



I amsterdam®

At Home in Amstelveen





introdactie

Introduction

'Quality of life' is an essential element in Amstelveen.

Your choice to settle in Amstelveen is an excellent decision. Our town has a lot to offer to make you feel comfortable in short time. It has many green areas including several beautiful botanical gardens. There are numerous facilities in the field of art, culture, sports, education and entertainment. These include the *Cobra Museum* of modern art, the *Museum Jan van der Togt*, the *P60 Pop-podium*, the theatre and the central library in the '*Stadshart*'. They are worth visiting.

Besides this, it is a joy to shop in Amstelveen. First of all it has the fabulous '*Stadshart*' shopping centre, with a great variety of shops. The town square has an organic market on Tuesday mornings and a regular market on Fridays. Amstelveen also has several shopping centres where you can shop for your day-to-day requirements.

Amstelveen is a mainly safe town accommodating more than 90.000 inhabitants. Currently 19% of the inhabitants are internationals from all parts of the world. For the internationals there are special facilities for example international schools, shops and restaurants as well as medical care. Amstelveen has a large number of international companies within its boundaries. They have selected Amstelveen to establish their operation because of the strategically beneficial location and the accessibility close to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Amstelveen is a partner of '*amsterdam inbusiness*', the single contact point to help international companies to establish and maintain operations in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area. This association assists companies with any question they may have in relation to their investment. '*amsterdam inbusiness*' is a cooperation between Amsterdam and its surrounding cities: Almere, Haarlemmermeer and Amstelveen. They work directly together with the Dutch Foreign Investment Agency to give the best service to foreign companies and their internationals.

We compiled this guide for all of our international inhabitants. It provides all the information you need to settle down quickly in your new hometown.

Welcome to Amstelveen!

Tjapko (R) Poppens
Mayor city of Amstelveen

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1 Quality of life

The municipality of Amstelveen is one of several medium-sized municipalities in the Netherlands. Amstelveen's strategic location in relation to Amsterdam and Schiphol airport forms an important part of its identity. The combination of attractive housing and a pleasant living environment has been the primary factor encouraging (international) businesses, creative and financial services to settle in Amstelveen. Housing in Amstelveen is of a very high quality and the price/quality ratio is reasonable.

Strategic location and quality of life are the main elements that form the basis of Amstelveen's appeal. The 'Stadshart' is the cultural and retail centre and plays a vital role in Amstelveen's image. It is home to a nationally important library, the *P60 Poppodium*, a well-known pop music centre, a theatre and the famous *Cobra Museum of Modern Art*. 'Quality of life' is Amstelveen's slogan: it's a place that has so much to offer whether you come here to live or to work.

Amstelveen is proud of its many green spaces. The town is famous for the Amsterdam Forest, the botanical gardens, peat lakes and the large and small 'Poel'. The well-maintained public green spaces are highly valued by both residents and the business community. Amstelveen even won Gold at the *Entente Florale Europe 2014* (a competition recognising Europe's greenest and most environmentally friendly cities).

The town has a good range of sports facilities covering a variety of sports at all levels, and actively encourages participation in top level sport. Hockey, tennis and soccer are particularly popular.

Amstelveen offers a wide range of top-quality educational facilities at both primary and secondary school level. *The International School of Amsterdam*, *Amity International School*, the *Korean School* and the *Japanese Kindergarten* are also key assets. Along with the universities in the region and the higher vocational education institutes in Amsterdam, an appealing and comprehensive range of educational facilities is on offer.

The Indians are the largest non-Dutch nationality group represented in Amstelveen, followed by the Japanese, British, Chinese, Germans, Americans and other Asians and western Europeans. Employment in Amstelveen is concentrated in high-quality business services, such as IT businesses, accountancy firms and advertising companies. The annual growth in the number of posts available is primarily attributable to these sectors. The unemployment figure in Amstelveen is relatively low. Many foreign companies, the majority of which are from the USA and Japan, have established themselves in Amstelveen.

The population of Amstelveen is fairly affluent in comparison to the rest of the Netherlands, with the average disposable income both per inhabitant and per household being significantly higher than the national average.

The municipality of Amstelveen publishes a booklet with recent facts and figures about various matters relating to the area. It is available in both Dutch and English and can be obtained from the *Public Services department*.



2 Town Hall

The highest decision-making body within a municipality is the town council. The town council of Amstelveen is made up of 37 representatives and the biggest political party is the VVD (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy). In Amstelveen the executive board is made up of the Mayor and five aldermen, each with their own portfolios. The municipality of Amstelveen employs 945 officers, based in 18 service departments. As a new resident of Amstelveen, it may be useful for you to become acquainted with the services offered by the *Public Services department*.

There are many reasons why residents of Amstelveen may turn to the municipality's *Public Services department*, located on the ground floor of the Town Hall, at Laan Nieuwer-Amstel 1. These could include the registration of a birth, to apply for benefits, getting information on houses for rent and rent rebates, or the registration of a marriage or partnership agreement. The Town Hall accommodates many different services and products, but you will soon find your way around. Upon entering the Town Hall, you should first check in with the reception desk where you will be provided with information or referred to the department that will be able to help you further. To reduce waiting times, there is also the option to make an appointment in advance. Please feel free to use this service! It will undoubtedly save you time.

The department you are most likely to need in the first instance is the *Public Services department*. Please contact the international newcomers desk in the Town Hall as soon after your arrival as possible. They will help you with all the information you need in relation to your registration.

Leaflets on a range of topics are available from the Information Shop in the Town Hall or you can have one forwarded to your home. If you would like to apply for a brochure or receive further information please call the information number: +31 (0)20-540 49 11. You can also contact this number to make an appointment for any of the service desks.

Please be aware that, for many matters, you will be required to bring along other documentation in addition to your passport. You can get details of the documents you need to bring by calling the information telephone number or by going to www.amstelveen.nl/english.



Registration and residence permit

If you arrive from abroad and intend to stay in Amstelveen for at least four of the next six months, you must register with the *Public Services department* (Publiekszaken) at the Town Hall in person within five working days of your arrival.

If your partner and children are also moving to The Netherlands, they must also attend. Please contact the Town Hall on phone number +31 (0)20-540 49 11 before your visit to get details of which documents you will need for registration in the municipal personal record database (*BRP*).

To apply for a residence permit, you should contact the *Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND)*. You can do this by phone on +31 (0)88-043 04 30, or by visiting their website: www.ind.nl/en.

As a new resident of Amstelveen you can pick up a welcome package in English from the Immigration department.



Experience has shown that many foreign residents of Amstelveen wish to have information on driving licences and parking permits: we have included detailed information on these below.

Driving Licence

Drivers of motor vehicles in the Netherlands must comply with certain, specific regulations. Third party insurance is mandatory as a minimum for your car or motorcycle. The vehicle must be registered and the driver must hold a valid driving licence (the driver must be aged 18 or over). Should you wish to receive further information on the requirements for owning/using and driving a motor vehicle in the Netherlands, please contact the *Road Transport Department (RDW)*, on 0900-0739. The requirements for a valid driving licence are explained below.

There are two categories:

1. International driver. This is a person who does not live in the Netherlands, but uses a motor vehicle in the country. This includes tourists and salesmen. If you reside for less than 185 days in the Netherlands, you are regarded as an international driver and you must be able to provide an international driving licence if your licence is inspected. Your embassy can supply you with more information on this.

2. Residents of the Netherlands. A person is considered to live in the Netherlands when his usual place of residence is in the Netherlands. The usual place of residence is the place where you live for at least 185 days per year.

Exchanging foreign driving licence

To check whether a driving licence from your country can be exchanged, visit the website of the Dutch *Road Transport Department (RDW)* for the most up to date information: www.rdw.nl.

When you are establishing yourself in the Netherlands, you can use the driving licence issued in your home

country for a transitional period of 185 days from the moment you arrive in the Netherlands. During the transitional period your driving licence must be changed to a Dutch driving licence. The conditions for changing a licence are:

- You must reside in the Netherlands and hold a valid residence permit.
- Your own driving licence must be valid at the moment you make your application.
- Your driving licence must have been issued during a period of one full year in which you lived in your home country for at least 185 days.

The documents you need to bring are:

- Valid foreign driver's licence
- A color (passport) photograph that complies with the official standards
- A valid residence permit
- If the text on your foreign licence consists solely of characters that are not used in the Netherlands (such as Japanese or Greek), you need to bring a translation of your driving licence.*
- Do you benefit from the 30% ruling for highly-skilled migrants? Then bring a letter from the tax authority to prove this.
- A Certificat of Fitness (*Gezondheidsverklaring*):
 - For a driving licence from countries other than the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
 - If your driving licence is valid for a period shorter than ten years.
 - If your driving licence contains annotations or codes about your physical fitness.

The application will be forwarded to the RDW. The RDW will send the new driver's driving licence to the municipality within a few weeks. Your driving licence can be obtained, in person, from the Registry Department upon notification from the RDW. For updates, please go to: www.rdw.nl.

If it is not possible for you to exchange your driving licence, you must take a standard theory and practical driving test at the CBR. Check for more information CBR: (0900) 0210.

Lost your Dutch driving licence?

In case your Dutch driving licence has gone missing or has been lost you need to fill out the 'Loss Statement' form that can be applied at the 'Document department' at the Town Hall. Please note that a loss can only be reported personally at the 'Document department' by appointment. This form is also used to state the reason for a new driving's licence. Once your identity has been established pursuant to a proof of identity, you may immediately apply and pay for a new driving licence. Please remember to bring the required documents!

Additional administration costs related to a loss will be charged on top of the regular costs of the driving licence. For an urgent application for your driving licence additional charges are involved.

Has your driving licence been stolen?

If your driving licence has been stolen you must report the theft to the police before you apply for a new driving licence at the Town Hall. When you submit your application for a new document, you must hand in the police report.

Delivery time

The standard delivery time for a new document is five work days.

If you are unable to submit another proof of identity, the delivery time is about eight work days for verification purposes. If your urgent application is submitted before 2 pm, your driving licence can be collected the next day before 10 am

Once the *Loss Statement* has been completed, a lost or stolen driver's licence will no longer be valid, and must be handed in to the municipality should it be found or retrieved.

Parking permits

In some areas of Amstelveen, in what are known as controlled parking zones, special rules apply to parking. There are two types of permits: a resident's and a visitor's permit.

Resident's parking permit

To be eligible for a resident's permit, foreign residents must be listed on the municipal register. This can be done through the *foreign residents' registration department*. You cannot apply for a resident's parking permit until you have registered. You must have a car prior to registration as the vehicle registration number will need to be stated on the resident's parking permit (a maximum of two registration numbers per address is allowed on the permit).

Parking permit for temporary workers

Many foreign residents work for companies in the Netherlands on a temporary basis only (for several months). They reside here legally, but are not registered

on the municipal register. If this situation applies to you, the following special rule is effective. You may be eligible for a resident's permit provided that no one else is registered on the municipal register at the (temporary) residential address. You must be able to provide the property/rental contract for your house, your proof of identity and a registration certificate for your motor vehicle. If you do not own the vehicle, you must also show a lease contract or a statement saying that you, the applicant, have the exclusive use of the vehicle in question. This type of permit is valid for a maximum period of 4 months.

General information

- The resident's parking permit is issued for a maximum period of one year.
- The area where your house is located, is also the area to which the resident's parking permit applies.
- No more than two resident's parking permits will be supplied for each individual house. An individual house is a house that has its own access, where the inhabitant can live and does not depend on essential facilities outside the house.

Your digital resident's parking permit can be obtained by going to parkeervergunning.amstelveen.nl or you can submit an application at the *Public Services desk* at the town hall. If you would like another person to collect the permit for you, you must provide them with the aforementioned documents as well as a signed authorisation (in writing). The person collecting the permit must also show some form of identification.

Visitor's parking permit

If you live in a controlled parking zone, a maximum of one visitor's permit will be supplied for each house. The permit is only supplied to individuals (not companies). The visitor's parking permit arrangements do not apply to all controlled parking zones. In some cases, a visitor's permit only will be issued where no resident's parking permit has been issued. Please check which streets this applies to at the Public Services department. For detailed information please ask the person you are visiting.

Registration of a birth

If your child is born in the Netherlands, you are obliged to register the birth in the municipality where your child was born. You must register the birth within three days. If it is not possible to register the birth within three days, you must contact the Registrar's Office in the town hall. What do you need for registration?

- valid proof of identity
- marriage certificate (if your marriage is not registered in the Dutch population register 'BRP')



politie en brandweer

3 Police and fire department

Amstelveen has one police station based in the city centre at Gerard Doulaan 2. The police station is open 24 hours a day. For non-emergency matters you can reach the police department on their general telephone number; 0900-8844.

In case of an emergency, call 112

Although Amstelveen is a relatively safe town with a burglary percentage below the national average, you are advised to check your house for security. The dedicated *police burglary prevention team* (0900-8844) will be happy to provide you with advice.

The Dutch police have a policy of strict enforcement of traffic regulations and frequently check for vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Driving a car while under the influence of alcohol is considered a criminal offence and

incurs a heavy penalty. Please refer to the Public Prosecutor's website (www.om.nl/algemeen/english) for more information on traffic fines in the Netherlands.

Amstelveen has its own fire service, based at Oranjesbaan 1. In the event of an emergency, the fire department and the police can be reached 24 hours a day on emergency number 112. The fire department is able to provide you with advice on fire prevention, or you can visit the fire station where a range of leaflets on fire safety are available. Alternatively, you can seek advice from the fire department by calling +31 (0)20-555 66 66.

The fire department always advises having a smoke alarm fitted in your house: *smoke alarms save lives*.

4 Public transport

The municipality of Amstelveen has a well-established, sophisticated public transport system. Nearly all residential areas in Amstelveen can be reached by public transport.

The main public transport routes are between:

- Amstelveen and the city of Amsterdam by urban rail and bus (urban rail line 5 or 51, *bus line 347/348/357/358*)
- Amstelveen and Schiphol Airport (fast and frequent bus connection with *bus line 300/356*).

Amstelveen's bus station, situated to the west of the city centre, is the central hub for most bus routes. There are also tram stops to the east of the city centre.

OV-chip card

To use public transport you need an *OV-chip card*.

When you get on and off a bus or tram you must check in/out at the card readers using your OV-chip card. The fare will be automatically deducted from your OV-chip card at the end of your journey.

Where to buy the OV-chip card

In Amstelveen, you can buy a disposable or anonymous card from an OV-chip card machine at an urban-rail stop (on the platform). The machines allow you to top up the money on your card at any time. There is a sales point at Amstelveen Bus Station (in the corner) with a counter and chip card machine, called 'Breaxx'. Breaxx also offers the facility to order a personal card. Another counter offering all chip card facilities can be found at *Amsterdam Zuid railway station*. The name of this counter is 'GVB Tickets and info'. Some tobacconists and supermarkets in Amstelveen also have simple machines to top up your OV chip card, but here it is only possible to pay by debit card (no credit cards or cash).

Go to www.gvb.nl/ovchipcard to see where the nearest top-up point is in your neighbourhood. For further information on the OV-chip card, please call 0900-0980 or visit: www.OV-chipkaart.nl (English version available).

For further information about all forms of public transport in the Netherlands, call the information line on 0900-9292 or visit www.9292.nl.

The nearest mainline train stations are *Amsterdam Zuid*, *Amsterdam Bijlmer ArenA* and *Schiphol*. These three stations provide excellent national and international train connections. Tickets can be bought from the desk at the station or from a ticket machine where you can pay with coins or a credit card.

Unlike the situation in some other countries, it is not possible to hail a taxi in the street. Taxis must be booked by telephone or you can catch one at a taxi stand.





school

5 Education

Education is compulsory for Dutch children from the age of five. This also applies to children with non-Dutch nationality who are living in the Netherlands. There are various forms of education, including 'public' schools (that are non-denominational) and denominational

schools. Parents have a free choice with respect to the form of education they choose for their children. Registration takes place at the schools concerned and the addresses can be obtained from the Town Hall.

Education from birth to age 12 For children from 0 - 4 years of age, day care for 9 hours or more can be arranged on working days. Applications can be made at the Registration and Placement office at the *Amstelveen KinderRijk* organisation. The office is open from Monday to Friday, from 9.00 - 17.30 and they can be contacted by telephone on +31 (0)20-426 08 66. The KinderRijk office can supply you with all the information you need on funding and day care (or part-day care).

To familiarise your child with an educational environment (between the ages 2 and 4), you can bring your child to a playgroup, where your child can stay from 08.00 - 13.00. Please check for more information at: www.Kinderrijk.nl/en.

For children from 4 - 12 years of age, extracurricular and after-school care centres are available. These care centres can be used outside school hours, when your child has a free morning or afternoon and also during the school holidays. You can also use *Amstelveen KinderRijk* (referred to above) for this type of day care.

Bilingual child care: *Hestia* offers bilingual child care, in English and Dutch for children from 0 - 4 years of age. *Hestia Child Care* is located at Laan van de Helende Meesters 4 in Amstelveen. For further information, please contact Hestia at +31 (0)20-345 93 91, e-mail: info@hestiakinderopvang.nl or see www.hestiakinderopvang.nl.

The International School of Amsterdam (ISA), based in Amstelveen, is a school where international education is provided. The ISA was founded in 1964 to cater for the educational needs of children of the international community living in and around Amstelveen. The ISA is a non-sectarian, non-profit making, co-educational day school for students up to Grade 13 (aged 3 to 18). The curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate Programme and has been especially created for students who will be studying for several years in the Netherlands before returning home or who will complete their education in one or more international schools. The language of instruction is English. The school is accredited by the *New England Association*

of *Schools and Colleges (NEASC)* and the *European Council of International Schools (ECIS)*. The school's purpose-built campus is located in a quiet, residential area of Amstelveen, just minutes from the centre of Amsterdam and Schiphol Amsterdam Airport by car and public transport. For further information please take a look at the school's website at www.isa.nl or send off for a brochure from info@isa.nl or call + 31 (0)20-347 11 11.

Amity International School *Amity International School Amsterdam* provides international education based on an enhanced IB PYP curriculum to children aged 3-11 years (11-13 years from 2018/19). For further information please take a look at the school's website at www.amityschool.nl or contact the school's reception: enquiries@amity.amsterdam, phone number: +31 (0)20-345 44 81.

The British School of Amsterdam, founded in 1978, is an independent, co-educational day school offering education in English to children of all nationalities between the ages of 2 and 14. They provide a traditional curriculum based on the British National Curriculum. For further information please take a look at the school's website at www.britams.nl or contact the Principal on +31 (0)20-679 78 40.

Amsterdam International Community School (AICS) is a community based international school for students aged 4-19. The language of instruction is English. AICS is subsidised by the Dutch Government; this enables them to offer a low-cost alternative to other international schools while maintaining a consistently high standard of education. AICS offers the International Primary Curriculum, the IB Middle Years Programme and the International Baccalaureate Programme. AICS and their satellite school are located in two quiet residential areas which are a few minutes walk from all major transport facilities, near the World Trade Center (WTC). Students receive Dutch language and culture lessons. Non-native speakers receive extra English lessons. AICS is linked to a day-care centre on the premises which also offers after-school care. The school strives to be a community where learning is at the heart of everything they do. For further information please contact Amsterdam International Community School, telephone: +31 (0)20-577 12 40 or visit www.aics.eu.

Korean School of Amsterdam aims to provide Korean children and adolescents living in the Netherlands with a learning environment where acquiring a broad international perspective is possible while maintaining a strong sense of national and cultural identity. As more and more non-Koreans are becoming interested in the Korean culture and language, the school is growing to be more culturally diverse, becoming a centre of cultural interactions between Koreans, Dutch people and students of many other nationalities. The Korean School of

Amsterdam is located at the Keizer Karel College, Elegast 5, 1185 AA, Amstelveen. For further information, go to www.koreanschool.nl.

Universities

In Amsterdam there are two main universities; *The Vrije Universiteit (VU)* and the *University of Amsterdam (UVA)*. Both offer a range of courses in English as well as international studies, and have many links abroad. There are several Higher Education institutions in the Amsterdam metropolitan area that also offer international studies.

Adult education

The Volksuniversiteit Amstelland is an adult education institute that is (partly) funded by the town council. As a foundation, the Volksuniversiteit Amstelland is non-profit-making and its lectures and courses are open to anyone. The Volksuniversiteit Amstelland is based at Stadsplein 97. A large variety of courses, lessons and lectures are provided in well-equipped classrooms. The increasingly international character of Amstelveen is reflected in the teaching staff, from 11 different nationalities, as well as the non-Dutch students. More than 300 people enrol each year from 70 different nationalities.

Dutch language course *Civic integration* is compulsory if you wish to obtain a permanent residence permit. You will need to have a satisfactory command of the Dutch language in order to fulfil the integration requirements. A test for this purpose, *State Examination NT2*, has been drawn up to test the level achieved. A diploma will serve as proof that you have a satisfactory command of the Dutch language. For further information please visit the website: www.inburgeren.nl.

6 Waste collection



Amstelveen considers a good environment to be very important and has many parks, water gardens and green spaces. Caring for the environment in and around your house also plays a part in the pursuit of an attractive environment. To this end, the municipality of Amstelveen applies a system of separate waste collection. By sorting household waste properly, you help to reduce the amount of residual waste and contribute to the re-use of valuable raw materials. In addition, this helps us keep the waste tax low.

Low-rise buildings

In many cases, residents of low-rise homes have a separate container for household packaging made of plastic, tins and drinks packs. (PMD), organic waste (GFT) and paper/cardboard. Do you want to find out the day when they are emptied? Then look at mijnafvalwijzer.nl under 'afvalkalender'. Or check out the AfvalWijzer app. With this app you can install, you can receive a message telling you when you should put out your container. It's so easy!

High-rise buildings

Residents of high-rise homes bring their waste – i.e. valuable raw materials – to underground containers. Take a look at amstelveen.nl/waste for more information.

Waste pass

All residents bring their residual waste to an underground container. You need a waste pass to be able to open this underground container. Have you lost your waste pass? Then request a new one by paying at amstelveen.nl/waste.

What is allowed in which waste container?

Take a look at afvalscheidingswijzer.nl to learn more about waste separation.

Dispose waste between 8 A.M. and 9 P.M. in the underground containers. This prevents possible nuisances.



ontdek Amstelveen

7 Experience Amstelveen

Botanical Gardens

Wander in a typical Dutch polder landscape with pollarded willows and reedbeds at *De Braak*; stroll through the romantic 'garden rooms' of the *Dr. Jac P. Thijsssepark*, where rare varieties such as Marsh St. John's Wort, Cranberry and Dwarf Cornel exhibit their fragile beauty; and admire the internationally rare *Molinia* meadows at the *Dr. Koos Landwehrpark*, which in days gone by was part of the eastern farmlands. These three parks total 13.6 hectares in size, and have been scheduled as nationally important nature reserves thanks to their unique features and settings. The parks are all walking distance apart.

Amsterdam Forest

The initial idea when laying out the lush, enchanting Amsterdam Forest, sited within the bounds of Amstelveen, was to leave no area off-limits. An elaborate network for walkers, cyclists and horse riders was designed to enable all visitors to get to every rolling meadow, wooded glade or tranquil mere in the thousand hectare park – which was entirely made by hand in the 1930s. The forest is big enough that you can easily spend the day strolling through woods and grasslands, surrounded by

nature and wildlife, sometimes crossing a stream but never meeting a soul. Picnic spots abound, but there are also refreshment stands and restaurants; and even a couple of petting farms that serve delicious pancakes on sunny terraces. The park was also intelligently designed to keep its more popular activities along a central axis, packed with activities that range from soccer and hockey fields to horse riding schools or Olympic-sized rowing lanes. You can play tennis, hire a canoe, zipline between the forest's enormous trees, or simply go for a swim in one of the park's many lakes. The forest is perfect for a fun-filled day out with the children, with many areas and activities designed specifically with little ones in mind. There is also a Cherry Blossom Park with 400 cherry blossom trees, which makes a beautiful picnic spot during the springtime. www.amsterdamsebos.nl

Hotels

There are a number of hotels located in Amstelveen catering to the needs of international (business) visitors. Visit the websites of the *Grand Hotel Amstelveen*, *Abina Hotel*, *Alp de Veenen Boutique Hotel*, the *Ibis budget Amsterdam city south* and *Amsterdam Forest hotel* for further information.



Amstelveen has a host of cultural institutions that are indubitably worth taking the time to visit.

Cobra Museum of Modern Art puts on a range of exhibitions of post-1946 modern art. The museum also has a permanent collection of works from the Cobra group that are on show. The museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from 11.00 to 17.00 and is located at Sandbergplein 1-3. Additional information can be found on the website: www.cobra-museum.nl.

Museum Jan van der Togt at Dorpsstraat 50 also puts on various exhibitions of contemporary art. Here, you will find beautiful collections including modern glass, art and works from artists such as Sam Francis, Agam, Kanters, César, Zadkin and Verschoor. The museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 11.00 to 17.00. Please contact the museum on +31 (0)20-641 57 54 for further information or go to www.jvdtogt.nl.

Schouwburg Amstelveen shows a changing programme of dance, theatre and music productions. The Schouwburg Amstelveen, Stadsplein 100, consists of a cinema, conference room and the theatre bar as well as the theatre itself. For further information, contact the theatre on +31 (0)20-547 51 75 or visit the theatre website: www.schouburgamstelveen.nl. The website also provides details of the programme.

Poppodium P60 is the cultural venue of Amstelveen. It includes a concert hall and rehearsal studios. It hosts around 200 concerts, club nights, workshops and other events annually, focusing on both established and popular artists as well as new talent. Further information and details of the programme of events can be found at www.P60.nl.



Amstelveen Public Library is where books and magazines can be borrowed at minimal cost. The library has three branches in Amstelveen (the main library is at Stadsplein 102), offering books in Dutch and other languages. To use the library service, you need to become a member. Information is available on +31 (0)20-641 41 26 or by going to the website www.amstelland-bibliotheken.nl.

Platform C is a platform where you will find the *Volkuniversiteit Amstelland*, the *Amstelveen Art Library* and the *Amstelveen Music and Dance School*. It's the place to find all sorts of culture, creativity and communication media. For further information go to www.platform-c.nu.





medische zaken

8 Medical matters

Amstelveen has excellent medical provision. First-line healthcare includes doctors and dentists. Registration at a practice is required in order to access medical care. For registration purposes, one general practitioner (GP) covers a specific geographical area and once the GP practice has registered the maximum number of patients, he/she may be unable to take any more. In this case, the doctor will refer you to a fellow GP with a practice located as close as possible to your area. The GP service provides first-line medical care and if they are unable to treat you, you will be referred to a specialist. There is no geographical restriction to the service provided by dentists; if they reached the maximum number of patients, they will refer you to a colleague as well.

Medical care in the Netherlands is not free of charge. Depending on income, citizens are compulsorily insured in the National Health Service. In your case, you or your company will usually take out a health insurance policy. You will often be asked to prove that you hold such insurance when healthcare is being provided. Medication prescribed by a GP or specialist which has to be collected from a pharmacy, must be paid for at the pharmacy itself. You will then be provided with an invoice which you can subsequently charge to your insurance company.

Hospitals and First Aid Service

The *Amstelveen Hospital Amstelland* covers most of the general specialisms. For emergency assistance you can refer to the Amstelland Hospital seven days a week from 08.00 - 22.00. For emergency assistance outside these hours, please refer to the nearby Amsterdam (University) hospitals; the *AMC* and *VU medical centre*.

The Amstelveen Hospital Amstelland also has a support desk for both Indian and Japanese expats. The support desks aim to support Indian and Japanese expats with their health and medical concerns, and to guide them to the appropriate department and medical practices:

India Desk: website: www.indiadeskamstelland.nl,
contact: indiadesk@zha.nl

Japan Desk: website: www.ziekenhuisamstelland.nl/jp/,
contact: +31 (0)20-755 71 46.

International Mental Health

Provides comprehensive mental health care through a team of psychiatrists, psychologists and nurses. They provide treatment in a number of languages. For further information visit their website: www.internationalmentalhealth.nl.

In case of an emergency and if you need an ambulance, call 112

9 belasting en verzekering

Taxes and insurance

Residents of the Netherlands are covered by a national social security system which includes schemes to compensate for loss of income as a result of illness or unemployment, medical care as well as old age pension provision and a surviving-relative benefit scheme. Residents are entitled to child benefit for children under the age of 18 and students are eligible for a student loan. You and the other members of your family may be insured under one or more of these social security schemes, even if you are living or working in the Netherlands on a temporary basis. Different rules apply for people who are posted to a company in the Netherlands by their employer, depending on the country in which the posting company is established.

The Dutch old age pension (AOW) is a basic pension for people aged 66 (rising to the age of 67 in 2021). If you are resident in the Netherlands, you are covered by the AOW scheme; you will accrue 2% of the full pension amount for every year that you have lived or worked in the Netherlands on a legal basis after your 15th birthday (rising to the age of 17 in 2021). If you move to another country, you will still keep the years of entitlement you accrued in the Netherlands. The amount of your old age pension will be calculated when you reach pensionable age. Subject to certain conditions, you may also receive a Dutch pension if you are living in a country other than the Netherlands.

Dutch child benefit (AKW) is paid as a contribution towards the cost of supporting a child under the age of 18 who is living in the Netherlands. This benefit is paid at the end of every quarter. If you live in Amstelveen, you can submit an application for child benefit to the office of the Sociale Verzekeringsbank in Leiden. The office will assess your entitlement to child benefit.

You can find more information on pensions (AOW) and child benefit (AKW), including addresses and telephone numbers, on the *Sociale Verzekeringsbank* website: www.svb.nl. The website also has an English version. Information about other Dutch social security schemes and the Dutch tax system can also be found at www.uvw.nl and www.belastingdienst.nl respectively.





10 Sports

There is a comprehensive range of sports and activities on offer in Amstelveen, from soccer to bridge and dancing to volleyball. To participate, you may need to become a member, and you may be required to register before playing. Individual sports activities are also on offer,

and you will find several fitness centres throughout Amstelveen. The municipality guide, available from the information desk at the Town Hall +31 (0)20-540 49 11, provides a list of all the sports clubs and facilities in Amstelveen.

Swimming pool

The *Meerkamp Swimming Pool* offers top-notch facilities, with swimming lanes, aqua-aerobics, children's swimming lessons and recreational swimming being just a few of the options available at the swimming pool on the Van der Hooplaan 239. For further information, visit their website: www.meerkamp.nl.

Stichting Amstelveens Sportbedrijf (SAS) (Amstelveen sports management foundation) is a non-profit organisation that puts municipal policies relating to sports and recreational activities into effect. SAS deals with matters including:

- management and hire of sports accommodation
- development and execution of programmes encouraging participation in sport by people of all ages
- swimming lessons and water-based activities

For further information, please contact Amstelveens Sportbedrijf +31 (0)20-347 34 50 or send an e-mail to info@sportbedrijfamstelveen.nl.

Cricket

There are two cricket clubs based in Amstelveen: the *VRA Cricket Club* and the *ACC Cricket Club*. The VRA Cricket Club is based in the Amsterdam Forest and has a rich history in cricketing spheres within Holland. As you may have seen by their recent exploits in the Cricket World Cup, Dutch cricket is played with passion and commitment, but also highlights the best aspect of amateur cricket – to enjoy it. VRA takes its cricket seriously (as they have several current Internationals and the first team have been national champion seven times over the past ten years), but also place a big emphasis on playing the game for fun, and enjoying all the social aspects that go along with it. For further information, please visit www.vra.nl.

The *ACC Cricket Club* was formed in 1921, and is a friendly, social and successful club based in the Amsterdam/Amstelveen area. They have three pitches available at the weekend, but only one during the week since as share the grounds with a golf club.

The *ACC Club* is a completely open club, with a thriving social scene. They are always pleased to welcome new members; whether you are looking for high-quality Sunday league cricket or the gentler delights of a Saturday afternoon friendly, there is a team for everyone. For further information, please visit www.acc-cricket.nl.

Go centre

The *European Go Cultural Centre (EGCC)* is a non-profit organization with the aim of spreading Go in Europe and to inform the public in Europe about the existence, background and rules of the ancient game of Go. They work closely with the European Go Federation and organise tournaments and courses. In cooperation with most national associations they have developed and produced promotional and teaching material, which is available in seventeen European languages. The building where the EGCC is situated is owned by the Nihon Ki-in and loaned to the Foundation Nihon Ki-in European Go Cultural Centre to be used as a venue to play go. For more information about the European Go centre in Amstelveen please visit www.go-centre.nl.

Golf

If you are looking to play golf, *Golf centre Amsteldijk* offers you a fantastic course covering more than 25 acres where you can enjoy everything golf has to offer in a natural setting. For further information, visit the website: www.amsteldijk.nl.

Watersports

Poel's Up Urban Beach can be found right behind Amstelveen Town Hall. The lake has a floating swimming pool with a terrace and a beautiful view. There are also a range of activities on offer, such as stand-up paddling. For further information, please visit the website: www.poelsup.nl.



11 Housing



Amstelveen's favourable position, between Schiphol and Amsterdam, means it is a very popular place to live. A variety of housing types, ranging from apartments and single-family dwellings to luxury villas, are available to rent or buy. If you are looking to buy a house, the following information will be important. Apart from a few exceptions, Amstelveen has no restrictions on settling in the area. Anybody can buy a house in Amstelveen but, as you are not yet familiar with the local situation, it would be advisable to use the services of an estate agent. A local estate agent will know the local housing market inside and out and will be able to advise you on price, location, construction and various other matters that are important when considering a purchase. The addition of 'buyer's costs' (tax, estate agent's costs, notary and financing) to the house price means there are costs to be added to the price of a property. In terms of financing, expert mortgage consultants can help advise you on the options with regard to financing the house you want.

If you will be residing in Amstelveen temporarily, you may be interested in renting a house. Amstelveen has a huge range of rented houses within its boundaries. Most of these properties are only available to residents and people working in Amstelveen or the surrounding area. There are a large number of estate agents in Amstelveen specialising in properties for rent, who can help you find a suitable property. The rental period for most properties is usually a minimum of one year.

For executives and business people who are staying here for a shorter period, there is also the option of renting a fully furnished and serviced apartment through the Htel company. For further information, go to www.htel.nl.



winkelen

12 Shopping

Each quarter of Amstelveen has a shopping centre that can provide all your day-to-day shopping needs. In addition to this, there is the large main shopping centre (Stadshart) in the centre of Amstelveen where you will find around 180 shops in total selling just about everything you could need. Besides the smaller shops, the larger department stores are also located

here. There are many (paid) parking facilities both at the district shopping centres and at the main shopping centre.

Most shops are open from Monday to Saturday from 09.00 - 18.00. Most supermarkets are open from 08.00 to 22.00. Shops in Stadshart are open every Sunday from 12.00 - 18.00.

Market

A market is held on the Stadsplein every Friday offering a huge range of products, including fish-mongers that specialise in foreign fish products. An 'organic' market is held at the Stadshart every Tuesday. The market is very popular with foreign residents and visitors, with the opportunity to sample the local products on offer.

For further information, please visit the website: www.stadshartamstelveen.nl

Post Office

There are plenty of banks and post offices throughout Amstelveen. The post office in the main shopping centre is located in the AKO bookshop opposite the supermarket. Post offices can also be found at other shopping centres, and are usually based in a shop.

Indian food stores

There are two Indian food stores in Amstelveen (*Kashmir food store*) at the Lindenlaan 376 - 380, 1185 NM Amstelveen (www.kashmiristores.com) and *Spice store*, Karel Doornmanweg 6, 1181 WE Amstelveen (www.spicestore.nl). Both sell a range of products, food and groceries. There are also a number of Indian restaurants in Amstelveen.

Mom 'n Kitchen

This is a Korean Grocery store based in the Kostverlorenhof shopping center in Amstelveen. Not only is it a small Korean shop specialising in Korean and Japanese products, it also makes a great place to enjoy a delicious lunch. *Mom's 'n Kitchen* sells both food and non-food products (www.mominthekitchen.nl).

13 INAmsterdam

Simplifying the process

The INAmsterdam procedure allows employers to initiate the registration process for a residence permit prior to their new employee's arrival in the country. This allows skilled migrants (and their family members) to complete several important formalities at a single visit to INAmsterdam.

Expats are able to collect their residence permit and simultaneously complete the necessary registration with their municipality at the same appointment. As a result, they will also receive their citizen service number (BSN), allowing them to open a Dutch bank account, amongst other things. An early IND approval (in the form of a sticker) is available for companies who would like their expat employees to start working within two weeks of initiating the application with the IND. Applications for the 30% ruling can also be made via the INAmsterdam office.

The INAmsterdam office also provides services for EU citizens. EU citizens working for a company which has the official sponsor status with the IND can visit INAmsterdam for their municipal registration.

The INAmsterdam Partnership programme also connects expats with local expat-related service providers in the Amsterdam Area. A full list of INAmsterdam's trusted partners can be found on the website (www.inamsterdam.com).

Contact us

welcome@amsterdam.nl

www.inamsterdam.com

+31 (0)20-254 79 99

INAmsterdam

World Trade Center Amsterdam
I-Tower, first floor
Strawinskylaan 1767
1077 XX Amsterdam

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 09.00 - 17.00



14 amsterdam inbusiness



amsterdam inbusiness is the official foreign investment agency of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area (Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Almere and Haarlemmermeer). They work directly with the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency. *amsterdam inbusiness* assists foreign companies with the establishment and expansion of their activities in the Netherlands. They can help you to create a convincing business case for setting up in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area by offering practical advice and relevant information. All services are free of charge, strictly confidential and without any obligation.

The commitment does not end once you have set up an operation in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, they strive to build a long-term relationship in order to provide support in any phase of development of your company. If you are considering setting up your business in the Amsterdam Area, they have staff who specialise in various countries and sectors and have direct representatives in every municipality. Do not hesitate to contact them. They look forward to welcoming you!

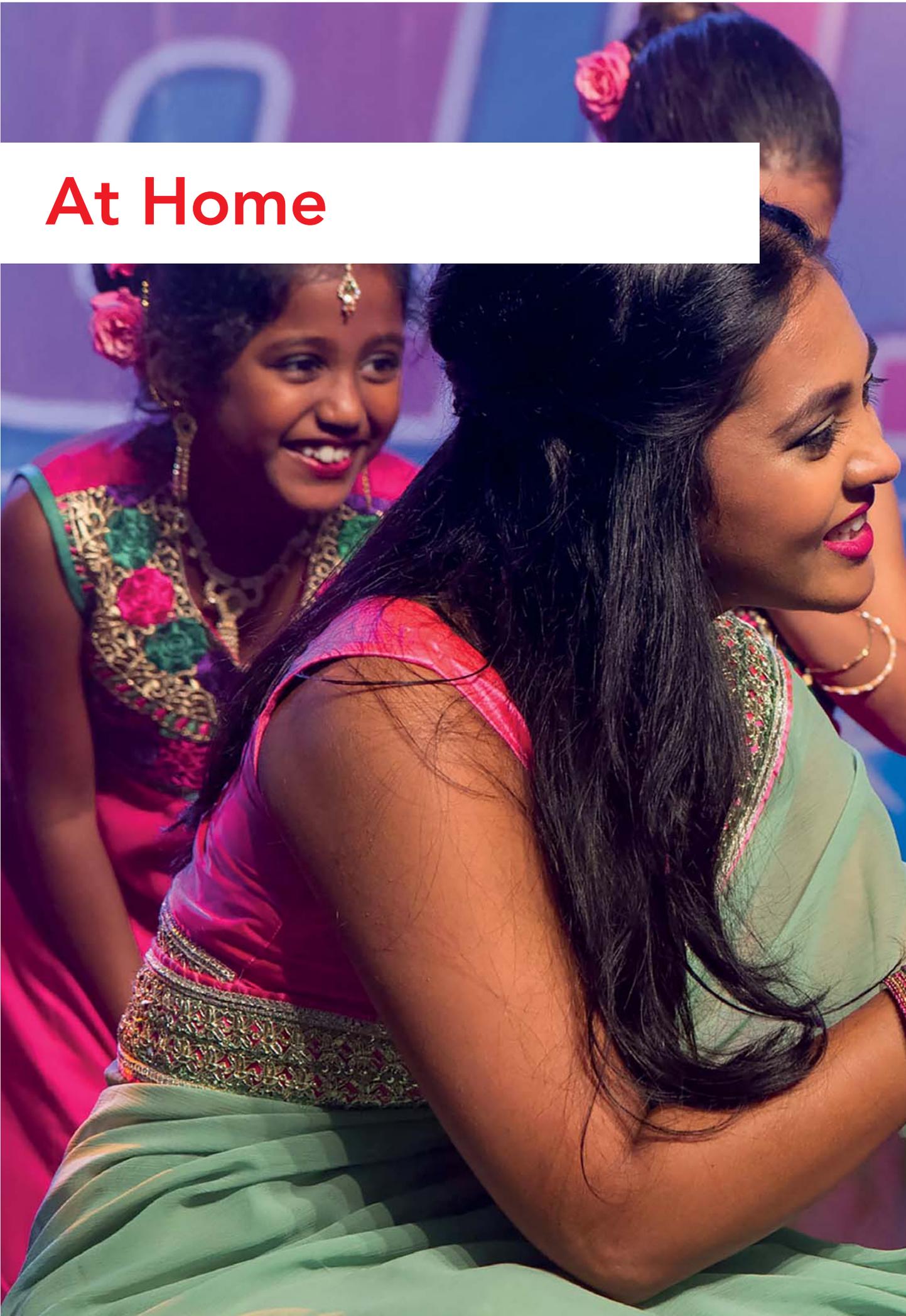


samenvattend

15 To summarise

We have tried to provide you with information relating to matters you will have to deal with as a new resident of Amstelveen. If you have any further questions, please contact the town hall on +31 (0)20-540 49 11.

At Home





Useful addresses

Organisation	Address	Telephone	Website / e-mail
Municipality of Amstelveen	Laan Nieuwer-Amstel 1 P.O. Box 4 1180 BA Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-540 49 11	www.amstelveen.nl
Municipality of Amstelveen Public Services	Laan Nieuwer-Amstel 1 1182 JR Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-540 49 11	www.amstelveen.nl/english
Municipality of Amstelveen Economic Affairs / amsterdam inbusiness	Laan Nieuwer-Amstel 1 1182 JR Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-540 44 23	business@amstelveen.nl
IND Immigration and Naturalization Service		+31 (0)88-043 04 30	www.ind.nl/en
Emergency number (police/fire department/ ambulance)		112	
Police Station	Gerard Doulaan 2 1181 WS Amstelveen	0900-8844	www.politie-amsterdam-amstelland.nl
Burglary Prevention Team		0900-8844	www.politie-amsterdam-amstelland.nl
Fire Department	Oranjebaan 1 1183 NN Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-555 66 66	www.brandweer.nl/ amsterdam-amstelland
Waste station	Grutterij 26 1185 ZW Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-540 49 11	www.amstelveen.nl/waste
IN Amsterdam	World Trade Center, I-Tower, first floor Strawinskylaan 1767 1077 XX Amsterdam	+31 (0)20-254 79 99	www.inamsterdam.com welcome@amsterdam.nl

Transport	Addresses	Telephone	Website / e-mail
Travellers information		0900-9292	www.9292.nl/en www.amstelveenlijn.nl/english
ANWB	Thomas Cookstraat 1 1181 ZS Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-441 55 45	www.anwb.nl
Driver and Vehicle Licencing Centre (CBR) West-Noord Region	P.O. Box. 58.001 1040 HA Amstelveen	0900-0210	www.cbr.nl
State Transport Industries Department (RDW)	P.O. Box 30.000 9640 RA Veendam	0900-0739	www.rdw.nl/information-in-english
Public Prosecutor traffic fines			www.openbaarministerie.nl

Education	Addresses	Telephone	Website / e-mail
Amsterdam International Community School	Prinses Irenestraat 59 1077 WV Amsterdam	+31 (0)20-577 12 40	www.aics.espritscholen.nl
Amity International School	Amsterdamseweg 204 1182 HL Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-345 44 81	www.amityschool.nl
British School of Amsterdam	Anthonie van Dijkstraat 1 1077 ME Amsterdam	+31 (0)20-679 78 40	www.britams.nl
International School of Amsterdam	Sportlaan 45 P.O. Box 920 1180 AX Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-347 11 11	www.isa.nl
iDealFuture Chinese International Community School	Prinses Irenestraat 21 1077 WM Amsterdam	+31 (0)6-1373 5999	www.idealfuture.nl/cnschool
Japanese School	Karel Klinkenbergstraat 137 1061 AL Amsterdam	+31 (0)20-611 81 36	www.jsa.nl
Japanese Kindergarten Tulip Gakuen School	Schweizerlaan 2-6 1187 JD Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-661 51 82	www.tulipgakuen.nl
Korean School Foundation	Elegast 5 1185 AA Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-641 62 82	www.koreanschool.nl
Volkuniversiteit Amstelland	Stadsplein 97 1181 ZA Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-545 14 24	www.vu-amstelland.nl
Universiteit van Amsterdam	Binnengasthuisstraat 9 1012 ZA Amsterdam	+31 (0)20-525 33 33	info@uva.nl
Vrije Universiteit	De Boelelaan 1105 1081 HV Amsterdam	+31 (0)20-598 98 98	international@dienst.vu.nl
Child Care			
Hestia Child Care	Laan v/d Helende Meesters 4 1186 AM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-345 93 91	www.hestiakinderopvang.nl
KinderRijk	P.O. Box 2027 1180 EA Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-426 08 66	www.kinderrijk.nl
Compananny	Amsterdamseweg 273 1182 GZ Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-303 83 44	www.compananny.nl amstelveen@compananny.nl
Other educational organisations			
Amstelveen Music and Dance School	Stadsplein 99 1181 ZM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-647 14 57	www.muziekschoolamstelveen.nl
Kinderboerderij Elsenhove	Bankrasweg 1 1183 TP Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-496 39 97	www.elsenhove.nl

Sports / leisure	Addresses	Telephone	Website / e-mail
ACC Cricketclub	Aanloop 3 1183 SZ Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-647 55 13	acc-cricket.nl
VRA Cricket Club	Nieuwe Kalfjeslaan 21b 1182 AA Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-641 85 25	www.vra.nl
NFC Soccer Club	Sportlaan 23 1185 TB Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-641 26 96	www.nfc.nl
Go center	Schokland 14 1181 HV Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-645 55 55	www.go-centre.nl
Golfcentrum Amsteldijk	Afslag 1 1186 VG Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-303 05 10	www.amsteldijk.nl
Jumpers Indoor Trampoline & Indoorgolf	Langs de Werf 7 1185 XT Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-426 07 50	www.jumpersindoor.nl
Poels'Up	Laan Nieuwer-Amstel 1b 1182 JR Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-309 03 44	www.poelsup.nl
Swimmingpool De Meerkamp	Van der Hooplaan 239 1185 LN Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-547 58 59	www.meerkamp.nl
Stichting Amstelveens Sportbedrijf		+31 (0)20-347 34 50	info@sportbedrijfamstelveen.nl
Amsterdam forest	Bosbaanweg 5 1182 DA Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-545 61 00	www.amsterdamsebos.nl/ english
Botanical Gardens		+31 (0)20-540 49 11	botanicalparks.com

Medical matters	Addresses	Telephone	Website / e-mail
Ziekenhuis Amstelland	L. v/d Helende Meesters 8 1186 AM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-755 70 00	www.zha.nl
<i>Japan Desk</i>	L. v/d Helende Meesters 8 1186 AM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-755 71 46	www.ziekenhuisamstelland.nl/jp
<i>India Desk</i>	L. v/d Helende Meesters 8 1186 AM Amstelveen		www.ziekenhuisamstelland.nl/en indiadesk@zha.nl
AMC Academisch Medisch Centrum first-aid	Meibergdreef 9 1105 AZ Amsterdam-ZO	+31 (0)20-566 91 11	www.amc.nl
VU medisch centrum first-aid	De Boelelaan 1117 1081 HV Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-444 36 36	www.vumc.nl
International Mental Health	Koningslaan 35 1075 AB Amsterdam	+31 (0)85-066 05 00	www.internationalmentalhealth.nl

Tax and insurance	Addresses	Telephone	Website / e-mail
Sociale Verzekeringsbank			www.svb.nl
Belastingdienst	P.O. Box 3070 6401 DN Heerlen	0800 - 0543	www.belastingdienst.nl/english

Culture	Addresses	Telephone	Website / e-mail
Cobra museum of Modern Art	Sandbergplein 1-3 1181 ZX Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-547 50 50	www.cobra-museum.nl
Jan van der Togt museum	Dorpsstraat 50 1182 JE Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-641 57 54	www.jvdtogt.nl
Schouwburg Amstelveen	Stadsplein 100 1181 ZM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-547 51 75	www.schouwburgamstelveen.nl
Amstelland Art Library	Stadsplein 97 1181 ZM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-645 23 33	www.sbkamstelveen.nl
Central Library Amstelveen	Stadsplein 102 1181 ZM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-641 41 26	www.amstelland-bibliotheken.nl/ english
Westwijk Library	Westwijkplein 1 1187 LS Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-647 59 60	www.amstelland-bibliotheken.nl/ english
Poppodium P60	Stadsplein 100a 1181 ZM Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-345 34 45	p60.nl
Stadshart Amstelveen	Rembrandthof 49 1181 ZL Amstelveen	+31 (0)20-426 58 05	www.stadshartamstelveen.nl

National Holidays

1 st of January	New Years Day
27 th of April	Kingsday
4 th of May	National Remembrance day (<i>not an official holiday, we take a moment of silence at 8 o'clock at night to honor all of those who died in the war</i>)
5 th of May	Liberation Day (<i>official public holiday every 5 years, next in 2020</i>)
5 th of December	Sinterklaas (<i>not an official holiday</i>)
25 th of December	Christmas day
26 th of December	Boxing day
31 st of December	New Years Eve (<i>not an official holiday</i>)



colofon

Lay-out: Joost Kuijpers ontwerper
September 2019

