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#DiscoverEU

European Youth Card

ROTTERDAM

tips & tricks, discounts and much more to make the most out of your stay!

CITY GUIDE



THE CITY

Located in the province of South Holland, Rotterdam is the second-largest city in the Netherlands. It's bold, modern and constantly moving. Famous for its striking architecture, vibrant cultural scene and Europe's largest port, Rotterdam feels very different from your typical quaint Dutch city.





REBUILDING A CITY

Some urban planners would dream of designing a city from scratch. For Rotterdam, that chance came through utter tragedy. During World War II, much of the city was destroyed. However, instead of rebuilding what was lost, Rotterdam chose a bold new direction. This post-war rebirth shaped the city into the innovative, modern and fearlessly creative place it is today.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Rotterdam is home to the tallest buildings in the Netherlands. One of them, De Zalmhaven, is actually the tallest residential tower in the Benelux, standing at 215 meters. At the very top of it, you'll find Celeste, the country's highest skybar with next-level views. From here, you can see the city truly stretch out in all directions.



FUN FACTS

Start of a movement

Fast beats, underground raves and nonstop dancing (aka “hakken”). Born in early 90s Rotterdam, “gabber” is a hardcore electronic music style rooted in anti-establishment culture. While the scene has since evolved, its influence lives on across the city's many clubs and festivals.

An iconic snack

Meet the kapsalon: Rotterdam’s most famous late-night comfort food. Think fries topped with shoarma, melted cheese, fresh salad and garlic sauce, all served in one glorious foil tray. Perfect after an intense night out, and 100% Rotterdam-born. Try the original at El Aviva, located in the heart of the charming Delfshaven neighbourhood.

Diversity on your tongue

Inside the Markthal, you’ll find one of the largest artworks in the entire world: a colourful, ceiling-filling mural that transforms the curved hall into a mesmerising work of art. Beneath it, dozens of food stalls serve a multitude of cuisines, making it the perfect place to taste the many cultures that come together in Rotterdam.



DISCOUNTS

to save some ca$$$hhhh

We know what it means to travel on a buget and we're here to make it as easy as possible! In this section you will find some discounts that will help you save money without giving up on that one meal out you really want to have or that outdoor experience. Click on each discount to see how to use it on EYCA's website <3

CULTURE

Depot Boijmans

9,50€ discount on the entrance ticket.
What usually stays hidden is fully visible here. This mirrored, bowl-shaped building is the world's first publicly accessible art storage facility. Wander through collections normally kept behind closed doors and discover how art is stored, conserved and curated.

Nederlands Fotomuseum

8,50€ discount on the entrance ticket.
A must-visit if you love photography. The museum showcases work by leading Dutch photographers while also giving space to emerging talent. Beyond the exhibitions, you can grab a coffee, take your own photo in an original Photoautomat booth, or enjoy views of the Rotterdam skyline.

Kunsthal

7€ discount on the entrance ticket.
Truly one of the most dynamic art institutions in the Netherlands. With over 20 exhibitions a year, Kunsthal jumps between modern art, fashion, photography, design and cultures from across the globe.

Nieuwe Instituut

50% discount on the entrance ticket
Nieuwe Instituut is the Dutch national museum for architecture, design and digital culture. Here, you'll discover how design helps shape important social and ecological issues. While you're here, make sure to also visit the modernist Sonneveld House, or relax in the sunny terrace of the Nieuwe Café.

Kunstinstituut Melly

50% discount on the entrance ticket.
Located in the aptly named Cool neighbourhood, Witte de Withstraat is Rotterdam's most creative street. Right at its heart you'll find Kunstinstituut Melly, a true staple for contemporary art in the city since the 90s.

ACCOMMODATION



Stay in the iconic Cube Houses

The Cube Houses are one of Rotterdam's most iconic sights, but did you know you can actually stay the night in one? Stayokay has turned one of these architectural landmarks into a cozy and affordable hostel (get 15% discount here), making it a unique option for young travellers.

NIGHTLIFE TIP



Live music & bars

Check out Annabel, Rotterdam's biggest pop venue, or Rotown, a neighbourhood favourite for new indie artists. For late-night club energy, Maassilo hosts large-scale events and underground parties in a massive industrial setting.

GOING TO AMSTERDAM IN THE SAME TRIP?

Then you might want to check out some of the cultural discounts we have over there!



Anne Frank House

9,50€ discount on the entrance ticket.
For more than 2 years, Anne Frank was in hiding in a secret annexe on the Prinsengracht in Amsterdam. Take a look at the space behind the bookcase, look around Anne's bedroom and read the excerpts from her diary.



Rijksmuseum

50% discount on the entrance ticket.
Enjoy the Dutch masters such as Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh in the largest museum in the Netherlands. Don't forget to buy a ticket online in advance and reserve a time slot of your choice!

DAY TRIP TIP

DEN HAAG: BETWEEN HISTORY & BEACH

Elegant, cultural and close to the sea, Den Haag is a perfect full day trip from Rotterdam. World-class museums, classical cafés and the beach all within easy reach.

Morning - the old city centre

Start your day in the heart of Den Haag at the Buitenhof and wander through the surrounding streets to get a true feel of this diplomatic city.



Late morning - art on the way to the sea

From the city centre, grab a bike and head towards the coast, stopping at the Kunstmuseum Den Haag (get 55% discount here) along the way. This modern palace for the arts offers a wide range of exhibitions and the world's largest Mondriaan collection.



Afternoon - beach time

Continue on to Scheveningen for a beach break. Walk along the iconic pier, explore the lively boulevard and make sure to try kibbeling, a Dutch fried fish delicacy. If you're up for some nature, the nearby Westduinpark is one of Den Haag's largest green areas.

Evening - food & music

Head back to the centre for dinner at De Kade or Bartine, two relaxed neighbourhood cafés ideal for winding down. Afterwards, wander around the Grote Markt, a historic square filled with lively bars and terraces. Stop by De Zwarte Ruiter, an authentic café and free pop stage, and end your night at Paard Café with live music and DJ sets.



DID YOU KNOW...

THAT YOU CAN TRAVEL ALONG A CULTURAL ROUTE?

The DiscoverEU Culture Route is a collection of European destinations carefully curated for fans of film, fashion, food, fine art and more.
One of these cultural routes passes through the Netherlands: it starts in Germany, travels through France, Luxembourg, Belgium and arrives all the way to the Netherlands.



Following this route will make you travel back in history though UNESCO World Heritage Sites, European Capitals of Culture, nature and museums!
To know more about the different DiscoverEU Culture Routes, visit the website.

LIFE-SAVER VOCAB

Surviving in another country is no joke! This is why we have collected some very useful vocabulary to help you socialise with locals and get by. Let's start with the very basics.

Dankjewel: Thank you

Fijne dag!: Have a nice day!

Lekker weer: Nice weather

"Gezellig"

A word that you will hear everywhere but has no real translation in English. Its meaning includes cozy, friendly, nice, fun and comfortable. For example, a cozy cafe is gezellig, but a doctor's waiting room is not so gezellig.

"Borrelen"

Borrelen means to bubble or to boil, but when it's being actually said it's mostly referring to an informal gathering or social event where you have (a lot of) drinks.

for the pros

THIS GUIDE WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

European Youth Card Association

CJP

FOR

EXPAND YOUR COMFORT ZONE

#DiscoverEU

DiscoverEU is an action of the Erasmus+ programme that offers 18-year-olds the opportunity to travel and explore Europe's diversity, learn about its cultural heritage and history, and connect with people from all over the continent.

DiscoverEU participants also receive a free European Youth Card to access thousands of discounts on accommodation, culture, sports, local transport, or other services.