

Part 6 Europe 2025 for Cathy's blog

Wednesday 9th April, 2025.

We are still in Amsterdam and we slept in until nearly 7:00. Then it was walking along sloping corridors (between the different floor levels) to the lift and down to breakfast. There was a lot of food, well cooked, but it was not a particularly flashy breakfast.

This is the view from our window.



We had some time before meeting the boat (sorry, “ship”), so we walked out to see the red light district of Amsterdam. It is quite famous all over Europe, but quite tame in the morning sunshine.

We walked along quiet streets, sadly filled with litter and the cigarette butts everywhere would make you cry. The little council street sweeper machines (and two helpers) were out and about along the narrow streets.

The streets aren’t at right angles to each other and it could be quite easy to lose your way.

There were lots of little specialty shops (not particularly related to the red light district), but all were shut even at 9:30 in the morning.





Lots of little shops, up a few steps (with the floor below windows level with the footpaths).





One of the many cheese shops.



The National Monument (to commemorate deaths in WWII).



Tulips in the planter pots around the National Monument.



Specialty shop: ducks.



David A. Musgrove : the warm baker (not so very warm).



Amsterdam has very pretty buildings. Here you can see the laneway to the left, which curves around.



The Cow Museum (shop).

David went into a little supermarket (hard to tell what some stores are because they do not plaster their advertising all over the windows and bricks of the buildings). The only cough lollies are fisherman's friends.



All too soon, it was time to go back to the hotel to pack the last few things before walking to the harbour and down to the boat (sorry...again... ship).

The walk to the harbour is quite a long distance. You have to go over canals. And you have to go over larger inlets / canals where the big ships pass, and these are quite tall. We walked along the water front and then had to take the suitcases up several flights of stairs! We went along the footpath on the side of the road (with trams and bicycle lanes) as we left the “city” part of the town and made our way to several big hotels and passenger terminals about two kilometres out of the city.

A flashing neon sign shows the way to “River Cruises” and through the buildings, we could see three scenic umbrellas. We left our luggage there and went across two Scenic ships and onto the Scenic Ruby.

Check in was like at a hotel. We were welcomed with champagne. We were given our room keycards and our bags had already been laid on the ends of the bed.

In our room was champagne.



The waterfront (from directly opposite the Centraal Station).



The view of the harbour from our room on the ship



Champagne in our room, too.

It was about 11:30 when we got there and there were a lot of people already onboard. We went for a bit of a walk around the ship, lots of deck chairs and a walking track up top, a comfortable lounge, and a big dining area. Then we had a light lunch (only soup, salad, sandwiches, cheese and wine).



The weather is cold and this is our first day without sunshine (but it is not raining).

We went back inside to drink more champagne in our room, and then sat in the (warm) lounge while the rest of the passengers slowly but surely arrived.

I will write more about our dinners later, but they serve 160 people with full menu service and a buffet in the dining room each meal time. Already, there is too much food and wine!