

# Erasmuscon

*A bridge between...*

European convention for fantasy, horror and science fiction  
For the first time in the Netherlands

**16 - 19 August 2024**  
Panels, workshops, dealers  
and more...

[erasmuscon.nl](http://erasmuscon.nl)  
[info@erasmuscon.nl](mailto:info@erasmuscon.nl)



Welcome to this Progress Report for Eurocon 2024 Erasmuscon!

We have less than a year to go now, and the convention is really taking shape. The programme committee is working hard to create a beautiful and varied programme – squeezing in as many ideas as they can. I can't wait to see the final result. We'll start sharing previews as soon as we can through our website and social media, so keep an eye on those.

On Friday 8 September some of the team had a look around our venue. As it happened, that day was unseasonably hot, so I was pleased to find that all the rooms at WTC are well air-conditioned. Quite essential for a convention in summer, if you ask me. And another detail that may seem trivial to some, but is really very important: the chairs in the function rooms are really comfy.

Now, don't let me keep you from reading the rest of this Progress Report. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Rotterdam in August 2024!

Live long and prosper!

André de Boer  
Chair Eurocon 2024 Erasmuscon



# Erasmuscon

## *Letter from the chair*





On Friday 8 September 2023 we went to visit the Postillion Convention Centre with a small group of the Erasmuscon organisation. We were taken on a tour by one of the Convention Centre employees, so we were able to see the different rooms that will be available for us, as well as the main hall, which will be turned into the dealer room.

The Convention Centre is a remarkable building with brand new facilities. It is in fact a so-called 'Rijksmonument' or heritage landmark. Once upon a time, the trading floor (which is over 3000 m<sup>2</sup>) was used as a trading market for the grain farmers of yore. This has resulted in a roof which allows for as much light as possible: to make sure the grain could be properly inspected and valued. During the last few years, the building has been completely renovated. There was still some construction work going on during our visit, but this should be finished next month (long before our Erasmuscon, so no worries there).

Although located directly at the main hall, the meeting rooms are soundproof, so no matter the noise in the dealer room, the workshops and panels will not be disturbed. We could properly test this with the sound of the ongoing construction in the main hall: once we entered the meeting rooms and closed the doors behind us, there was no noise to be heard! We





will have several rooms available for the convention, both big and small, which can be combined if needed. All the rooms and main hall are on the same level, without any kind of doorsteps, making it easily accessible for everyone.

The main hall and meeting rooms all offer free Wifi and access to all common mobile providers. As mentioned, the rooms are soundproof. There are state-of-the-art beamers in the larger rooms, and we will have access to flipcharts and other workshop materials. The convention centre is wheelchair accessible and can also be accessed directly from the Postillion hotel. Public transport, restaurants, and shops are all right around the corner.





# Erasmuscon

## Programme

The programme committee has been hard at work compiling a programme of interesting topics and speakers.

Of course all our guests of honour will give a speech.

We are also planning lectures and panels regarding such topics as A.I. and its impact on writers and creators and self-publishing.

If you're looking for something a bit more interactive, we will also have plenty of workshops. How about working on your pitch for your own project, or building a bridge (plenty of bridges in Rotterdam to take your inspiration from)?

We have plenty of ideas and will reveal new items in the coming months.

Meanwhile, we are always open to new ideas so don't hesitate to send us an email at [programme@erasmuson.nl](mailto:programme@erasmuson.nl) if you have a great one.

### **Would you like to participate in the programme of Eurocon 2024 Erasmuscon?**

Our programming team is always looking for more enthusiastic experts.

Whether you have visited countless worlds, by book portal or spaceship, or have explored just one world thoroughly, come tell your tale and regale others with your adventures and discoveries.

We are looking for lecturers, artists, discussion leaders and time travellers.

Come tell us the stories you want to share. We welcome everyone who wants to participate.



There are plenty of restaurants and bars around the WTC.

Make sure to try out some typical Dutch food:

Go to **Smullers** at the station (for snacks from the wall) or you can go to a regular cafeteria snackbar.

Try a fresh stroopwafel!

If you like candy, you have to go to a **Jamin** store and try Dutch liquorice if you are feeling brave (salted!).

From the WTC, the Witte de Withstraat is THE street with restaurants (and art galleries!) You can also visit de **Markthal** at the Ds. Jan Scharpstraat 298 for a vast selection of foodstalls. It is just a 10 minutes walk from the WTC.

**The Schietlandshuis**, located at Coolasingel 114 is a hidden gem close to the WTC. Expensive but beautiful dinner venue.

**Restaurant Bazar**, located at Witte de Withstraat 16 is a highly recommended multicultural spot for lunch and dinner. Nice prices and fast service, perfect for a food break between programme items.

**Duduk**, located at Meent 88 is open all day and sells delicious apple cake.

For Dutch pancakes, you can go to Parkhaven 12, the **pannekoekenboot** (pancake boat) provides a 75 minutes trip on the river and unlimited pancakes for just 25 euros. You only have to pay extra for drinks.

If you prefer your pancake intake limited and on firm ground, you can try poffertjes (a typically Dutch tiny pancakes snack) at **Poffertjessalon** Seth. Hoogstraat 147.

A bit further away but highly recommended by our local committee members:

**Parqiet**: Baden Powellaan 20, open 9 am to 6 pm, in the park!

**Café Soif**: Mathenesserdijk 438/A, open 12 to 10 pm, the most beautiful terrace in Delftshaven, for an afternoon beer or coffee.

**Hotel New York**: koninginnenhoofd 1, former headquarters of Holland America Line, large restaurant and cocktail bar.

**SS Rotterdam:** 3e Katendrechtse hoofd 25, Lido grill, aboard the ship!

**De Machinist:** Willem Buytewechstraat 45, open 5 to 11 pm, one of Rotterdam's best bistros.

**A la Plancha:** Maaskade 74, fish restaurant.

### How to eat like a Dutchman

Stroopwafels

Bitterballs

Split pea soup

Cheese

Mini pancakes

Raw herring (fish)

Pancakes

Croquettes

### Speak like a Dutchman

**Basic phrases**

- Yes / No
- Hi / Bye
- Goodbye
- Thank you
- Please
- You're welcome
- How much is it?
- Cheers
- I love you!
- Canal Belt

**How to write**

- Ja / Nee
- Hoi / Doe!
- Tot ziens
- Dank u wel
- Alstublieft
- Graag gedaan
- Wat kost het?
- Proost
- Ik hou van je!
- Grachtengordel

**How to say**

- yah / nay
- hoy / doo-ee
- toht zeens
- dahnk-ew-vehl
- ahlst-ew-bleeft
- khrahkh khuh-dahn
- vat kohst ut
- Prohst
- ik how fahn yuh
- impossible

Our guests can take a different free walk (or more) every day of the convention. There are walks that are self-guided and there are also free guided walking tours.

Not only are there many free walking tours, but you might also want to get on a waterbus and go to the **Kinderdijk** (UNESCO heritage site). Waterbus 21 Blu Amigo from Rotterdam Erasmus. Change over at Ridderkerk-de Schans to Kinderdijk.

### Free guided tours

Free Walking tour Rotterdam – tip based – 2 hours

Meeting point: Front of the Markthal facing the Cube houses. Booking fee € 1,89 to secure your spot.

**1) Classic Tour** - Every day 13.30 and on Saturday and Sunday also at 10.30. It will give information about the legacy of Erasmus, the WW2 Bombardment, Futuristic Architecture, and the Port of Europe.

**2) Rivers & Architecture tour** – Every day at 16.00 and on Saturday at 10.30. The end point of this tour is Hotel New York (near water taxi). On this tour you will walk along the great bridges of Rotterdam (the Willemsbrug) with a splendid view of the Erasmus bridge, learn about the architecture and about how Rotterdam has become a multicultural/commercial hub. Tip: Return to the other side of the river by water taxi.

### Self-guided tours

**Walk the city.eu** has an app you can download on your smartphone. The app provides pictures and clear instructions. Four of its many walks might be interesting to our guests in particular:

**3) Dynamic Rotterdam** – about 5 km. There are some steps and/or steep inclines.

It can best be started at the WTC, the Maritime Museum, the Markthal or Hofplein-Hilton.



It shows the fire line- it is mostly inside the fire line, reconstruction buildings including Cube houses, Rotterdam skyline.

On Tuesday to Saturday, you can check out the inside of the Grote of Sint-Laurenskerk church, the only remaining late gothic building.

**4) Cultural Rotterdam** – 5,3 km. No warnings are given about steps

This is a city walk that goes by museums, galleries, public artworks, and many restaurants- from Take Away to Michelin. This walk is outside the fire line so you can view more of historical Rotterdam

It can best be started at the Willemsplein under the Erasmus bridge or the Euromast or the Arthal and takes you to 7 museums.

**5) Skyline Rotterdam** – 6,7 km. Not suitable for people who are not very mobile. There are some stairs and steep inclines.

This walk will pass the most beautiful skyscrapers. From the trendy Wilhelmina Quai you will cross the Erasmus bridge and go to the first European skyscraper: The White House. Crossing the city, you will see some beautiful architecture.

On this walk you should be prepared to take public transport.

The best starting points are Wilhelmina Quai (Wilhelminaplein), Market Hall, or in front of Central Station.

**6) Quays and the Cape** – 4,8 km. No warnings are given about steps.

The once notorious red-light district of Katendrecht and the harbor area make this a unique walk.

It can best be started on the Wilhelmina Quai (Wilhelminaplein) underneath the Erasmus bridge, in front of Hotel New York or at the passenger bridge of the SS Rotterdam. (both known from the Holland Amerika Line).

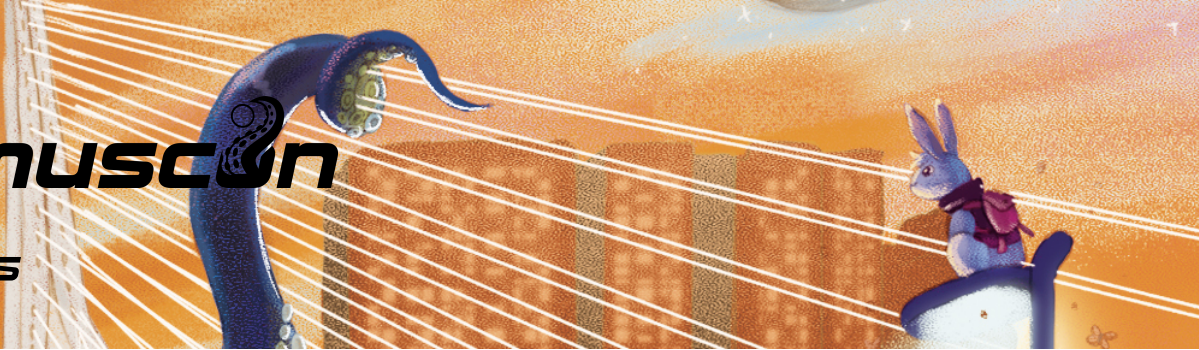
You will find several statues with their own history.

It is also definitely worth it to visit the SS Rotterdam and afterwards take a Water taxi.

**Rotterdam routes** [www.rotterdamroutes.nl](http://www.rotterdamroutes.nl) also has an app you can download on your smartphone. There are several different themed walks

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## Free Walks



with their own storyteller. The shortest walk is 2 km, most are around 5 km and there is even a 28 km walk. We would like to highlight the following walks:

### 7) History matters – 13 km

This gives stories from the colonial past and goes from historical spots from the 17th and 18th century to more modern buildings from the 19th and 20th century. You will not get information about famous sea captains but about the traces of the colonial and slavery history

### 8) Erasmus tour – 12 km

Erasmus was a priest, philosopher, author, and humanist. Through his books he became famous, and this tour shows the spots that highlight Erasmus and his thoughts.

### 9) Street Art tour “Make it happen”- 7 km

### 10) Street Art tour 2 – 7 km



The hotel is located on the Meent, in the heart of Rotterdam, right next to the famous shopping street the Coolingsel, which is easy to reach by public transport. For those of you coming by train, it is a possibility to walk from Rotterdam Central Station to the convention centre, which would take you around 15 minutes.

The address for the convention centre is:

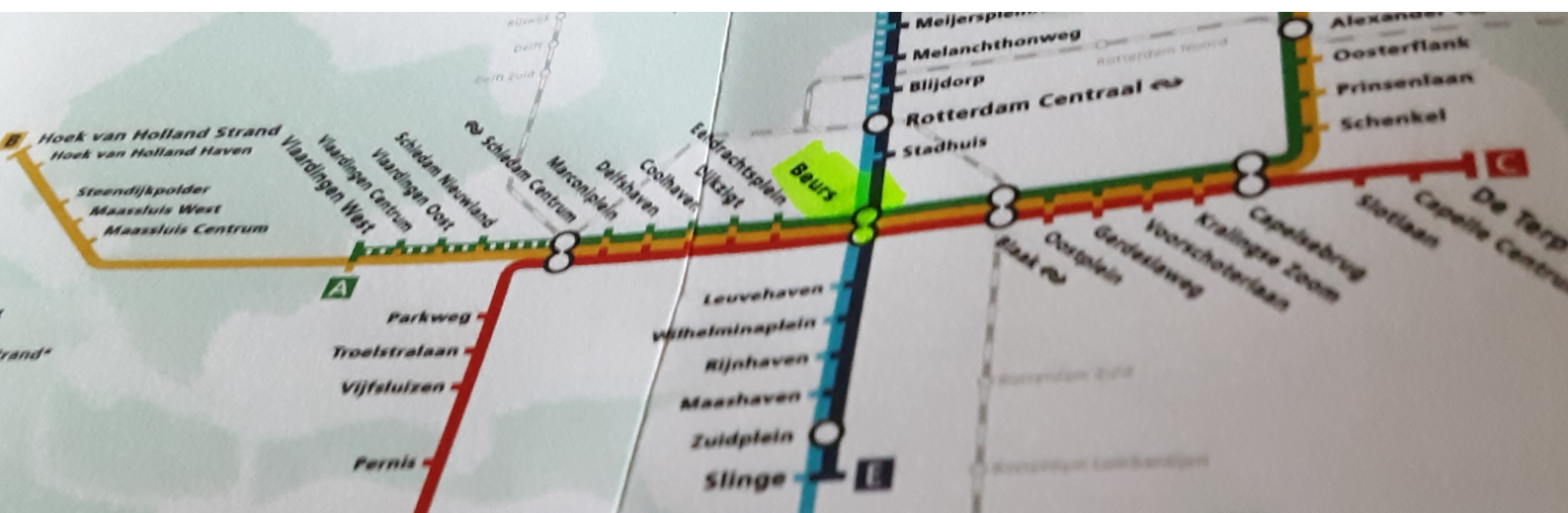
Beursplein 37 , 3011 AA Rotterdam

The address for the hotel is:

Meent 110 , 3011 JS Rotterdam

Although these are two addresses, the buildings are in fact connected. That means you can walk into the convention centre from the hotel and vice versa.

If walking is not your favourite pastime, but you would still like to travel in or around Rotterdam, you need a public transport (OV) chip card or you can buy single tickets at the station or on the bus. Another option is the Tranzier app. With this app, you can buy tickets for all the train companies, the Connexion busses and the RET. Your ticket will appear in your app after purchase and it allows you to travel immediately, using your phone. Checking in and out and a chip card is not required. Various taxi services, such as Uber, can also be ordered with Tranzier.



There are several ways to get to Rotterdam:

**By train:** One of the fastest and easiest ways to get to Rotterdam is to travel by train. Intercity trains hailing from every corner of the Netherlands make a stop at Rotterdam Central Station, including the high-speed train. From Rotterdam Central Station: Metro D direction De Akkers or E direction Slinge second stop Beurs exit Beursplein and you are almost in front of WTC.

**By air:** From Schiphol Airport by train to Rotterdam Central Station. The fastest connection between Schiphol and Rotterdam is the NS Intercity Direct. It runs twice per hour. When travelling between Schiphol and Rotterdam, you will have to pay an Intercity Direct surcharge. From Rotterdam Central Station: Metro D direction De Akkers or E direction Slinge second stop Beurs exit Beursplein and you are almost in front of WTC.

From Rotterdam Airport: Metro D direction De Akkers or E direction Slinge fifth stop Beurs exit Beursplein and you are almost in front of WTC.

**By car:** Rotterdam can easily be reached by car, using the A4, A13, A15, A16 and A20 motorways. Exits to Rotterdam Centrum are clearly marked on signs. You can find up-to-date information about traffic, congestion and accidents from the ANWB national motor association (Dutch). Or check VanAnaarBeter (Dutch) for the latest news on roadworks in this region. Parking address WTC:

Leeuwenstraat 2, 3011 AL Rotterdam

Other options:

Dominee Jan Scharpstraat 306, 3011 GZ Rotterdam

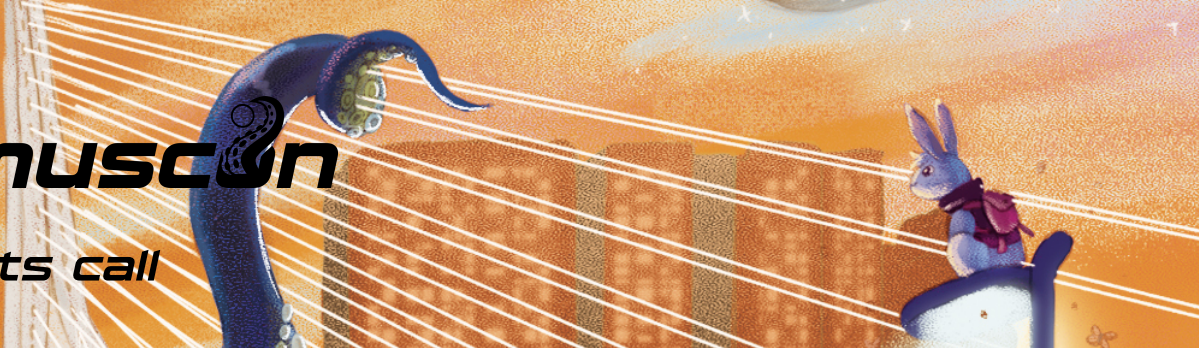
Sint-Luciastraat 59, 3012 ET Rotterdam.

**By boat:** Obviously, any true port city can be reached by boat! You can travel to Rotterdam by ferry from the United Kingdom. P&O Ferries and Stena Line offer regular ferry services between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Stena sails from Harwich, England to Hook of Holland, and it takes 30 minutes to travel from there to Rotterdam. P&O sails from Hull to Rotterdam Europoort. De Jong tours operates a shuttle service between Rotterdam Europoort and the city.



# **Erasmuscon**

*Participants call*



## **Would you like to participate in the programme of Eurocon 2024 Erasmuscon?**

Our programming team is always looking for more enthusiastic experts. Whether you have visited countless worlds, by book portal or spaceship, or have explored just one world thoroughly, come tell your tale and regale others with your adventures and discoveries. We are looking for lecturers, artists, discussion leaders and time travellers. Come tell us the stories you want to share. We welcome everyone who wants to participate.

## **Are you considering applying for a spot in our dealer room?**

More information on options and pricing will follow on the website, but feel free to reach out to us if you are already interested in a spot.

## **Would you like your ad to be featured in our physical programme booklet at Erasmuscon?**

For all of the above, and anything else, please reach out to us via [info@erasmuscon.nl](mailto:info@erasmuscon.nl)

## **We look forward to seeing you all at Eurocon 2024 Erasmuscon**

You can read previous reports as well as the latest news on our website. Make sure to connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter as well!

# **Erasmuscon**