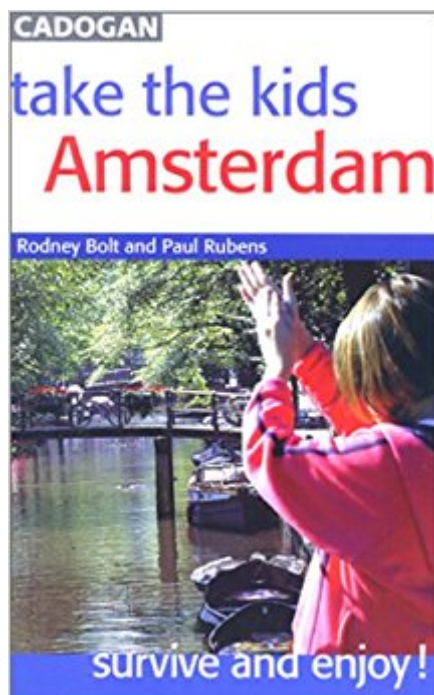


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# Take The Kids Amsterdam



## Synopsis

Amsterdam's compact layout is perfectly tailored to a small person's needs. The guide romps through the city's circuses, theme parks, theater museums and zoos; as well as the simple child-friendly pastimes it offers, including boat trips on its canals, cycling expeditions along its bicycle lanes and rides on its clanging trams. From the much-visited Anne Frank Museum to Amsterdam's new hi-tech science museum, the city has enough attractions to rival neighboring London and Paris, both just a couple of hours away. The guide also features day trips into Holland, such as the De Efteling theme park, with its Enchanted Forest, Snow White's cottage, and elfin domains.

## Book Information

Series: Take the Kids - Cadogan

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Cadogan Guides; 1st edition (November 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1860119905

ISBN-13: 978-1860119903

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 6 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #611,215 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Netherlands > Amsterdam](#) #109 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Netherlands > General](#) #160 in [Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Family Travel](#)

## Customer Reviews

Amsterdam, warm and friendly, is perfectly suited to the needs of children, with pretty parks, world-class museums and galleries, excellent restaurants and hotels, and a whole sackful of attractions rolled up into a neat, child-sized ball. Pedal the waterways on a canal bike, build a dam at newMetropolis, or learn to juggle at a children's circus - whatever you fancy! There's enough for you and the kids to do, see and experience in this unique and engaging little city to make a memorable holiday ten times over. This guide is packed with fun challenges and quizzes to bring the city to life. It contains the best attractions to suite different ages as well as sections on where to eat, shop and sleep. (6 x 8 1/4, 192 pages, color photographs, maps)

Having just returned from a visit to the Netherlands, we found this family guide to Amsterdam to be very useful when planning fun days for all of us. The book is organized by area of the city and includes museums, tourist sites, historical places and restaurants. Site information includes contacts, transportation, hours etc. Colorful maps are included, as well as fun facts that make the place more interesting for kids, and sites geared toward varied interests made this a very helpful guide for our family.

Some guide books are good guide books for adults, and some are helpful to parents. What I like most about this one is that it is probably good enough to stand on its own as your only guide book, assisting both parents-- and parents with their kids-- in having a nice visit to Amsterdam. Another thing I like (and I'll confess something of a prejudice over this) is that the book is arranged primarily by geography. I hate guidebooks with chapters on restaurants, chapters on museums and so forth. After all, after all that wrestling smack down with a baby stroller, diaper bag big enough for a body and two kids on a jaunty tram, we like to take advantage of all the stuff to do in each location we visit. We're not coming back tomorrow, baby. You get separate sections on the Old Side of town, the New Side, the Canals, Jodenbuurt and the Old Port and a nice chapter on day trips outside the city. To be fair, there is one non-geographic section organizing Amsterdam's many museums for you, but otherwise things are handily arranged for walking, strolling and cruising the interesting parts of each area you visit. There are also colorful maps, showing the sites, key streets and canals. You won't get too lost. Each site/attraction includes info on which tram to take to get there, any admission fees, opening days/hours, phone numbers and, if applicable, web sites and email addresses. There's a capsule statement for each along the lines of "Suitable for children aged 7 and over". The real meat is in the descriptions, which allow you both to decide what to see and, as parents, get a sense for what is inside so you can match places to your kiddies' ages, attention spans and interests. Here are two examples: Rembrandt's home has been restored to look like it was when he lived there. In addition to the basics, this guide book also mentions that the painter liked to work images of himself in crowd scenes in his paintings. Can you think of a better way to interest a younger kid in boring, old art than to set them on a mission to find all the Rembrandt's in a particular image? A second example is Anne Frank's house. The description challenges you and your kids to imagine Anne's life in hiding, as revealed in her diary. Older kids can read the book in advance, while younger kids can have key passages read to them just before or even during a visit to the house. Looking out a window, maybe you see a street scene as Anne did; what must it have been like to face the fear of capture and death each day, every night, at an age when our own children's worries may be no

more complex than when Rugrats is on? Another parentally cool feature in the guide book is little boxed text blurbs labeled "Can you spot?" These challenge kids to look for interesting details (a tilted roof gable, a brass plaque, a strange doorway) near famous sights. Older kids will learn things, younger kids will likely enjoy the game as a diversion near things they may otherwise find boring, or over their head. The book also includes a similar feature throughout, asking questions that can be answered by visiting certain sites. For example, when listing restaurants, the question is "If an Amsterdammer asks for 'hagelslaag' ('hailstones') on his bread for breakfast, what does he want?" (If I was mean, I'd make you not only buy the book, but also go to the Pancake Bakery on Prinsengracht Street for your morning meal to learn that 'hagelslaag' are tiny bits of chocolate sprinkled on buttered bread. And yes, that sounds very tasty to me too.) For those who stay up for "Top 10" lists on late night shows in the U.S., the book includes a "Best of Kids' Amsterdam" section, with lists of things like "Best Museum", "Best Family Hotel", "Best Ice Cream", "Best Windmill" and the like. Each "Best of..." place listed includes the page number in the guide book where you can track down its particulars. Note for some Dads: the helpful phrases in Dutch section includes the important phrase "Ein pils, alstublieft" (a beer please), followed by the helpful phrase "Waar is het toilet?" Some other excellent stuff for parents: A list of toy stores in Amsterdam, with annotations telling what stuff they have; Restaurants good for lunch (and not dinner with kids), including info on which serve "spicy" food; Tips on finding a short-term apartment or a bed and breakfast; A note that most big hotels have Cartoon Network available on cable; A spill-proof, coated paper, tram map on the inside cover; A way to take a canal boat taxi to popular museums; A sober description of Amsterdam's Red Light district that will allow you to decide if your kids should or should not pass through one of Amsterdam's infamously best-known locations; How to ask for applesauce in a restaurant.

This is an excellent book for parents of children (especially elementary age and pre-school) contemplating or committed to a trip to Holland. The information is detailed and comprehensive. Based on our research and a prior trip to the Netherlands that we took with our kids, this book is great source for places to stay and go with kids. It includes tons of useful information about Amsterdam, but I wish it had a lot more detail on the rest of Holland. (I suppose it is truthfully titled!). Another nit to pick is the inadequate maps. Overall, however, a great read and a treasure-trove of information for the parent planning a trip to Holland with younger children.... Guidebooks that are focused on parent-kid trips are a tremendous value--- worth a lot more than you pay for them!

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