

Practical Information Amsterdam

Below some general information is provided that you might find to be useful.

Route description Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) – Amsterdam city centre

From Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) trains leave every 10-15 minutes for Amsterdam Central Station.

The average journey time from the Airport to Amsterdam or vice versa is about 20 minutes. The fastest intercity connection takes 13 minutes.

Tickets:

Train tickets can be purchased from counters at train station (main hall airport), ticket vending machines (with coins or ATM/Credit cards) and via the Dutch Railways website at www.ns.nl. Return tickets are cheaper than one-way tickets, although you should check their validity period – a standard return ticket is only valid on the same day. Weekend return tickets are available which are valid from Friday afternoon to and including Sunday. It is possible to buy travel passes for unlimited travel with trains, buses, trams and metros over a certain period.



Note that the difference between first and second class travel in trains is negligible, although first class could be more comfortable during rush hour, when trains tend to be overcrowded.

There is a high penalty for travelling on the train without a valid ticket.

By taxi:

Taxis are waiting outside the arrival hall and will bring you to Amsterdam in less than 25 minutes for about € 35,00 one way.



Amsterdam Public Transport System

Although the city centre's compact size means that most areas and sights are within walking distance of each other, Amsterdam's public transport network (called 'GVB', a Dutch acronym) is efficient, reliable, inexpensive and widely used. One million passengers criss-cross the city by tram, bus, underground metro line and ferry every day. Please note that due to the construction of a new underground line parts of and around the Amsterdam Central Station are inaccessible.

PT Smart Card / OV Chipkaart

The OV-chipkaart (PT Smart Card) is the way to pay for public transport in Amsterdam. You can travel using just one card, whether it is in the train, bus, tram or metro. The OV-chipkaart is the size of a credit card and has a built-in chip. You can reload this as often as you like, with a balance in euros. For short visits a disposable OV-chipkaart is advised.

You can buy disposable cards at:

- GVB Tickets & Info (Municipal Transport Company) across from the Central Station (Open: Monday to Friday, 7am - 9pm and Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 6pm);
- Metrostation Weesperplein (Open: Monday to Friday, 7am - 6pm);
- The Ticket Vending and Add Value machines; and
- With tram and bus drivers and conductors.

At the Ticket Vending and Add Value machines you can pay cash and with PIN, chip or credit card. A disposable card already carries a travel product and cannot be recharged.

Tickets for public transport are sold at many locations in and around Amsterdam. Where to buy which ticket:

Using the OV Chipkaart:

Step 1 Reload

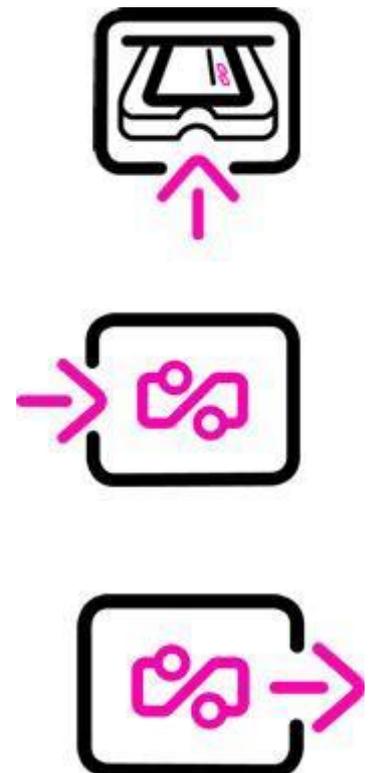
In order to travel using your Public Transport Smart Card (OV-chipkaart), the E-purse balance on the card must be sufficient or there must be a travel product, such as a season ticket, on the card. You can buy a season ticket at one of our Tickets & Info service points. You can reload your e-purse at any of the Ticket Vending and Add Value Machines located in all our metro stations and metro stops.

Step 2 Check in

When you start your journey, hold your card up to the logo on the card reader. At metro stations, card readers are built into the gates. At metro stops yellow card readers are located on freestanding pillars. The system checks whether your E-purse balance is sufficient or if there is a season ticket on your card. If so, the card reader gives a signal you can see and hear. The gate opens.

Step 3 Check out

At the end of your journey hold your card up to the logo on the card reader. In the metro stations, the card readers are built into the gates. At metro stops yellow card readers are located on freestanding pillars. If you are using your e-purse to travel, the system deducts the fare.



Rules for using the OV Chipkaart

Always check in and out.

Travel with the OV-chipkaart means that you must always check in and check out at the gates or the yellow card readers.

- o Not checked in and no valid travel product on your card? That means you are evading the fare. You are risking a fine of € 37,50.
- o Not checked in or out, and no valid travel product on your card? Instead of the usual fare you now pay € 4,00 for your trip.
- o Not checked in or out? That means there is an incomplete transaction on your card.

Your card will be disabled if there are twelve incomplete transactions on your card in two weeks. You must then get the card restored at one of our Tickets & Info service points.

One hour ticket

In the tram and in the bus you can buy a 1-hour ticket (a disposable chipcard). The ticket is also available at the GVB Tickets & Info counters and from the Ticket vending machines in the metro stations. With this ticket you can travel for one hour on all GVB tram-, bus- and metro lines. The ticket is only valid on GVB lines, changing to Connexion of Arriva is not possible. The price: € 3,00

Validity

The validity starts after the first check-in. Within the validity period you can change to other GVB lines. When the time has expired, the ticket is no longer usable. The 1-hour ticket is NOT valid on the GVB night buses.

1 day – 7 days ticket

GVB day or multiple day tickets entitle you to unlimited travel through Amsterdam - day and night - by tram, bus and metro, for the number of hours that best suit your plans. For example the 1 day ticket is valid for 24 hours from the time you first check in.

Prices in 2018

24 hours (1 day)	€ 7,50
48 hours (2 days)	€ 12,50
72 hours (3 days)	€ 17,50
96 hours (4 days)	€ 22,50
120 hours (5 days)	€ 27,50
144 hours (6 days)	€ 31,50
168 hours (7 days)	€ 34,50



Sales points Day tickets

GVB day tickets are available:

- ☐ GVB Tickets & Info service outlets
- ☐ from tram- and bus drivers and conductors (only the 24-hours ticket)
- ☐ Ticket Vending Machines in the metro stations
- ☐ at VVV Amsterdam Tourist Offices
- ☐ at various hotels, camping sites, bookstores and other institutions

For more information on tram, bus or metro, see the GVB website at www.gvb.nl

Taxi

Throughout the city centre, and most certainly near the Central Station Taxistands at the west entrance/exit, there are several taxi stands.

The main taxi company of Amsterdam is TCA (Taxi Centrale Amsterdam).

Telephone number: +31 20 777 7777.

Bicycle

With 600,000 bicycles for its 750,000 residents, in Amsterdam it's rare for more than a few seconds to pass before a bike zips by. Cycling is a way of life here; The people from Amsterdam and the Dutch people in general use their bicycles as a means of everyday transportation, whether commuting to

work in a business suit, shopping for groceries or getting the kids to school. The 400 kilometers of bike lanes and paths in Amsterdam alone make it easy for visitors to experience the city by bike for themselves. It can be a good idea to first check out the local road rules. The ECPG and local organizers cannot be held responsible for any injuries. The closest place to rent a bike from is Rijwielservice Weesperplein, you can rent a bike for only 12,50 a day but you do need to reserve the bike in advance because they run out quickly: <http://rijwielserviceweesperplein.nl/index.php/bikerental/>. The University of Amsterdam has ample space to stall your bike.

The I amsterdam City Card

The [I amsterdam City Card](#) gives you free admission to the city's main museums, a free canal cruise and free public transportation. The I amsterdam City Card also entitles you to 25 percent discount at various attractions and restaurants. The I amsterdam City Card is available for 24 hours (€ 40,00), 48 hours (€ 50,00) or 72 hours (€ 60,00).



Amsterdam facts & figures

Currency

The Netherlands uses the euro (€) as its currency. Major credit cards are accepted at most large businesses in Amsterdam.

Language

Dutch is the official language of the Netherlands. English is widely spoken in Amsterdam. Many people here also command several other foreign languages, such as German and French.

Safety & Crime

Amsterdam is considered as a relatively safe city. In general, violent crimes do not occur very often. However, be aware of pick-pocketing; Pickpockets are mainly active in the summer and in the train travelling between Amsterdam Central Station and Schiphol Airport.

They can also find you in a tram or when you are watching one of the many street artists perform. Watch your belongings carefully.

National Emergency numbers

Police, fire brigade, ambulance: tel.: 112
National number police, no emergency: tel.: +31 900 8844

General opening hours

Shops

Monday: 11.00 - 18.00

Tuesday – Saturday: 09.00 - 18.00

Thursday evening: until 21.00

Sunday: 12.00 – 17.00

Offices

Monday - Friday: 09.00 - 18.00



Banks

Most banks are open from Tuesday to Friday between 09:00 and 16:00 hr. On Mondays business hours start mainly at 13:00 hr. On Saturdays and Sundays banks are closed. GWK offices are open 7 days a week and can be found at Schiphol Airport and Amsterdam Central Station.

ATMs are available at Schiphol Airport and throughout the city.

Credit cards

Electronic transactions and ATMs are common.

Visa, MasterCard and American Express are generally accepted.

Electricity

Within The Netherlands 230 Volts/50 Hertz electrical supply is used. Visitors may need converters and adapters.

Weather

The Netherlands has a mild North Sea climate, with moderate temperatures. In the summer it seldom gets warmer than 28° C (82° F). No matter what time of year you visit Amsterdam, there is one thing you can count on: the weather can change quickly, so dress in layers!

Packing tips

Regardless of the season, we recommend you pack an umbrella, a sweater and perhaps even a scarf. It's also a good idea to bring some comfortable walking shoes that can handle several hours of sightseeing!

Embassies and consulates

Dutch embassies and consulates abroad and foreign embassies and consulates in the Netherlands can be found on www.government.nl/ministries/bz.

Information on applying for a visa:

<https://www.government.nl/topics/visa-for-the-netherlands-and-the-caribbean-parts-of-the-kingdom>

Whether a prospective visitor requires a visa depends on her or his nationality and how long she or he intends to stay in the Netherlands. Nationals of many countries require a visa for an uninterrupted stay of up to three months.

Tourist information centers in Amsterdam

Please note: the offices and agencies do not accept 200 or 500 euro banknotes.

[Stationsplein](#)

Noord-Zuid Hollands Koffiehuis

Stationsplein 10 (across from Central Station)

Tel: +31 (0)20 201 8800

General opening times: Monday - Saturday 09:00 -17:00; Sunday 10:00 - 17:00

[Holland Tourist Information](#)

Schiphol Airport, Arrivals 2 at Schiphol Plaza

Tel: +31 (0)20 201 8800

Opening times: Monday - Sunday 07:00 - 22:00

Please visit this website for more practical information: www.iamsterdam.com