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**Conventional signs:**

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| ☼ Explanation       | ✪ Map on page          |
| ▶ Point of interest | Δ Continuation of walk |
| I Internet          | « Left                 |
| ▪ Take note         | » Right                |
| T Telephone         | ^ Right in front       |
|                     | mk Museum pass         |



Groenburgwal

# Amsterdam Travel Guide

**Congratulations!** You have chosen this *Amsterdam Travel Guide* : the most complete travel guide for a successful visit to Amsterdam. *Amsterdam Travel Guide* is a special guide because you can use each section separately as a city, walking, or architectural guide.

**Part 1** is the city guide. Here you find all of the important information about Amsterdam: history of the city, tourist information, traffic and transportation, theatres, cinemas, restaurants, and cafés, etc. In short, all you need to know for a successful stay in Amsterdam.

**Part 2** is a combined walking and architectural guide. You get an overview of the various types of façades in Amsterdam, styles of architecture, and the most important architects. In a series of 10 walks you can get acquainted with the city in a relaxed manner. You wander through the bustling shopping streets, but also through the quieter streets and alleyways. Almost all of the important monuments, buildings, and historical homes can be found with a short explanation. But this part can also be used as an architectural guide. Using the unique and comprehensive index you can quickly find the monument or building in front of you.

**Part 3** is the guide to the canals. The most beautiful and important houses and buildings along the four main canals and the secondary canals are explained briefly.



### Your comments are welcome

Your comments, reactions, and suggestions are useful to us to improve future editions.

Send your reactions to | [www.amsterdamtravelguide.eu](http://www.amsterdamtravelguide.eu)  
or [www.klapwijkenkeijzers.nl](http://www.klapwijkenkeijzers.nl)

We wish you a pleasant stay in Amsterdam.

## The Netherlands

Government:	Constitutional monarchy
Head of state:	King Willem Alexander
Parliament:	Second chamber (150 repr.) First chamber (75 senators)
Area:	41.526 square kilometres
Population:	about 16 million
Capitol city:	Amsterdam
Language:	Netherlands (Dutch)
Religion:	Roman Catholic, Protestant Christian



Middle age seal from Amsterdam

## History of Amsterdam

### Middle ages – Amsterdam emerges

Amsterdam emerges in the 11<sup>th</sup> century when several settlements arise on the banks of the river Amstel, close to the present Dam.

The settlers were in continuous strife with the water. To control the water they built a dam at the mouth of the river IJ. And in this manner a harbour and a village develop close to the present walls (Oudezijds Voorburgwal). Dikes are built along the Amstel to protect the settlements against the water.

In 1275 the inhabitants of the various villages along the Amstel receive from Duke Floris the Fifth the privilege of charging toll at Aemstelledam.



Amsterdam 1538 (Cornelis Anthonisz.)

Amsterdam's merchants do not have to pay toll (a charge to pass locks and bridges). This privilege gives Amsterdam quite an advantage above the other cities of Holland. It is also at this time that the name Amsterdam (or Aemstelledam) first came into use.

## 26 • About Amsterdam » nightlife and eating

### Lunch

The Dutch lunch consists of bread with butter, with cheese, sandwich meat, or salad.

### Bread

In the Netherlands the bakers have a very good selection of bread and pastries. The supermarkets also sell good quality bread.

### Snacking (Eating 'out of the wall')

Croquette, minced-meat hot dog, and nasi ball.

'Eating out of the wall' is a typical Netherlands phenomenon.

At different places in the city you can get hot snacks out of a food machine. After inserting the correct coins you can open a little glass door and remove the snack of your choice located behind it. The snack bar also sells chips (French-fried potatoes) with mayonnaise.

### Drop (liquorice)

The Dutch eat more than 30 kilos of liquorice per person a year.

The black candy is made from liquorice root and gum and comes in many flavours (salty, sweet, bitter, hard, and soft) and can be bought at many places.

### Herring stand

The Amsterdammer likes to eat a salty herring at the herring stand. The herring is a healthy goody that is also called Hollands Nieuwe. After the catch the herring is gutted first of all and then salted.

When they are cleaned the gills are also removed to promote the drainage of the blood and therefore the blood doesn't stay in the fish meat.

Only the pancreas is left in the fish and these enzymes work to give the herring its typical taste and odour.

The fishmonger removes the pancreas before consumption. Salty herrings are for sale the whole year round.

The new herring are brought in June /July. The stands are mostly on the bridges of the canals.



Herring stand

### The tompouce (cream slice)



During your stay you will have to try one. The tompouce: two crusty pieces of pastry filled with fresh confectioner's custard and topped with a layer of pink fondant.

### A lesson in how to eat a tompouce?

Separate the top piece of pastry from the lower; take the lower in your left hand and the upper in your right hand. Now you alternate taking a bite from your left hand and a bite from your right hand. In this manner it is possible to eat it without making a mess on your clothes. The tompouce is obtainable at the pastry bakers. The department store the Hema is also

specialised in making tompouces. Each year the bakers at the Hema produce at least 14 million tompouces. The tompouce can be bought in the bakery department and in the restaurant of the Hema.

### Cheese



The Netherlands is a cheese country. Cheese has been made here since prehistoric times.

The first cheese making dates from 800BC; the cheese was made in earthenware with holes so that the whey could leak out and the curds could dry. In Amsterdam there are many cheese specialty shops and supermarkets with a large variety of cheese for sale.



Netherlands – cheese country

## 60 • About Amsterdam » museums

etchings of the great master. Besides a permanent collection, there are also temporary expositions. On the website of the Rembrandt House you can prepare for your visit by taking a virtual tour of the museum.

### ▪ Rijksmuseum

Museumstraat 1- T 020-6747000  
I [www.rijksmuseum.nl](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl) (NL, Eng).

**mk** Open: daily 9AM-5PM.

Tram: 2, 5, 12.

The Rijksmuseum is the largest museum in the Netherlands. It has more than 1,250 top pieces, including a great number of the Dutch masters, like 'The Night Watch' by Rembrandt van Rijn, and self-portraits of Rembrandt, The Kitchen Maid by Johannes



Rijksmuseum - the Night Watch room

Vermeer, realistic portraits of Ferdinand Bol and The Happy Drinker by Frans Hals. The museum also has a large collection of sculptures and a print collection and a collection of art from the Asian regions.

If you pay a visit to the museum, it is wise to decide beforehand what you want to see. The website offers wide possibilities from which to choose from the extensive art collection.

After a complete restoration, the Museum reopened in April 2013.

### ▪ Stedelijk Museum

Museumplein 10  
T 020-5732911 - I [www.stedelijk.nl](http://www.stedelijk.nl)  
(NL, Eng). **mk**

Open: Daily 10AM-6PM,  
Thurs 10AM-10PM.

Tram: 2, 5, 12.

This is a museum of contemporary and modern art from the period 1850-present. The 'Stedelijk' is one of Europe's most important

museums of modern art and has a comprehensive collection of works by Karel Appel (Cobra) and a collection of American and French abstract expressionists.

There is also a collection of arts and crafts and industrial design (for example Rietveld).

On the museum's website you can look at the most important works.

**Second World War**

▪ **Hollandse Schouwburg (Dutch Theatre)** - Plantage Middenlaan 24  
T 020-5310310

I [www.hollandscheschouwburg.nl](http://www.hollandscheschouwburg.nl)  
(NL, Eng). Open daily 11AM-5PM.

Closed: see website.

Tram: 9, 14.

During the war years 1942-1943 the Hollandse Schouwburg was used as a place of deportation for Jews.

From the Schouwburg thousands of Jews were transported to the transit camp Westerbork, and from there further to concentration camps in Germany and Poland.

Since 1962 the Schouwburg is a place of commemoration for the Jewish victims. Free entry.

▪ **Anne Frank House**

Prinsengracht 267 - T 020-5567100

I [www.annefrank.org](http://www.annefrank.org) (NL, Eng, Fr, Ger, It, Sp).

Open: Nov 1-Mar 31 9AM-7PM,  
Apr 1- Oct 31 9AM-9PM, Jan 1  
12-7PM, May 4 9AM-7PM, Dec 25  
12-5PM, Dec 31 9AM-5PM. On  
Saturday in the period April/October  
open until 10PM.

Closed: the Day of Atonement.



Tram: 13, 14, 17.

During two years Anne Frank wrote her world famous diaries from this place of hiding. The Achterhuis on the Prinsengracht 263 is still in original state.

The museum contains a collection of original objects from Anne Frank

and the other persons in hiding. Furthermore there are original diary citations, the original dairy, and other documents from Anne Frank.

▪ **Dutch Resistance Museum**

Plantage Kerklaan 61

T 020-6202535

I [www.verzetsmuseum.org](http://www.verzetsmuseum.org) (NL, Eng).

Open: Tue-Fri 10AM-5PM,

Sat-Mon 11AM-5PM.

Tram: 9, 14.

The museum is situated in the Plancius building (1876) opposite



the entrance to the Artis Zoo. By means of documents, films, sound fragments, artefacts and photos, the permanent exhibition represents life in the Netherlands during the Second World War. There are also regular changing exhibitions.

**Education and nature**

▪ **KattenKabinet**

T 020-6269040

I [www.kattenkabinet.nl](http://www.kattenkabinet.nl) (NL, Eng).

Open: Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM,

Sat, Sun 12AM-5PM.

Closed: Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Apr 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>.

The collection of the Cat Cabinet shows the role of the cat in art and culture throughout the centuries.

▪ **Tropenmuseum**

Linnaeusstraat 2

T 020-5688200

I [www.tropenmuseum.nl](http://www.tropenmuseum.nl) (NL, Eng).

**mk** Open: Tue-Sun 10AM-5PM.





Brouwersgracht 184-186 Spouted-gable

■ **Trapezium-gable**

The trapezium gable (a double spouted gable) occurs mostly in double warehouses.



Brouwersgracht 208 Trapezium-gable

■ **Elevated neck-gable (1640-1670)**

This is a transition between the stepped-gable and the neck-gable. The raised neck-gable has two steps and a classical application of frontons, cornices, and pilasters.



Keizersgracht 319 - Raised neck-gable

■ **Neck-gable (1640-1780)**

The neck-gable developed from the stepped-gable and has one step. In many neck-gables there are stone scrolls applied with sculptured or relief figures of persons, animals, frontons and decorations.



Herengracht 390-392 Neck-gable

■ **Dutch gable (1660-1790)**

The 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch gables are usually high. The Dutch gables in different Louis-styles are crowned with a crest or a decorative vase.



Singel 104-106 Dutch gable

The 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch gables are usually high.

The Dutch gables in different Louis-styles are crowned with a crest or a decorative vase.

■ **Cornice-gable**

These are gables with a straight cornice where the centre section is decorated with sculpture-work. Around 1780 many triangular pediment were placed above the middle section of the cornice-gable. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was much use made of wood for finishing the cornice moulding.



Herengracht 527 Cornice-gable with triangular pediment

■ **Elevated Cornice-gable (1700-1775)** On the raised-cornice gable, the cornice moulding is made higher to have room for an attic trapdoor and to hide the steep pitched roof behind.



Singel 36 Raised Cornice-gable

## Architectural styles

### ■ **Hollands Brich Gothic (1300)**

Is a style that reaches back to building in the gothic style. The first gothic brick houses that were built in Amsterdam have all been demolished.

The Agnietenkapel, the Old Church, de Nieuwe Kerk, de Waag and the

Schreierstoren all have gothic elements.

### ■ **Renaissance**

After about 1570 the renaissance period starts, at the same time of the building of brick dwellings.

Amsterdam has four renaissance periods:

- *Early renaissance* (1540-1600).

From 1570 the brick-on-edge ornaments come into being. These are decorations along the gable tops in the shape of an S or a C. Examples: gate of the Agnietenkapel (1571), gate of the Burgerweeshuis Sint Luciënsteeg (1571), and the gate to the Burgerweeshuis on the Kalverstraat (1581).

- *Holland's renaissance* (1600-1615).

Around 1600 each city developed its own architecture style. In Amsterdam the sober Haarlem's renaissance style was mostly used. This style can be recognised by simple stepped-gables with a large number of regular steps. The top step often has a top pilaster with winged scrolls and a small sculpture.

Thin small semi-circular relieving arches are above the windows with five blocks of white stone.

At the level of the windows there are different layers of soapstone.

Examples are: Singel 2-2a (1603), Nieuwmarkt 20-22, (1605), Oudezijds Voorburgwal 14, (1605), Kattegat 4-6 (1614).

- *Amsterdam's renaissance* (1615-1640).

This style is especially designed by the city's architect Hendrick de Keyser. The style can be recognised by stepped-gables with a small number of unequal risers and large steps. Each step has a sculptured stone scroll filling.

Between the windows the piers have two pilasters with ornaments.



## Dam: middle point of the city centre

The name Dam comes from the function it had at the time of the founding of Amsterdam. Between 1205 and 1275 a dam was built at this place on the river the Amstel. The Dam was the connection between the people of the settlements on both shores of the river. The plaza is rectangular and is (from north to south) 100 metres long and (from west to east) 200 metres wide. Through the centuries the Dam has been drastically changed. Until the 17<sup>th</sup> century the square was hemmed in by houses and could only be reached by streets and allies.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Dam was radically changed. The Nieuwe Kerk, the Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace) and the 17<sup>th</sup> century house at nr. 11 are the only three buildings that date from a former period. Because of its central position the square attracts many tourists.

Especially in the summer months the Dam is the bustling centre of the city. Street entertainers, the Koninklijk Paleis, the Nieuwe Kerk and the 'pigeons on the Dam' are important tourist attractions.

### ► Royal Palace (J. van Campen & D. Stalpaert/1648)



The building in the style of the Holland's classicism is standing on 13,659 piles, measures 80x57.5 metres and is completely built of sandstone.

It is one of the most important monuments in the Netherlands. The palace was originally built as the city hall and had to mirror the prestige and riches of Amsterdam as economic world power.

The seven undecorated arches at the height of the entrance (Dam side) pertain to the seven provinces that made up the Northern Netherlands.

The centre section, both front and back, has seven windows with pediments.

These have bronze statues and marble sculptures from the famous sculptor Quellijn.

A statue of Atlas is standing at the back of the building.

The two corner pavilions each have three windows.

The façades above the first floor are grouped by colossal Corinthian and composite pilasters that support the heavy cornices.

Between the high and the low windows festoons are applied as decoration. The chimneys are decorated with streamers, laurel leaves and flowers.

The (open) cupola tower has eight round arches.



The pillars are ornamented Corinthian three-quarter columns. The weather vane on top of the cupola has the shape of a cog ship, part of the old city coat of arms of Amsterdam.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries they could watch from the cupola to see the ships come in on the IJ.

The fronton at the front refers to Amsterdam as a trading city. Between 1648 and 1808 the building was the city hall of Amsterdam.

During the French occupation the city hall functioned as palace for King Louis Napoleon.

In 1813 the palace became city hall of Amsterdam again for a short time. In 1815 it became the official Royal Palace of the Dutch royal family.

Presently the palace has a predominantly symbolic function. The king and the royal family make use of it.

**Interior:** The palace has lots of marble, sculpture, and paintings. Important halls and rooms in the palace are: *The Burgerzaal (citizen's hall)*: this is in the middle of the building and is impressive with its statue of Atlas, and the stars of the east and western hemispheres pictures in marble on the floor.

There are two courtyards, one on each side of the Burgerzaal.

Next to the entrance (on the side of the Dam) is *the Vierschaar* where the highest court of law was established. The statues in the Vierschaar pertain to justice.

*The Troonzaal*, or former Schepenzaal, served in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as courtroom for lesser court cases. Presently it is a reception hall.

*The Burgemeesters Kamer (mayor's room)* served as a conference room for the four

■ **31** » Dutch gable (1686). The curved in sides are ornamented with fruit motifs. The top has a half-round cornice moulding.

■ **22/20** « Dutch gables ( $\pm$  1725) with decorated stone scrolls.

△ **At the height of 21 Zeedijk ( $\pm$  1800) we turn right on the Oudezijdsdolk.**

The Oudezijdsdolk dates from 1425 and was excavated as a sluice to the IJ. Until the end of the 1980's, there were many sailors' cafés here. Nowadays we find mostly restaurants here.

■ **13** » Warehouse De Blauwe Hoorn (1720). The hatches for the lifting tackles are placed in separate openings.

■ **7** » Warehouse Keulen (1650) with round arches around the separate attic windows.

► **5** » **Warehouse Malaga (1617)**

This is the oldest warehouse in Amsterdam. The vertical coupling of the attic hatches is striking. Also the window frames are coupled sideways.

■ **3** » Warehouse De Korendrager (1720) with vertically coupled attic hatches and an original lower façade.

To the left we see the rear of the St. Nicholas Church (1884).

The building of the paint warehouse Vettewinkel (1888) is next. The building was destroyed by fire in 1975 and only the neo-renaissance gable on this side was saved.

There are balls on the even steps and there is a lion on the top.

Next we see the back-side of the building Batavia (1918) in the style of the Amsterdam's School.

When we look back, we have a nice view of the Old Church.

△ **We walk on and reach the Geldersekkade.**

## ☀ **Schreierstoren**

The Schreierstoren - weeping tower - (1487) is the only defence tower left that was part of the city walls. The foot of the wall was of stone and the wall itself was brick. The original name was the Schreyhoeckstoren, denoting the sharp angle where the Geldersekkade and the Oudezijds Kolk come together. The tower is half round and is



built up octagonal around support arches. The air-splits were replaced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by windows. At the same time a terrace was built on the south side with a wooden boatshed underneath.

In 1569 a gable stone is placed in the tower (on the side of the Geldersekkade) with a woman and a boat. Traditionally, the story goes that this was the place that the women said good-bye to their men before they set sail to sea. The interior still has the wooden frame with pear-beading from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The quay dates from 1425 and was the harbour area of Amsterdam for centuries. The sailing ships of the VOC departed from here to the Far East and came back with their exotic cargos. Right in front of us is the Schreierstoren.

△ **We turn left on the Prins Hendrikkade.**

This part of the quay was called the Oude Teertuinen (tar gardens); until 1879 where the ships would get their tar coating (until 1645). When the Central Station was built the view of the IJ was lost.

■ **84-85** « Front of the office building Batavia (1918) in the style of the Amsterdam's School.

▶ **74-77** « **St Nicholas Church or H. Nicolaas Binnen de Veste (A.C. Bleys/1884-1887)**



The church is a transept basilica with three aisles and is built in a combination of neo-baroque and neo-renaissance.

The two towers with the rose window with a relief of Christ and the evangelists are remarkable. The Holy Nicholas, patron saint of the city of Amsterdam, stands in a niche high in the top gable. Note the eight-sided tower with

baroque dome and large cross on top. In 1999 the Nicholas Church was restored. To the right we see the Central Station.

In front of the station we see the ▶ **Noord-ZuidHollands Koffie-huis (1911)**

Originally this was the waiting-room for the passengers of the Noord-Zuid-Hollandse Tramweg Maatschappij (tram company).

The interior of the coffeehouse has a wooden ceiling and lattice windows with stained-glass Amsterdam coat of arms.

On the roof there is a weather vane in the shape of a 17<sup>th</sup> century merchant's sailing ship.

At the entrance there are replicas of the Jan van der Heijden-lanterns. These oil lanterns lit the city in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Today the VVV (tourist office) and a café-restaurant occupy the coffeehouse.

△ **We walk straight on to nr. 53 Hotel Prins Hendrik.**

A plaque commemorates the famous jazz-musician Chet Baker (1929-1988), who died here after a fall from a 1<sup>st</sup> floor window.

△ **We walk on to the corner and turn left.**

On the other side (right) we see Damrak. At the corner is the Victoria Hotel. Straight ahead (across the water) is the Beurs van Berlage.

△ **We turn left on the Nieuwebrugsteeg.**

▶ **13** « **'In de Lompen' (± 1605)** Has a stepped-gable in the style of the Holland's renaissance top pilaster.

The keystones and coping stones are decorated with sculpted heads. Above the lower façade there is a gable stone depicting a sugar bakery with the title: 'In de Lompen', which means sugar loaf.

The dyed pieces of cloth were dried on 'ramen' (frames).

■ **4** » Building in historical building style (1935) with Dutch gables and entablatures.

To the left we can see the tower of the Zuiderkerk again.

■ **10** » Cornice-gable (± 1850) with round windows in the cornice. The door frame is decorated.

△ **We cross the bridge of the Groenburgwal and walk on to the end of the Raamgracht.**

To the right we see the rear side of the market of the Waterlooplein.

Behind that is the Stopera.

△ **We turn left over the bridge and then left again.**

**We turn right on the first side-street, the Moddermolenstraat. We walk to the Zuiderkerkhof.**

The cemetery was taken into use in 1602. In the 1980's the terrain was reorganised.

Note the unique combination of modern and colorful living complexes at the foot of the historic Zuiderkerk.

To the left we have a beautiful view of the Zuiderkerk.

The mausoleum of Isaac Hartman and his wife Jaapje Hans dr.

Roodenburg is built against the church wall.

△ **We leave the Zuiderkerkhof via the Zuiderkerkhofpoortje (N. Stone/± 1620).**

The gate was the entrance to the graveyard (Zuiderkerkhof) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Above the round arch we see a bier with two skulls and some bones on it. There are two shields of coats of arms lying on a black shroud.

In 1944 the port was taken down and put away at a safe place.

In 1985, after the reorganisation of this neighbourhood, the gate was built up again.

## ☀ Zuiderkerk

The Zuiderkerk (H. de Keyser/ 1603) is a pseudo-basilica and is the first protestant church to be built in Amsterdam.

The three aisles are separated by two Tuscan pillars.

The belt of arches from the side aisles are resting on Tuscan pilasters from the side gable.



The tower is finished in 1619 and is characterised by its austere renaissance forms. The tower has a square base made of brick and stone.

Above the base an octagon is placed with a pillar on four corners. The tower spire is made of wood covered with lead. The tower of the Zuiderkerk is considered to be the most beautiful tower of Amsterdam.

The church is restored between 1976 and 1979.

Right in front of us on the

► **Sint Antoniesbreestraat 69  
Huis De Pinto (E. Bouman/1680)**

The house is built in the style of Holland's classicism and thanks its name to the De Pinto family.

This rich family of bankers and merchants bought the house in 1651. The house behind the façade was built in 1605 and probably had a double stepped-gable.

The commissioner to build the house was one of the first leaders of the Dutch East India Company that was set up in 1602, Jan Jansz Carel.

It had a broad head building and a narrow side house. The straight sandstone cornice-gable is added around 1680.

The house is five windows wide with six bare pilasters. Between the windows marble slabs are attached. A closed balustrade somewhat keeps the 17<sup>th</sup> century pitched roofs out of sight.

In the 1960's the house was in such deplorable state that it stood on the list to be demolished.

Through action taken by the people in the neighbourhood, the house was saved and totally restored. Presently a branch of the public library houses in the building.

During opening hours you can visit the building with its authentic interior. On the left hand we see the Waag (1488) again.

△ **We turn right on the Sint Antoniesbreestraat.**

The Antoniedijk and the Sint Antoniegasthuis (lepers' house) were in this street until the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

If we look over the bridge (Sint Antoniesluis) we can see the Zwanenburgwal with the Stopera and the market of the Waterlooplein again.

△ **We walk right through to the Jodenbreestraat.**

In this part of the city many of the

Jewish Amsterdammers lived until the II World War.

In the 1960's and 1970's the street is totally changed because of the metro.

Complete blocks of houses were demolished to make space for new buildings.

☀ **Rembrandt House**

Next to the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum, this is the most visited museum in Amsterdam.

In this house Rembrandt van Rijn painted a great deal of his most famous paintings. He bought the



house in 1639 and stayed there until 1658. Rembrandt painted his masterworks on the first floor and lived on the ground floor.

In the museum a large collection of the works of the painter can be seen, including more than 250 etchings. ►



△ We pass through the Weeshuispoort and are now in the Doric portico. We turn left and walk past the pillars to the east courtyard.



The walkway and former boys' school are built in renaissance style. Note the pillar walkway. The brick basket arches with stone bases rest on Tuscan pillars. Between the windows there are Doric wall pilasters with carved console stones.

To the right are stairs and a walkway (1762) with 120 lockers where the orphan boys could put away their tools.

△ We leave the east courtyard and turn left.

■ » Restaurant David and Goliath. There are three wooden statues (1650) in the restaurant representing David, Goliath and his shield-bearer.

△ We pass the passageway and immediately turn right through the second passageway. Now we are just outside of the terrain of the former Burgerweeshuis.

► Weeshuispoortje (Vredeman de Vries/1571) (Sint Luciënsteeg 27)

This gateway gave entrance to the girls' playground. The gateway with a rounded-arch is made of stone and has geometric figures in its grooved pilasters.

In 1634 the gate is moved from the Stadtimertuinen (city

carpentry gardens) to this place. At the time of the move the date 1634 was added. In 1924 the wall was decorated with old gable stones.

△ We return through the passageway to the former Burgerweeshuis.

There is an original water pump (1774) to the left.

△ We turn right and now we are on the orphanage square (former girls' place).

To the right we pass the entrance to the Amsterdam Museum.

△ We cross over the square and leave the courtyard via the door (crowned with an entablature with a relief).

■ Outside showcase « with a collection of armour (1580) from the Amsterdamse Schutterij (city's militia).

△ We walk further, pass the black entry gate and turn left. We enter in the

^ Schuttersgalerij (entrance free).

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century at this place there was a section of the Begijn canal. In the gallery there are sixteen paintings of the militia and the regents. From 1500-1650 the members often had themselves painted. At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the paintings become more impressive.

△ We leave the Schuttersgalerij, turn right and leave the former Burgerweeshuis via the Doric portico. We turn right on the Kalverstraat.

► 81-85 « Façade of the Nieuwezijdskapel (1903)

It is easy to see that this was once a chapel by the two towers at both ends of the building.

This chapel stands on the place of the Heilige Stede Kapel (1345) (miracle of Amsterdam) and continues on to the Rokin.

continues on to the Rokin. Because of the stores and the bustling in the street you hardly notice the chapel. When we walk past the building and turn left on the Enge Kapelsteeg, we get a better view (left) of the rear of the chapel with its two towers and a bell tower in the middle.

△ **We return to the Kalverstraat and turn left. We walk further and turn right on the Begijnsteeg.**

**We walk to the gate (1574) that gives entrance to the Begijnhof.**

There is a figure of St. Ursula, the patron saint of the Beguines of Amsterdam. Even though the date 1574 is given, the gateway underwent a number of restorations and is not in the original state anymore (see also the text 'renov anno 1907').

△ **We enter the Begijnhof.**



Entrance gate Begijnhof

## ☀ The Begijnhof

The Begijnhof is the only courtyard enclosure dating from the middle ages right in the centre of Amsterdam.

The occupants, the Beguines, lived like nuns, but were not nuns.

They had more freedom and were allowed to marry. The Begijnhof was not a convent, but an ascetic and philanthropic community of women.

It is not clear when the Begijnhof was exactly founded. In a charter from 1389 the courtyard community was mentioned for the first time.

The medieval Begijnhof was completely surrounded by water, and the only entrance was the gate at the Begijnsteeg. The houses from the middle ages have almost all disappeared.

The courtyard is still at street level of the Middle Ages, almost one metre lower than the street level of Amsterdam now. The last Beguine, Sister Antonia, died on May 26, 1971, at the age of 84 years.

### **Openings hours:**

The Begijnhof and the Begijnhofkapel are open daily from 9AM-5PM and are accessible via the gate on the Gedempte Begijnensloot.

After 5PM the chapel can be reached for services via the gate on the Spui. The occupants appreciate it if visits do not take place in large groups and as few photos as possible are taken.

I [www.begijnhofamsterdam.nl](http://www.begijnhofamsterdam.nl) (NL, Eng)

- 36 « Eclecticism-gable (± 1850).
  - 13 » Wide Dutch gable (± 1680) with gable stone with tobacco rolls.
- △ We cross the Herengracht and walk straight into the Blauwburgwal.

► 22 « Dutch gable (1669)  
This is the only remaining elevated Dutch gable in Amsterdam. The gable has an extra step with scroll stones. There are decorative vases on the scroll stones. It has oval windows and a lean-to building on the side of the Herengracht.



- 3 » High neck-gable (1648) crowned with a pediment entablature.
  - 5 » Spout-gable (1648) with gable stone 'D' vliegende vo'.
- △ We cross the Singel (Lijnbaansbrug).

On the bridge we see « the dome of the Ronde Lutherse Kerk.

△ We walk straight on the Lijnbaanssteeg.

- 10 « Cornice-gable (± 1650) with a stoop on the Oude Nieuwstraat and a long lean-to building.

△ We leave the Lijnbaanssteeg and come to the Spuistraat.

- 53 » Stepped gable (1633) in the style of the sober Amsterdam's renaissance. It has a gable stone with the inscription 'In 't vlygende kalf'.

△ We cross the Spuistraat and

straight into the Korte Lijnbaanssteeg. At the end we cross the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal and turn right.

- 65 ^ Has an elevated neck-gable (± 1700) with decorated scroll stones and a half-round pediment with shell motif. Around the hoisting hook there is a festoon. Stoop is placed sideways.

■ 69 « Print shop/offices 't Kasteel van Aemstel (A.J. Joling/1905). This is a combination of sober neo-renaissance and the style of H.P. Berlage. The gable is asymmetric and has a closed in balcony above the bay window.

► 75 « 't Makelaers Comptoir (1633)

Stepped-gable in the style of the Holland's renaissance. In this house the guild for brokers was situated. The chartered agents were the middlemen the sale of moveable and immoveable goods.



The asymmetric building is built of red brick and is decorated with white bands and decorations.

The richly decorated stepped-gable, with scroll stones, brick-on-edge coping and decorative vases is crowned with a pediment entablature.

Entrance is gained via the stoop and Ionic gateway that is crowned with a half-round pediment.

Above the pediment is a decorative shield with the date 1633.

■ 97/99 « Cornice-gable (1675).

The two stoops are interrupted by a lean-to building.

△ We turn left on the Sint Nicolaasstraat.

■ 51 (to 75) » Dutch gable (1626) with the original sculpted gable stone 'De Barck'.

■ 49 » Dutch gable (± 1630).

■ 88-90 « Neck-gable (± 1700) with gable stone 't Sernaemse koffievat'.

■ 22 « Narrow neck-gable (± 1650) with a pediment entablature.

■ 16 « Stepped-gable (± 1630) in Holland's renaissance style with two hoisting hooks and a broad wooden lower façade.

■ 14/12 « Spout-gable (1932) in the style of the Amsterdam's School.

△ We continue walking until we reach the Nieuwendijk.

We turn right and follow the Nieuwendijk until we get back to the Dam again.





Beulingstraat 25 and 27

On the corners of the bridge there are granite animal figures. The wrought iron balustrade is very lovely..

△ Immediately across the bridge we turn left and follow the Herengracht on the right side. We walk on to number 466 and then turn right on Nieuwe Spiegelstraat.

To the left we pass the Spiegelhof, where there are predominantly galleries and antique shops.

△ We cross the Keizersgracht and follow the Nieuwe Spiegelstraat.

■ 45/corner Kerkstraat « Cornice-gable (± 1680) with a wooden store front and a lovely wooden built-out shop window. The high stoop leads to a higher story on the Nieuwe Spiegelstraat. The entrance to the shop is on the Kerkstraat.

■ 64 » Neck-gable (± 1700) with decorated scroll stones with fruit motif, gable stone and half-round pediment. The lower façade is worked.

■ 66 » Dutch gable (± 1700) with decorated neck and a half-round pediment. Facing brick with the civic crest of Amsterdam.

■ 68 » High Dutch gable (± 1750) with decorated neck, half-round pediment and gable stone.

Ahead of us we have a beautiful view of the Rijksmuseum.

△ We leave the Nieuwe Spiegelstraat. We cross the Prinsengracht and walk straight into the Spiegelgracht.

The canal is excavated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as a connecting canal between the Prinsengracht and the Lijnbaansgracht further on.

■ 6 » Dutch gable (± 1675) 'Kaap de Goede Hoop' with a decorated neck and crest. Has a gable stone with the depiction of a three master ship.

■ 9 « Dutch gable (1764) with three crests and a gable stone.

■ 13 « Warehouse (± 1750) with a cornice gable.

► 31/corner Lijnbaansgracht 287 « former one-house on a courtyard Nootebomme Uytijkij (1774)



the courtyard originally had six rooms for the 'destitute of the Low-German reformed faith'.

The gable stone refers to the courtyard house.

△ **We continue walking and reach the Weteringsschans. We cross it, go over the museum bridge and cross the Stadhouderskade.**

Now we are right in front of the Rijksmuseum.

This is the border between the 'old' and the 'new' city.

The underpass seems like an entrance way to Amsterdam-Zuid. The architect Cuypers intended it like that.

△ **We walk through the underpass under the Rijksmuseum.**



As soon as we arrive at the Museumplein we find ourselves, or rather it feels like we are, in another part of Amsterdam. The museum square is under construction now for more than 125 years and is regularly a point of discussion. The square is almost totally redesigned from 1996-1999 by a Danish landscape architect Sven-Ingvar Andersson. He chose the theme 'space/emptiness' as a starting point.

The square makes a spacious impression with the strolling promenade between the Van Gogh Museum and the Stedelijk Museum and the extensive lawns and play area. Right in front of us you find the play fountain. In the summertime the fountain offers refreshment for man and dog, while it can be skated on in the wintertime.

△ **We walk further and walk on the footpath.**

## ☀ Rijksmuseum



Night Watch hall

The building (P.J.H. Cuypers/1885) in a combination of neo-renaissance and neo-gothic styles is built of red brick, granite, limestone and sandstone.

The museum is in a garden which gives the impression that it is 'free' of its surroundings.

The building is symmetric and the middle section is accentuated by two towers. On the corners two lower towers are placed.

The underpass at the middle of the building connects the Stadhouderskade with the Museumplein. The museum is richly decorated with sculptures, paintwork and stained-glass windows. The Night Watch hall (1906) is famous, where the 'Night Watch' Rembrandt van Rijn can be admired.

In the museum many exceptional pieces and masterworks can be seen by among others Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Frans Hals and Jan Steen.

On the right side are a great number of houses designed by the architect of the Rijksmuseum, Cuypers.

On the right we pass the main building of the Van Gogh Museum (1973). As we continue walking to the left we pass the new wing (1999) of the Van Gogh Museum.

► **170-172 Huis Bartolotti**  
(H. de Keyser/1617)



This stepped-gable in Amsterdam's renaissance style is designed for beer brewer Willem van den Heuvel.

He took on the name Guillelmo Bartolotti, because he inherited the trade's house Bartolotti under the condition that he would take the name Bartolotti. In his time he was one of the richest Amsterdammers. The outside windows of the house are placed crookedly in able to accommodate the 'small bend' on the Herengracht.

The text under the balustrades means, 'by ingenious diligence' and 'through faith and honesty'.

On the ground floor the façade has Tuscan pilasters and on the floor above Ionic.

The house received a side-house in 1689 that is why there is a door put in on the right side. The roof has two large corner chimneys. Furthermore the gable has masks,

vases, and a half-round broken pediment.

■ **179** In 1900 nine old houses were demolished to build this house.

► **182 De Sonnewyser (1772)**

This house has the oldest cornice-gable in Louis XVI style of Amsterdam. A double stoop leads to the door. The sculpted strip above the door consists of circles.

Above the cornice moulding a decorated elevation is placed with a hewed out family coat of arms. The middle window above the door is framed and contains a sculpted sun and the line, 'Sole Justitia Dirigitur Mola Fortunae', which means: 'The wheel of fortune is moved forward by the sun of righteousness.'

■ **203** Het Koopmanshuis - The Salesman House - (1618) in Amsterdam's renaissance style. The house is still mostly in original state. By the middle windows on the top floor it is evident that warehouse trapdoors were here that gave entrance to the warehouse attics.

The stepped-gable is of brick with large steps and scroll stones and a broken top pediment.

The gable has double pilasters.

■ **206** Pierson bank building (1918) in historicism building style.

By the use of pilasters, festoons, a balustrade and vases the building looks older than it is.

■ **218-220** Stepped-gables 'Vader' and 'Zoon' - Father and Son - (1616) in Amsterdam's renaissance style. This double house, (nr 220) with side-house (nr 218), has stepped-gables of unequal size. The side-house is joined to the main house in 1920.

► **243 De Transvaalsche Boer (1900)**

Late 16<sup>th</sup> century corner house, originally a cigar shop, De Transvaalsche Boer.



The small statue of the South-African farmer (wood carver J. Zeits) refers to the Farmers War 1899-1902. The house was renovated in 1900 by architect G.A. van Arkel. Especially the bright green and ochre yellow are eye-catching.

- **250** Cornice-gable (1740) with a door in Louis XV style the cornice-gable has a decorated elevation.
- **252** Cornice-gable (1730) with a decorated elevation.
- **257** Pilaster neck-gable (1660) of sandstone. The door section is in Louis XV style (1770).
- **269** Stepped-gable (1656) in almost original state.
- **272** Cornice-gable (1625) with a bell-shaped gable.
- **274** Elevated cornice-gable 'D' Witte Leli' (1739) in Louis XIV style has windows and a half-round elevation in the cornice moulding and the image of a lily with the text:

'D' Witte Leli'. Above that is an open sculpted balustrade with a crest and corner vases.

- **281-283** Twin neck-gables (1660) in the style of Holland's classicism with decorated scroll stones. The tops have a half-round pediment, the hoisting hooks are decorated with flower streamers and underneath sculpted windows on both sides. The gable of nr 283 is still in original state, in 1987 the gable of nr 281 was restored to its original state.

► **284 Huis van Brienen (1728)**

Made from sandstone the cornice-gable is in Louis XIV style.

The cornice moulding has twelve small windows with a balustrade above, and a decorated centre section with two corner vases. The middle windows have beautiful window frames.

The interior dates from 1728.

- **308** Dutch gable (1740) in Louis XVI style with a curved cornice pediment and crest.

The top centre window is larger than the other windows; there must have been a second warehouse trapdoor here.

- **309-311** Low Dutch gables (rebuilt/1935) with wide store fronts.

- **314** Cornice-gable (± 1725) with small decorated scroll stones and a neck/bell-shaped elevation.

- **320-324** Cornice-gable (1922) of sandstone in historicism (18<sup>th</sup> century) style.

- **329** Neck-gable (1690) 'de Vogelstruys' with a depiction of an ostrich. In the neck a round decorated window with leaf motifs; around that a garland.

- **331** Dutch gable (1750) has a decorated neck with a vase on top. High stairs with a service entrance and decorated door frame.

- **334** Stepped-gable (1627) in Amsterdam's renaissance style has on the highest step a top-pilaster,



■ **226** Neck-gable (1733) with gable stone depicting a vat of tobacco and tobacco rolls.

■ **235** (1649) & **237** (1873). Until 1871 the Nieuwezijds Huiszittenhuis was housed. This institution was in charge of doling out bread, butter, cheese, herring, peat and other comestibles to the poor. Nr 235 has a portrayal of two men and a dog in a boat in the pediment. They represent the founders of the city. According to the story they floated around rudderless in a cog ship for days. They were blown on to the delta lands of the IJ and the Amstel. Nr 237 is remodelled in 1837 into a fire department barracks by W. Springer. Now they are made into living quarters. The windows and doors have a semi-circular shape. The middle section is three windows wide and there is a balustrade at the top.

■ **252** Neck-gable (1730) has a lean-to building and the entrance to the upper floors are on the Lauriergracht.

► **263 Anne Frank House (1635)**



This house, as is nr 265, built by Dirk van Delft. At the time of the renovation in 1740 the annex was built and the front façade was renewed. During a second renovation in 1840 the top-gable was replaced by a straight cornice moulding. In 1940 Otto Frank established his spice trade in this building.

In 1942 Otto Frank went into hiding with his family in the upper section

☀ **About Anne Frank**



**Anneliese Maria Frank** was born on June 12, 1929 in Frankfurt. Out of fear for the anti-Jewish politics of Adolf Hitler, her father Otto moved to Amsterdam where he started a factory in jams and jellies. Less than a year later Anne, her mother Edith, and her older sister Margot, followed.

In 1938 her father expanded his business with business partner Hermann van Pels.

In May of 1940 the Germans occupied the Netherlands. In 1941 more and more restrictions were laid upon the Jews.

In 1942 Anne received a diary for her birthday that she addressed as Kitty. A few weeks later it was necessary to leave their house on the Merwedeplein. They went into hiding above Otto's the office on the Prinsengracht.

On July 13<sup>th</sup> the van Pels family moved in, too. With help of office personnel the hiding place was furnished and closed off by a bookcase. On August 4, 1944 the persons in hiding were arrested.



The office clerk Miep Gies was interrogated, but not arrested. She is the one who gathered the pages of the diary and hid them. Anne was imprisoned in the doomed prison on the Weteringschans and was transferred via camp Westerbork and Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen.

Together with her sister Margot she died of typhoid fever. About a month later the camp was freed by the Allied Forces.

of the annex. After World War II the building was in very bad shape.

The Anne Frank Foundation that was established on May 3, 1957, restored the building. Furthermore, the buildings Prinsengracht 265-275 and Westermarkt 16-20 were bought, after which in 1960 the museum could be opened.

From 1997-1999 the building next to the Anne Frank House is demolished and a modern wing to the museum was built.

During this time the interior on 263 Prinsengracht was restored to the state when Anne Frank was hiding there.

■ **276** Dutch gable (1680).

Above the wide under façade the gable has pilasters and a gable stone. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the spout-gable is replaced by Dutch gable.

■ **277** Former second city meat hall (1814). Presently it is in use as a restaurant.



Prinsengracht 277

■ **278** Double warehouse (1680) with a trapezium-gable. Because of the two garage doors we assume it was in use as a coach house.

The large windows were placed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

► **279 The Westerkerk (1620)**

See page 224.

■ **281** Sexton's house (1656).

■ **289** Neck-gable (± 1725) with decorated scroll stones and a half-round pediment.

■ **299** 't Casteel van Beveren (1720) in Louis XIV style.

The elevated cornice moulding has a window and the inscription 'Casteel Beveren'. There is a vase on both corners and in the centre.

■ **300** Dutch gable (1755) with a wooden under façade. Above the door a fox is depicted with a bird in its mouth. Under the hoisting hook there is a gable stone with a fox. The basement has wrought iron work in Louis XV style.

■ **305** Cornice-gable (± 1730) with a bell-shaped top.

■ **307** Elevated neck-gable (1725) with a half-round pediment.

■ **327** Warehouse D' Nieuw Goudsbloem (1710) has a spout-gable and a pediment entablature.

■ **328** Asymmetric house (1905) in Jugendstil. Note the balcony above the round bay windows.

■ **331** Warehouse (1970!) in historicism style.

■ **349** Warehouse (1650) with Dutch gable and a half-round pediment on the top.

■ **355** Dutch gable twins (±1740).

■ **360** Warehouse (1700) with spout-gable.

■ **378** Shop/dwelling with Dutch gable (1710). In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the original neck-gable was remodelled into the present sober Dutch gable.

The building has two lean-to buildings. On the Prinsengracht there are two small round windows next to the attic window. On the