



Historic Gem in the Port of Rotterdam

Zooming across the water. The imposing Rotterdam skyline on either side. The iconic Erasmus bridge growing larger as we approach. Just over an hour ago, our plane touched the ground at Schiphol Airport. A 25-minute, high-speed train ride brought us right into the heart of the most happening city of the Netherlands. Now our water taxi is cruising towards the hip and upcoming Katendrecht neighbourhood. On the edge of this peninsula, lies one of the historic gems this vibrant city offers. The ss Rotterdam.

The former flagship of the Holland America Line carried passengers with an American dream across the Atlantic Ocean. After forty-one years of duty, the ship was retired in 2000. The cruise liner was carefully renovated and returned to Rotterdam in 2008 where it is since 2010 permanently moored as a hotel, museum, conference and event location.

As we arrive at the 228 metre long vessel, we are cheerfully greeted by a boarding steward, smartly dressed in a white navy jacket and a sailor cap. He jokes that the ship is about to leave and we should hurry aboard

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as he kindly directs us towards the red-carpeted gangway leading to the main deck. Stepping aboard the ship is like going back in time. From the countless art deco features, to the boldly coloured retro furniture.

From the wooden deck chairs overseeing the water, to Frank Sinatra’s smooth baritone voice in the background, accompanied by the timeless swing of the Count Basie big band. Passionate volunteers, many having worked on the ship when it was in service, share the untold stories of the ss Rotterdam.

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The ship has many rooms to explore, all with their own style and unique features. For example, the Theatre provide space for 500 people, while smaller rooms such as the multifunctional Sky or Sun Room are perfect for meetings or dinners. Altogether, the ss Rotterdam can welcome up to 3000 guests, while 254 authentic and elegant hotel rooms provide a luxurious overnight stay making the historic vessel a unique location for multiple day congresses or meetings.

www.ssrotterdam.com