

Beer World: Amsterdam

Globetrotter ADRIAN BELL continues his mission to show Darlington drinkers that good beer can be enjoyed overseas, in our series on short-break destinations.



AMSTERDAM is one of the easiest European cities to get to from Darlington, being only 1hour 15min from Durham Tees Valley airport.

It makes an ideal weekend break - and don't think of it as just the red light area, there is a lot more to this city.

As far as beer goes, Amsterdam has a café on almost every corner. Some only sell Heineken but most now usually stock a few Belgian offerings as well.

Three beer specialist cafés are worth especially seeking out. **In de Wildeman** (www.indewildeman.nl) stocks a huge range of beers from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, UK and more. **Gollem** (www.cafegollem.nl) stocks a wide range of mainly Belgian beers. And the **Arendsnest** (www.arendsnest.nl) claims to sell at least one beer from every Dutch brewery.

Amongst other cafés to look out for are: the **Bekeerde Suster** brewpub; **In 't Aepjen** - housed in one of the last two remaining wooden framed houses in Amsterdam; and **Papeneiland**, one of the best of the contenders for 'oldest bar in Amsterdam', with a small range of Dutch and Belgian brews.

For an exhaustive list of Amsterdam bars take a look at www.europeanbeerguide.net.

Amsterdam has two breweries, Heineken and the much more interesting **Brouwerij t'Ij** (www.brouwerijhetij.nl), a micro under a windmill which brews five regular brews plus specials, most over 8%. It is only open from 3-8pm, Wed-Sun. You can walk or get the No 22 bus from Centraal Station.

DETAILS, DETAILS:

Food... Zeedijk is lined with Chinese restaurants, the streets around Leidseplein are wall-to-wall with restaurants of all types (try Indo-

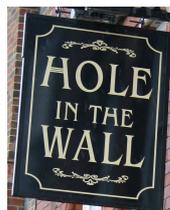
nesian) and Damrak, near the station, is lined with frijtuurs (chip shops) and pizza takeaways.

Sights... include the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and Anne Frank's House. More attractions at www.amsterdam.info.

Trams... travel everywhere in town and are cheapest with a 'strippenkaart' - 15 ticket strips for €6.80; most journeys use 2 strips.

Flights... can be booked with www.klm.com: three flights from DTV daily. It's a €3.60 train journey from Schiphol airport to the centre.

Accommodation... can be reserved with www.bookings.org from €60/nt single, €80 double. Most rooms are small and have very steep staircases. Try near the Leidseplein.



The Hole in the Wall

Horsemarket
Darlington

Tel. 01325 466720

An ancient Hostelry in the old Market Square

Now serving Real Ales

John Smith's *Handpulled Magnet*;
Greene King *Abbot*

**Thai Food is a speciality of
the House**

**Food served: Mon-Sat 12-2pm;
Thurs to Sat 6.30-9pm**

Good quality and excellent value

Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 11-11.30;
Fri + Sat 11-midnight; Sun 12-11