

ANTWERP LOVES DIAMONDS

EN

A BRILLIANT MAP
OF ANTWERP



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ENGLISH FREE

ANTWERP WORLDWIDE n°1 in diamond trading

Most people know that Antwerp is the world's number one diamond trading centre. But did you know that every diamond that is sold anywhere in the world probably passed through Antwerp at least once? Worldwide, 84% of all rough diamonds and 50% of all polished diamonds are bought and sold in Antwerp.

In 2017, 233.8 million carats of rough and polished diamonds were traded, for a total value of 46 billion US dollars.



Flanders
State of the Art

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In Antwerp
we speak
diamond

Diamond Capital
since 1447

www.antwerpdiamondcapital.eu

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DIAMONDS

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TIPS FOR BUYING DIAMONDS

- 4CS**
The quality and value of a cut diamond are determined by the 4Cs: 'Carat' Carat refers to the diamond's weight: 1 carat = 0.2 grams. 'Colour' refers to the colour. In principle, colourless diamonds are the most valuable. (Very precious) natural coloured diamonds also exist. These "Fancy Colours" are very rare. 'Clarity' refers to the diamond's clarity, which is determined by the number, the size and the presence of inclusions or blemished or external elements such as scratches. 'Cut' has two very important aspects: the symmetry and the finish (polish).
- CERTIFICATE**
When purchasing diamonds always request a certificate. If you are purchasing a diamond starting from 1 carat then request a certificate from HRD Antwerp, GIA or IGI. Attention: the certificate also states whether you have acquired a natural diamond, a laboratory grown diamond or a treated diamond. Check the certificate before finalising your purchase!
- CASH**
If you want to purchase a gemstone in Antwerp, please keep in mind that cash payments are limited. A gemstone that costs 2.999 euro or less can be paid in cash. If the price is 3.000 euro or more then a maximum of 10% can be paid in cash; this is limited to 3.000 euro. As a non-EU resident, you are also entitled to a VAT refund. Enquire about this with your jeweller.
- TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE**
If the vendor makes you an offer that seems too good to be true then this probably is also the case.

Attention: From 1 January 2018, every jeweller must issue a descriptive certificate for any jewel or timepiece sold, made of precious metals, gemstones or diamonds, which provides detailed and complete information about:
– the type of precious metal used and the number of karats
– the type of gemstone: natural, treated, laboratory grown, untreated and the type of treatment
– the diamond: the 4 Cs and the type of treatment to enhance clarity
– the timepiece: make, model and unique serial number
– the details of the company: name, natural person/legal entity, business address and company registration number

This descriptive certificate unambiguously states whether natural, laboratory grown or treated diamonds were used.
- REPORTING POINT COMPLAINTS & CONCERNS**
Customers who are the victim of misleading practices, fraud or swindle can report this to Antwerp's local police at goudi@politie.antwerpen.be. In addition, the Federal Public Service Economy also analyses complaints, which you can report in four languages (Dutch, French, German and English) online at meldpunt.belgie.be.

ANTWERP'S MOST BRILLIANT

The jewellers who have received the Antwerp's Most Brilliant Quality Label meet stringent quality standards for sustainability, safety, transparency and service. Here you can buy the jewel of your dreams in good faith. Look for the sticker on the shop window or door.

- ADELIN**
– 43, Steenhouwersvest, 2000 Antwerpen
- ADIN**
– 16, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- COLMAN JEWELRY & WATCHES**
– 7, Eiermarkt, 2000 Antwerpen
- DIAMANI JEWELS**
– 66, Pelikaanstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- DIAMOND BLUE**
– 77, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- DIAMONDLAND**
– 33A, Appelmansstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- GERHILD KIRCHNER**
– 51, Oude Koormarkt, 2000 Antwerpen
- JOAILLERIE DU CENTRE**
– 14, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- JUWELEN HENRI DOM**
– 53, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- JUWELEN OROGEM**
– 38, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- JUWELENHUIS RUYLS**
– 26, Sint-Jorispoort, 2000 Antwerpen
- JUWELIER SLAETS**
– 46-48, De Keyserlei, 2018 Antwerpen
- NADINE WIJNANTS**
– 26, Kloosterstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- NICO TAEYMANS**
– 17, Steenhouwersvest, 2000 Antwerpen
- ORIANE JEWELRY**
– 13-15, Suikerrui, 2000 Antwerpen
- ORSINI DIAMONDS**
– 32, De Keyserlei, 2000 Antwerpen
- RAYJO**
– 6, Rijfstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- REMBRANDT JORDAN**
– 18, Wijngaardstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- RÖELL JEWELLERY**
– Empire Shopping Center Boutique 8+9, 25, Appelmansstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- RUDIAM**
– 8, Appelmansstraat, 2018 Antwerpen

- STUDIO TWEË**
– 33, Graaf Van Egmontstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- VAN DER VEKEN JUWELIERS**
– 42, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- WIM MEEUSSEN GOUDSMEDERIJ**
– 11, Wijngaardstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- WOUTERS & HENDRIK**
– 52, Steenhouwersvest, 2000 Antwerpen

SPECIAL 'DIAMOND' SPOTS

- CENTRAL STATION**
After Antwerp's Central Station was built, the diamond trade moved to the neighbourhood around the station.
- DIAMANTCLUB VAN ANTWERPEN**
Antwerp's oldest diamond exchange. – 62, Pelikaanstraat
- DIAMOND DISTRICT**
The most important diamond trading centre in the world is also dubbed the diamond square mile (see detailed map).
- GRAANMARKT**
In the twenties, Forminière used to have a sales office at Graanmarkt, which exclusively sold diamonds from the Belgian Congo. – 4, Graanmarkt
- OSTERRIETH HOUSE**
This monumental mansion dates from the sixteenth century. It was home to many rich merchants, including several diamond traders. – 85, Meir
- THE RUBENS HOUSE**
Rubens loved diamonds and precious stones and even accepted them as payment for his paintings. – 9-11, Wapper
- CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY**
In 1787 a large part of the diamonds of the French crown jewels were re-cut here, at the request of Louis XVI. – 43, Sint Rochusstraat
- THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY**
The statue of the Virgin Mary in this cathedral has a gold crown, adorned with sublime diamond jewellery. The crown is only exhibited once a year, on 15 August. – Handschoenmarkt
- THE STATUE OF LODEWIJK VAN BERCKEN**
This statue was commissioned in 1906 by an influential Antwerp diamond trader. Legend has it that Lodewijk invented the practice of diamond cutting but in reality he never existed. – 1-5, Leysstraat

SPOTS FOR INSIDERS

The heart of Antwerp's diamond trade is located in the diamond district. As a visitor, you won't notice much of the diamond trade as Antwerp is a wholesale centre for diamonds and most of the trading takes place behind closed doors. We recommend visiting the district with a city guide (*see more about diamonds) for a look behind the scenes to find out more about the fascinating history of diamonds in Antwerp.

- DIAMOND EXCHANGES**
The diamond exchanges are members only, meaning visitors are not admitted. However, you can visit a diamond exchange if you book a visit behind the scenes (*see more about diamonds). Antwerp has four diamond exchanges, which is quite unique!
34a) Antwerp Diamond Bourse – 78, Pelikaanstraat
34b) Vrije Diamanthandel – 62, Pelikaanstraat
34c) Antwerpsche Diamantkring – 2, Hoveniersstraat
see 26 Diamantclub van Antwerpen – 62, Pelikaanstraat
- ANTWERP WORLD DIAMOND CENTRE (AWDC)**
AWDC defends the interests of Antwerp's diamond industry. AWDC attends diamond and jewellery exhibitions all over the world. – 22, Hoveniersstraat
- DIAMOND OFFICE**
The Diamond Office is the only diamond customs office in Belgium and therefore plays a crucial role in Antwerp's diamond trade. Every batch of diamonds that is imported or exported in Belgium is checked here by the Federal Public Service for Economy. – 22, Hoveniersstraat
- HRD ANTWERP**
The colour, carats, clarity and cut of polished diamonds are checked in the lab of HRD Antwerp, which issues a certificate that describes the diamond down to the smallest details. HRD Antwerp is one of the three institutions whose diamond certificates are accepted all over the world. – 22, Hoveniersstraat
- DIAMANTAFKOKERIJ**
Diamonds cannot be properly cleaned with water because they repel it, which is why they are boiled in a sulphuric acid bath after polishing. – 1, Schupstraat

MULTICULINARY AND MULTICULTURAL SPOTS

- HOFFY'S**
Traditional Yiddish food
– 52, Lange Kievitstraat
- AAHAAR**
Indian vegetarian dishes
– 23, Lange Herentalsestraat
- RACHEL'S FALAFEL**
Vegetarian cuisine
– 60, Lange Herentalsestraat
- BENI FALAFEL**
Kosher restaurant
– 188, Lange Leemstraat
- SEFARDIC SYNAGOGUE**
Synagogue of the Israeli-Portugese-Sephardic community
– 31, Hoveniersstraat

MORE ABOUT DIAMONDS

- DIVA - HOME OF DIAMONDS**
Step into the dazzling world of DIVA, which is filled with **diamonds, jewellery and silverware**. DIVA, the new star in Antwerp, and her butler Jérôme will take you on a journey through Antwerp's diamond story. Discover outstanding workmanship, fascinating anecdotes, intense emotions and impressive scenes in this **brilliant museum...** From 7 May 2018, DIVA, Antwerp Home of Diamonds is **open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., except on Wednesday**. Buy your ticket online through www.divaantwerp.be or at the desk in the museum, and pay electronically.

| 17 – 19, Suikerrui, 2000 Antwerp
www.divaantwerp.be

ANTWERP LOVES DIAMONDS APP

Want to find out more about diamonds in Antwerp? You can download the free Antwerp loves diamonds app from the iTunes store or from the Google Play store. This app provides an overview of over five centuries of diamonds in Antwerp, including further information about the diamond trade, its history, fun facts, highlights and much more. Available in four languages.

GUIDED WALKING TOUR – DIAMOND DISTRICT (20 MINUTES)

See for yourself why Antwerp is called the diamond world capital as you walk through the city's diamond district. Experience the heyday, the near downfall and the resurgence of Antwerp's diamond industry in the nineteenth century as your guide takes you on a fascinating tour of the neighbourhood.

From Central Station you walk to the 'Diamond Square Mile', Antwerp's diamond district. A colourful mix of different nationalities makes its way through the district's streets, from one transaction to another. A neighbourhood where diamond cutters, jewellers and diamond dealers have created a world of their own, with diamond factories, showrooms and exchanges.

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FUN FACTS ABOUT DIAMONDS

- DIAMONDS ARE OLDER THAN DINOSAURS**
Diamonds are among the oldest raw materials on earth: it is estimated that they are between 1 to 3.5 billion years old.
- WE SPEAK DIAMONDS**
The diamond trade employs people with 70 different nationalities. Cultural origins and language don't matter here, because in Antwerp "we speak diamonds".
- CARAT = SEED**
'Carat' comes from the Greek 'keration', the name for the seeds of the fruit of the carob tree. One seed has the average weight of 0.2 grams or three apple seeds.
- CUT IN ANTWERP**
The Antwerp diamond polishers are considered the best in the world. "Cut in Antwerp" is a worldwide hallmark of quality for polished diamonds.
- DIAMONDS ARE A BOY'S BEST FRIEND**
Until the fifteenth century, only male rulers wore diamonds. Women only started to wear diamonds later.
- BRILLIANT = POPULAR**
No less than 90% of all colorless diamonds are brilliant-cut. This cut consists of 57 planes or facets and was refined by Antwerp local hero Marcel Tolkowsky.
- DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND**
In 1477, a young man presented the first ever engagement ring set with a diamond. From then on, diamonds became a girl's best friends.
- THESE BOOTS ARE NOT MADE FOR WALKING**
In 2013, the Antwerp designers A.F. Vandevorst designed the most expensive ankle boots ever. They contained 39,083 diamonds and 4,483 grams of gold.
- ANTWERP DIAMOND CAPITAL SINCE 1447**
Diamond trade has played an important role in Antwerp for more than 500 years. The city archives contain a number of documents that demonstrate Antwerp's rich diamond history. The oldest of these dates from 1447.

