



## THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF THE MAN BAG

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Will you be traveling this year? If, perchance you find yourself in Amsterdam between March 11<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>, you might want to stop by the [Tassen Museum of Bags and Purses](#). It claims to be the largest museum of its kind in the world and is situated in a beautiful canal house in Amsterdam's historic canal ring. The collection contains more than 5,000 bags and purses dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, including one of Margaret Thatcher's purses as well as the Versace bag that Madonna carried to the premiere of *Evita*.

All very interesting on its own, but this month the museum is unveiling a special, new exhibit called [It's a Men's World](#). The exhibit explores the history of the "man bag" and its inevitable resurgence in popular culture.

You see, up until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, men's purses and bags were attached to their belts, but the advent of inner and outer pockets in menswear eventually replaced the need for man to have a bag. That was fine in the days when a man only carried a wallet and a set of keys, but now a pocket is not enough when you're carrying a laptop, water bottle, gloves, sports gear, earbuds and various other gadgets and gizmos. A man needs a bag!

The exhibit is organized by themes of Hunting, Wall Street, Sport and Travel and looks to be most enlightening. Well worth a visit, we think.

After all, the man bag is nothing new, but by looking back in time we often get a glimpse of what's yet to come.

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