



"Koningsdag" - The King's Day

27 April - Amsterdam



They call it "the biggest street party in Europe" - to celebrate King Willem Alexander's birthday across the country. In Amsterdam they virtually close down the centre as thousands stream in to line the old canals, shoulder to shoulder, and watch the festivities.



It's impossible without the noise and crowds to convey the atmosphere in pictures - it just has to be experienced. And it is amazing. The Dutch know how to party. Everyone wears something orange for the monarchy's colours- The House of Orange-Nassau. The whole centre turns into a giant flea market. Dozens of boats packed with revellers motored in convoy down the Prinsengracht Canal, loudspeakers blasting, standing (or swaying) packed to the edge, champagne glasses toasting those lining the banks. Fun and somewhat alarming! We got in with a few thousand others via the free ferry from across the water to the railway station, enjoyed the noise and the sights and got out while it was still fun. Long live the King!