

OCTOBER 2022 | VOL. 7



TOUR UPDATE

The Newsletter of mikesworldtour



Tour Highlight:

October 2022
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



"Coffee" meets History

Contributed by Michael Davis



A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Netherlands stands for low-lying country, and was the name given to Holland in the medieval ages. The country is a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch, and still has territories in the Caribbean in the Lesser Antilles. The country is known for reclaiming land from the sea by draining lakes and marshes. After WWII the government encouraged emigration where 500,000 people left, but the country is still one of the most densely populated in the world. They are known for legalization of prostitution and soft drug (weed) use, and were the first country to legalize same sex marriage. According to Freedom House, the country has a score of 97 signifying free. This stems from the political rights given to its citizens as well as civil liberties.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Some quick tips for Amsterdam :

- There is a lot of things to see in Amsterdam so try and plan to see things in the same area
- There is a lot more to see beyond the Coffeeshops
- Public transport is cheap and widely available so take advantage

FOOD & DRINK

POFFERTJES



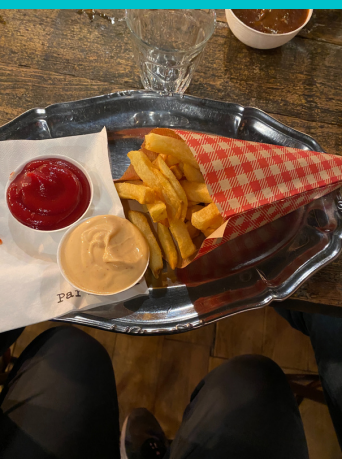
Poffertjes are small dutch pancakes that have various toppings on them. We got the banana nutella and kinder flavored ones. They were absolutely delicious and completely hit the spot. The pancake soaks the chocolate inside creating the best flavors. Highly recommend you try these in Amsterdam, and they can be found at any market.

OCEAN GLIZZIES



The official names of these are not called Ocean Glizzies, but following my glizzy stint in Copenhagen I decided that this would be the name for this incredible Dutch treat. It is pickled herring with raw onions and a pickle. It does not sound that great, but I promise you that it was amazing. You can also find these in markets.

FRIES



There are fries all over Amsterdam, so I definitely recommend you try them while you are there. They usually come with a variety of flavors including ketchup, sriracha mayo , and piri piri sauce. These are a great snack after a long day of walking around and maybe enjoying some other "vegetables" in Amsterdam.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

THE CHICKEN BAR



We went to this restaurant called The Chicken Bar, and it was really good. Chicken is really common in Amsterdam, and many dishes in restaurants have chicken as its base meat in a dish. This chicken sandwich was so good, and came with sriracha mayo and ketchup. We also got chicken wings there that were soooo good. After a long day of sightseeing this restaurant really hit the spot. I recommend making a reservation if you want to go here because it was very crowded once we got there and we had to wait about 20 minutes. Definitely a great place to check out!

EXPERIENCES

Amsterdam has so many things to do that it can be hard to fit it all in within a couple days. From the Coffeeshops and the Red Light District to the world famous museums there really is something to do for everyone. Make sure to not spend too much time enjoying the substances in Amsterdam because there are some other really good and cool places that you should see as well.

ROYAL PALACE



The Royal Palace in Amsterdam was built in 1655, and was built of over 13,000 wooden piles. It became property of the Kingdom of Netherlands in 1936. This was the home of King Louis Napoleon when he was the leader of the Netherlands. It is situated in Dam Square and is right in the middle of the city. The palace was used by the monarchs for state visits, and also to host various celebrations within the city. The yellow sandstone inside the palace was a notable feature at the time, and has darkened over the course of time.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

DE NEGEN STRAATJES



In English the Nine Little Streets is a UNESCO World Heritage site in Amsterdam. They have their own neighborhood in the city with small shops and restaurants. In the 1990s the streets wanted to bring tourists to the area, so they decided to promote themselves together. They did not initially like the name, but it stuck so it has stayed. In this area there are over 140 national monuments and many buildings are intact from the 18th century.

ALBERT CUYP MARKET

The Albert Cuyp Market (De Pijp) has been going on since 1905, and has everything from meat, fish, fruit, to clothes. Here I was able to try the ocean glizzy which I thoroughly enjoyed. They also have stroopwafels as well as other Dutch delicacies. This is a great place to try various foods local to the Netherlands and buy souvenirs. The entire market is outdoors with the vendors lining the street.



ANNE FRANK HOUSE



Photos inside the Anne Frank House are not allowed, so I included this picture of the outside. This was easily my favorite thing I did in Amsterdam. The museum is so well done, and tells the story of Anne Frank and the Holocaust so well. So much of this museum resonated with me, and you could feel the depth of the message and stories within the museum while inside. If you plan on visiting the museum, buying tickets in advance is a must. It usually sells out about two weeks in advance. We bought our tickets three weeks before which was ample time, but make sure you are prepared because this is a must see.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands



THE HEINEKEN EXPERIENCE



Heineken is brewed in Amsterdam, and shipped to the rest of the world. The facility was built in 1867, and was the company's primary brewing facility until 1988 when it moved to a more modern and advanced facility on the outskirts of the city. In the museum/brewery you get to learn about the history of Heineken as well as see how they brew their beer. It actually is a really cool process, but more importantly going into the museum gets you two free glasses of Heineken beer brewed in front of you. Highly recommend this because after learning about beer the only thing you can think about is drinking one.

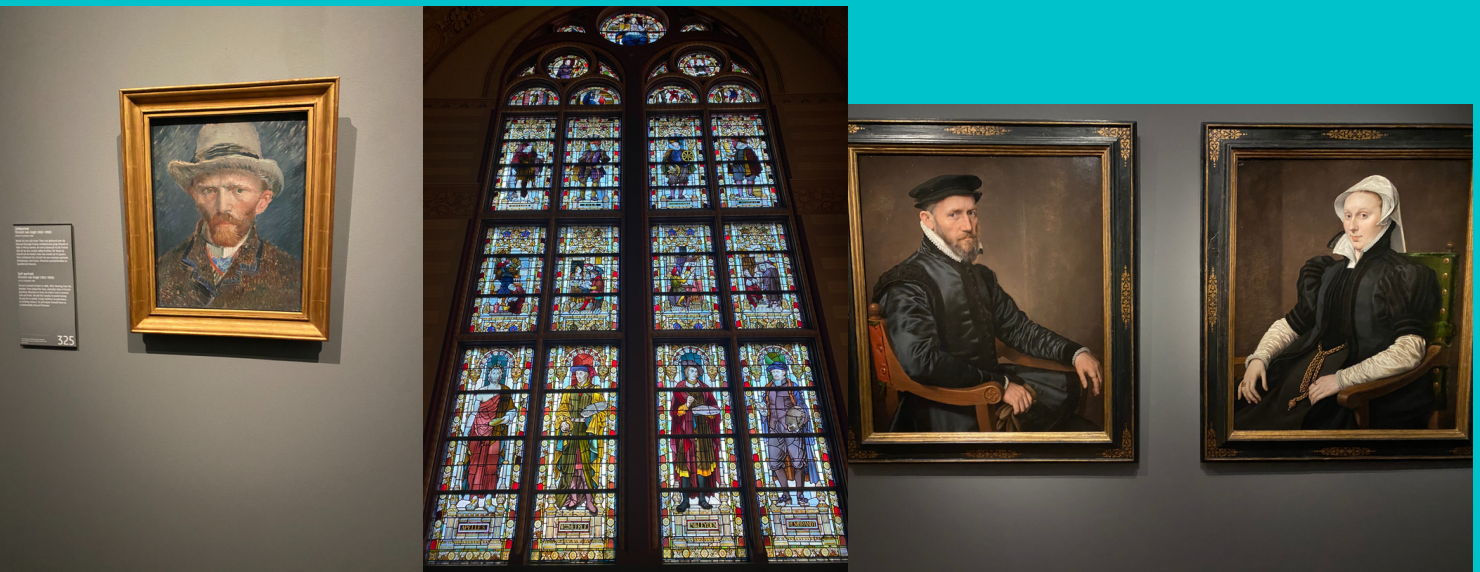
WIZINK CENTER

If you have the chance to go to a concert in Amsterdam, I would highly recommend seeing one at the WiZink center. It is a really popular destination for artists to perform due to its stage design. I saw the Kendrick Lamar concert here and it was a really fun time and cool experience.



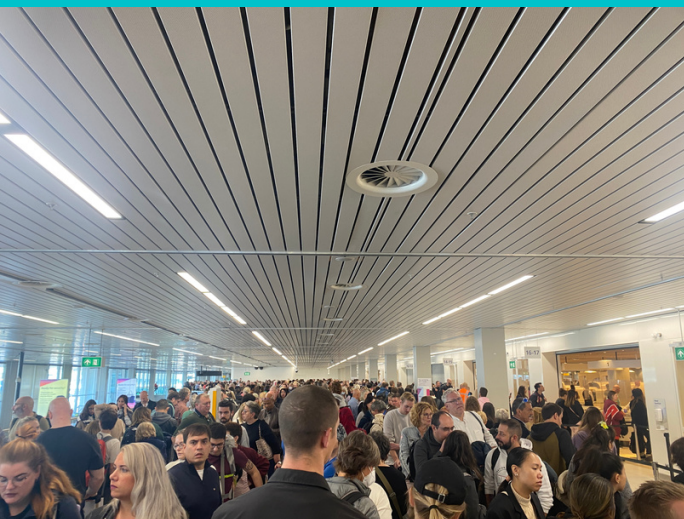
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

RIJKSMUSEUM



The national museum of the Netherlands is home to a plethora of Dutch art and history. It was moved to Amsterdam from the Hague in 1808, and is home to 8,000 objects of art and history from the years 1200-2000. It has Rembrandt, Frans Hals, and Johannes Vermeer. This museum is huge, and you easily could spend the whole day here getting lost in Dutch history. We spent about 2.5 hours here, and it did not feel like enough time, but I really enjoyed learning about the expansive Dutch history.

OCTOBER 2022 AIRPORT UPDATE



It is impossible to talk about visiting Amsterdam without mentioning the airport. In July of 2022 the airport became chaotic after many workers quit. This was because they had been getting an extra \$15 an hour added to their wage and it was being taken away. It is recommended to get to the airport about 4 hours early and we did just that. We waited in security for 2.5 hours, but I do know some people that have not had to wait. Rather be safe than sorry.

See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!