

MAGIC

The Gathering

GRAND PRIX AMSTERDAM



Essential Information

Welcome back to Amsterdam, the capital of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

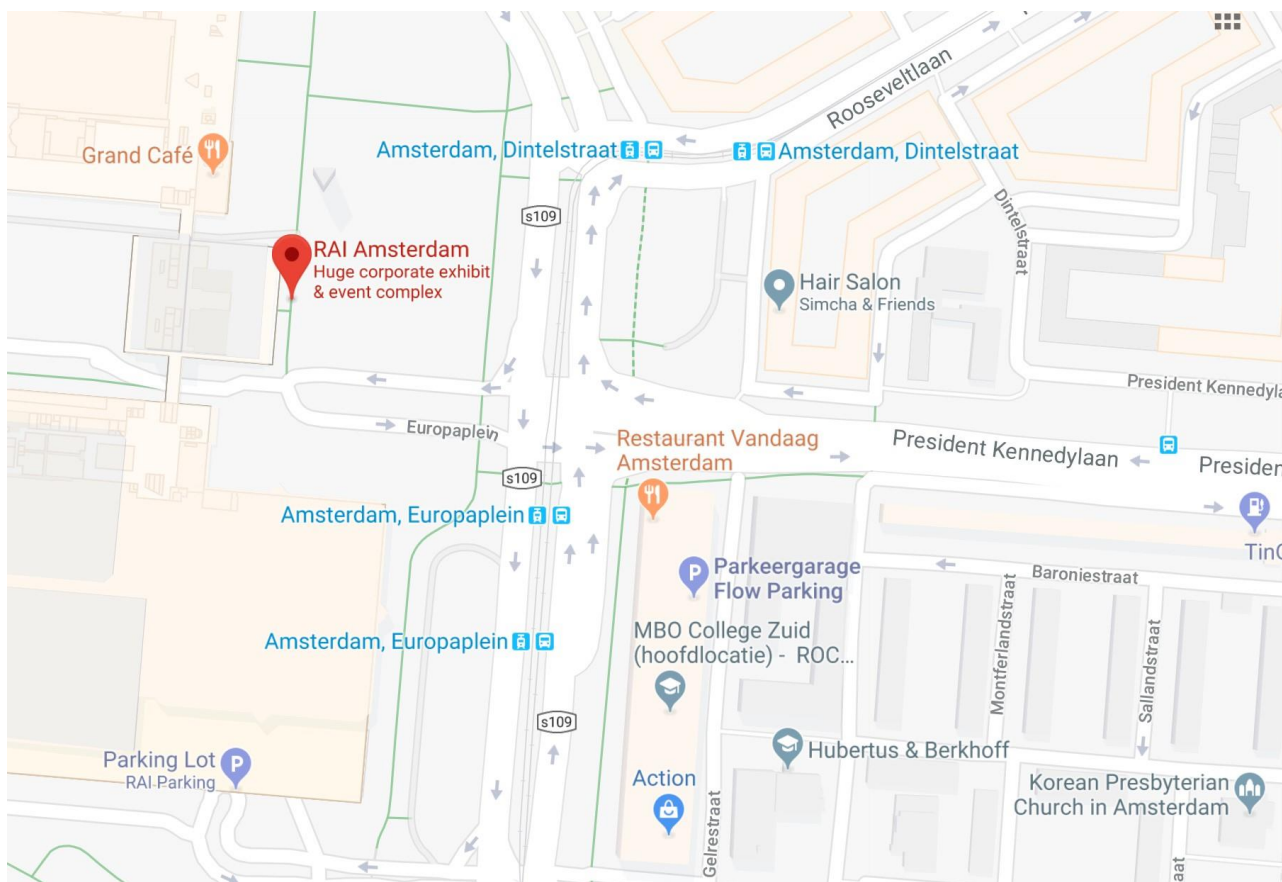
This travel guide was written to help you enjoy the city while attending Grand Prix Amsterdam during the Easter weekend. The weather in the Netherlands can be quite unpredictable at the end of March, so make sure to check the weather forecasts and to pack accordingly. As a rule of thumb, a raincoat is probably something to have close at hand. Should you have any questions regarding this travel guide, the city of Amsterdam or the Benelux region, feel free to contact our Regional Coordinator (info below).

I'm certain you will enjoy Amsterdam and the Grand Prix and - most of all - I hope to meet you all there.

- Jonas Drieghe, L2

The venue:

Amsterdam RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre
Europaplein 2-22
1078 GZ Amsterdam
Netherlands



Regional Coordinator

Richard Drijvers
rdrijvers@gmail.com

Travel Information

Note on traveling by train

Every time you travel by train, you have to pay a €1 surcharge for a throw-away travel card (OV Chipkaart). If you plan on staying in the Netherlands a bit longer, or to come back in the future, it may be worth your while to buy a reusable *OV Chipkaart* which costs €7,50. You can top up your card afterwards. This card is valid for 5 years and can be used on all public transport throughout the Netherlands. Every time you travel by train you have to check in at the station of departure and check out at your final destination. When you switch trains, you do not have to check in/out, but when you switch modes of transportation (e.g. train to bus), you do.

From Amsterdam Airport Schiphol

The easiest way to get to the venue from the airport is by train. At **Amsterdam Airport Schiphol** you can take a “Sprinter” train (5735, destination Utrecht) for two stops that should take about **10 minutes** in total. You should get out at **Amsterdam RAI**. The venue is located at walking distance (7 min) to the north. Tickets for the train are **€3** in second class and **€5.00** in first class. Be aware that there is a **€1 surcharge** if you don't have an *OV Chipkaart*.

Alternatively, you could take a **taxi** from the airport to the venue. This would cost you somewhere around **€30-35**. Services like **Uber** should also be available at a slightly lower price.

By car

Arriving by car should be fairly easy. The Amsterdam RAI is located just inside the **A10 southern ring** road of Amsterdam. Extensive **parking** facilities cater for over **5000 cars** - and they generally cost **€15 per day** for exhibition visitors.

By Bus

Going by bus is not recommended as it is much easier to get there by train. In case there is a problem with the train line or some unusual delay, it is still possible to get to the venue by bus though. First, get the bus number **310** to **Station Zuid Amsterdam**. From there, you can get bus number **65** (KNSM Eiland) and get off at **Amsterdam, Scheldeplein**. It is then a 3 minute walk to the venue. The bus comes every 15 minutes and the full trip should take around 50 minutes.

Hotels

Hotels in Amsterdam are quite **expensive**. This year even more than usual as GP Amsterdam takes place during the Easter weekend. Here are some options within **walking distance** in case you don't mind paying for some extra luxury.

Qbic WTC Amsterdam (1.2km)

Mathijs Vermeulenpad 1
Zuideramstel
1077 XX Amsterdam

Hotel Okura Amsterdam (1 km)

Ferdinand Bolstraat 333
Oud Zuid
1072 LH Amsterdam

easyHotel (1.2 km)

Van Ostadestraat 97
1072 ST Amsterdam

Holiday Inn (1km)

De Boelelaan 2
1083 HJ Amsterdam

Budget options

Amsterdam has plenty of hostels with beds in a dormitory room that are significantly **cheaper** than most hotels. Be aware that they are still going to be more expensive than usual due to the Easter weekend. Here are some options close to the tournament venue:

Hostel Sarpathi (1.6km)

Sarphatipark 58l
1073 CZ Amsterdam

The Flying Pig Uptown Amsterdam (2.8km)

Vossiusstraat 46/47
1071 AJ Amsterdam

The Flying Pig Downtown Amsterdam (4.4 km)

Nieuwendijk 100
1012 MR Amsterdam

Amigo budget Hostel Amsterdam (3.4km)

Linnaeusstraat 201
1093 EN Amsterdam

Hostel Princess (3.1km)

Overtoom 80i
1054 HL Amsterdam

Since staying in Amsterdam will most likely be crazy expensive this weekend, you might be better off looking for a cheaper alternative. We suggest looking for a hotel or Airbnb in Utrecht, Haarlem or Leiden near a train station or in Amstelveen near a metro stop. The venue is within a 10 minute walk from Amsterdam RAI.

Sightseeing

Taxi and public transport

You can grab a **taxi** to get around Amsterdam. Some people (mostly taxi drivers) would even recommend it. We would like to make a stand and say "**Don't do it.**" Amsterdam taxi drivers are known for their general lack of customer service, rude behaviour, questionable knowledge of the Amsterdam street names and inventive shortest path algorithms.

Public transport is usually **faster**, definitely **cheaper** and about as safe as a taxi. If you're going to be using public transport more than three times a day, get a 24- or 48- or 72-hour public transport card from the Tickets & Info stand at the Central Station.

There's also the **I Amsterdam card** which costs a lot of money, but certainly has value if you're planning to spend a day as a tourist. Prices for that one start at €59 and you can find more information here: <http://www.iamsterdamcard.com/>

Bicycle

The main way to get around Amsterdam is, of course, by bicycle. You will find a lot of **bicycle rentals** in the city and they will cost you somewhere around **€10 per day**. The most practical is probably MacBike, which has various locations in Amsterdam, including the Central Station. More info about this can be found at <http://www.macbike.nl>

What to do in Amsterdam?

Amsterdam is a big city and probably caters to everyone in one way or another. Luckily, the **I Amsterdam** initiative has collected most of what can be experienced in Amsterdam,

Go check it out: <https://www.iamsterdam.com/en/see-and-do/things-to-do>

If you have no internet access, here are the top 5 ideas the site offers:

- 1) Rent a bike and make a tour around the city (there are enough places to get one).
- 2) Ditch your map and take a walk around the Jordaan, you'll have a great shopping experience.
- 3) Go to Museumplein to soak up some culture. Three museums are found here.
- 4) Catch the ferry to Amsterdam-North and enjoy the beach and possibly a festival or another event.
- 5) Take a cruise on the city canals and discover the historical center. These canals are protected by the UNESCO.

Food and drinks

Just north of the tournament venue is an area with a high density of restaurants. Here you can find (amongst others) Japanese, Italian, Thai and Indonesian food places. If you want to stay close to the venue, here you can most likely find something for everyone.

In the city center you can find a lot more restaurants. Go visit the [I Amsterdam website](#) to find something to your liking, the choices are almost endless.

Magic

Amsterdam only has one major location to play Magic, in addition to some bars and coffee shops that have frequent players. It is located to the west of the city center, north of the venue.

2 Klaveren

De Clercqstraat 136

1052 NP Amsterdam

<http://www.2-klaveren.nl/>

An alternative place to play Magic or other board games is [Friends and Foes](#). Many players like to go there but most events are unsanctioned.

Friends and Foes

Van Woustraat 202-A

1073 NA Amsterdam

Next to that, you can also go to American Book Center. This store also mostly provides unsanctioned events.

American Book Center

Spui 12

1012 XA Amsterdam

Useful Apps

9292

9292 is free a public transportation app that helps you get around in the Netherlands. Unlike google maps, **9292** has up to date information on delays, temporary line changes and work on the train lines. It is always good to check it out before jumping on a bus or train to avoid unpleasant surprises.

- Website: <http://9292.nl/>
- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nl.negentwee&hl=en>
- IOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/9292/id556557690?mt=8>

Buienradar

The weather in the Netherlands can be quite unstable. Leaving 10 minutes earlier or going for yet another drink can be the difference between keeping yourself dry or getting all soaked on the way.

Buienradar is a free weather forecast app with accurate information on the weather for the near future. In the app you can check the rain for the next couple minutes (or hours) and decide when is the best time to leave. If you don't like the app, you can always use an umbrella instead!

This app is available for Android and IOS or via their website.

- Website: <https://www.buienradar.nl/>
- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.supportware.Buienradar&hl=en>

- IOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/nl/app/buienradar-weather/id621542526?l=en&mt=8>

Supermarket

For those on a tight budget or just looking for some snacks, you can find an **Albert Heijn** Supermarket right next to the venue. There you can find all the ingredients to prepare a "Boterham" for lunch (a traditional dutch dish also known as "Sandwich") and also general food, drinks and snacks. Don't forget to buy some stroopwafels when you're here.

Albert Heijn

Scheldeplein 5
1078 GR Amsterdam

Utility Store

Need an extra bag to haul your loot from the GP? Forgot your judge notebook or your awesome 4 color pen? Need a charging cable for your phone? Fear not! Right across the street from the venue you can find an **Action** store, the cheapest place in the Netherlands to look for all those items and much more. When in doubt, check there first.

Action

Europaboulevard 17
1079 PC Amsterdam

Credits

This travel guide was adapted from earlier versions by **Jonas Drieghe**.

Earlier versions of this and other travel guides for events in the Netherlands came together through the guidance of **Richard Drijvers** and the work of **Jonas Drieghe**, **Olivier Wattel**, **Rodrigo Chioffi**, **Teun Zijp**, **Peter Florijn**, **Jasper Capel**, **Anniek van der Peijl** and **Kenny Koorneef**.