

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

Three hours in my city

Are you planning a stopover at Schipol airport? If the answer is 'yes', then visit Amsterdam. This beautiful city is only a short train journey away. We asked three people who live there: 'We have three hours in your city. What are the best things to do?'

Anika, 26

It depends on the weather. Check the forecast when you arrive at the airport. If the weather is not good, visit one of our famous cafés. Try some bitterballen – it's a kind of Dutch meat snack – or have some pancakes with Dutch cheese. I'm sure you're going to love Dutch food. If it's a sunny day, spend some time at the flower market. The flower shops are on small boats and it is also a great place to buy gifts. You will return to the airport feeling happy and with many colourful pictures to look at on your journey.

Hendrik, 34

Take a ride on a tram. A tram is a kind of electric bus that drives on metal lines in the road. Amsterdam has a great tram system – I use it every day to get to work. I think the number 2 route is best for tourists. That's the tram that drives past many of the main Amsterdam sights, like the Van Gogh art gallery. The trams leave Amsterdam Central Station regularly and tickets are not expensive. You can see your luggage is safe but you don't have to carry it. And you won't be stressed about getting back to the airport in time – you can get off the tram at any stop and return to the station on tram 2 in the opposite direction. It's perfect.

Issac, 23

The best way to see Amsterdam is to hire a bike. Everyone in Amsterdam loves to cycle! You can hire bikes at the main train station – it's easy. There are also lockers at the station where you can leave your luggage, although they are quite expensive. On a bike, you can see Amsterdam's beautiful buildings and canals. You can see the old houses very well from the street but a few are also open as museums. If you have children, visit one of the large parks. Vondelpark has an exciting playground where children can climb trees.

Example: Amsterdam is _____ Schipol airport.

A a long journey from ☐ B quite close to ✓ C three hours from ☐

1 Anika wants us to check _____ when we arrive at the airport.

A the time ☐ B our ticket ☐ C the weather ☐

2 Anika says the flower market is good on a _____ day.

A sunny ☐ B cold ☐ C rainy ☐

3 Hendrik says tram number 2 drives past _____.

A a gallery ☐ a park ☐ C a main road ☐

- 4 Hendrik says his idea is _____.
A stressful ☐ B perfect ☐ C expensive ☐
- 5 Issac says that _____ are very popular in Amsterdam.
A bikes ☐ B trains ☐ C trams ☐
- 6 Issac says some of the old houses are also _____.
A cafés ☐ B schools ☐ C museums ☐

2 Write A for Anika, H for Hendrik, or I for Issac.

Example: Your luggage will be safe. H

- 1 The city has a great tram system. _____
- 2 The luggage lockers are quite expensive. _____
- 3 Our cafés are famous. _____
- 4 Children can climb trees in the park. _____
- 5 It's like a bus. _____
- 6 It's a good place to buy gifts. _____
- 7 Try eating some Dutch food. _____
- 8 It's easy to hire a bike from the station. _____
- 9 You won't be stressed. _____

3 Listen to five people talking. Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 Speaker 1 | A looked very different when he was a teenager. |
| 2 Speaker 2 | B had an expensive taxi journey. |
| 3 Speaker 3 | C ate dinner near the beach. |
| 4 Speaker 4 | D bought something she didn't really want. |
| 5 Speaker 5 | E saw his girlfriend for the first time at a concert. |