





Rotterdam Centre.

MAINPORT

By Inntel Hotels

Inntel Hotels: A Great Choice

Two flexible hotels offer a one-two punch for meeting planners in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, which is gaining traction as a hub for business and knowledge.

Meeting planners like options when it comes to site selection for a business conference or event. Add an ideal location with stunning views and it's easy to see why the Inntel Hotels Rotterdam Centre and Mainport by Inntel Hotels are a top consideration in the Netherlands port city of Rotterdam.

The two hotels, which sit side-by-side on the banks for the Maas River, are different in many ways, but share a common mission of providing a combined nearly 500 guest rooms and more than 109,000 square feet of meeting and event space.

"If you are looking for sensationally styled meeting spaces with a maximum number of hotel rooms all under one roof, then this is a great choice for you," Ilonka van der Knaap, sales manager for meetings and events at the properties, said during a recent tour of the hotels.

This one-two punch gives meeting planners an ideal option in Rotterdam, which is gaining traction as a hub for business and knowledge, particularly in the areas of life sciences and health, maritime, agrofood, clean tech and logistics. With easy access from Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, Rotterdam is growing as a meeting and event destination—

BY RICH LUNA

Meet The Inntel Hotels Leadership Team



Linda van den Berg
Director of Sales



Mark Naber
General Manager



Ilonka van der Knaap
Sales Manager,
Meetings & Events

Featured Properties

Inntel Hotels Rotterdam Centre

Guest rooms: **265**

Total square footage of meeting space: **5,500**

Mainport by Inntel Hotels

Guest rooms: **215**

Total square footage of meeting space: **5,400**

Number of meetings and events at the properties in 2018: **800**

Percentage of corporate meetings: **70**

Percentage of leisure events/meetings: **30**



Inntel Hotels at a Glance

Properties: 6 including Amsterdam Zaandam, Rotterdam Centre, Amsterdam Centre, Mainport by Inntel Hotels in Rotterdam, Arts Eindhoven and Utrecht Centre

Future properties: second hotel in the center for Amsterdam planned for October 2020, and Marina Beach in Scheveningen in March 2021

Guest rooms: **1,268**

Meeting Professionals International's recent European Meetings and Events Conference utilized several facilities and venues in Rotterdam while conducting the core of its meetings in nearby The Hague.

Rotterdam landed 24 major congresses in 2018, accounting for more than 77,500 delegate days. That's an economic impact of more than \$33.6 million. The industry supports more than 24,000 jobs.

The growth of Rotterdam's meetings sector is one reason why Rotterdam Centre and Mainport by Inntel Hotels are in an ideal position—not only do they have easy access to the water, the city and the country's mass transit, but they also offer the flexibility of small groups in each hotel or larger meetings that can utilize the space in both properties.

"There's no question we have that flexibility," van der Knaap said. "We can accommodate so many needs."

Not only do the two properties offer flexible meeting space, but they are also in an ideal location.

"We are the perfect starting point for a visit to Rotterdam, located in a unique spot at the foot of the Erasmus Bridge," van der Knaap said.

Ah yes, the Erasmus Bridge. As one of the signature sites in Rotterdam, the impressive Erasmus Bridge—often referred to as The Swan due to its distinctive shape—connects the north and south parts of the city.

One of the most impressive views of the Erasmus Bridge and Maas River comes from the 16th floor of the Rotterdam Centre, which is a nearly 1,500-square-foot, multipurpose function room.

While there is the ability to share meeting facilities, each hotel has its own unique style. The Rotterdam Centre, a four-star property, has a theme focused on the view of the water, while the Mainport, a five-star hotel, has incorporated influences from around the world.

The properties are a distinctive draw for corporate meetings, with 70 percent of business coming from that area. Last year, the two properties combined to host about 800 events.

"Every event we organize is very unique [unto] itself" van der Knaap said. "We are organizing different conferences, meetings and leisure events for all different branches such as healthcare, insurance, consultancy, accountancy and information and communications technology. The companies are coming from all over the world. We also work a lot with sport groups and special requests—for example, the Rotterdam Marathon."

The hotel's location also gives meeting attendees easy access to the main tourist attractions, shops and nightlife in Rotterdam, all within walking distance. Or one can get around the harbor on a water taxi, which has a stop at the hotel.

The Mainport, with 5,400 square feet of meeting space in 8 rooms and 215 guest rooms, has a bold style, using big patterned wallpapers themed on the world's continents. That was the work of designer Feran Thomassen, who referenced every continent by giving each corridor a different symbolic motif.

Make sure to check out the ceiling in the lobby to see a compass incorporated into the ceiling. When the weather is nice, the outside deck—which can accommodate events—is in full use.

The Rotterdam Centre has slightly more meeting space—about 5,500 square feet—and 265 guest rooms.

The hotels work closely with Rotterdam Partners, the city's DMO, to showcase the properties as a meeting and event destination.

"Delegates will not be disappointed when they bring their congresses and events to these hotels," van der Knaap said. "Our location is truly stunning, just beautiful. You are in the modern, trending and busy city but can still feel the relaxing ambiance." ■