What to Pack for Amsterdam in December

This Packing List is provided by DutchAmsterdam.nl

Outerwear: Your First Line of Defense

Start with a proper winter coat. Amsterdam's December weather is all about wind and moisture, so treat "waterproof and windproof" as non-negotiable.

- ☐ A winter-proof, waterproof coat or jacket with a good hood
- ☐ A windproof hat or cap that covers your ears
- ☐ A warm scarf
- ☐ Gloves (ideally touchscreen-friendly, so you can still use your phone)
- ☐ A compact but sturdy umbrella
- ☐ A rain cover for your daypack or a small waterproof tote

Clothing: Layers, Not Just "Warm Stuff"

Indoors, it's a different story: cafés, restaurants, museums, and private homes can be quite warm. The smart approach is to dress in layers so you can peel things off inside and add them back outside.

- ☐ Thermal base layer tops (2–3)
- ☐ Thermal leggings or long underwear bottoms (1–2)
- ☐ Fleece or wool sweaters / mid-layers (2–3)
- ☐ Long-sleeve shirts for everyday wear (2–4)
- ☐ A few T-shirts for layering and indoor comfort
- ☐ Warm pajamas (Dutch bedrooms can feel cool at night)

If you tend to feel cold, long underwear will quickly become your best friend on walks along windy canals.

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Socks and Footwear: Keep Your Feet Dry

You'll likely walk a lot—along canals, over cobblestones, and through the city's parks and Christmas markets. Cold, wet feet can ruin a good day very quickly.

- ☐ Water-resistant shoes or boots with decent grip
- ☐ Thick, warm socks (4–6 pairs)
- ☐ A few pairs of regular socks as backup

Essentials You'll Be Glad You Brought

A few small items make winter city life noticeably more comfortable and convenient.

- ☐ Type F power plug adapter for the Netherlands
- ☐ Phone and a portable power bank (cold drains batteries faster)
- ☐ Bank cards
  - ☐ Get some cash in euros (handy for markets and some stores that only accept cash). Make sure you avoid shady currency exchanges. Here's where to get the best cash exchange deal in Amsterdam.
- ☐ Lip balm, moisturizer, and hand cream (the cold wind dries out skin fast)
- ☐ Any prescription medicines, plus basic painkillers or cold/flu tablets

Optional Extras That Make December Nicer

- ☐ Sunglasses (the low winter sun in Amsterdam can be surprisingly blinding)
- ☐ A swimsuit if your hotel has a sauna, spa, or pool

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- ☐ A small laundry kit (Amsterdam does not have many laundromats)

So, pack with the wind, rain, and short days in mind, and Amsterdam in December rewards you with cozy cafés, glowing canals, and a winter city that feels wonderfully lived-in rather than staged.

Plan your Amsterdam trip:

- Savings on accommodation from hostels and apartments to luxury hotels
- Cheap flights to Amsterdam
- Discover and book **things to do in Amsterdam**
- Visitor's Guide
- Wise Debit Card (With the Wise card, you *never* have to worry about exchange rate markups, or high transaction fees when you pay or use ATMs abroad)

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