



WHY SHOULD I GO TO ↓ ROTTERDAM

THE CITY YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO
VISIT BEFORE YOU TURN 30 (OR 130)





THIS IS WHY!

In Rotterdam, people live by the motto *niet lullen, maar poetsen*, 'no fluff, no frills' – this city keeps it real. Its raw, authentic vibe and down-to-earth locals make it a place like no other.

Rotterdam is known for its bold, cutting-edge architecture. Right in the heart of the city, you'll find landmarks such as the Markthal, Central Station, and the Depot – a 40-metre-high mirrored bowl-shaped building with trees on its roof. Because – why not? But it's not just the architecture that makes Rotterdam. Art is everywhere. Head to Museum Park for museums galore or check out contemporary art fairs like Art Rotterdam. You'll also find art right on the streets: no other city in the Netherlands has this many outdoor sculptures. And the street art is next level. Festivals like ALL CAPS turn entire neighbourhoods into open-air galleries.

Then there's the food. Eating well is big in Rotterdam, and you'll be spoilt for choice with quirky restaurants and global flavours. With people from 170 cultures calling Rotterdam home, you can feast on everything from Surinamese *roti* and Syrian kebabs to Neapolitan pizza and Korean fried chicken. Whatever you're craving, you'll find it in Rotterdam.

When the sun sets, join a pub quiz, sip craft beers at one of the city's many indie breweries, embark on a bar crawl, hit the clubs, or dance the night away to a DJ set.

Rotterdam doesn't mess about.
So, what are you waiting for? Dive in!

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NEIGHBOURHOODS

Centrum

Rotterdam's city centre is a hub of culture, buzzing eateries, and a vibrant nightlife. Devastated in 1940, it was quickly rebuilt, creating the bold, modern skyline you see today. Explore areas like the lively Oude Westen, packed with international cuisine and quirky shops; the city's cultural hotspot Cool; and the historic maritime quarter Scheepvaartkwartier, with stately buildings and the charming Veerhaven.

Noord

Noord is a lively neighbourhood full of charm, with 19th-century houses, fun squares, and the River Rotte – the city's namesake. Creative





GOOD TO KNOW

Language

In Rotterdam, you'll have no trouble getting by in English – practically everyone speaks it, or at least thinks they do. From baristas to bus drivers, most locals are more than happy to chat in English, often with a charmingly thick Dutch accent. This delightful blend of Dutch and English, affectionately known as 'Dunglish', can lead to some hilarious phrases.

Don't be surprised if someone tells you they are 'standing in the file' (stuck in traffic) or that 'bicycles hear here not' (bicycles don't belong here). Dutch kids start learning English at school from a young age, and by the time they're teenagers, they're fluent enough to binge-watch Netflix without subtitles.

That's great news for visitors,

because let's be honest – Dutch is notoriously tricky for foreigners. Those guttural sounds and tongue-twisting words are no joke. But if you make the effort to learn a few basics – *hallo* (hello), *dank je wel* (thank you), and the ever-useful *mag ik een biertje?* (could I have a beer?) – the locals will appreciate it. Even if they immediately switch back to English to save you the trouble.

Money

When it comes to money in Rotterdam, plastic is king. Cards are widely accepted, even in smaller shops and cafés. In fact, more and more places are moving towards a card-only policy, so don't be surprised if you find yourself unable to pay with cash at



ROTTERDAM IN SPRING

When spring hits Rotterdam, the city truly comes alive and locals flock outside to soak up the sun. Iconic outdoor hotspots reopen, like Keilecafé, Biergarten, and Garden of BIRD. For riverside fun, head to Maaskantine or Bar Stroom for drinks and a bite. For something cosier, check out De Kerktuin or Machinist aan de Cool.

Spring also means the festival season kicks off. The Rotterdam Marathon brings a city-wide buzz, with cheering crowds lining the streets. As one of the fastest marathons in the world, it attracts elite runners aiming for record-breaking times, but it's just as exciting for casual participants and spectators. On King's Day (27th April), the city turns orange for the birthday of the Dutch king. If you're in for a

party, visit Kroonjuweel or Oranjabitter, or the massive Kralingse Bos Festival, where music, food, and good vibes reign supreme.

On Bevrijdingsdag (5th May), the Dutch celebrate the freedom their country has enjoyed since the end of World War II. At the free Bevrijdingsfestival in Het Park, you'll find live music, theatre performances, art installations, and delicious food.

Festivals galore continue throughout spring. Dance to beats at Toffler or Vrije Volk, explore Rotterdam's rooftops during Dakendagen, or discover smaller, eclectic events scattered throughout the city. Whether you're into music, food, or culture, there's always something happening to suit your vibe.





BREAKFAST

By Jarmusch

Goudsesingel 64, 3011 KD Stadsdriehoek (Centrum); Nieuwe Binnenweg 575, 3023 EP Nieuwe Westen (Delfshaven), byjarmusch.nl

An American breakfast never gets old, especially when prepared by By Jarmusch. Have a sweet tooth? Their French toast with fresh blueberries and blueberry compote won't disappoint. They serve breakfast all day long, for those who like a lie-in.

Louise Petit Déjeuner

Veerhaven 12B, 3016 CJ Scheepvaartkwartier (Centrum), louisepetitrestaurant.com

Bonjour! While the interior of Louise Petit Déjeuner is mesmerising, their menu is even better. The delicious *crêpe comté et truffe* and *croque madame* will keep you coming back. In the evening, the restaurant transforms to a fancy place to wine and dine *à la France*.

Parqiet

Baden Powellilaan 20, 3016 GJ Scheepvaartkwartier (Centrum), parqiet.com

Imagine sitting on a lovely terrace, surrounded by greenery, with a healthy plate or bowl in front of you. At Parqiet this becomes reality. Here, you'll enjoy a falafel flatbread, with a cinnamon roll and cappuccino on the side. Does it get any better?

Man met Bril Koffie

Vijverhofstraat 70, 3032 SN Agniesebuurt (Noord), Linker Rottekade 12, 3034 RD, manmetbrilkoffie.nl

For everyone who's looking for a '*bakkie pleur*' – what Rotterdammers call an excellent cup of coffee – this is the place. Take a seat and sip on one of their fair-trade coffees, while finishing work or reading the newspaper. Be there before

10am to enjoy their breakfast plate.

Arzu

Bergweg 209A, 3037EJ Oude Noorden (Noord), arzurrotterdam.nl

This stylish café is all about pancakes and coffee. You'll also find other meals on the menu, but why would you? The apple pie, red velvet, and banana caramel pancakes are the best. Don't forget to grab one of their handmade food bars on the way home. You won't regret it.

COFFEE SPOTS

Nine Bar

Botersloot 44a, 3011 HH Stadsdriehoek (Centrum), nine-bar.com

Everyone who loves to start their morning with the newspaper on the right and a cup of coffee on the left, should visit the small, homely Nine Bar. Once you sit down,

you won't be able to resist their pistachio cookies or carrot cake. Yum!

Social

Herenplaats 1, 3011 LP Stadsdriehoek (Centrum), socialrotterdam.nl

The living-room vibe, art on the walls, and tasty menu (their New York pastrami sandwich is on fire!) will make you think about your next visit. For the busy bees in town: their Grab & Go window serves an excellent cup of coffee within a few minutes.

NICE

Hoogstraat 42, 3011 PR Stadsdriehoek (Centrum), @nice.neighbourhood

We love a cosy, aesthetic coffee spot. And luckily, there are tons of them in Rotterdam. One that really stands out is NICE. You can tell their coffee is made by talented baristas. Their sandwiches are around 12 euros, but worth every penny.

↓ PIZZA AT OLD SCUOLA, STADSRIEHOEK (CENTRUM)



HOW TO DRESS LIKE A LOCAL

Modern and minimalistic with an urban twist. That's how we'd describe a trendy local's wardrobe. When you want to blend in, the first step – a very important one – is getting your hands on a SUSAN BIJL bag. The next step is finding the shops with (overpriced) sustainable brands, vintage, and second-hand items. Fast fashion is a big no go, although some well-known brands do have massive shops at Lijnbaan – once an iconic and luxurious shopping area in the city centre, now reduced to mainly fast fashion and fast food.

Casual streetwear is the way to go. So, leave your high heels at home. Swap them for cool trainers – the more exclusive, the better. Or some platform loafers, always with white socks pulled up

high. Clothes-wise, it's all about the oversized look. Skinny jeans? Hell, no. Barrel jeans? Hell, yes! In winter, we keep it cool with big jumpers – baggy might as well be the local's middle name. Don't forget to wear a white tee underneath, at least if you want to be part of the 'cool' crowd. A puffer coat is a must when the weather is chilly. And a raincoat obviously belongs in every wardrobe. It might be in a standard colour, but a leopard print will also do the trick. Don't forget to bring your beanie, thick wool scarf and crossbody bag. During summertime, the fits are laid-back – just like the vibes in the city. In Rotterdam, it is all about timeless and functional fits instead of flashy trends. Once you remember to keep it cool and simple, you'll blend in easily.



SECOND-HAND & VINTAGE SHOPS

Think Twice

Karel Doormanstraat 355,
3012 GH Cool (Centrum),
[thinktwicevintage.nl](https://www.thinktwicevintage.nl)

An empty closet but also an almost empty wallet? Head to Think Twice, one of the newest vintage (well, second-hand) shops in town. Colourful, sporty, or perfect for your next festival – they've got it. Keep an eye on their Instagram, as they often offer great discounts.

Cheap Fashion

Meent 25, 3011
JB Stadsdriehoek
(Centrum), [insta @cheapfashionrotterdam](https://www.instagram.com/cheapfashionrotterdam)

It's all in the name: the collection of Cheap Fashion is, yes, cheap. But it doesn't look it. Whether you're looking for summer dresses, checkered shirts, printed skirts or colourful trainers, the collection is full of fun items.

New X Archive

Pannekoekstraat 62A,
3011 LJ Stadsdriehoek
(Centrum),
[newxarchive.com](https://www.newxarchive.com)

High-end vibes all over. The prices at New X Archive are a bit higher, but the quality is pure gold. They offer a curated collection of new, deadstock, and pre-owned items. If you don't find anything here, you just need to look a bit harder. Just saying.

Old North Interiors

Burgemeester van
Walsumweg 528, 3011 MZ
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum),
[oldnorthinteriors.com](https://www.oldnorthinteriors.com)

Whether you've just moved to Rotterdam and want to decorate your apartment with some authentic pieces or are just looking for inspiration: Old North Interiors is an interior design shop like no other. Their vintage, timeless pieces will bring a vibe to any lounge or bedroom.





STREETWEAR

Funkie House

Korte Hoogstraat 15A,
3011 GJ Stadsdriehoek
(Centrum), funkiehouse.nl

X21

Hoogstraat 169, 3011 PM
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum),
x21.nl

Carhartt WIP Store

Meent 24, 3011 JK
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum),
carhartt-wip.com

WOEI

Hoogstraat 44A, 3011 PS
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum),
woei-webshop.nl

For over 35 years, Funkie House has kept the Rotterdam streetwear scene alive. Expect top-notch brands like Dickies and Patagonia, but also some cool items by Rotterdam locals. Their two-floor store makes it hard to leave empty-handed.

In an inconspicuous part of Hoogstraat, you will find this surprisingly hip shop for unique streetwear. They offer lesser-known brands and often have unique pieces in stock. X21 has done various collaborations on clothes, shoes, and accessories.

In Rotterdam, you won't just find the usual rack of Carhartt somewhere in a hidden corner, but a whole dedicated store with all your favourite streetwear. And the city centre location couldn't be better.

Everyone who loves to treat their feet to some exclusive trainers head to WOEI. Some of their collaborations – with Stüssy, among others – make people queue for hours. Style them with their own brand of tees and crewnecks and you're good to go.

Skatestore

Westblaak 28, 3012
KM Cool (Centrum),
skatestore.com

TOK10 Store

Van Oldenbarnevalstraat
113-115, 3021 GS Cool
(Centrum), tok10.com

Tom Coffee + Friends

Zaagmolenkade 41-42,
3035 KD Oude Noorden
(Noord),
[insta @tom_coffeefriends](https://www.instagram.com/tom_coffeefriends)

Next to skatepark Westblaak, you'll find the Skatestore. Besides apparel (naturally, you'd want to look good on your board), they have an enormous collection of skateboard decks, wheels, bearings, and trucks.

High-end clothes and streetwear with a Japanese twist. That's what you'll find at TOK10. This shop is a true paradise for fashion lovers. Make sure to schedule some free time, as browsing the full collection might take a while.

Sipping on an espresso while admiring local art and shopping for some new fits: at Tom Coffee + Friends, you can do it all. Tom himself will probably serve you. And his friends? They are the artists and brand owners he collaborates with.

↓ BLAUWCC, SEE PAGE 157





CONCEPT STORES

Anna + Nina

Pannekoekstraat 20a,
3011 JT Stadsdriehoek
(Centrum), anna-nina.nl

A brand best-known for their jewellery, such as the Never-Ending Bracelet that is welded on as it's fitted. They sell homeware and fashion too, their own designs as well as those by others. Most items have a fun twist, or to quote the founders of Anna + Nina: 'escape the ordinary'.

SUSAN BIJL

Nieuwe Binnenweg 94,
3015 BD Oude Westen
(Centrum)
[insta @susanbijl](https://www.instagram.com/susanbijl)

How to recognise a Rotterdam local? If they wear a colourful nylon SUSAN BIJL bag, chances are high. The bags are strong (amazing for your groceries), simple, and available in almost any colour combination. And you can get one too – we won't blame you. Also worth a visit: her backyard shop at Oostzeedijk 108 (Kralingen).

Zien & Corbeau

Nieuwe Binnenweg 60,
3015 BB Oude Westen
(Centrum), optiekzien.nl

Zien, 'see', is our favourite optician in town, with beautiful frames from Moscot among others, and cool sunglasses as well. Their eye tests are old-school thorough yet impressively modern. Corbeau, once located at Kruiskade as one of Rotterdam's oldest shoe shops, is now part of this store. The shoes made way for Peakay Blinders-style flat caps, silky leather gloves, and beautiful socks. You might want to bring the parents and their wallet if you want it all.

Marjolein Delhaas

Zaagmolenkade 170, 3035
KD Oude Noorden (Noord),
shop.marjoleindelhaas.com

If you love structure, draw energy from finishing your to-do lists, or like to start your day journaling: Marjolein Delhaas has got you covered. Her minimalistic designs give your (home) office that extra productivity boost. Find just the right piece at her aesthetically pleasing shop.

BlaauwCC

Zwaanshals 484, 3035 KS
Oude Noorden (Noord),
blauwcc.store

A gallery and concept store dedicated to beautiful things in blue! From postcards and clothing to little pieces of art, and larger items: blue, blue, blue. In any blue, from baby to navy. The shop's logo is in the famous hue by Yves Klein.

Rumours

[concept] STORE

Lusthofstraat 57,
3061 WL Kralingen
(Kralingen-Crooswijk),
rumoursconceptstore.nl

Clothes, candles, jewellery, notebooks, little bags, big scarves, and the occasional art exhibition: Rumours [concept] STORE has it all. And we just love their friendly staff! Though this also might be one to bring the parents to.

↓ MARJOLEIN DELHAAS



BOOKSHOPS

Yendor

Korte Hoogstraat 16,
3011 GL Stadsdriehoek
(Centrum), yendor.nl

Looking for a specific comic book, manga or graphic novel? At Yendor, they have been fulfilling fans' wishes since 1977. Just step inside the oldest comic shop in Rotterdam and have a browse.

De Kleine Kapitein

Botersloot 173, 3011 HE
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum),
de-kleine-kapitein.nl

A children's bookshop with a great YA department and a selection of board games that is worth the trip. And when you can't find anything for yourself – which we find hard to imagine – you can always treat your niece or nephew to a new book.

Donner

Coolsingel 129, 3012 AG Cool
(Centrum), donner.nl

Looking for a specific title? At Donner, they probably have it – regardless of its genre. Entering this shop might feel a bit overwhelming, as they truly have everything. From books (obviously) and gifts to games. The English department is on the ground floor, YA can be found next to the travel guides, and there is a little café on the 2nd floor.

vanGennep

Oude Binnenweg 131B, 3012
JD Cool (Centrum), insta@boekhandelvangennep

A traditional literary bookshop, vanGennep has been around for about half a century. All this time, they have been providing Rotterdam with interesting books, from literature and poetry to art and photography books. If you don't already have a love for reading, the staff's enthusiasm is infectious.

PrintRoom

Schietbaanstraat 17,
3014 ZV Oude Westen
(Centrum), printroom.org

Riso printing, or 'digital screen printing', is a lovely way to produce not just prints but zines and books as well. In addition to these printed objects, they also offer workshops and a range of events. We love their focus on international creatives, whose work you can find at Print-Room.

NAi Bookstore

Museumpark 25, 3015 CB
Dijkzigt (Centrum),
naibooksellers.nl

Does architecture make your heart skip a beat? Always looking out for creative designs? Then head out to NAi Bookstore. It's the right spot to get your creativity flowing and expand your book collection. Also fun: the store is nestled at Nieuwe Instituut (see page 57).

KIOSK

Pieter de Raadtstraat 35,
3033 VC Provenierswijk
(Centrum),
kioskrotterdam.com

Yes, we do love paper – which is why we make books. And we do love little shops like this. At KIOSK, they are all about books, prints, zines, and more. They also organise writing groups and collaborative printing workshops.

Emma's Bookshop

Zwaanshals 432, 3035 KT
Oude Noorden (Noord),
emmasbookshop.nl

Ver van Hier

Kleiweg 69, 3051 GJ
Kleiwegkwartier
(Hillegersberg-Schiebroek),
insta @vervanhier

Oosterboekhandel J.Amesz

Voorschoterlaan 145,
3062 KM Kralingen
(Kralingen-Crooswijk),
amesz-boekhandel.nl

Bosch&deJong

Nico Koomanskade 1025,
3072 LM Katendrecht
(Feijenoord), insta @
boschendejong

Boekhandel Maximus

Bergse Dorpsstraat 122,
3054 GG Hillegersberg
(Hillegersberg-Schiebroek)

Do you romanticise bookshops a little? Well, at Emma's Bookshop this romance becomes reality. You may know Emma from her popular socials. If not, you won't forget her after visiting her shop. Expect to find (English) young adult books and some stationery designed by Emma herself.

For a mix of coffee, books and cosy vibes, you should visit Ver van Hier. This is also a sure hit for finding gifts. If you have a young child in tow, they'll be occupied in the play area while you browse in peace.

When there's a book written about a bookshop, you know it must be special. At 125 years, Oosterboekhandel J.Amesz is Rotterdam's oldest bookshop. Tip: the friendly staff share their recommendations online. Most impressive of all is how up-to-date their stock is, despite the shop's modest size.

Bosch&deJong is probably the smallest bookshop in town. A shop within a shop, it is part of the Fenix Food Factory. Browse the long wall of bookcases stocked with everything ranging from travel guides to literary fiction.

Friendly neighbourhood bookshop Maximus offers a broad selection of titles. It is filled to the brim with novels, cookbooks, children's books, and of course travel guides.



GET CREATIVE



Meijer & Blessing

Westewagenstraat 27,
3011 AR Stadsdriehoek
(Centrum),
meijerenblessing.nl

Gerstaecker

Hoogstraat 72, 3011 PT
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum)
gerstaecker.nl

Van Beek Art Supplies

Hoogstraat 58-64, 3011 PT
Stadsdriehoek (Centrum),
vanbeekart.nl

Schröder Modestoffen

Westblaak 61, 3012 KD
Cool (Centrum),
schrödermodestoffen.nl

Hummelman

Stadhoudersweg 93A, 3039
EC Blijdorp (Noord), [insta @hummelmanpenshop](https://www.instagram.com/hummelmanpenshop)

Are you a fan of model construction? At Meijer & Blessing, they offer everything to do with model building; from train sets and model kits to glue, paint and tools, and even racetracks and steam engines. Their Star Wars collection is extensive. Anyone who loves building should plan a visit.

Treat your inner artist to a new canvas, a paint palette, and some brushes. You might have hidden creative talents – a visit to Gerstaecker will reveal them. This is also a great place for pottery and craft supplies.

A rainy Sunday is best filled with a creative session. If you feel like letting your creativity flow or want to learn how to draw, it's all possible at Van Beek Art Supplies. So, when do we meet up?

Sewing and knitting enthusiasts should run to Schröder Modestoffen, which offers everything from fabrics to haberdashery. The only thing you need to find your inner fashion designer is to choose if you want to create your own linen trousers, corduroy jacket, or posh dress.

Joy can be found in the smallest things. The stunning fountain pens at Hummelman are proof. From classic to funky, writing will never be the same again. Their pens also make great gifts, especially paired with one of their notebooks.