#### THEY CALL IT SURPRISING AMSTERDAM...

Mayel EUROPE

comparable with any other. Its suburbs are just about what you'd expect; quiet, modern, clean. The real surprises of Amsterdam are in its centre. Here, bounded by concentric canals, is a city within-a-city. A heritage greatest of its kind in Europe of a golden age. Amsterdam corrently offers over 18,000 (Dutch clean) beds and plans expansion to 25,000 by 1980. Restaurants over 500, range from Michelin Guidestarred cruisine to a growing number of macrobiotic eating houses. Prices, vary, but often come out lower than they would elsewhere. Distances are smaller too. It's quick and

> easy to get around Amsterdam, or anywhere from it. Some hotels even have docking facilities for city travel by canal boat. Public transport is efficient. Many of Holland's sightsceing 'musts' can be reached on half-day tours. Com-

munication frustrations are almost none. The Amsterdammers don't expect you to speak their language. They try to speak yours: English, French, German to begin with. Once here, you'll find no need for phrase books. There's so much in Amsterdam: Over 40 museums, including the

world-renowned (Rem-Rijksmuseum brandts), the Stedelljk (modern) and the Van Gogh Museum: the certgebouw and its orchestra, theatres, cinemas (films in original language). three night club centres, day and evening canal trips, visits to diamond cutters. Bere's where dream and reality can come together.

SO MUCH TO BUY ...

So much to buy... Where to buy? Just pick your atmosphere. There are 500 shops alone in the spacious, pedestrian-only, shopping streets around Dam Square. Small-speciality to large department stores. Off-beat houtiques abound in the narrow, winding streets along the city's canals; sophisticated modern establishments in the new suburban shopping complexes. Most art galleries and antique shops remain in city centre, many of them long settled into 17th and 18th century houses.

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If you want to wander around on your own CIE has a car for you. There is plenty to see in the countryside at your own pace, and do what you

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routes. But take nothing for granted in Holland. If you stop to ask directions, don't be surprised if the usual 'Straight ahead, cross the bridge, turn right', becomes instead 'Come on, I'll show

sterdam too. Cruises go to many nearby towns and villages. So do modera coaches, on well-paved highways which make the small distances here seem even smaller The northern Zaanse Schans windmill area, the bulbfields around Haarlem and the 60-acre Keukenhof gardens, the Alkmaar cheese market and Marken and Volendam costume towns are all reachable on halfday tours. Some of the country's other 'must' stops, such as Rotterdam, world's busiest port. and The Hague, the Dutch government seat, can be visited on longer trips Wherever you want to go, local travel agents have a

Amsterdam's

# Europe's high spots. AIR CANADA AIR IT

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Amsterdam has group tours

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#### FROM

greatest advantage - one that tops all the others - is the fact that it is a hub of transportation routes, both within Europe and onward. This makes the queen city of Holland not only easy to reach, but a perfect starting point for further travelling. More than 50 International

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Sep 24

29 days

Justie: 4

June 1

June 18

June 25

July 2

July 16

July 21

Aug 13

Sep 17

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# AND EAT ...

Dining out in Amsterdam fits in with the total approach to life. Almost anything goes - except hurrying. Your waiter may be dressed in white tie and tails, even at breakfast, but you can wear what you choose nearly everywhere. And you feel free to sit and relax at the table for hours, whether it's over an elaborate meal or simply coffee. No one rushes you. You can eat practically anything you want too. Cous-Cous, shishkebab, hamburgers, canard a l'orange, Name it. Amsterdam has more foreign restaurants than any city on the Continent. Plus the best Indonesian food outside Indonesia. Dutch specialities? Mussels, new herring, smoked eel, Edam and Gouda cheese, 10 varieties of spring asparagus. Huge platter-sized pancakes, apple to bacon. Big breakfasts; fat luncheon broodjes (sand-

wiches). Hearty winter

dishes, like thick green pea

soup with spicy sausage and pork, like various kinds of vegetables and potatoes mashed together and served with meat.

#### AND

ENJOY ... tertainment tace of Amsterdam shows as much variety. Here again, freedom of expression is limited only by your selectivity. Which means that you can find night life to match just about any mood and taste. There are performances by the world-famous Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Netherlands Dance Theatre, the National Ballet, the Netherlands Opera. Until midnight, that is. Often, just as the clock strikes, a touring rock or jazz group will suddenly transform an otherwise conservative building into a live music meeca for a different type of long-hair. Most theatre is in the Dutch language but there

are occasional visits from

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touring foreign groups, especially during the summer Holland Festival, Films, however, come in original languages - mainly English with Dutch sub-titles. Here too are special midnight

but the area is as safe as anywhere else in the city. Feel free to walk here. anytime. Differently spicy is Amsterdam's very popular entertainment section around the Rembrandtplein. Every building houses a cafe,



## NIGHT ...

There are performances nearly all night in the city's three nightelub centres. The oldest, on and around the Zeedijk, offers the adventuresome ambiance of a wide-open sailor's quarter. The cafe music is loud, the local colour blue,

State Same a

5 169 Page . ..

STY Tope to

SIRVICE

3334

bar, nightclub or cabaret for variety acts, strippers, jazz. The Leidseplein district concentrates on popmusic and discotheques. There are also several counterculture clubs around town

### OR DAY ...

Museums come in great variety too. There are over to in public buildings. private homes, even attics. They range from the elegant Rijksmuseum with the most complete collection of Dutch painting in the Netherlands to the two-room Historical Museum of the Dutch Bakers' and Confectioners' Society. There's contemporary art at the Stedelijk; contemporary people (and historical ones too) at Madame Tussaud's, in wax. There's a house where Rembrandt lived; another made famous by Anne Frank. There is, in fact, a museum for prac-



dustrial safety, theatre and biblical antiquities, to

#### CHOOSE YOUR CRUISE ...

sterdam was built around water and it is from the water that its essential features can still best be seen. Numerous Amsterdam companies operate over 60 glass-topped motor launches for day and evening canal trips. The trips, with multilingual guide, last just over one hour. Candlelightwine-cheese cruises. operating in season when canalsides are illuminated, take two hours.

mention only a few

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