



RIPE65

Your guide to
Amsterdam

Hotel Okura
24-28 SEPT 2012





Introduction

Yes, we're back in Amsterdam but this time in a whole new part of town. Welcome to RIPE 65 in the beautiful Hotel Okura in Amsterdam's De Pijp neighbourhood.

Since many of you probably aren't familiar with this part of town, we've asked some RIPE NCC'ers that live in the area to share their favourite restaurants, bars, clubs and other attractions worth checking out.

Of course, one thing we can't help you with is the weather. This summer has been a bit unpredictable but then, it kind of always is. Either way, we hoped you packed an umbrella, a sweater and who knows, maybe some shorts (if we get lucky!).

...and remember, the same rule still applies: ALWAYS LOOK BOTH WAYS when crossing the street. There are just as many bikes in this part of town as there are near Dam Square.

Listen out for bells, keep on the sidewalks, cross with the lights, and always look both ways before crossing.

And be sure to follow #RIPE65 on Twitter for all the latest updates.

Have a great RIPE 65 everyone!



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Health and Safety

Amsterdam is a pretty safe city and violent crimes are rare here. Visitors can feel comfortable walking around De Pijp at night without feeling intimidated. Do be cautious of petty crimes however, such as theft.

Pickpockets

As like most large European cities, tourists are a target for crafty pickpockets. Be especially cautious with your belongings in Amsterdam Central Station, along the busy Damrak, and in the Red Light District. Don't carry a large amount of cash in your wallet as a precaution.

Smoking

Amsterdam passed non-smoking legislation a few years ago. Bars and restaurants have circumvented this by creating "smoking rooms" that are walled-in and separate from the non-smoking areas. Some small cafes and bars ignore this law, so don't be surprised if you're in a cafe that has non-smoking signs on the wall, and ashtrays on all the tables.

Drugs

In Amsterdam, you are allowed to purchase and consume small amounts of soft drugs (marijuana and hashish) in "coffee shops." Hard drugs are strictly illegal. There are shady looking men in the Red Light District trying to sell hard drugs (often fake) to tourists. Ignore them and just keep walking.



If there's a strong skunky smell emanating from the shop and a green symbol in the window...it's the kind of coffee shop that sells more than coffee.

Important Numbers

In case of emergency: 112

Police: 0900 8844

Doctor hotline: 0900 592 34 34

Getting Around Town

There are many ways to get around Amsterdam. It's relatively small in size compared to most other major European cities, and it's flat so walking everywhere is pretty easy going.

Taxi



TCA is the official licensed taxi provider in Amsterdam. You can hail a taxi easily from the street or call one in advance. The base fare for 1-4 passengers is EUR 2.65 and EUR 1.95 per kilometre. For 5-8 passengers, the base fare is EUR 5.40 and EUR 2.46 per kilometre.

You can order a taxi by calling +31 (0) 20 777 7777 or online at www.tcataxi.nl.

Bicycle



There's no better way to see Amsterdam's sites than by bike. If you're short on time but still want to explore the city, cycling is the way to go. Fees are about EUR 15 per day. Why not share the leg-work with a fellow attendee and rent a tandem?

Nearby Bike Rental Locations:

Het Zwarte Fietsenplan
(EUR 15/24hrs)
Maasstraat 106-108
www.hetzwartefietsenplan.nl

Ajax Bike
(EUR 8.50/day)
Gerard Doustraat 153
www.ajaxbike.nl

Public Transportation

Amsterdam runs an efficient network of trams, buses and a metro line. Tram 25 (nearest stop: Cornelis Troostplein) will take you from the Okura into the centre of Amsterdam. Trams run until just past midnight in most cases, and night buses run all night.

Fares cost EUR 2.60/1 hr, EUR 7.50/24hrs, EUR 12.00/48hrs, EUR 16.00/72hrs (and so on) and can be purchased on the tram.



Phrases

Dutch is the native language in the Netherlands, but most Amsterdammers speak fluent English (and several other languages). So, you won't need to speak Dutch to communicate effectively in Amsterdam, but it sure is fun trying. Some tips on pronunciation: ui = ow, ee = ay, ie = ee, and j's are pronounced as y's.

We suggest having a go at these useful words and phrases:

Delicious/good	<i>Lekker</i>
Pretty/nice	<i>Mooi (moy)</i>
Please/you're welcome	<i>Alstublieft (als-too-bleeft)</i>
Thanks/Thank you	<i>Bedankt/dank u/dank je</i>
May I...?	<i>Mag ik...? (mak ick)</i>
What	<i>Wat (vaht)</i>
Where	<i>Waar (vaar)</i>
When	<i>Wanneer (vawn-ear)</i>
Why	<i>Waarom (vaar-ohm)</i>
Who	<i>Wie (vee)</i>
How much is this?	<i>Hoeveel kost dit? (who-veil...)</i>
I don't know	<i>Ik weet het niet</i>
How are you?	<i>Hoe gaat het met jou?</i>
Fine thanks, and you?	<i>Goed, dank je. En met jou?</i>
Cheers!	<i>Proost! (proh st)</i>
Do you speak English?	<i>Spreek u Engels?</i>
One beer, please	<i>Een biertje, alstublieft</i>
The cheque, please	<i>De rekening, alstublieft</i>



Places to Eat

Although Dutch cuisine isn't exactly on the tips of well-heeled foodies' tongues, the city's gastronomes have little reason to moan about the lack of excitement on their plates these days. Amsterdam's restaurant scene has improved drastically over the past ten years. Whether you fancy a modern take on Dutch favourites, something exotic and spicy or just simple ingredients cooked well, you'll find it here.

If you need something quick and greasy, there's the quintessentially Dutch wall-of-deep-fried-snacks FEBO (Ferdinand Bosstraat 89B) and McDonalds (Albert Cuypstraat 75).

Visaandeschelde (4)

www.visaandeschelde.nl

Scheldeplein 4

+31 (0)20 675 1583

A popular seafood restaurant with a nice atmosphere and good service. Reservation necessary.

La Vina Experience (5)

www.lavinaexperience.nl

Maasstraat 72

+31 (0)20 662 04 48

Great place for a small group. Excellent wine list and seasonal mediterranean fare. Reservation necessary.

Burgermeester (6)

www.burgermeester.eu

Albert Cuypstraat 48

A bustling burger joint offering a selection of gourmet burgers to satisfy any taste (beef, lamb, chicken, fish, vegetarian). There are only a few tables though, and it's quite busy so be prepared for a queue. Oh, and no chips/fries!

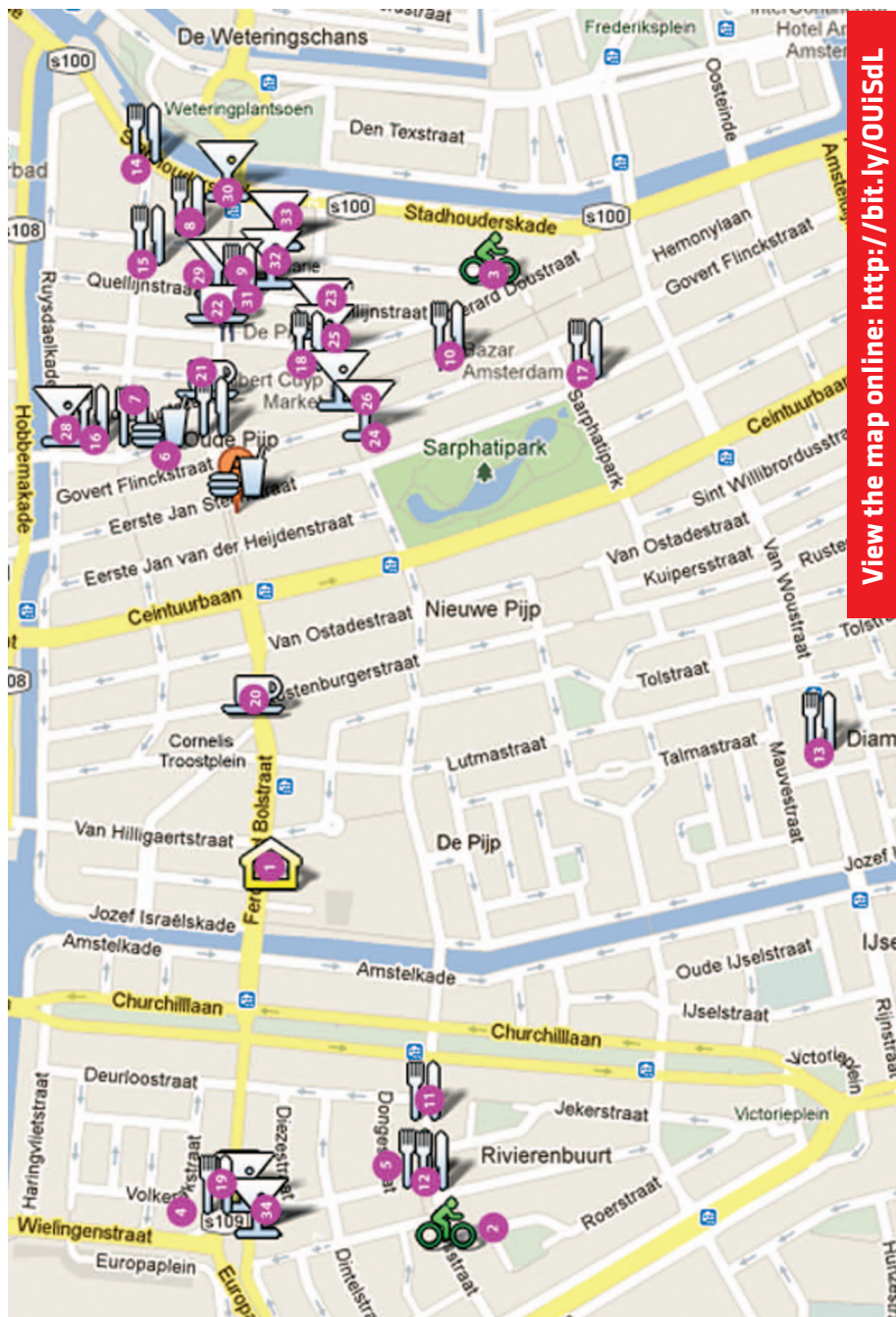
Balti House Indian Restaurant (7)

www.baltihouse.nl

Albert Cuypstraat 41

+31 (0)20 470 8917

Recommended Restaurants and Bars



One of the best, if not THE best, Indian restaurants in town offering modestly priced authentic dishes from several regional cuisines. It's a big place, so reservations are not necessarily needed.

Siriphon Thai Restaurant (8)

1e Jacob van Campenstraat 47
+31 (0) 20 676 80 72

A small, family run neighbourhood establishment offering reasonably sized Thai favourites at modest prices. Most locals opt for take-away, so tables are usually available.

l'Ozio (9)

www.ozioamsterdam.com

Ferdinand Bolstraat 26
+31 (0) 20 470 81 83

A highly reviewed Italian "eetcafe" with a changing monthly menu. A seasonal four-course tasting menu is EUR 30, a great deal for such high quality cuisine!

Bazar (10)

www.bazaramsterdam.nl

Albert Cuypstraat 182
+31 (0) 20 675 05 44

A great place for a big group. Bazar, located in an old church, serves great value Turkish and Mediterranean cuisine. The kitchen is open until midnight, too.

Mi Sueno (11)

www.mi-sueno.nl

Maasstraat 40
+31 (0) 20 471 11 03

MEAT! Eat the steak "of your dreams" at

this nearby Argentinean steakhouse located a short stroll from the meeting venue. Also has fish and vegetarian dishes.

Cafe Goos (12)

www.cafegoos.nl

Maasstraat 74
+31 (0) 20 6793 443

Part of the sustainable food movement, Cafe Goos offers hearty Dutch food sourced from local suppliers.

Revan (13)

www.restaurantrevan.nl

Van Woustraat 206-212
+31 (0) 20 470 0347

Fantastic Turkish food.

Otaru (14)

www.otaru.nl

Frans Halsstraat 2
+31 (0) 20 670 8972

If you're looking for sushi that won't leave you debt-ridden, try Otaru, a ten minute walk from the Okura. Also serves Japanese grill dishes. It's quite big so you can go with a large group but best to book in advance if you're with more than six people.

Waaghals (15)

www.waaghals.nl

Frans Halsstraat 29
+31 (0) 20 679 9609

A long-standing favourite with local vegetarians serving organic non-carnivorous fare.

Braque (16)

caferestaurantbraque.com

Albert Cuypstraat 29-31
+31 (0) 20 670 7357

This is a relaxed cafe/restaurant that serves both good food and wine and is about a 10 minute walk from the Okura.

Le Restaurant (17)

www.lerestaurant.nl

Tweede Jan Steenstraat 3
+31 (0) 20 379 22 07

A Michelin-starred restaurant within walking distance from the Hotel Okura, serving a range of international style cuisine and fine wine to suit. Reservations are essential!

The French Cafe (18)

www.thefrenchcafe.nl

Gerard Doustraat 98
+31 (0)20 47 003 01

A very popular French restaurant in the heart of the Pijp. Reserve a table well in advance.

Ciel Bleu

www.cielbleu.nl

Hotel Okura
+31 (0)20 678 74 50

Enjoy sumptuous French-inspired innovative cuisine at this Michelin-star restaurant. Reservation recommended.

Teppanyaki Sezanka

www.sezanka.nl

Hotel Okura
+31 (0) 20 678 74 50

Another top-rated restaurant in the Hotel Okura. Sezanka is a great place for small groups. Delicious fish, meat and vegetable dishes prepared on a hot griddle in front of you. Reservation recommended.

Yamazato

www.yamazato.nl

Hotel Okura
+31 (0)20 678 74 50

Michelin-star Japanese in a serene setting. Another famous restaurant inside the Hotel Okura. Incredible sushi!

Need some snacks for your room? The nearest grocery store is Albert Heijn, Cornelis Troostplein 11. Open from 08:00 to 22:00 daily.

Undecided?

Scheldestraat

Just a short walk from the venue, the Scheldestraat is South Amsterdam's finest restaurant street. Choose from Italian, Dutch, Chinese, Japanese, Pakistani and Indonesian to name just a few. Here's our top picks:

- Sapporo (Japanese) www.sapporo.nl
- Het Vleigertje (Dutch) www.vliegertje.nl
- Oceana (Chinese) www.restaurantocena.nl

- Djago (Indonesian) www.restaurantdjago.nl

Heinekenplein

Eating, drinking and partying doesn't come easier at the Heinekenplein. Head here if you're with a large group as the bars are spacious and all serve food too.

Early Riser?

If you need a bite to eat or a coffee on your way to the Okura, here are some nearby places:

- @seven** - Scheldestraat 92 (19)
- Le Pain Quotidien** - Cornelis Troostplein 2 (20)
- Bagel & Beans** - Ferdinand Bolstraat 70 (21)
- Coffee Company** - Ferdinand Bolstraat 38 (22)

Places to Drink

Het Paardje (23)

www.booz.nl/Het-Paardje

Gerard Douplein 1

Great modern bar with a terrace (if the weather cooperates).

De Duvel (24)

www.deduvel.nl

1e Van der Helststraat 59-61

A popular restaurant in the evening and bar/club at night. DJs feature on the weekends.

Pilsvogel (25)

pilsvogel.nl

Gerard Douplein 14

A popular Dutch bar in De Pijp.

The Chocolate Bar (26)

www.chocolate-bar.nl

1e van der Helststraat 62a

A trendy cafe-by-day, club-by-night. Come and enjoy a cocktail in their sixties/seventies style decor.

D'overkant (27)

www.overkant.nl

Scheldestraat 101

A popular place with the locals throughout the week. It even has a small

dance floor.

Cafe Binnen Buiten (28)

Ruysdaelkade 115

+386 (0) 1 251 3243

A real local's bar. It's usually filled with a fairly young crowd that spills out onto the streets on warm evenings.

Kingfisher(29)

www.kingfishercafe.nl

Ferdinand Bolstraat 24

Just opposite the Marie Heinekenplein, great little bar with tasty snacks served all evening.

Café Berkhout (30)

www.cafeberkhout.nl

Stadhouderskade 77

Curl up on a brown leather couch and relax at this beautifully refurbished brown cafe.

O'Donnel's Irish Pub (31)

www.odonnellsirishpub.com

Marie Heinekenplein

Come here for a pint, a whisky, an Irish stew and a glimpse of the football game.



Beer with your foam?

Don't be alarmed when a quarter of your *biertje* is foam. It's the Dutch style of pouring lager. Just give it a few minutes before you take a sip or you'll be sporting a frothy moustache for the rest of the evening.

Cafe Kale de Groot (32)

www.cafekale.nl

Marie Heinekenplein

A popular choice with both locals and tourists for its cozy atmosphere, food and drinks.

Whisky Café L&B (off map)

www.whiskyproeverijen.nl

Korte Leidsedwaarsstraat 82-84

For the whisky fans. This tiny little whisky bar's menu has more than 1,350 kinds of whisky, Scotch, malt and usquebea from Scotland, Ireland, Canada, America and even Japan. The bartenders have discerning taste, so don't ask for ice in your bourbon, whatever you do.

Barca (33)

www.barca.nl

Marie Heinekenplein

Super stylish Spanish bar and restaurant with tasty tapas and an extensive drink menu.

Tabac

www.cafetabac.nl

Brouwersgracht 101

This place is nowhere near the Okura BUT it is right around the corner from the RIPE 65 dinner venue, so a good place to go for a post-dinner tipple.

Places to Visit

For such a small city, Amsterdam boasts an incredible number of museums, galleries and other intriguing places worth visiting. If you've got a few hours to spare, here are our top recommendations for taking in the city's best attractions:



Amsterdam Historical Museum

www.ahm.nl

Kalverstraat 62

A history of Amsterdam through art and artifacts in a beautiful 17th-century building.



Van Gogh Museum

www.vangoghmuseum.nl

Paulus Potterstraat 7

Come here to see the world's largest collection of paintings and drawings from Vincent van Gogh.



Rijksmuseum

www.rijksmuseum.nl

Jan Luijkenstraat 1

The Netherlands national museum, home of Rembrandt's Nightwatch, as well as several paintings by Vermeer, van Dyck and Jan Steen.



Anne Frank House

www.annefrank.org

Prinsengracht 267

A melancholic and humbling experience for visitors. Buy your tickets in advance to avoid the long queue.



Vondelpark

The city's "Central Park" - a beautiful place to go for a bike ride, a stroll, or a nap on the grass. There are several bars and cafes in the park if you find yourself a bit parched.



Heineken Experience

www.heinekenexperience.com

This popular attraction consists of a 90-minute interactive tour in the original Heineken brewery.

Other (Nearby) Fun Stuff



Knijn Bowling (34)

www.knijnbowling.nl

Scheldeplein 3

+31 (0)20 664 2211

Striiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiike! Are you a bonafide Big Lebowski at the lane? Grab a group of RIPE 65-ers and head to this bowling lane/bar/snack bar for some fun times.



Rent a Boat with Boaty

www.boaty.nl

+31 (0)20 627 149 493

If the weather is being agreeable and you've got a few hours to spare, why not captain your own boat along Amsterdam's canals? Boats fit up to six people and cost EUR 79-99 per three hours.

Useful Info

RIPE 65 takes place at the Hotel Okura in Amsterdam.

Hotel Okura Amsterdam
Ferdinand Bolstraat 333
1072 LH Amsterdam
T: + 31 (0)20 678 71 11

For more information about RIPE 65, visit:
[*ripe65.ripe.net*](http://ripe65.ripe.net)

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