

Europe, July to September 2026

August 4, Amsterdam

I got the essentials out of the way early today. I looked down from my chair at breakfast and saw my ship access card on the ground. Lost before I even left the ship. Now I feel safe for the rest of the day.

There might be two types of people reading what I write. (1) Those full of anticipation for what I have to say, and (2) Those who are bored but politely reading this in case I ask a question of them when I return. For those of type (2), this is your day. It's already pretty boring.

There was, however, one interesting item. Like Antwerp, we were able to navigate right to downtown Amsterdam in sight of the main train station.



The tour we signed up for was a 90-minute walk through town and a 60-minute canal ride back. I can honestly say that the walk showed us nothing. We have been here before and there are a lot of great things to see in Amsterdam, but I guess nothing that could be covered in the time allotted.



The only sight worth mentioning was a coffee shop. Coffee shops in Amsterdam sell coffee. No surprise there. You can go into one and order an espresso or whatever your preferred coffee presentation is. Beyond coffee, you have to be careful ordering snacks to enjoy with your drink, especially the brownies. Amsterdam coffee shops are outlets for cannabis products. Why is the name “coffee shop” used for these establishments? Don’t know. Ask ChatGPT.

There are cafes that sell coffee as well as safe edibles. They just aren’t called coffee shops.

And that was really it. We are coming back here for four days when the final cruise is over, so we’ll have time to see what was missed.

I leave you with a picture from the canal ride. I had almost no control over the contents of this picture. We were in the middle of a boat in a canal below street level, so I had to hold the phone at the top of an outstretched arm and let the camera take a picture of what it saw, not what I saw. Hope it was nice.

