



HAARLEM

Cute, cozy, authentic, and handy to the airport, Haarlem is a fine home base, giving you small-town warmth overnight, with easy access (15 min by train) to wild and crazy Amsterdam during the day.

Bustling Haarlem gave America's Harlem its name back when New York was New Amsterdam, a Dutch colony. For centuries, Haarlem has been a market town, buzzing with shoppers heading home with fresh bouquets, nowadays by bike.

Enjoy the market on Monday (clothing) or Saturday (general), when the square bustles like a Brueghel painting, with cheese, fish, flowers, and families. Make yourself at home; buy some flowers to brighten your hotel room.

Accessibility in Haarlem

Haarlem is not ideal in terms of accessibility. We've listed only the most accessible hotels and restaurants. The best local resource is the *Holiday Magazine* (see below).

ORIENTATION

(area code: 023)

Tourist Information

Haarlem's TI (AE, AI, Level 2—Moderately Accessible), at the train station, is friendlier, more helpful, and less crowded than Amsterdam's. Ask your Amsterdam questions here. They also offer train travel advice and sell tickets for destinations in Holland, Belgium, and Germany

Haarlem of the Golden Age

Parts of Haarlem still look like they did four centuries ago, when the city was a bustling commercial center rivaling Amsterdam. It's easy to imagine



local merchants and their wives dressed in black with ruff collars, promenading the Market Square.

Back then, the town was a port on the large Haarlemmer Lake, with the North Sea only about five miles away. As well as being the tulip capital of the country, Haarlem was a manufacturing center, producing wool, silk, lace, damask cloth, furniture, smoking pipes (along with

cheap, locally grown tobacco), and mass quantities of beer. Haarlemers were notorious consumers of beer. It was a popular breakfast drink, and the average person drank six pints a day.

In 1585, the city got an influx of wealthy merchants when Spanish troops invaded the culturally rich city of Antwerp, driving Protestants and Jews north. Even when hard-line, moralistic Calvinists dominated Haarlem's politics, the city remained culturally and religiously diverse.

In the 1700s, Haarlem's economy declined, along with that of the Netherlands. In the succeeding centuries, industry—printing, textiles, ship building—once again made the city an economic force.

(April–Sept Mon–Fri 9:00–17:30, Sat 10:00–16:00, closed Sun; Oct–March Mon–Fri 9:30–17:00, Sat 10:00–15:00, closed Sun; tel. 0900-616-1600—€0.50/min, helpful parking brochure). The €1 *Holiday Magazine* has a good accessibility section (free if you buy the fine €2 town map). The TI also sells a €2 self-guided walking-tour map for overachievers. The little yellow computer terminal on the curb outside the TI prints out free maps anytime. (It's fun...just dial the street and hit print. Drivers will also find these terminals stationed at roads coming into town.)

Arrival in Haarlem

By Train: Haarlem's train station has elevators that allow wheelchair users access from the platform to the street level. As you emerge from Haarlem's train station (lockers available), the TI is on your right and the bus station is across the street. Two parallel streets flank the train

station (Kruisweg and Jansweg). Head up either street, and you'll reach the town square and church in six wheelchair-accessible blocks (narrow sidewalks and lots of pedestrians). If you need help, ask a local person to point you toward the Grote Markt (Market Square).

By Car: Parking is expensive on the streets (€2.50/hr) and cheaper in several central garages (€1.50/hr). Two main garages let you park overnight for €2 (at the train station and near Die Raeckse Hotel).

By Plane: For details on getting from Schiphol Airport into Haarlem, see page *TK.

Helpful Hints

Blue Monday: Most sights are closed on Monday except for the church.

Money: The handy, accessible GWK currency exchange office at the train station offers fair rates (Mon–Fri 8:00–20:00, Sat 9:00–17:00, Sun 10:00–17:00).

Internet Access: Try **Internet Café Amadeus** (in Hotel Amadeus overlooking Market Square, Level 3—Minimally Accessible, steep stairs and no elevator up to lounge, €1.20/15 min) or nearly any **coffeeshop** (if you don't mind marijuana smoke; varying accessibility). Perhaps the cheapest place in town is **Sony Teletechniques (AE+A, AI, Level 2—Moderately Accessible, one 4" entry step; €2/hr, daily 10:00–24:00, near the train station at Lange Herenstraat 4).**

Post Office: It's at Gedempte Oude Gracht 2 (**AE, AI, Level 1—Fully Accessible; Mon–Fri 9:00–18:00, Sat 10:00–13:30, closed Sun, has ATM).**

Laundry: My Beautiful Launderette is handy and cheap (**AE, AI, Level 2—Moderately Accessible; €6 self-service wash and dry, daily 8:30–20:30, €9 full service available Mon–Fri 9:00–17:00, near Vroom & Dreesmann department store at Boter Markt 20).**

Taxi: For a fully accessible minivan taxi (**AE, AI, Level 1—Fully Accessible, entry ramps), call Otax at 023/512-3456 (best to reserve 1–2 hours in advance).**

Local Guide: For a historical look at Haarlem, consider hiring Walter Schelfhout (€75/2 hours, tel. 023/535-5715, schelfhout@dutch.nl). Walter is happy accommodate travelers with limited mobility—contact him in advance to let him know your needs.

Bulb Flower Parade: One Saturday each April, an all-day Bulb Flower Parade of floats, decorated with blossoms instead of crepe paper, wafts through eight towns, including Haarlem. The floats are parked in Haarlem at Gedempte Oude Gracht overnight, when they're illuminated, and through the next day.

SELF-GUIDED ROLL OR STROLL

Welcome to Haarlem's Market Square

Haarlem's market square (Grote Markt, worth ▲▲), where 10 streets converge, is the town's delightful centerpiece...as it has been for 700 years. To enjoy a coffee or beer here, simmering in Dutch good living, is a quint-



essential European experience. In a recent study, the Dutch were found to be the most content people in Europe. In another study, the people of Haarlem were found to be the most content in the Netherlands. Observe. Relax and gaze at the church, appreciating the same scene Dutch artists captured in oil paintings that now hang in museums.

Just a few years ago, trolleys ran through the square, and cars were parked everywhere. But today, it's a wheelchair-acces-

sible people zone, filled with market stalls on Mondays and Saturdays and café tables on other days.

This is a great place to build a picnic with Haarlem finger foods—raw herring, local cheese (Gouda and Edam), a *frikandel* (little corn-dog sausage), french fries with mayonnaise, *stroopwafels* (waffles with syrup), *poffertjes* (little sugar doughnuts), or one of many different ethnic foods (falafel, *shoarma*, Indonesian dishes).

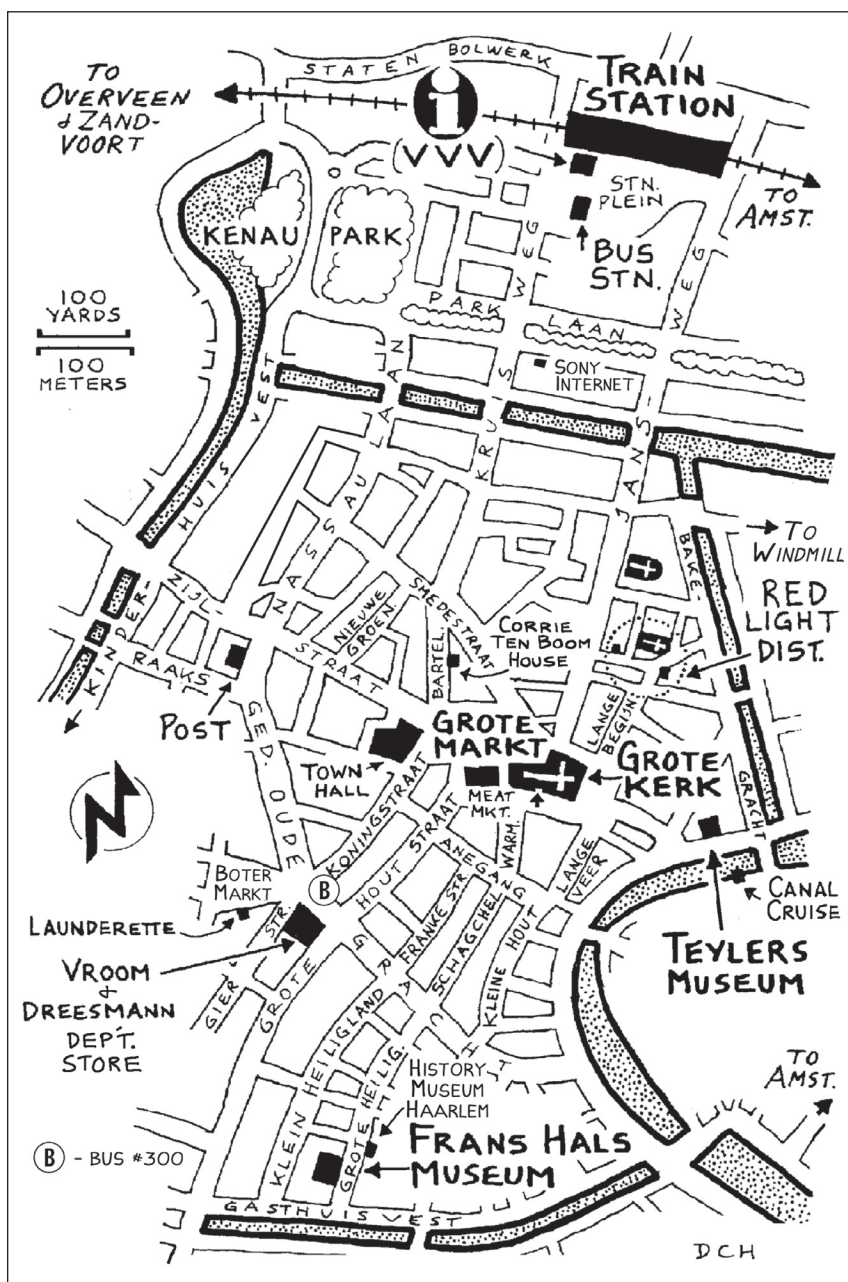
- *Overseeing the square is the...*

L. J. Coster Statue: Forty years before Gutenberg invented movable type, this man carved the letter *A* out of wood, dropped it into some wet sand, and saw the imprint it left. He got the idea of making movable type out of wood (and later, he may have tried using lead). For Haarlemers, that was good enough, and they credit their man, Coster, with inventing modern printing. In the statue, Coster (c. 1370–1440) holds up a block of movable type and points to himself, saying, “I made this.” How much Coster did is uncertain, but Gutenberg trumped him by building a printing press, casting type in metal, and pounding out the bible.

- *Coster is facing the...*



Haarlem



Town Hall: While most of medieval Europe was ruled by kings, dukes, and barons, Haarlem has been largely self-governing since 1425. The town hall—built from a royal hunting lodge in the mid-1200s, then rebuilt after a 1351 fire—has served as Haarlem’s town hall since about 1400. The facade dates from 1630. (The entry is wheelchair accessible, with a fully adapted toilet—one of the few in town.)

The town drunk used to hang out on the bench in front of the town hall, where he’d expose himself to newlyweds coming down the stairs. The Dutch, rather than arresting the man, moved the bench.

• *Next to the church is the...*

Meat Market (Vleeshal), 1603: The fine Flemish Renaissance building nearest the cathedral is the old meat hall. It was built by the rich butchers’ and leatherworkers’ guilds. The meat market was on the ground floor, the leather was upstairs, and the cellar was filled with ice to keep the meat preserved. It’s decorated with carved bits of early advertising—sheep and cows for sale. Today, rather than meat, the hall shows off temporary art exhibits (AE, AI+A, Level 2—Moderately Accessible, some steps to reach upper level once inside; €5, Tue–Sat 11:00–17:00, closed Sun, tel. 023/511-5775, www.dehallen.com).

SIGHTS

▲Church (Grote Kerk)—This 15th-century Gothic church (now Protestant) is worth a look, if only for its Oz-like organ (from 1738, 100



feet high, its 5,000 pipes impressed both Handel and Mozart). Note how the organ, which fills the west end, seems to steal the show from the altar. Quirky highlights include a replica of Foucault’s pendulum, the “Dog-Whipper’s Chapel,” and a 400-year-old cannonball.

Access: AE+A, AI, Level 2—Moderately Accessible. There is

a tall step and a ledge to get in the door, but the interior is accessible.

Cost, Hours, Location: €2, Mon–Sat 10:00–16:00, closed Sun to tourists, tel. 023/553-2040. To enter, find the small *Entrée* sign behind the church at Oude Groenmarkt 23.

Organ Concerts: Consider attending (even part of) a concert to hear Holland’s greatest pipe organ (regular free concerts Tue at 20:15 mid-May–mid-Oct, additional concerts Thu at 15:00 July–Aug, concerts

nearly nightly at 20:15 during the organ competition in July, confirm schedule at TI or at www.bavo.nl; bring a sweater—the church isn't heated).

▲▲**Frans Hals Museum**—Haarlem is the hometown of Frans Hals, the foremost Dutch portrait painter of the 17th-century Golden Age. This refreshing museum—an almshouse for old men back in 1610—displays many of his greatest paintings, done with his nearly Impressionistic style. You'll see group portraits and take-me-back paintings of old-time Haarlem. Look for the 250-year-old dollhouse on display in a former chapel.



Access: AE, AI, AT, Level 2—Moderately Accessible. Most of the interior is accessible, except for a couple of steps into two rooms and four steps into another room. They have one loaner wheelchair (first come, first served).

Cost, Hours, Location: €7, wheelchair user pays, but companion goes free (only if companion pushes wheelchair), Tue–Sat 11:00–17:00, Sun 12:00–17:00, closed Mon, Groot Heiligland 62, tel. 023/511-5775, www.franshalsmuseum.nl.

History Museum Haarlem—This small museum, across the street from the Frans Hals Museum, offers a glimpse of old Haarlem. Request the English version of the 10-minute video. Study the large-scale model of Haarlem in 1822 (when its fortifications were still intact), and enjoy the “time machine” computer and video display that shows you various aspects of life in Haarlem at different points in history. The adjacent architecture center (free) may be of interest to architects.

Access: AE, AI, AT, Level 1—Fully Accessible.

Cost, Hours, Location: €1, Tue–Sat 12:00–17:00, Sun 13:00–17:00, closed Mon, Groot Heiligland 47, tel. 023/542-2427.

Corrie Ten Boom House—Haarlem is home to Corrie Ten Boom, popularized by *The Hiding Place*, her inspirational book and the movie that followed, about the Ten Boom family's experience protecting Jews from the Nazis. Corrie Ten Boom gives the other half of the Anne Frank story—the point of view of those who risked their lives to hide Dutch Jews during the Nazi occupation (1940–1945).

The clock shop was the Ten Boom family business. The elderly father and his two daughters—Corrie and Betsy, both in their 50s—lived above the store and in the brick building attached in back (along Schoutensteeg

alley). Corrie's bedroom was on the top floor at the back. This room was tiny to start with, but the family built a second, secret room (only about a foot deep) at the very back—the hiding place, where they could hide six or seven Jews at a time.

Devoutly religious, the family had a long tradition of tolerance, having for generations hosted prayer meetings here in their home for both Jews and Christians.

The Gestapo, tipped off that the family was harboring Jews, burst into the Ten Boom house. Finding a suspicious number of ration coupons, the Nazis arrested the family, but failed to find the six Jews in the hiding place (who later escaped). Corrie's father and sister died while in prison, but Corrie survived the Ravensbruck concentration camp to tell her story in her memoir.

Access: Level 4—Not Accessible. Unfortunately, since it has many levels and tight hallways, this museum is best left to energetic slow walkers.

Cost, Hours, Location: The Ten Boom House is open for 60-minute English tours; the tours are sometimes mixed with preaching (free, but donation accepted, April–Oct Tue–Sat 10:00–16:00, Nov–March Tue–Sat 11:00–15:00, closed Sun–Mon, 50 yards north of Market Square at Barteljorisstraat 19; the clock-shop people get all wound up if you go inside—wait in the little side street at the door, where hourly tour times are posted; tel. 023/531-0823, www.corrietenboom.com).

▲Teylers Museum—Famous as the oldest museum in Holland, Teylers is a time-warp experience, filled with all sorts of fun curios for science buffs: fossils, minerals, primitive electronic gadgetry, and examples of 18th- and 19th-century technology. This place feels like a museum of a museum. They're serious about authenticity here: The presentation is perfectly preserved, right down to the original labels. Since there was no electricity in the olden days, you'll find no electric lighting...if it's dark outside, it's dark inside. The museum's benefactor, Pieter Teyler van der Hulst, was a very wealthy merchant who willed his estate, worth the equivalent of €80 million today, to a foundation whose mission was to "create and maintain a museum to stimulate art and science." (His last euro was spent in 1983, and now it's a national museum.) The museum opened in 1784, six years after Teyler's death. Add your name to the guest book that goes back literally to before Napoleon's visit here. The oval room—a temple of science and learning—is the core of the museum; the painting gallery hangs paintings in the old style. While there are no English descriptions, there is an excellent English audioguide.

Access: AE+A, AI, AT, Level 3—Minimally Accessible. Wheelchair

users gain entrance by alerting the staff inside the entry (three 6" steps). Loaner wheelchairs are available.

Cost, Hours, Location: €5.50, Tue–Sat 10:00–17:00, Sun 12:00–17:00, closed Mon, Spaarne 16, tel. 023/531-9010, www.teylersmuseum.nl.

De Adriaan Windmill—Haarlem's old-time windmill welcomes visitors with a short video, little museum, and fine town views.

Access: Level 4—Not Accessible.

Cost, Hours, Location: €2, Wed–Fri 13:00–16:00, Sat–Sun 10:00–16:00, closed Mon–Tue, Papentorenvest 1, tel. 023/545-0259.

Canal Cruise—Making a scenic 50-minute loop through and around Haarlem with a live guide who speaks up to four languages, these little trips by Woltheus Cruises are more relaxing than informative.

Access: One new boat is **AE, AI**, Level 1—Fully Accessible. Call ahead to reserve for this boat.

Cost, Hours, Location: €7, May–Oct daily departures at the top of each hour 12:00–17:00, closed Mon in May and Oct, no tours Nov–April, across canal from Teylers Museum at Spaarne 11a, tel. 023/535-7723, www.woltheuscruises.nl.

Red-Light District—Wander through a little Red-Light District as precious as a Barbie doll—and legal since the 1980s (2 blocks northeast of Market Square, off Lange Begijnestraat, no senior or student discounts). Don't miss the mall marked by the red neon sign reading *t'Steegje* (free, on Begijnesteeg).

Access: Level 1—Fully Accessible.

Amsterdam to Haarlem Train Tour

Since you'll be commuting from Amsterdam to Haarlem, here's a tour to keep you entertained. Departing from Amsterdam, sit on the right side (with your back to Amsterdam, on the top deck if you are able). Everything is on the right unless I say it's on the left.

You're riding the oldest train line in Holland. Across the harbor, behind the Amsterdam station, the tall brown skyscraper is the corporate office of **Royal Dutch Shell Oil**. The Dutch had the first multinational corporation (the United East India Company, back in the 17th century). And today, this international big-business spirit survives with huge companies like Shell, Unilever, and Philips.

Leaving Amsterdam, you'll see the cranes and ships of its **harbor**—sizable, but nothing like the world's biggest in nearby Rotterdam.

On your left, a few minutes out of Amsterdam, find the old **windmill**. In front of it, the little garden plots and cottages are escapes for

The Haarlemmermeer

The land between Haarlem and Amsterdam—where trains speed through, cattle graze, and 747s touch down—was once a lake the size of Washington, D.C.

In the 1500s, a series of high tides and storms caused the IJ River to breach its banks, flooding this sub-sea-level area and turning a bunch of shallow lakes into a single one nearly 15 feet deep, covering 70 square miles. By the 1800s, floods were licking the borders of Haarlem and Amsterdam, and the residents needed to act. First, they dug a ring canal to channel away water (and preserve the lake's shipping business). Then, using steam engines, they pumped the lake dry, turning marshy soil into fertile ground. The Amsterdam–Haarlem train line that soon crossed the former lakebed was the country's first.

big-city people who probably don't even have a balcony.

Coming into the Sloterdijk Station (where trains connect for Amsterdam airport), you'll see huge office buildings, such as Dutch Telecom KPN. These grew up after the station made commuting easy.

Passing through a forest and by some houseboats, you enter a *polder*—reclaimed land. This is part of an ecologically sound farm zone, run without chemicals. Cows, pigs, and chickens run free—they're not raised in cages. The train tracks are on a dike, which provides a solid foundation not susceptible to floods. This way, the transportation system functions right through any calamity. Looking out at the distant dike, remember you're in the most densely populated country in Europe. On the horizon, sleek, modern windmills whirl.

On the right, just after the IKEA building, find a big beige-and-white building. This is the **mint**, where currency is printed (top security, no advertising). This has long been a family business—see the name: Johan Enschede.

As the train slows down, you're passing through the Netherlands' biggest train-car maintenance facility and entering Haarlem. Look left. The domed building is a prison, built in 1901 and still in use. The windmill burned down in 1932 and was rebuilt in 2002.

When you cross the Spaarne River, you'll see the great church spire towering over Haarlem, as it has since medieval times—back when a fortified wall circled the town. Notice the white copy of the same spire capping the smaller church between the prison and the big church. This was the original sandstone steeple that stood atop the big church until

structural problems forced them to move it to another church and build a new spire for the big church. Get off the train and enter one of Holland's oldest stations. Art Nouveau decor from 1908 survives all around.

NIGHTLIFE

Haarlem's evening scene is great. The bars around the Grote Kerk and Lange Veerstraat are colorful and lively. You'll find plenty of music. The best show in town: the café scene on Market Square. In good weather, café tables tumble happily out of the bars.

For trendy local crowds, sip a drink at **Café Studio** (ground floor is **AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) on Market Square (daily 12:00–4:00 in the morning, next to Hotel Carillon, tel. 023/531-0033). **Grand Café XO** (**AE, AI, AT**, Level 1—Fully Accessible) is another hip nightspot on the square (daily 10:00–24:00, Grote Markt 8, 023/551-1350). Tourists gawk at the old-fashioned, belt-driven ceiling fans in **Café 1900** (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) across from the Corrie Ten Boom House (daily 9:00–24:30, live music Sun night except in July, Barteljorisstraat 10, tel. 023/531-8283).

SLEEPING

Haarlem is most crowded in April and May (particularly Easter weekend, the flower parade, and Queen's Day—usually April 30) and in July and August.

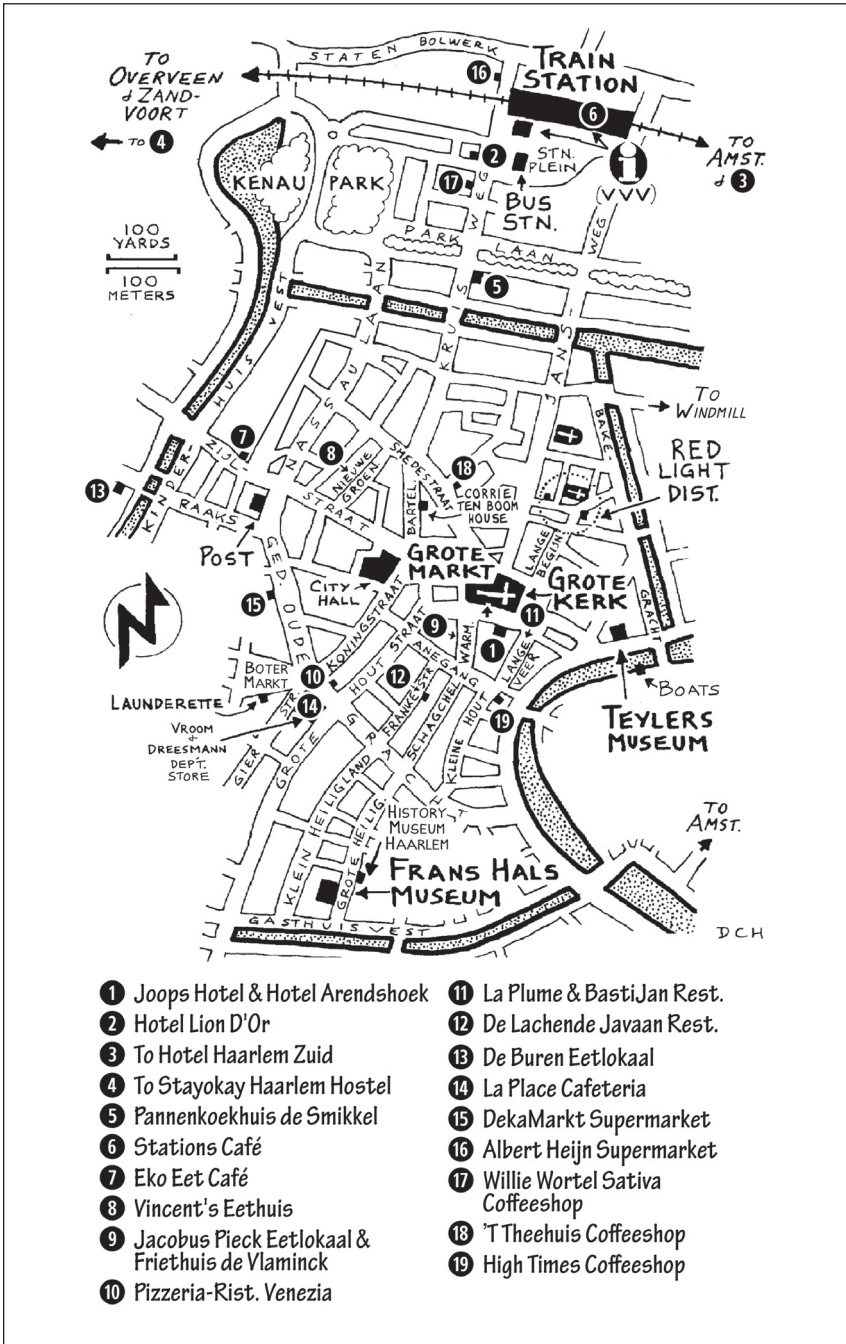
The listed prices include breakfast (unless otherwise noted) and usually include the €1.80-per-person-per-day tourist tax. To avoid this town's louder-than-normal street noises, forgo views for a room in the back. Hotels and the TI have a useful parking brochure.

In Haarlem

Level 1—Fully Accessible

Joops Hotel (**AE+I, AI, AL, AR, AB, ♥**), with 30 comfortable rooms, is located just behind the Grote Kerk church (Db-€85, €95 Fri–Sat, buffet breakfast-€9.50, Internet access in lobby, Oude Groenmarkt 20, tel. 023/532-2008, fax 023/532-9549, www.joopshotel.com, Joops@easynet.nl). Joops' nearby sister hotel, **Hotel Arendshoek** (**AE, AI, AL, AR, AB**), rents studios with kitchenettes for two to four people. They have 29 accessible rooms, each with a small bath (Db-€75, Qb-€120, elevator, contact Joops Hotel). Note that at both hotels, the bathrooms inside the rooms are not accessible. However, there is one shared, adapted bathroom

Haarlem Hotels and Restaurants



Sleep Code

(€1 = about \$1.20, country code: 31, area code: 023)

Sleep Code: **S** = Single, **D** = Double/Twin, **T** = Triple, **Q** = Quad, **b** = bathroom, **s** = shower only. Credit cards are accepted unless otherwise noted. Nearly every Dutch person you'll encounter speaks English.

on the hall that can be used by any guest who has limited mobility. To reach the front desk, you'll have to manage one 2" entry step.

Level 2—Moderately Accessible

Hotel Lion D'Or (**AE+A, AI, AL, AR, AB+A**) is a classy, 34-room business hotel with all the professional comforts and a handy location. Expect a proficient welcome (Db-€135, €95 Fri-Sat, extra bed-€20, air-con, some non-smoking rooms, elevator, across the street from train station at Kruisweg 34, tel. 023/532-1750, fax 023/532-9543, www.goldentulip.com, reservations@hotelliondor.nl). There is a small entry step, and the bathroom is small.

Near Haarlem

Level 1—Fully Accessible

Hotel Haarlem Zuid (**AE, AI, AL, AR, AB**), with 300 rooms and very American, is sterile, but a good value for drivers. It sits in an industrial zone about a mile from Market Square, on the road to the airport (Db-€80, breakfast-€12, elevator, free parking, laundry service, fitness center-€5, inexpensive hotel restaurant, Toekanweg 2, tel. 023/536-7500, fax 023/536-7980, www.hotelhaarlemzuid.nl, info@hotelhaarlemzuid.valk.nl). The hotel has one fully adapted room for wheelchair users (including a roll-in shower). Bus #300 (**AE, AI**, Level 1—Fully Accessible, can take one wheelchair user at a time) connects the hotel conveniently with the train station, Market Square, and the airport every 10 minutes.

Stayokay Haarlem (**AE, AI, AR, AB**), completely renovated and with all the youth-hostel comforts, charges €19–25 for beds in four-, six-, and eight-bed dorms. They also rent simple €60 doubles (€2.50 less for members, includes sheets and breakfast, daily 7:30–24:00, Jan Gijzenpad 3, 2 miles from Haarlem station—take bus #2 from station, or a quarter-mile from Santpoort Zuid train station, tel. 023/537-3793, fax 023/537-1176, www.stayokay.com/haarlem, haarlem@stayokay.com). They have one fully adapted ground-floor room with a roll-in shower and four beds.

EATING

For details on eating Dutch, see “Eating” in the Amsterdam chapter, page *TK. Unless otherwise noted (by **AT** or **AT+A**), these restaurants do *not* have accessible toilets.

In or near the Train Station

Pancakes for lunch or dinner? **Pannenkoekhuis De Smikkel** (**AE+A**, **AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible, one 4” entry step) serves a selection of over 50 pancakes for a meal (meat, cheese, etc.) and dessert. The €8 pancakes can fill two (daily 12:00–21:00, Sun from 16:00, 2 blocks in front of station, Kruisweg 57, tel. 023/532-0631).

Enjoy a sandwich or coffee surrounded by trains and 1908 architecture in the **Stations Café** (**AE**, **AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible; daily 6:30–20:00, between tracks #3 and #6 at the station).

On or near Zijlstraat

Eko Eet Café (**AE**, **AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) is great for a cheery, tasty vegetarian meal (€10–15 *menus*, daily 11:30–21:30, Zijlstraat 39, tel. 023/532-6568).

Vincent’s Eethuis (**AE+A**, **AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible, one 5” entry step, then another 2” step, wide-open interior), the cheapest restaurant in town, offers basic Dutch food and a friendly staff. This former St. Vincent’s soup kitchen now feeds more gainfully employed locals than poor (daily plate-€5.50, specials-€8, Mon–Fri 16:30–19:30, closed Sat–Sun, Nieuwe Groenmarkt 22).

Between the Market Square and Frans Hals Museum

Jacobus Pieck Eetlokaal (Level 3—Minimally Accessible, three 6” entry steps, narrow landing, and tight aisles) is popular with locals for its fine-value “global cuisine” and peaceful garden courtyard (plate of the day-€9.50, great €5 sandwiches at lunch, cash only, good salads, Mon 10:00–17:00, Tue–Sat 10:00–22:00, closed Sun, Warmoesstraat 18, behind church, tel. 023/532-6144).

Friethuis de Vlaminck (Level 3—Minimally Accessible) is *the* place for a cone of old-fashioned fresh “Flemish fries.” Be creative with their dazzling array of sauces (€2, Tue–Sat until 18:30, closed Sun–Mon, Warmoesstraat 3, behind church).

Pizzeria-Ristorante Venezia (**AE+A**, **AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible, one 6” entry step), run for 10 years by the same Italian family

Marijuana in Haarlem

Haarlem is a laid-back place for observing the Dutch approach to recreational marijuana. The town is dotted with 16 easygoing coffeeshops, where pot is casually sold and smoked by relaxed, non-criminal types. These coffeeshops are more welcoming than they may feel—bartenders are happy to answer questions from curious Yankee travelers.

If you don't like the smell of pot, avoid places sporting wildly painted walls, plants in the windows, or Rastafarian yellow, red, and green colors.

Willie Wortel Sativa Coffeeshop

(**AE+A, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible, one 8" entry step) is one of the best established of the town's coffeeshops (daily 9:00–24:00, in front of train station at Kruisweg 46). The display case-type menu explains what's on sale (€2.50–3.60 joints, €5 baggies, space cakes, no alcohol, only soft drinks and mellow music).

The tiny '**T Theehuis** (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible), which feels like a hippie teahouse, was Haarlem's first coffeeshop (c. 1984). Along with a friendly staff and a global selection of pot, it has 50 different varieties of tea on the menu (daily 13:00–22:00, a block off Market Square at Smedestraat 25).

High Times (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) offers smokers 12 varieties of joints in racks behind the bar (neatly prepacked in trademarked "Joint Packs," €2.50–5, daily 11:00–23:00, Internet access, Lange Veerstraat 47). They make a tobacco-free joint especially for Americans (€4.50).



from Bari, is where to go for pizza or pasta (€8–17 meals, pizza from €7.50, daily 13:00–23:00, facing Vroom & Dreesmann department store at Verwulft 7, 023/531-7753).

La Plume steakhouse (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) is noisy, with a happy, local, and carnivorous crowd (€12–18 meals, daily from 17:30, Lange Veerstraat 1, tel. 023/531-3202). The relaxing outdoor seating faces the church and a lively pedestrian mall.

BastiJan (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) serves good Mediterranean cuisine in an atmosphere of youthful elegance (€20 meals, 4-course dinner for €25, Tue–Sun from 18:00, closed Mon, Lange

Veerstraat 8, tel. 023/532-6006).

De Lachende Javan (literally, “The Laughing Javanese”; **AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) serves the best Indonesian food in town in a spacious, classy, and woody dining area. Their €18–22 *rijst-tafels* are excellent (Tue–Sun from 17:00, closed Mon, Frankestraat 27, tel. 023/532-8792).

De Buren Eetlokaal (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible) is a fun, traditional place just outside the center serving good Franco-Dutch food with an old-time ambience to an enthusiastic local crowd (€10–14 meals, Thu–Mon 16:00–22:00, closed Tue–Wed, Brouwersvaart 146, tel. 023/532-7078).

La Place (**AE, AI, AL, AT**, Level 1—Fully Accessible) serves fresh, healthy, budget food with Haarlem’s best view. Sit on the top floor or roof garden of the Vroom & Dreesmann department store (Mon 11:00–18:00, Tue–Sat 9:30–18:00, Thu until 21:00, closed Sun except for 1st Sun of month 12:00–17:00, large non-smoking section, Grote Houtstraat 70, on corner of Gedempte Oude Gracht, 023/515-8700). Find the accessible lift at the back corner of the store and take it to the sixth floor.

Picnic shoppers have two good choices (both **AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible): the **DekaMarkt supermarket** near Market Square (Mon 11:00–20:00, Tue–Sat 8:30–20:00, Thu until 21:00, closed Sun, Gedempte Oude Gracht 54, between Vroom & Dreesmann department store and post office) or the **Albert Heijn supermarket** near the train station (Mon–Sat 8:00–20:00, closed Sun, Kruisweg 10).

TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

From Haarlem by Train to: Amsterdam (6/hr, 15 min, €3.40 one-way, €6 same-day round-trip), **The Hague** (4/hr, 35 min), **Delft** (2/hr, 40 min), **Rotterdam** (2/hr, 50 min, may require change in Leiden), **Hoorn** (2/hr, 1 hr), **Alkmaar** (2/hr, 45 min), **Brussels** (hrly, 2.75 hrs, transfer in Rotterdam), **Bruges** (1–2/hr, 3.5 hrs, transfer required).

To Schiphol Airport: Your options are **bus #300** (**AE, AI**, Level 1—Fully Accessible, can take one wheelchair user at a time; 4/hr, 40 min, €5.80, departs from Haarlem’s train station in “Zuidtangent” lane), **train** (**AE, AI**, Level 2—Moderately Accessible; 4/hr, 40 min, requires a transfer at Amsterdam-Sloterdijk station, €4.90), or **taxi** (for an accessible taxi, call Otax at tel. 023/512-3456).