

Amsterdam. The hippie city of 1967.

In 1967 I went to Amsterdam for the first time.

Actually just to see the dam.

At the dam I met a guy named Hans?

Nice guy who lived in Amsterdam in the Nieuwe Leliestraat ?.

His parents had a greengrocer's shop there.

Since I really liked Amsterdam, I asked Hans how long it took before you could get a place to live.

In 1967 there was already a waiting list of almost two years.

To Hans, he said, no problem, my parents also rent out rooms.

Great, I said, but then I will have to find another job here.

I got that job within a day. In April 1967, I was living in Amsterdam.

But after 8 months I longed to return to Vlaardingen.

I missed my friends, musicians and parents.

But I had a fantastic time in Amsterdam.

Great people, also in football back then, nice boss, cool room,
super cozy on the Dam, very relaxed and great pubs and nightlife options.

For me, it was the best city in the Netherlands back then! What's it like in 2025?

No idea. I was last there in 1973 for a Deep Purple concert. I did go and have a look in Nieuwe Leliestraat, though.

But a lot had changed by then. I have no idea what happened to Hans after that. In any case, I don't think his parents owned the greengrocer anymore?

Yet I still think of Amsterdam as the hippie city of the Netherlands.