

A treasure trove of museums, galleries and canals, this small city packs a big punch

Words » Joost Vermeulen

48 HOURS IN...

Amsterdam

Day 1

MORNING

Start off the day with a bike ride through Amsterdam's four major 17th century canals [1]. These canals and the surrounding area are World Heritage listed treasures.

Start at the west end of the Herengracht (at the corner of the Brouwersgracht, a block away from Amsterdam Centraal Station, or 'CS' to the locals). These canals run parallel to each other beginning near the station (west) and ending at the river Amstel (east) so getting lost is near impossible; the whole ride takes about an hour and a half. There are plenty of cafes along the way if you need a coffee stop.

AFTERNOON

Head to the river IJ and jump on a ferry to Buiksloterweg and head for the new film museum, EYE Film Institute [2]; you can't miss the elongated design. While there are plenty of film screenings, you're here to have lunch (pasta dishes are a top choice). With unbeatable views of the city from the waterfront terrace, there's no better spot. While away the afternoon at the Museumplein (Museum Square) where you will find three of Amsterdam's most important museums

conveniently clustered around this big green space: the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and the Modern Art Museum.

EVENING

As the evening draws near, head to dinner at the Cafe Restaurant Amsterdam [3]. Situated in the old city waterworks, this seafood restaurant is known for its lively and very local atmosphere, as well as the quality menu. End the day at the nearby cultural park, the Westerpark, which bears the same name as the trendy area it is found. The grounds merge with Westergasfabriek, a former gas factory which was demolished and is now (in addition to being a vibrant weekend spot for families), home to events such as Amsterdam Fashion Week and Cinekid Film Festival.

Day 2

MORNING

Start at Dam Square. On the west end of the square is the neoclassical Royal Palace, which served as the city hall from 1655 until its conversion to a royal residence in 1808. The 15th century Gothic Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), next to the palace, is also worth a visit. All Dutch royals were crowned here and it is home to the cenotaph of the famous 17th century naval

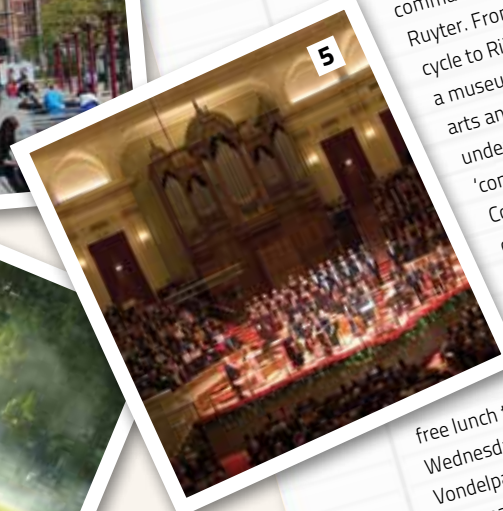
commander Michiel de Ruyter. From here you can cycle to Rijksmuseum [4], a museum dedicated to arts and history. Use the underpass and look for 'concertgebouw' (the Concert Hall) [5] at the other end of the Square. Experiencing a concert in this beautiful barok hall with its world famous acoustics is a must; free lunch time concerts are held every Wednesday. Rest your legs at the nearby Vondelpark [6], the biggest and most lively park in town.

EVENING

For dinner, head to Café Bern on Nieuwmarkt opposite the remains of the gate to the Old City. It's a real local haunt with dim lighting and a cool vibe. The menus are in Dutch but ordering isn't an obstacle, just ask the friendly staff. They serve a great steak but are most famous for their fondue. End your 48 hours with a candlelight cruise of the canals, a special way to say 'tot ziens' to Amsterdam. 🇳🇱

RJ operates regular flights to Amsterdam. Visit rj.com

itinerary



Photos » Rénie van der Putte, Amsterdam Marketing