

How many days will it take to visit Amsterdam?



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By Floriane

When planning a trip to Amsterdam, one of the first questions that comes up is: **how many days will it take to really visit the city?** And the answer isn't so obvious... because it all depends on what you like to do, the pace you want to adopt and the time of year.

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For our part, we know the city really well: **I spent a year of Erasmus there**, which meant we came back often afterwards, for short stays or real immersion. We tried out several formats: an express weekend for lovers, a 4-day stay with our daughter, and even 5 days in slow travel mode. Each time, we had a different experience, but always just as enjoyable.

So, here we share our tips for choosing the right length of time to suit your desires, each time with a quick overview of what you can do on site, depending on the time you have available.

## **Amsterdam in 2 days: a quick but possible first approach**

If you only have **2 days to visit Amsterdam**, don't panic: it's short, but more than enough time to get a good overview of the city. All you need to do is get a little

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organized, make a few strategic choices... and be prepared to leave out some of the longer visits. The good thing is that everything is close at hand: if you stay in a central district, you can easily do everything on foot or by bike. It's a capital perfectly suited to [cycling in Europe](#).

- **Day 1:** We recommend you start with the historic heart of the city, from Dam Square to the Red Light District. In the afternoon, stroll through the **Jordaan** district, along the **UNESCO-listed canals** of the Grachtengordel, then make a detour to the famous **9 streets** (De Negen Straatjes). Have lunch at [De Bekeerde Suster](#), Dutch cuisine, near the quays in Nieuwmarkt. In this district, you can also visit Anne Frank's house (book well in advance and online) and finish off with an aperitif cruise on the canals.
- **Day 2:** Head for the museum district to explore the **Van Gogh Museum or the Rijksmuseum**. Then **grab lunch at the Albert Cuyp market**, Amsterdam's most popular. Then **stroll through the trendy De Pijp district**: lively alleyways, cosy cafés, designer boutiques and street art. Finally, **take a relaxing break in Vondelpark**: the local Central Park, perfect for a siesta or a coffee on the terrace.

→ To help you make the most of your 48 hours on site, we've put together a complete itinerary for [visiting Amsterdam in 2 days](#) on Passion Amsterdam.

□ [Bunk Hotel Amsterdam](#) is ideal for your stay in Amsterdam!

→ To make the most of your time on site, we recommend you opt for a guided tour of the city in French, with a dynamic, enthusiastic guide, [info and booking guided tours for small groups](#).

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## **Amsterdam in 3 days: the right compromise for a well-balanced holiday**

In our opinion, three days **is the ideal length of time to visit Amsterdam without running around**. There's plenty of time to stroll around, enjoy the local atmosphere and discover the must-sees.

- The **first day** is the perfect time to discover the city's great classics: start with a **bike ride or a walk along the canals**, then explore the Jordaan district, don't miss a coffee break at a cozy neighborhood address like [Winkel 43](#) (and its famous apple pie!) then head to **Dam Square**, before ending the day with an immersive evening to soak up the local atmosphere.

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- The **second day**, with no set arrival or departure times, is ideal for getting away from it all. Head for **Zaanse Schans** and its famous windmills for a picturesque escapade, then back to Amsterdam for an **aperitif cruise** on the canals and a lively evening.
- The **third day** is all about art and culture: a visit to the [Van Gogh Museum](#) and the **Rijksmuseum**, a lunch break in the lively **De Pijp** district, and finally, a playful touch with the unmissable **Heineken Experience**.

➔ If you're planning a 72-hour stay, check out our complete itinerary for visiting [Amsterdam in 3 days](#) on Passion Amsterdam, our website dedicated to the Dutch capital.

□ [The Bee Hostel](#) is one of the best value hotels in Amsterdam.

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## **Amsterdam in 4 or 5 days: ideal for families or those taking their time**

If you're lucky enough to stay **4 or 5 days in Amsterdam**, you'll enter a different, more relaxed, more local rhythm. It's the perfect length for family trips, or for those who like to travel without rushing.

- **Days 1, 2 and 5** are the perfect opportunity to **discover Amsterdam at your own pace**. Stroll through the must-see neighborhoods of **Jordaan, De Pijp** and the **Museum District**, winding your way through the canal-lined alleys and take in the city's unique atmosphere. Alternate cultural visits – such as the **Anne Frank House** or the **Van Gogh Museum** – with breaks in local markets, typical brown cafés or quieter corners, far from the tourist hustle and

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bustle. This is the time to really soak up the atmosphere, watch the cyclists speeding along the bridges, and savor the gentle Dutch way of life.

- **Days 3 and 4**, often with no arrival or departure constraints, are perfect for **getting out of the center** and exploring the surrounding area. Take the opportunity to go for a day trip: stroll between the **windmills of Zaanse Schans**, stroll through the **tulip fields** if you're here in spring, or let yourself be seduced by the quiet charm of **Haarlem**, accessible in less than 20 minutes by train.

At the end of the day, come back to Amsterdam to rediscover this very special atmosphere, and end the evening with a drink on the terrace or a nice dinner by the canal.

→ To guide you, we've created a detailed day-by-day itinerary for exploring [Amsterdam in 4](#) or [5](#) days.

For sleeping: after extensive research, we have unearthed and tested several little nuggets.

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□ **Bunk Hotel Amsterdam - Our favorites**

- **Unusual** place
- Ideal location
- Rated 8.5/10 on Booking

[From €140 per room](#)

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### € The Bee Hostel - Auberge

- **Small budgets**
- Youth hostel bunk beds in dormitory
- Rated 8.7/10 on Booking

[From €33](#)

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♥ **Linden Hotel**

- **Jordaan district**, one of our favorite neighborhoods.
- Comfortable, modern rooms
- 8.9/10 on Booking

[From €190](#)

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## ☐ Boat no Breakfast - Barge

- The **unique experience** of sleeping on the water
- Historical center
- 9.6/10 on Booking

[From €300](#)

## How many days do you need, depending on your travel profile?

Every traveler is different, and Amsterdam adapts to every rhythm. Here are a few guidelines to help you choose:

Profile	Ideal duration	Why?
City break express	2 days	To see the essentials and enjoy the atmosphere of the canals
A museum enthusiast	3 days	Time to visit 2 or 3 museums and explore a neighbourhood in depth
Family with children	4 to 5 days	To vary activities and keep time to breathe
Slow travel / flâneur	5 days or more	To experience Amsterdam like a local and get out of town
Foodie / local culture	3 to 4 days	Test markets, cafés and original experiences

## Map of good addresses

To make life easier for you during your stay, we've grouped **all the activities, good addresses and restaurants on our itinerary on an interactive map**. It's super handy for visualizing each stage! You can add it to your favorites or even download it for offline use. Perfect for finding your way around Amsterdam, even without an Internet connection.

## Conclusion

So, **how many days will it take to visit Amsterdam?** There's no single answer. Even in 2 days, you can fall under the city's spell, and in 5, you still won't want to leave. For even more tips, check out [our must-sees in Amsterdam](#).

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What we love about Amsterdam is that we keep coming back for more. Each visit reveals a new facet, a new café, a new alleyway, a new district to explore. It's a city to be experienced rather than ticked off.

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0 avis (0/5)

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