



Amsterdam in Two Days: A Mid-Budget Itinerary for Indian Travellers

Amsterdam is a city of canals, bicycles, world-class art, and charming streets. With two full days, you can cover its highlights at a relaxed pace, enjoying both culture and local flavours.

Getting From Schiphol Airport to City Centre

Schiphol Airport is about 17 km from central Amsterdam. Options to reach your hotel:

1. Train (Best Value & Fast)

- Direct trains run from Schiphol Airport to **Amsterdam Centraal Station**.
- **Cost:** ~\$6 one way.
- **Time:** 15–20 minutes.

2. Bus 397 (Good for Museum District Hotels)

- Runs every 10 minutes, connects the airport to Leidseplein, Museumplein, and other central stops.
- **Cost:** ~\$7 one way.
- **Time:** 30–40 minutes.

3. Taxi

- **Cost:** ~\$50–60 to central Amsterdam.
- **Time:** 25–35 minutes.

4. Uber/Bolt

- Often slightly cheaper than taxis.
- **Cost:** ~\$40–50.
- **Time:** 25–35 minutes.

💡 *Tip: If your hotel is near Centraal Station, the train is best. For hotels near museums (Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh), bus 397 is more convenient.*

Getting Around Amsterdam

- **Public Transport:** A 2-day GVB pass (~\$15/day) covers trams, buses, and metro.
 - **Walking & Cycling:** Central Amsterdam is very walkable; rent a bike if you're confident (~\$12–15/day).
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Day 1: Amsterdam's History, Canals & Museums

👉 *Expect a mix of walking and trams today.*

Morning: Dam Square & Canal Walk

- Start at **Dam Square**, the historic heart with the **Royal Palace** and **Nieuwe Kerk**.
- Wander the **Nine Streets (De Negen Straatjes)**, a charming area with boutiques and canals.
- Stop for coffee and **Dutch apple pie (Appeltaart)** at Café Winkel 43 (famous spot).

Late Morning: Canal Cruise

- Take a **1-hour canal cruise** to admire Amsterdam's UNESCO-listed canals and gabled houses.
- **Cost:** ~\$20.
- Great way to get an overview of the city.

Afternoon: Anne Frank House

- Visit the **Anne Frank House**, one of Amsterdam's most moving landmarks.
- **Ticket:** ~\$17 (book well in advance online).

Evening: Jordaan District

- Explore the **Jordaan**, with its narrow canals, art galleries, and cozy restaurants.
 - Dinner idea: Try **Indonesian rijsttafel** (rice table, a mix of small dishes influenced by Dutch colonial history) at a mid-range place like Sampurna (~\$25–30 per person).
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Day 2: Art, Parks & Local Flavors

Morning: Museum Quarter

- Head to **Rijksmuseum** to see Dutch masterpieces (Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*).
 - **Ticket:** ~\$25.
- Option: Visit the **Van Gogh Museum** next door.
 - **Ticket:** ~\$25.
- If time allows, stop by the smaller but quirky **Moco Museum** (Banksy & modern art).

Afternoon: Vondelpark & Heineken Experience

- Stroll or cycle through **Vondelpark**, Amsterdam's most famous green space.
- Visit the **Heineken Experience**, an interactive beer museum.
 - **Ticket:** ~\$23 including tastings.

Evening: De Pijp or Canal District Dinner

- Explore **De Pijp**, a lively neighborhood with eateries and the **Albert Cuyp Market** (great for street snacks and stroopwafels).
 - Dinner: Try **Dutch pancakes (Pannenkoeken)** or a mix of local dishes at a canal-side restaurant (~\$20–25 per person).
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Local Food to Try

- **Stroopwafel** – thin waffle with caramel filling.
 - **Bitterballen** – Dutch fried snack, usually with mustard.
 - **Haring** – raw herring with onions (if adventurous).
 - **Poffertjes** – mini fluffy pancakes, often with powdered sugar.
 - **Indonesian rijsttafel** – a must-try dinner experience.
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Budget Overview (Mid-Range, Per Person)

- **Airport transfer (round trip):** ~\$12 (train) to ~\$100 (taxi).

- **Transport in city:** ~\$30 (2 days GVB pass).
- **Museum & attractions:** ~\$90–100.
- **Food:** ~\$40–50 per day (mix of casual and sit-down meals).
- **Canal cruise:** ~\$20.

👉 Roughly **\$250–300 for 2 days**, excluding hotel.

Half-Day Trip: Amsterdam to Keukenhof Gardens 🌷

Getting There

Keukenhof is in **Lisse**, ~40 km from Amsterdam.

Transport Options:

1. Bus + Train (Most Common & Affordable)

- Train from **Amsterdam Centraal** to **Schiphol Airport** (~15 min, ~\$6).
- From Schiphol, take **Keukenhof Express Bus 858** (~30 min, ~\$12 round trip).
- Combo tickets (bus + garden entry) available online: **~\$35–40 per person**.

2. Direct Tours from Amsterdam

- Many operators offer direct bus/tour packages from Amsterdam Centraal, Leidseplein, or Museumplein.
- Cost: **\$50–60** (includes entry + transport).
- More convenient, especially if you don't want to switch transport.

3. Taxi / Uber

- ~\$70–90 one way (up to 4 people).
- ~35–40 minutes.
- Good if traveling with family or in a group.

Keukenhof : Suggested Itinerary (Half Day trip from Amsterdam)

- **8:00 am – Depart Amsterdam**
Take the train + Keukenhof Express bus or a direct tour bus.
- **9:00 am – Arrive at Keukenhof**
Enter early to avoid crowds. Start with the **outdoor tulip fields** for the classic postcard shots.
- **9:30 am – Explore Themed Gardens & Pavilions**
 - **Oranje Nassau Pavilion** – seasonal flower shows.
 - **Willem-Alexander Pavilion** – huge indoor tulip displays.
 - **Beatrix Pavilion** – orchids and tropical plants.

- **11:30 am – Windmill & Boat Ride (Optional)**
Climb the **traditional Dutch windmill** for views over tulip fields.
Boat ride through the fields (~\$10, 30 min) if the weather is nice.
 - **12:00 pm – Snack / Lunch**
Grab light food inside (sandwiches, fries, Dutch pancakes) or pack your own.
 - **12:30 pm – Head Back to Amsterdam**
Return by Keukenhof Express → train to Amsterdam (arrive by ~1:30 pm).
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Tips for Indian Travellers

- Carry a light jacket—mornings can be chilly even in spring.
 - Book tickets online in advance (Keukenhof is very popular).
 - If you want **vegetarian options**, look for Dutch pancakes (*pannenkoeken*) or fries inside the park.
 - For photos, mornings have the best light and fewer crowds.
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