

Amsterdam in 2025



The first document mentioning Amsterdam on October 27, 1275.

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What does Amsterdam offer in 2025? In addition to celebrating 750 years since the first mention in an official document, the Dutch capital will host cultural events of international interest. Rotterdam follows suit. There is no shortage of Romanian artists. Here is a selection that can be put under the title "Don't miss".

At the beginning of next month, the oldest safe in Amsterdam will be opened. Documents of the city have stood here for hundreds of years, such as the one that mentions Amsterdam for the first time, more precisely October 27, 1275.

On February 8, 100 residents of the city will put in the vault 100 vases created by the artist Navid Nuur. Nuur uses clay and minerals that he collects from Amsterdam. Before completing the vases, he passes through the city and presses them on facades, curbs, bridges, benches. They will be the new treasures of the city. Every year, on October 27, a vase will be taken out of the vault and sold at auction. The last auction will take place in the year 2125. It is just one of the events held this year in Amsterdam, which celebrates no less than 750 years.

A large-scale event with a great impact on the city will take place between August 20-24: the tenth edition of the long-awaited Sail 2025 nautical festival.



Sail Amsterdam 2015. Photo: Claudia Marcu

Every five years, hundreds of boats from all over the world arrive in Amsterdam, historic ships, small and large sailing ships, but also military ships, which stay for a week in the city's old port. Ships of all sizes enter the city from the IJmuiden lock, in a 40-kilometer march. The brig Mircea participated in Sail Amsterdam 20 years ago.

For art lovers, it is worth coming to Amsterdam for the exhibition dedicated to Anselm Kiefer, one of the most important contemporary artists. The artist turns 80 in 2025. The exhibition is organized by the Van Gogh and Stedelijk museums. One ticket, two museums, promises the director of the Van Gogh museum, Emilie Gordenker.

"The exhibition starts at the Van Gogh Museum, which will highlight Kiefer's long-standing interest in Vincent van Gogh. In fact, van Gogh's influence can still be seen today in Kiefer's works."



Anselm Kiefer, "The Starry Night" (2019) Copyright: Anselm Kiefer. Photo: Georges Poncet

In the 80s of the last century, Stedelijk was one of the first museums to invest in Kiefer's art, says director Rein Wolfs:

"We will take a look into the past, but also one into the future. When I say that we are looking into the past, I mean the period when Kiefer was embraced by the Dutch public at a time when, in Germany, Kiefer's art, focused on the horrors of the Second World War, was difficult to accept. And we look to the future with new works signed by Kiefer, and the most important is a huge installation that also gives the name of the exhibition: *Where All the Flowers Gone*."

Where Have All the Flowers Gone is the title of a play composed by Pete Seeger in 1955, a song that later became famous thanks to Marlena Dietrich. The exhibition is open from March 7 to June 9.

Two exceptional exhibitions are also offered by the former Hermitage Museum, today the H'Art Museum. From April 9 to August 24, 75 paintings from the collection of the American Thomas Kaplan will be in Amsterdam, at least ten of which are signed by Rembrandt. The collector of the so-called **The Leiden Collection** has been in love with Rembrandt since he was six years old.



Thomas Kaplan in 2023 at the H'Art Museum in Amsterdam. Photo: Claudia Marcu

"The first city I visited in Europe when I was only 10 years old was Amsterdam," Kaplan confessed two years ago. "It was my choice, when my parents told me: we are going to Europe – what city do you want to see? I immediately answered Amsterdam. Why, they asked me. It's simple, I answered: that's where Rembrandt lived."

And after Rembrandt, from September 20 the works of Constantin Brancusi will come to Amsterdam. Those who did not manage to see the exhibition at the Pompidou Center in Paris last year still have a chance in Amsterdam. I can't wait to see how the people at H'Art Museum will manage to highlight the works of the great Romanian artist. The exhibition remains open until January 18, 2026.



Catalogue of the Brancusi exhibition in Paris, 2024

But let's not forget Haarlem, the small town a stone's throw from Amsterdam. The Teylers Museum is preparing for the end of this year a special exhibition marking the 550th anniversary of Michelangelo's birth. The male body will be in the spotlight, with drawings coming from some exceptional collections: the Royal Windsor Collection, the British Museum, the Uffizi Gallery and the Louvre Museum. The exhibition opens on September 19.

Rotterdam is not left behind in 2025. On May 16, Fenix, the migration museum, the first museum in the world dedicated to migration, opens. In fact, in the Netherlands there are more and more museums financed by very rich people, by collectors who are passionate about art, a subject that I reserve for a future Illustrated. But until then, something else from Rotterdam. At the end of this month, the International Film Festival included in its program Stere Gulea's film Morometii from 1987.



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The Moromete Family

Moromeții

Stere Gulea | Romania | 1987 | 142' | **Harbour** | IFFR 2025

"With his deeply human depiction of rural life, Gulea ran into some problems when the film Morometii was shown to the Romanian censors, who criticized the honest portrayal of poor villagers. Gulea managed, however, to get past the censors and launch his work, which reached millions of Romanian viewers." These are the words of film critic Hugo Emmerzael, who contributed to the inclusion of the film in the festival's program. And, look, Gulea's trilogy will also reach audiences in the Netherlands.

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