Day 5

Overview
Today, you’ll start with an early morning photo shoot at the iconic IAmsterdam Sign before touring the Van Gogh Museum. Afterwards, head to Albert Cuyp Market to eat and souvenir shop. Finally, wrap up the day at the playgrounds in Vondelpark and rest your feet on a Canal Cruise.
I Amsterdam Sign
You’ll have a great photo shoot at the infamous I Amsterdam Sign located right behind the Rijksmuseum. To find the sign, you’ll walk through the pedestrian and biking tunnels of the Rijksmuseum to access Museumplein.

Tip: Get there early to avoid the crowds. If it’s too crowded, go to the other side of the sign to take your photo. By taking the photo from the backside, you will avoid all the people and you can simply inverse the photo later on your computer. If you use Picasso for photo editing, click the image and use Control/Shift/H on your keyboard. Voila! For other photo editing programs, google “how to flip an image horizontally using ____”
Inverted photo where we have the sign all to ourselves

The other side with everyone else

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Van Gogh Museum
The Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum are two of the most famous art museums in Amsterdam. The larger Rijksmuseum focuses on Dutch art (Rembrandt and Vermeer are highlighted here) while the Van Gogh Museum holds the largest collection of Van Gogh paintings under one roof, along with other Impressionist artists.

We found the Van Gogh Museum to be a perfect introduction for our kids. It takes about an hour to visit, and the museum provides a Treasure Hunt Worksheet (at no additional cost) for children aged 6 to 12. We recommend skipping the audio guide so you can go at your own pace.

Van Gogh Treasure Hunt
The kids Treasure Hunt information can be found at the information desk one level above the coat check. You can check your coat and bag upon entry on the ground floor at no cost.

The Treasure Hunt was fun and informative, and we all enjoyed it (kids and adults). At the end of the tour, the kids get a prize for completing the worksheet. Each child was treated to their choice of a postcard of a famous Van Gogh painting and a sticker.

Simply Awesome Tip: Before leaving the museum, get your photo taken at the automated machine near the coat check for a fun souvenir. It will take your photo and email it to you for free.

Van Gogh Museum Tickets
Purchase tickets in advance online. You’ll need to specify your date and time. Early times are always better to avoid the crowds. You can enter the museum up to 30 minutes after your reserved starting time. Purchasing your ticket online in advance means you benefit from priority access and won’t have to visit the ticket office. Tickets are €18 for adults and free for kids under age 18.

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Rijksmuseum
The Rijksmuseum is one of Amsterdam’s grandest and most popular museums. Its vast collection showcases iconic art as well as Dutch and global history. You’ll find Rembrandt’s large-scale painting, The Night Watch, here along with other Dutch Masters. It’s a large museum, so we opted to visit the nearby smaller and more-manageable Van Gogh Museum. If you do decide to tackle this beauty, see this link for highlights. https://www.iamsterdam.com/en/see-and-do/things-to-do/museums-and-galleries/top-10-rijksmuseum-highlights
Rijksmuseum and the I Amsterdam Sign
Museumplein
After touring the museum or before entering, soak in the beautiful views of Museumplein while the kiddos get their wiggles out at the playground near the I Amsterdam sign.
AND MORE!

Get the full itinerary on Simply Awesome Trip’s website or find it on Amazon.

What Makes Our Itineraries Unique?

**Where To Stay**

The lodging choices for each destination have been carefully selected for their ideal location, price point, safety, and proximity to the day’s activities. We tell you the best area to stay so you can minimize driving or walking distances and maximize your moments having fun. Knowing what part of town to stay in is a huge part of making a trip a success, and that’s hard to do when you are not familiar with a destination. We save you time and energy by doing all the research for you.

**Where To Eat**

Local dining establishments are highlighted. The kind where children are welcome but isn't necessarily a restaurant geared primarily towards kids. You won't find many restaurant chains in our itineraries, just good local food mirroring the destination's culture. This could mean a food truck, a pizza place, or a nice sit-down restaurant, but always delicious. If there are any local brews, specialty foods, wines, or coffee houses around, we'll mention those too.

**Where To Play**

The organization of each day has been thoughtfully planned in order to group activities together by proximity, ideal time of day to visit, and the best nearby dining choices. It’s all been laid out for you, along with directions, maps, travel tips, links to more info, and more. We cover the most worthwhile activities to do in a destination (based on our own family’s reviews) without forgetting that vacations are meant to be fun and relaxing, not a list to be checked off while hauling around whining children.

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You’ll find plenty of outdoor activities for the family as well as cultural and historical sites unique to the destination. Many itineraries include easy hikes, bike rides, and float trips that have been selected for their kid-friendly length and ease of difficulty as well as their scenic beauty. (Always worth it!) We are all about getting families outdoors so we include as much fresh air as we can in our itineraries, whether it is a day-long trek in a national park or just the location of a fantastic playground perfect for a break from sight-seeing.

**Unbiased Recommendations**

At the founding of Simply Awesome Trips, we agreed to travel as we always have with our families—on our own dime. No free nights, no comped visits, not even any swag. We continue to feel good about that decision. We do participate in affiliate marketing with some of the companies that we personally use (Booking.com, VRBO.com). They don’t pay us to write, we simply get a commission if you enter those sites through our “gate” as opposed to say a Google search.

But we also recommend lodging, restaurants, and activities, where we don’t receive any commission, such as Airbnb or private rental companies. We don’t change recommendations based on vendor. If it’s good; it’s good.