

5.5 Video

Architecture in Amsterdam

Amsterdam is the capital city of The Netherlands, in the north-west of Europe. It's a very popular place for tourists. Around 4.6 million people visit the city every year. But what do they do here?

When people visit Amsterdam, they often take a boat trip on the city's famous canals. From here, they see the canal houses. These buildings are hundreds of years old and today they are symbols of the city. A lot of these houses are now museums, and tourists sometimes go inside. But they usually just stay on the boat and enjoy the views. A lot of the city's important buildings are along here.

This is Amsterdam Centraal, the city's main railway station. It's in the city centre and it's about 130 years old.

With about 250,000 passengers every day, it's usually very busy here. But visitors don't always come to travel. They often come to see the building itself. Amsterdam Centraal has wonderful designs on the walls and a very unusual clock. Amsterdam's famous Rijksmuseum is very similar. It's about 140 years old and it's very near the centre. It has wonderful art on the walls. Tourists often come to enjoy the building's fantastic design. But not every building in Amsterdam is old. There are lots of exciting and modern buildings all over the city.

This is the Muziekgebouw – a concert hall for modern music. It is on the canal and it's very near Amsterdam Centraal. But this building is very different. It's a very interesting design and at the side is a large black box – the Bimhuis, a special space for jazz.

This is another unusual building in the city – the NEMO science centre. It's twenty-two metres tall and it has a huge copper roof. Visitors often go to the top because of the great views over the whole city.

Amsterdam has all kinds of architecture. From the Rijksmuseum to the Bimhuis, from Centraal to NEMO, the city is a fantastic mix of the old and the new.