

Europe, July to September 2026

September 5, Amsterdam Day 1

A few days in Amsterdam to recover from the cruise. This is somewhat true as our time is now our own. No schedule and no pre-arranged tours. And I woke up knowing the day was Saturday. I had made it my goal on a cruise to wake up and immediately know what day of the week it was. I failed more often than I succeeded, and that is the truth. Seems, on land, days have more meaning.



Back to Amsterdam. We've been here before so, on this trip, it's just walk around and see what we find.

One thing we noticed right away was a possible new experience in chocolate. I am not a lover of ceremonial chocolate. I just enjoy a normal chocolate bar consumed unceremoniously, so we gave this shop a pass. But we considered it. Not something I have ever seen in the U.S.

For those who want to know the proper way to hold a cacao ceremony, [here](#) is what you are looking for. Enjoy!



The day started with a walk down the steps from our second-floor walkup. The second floor in Europe is the same as the third floor in the U.S. The ground floor here is floor zero.

Then outside our room to our local canal.



Through a local park.

And we finally came across our first random attraction, a Banksy museum¹. For those who may not know who this is, Banksy is a pseudonym for a street artist who has been anonymously creating street art for about 30 years. He never identified himself and no one knows for sure who he is, but there are some ideas. [Here](#) is a link to a Wikipedia article.

We were lucky to find the museum. He has done some amazing work, most making social statements. Here is one painting with a statement about health care workers during COVID. A nurse has replaced a child's normal assortment of superhero toys.



There were no signs about copyright, so I took this picture. It makes sense, since most of his work is street art, so cannot be copyrighted, and he has never released his real name. So, again, who has the copyright?

¹ An unauthorized museum, as there are none authorized by Banksy

This was the only picture I took. Consult the article for more information. However, there is a story you may have heard. How he obtained money from his work is a little mysterious. He claims to be non-commercial, but there is an organization called “Barely Legal” that manages to represent and sell some of his work. One was called “Girl with Balloon”. A framed copy of this painting sold in 2018 by Sotheby’s for just over £1,000,000. Within seconds after the final gavel, the picture started sliding out the bottom of the frame through a shredder that had been hidden inside the frame. About half the picture was shredded before it stopped (an unplanned stop, as it turns out). The purchaser nonetheless agreed to pay the full price. The picture was renamed “Love is in the Bin”. It sold at auction in 2021 for over £18,000,000.

Banksy was obviously very rich. In 2020, he purchased and refitted an old naval ship.

LOUISE MICHEL & THE REFUGEES

Named Louise Michel, in memory of the 19th century French anarchist, this 31-metre long former French customs ship was entirely financed by Banksy. Prepared with the utmost discretion, it set sail for the first time on 18 August 2020 from the Spanish port of Borriana, near Valencia. Banksy explained the origin of this new project by the lack of reaction of EU authorities to distress calls from non-Europeans. This boat, which is faster than the usual NGO ships, allows the crew of ten activists to outpace the Libyan coast guard and has saved the lives of several hundred people. The boat is decorated with a graffiti depicting a little girl in a life jacket holding a heart-shaped buoy and is captained by German human rights activist Pia Klemp.

Another famous Banksy event was October 2013, where he painted one new street art every day of the month in New York, without getting caught. The article is [here](#).

That was the highlight of the first full day on Amsterdam. A Banksy museum here makes sense since there is a lot of art spread around the city, some of which was seen on our walk back.

