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From Windmills To Diamonds: Travel To Holland

By Frank Johnson

Tulips, windmills and wooden shoes might still be a draw to this Dutch region for some travelers;

however, Holland is a far more versatile locale with an international and maritime history extending farther back than most of the rest of Europe, including the establishment of New Amsterdam as a major trading city, which became New York when the British took over. Holland, particularly Amsterdam, is also well known for its diamond manufacturing and polishing industry. If that tickles your fancy, make sure to visit the Amsterdam Diamond Center located in the center of the city.

Before you continue with this informative guide to Holland, make note that although the name "Holland" is used commonly in everyday language, the country is strictly called The Netherlands and internationally recognized as such.

Red Lights and Rembrandt Besides being the capital city, Amsterdam has enough to offer to fill your entire vacation. The unavoidable multiculturalism has brought Amsterdam to the forefront of controversial equality and human rights issues. Muslims, Jews, Dutch and Surinamese all have a very active role in the life and politics of the city. The Anne Frank House is an extremely popular sight with a new exhibit at the end that discusses the modern day conflict between freedom of speech and respect for cultural and religious diversity. Amsterdam is also home to the Van Gogh Museum and the newly restored Rembrandt Museum.

The Dutch acquired an extensive collection of colonies during the 18th and 19th centuries, one of which was Suriname, located on the northern coast of South America. Suriname finally gained its independence in 1975 and through an education exchange program the Surinamese population remains predominant in Amsterdam. The cultural flair adds richness to the city in the form of contemporary music, art and exquisite cuisine. Make sure to dine in a Surinamese restaurant at least once!

Amsterdam is also notorious for its Red Light District and Coffee Shops. Stroll through the winding streets at night for an incredibly diverse experience and stop at one of the bustling pubs for delicious locally brewed beer. Also, many visitors enjoy seeing the city from the water. There are boat tours offered on an hourly schedule during the summer months that take you through the picturesque canals

and past charming old façades.

Timeless and Traditional Even though Amsterdam is a modern hub in the globalized world, there is still an incredible amount of tradition and history prevalent throughout The Netherlands. Visit the nearby town of Alkmaar in the summer to take part in the centuries-old cheese market and festival. Locals don traditional dress and haul giant rounds of cheese through the town square for weighing. After your fill of dairy, wander through this seaside town's canals and shops. Travel through central Holland to the medieval town of Utrecht, established around 47 AD. The 14th century wharves, cathedrals and Roman architecture are sure to transport any traveler to another place in time.

For international travelers, Holland exists in a class of its own. Whether you enjoy the bustling urban experience or the intimate countryside adventure, you will find what you are looking for in Holland.

For more information on travel to Holland and other regions in Europe, and discount airfare to Holland,

visit

<http://www.cfares.com>

Pink Diamonds: A Girl's Best Friend?

By Roger Wembley

I've got a confession to make. I am a man and I like diamonds. I know what you are thinking: that I'm Liberace. Well, no. I'm not Liberace. I don't even play the piano. But I like diamonds just as much as anyone else. However, one of the things I noticed is that online, it is very difficult to find information on pink (and other colored) diamonds.

Let's take a look at a whole bunch of reasons that pink diamonds are considered some of the nicest diamonds on the face of the earth and why people go to extremes to buy them.

1) Rarity. Nothing has really changed all that much in the last 100 years. People still like rare items for the very fact that they are rare. If no one else has something, then people are much likely to want it. Call it attention, call it what you will, but rare items always seem to be much more valuable than plane items. The same holds true with jewelry and pink diamonds are no exception. Pink diamonds are fairly rare items to get a hold of. Pink diamonds are off color: nature doesn't seem make them that often. However, man has altered diamonds, and man made (or man altered) pink diamonds can be found being offered by different jewelers. They won't sell for nearly the price that natural pink diamonds will, but they exist.

2) Style. Pink diamonds have been seen in recent years being sported by J Lo and some of the most famous celebrities in the world. They are definitely in with the in crowd. Given that pink diamonds are in style, you can expect to pay a little bit more for them as well. We don't think that pink diamonds are going to go out of style anytime soon, so if you are shopping for them, don't be surprised to see a high

price tag given the amount of celebrities who love them these days.

3) Luxury. Pink diamonds are still diamonds. And people love luxury items as much as they ever did. Pink can stand for luxury. Diamonds spell luxury. The two combine to give quite a fancy name to themselves.

These 3 point are merely introductory: learn how to pros buy pink diamonds. Find out how to do it correctly and save a bundle.

Roger Wembley is author of "How to Buy Pink Diamonds." Pick up your copy at

<http://www.pinkdiamondsguide.com>



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