

MAGIC
The Gathering
GRAND PRIX
ROTTERDAM
2016

Travel Guide



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The Essentials

Rotterdam has a long history, but the things that have shaped the city most are the trade happening through its port (one of the largest in the world), and the fact that the old city center suffered heavy bombing during WWII, creating the space for modern architects to make their mark on the city as it was being rebuilt.

In the Netherlands, the main language is Dutch. But no worries, most people speak a reasonable amount of English and will be happy to help you out.

Tips for safety

The national (and European) emergency number used in the Netherlands: **112**.

If you want to contact police outside of emergency situations, call 0900-8844.

The south of Rotterdam (where the venue is), is not known to be particularly safe. You will probably be fine, but we wouldn't recommend going on a midnight stroll by yourself in this area.

Use common sense:

- Don't leave your belongings unattended at public places, especially airports and train stations.
- Be aware of possible pickpockets, mainly at tourist hotspots.

The Venue

Ahoy Rotterdam is located at Ahoyweg 10 and is easy to reach by car, bicycle and public transport. When coming by public transport, it is only a few minutes walk away from Metrostation Zuidplein (subway).

Ahoy offers two restaurants, a bar and other catering outlets that offer a wide selection of food and drinks. Smoking (including E-cigs) is only allowed in the designated area's outside the building.

For more information about Ahoy please refer to

www.ahoy.nl/en

Need a local Judge?

Anniek +31640346072

Kenny +31628815822

[Google Maps link](#)



Transportation

When flying to the Netherlands there are multiple choices. Rotterdam can easily be reached by train from any nearby airport, so depending on which flights are available it might be best to choose Schiphol, Rotterdam airport, Eindhoven airport or even one of the major airports in Belgium.



Rotterdam Airport

When you fly in to Rotterdam Airport you can take bus 33 to Rotterdam Central Station. This bus departs every ten minutes. Depending on where you are headed, you might have to take another bus or the metro. It is also possible that you will have to switch to the metro at an earlier stop. If you want to go to the venue instead take bus 33 in the direction Meijersplein. At Meijersplein take the Metro in the direction Slinge and get off at Zuidplein.

Schiphol Airport

Schiphol is the largest airport of the Netherlands and is the only airport that actually has its own train station. From there, there are trains that go directly to Rotterdam Central Station. The fastest train ride takes about half an hour but there is a supplemental fee for it, added on top of the regular ticket costs. A normal intercity will take about an hour longer.

More information can be found on www.ns.nl/en/travel-information/special-routes/intercity-direct.html

Eindhoven Airport

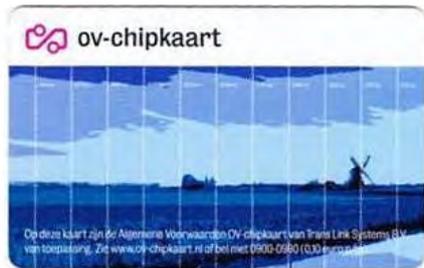
Eindhoven Airport is the second-largest airport of the Netherlands. If you fly in to Eindhoven Airport you first have to get to the train station. Both bus 400 and 401 go to the train station, and while the 400 goes to it without any stops, the 401 actually is not that much slower. Either way, it takes about half an hour. From Eindhoven Station, there is a direct train to Rotterdam Central Station every half hour. It takes a little over an hour.



Public transportation system

When using public transport in the Netherlands, it is most common to use a special card called the OV-chipkaart. This is a card that you can load with money, and that works for all forms of public transport. When entering a train or metro station, or when entering a bus or tram, you can check in with this card. Do always remember to check out as well and make sure to have enough cash on the card. Card charging machines are commonly found in train stations, metro stations, and some supermarkets and post offices. Alternatively it is possible to get one-time tickets, or on the bus pay by cash. This is more expensive though. You can find more information on the ov-chipcard here:

www.ov-chipkaart.nl



To find your way around we recommend using either Googlemaps, or, the travel information provider for the Netherlands: 9292.nl/en. This will give you travel itineraries including all forms of public transport, in all of the Netherlands. You can search for arrival and departure to/from a street address, a bus/tram/metro stop, or a train station. 9292 also has a Phone-app

Travelling by car

The venue itself is easy to reach by car. Simply set your preferred navigation to Ahoyweg 10 and you will easily get there. There will be more than enough signs to help you find it as well. Parking at Ahoy costs €13,- per day.



Hotels

There are not many hotels directly next to the venue, so your best bet is to find one near the metro line that runs there (the venue is at stop Zuidplein).

Here are some options:

ART hotel

Only one stop away from the venue (stop Maashaven), or you could walk if you wanted to (20 min). The restaurant is quite interesting with plenty to look at. A double room is currently going for about €85 per night.

www.arthotelrotterdam.com/

Inntel Hotel Rotterdam Centre

Located at stop Leuvehaven, and offers a double for €87 per night.

www.inntelhotelsrotterdamcentre.nl/

Tournament Center has some deals with hotels: [Click here](#)
(Click Travel Info and scroll down)

Not what you were looking for? We recommend using a metasearch engine like Trivago, Kayak or Tripadvisor to get the best price for a room.





Places to visit

Landmarks

Rotterdam is known for its modern architecture. All throughout the city you can spot the weird and wonderful things that architects have come up with since the time that the 'old' city was destroyed in World War II. Some examples worth seeing:

Euromast

Originally built for a flower exhibition in 1960, the Euromast tower is one of Rotterdam's most famous landmarks. For €9,50, you can go all the way up to the top (at 185m) to see all of Rotterdam in one panoramic view. Address: Parkhaven 20, 3016 GM Rotterdam, www.euromast.nl/en

Markthal

Opened in 2014, the Markthal (market hall) is a horseshoe-shaped building in the center of Rotterdam. Inside you will find a marketplace with all kinds of food and other goods. Address: Ds. Jan Scharpstraat 298 3011 GZ Rotterdam (near Blaak metro station).

Kijk-Kubus

The Kubuswoningen (Cube houses) are a series of houses in the shape of a cube tilted onto one of its corners. Most of them are inhabited by Rotterdammers, but there is one that is open to the public for those of you who want to know what it's like to live in a house with only diagonal walls (entrance: €2,50). Address Kijk-Kubus (Show-Cube): Overblaak 70, 3011 MH, Rotterdam. (Next to the Markthal)



Erasmus bridge

Nicknamed 'the Swan', the Erasmus bridge connects the north and south parts of Rotterdam. It's distinctive asymmetrical shape has made it into one of Rotterdam's icons.



Stuff to do

Blijdorp Zoo

One of Holland's largest and oldest zoos, Blijdorp is a nice place to spend a day looking at animals from all over the planet. It's divided into areas representing different areas of the world and the animals that live there.

Details: Opening hours: every day 9:00 - 18:00, Main Entrance: Blijdorplan 8, 3041 JG Rotterdam, City-side entrance: Van Aerssenlaan 49, 3039 KE Rotterdam, Costs: €22 on site, €20 online at <https://www.diergaardeblijdorp.nl/en>.

Museum Boijmans van Beuningen

Rotterdam's foremost art museum has a large permanent collection as well as temporary exhibitions. Take a trip through the history of art, including works by Rembrandt, Monet, Cezanne, Van Gogh, and Dalí, among others.

Details: Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10:00-17:00, Address: Museumpark 18-20, 3015 CX, Rotterdam, Costs: €17,50 including all exhibitions. www.boijmans.nl/en.

Note: For those of you who can't get enough of art, the Boijmans is close to the Kunsthal museum, see www.kunsthal.nl/en/.

Harbour Museum and Maritime Museum

With Rotterdam's position as one of the largest ports in the world, it's no surprise that there are interesting things to see related to seafaring and the harbour industry. The Harbour Museum (Havenmuseum) is accessible for free and comprises a large outdoor area with various vessels and related equipment like cranes and a lighthouse. Just next door is the Maritime Museum, showing exhibitions related to the history of the harbour and the industry.

Details Harbour Museum:

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00-17:00, Saturday and Sunday 11:00-17:00

Address: Leuvehaven 50, 3011 EA, Rotterdam

Costs: Free!, Online: www.havenmuseum.nl

Details Maritime Museum:

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10:00-17:00, Sunday 11:00-17:00

Address: Leuvehaven 1, 3011 EA Rotterdam

Costs: €10, Online: www.maritiemmuseum.nl/en





Events at Ahoy

MTV EMA

There is stuff to do at Ahoy (the tournament venue) besides the GP. If you're hanging around in Rotterdam a bit longer, you could experience some other cool events. On November 6, Ahoy will be hosting the MTV EMAs 2016. More information on this music awards show can be found here:

<https://www.ahoy.nl/en/calendar/concert/mtv-ema-2016>.

Night of the Proms

If you can't make it to the EMAs but you still want a night out with a whole lot of internationally acclaimed artists, try Night of the Proms on the 19th of November.

www.notp.com/english

Lesser Known Sightseeing

Hotel New York

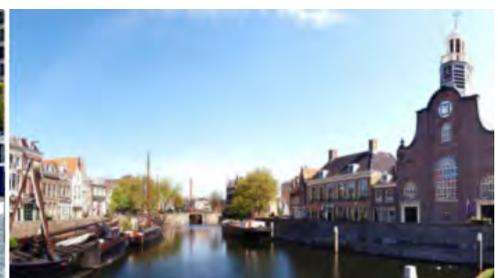
For those of you looking for something a little older between all of this modern architecture, Hotel New York is a lovely example of Art Nouveau architecture. Formerly the headquarters of the Holland-America Lines (a cruise line), it is now in use as a hotel and restaurant. It's located between the skyscrapers that now line the Wilhelminapier, near the Erasmus bridge. Address: Koninginnenhoofd 1, 3072 AD Rotterdam

Pancake Boat

If you want to fill up on delicious pancakes while enjoying a view of Rotterdam's skyline from the water, you might go on a trip on the Pancake Boat (Pannenkoekenboot). For €18,50 you will go on a 75 minute cruise, and get unlimited access to the on-board pancake buffet while you're at it. Departure just outside the Euromast. For more info on departure times etc. see <http://www.pannenkoekenboot.nl/rotterdam/en>

Delfshaven

Some parts of Rotterdam survived the WWII bombings and give you a peek into the old city it once was. Delfshaven is a picturesque marina just outside the city center, and a lovely place to see the history of the city and grab a drink, maybe at brewery de Pelgrim (Aelbrechtskolk 12 3024 RE ROTTERDAM). Metro stop: Delfshaven.



Food and drink!

Rotterdam has restaurants everywhere and an active nightlife. You will find everything from fine dining (with or without Michelin stars) to hipster food trucks. Here are a couple of recommendations:

Burgertrut

Hefty burgers in all kinds of exotic flavors, in an artistic atmosphere. Mostly organic, and with different specials every month. Vegetarian/vegan burgers available. Burgers cost €8.

Address: Hang 5, 3011 GG, Rotterdam (just behind the Markthal).

www.roodkapje.org/burgertrut

Guliano

Best italian lunch in town. Take a seat for a leisurely lunch, and have one of their signature sandwiches (€7-10) with a glass of good wine.

Address: Meent 31A, 3011 JC, Rotterdam.

www.guliano.it

Spirit

In this restaurant, you will have access to a vegetarian/vegan, fully organic and very delicious buffet. Here you get what you pay for, because the price of your meal is determined by its weight. A 'normal' plate of food should set you back about €15. Open for both lunch and dinner.

Address: Mariniersweg 6, 3011 NB, Rotterdam.

www.spiritrotterdam.nl

Bazar

For a quick trip to northern Africa and/or the middle east, you should check out this restaurant. Both the atmosphere and the food are colorful and exotic. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon coffee: anything is possible. Main courses cost about €10-15.

Address: Witte de Withstraat 16, 3012 BP Rotterdam

www.hotelbazar.nl/en/restaurant-bazar-rotterdam/

Fenix Food Factory

Located a bit outside of the city center, Fenix Food Factory is a former factory hall converted into a food market. You will find a collection of independent stalls selling stuff like cheese, cider, coffee, sausages, and delicious sandwiches. They also offer different 'planks' loaded with items from various stalls to combine into a late afternoon 'borrel' snack (friday from 4-6 pm), breakfast (saturday between 10am and noon) or brunch (saturday and sunday noon-3pm). Hipster heaven.

Address: Veerlaan 19D, 3072 AN, Rotterdam.

www.fenixfoodfactory.nl

Euromast restaurant

One of the most spectacular places to have lunch, wine or dinner is the Euromast. One of Rotterdam's most famous landmarks offers the opportunity to enjoy your food with a panoramic view of Rotterdam, about 100m up from the ground. It's a bit more pricey, a main course will cost about €20. Reservation recommended, though they might be able to squeeze you in. Please note that you will have to pay the €9,50 entrance fee to the tower, to be able to reach the restaurant. This also includes a ride to the top (185m).

Address: Parkhaven 20, 3016 GM Rotterdam. www.euromast.nl/en



Delicacies

Stroopwafels

You cannot leave the Netherlands without having had a stroopwafel or two. You've probably already tasted them at previous GPs, as it seems Dutch judges never fail to bring them to the Friday Judge Dinner. Search a supermarket for these syrupy delights or better yet, find a market stand that sells big fresh stroopwafels.

Bitterballen

Having some drinks in a café? See if they have 'bitterballen' on the menu. Bitterballen are the little cousins of the Dutch kroket. Both are made of beef ragout in a deep-fried breadcrumb crust. Bitterballen are ideal finger food to go with a drink, while a kroket & bread is found on many a lunch menu. Just add mustard.

Cheese

Known around the world Dutch cheese, often called 'Gouda', is loved by everyone. There are many different kinds and brands of Dutch cheese and they all taste different, sometimes subtle, sometimes strong. Cheese ripens with age, the older it is the stronger the taste. One of our favorites is 'Old Amsterdam'. You can find cheese in any supermarket, but there are plenty of specialty shops and market vendors with a choice of hundreds of different cheeses.

Beer

And of course there are beers. Some well-known Dutch brands of beer are Heineken, Grolsch, and Amstel, but it seems any Dutchman who really likes beer just fawns over Belgian beers. There are quite a few cafés that offer a wide variety of beers, so I'm sure you will find something to your liking.



Local game stores

Magic United

Rotterdam's main address for all things Magic (and a bit of other games).

Physical address: Bergweg 41 D, 3037 EA Rotterdam

Online: www.magicunited.nl

Gamers of the West

Rotterdam's main address for games (and a bit of Magic).

Physical address: Jonker Fransstraat 114 A, 3031 AX Rotterdam

Online: www.gamersofthewest.com

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