

Amsterdam Tournament 2016

I take the Eurostar and Thalys to Amsterdam and stay at the main [campsite](#) in the woods.



Characteristic French Pylons



The following morning

The ground is pockmarked with mole hills but I find a small level section and my home for the next week is completed. Six of the tournament attendees are staying in the site, 3 Britons and 3 Germans - the two German women, I believe, are in a cabin.

Amsterdam Oud zuid

In the morning I take the metro from Spinnerij (Cotton mill) to Station Zuid to pick up a 5 day ticket and then go walkabout. I find myself unexpectedly in the Oud Zuid where there is the interesting [Albert Cuyp](#) street market.



Hérons scavenge in the Albert Cuyp market



The central station 'clocks' give the wind direction and time

Amsterdam sights

Amsterdam is a city on a human scale and these photos are a snapshot from a sunny day.



Campsite



Tulips with Heineken Brewery in background



Of course there is heaps more to be seen - many museums, the Vondelpark, the zoo, the botanical gardens and the red light district. One day I'll go to the Rijks Museum

Amsterdam Tournament

The [Amsterdam Go tournament](#) is held each year in the week of the Ascension day holiday. This year there are 5 Brits (3 at least ex Cambridge) and a sometime resident of Ireland.

On the Wednesday evening the lightning tournament takes place in the café “Batavia 1920” - a bar near the central station where the Amsterdam Go club meets. I am drinking [Skuumkoppe](#). It evidently contains a magic ingredient as I win 4 out of 5.



Thursday's opening ceremony

The main tournament takes place at the [European Go Cultural Centre](#) in Amstelveen (near Kronenburg metro stop) on Thursday, Friday & Sunday. There is a rapid tournament on the Saturday but I prefer to explore Amsterdam. Guo Juan gives lectures and there is a barbecue one evening.



Relaxing outside after a game



The bar area



Game reviews



Sate and chips



Prize giving



Duvel - not as spectacular as the first steps on the moon

Trip home



Mosque on the outskirts of Amsterdam



Military vehicles at Brussels Zuid station

Richard Mullens 20160622