

The name "Amsterdam" comes from the city's origin: it grew around a dam in the River Amstel during the twelfth century CE.

In the nineteenth century, tulips became a luxury item and status symbol. People even sold their houses in order to invest in them. Dutch tulip-growers still dominate the world tulip-bulb industry: they produce 4.32 billion tulip bulbs each year.

MANY OF THE BUILDINGS IN AMSTERDAM LEAN TO ONE SIDE, WHERE THE STRUCTURES HAVE SUNK INTO THE CITY'S MUDDY FOUNDATIONS.

In the cramped quarters of the canal ring, most of the seventeenth-century houses measure no more than 9 m wide.

AMSTERDAM IS THE CITY OF HOUSEBOATS, WITH OVER 2,400 HOUSEBOATS ON CANALS.

THERE IS ONE HOUSEBOAT, CALLED "DE POLZENBOOT", WHICH IS JUST FOR STRAY CATS.

UP TO 11,000 BICYCLE WRECKS ARE FISHED OUT OF THE CANALS PER YEAR.

* Amsterdam has a nickname – "Mokum", which means "place" or "we haven't" in Hebrew.

AMSTERDAM IS SOME TIMES CALLED THE "VENICE OF THE NORTH"

AS IT HAS ALMOST AS MANY CANALS AS VENICE, AND MORE BRIDGES.

Diamond Factories 10+
Bicycles 800,000+
Bridges 1,201
Canals 145

MOKUM*

AMSTERDAM

FROM 1540–1672, IN A TIME KNOWN AS THE "GOLDEN AGE", AMSTERDAM WAS IN THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY.

Amsterdam is the Netherlands' largest and most visited city, with over 8 million visitors per year.

POPULATION: 822,800

Amsterdam is known for its large collection of art libraries, Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh.

Amsterdam has more museums per square meter than any other city in the world.

The Netherlands houses some of the greatest Dutch artworks, including Vermeer's "The Milkmaid" and Rembrandt's "The Night Watch".

Perched on top of the steep hill of Montmartre, *Basilique du Sacré-Coeur* is the highest point in Paris at 130 m above sea level.

ONE OF THE MOST VISITED CITIES IN THE WORLD!

THE CITY OF LIGHT

PARIS

THE CAPITAL OF FRANCE

"FLUCTUAT NEC MERGITUR" (TOSSED BUT NOT SUNK)

THE EIFFEL TOWER

PARIS'S OLDEST CAFE, *CAFE PROCOPE*, OPENED IN 1686.
THERE ARE 24 *COUTURE* HOUSES IN PARIS.

PARIS HAS MORE THAN 100 PARKS AND GARDENS ...
OVER 9,000 RESTAURANTS ...

PARIS'S ONLY STOP SIGN DISAPPEARED IN 1914.
THERE IS A *GRAND PRIX* FOR PARIS'S BEST *BAQUETTE*.

DOUBLE GLAZER LIFT CARRIES VISITORS TO THE VIEWING PLATFORMS 276 M ABOVE THE GROUND.

27 BRIDGES ACROSS THE SEINE ...
AND AROUND 20,000 DOGS

BUILT FOR THE EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE OF 1889,
THE EIFFEL TOWER WAS ONLY EVER MEANT TO BE TEMPORARY.

PARIS'S LOUVRE IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUMS, WITH 8.8 MILLION VISITORS A YEAR.

OVER 800 YEARS OLD, THE WINDOWS OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL CONTAIN 10,000 GLASS PIECES.

"THERE IS NO LIMIT TO PARIS"

- VICTOR HUGO

HOME OF
HAUTE
COUTURE

POPULATION: 2.1 MILLION

The Eiffel Tower flows through Paris from the southeast to the northwest.

Paris has been home to many famous artists, including Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Picasso, Monet and Pissarro.

Paris is home to world-famous fashion houses, including Chanel and Dior.

Paris was founded in the first century BCE by a Celtic people called the Parisii, who gave the city its name.

Paris is referred to as the 'City of Light' after its famous Enlightenment thinkers, such as Voltaire and Rousseau.