

**Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
and Environs:
TRIP HANDBOOK**

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Things to consider before we go...

Planning your activities

We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND PURCHASING A GOOD GUIDEBOOK** (or taking one out of your local library). Then spend some time planning your itinerary: what will you want to see and when do you want to see it? We always *hope* for sunny warm weather, but museums are a **GREAT ALTERNATIVE** on rainy, cooler days!

We hope to have some bulletin board space in the hotel where we'll post various information and allow you space to leave notes for each other.

Money

The currency for the Netherlands and 18 other countries in Europe is the euro, €. There are 100 eurocents to the euro. It's currently trading at 1€ = \$1.16 (as of June 16) This was the 5/4/17 rate:

Dollars	Euros	Euros	Dollars
1	0.86	1	1.16
25	21.50	25	29.00
100	86.00	100	116.00

But for small purchases, one euro is about 15% more than a dollar.

Getting cash: the easiest and best way to get cash in Europe is with **bank ATMs**, which are everywhere. Be sure there are enough funds in your account to cover the week. If you have linked checking-savings accounts, you may only have access to the checking account, so transfer funds if you need to before you leave the US.

Before we travel, call your issuing bank and credit card issuers to:

ATM/Debit cards:

- Let them know your dates and destination of travel (they track account activity to prevent fraud);
- Make sure your card won't be expiring while you are abroad;
- Verify that your PIN will work in European ATMs (must be four digits); and
- Check on foreign transaction fees your bank will charge (we were able to modify our account to get rid of fees). Banks typically charge an additional fee to convert euros to dollars. Withdrawing euros or making credit card purchases in euros will generate an additional transaction fee.

Credit cards:

- VISA and MasterCard are commonly accepted. Amex, Discover and other cards may not be accepted;
- Call the card issuer to inform them of your travel dates and destination, so they don't put a hold on your card when they see foreign activity; and
- Make sure your card won't be expiring while you are abroad.

Note: American credit cards do not always have the "smart chip" that European cards have, although this is changing (finally). Non-chip cards cannot be used in vending machines and automated ticket kiosks.

IMPORTANT! Know the telephone numbers to call if your ATM or credit cards are stolen and keep the card numbers and telephone numbers somewhere different than the cards.

Cell phones

IF you plan to use your cell phone in Europe, you need to call your provider and discuss this with them.

Most modern smart phones will operate fully in Europe. Call your provider to find out if your phone is compatible. The easiest (but most expensive) solution is to turn on international calling. Check with your provider for rates... and be prepared to be shocked. You will pay high per minute rates as well as a fee for incoming and outgoing calls.

This is for phone and texting service only. **Data is a whole different issue!**

Data plans are very expensive and last time we checked not readily available from US carriers for use in Europe. **THIS MAY HAVE CHANGED – TALK TO YOUR CELL CARRIER!** Brian and Judy have T-Mobile and we feel that they are often the best for international usage! But others are also offering plans such as the AT&T Day Pass and Verizons TravelPass.

If you simply connect to a data connection in Europe you should be prepared for **OUTRAGEOUS** bills for use. And you won't even see it coming. We have heard of cell phone bills in the \$10,000+ because someone left their phone in data mode for long periods of time. **My advice... turn off your data roaming. Only use wifi connectivity with your phone unless you have arranged otherwise ahead of time.**

Again, CALL YOUR PROVIDER so you know what to expect!

Another possibility if you have an **unlocked** phone and can add a SIM card is to purchase a local SIM and talk minutes...and have a "local phone and phone number." This is **NOT** as easy as everyone says unless you can read and speak the native language and are willing to put time and effort into figuring it all out. **HINT:** Because every phone, plan, company and country is different, we simply can't help you with this option.

Medical

Call your health insurance provider (your insurance company, not your PCP) to find out if you are covered overseas. Most plans don't provide international coverage. If you need medical care, you will need to pay for it at time of service and hope to be reimbursed through travel insurance. The iNext basic travel insurance (required purchase for all travel associated with Framingham State University) provides somewhat limited coverage and is mainly designed for extreme medical emergencies.

Electricity

The voltage in the Netherlands is 220V, 50 Hz. Plugs have two round pins. To use ANY American plug (including the chargers for your camera, laptop, phone, etc.) you will need an adaptor. Most electronics are already configured to need **ONLY** the adaptor. If you have older devices, you will also need a converter.

HINT: It might be smart to bring a short extension cord with multiple plug capacity. This way you can plug the extension cord into the converter and have 3 US plugs available!

Remember to bring all your chargers. They are difficult to replace (the electrical compatibility issue). Consider spare batteries for your devices. It might be difficult to find replacements

Note: if you have traveled elsewhere in continental Europe (the British Isles is a whole different affair) you have already used these plugs and dealt with the adaptor issue.

Note: Our hotel rooms are supposed to have **hair dryers** in the bathrooms. American appliances that produce heat (hair-dryers, curling irons, etc.) are the most likely to experience issues (and often ruined) by foreign current. (Yes, we are speaking from direct personal experience!) Consider managing for the week with the hotel hair dryer only.



Type C: This socket also works with plug E and F



Type F: This socket also works with plug C and E

Luggage and Packing

We are each allowed the following FREE luggage:

- ONE checked bag, maximum 23 kg (50 lbs); maximum dimensions 62 inches (length + width + height);
- ONE carry-on bag, maximum dimensions 45 linear inches (22 + 14 + 9 in) or smaller; and
- ONE small personal item (max. 10" x 13" x 8") such as a handbag, briefcase or small bag.

We urge you to pack light, not least because you will want room in your bag for souvenirs on the return flight! Carry-on bags must be able to fit in the overhead compartments or under your seat.

Be sure to wear/bring comfortable shoes. You will be walking a lot!

Europeans in general tend to dress more smartly than Americans, but the Dutch dress more casually than, say, the French. That said: sweatshirts, sneakers, baseball caps and casual jeans immediately mark you as an American tourist, which can make you a target for thieves, con artists and others looking to rip you off. If you want to “blend,” consider up-scaling your look a bit. If you are planning a nicer evening out, plan to dress for it.

If you will be visiting churches (even as a tourist, not a church-goer) you should dress modestly (no micro-minis or low-hanging pants). Men, take off your hats indoors!

TSA regulations prohibit the following in carry-on luggage or on your person as you pass through security:

- Sharp objects (including scissors, knitting needles, tweezers) – disposable razors are ok.
- Sporting goods
- Weapons
- Flammables (including cigarette lighters and matches)
- Gels or liquids exceeding 3 oz (that’s the container size, not what’s left in it)
 - The “3-1-1 rule” for gels and liquids: Containers of 3 oz. or less; 1 quart-size Ziploc bag, 1 Ziploc bag per person.

For additional information: Delta baggage guidelines are at:

[https://www.seatguru.com/airlines/Delta Airlines/baggage.php](https://www.seatguru.com/airlines/Delta_Airlines/baggage.php)

Hint: Consider packing a one full change of clothes in your carry-on bag, and/or exchanging a change of clothes with a friend so that if one of your bags is lost, you’ll still have a spare set of clothing.

Also: tidy up your wallet and leave at home items that you won’t need – store courtesy cards, for example. ☺
If your wallet is lost or stolen, you won’t have to replace these items when you return.

Drugs

Airline regulations require that prescription drugs be in original containers with your name on the label. Be sure you bring enough to last you through the week of travel; now is the time to call your doctor for more if you'll need them.

Non-prescription drugs (over the counter) are usually fine to bring in smaller quantities but remember almost everything is also available in Europe. **With the exception of Bacitracin and Neosporin ointments – these will require a local prescription... so be sure to bring what you need!**

Tip: when strolling around the neighborhood, take a moment to locate the one nearest the hotel.

Illegal drugs... do we need to say it? NO ILLEGAL DRUG USE! Do not use it, carry it or be near it! If you get caught with drugs we can do NOTHING except inform your family and the US Consulate. **You will be left behind.** And drug penalties are much more severe in other countries. Play it safe and stay away from this trouble.

Note on **cannabis**: Possession of cannabis or other “soft” drugs is illegal in the Netherlands (it’s complicated) but is not prosecuted when amounts are small. The regulations change often, and enforcement varies from province to province. Concentrations of active ingredients are variable but often much higher than in other countries. You can purchase cannabis in so-called “coffee shops” where you have to ask for the “menu,” as shops are not allowed to display products or prices. To be on the safe side, we strongly recommend you stay away. **And, under no circumstances should you engage with people selling drugs on the street! These are often scams resulting in robbery, bodily attacks, and even death, from adulterated products.**

Travel document checklist:

Must have:

- Passport
- Student/faculty ID (potentially useful for museum discounts)
- Credit card/ATM card numbers and issuer contact information

Optional but recommended:

- Driver’s license or other photo ID (in case your passport is stolen, you can still prove you’re you)
- Trip itinerary sent to your contact person (hotel information is in this packet)
- Name and phone number of your primary care physician

We will have a secure copy of all your passport photo pages and we will shred them when we return.

Weather

Weather in the Netherlands in July:

- Average daily high: 70°F
- Average daily low: 57° F
- Over the course of the month, 10 days on average will see some rain.

To prepare for some rain, consider a lightweight waterproof jacket and/or an umbrella. Spray-on waterproofing of your shoes is recommended in some guide books, but in any case, consider a second pair of shoes in the event one pair gets soaked.

Of course, this is all based on averages. You'll have a pretty good idea of what to expect if you check the 10-day forecast online just before we travel.

One thing to note: we will be at a rather northern latitude in our travels: 52.37° North! This means we will be experiencing early sunrises (~5:30 am) and late sunsets (~10:00 pm)!

Setting your watch: The Netherlands is on Central European Time, one hour ahead of London/Greenwich Mean Time, and 6 hours ahead of Boston.

Traveling and visiting Amsterdam, the Netherlands...

This guide is NOT meant to be a comprehensive guide... for that PLEASE get yourself a real guidebook. This is meant to be a primer and an information source for our trip. You should seek out additional information about the types of activities that you may wish to engage in.

So here is the short and sweet version of our trip.

Monday July 9, Logan Departure:

NOTE: WE ARRIVE/DEPART FROM TERMINAL A

Please plan to be at Logan Airport (Terminal A) no later than 2:00 pm on Monday, July 9. Queues for checking baggage and going through airport security can be long, and flights do not wait! Meet us near the Delta check-in desk so that we can meet as a group before check in. Then you will get in line to check your bag; you will be issued a boarding pass; and you should immediately proceed to the security checkpoint. (There are restrooms, restaurants, snacks, and newsstands on the secure side of Terminal A.) **DO NOT LEAVE THE SECURE AREA ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN CHECKED THROUGH THE TSA SECURITY.**

Flight Schedule:

Airline	Flight #	Date	From	To	Departure	Arrival
Delta	DL256	July 9, 2018	Boston	Amsterdam	4:56 pm	5:50 am +1
Delta	DL257	July 16, 2018	Amsterdam	Boston	2:35 pm	4:47 pm

Airport Behavior:

Please be attentive in the airport, especially during our time boarding and de-boarding planes, walking through the airport and going through customs and passport control. We need the group to stay together because frankly... there are lots of you and only two of us! If you wander off... you just might end up missing a flight or simply causing major problems for the group. PLEASE stick together and follow directions while we are in transit.

One important point is to be on your best behavior during security screenings and check-in. A *'little joke'* might just have you experiencing some very intrusive questioning and/or searches... and may end up forcing you to miss your flight. Cooperate and let's all get to Europe!

A note about our flight times and our arrival in the Netherlands:

Unfortunately, our flight times are not conducive to a great start for our trip. We will be taking off around 5:00 pm. With a flight lasting around 7 hours. Thus, we will be landing in Amsterdam with a full day of activities

ahead of us at Midnight, Boston time! **If you do not manage to get some sleep on the flight you will be extremely tired for our first day in Amsterdam! We suggest trying to go to sleep right after the meal service and try to stay asleep until we land!**

This is the main reason we are planning a very early welcome dinner. We will be making arrangements for a 5:00 pm dinner so we can get back to the hotel for a good nights sleep!

Tuesday, July 10, Transfers to/from Hotel:

Arrival day, July 10

After we collect our bags we will be spending some time in the airport.

We will first exchange money/get euros. Note: we encourage the use of ATMs to withdraw money directly from your home bank, but some folks prefer using the money exchange at the airport. If anyone has pre-purchased, or wishes to purchase, the I amsterdam Visitor Card, we will make a stop at this location.

We will then have breakfast in a restaurant in the airport - This meal is not included in your trip price. I have been told there are several options. We are eating at the airport because the area of Amsterdam we will be traveling to first doesn't seem to cater to a breakfast crowd as all the restaurants open after 11:00 am.

There may be time for browsing in the stores at the airport, but please try and stay together as we will need to gather soon enough to get to our pick-up location. The bus will pick us up at the airport approximately 8:30-8:45 am.

Since we cannot get into the hotel any earlier than 2:00 pm, we will do some activities before we arrive. We will be visiting the only Windmill open for tours in Amsterdam, The Molen von Sloten Windmill. This is included in your trip price. The tour should take approximately 1 hour.

We will then proceed to the hotel to drop off our luggage and say good-bye to our bus. We will then walk across the street to the canal for a canal tour via an open boat which will begin at 12:15 pm. This is included in your trip price.

The tour should return us back at the hotel approximately 1:45 pm and we will hopefully distribute room keys at that time. Note: we still might have a wait for our rooms to become available. Then you are free to explore the area until our welcome dinner later in the day.

Welcome Dinner:

We plan on having an earlier than usual welcome dinner, leaving the hotel at 5:00 pm. The restaurant is a short walk from the hotel in the general area of the hotel. The details are not all worked out yet, but they will be soon!

HINT: IF WE GET IN THE ROOMS EARLY: When we first get to the hotel after a long night and day of travel you might be tempted to *just take a little nap...* Our advice is to **tough it out!** Take a shower, change your clothes, have a snack, take a walk in the neighborhood... but **DON'T SLEEP YET!** If you can stay up to at least 8:00 or 9:00 pm you will begin to 'reset' your internal clock to local time and be ready to hit the ground the next morning. If you go to sleep early... chances are you will wake up very early (4:00-5:00 am) and end up being tired by midday.

Hotel:

We strongly recommend that you pick up the hotel business card at the front desk. It will have the name of the hotel and the address. Then if you ever need to find your way home... simply give this card to any taxi driver and they will take you to the hotel with no language barrier to cause problems.

Apollo Museum Hotel Amsterdam City Center

Address: Pieter Cornelisz Hoofstraat 2, 1071 BX Amsterdam

Phone: +31 20 662 1402

Web: <https://www.apollohotels.nl/apollo-museumhotel-amsterdam-city-centre>

We have breakfast each day in the hotel. We **strongly** urge you to take advantage of this service! As travelers on a budget a FREE MEAL is a necessity and it also offers an opportunity to see and talk to the other members of our trip! So, eat a HEARTY BREAKFAST and you might be able to skip a big lunch! The exact method for obtaining breakfast – tickets, vouchers, or simply giving your room number - has not yet been determined –we will let you know as we find out.

European Hotel Rooms (in general): All rooms are not the same in size, configuration and amenities, and they tend to be smaller than comparable hotel rooms in the US. Two single beds instead of two double beds are common in twin rooms. A single bed in a small room is common in single accommodations. Single rooms are always smaller, the idea being that a single person does not need as much space.

Hotel Amenities

- Washcloths are considered a personal item and are usually not provided by the hotel.
- Balconies, if they exist, size and location are luck of the draw. If you have a balcony, invite others to enjoy it with you.
- Non-smoking rooms have been requested but may not be available. Please advise if smoking is preferred. The hotel has designated non-smoking floors. You may notice residue smoke from before the new non-smoking rules in a non-smoking room.
- Air conditioning in Europe is not as strong as in the U.S.: make certain windows and balcony doors are closed when operating the air conditioning. The control unit is on the wall.
- Passengers are to make their own wake-up calls.
- **Floor numbering is different in Europe.** Level RC on the elevator is actually ground level, where the lobby is. Level 1 is one floor up (what we consider level 2 in North America).
- Keys – If you get electronic keys, they also activate the electricity in the room. They must be inserted into the slot on the inside wall and left there while in the room. Ask for an extra key to leave in the slot if you need to charge devices while you are out of the room.

Water - the tap water is safe to drink. However, bottled water is served at the table at most restaurants.

Room Phones – The easiest and most expensive way to make calls is from your room, even when using your calling card. Check for public phones in hotel lobby or on the street, glass boxes. If you wish to use your room phone, you will need to leave a credit card imprint at the front desk. Local calls are metered, the longer the call the more it will cost. If you are planning on making a lot of local calls you might consider buying a phone card, however if you are planning on making many calls I suggest you prearrange to have cell phone service and use your own phone.

Food:

Breakfast is included with your tour so take advantage of it (**except the last morning!**)! Breakfasts at the hotel are often a buffet of cereals, breads, fruits, juices, yogurt, eggs, cheese, cold cuts, coffee and tea. Help yourself to all you can eat, but you are usually not allowed to take food from the breakfast area.

With the exception of the welcome dinner on Tuesday evening, you are on your own for all other meals on our trip. We suggest that you choose your dining options to match your budget and diet. For example, eating at outdoor food vendors is actually cheap and tasty. Another idea for lunch on the cheap: you can step into a bakery for excellent bread and rolls, and into a cheese shop or deli for meats and cheeses to make a sandwich. You'll find fruit and vegetable markets all around. Grocery stores sell yogurt, drinks, and often, prepared foods like sandwiches. This will allow you to create your own 'moveable feast'!

On certain days when we are touring, we will break for lunch. We often will be at an area with several options. Please feel free to eat where you prefer, however the cost of these meals is not included. Also, be sure to be back on time to resume the tour after your meal.

Museums usually have very nice cafes and restaurants, good for a quick snack or light meal. Yes, you can eat even more cheaply than that, but at least the money is going to help the cause of Art. And we would be remiss if we did not mention the famous Kebab stands which offer filling, inexpensive Middle Eastern food.

You can also find a wide range of options from small 'workingman's lunch' places to elegant fine dining establishments. Again, your purchase of a guidebook will be indispensable in assisting you in finding just the right venues for discovering Dutch Cuisine!

Again, the tap water is safe to drink. However, bottled water is served at the table at most restaurants. When dining out and you ask for water, you will have to specifically ask for tap water (no charge), otherwise you will be brought a bottle of water and will be charged for it. Ice is still a rarity in Europe and if you ask for ice, be prepared for only one or two cubes! If you order soft drinks, know that free refills are not common. Coffee tends to be much stronger in Europe so be prepared!

Tipping

Meals – When dining in Europe, what we call "tip" is, by law, included in the price. It is noted as *service charge* on the menu. It is appropriate to round the meal to the next five euro or pound amount, i.e. €21.70 → € 25.00 (see below)

It is customary to leave a little extra – this is what a waiter is thinking of when asked "Is the "tip" included?" So, he will naturally say, "no." So, yes, the service (tip in English) is included; the "extra" (for the waiter) is not. Leave a few extra Euros/Pounds for good measure.

Porters – Not included in trip price. If you ask for your luggage to be brought to your room, € 1 per bag is the appropriate tip.

Housekeeping – is not included. € 2 per **room** per night is considered appropriate.

Drivers and tour guides for our private tours/travel – The tip will be paid by the group leaders

Optional (private) tours have a fixed price, but often these guides and drivers are expecting a tip. You may tip € 2 – 5 for a half day (3-4 hours or less) or € 5 – 10 for a full day of touring... if you feel you enjoyed the tour.

Taxi – It is considered appropriate to round the total to the next full euro amount and possibly add on more.

Other services – Consult a Guidebook for a full listing.

Paying for things:

In general credit cards are not welcome for small purchases. The use of euros and pounds (cash) is considered the proper way to conduct small purchases, and exact change is very desirable. For example, most vendors would prefer you giving the correct coinage instead of a 5 euro note.

Hint: Be prepared to carry a pretty good amount of coins (loose change.) The smallest paper money is the 5 euro note. So, it is fairly common to collect a good deal of coinage in a single day out. A small coin purse might be a smart investment!

Dressing:

The most important item to bring is comfortable shoes – you will be walking a LOT!!

Appropriate Dress – The Europeans tend to dress better than we do here in the US. And in the cities they tend to be even better dressed. However, casual dress throughout the day is acceptable.

Evening Dress – There is no dress code (i.e. jacket, tie, dress requirement) at most restaurants that you are likely to choose. However, many Europeans are not casual when they dine out and generally dress up for dinner and evening engagements. So, if you wish to ‘fit in’ and be less conspicuous, feel free to dress up! You certainly will not stand out. Recommendation: No sloppy jeans or sneakers in the evening.

Personal safety:

Your safe return is our number one goal... right before having a wonderful time! So, to make this happen you need to be careful and act appropriately.

One of the most important rules of the trip is to **take care of each other**. What that means in this context is that you don't let someone do something stupid if you can help prevent it. We strongly suggest that you do not go out on your own, even during the day. Not because it is dangerous, but because it is so much easier to get around and find things with 2 or more people than it is with one. And besides it is more fun too!

At night we are going to insist that you don't go off by yourself. Find some friends and stick with them. You are totally new to this large city and most of you can't understand 10 words of Dutch! So stick together and have a ton of fun... but don't be stupid.

Be street smart. Pay attention to who is around you and where you are headed. If it seems like fewer and fewer people are on the streets, maybe duck into a café or bar and ask them to call you a taxi. It is the smart move and better safe than sorry.

Places can get very crowded and confusing at times. Purses and backpacks should be zipped closed and kept in front at all times. Wallets should be kept in the front pocket. Use the hotel safe, so valuables are not lost. Pickpockets are a problem in tourist areas, and both men and women need to be on guard about your handbag/wallet. It might be a good idea to invest in a money belt.

One very easy way to get yourself into trouble is to get drunk. If this is the case, please be smart and call a taxi home. If you are with fellow travelers who get drunk, please don't let them get into more trouble based on their current poor judgment. Treat your fellow travelers as you would hope to be treated if you were in their shoes.

Always carry a **COPY** of your passport with you. Keep the original copy in the hotel safe. You will rarely be required to produce your passport so this is the safest way to go about the City.

Carry a hotel business card with you so that if your language skills break down, you can simply hand the card to a taxi driver and they will take you home!

Watches and Cell Phone TIME:

Change to Netherlands time so you are not forever trying to figure out the conversion. This will prevent some silly mistakes. **Hint:** If you do plan on calling home remember that they are 6 hours BEHIND us... so 8:30 am in Amsterdam will be 2:30 am in Boston... so maybe you will want to wait until at least noon to call home!

Most Europeans use the 24-hour clock. Consider adding a 24-hour clock to your cell phone display – it's easy to get confused about the afternoon and evening hours.

VAT TAX:

All items purchased in the Netherlands have a Value Added Tax of 21% already included in the price.

Since the United States is not a member of the EU, US citizens may therefore receive a refund of the tax paid. Note: It may be deducted off the purchase price at time of sale but most stores do not do it this easy way. Each store can set a minimum amount which customers must spend before they are entitled to a refund, but it must total at least € 175 per store per day.

Each store customer must ask for the V.A.T. Forms and all necessary documentation. Note: It is not the stores' responsibility to give the forms, but the customers' responsibility to ask. Customers must have their **GENUINE** passport with them! The store will make out their portion of the form and give it, the receipt, and an envelope to you. You should keep all their forms and envelopes together for safe keeping.

Towards the end of the tour, you will need to complete the forms with your personal information and take all of these and the items purchased (best to pack these on top!) to the V.A.T. Officer in the booth at the Airport. The officer will need to validate all forms and inspect the goods. They don't always ask to see the merchandise, but they can. Once the forms have been stamped, they are mailed; no postage is necessary,

Charges & Methods of refund:

1. A handling fee is charged for processing the forms (deducted from the refund)
2. Cash refunds are given in Euros (which requires conversion to US Dollars)
3. Refund by mail sent by check in Euros or dollars
4. Refund by Credit Card reduces card balance with the best exchange rate (takes 8 wks)

If items are shipped, the V.A.T. is generally taken off the purchase price. Some shops will take the V.A.T. off the purchase price if the customer uses a credit card

1. Forms must still be completed, validated and mailed
2. If not the VAT will be added back to the Credit Card at a later date

Without the forms there is no possibility of a refund! Or just don't buy that much stuff!

Customs/Duty (returning to the US):

Each traveler is allowed to bring certain things back into the US. The allowances below are to be kept in mind when shopping. Anything exceeding the amount will be taxed upon arrival home. The total allowance does not include the VAT tax. Art, antiques or books are duty free, and do not need to be claimed on the customs form or on the total allowance. Also, anything that has been shipped to you at home is accounted for separately (\$200 per month per person). Restrictions: no cheese, meats, dairy, eggs, animals, and plant products, including tulip bulbs.

- \$800 USD total allowance
- Max. 200 cigarettes
- Max. 100 non-Cuban cigars
- Max. 1.5 liter of wine or 1 liter of alcohol

Travel Discount Cards:

Great information about the various discount/travel cards and the pros/cons of each are here:

<https://www.amsterdamtourist.info/tips/amsterdamdiscount-cards/> We rarely find that these cards offer us any value, however if you plan on visiting many museums, it might be something to consider.

Amsterdam Discount Cards & City Passes 2018

A popular choice for many tourists are the Amsterdam city cards, offering free or discounted entry to museums and attractions. Some city card systems also discount dining, transportation, and leisure activities such as theatre tickets. Below you can find the variety of Amsterdam discount cards you can purchase and may like to consider:

- **Amsterdam Holland Pass** Based on number of free entries – 3 entries/40€, 4/55€, 6/75€
Amsterdam Holland Pass is a pre-paid city pass and discount card allowing free access for many top museums, attractions, activities and city sightseeing in Amsterdam and other major cities in The Netherlands. The Amsterdam Holland Pass is available in three packages: 3, 4 or 6 tickets. These tickets will give you free entry to museums, attractions and (public) transport. A guide for Amsterdam and the Netherlands is included in the price. The major museums as the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum and Stedelijk Museum are included.
- **I amsterdam city card** 1 day/59€, 2 days/74€, 3 days/87€, 4 days/98€
The I amsterdam City Card is the “official” city pass. It is a pre-paid pass and discount card allowing free access on many top museums. Furthermore it gives you discount on attractions and activities in Amsterdam. A separate free public transport ticket is included to use the public transport system in Amsterdam. The I amsterdam City Card is available in three package deals with discounts valid for 24 hours, 48 hours, 72 hours and 96 hours. Major museums as the Van Gogh Museum and Stedelijk Museum are included. The Rijksmuseum is left out, but the card gives you a discount of 2.50 € on the ticket price.
- **Combination Deal** The more you combine, the more you save.
This is a different type of discount. Combination Deal is not a city card or discount pass. It offers you a unique way to save money on many top museums and attractions in Amsterdam and even more throughout The Netherlands. So the more tickets you combine, the more money you save!
- **Museumkaart (Museum card) @ 60€**
The ‘Museumkaart’ is a personal museum pass, valid for 31 days in more than 350 museums in the Netherlands. The museum card offers unlimited free access to museums, but not to other attractions or activities (no discounts or free attractions, no free public transport, no discounts for other attractions, restaurants and shops).

Public Transportation in Amsterdam:

Amsterdam offers a variety of public transportation options, bus, tram, metro and ferries! You can choose either to purchase a single one-hour pass for 3 € or you can purchase a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6-day pass. Passes begin when you first use the pass.

For more Information go to: <https://en.gvb.nl/ontdek-amsterdam>

One Hour Pass info: <https://en.gvb.nl/gvb-1-uur>

Day Pass info: <https://en.gvb.nl/gvb-dag-meerdagenkaart>

Duration	Cost
1 hour	€ 3.00
24 hours	€ 7.50
48 hours	€ 12.50
72 hours	€ 17.50
96 hours	€ 22.50
120 hours	€ 27.50
144 hours	€ 31.50

Note: Free ferry service! The ferry connections across the IJ river for pedestrians and bicyclists are free and bring you day and night from Amsterdam Noord to Central Station, and vice versa.

Amsterdam 2018

Itinerary and Inclusions

Please understand that this is always subject to the whims and vagaries of travel and we will do our very best to work around any issues and substitute/eliminate when necessary to promote a safe and pleasant adventure for everyone!

Brian: 978-335-4549

(NOTE: from European phones add 001 to start

Judy: 978-335-4519

<p>Off We Go! Monday, July 9</p>	<p>Depart Logan Airport: Terminal A: Delta Flight: DL256 (4:56 pm departure) Arrive by 2:00 pm!!!!</p>	<p>Included in tour price...</p>
<p>Arrive in Amsterdam Tuesday, July 10</p>	<p>After landing at 5:50 am, and going through customs and gathering our bags, we will find a nice place for breakfast in the airport. We will meet our bus at 8:30 am. We will then proceed to the Molen van Sloten windmill tour! After the tour we will continue to the hotel to drop our bags and then embark on an open boat canal tour! Upon return our rooms should be ready. At 4:45 pm we will meet in the lobby to walk to our Welcome Dinner at 5:00 pm.</p>	<p>Hotel in Amsterdam Transportation to Hotel Apollo Musuem Hotel Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat 2, 1071 BX Amsterdam Phone: +31 20 662 1402</p> <p>Visit Molen van Sloten windmill. Open boat canal tour.</p> <p>Welcome dinner TBA!</p>
<p>Amsterdam at War Wednesday, July 11</p>	<p>After full breakfast we will walk to The Anne Frank House and Museum for a special 30-minute introductory tour and a self-guided tour of the house and museum. We must arrive by 10:00 am for our timed entry. Late comers will be turned away per museum rules. We will then stroll through the city, having lunch on own. We will meet again at the Dutch Resistance Museum where we will explore the exhibitions. There are some additional themed activities (monuments, synagogue, etc.) that you may choose to explore on your own.</p>	<p>Hotel in Amsterdam Breakfast included.</p> <p>Admission to: Anne Frank House Dutch Resistance Museum</p>
<p>The old and the new Thursday, July 12</p>	<p>After full breakfast, we will join our guides, Prof. Judy Otto and Marc Hanou, former chief advisor to the Mayor of Amsterdam and currently head of an environmental agency in Nord Holland. We will begin in the hotel lobby and make our way through the city. We will have a break for lunch (on your own) and then continue until 4:00 pm.</p>	<p>Hotel in Amsterdam Breakfast included.</p>

Amsterdam 2018

Itinerary and Inclusions

<p>Time to explore the city Friday, July 13</p>	<p>After full breakfast you are free to explore the city of Amsterdam... or travel on one of many optional tours (one good aggregator, Viator.com: https://www.viator.com/Amsterdam/d525-ttd</p>	<p>Hotel in Amsterdam Breakfast included</p>
<p>Haarlem: Town life Saturday, July 14</p>	<p>After full breakfast, we will board the train for the 15-20 minute ride to the smaller town of Haarlem, to the west of Amsterdam. Haarlem has a beautiful (and relatively compact) historic old town center with many different exploration possibilities! Saturday has the best street market in the Netherlands, an organ demonstration in the Grote Kerk or simply rent a bike and ride to the beach!</p>	<p>Hotel in Amsterdam Breakfast included. Transportation to/from Haarlem via train ticket.</p>
<p>Last day to be Dutch! Sunday, July 15</p>	<p>After full breakfast you are free to explore the city of Amsterdam... or travel on one of many optional tours (one good aggregator, Viator.com: https://www.viator.com/Amsterdam/d525-ttd</p>	<p>Hotel in Amsterdam Breakfast included.</p>
<p>Farewell to Lowlands! Monday, July 16</p>	<p>After checkout, bus will bring us to the airport for our flight back to Boston. I am not sure of the boarding time, but we will announce it when we know! Flight: DL-257 (2:35 pm departure) Arrives in Boston at 4:47 pm!!!! Terminal A</p>	<p>Transport to airport Breakfast included.</p>

Useful contacts:

US consulate:

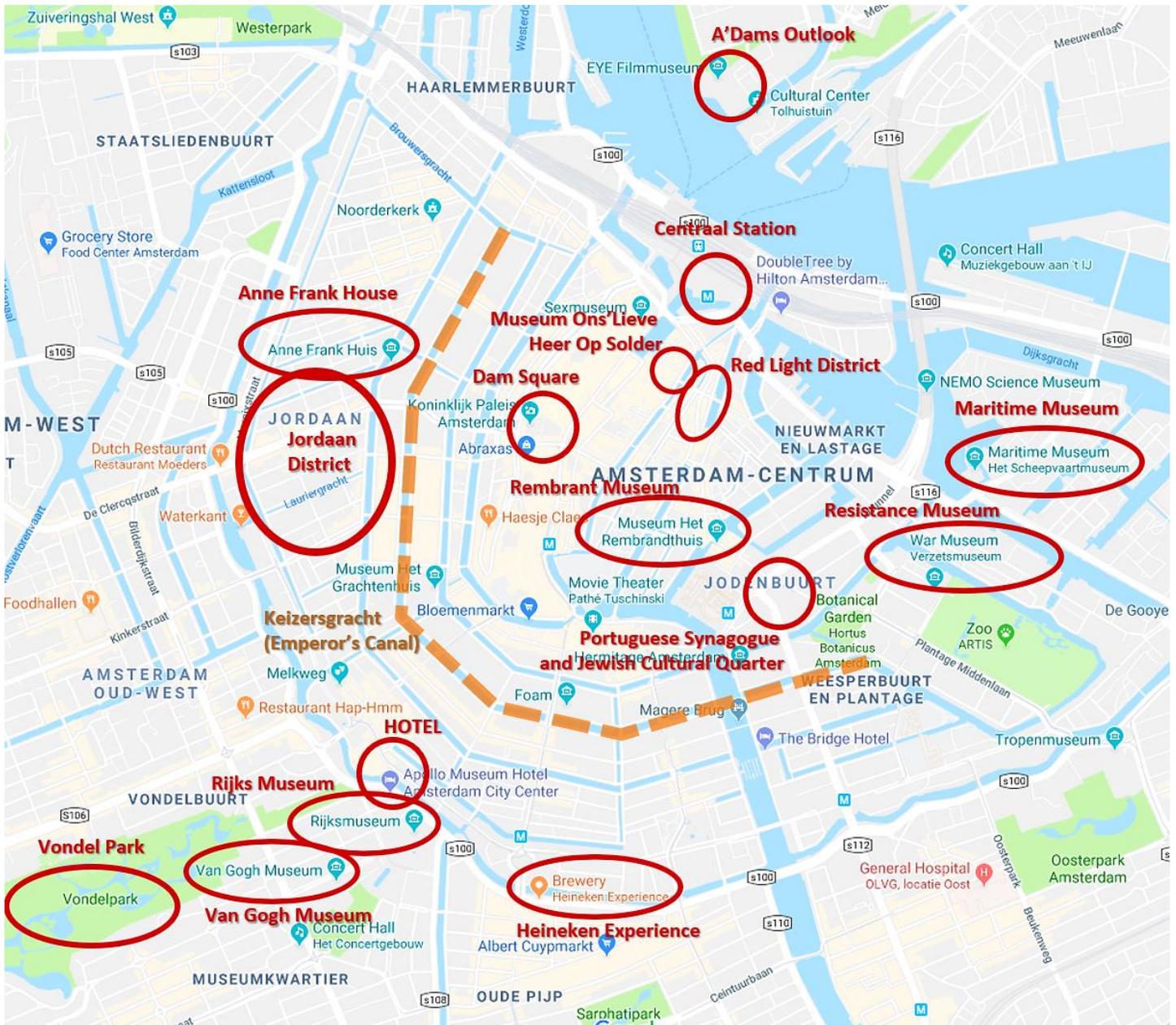
Address: Museumplein 19, 1071 DJ Amsterdam

Telephone: 020 575 5309

Web: Amsterdam.usconsulate.gov

Medical emergencies: call 112. Your iNext insurance policy will reimburse you for some out of pocket expenses. Be sure to keep receipts and documents related to your treatment.

Top Attractions Map



Top Attractions in Amsterdam

Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House is a writer's house and biographical museum dedicated to Jewish wartime diarist Anne Frank. The building is located on a canal in central Amsterdam in the Netherlands. During World War II, Anne Frank hid from Nazi persecution with her family and four other people in hidden rooms at the rear of the 17th-century canal house, known as the Secret Annex. Anne Frank did not survive the war but in 1947, her wartime diary was published. In 1957, the Anne Frank Foundation was established to protect the property and her memory.

Planned Wed 10 am

On-line, timed tickets only

Prinsengracht 263-267 | Museum entrance Westermarkt 20

+31 20 556 7105

<http://www.annefrank.org/>

The Resistance Museum (Amsterdams Verzetsmuseum)
From May 1940 to May 1945 the Netherlands was occupied by Nazi Germany. How did the Dutch respond to the increasing oppression? You see, hear and read stories about the exceptional and the everyday.
Planned Wed 1 pm 10-5, M-F, 11-5, Sa-Su. 11€
Plantage Kerklaan 61a, 1018 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 6 14394654
https://www.verzetsmuseum.org/museum/nl/museum
Portuguese Synagogue and Jewish Cultural Quarter
At the heart of the Jewish Cultural Quarter stands the majestic Portuguese Synagogue. The building is still used for religious services, but it is also open to the public. It hosts frequent candlelight concerts. Hundreds of candles illuminate the perfectly intact 17th-century interior. Visitors to the smaller buildings in the complex will find treasure chambers containing a unique collection of ceremonial objects made of silver, gold, brocade, and silk.
Possible Visit Wed 3 pm 11-5, 7-days. 15€
Mr. Visserplein 3, 1011 RD Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 531 0380
https://jck.nl/en/node/957
Rijksmuseum
The Rijksmuseum is the museum of the Netherlands. The completely renovated Rijksmuseum tells the story of the Netherlands from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Including works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Frans Hals, and more! Most famous is Rembrandt's masterpiece the Night Watch. A new display of the collection, a renewed building, new public facilities, a revamped garden and a new Asian Pavilion.
9-5, 7-days. 17.50€
Museumstraat 1, 1071 XX Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 674 7000
https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en
Van Gogh Museum
Discover the world's largest collection of works by Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, featuring masterpieces such as Sunflowers, The Potato Eaters, Almond Blossom and The Bedroom.
9-7, Su-Th, 9-9, F-Sa. 18€ On-line sales only
Museumplein 6, 1071 DJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 570 5200
https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/plan-your-visit?utm_source=tripadvisor&utm_medium=beschrijving&utm_campaign=algemeen
Museum Het Rembrandthuis (Rembrandt House)
Rembrandt lived and worked from 1639 to 1658 in this 17th-century house, which today is a museum that pays tribute to the artist's life and career.
10-6, 7-days. 13€
Jodenbreestraat 4, 1011 NK Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 520 0400
https://www.rembrandthuis.nl/en/?lang=en

Het Scheepvaartmuseum The National Maritime Museum
The National Maritime Museum, tells inspiring stories of how the sea is in our genes. Come and enjoy the stimulating, interactive exhibitions and the stunning 17th century building.
9-5, 7-days. 16€
Kattenburgerplein 1, 1018 KK Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 523 2222
https://www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.com/
Museum Ons'Lieve Heer Op Solder
In the heart of Amsterdam's bustling centre lies one of the city's oldest museums: Museum Our Lord in the Attic. Here visitors get to experience the Dutch Golden Age in a special way: a 17th-century house with a top floor converted into a Catholic church.
10-6, M-Sa, 1-6, Su. 11€
Oudezijds Voorburgwal 38, 1012 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 624 6604
https://www.opsolder.nl/
Heineken Experience
The Heineken Experience is a self-guided interactive journey through the world of Heineken
10:30-7:30, M-Th, 10:30-9:00, F-Su. 18€ On-line only?
Stadhouderskade 78, 1072 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 721 5300
https://www.heineken.com/nl/Heineken-Experience
A'dam Lookout
LOOKOUT 360° Amsterdam + sensational swing! An iconic viewing point in The Netherlands
10-10, 7-days. 13.50€
Overhoeksplein 5, 1031 KS Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 242 0100
https://www.adamlookout.com/
Dam Square
All roads lead to Dam Square, the real heart of Amsterdam, where The Royal Palace, the Nieuwe Kerk and the War Memorial overlook this vast and bustling open space.
Red Light District
This area in the oldest part of Amsterdam is known for the red neon windows that display barely-dressed prostitutes advertising their services; it's all perfectly acceptable as long as it stays inside this designated area of the city.
The Jordaan
This charming neighborhood is Amsterdam's Greenwich Village, with its narrow alleys, leafy canals lined with 17th-century houses, quirky specialty shops, cafes and designer boutiques
https://www.iamsterdam.com/nl/in-en-om-amsterdam/jordaan

Centraal Station
Completed in 1889 and located in the heart of town, this neo-Renaissance rail station was designed by P.J.H. Cuypers, the same person who designed the famous Rijksmuseum.
Stationsplein 9, 1012 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands
+31 20 344 5074
Vondelpark
Amsterdam's most famous park was designed and built in 1850 and today is a popular place for tourists and residents who can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, jogging and picnicking.
Van Baerlestraat & Vondelpark
+31 35 671 7915
Emperor's Canal (Keizersgracht)
Iconic views of the quintessential Dutch canal
https://www.amsterdam.info/keizersgracht/

Resource Guide for Amsterdam Travelers

WW2, the Holocaust, and Jewish life in Amsterdam:

Many of the sites associated with Jewish life are in the Jewish Quarter (Jodenhoek) and Plantage.

- Anne Frank House
- Dutch Resistance Museum
- *Esnoga*, the Portuguese synagogue
- Jewish History Museum
- Memorials:
 - Dockworker sculpture across the street from JHM commemorates the solidarity protest of 1941
 - Resistance memorial where Amstel meets the Zwanenburgwal
 - Possibly the violinist sculpture in the foyer of Stopera
 - Eternal flame and memorial column at De Hollandsche Schouburg, a “Jewish theater” that served as the collection and embarkation point for the concentration camps
 - Auschwitz Memorial at the Wertheimpark
 - Plantage Kerklaan 36, Commemoration plaque of the Dutch resistance group that blew up the municipal records building to stop Nazis from tracking down Jews.
 - Ravensbruck war memorial, on Museumplein near the Rijksmuseum.
 - Resistance memorial to reprisal murders, intersection of Apollolaan and Beethovenstraat (not within walking distance)

Maritime Industry and Global Trade

- VOC warehouses on Entrepotdok, now refurbished into offices and apartments. Main entrance to the old VOC headquarters is on Kadijksplein.
- Maritime Museum (*Scheepvaartmuseum*) in the former Navy arsenal building. Ship figureheads, navigational tools, a splendid collection of maritime paintings by Willem van del Velde II, and a full-scale replica of a ship from the Far East trade
- Museumhaven – a collection of historical ships moored between ARCAM (the architecture museum) and NEMO (the children’s science museum)

Art Museums

- Rijksmuseum – comprehensive collection of Dutch painting throughout the ages, including the best of the Dutch Golden Age. This is one of the best museums in the world.
- Van Gogh Museum – original building was designed by the De Stijl painter and architect Gerrit Rietveld, with a hypermodern addition of 1998. Paintings are presented in roughly chronological order.
- Stedelijk Museum – contemporary and modern art, including works by Mondrian and some of the best-known 20th century American artists.
- ARCAM, Amsterdam Centre for Architecture has temporary exhibitions on contemporary architecture and urban planning and offers Friday walking tours led by local architects.
- CoBrA Museum of Modern Art – zany c. 1950s art from a collaborative that operated in Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam. Karel Appel is the best known of them. Address Sandbergplein 1 (not in the central museum area)
- Allard Pierson Museum – ancient classical art and artifacts from Egypt, Greece and Rome. One highlight is the exhibit on the Coptic Christians of Egypt.

History Museums:

- Tropenmuseum – ethnographic museum showcasing peoples in tropical and subtropical places, presumably those of the Dutch colonies. Modern interactive museum design; notably does not whitewash the exploitative aspects of the colonial period.
- Amsterdam Historical Museum – interactive exhibits on the development of the city and the culture and lives of its inhabitants. The museum is located in a former orphanage, and one exhibit describes the lives of the children who lived there. The museum's organizational structure is unclear; get a map at the front desk. Lots of area shopping and restaurants.

House museums:

- Museum van Loon, Keizersgracht 672. Built c. 1672, restored to 18th century style. Van Loons were co-founders of the East India Company.
- Museum Gellvinck Hinlopen Huis, Keizersgracht 633. Rococo mansion of another shipping magnate; Sunday concerts at 4:45 pm are included in ticket price.
- Museum Willet-Holthuysen, Herengracht 605. Built c. 1685 for a coal magnate; remodeled many times since. Dutch ceramics, silver and other furnishings, formal gardens.

Quirky or Fun Attractions:

- Handbag Museum (*Tassenmuseum Hendrije*), Herengracht 573.
- Houseboat Museum
- The Heineken Experience
- Gassan Diamonds Factory
- Botanical Garden (*Hortus Botanicus*)
- Artis Royal Zoo
- NEMO – modern science and technology center (geared toward children)