



An oasis of peace in a vibrant city

TEXT: MICHEL STOL | PHOTOS: AMSTERZONIAN

Could there be anything better than enjoying all the energy of Amsterdam from a green, rural location, just a stone's throw away from the beautiful Dutch countryside? If you are searching for such a place, then you have to stay at Amsterzonian Bed & Breakfast in North Amsterdam.

Fred Dwarshuis, who runs Amsterzonian, welcomes you into his eco-friendly B&B by literally raising your country's flag. "It is an extra way of saying: 'Welcome!' and is really appreciated by our guests," he smiles.

Upon arrival, Dwarshuis, accompanied by multiple maps and brochures, takes the time to introduce you to the city centre and

its surrounding countryside, both of which are really close by.

Top-notch accommodation

Amsterzonian has two charming accommodations available to rent and both are suitable for two people. One is on the second floor of the house: a twin room with balcony and garden view. Meanwhile, in the back water garden, which is home to more than 250 plant species and water fauna, you will find the luxurious garden house. This boasts its own private access to the street and a waterfront terrace. Both rooms are top notch and have their own kitchenette and private bathroom.

The refrigerator is fully stocked with organic and vegetarian products, so you can

make your own breakfast every morning. "Guests come here to unwind, they do not want to be bound by having breakfast at a set time. That is why we ensure they have everything they need, so they can make it themselves," adds Dwarshuis.

City and countryside

One of the great things about Amsterzonian is its location. Guests get the best of both worlds: they are close to the city as well as to the beautiful countryside of Noord-Holland province.

Quality bicycles are available for free and in just ten minutes you can be at the vibrant NDSM Wharf. From there you can take a free ferry to the city centre. Or you can take the bus, which runs all day and

night, and stops at the bus terminal, which is a two-minute walk away. From that same bus terminal, you can get to Schiphol Airport in less than 40 minutes.

Het Twiske

At the end of the street you run into the river Twiske and five minutes later a polder mill welcomes you to the 630-hectare recreational area Het Twiske. With lakes and beaches, it is an Eldorado for water sports. There, you can also enjoy swimming, hiking, biking, running, canoeing and horse riding. Then comes the IJperveld Bird Reserve, where you can observe birds from whispering boats.

"You can set off with the kayak – also complimentary – on the creek behind Amsterzonian, or ride a bicycle along one of the many routes that run through Het Twiske and into Waterland."

Waterland

Immediately north of Amsterdam you will find Waterland, a magnificent area where open peat meadows alternate with historical villages and towns. Admire colourful wooden houses and traditional Dutch farm houses. There are many bicycle paths and routes, as well as countless walking routes.

De Zaanse Schans

Only a 14-kilometre bicycle ride away is De Zaanse Schans, one of the greatest treasures of the Netherlands. For centuries, the historic Dutch mills here have used wind power to make authentic products. Up until the Age of Steam (the English industrial revolution), the Zaan region was home to approximately 600 windmills, which harnessed the wind power to produce massive amounts of flour, cocoa, spices and paint, as well as

to saw wood and press oil. This helped the region become a major economic player within Europe.

Excellent facilities

In addition to its prime location and charming accommodation, Amsterzonian offers all necessary amenities to ensure a smooth stay. "Since our accommodations have five-star facilities and a super fast internet connection, Amsterzonian is also a very good location for business travellers. They can work if needed and relax after a hard day's work, or a busy day in the city," concludes Dwarshuis.

After all, this is what Amsterzonian is all about: taking in both the bustling city and the peaceful nature that surrounds it.

AMSTERZONIAN B&B

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