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Explore Amsterdam!



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I Am Going To See The National Monument!

A Step-by-Step Guide On How To Visit Dam Square.

by
Brett Bigham

**There is a famous monument in the center of Amsterdam.
It is called the National Monument in English. In Dutch it is
called "Nationaal Monument op de Dam."**



Photo by physzone Wikimedia Commons

Let's go see this famous monument!

The National Monument is in the middle of Dam Square. People come from all over to see the center of Amsterdam!



Sometimes it is very crowded. Look at all the cars driving around Dam Square. Be careful of traffic!

This is a very busy place. Make sure you stay with your group!



Photo by Mr No - Wikimedia Commons

Be ready for crowds when you visit the monument.

Keep your eyes out for bicycles. There are many people riding bikes. Don't step in front of them, they could be going fast.



Photo by Dario Crespi - Wikimedia Commons

If you come on a bike you should bring a bike lock. It is hard to find your bike when there are so many!

**These people are doing a great job crossing the street.
They let the person on the bicycle go by first.**



Photo by Jorge Láscaar - Wikimedia Commons

The National Monument has many statues and sculptures.



Photo by Nikthestoned - Wikimedia Commons

Let's take a look at them!

This statue represents the Dutch resistance during World War II. The dog at his feet represents loyalty.



Photo by Nikthestoned - Wikimedia Commons

This statue was sculpted by John Rådecker.

This relief sculpture is called "Peace."



Photo by Vladar - Wikimedia Commons

It was carved by Paul Grégoire.

**Sometimes there are special events in Dam Square.
Maybe you will go to a concert there some day.**



Photo by Jostein013 - Wikimedia Commons

The square is surrounded by historic buildings. The Royal Palace is the building to the left. Next to it is the New Church.

Sometimes a fun fair comes and sets up in front of the Royal Palace. That looks like a lot of fun!



Photo by Nikthested - Wikimedia Commons

If you go to the fun fair you have to follow the rules! Stay with your group and walk!

There are benches all around Dam Square. This a great place to sit if you need to take a break.



Photo by WT - Wikimedia Commons

**I hope you have fun visiting the National Monument!
Make sure you watch out for cars!**

Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism and neuro-diversity, new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help prepare people for new experiences. This is why I emphasize the places to sit and areas to relax.

This book will also help general ed teachers prepare their young students for a visit the National Monument.



Can You Translate?

If you can translate this book into any other language I would love to hear from you!

Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and an NEA National Award for Teaching Excellence winner. Bigham is the first Oregon Special Education teacher to win these awards.

Bigham was named a Global Fellow by the NEA Foundation and traveled to Peru as an ambassador of that program. This allowed Bigham to create his first international Ability Guidebook for the Museo de Inka in Cusco, Peru. He has since made books for sixteen countries in five languages.

Text and Photos by Brett Bigham unless otherwise noted.

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