

# International project: Let's Talk about Soil!

Third meeting: Comenius  
College, Capelle aan den IJssel,  
The Netherlands.

13-18 October 2019



Dear participants,

Teachers, students and staff of Comenius College wish you a great time in our school, city, region and country.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in our very flat country.

On the frontpage you see our country. The blue part is below sea level. You are in the middle of that area.

So we hope you are all able to swim!

In this booklet you will find a lot of information of the sights you are going to visit, about the program and so on.

If something happens and you wish to have contact about that, please call or app your own coordinator.

In case you want to contact me, just give me a call:

0031621292756

Have a good time!

Niek Bogaard,

Coordinator of internationalization

## Info

Some simple things you need to know about Dutch customs:

1. The minimum age for drink alcohol is 18. So for all students it is not allowed to drink alcohol.
2. Smoking is not allowed in public buildings and it is also preferred not to smoke on terraces. Our school is completely smoke-free. It is also not allowed to smoke just outside school.
3. Keep in mind that you have to give way to cyclists. Even if they don't have the right, they will take it!
4. Time is time. This means that if an appointment is made for 8.30 Dutch people really mean 8.30. So keep this in mind.
5. Breakfast is important in our country. There is no real school canteen. So, please make sure you have eaten before you come to school.
6. If you want to organize something for yourself/group outside the program ( so in the evening) you always need permission of your host parents. Also inform you own coordinator.
7. For public transport you need a card. You always must check in and out. Never forget this procedure.

## Capelle aan den IJssel

[ka:'pɛlə ʔa:n dɛn 'ɛisəl] (listen) is a town and municipality in the western Netherlands, in the province of South Holland. The municipality had a population of 66,712 in 2017, and covers an area of 15.40 km<sup>2</sup> (5.95 sq mi), of which 1.15 km<sup>2</sup> (0.44 sq mi) is water. It is situated on the eastern edge of Rotterdam, on the Hollandse IJssel river.

The town has what is probably the country's smallest museum, the Dief en Duif huis ("House of Thieves and Pigeons"). Now a historical museum, it served as the prison for the castle of Capelle and is all that now remains of the 16th-century castle.

On opposing sides of the A16 motorway are two business parks called *Rivium* and *Brainpark* respectively. Companies based in the larger Rivium include Rockwell Automation, Pfizer Nederland, Sodexho Nederland, Royal Dutch Shell, Van Oord, and many more. Capelle aan den IJssel has a partnership with Jiashan, China. Comenius College also participates in this partnership.

Capelle aan den IJssel is connected to the Rotterdam Metro system:

- Line C starts at De Terp station, proceeds to Capelle Centrum station and Slotlaan station, then to the cities of Rotterdam, Schiedam and Spijkenisse.
- Connections with the main railway system on line C are at Blaak station and at Schiedam Centrum station. After changing to line A or B (at Capelsebrug station) also at Alexander station, and after changing to line D (at Beurs station), finally also at Rotterdam Centraal station. To and from the direction The Hague the fastest connection is usually with a change at Schiedam Centrum; for other directions it varies.
- Capelle aan den IJssel has its own train station, Capelle Schollevaar. This station is located outside of the city centre in the Schollevaar neighborhood. Local trains from Rotterdam to Gouda and Amsterdam stop at this station.



Capelle aan den IJssel is connected with the city centre of Rotterdam by metro. You always need the C-line, which stops in front of Comenius College and at Blaak station, quite near the H2otel, the place the teachers stay.



Rotterdam the nicknames "Gateway to Europe" and "Gateway to the World". Rotterdam will host the Eurovision Song Contest 2020.

The settlement at the lower end of the [fen](#) stream [Rotte](#) (or *Rotta*, as it was then known, from *rot*, "muddy" and *a*, "water", thus "muddy water") dates from at least 900 CE. Around 1150, large floods in the area ended development, leading to the construction of protective dikes and dams, including *Schielands Hoge Zeedijk* ("Schieland's High Sea Dike") along the northern banks of the present-day Nieuwe Maas. A dam on the Rotte was built in the 1260s and was located at the present-day *Hoogstraat* ("High Street").

On 7 July 1340, Count Willem IV of Holland granted city rights to Rotterdam, whose population then was only a few thousand.<sup>[10]</sup> Around the year 1350, a shipping canal, the *Rotterdamse Schie* was completed, which provided Rotterdam access to the larger towns in the north, allowing it to become a local trans-shipment centre between the Netherlands, England and Germany, and to urbanize.<sup>[17]</sup>



The Delftsevaart, c. 1890–1905



The port of Rotterdam grew slowly but steadily into a port of importance, becoming the seat of one of the six "chambers" of the *Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie* (VOC), the Dutch East India Company.

The greatest spurt of growth, both in port activity and population, followed the completion of the Nieuwe Waterweg in 1872. The city and harbor started to expand on the south bank of the river. The *Witte Huis* or *White House* skyscraper, inspired by American office buildings and built in 1898 in the French Château-style, is evidence of Rotterdam's rapid growth and success. When completed, it was the tallest office building in Europe, with a height of 45 m (147.64 ft).



Rotterdam centre after the 1940 bombing of Rotterdam. The ruined St. Lawrence' Church has been restored

Tower blocks in the Kop van Zuid neighbourhood

During World War I, the city was the world's largest spy centre because of Dutch neutrality and its strategic location in between Britain, Germany and German-occupied Belgium. Many spies who were arrested and

executed in Britain were led by German secret agents operating from Rotterdam. MI6 had its main European office on de Boompjes. From there the British coordinated espionage in Germany and occupied Belgium. During World War I, an average of 25,000 Belgian refugees lived in the city, as well as hundreds of German deserters and escaped Allied prisoners of war.<sup>[19]</sup>

During World War II, the German army invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940.<sup>[20]</sup> Adolf Hitler had hoped to conquer the country in just one day, but his forces met unexpectedly fierce resistance. The Dutch army was forced to capitulate on 15 May 1940, following the bombing of Rotterdam on 14 May and the threat of bombing of other Dutch cities. The heart of Rotterdam was almost completely destroyed by the Luftwaffe. Some 80,000 civilians were made homeless and 900 were killed; a relatively low number due to the fact that many had fled the city because of the warfare and bombing going on in Rotterdam since the start of the invasion three days earlier. The City Hall survived the bombing. Ossip Zadkine later attempted to capture the event with his statue *De Verwoeste Stad* ('The Destroyed City'). The statue stands near the *Leuvehaven*, not far from the Erasmusbrug in the centre of the city, on the north shore of the river *Nieuwe Maas*.

Rotterdam was gradually rebuilt from the 1950s through to the 1970s. It remained quite windy and open until the city councils from the 1980s on began developing an active architectural policy. Daring and new styles of apartments, office buildings and recreation facilities resulted in a more 'livable' city centre with a new skyline. In the 1990s, the Kop van Zuid was built on the south bank of the river as a new business centre. Rotterdam was voted 2015 European City of the Year by the Academy of Urbanism.<sup>[13]</sup> A Guardian profile of Rem Koolhaas begins "If you put the last 50 years of architecture in a blender, and spat it out in building-sized chunks across the skyline, you would probably end up with something that looked a bit like Rotterdam."<sup>[24]</sup>

## Geography[[edit](#)]



Topographic map image of Rotterdam (city), as of Sept. 2014

'Rotterdam' is divided into a northern and a southern part by the river Nieuwe Maas, connected by (from west to east): the Beneluxtunnel; the Maastunnel; the *Erasmusbrug* ('Erasmus Bridge'); a subway tunnel; the *WillemsSpoortunnel* ('Willems railway tunnel'); the *Willemsbrug* ('Willems Bridge'); the *Koninginnebrug* ('Queen's Bridge'); and the *Van Brienenoordbrug* ('Van Brienenoord Bridge'). The former railway lift bridge *De Hef* ('the Lift') is preserved as a monument in lifted position between the *Noordereiland* ('North Island') and the south of Rotterdam.

The city centre is located on the northern bank of the Nieuwe Maas, although recent urban development has extended the centre to parts of southern Rotterdam known as *De Kop van Zuid* ('the Head of South', i.e. the northern part of southern Rotterdam). From its inland core, Rotterdam reaches the North Sea by a swathe of predominantly harbour area.

Built mostly behind dikes, large parts of the Rotterdam are below sea level. For instance, the Prins Alexander Polder in the northeast of Rotterdam extends 6 metres (20 ft) below sea level, or rather below Normaal Amsterdams Peil (NAP) or 'Amsterdam Ordnance Datum'. The lowest point in the Netherlands (6.76 metres (22.2 ft) below NAP) is situated just to the east of Rotterdam, in the municipality of Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel.



Satellite image of Rotterdam and its port

The Rotte river no longer joins the Nieuwe Maas directly. Since the early 1980s, when the construction of Rotterdam's second subway line interfered with the Rotte's course, its waters have been pumped through a pipe into the Nieuwe Maas via the Boerengat.



The 24 municipalities of the Rotterdam The Hague Metropolitan Area

Between the summers of 2003 and 2008, an artificial beach was created at the Boompjeskade along the Nieuwe Maas, between the Erasmus Bridge and the Willems Bridge. Swimming was not possible, digging pits was limited to the height of the layer of sand, about 50 cm (20 in). Alternatively people go the beach of Hoek van Holland (which is a Rotterdam district) or one of the beaches in Zeeland: Renesse or the Zuid Hollandse Eilanden: Ouddorp, Oostvoorne.

Rotterdam forms the centre of the Rijnmond conurbation, bordering the conurbation surrounding The Hague to the north-west. The two conurbations are close enough to be a single conurbation. They share the Rotterdam The Hague Airport and a light rail system called RandstadRail. Consideration is being given to creating an official Metropolitan region Rotterdam The Hague (*Metropoolregio Rotterdam Den Haag*), which would have a combined population approaching 2.5 million.

On its turn, the Rijnmond conurbation is part of the southern wing (the Zuidvleugel) of the Randstad, which is one of the most important economic and densely populated areas in the north-west of Europe. Having a population of 7.1 million, the Randstad is the sixth-largest urban area in Europe (after Moscow, London, Paris, Istanbul, and the Rhein-Ruhr Area). The Zuidvleugel, situated in the province of South Holland, has a population of around 3 million.

## **Climate**

Rotterdam experiences a temperate oceanic climate (Köppen climate classification *Cfb*) similar to all of the coastal areas in Netherlands. Located near to the coast, its climate is slightly milder than locations further inland. Winters are cool with frequent cold days, while the summers are mild to warm, with occasional hot

temperatures. Temperatures above 30 °C are not rare during summer, while temperatures rarely drop below - 5 °C during winter. The following climate box is from the airport, which is slightly cooler than the city, being surrounded by water canals which make the climate milder and with a higher Relative Humidity. The city experiences the Urban heat island effect, especially inside the city centre.

<b>Demographics</b>	
 <a href="#">Suriname</a>	52,620 (8.2%)
 <a href="#">Turkey</a>	47,712 (7.5%)
 <a href="#">Morocco</a>	44,164 (6.9%)
 <a href="#">Dutch Caribbean</a>	24,836 (3.9%)
 <a href="#">Cape Verde</a>	15,411 (2.4%)
 <a href="#">Indonesia</a>	11,952 (1.9%)
 <a href="#">Poland</a>	9,714 (1.5%)
 <a href="#">Germany</a>	9,565 (1.5%)
 <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a>	9,369 (1.5%)
 <a href="#">China</a>	7,218 (1.1%)
Other	92,290 (14.5%)

Overall the demographics differ per city area. According to a recent area analysis, the city centre has a singles population of 70%, between the ages of 20 and 40,<sup>[28]</sup> considerably more than other city areas. Also the city centre has a much larger population of people with higher education and higher income. Nonetheless, 80% of the homes are rented, not owned. The city centre also has a higher percentage (51% vs 45%) of foreign-born citizens. The majority (70%) of shops are also run by foreign-born citizens.

## **Composition**

The municipality of Rotterdam is part of the Rotterdam-The Hague Metropolitan Area which, as of 2015, covers an area of 1,130 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 990 km km<sup>2</sup> is land, and has a population of approximately 2,563,197. As of 2019, the municipality itself occupies an area of 325.79 km<sup>2</sup>, 208.80 km<sup>2</sup> of which is land, and is home to 638,751 inhabitants. Its population peaked at 731,564 in 1965, but the dual processes of suburbanization and counterurbanization saw this number steadily decline over the next 2 decades, reaching 560,000 by 1985.<sup>[31][32]</sup> Although Rotterdam has experienced population growth since then, it has done so at a slower pace than comparable cities in the Netherlands, like Amsterdam, The Hague and Utrecht .



## Religion

Religions in Rotterdam (2013)<sup>1</sup>



Christianity is the largest religion in Rotterdam, with 31.1% of the population identifying. The second and third largest religions are Islam (13.3%) and Hinduism (3.3%), while about half of the population has no religious affiliation.

Since 1795 Rotterdam has hosted the chief congregation of the liberal Protestant brotherhood of Remonstrants. From 1955 it has been the see of the bishop of Rotterdam when the Rotterdam diocese was split from the Haarlem diocese. Since 2010 the city is home to the largest mosque in the Netherlands, the Essalam mosque, (capacity 1,500).

## Economy



Gebouw Delftse Poort, one of the tallest office buildings in the Netherlands

Rotterdam has always been one of the main centres of the shipping industry in the Netherlands. From the Rotterdam Chamber of the VOC, the world's first multinational, established in 1602, to the merchant shipping leader Royal Nedlloyd established in 1970, with its corporate headquarters located in the landmark building the 'Willemswerf' in 1988.<sup>[36]</sup> In 1997, Nedlloyd merged with the British shipping industry leader P&O forming the third largest merchant shipping company in the world. The Anglo-Dutch P&O Nedlloyd was bought by the Danish giant corporation 'AP Moller Maersk' in 2005 and its Dutch operations are still headquartered in the 'Willemswerf'.

Nowadays, well-known companies with headquarters in Rotterdam are consumers goods company Unilever,

asset management firm Robeco, energy company Eneco, dredging company Van Oord, oil company Shell Downstream, terminal operator Vopak, commodity trading company Vitol and architecture firm Office for Metropolitan Architecture. It is also home to the regional headquarters of chemical company LyondellBasell, commodities trading company Glencore, pharmaceutical company Pfizer, logistics companies Stolt-Nielsen, electrical equipment company ABB Group and consumer goods company Procter & Gamble. Furthermore, Rotterdam has the Dutch headquarters of Allianz, Maersk, Petrobras, Samskip, Louis Dreyfus Group, Aon and MP Objects.

The City of Rotterdam makes use of the services of semi-government companies Roteb and students of Rotterdam Business school RBS (to take care of sanitation, waste management and assorted services) and the Port of Rotterdam Authority (to maintain the Port of Rotterdam). Both these companies were once municipal bodies, now they are autonomous entities, owned by the City.

Being the largest port and one of the largest cities of the country, Rotterdam attracts many people seeking jobs, especially in the cheap labour segment. The city's unemployment rate is 12%, almost twice the national average.<sup>[37]</sup>

## Ports

Unmanned vehicles handle containers at Europe Container Terminals (ECT), the largest container terminal operator in Europe.

Rotterdam is the largest port in Europe, with the rivers Meuse and Rhine providing excellent access to the hinterland upstream reaching to Basel, Switzerland and into France. In 2004 Shanghai took over as the world's busiest port. In 2006, Rotterdam was the world's seventh largest container port in terms of twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) handled.<sup>[38]</sup>

The port's main activities are petrochemical industries and general cargo handling and transshipment. The harbour functions as an important transit point for bulk materials between the European continent and overseas. From Rotterdam goods are transported by ship, river barge, train or road. In 2007, the *Betuweroute*, a new fast freight railway from Rotterdam to Germany, was completed.

## Shopping]

Well-known streets in Rotterdam are the Lijnbaan (the first set of pedestrian streets of the country, opened in 1953), the Hoogstraat, the Coolensingel with the city hall, and the Weena, which runs from the Central Station to the Hofplein (square). A modern shopping venue is the

Beurstraverse ("Stock Exchange Traverse"), better known by its informal name 'Koopgoot' ('Buying/Shopping Gutter', after its subterranean position), which crosses the Coolensingel below street level). The Kruiskade is a more upscale shopping street, with retailers like Michael Kors, 7 For All Mankind, Calvin Klein, Hugo Boss, Tommy Hilfiger and the Dutch well known men's clothier Oger. Another upscale shopping venue is a flagship store of department store De Bijenkorf. Located a little more to the east is the Markthal, with lots of small retailers inside. This hall is also one of Rotterdam's famous architectural landmarks.

The main shopping venue in the south of Rotterdam is Zuidplein, which lies close to Rotterdam Ahoy, an accommodation center for shows, exhibitions, sporting events, concerts and congresses. Another prominent shopping center, called Alexandrium, lies in the east of Rotterdam. It includes a large kitchen and furniture center.

## Education



Bronze statue of Erasmus created by Hendrick de Keyser in 1622

Rotterdam has one major university, the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), named after one of the city's famous former inhabitants, Desiderius Erasmus. The Woudestein campus houses (among others) Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. In Financial Times' 2005 rankings it placed 29th globally and 7th in Europe. In the 2009 rankings of Masters of Management, the school reached first place with the CEMS Master in Management and a tenth place with its RSM Master in Management.<sup>[39]</sup> The university is also home to Europe's largest student association, STAR Study Association Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University and the world's largest student association, AIESEC, has its international office in the city.

The Willem de Kooning Academy Rotterdam's main art school, which is part of the Hogeschool Rotterdam. It is regarded as one of the most prestigious art schools in the Netherlands and the number 1 in Advertising and Copywriting. Part of the Willem de Kooning Academy is the Piet Zwart Institute for postgraduate studies and research in Fine Art, Media Design and Retail Design. The Piet Zwart Institute boasts a selective roster of emerging international artists.

The Hoboken campus of EUR houses the Dijkzigt (general) hospital, the Sophia Hospital (for children) and the Medical Department of the University. They are known collectively as the Erasmus Medical Center. This center is ranked third in Europe by CSIC<sup>[40]</sup> as a hospital, and is also ranked within top 50 universities of the world in the field of medicine (clinical, pre-clinical & health, 2017).<sup>[41]</sup>

Three *Hogeschole* (Universities of applied sciences) exist in Rotterdam. These schools award their students a professional Bachelor's degree and postgraduate or Master's degree. The three *Hogeschole* are Hogeschool Rotterdam, Hogeschool Inholland and Hogeschool voor Muziek en Dans (uni for music and dance) which is also known as CodArts.

As there are many international and American schools scattered across Europe such as ASH (American

International School of the Hague) Rotterdam also has its own international/American school by the name AISR (American International School of Rotterdam). At AISR children receive a multicultural education in a culturally diverse community and it offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program.

Unique to the city is the Shipping & Transport College which offers masters, bachelors and vocational diplomas on all levels.

## Culture



Rotterdam waterfront, with spotlights shining into the air to commemorate the Rotterdam Blitz

Alongside Porto, Rotterdam was European Capital of Culture in 2001. The city has its own orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, with its well-regarded young music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin; a large congress and concert building called *De Doelen*; several theaters (including the new *Luxor*) and movie theatres; and the Rotterdam Ahoy complex in the south of the city, which is used for pop concerts, exhibitions, tennis tournaments, and other activities. A major zoo called



Diergaarde Blijdorp is situated at the northwest side of Rotterdam, complete with a walkthrough sea aquarium called the Oceanium.

Rotterdam features some urban architecture projects, nightlife, and many summer festivals celebrating the city's multicultural population and identity, such as the Caribbean-inspired "Summer Carnival", the Dance Parade, Rotterdam 666, the Metropolis pop festival and the World Port days. In the years 2005–2011 the city struggled with venues for popmusic.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

Many of the venues suffered severe financial problems. This resulted in the disappearance of the major music venues Nighttown and WATT and smaller stages such as Waterfront, Exit, and Heidegger. Currently the city has a few venues for pop music like Rotown, Poortgebouw and Annabel. The venue WORM focuses on experimental music and related cutting edge subcultural music. There are also the International Film Festival in January, the Poetry International Festival in June, the North Sea Jazz Festival in July, the Valery Gergiev Festival in September, September in Rotterdam and the World of the Witte de With. In June 1970, The Holland Pop Festival (which featured Jefferson Airplane, The Byrds, Canned Heat, It's a Beautiful Day, and Santana) was held and filmed at the Stamping Grounds in Rotterdam.

There is a healthy competition with Amsterdam, which is often viewed as the cultural capital of the Netherlands. This rivalry is most common amongst the city's football supporters, Feyenoord (Rotterdam) and Ajax (Amsterdam). There is a saying: "Amsterdam to party, Den Haag (The Hague) to live, Rotterdam to work". Another one, more popular by Rotterdammers, is "Money is earned in Rotterdam, distributed in The Hague and spent in Amsterdam". Another saying that reflects both the rivalry between Rotterdam and Amsterdam is "Amsterdam has it, Rotterdam doesn't need it". <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In terms of alternative culture, Rotterdam had from the 1960s until the 2000s a thriving squatters movement which as well as housing thousands of people, occupied venues, social centres and so on.<sup>[42]</sup> From this movement came clubs like Boogjes, Eksit, Nighttown, Vlerk and Waterfront. The Poortgebouw was squatted in the 1980s and quickly legalised.

Rotterdam is also the home of Gabber, a type of hardcore electronic music popular in the mid-1990s, with hard beats and samples. Groups like Neophyte and Rotterdam Terror Corps (RTC) started in Rotterdam, playing at clubs like Parkzicht.

The main cultural organisations in Amsterdam, such as the Concertgebouw and Holland Festival, have joint

forces with similar organisations in Rotterdam, via A'R'dam. In 2007 these organisations published with plans for co-operation.<sup>[43]</sup> One of the goals is to strengthen the international position of culture and art in the Netherlands in the international context.

On 30 August 2019, it was announced by the European Broadcasting Union and Dutch television broadcasters AVROTROS, NOS & NPO, that Rotterdam will host the Eurovision Song Contest 2020, following the Dutch victory at the 2019 contest in Tel Aviv, Israel with the song "Arcade", performed by Duncan Laurence. The contest will take place at the Rotterdam Ahoy, with the semi-finals taking place on 12 & 14 May 2020 and the final taking place on 16 May 2020. This will be the first time that Rotterdam has hosted the contest, and the first time The Netherlands has hosted the contest since 1980, when it was hosted in The Hague.<sup>[44]</sup>

## **Museums**

Rotterdam has many museums. Well known museums are the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, the Netherlands Architecture Institute, the Wereldmuseum, the Kunsthal, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art<sup>[45]</sup> and the Maritime Museum Rotterdam.<sup>[46]</sup> The Historical Museum Rotterdam has changed into Museum Rotterdam which aims to exhibit

Rotterdam as a contemporary transnational city, and not a past city.<sup>[47]</sup>

Other museums include the tax museum and the natural history museum. At the historical shipyard and museum Scheepswerf 'De Delft', the reconstruction of ship of the line *Delft* can be visited.<sup>[48]</sup>

## Architecture[edit]

*See also: List of tallest buildings in Rotterdam*



The Wilhelmina pier at the Kop van Zuid in the distance. A part of Rotterdam with many skyscrapers and high-rises. On the left the Erasmus Bridge can be seen.

Rotterdam has become world famous because of its modern and groundbreaking architecture. Throughout the years the city has been nicknamed *Manhattan at the Meuse*<sup>[49][50][51][52][53][54]</sup> and *The architectural capital of the Netherlands*<sup>[55][56][57]</sup> both for its skyline and because it is home to internationally leading

architectural firms involved in the design of famous buildings and bridges in other big cities. Examples include O.M.A (Rem Koolhaas), Neutelings & Riedijk and Erick van Egeraat.<sup>[58][59]</sup> It has the reputation in being a platform for architectural development and education through the Berlage Institute, a postgraduate laboratory of architecture, and the NAI (Netherlands Architecture Institute), which is open to the public and has a variety of exhibitions on architecture and urban planning issues. The city has 38 skyscrapers and 352 high-rises and has many skyscrapers planned or under construction.<sup>[60][61]</sup> The top 5 of highest buildings in the Netherlands consists entirely of buildings in Rotterdam.<sup>[62]</sup> It is home to the tallest building in the Netherlands, the Maastoren with a height of 165 meters. In 2021, the Zalmhaven Tower will be completed with a height of 212 meters, which will become the new tallest building in the Netherlands.

## **History**

In 1898, the 45-metre (148-foot) high-rise office building the White House (in Dutch Witte Huis) was completed, at that time the tallest office building in Europe. In the first decades of the 20th century, some influential architecture in the modern style was built in Rotterdam. Notable are the Van Nelle fabriek (1929) a monument of modern factory design by Brinkman en

Van der Vlugt, the Jugendstil clubhouse of the Royal Maas Yacht Club designed by Hooijkaas jr. en Brinkman (1909), and Feyenoord's football stadium De Kuip (1936) also by Brinkman en Van der Vlugt. The architect J. J. P. Oud was a famous Rotterdammer in those days. The Van Nelle Factory obtained the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014. During the early stages of World War II the center of Rotterdam was bombed by the German Luftwaffe, destroying many of the older buildings in the center of the city. After initial crisis reconstruction the center of Rotterdam has become the site of ambitious new architecture.



The Cube Houses in 2011



The Markthal as seen from the Binnenrotte, Rotterdam center.



The Euromast in 2005.

Rotterdam is also famous for its Lijnbaan 1952 by architects Broek en Bakema, Peperklip by architect Carel Weeber, Kubuswoningen or cube houses designed by architect Piet Blom 1984.

The newest landmark in Rotterdam is the Markthal, designed by architect firm MVRDV. In addition to that there are many international well known architects based in Rotterdam like O.M.A (Rem Koolhaas), Neutelings & Riedijk and Erick van Egeraat to name a few. Two architectural landmarks are located in the Lloydkwartier: the STC college building and the Schiecentrale 4b.

Rotterdam also houses several of the tallest structures in the Netherlands.

- The Erasmusbrug (1996) is a 790-meter (2,600 ft) cable stayed bridge linking the north and south of Rotterdam. It is held up by a 138 metres (453 ft) tall pylon with a characteristic bend, earning the bridge its nickname 'De Zwaan' ('the Swan').

- Rotterdam has the tallest residential building in the Netherlands: the New Orleans Tower (158.35 metres (519.5 ft)).
- Rotterdam is also home to the tallest office building 'Maastoren' (164.75 m or 540.5 ft) which houses Deloitte. This office tower surpassed the 'Delftse Poort' (160 m or 520 ft) which houses Nationale-Nederlanden insurance company, part of ING Group as tallest office tower in 2009.<sup>[63][64]</sup>
- The city also houses the 186 metres (610 ft) tall Euromast, which is a major tourist attraction. It was built in 1960, initially reaching a height of 101 metres (331 ft); in 1970, the Euromast was extended by 85 metres (279 ft) to its current height.

Rotterdam has a reputation in being a platform for architectural development and education through the Berlage Institute, a postgraduate laboratory of architecture, and the NAI (Netherlands Architecture Institute), which is open to the public and has a variety of good exhibitions on architecture and urban planning issues.

Over 30 new highrise projects are being developed at the moment. A Guardian journalist wrote in 2013 that "All this is the consequence of the city suffering a bombardment of two things: bombs and architects



and congresses. Another prominent shopping center, called Alexandrium, lies in the east of Rotterdam. It includes a large kitchen and furniture center.

## Education



Bronze statue of Erasmus created by Hendrick de Keyser in 1622

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The Willem de Kooning Academy Rotterdam's main art school, which is part of the Hogeschool Rotterdam. It is regarded as one of the most prestigious art schools in the Netherlands and the number 1 in Advertising and Copywriting. Part of the Willem de Kooning Academy is the Piet Zwart Institute for postgraduate studies and research in Fine Art, Media Design and Retail Design. The Piet Zwart Institute boasts a selective roster of emerging international artists.

The Hoboken campus of EUR houses the Dijkzigt (general) hospital, the Sophia Hospital (for children) and the Medical Department of the University. They are known collectively as the Erasmus Medical Center. This center is ranked third in Europe by CSIC<sup>[40]</sup> as a hospital, and is also ranked within top 50 universities of the world in the field of medicine (clinical, pre-clinical & health, 2017).<sup>[41]</sup>

Three *Hogeschole*n (Universities of applied sciences) exist in Rotterdam. These schools award their students a professional Bachelor's degree and postgraduate or Master's degree. The three *Hogeschole*n are

Hogeschool Rotterdam, Hogeschool Inholland and Hogeschool voor Muziek en Dans (uni for music and dance) which is also known as CodArts.

As there are many international and American schools scattered across Europe such as ASH (American International School of the Hague) Rotterdam also has its own international/American school by the name AISR (American International School of Rotterdam). At AISR children receive a multicultural education in a culturally diverse community and it offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program.

Unique to the city is the Shipping & Transport College which offers masters, bachelors and vocational diplomas on all levels.

## **Culture**



Rotterdam waterfront, with spotlights shining into the air to commemorate the Rotterdam Blitz

Alongside Porto, Rotterdam was European Capital of Culture in 2001. The city has its own orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, with its well-regarded young music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin; a large congress

and concert building called *De Doelen*; several theaters (including the new *Luxor*) and movie theatres; and the Rotterdam Ahoy complex in the south of the city, which is used for pop concerts, exhibitions, tennis tournaments, and other activities. A major zoo called Diergaarde Blijdorp is situated at the northwest side of Rotterdam, complete with a walkthrough sea aquarium called the Oceanium.

Rotterdam features some urban architecture projects, nightlife, and many summer festivals celebrating the city's multicultural population and identity, such as the Caribbean-inspired "Summer Carnival", the Dance Parade, Rotterdam 666, the Metropolis pop festival and the World Port days. In the years 2005–2011 the city struggled with venues for popmusic<sup>1</sup> Many of the venues suffered severe financial problems. This resulted in the disappearance of the major music venues Nighttown and WATT and smaller stages such as Waterfront, Exit, and Heidegger. Currently the city has a few venues for pop music like Rotown, Poortgebouw and Annabel. The venue WORM focuses on experimental music and related cutting edge subcultural music. There are also the International Film Festival in January, the Poetry International Festival in June, the North Sea Jazz Festival in July, the Valery Gergiev Festival in September, September in Rotterdam and the World of the Witte de With. In June 1970, The Holland Pop Festival with featured Jefferson Airplane,

The Byrds, Canned Heat, It's a Beautiful Day, and Santana) was held and filmed at the Stamping Grounds in Rotterdam.

There is a healthy competition with Amsterdam, which is often viewed as the cultural capital of the Netherlands. This rivalry is most common amongst the city's football supporters, Feyenoord (Rotterdam) and Ajax (Amsterdam). There is a saying: "Amsterdam to party, Den Haag (The Hague) to live, Rotterdam to work". Another one, more popular by Rotterdammers, is "Money is earned in Rotterdam, distributed in The Hague and spent in Amsterdam". Another saying that reflects both the rivalry between Rotterdam and Amsterdam is "Amsterdam has it, Rotterdam doesn't need it".<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In terms of alternative culture, Rotterdam had from the 1960s until the 2000s a thriving squatters movement which as well as housing thousands of people, occupied venues, social centres and so on.<sup>[42]</sup> From this movement came clubs like Boogjes, Eksit, Nighttown, Vlerk and Waterfront. The Poortgebouw was squatted in the 1980s and quickly legalised.

Rotterdam is also the home of Gabber, a type of hardcore electronic music popular in the mid-1990s, with hard beats and samples. Groups like Neophyte

and Rotterdam Terror Corps (RTC) started in Rotterdam, playing at clubs like Parkzicht.

The main cultural organisations in Amsterdam, such as the Concertgebouw and Holland Festival, have joint forces with similar organisations in Rotterdam, via A'R'dam. In 2007 these organisations published with plans for co-operation.<sup>[43]</sup> One of the goals is to strengthen the international position of culture and art in the Netherlands in the international context.

On 30 August 2019, it was announced by the European Broadcasting Union and Dutch television broadcasters AVROTROS, NOS & NPO, that Rotterdam will host the Eurovision Song Contest 2020, following the Dutch victory at the 2019 contest in Tel Aviv, Israel with the song "Arcade", performed by Duncan Laurence. The contest will take place at the Rotterdam Ahoy, with the semi-finals taking place on 12 & 14 May 2020 and the final taking place on 16 May 2020. This will be the first time that Rotterdam has hosted the contest, and the first time The Netherlands has hosted the contest since 1980, when it was hosted in The Hague.<sup>[44]</sup>

## **Museums**

Rotterdam has many museums. Well known museums are the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, the Netherlands Architecture Institute, the Wereldmuseum, the Kunsthal, Witte de With Center

for Contemporary Art<sup>[45]</sup> and the Maritime Museum Rotterdam.<sup>[46]</sup> The Historical Museum Rotterdam has changed into Museum Rotterdam which aims to exhibit Rotterdam as a contemporary transnational city, and not a past city.<sup>[47]</sup>

Other museums include the tax museum and the natural history museum. At the historical shipyard and museum Scheepswerf 'De Delft', the reconstruction of ship of the line *Delft* can be visited.<sup>[48]</sup>

## Architecture

*See also: List of tallest buildings in Rotterdam*



The Wilhelmina pier at the Kop van Zuid in the distance. A part of Rotterdam with many skyscrapers and high-rises. On the left the Erasmus Bridge can be seen.

Rotterdam has become world famous because of its modern and groundbreaking architecture. Throughout the years the city has been nicknamed *Manhattan at*

*the Meuse* and *The architectural capital of the Netherlands* both for its skyline and because it is home to internationally leading architectural firms involved in the design of famous buildings and bridges in other big cities. Examples include O.M.A (Rem Koolhaas), Neutelings & Riedijk and Erick van Egeraat. It has the reputation in being a platform for architectural development and education through the Berlage Institute, a postgraduate laboratory of architecture, and the NAI (Netherlands Architecture Institute), which is open to the public and has a variety of exhibitions on architecture and urban planning issues. The city has 38 skyscrapers and 352 high-rises and has many skyscrapers planned or under construction. The top 5 of highest buildings in the Netherlands consists entirely of buildings in Rotterdam. It is home to the tallest building in the Netherlands, the Maastoren with a height of 165 meters. In 2021, the Zalmhaven Tower will be completed with a height of 212 meters, which will become the new tallest building in the Netherlands.

## **Wageningen University**

**Wageningen University & Research** (also known as **Wageningen UR**; abbreviation: **WUR**) is a public university in Wageningen, The Netherlands. It is located in a region of the Netherlands known as Food Valley



due to the large number of food multinationals based there.

WUR consists of Wageningen University and the former agricultural research institute of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture. Wageningen University trains specialists (BSc, MSc and PhD) in life and social sciences and focuses its research on scientific, social and commercial problems in the field of life sciences and natural resources. The university has about 12,000 students from over 100 countries. It is also a member of the Euroleague for Life Sciences (ELLS) university network

In 1876 the *Rijkslandbouwschool* (National Agricultural College) was established in Wageningen. Due to the development of the training to a higher educational level it changed in 1896 to the *Hoogere Land- en Boschbouwschool* (Agricultural and Forestry College) and in 1904 in *Rijks Hoogere Land-, Tuin- en Boschbouwschool* (National Agricultural, Horticulture and Forestry College).

In 1918 the school became academic by law (Academic Education Act). The name changed to *Rijks Landbouw Hoogeschool* (National Agricultural College). The opening date and official start date is 9 March 1918.

In 1986 the "hogescholen" (comparable to scientific institute of technology) were renamed to University in a modification of the Academic Education Act. The new name became *Landbouwniversiteit Wageningen (LUW)* (Wageningen Agricultural University (WAU)). The 1986 law changes resulted in the use of the name hogeschool in the Dutch system to be used exclusively for universities of applied science.

Over the years the research and teaching branched out into life sciences in general, while interest for agriculture as a career opportunity waned. In 1997, when the DLO institutes merged with the university, the new organisation was rebranded as Wageningen UR (Wageningen University and Research Centre); with the University being renamed Wageningen University. Under Dutch laws the University and the institutes had to remain separate legal entities.

In 2006, the university of applied sciences Van Hall Larenstein became part of Wageningen UR. The idea was to create better collaboration between applied teaching and research at Van Hall and the academic research at Wageningen University. This would also support students to continue with an academic program upon completing their applied degree. However, due to differences in organizational culture and incompatibility of procedures, the collaboration

remained problematic. In 2012 it was decided that Van Hall Larenstein would leave Wageningen UR and continue as an independent school once more. In the spring of 2015 the separation was marked by the move of the final Wageningen-based Van Hall Larenstein studies back to Velp.

In 2009 it was decided that the University would consistently use the English name in its communication, and that university research could be presented under the name of the university: *Wageningen University (WU)* (as an alternative of using the name Wageningen UR).<sup>[1][2]</sup> On 6 September 2016 Wageningen University and the research institutes becameas one joint brand: *Wageningen University & Research (WUR)*.

On 9 March 2018 Wageningen University celebrated her 100 years anniversary. During this year there were many events and festivities around the campus and in the city of Wageningen.

## **Academic profile**

Wageningen University was the first Dutch university or school that was allowed to use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) label. This label is awarded by the European Commission and guarantees the quality of the study programme. The university consequently applies this system, thus

promoteing the mobility of students within Europe and preventing study delay.

## **BSc programmes[edit]**



Forum, one of the eye-catchers on the Wageningen Campus

The University offers 19 BSc programmes<sup>[3]</sup> (2018-2019). The language of instruction is partly Dutch, partly English. For some BSc programmes the language of instruction is English. The programmes start each year in September, last three years, and consist of 180 ECTS credits. The programmes are in the field of economy and society, health, life sciences and technology, nature and environment, animals and plants.

## **MSc programmes**



Panorama of the greenhouse of the *Lumen* building

Wageningen University offers a 36 different MSc programmes<sup>[4]</sup> (2017-2018) and two online masters programs.<sup>[5]</sup> The language of instruction is English. The programmes start each year in September, they last two years, and consist of 120 ECTS credits. Most programmes offer various specializations and possibilities for majors.

### **PhD programme]**

The PhD programme is a four-year programme which consists of a research component (conducting research under supervision and writing a thesis) and a smaller education component (up to 15 percent of the total PhD time). To apply for a PhD position, the applicant must contact one of the six Graduate Schools of Wageningen University.<sup>[6]</sup> In order to guarantee adequate supervision, the research subject must fit in the research programme of a Graduate School.

**Westland**



## Delft

**Delft** ([dɛlft] (listen)) is a city and municipality in the province of South Holland, Netherlands. It is located between Rotterdam, to the southeast, and The Hague, to the northwest. Together with them, it is part of both Rotterdam–The Hague metropolitan area and the Randstad.

Delft is a popular tourist destination in the country of The Netherlands. It is home to Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), regarded as center of technological research and development in the Netherlands, Delft Blue pottery and the currently reigning House of Orange-Nassau. Historically, Delft played a highly influential role in the Dutch Golden Age. Delft has a special place in the history of microbiology. In terms of science and technology, thanks to the pioneering contributions of Antonie van Leeuwenhoek and Martinus Beijerinck, Delft can be considered to be the true birthplace of microbiology, with its several sub-disciplines such as bacteriology, protozoology, and virology.

## Early history[edit]



The Gemeenlandshuis and the Old Church in (1877) by Cornelis Springer



Delft in 1649 (Blaeu)

The city of Delft came into being beside a canal, the 'Delf', which comes from the word *delven*, meaning delving or digging, and led to the name Delft. It presumably started around the 11th century as a landlord court.

From a rural village in the early Middle Ages, Delft developed into a city, that in the 13th century (1246) received its charter. (For some more information about the early development, see Gracht).

The town's association with the House of Orange started when William of Orange (Willem van Oranje), nicknamed William the Silent (Willem de Zwijger), took up residence in 1572. At the time he was the leader of growing national Dutch resistance against Spanish



occupation, known as the Eighty Years' War. By then Delft was one of the leading cities of Holland and it was equipped with the necessary city walls to serve as a headquarters. An attack by Spanish forces in October of that year was repelled.

After the Act of Abjuration was proclaimed in 1581, Delft became the *de facto* capital of the newly independent Netherlands, as the seat of the Prince of Orange.

When William was shot dead in 1584 by Balthazar Gerards in the hall of the Prinsenhof, the family's traditional burial place in Breda was still in the hands of the Spanish. Therefore, he was buried in the Delft Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), starting a tradition for the House of Orange that has continued to the present day.

## **Delft Explosion**



[Egbert van der Poel](#): *A View of Delft after the Explosion of 1654*

The Delft Explosion, also known in history as the Delft Thunderclap [nl], occurred on 12 October 1654 <sup>[12]</sup> when a gunpowder store exploded, destroying much of the city. Over a hundred people were killed and thousands were wounded.

About 30 tonnes (29.5 long tons; 33.1 short tons) of gunpowder were stored in barrels in a magazine in a former Clarissen convent in the Doelenkwartier district. Cornelis Soetens, the keeper of the magazine, opened the store to check a sample of the powder and a huge explosion followed. Luckily, many citizens were away, visiting a market in Schiedam or a fair in The Hague.

Today, the explosion is primarily remembered for killing Rembrandt's most promising pupil, Carel Fabritius, and destroying almost all of his works.

Delft artist Egbert van der Poel painted several pictures of Delft showing the devastation.

## Sights



*View of Delft* by Johannes Vermeer

The city centre retains a large number of monumental buildings, while in many streets there are canals of which the banks are connected by typical bridges, altogether making this city a notable tourist destination.

Historical buildings and other sights of interest include:

- Oude Kerk (Old Church). Buried here: Piet Hein, Johannes Vermeer, Anthony van Leeuwenhoek.
- Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), constructed between 1381 and 1496. It contains the Dutch royal family's burial vault which, between funerals, is sealed with a 5,000 kg (11,023 lb) cover stone.
- A statue of Hugo Grotius created by Franciscus Leonardus Stracké in 1886, located on the Markt near the Nieuwe Kerk.
- The Prinsenhof (Princes' Court), now a museum.<sup>[14]</sup>
- City Hall on the Markt.
- The Oostpoort (Eastern gate), built around 1400. This is the only remaining gate of the old city walls.
- The Gemeenlandshuis Delfland, or Huyterhuis, built in 1505, which has housed the Delfland regional water authority since 1645.
- The Vermeer Centre in the re-built Guild house of St. Luke.
- The historical "Waag" building (Weigh house).
- Windmill De Roos, a tower mill built c.1760. Restored to working order in 2013.<sup>]</sup> Another windmill that formerly stood in Delft, Het Fortuyn, was dismantled in 1917 and re-erected at the Netherlands Open Air Museum, Arnhem, Gelderland in 1920.



Delft City Hall



Eastern Gate  
(*Oostpoort*)



The Old Church tower



Oude Langendijk

## Culture



Delft blue is most famous but there are other kinds of Delftware, like this plate faience in rose

Delft is well known for the Delft pottery ceramic products which were styled on the imported Chinese porcelain of the 17th century. The city had an early start in this area since it was a home port of the Dutch East India Company. It can still be seen at the pottery factories De Koninklijke Porceleyne Fles (or Royal Delft) and De Delftse Pauw.

The painter Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675) was born in Delft. Vermeer used Delft streets and home interiors as the subject or background in his paintings.<sup>[14]</sup> Several other famous painters lived and worked in Delft at that

time, such as Pieter de Hoogh, Carel Fabritius, Nicolaes Maes, Gerard Houckgeest and Hendrick Cornelisz. van Vliet. They were all members of the Delft School. The Delft School is known for its images of domestic life, views of households, church interiors, courtyards, squares and the streets of Delft. The painters also produced pictures showing historic events, flowers, portraits for patrons and the court as well as decorative pieces of art. Delft supports creative arts companies. From 2001 the Bacinol [nl], a building that had been disused since 1951, began to house small companies in the creative arts sector. However, demolition of the building started in December 2009, making way for the construction of the new railway tunnel in Delft. The occupants of the building, as well as the name 'Bacinol', moved to another building in the city. The name Bacinol relates to Dutch penicillin research during WWII.

## **Education**



TU Delft buildings

Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) is one of four universities of technology in the Netherlands.<sup>[16]</sup> It was

founded as an academy for civil engineering in 1842 by King William II. Today well over 21,000 students are enrolled.<sup>[17]</sup>

The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, providing postgraduate education for people from developing countries, draws on the strong tradition in water management and hydraulic engineering of the Delft university.

## **Economy**

In the local economic field essential elements are:

- education; (amongst others Delft University of Technology) (As of 2017 21.651 students and 4.939 full-time employees),
- scientific research; (amongst others "TNO" Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research), Stichting Deltares, Nederlands Normalisatie-Instituut, UNESCO-IHE Institute for water education, Technopolis Innovation Park;
- tourism; (about one million registered visitors a year),
- industry; (DSM Gist Services BV, (Delftware) earthenware production by De Koninklijke Porceleyne Fles, Exact Software Nederland BV, TOPdesk, Ampelmann)

- retail; (IKEA (Inter IKEA Systems B.V., owner and worldwide franchisor of the IKEA Concept, is based in Delft), Makro, Eneco Energy NV).

## Nature and recreation



The *Plantagegeer*, one of Delft's several smaller city parks

East of Delft lies a relatively large nature and recreation area called the "Delftse Hout" ("Delft Wood").<sup>[18]</sup>

Through the forest lie bike, horse-riding and footpaths. It also includes a vast lake (suitable for swimming and windsurfing), narrow beaches, a restaurant, community gardens, plus camping ground and other recreational and sports facilities. (There is also a facility for renting bikes from the station.)

Inside the city, apart from a central park, there are also several smaller town parks, like "Nieuwe Plantage", "Agneta park", "Kalverbos" and others. Furthermore, there is the Botanical Garden of the TU and an arboretum in Delftse Hout.

## Amsterdam

**Amsterdam** (/ˈæmstərdæm/, UK also /ˌæmstərˈdæm/; Dutch: [ɑmstərˈdɑm] (listen<sup>ⓘ</sup>)) is the capital and most populous city of the Netherlands, with a population of 866,737 within the city proper, 1,380,872 in the urban area, and 2,410,960 in the metropolitan area.

Amsterdam is in the province of North Holland.

Amsterdam's name derives from *Amstelredamme*, indicative of the city's origin around a dam in the river Amstel. Originating as a small fishing village in the late 12th century, Amsterdam became one of the most important ports in the world in the Dutch Golden Age of the 17th century and became the leading centre for finance and trade. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the city expanded, and many new neighbourhoods and suburbs were planned and built. The 17th-century canals of Amsterdam and the 19–20th century Defence Line of Amsterdam are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Sloten, annexed in 1921 by the municipality of Amsterdam, is the oldest part of the city, dating to the 9th century.

As the commercial capital of the Netherlands and one of the top financial centres in Europe, Amsterdam is considered an alpha- world city by the Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) study group. The city is also the cultural capital of the Netherlands. Many large



Dutch institutions have their headquarters there, including Philips, AkzoNobel, TomTom and ING.<sup>[17]</sup> Also, many of the world's largest companies are based in Amsterdam or established their European headquarters in the city, such as leading technology companies Uber, Netflix and Tesla. In 2012, Amsterdam was ranked the second best city to live in by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)<sup>]</sup> and 12th globally on quality of living for environment and infrastructure by Mercer. The city was ranked 4th place globally as top tech hub in the Savills Tech Cities 2019 report (2nd in Europe), and 3rd in innovation by Australian innovation agency 2thinknow in their Innovation Cities Index 2009. The Port of Amsterdam is the fifth largest in Europe. Famous Amsterdam residents include the diarist Anne Frank, artists Rembrandt and Van Gogh, and philosopher Baruch Spinoza.

The Amsterdam Stock Exchange is the oldest stock exchange in the world. Amsterdam's main attractions include its historic canals, the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, the Stedelijk Museum, Hermitage Amsterdam, the Concertgebouw, the Anne Frank House, the Scheepvaartmuseum, the Amsterdam Museum, the Heineken Experience, the Royal Palace of Amsterdam, Natura Artis Magistra, Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam, NEMO, the red-light district and many cannabis coffee shops. They draw more than 5 million international visitors annually.<sup>]</sup> The city is also well

known for its nightlife and festival activity; several of its nightclubs (Melkweg, Paradiso) are among the world's most famous. It is also one of the world's most multicultural cities, with at least 177 nationalities represented.

## **Etymology**

*See also Other names of Amsterdam*

After the floods of 1170 and 1173, locals near the river Amstel built a bridge over the river and a dam across it, giving its name to the village: "Aemstelredamme". The earliest recorded use of that name is in a document dated 27 October 1275, which exempted inhabitants of the village from paying bridge tolls to Count Floris V. This allowed the inhabitants of the village of Aemstelredamme to travel freely through the County of Holland, paying no tolls at bridges, locks and dams. The certificate describes the inhabitants as *homines manentes apud Amestelledamme* (people residing near Amestelledamme).<sup>[1]</sup> By 1327, the name had developed into *Aemsterdam*.

## **History[**

*Main articles: History of Amsterdam and Timeline of Amsterdam*

## Founding and Middle Ages



The Oude Kerk was consecrated in 1306 CE.

Amsterdam is much younger than Dutch cities such as Nijmegen, Rotterdam, and Utrecht. In October 2008, historical geographer Chris de Bont suggested that the land around Amsterdam was being reclaimed as early as the late 10th century. This does not necessarily mean that there was already a settlement then, since reclamation of land may not have been for farming—it may have been for peat, for use as fuel.

Amsterdam was granted city rights in either 1300 or 1306.<sup>1</sup> From the 14th century on, Amsterdam flourished, largely from trade with the Hanseatic League. In 1345, an alleged Eucharistic miracle in the Kalverstraat rendered the city an important place of pilgrimage until the adoption of the Protestant faith. The Miracle devotion went underground but was kept alive. In the 19th century, especially after the jubilee of 1845, the devotion was revitalized and became an important national point of reference for Dutch Catholics. The *Stille Omgang*—a silent walk or procession in civil attire—is the expression of the

pilgrimage within the Protestant Netherlands since the late 19th century. In the heyday of the Silent Walk, up to 90,000 pilgrims came to Amsterdam. In the 21st century this has reduced to about 5000.

## **Conflict with Spain**

Amsterdam citizens celebrating the Peace of Münster, 30 January 1648; painting by Bartholomeus van der Helst.

In the 16th century, the Dutch rebelled against Philip II of Spain and his successors. The main reasons for the uprising were the imposition of new taxes, the tenth penny, and the religious persecution of Protestants by the newly introduced Inquisition. The revolt escalated into the Eighty Years' War, which ultimately led to Dutch independence.<sup>[33]</sup> Strongly pushed by Dutch Revolt leader William the Silent, the Dutch Republic became known for its relative religious tolerance. Jews from the Iberian Peninsula, Huguenots from France, prosperous merchants and printers from Flanders, and economic and religious refugees from the Spanish-controlled parts of the Low Countries found safety in Amsterdam. The influx of Flemish printers and the city's intellectual tolerance made Amsterdam a centre for the European free press.

## Centre of the Dutch Golden Age



Courtyard of the Amsterdam Stock Exchange by Emanuel de Witte, 1653; the Amsterdam Stock Exchange was the first stock exchange to introduce continuous trade in the early 17th century.<sup>[35]</sup>

The 17th century is considered Amsterdam's Golden Age, during which it became the wealthiest city in the western world.<sup>[36]</sup> Ships sailed from Amsterdam to the Baltic Sea, North America, and Africa, as well as present-day Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Brazil, forming the basis of a worldwide trading network. Amsterdam's merchants had the largest share in both the Dutch East India Company and the Dutch West India Company. These companies acquired overseas possessions that later became Dutch colonies.

Amsterdam was Europe's most important point for the shipment of goods and was the leading Financial centre of the western world. In 1602, the Amsterdam office of the international trading Dutch East India Company became the world's first stock exchange by trading in its own shares.<sup>1</sup> The Bank of Amsterdam started

operations in 1609, acting as a full service bank for Dutch merchant bankers and as a reserve bank.

## **Decline and modernisation**

Amsterdam's prosperity declined during the 18th and early 19th centuries. The wars of the Dutch Republic with England and France took their toll on Amsterdam. During the Napoleonic Wars, Amsterdam's significance reached its lowest point, with Holland being absorbed into the French Empire. However, the later establishment of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1815 marked a turning point.



A view of Vijzelstraat looking towards the Muntplein, 1891.

The end of the 19th century is sometimes called Amsterdam's second Golden Age. New museums, a railway station, and the Concertgebouw were built; in this same time, the Industrial Revolution reached the city. The Amsterdam–Rhine Canal was dug to give Amsterdam a direct connection to the Rhine, and the North Sea Canal was dug to give the port a shorter

connection to the North Sea. Both projects dramatically improved commerce with the rest of Europe and the world. In 1906, Joseph Conrad gave a brief description of Amsterdam as seen from the seaside, in *The Mirror of the Sea*.

## 20th century–present



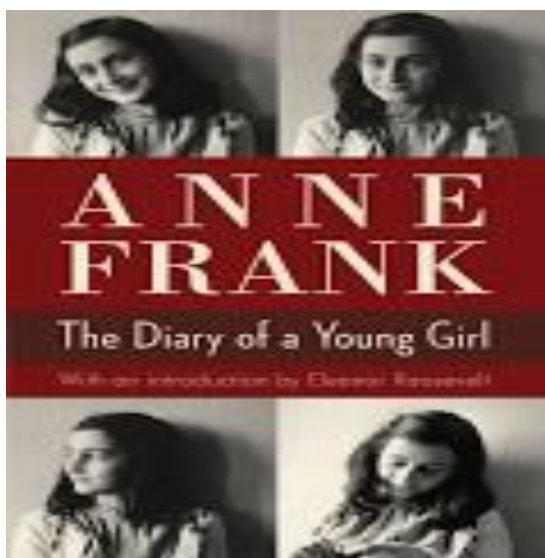
Photochrom of Amsterdam's Dam Square at the beginning of the 20th century.

Shortly before the First World War, the city started to expand again, and new suburbs were built. Even though the Netherlands remained neutral in this war, Amsterdam suffered a food shortage, and heating fuel became scarce. The shortages sparked riots in which several people were killed. These riots are known as the *Aardappeloproer* (Potato rebellion). People started looting stores and warehouses in order to get supplies, mainly food.<sup>[40]</sup>

On 1 January 1921, after a flood in 1916, the depleted municipalities of Durgerdam, Holysloot, Zunderdorp and Schellingwoude, all lying north of Amsterdam, were, at their own request, annexed to the city.

Between the wars, the city continued to expand, most notably to the west of the Jordaan district in the Frederik Hendrikbuurt and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940 and took control of the country. Some Amsterdam citizens sheltered Jews, thereby exposing themselves and their families to a high risk of being imprisoned or sent to concentration camps. More than 100,000 Dutch Jews were deported to Nazi concentration camps, of whom some 60,000 lived in Amsterdam. In response, the Dutch Communist Party organised the February strike attended by 300,000 people to protest against the raids. Perhaps the most famous deportee was the young Jewish girl Anne Frank, who died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.





At the end of the Second World War, communication with the rest of the country broke down, and food and fuel became scarce. Many citizens travelled to the countryside to forage. Dogs, cats, raw sugar beets, and Tulip bulbs—cooked to a pulp—were consumed to stay alive.<sup>1</sup> Most of the trees in Amsterdam were cut down for fuel, and all the wood was taken from the apartments of deported Jews.

People celebrating the liberation of the Netherlands at the end of World War II on 8 May 1945.

Many new suburbs, such as Osdorp, Slotervaart, Slotermeer and Geuzenveld, were built in the years after the Second World War. These suburbs contained many public parks and wide open spaces, and the new buildings provided improved housing conditions with larger and brighter rooms, gardens, and balconies. Because of the war and other events of the 20th century, almost the entire city centre had fallen into disrepair. As society was changing politicians and other influential figures made plans to redesign large parts of it. There was an increasing demand for office buildings, and also for new roads, as the automobile became available to most people. A metro started operating in 1977 between the new suburb of Bijlmermeer in the city's Zuidoost (southeast) exclave and the centre of Amsterdam. Further plans were to build a new highway

above the metro to connect Amsterdam Centraal and city centre with other parts of the city.

The required large-scale demolitions began in Amsterdam's former Jewish neighbourhood. Smaller streets, such as the Jodenbreestraat, were widened and almost all of their houses were demolished. At the peak of the demolition, the *Nieuwmarktrellen* (Nieuwmarkt riots) broke out; the rioters expressed their fury about the demolition caused by the restructuring of the city.

As a result, the demolition was stopped and the highway was never built; only the metro was completed. Only a few streets remained widened. The new city hall was built on the almost completely demolished Waterlooplein. Meanwhile, large private organisations, such as *Stadsherstel Amsterdam*, were founded with the aim of restoring the entire city centre. Although the success of this struggle is visible today, efforts for further restoration are still ongoing.<sup>[46]</sup> The entire city centre has reattained its former splendour and, as a whole, is now a protected area. Many of its buildings have become monuments, and in July 2010 the Grachtengordel (the three concentric canals: Herengracht, Keizersgracht, and Prinsengracht) was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



The 17th-century Canals of Amsterdam were listed as UNESCO World Heritage site in 2010,<sup>1</sup> contributing to Amsterdam's fame as the "Venice of the North". Along with De Wallen, the canals are the focal-point for tourists in the city.

In the early years of the 21st century, the Amsterdam city centre has attracted large numbers of tourists: between 2012 and 2015, the annual number of visitors rose from 10 million to 17 million. Real estate prices have surged, and local shops are making way for tourist-oriented ones, making the centre unaffordable for the city's inhabitants. These developments have evoked comparisons with Venice, a city thought to be overwhelmed by the tourist influx.

Construction of a metro line connecting the part of the city north of the river (or lake) IJ to the centre was started in 2003. The project is controversial because its cost had exceeded its budget by a factor three by 2008, because of fears of damage to buildings in the centre, and because construction had to be halted and restarted multiple times.

Since 2014, renewed focus has been given to urban regeneration and renewal, especially in areas directly bordering the city centre, such as Frederik Hendrikbuurt. This urban renewal and expansion of the traditional centre of the city—with the construction on artificial islands of the new eastern IJburg neighbourhood—is part of the Structural Vision Amsterdam 2040 initiative.

## Geography



Satellite picture of Amsterdam and North Sea Canal



Topographic map of Amsterdam and its surrounding municipalities, 2014.



Large-scale map of the city centre of Amsterdam, including sightseeing markers, as of April 2017.

Amsterdam is located in the Western Netherlands, in the province of North Holland, although it is not its capital which is Haarlem. The river Amstel ends in the city centre and connects to a large number of canals that eventually terminate in the IJ. Amsterdam is about 2 metres (6.6 feet) below sea level. The surrounding land is flat as it is formed of large polders. A man-made forest, Amsterdamse Bos, is in the southwest.

Amsterdam is connected to the North Sea through the long North Sea Canal.

Amsterdam is intensely urbanised, as is the Amsterdam metropolitan area surrounding the city. Comprising 219.4 square kilometres (84.7 square miles) of land, the city proper has 4,457 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> and 2,275 houses per km<sup>2</sup>. Parks and nature reserves make up 12% of Amsterdam's land area.

## Water



Reguliersgracht, Autumn 2010.

Amsterdam has more than 100 kilometres (60 miles) of canals, most of which are navigable by boat. The city's three main canals are the Prinsengracht, Herengracht, and Keizersgracht.

In the Middle Ages, Amsterdam was surrounded by a moat, called the Singel, which now forms the innermost ring in the city, and makes the city centre a horseshoe shape. The city is also served by a seaport. It has been compared with Venice, due to its division into about 90 islands, which are linked by more than 1,200 bridges.



**Ouwehands Dierenpark, Rhenen**





# H2otel

## Wijnhaven 20a Rotterdam



## The H2OTEL Boutique Hotel in the Wijnhaven

Right in the center of Rotterdam is the H2OTEL, a floating hotel with 48 beautiful rooms. Step aboard and experience the unique architecture with all its atmospheric details. Enjoy a rich breakfast buffet in the morning, find a place in the sun on our floating terraces and experience the relaxed atmosphere in the hotel throughout the day. In the evening you can enjoy a delicious dinner in our own restaurant: 'De Kantine van Janssen' where our kitchen team, under the guidance of chef Willem, prepares the best dishes every evening with fresh products.

H2OTEL distinguishes itself from other hotels because of its special architecture, its great location and its special art rooms. These rooms are designed by known and unknown national artists. What's more, H2OTEL distinguishes itself through its heart-warming service. Our goal is to give you the feeling that you are at home. Our team works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to give you the ultimate Rotterdam experience.

If you want to see Rotterdam from a different perspective, you can use our H2O Lounge boats or our H2O bikes.

We are extremely proud that many guests will again choose H2OTEL and welcome you to your next stay.

The main pillars for H2OTEL at a glance:

- Free WIFI
- Free coffee and tea in the rooms
- Floating terrace on the water
- Air conditioning in every room
- Parking options at 1 minute walking distance
- Luxury breakfast buffet
- Our own restaurant: De Kantine van Janssen
- The H2O lounge boats
- The H2O city bikes
- Meeting possibilities
- Parties, drinks and (wedding) parties

With floating greetings,

The H2OTEL Team



**Comenius College**

**Lijstersingel 18**

**2902JD Capelle aan den IJssel**

**Metro line C**



Comenius College is a school of secondary education that offers all levels of our national system, meaning from Practical VMBO till VWO. In this campus we have about 2500 students and our scope is regional, combining the city center of Rotterdam, the suburb of Capelle aan den IJssel and the wide countryside of different regions. Our school is specialized in internationalization, bilingual education and we do have excellent arts and exact science departments. We offer a variety of languages like Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish. Most of our students come from

the nearby area and countryside, but because of the metro stop in front of the school yet more students come from the Rotterdam City Centre. So we have a mixture of students. We have students from a lot of nationalities, partly of our Dutch history, but also of the latest migration waves. So, we do have a number of students involved in the project coming from other countries, but that's not a real problem. What is a problem nowadays is, that because of the economical crisis, some families have great difficulties in their daily life. They just have the minimum income and that is for Dutch standards not that much. As Rotterdam is a very international orientated city, we as a school would like to offer our students the opportunity to work in international surroundings as well. We think it is very important to let them experience the European Dimension in a lot of aspects and getting to know students from other European countries. Our school has started a bilingual department in 2010. That's another important reason why we focus on international projects like this one. The bilingual stream has reached the examination year, so the stream is completed from year one to year six. So we are proud to be the first school in our region to offer this great possibility to our students. We like to work on international topics that have real meaning for our students and teachers for now and in the future.