

Anne Frank House

A museum with a story

English museum guide



anne frank house

The museum

1 Main entrance

2 Welcome

263 Prinsengracht

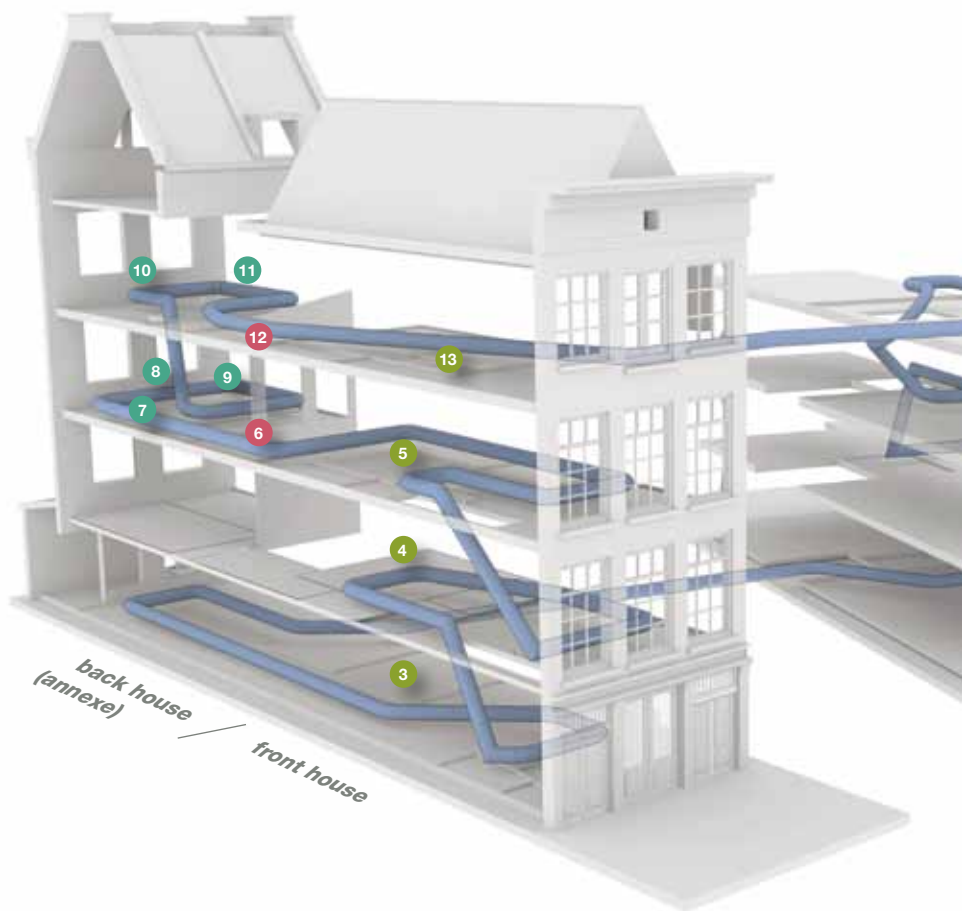
front-and-back house

(annexe)

3 Warehouse

4 Offices

5 Storeroom



6 Landing with movable bookcase

Hiding place

7 Otto, Edith and

Margot Frank's room

8 Anne Frank and

Fritz Pfeffer's room

9 Bathroom

10 Hermann and

Auguste van Pels' room

11 Peter van Pels' room

12 Passageway to the front-house

13 The Shoah

265 Prinsengracht

14 Otto Frank

15 The Diary

267 Prinsengracht

16 Exhibition space

17 Museum cafe

18 Bookshop

19 Exit



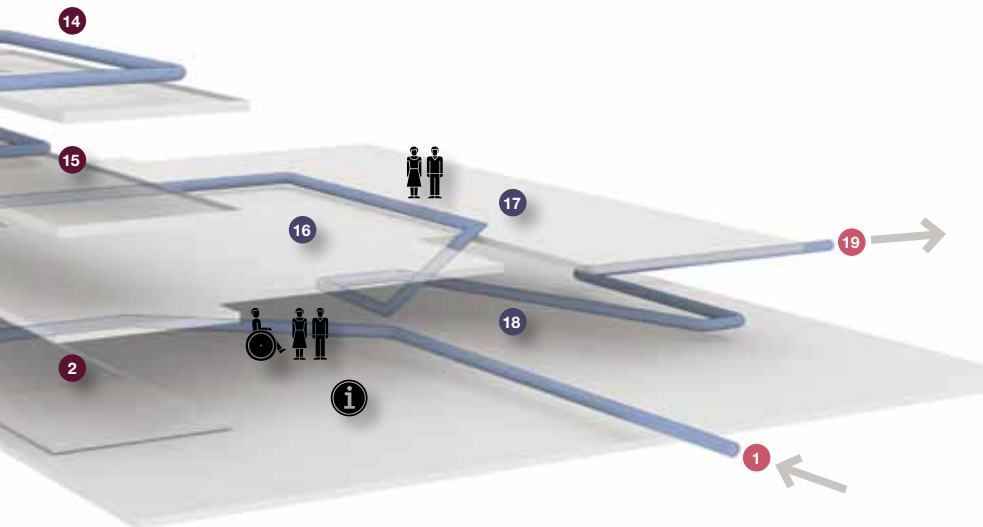
Toilets

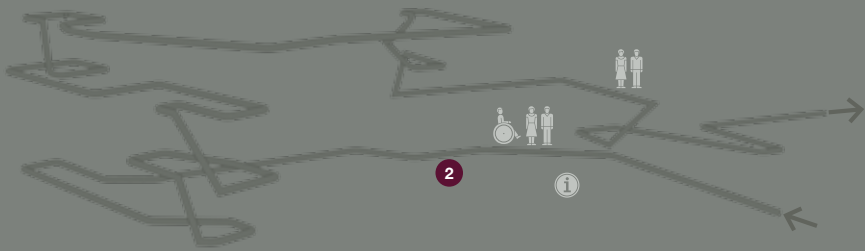


Handicap accessible toilet



Information





2 Welcome to the Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House's museum is unique. It is the hiding place where Anne Frank wrote her diary during the Second World War. Quotations from Anne's diary, photographs, films and original objects illustrate the events that took place here. There is a set route for visitors to follow through the museum

One day this terrible war will be over. The time will come when we'll be people again and not just Jews!

Anne Frank, 11 April 1944

Anne Frank

Anne Frank – born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany on 12 June 1929 – is one of the millions of victims of the Nazi persecution of the Jews during the Second World War. In 1933, when Hitler comes to power and establishes an anti-Jewish regime, the Jewish Frank family moves to the Netherlands. They settle in Amsterdam, where Father Otto starts a business.

Occupied Netherlands

In May 1940, the German army occupies the Netherlands and anti-Jewish measures are increasingly implemented here as well. On 6 July 1942, Otto and Edith Frank and their daughters Margot and Anne go into hiding.

Hiding period

The Frank family goes into hiding at 263 Prinsengracht in the building where Otto Frank's business is located. Hermann van Pels, his wife Auguste, their son Peter and Fritz Pfeffer join them a while later. The company's building is made up of two parts: a front house and a back house (annexe). The eight people in hiding live on the upper floors of this annexe.

Diary

Anne gets a diary as a present from her parents for her thirteenth birthday. When the Frank family goes into hiding, Anne's diary goes with her.

Museum

Of the eight people in hiding, only Otto Frank survives the war. He makes the decision to have Anne's diary published. In 1960, the hiding place is made into a museum.

Inhabitants of the Secret Annexe



Otto Frank



Edith Frank-Holländer



Margot Frank



Anne Frank



Hermann van Pels



Auguste van Pels-Röttgen



Peter van Pels



Fritz Pfeffer

Helpers



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Johannes Kleiman



Victor Kugler



Bep Voskuijl

(In brackets):

The pen names

Anne gave the
people in hiding
in her diary.

Otto Frank, born on 12 May 1889 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany): survives the war and dies at the age of 91 in Basel (Switzerland).

Edith Frank-Holländer, born on 16 January 1900 in Aachen (Germany): dies in the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, 6 January 1945.

Margot Frank, born on 16 February 1926 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany): dies of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, March 1945.

Anne Frank, born on 12 June 1929 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany): dies of typhus, shortly after Margot, in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, March 1945.

Hermann van Pels (*Mr. Van Daan*), born on 31 March 1898 in Gehrde (Germany): is most likely gassed in the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, October 1944.

Auguste van Pels-Röttgen (*Mrs. Van Daan*), born on 29 September 1900 in Buer (Germany): dies while being transported from Bergen-Belsen to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, April or May 1945.

Peter van Pels (*Peter van Daan*), born on 8 November 1926 in Osnabruck, (Germany): dies in the Mauthausen concentration camp, April or May 1945.

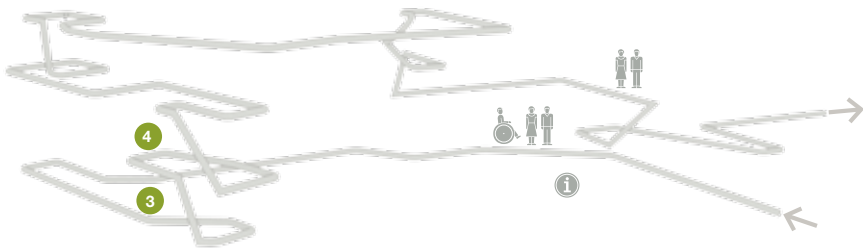
Fritz Pfeffer (*Albert Düssel*), born on 30 April 1889 in Giessen (Germany): dies in the Neuengamme concentration camp, 20 December 1944.

Miep Gies-Santrouschitz, born on 15 February 1909 in Vienna (Austria): dies on 11 January 2010 in Hoorn (The Netherlands).

Johannes Kleiman, born on 17 August 1895 in Wormer (The Netherlands): dies on 28 January 1959 in Amsterdam.

Victor Kugler, born on 6 June 1900 in Hohenebelbe (Austria): dies on 14 December 1981 in Toronto (Canada).

Bep Voskuijl, born 5 July 1919 in Amsterdam: dies on 6 May 1983 in Amsterdam.



Display case

'Jew' Star of

David ID-patch



3 Warehouse

Otto Frank has two companies, Opekta and Pectacon, both of which are located in this building. Opekta sells a gelling agent for making jam and Pectacon creates spice mixes for meat. The warehousemen grind these spices, such as pepper and cloves, in the warehouse on the ground floor of this building.

Do the employees know about the hiding place?

The warehousemen do not know there are people hiding in the annexe; the office staff does. Otto Frank asks his office employees if they are prepared to help him and his family while they are in hiding.

We have to whisper and tread lightly during the day, otherwise the people in the warehouse might hear us.

Anne Frank, 11 July 1942

4 Offices

Video

Miep Gies in

a promo-film for

Opekta, 1930s



The office staff and helpers Victor Kugler, Miep Gies, Johannes Kleiman and Bep Voskuijl keep on working for Opekta and Pectacon throughout the war years. The office space is shared. The helpers provide the eight people in hiding with food, clothing, books and newspapers. It is a stressful responsibility: the inhabitants of the Secret Annexe are completely dependent on the helpers, who put their own lives at risk by providing assistance.

How do the helpers get food for the people in hiding?

Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl purchase food from shopkeepers in the neighbourhood and on the black market. Jan Gies, Miep's husband, arranges ration coupons through his contacts with the Resistance. As the war progresses, it becomes increasingly more difficult to get hold of food.

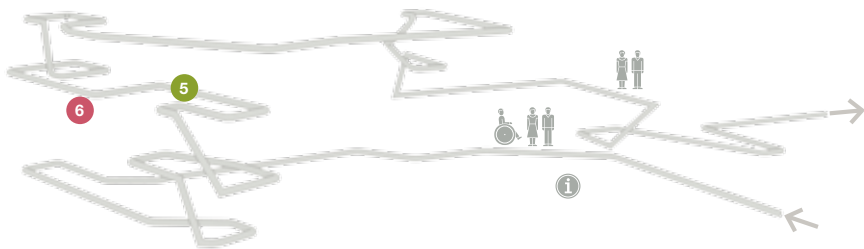
Kugler, who at times finds the enormous responsibility for the eight of us overwhelming, can hardly talk from the pent-up tension and strain.

Anne Frank, 26 May 1944

Products that

Opekta sells





Replica

The Secret

Annexe furnished



5 Storeroom

Spices and other supplies are kept in the storeroom. Because these seasonings are sensitive to direct light, the back windows are painted over. Consequently, the annexe is hidden from view.

The rooms in the annexe are empty. Otto Frank has scale-models made in 1961 to show how the Secret Annex was furnished during the hiding period.

Why are the rooms in the hiding place empty?

After the arrest of the people in hiding, the annexe is emptied by order of the Nazi occupier. When the Secret Annex becomes a museum in 1960, Otto Frank insists the rooms remain empty. The empty house symbolises the void left behind by the millions of people who were deported and never returned.

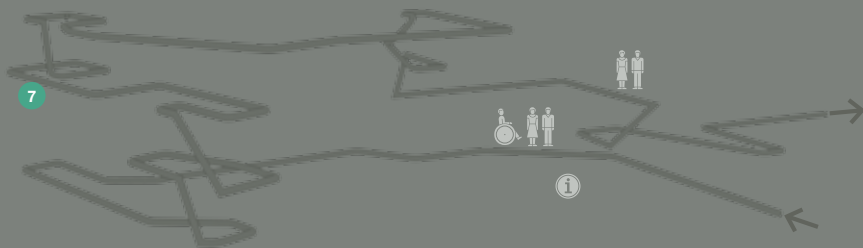
The movable
bookcase is
original

6 Landing with movable bookcase

The movable bookcase conceals the door to the annexe and was especially made for this purpose. The windows on the landing are covered with opaque glassine paper. Consequently, the annexe cannot be seen from anywhere in the front house.

*Now our Secret Annexe has truly become secret.
Mr. Kugler thought it would be better to have a book-
case built in front of the entrance to our hiding place.*

Anne Frank, 21 August 1942



The hiding place

Otto, Edith, Margot and Anne Frank go into hiding on the morning of 6 July 1942. A week later, another family arrives: Hermann van Pels – a business associate of Otto – his wife Auguste and their son Peter. Four months later, a close acquaintance of the Frank family, Fritz Pfeffer, joins all of them. The inhabitants of the Secret Annexe will spend two years in hiding.

*During the day our curtains can't be opened,
not even an inch.*

Anne Frank, 28 November 1942

The people in hiding have to stay indoors twenty-four hours a day. The curtains of the annexe are always kept closed, so the neighbours cannot see them. During the day, when the warehousemen are working downstairs, everyone has to sit still and not make a sound. The oppressiveness of the hiding place and the fear of being discovered results in a great deal of stress.

7 Otto, Edith and Margot Frank's room

Map

Advance of
the Allied Forces
in Normandy



Otto, Edith and Margot Frank's bedroom is also used as the family's sitting-room. Anne spends a lot of time here.

When the Allies land in Normandy on 6 June 1944, the people in hiding are delighted. Listening to the radio, they anxiously follow the advance of the Allied Forces. Otto Frank marks the progress on a map.

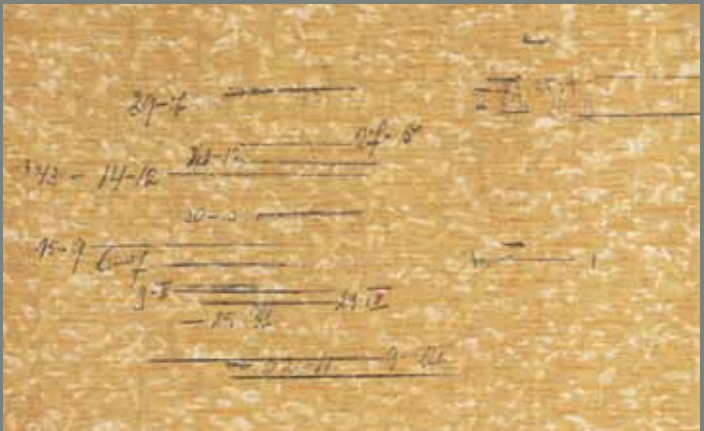
From the beginning of the hiding period, Otto and Edith keep track of how much their daughters grow by marking lines on the wall. In two years time, Margot grows around five centimetres and Anne more than thirteen centimetres.

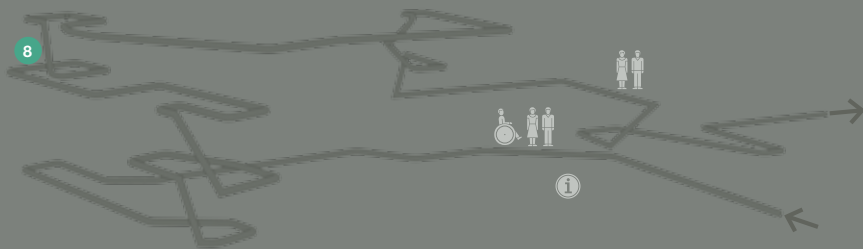
Is there a radio in the Secret Annexe?

There is a small radio in the communal living room.

The people in hiding often listen to the BBC and draw hope from the reporting on the progress of the war.

Close-up of
the growth lines,
Anne's left and
Margot's right





8 Anne Frank and Fritz Pfeffer's room

Film

Greta Garbo



Royal houses

English Princess

Elizabeth



Art

Rembrandt



Anne has to share a room with Fritz Pfeffer and that often leads to hefty discussions. Anne finds it very difficult to be cooped up all the time. In her diary, she finds a way to express her feelings. She writes in it frequently.

I long to ride a bike, dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young and know that I'm free.

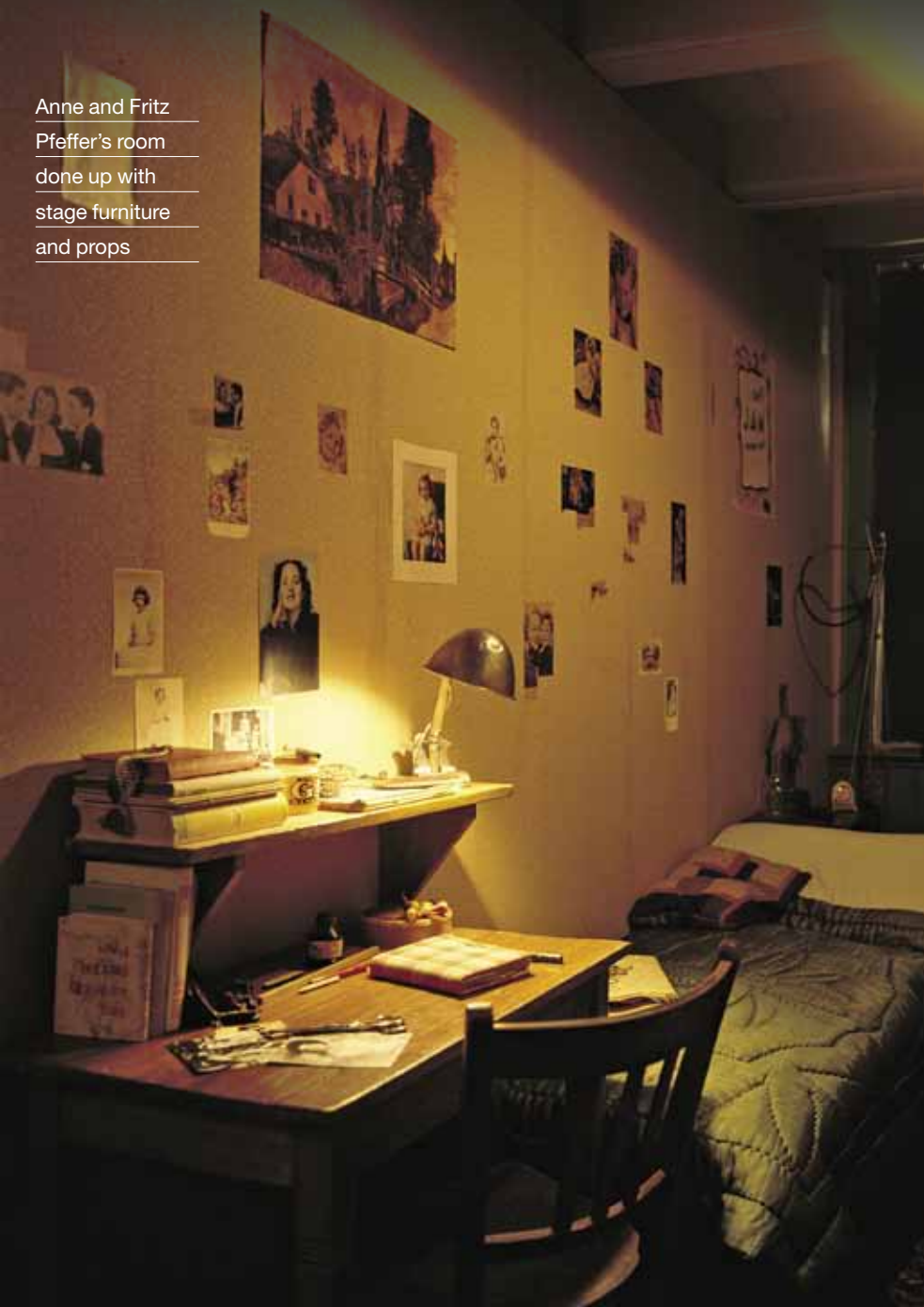
Anne Frank, 24 December 1943

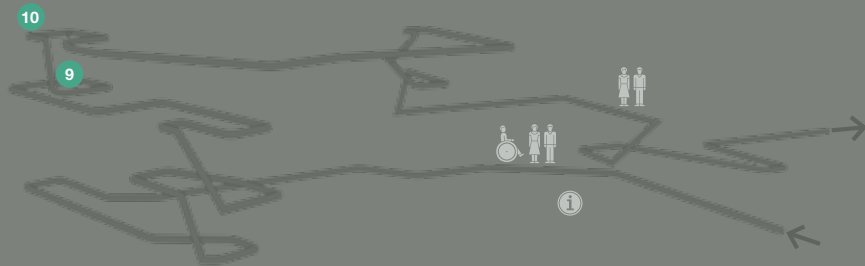
Like many girls, Anne decorates her bedroom wall with pictures. These reflect her interests as she grows up. At the beginning of the hiding period, she is particularly fond of film stars. Later, she becomes more interested in art and history. She adds new images to the wall and pastes some pictures on top of others.

Thanks to Father – who brought my entire postcard and film-star collection here beforehand – and to a brush and a pot of glue, I was able to plaster the walls with pictures.

Anne Frank, 11 July 1942

Anne and Fritz
Pfeffer's room
done up with
stage furniture
and props





9 Bathroom

The inhabitants of the Secret Annexe use the toilet and bathroom sink as little as possible during the day. The water and waste pipes go right through the warehouse and the warehousemen do not know there are people hiding in the building.

“Shh... Father, be quiet, Otto. Shh... Come here, you can't run the water anymore. Tread softly!” A sample of what's said to Father in the bathroom. At the stroke of half past eight he has to be in the living-room. No running water, no flushing toilets, no walking around, no noise whatsoever.

Anne Frank, 23 August 1943

10 Hermann and Auguste van Pels' room and communal living room

Display case

Shopping list



Hermann and Auguste van Pels' bedroom is also the living room and kitchen. The people in hiding spend a lot of time here cooking, eating, studying, reading, laughing and quarrelling. Being in hiding becomes much more difficult over the course of time. The food supplies dwindle and the tension and irritations in the hiding place increase.

As of tomorrow, we won't have a scrap of fat, butter or margarine. Lunch today consists of mashed potatoes and pickled kale. You wouldn't believe how much kale can stink when it's a few years old!

Anne Frank, 14 March 1944

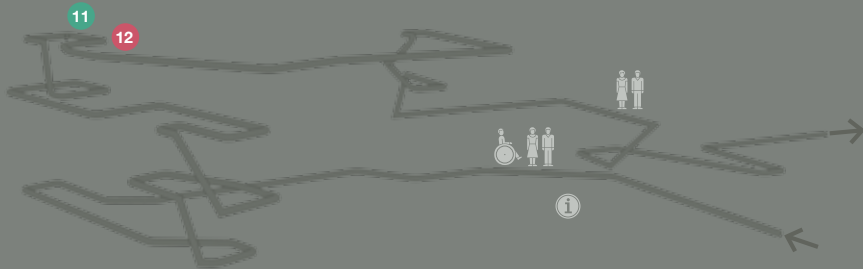
Furnished

scale-model

of the Secret

Annexe





Mirror

Provides a
glimpse of the
attic window



11 Peter van Pels' room

Peter is the only person in hiding who has his own 'room'. The stairs in this small space lead to the attic, which is used as storage for food supplies. Anne and Peter often go up to the attic. It is a place of their very own where they can look outside.

The two of us looked out at the blue sky, the bare chestnut tree glistening with dew, the seagulls and other birds glinting with silver as they swooped through the air.

Anne Frank, 23 February 1944

Is Anne in love with Peter?

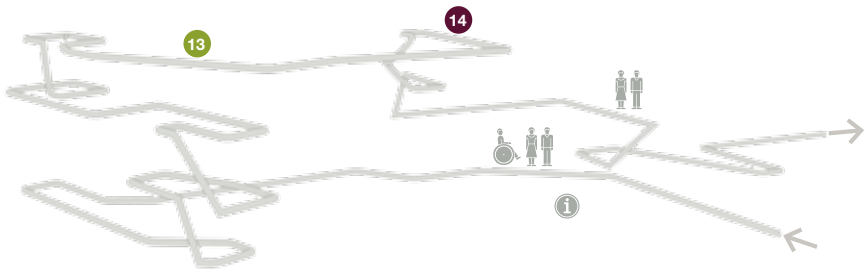
At first, Anne is unimpressed with Peter. Later, her opinion changes: she develops a crush on him and even gets her first kiss from Peter. As time passes, Anne is no longer infatuated and she distances herself from him.

12 Passageway

You are now leaving the hiding place and going to the front-house.

*The English radio says
they're being gassed.
I feel terrible.*

Anne Frank, 9 October 1942



Video

Hanneli Goslar
about Anne in
Bergen-Belsen



13 The Shoah

After receiving an anonymous tip, the *Sicherheitsdienst* (German Security Service) raids 263 Prinsengracht on 4 August 1944. Having been betrayed, the eight people in hiding and their helpers, Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler, are arrested by the Nazis and taken away. After the arrest, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl are left behind in the building.

Who betrayed the inhabitants of the Secret Annexe?

There are many theories about the betrayal. None of which have been proven, despite the various investigations carried out after the war. The betrayer's identity remains unknown.

On 3 September 1944, the eight former inhabitants of the Secret Annexe are deported from the Westerbork Transit Camp to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Of the group of eight, only Otto Frank survives the war. Anne, Margot and Edith Frank; Peter, Hermann and Auguste van Pels, as well as Fritz Pfeffer, meet their deaths in the Nazi concentration camps. The helpers survive the war.

Video

Otto Frank

talking about his
daughter Anne



14 Otto Frank

To build a future you have to know the past.

Otto Frank, 1967

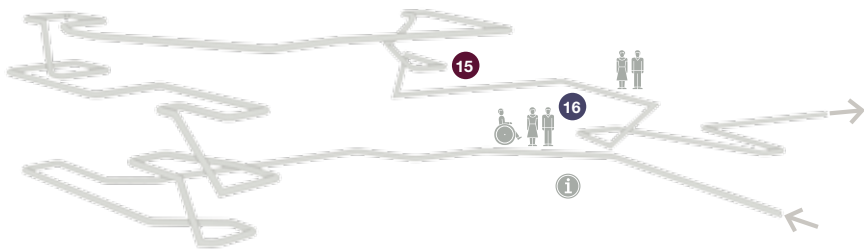
Otto Frank returns to Amsterdam on 3 June 1945. He already knows that his wife Edith is dead but hopes his daughters are still alive. After he finds out that Margot and Anne have died in Bergen-Belsen, Miep Gies gives him all of Anne's diary papers.

After a period of hesitation, Otto decides to find a publisher for Anne's diary. On 25 June 1947, the diary is published for the first time (in Dutch) in the Netherlands.

Otto Frank commits the rest of his life to combating discrimination and prejudice. He is actively involved in providing the public with access to the building that houses the Secret Annexe – in 1960 it becomes a museum. Until his death in 1980, Otto answers thousands of letters from people who have read Anne's diary.

How is it possible that the diary was saved?

After the arrest of the inhabitants of the Secret Annexe, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl find Anne's diaries, notebooks and the loose sheets of paper in the raided hiding place. Miep places everything in her desk for safekeeping and after the war, when it is clear that Anne has died, she returns the diary papers to Otto.



15 The Diary

Diary

Anne's

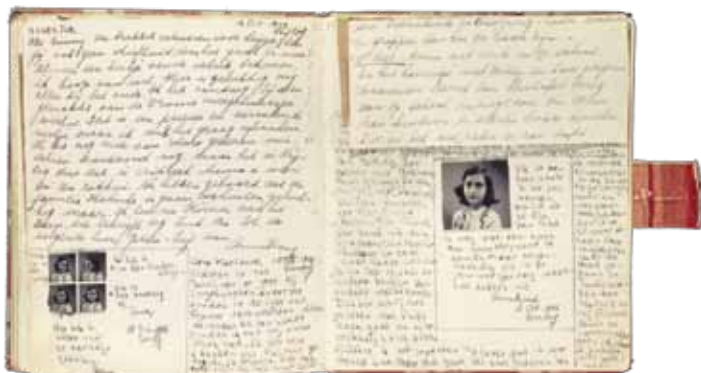
original diary



*When I write I can shake off all my cares.
My sorrow disappears, my spirits are revived!*

Anne Frank, 5 April 1944

On her thirteenth birthday, Anne is given a red-checked diary. Once she has filled this book, she continues writing in notebooks. On 20 May 1944, she starts to revise her diary on loose sheets of paper. She wants to publish a novel after the war about her time in the Secret Annexe. Anne also writes short stories and transcribes her favourite passages from the books she reads.





16 Exhibition space

We cannot change what happened anymore. The only thing we can do is to learn from the past and to realize what discrimination and persecution of innocent people means. I believe that it's everyone's responsibility to fight prejudice.

Otto Frank, 1970

Free2choose

There are many lessons to be learned from the past. The fate of Anne Frank, as well as the millions of other victims of the Nazis, shows that violating human rights can have far-reaching effects. Every human being is entitled to certain fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, religious freedom and the right not to be discriminated against.

Free2choose presents timely examples of basic rights that could potentially conflict with each other. Which right should take priority? Express your opinion!

Temporary exhibition

These small, changing exhibitions take a more in-depth look at the story of the Frank family and related topics.

*I know what I want,
I have a goal,
I have opinions,
a religion
and love.*

Anne Frank, 11 April 1944

Bookshop



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