

Travel



I Amsterdam

In a town of waterways and century-old buildings, it's easy to get caught up in its treasure-packed streets. Here's our guide to finding your way through the Netherlands' capital

TO-DO LIST

✓ SHOP ALONG NINE STREETS

The Negen Straatjes (Nine Streets) – so called because it covers the area of nine narrow side streets – is one of Amsterdam's most beloved shopping districts, full of vintage boutiques and galleries and quirky independent stores interspersed with cosy cafés and stylish bistros.

Take a seat outside Pancakes Amsterdam and watch the neighbourhood come to life.

👉 de9straatjes.nl

✓ MINGLE AT THE MUSEUMPLEIN

The Museumplein – otherwise known as Museum Square – is the city's popular culture cluster with three major museums – the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum, Stedelijk Museum – and the concert hall Concertgebouw. Residents and visitors all congregate here, picnicking, basking in the sunshine, and taking the obligatory photo in front of the big red and white 'I Amsterdam' sculpture.

In the summer, and on the third Sunday of the month, there are also food and craft stalls to wander through.

👉 museummarket.nl

Nine Streets



Museumplein

✓ SWING HIGH ABOVE THE CITY

Take a trip to Amsterdam Noord, the north side of the capital city, and enjoy a view with a difference. Across the water, and behind central station, this lesser known area of Amsterdam has the ultimate ride for thrill seekers.

At the top of the 360° observation deck called A'dam Lookout, where you can see everything from the

city's historical centre to its bustling port, adrenaline junkies can take a seat on Europe's highest swing. Daredevils on 'Over The Edge' will swing 100 metres above the ground, back and forth off the tower with the whole of Amsterdam at their feet. Tickets cost Dhs54 for adults and Dhs28 for children. There is also a panoramic restaurant and bar here.

👉 adamlookout.com



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

WHERE TO STAY

Pulitzer Amsterdam

Fringed by two canals – Prinsengracht on one side and Keizersgracht on the other – Pulitzer is positioned in the city’s most fashionable Negen Straatjes (Nine Streets) quarter, home to stylish boutiques and cafés. Arranged across 25 historic canal houses dating back to the 17th century, the hotel’s structure feels like a labyrinth with secret passages (you get a hotel map as it’s easy to get lost).

Every room is different, from simple and sleek to the impressive family suites. The most imaginative rooms are the four Collectors’ Suites. Each room is themed on who might have inhabited the houses in the past. We love the Music Collector’s Suite, which has a vintage record player cabinet. Unique design aside, what sets Pulitzer Amsterdam apart is the unusually large outdoor space with a handful of inner gardens. For guests who want to enjoy a slice of romance, the hotel arranges a tour in the 1909 salon boat in all of its old glamour, which includes leather, polished teak and marble. It’s probably the only reason you’ll want to leave the hotel.

Rooms start at Dhs1,300 per night

pulitzeramsterdam.com



GETTING AROUND

01

Rent a boat

Amsterdam is the number one cycling city in the world, so it’s unsurprising to learn that you can even cycle through the canals.

Essentially a glorified pedalo, canal biking is one of the city’s top attractions. Make up your own sightseeing tour as you pedal through the canals at your leisure.

stromma.nl



Over The Edge swing



Hire a pedalo

02

Rent a bike

On every bridge, corner or lamppost you'll find a bike. If you'd like to have a go and explore Amsterdam the local way, and be eco-friendly, rent an e-bike. Stations are located throughout the city. Simply download the app to find them, rent and off you go. Be warned: ride slowly while gawking at tulips, or stop to check your map, and pretty soon all of Amsterdam will hate you. The city's cycling network is a well oiled machine.

👉 urbee.nl



Go for a pedal

GETTING THERE

Emirates fly twice a day to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol from Dhs3,000 return.

👉 emirates.com

WHAT TO EAT

01

Ice cream

The ice cream at IJscryppje is famous for being the best in the city. It's made from Dutch cows' milk and mixed with quality ingredients. The shops are easy to spot: They're the ones with the white-tiled exterior and super long queues.

👉 ijscryppje.nl



02

Stroopwafel

A Dutch staple is the stroopwafel – a thin, round waffle with golden molasses in between. At Van Wonderen, they bake them, coat them, sprinkle them and even crumble them for toppings on milkshakes.

👉 vanwonderenstroopwafels.nl



03

Fries with sauce

You cannot go to Holland without eating their fries. The Dutch make their statement chips by adding a sauce and serving them in paper cones. The variety of sauces is impressive – try saté, truffle mayo or samurai for a little spice.

👉 mannekepis.nl