

These questions are often asked by seamen - here the answers!

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Contact

I need urgent help and you are not answering the phone. What do I have to do?

Call +800 73232737, it is free of charge and the operators speak many languages.

How can I find a doctor?

Call Dr Voorsluis +3120 - 6244600

Can you help us to get in touch with ITF?

Yes we can. We can also help you with your decision to contact them yes or no. The phonenumber of the inspectors is +31 10 215 11 66

Can you help us to contact Port Inspection?

Yes we can but you need to specify why.

Transport

How can I use the minivan?

Everyday, from 17.30 till 20.30 the minivan will transport every seafarer in the port of Amsterdam free of charge to the seamen's centre. There is no time-schedule. Please call us at 16.00 or later (+31 20 611 7912) to make an appointment. We expect crews to come as a group. If you don't have a phone, the guard or the foreman is willing to make an appointment for you.

Around 21.30 the manager will inform you about the time you will be brought back to your vessel. We try to take your requests into account as much as we can.

Serving around 10.000 seafarers a year, unfortunately we don't have time for tourist and shopping trips.

How can I go to the city centre?

*You can take a **taxi**.*

Taxi drivers are happy to bring you anywhere but please make sure you take a legal one, for instance of TCA (0031 20 6777777). Always ask for the price in advance and never pay more than 40 euro. If you have the feeling that you have paid too much, try to remember the license plate of the car. Please note that most problems happen when seafarers go back to their ship. Most drivers want euros and the ones who accept other currencies give you a extremely bad exchangerate.

If your ship is located at the west side of the port, you probably save money by getting to the seamen's centre first and take a taxi from there. We can give you a small map and mark the location of your ship. If you show that to the taxidriver, he does not have an excuse to drive more than necessary.

Please note that there are always taxis stand by at Amsterdam Sloterdijk. If you are travelling with 1 or 2 persons to or from the city centre, it will save you money to use public transport untill or from there.

*You can use **public transport** (if you have euro's).*

If your ship is at Oiltanking, walk 5 minutes eastwards (to the left) from the gate and take bus 82 in the same direction. If you leave the bus at Sloterdijk, you can also walk to the Seamen's Centre.

If you are at BP, Amfert or IGMA you can take a bus from the gate from around 7.30 to 9.00 and 16.00 to 18.00

If you are at Holandia Kloos (scrap), Ter Haak, Nustar or VCK, walk to the skyscrapers and look for Amsterdam Sloterdijk station. More enthusiastic walkers do the same thing from OBA. Also the Seamen's Centre is at a walking distance from your ship.

If you are at Shipdock, you can take the ferry which brings you free of charge to the city centre.

FAQ

If you are at the wachtsteiger or Cornelder, you can walk to the mainroad and take any bus driving eastwards. Enthusiastic walkers do not use the bus at all.

Religion

How can I attend a religious meeting like a church service?

Amsterdam is full of churches, mosks and temples of various denominations. We can help you to identify the one of your choice.

A Christian protestant and a Roman Catholic chaplain are available to have a service on board or at the chapel of the Seamen's Centre. Please call 003120 6690065 / 0031 6 22090334 for any kind of spiritual help.

With Christmas and Eastern, there is always a service at the centre.

Is it possible to get a free bible?

It is possible to receive a free bible in languages like English, Russian, Spanish, Chinese and so on. There is also material available for Bible study.

Tourism

Is there a Chinatown in Amsterdam?

Yes there is a small Chinatown. It is located at Nieuwmarkt, not far from the Central Station.

Computer & Electronics

Can I use my laptop/notebook in the Seamen's Centre?

Although we don't have a wifisystem, you can connect your laptop to the internet. For a 5 euro deposit you will receive a cable which you can use in our internetcorner. A deposit means that you will receive your money back after returning the cable but we expect you to contribute to the costs of our internetservice.

How can I contact the internet on board of my vessel?

How can I contact the **internet on board** of my vessel?

Where can I buy reasonable prized electronics like laptops, mobile phones and so on?

Near the footballstadium of the famous soccerteam Ajax, there is a hugh electronic store which is open at weekdays till 21.00. To go there, just walk 10 minutes from the Seamen's Centre to the Sloterdijkstation buy a 'strippenkaart' and take line 50 to Amsterdam Bijlmer Arena.

Shopping

Where can I buy/order working clothes/shoes?

At the Coenhaven, there is a shop on a boat where you can buy all kind of high quality working clothes and shoes. It can also be delivered on board by calling Mr. van Dijk of the shipshop, +31 20 6865 270 or mail to dijk-de-parlevinker@planet.nl. The exact location is havenkom C which is also a walking distance from Amfert and Igma. The shipshop sells also top up cards like Lebara and Lyca but you need to pay in euro!

What are the opening hours of the shops

Most shops are open from 10:00 h to 18:00 h. Sundays shops in the city centre are open from 11:00 h to 17:00 h

What is for sale at the shop of the Seamen's Centre?

You can find personal hygiene (toothpaste, shampoo, nailcutter and so on), souvenirs (windmills, keyrings) and clothes (new and 2nd hand). Of course you can buy telephonecards and empty CD's, DVD's and USB-sticks. English books and magazines are free. On behalf of your colleague seafarers we kindly request you to bring some readings from your ship as well so they can be exchanged.

Seamen's shelter

Can I spend the night in your centre?

No but you are wellcome at the seamen's Hotel of the German Seamen's Mission. ([click for website](#)).

Night life

Is it difficult to find the famous red light district of Amsterdam?

No.
