

## **Amsterdam travel diary**

From September 26 to September 30 we went on a study trip to the Netherlands, more precisely to the capital Amsterdam.

### **Monday, September 26, 2022**

On Monday, we met in Berlin to catch the train that would take us to Amsterdam. Unfortunately, our train was about twenty minutes late. After a very long train ride (over seven hours), we finally arrived in Amsterdam where we had to change trains to get to our hotel. Our hotel was located near the Amstel River, the only real river in Amsterdam. After receiving the key cards for the rooms, we headed out to buy something to eat.

### **Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

On the second day, we had breakfast at the hotel around 7:30 am. Around 9:00 we heard presentations from two of our classmates. Then we took the train to the central of Amsterdam where we had a city tour at 10:00. Our city guide told us that Amsterdam would fit twice the area of Bavaria and that in 2030 there would be 1 million inhabitants living there. Another thing to know is that the cost of living there is very high and many students cannot afford such a thing. The next fact also affects the students, because of the lack of space, a lot of students from abroad are not admitted. Due to the lack of space, the streets are very narrow, so many people ride bicycles to work. Also, it is very expensive to have a car because the tickets for parking are very expensive. You have to pay about 6 to 7 euros per hour and it's really hard to even find a parking space because there is a lack of space. Our city guide also told us about the red light district, which is very dangerous because of the pickpockets and gangs. After our city tour, we had free time to explore the city and stores for our food and other things.

### **Wednesday, September 28, 2022**

Our breakfast was around 7:45 am in the hotel. After that, we again travelled by train back to the central of Amsterdam and after that with a ship to get to our next events. The first thing we did was "This is Holland" which is a 5D animation. Beforehand you learn about the history of the city in small videos and you can test yourself with a quiz. After that, we visited the A'DAM lookout which is a tower where you can overlook the city. You can stand outside and indoors to have a look around the city. Inside the tower is also a cafe where you can sit and enjoy the view. Around 3:30 pm we had a cheese tasting where we tried sheep, goats, and cow cheese. We also watched a film there about how cheese is made. After that, we again had some free time.

### **Thursday, September 29, 2022**

We had our breakfast around 7:30 am in the hotel. After that, we again travelled to the center of Amsterdam to make a canal cruise with a ship. We got an audio guide that told us a few things about the canals and the architecture of the houses.

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After that, we had free time to go have a look around the city and to go shopping.

### **Friday, September 30, 2022**

We ate breakfast around 8:00 am after that we packed our luggage. Around 11:00 am we checked out and waited for our train. We travelled back to the central of Amsterdam and switched trains to get back to Berlin.

After 7 hours we arrived in Berlin around 10:15pm

### **Summary**

Amsterdam is a beautiful and modern city in comparison to Berlin. In the supermarkets you can check yourself out. And the majority of people only use cards to pay. In some stores you can only pay with your cards and not in cash. On the train stations you also need to check yourself in and out with train tickets to be able to enter and exit the stations.

Amsterdam has very pretty canals which is why many people do a tour on them. Some people even come to see only the canals because there are very few cities with something like that.

The city also has very interesting museums which are fully booked most of the time. For example, to get tickets for the Anne Frank Museum you have to book two months in advance. Even though the city is very beautiful and modern, the city is also very dangerous because of the red-light district. There are many gangs and thieves in those districts.

