

Property reference number: - A2308-A234 (UTRECHT)

Home to a family with two children aged 12 and 13 years. They are keen to holiday in the UK visiting friends and family, during school holidays.

KEY INFORMATION

Bedrooms available:-	1 double bedroom, 2 single bedrooms both with high sleepers, and also a double sofa bed available (Max:- 4/6)
Children welcome?	Yes all age groups are welcome
Pets that live here:-	They have a fluffy ginger & white cat, Simba. He comes & goes by himself through a cat flap in the downstairs back bedroom. He usually asks for food once or twice a day and otherwise is a very easy cat as long as doors are left open to his cat flap...



This well designed apartment is situated in a residential area in the south of the city of Utrecht, one of the major cities of the Netherlands. The city centre is a 30 minute walk, a 10 minute bike ride or 15 min bus ride away, and there are local shops, a few eating places and a bus stop just around the corner. (all within 250 metres.) Utrecht is prettier than Amsterdam (we think!) and a lot less touristy. It's just as easy to reach from Schiphol airport, too.

This ground floor and first floor apartment is one of 8 flats in a 4-storey block. It was built in the 1950's, designed by the famous Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld, so it's very 'Mondriaan-esque'. It's quite an unusual house: "We have two entrances, one on 1st floor via shared staircase and one direct from the street (that's normally our office door). The ground floor has an office (with decent double sofa bed, kitchenette and toilet) and 1 bedroom, then upstairs is the rest of the house, 2 more bedrooms, open kitchen, living room, bathroom & toilet. The bathroom has shower and sink and we have a portable sit-up bath tub which is surprisingly luxurious. The internal stairs are pretty steep as is Dutch custom, but stairs in the shared staircase are wide and straight in case mobility is a problem. There is no lift. We have Disney+ but not Netflix."





The enclosed private garden is accessed from the rear ground floor bedroom and has a gate to a shared green space at the back. There are garden table & chairs and a brazier with a barbecue grill. There is a 2.5 circular trampoline which is not netted. There are some vegetable plots, a mini pond,

and soft fruit bushes which may be in season in the summer. "There's a compost bin if you're willing and able to recycle. It's a small garden by English standards (6mx6m)."

The family attend Holy Trinity Church Utrecht, and all services are in English. About 120 people meet for the Sunday morning service which is fairly traditional with a mix of contemporary worship too. It's friendly and welcoming, do stay for coffee after the service! The first Sunday of the month is a less traditional morning service for all ages. www.holytrinityutrecht.nl

Sports facilities	A park 2 mins walk to the north with outdoor gym equipment, children's playground, half pipe for skateboarders & basketball court. Safe wide bike paths everywhere. A park 5min east with wooded area & waterway where you could paddle our blow-up canoe...
Local places of interest	Utrecht is an historic city and university town with lots to do and see. Culture, events, boat trips on the canals: climb the Dom Cathedral tower, visit the Speelklok museum of mechanical instruments, try authentic Dutch cheese or herrings... There's always lots going on. There's a very nice pancake house (Theehuis Rhijnauwen) 15 min cycle ride to the east in a wooded area next to the river. We highly recommend it, (and they do gluten-free pancakes too). Open air market on Tuesdays in the local shopping centre 250m from our house. Farmer's cheese & you can buy fresh or fried fish. Try 'kibbeling' which is small pieces of fried white fish. Plus lots of other stalls. A petting zoo/play area 5 min to the west with cafe, sand pit and indoor toys if it's wet. Called 'kinderboerderij Het Rotsoord'

www.visitutrechtregion.com/en/discover-utrecht-region/utrecht



www.holland.com/global/tourism/discover-the-netherlands/visit-the-cities/utrecht.htm
www.discover-utrecht.com

OTHER INFORMATION ..."We don't have a car as bike paths and public transport are so good. Utrecht is right in the centre of the Netherlands with very good transport links to the rest of the country.

Bus stop 2 min from house, local train station 10 min walk away. **You can borrow our bikes (3 ladies' bikes, 1 men's and 1 folding Brompton).**

In the Netherlands, the cyclist is king. You can go down one way streets and can access many roads that are blocked off to cars. You can ride on designated bike paths (safe and wide, usually with red tarmac) or on the road when there's no path (usually smaller roads). There are even traffic lights just for cyclists! Just remember to lock up well (in case of bike thieves) and use lights at night.

We can provide public transport cards (contact-less tickets, they work like Oyster cards) which can be topped up in supermarkets or train stations.

Bikes can be taken on trains during July and August at no charge. Outside these months you sometimes need to buy a ticket.

If you want to bring your car be advised that our area has paid street parking and we have no off-street parking available. Cars can be parked for free in the shopping centre car park 250m away, but would need to be moved once a week on Tuesdays as the area is cleared for the weekly market.

If you want to use a car while you're here and you're tech savvy, there is a very good car rental service using an app, 'MyWheels', which allows you to pick up one of many cars in the neighbourhood and pay only for petrol and hours used. No keys needed, just swipe your phone to open the car!"

PHOTOS OF THE BEDROOMS BELOW.....

