

# AMSTERDAM

## GUIDE, TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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This is a little local guide for visitors of Amsterdam. I do not have a stake in the places / companies below. There's a lot of good stuff in our city and this is not a comprehensive guide at all. Feel free to explore and discover yourself (as you are trying to stay away from tourist traps).

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### **THE DRINK, EAT, SLEEP, REPEAT SECTION**

#### **Breakfast and brunch**

The most important meal of the day, if you aren't sleeping. This is where I start my weekends:

- **Little Collins**

Great brekkie. They have one in West and De Pijp. You might want to book a table to enjoy their soy amazing glazed pork belly or hangover healing okonomiyaki.

<https://www.littlecollins.nl/>  
<https://goo.gl/maps/Qtg4sqzjihismNzS6>  
Bilderdijkstraat 140, 1053 LA Amsterdam

- **Vlaamsch Broodhuys**

If you're not in a rush, this is a nice place for soup bowl of cappuccino and a burrata or tuna melt sandwich.

<https://www.vlaamschbroodhuys.nl/en>  
<https://goo.gl/maps/P6SHpgjy8tduDrLSA>  
Elandsgracht 122 b/g, 1016 VB Amsterdam (has more locations)

- **Bakers & Roasters**

Perfect for brunch, as they serve large portions of Navajo Eggs, pancakes and other stuff that fills you up until long after lunch time.

<http://www.bakersandroasters.com/>  
<https://goo.gl/maps/U3LhtxWdJEVFSFqD6> (has more locations)  
Eerste Jacob van Campenstraat 54, 1072 BH Amsterdam

*Extra:* Getting a croissant at the various supermarkets or bakeries is always a good idea. Lidl, Dirk, Albert Heijn and Marqt are supermarkets that have a bakery inside.

### **Cafes and bars**

Amsterdam has a wide variety of cafes, ranging from more traditional and local *bruine cafés* [brown cafes] to metropolitan places, hipster hotspots and hotel bars. Keep in mind that on Friday around 17:00 / 5:00 PM, *de vrijdagmiddagborrel* or abbreviated as *VrijMiBo* [Friday afternoon drinks] starts and places might get bustling and busy.

#### **In and around *De Negen Straatjes* [the nine streets]**

There are many, many cafes in this area. De Doffer, De Pels and Brandon are among the more local cafes, Libtertine and Sous-bar Bistro are among the cooler places for a cup of coffee, beer or bite.

#### **Near *De Dam* [Dam Square]**

The Lobby is a nice place to meet and greet over a drink. If you want a more local and laidback experience, go to *De Bierfabriek* [The Beer Factory]. They've got a wide variety of beer and amazing chicken to accompany it. Talking about drinking from local breweries; Brouwerij Troost has several locations and serves great beer and food as well. Located in the West, Center and South.

Need some room for a meeting and escape the bustling places, go to Het Groene Paleis [*The Green Palace*]. You've got enough space here, can actually talk and it's usually not that busy. You do not go there to be seen, but that's ok.

#### **On the canals**

Step your game up and go to The Dylan, The Hoxton or The Andaz or go to Café Thijssen, Kobalt, Proeflokaal A. van Wees or Van Puffelen to act local.

#### **Near or over the IJ river**

Dare to cross the water? Take the free ferry to Pilek and discover the more industrial NDSM warf with its cool restaurants, dockyards and the not yet super gentrified part of Amsterdam; *Noord* [North]. FC Hyena and Hotel De Goudfazant are cool too.

If you want to stay on the city side, Meneer Nieges and Hannekes Boom are good places for drinks and water views.

**Extra: Skybars:** Hilton Skytree, QO (Juniper & Kin), W Hotel, Madam, Canvas. **Aesthetics:** Duke of Tokyo, Escobar, Lion Noir. **Quiet:** De Jaren, De Ceuvel. **Cocktails:** Flying Dutchmen, **Beer:** Gollem, Beer Temple, Hesp, In de Wildeman. **Wine:** Le Baravin, De Klepel.

Don't forget to try some *bitterballen* [Dutch croquet balls] with your drink, but don't be the first one to take a bite. They're hot.

### **Take-out and delivery**

Sometimes you just want to stay in and order food, right?

#### **Take-out**

Sari Citra:	Indonesian
Roopram:	Surinamese
Nieuw-Albina:	Chinese
Fuoco Vivo:	Italian
Sawadee Ka:	Thai
KimchiWOW:	Korean bibimbap
Vraai:	BBQ
Sugoi:	Sushi
Soytasty:	Asian
Ter Marsch:	Burgers
Bo Nam:	Vietnamese
Vleesch noch Vis:	Vegetarian
Salsa Shop:	Mexican
Juice Brothers:	Juice
Uncle Lee:	Korean BBQ
The Lebanese Sajeria:	Libanese
Stach:	variety of stuff, including meals
Leeman Döner:	döner (not good if you have meetings later on)

#### **Delivery services**

UberEATS: use "eats-ubersanderpetit" for € 6 discount  
Thuisbezorgd  
Deliveroo

### **Restaurants**

I've found that the only way to cope with a 5-day ADE stretch is to actually have dinner. These are my personal recommendations, in a variety of kitchens and budgets.

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- **Hap-Hmm**

This is super-Dutch, traditional, cosy and cheap.

Eerste Helmersstraat 33, 1054 CZ Amsterdam

<https://www.hap-hmm.nl/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/KihaRaXRrbc8phJb7>

- **Vegan Junk Food Bar**

You want to eat junk food and feel less guilty afterwards? Go here.

Reguliersdwarstraat 57, 1017 BK Amsterdam

<https://www.veganjunkfoodbar.com/locations/reguliersdwarstraat/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/zoYLCNuVPJyDPof3A>

- **SLA**

Great salads, but you need to be up for a discussion on how to pronounce *quinoa*.

Utrechtsestraat 10HS, 1017 VN Amsterdam

<https://ilovesla.com/menu/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/oanqGkTjuu2M7ycd6>

If you want a little more *umami*, there are many good ramen shops in Amsterdam. It can be heart warming after a rainy day or possibly the miracle cure for a hangover. Among my favourites are Ramen Ya, Ramen Iki, Sapporo Ramen and Vatten Ramen.

*Shortlist:* FIKO (Martin Garrix' favourite pizza place), De Bazaar, De Vergulde Gaper, Bierfabriek.

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- **Restaurant DS**

Hands down one of the best and certainly one of my favourites. Located in one of the most (if not, the most) important underground clubs of Amsterdam; De School. Has a café with weekly dishes as well, if you're on a budget.

Doctor Jan van Breemenstraat 1, 1056 AB Amsterdam

<https://www.deschoolamsterdam.nl/en/restaurant/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/eUYaPuzcz5tk5L8B6>

- **Choux**

Great food with a lot of attention to the veggies. Good service, good wines, good place. No menu online, but no worries; you'll like it.

De Ruijterkade 128, 1011 AC Amsterdam

<https://choux.nl/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/83EpidZgW6WxJAYh9>

- **Wijmpje Beukers**

Possibly the best service in Amsterdam. Bistro like food but topped with a dash of creativity and lots of love from the kitchen team.

Karel du Jardinstraat 47, 1073 TB Amsterdam

<http://www.wijmpjebeukers.nl/> (no reservations, but you'll get seated soon)

<https://g.page/Wijmpjebeukers?share>

*Shortlist:* Amoi, The Dirty Chicken Club, FuLu, Kaiko, Hosokawa, Marie, De Goudfazant, Jacobz, Rijsel.

- ➔ If you need **MEAT**? Avoid going to the tourist traps. Go to Salmuera for amazing meat grilled over a traditional *asado* grill, The Roast Room, Piet de Leeuw (serves horse as well) or one of the locations of the Loetje branch.
- ➔ If you are **VEGAN**? Yerba, Entrepot, Bolenius and Bar Centraal are to be considered good options.
- ➔ If you crave for **FISH**? Pesca, Brut de Mer and John Dory will satisfy your needs.
- ➔ If you want the **DUTCH** experience? Look (and bite) at D'Vijff Vlieghe, De Silveren Spiegel, Haesje Claes or Greetje. They'll give you a traditional and culinary peak in our kitchen.

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- **Kaagman & Kortekaas**

Informal, cosy and personal. They're working with a lot of local products. It's not super expensive though and worth every cent.

Sint Nicolaasstraat 43, 1012 NJ Amsterdam

<https://kaagmanenkortekaas.nl/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/odQm9vh2Tum5XDz2A>

- **Brasserie Conservatorium Hotel**

Wonderful location and great food. With an indoor garden, you can escape the city buzz.

Paulus Potterstraat 50, 1071 DB Amsterdam

<https://www.conservatoriumhotel.com/Brasserie-Lounge>

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZMBjmW8bddqMeUE7A>

- **Vinkeles (\*)**

Just amazing. Located in The Dylan (a former ADE location), one of the best and most beautiful hotels of Amsterdam and even elected as Netherlands Leading Hotel in 2008 and 2009.

Keizersgracht 384, 1016 GB Amsterdam

[https://www.vinkeles.com/?utm\\_source=GMB&utm\\_medium=organic](https://www.vinkeles.com/?utm_source=GMB&utm_medium=organic)

<https://goo.gl/maps/MnsEZhwXPZhVy8zz7>

Or go to their brasserie Occo, both located in The Dylan Hotel.

- **Yamazato (\*)**

This is as good a Japanese food gets. Tranquillity, ambiance, kimonos. Serenity on your plate. Pure food and pure happiness.

Ferdinand Bolstraat 333, 1072 LH Amsterdam

<https://www.okura.nl/nl/dine-and-drink/yamazato-restaurant/>

<https://g.page/restaurant-yamazato?share>

*Shortlist:* RIJKS, Daalder, Breda, MOS, Restaurant C.

If you need more recommendations, go to <https://www.viamichelin.nl/web/Restaurants/Restaurants-Amsterdam--Noord-Holland-Nederland> or <https://www.kokswereld.nl/lekker/> for example or use Google, Tripadvisor and a bit of common sense.

## **Hotels**

Website like Booking.com, Trivago and Airbnb will get you a bed for the night, but Amsterdam can be an overpriced place. If I had to choose for a decent price-quality balance, I'd stay here:

Motel One

<https://www.motel-one.com/nl/hotels/amsterdam/hotel-amsterdam/>

Hotel Casa

<https://hotelcasa.nl/nl/>

Hampton

[https://www.hiltonhotels.com/nl\\_NL/nederland/hampton-by-hilton-amsterdam-arena-boulevard/](https://www.hiltonhotels.com/nl_NL/nederland/hampton-by-hilton-amsterdam-arena-boulevard/)

Sir Adam

<https://www.sirhotels.com/en/adam/>

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## **THE HOW TO GET AROUND SECTION**

Well, use Google Maps. But if you need more specific information:

NS (train): <https://www.ns.nl/en/journeyplanner>  
GVB (metro, tram, ferry, bus): <https://reisinfo.gvb.nl/en>

You can buy multiple day or single trip cards inside the tram or at the vending machines in metro stations. If you travel with 2 or more, ViaVan taxi is about the same price, around € 4 per person per trip if you stay in the inner ring of Amsterdam. If you catch a taxi alone, it's about € 4,95 per reserved seat. Uber is a bit more expensive, but can sometimes be the faster option.

Uber: use “**ubersanderpetit**” for € 5 discount on your first ride  
ViaVan: like Uber, but way cheaper, use “**sander7d8**” for € 10 credit  
TCA: Taxi Centrale Amsterdam  
Felyx: rent a scooter and use “**OoHWiMxL**” for free minutes  
Car2Go: rent a Smart and pay per minute

Renting a bike at a bike shop might be a good idea as well. For the rest, walk. It's a walkable distance city. You can also rent boats, which is pretty cool (cold).

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## **THE MISCELLANEOUS SECTION**

### **Party**

Partying in Amsterdam can be quite immersive, as we have a pretty liberal city. This does not mean you can do anything, anywhere. Please be respectful to other people, sexes, races, etc. A stranger in the streets could be your neighbour on the dancefloor. As DJ and producer Patrice Baumel put it:

*“Amsterdam is a liberal, open-minded place that encourages diversity, tolerance and equality. We welcome public displays of affection. We want to be a home for people of all sexual orientations, religious beliefs and world views. We treat women with respect. We want ADE to be a celebration of life and music for everybody. Please do your part and help make this week a home run. Even when you're drunk, or stoned, or nobody is watching. Keep in class and let the good times roll.”*

For more information about how liberal we are, please read Russell Shorto's book called Amsterdam (<https://www.bol.com/nl/p/amsterdam/9200000022375666/?suggestionType=browse&bltgh=jbgm7M1elfEL8rQoLcpEJA.1.4.ProductImage>). Just kidding (it's a good book though). Check out <http://celebratesafe.nl/en/about-en/>.

For more information about ADE from the city of Amsterdam, please check <https://www.amsterdam.nl/en/leisure/amsterdam-dance-2019/>.

The 'official' city guide can be found on <https://www.iamsterdam.com/en>.

Thinking about moving over? Check out <https://www.iamexpat.nl/expat-info/dutch-cities/amsterdam>.

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### **Secondhand tickets**

As promoters start pushing their parties from the August on, a lot of events will be sold as when you figure you want to have a drink and dance after all those meetings. Please do not buy tickets of Facebook, Marktplaats or from people in the streets. The chance you'll get ripped off or are buying fake tickets is likely. Use <https://www.ticketswap.nl/> instead. It's easy and safe.

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## Take a rest

If you need some relaxation or do something out of the buzz, these tips might come to rescue.

Amsterdamse Bos:	forest, suitable for long walks and giving baby goats the milk bottle
Vondelpark:	for short walks and a nice warm cup of ... at Het Blauwe Theehuis or VondelCS
Koan Float:	1 hour of floating equals 5 hours of sleep, do the math
Jaap Eden Baan:	go ice skating and try some different dance moves
Massage:	try Arigato, Marin, het Massagehuys or Doctor Feelgood for a good rub
Spa:	Spa Zuiver, Sauna Deco, Akasha are nice spa's to relax
Comedy:	laugh yourself into a state of happiness at Toomler or Boom Chicago

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## Tendencies towards some tourists

Also, please keep an eye out for the environment. Trash by tourists is one of the most annoying things in the city right now. Secondly, there is currently a restriction on Airbnb (maximum amount of days a year) and a ban on new hotels in the center as the city of Amsterdam cannot cope with the amounts of tourists in town. Many people are going crazy over the amount and behaviour of tourists nowadays, since traffic congestions happen on road- and pathways. A large part of the tourists is here for the obvious reasons (tulips and windmills, clearly) and are of great annoyance of the city's inhabitants. This is truly something that lives among the people of Amsterdam. Please be aware of this. Abiding our traffic rules helps a lot. It seems simple to us as residents, but do not walk in bicycle lanes, keep pathways free, wait for traffic lights, enter trams where you should (in the front or middle), etc. Don't be a tourist, be a guest! The city will treat you well. Hopefully you'll have a great stay. *Welkom!*

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# DE DANCE-ADVOCAAT