

THE ANNE FRANK MUSEUM GROWS IN POPULARITY



There are not many visitors to Amsterdam who skip the visit the Anne Frank house. Situated on the Prinsegracht near the centre of Amsterdam, the Anne Frank house gives us a reminder of the story of the Jewish girl who unsuccessfully hid from the Nazis during World War 2, eventually perishing in the Belsen concentration camp having suffered betrayal.

Although the diaries of over 200 Jewish girls were recovered after the mid-century atrocities, the story of Anne Frank is certainly the most famous and attracts most interest from historians and tourists nowadays. Since its opening in 1960, the Anne Frank house has been presenting visitors with a first-hand view of what Anne Frank's abode would have looked like before it was ransacked by the Nazis. There is even a display of a monopoly set, placed by museum staff in reaction to an entry about the game in the diary itself. The house is full of such details, based on the famous diary, in order to create a realistic atmosphere of Anne Frank's hiding place before she was exiled to the death camp.

Anne Frank house has become one of Amsterdam's most popular sites. It had almost 1 million visitors in 2006, 16.000 more than in the previous year. Figures so far this year have proven that the Anne Frank house is set to grow in popularity in the years to come.

The reasons for this growth are threefold. Firstly, public knowledge about who Anne Frank was is growing. Secondly, there is greater public awareness that, although the entrance fee is not extortionate, almost all funds raised proceed to some kind of Anne Frank project. Last but not least is the fact that the museum now has longer opening hours, open for an average of 12 hours per day, thus opening the door to more visitors at different times.

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