



# HOW I RATE DAY TRIPS IN THE NETHERLANDS

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Not all day trips are the same — and that's exactly the point.

On Amsterdamian, I write about places that are worth knowing: cities, towns, landscapes, and corners of the Netherlands that tell a story. Some are obvious choices for a first visit. Others reveal themselves more slowly, and only really shine if you already know the country a bit.

That's why I use a circle system to rate my day-trip and city guide articles: to help you decide whether a destination fits you, your time, and your expectations.

Not to judge places, but to help you decide whether a destination is right for you. Think of it as guidance, not a ranking.

## What the circles mean (and what they don't)

The circles do not measure quality, beauty, or importance. Every place featured here is worth visiting. Instead, they reflect suitability:

- how well a destination fits different travel styles
- how it works with limited time vs. slow exploration
- and how likely you are to enjoy it based on context and expectations.

## Two perspectives, one destination

Each destination is rated from two points of view:

### International visitors

This rating is written for people visiting the Netherlands from abroad, often for a limited time. It considers things like:

- how distinctive the place feels on a first or second trip
- ease of access and logistics
- how it compares to more well-known highlights

### NL-based day-trippers

This rating is for people who live in the Netherlands or visit frequently. It looks at:

- whether a place feels worth a dedicated day out
- atmosphere and sense of place
- how rewarding it is if you already know the country well

## The circle scale for international visitors

● ● ● ● ● — A must on a first visit

Iconic, distinctive, and easy to combine with other highlights.

Perfect if you want to understand the Netherlands beyond clichés, but still hit something memorable.

● ● ● ● ○ — Highly recommended if you have time

Not essential for a first visit, but very rewarding. Ideal for second-time visitors or those staying a bit longer.

● ● ● ○ ○ — Best for curious explorers

Interesting and worthwhile, especially if the theme speaks to you (history, food, nature). Not a priority if your schedule is tight.

● ● ○ ○ ○ — Only if it strongly matches your interests

A lovely place, but more niche. Best if you're actively looking for something specific or want to escape the obvious routes.

● ○ ○ ○ ○ — For slow travellers and specialists

Not about ticking boxes. This is for travellers who enjoy quiet places, local rhythms, or very specific stories.

## The circle scale for NL-based day-trippers/residents

● ● ● ● ● — Worth planning a day/weekend around

A place you'd happily recommend to friends or revisit yourself. Strong sense of place, good balance of things to do, and that "this was a good choice" feeling.

● ● ● ● ○ — A great day out

Very enjoyable and easy to combine with lunch, a walk, or a museum. Perfect for a relaxed weekend escape.

● ● ● ○ ○ — Nice, especially if you're nearby

Pleasant and interesting, but not something you'd cross the country for. Works well as part of a broader plan.

● ● ○ ○ ○ — For variety seekers

Good if you're actively looking for somewhere different or less obvious. Not a go-to, but refreshing once in a while.

● ○ ○ ○ ○ — For locals at heart

Subtle, quiet, and often overlooked. Best appreciated if you enjoy atmosphere over attractions.