

ANTWERP LOVES DIAMONDS

A BRILLIANT MAP
OF ANTWERP

ATYPICAL
ANTWERP

EN

ENGLISHFREE

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 2016, 202 million carats of rough and polished diamonds were traded, for a total value of 48 billion US dollars.

Flanders
State of the Art

ATYPICAL
ANTWERP

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In Antwerp we speak diamond

Diamond Capital
since 1447

Antwerp and diamonds share a
longstanding history, a fact that
will be highlighted during Antwerp
Diamond Capital. You can discover
plenty of new initiatives as of
October 2017, eine Vielzahl neuer
Initiativen entdecken.

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www.antwerpdiamondcapital.eu

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ANTWERP LOVES DIAMONDS

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TIPS FOR BUYING DIAMONDS

1

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).

2

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 IGL. Attention: the certificate also states whether you have acquired a natural diamond, a lab grown diamond or a treated diamond. Check the certificate before finalising your purchase!

3

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.

4

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.

5

REPORTING POINT COMPLAINTS & CONCERNS

Are you the victim of deceit or fraud, then you can report this online at meldpunt.belgie.be. You will immediately receive tailor-made advice and/or a targeted referral to the institution that can provide assistance. The site is available in four languages (English, Dutch, French and German).

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.

- 1

ADELIN
— 6, Steenhouwersvest, 2000 Antwerpen
- 2

ADIN
— 16, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 3

COLMAN JEWELRY & WATCHES
— 7, Eiermarkt, 2000 Antwerpen
- 4

DIAMANI JEWELS
— 66, Pelikaanstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 5

DIAMOND BLUE
— 77, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
— 34b, Pelikaanstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 6

DIAMONDLAND
— 33A, Appelmansstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 7

GERHILD KIRCHNER
— 51, Oude Koorndmarkt, 2000 Antwerpen
- 8

JOAILLERIE DU CENTRE
— 14, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 9

JUWELEN HENRI DOM
— 53-55, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 10

JUWELEN OROGEM
— 38, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 11

JUWELENHUIS RUYSS
— 26, Sint Jorispoort, 2000 Antwerpen
- 12

JUWELIER SLAETS
— 46-48, De Keyserlei, 2018 Antwerpen
— 30 b, Schuttershofstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- 13

NICO TAEYMANS
— 17, Steenhouwersvest, 2000 Antwerpen
- 14

ORIANE
— 13-15, Suikerrui, 2000 Antwerpen
- 15

RAYJO
— 6, Rijfstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 16

REMBRANDT JORDAN
— 18, Wijngaardstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- 17

RÖELL JEWELLERY
— Empire Shopping Center Boutique 8+9, 25, Appelmansstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 18

RUDIAM
— 8, Appelmansstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 19

STUDIO TWEË
— 33, Graaf Van Egmontstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- 20

VAN DER VEKEN JUWELIERS
— 42, Vestingstraat, 2018 Antwerpen
- 21

WIM MEEUssen GOUDSMEDERIJ
— 11, Wijngaardstraat, 2000 Antwerpen
- 22

WOUTERS & HENDRIX
— 52, Steenhouwersvest, 2000 Antwerpen

SPECIAL 'DIAMOND' SPOTS

- 23

CENTRAL STATION
After Antwerp’s Central Station was built, the diamond trade moved to the neighbourhood around the station.
- 24

DIAMANTCLUB VAN ANTWERPEN
Antwerp’s oldest diamond exchange. — 62, Pelikaanstraat
- 25

DIAMOND DISTRICT
The most important diamond trading centre in the world is also dubbed the diamond square mile (see detailed map).
- 26

GRAANMARKT
In the twenties, Forminière used to have a sales office at Graanmarkt, which exclusively sold diamonds from the Belgian Congo. — 4, Graanmarkt
- 27

OSTERRIETH HOUSE
This monumental mansion dates from the sixteenth century. It was home to many rich merchants, including several diamond traders. — 85, Meir
- 28

THE RUBENS HOUSE
Rubens loved diamonds and precious stones and even accepted them as payment for his paintings. — 9-11, Wapper
- 29

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
- 30

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
- 31

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 whole-sale 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.

- 32

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!
32a) Antwerp Diamond Bourse — 78, Pelikaanstraat
32b) Vrije Diamanthandel — 62, Pelikaanstraat
32c) Antwerpsche Diamantkring — 2, Hoveniersstraat
see 24 Diamantclub van Antwerpen — 62, Pelikaanstraat
- 33

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
- 34

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
- 35

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
- 36

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
- 37

HOFFY'S
Traditional Yiddish food — 52, Lange Kievitstraat
- 38

AAHAAR
Indian vegetarian dishes — 23, Lange Herentalsestraat

MULTICULINARY AND MULTICULTURAL SPOTS

- 39

RACHEL'S FALAFEL
Vegetarian cuisine — 60, Lange Herentalsestraat
- 40

BENI FALAFEL
Kosher restaurant — 188, Lange Leemstraat
- 41

SEFARDIC SYNAGOGUE
Synagogue of the Israeli-Portugese-Sephardic community — 31, Hoveniersstraat

MORE ABOUT DIAMONDS

- 42

THE DIAMOND PAVILION
The Diamond Pavilion explains why Antwerp is widely considered the diamond world centre but also highlights the professions of the diamond trade and industry, in the past and present. The pavilion regularly hosts exhibitions. Do visit the neighbouring Silver Pavilion where the Silver Museum exhibits masterpieces from its collection. Both pavilions are open from Tuesday to Sunday. Admission is free. — 15 & 23, Hanzestedenplaats

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.

VISIT WITH A CITY GUIDE

Explore the diamond district with a guide. A guided tour lasts two hours and can be booked:
by calling **+32 (0)3 232 01 03** or **visit@stad.antwerpen.be**
We recommend booking at least three weeks in advance.

A VISIT BEHIND THE SCENES

Visit a diamond-cutting establishment and a diamond exchange and find out why Antwerp is the world’s most important diamond trading centre. Visits can be booked for groups of up to 20 people:
by calling **+32 (0)3 202 48 90** or **www.divaantwerp.be** (4 weeks in advance)
Only on demand, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

FUN FACTS ABOUT DIAMONDS

- 1

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.
- 2

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”.
- 3

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.
- 4

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.
- 5

DIAMONDS ARE A BOY'S BEST FRIEND
Until the fifteenth century, only male rulers wore diamonds. Women only started to wear diamonds later.
- 6

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.
- 7

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.
- 8

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.
- 9

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.

DIAMOND DISTRICT

