

PRETENDING TO BE DUTCH

Hello again!

Soon we have been in Amsterdam for one month! During our short time here we have already discovered a few things about the Dutch culture and the Dutch people.

First impressions

The Dutch culture is quite similar to the Danish, however we did experience some differences within the last month - maybe you recognize our experiences? The first thing that appeared to us in the beautiful streets of Amsterdam was the constant smell of marijuana-weed-cannabis-hash-pot-herb-grass-dope-skunk etc. (the devil is known by many names). In Denmark, where we come from, it is not legal to smoke weed (at all) and it took us some time to get used to the fact that it is a part of the culture, atmosphere and everyday life when walking around in Amsterdam.

As Justin Bieber sings: cold cold water for you!

The next thing we discovered were the cold water in the bathrooms, when washing hands. In the beginning we thought: *"This must be a huge mistake - something must be*

broken in this bathroom?". But then after multiple episodes of this incident with cold water (extremely cold water) we soon realized, that it was not a mistake, but in fact very normal here. We were surprised and found this very strange - and at times also uncomfortable. Did you notice the same? We didn't come to a conclusion on why this is, but we hope that it will turn into a nice experience in the summer!



"New discoveries in the city" - Oedipus Brewery

Danger!

Traffic jam! We ride our bikes everyday and we are part of the traffic chaos in Amsterdam. At least what we assumed to be chaos. We have only had a couple near death experiences so

far (look out for the trams) and in the beginning we thought the traffic was crazy! But then one day we figured out how the rules really work here. We found out, that bikes have first priority everywhere - even at the pedestrian crossings. To our surprise - this way of regulating the traffic seems even more safe than in Denmark - maybe that is why Dutch people don't wear helmets? In Denmark a lot of people are starting to wear helmets, when biking, but not even the kids wear helmets here in Amsterdam? When talking to the Dutch people about helmets, they laugh at you and explain to you, that helmets are ridiculous (anyway that happened to us).

Why Heineken?

We also discovered the endless amount of good beers in this city. Since we are from Denmark - we like drinking beers as much as they do here - and especially good beers! Actually both of us have a love/hate relationship with this liquid of gold and this relationships will definitely not become any easier for us during our time here. Amsterdam is in some ways like a beer heaven to us! However we discovered that a lot of people are drinking Heineken? This, we simply just do not understand? Why would people want to drink Heineken (that is indeed the most boring beer we know) when there are so many better alternatives? We will investigate this during our time here and get back to it later on.

Along with the beers comes the food! Almost everywhere you

go here in Amsterdam the food is good - not just good - it is amazing! We will give you some tips on where to go further down in the article under: "New discoveries in the city".

Foreigner of the week!

This time you will meet our second foreigner of the week: Say Hi to - **Manuela!**



Name: Manuela Pacifico

From: Brazil

Study: Communication

Best advice: In Amsterdam it is always good to carry a raincoat in your backpack.

Favorite place: Vondelpark - for a walk or a run!

The weirdest thing about Dutch culture: They know how to bike without using their hands



(Picture from Pilek in the sun set)

New Discoveries in the city!

We love Amsterdam Noord! You should go to:

- IJ-Hallen Market (find their events on facebook)
- Pilek (food and drinks - very nice in the sun!)
- Hangar Café (cute little spot by the water)
- EYE Filmmuseum (must see)
- Dish café (close to Pilek - also close to the water)
- Café de Ceuvel (lovely food!)
- Oedipus - best burgers and best beers in the area!

“Do you speak Dutch?” - Word(s) of the week

Words you have to know:

- Delicious, nice, great, cool (and so on): **Lekker**
- Beer: **Bier**
- Cheers: **Proost**



See you soon!

This was all for now - we will be back soon. Next time you will hear about our academics and we will try to make the subject slightly palatable.