

Amsterdam

Facts about the living conditions of some of the residences- housing and ways of travel.

Personal knowledge that I gathered from visiting in June 2022:

- The boats parked along the walls of the canals are permanent homes for residents and the boats have had their engines removed.
- When the houses now known as, 'The Dancing Houses' were first being built, there was a small gap left between the houses as the residents that planned to move in did not want to pay more tax for the ground area than they needed to. Fast forward to now, the houses are slanted and leaning against each other in the ground is saturated with the amount of floods the city has endured.
- Inside the basements of the houses, pillars have been inserted to help support the houses from collapse.
- The market price for the houses have an added 1 million, as houses need so much upkeep such as replacing the pillars when they begin to weaken.
- The streets of Amsterdam are swamped with bicycles tied to any railing as this is the most used form of transport. As everything is very close and easy to travel to, bikes are the most used form of transport- cars are hardly ever used or even owned.
- Most people own multiple bikes for different occasions. The person running the canal tour during our visit, was telling us that he owns three bikes for different uses- a nice bike for a date, a sturdy bike for day to day travel to work and a beat up bike for nights out that he doesn't mind losing as many bikes are dropped into the canal by accident. The canals are regularly cleaned as the waters are full of lost bikes that have fallen in.

Research that have gathered:

- There are 2500 houseboats in Amsterdam. Amsterdam has laws about the houseboats such as the wooden ones need to be repainted every three years.
- 2500 houseboats line Amsterdam canals and many have been afloat for more than a century. There are different types of houseboats and the concrete kind is the most desirable as they don't need to be taken to the shipyard for repairs.
- The famous houses along the canal all sank and became crooked, earning them the name Dancing Houses. The houses were built of wooden stilts as the ground was so saturated.
- <https://luxeadventuretraveler.com/8-fun-facts-amsterdam-canals/>





