

Amsterdam Transport Information

Lecturer Version

1 How to get around in Amsterdam

1.1 General Notes On Getting Around in The Netherlands

Amsterdam can be reached easily via train. From outside the Netherlands, it can be reached with the Dutch high-speed train Fyra, the Belgian Thalys, the French TGV and the German Deutsche Bahn. The Dutch website for high-speed connections outside the Netherlands is <http://www.nshispeed.nl/en>, tickets can be ordered on that website directly. There is an extensive railway network within the Netherlands, and it is the easiest way to travel between cities. Connections can be found on <http://www.ns.nl/en/>, including prices. Tickets can be bought at the railway station directly. Note that buying a day-return ticket is cheaper than buying two single tickets.

1.2 How to get to Amsterdam from the airport

When leaving the baggage claim area at Schiphol airport, follow the signs for trains. The airport railway station is beneath the airport's central hall, Schiphol Plaza. Note that you have to buy a ticket **before** you board the train. There are multiple ticket machines around, but be aware that only some of them accept credit cards, and for most you will need a maestro/debit card. About half of them also accept coins. Tickets are also available from the ticket offices, which are situated close to the red/white-checked cube at Schiphol Plaza.

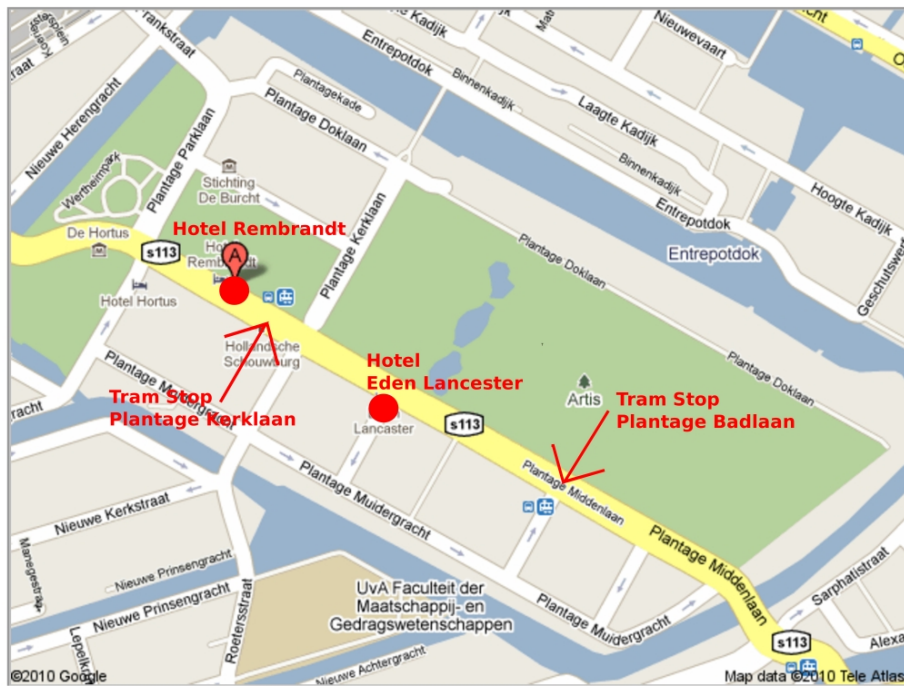
Trains to Amsterdam Centraal (= Amsterdam Central Station) run every few minutes, check the blue notice board for up-to-date information. Note: take care not to pick the high-speed train Fyra, because you need to pay extra to ride those. The trip to Central Station takes about 20 minutes.

1.3 Getting from Amsterdam Centraal to the Rembrandt Hotel

At Amsterdam Central Station, you will need to change to the Amsterdam Public Transport (GVB), leaving in front of Central Station (follow the exit towards the centre, **not** the one that says "North". If you leave the station and see a broad river, you're on the wrong side). You will have to buy a ticket for that first ride, regardless of whether you have rented a bike or not. Those who have rented a bike, buy a single ticket (1-uur OV-chipkaart) from the tram conductor (if you have coins) or from the GVB Tickets & Information Office in front of Central Station. For those without a bike, it's easiest to buy a 1-week ticket from the GVB Tickets & Information office. More details on Amsterdam Public transport are in the section below. To get to Hotel Rembrandt from Amsterdam Central Station, take the tram line 9 in the direction "Diemen (Sniep)" and get off at the stop "Plantage Kerklaan". The trip



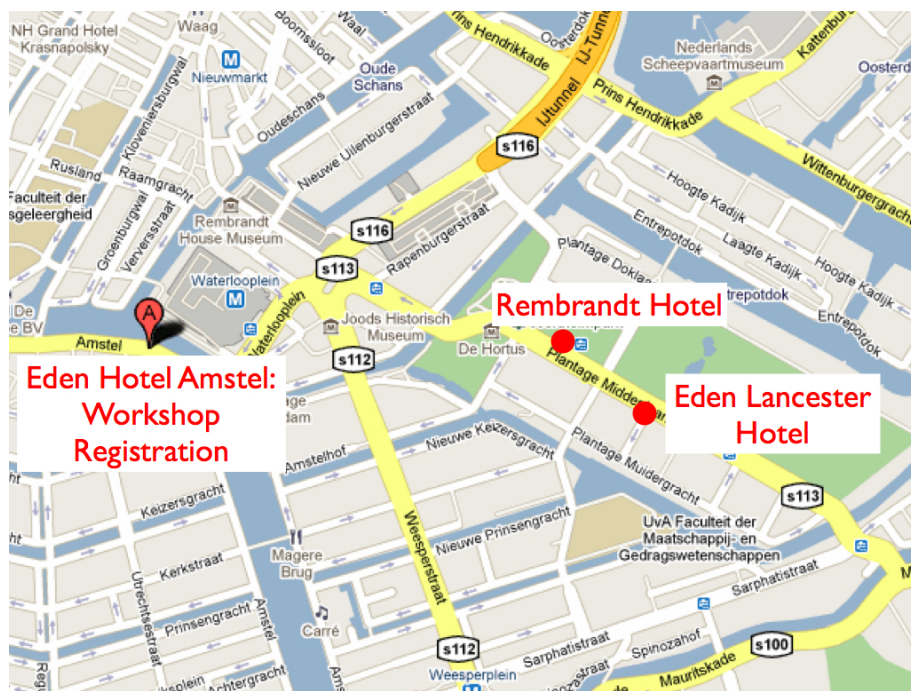
from Amsterdam Centraal will take about 15 minutes in total, and there are displays in the tram that show the next stop, as well as a few that display the next three stops. For the Rembrandt Hotel, walk about 50 metres back in the direction where the tram came from. The closest tram stop to the hotel is “Plantage Kerklaan”. The trams 9 (convenient for Amsterdam Centraal) and 14 (convenient for the institute/workshop location) stop there, as well as the night bus 357 (convenient for coming back at night).



1.4 How to get from the Hotel to the Reception

The workshop reception will take place on Sunday, June 27th from 4 pm to 7 pm,. It will unfortunately not take place in the hotel or the workshop location, but in a different branch of the Eden Hotel. The map below shows where the registration will take place, as well as the location of the two hotels. It is within walking distance of both hotels. From the Rembrandt hotel, it's around 1 km, which should take about 10 minutes to walk. If you are on foot, walk back in the direction that the tram from Amsterdam Central Station came from, along Plantage Middenlaan. You'll walk past a park, the Wertheimpark on the right side, and the Amsterdam Botanical Garden, De Hortus, on the left. The street you're on merges on Muiderstraat. Follow it until you reach a large square with a roundabout, Mr. Visserplein. Cross Valkenburgerstraat and Jodenbreestraat, and turn south to go past the big church. You're now on Waterlooplein. Walk along the big red brick building (this belongs to the Amsterdam Opera and Music Theatre), and continue on until you reach a bridge. Go across the bridge, and turn right immediately afterwards. Careful: the path along the water is a cycle path! The sidewalk is on the other side of the street. Follow the street along the riverside, until you see the Eden Hotel Amsterdam on the left.

If you decide to take the tram, take either the 9 (in the direction of Centraal Station) or 14 (in the direction of Slotermeer) from the stop "Plantage Kerklaan". Get off two stops later at "Waterlooplein", and follow the walking instructions from there.



1.5 Public Transport in Amsterdam

There are several ways to get around in Amsterdam: the train (via NS), the tram, the metro and buses (via GVB, Amsterdam's public transport organisation). The whole of the Netherlands is currently in the process of moving to an electronic ticketing system, the OV chipkaart (Public Transport smart card). For short-time visitors, several types of disposable OV-chipkaarts are available: 1-hour-tickets (2,60 Euro) and 24-hour tickets (7 Euro) can be bought from bus and tram conductors directly. There are tickets for longer periods of time: 48 hours (11.50 Euro), 72 hours (15.50 Euro), 96 hours (19.50 Euro), 120 hours (23.00 Euro), 144 hours (26.00 Euro) and 1 week (29.00 Euro). These have to be bought from the "GVB Tickets & Info Stationsplein" office opposite Central Station, or GVB Tickets & Info offices at other railway stations in and around Amsterdam (Metrostation Centraal, Bijlmer ArenA station, Lelylaan Station, Metrostation Weesp, Zuid Station, Arlandaweg 100). For those arriving at Amsterdam Centraal, the easiest solution will be to buy them from the GVB Tickets & Information Office in front of Central Station. Additionally, most Albert Heijn Supermarkets and tobacconists in Amsterdam sell public transport tickets (might be useful for buying a ticket in week two). If you have indicated that you'd like to rent a bike, a single ticket (1-uur OV chipkaart) will be sufficient (you will get your bike at the reception). This can be bought from the tram conductors directly (for coins), as well as from GVB office in front of Central Station. If you are not renting a bike, and therefore need public transport for the duration of the summer school, we recommend buying a multi-day ticket.

All of these tickets allow unlimited transport on bus, metro and tram within Amsterdam for the prescribed period of time. You have to check in every time you enter a tram, bus or metro by sweeping your card against the machine depicted below, and waiting for a green light. You also have to check out again in the same way when you leave the vehicle, even if you are going to change to another bus or tram. This is very important, as failure to check out may void your ticket! Note that you have to enter a bus at the front door where the conductor sits. Trams have two locations where you can enter: one at the front and one near the middle. Both have conductors making sure that everybody checks in, and you can also buy one-hour or 24-hour tickets from them. In the metro you need to swipe your card when going through the blocking doors at the beginning of each station. Note that they are also present at Amsterdam Centraal (but always open): do not use them there, unless you have an OV chipkaart that enables you to take the NS trains and are going to travel with the train.

For those coming to Amsterdam more often, or for an extended period of time, it may be worth buying an anonymous OV chipkaart. These are available at the Ticket & Information Offices listed above, as well as many ticket vending machines. An anonymous OV chipkaart costs 7.50 Euros. They can be charged at any ticket vending machine. Similarly to the disposable tickets, they need to be checked in or out every time one enters or leaves a public transport vehicle. Prices are deducted by kilometers travelled.



Information on the different bus, tram and metro lines, including maps, can be found at <http://www.gvb.nl/> (also in English). A useful website to check how to get from one point to another via public transport is <http://www.9292ov.nl/>. It is mainly in Dutch, but an English beta-version is available.

1.6 Biking in Amsterdam

If you have indicated that you would like to rent a bike, it will be waiting for you at the hotel, which is also where you can return them when you leave. The cost for a bike will likely be around 4 Euros per day, and can be paid to the LOC. An additional insurance against theft can be purchased for 3 Euros per day.

Amsterdam was elected the bike capital of the world because biking is relatively safe here. 40% of the public transport is by bike. Drivers take bikers seriously and if you follow a few rules, accidents can be avoided. After all, accidents are rare over here. Nevertheless, the sheer number of bikes, scooters (which generally also share the cycle paths) and pedestrians makes biking a bit more challenging than in some other places. The most important warning is: **Beware of the trams and tram tracks!** Usually, cyclists crossing a tram line are warned by loud rings and flashing lights whenever a tram approaches. Additionally, tram tracks can be tricky to navigate, since Dutch bikes generally have slender tyres, which easily get caught in tram tracks. Always cross tram tracks perpendicular to their direction.

Here is the list of dos and don'ts:

- Respect all Dutch traffic regulations by following the road signs (although you will see many Dutch cyclists who don't).
- Use cycle paths, they have a red brick colour and a picture of a bike is drawn on them. A round blue bike traffic sign indicates a bike path as well.
- Always bike on the right side of the bike path.

- Always bike on the cycle path in the right direction (and beware of cyclists who don't and come towards you unexpectedly)
- Respect the bike traffic lights as well as the other traffic lights as this might (beside danger) result in an expensive fine.
- Give right of way to traffic coming from your right in case there is no bike or normal traffic light.
- Give right of way to public transport and taxis.
- Do not bike on squares, pedestrian pavement or side walk, or pedestrian streets.
- Always extend your arm indicating whether you are going left or right and of course don't forget to look behind you, over your shoulder.
- Never cycle with more than two persons next to each other on a bike path, thus leaving space for an extra bike to pass by, and in some streets ride in single file, biking as much as you can on the right side leaving space for cars to pass by.
- Do not transport a second person on your luggage carrier. Luggage carriers are for luggage only.
- Do not use headphones while biking, this prohibits you from hearing the sounds around you.
- Put your lights on after dark.

There are very few streets in Amsterdam where bikes cannot go. Nevertheless, they do exist, especially in the outskirts, where cycle paths sometimes diverge from the streets. Since they are usually highway-type roads, do not enter them. In the centre, some streets are reserved for public transport, and therefore also not accessible to bikes.

You cannot take bikes on the public transport, except metro and trains. For those, you need an additional ticket for your bike, which can be bought from the respective vending machines in metro stations and railway stations, as well as GVB Tickets & Information Offices.

1.7 How to get from the Hotel to the Workshop Location and Astronomical Institute

Below is a map of the Science Park area in the East of Amsterdam. This is where the institute is located, and also where the workshop will take place. Please note that the institute and the workshop are in different buildings.

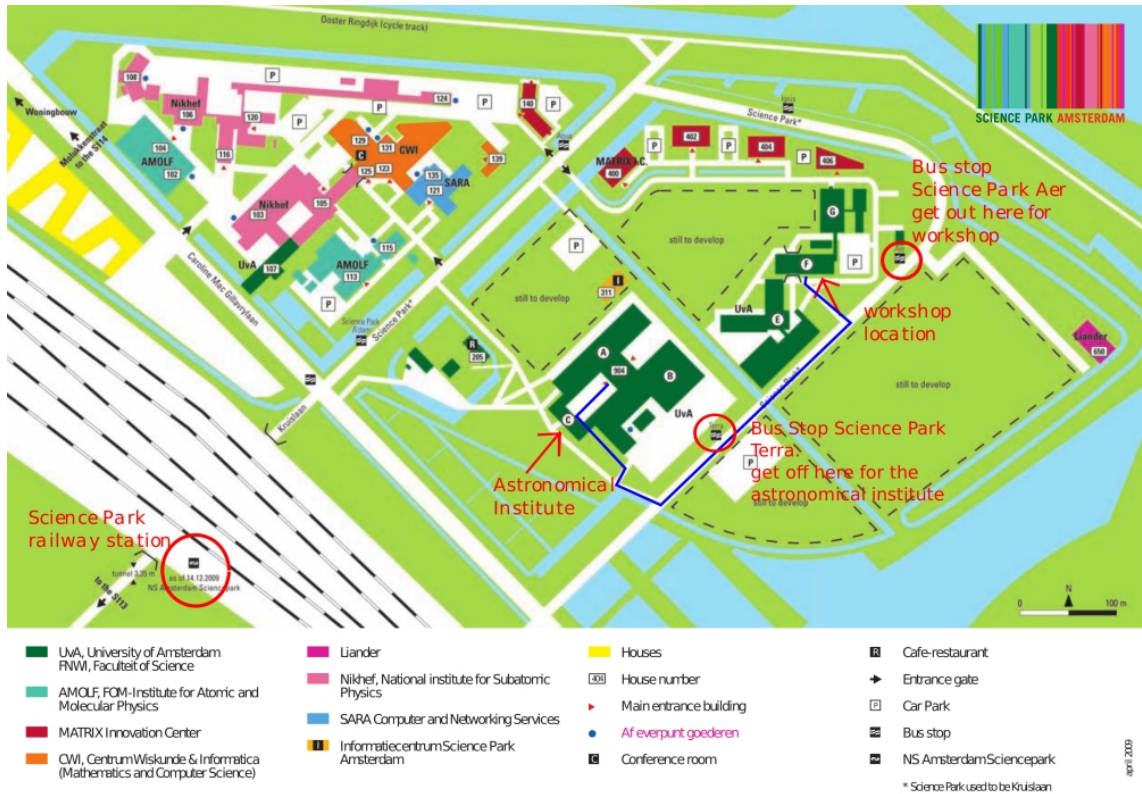


Figure 1: how to get around Science Park

To get to Science Park from the hotel, take the tram 14 in the direction “Flevopark” from the stop “Plantage Kerklaan”. Exit at “Molukkenstraat (Insulindeweg)”, take the bus 40 in the direction “Amstelstation”. For the institute, get off at “Science Park Terra”, for the workshop venue, get off at “Science Park Aer”.

To get to the institute or the workshop venue from Amsterdam Central Station, take the Stoptrein in the direction of Almere, and get off at the railway station “Science Park”. Coming down the stairs, follow the street in the direction of the Science Park (it’s the side that does not look residential). You should be able to see the two domes with telescopes on top of the university building. This is the building where the Astronomical Institute is located. For the location of the workshop, walk towards the

building, but instead of entering through the main entrance, turn right and surround the building. Follow the street that runs behind the building (following the blue line on the map). You'll walk past a greenhouse, and see a grey building on pillars. This is the building where the workshop will take place (It's the F-building). The entrance is underneath the building, and the workshop will take place on the second floor (not counting ground floor), in room 2.08.

1.7.1 Biking Directions

Outside the hotel, turn left and cycle in Eastern direction until you reach the end of Plantage Middenlaan. You'll cross a bridge and see a large, old building. This belongs to the Tropenmuseum, a large museum for Anthropology. Cross the street and turn left onto Mauritskade, surrounding the Tropenmuseum. Follow the cycle path until you reach a street branching off to the right: this is Linnaeusstraat. Follow Linnaeusstraat. On the right, you'll see a park: Oosterpark. At the edge of the park, turn left into Wijttenbachstraat. Follow this street. You'll pass underneath a railway bridge. Directly after this bridge, turn right onto Celebesstraat. Follow this street around a slight bend and along the canal. At the next major crossing (Molukkenstraat), cross the street and follow Carolina MacGillavrylaan to its end. Turn right on Kruislaan. On your right, you'll see the university building with the two domes of the Astronomical Observatory. You can park your bike there, and continue on to the workshop location using the walking directions above.