



HISTORY (continued)

In 1602 the powerful Dutch East India Company was founded and developed into a commercial trading monopoly. In the 18th century British and French Empires began to expand and Amsterdam lost its position as a leading trade center and both the country and city declined. In 1795 Napoleon annexed the Netherlands to France, but in the 19th century it once again became independent as William of Orange was proclaimed King in 1815. The completion of the North Sea Canal in 1876 connected Amsterdam to the open sea, and the City grew in economic strength. In 1940 the Germans invaded Holland and this occupation lasted 5 years. The country emerged from the war years to once again become an industrious and prosperous country of modern Europe.

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 Cuypers. 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 dyke. 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.

- Admission Charges are generally in local currency.
- When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Amsterdam and its surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

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.

Tippling: 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: Erwtensop 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. Stamppot 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.

Drink Specialties: 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.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The main shops are located around Dam Square, in Magna Plaza, Kalverstraat and Nieuwendijk. There are also shops on Leidsestraat and on P.C. Hoofstraat in the Museumkwartier. There is a flea market held in Waterlooplein and the floating flower market on Singel Canal, both are closed on Sundays.

The main items of interest in Amsterdam are; diamonds, Delft porcelain, antiques and Edam cheese. Clogs and windmill models make good souvenirs.

Shops are generally open from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm Monday through Saturday, although some shops do not open until 1:00 pm on Mondays. Some tourist orientated stores may accept U.S. Dollars, most accept credit cards.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.® cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.