



TIMES OF INDIA

A Grand Hotel in a Grand City: The Sofitel Grand Amsterdam

The Sofitel Grand Amsterdam is one of the truly great hotels of the world... period.

The hotel enjoys a terrific location in the heart of Amsterdam, within walking distance of the city's major attractions, such as the Royal Palace on Dam Square. For those coming by train, the Central Station is only a 10 minute stroll away. And it is safe to walk anywhere in and near the hotel.

Although centrally located in a busy area, the Sofitel's historic building is set back in a large walled courtyard off a quiet canal, so it is very peaceful and feels far away from the hustle and bustle of the bars, restaurants, and coffee shops nearby (as well as the Red Light District.)

Amsterdam is quite hectic and coming back to a hotel in such a quiet location after a busy day of meetings or sightseeing, is a welcome treat.

The arrival through the large gate in the brick-lined, historic courtyard is an impressive start. There are not many hotels that can boast of such an entry.

Originally the site of two convents – St. Cecily's Convent at the northern part of the property and St. Katherine's Convent to the south – this address came into being in the 15th century, when women vastly outnumbered men and Amsterdam was a city of monasteries and convents, a place

where God's graces gave way to hearts in search of holiness.

Later, the building was used as royal lodgings, the Dutch Admiralty headquarters and the city hall of Amsterdam. Queen Beatrix was married here (in 1966).

The warm decor is beautiful throughout the hotel. The lobby stands out, not only because of its design, but also because of the bountiful floral arrangements that color and fragrance the space.

The hotel consists of 177 beautiful rooms including 52 suites. All rooms feature high ceilings and are equipped with an excellent Sofitel MyBed (you will not want to get rise in the morning!), air-conditioning, a working desk, a Nespresso machine and a room safe.

I always look for at least one negative on a hotel, but there just isn't one for The Grand, unless you want to blame the hotel for the terrible weather I had during my visit in April, 2015.

The service is impeccable... especially room service in the morning which is delivered with white tablecloths by a 'butler' who has worked at the hotel for many years and knows everything about it and is at your service for whatever you might need.

Sofitel is the luxury hotel brand of Accor Hotels, offering a genuine experience of the French "art de

vivre." Sofitel Legend is a label that has been added to the Sofitel Luxury Hotels brand to designate properties that are in fact legendary places in the history of their location.

The staff and service at this hotel is excellent. From the maids to concierge to the front desk staff, everyone strives to make their guest feel welcome and comfortable.

I could write on and on about this hotel, but words simply do not do this establishment justice. Just go, stay, and enjoy a bit of luxury that every business or vacation traveler deserves every once in a while. You will not be sorry.

Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam

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