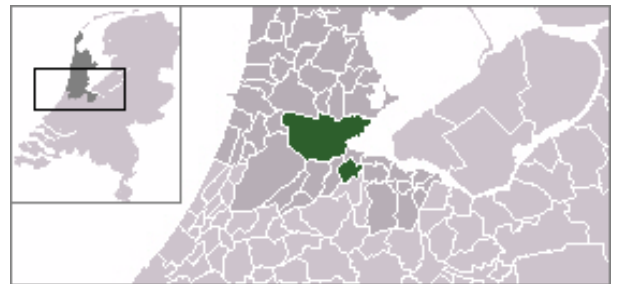


AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam is the capital and largest city of **the Netherlands**, located in the province of North Holland in the west of the country. The city, which had a population of around 1 million (with suburbs) on 1 January 2008, comprises the northern part of the Randstad, the 6th-largest metropolitan area in Europe, with a population of around 6.7 million.

Its name is derived from Amstel dam, indicative of the city's origin: a dam in the river Amstel where the Dam Square is today. Settled as a small fishing village in the late 12th century, Amsterdam became one of the most important ports in the world during the **Dutch Golden Age**, a result of its innovative developments in trade. During that time, the city was the leading center for finance and diamonds. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the city expanded and many new neighbourhoods and suburbs were formed.

The city is the financial and cultural capital of the Netherlands. Many large Dutch institutions have their headquarters there, and 7 of the world's top 500 companies are based in the city. The **Amsterdam** Stock Exchange is located in the city centre. Amsterdam's main attractions, including its historic canals, the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, its red-light district and its many cannabis coffee shops, draw a lot of tourists annually.



Anne Frank House: It is in this place she wrote her famous diary. Transformed into a museum, you can visit it.

Van Gogh Museum: Many masterpieces of the artist are presented in a beautiful architecture. A permanent collection and temporary exhibitions to run one of the largest collections in the world.

Rijksmuseum: to rank among the most important museums of the world not by its size (it is relatively small) but by the amount of the masterpieces of Flemish and Dutch painters (Rembrandt, Vermeer, Metsu ,...).



Museum of Maritime History of the Netherlands: Museum devoted to navigation, from its origins until the Second World War. Many maps, models and weapons from the period.

The Church of the East: It's the church where Queen Beatrix was married. You can also climb the tower for a magnificent view over the city.

Zeeburg and IJburg: Fans of modern architecture can not fail to visit these urban developments to the east of the city and easily accessible by tram or bicycle. Some historic buildings in the old port of Amsterdam are converted into apartments.

Tourism Office

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