

# AmsterdamTips

See **Getting Around** below to get to the hotel, and read our [Packing Tips for Amsterdam](#).

## Amsterdam Sights And Maps

An annotated [Google Map around the Moevenpick](#) is available. NOTE: there has been significant construction since the Google satellite images were taken!

The comprehensive description of sights Amsterdam has to offer is available at Steven Pemberton's website <http://homepages.cwi.nl/~steven/amsterdam.html>.

David Reid has posted a [Feathercast](#) Podcast about visiting Amsterdam for ApacheCon.

## Walking in Amsterdam

Reminder: bicycles and trams are major transportation options in Amsterdam. When walking on most streets, be sure to stay on the sidewalk. There will often be a narrow red roadway with a dashed line; this is only for bikes and mopeds. Then there will be one or more lanes for cars. Then there will also be a set of tram tracks. This makes for interesting sets of stoplights (cars, bikes, trams, and crosswalks).

## Getting Around / Getting to the Hotel

This may not be the best way to get from the airport to the hotel and back, but it'll do the job! We definitely recommend taking the train to Centraal, since a cab to the hotel is 37EUR.

- Get the train from Amsterdam Schiphol to Amsterdam Centraal. Don't get a return (unless you're going back the same day). A single should cost you c. 3.60EUR. Note there are various Train Ticket machines that may accept your credit/debit card. To pay with cash, go to the station entrance itself (at edge of airport) and go to a human teller; there is a .50EUR fee for this per ticket.
- (EITHER) When you get to Amsterdam Centraal, get a ticket for the local transport - [mostly trams run by GVB](#). You can get day passes from the GVB Tickets & Info place in the station (or at the machines, as long as you don't want a 96h one) - 24h->7EUR; 48h->11.50EUR; 72h->14.50EUR; 96h->17.50EUR. If you don't think you'll use that much transport, get a "strippenkaart". Travelling with the strippenkaart "costs" one strip per journey, plus one strip per zone. So a 1-zone journey is 2 strips, a 2-zone journey is 3 strips etc. Costs are 2-strip->1.60EUR; 3-strip->2.40EUR; 8-strip->6.40EUR (this also works as a day ticket, but I'm not sure how); 15-strip->6.90EUR; 45-strip->20.40EUR
- That's the hard part over! Exit Centraal Station and walk all the way down to the end of the station (to your left, if your back is to the station). This is the side towards the buses and trams; if you are facing a "large" canal, you're on the wrong side of the station (there's a small canal right behind the bus/tram stops tho - lots of canals!).
- The line for Tram 26 should be the one nearest to the station, at this end. If it's not, you've gone the wrong direction 😊
- Get on Tram 26 (it only goes one direction past here - IJburg), and stamp your card (2-strips, if it's a strippenkaart). Go one stop, to the Musiekgebouw, and alight.
- Cross the tram lines, then the bike path, and walk down a bit to your right, until you find a [black arched pedestrian bridge](#). Go over the bridge, down the steps to your left, and double back underneath the bridge - you're at the hotel!
- **(OR) Walk!** In this case, the easiest way is to go out of Centraal to the north, through the construction, and facing the large canal. Walk straight across the major street alongside the canal (wait for the light).
- Turn right, so you are heading east; keep the large canal on your left. Walk along the canal until you come to a very wide and long bridge sloping gently upwards.
- Walk over the wide bridge until you are almost to the Moevenpick; turn left onto the [black arched pedestrian bridge](#).
- Turn left (away from the hotel), walk down the wooden steps, then turn left around and along the ground level to the front of the Moevenpick.
- Note: you cannot walk behind the Moevenpick along the canal; there's construction and fences.
- Taxis can be picked up at taxi ranks at various places. The fare from the airport to Moevenpick is about 37EUR; the fare from Centraal to Moevenpick is about 8.50EUR

## Moevenpick Guide

If you're staying at the Moevenpick, here are some key tips - especially tips for US travelers to the continent. We also have a [Packing List](#) of things you might not think of.

- The Moevenpick staff is very helpful and polite, and any major hotel staff will speak english.
- Once you get into your room, take your room key and insert it into the small silver box on the wall inside of the room. This is in the same location and the first light switch in US hotel rooms, and serves the same purpose.
- Full breakfast is available downstairs until about 10AM for an additional charge.
- In the Moevenpick, the light on the far side of the room will turn on the first time you turn on any light. An exercise to the reader is left to figure out how to turn that light off, without removing your room card from the electric switch.
- Moevenpick Rooms are small but tastefully appointed.
- Moevenpick private baths include showers only, with no shower curtain. The left hand knob on the shower controls the water volume, and the right hand knob controls the temperature.
- Turn on the TV and try going into the bathroom. There's no volume control in there, though.

## Restaurant and Bar Guide

Anyone want to comment on their favorite places to eat? Reminder: many shops and some restaurants may close earlier than you are used to.

For dining, you can simply walk down Leidseplein and find a wide variety of places. [Steven Pemberton's website](#) is an excellent resource as well.