

Getting from Schiphol to the RAI, Holiday Inn and Novotel

Before you decide to take a taxi, you should know that the price of a taxi ride may easily be up to ten times the price of a train ride. The best way to go from Schiphol to Amsterdam (or any other city) is by train. Schiphol railway station is located directly beneath the airport. Follow the signs for 'Trains' after leaving the baggage hall.

ARRIVALS & SCHIPHOL PLAZA

| BARS & RESTAURANTS | CHOCOLATES | FLOWERS, BULBS & GIFTS | LIQUOR | SERVICE CENTRE |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| D Burger King* | 26 Leonidas | 28 Aviflora | 11 Dufry liquors of the world | 52 Jill & James (Telepresence, TNT Post Service, Randstad, Fred Butler; Medeaen pharmacy) Opening soon. |
| M Café Rembrandt | 29 DEPARTMENT STORE | 51 BLOEM! | 27 NEWS & BOOKS | 53 SHOES |
| N Coffee Bar | 44 HEMA | 6 Fleurieik | 43 AKO | 48 Crocs |
| O Déliciance* | FASHION | 41 ARTiS | 38 Libris | 9 Paolo Salotto Shoes |
| B Grand Café Plaza* | 57 America Today | 33 Expo | PERSONAL CARE | SPORTS |
| L Hello There | 17 Global Brands | 50 Planes@Plaza | 30 Etos | 49 Nike Schiphol |
| K HEMA Food | 12 Hennes & Mauritz | HAIRDRESSER | 32 Perfumes & Colors | SUPERMARKET |
| O Hot 'n Cold | 15 Mex, Esprit, InWear/Matinique | 40 Coiffure en Vogue | 8 The Body Shop | 45 AH to go |
| I Juggle Juice Bar* | 13 Paolo Salotto menswear | JEWELRY & WATCHES | PHOTO, ELECTRONICS & ENTERTAINMENT | 12 Food Village |
| J Juggle Sandwich Bar* | 35 Shirleys lingerie | 3 Gassan Plaza | 30 Capi | TELECOM |
| P Multivlaai | 9 Suitsupply | LEATHER & TRAVEL | 30 Capi | 31 Airport Telecom Shop |
| F Per Tutzi! | 7 Tie Rack | 19 Paolo Salotto Luxury Leathersgoods | | |
| C Pronto | 21 Wonder Woman | | | |
| H Segafredo Espresso Bar | | | | |
| A Starbucks | | | | |
| G Viaamse Frites | | | | |

* these food and beverage facilities are open 24 hours a day

Train tickets can be bought at NS ticket machines (with a blue sign and white NS logo on top) and the Tickets & Service counter at Schiphol Plaza (past customs). Schiphol Plaza is the yellow-colored area on the map above, with many shops and restaurants; the train area, where the Ticket & Service counter is located, is just in the middle of the Plaza. Buy your ticket before going down to the platforms. Train tickets can only be bought by cash, or by a bank or credit card with a chip; if you have a swipe-only credit card, please prepare to pay your ticket by cash. The price of the train ticket from Schiphol to Amsterdam RAI is €3,60.

Local trains (sprinters) from Schiphol to Amsterdam RAI leave roughly every 15 minutes at hh:11, hh:27, hh:41, and hh:57 from platform 1–2; at the platform, please check the monitors for the actual side from which the train will depart. The trains that leave at hh:11 and hh:41 have *Almere-Oostvaarders* as their direction/destination; the trains that leave at hh:27 and hh:57 have *Hilversum* as their direction/destination. Be careful **not** to board an intercity train or a local train with the direction *Amsterdam Centraal* (with stops at Amsterdam Lelylaan and Amsterdam Sloterdijk) or *Utrecht* (with stops at Amsterdam Zuid and Amsterdam Bijlmer Arena).

You may want to check the Dutch railway travel planner at <http://www.ns.nl>, which offers an English version, as well: <http://www.ns.nl/en/travellers/home>. Buying a ticket online and getting it delivered to your mailbox will only work if you can pay by iDeal; there is no possibility to pay by credit card while ordering tickets online. In addition to the website, the NS (Nederlandse Spoorwegen = Dutch Railways) has a very nice app; go to the app store and search for 'NS Reisplanner Xtra'. The app can be set to English.

The train ride from Schiphol to Amsterdam RAI takes 10–11 minutes, with one stop (Amsterdam Zuid) in between; there is no need to buy a first-class ticket. At Amsterdam RAI, the train arrives at platform 1. You go down to street level to exit the station. While the RAI is located north of the station, Holiday Inn and Novotel are located south; for your orientation: the train from Schiphol to Amsterdam RAI is driving east. Please check the map below for details; note that the top of the map points west and that the train was driving down.



For those of you who bring a smartphone and want to have an offline map of Amsterdam (with search option), I can advise the app 'Amsterdam Offline City Map.'

Be aware of the many bicycles!

Martin J. Bastiaans
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