



Amsterdam

14 May 1877 – 5 July 1878

24 November 1881 – 27 November 1881

6 October 1885 – 8 October 1885

Vincent arrived in Amsterdam in May 1877 and was determined to study Theology there. He had various contacts in the city, including three of his uncles: uncle Johannes Stricker, uncle Cor van Gogh and uncle Jan van Gogh. Uncle Jan had set up a study along with a bedroom for him, where Vincent scrupulously studied the Bible and took lessons in Latin, geometry

and algebra. Despite studying from the early morning to late at night, Vincent had trouble with mastering the material. On Sundays he attended multiple church services, also taught Sunday school and he visited museums such as the Trippenhuis and Museum van der Hoop whenever he could. Vincent was unable to complete his studies successfully and left

the city in the summer of 1878. He traded the capital for the town of Etten and returned to his parents to examine his possibilities for the future. Vincent returned to Amsterdam again in 1881 and in 1885.



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Amsterdam Train Station

Address Corner Droogbak / Prins Hendrikkade

Vincent came to Amsterdam in 1885 to see the newly opened Rijksmuseum. During this visit, he made two oil sketches of Amsterdam. In the waiting room of the temporary train station Westerdok, he painted *the View in Amsterdam from the Central Station*. Its exact location can still be observed today from the corner of the Droogbak and the Prins Hendrikkade. His *The De Ruijterkade in Amsterdam* was executed from the rear of the station.



Schreierstoren

Address Prins Hendrikkade 94/95

Vincent often passed by the medieval tower, the Schreierstoren while in Amsterdam. During one of his walks to the Noorderkerk (Northern Church), he observed the tower from a street with the name 'De Buitenkant' (The Exterior; now called Prins Hendrikkade). The picturesque view reminded him of a Jacob Maris painting and the people there were reminiscent of figures in Rembrandt's works. The Schreierstoren was built in around 1487 as part of the city's defense wall. Today it is that wall's only tower to have been preserved.



Kattenburgerbrug

Address Kattenburgerbrug

Vincent witnessed a tragic accident by the Kattenburgerbrug in July of 1877, when several children had fallen into water. Vincent van Gogh's Uncle Jan, head of the naval dockyard nearby, immediately sent a sloop to rescue them. One boy was seriously injured and Vincent and naval surgeons rushed him to a pharmacy. They tried in vain to revive him. That evening, Vincent visited the boy's parents to offer them his condolences. They were devastated by the death of their young son.



Uncle Jan

Address Grote Kattenburgerstraat 3

In Amsterdam, Vincent lived with his uncle Jan at the naval shipyard. He enjoyed the liveliness of the dockyard: the boatbuilding, the sounds of the workers, the smell of tar and so on. For Vincent, the view of the yard was 'indescribably beautiful' with the naval arsenal (now Scheepvaartmuseum / Maritime Museum) by the water. In order to create a 'mood' in his room, he had hung up various prints of works of art in his room. A plaque on a wall of the former residence commemorates Vincent's stay there.



Oosterkerk

Address Kleine Wittenburgerstraat 1

One of the various churches that Vincent visited in Amsterdam was the Oosterkerk near his uncle Jan's home. One Sunday he wrote: "Today was stormy, on my way to my lessons this morning I looked towards the Zuiderzee from the bridge. There was one white stripe on the horizon with dark grey clouds above it, the rain pouring down from them in slanting lines in the distance, standing out against this was the long row of houses with the Oosterkerk." [Letter 116] He probably saw this striking view from the Kattenburgerbrug.



Maurits Mendes da Costa

Address Jonas Daniël Meijerplein 13

Vincent received daily lessons in Latin and Greek from the classicist Maurits Mendes da Costa. He had to work hard to attain the proficiency required for admittance to the theology course. Vincent had great difficulty mastering the material and Mendes finally gave up hope that he could prepare his student for the entrance exam. Mendes, who was highly respected by Vincent, advised the family to allow Vincent to abandon his theology ambitions. Vincent was disappointed and left Amsterdam for Etten in July of 1878 to figure out what to do with his future. The building where the mentor lived no longer exists but iconic buildings such as the synagogue are still there today.



Amstelkerk

Address Amstelveld 10

On Sunday 3 June 1877, Vincent visited the Amstelkerk at 10 a.m. to listen to his uncle Stricker preach on the biblical passage "...for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." In a letter to his brother Theo he recounted that his uncle "...spoke passionately and cried out 'but Charity abideth.'" [Letter 119] That morning, Vincent had already heard an early (7 a.m.) sermon at another local church, which was probably the Noorderkerk (at Noordermarkt) or the Zuiderkerk (Zuiderkerkhof near Nieuwmarkt).



Ds. Meijer Sr.

Address Prinsengracht 1003

On his father's advice, Vincent visited Rev. Reinier Posthumus Meijers at the Prinsengracht in June 1877. There, he also met Meijers' wife and son and later attended one of the Protestant minister's sermons in the Westerkerk. Vincent admired the talented, deeply religious man. The men got along well – during his time in Amsterdam, Vincent would meet the reverend regularly.



Museum Fodor

Address Keizersgracht 609 - 613

Vincent travelled to Amsterdam in 1885 to visit the newly opened Rijksmuseum. He also went to the Museum Fodor, which housed the coal merchant Carel J. Fodor's art collection. Vincent admired the exhibited Dutch artists such as Johannes Bosboom en Antonie Waldorp. The Museum Fodor was closed in 1993 and the building now houses the Foam photography museum. The Fodor collection is kept at the Amsterdam Museum (Kalverstraat 92).



Trippenhuys

Address Kloveniersburgwal 29

Vincent was a frequent visitor of the Trippenhuys Museum in Amsterdam. Entry was free of charge. The museum housed the Dutch national art collection and featured works by masters such as Frans Hals and Rembrandt van Rijn. According to Vincent, the Trippenhuys was "...too small, and many paintings hang in such a way that one can't see them properly." [Letter 004] Fortunately, a new national museum opened in 1885: the Rijksmuseum at the Stadhouderskade that we still know today.



Flower Market

Address Bloemenmarkt, Singel

No doubt Vincent was a frequent visitor of the Flower Market. He wrote to his brother Theo about it in 1877: "Went past the flower market on Singel today, I saw such a nice thing there. A farmer was standing with lots and lots of pots, all kinds of flowers and shrubs, the ivy was at the back, and in between sat his little girl, a child who Maris would paint, so simple, wearing a black cap, and with a pair of eyes so lively and really so friendly, she sat there knitting..." [Letter 119] The Flower Market is still held daily in the same spot as it was in Vincent's day.



Uncle Stricker

Address Gelderse kade 77

Vincent regularly visited the Gelderse kade 77. This was the home of preacher Johannes Stricker, who was married to Vincent's aunt. "Uncle Stricker" was an important figure for Vincent when he was in Amsterdam. He received lessons from him twice a week, was impressed by his sermons at church and even spent his holidays there. Vincent looked up to his uncle. A few years later he fell in love with Stricker's daughter Kee, Vincent's niece.



Museum van der Hoop

Address Oudemanshuispoort

In 1877, Vincent and his brother Theo visited the Museum van der Hoop. It housed the banker Adriaan van der Hoop's famous collection of 17th- and 18th-century art, including works by Rembrandt and Vermeer. He later advised his English friend Harry Gladwell to see the collection. Yet he did not join Gladwell, perhaps because he was unable or unwilling to pay admission. The museum cost 10 cents on Sundays, 25 cents on Mondays, and 50 cents the rest of the week. The Oudemanshuispoort still exists, but the Museum van der Hoop's collection was transferred in 1885 to the new Rijksmuseum on Stadhouderskade (address: Museumstraat 1).



Oudezijds Chapel (Oudezijds Kapel)

Address Zeedijk 2

Vincent attended several church services in the Oudezijds Chapel. His uncle Stricker preached there on 15 July 1877. The service was poorly attended and was predominantly attended by orphans. Vincent enjoyed roaming the small neighbourhood of narrow streets around the church with the Zeedijk and the Teertuinen (tar gardens); it reminded him of central London. The Oudezijds Chapel still exists but is no longer in use as a church. The building is not open to the public.



Walloon Church

Address Walenpleintje 159

Vincent sometimes went to Amsterdam's Walloon church, which he referred to as the French Church. The service was held in French which wasn't a problem for Vincent because he had lived in Paris for a time. He was impressed by Rev. Ferdinand Henri Gagnebin's sermons and also visited the reverend at home a few times. Vincent's father, however, did not approve of Gagnebin. He was afraid that their interaction would only cause "errors in Vincent's thinking."