-stained ceilings - to lively and crowded designer bars. Each café and bar has some special attraction: a large range of beers, live music, canal side terraces, art exhibitions, board games and pool tables or simply a brand of gezelligheid, the unique Dutch concept of "cosiness".

Day 3 - Amsterdam

This morning after breakfast, make your way to the Anne Frank House, in time to make your 10:00AM appointment to enter the museum; at Prinsengracht 267, Amsterdam. Please be on time, you will not be admitted after 10:15AM. The tickets are only valid for the date and time on your ticket. Expired tickets cannot be used for another date or timeslot.
Anne Frank was born on 12 June 1929 in the German city of Frankfurt am Main, where
her father’s family had lived for generations. She has a
sister, Margot, who is three and a half years older. The
economic crisis, Hitler’s rise to power and growing
antisemitism put an end to the family’s carefree life. Like
many other Jews, Otto Frank and his wife, Edith, decide
to leave Germany. Otto sets up a business in Amsterdam
and the family finds a home on the Merwedeplein. The
children go to school, Otto works hard at his business and
Edith looks after the home. When the threat of war in
Europe increases, Otto and his family try to emigrate to
England or the USA but these attempts fail. On 1
September 1939 Germany invades Poland. It is the
beginning of the Second World War.

For a while there is hope that The Netherlands will not become involved in the war, but on
10 May 1940 German troops invade the country. Five days later The Netherlands
surrenders and is occupied. Anti-Jewish regulations
soon follow. Jews are allowed into fewer and fewer
places. Anne and Margot must attend a Jewish school
and Otto loses his business. When a renewed attempt
to emigrate to the U.S.A. fails, Otto and Edith decide
to go into hiding. Otto sets up a hiding place in the rear
annexe of his firm at Prinsengracht 263. He does this
together with his Jewish business partner Hermann
van Pels and with help from his associates Johannes
Kleiman and Victor Kugler. On 5 July 1942 Margot
Frank receives a call-up to report for a German work
camp. The next day the Frank family goes into hiding. The Van Pels family follows a week
later and in November 1942 they are joined by an eighth person: the dentist Fritz Pfeffer.
They remain in the secret annexe for more than two years. In hiding, they have to keep
very quiet, are often frightened and pass the time together as well as they can. They are
helped by the office workers, Johannes Kleiman,
Victor Kugler, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl; by
Miep’s husband, Jan Gies; and by the warehouse
manager, Johannes Voskuil, Bep’s father. These
helpers not only arrange food, clothes and books,
you are the group’s contact with the outside world.
Shortly before going into hiding Anne receives a
diary for her birthday. She starts writing
straightaway and during her time in hiding she
writes about events in the secret annexe and about
herself. Her diary is a great support to her. Anne also writes short stories and collects quotations from other writers in her ‘book of beautiful sentences’. When the Dutch minister of education in exile in London appeals on British radio for people to keep war diaries, Anne decides to edit her diary and create a novel called 'The Secret Annex'. She starts to rewrite, but she and the others are discovered and arrested before she has finished. On 4 August 1944, the people in hiding are arrested, along with their helpers Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler. They pass from the security service headquarters and prison to the transit camp Westerbork, from where they are deported to Auschwitz.

The two helpers are sent to the Amersfoort camp. Johannes Kleiman is released shortly after his arrest and six months later Victor Kugler escapes. Immediately after the arrests Miep Gies and Bep Voskuil rescue Anne’s diary and papers that have been left behind in the secret annex. Despite intensive investigations it has never been clear how the hiding place was discovered.

Otto Frank is the only one of the eight people in hiding to survive the war. During his long journey back to The Netherlands he learns that his wife, Edith, has died. He knows nothing about his daughters and still hopes to see them again. He arrives back in Amsterdam at the beginning of July. He goes straight to Miep and Jan Gies and remains with them for another seven years. Otto Frank tries to find his daughters, but in July he receives the news that they both died of disease and deprivation in Bergen-Belsen. Miep Gies then gives him Anne’s diary papers. Otto reads the diary and discovers a completely different Anne. He is very moved by her writing. Anne wrote in her diary that she wants to become a writer or a journalist in the future, and that she wants to publish her diary as a novel. Friends convince Otto Frank that the diary has great expressive power and on 25 June 1947 The Secret Annexe is published in an edition of 3,000. Many more editions follow, also translations, a play and a film. People from all over the world learn of Anne Frank’s story. Over the years Otto Frank answers thousands of letters from people who have read his daughter’s diary. In 1960 the Anne Frank House becomes a museum. Otto Frank remains involved with the Anne Frank House until his death in 1980 and campaigns for human rights and respect. Please keep in mind that you cannot bring large backpacks, travel bags or a trolley into the museum. You are free to stay as long as you wish, but please keep in mind your 1:00PM walking tour.
After the Anne Frank House, make your way to your meeting place, **Beursplein Square**, at the entrance to the Grand Café Beurs van Berlage no later than 12:45PM, your meeting time, for your **1:00PM, Small-Group Amsterdam City Center Historical Walking Tour**. Immerse yourself in the history of Amsterdam during this walking tour of the city center. Spend 2.5 hours in the company of an engaging guide and small group of just 10 people or fewer. Walk across the city's many bridges and down cobblestone lanes, learning how Amsterdam transformed into a small fishing village in the 12th century to one of the world's bustling cosmopolitan capitals. Visit highlights and landmarks including the medieval city gate, the New Market Square, Chinatown, the sea dike, the thinnest house, Begijnhof, Prisengracht, Old Church, and more. The balance of your day is at leisure to take in all that Amsterdam has to offer.

**Day 4 - Departure**

Today you say farewell to Amsterdam and the Netherlands. After breakfast, this morning at 6:55AM you will be met in the hotel lobby (**please be ready on time**) and privately transferred to AMS Airport in time to catch your Delta flight #9380 at 9:55AM back home. This is the end of our services.

**Veilige reizen - Safe Travels!**
LAND INCLUDES

ACCOMMODATIONS: 3 nights as stated in itinerary, hotel taxes, service charges, VAT included. Local city tax to be paid on-site at properties where stated in itinerary.

MEALS: Daily breakfast

CAR RENTAL: N/A

RAIL: N/A

PRIVATE LAND SERVICES: N/A.

OTHER:

SIGHTSEEING: 24 hours Amsterdam Hop on/off Bus Ticket; 2.5 hour Amsterdam City Bus Tour & Canal Cruise; 2.5 hours Small Group Amsterdam Historical Walking Tour.

ENTRANCE FEES: I Amsterdam card; 10:00AM entrance Anne Frank House

TRANSFERS: As stated in the itinerary.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES: Communications costs; itinerary planning; documents portfolio sent by overnight delivery; assistance of our local staff while in Europe.

DOES NOT INCLUDE

Air; travel insurance; local city taxes (which must be settled direct) if applicable; personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, hotel extras, etc.; gratuities to local drivers and guides; all other items not specifically mentioned above.
City Sightseeing Amsterdam Stops & Highlights

Hop On/Off Bus Stops

1. **Central Station:** Lovers Canal Cruises / Body Worlds / Dam Square / Madame Tussauds / The Amsterdam Dungeon  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.15 - 18.00 h.*

   *Departures: Daily from 09.20 - 18.05 h.*

3. **Windmill de Gooyer:** Dapper Market / Tropen Museum  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.25 - 18.10 h.*

4. **Artis Royal Zoo:** Plantage District / Resistance Museum / The National Maritime Museum / Micropia  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.30 - 18.15 h.*

5. **Gassan Diamonds:** Jewish Cultural Quarter / Delft Blue Store / Rembrandt House Museum / Waterlooplein Flea Market.  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.35 - 18.00 h.*

6. **Jewish Cultural Quarter:** Portuguese Synagogue / Jewish Historical Museum / Hermitage Museum / Amsterdam Icebar / Rembrandtplein.  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.40 - 18.20 h.*

7. **Royal Theatre Carré:** Skinny Bridge / Amstel Hotel / Royal Theatre Carré  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.45 - 18.25 h.*

8. **Heineken Experience:** Albert Cuyp Market / Pijp District  
   *Departures: Daily from 09.50 - 18.30 h.*

   *Departures: Daily from 09.55 - 18.35 h.*

    *Departures: Daily from 10.00 - 18.40 h.*

11. **Anne Frank House:** Western Church / Lovers Canal Cruises / Jordaan District  
    *Departures: Daily from 10.10 - 18.50 h.*