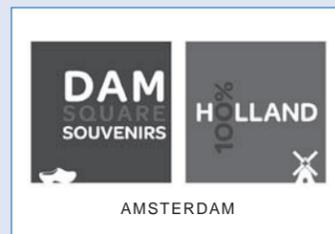


VAT Most stores participate in the Value Added Tax program in which Non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the taxes paid (depending on the total purchase price). It is your responsibility to inquire as to whether or not the store participates in VAT refund program if the purchase qualifies for a refund.

Global BLUE Shop where you see this Global Blue - Tax Free Shopping sign and ask for your tax refund receipt. To qualify, there are minimum amounts, per store, per day, so please ask the retailer for details. Show your purchases and Global Blue receipts to Customs officials when leaving the EU. Have your Global checks stamped and collect your cash at the Global Blue cash refund office.



Look for this sign or flag in all of our preferred shops.
Beware of "similar" signs at store fronts.
If the store is not mentioned on this map, then the store is not part of our program!

PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING MAP GUARANTEE Shop with confidence as all the merchants on our Preferred Shopping Program have been carefully selected and that each offers a 60 day guarantee to our cruise line guests. This guarantee is for repairs and exchanges. Please note the following conditions apply to the guarantee: Guest negligence or buyer's regret is excluded. Price paid for merchandise or verbal claims/agreements between merchant and guests will not be grounds for returns. Only jewelry appraisals from gem laboratories or independent graduate gemologist appraisers not affiliated with jewelry retailer, or rug appraisals from certified non-commercial carpet experts will be considered for valuation claims. Watches and other brand merchandise may not be returned as they carry International brand warranties. Guests are responsible for all postage returns and appraisal fees.

Please contact us at Europeshopping@rccl.com if any queries arise after your purchase from our preferred shops on shore. We will do our best to facilitate a solution on your behalf.



Amsterdam, Netherlands

PORT EXPLORER and SHOPPING GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION Situated in the province of North Holland, Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands and is considered to be one of Europe's most popular tourist cities. Although it is the capital of the country, the seat of government is 45 minutes away in the Hague (Den Haag). Often called 'the Venice of the North', the City contains 60 miles of waterways with 165 canals, spanned by some 1,000 bridges. The center of the City is the oldest part of Amsterdam and has been largely preserved intact. This center is a unique area which is in fact, a living museum of the 17th century with 7,000 classified historic buildings. Amsterdam is a city of great charm where 17th century architecture combines with 20th century living. Graceful canals are lined with picturesque, gabled houses dating from the 17th and 18th centuries when trade with India brought great affluence.

There are 40 museums in Amsterdam and the greatest collection of Rembrandts and Van Goghs in the world are found here. Art lovers will find a magnificent display of superb paintings at the famous Rijksmuseum. The City is also the seat of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, has two universities, many libraries, a city theater and concert hall, as well as numerous fine restaurants. Trade is still very important. Amsterdam is the country's largest industrial city, and ranks as Europe's 4th largest financial center, as well as having been an important diamond center for over 400 years.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Amsterdam and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, consult the Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the on-board Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Most shop prices in Holland are fixed, the only place where it might be possible to bargain is at open-air markets.

Tipping: Restaurant checks will nearly always include a 15% service charge, also taxi fares usually include a tip, but generally it is expected to round up to the nearest euro.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Erwtensoeep is a rich, thick pea soup with sausage and pork added. Herring (Haring)

is particularly popular, especially the new herring caught between May and September which is served in brine with onions. Stampot is a traditional accompaniment, a potato and vegetable hash. For dessert, Dutch Apple Pie is the most well-known, a variation with sultanas and cinnamon.

The Dutch are great coffee drinkers, they also produce a wide range of beers (Pils) as well as a number of liqueurs and mixers. The Dutch version of Gin is called Jenever. Bottled water is recommended.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port is the euro. There are 8 euro coins with a common face. On the reverse, each member state contributes a design. There are 7 euro notes. All euro coins and notes are legal tender in member states.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE The main Post Office is located at Singel 250, a short walk from Dam Square.

International calls can be placed from the Post Office, from public phones and from the Telehouse (Raadhuisstraat).

TRANSPORTATION A number of taxis are usually available at the Pier.

There is a bus and subway system within the city that is fairly easy and modern.

TOURIST INFORMATION The main Tourist Information Office (VVV) is situated in front of the Central Station (J). There is an additional office located on Leidsestraat.

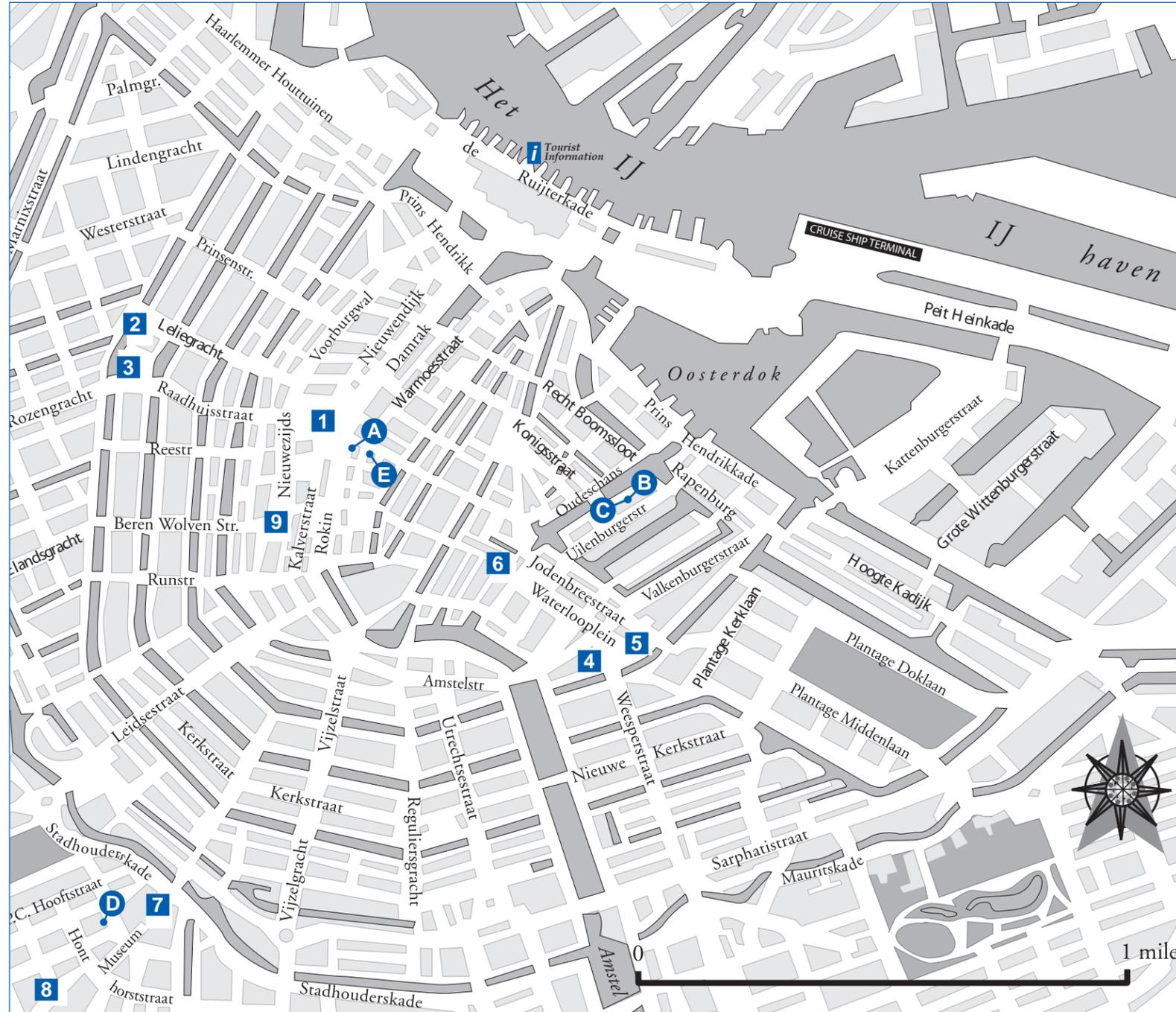
USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

- Yes • Ja
- No • Nee
- Good Day • Goeden Dag
- Good-bye • Dag
- Thank-you • Dank u Wel
- You're Welcome • Tot uw Dienst



The SIGHTS and SHOPPING of AMSTERDAM

- 1 DAM SQUARE** – the heart of the City, is close to the site of the original settlement. Royal Palace (Koninklijk Paleis), located in Dam Square, originally opened as the Town Hall in 1655. It was converted to a Royal Palace by Louis Bonaparte, the Emperor's brother, during his brief reign from 1806-1810. Today it is used occasionally by the Monarch, to welcome visiting dignitaries and for State receptions. National Monument, also situated in Dam Square, was built in 1956 as a memorial to commemorate the Dutch role in World War II. The Monument was refurbished in 1998. New Church (Nieuwe Kerk), on the far side of Dam Square, dates from around 1500. This late gothic church is the traditional place for inaugurating new monarchs. Queen Beatrix was crowned here in 1980. The church is used for concerts and for special exhibitions.
- 2 ANNE FRANK HOUSE**, located at 263 Prinsengracht, was the hiding place of Anne Frank and her family for two years. This young Jewish girl wrote her now famous diary which has become one of the great social documents of the 20th century.
- 3 WEST CHURCH** (Wester Kerk) is located on Raadhuisstraat. Built around 1619, the tower is the tallest in Amsterdam at 273 feet, on top of which can be seen an imperial crown and orb, a replica of the crown given by Emperor Maximilian I in 1489. Rembrandt was interred here in 1669.
- 4 JEWISH HISTORY MUSEUM** (Joods Historisch Museum) is part of an ancient complex of synagogues that at one time, served 100,000 Jews. The modern museum was founded by Dutch and American Jews.
- 5 PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE**, situated at Donas Daniel Meijerplein, it was built by the Sephardic Jewish community in 1615, and with three other synagogues, comprised the largest Jewish community in Europe.
- 6 REMBRANDT HOUSE** (Rembrandthuis), located at 4-6 Jodenbreestraat, was the home of Rembrandt from 1639 to 1660. The three-storey brick building with the traditional step gable, was built in 1606 and was opened as a museum in 1911. Inside are collections of engravings and drawings by Rembrandt, as well as some of his personal belongings.
- 7 RIJKSMUSEUM**, located at 42 Stadhouderskade, is a world famous museum, built in 1876 and designed by Petrus Cuyper. The palatial building houses one of the world's greatest collections of Dutch Masters. 'The Night Watch' by Rembrandt is perhaps the best known of these paintings. As well, the museum has a number of other departments with exhibits of arts and crafts, engravings, sculptures and the history of the Netherlands.
- 8 VINCENT VAN GOGH MUSEUM**, is situated just off Museumplein. This ultra-modern building was designed by Gerrit Rietveld and opened in 1972. It contains 200 paintings and 400 drawings by Van Gogh.
- 9 AMSTERDAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM** (Historisch Museum), situated at 92 Kalverstraat, is housed in the former 16th and 17th century Citizen's Orphanage. Inside are objects relating to the City's history from 1275 to 1945.



Beyond Amsterdam

EDAM, approximately 12 miles north-east of Amsterdam, was founded in the 12th century and is a lovely little town which was once a prosperous port. There are a large number of attractive 17th century houses which bear witness to the town's former wealth. Today Edam is perhaps best known for its world famous scarlet skinned cheese.

VOLENDAM is an attractive and well-known fishing village, situated on the IJsselmeer, not far from Edam. Many of the houses still have their wooden gable facades, and the harbor contains the colorful, typical Dutch boats.

MARKEN, located a few miles south of Volendam, is a typical Dutch village. It had been part of the mainland until a flood in 1164 turned the area into a small island. However, in 1957 it was once again joined to the mainland, this time by a dike. The small houses are built on man-made hills and wooden piles to protect them from floods. Sometimes traditional costumes are worn by the local inhabitants as an added attraction to tourists.

A GASSAN DAM SQUARE
Dam Square on the corner of Rokin
 This jewelry shop specializes in loose diamonds, diamond pieces and top brand watches. Watch brands such as Rolex, Cartier, Chopard Jaeger-Le Coultre, Omega, Breguet, Breitling and many more are available. Loose diamonds and diamonds set in jewelry pieces can be found in many price ranges. Their diamond polishers and goldsmith bring the diamonds alive! Their multilingual staff will provide you with detailed and expert advice. Every purchase is accompanied with a certificate of guarantee. VAT refunds for non-European residents are given. They are open 7 days a week.
www.gassandamsquare.com



B GASSAN DIAMONDS - Nw. Uilenburgerstraat 173-175
 Located at near Waterlooplein. Gassan Diamonds, a family owned business, is located in a beautiful restored, originally steam driven diamond factory building in the old center of Amsterdam. The factory was built in 1879, and at the time it was the largest steam driven diamond factory in Europe with more than 350 diamond cutters. Nowadays, you can admire the craftsmanship of the diamond polishers and see how rough diamonds are turned into sparkling brilliant cut diamonds. View Diamonds Polishers at Work: Visit the workshop onsite, where jewelry is designed and settings can be adjusted in minutes. New to this season is the Gassan 121: 121 facets of optimal reflection and perfection. New Jewelry Collection Choices by DL: a revolutionary method to adapt jewelry to any outfit. They have a Diamondland boutique with a various collection of fashion jewelry and watches. Full Royal Delft Collections are on display and for sale. VAT refund for non EU residents. Open 7 days a week.
www.gassandiamonds.com



C ROYAL DELFT AT GASSAN DIAMONDS
 Located opposite Gassan Diamonds, Royal Delft is the last remaining Delftware factory from the 17th century. Royal Delft Products are genuine and hand painted.

D COSTER DIAMONDS/DIAMOND MUSEUM AMSTERDAM
Paulus Potterstraat 2-6
 Coster Diamonds is one of the leading diamond factories in Europe. Located in Amsterdam since 1840, Coster gives pride to Amsterdam as "City of Diamonds". Coster Diamonds was commissioned by Prince Albert of England with the re-polishing of the fabulous "Koh-I-Noor" or the "Mountain of Light", a blue-white diamond which is part of England's crown jewels. Visitors can witness the unique craftsmanship and beauty of Coster's handmade products during a free-guided tour. The sparkling tours will show visitors the process of polishing and setting from a rough diamond to a creation of beauty for centuries. Also carries famous watch brands such as Omega, Longines and Tissot.



E DAM SQUARE SOUVENIRS
 Offering the largest collection of traditional Dutch souvenirs, Dam Square Souvenirs, specializes in wooden shoes. They also carry Royal Delft Blue ceramics, 1 Amsterdam products, Jewelry, van Gogh items, Bags, T-shirts, tulips, Christmas items, chocolate and Miffy related items. They are offering a 10% discount on your purchase and a free gift. Please show your Port Explorer & Shopping Guide for the discount

