

DK EYEWITNESS

AMSTERDAM

Like a Local

BY THE PEOPLE WHO CALL IT HOME





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AMSTERDAM

**Like a
Local**

BY THE PEOPLE WHO CALL IT HOME

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meet the locals

ELYSIA BRENNER

After growing up between Philadelphia and NYC, Elysia landed in Amsterdam in 2006. Here she lives the freelance lifestyle, combining writing with learning languages and exploring Amsterdam's streets and canals by boat and bike. Her mission: to try every restaurant in the city.

NELLIE HUANG

Singapore-born travel writer Nellie has lived in Miami, London and Spain, but it's Amsterdam she calls home these days. When she's not on the road, she's often found paddling the canals in her kayak, hunting for authentic Asian food, and having barbecues with friends.

MICHAL MORDECHAY

Michal has called Amsterdam her home since 2015, trading the Tel Aviv heat for the fickle Dutch weather. Outside her work as a Customer Success Manager, she loves biking, hunting for sunny swimming spots, relaxing over coffee and cake and, most of all, going to live music gigs.

Amsterdam

WELCOME TO THE CITY

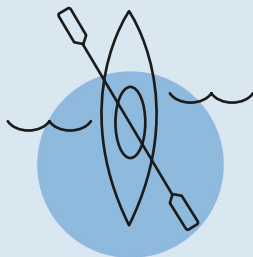
Expats lured by tech start-ups, families seeking a fresh beginning, students living their best lives: Amsterdammers make up a real patchwork of people. And that's nothing new. This city, shaped for centuries by immigration, has long been a beacon for the independent-spirited, where differences aren't just tolerated but are, in fact, celebrated. Sure, the locals here appear abrasive (if they don't like your haircut, you're going to hear about it) but under that direct exterior, Amsterdammers look after one another, whether fighting for the first legally recognized gay wedding, championing the rights of sex workers or ensuring cyclists rule the road.

The city is as diverse as its people – a hybrid of history and forward-thinking, exuberant energy and convivial charm, buzzing capital and laid-back small town. History is woven into every brick and beam (and you

can't swing a cat without hitting a masterpiece) but a stone's throw from every gabled mansion is a post-industrial cultural hub, beside each Old Master a cutting-edge design, for every small *gezellig* bar a boisterous, spirited festival.

With so many glorious contradictions, it can be hard to know where to start. That's where this book comes in. We know the places locals love best, from the quirky galleries that showcase the Rembrandts of the future to the brown pubs that have folks lingering till late. Of course, these pages can't capture the experience of every Amsterdammer, but instead offer a snapshot of the city's wonderful diversity.

So, whether you're a long-time local uncovering the unknown or a visitor wanting to rip up the traditional to-do list, this book will help you embrace the many sides of this multicultural city. Enjoy Amsterdam, the local way.



Liked by the locals

“Living in Amsterdam reminds you life’s meant to be enjoyed.

It has all the amenities of a city ten times its size, but everything is more accessible.

And all that water!”

ELYSIA BRENNER, WRITER, EDITOR, TRANSLATOR
AND WINE PROFESSIONAL

From spring blooms and festivals to gezellig (super-cozy) winter gatherings and saunas, there's a cause for celebration with each new season in Amsterdam.

Amsterdam

THROUGH THE YEAR



SPRING

FESTIVAL FUN

As Amsterdam emerges from winter, festival season begins. Locals flock to Westerpark, Amsterdamse Bos and NDSM, to name but a few places, for food, music and theatre celebrations that carry on through to the autumn.

KONINGSDAD

On 27 April the Netherlands celebrates the king's birthday (King's Day). Crowds dressed in orange gather for huge flea markets and concerts in the capital.

TULIP SEASON

Come April, locals have one thing on their mind: to see the tulip fields near Lisse. Heading out of the city

on their bikes, they skip the tourist-filled Keukenhof Gardens, cycling a little further north alongside the fields near Hillegom.

AJAX FOOTBALL

You can catch Amsterdam football club Ajax in play most of the year, but spring pairs good weather with watching the exciting last fixtures of the footie season.



SUMMER

ON THE WATER

Whether it's a dip in the city's lakes or at nearby Zandvoort beach, or a pleasure boat cruise along the waterways, the water's the place to be when the mercury starts to soar.

PRIDE

Early August sees Amsterdammers flying rainbow flags during a week of parties that ends in the giant Canal Parade. Brightly festooned boats cruise the canals with music on board.

OUTDOOR CINEMAS

While the nights are long and balmy, open-air cinemas spring up across the city. A favourite is the free Pluk de Nacht festival in August when deck-chair-reclining film-lovers watch arthouse flicks on the Westerdokseiland.



AUTUMN

THEATRE

On colder and rainier days, theatre-lovers head to both big venues and tiny pop-ups for quirky plays during the Amsterdam Fringe Festival. Podium Mozaïek draws those who love stories to its International Storytelling Festival.

ELECTRONIC DANCE PARTIES

October is an important month for every dance-loving Amsterdammer. The epic Amsterdam Dance Event sees party-goers dance all day and night to electronic beats in clubs and parks.

MUSEUM NIGHT

For one night on the first weekend of November, Amsterdam's cultural hotspots throw open their doors until 2am for cool workshops, live music and extended exhibitions.



WINTER

FESTIVE LIGHTS

Light displays mark the start of the festive season. Families and friends cycle the city, admiring illuminated bridges and gawking at projections covering iconic buildings.

ICE-SKATING

Winter isn't winter without ice-skating. If the canals don't freeze over, everyone skates on the outdoor artificial rinks scattered around Amsterdam, like Jaap Eden IJbaan and Museumplein.

SAUNAS

In the coldest months, steaming in saunas at the city's many spas is a cosy ritual. For an added festive treat, locals soak in the outdoor hot tubs on the roof of the Volkshotel, complete with skyline views and live music.

There's an art to being an Amsterdammer, from the do's and don'ts of canal cruising to negotiating the city's cycle paths. Here's a breakdown of the essentials.

Amsterdam

KNOW-HOW

For a directory of health and safety resources, safe spaces, and accessibility information, turn to page 190. For everything else, read on.

EAT

Breakfast and lunch are usually light, quick affairs, with the main meal of the day savoured at dinner. Fair warning: the Dutch are early eaters, with many kitchens closing by 11pm (though some stay open until later on Fridays and Saturdays). It's best to book a table for an early start if you want to linger over your meal as the locals do.

DRINK

Don't confuse coffee houses with coffeeshops. The former are integral to city life – locals are caffeine-addicts, after all. The latter serve soft drinks and cannabis. Looking to smoke? Strictly

speaking, cannabis isn't legal in the Netherlands, but consumption in coffeeshops is tolerated. Some in the city would rather tourists stayed away from coffeeshops, so do your research, heed local advice and if you're new to cannabis, take it slow.

Borreltijd (after-work drinks) starts around 5pm – any earlier, and locals will usually raise an eyebrow (unless it's at brunch). After an upscale drinking den? Reservations are a good idea at wine and cocktail bars. And if you're planning a boozy picnic, only drink in the city parks: Pride and King's Day aside, drinking on the street could earn you a hefty fine.

SHOP

Amsterdam gets off to a sleepy start when it comes to shopping – especially on Mondays, when some stores might

not open until noon. Most operate from 9am to 6pm on other days of the week, with supermarkets staying open until 10pm and *nachtwinkels* (night shops) selling pricey basics until 1 or 2am.

ARTS & CULTURE

The major museums are 9–5 affairs, though smaller galleries often stay open later. The big names don't come cheap, so it may be worth investing in a Museum or City Card if you're visiting multiple places. Definitely book online if possible: it will save you hours of queuing. Evening entertainment comes at all price points (even free) and the scene is pretty casual.

NIGHTLIFE

Nights out usually start with pre-drinks in a bar. Bars shut at 1 or 2am, when the party moves on to nightclubs and after-hours bars, which stay open until 3 or 5am (a few even keep going 24-hours at the weekend). Some clubs have tough door policies, so check out the vibes and dress to match. Locals usually tip the bouncer on the way out. The drinking age is 18; if you look under 30, carry ID.

OUTDOORS

When the sun's out, Amsterdammers flock to occupy every slice of outdoor space – it's even a legit reason to leave

work early. Check your chosen park's regulations for things like barbecues and take any rubbish with you.

Boaters beware: sound and speed regulations are strict in city canals, and your skipper *will* be breathalyzed.

Keep in mind

Here are some more tips and tidbits that will help you fit in like a local.

- » **Card vs cash** While the *pinpas*, or debit card, rules in Amsterdam (with only some credit cards accepted), it's always worth having some cash with you.
- » **Smoking** Smoking tobacco inside (even in coffeeshops) is a big no-no. If you have to light up, do so outside in a designated area.
- » **Tipping** A tip of around 10 per cent is the norm in restaurants. In taxis and bars, round up to the nearest euro.
- » **Stay hydrated** Amsterdam is home to lots of water fountains, so bring a reusable bottle.

GETTING AROUND

Amsterdam is split into seven boroughs – Centrum (Centre), Noord (North), Oost (East), Zuid (South), West, Nieuw-West (New West), and Zuidoost (Southeast) – plus firmly attached “independent” towns like Amstelveen and Diemen.

Each borough is like a Russian nesting doll of historical neighbourhoods; Borneoeiland, for example, is found in the Eastern Docklands, which is part of the larger Zeeburg neighbourhood, itself part of Oost. Confused? Don't worry: even Amsterdammers don't know the names of the most localized 'hoods on the other side of town.

To make your life easier we've provided what3words addresses for each sight in this book, meaning you can quickly pinpoint exactly where you're heading with ease.

On foot

Walking is your best bet for getting around Amsterdam's crowded city centre, where nothing's more than 20 minutes away by foot. The rest of the city is equally walkable, if you have the time and endurance (it'd take a few hours to cross the whole town). The locals are surprisingly leisurely strollers, so you won't feel hurried. Just learn quickly to identify bike paths (tip: look

for pink pavement) and keep an eye out for tram rails, being careful to steer well clear of both. And if you do need to stop and check your phone or a what3words location, step to the side.

On wheels

You don't need us to tell you that cycling is the main mode of transport in Amsterdam. The experience can be chaotic, so a bike tour is a good way to learn the ropes. Ride only on dedicated cycle lanes (*fietspaden*), which have their own traffic lights and road signs.

Amsterdam doesn't have a city bikeshare scheme but there are plenty of rental outfits to choose from; some, such as MacBike, offer optional extras like panniers and rain gear. Get a demo of the locks and make sure you use them: bike theft is rife. Locals notably forgo protective gear when cycling, spoilt by laws that breed cautious car drivers, but this is the only time we'll advise you not to do as the locals do: always wear a helmet. Another absolute essential is lights; those who don't use them after dark face a €90 fine.

Bikes are free on ferries but cost a few extra euros on dedicated train and metro carriages (outside rush hour). Sadly, they aren't welcome on trams or buses.

www.macbike.nl

By public transport

Gemeente Vervoerbedrijf (GVB) runs Amsterdam's transport network, which handily links up with Schiphol Airport, the NS and Eurostar train networks, and various other cross-country services. Using the system is easy; you just need to pick up an OV-chipkaart (a contactless smart card). These come in two forms: a one-time-use card for either one hour or one to seven days, or a reloadable pass; both can be used across the tram, bus and metro networks. Most ferries are free, while trains require separate paper tickets, unless you're using a reloadable OV-chipkaart (for which you need a minimum balance of €20).

By car and taxi

Amsterdam doesn't want to be a car-friendly city; the plan is to eventually make the centre a car sharing-only zone where people rent cars for short periods of time. Narrow streets, canals, parking shortages and complicated one-way systems make getting around by car difficult so it's only worth driving if you really must. For the same reasons, taxis can be slow and expensive. If you do want a cab, use the Taxicentrale Amsterdam (TCA) app, the ubiquitous Uber or the cheaper ViaVan.

Download these

We recommend you download these apps to help you get about the city.

WHAT3WORDS

Your geocoding friend

A what3words address is a simple way to communicate any precise location on earth, using just three words. ///inhal.es.perform.watching, for example, is the code for beloved brown pub Café de Druif. Simply download the free what3words app, type a what3words address into the search bar, and you'll know exactly where to go.

9292

Your local transport advice

For the most accurate travel information you should turn to 9292. The app covers all modes of transport – trams, buses, ferries and trains – day and night, in Amsterdam and beyond.

Amsterdam is a patchwork of village-like mini-neighbourhoods, each with its own personality. Here we take a look at some of our favourites.

Amsterdam

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Bos en Lommer & De Baarsjes

Built in the mid-1900s, these conjoined 'hoods with a strong Muslim community form one of the city's most multicultural areas. They're buzzing too, thanks to an influx of cool dining spots since the 1990s. *{map 2}*

De Pijp

Students, young creatives and a large LGBTQ+ community live in thriving De Pijp. Well, it has everything they want: hip bars, cafés and a distinct lack of tourists. *{map 3}*

Grachtengordel

Concentric rings of canals, lined with old, leaning buildings: this is

quintessential Amsterdam. Few can afford to live here, but locals still pop by for museum mooching. *{map 2}*

Indische Buurt

Another of the city's most multicultural areas, this has seen traditional halal shops replaced by slick bars in recent times. It's managed to hold onto its lively, culturally diverse vibe, though, with time-honoured restaurants standing strong. *{map 4}*

Jordaan

Massive gentrification has driven rent prices up in this neighbourhood but its narrow streets still have an offbeat feel, lined with open-air markets, cosy bars and quirky shops. *{map 2}*

NDSM

The city's most famous hipster industrial zone is growing up. Alternative arty spots have made way for commercial sites, drawing the media crowd, but the area is still awash with edgy street art. *{map 5}*

Nieuw-West

Cheaper rents and vibrant restaurants are making this the place to put down roots. But despite its trendy vibe it remains down to earth, thanks to the Sloterplas lake and park and the Meerwart community theatre. *{map 6}*

Nieuwendam

Time seems to have stood still in this former fishing village, where pretty houses

sit beside courtyards. No surprise, then, that it's a big hit with families and bike-riding locals seeking some quiet time. *{map 6}*

Nieuwendammerham

Not to be confused with the similarly named village to its north, Nieuwendammerham is picking up the mantle from NDSM as the industrial cool kid. It's full of garages-turned-bars and hubs for alternative sports like bouldering and indoor halfpipe. *{map 6}*

Oude Centrum

Old Amsterdam vibes live on in this part of town, full of centuries-old buildings and cosy brown pubs. Its canal-and-cobblestone charms are undeniable, but so are the high-season crowds (to the chagrin of locals). *{map 1}*

Oud-Oost

The old streets surrounding the Oosterpark are changing fast, with cool bars and shops springing up. Add to that a burgeoning festivals scene and folks have no reason to leave. *{map 4}*

Oud-West

Ever since the Foodhallen opened in 2005, Oud-West has been one of the city's top food quarters. These days, cool restaurants continue to draw foodies in their droves. *{map 2}*

Oud-Zuid

It's only the wealthiest Amsterdammers who live in this area, full of huge mansions, fancy restaurants and boutiques. But everyone can look (and dream) wistfully while they visit the world-class Stedelijk Museum, Concertgebouw and Rijksmuseum. *{map 3}*

Plantagebuurt

Though the city's former Jewish district was devastated during World War II, Plantagebuurt has found a new lease of life today. It's a revitalized green oasis, where young families come to visit the leafy parks and gardens. *{map 4}*

Westerpark

When Amsterdammers want a change of scene from the city's busy streets,

they head to Westerpark. Its namesake park isn't the only thing it has to boast about: think old industrial buildings housing endless cafés and restaurants (with terraces), and more festivals than anywhere else in town. *{map 2}*

Zeeburg

Almost everything in the Oostelijk Havengebied (Eastern Docklands) was built in the last few decades (even many of the islands themselves), filling this area with striking, large homes that tempt young professionals to move in. Exciting architecture aside, hip bars, restaurants and swimming spots keep residents busy. *{map 4}*

Zuidoost

A 40-minute bike ride from town, this very multicultural suburb with a big Surinamese community has seen its once-drab 1960s tower blocks made over into attractive, inexpensive housing. This, coupled with eclectic restaurants, lures students and young Amsterdammers to this lively spot. *{map 6}*

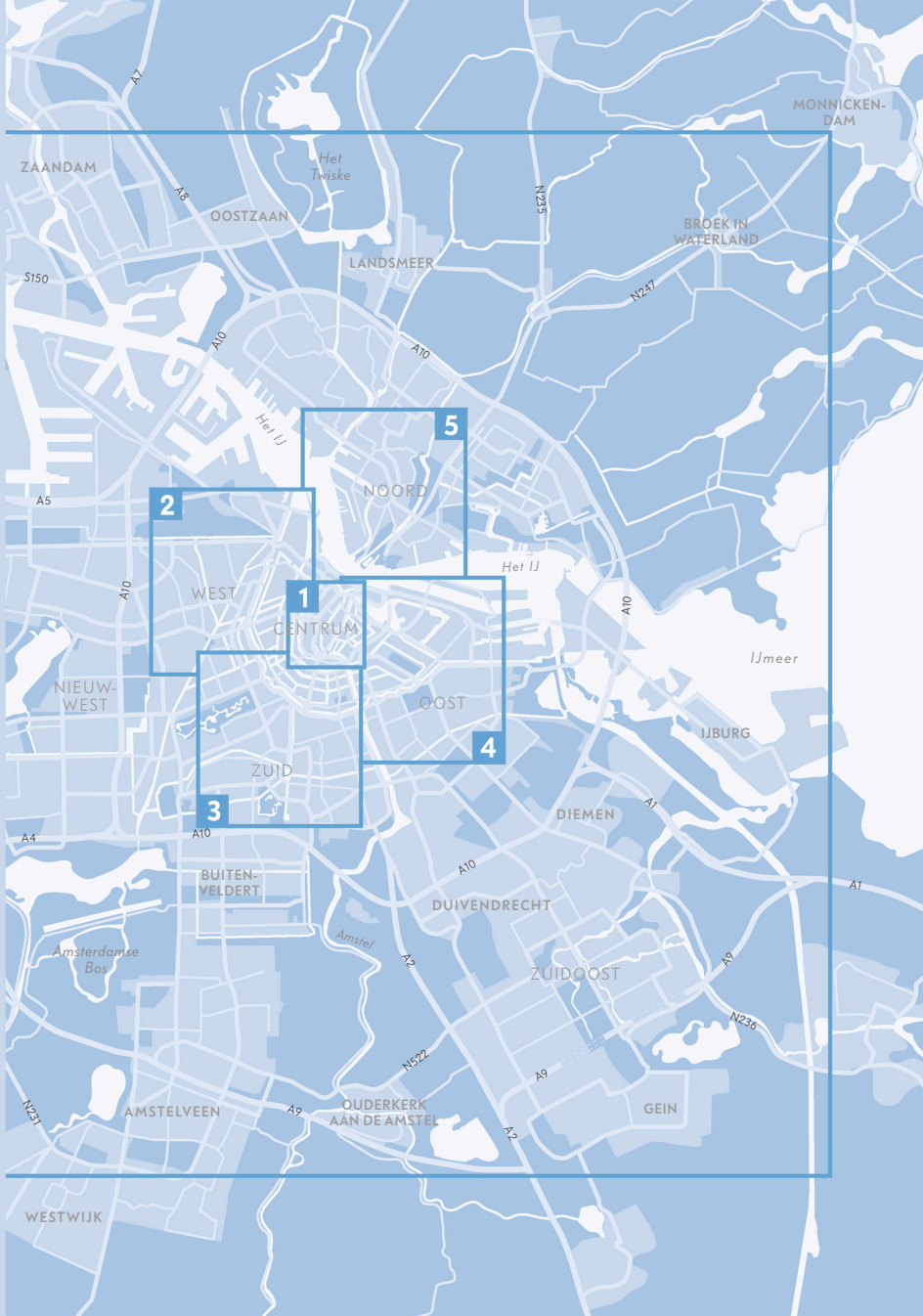
Amsterdam

ON THE MAP

Whether you're looking for your new favourite spot or want to check out what each part of Amsterdam has to offer, our maps – along with handy map references throughout the book – have you covered.



0 kilometres 3
0 miles 3



ZAANDAM

MONNICKEN-DAM

OOSTZAAN

BROEK IN WATERLAND

LANDSMEER

S150

A10

A10

5

NOORD

2

WEST

1

CENTRUM

Het IJ

A10

IJmeer

NIEUW-WEST

OOST

IJBURG

4

ZUID

DIEMEN

A4

BUITEN-VELDERT

DUIVENDRECHT

Amsterdamse Bos

Amstel

ZUIDOOST

A10

A2

A9

N236

N231

AMSTELVEEN

OUDERKERK AAN DE AMSTEL

GEIN

WESTWIJK



GRACHTEN-GORDEL



De Reyenaer **S**

Breda **E**

W Lounge **D**

De Bierkoning **S**

Happy Bookieman **S**

The Jam Society **N**

Locals **S**

d'Vijff Vlieghen **E**

Lanskroon Bakery **E**

Athenaeum Boekhandel **S**

American Book Center **S**

De Boekenmarkt op het Spui **S**

Café Hoppe **D**

Frens Haringhandel **E**

Schellema **S**

Tales & Spirits **D**

Prik **D**

United Nude **S**

Koninklijk Paleis

FuLu Mandarijn **E**

Amsterdam Museum **A**

American Book Center **S**

De Boekenmarkt op het Spui **S**

De Boekenmarkt op het Spui **S**

Cannibale Royale **N**

Bitterzoet **N**

Gebroeders Niemeijer **E**

NIEUWE ZIJDE

Indian Restaurant Gandhi **E**

Cut Throat Barber & Coffee **E**

CENTRUM

Black Heritage and Colonial History Tour **A**

Stand-Up Paddleboarding **O**

Wok to Walk **N**

Bubbles & Wines **D**

De Brakke Grond **A**

Frascati **A**

Bierfabriek **D**

Pannenkoekhuis Upstairs **E**

Allard Pierson Museum **A**

Mendo **S**

Gebroeders Niemeijer **E**

HEKELVELD

NIEUWE ZIJDE

Indian Restaurant Gandhi **E**

Cut Throat Barber & Coffee **E**

CENTRUM

Black Heritage and Colonial History Tour **A**

Stand-Up Paddleboarding **O**

Wok to Walk **N**

Bubbles & Wines **D**

De Brakke Grond **A**

Frascati **A**

Bierfabriek **D**

Pannenkoekhuis Upstairs **E**

Allard Pierson Museum **A**

Mendo **S**

Red Light Secrets: Museum of Prostitution **A**

Henk Comics & Manga Store **S**

De Bekeerde Suster **D**

The Hash, Marijuana and Hemp Museum **A**

Nieuwmarkt **S**

Rosalia's Menagerie **D**

Bis! **S**

The Book Exchange **S**

Droog **S**

Brouwerij de Prael **D**

Proeflokaal de Ooievaar **D**

In 't Aepjen **D**

STATIONS-PLEIN

Open

Havenfront

PRINS HENDRIKKADE

DAMRAK

DAMRAK

BEURSTRACHT

WARMOESSTRACHT

OUDEZIJDS

OUDEZIJDS

OUDE HOOGSTR.

OUDE HOOGSTR.

RUSLAND

KLOVENIERSBURGWAL

KLOVENIERSBURGWAL

AMSTEL

Zwanenburgwal

Amstel

1

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0 metres 500
0 yards 500



Brediusbad

Museum
Het Schip

SPAARNDAMMER-
BUURT

WESTERPARK

Westerpark to
Nieuwe Meer Bike Ride

Westergas
Sunday Market

Ketelhuis

Westerpark

Tonton Club West

Brouwerij Troost

Het
Radio Radio

Tony's De Bakkerswinkel
Store

Haarlemmervaart

HAARLEMMERWEG

STAATSLIEDEN-
BUURT

Checkpoint
Charlie

HAARLEMMER-
PLEIN

The
Movies

BOS EN
LOMMER

Podium
Mozaïek

Back to Black

FREDERIK
HENDRIK
PLANTSOEN

Moooi Amsterdam
Brand Store

Café de Tuin

WESTER-
STRAAT

De Marktantine

JAN VAN
GALENSTRAAT

Ram's Roti

JORDAAN

Electric Ladyland

LGBTQ+
History Tour

De Nieuwe Anita

Grillroom

The Jitterbug
Saloon

WESTER-
MARKT

Café Soundgarden

Shoarma Mesut

E Salmuera

Boom
Chicago

Café de
Laurierboom

DE BAARSJES

WEST

Kauffmann

Moak Pancakes

Old West

2 Klaveren

Fabus

Meatless
District

E iambe

OUW-WEST

LOT61 Coffee
Roasters

E Happyhappyjoyjoy

Ten Katemarkt

The Maker
Store

E Seoul Food

We are
Vintage

Maloe
Melo

Waterkant

Lijnbaansgracht

ELANDSGRACHT

PRINSENGRACHT

KWAKERS-
PLEIN

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PLEIN

E iambe

LOT61 Coffee
Roasters

E Happyhappyjoyjoy

Ten Katemarkt

The Maker
Store

E Seoul Food

We are
Vintage

Jacob van Lennepkanaal

NASSAUWEG

Oude
HouthavenWorst
Wijncafé
D

2

D Vesper
BarD Het
Papeneiland

S Noordermarkt

O Those Dam
Boat GuysD Proeflokaal
ArendsnestA Embassy of
the Free MindO Rederij
Paping

CENTRUM

GRACHTEN-
GORDEL

S Laura Dols

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WEST

CENTRUM

OVERTOOM-BUURT

OUD-ZUID

MUSEUM-KWARTIER

APOLLOBUURT

ZUID

DE PIJP

SCHELDEBUURT

KINKERSTRAAT
NICOLOAS
BEEZESTRAAT

BILDERDIJKSTR.

NASALUKADE

Lijnbaansgracht

Prinsengracht

Duke of Tokyo
Club NYX
Eatmosfera
Pathé
Tuschinski

TEDS
Little Plant
Pantry

Café de Koe

Melkweg

Internationaal
Theater Amsterdam

The Waterhole
New York Pizza

Kattenkabinet

Casa del
Gusto

FOAM
Photography
Museum

Gollem's Proeflokaal

OVERTOOM

Bourbon
Street
Jazz Café Alto

BAR-becue
CASTELL
Shiraz

Paradiso

WATERINGSCHANS
STADHOUDERSKADE

Prinsengracht
Lijnbaansgracht
Singelgracht

Lalibela
OT301

Vondelpark to
Amsterdamsebos
Bike Ride

Vondelpark

Rijksmuseum
MOCO
Museum

MUSEUM-
PLEIN

MOCO
Museum

Albert Heijn

Royal
Concertgebouw

Vegetarisch Restaurant
De Waaghals

Albert
Cuypmarkt

Burger Bar

The Avocado
Show

GOVERT FLINCKSTRAAT

Scandinavian
Embassy

Coffee &
Coconuts

Glou Glou

Omelegg

Toomler

APOLLOLAAN

Noorder

Amstelkanaal

ZUID

DE PIJP

Yamazato
Boaty

GERRIT VAN DER VEENSTRAAT

Atelier Munro

Le Fournil de
Sébastien

Queen's English
Theatre Company

Zuider Amstelkanaal

STADIONWEG

BEETHOVENSTRAAT

DIEPENBROECKSTRAAT

Beatrixpark

CHURCHILL-LAAN

EUROPA-
PLEIN

0 metres 500
0 yards 500



De Kleine
Komedie

REMBRANDT-
PLEIN

3

UTRECHTSESTRAAT

Anstiel

Pata Negra

FREDERIKS-
PLEIN

SARPHATISTRAAT

STADHOUDERSKADE

Little Collins

Sarphatipark

CEINTUURBAAN

VAN WOUSTRAT

STACH

LUTMASTRAT

IJSSELBUURT

CHURCHILL - LAAN

ROOSEVELTLAAN

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Bike Ride (p170)

0 metres 500
0 yards 500

N Bimhuis

IJhaven

OOSTERDOKSKADE

Mediamatic E
Hannekes Boom D
Rederij Lampedusa O

PIET HEINKADE

Mezrab N

N Panama

Oosterdok

Buitenzwembad
Marineterrein D

Pension
Homeland D

Hiding in
Plain Sight D

Oostelijk
Havengebiet Run O

OOSTELIJKE
EILANDEN

PRINS HENDRIKKADE

Oudeschans

Café de
Druif D

Bakers &
Roasters E

Café
Kadijk E

OOSTENBURGERGRACHT

CEZAR PETERSTRAAT

CENTRUM

Het Rembrandthuis

S A JODENBUURT

S Episode S Kilo Shop

A Muziektheater S Waterloopleinmarkt

A Jewish Historical
Museum A

Verzetsmuseum A

D&A Hummus
Bistro E

N Mooie Boules

A Dignita Hoffuin E

Museum
van de Geest A

PLANTAGE-
BUURT

HOOGTE
Nieuwevaart

Brouwerij 't IJ D

ZEEBURGERDIJK

WEESPERSTRAAT

WEESPER-
BUURT

PLANTAGE MIDDENLAAN

Entrepotdok

Singelgracht

COMMELINSTRAAT

EERSTE VAN SWINDENSTRAAT

Amstel

SARPHATISTRAAT

MAURITSKADE

Tropenmuseum A

S Dappermarkt

WEESPERDIJK

WIBLUSTRAAT

BOERHAAVE-
PLEIN

'S-GRAVESANDE-
PLEIN

Oosterpark O

OOST

POLDERWEG

D 4850

Hartog's
Volkoren E

Oosterpark

OUW-OOST

D Coffee Bru

POPULIERENWEG

N Canvas

KRUGER-
PLEIN

Mr & Mrs
Watson E

Le Perron E

VAN WOLSTRAAT

Friday Night
Skate O

AMSTELDIJK

Amstel

Ringvaart

KAMERLINGH
ONNESLAAN

MIDDENWEG

De Kas E

Park
Frankendael

D Dakterras GAPP



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0 metres 500
0 yards 500



NDSM

S IJ-Hallen

D Noorderlicht

BUIKSLOTERHAM

NOORD

FLORADORP

BUIKSLOOT

Noorderpark

A Nxt Museum

OVERHOEKS

Comedy Café **N**

A EYE
Filmuseum

N Shelter
N The Butcher Social Club

N Tolhuistuin

D Oedipus
Brewing

D Chateau
Amsterdam

O IJ Ferries

Amsterdam Centraal to
Haarlem Bike Ride **O**
Amsterdam Centraal to
Durgerdam Bike Ride **O**
S Amsterdam
Store

STATIONS-
PLEIN

CENTRUM

PIET
HEINKADE

Het IJ

Het IJ

Buiksloterbreek

METAALBEWERKERWEG

NDSM-
PLEIN

KLAPROZENWEG

RIDDER-
SPORWEG

KLAPROZENWEG

KAMPER-
PELEIENWEG

SNEEUW-
BALSTR.

BUIKSLOTERDIJK

DISTELWEG

GRASWEG

ASTERWEG

LUPINE-
PLEIN

MOS-
PLEIN

J. VAN
HASSELTWEG

RIBESSTR.

WINGER-
DWEG

Noordhollandskanaal

BUIKSLOTERKANAAL

VAN DER
PEKTRAAAT

HAGEDOORNWEG

BUIKSLOTERWEG

NIEUWE

LEEUWARDERWEG

ADELAARSTWEG

MEEUWENLAAN

NOORDWAL

5

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ZAANDAM

Zaandam to
Zaanse Schans
Bike Ride

OOSTZAAN

Ringvaart
Twiske

LANDSMEER

Noordzeekanaal

Westhaven

WESTPORT

VRGH Arena

Wetlands
Safari

NIEUWENDAM

NOORD

NIEUW-
DAMMERHAM

Haarlem to Lisse Bike Ride
12 km (7 miles)

Zandvoort Beach
21 km (13 miles)

Street Art
Museum

Sloterplas
Strand

Rembrandtpark

NIEUW-WEST

Rayleigh &
Ramsay

CENTRUM

See maps 1-5
for Central Amsterdam

Bonboon

Wind 'n'
Wheels

Flevoparkbad

Flevopark

Corner Bakery

OCII

De Vondeltuin
Restaurant Blauw

OOST

The Coffee
Virus

RADION

Vlaamsch
Broodhuys

ZUID

Jaap Eden IJbaan

DIEMEN

A4

A10

Mirandabad

Amstel Ronde
Hoeproute

Jaap Eden IJbaan

BUITEN-
VELDERT

Amstelpark

iHUIS aan de AMSTEL

DIEMEN

Amsterdamse
Bos

ZUIDOOST

Ziggo Dome

AFAS Live

Pathe Arena

COBRA Museum of
Modern Art

AMSTELVEEN

OUDERKERK
AAN DE AMSTEL

Museum
Vrolik

0 kilometres 2
0 miles 2

BROEK IN
WATERLAND

6

DURGERDAM

IJmeer

IJBURG

Strand
Diemerpark

Amsterdam-Rijkswaai

Gaasperplas
Strand**E EAT**

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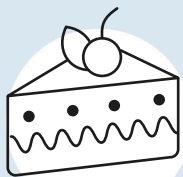
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EAT

Munch on a stroopwafel at a street market, devour a spicy roti on the go or feast on Dutch pancakes – Amsterdam offers many culinary delights, no matter your mood.





Brunch Spots

This isn't just a meal. Brunch in Amsterdam is the social highlight of any weekend, where friends gather over stacks of pancakes and plates of avocado on toast to catch up on all the week's news.

TEDS

Map 3; Bosboom Tuissantstraat 60, Oud-West;

///scars.lump.quicker; www.teds-place.nl

All hail TEDS, one of the first places in Amsterdam to do brunch all day, all week. The locals still can't get enough of this place, with its airy, modern interior and truly decadent menu. And you'll likely worship it, too; if you love butter and bacon, and like the sound of pancakes topped with Nutella and Oreos, you've found your new spiritual home.

DE BAKKERSWINKEL

Map 2; Polonceaukade 1&2, Westerpark;

///dragons.ports.sigh; www.debakkerswinkelwestergas.nl

Just try to get through a meal here without gasping "yum" every 30 seconds. This local-turned-national treasure tips its hat to Britain with its sweet scones – bested only by the savoury versions. There are three locations in Amsterdam but nothing beats tucking into a hearty



If you don't mind sharing your eggs, cheese and bacon, order a great-value breakfast for two.

breakfast (think fried eggs and crispy bacon with an obligatory side of scones) at this lofty outpost, which is backed by the families who call Westerpark home.

DIGNITA HOFTUIN

Map 4; Nieuwe Herengracht 8a, Plantagebuurt;

///grain.computer.dreams; www.eatwelldogood.nl/dignita-hoftuin

This secret spot is one that Amsterdammers like to save for themselves – so don't tell them we sent you. Tucked away off traffic-clogged Weesperstraat you'll find this all-day brunch café plopped in the heart of a pretty little garden. On sunny days, pals sit out on the patio, soaking up the scenery and chatting over their virtuous avocado salads and root veggie fritters. When the weather is iffy, they retreat inside to watch the rain over a comforting plate of apple pie. Delightful.

BAKERS & ROASTERS

Map 4; Kadijksplein 16, Plantagebuurt;

///spring.arrive.clauses; www.bakersandroasters.com

Bakers & Roasters may have some of the best poached eggs in the city, but one look at the other plates on the tables around you and you'd be forgiven for jumping ship: French toast made from syrupy slabs of banana nut bread, stacks of blueberry pancakes and nutty homemade granola. What were you saying about poached eggs?

» **Don't leave without trying the spicy huevos rancheros, best paired with an ice-cold glass of mango juice.**

OMELEGG

Map 3; Ferdinand Bolstraat 143, De Pijp;

///swim.nimbly.drove; www.omelegg.com

Big night out? Feeling a tad worse for wear? Consider Omelegg your new secret weapon, thanks to its vast and restorative egg-themed menu. We're talking omelettes made with every added ingredient you can think of (no, seriously) plus a smattering of brunch favourites, like shakshuka. On the rare occasion you don't find what you're looking for, ask the waiter to whip you up your eggs whichever way you like.

LITTLE COLLINS

Map 3; Eerste Sweelinckstraat 19F, De Pijp;

///repeated.bugs.decreased; www.littlecollins.nl

The best things come in small packages. Take Little Collins, seemingly plucked from the streets of Melbourne with its wooden tables, jugs of freshly picked flowers and battalions of wine bottles lining the

Shh!

For Zuid neighbourhood locals in the know, cosy, fun The Cottage (www.thecottage.amsterdam) is the only place worth stopping in for a homely omelette or scrambled eggs brunch. Sit on the cushions in

one of the huge windows and see what all the fuss is about, then take a post-brunch window-gazing break in the equally unknown small Oostpoort shopping centre across the street.

walls (all of which isn't surprising given the owner's Aussie roots). This nook of a restaurant is always abuzz on weekend mornings, when trendy young locals catch up over Bloody Marys and dishes like buckwheat galettes or burrata and figs on sourdough.

MOAK PANCAKES

Map 2; De Clercqstraat 34, Oud-West;

///other.pumpkin.impact; www.moakpancakes.nl

Some say it's sacrilege, but there's no denying that Moak's thick North American-style pancakes have found their footing alongside their traditional thinner Dutch cousins. This is thanks to Sten and Sammy, who founded Moak to fulfill their passion for these fluffy delicacies, but with a focus on healthy ingredients – each stack uses wholegrain flour, zero added sugar and organic buttermilk. And, happy days, there's a vegan version, too. Whichever topping you pick, expect them in epic proportions, all served with a side of old-school hip-hop music.

» **Don't leave without ordering The Ice Cube, a vegan pancake topped with a scoop of saffron pistachio ice cream and Canadian maple syrup.**

CUT THROAT BARBER & COFFEE

Map 1; Beursplein 5, Dam; ///patrol.saloons.settle; www.cutthroatbarber.nl

Okay, it's not an eggs-and-avo kind of a brunch place, but Cut Throat is no ordinary spot. Caribbean street food is served until 9pm (find us another brunch menu that lasts that long), the bar pours tipples to its cool, tattooed patrons until 2am at weekends and a barbershop keeps Amsterdammers looking fresh. What more could you ask for?



Fresh Bakeries

Amsterdammers buy fresh bread daily, so it comes as no surprise that the bakery plays a vital role in local life. Here, you'll find all manner of baked goods that run the gamut from stroopwafels to macaroons.

GEBROEDERS NIEMEIJER

Map 1; Nieuwendijk 35, Grachtengordel;

///monitors.resist.incomes; www.gebroedersniemeijer.nl

When brothers Marco and Issa struggled to find a good artisanal French bakery in Amsterdam, they started up this fine place – and now they're considered among the best bread makers in the city. The simple tearoom is the go-to place for a classic *petit déjeuner*, complete with croissants, *tartelettes* and homemade jams that your mum will love.

HARTOG'S VOLKOREN

Map 4; Wibautstraat 77, Oud-Oost;

///request.exams.gangway; www.volkorenbrood.nl

Run by the Hartog family since 1896, this bakery has long held a place in the hearts of Amsterdammers for its wholewheat specialist breads. And the recipes and philosophy of founder Aagje Hartog



During chilly winter days doughnuts are freshly baked by the Hartogs in front of their store.

are alive and well: this remains the only bakery in the city that mills its own flour. Join the queue to pick up a delicious sandwich or cake – it’s worth it.

LE FOURNIL DE SÉBASTIEN

Map 3; Olympiaplein 119, Oud-Zuid;

///putter.cakes.explains; www.lefournil.nl

The aromas of piping hot *chaussons aux pommes* and *pains au chocolat* welcome you as soon as you step inside this classic bakery. You can be sure of a great baguette too, but it’s the patisserie offerings made by French baker extraordinaire Sébastien Roturier and his Dutch wife Susan that make this place shine.

CORNER BAKERY

Map 6; Koningin Wilhelminaplein 60–62, Nieuw-West;

///noodle.supporter.spit; www.cornerbakeryamsterdam.com

Sure, traditional bakeries have their place, but Corner Bakery is all about being over-the-top. Brioche French toasts burst with fresh fruit and maple syrup, the homemade vegan pie is a cheesecake, carrot cake, apple pie and red velvet cake in one, and the sandwich rolls are overflowing with fillings. After all, the bakery’s walls are emblazoned with the slogan “We live by one rule... calories don’t count when you are at Corner Bakery.” Is that so? Sign us up.

» Don’t leave without trying a hot freakshake. Rainbow shakes are topped with marshmallow fluff.

LANSKROON BAKERY

Map 1; Singel 385, Grachtengordel;

///alleges.gain.adopting; www.lanskroon.nl

If Amsterdammers had their own national dish, it would be the *stropwafel*, a chewy waffle filled with gooey caramel. One of the few places still handbaking this much-loved sweet is Lanskroon, run by the same family for over 100 years. Treat yourself in its teeny-tiny tearoom: one bite into a king-sized *stropwafel* (it barely fits into one hand), and you'll never buy a pre-packaged one again.

LE PERRON

Map 4; Middenweg 59, Watergraafsmeer;

///hammer.improve.proposes; www.leperron.nl

Descended from a family of bakers, siblings Robin and Sanne have reinvented the traditional bakery with a focus on organic, pure ingredients. Wooden barrels overflow with multigrain sourdough and rye loaves, nutritious spelt and kamut breads packed with seeds, and nut and cinnamon buns. There's also gluten-free muffins, catering to those for whom wheat is a no-go.

VLAAMSCH BROODHUYS

Map 6; Amstelveenseweg 176–178, Oud-Zuid;

///connects.informal.glanders; www.vlaamschbroodhuys.nl

The words “chain bakery” may give Amsterdammers the shudders, but the homely café feel of this branch will fool you into thinking it's a unique neighbourhood bakery. Buzzing with families every

morning, it draws crowds for its fresh-from-the-oven sourdough bread – a speciality of Dutch owners Dimitri and Diante Roels. The menu brims with gourmet sandwiches, cheese melts and salads, too.

» **Don't leave without ordering the *kaasragoutbroodje* (cheese ragout pastry), flaky on the outside and creamy on the inside.**

IAMBE

Map 2; Bilderdijkstraat 134, Oud-West;

///horizons.dream.sticky; www.raphaelstichting.org/iambe

Run by the Raphaël Foundation healthcare provider, iambe is both a bakery and a social workplace for young people with intellectual disabilities. This is the kind of venue where staff who serve you up your morning coffee will remember you by your name when you return. It has a laudable aim and super-friendly vibes but these aren't the only reasons that locals rave about it: regulars claim this spot has the best *saucijzenbroodje* (pigs in a blanket) in Amsterdam.

STACH

Map 3; Van Woustraat 154, De Pijp;

///divisions.installed.impulses; www.stach-food.nl

The De Pijp branch of this small deli is a neighbourhood favourite for a quick breakfast, a mid-morning snack or a sandwich for lunch. Office workers stop by en route to work, picking up a fruit juice and freshly baked banana bread or pastries, before students (drawn by the cheap prices) pop in between study sessions for psychedelic meringues and wood-oven pizzas.



Dutch Favourites

Ask for “local food” and Amsterdammers will steer you not only to Dutch cold-winter comfort classics but also to the flavour-packed kitchens of its Indonesian and Surinamese former colonies.

CAFÉ DE TUIN

Map 2; Tweede Tuindwarsstraat 13, Jordaan;

///glitz.weaned.abruptly; www.cafedetuin.nl

There are few better places for a cosy *borrel* (the supremely Dutch art of having an evening drink and nibbles over a catch-up with mates) than this brown pub. But it's the legendary *bitterballen* that we're here for. These classic, crunchy, roasting-hot golden-brown meat balls, made with a traditional beef ragu recipe, are a favourite snack to soak up those beers.

FRENS HARINGHANDEL

Map 1; Koningsplein, Grachtengordel;

///concerts.open.beaker; www.frens-haring.nl.en

It's hard to miss Frens Haringhandel: every day sees long lines of regulars queuing for the fresh-from-the-sea herring, served raw with a generous sprinkling of onions. Just as popular is the



The best time to try the herring is just after the new herring release in June and July.

kibbeling – deep-fried battered chunks of cod that taste oh-so-good. A household name in the city since 1972, this family-run fish stand has stood the test of time.

CAFÉ KADIJK

Map 4; Kadijksplein 5, Plantagebuurt;

///speeches.tasters.relatinq; www.cafekadijk.nl

While students are taken to traditional Indonesian restaurants by their families to celebrate their graduation with elaborate “rice tables”, they take themselves to Café Kadijk for the pared-down version (in size and price, not flavour) simply to celebrate dinnertime. The small plates of hot spicy dishes (a Dutch take on Indonesian cooking) include such favourites as lamb satay and spicy mackerel.

HEMELSE MODDER

Map 1; Oude Waal 11, De Wallen;

///kings.soldiers.shrimp; www.hemelsemodder.nl

When long work days are nearing the end, young professionals have one place in mind: this smart dining room, where modern Dutch dishes (think crispy potato biscuit with kohlrabi cream) make perfect comfort food. Some of the ingredients may be tough to translate, but you’ll walk away with a new understanding of the word *lekker* (scrumptious).

» **Don’t leave without** trying the restaurant’s namesake dish: a “heavenly mud” chocolate mousse, served with vanilla cream.

Solo, Pair, Crowd

Sometimes all you want is a steak dinner. Whether it's you, two or the whole crew, Amsterdam has you covered.

FLYING SOLO

Befriend the bar staff

The staff at Leidseplein ribs restaurant Café de Klos have enough banter to keep your ears as entertained as your taste buds. And arriving alone means you won't have to wait long for a bar-side seat.

IN A PAIR

Oysters for two

Want to impress a date? Take them to Panache in Oud-West. The drool-worthy surf-and-turf menu pairs perfectly with a dark jungle interior, and the cocktails will make you want to linger.

FOR A CROWD

Fondue fun

Join other groups of friends at Het Karbeel in De Wallen for two things: fabulous steak in pepper sauce and cheese fondue, usually together. The 16th-century building is a cosy, warm spot for a get-together.

D'VIJFF VliegHEN

Map 1; Spuistraat 294–302, Spui;

///emailed.poet.singing; www.vijffvliegHEN.nl

Walking into this 17th-century canal house and restaurant full of luxury bric-a-brac is like stepping into a Dutch Master painting. Feast your eyes on the Rembrandt etchings and the Delft blue tiles, then dig into the surprisingly modern (considering the old setting) versions of classic Dutch dishes of herring, veal, duck and cod.

RAM'S ROTI

Map 2; Jan van Galenstraat 107, F, De Baarsjes;

///intervals.flies.officers; www.ramstroti.nl

There's always a long line of office workers snaking out of the door of this Surinamese takeaway. They come for the generous portions of no-fuss, grandma-style rotis. Choose from the huge variety of succulent, curry-flavoured meat or vegan fillings, grab your flatbread to go and head opposite to Erasmus Park for a picnic.

PANNENKOEKENHUIS UPSTAIRS

Map 1; Grimburgwal 2, De Wallen;

///coupler.danger.slower; www.upstairspannenkoeken.nl

This tiny hidey hole of a pancake house is known colloquially as "Upstairs Pancakes" because, well, it's upstairs. And not just any stairs – creaky, near vertical stairs. But it's worth crawling up to the second floor for plate-sized Dutch pancakes, smothered in molasses. Be sure to get here before lunchtime – when the batter runs out, the kitchen closes.



Global Grub

Amsterdam is home to more nationalities than almost any other city in the world, and they all brought their favourite recipes from home with them. Get to know the city's locals through their food.

UMAIMON

Map 3; Korte Leidsedwardsstraat 51, Leidseplein;

///cute.staging.dangerously; www.umaimonramennoodle.nl

Bamboo lanterns, manga posters and a lively *izakaya* vibe set the scene for the only restaurant worth visiting in touristy Leidseplein. Owned by chef Haruhiko Saeki, Umaimon is the home of Sapporo-style chicken ramen; go for the signature special – the thick, flavourful soup will transport you straight to the back alleys of Saeki's home city.

LALIBELA

Map 3; Eerste Helmersstraat 249, Overtombuurt, Oud-West;

///winner.live.dodges; www.lalibela.nl

Ethiopian food has made great waves in Amsterdam, and in a sea of Ethiopian restaurants this is arguably the best. The music and decor are a backdrop to friends piling in for the *injera* topped with

rich, fragrant stews. Bring clean hands (your utensils) and empty bellies, and opt for one of the combi-menus of small sharing plates, washed down with fruity beers served in gourds.

» **Don't leave without a tasty traditional Ethiopian coffee after your meal. From flavour to texture, it's really something else.**

SHAM OOST

Map 4; Borneo Steiger 1, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///skis.wheels.talking; www.restaurantsham.nl

When Syrian refugees arrived in Amsterdam in 2017, Mumen al-Azhar helped some of his fellow countrymen and women adjust to their new home by employing them in his restaurant. Here they cook up falafel, *fattoush*, grilled aubergines and skewered meats, drawing crowds craving the taste of home. (The 360-degree water views from the mini-lake location are a bonus.)

Shh!

Hidden away in the African-Caribbean Zuidoost borough is the cavernous World of Food (www.worldoffoodamsterdam.nl). This food hall brings together cooks from all over the world, serving unpretentious dishes from home. The minute you

walk through the doors, Surinamese barbecued meat fills the air, wafting with the scent of Pakistani *karahi* and unmistakable Thai *tom yum kung*. It's the best way to go on an inexpensive culinary journey to far-flung parts of the world.

SALMUERA

Map 2; Rozengracht 106, Jordaan;

///[began.activity.manual](#); [www.sal-amsterdam.nl](#)

Locals don't go to the rash of touristy Argentinian steakhouses taking up prime real estate in the party districts. Instead, when a craving for *chimichurri* strikes, they make for Salmuera. Here two Argentinian-Dutch brothers dish out pan-Latin American fusion favourites in a swanky, moody dining room. Tequila fans, take note: the bar is ready to provide a full mezcal re-education.

FULU MANDARIJN

Map 1; Rokin 26, De Wallen;

///[damage.gent.gazette](#); [www.fulumandarijn.com](#)

Ask any Chinese Amsterdammer where to find the best Sichuan food in the city and they'll direct you to this gem. Inside, hot plates sizzle with red peppercorn steak, clay teapots spin on turntables and a loyal clientele tuck into dishes like spicy *Chongqing chicken* and *hui guo rou* (double-cooked pork). This place is the real deal.

EATMOSFERA

Map 3; Korte Reguliersdwarsstraat 8, Grachtengordel;

///[lanes.delved.rinses](#); [www.eatmosfera.nl](#)

Are these the best Italian pizzas in the city? Let the debate begin. Many say that the pizzas could be straight out of a Roman pizzeria so it's no surprise that Eatmosfera is such a big



Gonna catch a flick at Tuschinski or De Munt? This is one of your best bets for a pre-cinema dinner.

hit with the Italian community. There are tasty pastas too, but if your dinner isn't baked in a wood oven, you're going to find yourself with serious sourdough envy.

SEOUL FOOD

Map 2; Kinkerstraat 73A, Oud-West;

///suppose.lungs.seat; www.seoulfoodamsterdam.nl

Lose yourself in K-pop tunes as you walk through the door of this Korean café and takeaway. After deciding what to order from the huge choice of unbelievably cheap bibimbap, rice rolls and kimchi offerings, join the hipster lunch crowd at the communal table (if you can find a space) or grab your takeaway box to go. Everything's super fresh and once it's gone it's gone, so get here early.

» **Don't leave without** browsing the shop at the back, with its eclectic collection of Korean snacks and knick-knacks.

INDIAN RESTAURANT GANDHI

Map 1; Damrak 54, Dam; ///tracking.flanked.finders;

www.indianrestaurantgandhi.com

The entrance to Gandhi may be wedged between tourist traps, but the questionable-looking concrete tunnel that separates the dining room from street traffic keeps the uninitiated at bay. Inside, the waits can be long, but the food – creamy kormas, succulent tandooris and spicy curries – makes for the most authentically Indian meal you'll find in the city.



Veggie & Vegan

With every local who goes meat-free, it seems like a great new veggie or vegan restaurant pops up to satiate them. No wonder, then, Amsterdammers call their city a veggie Valhalla.

MR & MRS WATSON

Map 4; Linnaeuskade 3H, Oud-Oost;

///racks.imposes.runners; www.watsonsfood.com

There isn't a vegan foodie in the city who isn't evangelical about this cosy café's drool-worthy menu. And it's no surprise: this place always strives to live up to the standards of the couple who originally coined the term "vegan" in 1944, after whom it's named. The fondue with non-dairy "cheeses" nabs the headlines, but you'll never miss meat again after digging into the linguine bolognese.

MEATLESS DISTRICT

Map 2; Bilderdijkstraat 65–67, Oud-West;

///audio.arts.liners; www.meatlessdistrict.com

It says a lot about this place that most of the well-heeled diners aren't full-time vegans. That's down to the allure of the Meatless District's ever-changing, 100 per cent vegan menu. Eager young



Looking to buy vegan ingredients? The Vegan Fresco De Baarsjes supermarket is around the corner.

waitstaff dish out the stuff of comfort cravings, all made from local produce and dressed up bistro style, ideally paired with a cocktail or vegan wine.

MEDIAMATIC

Map 4; Dijkspark 6a, Oostelijke Eilanden;

///similar.silly.mostly; www.mediamatic.net

Part of the Mediamatic art and science centre, this glasshouse restaurant serves up a five-course menu that makes liberal use of the vegetables and herbs sustainably grown in the on-site garden and greenhouse. Every night the chefs prepare something different, blending flavours to create delicious concoctions, which guests tuck into with their hands. Food doesn't get fresher than this.

» **Don't leave without** asking about the regular workshops on everything from making kimchi to creating perfume.

BONBOON

Map 6; Piraeusplein 59, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///surfed.pining.wiping; www.bonboon.nl

A terrace with stunning views of the harbour; cosy tables in a small dining room that oozes charm; fragrant, inventive combinations of vegetables and grains on an ever-changing menu. It's no wonder that this café, born out of owner Daphne Althoff's dream to bring delicious non-animal food to Amsterdam's citizens, is always full of foodies – vegan or otherwise (so try to plan your visit a week ahead).

VEGETARISCH RESTAURANT DE WAAGHALS

Map 3; Frans Halstraat 29, De Pijp;

///compound.deed.opinion; www.waaghals.nl

You know those people who say they could never be vegetarian because they don't like fake meat? Bring them here. Not an ounce of fake meat in sight, and the dining room is packed with carnivores taking a day off. De Waaghals prefers to let the local organic crops and cheeses shine: super-tasty ingredients that don't pretend to be anything other than what they are.

D&A HUMMUS BISTRO

Map 4; Oostenburgergracht 185, Oostenburg;

///crown.outbid.solve; www.dna-hummusbistro.com

In a sea of hummus restaurants taking Amsterdam by storm, this is one of the best. Join urban hippies as they dig into dishes smothered in the ultra-silky chickpea dip. Bonus: in summer, the terrace morphs into a beach with deck chairs, beach balls and yummy cocktails.

THE AVOCADO SHOW

Map 3; Daniël Stalperstraat 61 HS, De Pijp;

///together.fanfare.ignites; www.theavocadoshow.com

Could the avocado on toast craze have started here? Locals say yes. The avocados stun in dishes that taste as good as they look. What's more, this place only uses avocados that are sustainably grown and hand-picked by socially responsible Dutch suppliers.



Liked by the locals

“Not many people know that hummus and tahini are superfoods. Making Amsterdammers aware that they are as healthy as they are delicious is part of what I love about my job.”

NIV KATZIR, RESTAURANT MANAGER,
D&A HUMMUS BISTRO



Special Occasion

Celebrating your graduation? A big birthday? Or just fancy a Friday night treat? Amsterdam's got every celebration covered, with inventive spots that embody the city's creative and multicultural spirit.

RESTAURANT BLAUW

Map 6; Amstelveenseweg 158–160, Oud-Zuid;

///curry.burn.building; www.restaurantblauw.nl

Chattering families and friends gather to celebrate over Blauw's *rijsttafel* (rice table). This huge spread of Indonesian small side dishes like spicy braised beef, shrimp satay and grilled aubergine and beans, all served with heaps of rice, is perfect for sharing. New to Indonesian street food? You can count on the speedy, friendly waiters to help you assemble the perfect festive meal.

YAMAZATO

Map 3; Ferdinand Bolstraat 333, De Pijp;

///koala.gulped.nothing; www.yamazato.nl

Celebrating a splurge-worthy work promotion? Dine like a Japanese emperor at Yamazato. Donning their finest, diners come here for exquisite, delicate *kaiseki* (haute Japanese) feasts, all

cooked up by chefs who have undergone years of traditional training in Japan. For a price, of course: nearly €300 for a full dinner with wine and sake pairings, with simpler lunch options starting at €60. If your wallet can take it, it's an experience you'll be talking about years later.

» **Don't leave without heading to the bar on the 23rd floor of the hotel for some cocktail action with a view.**

BREDA

**Map 1; Singel 210, Grachtengordel; [///emblem.rank.pads](http://emblem.rank.pads);
www.bredagroup-amsterdam.com**

Rich, satisfying meals enjoyed at leisure in rustic surroundings. That's just what restaurant Breda's team grew up enjoying in North Brabant (Breda is a city in this southern Dutch province), and they've imported these same principles to their restaurant in the national capital. Celebrate that big anniversary over a plate of pork belly, rib-eye steak or mussels. No one ever eats here just once.

HAPPYHAPPYJOYJOY

**Map 2; Bilderdijkstraat 158HS, Oud-West;
[///bats.tenders.candy](http://bats.tenders.candy); www.happyhappyjoyjoy.asia**

The frenetic pan-Asian marketplace vibe at this joyous restaurant gets birthday-party guests buzzing with energy. Just keep yelling your orders for new rounds of dressed-up street food and Eastern-influenced cocktails over the cacophony, and the patient waitstaff will make sure your dishes get to your table.

LOS PILONES

Map 1; Geldersekkade 111, Nieuwmarkt;

///instant.bunkers.dads; www.lospilones.com

The staff at this festive favourite know how to keep their customers jolly: goblets of flavoured margaritas will land on your table just about as quickly as you can order them. But the food is the real star of the show, a selection of more *Mex-Mex* than *Tex-Mex* headliners. Celebrate with your friends inside or out on the terrace.

DE KAS

Map 4; Kamerlingh Onneslaan 3, Watergraafsmeer;

///moats.mining.castle; www.restaurantdekas.com

This chic restaurant is *the* place for an intimate, laid-back date. Guests are greeted by floor-to-ceiling glass panels that open up to vistas of landscaped gardens, a water fountain and the lush greenery of Frankendael Park. The farm-to-table menu is all about fresh produce grown in the restaurant's very own nursery, a perfect pairing with those leafy nature views.

Try it! **LEARN TO FORAGE**

Fancy a stroll with your date before eating at De Kas? Forage for local seasonal herbs together on an Urban Herbology guided walk (www.urbanherbology.org) in the adjoining Frankendael Park.

LASTAGE

Map 1; Geldersekade 29, Nieuwmarkt;

///fuss.cones.leader; www.restaurantlastage.nl

No disrespect, but chef Rogier van Dam doesn't want visitors to his Dutch-French restaurant to stiffen up when they see it's got a Michelin star (so he's hung it in the basement), or expect to be slammed by the bill (prices really are very reasonable). Still, Michelin rules year after year that the quality is undeniable. Bring your in-laws or a foodie you want to impress, choose from a menu of twelve dishes (which might include terrine of red mullet, cod with bacon and oyster sauce or pork tenderloin) and let the staff do the rest.

» **Don't leave without opting in on the wine pairings – they're central to the dining concept, and full of delightful surprises whether you're a wine newbie or certified expert.**

HOOGTIJ

Map 5; Johan van Hasseltweg 39, Nieuwendammerham;

///copy.remember.doctors; www.hoogtij.amsterdam

Gob-smacking city and river views, original food, live jazz – all in a rooftop garden. If that sounds like your ideal setting for a party, you need to bring the gang here. And, oh, what a night you'll all have. A changing line-up of local chefs prep street-food inspired dishes, live performers provide a peppy soundtrack and the city itself supplies the scenery. If the weather doesn't hold up (this is Amsterdam, after all), everyone decamps to the glasshouse – no spirits dampened here. HoogtIJ's events are irregular, so for details of what's afoot, always check Facebook.



A foodie morning in Oud-West

In a city churning out delicious plate of food after delicious plate of food, Oud-West is the place to go for some of the best. Spurred on by the neighbourhood's multicultural inhabitants, this former industrial area has foodie hotspots galore, including the seriously swish tram depot-turned food court De Foodhallen and the long-running favourite Ten Katemarkt. There's no better way to spend a morning than filling up on flavour-packed treats as you wander the area.

1. Waldo Chocolate & Patisserie

Elandsgracht 91, Jordaan;
www.waldopatisserie.nl
///shipped.create.detect

2. Kookstudio Keizer Culinair

Elandsstraat 169-173,
Jordaan; www.keizerculinair.nl
///jeering.smashes.dream

3. Toko Bersama

Bilderdijkstraat 116,
Oud-West;
www.tokobersama.nl
///discrepancy.journey.boring

4. De Foodhallen

Bellamyplein 51,
Oud-West;
www.foodhallen.nl
///private.snaps.fountain



Ten Katemarkt ///vampire.milder.bronzed



End with lunch at DE FOODHALLEN

Follow your nose as you walk through this large food hall. Try Vietnamese bowls at Viet View or Dutch *bitterballen* at De Ballenbar. Finish with a local beer at Beer Bar.

Running since 1912, Ten Katemarkt is a local gem, offering everything from fresh produce to Nepali and Taiwanese street food.

Snack at TOKO BERSAMA

A local favourite for takeaway Indonesian food, Toko Bersama is the best spot in Oud-West to try a *loempia* (spring roll) or *pisang goreng* (fried plantain). Grab your snack and enjoy it by the Bilderdijkgracht canal.

3

BILDERDIJKSTR.

Get cooking at KOOKSTUDIO KEIZER CULINAIR

Join a cookery class or workshop at this famous Dutch culinary school, where you can tune up your cooking skills and dabble in all sorts of cuisines from Indonesian to Arabic.

2

1

Have breakfast at WALDO CHOCOLADE & PATISSERIE

Start the day by filling up on tantalizing homemade pastries and aromatic artisan coffee at this French-inspired patisserie.

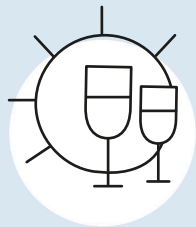
CENTRUM

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DRINK

Meeting for borreltijd (drinks and snacks) with friends is a ritual.

Beers are clinked after work, wine is sipped on date night and coffee is drunk at all hours.





Breweries

With a brewing history going back centuries, Amsterdam offers many a finely crafted local beer. The heavenly homegrown hops come in every flavour and colour to satisfy this city of beer drinkers.

BIERFABRIEK

Map 1; Nes 67, De Wallen;

///shadows.rental.sheep; www.bierfabriek.com

The Beer Factory may brew only three beers (Rosso, Nero and Puur Pilsner) on site, but it does them to perfection. Round up your mates and gather around the tables, which handily have built-in taps to pour your own pints against a backdrop of chrome-and-copper casks.

BROUWERIJ 'T IJ

Map 4; Funenkade 7, Plantagebuurt;

///press.unto.prom; www.brouwerijhetij.nl

Don't worry about pronouncing the name – everyone just calls this place “the windmill brewery”. The city's last wooden windmill towers over this brewpub, based in an old bath house. Lines of Amsterdammers form inside the small bar, collecting the city's OG craft beers by the stein. Out on the terrace, rows of picnic tables and

any spare patch of pavement are mobbed by a hodgepodge of young locals – anyone who can sneak out of work early (last orders is at 8pm). Which beer to start with? The well-hopped, strong Columbus amber ale is a popular choice with local beer aficionados.

» **Don't leave without** booking a tour to learn all about the brewery's history and the brewing process.

BROUWERIJ TROOST

Map 2; Pazzanistraat 27, Westerpark;

///subjects.detail.narrow; www.brouwerijtroost.nl

This original branch of three Troost breweries in Amsterdam, located in Westergas's 19th-century former warehouses, is the one that locals flock to, especially if there's a glimmer of sunshine (top tip: tables at the edge of the terrace stay sunny longer). In addition to a range of classic brews and beer cocktails, there's a teetotaler-pleasing menu of home-brewed ginger beer and hoppy lemonade.

BROUWERIJ POESIAT & KATER

Map 4; Polderweg 648, Oostpoort;

///troubled.resold.pricier; www.poesiatenkater.nl

Beer-wise, you've got two ways to go at this spot: the legendary, historic Van Vollenhoven line or the modern, speciality Poesiat & Kater beers. Local Julián Álvarez is the man behind it all, brewing traditional malts to an old recipe and developing modern barley blends. Just don't let the brewery's name become a prophecy: *kater* means "hangover" (and "male cat"; *poes* is a female cat, just in case you're wondering).

OEDIPUS BREWING

Map 5; Gedempt Hamerkanaal 85, Nieuwendammerham;

///rifled.trailing.kitchens; www.oedipus.com

Everyone will tell you this taproom is worth the trek out from the centre of town as it's the only place where you'll find the full range of Oedipus beers. The on-tap offerings span pale ale, stout and grisette, designed to please local craft beer addicts. A young crowd throngs the industrial space against a backdrop of chaotic decor that takes its cues from the tropical-tinged brews.

» **Don't leave without** trying the flagship beer: the *Mannenliefde* (or "Man Love"), with hints of lemongrass and Szechuan pepper.

PENSION HOMELAND

Map 4; Kattenburgerstraat 5, Marineterrein;

///fame.bronzed.starters; www.pensionhomeland.com

The hunt for this brewery is half the fun. Your journey will take you across decommissioned naval terrain and parkland full of old marine buildings, before reaching the Homeland Hotel. Inside

Try it!

MAKE YOUR OWN BREW

Want to brew your own stout, IPA or blond?

Mediamatic in Oostenburg (*www.mediamatic.net*) holds introductory

workshops on beer brewing at its own MycoBrewery.

Pension, the 60s-style bar, hip Amsterdammers sip house beers (strong and leaning largely on the IPA side), served in seafarer-themed cans. If you can't get a terrace table in summer, sit on the grass to enjoy the harbour views.

DE BEKEERDE SUSTER

Map 1; Kloveniersburgwal 6, Nieuwmarkt;

///glow.bind.national; www.debekeerdesuster.nl

Once upon a time, in the 15th century, there was a convent of nuns, who took in repenting sex workers. These *bekeerde susters* (reformed nuns) spent their days brewing beer. Today a modern microbrewery inspired by these sisters stands on the same spot. Giant copper drums brew up five beers, each with their own distinct flavour, and a tasting plank lets thirsty pilgrims try them all at once, often alongside some warm, house-made beer bread. The sisters really would approve.

BROUWERIJ DE PRAEL

Map 1; Oudezijds Armsteeg 26, De Wallen;

///camp.storage.factory; www.deprael.nl

Plush brown sofas and old cabinets, just like at your grandparents' house, fill this brewpub's Tardis-like living room. The surprising amount of space is just as well: folk bands often play here, and there's even a piano on the side if you fancy striking up a tune. As for the brews? They're all additive-free and named after Dutch folk singers (no surprises).



Brown Pubs

Bruine Kroegen, aka traditional pubs, are called “brown” due to their dark wood and centuries’ tobacco-stained walls. The beating heart of locals’ social lives, they’re so much more than your usual drinking den.

CAFÉ DE DRUIF

Map 4; Rapenburgerplein 83, Plantagebuurt;

///inhales.perform.watching; 385 23553

Name-dropped in the letters of famous figures through history, this *kroeg* is one of the oldest in the city. Everything’s been left the way your great-great-grandfather would have seen it, down to the Turkish carpets used as tablecloths. A distillery in its former days, Druiif has a loyal fanbase of Dutch liqueur lovers.

PROEFLOKAAL DE OOIEVAAR

Map 1; Sint Olofspoort 1, De Wallen;

///future.benched.reminds; www.proeflokaaldeooievaar.nl

Once you set foot in Amsterdam, there’s a 99 per cent chance someone will try to teach you the word *gezellig*, an expression for a warm and convivial atmosphere that the Dutch swear is impossible to fully translate into another language. It’s a word you’ll truly

understand when you come to this *kroeg*, crammed with antique bric-a-brac. Tiny in size, big in spirit; there's no way you're getting out of here without the regulars asking you for your life story.

» **Don't leave without trying old Amsterdam liqueurs with names such as Hemel op Aarde ("heaven on earth"). Beware, they are hugely potent. After all, in the old days they were sold here as "medicine".**

HET PAPENEILAND

Map 2; Prinsengracht 2, Jordaan;

///ruler.kitchen.tree; www.papeneiland.nl

You'll see why locals call this "the Drunk Bar"; the 17th-century building leans forward like it's about to fall into the canal. Walk inside and you'll be greeted by the delicious smell of freshly baked apple pies (many will vouch these are among the best in the city). Our tip to make it even better? Pair your apple pie with a *jenever*.

IN 'T AEPJEN

Map 1; Zeedijk 15-1, De Wallen;

///outings.pound.mindset; 625 6467

Every Amsterdammer knows of In 't Aepjen, which is famous for three things: firstly, that it's so old it's built of wood; secondly, it used to be a hostel for sailors returning from Dutch Indonesian colonies with their pet monkeys (weird, we know); and lastly and most importantly, it's one of the cosiest pubs in the city. There are plenty of snug corners to curl up with a hot beverage (spiked or not) when the weather doesn't play nice. Ten points for every monkey ornament you can spot.



Liked by the locals

“A *bruine kroeg* is basically the neighbourhood living room: it’s the place to hear all the latest gossip, or even drop off an extra set of keys in case you get locked out of your flat (like I did).”

LINDA VAN ZANTEN, AMSTERDAM TOUR GUIDE

GOLLEM'S PROEFLOKAAL

Map 3; Overtoom 160–162, Oud-West;

///bunksrehead.aged; www.caffegollem.nl

Don't worry if you feel something brush past your legs at Gollem's; it's only the resident cat welcoming you to its home. And at home is just how you'll feel at this easy-going pub where friends enjoy quiz nights and live jazz. And beers, of course – the list of Dutch and Belgian brews is mind-boggling.

CAFÉ HOPPE

Map 1; Spui 18–20, Spui; ///popping.shade.jumped; www.cafehoppe.com

Step into the 17th century as you cross the threshold of this intimate *kroeg*, which still has sand strewn across the floor (to catch tobacco spit in days of yore). Old boys mingle at the bar, standing shoulder to shoulder in front of casks of *jenever* hundreds of years old. A young crowd packs the worn, low tables, chattering away over a beer or gin.

PROEFLOKAAL ARENDSNEST

Map 2; Herengracht 90, Grachtengordel;

///custard.sobbed.drunk; www.arendsnest.nl

It's all about the beers here. The bar staff in the cosy Eagle's Nest Tasting Room are only too happy to fill you in on the Dutch-only beer list (100 strong, with dozens on tap). Join one of the thrice-weekly tastings to tour the beer flavours of the Netherlands, or simply perch on a bar stool, tell the bartender what you like and leave your fate in their expert hands.



Cocktail Joints

Amsterdammers love to gather for carefully crafted cocktails and mocktails after work. Luckily, the city is peppered with cocktail bars where top mixologists invent new takes on old favourites.

ROSALIA'S MENAGERIE

Map 1; Klovenierburgswal 20, De Wallen;

///eyebrows.judge.holidays; www.rosalias.amsterdam

Those not in the know easily walk past this bar in a tiny hotel without realizing it's there. Once inside, you'll find a bric-a-brac-packed living room, where cocktail fiends sip *jenever*-based fusions, true classics and seasonal inventions. The menu bursts with flavours but if nothing takes your fancy, ask award-winning mixologist Wouter Bosch to shake you up a cocktail of your choice.

TALES & SPIRITS

Map 1; Lijnbaanssteeg 5–7, Grachtengordel;

///softly.smashes.insurers; www.talesandspirits.com

A long menu of quirky cocktail mixes found nowhere else? A fun and flirty waitstaff passionate about making perfect drinks with the finest spirits? An alleyway terrace that sets a new standard for

charm? If this sounds like your kind of place, get to Tales & Spirits. Arrive early to claim a table, and come hungry – once you see the baskets of shared bites, you won't be able to help yourself.

» **Don't leave without booking a visit to the Tales and Spirits antique shop next door. Open only by appointment, it's full of speciality spirits and rare vintage cocktail tools.**

W LOUNGE

**Map 1; Spuistraat 175, Dam; [///sting.swatted.compound](http://sting.swatted.compound);
www.wloungeamsterdam.com**

There's always a stylish crowd posing inside the W Hotel's glass-walled rooftop bar, or by the balcony swimming pool. The cocktails everyone's sipping are great, but the real reason they're drinking here is the 360-degree views. You'll pay for all this privilege, but boy does it feel good to live the high life.

KEVIN BACON BAR

**Map 2; Witte de Withstraat 38, Mercatorbuurt;
[///manhole.sling.talked](http://manhole.sling.talked); www.kevinbacon.nl**

Where cheeky cocktails meet Thai food, there's the cosy Kevin Bacon Bar, part of the Hotel Not Hotel. Why Kevin Bacon? Because everybody likes Kevin Bacon. Thankfully, the cocktail game here is as strong as the humour, drawing young couples and groups of friends for stunners like the Flower Power 2.0 – rose tea-infused vodka with elderflower liqueur, lavender syrup and lime elderflower tonic. And half a dozen cocktails named, of course, Kevin.

Solo, Pair, Crowd

Hidden away in side streets and narrow alleys are plenty more bars serving top cocktails.

FLYING SOLO

Get cosy in an old-fashioned speakeasy

Bar Oldenhof in Jordaan has a list of pioneering cocktails that are just as sexy as its sleek decor. It's easy to get chatting to the bartender while listening to live jazz and watching mixologists work their magic.

IN A PAIR

Romantic night for two

Hidden at the back of a gourmet burger joint in de Pijp, The Butcher bar is perfect for a date. Make reservations ahead to gain access to this inner sanctum, where barrel-aged concoctions like The Butcher's Nana await.

FOR A CROWD

Catch up with friends in style

Step away from the chaos of Leidseplein into the soothing 1950s glamour of Suzy Wong. This cocktail lounge, with Asian styling, has a cool nightclub vibe, great for an evening out with friends.

VESPER BAR

Map 2; Vinkenstraat 57, Haarlemmerbuurt;

///pipeline.curvy.curl; www.vesperbar.nl

Long before the cocktail phenomenon took over the city, there was Vesper Bar. Locals in the know avoid the menu, preferring to unleash the mixologists' inner creativity by feeding them a flavour profile. (For an extra tip, of course.) Seating is limited, so keep this one to yourself.

PRIK

Map 1; Spuistraat 109, Grachtengordel;

///otters.latter.business; www.prikamsterdam.nl

Everyone is warmly welcomed at this LGBTQ+ cocktail bar. Embrace the kitsch: the space is done up like a diner in wall-to-wall pink and mixologists shake up equally colourful creations, like the Passion Swizzle – a *jenever*-based tropical fruit treat.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Map 4; Rapenburg 18, Jodenbuurt;

///gushes.than.explains; www.hpsamsterdam.com

The artisanal cocktails have won this sultry speakeasy a cult following among locals. Sure, it's plain by design, but there's a reason that the dark, moody interior is stripped back: it's so all eyes fix on the bar, where bottles of cocktail mixers sparkle like jewels. After sampling a concoction you'll get why locals keep coming back.

» **Don't leave without** trying a *Walking Dead*, served in a crystal skull glass and set on fire. (It's probably best to leave your bike at home.)



Wine Bars

Amsterdam may be famous for beer, but its citizens are discerning wine drinkers too. Friends gather in the city's many bars over a glass of fine wine and nibbles whenever it feels like wine o'clock.

GLOU GLOU

Map 3; Tweede van der Helststraat 2, De Pijp;

///wept.suckle.trades; www.glouglou.nl

Local wine-lovers will tell you that Glou Glou, the city's original natural wine bar, is the best for those wanting to take a wine walk on the preservative-free side. There's tons of European wines to choose from, and the friendly staff happily give samples to taste before you order. The cosy space is filled with wine-sipping friends debating which is their favourite tippie while sharing charcuterie platters.

SHIRAZ

Map 3; Lijnbaansgracht 267HS, Leidseplein;

///yoga.weekday.puns; www.shirazamsterdam.nl

Just like Shiraz wine, this bar conjures warm Middle Eastern-style hospitality mixed with French chic. Tasting symbols make the menu of 150 wines easy to navigate, but the staff genuinely delight



Craving a little more wine knowledge? Ask about Shiraz's next wine-tasting workshop.

in helping you find new favourites, plus snacks to match. Want to take a bottle of your favourite wine home? No problem: buy it from the adjoining shop.

WORST WIJNCAFÉ

Map 2; Barentzstraat 171, Westelijke Eilanden;

///plastic.proposes.braved; www.deworst.nl

“Best” is what truly describes Worst Wijncafé. The fun-loving bar staff like to have a laugh (well, they did come up with the bar name, after all, and proudly made sausages – aka “worst” – the star of the menu), but you can rely on them to guide you through the list of mostly French wines by the glass. Enjoy your drink with the cool crowd at the bar or lounge on cushions at the mini-tables on the terrace.

CHATEAU AMSTERDAM

Map 5; Gedempt Hamerkanaal 139, Nieuwendammerham;

///affords.adding.river; www.chateau.amsterdam

Once you've found out there's wine made in Amsterdam, you've got a fact even many locals don't know. This family-owned producer doesn't grow grapes locally though, it imports them from across Europe, creating unique blends and experimenting with an entire line of orange wines. Sample the lot in the tasting room and appreciate these wines made in the city for the city.

» Don't leave without taking a tour (make sure to book in advance) to get the full backstory on the wines you're sipping.

BAR GALLIZIA

Map 4; Javastraat 67, Indische Buurt;

///spin.insiders.announce; www.gallizia.nl

This is the best spot in town for Italian wines, and especially great on a sunny day (there's seating out on the pavement in front). The expert Italian and Dutch sommeliers are on hand to explain the menu's 30 by-the-glass options with a personalized tasting tour. (Go easy on them when it gets crowded.)

FABUS

Map 2; De Clercqstraat 105H, Kinkerbuurt;

///threaten.monkeys.veal; www.fabuswineandfood.com

Walk through the door of Fabus, and you'll be met with calming beige walls – a rather sedate backdrop that belies the bar's exciting menu of natural, organic and biodynamic wines. The impressive pan-European list has the city's greatest choice of Central European varieties. Peckish? The small plates on offer are equally eclectic.

» **Don't leave without** trying the *Zweigelt*, a bright-red wine made from Austria's national red grape with peppery sour cherry flavours.

RAYLEIGH & RAMSAY

Map 6; Zocherstraat 2, Overtoom;

///tramps.smooth.singing; www.rr.wine

With friends who can't agree on what bottle to order? Enter Rayleigh & Ramsay, part of the self-service wine bar craze that's hit Amsterdam. This classy bar has a big wine selection, with

100 vintages on tap that vary in origin, taste profiles and price. On arrival you're equipped with a pre-loaded "wine card", which fills half or brimming glasses with a touch of the button. You'll find all your favourites but it's more fun to test the unknown. A word of warning: pace yourself if you want to avoid a sore head in the morning.

BUBBLES & WINES

Map 1; Nes 37, De Wallen;

///[talking.bought.headline](#); [www.bubblesandwines.com](#)

One of the first wine bars to open in Amsterdam, Bubbles & Wines may not be as hip as its newer cousins, but it's still the city's most classically luxurious: think caviar and escargot on the bar snack menu, as well as cheese platters. As to the wine list itself – it's very well priced, nonetheless. Want to try a non-champagne bubbly? Choose from the staggering list by the glass. Fancy comparing different Bordeaux reds? Opt for one of the tasting flights, themed by region, for just €15. This is where local wine lovers come for a night out when they want to feel lavish without having to splash out.

Try it! LEARN TO MAKE WINE

Want to improve your knowledge of all things wine-related? The Amsterdam Wine Academy ([www.amsterdamwineacademy.com](#)) has enthusiasts who teach classes on wine-making and tasting.



Unmissable Terraces

It's easy to find a terrace with an awesome view in Amsterdam. At the first sign of warm sunshine, friends gather at pub and café gardens for borreltijd by the water or surrounded by greenery.

DE VONDEL TUIN

Map 6; Vondelpark 7, Zuid; ///funny.damp.singled; www.devondeltuin.nl

For many locals, sunny weekends in the city mean one thing: long days in the Vondelpark. At its heart is a café whose large garden dares anyone to pass by without stopping – and few do. Amsterdammers from far and wide lounge on the cosy chairs, sipping local beers and fruity cocktails, while kids cavort in the adjacent playground.

» **Don't leave without** also checking out the Blauwe Theehuis (“Blue Teahouse”) with a wraparound terrace deeper inside Vondelpark.

DAKTERRAS GAPP

Map 4; Eerste Ringdijkstraat 4, Watergraafsmeer;

///limbs.stuffing.shakes; www.hotelcasa.nl

This rooftop beer garden on the eighth floor of the Casa Hotel is an Oost icon. It opens every summer to a mixed crowd of edgy locals and cool students, who sprawl across the decking amid



There's no cover so if it rains, head down to the Casa Hotel's trendy lobby bar, with huge windows.

towering plants and flower beds. There are local beers, cocktails and bar snacks aplenty, but the real draw is the endless views of the city skyline.

HANNEKES BOOM

**Map 4; Dijkgracht 4, Dijkspark; ///credited.dairies.rate;
www.hannekesboom.nl**

When someone asks where to meet for an after-work tippie in the city centre on a sunny day, there's really only one answer – Hannekes Boom. The huge beer garden and roof terrace of this shack-style café are packed with locals enjoying drinks with a view of the iconic Oosterdok harbour. Take a cue from those in the know and hire a boat to get here – if you can't find a seat, sip your beer from inside your moored boat while watching the sunset.

WATERKANT

**Map 2; Marnixstraat 246, Jordaan; ///oddly.latches.vibrates;
www.waterkantamsterdam.nl**

A waterside terrace away from the bustle of Jordaan, a laid-back vibe, craft cocktails and beers – it's no wonder that this bar is a real favourite. Groups chill out at the patio tables or lounge on floor cushions on the edge of the water, their legs dangling over the Singel canal; the banter between bar patrons and passing boaters is half the fun here. And for those after something more filling than bar snacks, the café dishes out roti rolls and other Surinamese fare.

Solo/Pair/Crowd

**Sun's out? Make a go for it.
Amsterdam's terraces welcome
everyone, no matter what your scene is.**

FLYING SOLO

Canal-side haven

For a refreshing *biertje* and a chat, grab a seat by the water at Café de Engelbewaarder in Nieuwmarkt and watch the boats go by. With its friendly staff and regulars, this place will make you feel part of the gang in no time.

IN A PAIR

Romantic garden

A crispy seafood platter for two at sunset. Gin-based cocktails. A magical setting tucked away in Westerpark. Sounds like the perfect date night? That's just what you can expect at Mossel & Gin.

FOR A CROWD

Join the party

Café de Ceugel in a former shipyard hosts gigs and other outdoor live events. Check out the programme before heading to Noord with your mates for the café's parties, sunny deck, vegan menu and local beers.

CAFÉ SOUNDGARDEN

Map 2; Marnixstraat 164–166, Jordaan;

[///stardom.exposing.yarn](http://stardom.exposing.yarn); www.cafesoundgarden.nl

Rock 'n' roll lovers feel right at home in this grungy dive bar. Join the party vibe out on the waterside terrace where enthusiasts swap stories in dozens of languages to a soundtrack of great music. Want to see some local acts? Check out the packed programme.

NOORDERLICHT

Map 5; NDSM-Plein 102, NDSM;

[///race.crashing.topped](http://race.crashing.topped); www.noorderlichtcafe.nl

True to its name (“Northern Lights”), this quirky café-bar in the trendy northern NDSM neighbourhood is easy to spot from the south side of the IJ River by its multicoloured lights. These lights shine even brighter at weekends when the waterside café’s lawn hosts live gigs, packed with a dancing crowd. During the week, an arty bunch hangs out on beanbags, chilled drink in hand.

THUIS AAN DE AMSTEL

Map 6; Korte Ouderkerkerdijk 45, Amsteltkwartier, Omval;

[///declares.kings.rider](http://declares.kings.rider); www.thuisaandeamstel.nl

“At Home on the Amstel” pretty much sums this place up: a café converted from an old red-brick private home, with a small gated garden that spills out onto the Amstel riverbank. It’s practically a fairy tale. If inclement weather sends you retreating into the cosy inside, check out the works of art by local artists on the walls.



Coffee Houses

The Dutch are among the world's biggest coffee drinkers so it's no surprise that the coffee house is an Amsterdam institution. Start your day, like the rest of the city, with your favourite brew.

BACK TO BLACK

Map 2; Van Hallstraat 268, Staatsliedenbuurt;

///evenly.gliding.hounded; www.backtoblackcoffee.nl

The resident cat greets coffee lovers as they enter this deliciously cosy neighbourhood coffee house – so tiny, in fact, that you might have to wait a bit for a seat. But it's worth it. The specialized blends here are made from carefully selected beans roasted on site. Even better, once you've discovered your favourites, you can buy some to take home.

COFFEE BRU

Map 4; Beukenplein 14, Oud-Oost;

///roofer.files.umpires; www.coffeebru.nl

Run by a trio of friendly coffee aficionados, this rustic café, filled with plants, friendly chatter and the aroma of freshly roasted coffee, makes for a snug little hideout. Here you'll find students

plugging away at their laptops, young families relaxing at the weekend and older folks simply relishing their afternoon espressos with a slice of freshly baked banana bread or apple pie.

SCANDINAVIAN EMBASSY

Map 3; Sarphatipark 34, De Pijp;

///rummage.onwards.possibly; www.scandinavianembassy.nl

If you're looking for the quintessential *fika* experience (the Swedish concept of spending time with friends over coffee), this is the right place. Yes, Scandinavian Embassy serves the best cinnamon buns in town, but it's the coffee that takes centre stage. The Swedish owners have scoured the roasters in Scandinavia to bring award-winning blends from home, and Amsterdammers can't get enough of it.

» **Don't leave without asking about the coffee tasting sessions, where you can try unique coffee and food pairings.**

LOT61 COFFEE ROASTERS

Map 2; Kinkerstraat 112, Oud-West;

///view.maker.belonging; www.lot61.com

Local die-hard coffee geeks love this roastery, where Australian-born, NYC-raised owner Adam creates gourmet third-wave coffee blends. To name just two: the Bombora delivers a chocolate syrupy espresso for that early morning pre-work boost, while Nosegrind has notes of vibrant fruits that work as a post-lunch dessert. Join the rest perching at the barrel tables and ask the staff for a recommendation – they'll know just what you need.

4850

Map 4; Camperstraat 48–50, Oud-Oost;

///twitchy.promotes.kneeled; www.4850.nl

The fresh take on Nordic-style coffee makes this sleek, Scandi spot an Oost favourite. Locals come here by day for the speciality coffees from La Cabra in Copenhagen, paired with cardamom buns. In the evening 4850 morphs into a restaurant, so why not stay on for dinner rounded off by a delicious single-origin coffee.

BARMHARTIG KOFFIE

Map 4; Veemkade 1228, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///fund.handy.urge; www.barmhartigkoffie.nl

Hidden away above a corner supermarket, this coffee house is easy to miss. But walk up the stairs and you'll find a surprisingly roomy space with large windows overlooking the Eastern Docklands (regulars bag the window seats, so get here early to beat them to it). Barmhartig Koffie is more than just coffee heaven with a view though; it doubles as a hair salon a few days each week, if you fancy a haircut with your daily pick-me-up.

THE COFFEE VIRUS

Map 6; Matrix VI, Science Park 408, Watergraafsmeer;

///thorax.holiday.donation; www.thecoffeovirus.nl

Based in the Amsterdam Science Park, this is where local tech start-up entrepreneurs, freelance developers and scientists hang out and network – and get their daily fix of coffee, of course.

Bring your laptop or journal and see if you're inspired to think up the next big business or tech innovation at this creative hub. All over a cup of great coffee.

COFFEE & COCONUTS

Map 3; Ceintuurbaan 282–284, De Pijp;

///resold.inviting.raced; www.coffeeandcoconuts.com

Most Amsterdammers agree that there are few more beautiful cafés in the city than this 1920s Art Deco cinema-turned-holiday-vibes coffee hotspot. Picnic tables are dotted under the cathedral-high ceiling, vintage black-and-white photos adorn the brick walls and large beanbags in the loft seat stylish locals. And the coffee? The roastery uses quality beans from all over the world. A perfect spot to hang out with a gaggle of friends on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

» **Don't leave without pairing your coffee with pancakes, drenched in silky coconut cream, with a sprinkle of toasted coconut flakes (this place is just as much about the nut as about coffee, after all).**

Try it! SPILL THE BEANS

Fancy tasting some coffees? The Starbucks Concept Store in Rembrandtplein is where new coffees are tested for the entire European market. Have your say at one of the regular cupping (that's tasting) sessions.

0 metres 500
0 yards 500

JORDAAN

Get in the spirit at DE DRIE FLESHJES

Sip on a *jenever*, paired with hearty meatballs or sausages, at this 1650s bar. Don't miss the quirky collection of small bottles with hand-painted portraits of Amsterdam's former mayors.

The Gin Festival at Beurs van Berlage (an events and exhibitions space), held around mid-May, runs tastings and workshops.

WESTER-MARKT

GRACHTEN-GORDEL

3

DAMRAK

CENTRUM

Snoop around WYNAND FOCKINK

You'll hear all about the 17th-century methods of making *jenever* and liqueurs at this *proeflokaal* (tasting room and bar). It's Amsterdam's oldest, in business since 1679.

Proeflokaal A van Wees was one of Amsterdam's oldest distilleries. It's now a pub, with 60 brands of Dutch liqueurs.

NIEUWE ZIJDE

2

O. VOORBURGWAL

WATERLOO-PLEIN

Herengracht

RODIN

MUNT-PLEIN

Amstel

REMBRANDT-PLEIN

URRECHTSESTRAAT

NAASKADE

LEIDSE-PLEIN

Keizersgracht

Prinsengracht

NIEUWE SPIEGELSTR.

VIJZELSTR.

Discover the secret at HOUSE OF BOLS

Immerse yourself in the interactive Cocktail and Jenever Experience at this distillery and museum to find out more about *jenever*. You can create your perfect cocktail (including non-alcoholic varieties) at the do-it-yourself bar.

1

MUSEUM-PLEIN

STADHOUDERSKADE

Amstel

OUD-ZUID

ZUID

Sarphatipark

DE PIJP



An afternoon sampling Dutch spirits

Jenever, a juniper-flavoured liqueur and close relation of gin, has been made in the Netherlands for hundreds of years. In fact, the term “Dutch courage” comes from soldiers drinking *jenever* before battle back in the day. Mercifully, enjoying *jenever* is a much more civilized affair these days; brown pubs and cool cocktail bars serve it in small tulip-shaped glasses, filled to the brim (you’ll need to bow your head to take your first sip). Swot up on *jenever*’s history and production in the Netherlands and sample some of Amsterdam’s finest spirits on this tour.

1. House of Bols

Paulus Potterstraat 12–16,
Oud-Zuid; www.bols.com
///feels.opposite.alleges

2. Wynand Fockink

Pijlsteeg 31, Oude Centrum;
www.wynand-fockink.nl
///jacket.diet.yarn

3. De Drie Fleschjes

Gravenstraat 81,
Oude Centrum; www.dedriefleschjes.nl
///vets.munched.alright



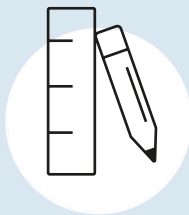
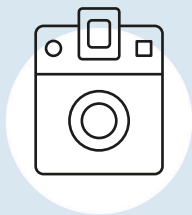
Beurs van Berlage ///fees.deserved.refuse



Proeflokaal A van Wees ///breezes.serve.cattle

SHOP

*Forget generic high street stores:
Amsterdammers love nothing
more than celebrating local
designers, scouting vintage gems
and indulging in organic produce.*





Street Markets

Amsterdam's street markets epitomize the locals' obsession with all things fresh, vintage and unique. Almost every neighbourhood has its own market, teeming with bargain and treasure hunters.

TEN KATEMARKT

Map 2; Ten Katestraat 34, Kinkerbuurt;

///vampire.milder.bronzed; www.tenkatemarkt.nl

Sure, there are many international street food stalls at De Foodhallen just around the corner from here, but locals prefer to come to Ten Katemarkt. Why? A more laid-back vibe, lower prices and family-run food trucks make this place more of an experience. Pick up an Italian deli-style sandwich or steaming Nepali momo dumplings, then wash them down with Taiwanese bubble tea. A true foodie haven.

ALBERT CUYPMARKT

Map 3; Albert Cuypstraat, De Pijp; ///clinked.husbands.grinning;

www.albertcuyp-markt.amsterdam

Ask any Amsterdammer where to try the best Dutch street snack food, and they'll direct you to Albert Cuypmarkt. Crowds queue at the stands serving up warm, fresh *stroopwafels*, *poffertjes*



Around the corner from Albert Cuypmarkt is Katsu Coffeeshop, which serves hot drinks and quality cannabis.

(mini-pancakes) and *friet* (chips), amid a cacophony of merchants loudly touting their cheeses, fruit and veg, herbs, spices, second-hand clothes and flowers.

DAPPERMARKT

Map 4; Dapperstraat 279, Dapperbuurt;

///season.briefer.pool; www.dappermarkt.nl

Few tourists make it to Dappermarkt, which is exactly why you should venture here. Running for more than 100 years, it's a glorious celebration of cultures. People chatter away in numerous languages, with many families gathering simply to socialize. As for the goods, here you'll find bargain-priced speciality groceries, quality Indian fabrics, Moroccan aromatic spices and the best kebabs in the city (no really, they're unbeatable).

WATERLOOPLEINMARKT

Map 4; Waterlooplein 2, Nieuwmarkt;

///magical.guides.modules; www.waterlooplein.amsterdam

The city's oldest flea market is a dream for lovers of all things vintage and handmade. Bargain-hunting hippies rummage through clothes and records; students skim through old books and steampunk gadgets; hipsters buy spare parts for their bikes and funky hand-knitted jumpers. Bring a couple of tote bags – you'll need them.

» **Don't leave without trying a giant *loempia* (spring roll) from the Vietnamese food truck. If the owner is in a good mood, she'll sing to you.**

IJ-HALLEN

Map 5; TT Neveritaweg 15, NDSM;

///jaunts.brush.pitchers; www.ijhallen.nl

Fancy an antique camera to capture your next weekend away? Or some second-hand garms for that club night? This enormous monthly flea market in two industrial warehouses will have whatever you're after. It's the biggest of its kind in Europe, after all. That said, this is very much a community space, where commercial vendors are swapped out for families and flatmates who set up stalls selling their personal treasures. You'll lose all sense of time searching among the heaps of goods, surrounded by the echoes of haggling Amsterdammers.

NOORDERMARKT

Map 2; Noordermarkt 48, Jordaan;

///stole.define.classic; www.noordermarkt-amsterdam.nl

The Noordermarkt started out as a pottery market in the 17th century, selling the beloved Asian-inspired Delftware that the Netherlands is famous for. Nowadays, the Monday morning market is where you'll still find ceramics (and at reasonable prices, too), but it's just as much about paintings and vintage clothing.

NIEUWMARKT

Map 1; Nieuwmarkt; ///feed.remarked.walks

This is Amsterdam just as it used to be: fishmongers shout out the catch of the day and farmers chat away with couples stocking up on veggies for their evening meal. Visit on a Saturday for organic

produce, artisan bread and flowers. All day on summer Sundays, antiques vendors take over the square with bric-a-brac, vintage clothes and new designer toys, satisfying your shopping needs late into the weekend.

» **Don't leave without** stepping inside the 1488 De Waag, originally a city gate and now a restaurant with a bar and generous terrace.

WESTERGAS SUNDAY MARKET

Map 2; Pazzanistraat 33, Westerpark;

///vanish.composer.noses; www.sundaymarket.nl

On the first Sunday of every month Amsterdam's designers and artists set up stalls in Westergas, an industrial-turned-creative complex inside Westerpark. Young families and curio hunters browse the handmade ceramics, housewares, clothes and jewellery to a backdrop of live music, stopping for snacks at the organic cafés as they go. If you love fashion, art and street food, this is the market for you.

DE BOEKENMARKT OP HET SPUI

Map 1; Spui; ///brothers.nuance.engages;

www.deboekenmarktopenhetspui.nl

Every book-loving Amsterdammer raves about this used book market, which sees friendly booksellers from all over the Netherlands gather in the city centre every Friday. Still looking for that book that you've been hunting for? You might just get lucky here: there are literally hundreds of tomes on just about every subject and in multiple languages.



Dutch Design

The Netherlands and its capital have long been a hub for creativity, born out of the risk-taking that comes with a city built below sea level. These favourite stores showcase just some of the city's creations.

VANMOOF

Map 4; Mauritskade 55, Oud-Oost;

///surround.padlock.flasks; www.vanmoof.com

Emblazoned with the sign “Time to Ride the Future”, VanMoof’s brand store is much more than just a bike shop – it’s a true inspiration. At this showroom, cyclists come to test its award-winning high-tech e-bikes, cooing over the sleek, minimalist design and industry-first features, and chatting with the in-house experts.

Shh!

Store Without a Home (www.storewithoutahome.nl) is a design shop that has finally found a home (after popping

up in various locations) in Haarlemmerdijk. It sells original, quirky home accessories by little-known designers.

MOOOI AMSTERDAM BRAND STORE

Map 2; Westerstraat 187, Jordaan;

///respect.voted.gosh; www.mooui.com

Moooi (the Dutch word for “beautiful”) more than lives up to the standards of owner Marcel Wanders, one of the Netherlands’ best-loved designers. Bold and edgy, this gigantic new-age design store in the Jordaan (a neighbourhood where many a home is decked out in kooky Moooi interiors) resembles an avant-garde art museum more than a home furnishings shop: think giant rocking horses, lamps that resemble trees and clocks assembled from origami birds. You’ll feel like Alice in Wonderland.

THE MAKER STORE

Map 2; Hannie Dankbaarpassage 39, Oud-West;

///breathed.device.follow; www.themakerstore.nl

The Maker Store is the kind of place where you come in looking for a birthday gift for your pal and end up leaving with several tote bags stuffed with things for yourself. And why are we always surprised? This place curates lovingly crafted items from more than 90 local brands: think chunky jewellery and bright hair accessories, graphic prints and funky mugs, beautifully scented candles and books made to be shown off on your coffee table. You name it, they’ve probably got it. Come prepared to spend, you’ve been warned.

» **Don’t leave without** asking about The Maker Market that takes place just outside the store once a month. It features new creators who are eager to tell the special stories behind their products.

UNITED NUDE

Map 1; Molsteeg 10, Spuistraat, Oude Centrum;

///triangle.salt.piglet; www.unitednude.com

If you were wondering where young Amsterdammers get their chunky trainers and cube-heeled sandals, this is the place. The creative mind behind the innovative footwear brand is the architecturally trained designer, Rem D Koolhaas. Every pair of shoes is a reinterpretation of an architectural object: like the “Möbius” shoe, inspired by the iconic Barcelona chair.

DROOG

Map 1; Staalstraat 7B, Plantagebuurt;

///elite.exposes.cardinal; www.droog.com

Droog means “dry” in Dutch, but this fun design store, which works with top designers like Marcel Wanders and Hella Jongerious, is anything but – think bright milk bottle lamps, hare-shaped door mats and the top half of a teapot for one. There’s also an equally quirky café and exhibition space, which has Dali-esque art installations and overlooks a fairy-tale landscaped garden. Dreamy stuff.

ATELIER MUNRO

Map 3; Beethovenstraat 19, Oud-Zuid;

///riders.spend.singles; www.ateliermunro.com

Not all suits are cut from the same cloth, and neither is their maker. That’s the ethos of Atelier Munro, a bespoke Amsterdam menswear company that prides itself on creating custom-made clothing.



Appointments to create your fit profile are free, and you'll learn what flatters your specific body type.

Modern sartorialists will find anything from suits to jeans, ties to shoes, at a range of price points. Choose at the store and order online from home.

I AMSTERDAM STORE

**Map 5; De Ruijterkade 28B, Centraal Station; [///fracture.fanfare.slot](http://fracture.fanfare.slot);
www.iamsterdam.com/nl/i-amsterdam-store**

You could easily walk past the I Amsterdam Store in bustling Centraal Station without any clue that some of the best Dutch designs can be found here. Much more than just a tourist info point, it's where locals shop for hand-picked, unique Amsterdam-made gifts and home accessories from Dutch designers. There's nothing touristy about these products, though they do cost a pretty penny.

LOCALS

**Map 1; Spuistraat 272, Oude Centrum;
[///animate.item.plenty](http://animate.item.plenty); www.localsamsterdam.com**

Clothing, accessories, home decor and more – this concept shop showcases sustainably minded Dutch designers of all stripes. Looking for some fashion-forward, colourfully casual clothing like you've seen worn on Amsterdam's streets? This is your spot. Artist, designer and owner Suzanne Hof is all too happy to help you put together that perfect Dutch-designed outfit once you walk through the door. Ask her about Sugarz, her line of colourful stone jewellery, sold here too.



Gourmet Treats

When it comes to seeking out gourmet gifts or ingredients for a special meal, these are just some of the shops that Amsterdammers frequent. You too can snap up treats to take home or enjoy on a canal-side picnic.

TONY'S STORE

Map 2; Pazzanistraat 1, Westerpark;

///barefoot.richer.hoofs; www.tonyschocolonely.com

If Willy Wonka were to go chocolate shopping in Amsterdam, he'd head to Tony's, where top-hatted staff invite you to sample all kinds of chocolate flavours amid topsy-turvy furniture – you can even create your own bar. The chocolates taste good, and the ethical Dutch brand does good, too: Tony's works directly with cocoa farmers in West Africa to fight child labour and modern slavery.

LITTLE PLANT PANTRY

Map 3; Bosboom Toussaintstraat 45H, Oud-West;

///breezes.grass.secrets; www.littleplantpantry.com

Plastic-free wholefoods stores were nowhere to be found in Amsterdam until Maria and Winter moved here from the Irish countryside to set up this place. The zero-waste, healthy approach

was a hit, thanks to plant-based delicacies that herbivores, eco-warriors and even meat-eaters rave about. Shelves burst with cheeses, homemade kimchi and organic quinoa, and the food service counter at the back promises comfort food like your granny makes; expect wholesome, nutritious soups, vegetable stews and pies perfect for a cold stay-in day.

DE BIERKONING

Map 1; Paleisstraat 125, Dam; ///twigs.tonsils.drifter; www.bierkoning.nl

Reverence is wholly encouraged at this emporium, lovingly referred to as the “Beer King of Amsterdam”. For beer lovers there’s few greater joys than crossing the threshold and gazing upon the glorious sight of 2,000 beers. It may be small, but every inch of space is utilized: beers from Amsterdam share space with varieties from all around the world, including fine craft beers you’ll be hard-pressed to find anywhere else. Cheers to that.

» **Don’t leave without asking one of the staff to help you put together your ideal selection of craft beers to impress your friends.**

Shh!

Look out for Dutch spirits store Slijterij De Vreng & Zonen (75 *Nieuwendijk*), hidden around the corner from De Bierkoning. With

an olde-worlde vibe, it surprises with unique wares, like absinthe and gin in bottles shaped like machine guns and motorbikes.

ALBERT HEIJN

Map 3; Van Baerlestraat 33a, Oud-Zuid;

///glitter.learns.tonsils.com; www.ah.nl

Want to take home some *stroomwafels* to share with your family and work pals? There's nowhere better to shop for them than at Amsterdam's most ubiquitous chain of supermarkets. Wait, what? It's true. Here you'll find a range of flavours (traditional caramel, sure, but what about honey, chocolate or mango-chilli?), and there's no tourist mark-up either. Oh, and while you're here, take a look at the other Dutch biscuits too. Your mates won't be disappointed.

DE REYPENAER

Map 1; Singel 182, Grachtengordel;

///warriors.concerts.united.com; www.reypenaer.nl

Any Amsterdammer would agree that De Reypenaer has the best cheese in town. Its secret? The unique way the cheeses are aged. For over a century, the family cheesemakers have matured each of their cheeses for between one and three years in a 1906 stone

Try it! MAKE GOUDA

Fancy learning how to make cheese? Simonehoeve (www.simonehoeve.com), a cheese farm and clog factory 15 km (9 miles) outside Amsterdam, offers Gouda-making workshops.



Book a free tasting in the showroom, and try six award-winning cheeses paired with wines.

warehouse with a unique microclimate on the Oude Rijn in Woerden. A great place to stock up on cheeseboard treats for your next dinner party.

HARAR COFFEE

Map 2; Tweede Hugo de Grootstraat 22, Jordaan;

///cheerful.awards.scout; www.hararcoffee.nl

Having grown up among the coffee plantations of Ethiopia, Harar Coffee owner Masho learned exactly what makes a great brew from a young age. And though she now lives in Amsterdam, Masho travels home regularly to source and bring back coffee that's not only organic and single origin but also fair trade (a concept coined in the Netherlands, don't you know). Follow the lead of coffee connoisseurs by paying her a visit and picking up some beans – the perfect accompaniment to the weekend newspaper.

CASA DEL GUSTO

Map 3; Kerkstraat 121, Grachtengordel;

///prone.certified.format; 330 8330

Italian Amsterdammers head to this deli to stock up on special ingredients from home: pastas (wheat, egg and gluten-free), risotto rice, fine cheeses, olive oils and lemonade, to name but a few. Owners Gessica and Gianni love sharing their expert knowledge of the produce, which they get directly from small suppliers and farms in Tuscany and Umbria.

» Don't leave without picking up a juicy ciabatta sandwich, filled with your choice of cheese and ham, spinach and peppers.



Vintage Stores

Amsterdammers love mixing the old with the new. Amped up on the thrill of the hunt to find something unique, they indulge their passion for fashion, history and sustainability at these fine vintage stores.

WE ARE VINTAGE

Map 2; Kinkerstraat 193, Kinkerbuurt;

///steadily.splash.forever; www.rumorsvintage.nl

Leather fringe vests, go-go boots and rainbow-coloured crochet ponchos give this store a laid-back 60s feel. It's where hipsters and fashionistas come to rummage the new stock every season. Their favourite part? Trying on the treasures they've found and sashaying down the makeshift runway in the roomy store.

ZIPPER

Map 2; Huidenstraat 7, Negen Straatjes, Grachtengordel;

///list.beats.language; www.zippervintageclothing.com

Run by an American couple and their son, Zipper is a time capsule of 20th-century USA. Quality Chicago Bulls jerseys, Cooper flight jackets and cosy knits fill the two narrow floors of one of Amsterdam's oldest vintage stores, and there's even a rack



Learn more about sustainable fashion at the Fashion for Good museum, a five-minute walk away.

dedicated to a true Dutch necessity: waterproof raincoats. Zipper also recycles clothing to create new garments under the house label Ultra Zipper.

BIS!

Map 1; Sint Antoniesbreestraat 25A, Nieuwmarkt;

///quiz.notebook.motivate; www.bis-vintage.nl

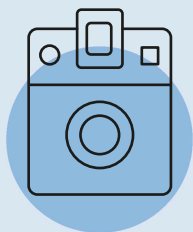
Grandma's attic meets grandad's military trunk at Bis!, which has earned true celeb status among locals. Cool kids rifle through the colossal collection of army and navy classics for the military look. Dressy gentlemen are drawn to the suits and dashing hats. Jazz Age-loving ladies scout for polka-dot frocks and scarves to complete their sassy look. Whatever time period or part of the world you're looking to travel to sartorially, you'll almost certainly find what you're looking for here.

KILO SHOP

Map 4; Jodenbreestraat 158, Plantagebuurt;

///backward.sporting.typist; www.kiloshop.nl

The concept at this vintage gem is simple: choose it, weigh it, pay for it. Here, clothes and accessories are organized by colour and weight into neat shelves and shipshape displays. After a bargain leather jacket for autumn? Want to jump on the 90s athleisure bandwagon? Looking for a bag for that special occasion? Tick, tick and double-tick: Kilo Shop has got you covered.



Liked by the locals

“The Dutch are often called cheapskates, but I’m proud of this. Vintage shops are my weakness – not just because of the money I’m saving, but because I can minimize contributing to environmental pollution.”

MYRTE JANSOPHAR, A BORN-AND-BRED
AMSTERDAMMER

OLD WEST

Map 2; De Clercqstraat 63, Oud-West;

///sugars.forms.broads; www.oldwestamsterdam.nl

Passionate about recycling quality clothes, two friends founded this second-hand children's store, now beloved by young parents and their little ones. Because second-hand doesn't mean second-best, there are plenty of pieces in mint condition from top brand names.

» **Don't leave without trading in some of your kids' used clothes in exchange for shop credit. You'll want to come back, trust us.**

EPISODE

Map 4; Waterlooplein 1, Nieuwmarkt;

///removed.drunk.desks; www.episode.eu

There's more to this shop than meets the eye. Episode carefully selects one-off pieces from sorting companies, repairs and then washes them in energy-saving machines powered by its very own solar panels. And despite being the biggest vintage chain in the Netherlands, it continues to stick to its principles of sustainability.

LAURA DOLS

Map 2; Wolvenstraat 7, Grachtengordel;

///impose.vocally.seagull; www.lauradols.nl

Style-conscious Amsterdammers head to Laura Dols for truly show-stopping outfits. Beaded 1920s gowns paired with long satin gloves, 30s tuxedos and top hats, and 50s cocktail dresses and matching handbags hark back to the Golden Age of Hollywood glamour.



Book Nooks

Ever since its key role in the European printing industry back in the 17th century, Amsterdam has been the bookshop of the world. Find your next read at one of these local favourites.

MENDO

Map 1; Nieuwe Doelenstraat 10, De Wallen;

///keep.keepers.award; www.mendo.nl

You'd be forgiven for mistaking this art bookshop (run by an independent publishing house) for a design and furniture store: brass lamps give a warm glow, soft rugs drape wood panelling and plush sofas seat a chic clientele. After picking up a few art and design books you might just be inspired to recreate the store's look in your own home.

Try it!

PEN YOUR OWN BOOK

Always thought about writing your own novel? Amsterdam Writing Workshops (www.amsterdamwriting.com) offers creative writing classes for aspiring and established authors in the English language.

ATHENAEUM BOEKHANDEL

Map 1; Spui 14–16; [///fence.vehicle.started;](#)

[www.athenaeum.nl](#)

You'll spot this gem of a shop by its retro red-and-white awnings. Inside, curvy stairways lead to different mezzanines and hidden reading corners where dishevelled literati browse the best in languages, philosophy and science publications; it's easy to lose sight of your friends between the never-ending rows of literary classics and academic tomes. Not that it's all scholarly volumes, mind – Athenaeum also has the best range of lifestyle, indie and any other type of magazines in the city. You'll feel smarter just wandering the warrens of this encyclopedic bookshop.

AMERICAN BOOK CENTER

Map 1; Spui 12; [///trainer.deflect.remarked;](#) [www.abc.nl](#)

Smack in the middle of Spui, this mammoth bookshop may resemble a chain store, but it's anything but. The independent, family-owned bookshop has held a special place in locals' hearts since 1972, a sanctuary for like-minded readers who find comfort in the sheer volume of tomes. Don't know where to start? Browse the store's centrepiece: a lofty spiral staircase, where recommended books marked "ABC favourites" line the wall from floor to ceiling. And if all that reading has got you inspired, head to Betty the Book Machine on the second floor to self-publish the book you've been penning at an affordable price.

» **Don't leave without signing up for one of the regular book launches or author talks popular with the local book-loving community.**

THE BOOK EXCHANGE

Map 1; Kloveniersburgwal 58, De Wallen;

///coaching.inclined.pitching; www.bookexchange.nl

Rickety wooden flooring, wonky shelves and low ceilings make this old-school bookshop the perfect, snug hideaway from the mayhem of De Wallen. Second-hand English books of all genres densely line the walls, so whether you're after popular pulp crime fiction, a classic novel, poetry or a scholarly tome, there's bound to be something here for you. The cheery staff are more than happy to help you find what you're looking for.

HENK COMICS & MANGA STORE

Map 1; Zeedijk 101C, De Wallen; ///torches.evolving.visits; www.comics.nl

Behind a narrow storefront, Henk is every comic book fan's utopia. Endless shelves are crammed with new and second-hand graphic novels, comics and manga, and cabinets burst with figurines. It also hosts events; the Batman and Halloween parties are favourites.

Shh!

Oudemanhuispoort is a covered passage, lined with gorgeous historical buildings that are part of Amsterdam University. It hosts a daily

second-hand book market where booksellers offer a myriad of classics, contemporary reads, old prints and vintage posters.

HAPPY BOOKIEMAN

Map 1; Herengracht 267A, Grachtengordel;

///senior.deflate.usages; 447 21114

Welcome to the cosy front room of Steve's old canal-side house (yes, this is literally his home), where anyone is invited to browse the books freely. It's dark and disorganized, with random second-hand books of all genres flying off the shelves and piles of hardbacks lying on the floor among the bric-a-brac, but that's all part of its quirky charm (as are the rock-bottom prices). In balmy summer months, feel free to bring a beer, pick a book and sit at the small table out front, where Steve might just join you.

SHELTEMA

Map 1; Rokin 9, De Wallen;

///spin.crawler.bothered; www.scheltema.nl

Sprawling across five levels and stocked with more than 120,000 books, Scheltema is the country's largest (and arguably most iconic) bookstore. A much-loved Amsterdam institution, it's been standing on the Rokin since 1853. Families with little ones flock to the whimsical kids' section; literature lovers browse the endless shelves of novels (in multiple languages); students veer towards the secret collection of second-hand books tucked away on the top floor. There's also a huge selection of vintage globes, maps and travel books, a dream-come-true for those with wanderlust. And for those wanting a coffee break, there's Vascobelo on the first floor, the only café in an Amsterdam bookstore. You could easily while away a whole afternoon here.



A morning of vintage shopping

On the hunt for unique treasures from yesteryear? Join gaggles of magpie-eyed Amsterdammers and make for the Spiegelkwartier (literally the “mirror quarter”), the heart of the city’s art and antiques trade for more than 80 years. This pretty patch is lined with 17th-century narrow town houses that form the perfect setting for the 70 specialized shops selling pre-loved vinyl, clothing, pottery and curiosities.

1. Droomfabriek de Groot & de Jong

Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 9B,
Spiegelkwartier;
www.droomfabriekantiek.nl
[///drop.enable.journals](http://drop.enable.journals)

2. Episode

Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 37H,
Spiegelkwartier;
www.episode.eu
[///conveys.turkeys.hosts](http://conveys.turkeys.hosts)

3. Kramer Kunst & Antiek

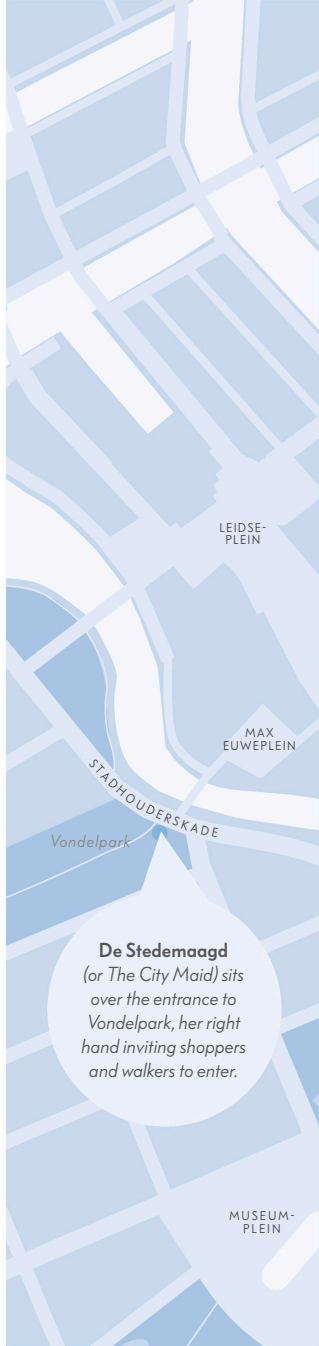
Prinsengracht 807,
Spiegelkwartier;
www.antique-tileshop.nl
[///money.beefed.ticket](http://money.beefed.ticket)

4. Record Palace Weteringschans

Weteringschans 33A,
Spiegelkwartier;
www.recordstoreday.nl
[///minus.finishes.robots](http://minus.finishes.robots)

 **Museum Van Loon** [///already.hands.blanked](http://already.hands.blanked)

 **De Stedemaagd** [///composer.part.petal](http://composer.part.petal)



De Stedemaagd
(or *The City Maid*) sits over the entrance to Vondelpark, her right hand inviting shoppers and walkers to enter.

**Pop into
DROOMFABRIEK DE
GROOT & DE JONG**

It's all about vintage costume jewellery at this airy emporium – perfect for finding a gift for someone special (or yourself).

The Museum Van Loon is chock-full of antiques. Named after a family who lived here in the 1800s, the house actually dates back to 1672.

**Rummage the rails at
EPISODE**

Sift through the colossal selection of vintage clothes in this Dutch sustainable fashion chainstore.

**Dig through the crates at
RECORD PALACE
WETERINGSCHANS**

This gem of a vinyl store is one of the city's longest-running. Take your time and skim the selection.

**Peruse the antiques at
KRAMER KUNST &
ANTIETK**

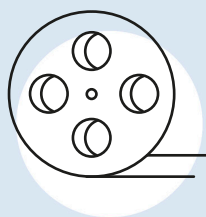
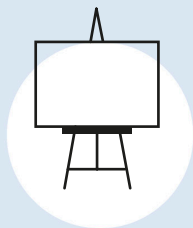
Admire the biggest collection of Dutch tiles, timeless crystal and Asian porcelain at this family-run antiques shop.

**SPIEGEL-
KWARTIER**

0 metres 200
0 yards 200

ARTS & CULTURE

*Amsterdam is a cultural giant.
Museums tell the vital stories of
the past, while small galleries and
street murals comment on the
present and future.*





City History

The Netherlands and its capital have been shaped by trade and immigration, made possible by the city's waterways. Learn all about it – and so much more – at these museums and on insightful tours.

AMSTERDAM MUSEUM

Map 1; Kalverstraat 92, Oud-Zuid;

///cope.vital.playing; www.amsterdammuseum.nl

Everyone knows Amsterdam as the home of Rembrandt and the Red Light District, but that's not all that marks its history. Enter the city's museum, which takes an unparalleled look at Amsterdam's past. Explore the city's relationship with the rest of the world and discover how it's kept its culture of creativity and free-thinking alive through the centuries.

TROPENMUSEUM

Map 4; Linnaeusstraat 2C, Oud-Oost;

///gates.blazing.nails; www.tropenmuseum.nl

Amsterdam is a city of world cultures, and this oft-overlooked spot is dedicated to the connections between people across the globe. Housed in the former Dutch Colonial Institute, the Museum of the

Tropics not only shows the huge diversity of the Netherlands, but also tackles the country's colonial history. Exhibitions sensitively depict stories of the past, present and future, whether it's a video on the legacies of slavery or an artwork reflecting on the crisis in Syria.

JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Map 4; Nieuwe Amstelstraat 1, Plantagebuurt;

///straws.ships.parties; www.jck.nl

Ever since Jewish merchants began to settle in Amsterdam from the late 16th century, the city has been home to one of Europe's liveliest Jewish populations. And this museum is a space for that community to learn about their Dutch Jewish identity. Though the permanent collection of artifacts is great, it's the temporary exhibitions and film screenings that really draw inquisitive minds. Oh, and the Hebrew and music lessons that keep the kids entertained.

» Don't leave without also planning a visit to the famous Anne Frankhuis for the story of Nazi persecution of Dutch Jews in World War II.

GRACHTENMUSEUM

Map 2; Herengracht 386, Grachtengordel;

///giggles.status.lure; www.grachten.museum

Amsterdam's 165 canals aren't all about scenic views – they have a history, too, and the Museum of the Canals shares it. Holograms, videos and models show how the Grachtengordel (canal belt) was built to accommodate the increasing number of immigrants in the 17th century, and explain the role of waterways in the city's history.

RED LIGHT SECRETS: MUSEUM OF PROSTITUTION

Map 1; Oudezijds Achterburgwal 60, Ouderkerksplein, De Wallen; [///rigid.tiling.lion](http://rigid.tiling.lion); www.redlightsecrets.com

The Red Light District, bathed in a red neon glow, is one of the defining images of Amsterdam. De Wallen, as it's known to the locals, is a controversial part of the city, and that's exactly why a mind-opening visit to the world's only prostitution museum is a must. At this former brothel, the history of the industry and the dangers that sex workers face daily are explored in a respectful and empathetic way. One minute, you're sitting on a high stool behind a screen that projects passersby; the next, you're learning about the measures taken to prevent sex trafficking and listening to clips that narrate personal stories and secrets. Expect to leave with new perspectives.

» **Don't leave without booking yourself onto a tour run by the Prostitution Information Centre. Former sex workers lead walk-and-talk sessions about the social conditions of sex workers.**

LGBTQ+ HISTORY TOUR

Map 2; Special Amsterdam Tours, Homomonument, Westermarkt, Grachtengordel; [///shunts.shady.crawled](http://shunts.shady.crawled); www.specialamsterdamtours.nl

This is a city that delights in difference, so it's no surprise that it was the gay capital of the world in the 1980s and 90s. You'll be hard-pressed to find someone who knows Amsterdam's LGBTQ+ landscape like lively historian Henk, who uncovers the city's long history of queer activism and culture on this walking tour. From the Homomonument – the world's first monument commemorating



Head to the OBA Library in Oosterdok, where you'll find the biggest LGBTQ+ archive in Europe.

those who've been persecuted for their sexual orientation – Henk leads you to LGBTQ+ landmarks, ending at Café de 't Mandje, one of the city's oldest gay bars.

VERZETSMUSEUM

Map 4; Plantage Kerklaan 61, Plantagebuurt;

///brighter.cube.pursuit; www.verzetsmuseum.org

Amsterdammers are a courageous bunch, and nowhere exemplifies this quite like the Dutch Resistance Museum. Reconstructed streets, photographs and personal items uncover what life was like during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam in World War II, and how the underground Dutch resistance movement fought back. Powerful stuff.

BLACK HERITAGE AND COLONIAL HISTORY TOUR

Map 1; Damstraat 3, Dam;

///settle.formal.teachers; www.blackheritagetours.com

Any local who has taken this thought-provoking boat tour never views the city's historical sights in the same way again – and that's the whole point. Through heartfelt stories about the African diaspora, Surinamese-American author Jennifer Tosch sheds light on the little-known and often unspoken history of people of colour in Amsterdam, as well as the uncomfortable truths that lie behind the gabled mansions and old museums built during the 17th-century glory days. It's a hidden history that deserves the limelight.



Art & Photography

Vermeer, Frans Hals, Van Gogh. Yes you'll find them all here, but this is a city that looks forward as much as it does back. Discover the next Rembrandt in one of the many thought-provoking art museums.

NXT MUSEUM

Map 5; Asterweg 22, Overhoeks, Noord;

///belonging.include.bangle; www.nxtmuseum.com

Okay, Amsterdam may not be the next Silicon Valley, but it's quite the tech-loving city. Warmly welcomed on its opening in 2020, this new media gallery encourages pioneering artists to open local minds through a mash-up of art and technology. Expect immersive exhibits that tackle all the important topics, like whether AI is threatening civil rights or if surveillance is going too far.

FOAM PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM

Map 3; Keizersgracht 609, Grachtengordel;

///puts.kitten.pushed; www.foam.org

Amsterdammers are pretty into their photography – unsurprising given how photogenic the city is. This spot keeps that passion alive, showcasing new talents who tackle bold subject matters like drug



In town in spring? Don't miss the World Press Photo show that starts in Amsterdam before touring the world.

addiction or refugee stories. Those who dream of seeing their own work on the walls here one day can be found at weekend workshops and evening talks.

RIJKSMUSEUM

Map 3; Museumstraat 1, Museumplein, Oud-Zuid;

///beefed.udder.podcast; www.rijksmuseum.nl

You know a museum means business when the locals refer to it as the “Museum of the Kingdom”. You’d be forgiven for letting the 8,000-strong collection and unbearably long queues overwhelm you, but persevere: beyond the crowds gathering around the Golden Age paintings and Asian pavilion are special exhibitions, weekend workshops, and even cocktail and jazz nights on a Friday.

HET REMBRANDTHUIS

Map 4; Jodenbreestraat 6, Plantagebuurt;

///ample.openings.kick; www.rembrandthuis.nl

Fair warning: you’re not going to find Rembrandt’s biggest masterpieces here; head to the Rijksmuseum for that. You’re in for something even better: a tour of Rembrandt’s life in the house where Amsterdam’s most beloved artist spent his best years. Discover how his financial scandals ruined him, see his studio and gawp at his etchings.

» **Don’t leave without** watching a demonstration of how Rembrandt and his apprentices used to mix their paints.

Solo, Pair, Crowd

**In a city this passionate about art,
you're never far from a masterpiece
to contemplate or debate.**

FLYING SOLO

Get lost in history

Stadsarchief, the Amsterdam city archives, has exhibitions packed with paintings and photos. Come alone and let yourself really dig in. What's more, entry is free.

IN A PAIR

Ponder the contemporary

Impress your other half by taking them to see the avant-garde art by emerging artists at Galerie Fons Welters in the Jordaan. Then head to one of the neighbourhood's arty cafés to dissect.

FOR A CROWD

Late-night musings

Want a Friday night out with a difference? Grab your friends and make for the Van Gogh Museum. The art and storytelling are always crowd pleasers, but during Friday lates you can enjoy live music and pop-up bars too.

MOCO MUSEUM

Map 3; Honthorststraat 20, Museumplein, Oud-Zuid;

///gave.breezy.snap; www.mocomuseum.com

Works by Banksy may get people through the doors here, but it's the cutting-edge exhibitions that makes them stay. Everything on display has a questioning take on society, whether it's an immersive look into the future of technology or a set of portraits that confront privilege.

STREET ART MUSEUM

Map 6; Immanuel Kanthof 1, Sloterveer, Nieuw-West;

///soft.blanked.shift; www.streetartmuseumamsterdam.com

Trust Amsterdam to turn the streets themselves into a museum. On this walking tour of the Nieuw-West neighbourhood, knowledgeable guides reveal the stories of immigration and environmental justice behind huge murals and tiny sculptures. It's mighty eye-opening.

COBRA MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Map 6; Sandbergplein 1, Amstelveen;

///lighter.goods.evoked; www.cobra-museum.nl

Back in 1948, Amsterdam put the A in COBRA – a revolutionary art movement where artists from this city, Copenhagen and Brussels overturned tradition, painting abstract works inspired by children's drawings. COBRA may have ended in 1951, but this museum keeps that alternative spirit alive and inspires the city's avant-garde artists.

» Don't leave without visiting the café for a cup of tea – well, you'll need somewhere to reflect on the bold paintings you've just seen.



Performing Arts

Theatre, cabaret, opera, ballet, music – you name it, Amsterdam’s theatres are always putting on a show. Many performances are in English or with surtitles so don’t worry if your Dutch isn’t quite up to scratch.

MUZIEKTHEATER

Map 4; Amstel 3, Plantagebuurt;

///mincing.wings.devotion; www.operaballet.nl

Half city hall and half home to the National Opera and Ballet, this 80s-built circular edifice was nicknamed “Stopera” – a protest slogan “Stop the Opera” against the demolition of other buildings to make way for it. The name has stuck, though it’s since found a warm place in locals’ hearts. Contemporary Dutch opera, boundary-pushing modern ballet, old classics – you’ll find them all here.

ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW

Map 3; Concertgebouwplein 10, Museumplein, Oud-Zuid;

///ranged.snails.pads; www.concertgebouw.nl

Classical music lovers know there’s no beating the Royal Concertgebouw, widely admired for having some of the best acoustics in the world. It’s the home of the Dutch Royal Orchestra, but there’s the

occasional rock, jazz or pop act here too. Friends treating themselves to a special night out book seats to enjoy the music of illustrious composers and performers like Mahler, Strauss and Cecilia Bartoli in the majestic hall. Our tip: look out for the free 30-minute lunchtime concerts, usually on Wednesdays (arrive early to get your ticket).

ROYAL THEATRE CARRÉ

Map 4; Amstel 115–125, Plantagebuurt;

///inhal.es.clearly.fluid; www.carre.nl

This opulent 19th-century monument is the crown jewel of Amsterdam's theatre scene. Depending on the night, the stage could be hosting live music or theatre, a comedy show or poetry recital. It's one of the best spots to catch musical theatre productions and something even dearer to local hearts: Dutch cabaret, witty songs and stories about the state of the world.

» **Don't leave without admiring the elaborate 17th-century Amstel Locks over a drink on the theatre's riverside terrace café.**

Shh!

Those living in Nieuw-West rave about De Meervaart (www.meervaart.nl), a modern theatre hidden away on the western edge of the city. Why? It hosts a mix of progressive

productions and also runs workshops for kids and young people who live in Amsterdam. Original drama, music, cabaret, comedy, dance – it's likely got whatever you're into.

FRASCATI

Map 1; Nes 63, De Wallen;

///prep.improve.track; www.frascatiheater.nl

It's all about experimental theatre and dance at Frascati. Staging local and international companies, productions tend to be low on budget but high on inventiveness, which means you can see something unlike anything you've seen before without shelling out. Like, what if Macbeth ruled modern-day Brazil? That's the question at the centre of *The Walking Forest*. Or, who are we as human beings in a post-pandemic world? You'll find out in *Antibodies*.

DE BRAKKE GROND

Map 1; Nes 45, De Wallen; ///solution.issued.thigh; www.brakkegrond.nl

At the bottom of Nes (Amsterdam's theatre street) is this Flemish cultural centre. With cosy in-the-round seating, this is where Amsterdammers come for shows of cutting-edge theatre, dance and music (often mixed together) staged by their Belgian neighbours, rounded off by a cosy meal at the on-site restaurant.

INTERNATIONAAL THEATER AMSTERDAM

Map 3; Leidseplein 26, Leidseplein;

///fairly.landed.ejects; www.ita.nl

If this Leidseplein monument looks important, that's because it is. It's the spot for "serious" theatre. Past performances include the likes of *The Things That Pass*, about life in the old Dutch East Indies, and



If you're after surtitles, sit in row 9 or higher so you can easily see them and the stage at the same time.

Judas. Locals pour over these thought-provoking performances for hours on end, discussing all kinds of possible interpretations in the theatre's café.

QUEEN'S ENGLISH THEATRE COMPANY

Map 3; Cullinanplein 1, De Pijp;

///jumbled.remodels.throats; www.qetc.nl

Tired of surtitles? This English-language theatre company in the CC Amstel Theatre is here to the rescue (English is the city's second language, after all). Anyone up for some Oscar Wilde, Alan Bennett or an adaptation of an early Hitchcock thriller? These are just some of the kinds of productions on show here.

PODIUM MOZAÏEK

Map 2; Bos en Lommerweg 191, Bos en Lommer;

///javelin.soccer.scouts; www.podiummozaiek.nl

Every day there's something different at this giant mosque-like theatre. Celebrating Amsterdam's diversity and multiculturalism, Podium Mozaïek is a community space where you'll see performers who represent the city's many cultures. You might come across anything from traditional Syrian dance to Moroccan storytelling collectives to Caribbean music. And there's art exhibitions and drama workshops, too.

» **Don't leave without** trying the typical Turkish spread of meze at the theatre's café.



On Screen

Amsterdam's cinephiles are lucky to have some of Europe's quirkiest and most atmospheric film houses in their city. Whether it's arthouse or mainstream films you're after, there's a movie sanctuary for you.

FILMTHEATER KRITERION

Map 4; Roeterstraat 170, Plantagebuurt;

///restriction.jazz.defeated; www.kriterion.nl

Kriterion puts the shabby in shabby chic, but this cinema is part of the soul of Amsterdam. It's famous for its regular film festivals but you'll find all the current top indie films and even a blockbuster or two here the rest of the time. Tickets are cheap, drawing a loyal student crowd who come to indulge their love of film at a bargain price.

Try it!

LEARN FILMMAKING

Every spring, Kriterion and the EYE host the Imagine Film Festival. It's not just a chance to see top sci-fi, fantasy and horror films before their release – you can also take masterclasses from renowned filmmakers.

EYE FILM MUSEUM

Map 5; IJpromenade 1, Overhoeks;

///couch.teacher.weaned; www.eyefilm.nl

Squatting white frog, alien outcropping, giant futuristic sculpture – this cinematic institution has lovingly been called loads of names by Amsterdammers. And it's not just a museum – the EYE has four screens mainly showing Dutch new releases and international cult and classic movies from its massive archive. What with the installations, special exhibitions and workshops too, this place is always a huge hit with movie buffs, whatever they call it.

» **Don't leave without hanging around the bar to take in the gob-smacking views of the IJ River (pronounced like "eye", get it?) from the wraparound terrace.**

LAB111

Map 3; Arie Biemondstraat 111, Oud-West;

///fizzle.chuckle.flying; www.lab111.nl

A favourite of those in the west of the city, this single-screen theatre shows hand-picked indie films, cult movies and old classics. And anyone who works in the film industry has been to a premiere or two here. Most locals don't consider their movie night complete without dinner at the LAB111's laid-back Bar Strangelove – the price can't be beaten hereabouts and you can bundle it with your screening. If you're wondering why there are medical operating theatre-style lights in the bar, that's because this big brick building used to be an anatomical pathology laboratory. And that's not the only quirky feature – look up at the roof and you'll see beehives.

FC HYENA

Map 5; Aambeeldstraat 24, Nieuwendammerham;

///cigar.wiring.typhoon; www.fchyena.nl

Indie cinema meets wine bar meets café with killer water views at FC Hyena. The popular hangout has two screens that show a curated mix of documentaries, kids' movies and recent Oscar nominees (or likely future ones). But if you're here to chill out on the brightly coloured sofas and enjoy a natural wine or cider in the minimalist café, that's definitely cool too.

THE MOVIES

Map 2; Haarlemmerdijk 159–163, Haarlemmerbuurt;

///solving.ladder.pets; www.themovies.nl

Most beloved cinema in Amsterdam? Many would say that's The Movies. This cosy picture-house is certainly the oldest still in use, dating back to 1912. Friends head here in the evenings to watch indie flicks and old and new alternative films in the psychedelic Art Deco screening rooms. Join the locals and round off your movie night with comfort global classics in the restaurant.

PATHÉ ARENA

Map 6; Johan Cruijff Boulevard 600, ArenAPoort, Zuidoost;

///pillows.obeyed.downward; www.pathe.nl/bioscoop/arena

This is the biggest, loudest cinema in the city. For those weekends when Dolby Surround Sound isn't enough, families head to this Pathé Arena mega-venue, which offers plenty of that and more,



Have a pre-movie drink at Brouwerij Kleiburg abbey, whose monks keep to the beer-making ways of yore.

plus a serving of IMAX. Everything's bigger here: the glass staircases to the screening rooms, the cathedral-high silver screens and the booming sound speakers.

HET KETELHUIS

Map 2; Pazzanistraat 4, Westerpark;

///fizzle.chuckle.flying; www.ketelhuis.nl

Fancy seeing a truly local film? For the best selection, head to Het Ketelhuis, home of Dutch cinema. This movie theatre shows niche features, short films and documentaries, as well as some European films (they have English subtitles on Wednesdays).

PATHÉ TUSCHINSKI

Map 3; Reguliersbreestraat 26–34, Grachtengordel;

///sitting.edge.silly; www.pathe.nl/bioscoop/tuschinski

Jewish Polish immigrant Abraham Tuschinski built this opulent Art Deco movie palace in the early 1920s. An Amsterdam institution that tops countless “most beautiful” cinema lists, it hosts big premieres and all manner of blockbuster and arthouse offerings. The screen you should go for? The Grote Zaal (Great Hall) is the largest stage and stays true to its original elaborate glory, with plush armchairs and two-seater couches. Every film lover in the city has made a pilgrimage to this glorious shrine to the movies.

» Don't leave without getting the inside scoop on the histories and hidden corners of this landmark building during a Saturday tour.



Offbeat Collections

In the spirit of its creative, free-thinking nature, Amsterdam has many quirky cultural haunts, from fun micro museums to larger, often-overlooked collections.

MUSEUM VROLIK

Map 6; Meibergdreef 15, Amstel III, Zuidoost;

[//export.beans.cricket](http://export.beans.cricket); www.amc.nl/web/museum-vrolik.htm

This place is more of a cabinet of curiosities than a museum. The University of Amsterdam's anatomical and embryological collection of medical anomalies is full of old skeletons and jars of congenital malformations like cyclopean babies, Siamese twins and sirenomelia (Mermaid syndrome). It's certainly not for everyone.

THE HASH, MARIJUANA AND HEMP MUSEUM

Map 1; Oudezijds Achterburgwal 148, De Wallen;

[//crop.surreal.heavy](http://crop.surreal.heavy); www.hashmuseum.com

In a city that's world-renowned for its coffeeshops and cannabis, it's little wonder there are two museums dedicated to marijuana. This older one may be partially eclipsed by its nearby competitor, but the



Ask the staff all your cannabis questions and where to find the best coffeeshops (cannabis cafés).

exhibits really cover it all: culture, medicine, recreation. It's the perfect place to swot up if you're thinking of trying marijuana for the first time (p10).

ELECTRIC LADYLAND

Map 2; Tweede Leliedwarsstraat 5, Jordaan;

///braced.howler.tracking; www.electric-lady-land.com

Anyone who's ever been to Electric Ladyland – the world's first museum of fluorescent art – can promise you that you will never have so much fun staring at rocks. These are not just any rocks, mind, but glowing, naturally fluorescent ones. If you can prise yourself away, enter the room of interactive black-light art next but, be warned, it will leave you feeling seriously off-kilter.

KATTENKABINET

Map 3; Herengracht 497, Grachtengordel;

///enjoy.hairpin.nipping; www.kattenkabinet.nl

Noticed how Amsterdammers never stop talking about cats? Their obsession is celebrated by this museum, packed with cat-related art in every form, including prints from headliners like Rembrandt and Picasso. Founder Bob Meijer set up Kattenkabinet in memory of his beloved ginger tom cat John Pierpont Morgan, who died in 1983 at the age of 17. The upper-class restraint of the 17th-century canal house contrasted with the unabashed feline fanaticism makes the whole thing a surreal trip down the rabbit hole – er, through the cat flap.

EMBASSY OF THE FREE MIND

Map 2; Keizersgracht 123, Grachtengordel;

///liquids.splash.promise; www.embassyofthefreemind.com

There are two kinds of people who are really into this library and exhibition space. The first are simply lovers of beautiful old books and prints. The others are fans of *Charmed* and other supernatural TV shows, who get to live out their fantasy, leafing through archaic books of astrology and alchemy that look like they might contain magic. Whichever camp you sit in, you're bound to be put in a trance by this shrine to all things mystical.

MUSEUM HET SCHIP

Map 2; Oostzaanstraat 45, Spaarndammerbuurt;

///learning.released.massive; www.hetschip.nl

When someone says this 1919 housing complex is Amsterdam School, they're referring to its uncannily curved style of brick architecture. At Het Schip you'll discover the social, political and

Shh!

Amsterdam sometimes displays its treasures in unexpected spots. Sneak a peek at a mini-archaeology collection in a cabinet across from the bar at Inntel Hotels Amsterdam

Centre (www.inntelhotelsamsterdamzaandam.nl). These finds have led archaeologists to believe that a castle might have stood on this site in the middle of the city in the 12th century.

artistic goals of this 20th-century art and architecture movement that aimed to give the working classes a better life by providing them with beautiful, quality homes. Getting up close and personal with the design details is just as fascinating as walking around the frozen-in-time post office and fully furnished apartments.

ALLARD PIERSON MUSEUM

Map 1; Oude Turfmarkt 127–129, De Wallen;

///lend.parting.developer; www.allardpierson.nl

Few local museum lovers make it to this cavernous museum of statuary, mummies and pottery before they've exhausted at least half the sites covered by their Museum Card membership. But that's no bad thing as there's almost never a crowd, which means the lucky few have this museum of curiosities all to themselves.

MUSEUM VAN DE GEEST

Map 4; Hermitage, Amstel 51, Plantagebuurt;

///linen.level.pebble; www.museumvandegeest.nl

Want to see art that's raw and provocative? The Museum of the Mind (located in the Hermitage Amsterdam) is all about Outsider Art: the self-expression of neurodivergent people, prison inmates and anyone outside conventional thought and society. Whatever you find here is sure to challenge you.

» Don't leave without browsing through the rest of the Hermitage Amsterdam, which has changing exhibitions of wonderful art pulled from the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.



Sip a beer at IJ-KANTINE

Thirsty? Relax with a drink and waterside view on the sprawling terrace of this industrial-building-turned-restaurant. Back when huge cargo and warships were built at NDSM, workers came to this former “canteen” to have their lunch.

2

Docked on the NDSM pier, **Het Veronica** was once the site of a pirate radio station. Today it hosts performances and art installations.

See some street art at STRAAT MUSEUM

Marvel at the 150 pieces of massive street art on display at the STRAAT Museum. Based in a former warehouse, today it’s both a national monument and the biggest outdoor canvas for graffiti in Amsterdam.

1

NDSM

Finish up at NDSM FUSE

End the afternoon by perusing the contemporary artworks on display year-round at the NDSM Shipyard. The exhibition changes every three months to reflect a different theme.

4

3

Get creative at PLEK

Join an art workshop at this restaurant and cultural complex made out of old ship containers. Plek also hosts art exhibitions, events and festivals.

Het IJ

0 metres 100
0 yards 100



An arty afternoon in NDSM-Werf

Sat on the edge of the IJ, Nederlandsche Dok en Scheepsbouw Maatschappij (NDSM to its friends) was a busy shipyard for more than a century. Industry ceased in the 1980s and the space was left derelict – but not for long. Squatters and artists claimed warehouses once busy with shipbuilding and repairs, transforming the space into an edgy arts community. Today, NDSM remains a hub of creative activity; take an amble around to find the best of its artsy scene.

Europe's biggest flea market, **IJ-Hallen**, takes place here once a month, with pre-loved clothes and antiques up for grabs.

1. STRAAT Museum

1 NDSM-Plein, NDSM-Werf;
www.straatumuseum.com
///crest.ruby.bless

3. Pilek

TT Neveritaweg 59,
NDSM-Werf; www.pilek.nl
///launched;jeep.massing

2. IJ-Kantine

NDSM-Kade 5, NDSM-
Werf; www.ijkantine.nl
///unroll.empty.affair

4. NDSM Fuse

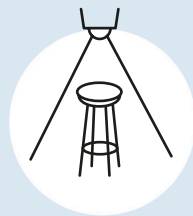
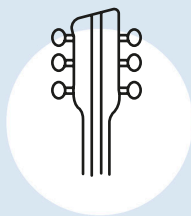
NDSM-Plein 29, NDSM-
Werf; www.ndsm-fuse.eu
///ledge.revisit.nurses

 **Het Veronica** ///takes.revives.emphasis

 **IJ-Hallen** ///jaunts.brush.pitchers

NIGHTLIFE

*Whatever day of the week,
Amsterdam turns the volume up
after dark: musicians take to stages,
friends compete at games cafés and
revellers dance until dawn.*





Cool Clubs

Looking for a proper night out? Amsterdam's got you. This is a city that's known 24-hour electronic dance parties since the 80s. Expect electric venues, top-tier DJs and a very late night (or early morning).

RADION

Map 6; Louwesweg 1, Nieuw-West;

///bonnet.toasted.spinning; www.radion.amsterdam

Housed in an industrial warehouse in an unassuming part of Nieuw-West, RADION is the ultimate rave spot. On a crowded dance floor, sweaty bodies move to pulsating techno beats, everyone making it their mission to party non-stop, which is easy enough given that this club has a 24-hour licence.

SHELTER

Map 5; Overhoeksplein 3, Overhoeks;

///among.milk.workouts; www.shelteramsterdam.nl

It doesn't get more underground than this club – literally, the inconspicuous entrance is through a hatch. Housed in the basement of the Adam Tower, Shelter more than lives up to its name as a refuge for those hoping to let loose. With a booming sound system



Been turned away at the door? Check out Vondelbunker in Vondelpark for another top night underground.

and a no-frills interior (think grey concrete walls and dark lighting), the focus is solely on finding transcendence through house and techno music.

RADIO RADIO

Map 2; Pazzanistraat 3, Westerpark;

///tuned.mixers.narrate; www.radioradio.radio

Who doesn't love a spontaneous night out? Radio Radio makes the perfect place for a last-minute dance club dash, thanks to not having an entrance fee or a dress code (hello trainers). Add great DJs and awesome music and we guarantee you and your squad will be dancing well until the early hours.

» **Don't leave without trying the oven-baked pizza at PizzaPizza, housed inside RadioRadio. Perfect sustenance to keep you going.**

PANAMA

Map 4; Oosterlijke Handelskade 4, Oosterlijk Havengebied;

///engine.dawn.rooting; www.panama.nl

If international superstar DJs are your thing, head to Panama in the Eastern Docklands. Filling a vast electricity power station by the IJ River, it's one of Amsterdam's longest-running clubs. You'll find yourself dancing alongside a thousand other ravers to an eclectic programme of house, techno, hip-hop or jungle on any given night. Check out what's on to find the beat you connect with best and then let the music be your guide.

OT301

Map 3; Overtoom 301, Vondelbuurt; [///reds.train.coached](http://reds.train.coached); www.ot301.nl

Back in the 90s, this building was a squat where young creatives would come to, well, create. Now a legit non-profit, OT301 hasn't lost its free-spirited, artistic edge. Carefree locals gravitate towards this multi-purpose venue, taking a life drawing workshop in the day before dancing with abandon to dubstep and drum 'n' bass in the evening. It's not your usual club, but it works.

CLUB NYX

Map 3; Reguliersdwarstraat, Grachtengordel;

[///rely.learning.manager](http://rely.learning.manager); www.clubnyx.nl

Every Amsterdammer's experienced an evening of revelry at this LGBTQ+ hotspot; NYX was the Greek goddess of the night and the daughter of Chaos, so it all seems to track. The fun-loving crowds of regulars party all night long to Dutch hip-hop and pop anthems, making newfound friends on several dance floors as they go. There's even a DJ spinning tunes in the colourful bathroom, so the party never has to stop.

CANVAS

Map 4; Wibautstraat 150, Weesperzijde;

[///tinned.gamer.thanks](http://tinned.gamer.thanks); www.volkshotel.nl/en/canvas

On the top floor of Volkshotel, this trendy venue starts the night as a chilled-out restaurant, but as the weekend hour gets late, the tables are cleared away and the space morphs into an

alternative club. It's the domain of fashionable young professionals, who wash down *bitterballen* bites with G&Ts before moving to the dance floor, drinks in hand. If you need a break from dancing to hip-hop and underground house sets, come up for air on the roof terrace and take in the panoramic views.

» **Don't leave without asking about the regular Badplaats**

Sessions, where you can take a dip in a hot tub, listen to live music and sip a cocktail on the rooftop. Pure bliss.

DE MARKTKANTINE

Map 2; Jan van Galenstraat 6, Oud-West;

///darting.feelers.issuer.com; www.marktkantine.nl

Originally a canteen for market traders, then a theatre and art space, De Marktkantine's transformation into a huge club has been epic for the city's party scene. But it's not forgotten about its market roots (hence the name). At Friday's Cantina night, insanely good snacks sold through a hatch keep thousands of ravers bopping to deep house, techno and funk tunes.

Try it! SPIN DECKS

Feeling inspired by Amsterdam's talented DJs? Book a beginner's workshop at DJ School Amsterdam (www.djschoolamsterdam.nl) and learn the basic steps to spinning and mixing tunes.



Live Music Bars

For those nights when clubbing isn't on the cards, Amsterdam's chilled music bars provide the perfect soundtrack to catching up over drinks. Most of them let you rock up and listen for free, too.

MALOE MELO

Map 2; Lijnbaansgracht 163, Jordaan;

///bliss.averts.dating; www.maloemelo.com

Despite its moniker the “home of the blues”, this scruffy dive bar is an in-the-know kind of place, tucked away in a residential area. Every night of the week, musicians and music lovers greet each other like old friends, chatting about their love for good sounds. It's not all blues tunes, either; expect plenty of rock, ska and country, too.

THE JITTERBUG SALOON

Map 2; Bloemgracht 170, Jordaan;

///fended.glaze.capacity; www.thejitterbugsaloon.com

Most people know The Jitterbug Saloon for its top-notch cocktails, but the real draw is the live jazz sets. On Thursday and Sunday nights, couples settle around candlelit tables and lindy hop dancers



Looking to dance more jitterbug? Check out the regular swing dancing parties at De Kompaszaal in the Eastern Docklands.

hit the small dance floor, everyone tapping along and swinging to sultry sax sounds. The easy-going atmosphere ensures repeat visits week after week.

CAFÉ DE KOE

Map 3; Marnixstraat 381, Jordaan;

///ending.kind.nagging; www.cafedekoe.nl

This down-to-earth spot is always a safe bet for a mellow – but memorable – night out with your pals. Think hearty Dutch comfort food to tuck into, classic board games to banter over and a cool soundtrack of live gigs to enjoy, courtesy of local rock bands and DJs.

» **Don't leave without ordering something beefy on the menu, to pay homage to the so-called Cow Café (Café de Koe).**

JAZZ CAFÉ ALTO

Map 3; Korte Leidsedwardsstraat 115, Leidseplein;

///outreach.hype.coached; www.jazz-cafe-alto.nl

Follow the fashionable through the door marked by a huge saxophone into this cosy bar. There's a dark and sexy mood in the discreet 1920s-style space, where photos of iconic musicians hang from the walls and vintage brass lamps are dimly lit. Rock up by 9pm on any given night to nab a sought-after table, order a whisky and await a big name or a local talent. Then chill to the tunes till the early hours.

ZOKU

Map 4; Weesperstraat 105, Plantagebuurt;

///discrepancy.ordinary.natively; www.livezoku.com

You could have many a cocktail at this greenhouse-esque rooftop bar, perched at the top of a trendy hotel, without stumbling upon its jazz nights. They're sporadic, but they're worth waiting for because being one of the few who get to watch Amsterdam's up-and-coming musicians play on the deck is pretty special. Granted, you can't just turn up to these in-the-know events, so keep an eye on the rooftop's socials for tickets and times.

THE WATERHOLE

Map 3; Korte Leidsedwardsstraat 49, Leidseplein;

///shadow.majority.mascot; www.waterhole.nl

As any and every local will tell you, a night in this grungy institution is a rite of passage. Every square inch may be covered with rock posters, graffiti and electric guitars, but looks are deceiving here. Yes, you'll witness hardcore rockers jamming, but folk, funk and

Shh!

Into hardcore rock? The Cave (*Prinsengracht 472*) is a tiny basement bar only really known to some of the most die-hard

rock and heavy metal fans. On Friday nights, black-clad goths and rock chicks come here for the live bands.

blues artists also keep all manner of crowds moving. Play a game of pool with the old boys while you listen, or join the students enjoying cheap beers by the stage.

» **Don't leave without heading to the Tap and Dine restaurant on the first floor, where you can pour your own beer from a tap at the table while you tuck into a tasty meal.**

DE NIEUWE ANITA

Map 2; Frederik Hendrikstraat 111, Oud-West;

///soak.tried.fruity; www.denieuwanita.nl

A night at this cosy pub feels like you're at a jam session with your mates. Ring the bell to get in and the living room vibes (dangling lamps, retro wallpaper and leather chesterfield sofas) are instantly palpable. Intimate acoustic sessions play out here, but for anything more upbeat (like an experimental punk-jazz band, say), the listening party tends to move to the larger back room.

BOURBON STREET

Map 3; Leidsekruisstraat 6–8, Leidseplein;

///kitten.encoder.tipping; www.bourbonstreet.nl

Bringing the spirit of New Orleans to Amsterdam, this live music bar has been attracting folks since it opened in 1990. It's the kind of place that big names (like Joss Stone and Sting) visit as soon as they land in town – not just to perform, but to listen. While you may not be witness to BB King's dulcet vocals this time, you're sure to see renowned acts on the blues, soul and jazz circuit.



Comedy Nights

We get it, Amsterdam doesn't seem like a comedy hotspot but there is in fact an incredible stand-up scene here that locals can't get enough of. Here are some of our favourite venues.

EASYLAUGHS

Map 4; Nieuwe Achtergracht 270, Plantagebuurt;

///fooling.perfect.tablet; www.easylaughs.nl

Looking for a fun start to the weekend? Friday night is show night for improv troupe EasyLaughs, with two or three different shows over the course of the evening (you can buy a very well-priced ticket to one or all). It's all made up on the spot, so you're guaranteed something special every time.

BOOM CHICAGO

Map 2; Rozengracht 117, Jordaan;

///suppose.swung.puzzled; www.boomchicago.nl

Seth Meyers, Jordan Peele, Jason Sudekis and Amber Ruffin all have something in common: they got their start here, at this outpost of Chicago's famous Second City comedy troupe. Several decades on, Boom Chicago is still the biggest improv

game in town. There's a new show for every season, each themed to poke fun at Americans, the Dutch and modern society all at the same time. And they definitely will pick on the crowd, so be careful where you sit. If you want to be near the stage, opt in for dinner.

» **Don't leave without asking about the courses and workshops, where you can get your improv feet wet.**

THE JAM SOCIETY

Map 1; Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 282, Spui;

///galleries.fortunes.kickers; www.jamvarietyshow.com

The most Dutch way to do comedy is cabaret, a unique take on the state of the world through music or spoken dialogue, going strong ever since the early 1900s. The uproarious cabaret shows at The Jam Society are presided over by host Daniel Matias Ferrer (who gets goofy), the house band keeps it quirky with improv jazz and a parade of variety acts (think clowns, magicians, musical comedy) fills in all the gaps. The absurdity of it all keeps locals coming back again and again.

Try it!

TEST YOUR STAND-UP

Are you an aspiring comedian? That Comedy Thing (www.thatcomedything.com) is an indie stand-up collective with an open mic platform. Contact Roxy and Alexander through the website if you'd like to have a go.

TOOMLER

Map 3; Breitnerstraat 2, Apollobuurt, Oud-Zuid;

///glades.nights.split; www.comedytrain.nl

Amsterdam's top dedicated comedy club draws Dutch names who haven't yet crossed over into stadium status (note: anything marked "international show" will be in English). Arrive for the pre-show dinner to bag a good table, then settle in for a night of wide-eyed glee and uproarious laughter in this intimate, low-lit space that squeezes comedian and crowd together.

COMEDY CAFÉ

Map 5; IJdok 89, Westerdok, Westelijke Eilanden;

///froze.conveys.ladders; www.comedycafe.nl

Every Thursday at Comedy Café is Big International Comedy Night, where you might see well-known stand-ups like Gina Yashere and Stephen K Amos. The rest of the week the space belongs to the Comedy Embassy troupe, bringing together a mix of well-known

Shh!

Not many have heard of Paleis van de Weemoed (www.palais-van-de-weemoed.nl), so this intimate theatre remains a closely guarded secret. The

dinner shows mixing music with comedy are always a laugh, but there's also plenty of burlesque, drag and other exciting cabaret acts on the menu too.



Follow the Comedy Embassy on Twitter to find out about other one-off comedy shows around town.

local acts and newcomers. Get there early to gawk out the floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the IJ River before they draw open the curtains for the show.

MEZRAB

Map 4; Veemkade 576, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///text.unravel.spend; www.mezrab.nl

You'll be treated as family at storytelling hub Mezrab. Iranian owner Sahand runs the show while his mama doles out rich Persian soup, and more family and friends pour drinks. There are regular stand-up comedy nights, plus music and more, but the storytelling nights are the real soul of Mezrab; some are funny, some heartbreaking, many both. The setting is intimate, with the stage shunned in favour of a closely knit circle of couches and chairs. Most evenings are run based on donations – do chip in, they never get enough.

» **Don't leave without asking about the storytelling workshops run by professional performers Farnoosh Farnia and Yinske Silva.**

DE KLEINE KOMEDIE

Map 3; Amstel 56–58, Grachtengordel;

///pilots.hillside.light; www.dekleinekomedie.nl

Listen to comedians solving today's most pressing problems at the oldest theatre in Amsterdam, which offers a stage for both new and established Dutch talent. If your Dutch isn't quite up to scratch, there are occasional comedy nights in English, too.



Concert Venues

Indie rock, mainstream pop, jazz, dance, funk, techno. Whatever music you're into, Amsterdam's got your back. Venues large and small host big-name stars and performers on the road to world fame.

BITTERZOET

Map 1; Spuistraat 2 HS, Spui; ///drums.news.proofs; www.bitterzoet.com

Students averse to the mainstream own the night at this tiny club, conveniently down the street from one of the UvA's main campuses. The snug main room means no matter where you are, you'll be close to the stage, and your fellow spectators, jumping around and singing along loudly to rising indie bands. Better yet, you can always just show up; the entrance fee is very wallet-friendly.

PARADISO

Map 3; Weteringschans 6, Leidseplein;

///burn.restless.traded; www.paradiso.nl

You'd be hard-pressed to find a music lover who doesn't go misty-eyed at the mere mention of Paradiso. Visiting this renowned venue is something of a religious experience – fitting, given it's housed in a former church. Despite its cavernous size, there's a

divine sense of intimacy to it all. On the main floor, big names play small sets against vitrage-covered windows, mesmerizing music devotees who pack out every inch of the space. Upstairs, lesser-known bands grace the stage of a smaller hall, on their way to becoming the next international star. But whether it's iconic musicians (past acts have included the Rolling Stones, David Bowie and Lady Gaga) or rising artists, rest assured the show will be sold out, so book well ahead if you want those bragging rights.

BIMHUIS

Map 4; Piet Heinkade 3, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///divided.dine.indirect; www.bimhuis.nl

The Muziekgebouw concert hall isn't just for contemporary classical music, it's also home to intimate Bimhuis, Amsterdam's temple to jazz. It's hosted jazz royalty like Kenny Wheeler and Steve Solo, but this is also a top place to spot up-and-coming experimental musicians.

» Don't leave without strolling on the terrace of the Muziekgebouw with a chilled glass of wine in hand to take in the waterfront views.

Try it! **JOIN A JAM SESSION**

Want to strike up a tune in front of an audience? Bring your instrument to one of Bimhuis's regular free improvisation workshops where you'll be jamming with new friends in no time.

AFAS LIVE

Map 6; Johan Cruijff Boulevard 590, Zuidoost;

///entire.enter.incline; www.afaslive.nl

Music venues don't get more epic than AFAS, where big-name acts perform for crowds of thousands. On any given night, the enormous space throngs with young friends letting loose and chanting off-key to the sounds of their favourite bands.

OCII

Map 6; Amstelveenseweg 134, Oud-Zuid;

///fighters.agents.wiser; www.occi.org

The unofficial home of Amsterdam's underground scene, volunteer-run OCII is one of the last truly alternative music venues in the city. It was previously a squat so it's only fitting that it's now home to subversive indie acts, who (along with the cheap beers) draw in Amsterdam's student crowd. This is the place to come when you're after music away from the mainstream.

TOLHUISTUIN

Map 5; Tolhuisweg 3, NDSM;

///ventures.cross.lookout; www.tolhuistuin.nl

Join the magical garden party at Tolhuistuin, a cultural space with an outdoor stage throughout the summer. Hosting a big range of music styles from chamber to techno, its Garden Sessions see local acts perform in front of an audience lounging on garden furniture under twinkling lights. And when it's not



For other open-air concert venues, check out Caprera, Amsterdamse Bos and Woodstock 69.

summer or the weather doesn't play along, there's an indoor hall where no one's ever far from the stage, giving an intimate feel.

ZIGGO DOME

Map 6; De Passage 100, Zuidoost;

///winners.switched.betrayed; www.ziggodome.nl

If you thought that AFAS Live was big, wait till you see Ziggo Dome, the city's largest indoor arena built to host live music events. Expect tight security, long queues and pricey tickets but, hey, it's all worth it for a chance to party along with your mates to the biggest-name bands and artists in the world.

MELKWEG

Map 3; Lijnbaansgracht 234A, Leidseplein;

///blurst.boot.tangible; www.melkweg.nl

In a former dairy, the magically named Milky Way is one of the city's most sacred venues, having been a key player in the 60s counterculture scene. And it continues to push boundaries with a roster of exciting new talent, interspersed with well-established names. This is one of Amsterdam's top spots for dancing yourself to an ecstatic frenzy, whether to live music or on a weekend party clubnight.

» **Don't leave without** checking out Melkweg's exhibition space and flexitarian café MILK (entrance on Marnixstraat).



Games Night

Millennials are getting married, having careers, buying flats – but that doesn't mean the fun should stop. Embrace your inner kid and challenge your friends to a board game, virtual reality adventure or sing-off.

TONTON CLUB WEST

Map 2; Polonceaukade 27, Westerpark;

[///tracking.pouch.later](http://tracking.pouch.later); www.tontonclub.nl/west

Bursting with retro arcade games, this is where Amsterdam's west-side hipsters come for a bout of gaming nostalgia, to the soundtrack of concentrated thumb or feet tapping. Evenings are spent busting moves to Dance Dance Revolution, going square-eyed on Mega Tetris or battling it out on Daytona Racing. Whoever comes last buys the next round of beers.

MOOIE BOULES

Map 4; Zeeburgerpad 3, Zeeburg;

[///whizzed.director.remedy](http://whizzed.director.remedy); www.mooieboules.nl

Amsterdammers take their games of boules seriously so when the weather plays foul (we all know it often does), they're thankful for the indoor bowling ground at this bar. The live bands and party



If you'd rather play a board game or cards, there's plenty of these too at Mooie Boules.

vibe draw cool kids and serious bowlers alike for fun, competitive tournaments. Who really needs a French village when you've got Mooie Boules?

2 KLAVEREN

Map 2; De Clercqstraat 136, Oud-West;

///founders.porch.snacks; www.2klaveren.nl

Remember playing countless games of Monopoly, Scrabble and Backgammon with your family during the school holidays? Why not recreate the memories at this board game café – this time with a cold beer or tasty coffee. Be warned that 2 Klaveren gets very busy, with groups of friends competing over games, so arrive early in the evening to bag a table.

DUKE OF TOKYO

Map 3; Reguliersdwarstraat 37, Grachtengordel;

///camper.smile.gift; www.dukeoftokyo.com

Pass by any brown pub of an evening and you're likely to see a bunch of old-timers enjoying a good sing-a-long. No surprises then that this karaoke bar fuels this singing passion among younger Amsterdammers, who challenge their mates to a sing-off in the more modern, Japanese style. They belt out their favourite 90s tracks in the private booths, styled to look like Tokyo's coolest neighbourhoods.

» **Don't leave without** trying the Yadokai Highball or Yuzu Slushy Daiquiri signature cocktails – good for Dutch courage.

CAFÉ DE LAURIERBOOM

Map 2; Laurierstraat 76, Jordaan;

///playful.toffee.navy; 623 3015

Grandmasters and newbies – all chess fans are welcome at this old brown pub. Challenge your friend to a game among the rickety stools and tables, but mind that you might have to wait a bit for your beer. Why? The bartenders are likewise pouring over their game and planning their next moves in between serving guests.

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

Map 2; Nassaukade 48, Staatsliedenbuurt;

///result.lifters.guarded; www.cafecheckpointcharlie.nl

This Berlin-themed bar is where students and other 20-somethings compete at board games, pinball and pool between the well-worn retro seating and walls of bookshelves. DJs play a mix of millennial favourites and live indie bands regularly take to the floor.

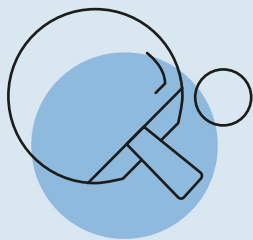
VRGH ARENA

Map 6; Gyroscopweg 102, Westpoort;

///waxing.sage.koala; www.vrgh-arena.nl

Want to fight your way through a dense jungle, dodge gruesome zombies or hurtle around a racing track? This virtual reality (VR) gaming house will scan your whole body to digitally transport you and your friends into a whole new world. Seriously cool.

» **Don't leave without trying the free non-VR games at VRGH Arena, like XXL Jenga, foosball and air hockey.**



Liked by the locals

“Checkpoint Charlie feels like home from the moment that you walk in. The friendly bartenders actually remember your orders, and it’s the perfect place to make friends with strangers over a game of pool.”

KAREN TURNER, ENTREPRENEUR



Late-Night Bites

Feeling peckish? Whether you've been hitting the clubs, comedy circuit or coffeeshops, this city has plenty of places open all hours to fend off those hunger pangs.

GRILLROOM SHOARMA MESUT

Map 2; De Clercqstraat 59, Oud-West; [///take.mailbox.hydrant;](http://take.mailbox.hydrant.com)
www.grillroomshoarmamesutamsterdam.nl

No ordinary kebab shop, this modern Turkish-style kitchen cooks up the healthiest meal you'll find after a night out. Near the major clubs in Oud-West, it's a hot favourite among partying west-siders who satisfy their shashlik (skewered and grilled meat and veg) cravings into the late hours to the soft echoes of lute tunes.

CANNIBALE ROYALE

Map 1; Handboogstraat 17A, Spui;
[///deep.skater.food](http://deep.skater.food); www.cannibaleroyale.nl

Cannibale Royale serves some of the best ribs and burgers in the city, or so say its dedicated fans who pop by for a late-night dinner (it's open until 1am) after bar-hopping in Spui. You'll emerge blinking into the brightly lit street after discovering the

tenderest rib roasts, the most mouthwatering bavette and flat iron steaks, and the juiciest burgers you've ever tasted (there's plenty of veggie options too).

» **Don't leave without** dropping a pin on your Google map – you're gonna want to come back tomorrow to try the best Belgian fries in the city at Vlaams Friteshuis Vleminckx around the corner.

BAR-BECUE CASTELL

Map 3; Lijnbaansgracht 252–4, Leidesplein;

///finds.changes.fooling; www.castellamsterdam.nl

Long before you step through this cosy restaurant's doors, you'll smell the scent of charcoal and sizzling meat wafting down the street. Inside, hungry night owls feast on grilled-to-perfection steaks, extending their night out over a good gossip. All the tables are shared, so you'll likely make new friends here.

PATA NEGRA

Map 3; Utrechtsestraat 124, Grachtengordel;

///duty.bristle.sporting; www.pata-negra.nl

Fancy bringing the spirit of Spain to your night out? With cured hams hanging from the ceiling and bright ceramic tiles on its walls, this tapas bar feels like it was plucked from a busy street in Madrid and plonked right in the heart of Amsterdam. Long platters of *gambas al ajillo* (garlic shrimps), crunchy calamari and serrano ham, washed down with sangria, draw local nighthawks who love to party well into the night.

BURGER BAR

Map 3; Eerste van der Helststraat 62B, De Pijp;

///prosper.smaller.sweated; www.burgerbar.nl

After a Saturday night out in de Pijp, students find there's no more satisfying (or wallet-friendly) place to fuel up than this cosy spot where they get to build their own customized burger. Endless meat or vegan toppings join with fresh sauces to create the burger of your dreams.

WOK TO WALK

Map 1; Damstraat 44, De Wallen;

///stunts.inclined.clasps; www.woktowalk.com

The long queues that snake out of this Wok to Walk on weekend nights are testament to its insanely fresh Asian dishes that have taken the world by storm. Amsterdammers are rightly proud of this flagship branch, where it all started. Dig into your noodles at a communal table, perfect for bantering with fellow late-night revellers, or head out with your small orange box and eat as you walk.

THE BUTCHER SOCIAL CLUB

Map 5; Overhoeksplein 1, Overhoeks;

///tides.winters.remind; www.the-butcher.com/socialclub

Inside the hip designer Sir Adam Hotel, The BUTCHER Social Club is where young party-goers satiate their hunger after a night of dancing at the Adam Tower's Shelter or Madam clubs. Regulars indulge in the creatively named gourmet meat and veggie burgers

and pose with cocktails on the terrace while watching the sunset over the IJ River. This 24-hour joint (rare in Amsterdam, you'll find) isn't just about food though, it's a true after-party all-night hangout, with live DJs and an old-school games hall.

» **Don't leave without trying out the pool, ping-pong and foosball gaming tables, or the pinball machines.**

NEW YORK PIZZA

Map 3; Leidsestraat 104, Leidseplein;

///feasts.escapes.pool; www.newyorkpizza.nl

This takeaway New York-style pizza joint is so beloved that Amsterdammers are always prepared to join the long queues of late-nighters to get their hands on a slice. While you wait, make up your mind which of the juicy toppings you want to cover the thin, crispy base, then grab your slice (even a New Yorker would be wowed by its size) and follow the locals to perch on the fountain in Leidseplein square. And enjoy.

KAUFFMANN

Map 2; Reinier Claezsenstraat 4B, Oud-West;

///doctors.tenders.heavy; www.barkauffmann.nl

Tucked between blocks of flats in a residential street, this late-night kitchen does only one thing but boy, does it do it well: crispy falafel pittas with hundreds of different toppings. It's one of the top falafel spots amid a boom in Middle Eastern restaurants that have sprung up in the city. What more do you need after a night on the town?



A night out in Indische Buurt

You won't find any cobblestoned, tourist-filled streets here. This historically industrial, working-class neighbourhood has had new life breathed into it, with shabby buildings transformed into bars and dining venues. Yes, it's still a bit rough around the edges, but it's creative – an old school gym has been converted into a club, a bathhouse is now a restaurant-bar and a water pumping station has a restaurant above it. The result? A buzzing hipster hub perfect for an evening out.

1. Bar Botanique

Eerste Van Swindenstraat
581, Indische Buurt;
www.barbotanique.nl
///surface.doormat.trooper

2. Bar Basquiat

Javastraat 88–90,
Indische Buurt;
www.barbasquiat.nl
///cascade.rooting.gravy

3. Pompstation

Zeeburgerdijk 52,
Indische Buurt;
www.pompstation.nu
///lies.grades.laptops

4. Studio-K

Timorplein 62, Indische
Buurt; www.studio-k.nu
///puppets.collects.wage

5. Pizza'dam Oost

Sumatrastraat 68A,
Indische Buurt;
www.pizzadam.nl
///boots.stamp.snapper



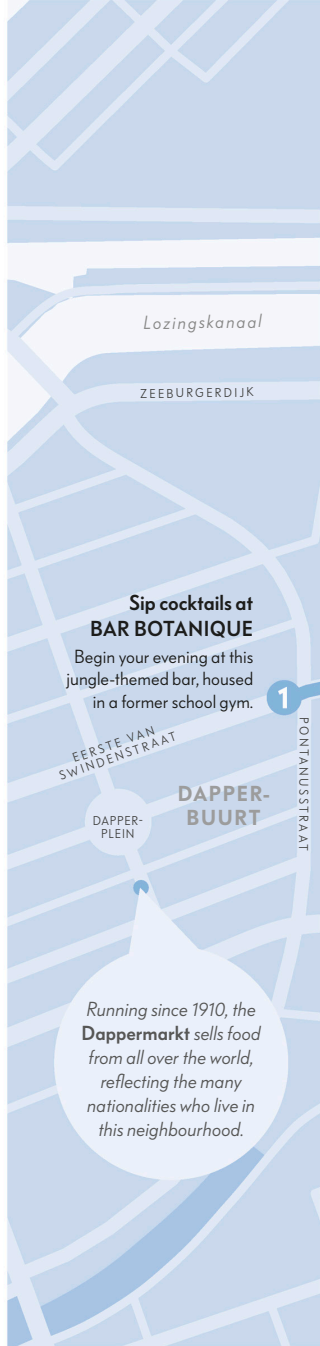
Dappermarkt

///grabbed.flanked.surround



Badhuis Oedipus

///devours.leaves.stumpy



Enjoy live music at POMPSTATION

Just show up – there's always live jazz playing at Pompstation bar-restaurant.

Since 1912, this industrial building has been used as a pumping station and you can still hear the water being pumped out of the city.

Dance at STUDIO-K

Boogie the night away at a club night at Studio-K, a former school now run by students that doubles as a restaurant, cinema and concert venue too.

Chill at BAR BASQUIAT

This edgy bar, styled after the late US graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, is a great stop for Surinamese street food.

Grab a bite at PIZZA'DAM OOST

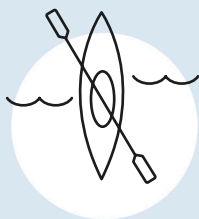
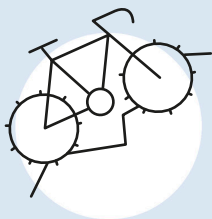
If you're feeling peckish after your night of partying, fill up at this branch of the beloved Amsterdam-born pizza chain.

Badhuis Oedipus is a bar-restaurant converted from an old bathhouse. Its outdoor terrace is always packed on balmy nights.

0 metres 200
0 yards 200

OUTDOORS

Amsterdam may be small, but it isn't lacking on the outdoors front. Come rain or shine, locals head out for a walk in the park, a leisurely bike ride or a swim in a lake.





Green Spaces

Did you know Amsterdam ranks as one of Europe's greenest cities? Locals are very proud of this fact, and rightly so. After all, there are countless parks sitting right on their doorstep.

AMSTELPARK

Map 6; entrance via Arent Janszoon Ernststraat, Buitenveldert;

///droplet.trunks.rooks; www.amstelpark.info

Welcome to Amsterdam's most whimsical park, created for the 1972 Floriade Flower Festival. Not a lot has changed since then: the gardens are still perfectly manicured and the 17th-century windmill still stands. That said, there's almost always something going on in Amstelpark, whether that's an outdoor concert, a food festival or art exhibition in the Glass House or Orangerie.

VONDELPARK

Map 3; entrance via Stadhouderskade, Vondelparkbuurt;

///stone.jolly.archives; www.hetvondelpark.net

In the swinging 60s, Vondelpark was the hangout of weed-smoking hippies, and it's retained that laid-back, anything-goes feel. Yes, it's the city's most popular park and the crowds can get pretty intense on a



If you're here in summer, check out the free weekend concerts at the park's Open Air Theatre.

sunny day, but it can't be beaten for people-watching. Join the throngs chilling amid scenic ponds, grassy fields and arty sculptures (see if you can spot the Picasso).

WESTERPARK

Map 2; entrance via Haarlemmerweg, Westerpark;
///roaring.weekend.birds; www.westergas.nl

Think of Westerpark as Vondelpark's even cooler, younger sibling. A 19th-century gas factory has been converted into a community space, bursting with cafés, bars and event venues. And from this, the park's centrepiece, some of the city's lushest greenery spills out. Spread a blanket along the eastern lake, or sneak into the tall marshland grasses to find a quiet spot to meditate. It's always worth keeping an eye on the events calendar for some of the city's best food and music festivals.

FLEVOPARK

Map 6; entrance via Flevoweg, Indische Buurt;
///detection.upper.grower; www.flevopark.nl

Locals walk their dogs along the wild paths, runners jog around the large lake and, come the weekend, families feast on barbecues in this vast park. Bigger and wilder than many other green spaces in Amsterdam, Flevopark is also where birdwatchers flock to spot all sorts of water fowl among the idyllic marshy lake scenery.

» **Don't leave without stopping for a drink and snack on the large waterside terrace of 't Nieuwe Diep Distillery inside the park.**

OOSTERPARK

**Map 4; entrance via Linnaeusstraat,
Oud-Oost; ///marathon.planet.placed**

The locals of residential Oosterparkbuurt really rely on this much needed splash of greenery. They jog the maze of paths, meet for picnics in the meadows and practise outdoor tai chi on Saturday mornings. And there's always a crowd at Speaker's Stone at 1pm on Sundays – Amsterdammers love to speak their mind, after all.

REMBRANDTPARK

**Map 6; entrance via Orteliuskade, Nieuw-West;
///stunner.estate.jungle; www.rembbrandtpark.org**

Game of football in mind? Organizing a frisbee tournament? Rembrandtpark on the western edge of the Canal Ring is the place for you. It's large and pretty quiet, so you and your pals will feel like you've got the place to yourselves. After all that running

Shh!

Looking for a little bit of R&R?
Tucked away in Plantagebuurt,
between the Portuguese
Synagogue and the botanical
garden, the tiny waterside
Wertheimpark is often
overlooked, even by locals.

Head straight for the grassy knoll
along the canal, beyond the
statuesque fountain – this spot
never seems to draw a crowd. It's
the perfect shady oasis in the
city centre to sit and watch the
boats go by. And breathe.

around, head to the park's southern end, where you'll find the Fashionhotel, home to the Floor17 roof terrace. Here you can refuel with a snack and take in the gorgeous views of the park and beyond. In summer, Floor17 also hosts movie screenings – the perfect end to a day in the great outdoors.

» **Don't leave without hunting down the free open-air gym, near the park's eastern entrance at Corantijnstraat.**

NOORDERPARK

**Map 5; entrance via Nieuwe Leeuwarderweg, Volewijk;
///congratulations.splits.freezing; www.noorderpark.nl**

This leafy lung of Amsterdam Noord used to be all green, no scene. Slowly but surely, though, more and more fitness facilities are opening up, luring health-conscious Amsterdammers – even from south of the IJ River. At any given moment, at least half of the park's visitors are here to break a sweat: at the outdoor gym or pool, in the Snakerun skatepark or at a workout bootcamp.

ERASMUSPARK

**Map 2; entrance via Mercatorstraat,
Bos en Lommer; ///migrants.library.blast**

In the west of the city, this little gem of a park feels like your own private island, thanks to the canals that bound it. It's got its fair share of grassy lawns for strolls and picnics, but it's the stunning flower garden, designed by local artist Elspeth Diederix, that draws locals for its resplendent year-round blooms.



On Two Wheels

Here, the bike rules. And it's not just for getting around, it's a way of life. From the lycra-clad to leisurely cruisers, everyone hits the hundreds of bike paths that weave through the city and beyond.

HAARLEM TO LISSE

Map 6; start at Haarlem train station; ///yoga.blaring.blues

This one is blooming lovely – quite literally. And it's seen as a pilgrimage by many locals who cycle the 35-km (21-mile) round-trip ride from Haarlem to Lisse in flower season (from April to May). The path leads through the dappled woodlands and daffodil fields of Heemstede and Hillegom into Lisse, the agricultural heartland of the Netherlands. The best bit? All the kaleidoscopic tulip fields, of course.

AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL TO DURGERDAM

Map 5; start at Amsterdam Centraal Station,

IJzide exit on Stationsplein; ///sunshine.crispy.raves

Head north from the city centre on a leisurely 18-km (11-mile) cycle and you'll find some of the cutest fishing villages in the country. Starting at Buiksloterweg, the trail winds through cobblestoned

Nieuwendam before reaching the fishing village of Durgerdam just northeast of Amsterdam. Here you'll hit up row upon row of pastures, criss-crossed by canals. End the day like the locals do, and head to the highest part of the Durgerdam dyke for a picnic with a view before cycling slowly back into town.

» **Don't leave without stopping for a slice of apple pie at Durgerdam's Café 't Sluisje, which overlooks the pretty marina.**

AMSTEL RONDE HOEPRUTE

Map 6; start at Berlagebrug; ///vibes.translate.whom

Old windmills, grazing cows, thatched farmhouses. Sounds like picture-postcard Dutch countryside? That's exactly what you'll find along this 39-km (24-mile) circular route through polders. The path follows the Amstel River in the south of the city before leaving town and crossing grassy marshlands (birdwatchers, you're in for a real treat here) and the ridiculously pretty village of Ouderkerk aan de Amstel. Stop for a lazy picnic in the grassland before looping around and heading back north into the city.

Try it! **CYCLE LIKE A LOCAL**

Nervous about jumping on a bike? The lovely instructors at Koala Bike Lessons (www.koalabikelessons.com) will show you how to navigate rush-hour traffic and explain all the rules of the road.

VONDELPARK TO AMSTERDAMSEBOS

Map 3; start at Vondelpark; ///pelted.released.hang

Come rain or shine, Amsterdammers love cycling this path of a weekend. Starting at Vondelpark, the path threads through the Oud-Zuid borough before emerging on the shores of Nieuw Meer lake on the edge of Amsterdamsebos. And it doesn't always end there: if they're feeling particularly energetic, there's another 14-km (9-mile) marked trail that starts and finishes at De Boswinkel visitor centre, taking them through the most spectacular parts of the forest.

ZAANDAM TO ZAAANSE SCHANS

Map 6; start at Zaandam train station; ///lunch.knocking.fuel

With its old windmills and wooden barns, the village of Zaanse Schans is stunning, and locals find there's no better way to explore it than by bike. Follow the lead of Amsterdam's families by jumping on the train from Centraal station to Zaandam. From here it's an easy 5-km (3-mile) ride through a rambling expanse of tousled meadows, past willowy ponds to Zaanse Schans. Enjoy a backdrop of windmills, canals and dykes as you loop around the village.

WESTERPARK TO NIEUWE MEER

Map 2; start at Westerpark; ///tuxedos.hillside.removal

Convoy with friends swapping stories and catching up on their week as they ride out from Westerpark, stopping off at Sloterpas Lake for a dip (in summer) or just for the views. Highlights en route include super-cute Sloten village and Nieuwe Meer lake (where, if you're

lucky, you'll spot shaggy highland cows). And the best spot to stop for a picnic? It's got to be the orchard at Tuinen van West nature reserve, where you can also pick your own fruit at the organic farm. Don't want the adventure to end? Turn the excursion into a weekend trip and stay the night at Freelodge in Tuinen van West.

RINGVAART TWISKE

Map 6; start at Twiskemolen; ///uses.jukebox.sour; www.twiskehaven.nl

After more of a picturesque pedal than a serious city cycle? We hear you. This 15-km (9-mile) path, which circles Het Twiske nature reserve, is the one for you. You'll pass through marshland and weave through picturesque ponds and lakes, with nothing but stunning nature views as far as the eye can see. Our kind of cycle.

» **Don't leave without an evening drink and snack at Paviljoen Twiske as the sun sets over the lake.**

AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL TO HAARLEM

Map 5; start at Stationsplein; ///sunshine.crispy.raves

Haarlem may be just a 20-minute rail journey from Amsterdam but, let's be honest, where's the fun in taking the train? A bike path connects Amsterdam Centraal with the beloved medieval city of Haarlem, offering loads of stop-in-your-tracks scenery along the way. You'll start by cycling northwest through Amsterdam's Sloterdijk neighbourhood and on to Halfweg before wending through Haarlemmerliede village and into Haarlem. Have a mooch around and grab a bite at a café on one of the cobblestoned streets – you've earned it.



Swimming Spots

As far as Amsterdammers are concerned, anything above 20°C is summer. With flip-flops and swimming gear at the ready, locals rush to take a plunge in open-water spots and outdoor pools.

BREDIUSBAD

Map 2; Spaarndammerdijk 306,

Spaarndammerbuurt; [///points.deflect.bike](http://points.deflect.bike)

With a large paddling section and water slides to boot, it's no surprise that this outdoor pool quickly fills up with families during the day. If you want to avoid accidentally winding up part of a kids' birthday party, join the early morning crowd when it's all about serious swimmers doing laps before work. Fair warning: they say the water is heated, but early birders don't always believe it.

STRAND DIEMERPARK

Map 6; Diemerpark, IJburg; [///scary.wins.holiday](http://scary.wins.holiday);

www.amsterdam.nl/toerisme-vrije-tijd/parken/diemerpark

Locals in need of a little solitude head to this gem of a lake in the quiet Diemerpark. Yes, the lake floor is a bit slimy, and yes, ducks and other wetland birds bob about on the surface, but this is one

of the best natural swimming spots in the city. After your swim, lounge on the long sandy beach, perfect for taking in the wide open-water views and the hustle-and-bustle of the more populated parts of IJburg that you've left behind.

» **Don't leave without taking in the perfect sunset views over the flat expanse of still water.**

ZANDVOORT BEACH

Map 6; Zandvoort aan Zee, Zandvoort, Noord-Holland;

///sunbeam.indigo.munches; www.visitzandvoort.com

When the summer sun shines at the weekend, the masses start congregating on Centraal Station's puny, unprepossessing Platform 1 with coolers and beach blankets in hand. They're here to hop the 20-minute train ride to Zandvoort, the nearest North Sea beach to Amsterdam, with a vast stretch of sandy shoreline and bracing seawater for swimming. SUP-ing, rafting and surfing are big here too.

Shh!

Don't fancy a swim so much as a relaxing sauna? Head to the tiny Sauna Deco (www.saunadeco.nl) mini-palace on Herengracht for a traditional

Turkish steam bath and feel all that tension slip away. Beware, it's birthday suits only, no bathing suits. Time to *really* get to know the locals.

GAASPERPLAS STRAND

Map 6; Gaasperplas, Nellestein, Zuidoost; [//clerics.retrain.takeover](#)

For bucolic beauty that makes you feel like you've left the city without actually having to do so, the beach at the artificial Gaasper Lake nature reserve is what you need. Locals head straight to the southern mini-lake; cut off from the main body of water, it makes for a perfect tranquil swimming spot.

SLOTTERPLAS STRAND

Map 6; Slotterplas, Slottermeer, Nieuw-West;

[//weaved.nearing.hometown](#)

In warm months friends and families pitch up with chairs and umbrellas on this urban beach. The Slotterplas Lake's sandy shoreline and clear, clean water get pretty busy in hot weather so make sure you turn up early to grab your patch. Oh, and if you're in town on New Year's Day, this is the best spot to join the freezingly cold Nieuwjaarsduik (New Year's Dive).

BUITENZWEMBAD MARINETERRAIN

Map 4; Marineterrein (near Pension Homeland), Oostelijke Eilanden;

[//uproot.poster.camera](#); www.marineterrein.nl

Although the inner bay of this former naval base isn't yet an official swimming location (it still needs to pass a few more tests for clean water), hardy locals regularly take the plunge at their own risk. Swimming space aside, when the weather's warm, Amsterdammers of all stripes grab their SPF and their flashiest



If you do want to swim here, check out the website, which has a low-down on the water quality.

swimwear to lounge along the docks and quays with postcard-perfect harbour views. It's the hangout to see and be seen on summer weekends.

FLEVOPARKBAD

Map 6; Insulindeweg 1002, Zeeburg;

///spit.flake.sampled; www.flevoparkbad.com

Looking for a wet and wild day outside? This massive swimming complex on the northern edge of Flevopark ticks all the boxes – an Olympic-sized outdoor pool, a shallow pool of the same size (with slides), heated water, lots of land to picnic in shade or sun, and snack spots in case you didn't BYO. The city is always threatening to convert this pool to indoor swimming, so if you're a fan of the space as it is now, consider donating to the cause to help keep it going.

MIRANDABAD

Map 6; De Mirandalaan 9, Rijnbuurt;

///riches.cheek.propose; www.amsterdam.nl/demirandabad

Welcome to Swimming City. No other swimming place in Amsterdam has so much choice. Warm, sunny weather? Plunge down the epic waterslide into the outdoor pool. Cold or pouring with rain? Bob up and down in the indoor pool with its very own wave machine. New to swimming? Take a lesson. This place has you covered.

» Don't leave without heading next door to the Amstel Boathouse for an alfresco meal on the veranda.



Alfresco Adventures

Amsterdammers are never far from canals, green spaces and sandy shores. The result? There's plenty of opportunity for an outdoor adventure.

WETLANDS SAFARI

Map 6; Pick-up from Noord metro station;

///scouting.polo.office; www.wetlandssafari.nl

This five-hour canoeing safari takes you through reed-packed wetlands bursting with aromatic plants, just north of Amsterdam. Float past old windmills and villages to the chirping of black-tailed godwits and end with a walk along the polders and a picnic on one of the islands. You'll feel a world away from the city.

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Map 1; The Old Man Amsterdam, Damstraat 14, Swammerdambuurt;

///electric.cascade.cloud; www.theoldmanboardsports.com

In a city with so much water, it's no surprise that locals don't just use their bikes to get around. SUP-ers see their city from a new perspective, peeking through the open windows of old canal houses in summer, gliding by riverbanks of orange autumn foliage and



SUP novices can take a class with M&M Stand Up Paddling Amsterdam in Zeeburgerpad.

zig-zagging through semi-frozen water under a trickle of snow in winter. Hire a board at The Old Man Boardsports and join in year-round.

WIND 'N' WHEELS

Map 6; IJdijk 10, Schellingwoude Oost;

///various.unions.length; www.windnwheels.nl

There's nothing more fun than whizzing across an empty stretch of sand in a land yacht (a three-wheel vehicle with a sail). Just a 20-minute bike ride from Amsterdam's Central Station, Wind 'n' Wheels runs 90-minute land-yacht sessions on Kaap Oost city beach. No experience? No bother; there's always some newbies so you'll fit right in.

» **Don't leave without** making the most of Kaap Oost's other activities, like motorcross and archery tag.

FRIDAY NIGHT SKATE

Map 4; Roemer Visscherstraat, Vondelparkbuurt;

///marshes.moon.legwork; www.fridaynightskate.com

Every Friday night (except when it's raining), Amsterdammers grab their mates, strap on their roller skates and wheel through the roads of the city. This 20-km (12-mile), mass rollerblade party is free to join, and open to anyone who can skate. Arrive at 8:15pm at the Roemer Visscherstraat starting point with your skates and safety gear, and prepare to tear down the streets.

JAAP EDEN IJSBAAN

Map 6; Radioweg 64, Watergrafsmeer;

///sorters.proud.router; www.jaapeden.nl

At the first signs of cold weather, Amsterdammers dig out their ice skates. The Museumplein ice rink always draws huge crowds, but locals favour the Jaap Eden Ijsbaan in the east of the city for its larger size. From October to March, this huge sheet of ice sees students and teens (and their mums and dads) doing leisurely laps while aficionados whiz around at speed. Never skated before? Sign up for a lesson, or simply curl up by the fire at the café and watch the action from the sidelines.

» **Don't leave without** asking about the next Saturday evening disco, when multi-coloured lights set the stage for a boogie on ice.

OOSTELIJK HAVENGEBIED RUN

Map 4; start: Marineterrein gate, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///dazzling.dribble.basher

If you're in Oostelijk Havengebied (the Eastern Docklands) early in the morning don't be surprised to see joggers in their trainers and tanks out for a pre-work run. East-siders make the most of the quiet paths through the greenery of the old navy base, logging miles without pesky traffic getting in the way. The stunning waterway and futuristic architecture views are a plus too, let's be honest. Start at the Marineterrein gate and follow the canal to Java Island for a lap around, carry on around the Sporenburg peninsula and onto the wavy Python Bridge, where you can make your triumphant finish looking over the docklands from above.



Liked by the locals

“Joining the two-hour Friday Night Skate is a great way to see the city as you’ve never seen it before. You’ll make new friends and it’s good exercise too, all for free.”

ONNO VAN VREEDENDAAL, HEAD OF
FRIDAY NIGHT SKATE



Boat Trips

Intimately connected to water, Amsterdam is a city of boating. Locals skipper small electric boats, commute by ferry or relax on cruises on sunny weekends, enjoying the views of their city from the canals.

BOATY

Map 3; Jozef Israëlskade, Nieuwe Pijp;

///tedious.noodle.distract; www.amsterdamrentaboat.com

All of Amsterdam hits the water when the weather warms up, so hire a boat as soon as you can so you don't miss out. There are various rentals, but Boaty is one of the best, offering easy-to-drive small solar-powered electric boats at one of the lowest prices in the city. Grab up to five of your mates (each boat seats six) and get gliding along the canals. No boating licence or previous experience needed.

REDERIJ PAPING

Map 2; start from Keizersgracht 179, Grachtengordel or a location of your choice; ///wisdom.tidying.stores; www.blueingreen.amsterdam

Skipper Paap founded these cosy boat tours so that he could share his huge love of his city. With a knowledge of canals like no other, he'll show you around – just tell him what you're interested in and you can

decide on the route together. Even long-time Amsterdammers discover hidden corners and tiny canals they didn't know existed. What's more, Paap offers dinner packages too, if you're feelin' fancy.

» **Don't leave without taking advantage of Paap's encyclopedic knowledge. Point to any building and you'll hear an interesting story.**

IJ FERRIES

Map 5; start from Centraal Station – IJ side;

///zips.hilltop.themes; www.reisinfo.gvb.nl/en/lijnen

How about a short river journey that won't cost you a thing? Hop aboard a free commuter ferry from behind Centraal Station to Amsterdam's Noord district. Nine-to-fivers use these shuttles that run every few minutes to get themselves and their bikes and mopeds across the IJ River. But it's also the perfect way to see the city skyline – all without spending a cent.

THOSE DAM BOAT GUYS

Map 2; start from Prinsenstraat 4, Grachtengordel;

///stormed.emerged.dinner; www.thosedamboatguys.com

The super-friendly Dam Boat Guys are all about the puns and making facts funny. Take a pew aboard their boat and lap up their irreverent stories about the city – you'll be roaring with laughter alongside your fellow crewmates before you know it. Not satisfied to stop at tickling your funny bone, the boys have also collaborated with Mokums Mout to create two custom craft brews to tickle your taste buds as well. Cheers to that.

Solo, Pair, Crowd

There are so many more ways to cruise the waters of Amsterdam – with new friends, just the two of you or with the whole gang.

FLYING SOLO

Make a new friend

Hang solo on one of Rederij Friendship's popular saloon boat tours, which launch from the Red Light District. You'll soon get chatting with a new boat friend.

IN A PAIR

Pedalos for two

When you want to put your friendship to the test, there's a fleet of pedal boats in the city moat across the street from the Rijksmuseum. You won't get far, but the fun is in the effort.

FOR A CROWD

Floating dinner party

Join the party at the Supperclub Cruise boat that leaves from Centraal Station every dinner time. Lounge in the cushty white dining room or air out on the top deck between courses of food and live music and entertainment.

REDERIJ LAMPEDUSA

Map 4; start from Dijkgracht 6, Oostelijke Eilanden;

///warriors.splint.long; www.rederijlampedusa.nl

Run by refugees from Egypt, Syria, Somalia and Eritrea, Rederij Lampedusa's boat tours are like no other. Aboard you'll hear the personal stories of displaced peoples, and see Amsterdam through the eyes of centuries of immigrants. The whole thing's brought all the more alive by the fact that the boats themselves are refurbished vessels that were previously used to smuggle people across the Mediterranean Sea. It all brings home how much immigrants have played a part in shaping the city into what it is today.

» Don't leave without asking about the boat tours with live entertainment that take place two Fridays a month.

VUURTORENEILAND

Map 4; start from Lloyd Hotel Dock, Oostelijk Havengebied;

///jelly.librarian.trousers; www.vuurtoreneiland.nl

Looking for something extra special? Try this: a boat trip to the Vuurtoreneiland restaurant. The tiny island is famous for its old lighthouse, fortress and sole other building – the haute-cuisine restaurant. The party begins during the one-hour boat ride from Oostelijk Havengebied. Friends munch on appetizers and gaze out at the waters of the IJmeer as the boat gets further from the old naval neighbourhood. On the island, a healthy feast (there's plenty of locally grown veggies) awaits in a glasshouse with sweeping views of the rugged landscape. Be sure to book well in advance, else you might have to keep checking the website for cancellations.



Nearby Getaways

Of course Amsterdammers love their city, but sometimes a change of scene or gulp of fresh air is just the ticket. Luckily, the city has many tempting places right on its doorstep.



FORTEILAND PAMPUS

40 minutes by ferry from IJburg; www.pampus.nl

Many moons ago, Amsterdam was defended from enemy attack by a circle of 42 forts on 42 islands. Over the years these forts gradually fell to ruin – including the biggest, Fort Pampus on Forteiland. The largely underground fort-turned-museum has an

impressive dining hall and dungeon, but locals come to the island mainly to wander around the vegetable garden, have a picnic on the beach and a dip in the IJmeer (swimming gear is a must).

DELFT

1 hour by train from Amsterdam Centraal Station; www.delft.com

Home of the iconic Delft Blue ceramics, birthplace of painter Vermeer and resting place of William of Orange – yes, you’ve probably heard of Delft. And Amsterdammers know and love it just as much too, piling into the city to wander its hugely picturesque medieval streets. When they’re ready for a break, day-trippers flock to the Postkantoor café near the centre, which has a cosy indoors and a terrace for sunny days.

THE HAGUE

1 hour by train from Amsterdam Centraal Station; www.denhaag.com

Those looking for a slice of culture head to Den Haag for some of the Netherlands’ best museums, like the Mauritshuis (home to Vermeer’s *Girl with a Pearl Earring*), the MC Escher Museum of illusionistic drawings and the darkly fascinating Prison Gate Museum. By the way, Amsterdam may be the official capital of the Netherlands but The Hague is the true beating heart of the Dutch government, so look out for the 13th-century Binnenhof, where parliament gathers and makes laws to this day, just a little way along from the Mauritshuis.

» **Don’t leave without** visiting the Scheveningen district, with a long sandy beach, popular with sun worshippers and surfers.

UTRECHT

20 minutes by train from Amsterdam Centraal Station;
www.discover-utrecht.com

When Amsterdam's fashionistas have exhausted the shops in their city, they head to the centre of Utrecht, which is crammed with cool boutiques, quirky Dutch-designed labels and big brand stores. Naturally, any shopping trip wouldn't be complete without lunch. Some of the best restaurants are on the Oudegracht canal – actually on the canal, with terraces you could dip a toe off of. It's your perfect fashion fix with canal-ringed charm.

ZUIDERZEEMUSEUM

1 hour, 20 minutes by train from Amsterdam Centraal Station;
www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl

Young families love this open-air museum, where historical buildings (think: windmills, cheese shops, hairdressers) have been brought together to create an olde-worlde village. Make a hemp rope, try on old Dutch clothing and head back in time to 17th-century maritime life along the Zuiderzee (“Southern Sea”).

VOLENDAM

**50 minutes by 110 or 136 bus from Amsterdam
Centraal Station; www.vvvedamvolendam.nl**

Amsterdammers head north to fishing village Volendam to satisfy their seafood cravings. Follow the day-trippers past old wooden buildings to one of the harbour restaurants for the catch of the day

and some of the freshest seafood you can find in the Netherlands. And as it's baby bro to neighbouring cheese capital Edam, Volendam also has a cheese factory and shop to boot.

» **Don't leave without taking the short ferry ride to Marken island and getting a cool photo of its white lighthouse among the black rocks.**

HET NATIONALE PARK DE HOGE VELUWE

45 minutes by train from Amsterdam Amstel Station to Ede Wageningen, then 20 minutes by bus; www.hogeveluwe.nl

Yes, this enormous national park is a haven for hikers and bikers, but it's the Kröller-Müller Museum that we're here for. This truly awesome museum makes the most of its stunning setting, with an epic sculpture garden blending works by the likes of Rodin, Jean Arp and Henry Moore with the natural woody surroundings. Indoors, the huge array of Van Goghs joins other masterpieces by Monet, Mondrian and Picasso. The collections have Amsterdammers returning month after month.

Try it!

MEDITATE IN NATURE

Want to really connect with nature? Join a meditation class in the Nationale Park de Hoge Veluwe (www.anaya.nl). You'll experience the elements of air, water, earth and warmth in a new way.

Nieuwe Meer

Fuel up at BOERDERIJ MEERZICHT

This farm restaurant dating back to 1857 serves great *poffertjes* (mini-pancakes) and meat stews. Tuck in with meadow views of deer, peacocks and goats.

The Vietnam Meadow used to be the site of political demonstrations, most notably against the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

Stroll around GROTE VIJVER

Follow the loop trail that circles this large pond for an easy hike in the forest and then take a refreshing dip (weather permitting).

Take to the water with KANOVERHUUR AMSTERDAMSE BOS

Hire a canoe or pedal boat from this company or join a guided tour to navigate the park's waterways.

0 metres 400
0 yards 400



An afternoon exploring **Amsterdamse Bos**

Come the weekend, locals flock to this massive forested park on the city's outskirts for a burst of fresh air. Built in the 1930s for the people of Amsterdam and three times the size of NYC's Central Park, it's long been a beloved refuge for Amsterdammers from all corners of the city. With loads of paths for walking and cycling, streams and ponds for kayaking or swimming, and quiet meadows to chill with a picnic, there's so much to explore that you could easily spend a full day here.

4 **Climb up DE HEUVEL**

End your day by walking to the top of this artificial hill for sweeping sunset views over the park.

1. Boerderij Meerzicht

Koenenkade 56, Amstelveen;
www.boerderijmeerzicht.nl
///admires.sober.aquatic

3. Grote Vijver

Amsterdamse Bos
///debate.tribe.muddle

2. Kanoverhuur Amsterdamse Bos

Grote Speelweide 5,
Amsterdamse Bos;
www.kanoverhuur-adam.nl
///lucky.pleasing.tougher

4. De Heuvel

Amsterdamse Bos
///kindest.changing.cough



Vietnam Meadow ///voucher.resides.spotted

With a little research and preparation, this city will feel like a home away from home. Check out these websites to ensure a healthy, safe stay in Amsterdam.

Amsterdam

DIRECTORY

SAFE SPACES

Amsterdam is an inclusive and tolerant city, but should you ever feel uneasy (or simply crave community), there's a host of spaces catering to different genders, sexualities, demographics and religions.

www.chabadamsterdamcenter.com

A cultural centre for Amsterdam's Jewish communities.

www.cocamsterdam.nl

An organization with advice and events listings for the LGBTQ+ community.

www.hostelle.com

A stylish and affordable female-only hostel in Amsterdam Zuidoost.

www.ibps.nl/home-2

A Buddhist temple for meditation and workshops.

www.maruf.eu

A source of information and meeting place for the LGBTQ+ Muslim community.

HEALTH

Emergency healthcare is covered by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for EU residents and the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) for those from the UK. Non-emergency care is usually not free, so make sure you take out comprehensive insurance in advance. If you do need medical assistance, there are many pharmacies and hospitals across the city.

www.amsterdamcentralpharmacy.nl

A pharmacy in Centraal Station open every day, with a 24-hour vending machine next door for over-the-counter medicines. Doctor also on site.

www.amsterdamtouristdoctors.nl

Around-the-clock medical services with an online appointment-booking system.

www.dental365.nl

Emergency dental care with a 24-hour helpline.

www.ggd.amsterdam.nl

Amsterdam's public health service website, with links to a sexual assault centre and travel clinic.

www.hoteldoc.nl

Tourist doctors who will examine and treat you in your hotel at any time of day or night.

www.olvg.nl

Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis, a large hospital next to Oosterpark with 24-hour walk-in emergency services.

TRAVEL SAFETY ADVICE

Amsterdam is generally a safe city. Before you travel – and while you're here – always keep tabs on the latest regulations in Amsterdam and the Netherlands.

112

The telephone number to dial for all emergencies.

www.amsterdam.nl

Everything you might need to know about Amsterdam, from COVID-19 concerns to construction projects.

www.politie.nl

The Dutch police portal: your first stop when something is stolen or for any other crimes.

ACCESSIBILITY

Amsterdam is an old city, but a socially conscious one, meaning that most (but not all) locations have been updated for better accessibility. These resources will help make your journey go smoothly.

www.ableamsterdam.com

The ultimate guide to Amsterdam for wheelchair users, covering restaurants, nightlife and general practicalities.

www.accessibletravelnl.com

A list of the most accessible hotels, attractions and activities in the Amsterdam area, plus mobility equipment rentals.

**www.wheelchairtravel.org/
amsterdam**

Links to information about accessibility and assistance at transport hubs like the airport and train stations.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Mantas Tumosa

Creative designer and illustrator Mantas moved from his home country of Lithuania to London back in 2011. By day, he's busy creating bold, minimalistic illustrations that tell a story – such as the gorgeous cover of this book. By night, he's dreaming of adventures away, catching up on the basketball and cooking Italian food (which he can't get enough of).



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A NOTE FROM DK EYEWITNESS

The world is fast-changing and it's keeping us folk at
DK Eyewitness on our toes. We've worked hard to ensure
that this edition of Amsterdam Like a Local is up-to-date
and reflects today's favourite places but we know that
standards shift, venues close and new ones pop up in their
place. So, if you notice something has closed, we've got
something wrong or left something out, we want to hear
about it. Please drop us a line at travelguides@dk.com