

PROMPT
GUIDES



5 days



5-day Amsterdam City Guide

A preplanned step-by-step time line
and city guide for Amsterdam.
Follow it and get the best of the city.



Other Destinations

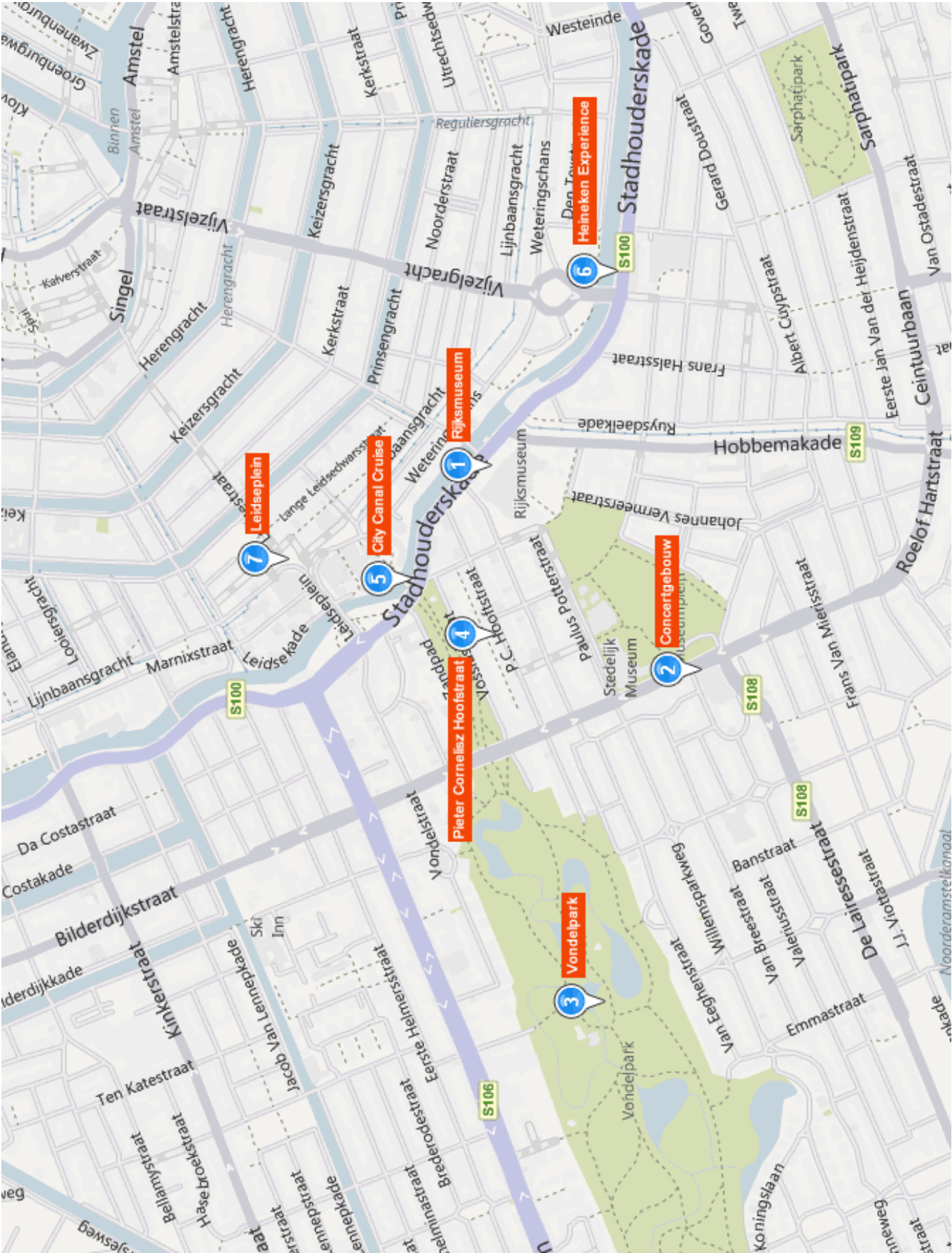
London, Barcelona, Paris, Boston,
Athens, Amsterdam, Rome,
Budapest ...and more

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Overview of Day 1

	LEAVE HOTEL	Tested and recommended hotels in Amsterdam >	
	Take Tram Line 2 or 5 to Hobbemastraat stop		
09:00-10:30	Rijksmuseum	World famous national museum	Page 5
	Take a walk to Concertgebouw - 20'		
10:50-11:10	Concertgebouw	World famous concert hall	Page 5
	Take a walk to Vondelpark - 10'		
11:20-11:50	Vondelpark	Green oasis in the center of the city	Page 6
	Take a walk to Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat - 5'		
11:55-12:55	Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat	Amsterdam's most upscale and exclusive shopping street	Page 6
	Lunch time		
	Take a walk to City Canal Cruise boarding		
14:00-15:30	City Canal Cruise	Delightful experience	Page 6
	Take a walk to Heineken Experience - 20'		
15:50-17:50	Heineken Experience	Very amusing, interactive museum	Page 7
	Take a walk to Leidseplein - 20'		
18:10-18:25	Leidseplein	Amsterdam's tourist hub	Page 7
	END OF DAY 1		

Overview of Day 1



Attraction Details

09:00-10:30

Rijksmuseum (Jan Luijkenstraat 1, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 6pm • Admission: 12.5 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Rijksmuseum is a national museum dedicated to arts, crafts, and history
- The collection contains some seven million art pieces
- It has an extensive collection of paintings from the Dutch Golden Age (17th c.) and a substantial collection of Asian art
- Rembrandts, Vermeers, Frans Hals and Jan Steens hang on the walls, including Night Watch and The Kitchen Maid
- King Louis Napoleon established the museum in 1808
- Its first home was in the Royal Palace on the Dam; its current monumental home was built in 1885 in neo-Renaissance style
- The protestant king and public first much disliked the building and mocked it "Cathedral" as it bares many Catholic elements thanks to Cuypers, its Catholic architect

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Pick up a free plan or take an audio guide

- Admire the masterpieces on display (the layout makes it easy to do a self-guided tour)
- Pay attention to the impressive interior of the building
- Do not miss the major works: The Milkmaid, The Jewish Bride, and Night Watch

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Up until 2013, the Rijksmuseum will be renovated but most parts are still open to the public (the museum is still worth a visit in spite of the ongoing works)
- Audio guide is available for 5 €
- Two audio guide options are available: a general overview and a more specific painting-centered one describing the works in detail

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



10:50-11:10

Concertgebouw (Concertgebouwplein 10, 1071 LN, Amsterdam)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Amsterdam Concert Hall (Concertgebouw) is one of the world's most prestigious and acoustically perfect concert halls
- It was built in 1888 in Neo-Dutch Renaissance style with a grand colonnaded Neo-Classical façade
- It is home to the world renowned Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
- The creme de la creme of international musicians and conductors regularly perform here
- The building has two halls: a main hall and the smaller recital hall; both of which host daily performances

- The hall was reconstructed and enlarged in 1980 after it was discovered to be in danger of collapse
- Audrey Hepburn held a season ticket to Concertgebouw while she lived in Amsterdam after World War II

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the beautiful building

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Fantastic concerts are held here. Try to book your tickets for a concert while you are visiting
- Free lunchtime concerts on Wednesdays

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Attraction Details

11:20-11:50

**Vondelpark** (Vondelpark 3, 1071 AA, Amsterdam)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Vondelpark is the largest (44 ha, 109 ac) and most popular park in Amsterdam
- This is the best place to go if somebody wants peace, quietness and relaxation
- It was established in 1864 by a few philanthropic citizens; the park was named after the 17th c. poet, Joost van den Vondel
- The park features everything needed to make it a lovely place: benches overlooking small ponds, flower gardens, walking and biking trails
- The place becomes especially lively on summer Sundays when many Amsterdamers escape the dense city and come here
- Concerts and plays are held in the open-air theater; the park is filled with joggers, skaters, and performers such as jugglers or fire-eaters; many play football, badminton or Frisbee

- A unique landmark of the park is the Blue Teahouse (Blauwe Theehuis) built in New Functionalist style that looks like a giant blue straw hat

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a walk, watch people in this well-tended garden any time of the year
- Find an empty bench and relax or stop in one of the many cafés for a cup of tea

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Free performances are held in the open-air theatre
- Perfect place to go with kids on a summer day with paddling pool, playgrounds, puppet shows and face painting

[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)

11:55-12:55

**Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat** (Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat, Amsterdam)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat is Amsterdam's most elegant shopping street
- It is a relatively short street but all the must have luxurious brands are present here such as Vuitton, Armani, Dolce & Gabbana, Ralph Lauren, or Gucci

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk along this elegant shopping street
- Do some shopping or relax in a café

TIPS & INSIGHTS[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)

14:00-15:30

**City Canal Cruise** (Stadhouderskade 30, 1017 MA, Amsterdam)**Opening hours:** Apr - Sept, daily : 10am - 7pm, Oct - Mar, daily: 10am - 5pm • **Admission:** 13 €**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Amsterdam has a 75-km-long (47 miles) canal system crossed by 1281 bridges
- The unique Amsterdam canal houses, waterside cafés, pretty bridges and houseboats make exploring the canals fun and enjoyable both on foot and boat
- A canal cruise is an absolute must when visiting Amsterdam
- Boat tours offer a different perspective on the city and feature audio systems that help experience Amsterdam in a way that you could not do on your own

- Next to the standard English and Dutch options many other languages are available

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Sit back and enjoy the sightseeing
- Admire the beautiful traditional merchant houses, the numerous bridges, the typical houseboats and experience the unique vibe of Amsterdam

TIPS & INSIGHTS[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)

15:50-17:50

Heineken Experience (Stadhouderskade 78, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Daily: 11am - 7pm, Jan 1, Apr 30, Dec 25 and 26: Closed • **Admission:** 15 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Heineken Experience is a historic brewery for the internationally sold Dutch pilsner, Heineken beer
- The brewery was built around 1897; production ceased here in 1988
- The museum tells the story of Netherlands' most famous beer
- All brewing equipments are still in place: the copper stills, the fermentation tanks (each capable of holding a million glasses of beer), the multistory malt silos and more
- The tour includes the stable that gives home to robust Shire horses that pull Heineken's historic promotional drays loaded with Heineken beer barrels
- In one amusing attraction, standing on a moving floor and facing a large video screen, visitors can sense what it's like to be a beer bottle riding on a conveyor belt

- Visitors get a free Heineken beer at the end of the tour and receive a Heineken glass as a souvenir

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Tour around this informative former brewery
- Do not miss the 4D theater, the games and the interactive videos
- At the end of the tour enjoy the free beer in the Heineken bar at the top of the museum

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Even if you are not a beer fan the museum is still an amusing experience

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



18:10-18:25

Leidseplein (Leidseplein, Amsterdam)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Leidseplein is a tacky, loud and fun square in the center of the city
- The area is the center of Amsterdam's nightlife
- The square and its vicinity are full of bars, outdoor cafés, coffee shops, restaurants, theaters, and dance clubs
- The square's liveliness is best experienced in the evening when street performers, such as fire-eaters, dancers, singers, family bands, and acrobats start to appear and entertain the crowds
- Leidseplein's most famous landmark is Art Nouveau American Hotel (1902) by Willem Kromhout (on the corner of Leidseplein and Leidsekade)

- This building was a forerunner of the later Amsterdam School of architecture

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Enjoy the fun atmosphere of the square
- Have a cup of coffee in a nearby café

TIPS & INSIGHTS

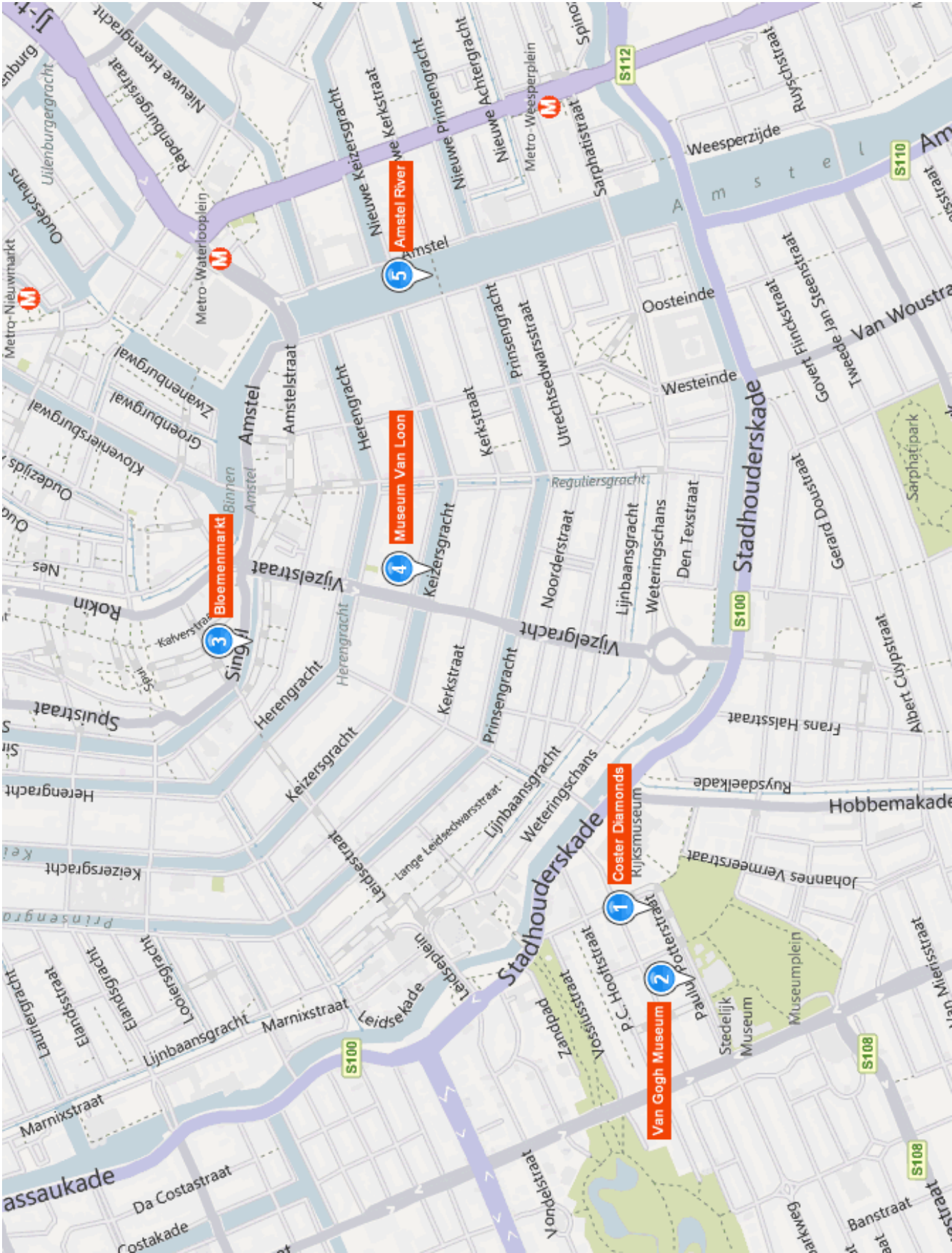
- Come back in the evening. Nightspots De Melkweg, Paradiso, and Holland Casino are close at hand

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Overview of Day 2

	LEAVE HOTEL Tested and recommended hotels in Amsterdam >		
	Take Tram Line 2 or 5 to Hobbemastraat stop		
09:00-10:00	Coster Diamonds ▪—————	Free guided tour	Page 10
	Take a walk to Van Gogh Museum - 5'		
10:05-13:05	Van Gogh Museum ▪—————	The world's largest van Gogh collection	Page 10
	Lunch time		
	Take Tram line 2 or 5 from Hobbemastraat stop to Koningsplein stop		
15:00-15:45	Bloemenmarkt ▪—————	The only floating flower market in the world	Page 10
	Take a walk to Museum Van Loon - 10'		
15:55-16:55	Museum Van Loon ▪—————	Magnificent canal house	Page 11
	Take a walk to Amstel River - 15'		
17:10-17:40	Amstel River ▪—————	Nice riverside	Page 11
	END OF DAY 2		



Attraction Details

09:00-10:00

Coster Diamonds (Paulus Potterstraat 2-6, 1071 CZ, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 5pm • **Admission:** Free

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Coster Diamonds, founded in 1840, is a diamond workshop that offers guided tours
- The Koh-i-Noor diamond (mountain of light), part of the British Crown Jewels and once the largest known diamond in the world, was re-polished here in 1852
- Amsterdam became the center of the diamond business in the 16th century when Jews fled the Spanish Inquisition and move to the city
- Visitors can observe how diamond graders, cutters and polishers work with the stones

- Many diamonds come from South Africa

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Opt for a self-guided or a free guided tour (30 min.) to discover the process of cutting and polishing diamonds
- Admire the impressive diamond and jewelry collection

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



10:05-13:05

Van Gogh Museum (Paulus Potterstraat 7, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Mon - Tue, Sat, Sun: 10am - 6pm, Fri (with the exception of Friday Dec 24 and 31): 10am - 10pm, Jan 1: Closed • **Admission:** 14 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Van Gogh Museum is housed in a 4-story building and is the largest collection of Vincent Van Gogh's work in the world
- Over 200 paintings, 580 drawings and 700 letters make up the collection
- Van Gogh's painting career lasted only 10 years while he created more than 900 paintings
- The collection was amassed by his brother, Theo, who was also his art dealer
- Van Gogh had dramatic shifts in style and color as years passed by and he changed his places of stay; this is very well represented on the 2nd floor
- The museum also showcases a number of other impressionist painters such as Monet, Seurat, Pissarro, Gauguin, and Toulouse-Lautrec

- Van Gogh committed suicide in 1890

THINGS TO DO THERE

- First of all [buy your ticket online](#) to avoid long queues
- Admire the masterpieces on display (the layout makes it easy to do a self-guided tour)

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Audio guide is available for 5 €
- On Fridays the museum is open until 10pm and live music makes the visit even more unforgettable

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



15:00-15:45

Bloemenmarkt (Singel 1013, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 9am - 5:30pm, Sunday: 11am - 5:30pm

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Bloemenmarkt is a flower market in central Amsterdam that floats on water
- The stalls are set up on a row of barges along canal Singel
- As the barges are permanently fixed no rocking or movement is sensible any more
- Originally flower farmers sailed up the Amstel river from their nurseries to this spot and sold their flowers from their boats
- The place is a delight with its color explosion especially on a rainy day
- Hundreds of different flowers in multitude of colors can be found here
- The market is a good place to buy tulip bulbs sold in ready-to-travel packets

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a walk on this colorful street full of flowers
- Just take a stroll through the stunning array of flowers and bulbs in the market
- You can buy cut flowers, bulbs, seeds and garden supplies

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Buy ready-to-travel packets of tulip bulbs
- It is the best place to buy souvenirs here

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



15:55-16:55

Museum Van Loon (Keizersgracht 672, 1017 ET, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Mon, Wed - Sun: 11am - 5pm, Tuesday: Closed, Jan 1, Apr 30, Dec 25: Closed • **Admission:** 8 €



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Museum Van Loon, a 17th-century canal house, used to be the elegant home of the wealthy and prestigious Van Loon family between 1884-1945
- Willem van Loon was one of the founders of the extremely successful trading company, Dutch United East India Company or VOC in Dutch
- The enterprise was founded in 1602 and became the world's first multinational corporation and also the first company to issue stock
- VOC clearly outperformed all its competitors combined both in number of people employed and tons of traded goods
- The company made huge profits from its spice monopoly

- The museum houses painstakingly restored period rooms that are richly filled with stuccowork mirrors, fireplaces, furnishings, porcelain, medallions, chandeliers, rugs, and more
- Another highlight of the house is its imposing marble staircase

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Go first to the basement and watch the video that tells stories of the family and what the rooms were used for
- Continue your visit by discovering the house
- Finish the tour in the beautiful formal garden

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:10-17:40

Amstel River



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Amstel is the river running through Amsterdam
- The river used to flow into the IJ bay, Amsterdam's waterfront, but now ends at Muntplein, in the center of the city
- A fishing village was established at the Amstel's mouth in the 12th century
- In 1222 a dam, Amsterdam, was built and the village turned from fishing to trade
- This is when the expansion of a city began that evolved into one of the most powerful trading empire by the 17th century

- Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge) is an 18th century wooden double drawbridge that is very popular among Amsterdamers
- The river banks are lined with ships, many of which are houseboats, and offer an excellent place for a nice stroll

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a nice walk along the river
- Walk through Magere Brug

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Spice up your holiday

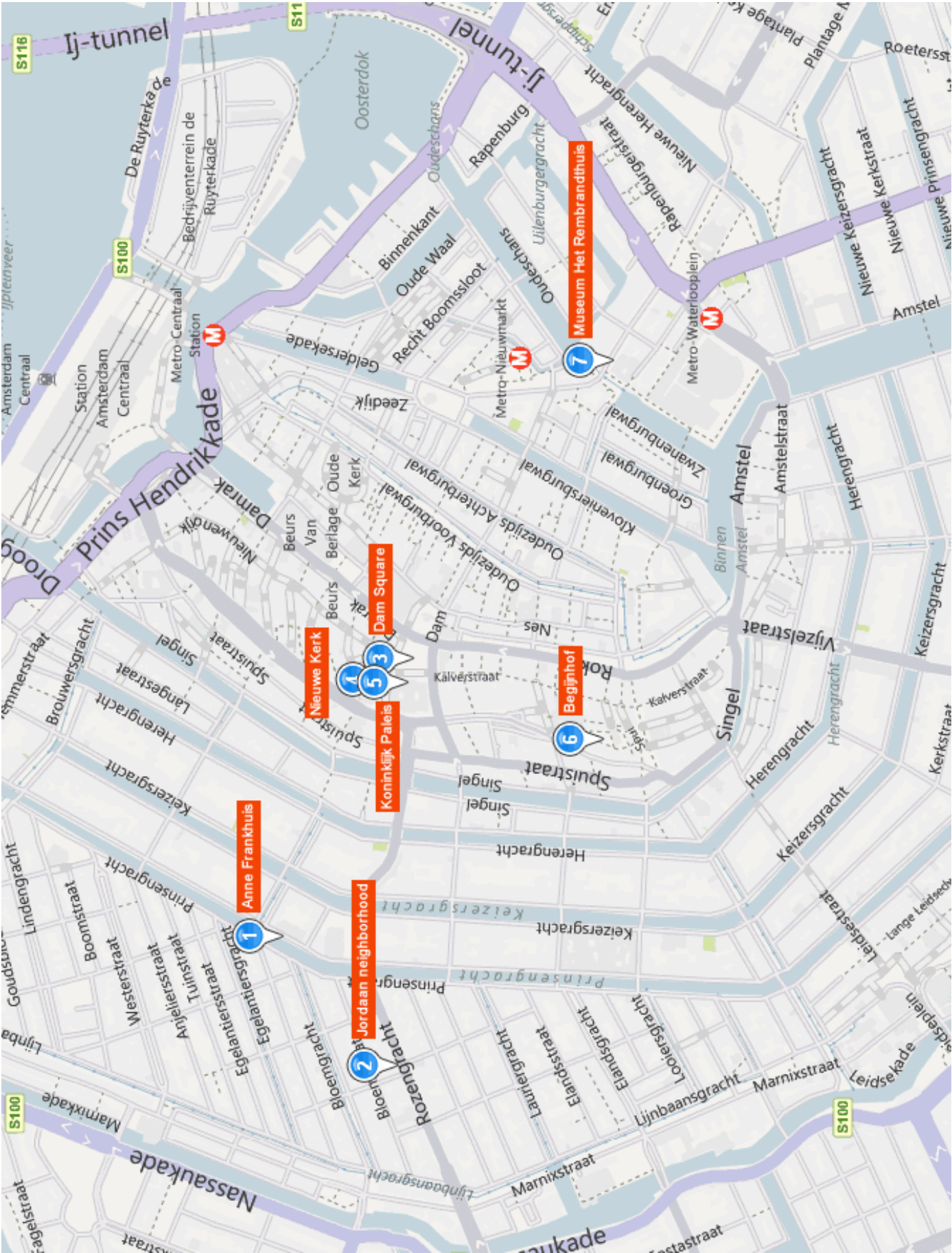
Turn your regular holiday into something extraordinary

See all fun activities in Amsterdam. [Click here >](#)

Overview of Day 3

	LEAVE HOTEL	Tested and recommended hotels in Amsterdam >	
	Take Tram Line 13, 14 or 17 to Westermarkt stop		
09:00-10:30	Anne Frankhuis	Very moving and emotional experience	Page 15
	Take a walk to Jordaan neighborhood - 5'		
10:35-11:10	Jordaan neighborhood	Atmospheric neighborhood	Page 15
	Take a walk to Dam Square - 20'		
11:30-11:45	Dam Square	Amsterdam's main square	Page 16
	Take a walk to Nieuwe Kerk		
11:45-12:15	Nieuwe Kerk	National church of the Netherlands	Page 16
	Lunch time		
	Take a walk to Koninklijk Paleis		
14:00-15:00	Koninklijk Paleis	Impressive Dutch royal palace	Page 17
	Take a walk to Begijnhof - 15'		
15:15-15:45	Begijnhof	The city's oldest house	Page 17
	Take a walk to Museum Het Rembrandthuis - 15'		
16:00-17:00	Museum Het Rembrandthuis	Rembrandt's recreated studio	Page 18
	END OF DAY 3		

Overview of Day 3



Attraction Details

09:00-10:30

Anne Frankhuis (Prinsengracht 263-267, 1000 AS Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Sept 15 - March 14, Sun - Fri: 9am - 7pm, Sept 15 - March 14, Sat: 9am - 9pm, March 15 - Sept 14, Sun - Fri: 9am - 9pm, March 15 - Sept 14, Sat: 9am - 10pm, July and August daily: 9am - 10pm • **Admission:** 8.5 €



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Anna Frank Museum is the house where the Jewish Frank family took refuge in total silence during World War II
- This is where the 13-year old Anna began to write her world famous diary in 1942
- In August 1944, after 25 months of hiding from the Nazis, the family was betrayed; Nazi forces raided the house and deported the Franks to concentration camps
- The only survivor of the family was Otto, the father; Anna died from typhoid shortly before her camp was liberated near the end of the war
- Apart for a number of protective Plexiglas panels, the rooms were left unchanged; Anna's original diary is on display
- Miep Gies, one of the people hiding the Franks, found the diary on the day the family was arrested and handed it to Otto on his return from Auschwitz
- Otto published the diary in 1947; since then it has been printed in more than 60 languages

THINGS TO DO THERE

- First of all [buy your ticket online](#) - especially in summer time - to avoid long queues
- Walk through the warehouse offices, secret entry bookcase, and both levels of the Secret Annex including Anne and Fritz Pfeffer's room
- As Otto Frank intended, the rooms remain unfurnished and artifacts/explanations are sparse
- The tour ends downstairs with an explanation of the current mission of the Anne Frank Center with the requisite bookshop selling mementoes and videos

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you do not have an online ticket, go early or late in the afternoon to avoid queues
- Read the diary before you go

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:35-11:10

Jordaan neighborhood



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Jordaan is one of Amsterdam's most interesting neighborhoods with an intimate and easy-going atmosphere
- Many successful artists, intellectuals, and slightly older yuppies live in the area
- Small-scale streets, tiny canals with numerous bridges, centuries-old almshouses (hofjes) and inviting canal side cafés lend charm and an unforgettable character to the districts
- The area is peppered with art galleries and all sorts of interesting shops

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a long stroll in this lovely neighborhood up and down its beautiful tree-fringed canals
- Look at the buildings and the houseboats and then stop for a strong coffee at a neighborhood café
- Drop in your way the following streets: Bloemgracht, Egelantiersgracht, Tichelstraat, Karthuizersplantsoen, Lindengracht

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

Attraction Details

11:30-11:45

**Dam Square** (Dam, Amsterdam)**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Dam Square or "the Dam" (as locals call it) is Amsterdam's main square
- It marks the site of the original 13th c. dam on the Amstel River around which the city was built
- Highlights of "the Dam" include the New Church (Nieuwe Kerk), the Royal Palace (Koninklijk Paleis) and the National Monument
- By the 17th c. this square became the center of the powerful Dutch trading empire
- The Royal Palace was built as a town hall in the Dutch golden ages of the 17th c., and now is one of three palaces that belong to Queen Beatrix
- The National Monument commemorates the Dutch who died in World War II. The wall behind the obelisk contains urns holding soil from Dutch colonies and provinces

- The New Church holds the title of national Church of the Netherlands where Dutch monarchs are crowned

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the square for a great view of Koninklijk Paleis, Nieuwe Kerk and the National Monument
- There is always something going on here, whether it be street theater, living statutes, organ grinders, protests, and lots of pigeons

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

11:45-12:15

**Nieuwe Kerk** (Gravenstraat 17, 1012 NL, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 5pm • Admission: 15 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- New Church (Nieuwe Kerk), Amsterdam's second church, is a gracious Neo-Gothic church
- It was originally built in the 14th c., after the congregation outgrew the Oude Kerk
- It burnt down many times, but some original parts survived such as the choir
- It was consecrated to Our Lady and St. Catherine, but has always been called Nieuwe Kerk - to distinguish it from the Oude Kerk
- In the 19th c. it received the title of National Church of the Netherlands, Dutch monarchs are crowned here since then

- Its treasures include a Jacob van Campen organ and an elaborately carved pulpit by Albert Vinckenbrinck, or the carved gilded ceiling above the choir

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around and admire the altar, the organ and the beautiful stained-glass windows

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

14:00-15:00

Koninklijk Paleis (Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 147, 1012 RJ Amsterdam)

Opening hours: See: [Official site](#) • Admission: 7.5 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace) is an imposing Classical palace located at the Dam square
- The edifice and its neoclassical facade symbolize Amsterdam's power in the 17th century
- The palace was originally built as a town hall (1648-55) and only later turned into a royal palace (1808)
- It is the official residence of the royal family, but Queen Beatrix prefers to live in The Hague
- The palace has a breathtaking interior filled with early-19th-century furniture, chandeliers, and marble floors
- A unique feature of the Burgerzall (Citizens' Chamber) is the maps inlaid on the marble floors depicting Amsterdam as the center of the World

- The royal family does not own the royal estates; the state does and makes a budget of 4 million € available for there maintenance. The Queen earns an additional net income of 750.000 €

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Pick up a free audio guide
- Walk around in the rooms, halls and galleries that feature the Empire collection, as well as hand-painted ceilings, grand marble floors and epic sculptures and paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The palace is closed to visitors during periods of royal residence and state receptions

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



15:15-15:45

Begijnhof (Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 373, 1012 RM, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 5pm • Admission: Free

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Begijnhof is a leafy garden courtyard in central Amsterdam that is the original epicenter of the city from which it expanded
- The houses belonged to Begijn, a lay Roman Catholic sisterhood living in a loose semi-monastic community but without formal vows
- No. 34, Het Houten Huis, is the city's oldest house and one of two remaining timber houses. Timber houses were banned in 1521 after a series of catastrophic fires
- No. 30 is the Begijn Chaple (Begijnhofkapel) the sisterhood's chapel built in 1671
- Begijnhof remained active even after 1578 when the city converted from Catholicism to Protestantism. The last Begijn died in 1971
- The central church is the English Church (Engelse Kerk)

- Today the houses are privately owned.

THINGS TO DO THERE

- The entrance can be found on Gedempte Begijnensloot
- Enter the wooden door and you will feel like in an oasis of silence
- Walk around and look around in the peaceful courtyard
- Enter the Catholic chapel to see a stained glass window of the Pilgrims praying before boarding the Mayflower

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Please respect the tranquility of the place

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Attraction Details

16:00-17:00

Museum Het Rembrandthuis (Jodenbreestraat 4, 1011 NK, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 5pm, Jan 1: Closed • Admission: 10 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Museum Het Rembrandthuis (Rembrandt House) is a beautifully preserved 17th-c. house where Rembrandt lived in his years of prosperity (1639-58)
- He was the city's most prominent portrait painter at this time, but due to his extravagant lifestyle he went bankrupt and had to leave the house
- In 1906 the building was restored and refurnished painstakingly to resemble exactly what it looked like when the painter lived there
- A very valuable document in the process of restoration was Rembrandt's 1656 bankruptcy petition that listed and described his possessions
- Two highlights of the house are Rembrandt's recreated studio where he painted such masterworks as the Night Watch and a room dedicated to his marvelous etchings

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Do not be surprised by the modern entrance
- Pick up your free audio guide
- Walk around in this small but amazing museum to see where Rembrandt lived and worked

TIPS & INSIGHTS

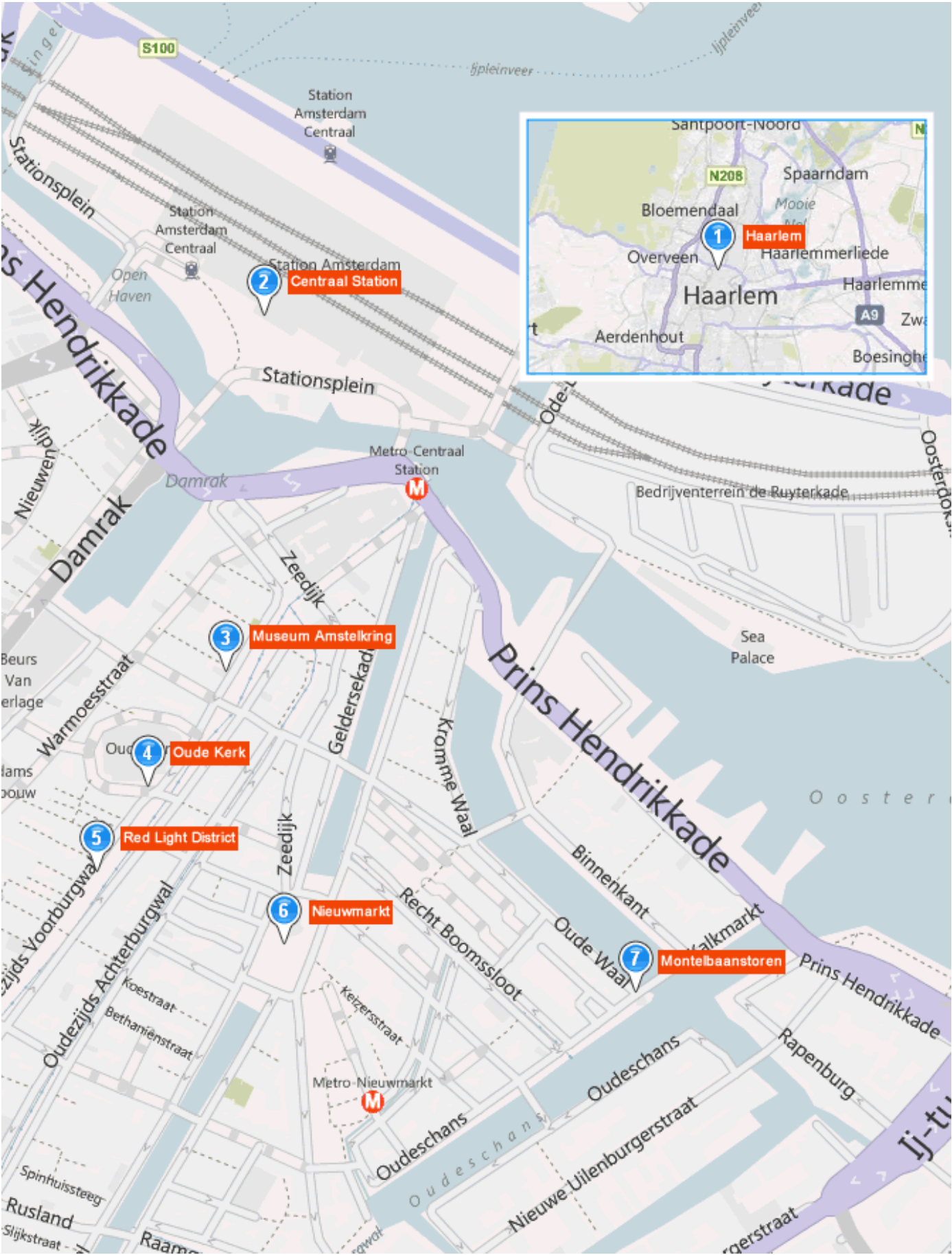
- Do not expect to see any of Rembrandt's paintings. Only copies of the originals are on display
- Rembrandt's greatest masterpieces you can be seen in the Rijksmuseum

[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)

Overview of Day 4

	LEAVE HOTEL	Tested and recommended hotels in Amsterdam >	
	Take the train from Amsterdam Centraal to Haarlem - 15'		
09:00-14:50	Haarlem	Charming town	Page 21
	Take the train from Amsterdam to Haarlem - 15'		
15:05-15:15	Centraal Station	Architectural masterpiece	Page 21
	Take a walk to Museum Amstelkring - 10'		
15:25-16:25	Museum Amstelkring	A peaceful oasis of tranquility	Page 22
	Take a walk to Oude Kerk - 5'		
16:30-17:00	Oude Kerk	Amsterdam's oldest monument	Page 22
	Take a walk to the Red Light District - 5'		
17:05-17:35	Red Light District	Famous and unique district	Page 23
	Take a walk to Nieuwmarkt - 5'		
17:40-18:10	Nieuwmarkt	Great daily market	Page 23
	Take a walk to Montelbaanstoren - 10'		
18:20-18:35	Montelbaanstoren	Impressive tower	Page 23
	END OF DAY 4		

Overview of Day 4



Attraction Details

09:00-14:50

Haarlem



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Haarlem is a pretty town of 150,000 inhabitants some 20 km (12 miles) from Amsterdam to the West
- Rembrandt contemporaries such as Frans Hals, Jacob van Ruisdael, and Pieter Saenredam lived and painted here
- While Haarlem retained the traditional Dutch village atmosphere; it gives home to some excellent museums and magnificent churches
- Highlights include: Grote Markt, Frans Hals Museum and St. Bavo's Church (Sint-Bavokerk)
- The magnificent 16th c. St. Bavo's Church boasts the soaring (30m/98 ft.) Christian Müller organ (1738) Mozart, Handel and Liszt all played
- Grote Markt, the main square, with its monumental buildings provides peek into the development of Dutch architecture; Haarlem's oldest building stands here, the 14th c. Town Hall
- Frans Hals Museum housed in a lovely 17th c. house features many of Hals masterpieces and also a superb 18th c. dollhouse and fine collections of antiques, silver and porcelain

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a 10-minute stroll south from Haarlem's Art Nouveau railway station via Kruisweg, Kruisstraat, and Smedenstraat. It will bring you to the historic central market square (Grote Markt)

- Find a tourist information center near the central market and pick up a map of the town
- Admire the square with the 14th c. Town Hall and relax in one of the cafés
- Visit Sint-Bavokerk (St. Bavo's Church) that houses the famous organ (Mozart, Handel and Liszt played here)
- Continue your visit in the Frans Hals Museum. This small museum focuses on the works of Frans Hals, 17th-century portrait painter
- At the end of your tour in Haarlem take a canal cruise through and around this small and beautiful town (daily from noon, each hour until 4pm. The tour takes 50 minutes). The dock is on the Spaarne River beside the Gravenstenenbrug, a handsome lift bridge

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- In case of bad weather spend a few hours in [Sauna van Egmond beauty spa complex](#) with about half a dozen saunas and steam rooms of various sorts, a pool, a couple of sunbathing areas, a restaurant, a sleeping area and a cinema

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:05-15:15

Centraal Station (Stationsplein, 1012 Amsterdam)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Central Station (Centraal Station) is Amsterdam's train station servicing more than 1400 trains a day
- It was built between 1884 and 1889 to the plans of Petrus Josephus Hubertus Cuypers in Neo-Renaissance style
- Before its construction could begin, three artificial islands had to be built supported by thousands of wooden piles
- Although today the station is an attraction on its own right, Amsterdammers first disliked and opposed to the idea as it blocked their view of the sea

- Its extravagant red-brick Dutch neo-Renaissance façade depicts themes of travel, trade and Amsterdam's history

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a look at this architectural masterpiece

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

Attraction Details

15:25-16:25

Museum Amstelkring (Oudezijds Voorburgwal 40, 1012 GE, Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm, Sundays and public holidays: 1pm - 5pm, January 1 and April 30: Closed • **Admission:** 8 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The attic of a 17th-c. canal house in the Red Light District conceals the Museum Amstelkring or Museum Our Lord in the Attic
- The museum is a fine example of hidden Catholic churches established after the Alteration; local Catholics worshiped here between 1663 and 1887
- After Amsterdam became Protestant in the 17th c. Catholics lost their right to worship in their own way; so they did it secretly in clandestine churches like this one
- The church was created in 1661 when Jan Hartman, a Catholic merchant, combined the attic of his house with the attics of two adjacent houses
- The church was extended and remodeled in Baroque style in 1735; this is when the galleries were also installed



- Catholic services and weddings are still hosted in the museum
- The lower floors of the building house a museum with refurbished rooms, various religious artifacts, paintings and a collection of church treasures

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Pick up a free floor plan and follow the suggested tour of the museum
- If you are confused at first, don't worry - all the rooms are clearly marked and you won't miss anything

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Currently restoration works are carried out. The museum can be visited nonetheless

[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)

16:30-17:00

Oude Kerk (Oudekerksplein, 1012 GX Amsterdam)

Opening hours: Mon - Sat: 11am - 5pm, Sunday: 1pm - 5pm, Jan 1, Apr 30 and Dec 25: Closed • **Admission:** 5 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Oude Kerk (Old Church) is a Protestant church and Amsterdam's oldest monument
- Originally it was built as a small stone parish church consecrated in 1306
- The building went through a number of reconstructions since, and evolved into a mighty Late-Gothic basilica by 1566
- During Reformation (1566) the Catholic ornamentation and treasures were discarded and a stark interior remained
- The building features a grandiose 18th c. organ called Vater-Müller organ named after its creator and renovator, Christian Vater and Johann Caspar Müller
- The massive wooden vaulted ceiling is touted as Western Europe's largest; its beautiful 15th c. paintings were revealed only during restoration work in 1955
- The building stands in the Red Light District; the 2007 statue in front of the church shows a hooker standing in a doorway calling for "respect for sex workers all over the world"

**THINGS TO DO THERE**

- Walk around and take a look at the painted wooden ceiling and the impressive organ
- Visit the Maria Kapel and marvel at its stained glass
- Find vault 28K with the inscription Saskia Juni 1642 where Rembrandt's wife lies
- Take a look at the fascinating Vater-Müller organ and note its magnificent oak-encased pipe work, marbled wood statues and gilded carving
- Participate in the guided tower tour

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- You can climb the church tower on a half-hourly guided tour (in English) for a great view of Old Amsterdam

[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)

17:05-17:35

Red Light District



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Rosse Buurt (Red Light District) occupies Amsterdam's oldest quarter, de Walle (meaning the little walls)
- It is one of Amsterdam's most famous tourist attractions with prostitutes sitting in windows
- The district emerged in the 13th c. when Amsterdam became one of Europe's leading ports; and sailors coming back from long journeys were desperate for female attention
- The sex industry amounts to approximately a \$1 billion business in the Netherlands
- To this day debates are ongoing about the right approach to and regulations on prostitution
- The health department strictly regulates the sex industry requiring all kinds of rules to be followed such as the temperature prostitutes must wash their underwear

- The women have diverse backgrounds: some are professionals but many are young students earning money for college or housewives trying to raise some extra cash

THINGS TO DO THERE

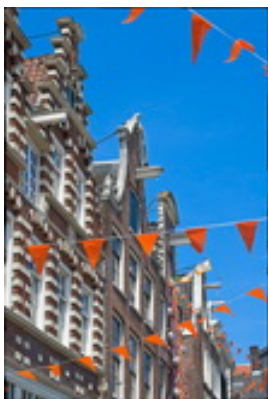
- Walk around the district (Oudezijds Achterburgwal street) that offers a fascinating window into the world's oldest profession

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:40-18:10

Nieuwmarkt (Nieuwmarkt, 1011 Amsterdam)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Nieuwmarkt (New Market) is a large square in central Amsterdam
- It has been a marketplace since the 15th c. and still hosts a daily market and an organic food market on Saturdays
- Nieuwmarkt is dominated by De Waag that was originally the eastern gate of the medieval city wall
- After the walls were torn down in the 17th c. De Waag served as a weighing house and gave home to numerous guilds, including the surgeons'
- Rembrandt painted his famous Anatomy Lesson of Dr Tulp in De Waag. Public executions took place in Nieuwmarkt making it easy to acquire corps for dissection
- In World War II Nazis used the square as a collection point for Jews to be sent to concentration camps

- In 1975 a heavy riot broke out as a protest against a planned metro and highway which was to run through the Nieuwmarkt. As a consequence the highway project was abandoned

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around this vast square
- You can not miss De Waag that dominates the square
- Have a coffee in one of the nearby cafés

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- A daily market is held on this square and an organic food market on Saturdays
- In the summer months an antiques and books market takes place on Sundays

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

18:20-18:35

Montelbaanstoren (Oudeschans 2, Amsterdam)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Montelbaans Tower is a fortified tower built in 1512
- The steeple was placed on the tower almost 100 years later in 1606 when the town could finally afford the decoration
- Originally it was erected to defend the Dutch fleet stationed in the Amsterdam harbor
- Today it houses the Amsterdam Water Authority
- The tower overlooks the lovely Oude Schans canal

- Oude Schans was dug in the 16th c. in order to improve ships' access

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have a look and take some photos of the tower

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Don't know which hotel to book?

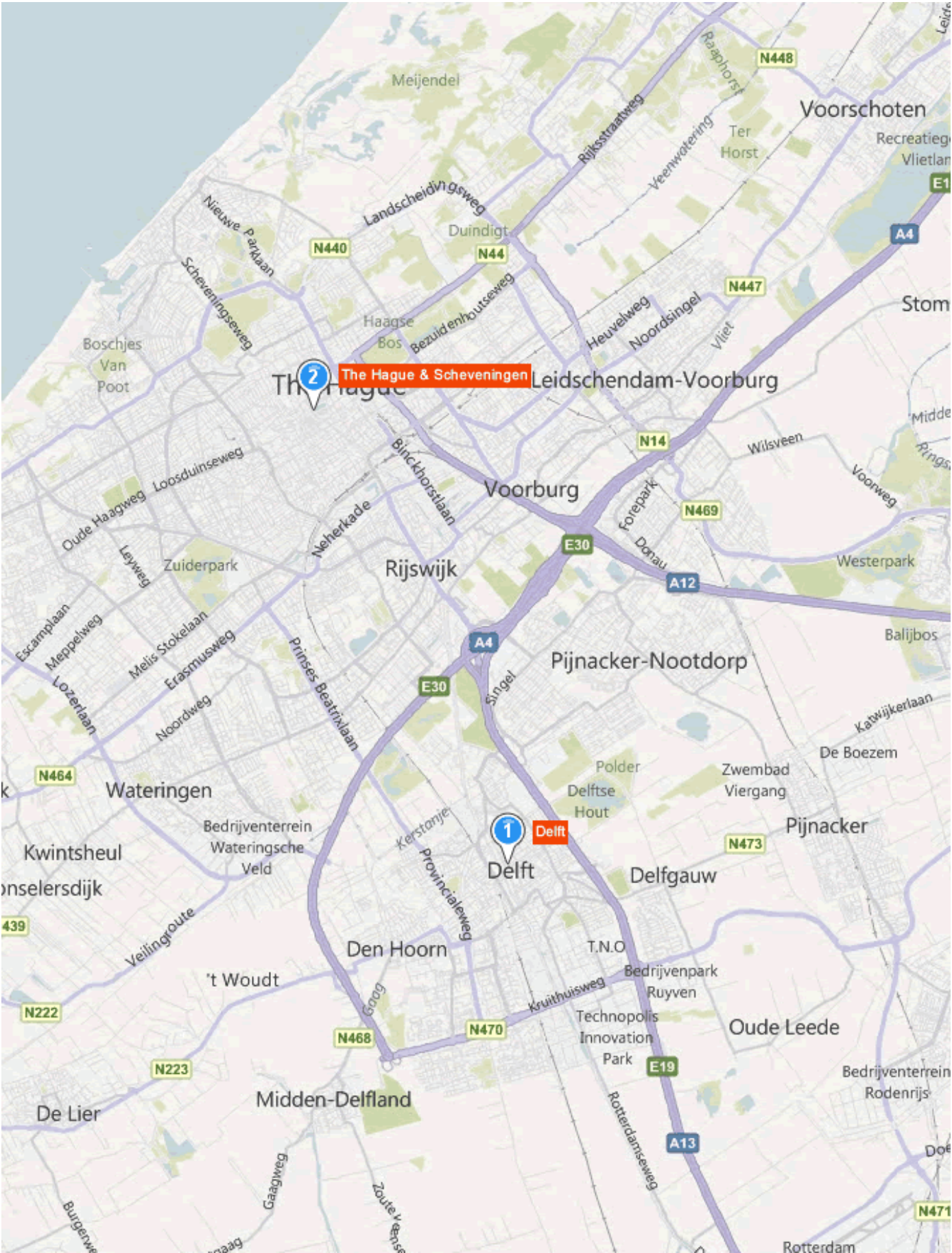
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Overview of Day 5

	LEAVE HOTEL Tested and recommended hotels in Amsterdam >	
	Take the train from Amsterdam Centraal to Haarlem In Haarlem change to the train to Delft - 60' in all	
10:00-13:00	Delft —————	Home town of the famous blue-white porcelain Page 27
	Take the train from Delft to The Hague - 15'	
13:15-18:15	The Hague and Scheveningen —————	Impressive art collection in Mauritshuis Royal Picture Gallery Page 27
	END OF DAY 5	

Overview of Day 5



Attraction Details

10:00-13:00

Delft



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Delft is a small town close to Rotterdam, some 60 km (37 mi) from Amsterdam to the southwest
- The town is home of the Dutch blue-and-white porcelain; it is also the birthplace of the 17th century master, Jan Vermeer, and the burial place of the royal family
- Neat tree lined canals, pretty bridges, old canal houses and colorful flower boxes make Delft a charming little town
- Highlights include: (1) Old Church (Oude Kerk), (2) New Church (Nieuwe Kerk) and (3) the Royal Porcelain Factory
- Vermeer is buried in Old Church, this vast 13th-century building; notable features are the 27 stained glass windows and the 14th-century leaning clock tower
- New Church is a landmark Protestant church at the main square; the burial place for the royal family since Prince William of Orange was entombed here
- The Royal Porcelain Factory offers guided tours; visitors learn about the production of porcelain and see how they are painted

THINGS TO DO THERE

- From Delft's railway station walk to the center, to find the Tourist Information Office
- Pick up a brochure with a map of Delft
- Start your visit on the Market Square admiring the New church and its spire from different angles
- Admire the impressive interior of Nieuwe Kerk (New Church). The entrance fee includes admission to the Oude Kerk
- Continue your visit in the Oude Kerk (Old Church), just a few blocks away from New Church. It is notable for its 27 stained-glass windows and the leaning clock tower
- After taking some time in this lovely small city, on the way back to the railway station you visit the porcelain factory: Koninklijke Porcelijne Fles, famous for the production of its beautiful blue and white porcelain. The most scenic route to the factory is along the Oude Delft canal

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

13:15-18:15

The Hague and Scheveningen



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Hague is Netherlands' 3rd largest city, home and workplace of Queen Beatrix, seat of the Dutch parliament and judicial capital of the United Nations
- Binnenhof (Inner court), a venerable building complex featuring monumental buildings, is the seat of Staten-Generaal (States General), the Dutch parliament, since 1446
- The medieval Hall of the Knights (Ridderzaal), at Binnenhof, is where Queen Beatrix delivers her annual speech from the throne and opens the new legislative session
- Mauritshuis, a small Renaissance palace adjacent to Binnenhof, houses the Royal Cabinet of Paintings that showcases a number of Rembrandt, Hals and Vermeer paintings
- Peace Palace (Vredespaleis), a magnificent mock-Gothic building (built in 1913), is home to the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration
- All the participating countries place marvelous gifts in the Peace Palace such as amazing French mosaic floors, crystal chandeliers weighing 1,750kg (3,858 lb)

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a 10-minute tram ride (nr. 16) or take a walk from Den Haag Centraal Station to the city center
- In the city center - opposite the parliament - there is a Tourist Information Office. Pick up a free city map there
- Start your visit at the venerable complex of Parliament buildings
- Head to the magnificent Mauritshuis Royal Picture Gallery to see the impressive art collection with Rembrandt, Vermeer and Rubens master pieces
- Continue your tour to the magnificent mock-Gothic Palace - Vredespaleis (Peace Palace)
- Take tram nr. 1 or 9 to Scheveningen. This relaxed, beachside town is only a 15-minute tram ride from the center of The Hague. It is the liveliest on sunny summer afternoons

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you have the time visit Madurodam: the mini-Holland amusement park with miniature city buildings (tram nr. 9)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



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<http://www.bing.com/maps>

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