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THE

# AMSTERDAM

CITY GUIDE

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YOUR LITTLE BLACK BOOK

TERRA



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CITY GUIDE

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TERRA



Cottoncake

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# IN LOVE WITH AMSTERDAM

I wake up in a different city almost every week, but Amsterdam remains my most beloved. *The Amsterdam City Guide*, with my favourite spots in the nicest neighbourhoods in the city, is the crown jewel of Your Little Black Book. For as long as I can remember, I have dreamt of living in Amsterdam at least once in my life. As a young girl from the provinces, the city held something magical. That was where everything happened! Cycling along the canals, the shops, a cosy café on every street corner – Amsterdam *has it all*. As a teenager, I visited Amsterdam whenever I could, to shop, club or attend festivals. And now that I've lived here for ten years, I can say with my hand on my heart: Amsterdam and I belong together.

My urban travel platform Your Little Black Book actually originated in this love affair with Amsterdam. Because what I love about cities is that there's always something new to discover. So every day I share the best spots in the city on [Yourlittleblackbook.me](http://Yourlittleblackbook.me), and offer tips every weekend on things to do in Amsterdam. In so doing my site has grown to become the largest urban travel blog in the Netherlands. As a professional travel blogger, I am now living my dream and travelling the world!

Cities are constantly changing: neighbourhoods that you previously wouldn't stoop to visit are now the trendiest parts of the city. Concept stores are where it's at when shopping for unique items. It's there that you find carefully curated collections of items that come with a story. The restaurant scene has evolved from traditional brown cafés and bistros to the most beautifully designed restaurants and bars. Whether you're after a five-course dinner or the day's special, your taste buds will be satisfied with help from this *City Guide*.

I love the diversity of Amsterdam, my big tiny city. Everything is here, and yet when you stroll through the neighbourhoods described in this book you feel as though you're in a small town. From the rugged Amsterdam North to the up-and-coming Baarsjes, the beautiful canal district and the cosy Jordaan. I offer tips to check off your Amsterdam bucket list in every neighbourhood, and a tour of my personal favourite hotspots. To make your life even easier, I also provide shortlists, from the nicest coffee bars to where to go for breakfast or to shop.

Enjoy!

Love,

Anne de Buck



Busy planning a trip to Amsterdam? Discover how to avoid looking like a tourist on your rented bicycle. Buy tickets for that awesome festival happening while you're in town, and find out when you need to go casual or dress up to leave your hotel room or apartment. Discover Amsterdam like a proper local with these practical tips!

**365 DAYS**

You can have the perfect city trip anytime of the year. Each season possesses its own charm and cool events not to miss while you're in town!

**SPRING**

At the first hint of sunshine, everyone flocks to the city's terraces. The food-festival season starts again and the city turns orange on King's Day.

**Must-see events:**

- King's Day – 27 APRIL
- Amsterdam Coffee Festival  
AMSTERDAMCOFFEEFESTIVAL.COM – MARCH
- Liberation Day – 5 MAY
- De Rollende Keukens  
(food truck festival)  
ROLLENDEKEUKENS.AMSTERDAM – MAY
- Taste of Amsterdam  
TASTEOFAMSTERDAM.COM – JUNE
- World Press Photo  
WORLDPRESSPHOTO.ORG – APRIL/JULY
- Opening of festival season – FROM APRIL

**SUMMER**

Amsterdam is awesome in the summer. Every week there's a festival where you can dance the whole day through. Boats sail along the canals and the parks are packed with picnic rugs.

**Must-see events:**

- Amsterdam Fashionweek  
FASHIONWEEK.NL – JULY
- Dance festivals
- Vondelpark open-air concerts  
OPENLUCHTTHEATER.NL – JULY & AUGUST
- Gay Pride  
AMSTERDAMGAYPRIDE.NL – AUGUST
- Grachtenfestival (Canal festival)  
GRACHTENFESTIVAL.NL – AUGUST
- Artis ZOOmeravonden  
(Artis Zoo summer evenings)  
ARTIS.NL – JUNE/AUGUST
- Sail SAIL.NL – ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS

**AUTUMN**

The season when nightlife once again moves back to the clubs, new restaurants throw open their doors and we descend on the pubs en masse with friends.

**Must-see events:**

- Amsterdam Dance Event  
AMSTERDAM-DANCE-EVENT.NL – OCTOBER
- Jordaan Festival  
JORDAANFESTIVAL.NL – SEPTEMBER
- Heritage Day  
OPENMONUMENTENDAG.NL – SEPTEMBER
- Museum Night MUSEUMNACHT.AMSTERDAM  
– NOVEMBER
- Amsterdam Marathon, TCSAMSTERDAM-MARATHON.NL – OKTOBER
- IDFA IDFA.NL – NOVEMBER



A bucket list of things every Amsterdammer and visitor ought to do in Amsterdam at least once in their lives: Popular and less well-known must-dos, from the classic and refined to the wild and new. Tick them off your bucket list one at a time. Too many to fit in a weekend, so you'll always have a reason to return to Amsterdam.

- Cycling along the canals

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- Barbecuing in the Vondelpark

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- NDSM Wharf

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- Museum of Bags & Purses

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- Street Art Tour

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- Cheese-tasting at Kef

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- Gerard Doustraat

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- Brandt en Levie sausage workshop

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- The Foodhallen

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- Concert at the Concertgebouw

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- Dim sum at Oriental City

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- Festival at Ruigoord

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- Haarlemmerstraat & Haarlemmerdijk

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- Clubbing at De School

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- Van Gogh Museum

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- De Negen Straatjes (The Nine Streets)

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- Koningsdag (King's Day)

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- Museum Night

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- IJ-hallen

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- Eating raw haring

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- Foam

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- Lookout at A'DAM Toren (Tower)

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- Visit a café in Amsterdam's Jordaan

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- Amsterdam Museum

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- Tuschinski

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- Ferry to North

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- Rijksmuseum

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- Food trucks in the Vondelpark

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- Dinner at the Vuurtoreneiland

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- Sail along the canals

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- Eat bitterballs

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- Stedelijk Museum

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- Syrup cookies at the Albert Cuyp market

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- Eat dinner at Rijsel

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- Sunday markets

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- Anne Frank House

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- See Amsterdam from a rooftop

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- De Rollende Keukens (food truck festival)

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- Watch the sunset at Pllek

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- Tropenmuseum (Museum of the Tropics)

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- Beer-tasting at a craft brewery

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- Cycle through the Rijksmuseum tunnel

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Lists with summaries of the best tips – this is something we love at Your Little Black Book. In these themed shortlists you'll find all our favourites in a row. Because sometimes you're simply not in the mood to search or read. From the best hotels to coffee bars, and from concept stores to nightlife.

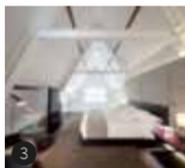
## 15 X FINEST HOTELS

That you'll only ever visit your hotel to sleep is no reason to pick an old-fashioned one. A nice hotel with both a decent bed *and* a beautiful interior can make a city trip even more enjoyable. You may want something very luxurious or romantic, something sleek, or something designerish on a budget. We've therefore created this shortlist of Amsterdam's nicest hotels.

### 1 The Hoxton

You don't go to The Hoxton just to sleep. The lobby is popular with trendy locals meeting for coffee or cocktails. The rooms are slickly designed, and with a bit of luck you'll get one overlooking the canals. Hang your breakfast bag on your outer doorknob and your breakfast will be ready by the door by the time you wake up. Cool events are organised weekly at The Hoxton.

HEREGRACHT 255, THEHOXTON.COM



### 2 Hotel De Hallen

Hotel De Hallen is located in a former tram depot in Amsterdam Old-West. Rooms at this designer hotel have beautiful interiors and are very luxurious. Many of the building's original details remain visible. You'll find a cinema in the building next door, as well as indoor food market The Foodhallen, which

you definitely should not miss. Breakfast is served at Remise47, where you can also get a tasty meal in the evening.

BELLYMYPLEIN 47,  
HOTELDEHALLEN.COM

### 3 Conservatorium hotel

You'll find the Conservatorium hotel in a beautiful building next to the Museumplein, along with restaurant Taiko, one of the best Japanese restaurants in town. As the name suggests, the building once housed a conservatory. You will want for nothing if you stay here. Make sure you order room service for breakfast so you can enjoy your room a little longer. Then go relax in the luxurious Akasha Spa for a perfect start to the day.

VAN BAERLESTRAAT 27,  
CONSERVATORIUMHOTEL.COM



## 24 HOURS IN AMSTERDAM

In Amsterdam for a layover or a fun day out? Start your day in De Pijp, do something cultural and go from hotspot to hotspot. Today, Tour 2, which begins on the Gerard Doustraat.

### 9 A.M. breakfast

De Wasserette in cosy De Pijp has for years been one of the nicest spots for a good breakfast. They open early, offer delicious coffee and their menu lists lots of tasty sandwiches.

DE WASSERETTE, EERSTE VAN DER HELSTSTRAAT 27, DEWASSERETTE.COM

### 10 A.M. Gerard Doustraat

Gerard Doustraat is De Pijp's hipster street, lined with beautiful concept stores and specialty shops.

GERARD DOUSTRAT

### 11 A.M. Albert Cuyp Market

A stroll through De Pijp is incomplete without a visit to the Albert Cuyp market, where the most delicious syrup waffles in Amsterdam are sold.

### 11:30 A.M. lunch

You can enjoy tasty and healthy dishes at CT coffee & coconuts, and it's one of Amsterdam's most beautiful hotspots.

CT COFFEE & COCONUTS, CEINTUURBAAN 282-284, CTAMSTERDAM.NL

### 1 P.M. museum

Close to De Pijp is the Museumplein, with Amsterdam's three iconic museums: the Rijksmuseum, the Stedelijk Museum and the Van Gogh Museum. Go see an exhibition that suits your taste.

- RIJKSMUSEUM, MUSEUMSTRAAT 1, RIJKSMUSEUM.NL
- STEDELIJK MUSEUM, MUSEUMPLEIN 10, STEDELIJK.NL
- VAN GOGH MUSEUM, MUSEUMPLEIN 6, VANGOGHMUSEUM.NL

9 A.M.

Breakfast

10 A.M.

Gerard Doustraat



11 A.M.

Albert Cuyp Market

11.30 A.M.

Lunch



Take a taxi (9 minutes) or walk (20 minutes) via the Spiegelstraat and Prinsengracht to the Runstraat in the Nine Streets. From there we continue Tour 5 in the Canal District and the Nine Streets.

### 3 P.M. The Nine Streets

The cosy Nine Streets connects the Prinsengracht and the Singel, and is a mecca for those who love specialty stores. Here you'll find the flagship stores of beautiful brands, vintage shops and concept stores, surrounded by with coffee and lunch spots. For a coffee break we recommend the Reestraat, where you'll find Pluck and Ree7, among others.

DE9STRAATJES.AMSTERDAM

### 5 P.M. drinks

The Hoxton's lobby isn't only for hotel guests. The interior and vibe give you the feeling of being not in Amsterdam, but Brooklyn (NY). It's a nice spot for a drink, around the corner from the Nine Streets and close to the Jordaan.

THE HOXTON AMSTERDAM, HERENGRACHT 255, THEHOXTON.COM

### 7 P.M. early dinner

There's no shortage of good restaurants in Amsterdam. And it is of course much more fun to eat at a hidden gem than at a restaurant you could easily have found without this guide. Here, therefore, are suggestions for four restaurants where you are guaranteed a fine evening. Each very different from the rest, but all with great service and delicious food.

- SALMUERA, ROZENGRACHT 106-H, SALMUERA.NL
- DE LUWTE, LELIEGRACHT 26, RESTAURANTDELUWTE.NL
- TALES & SPIRITS, LIJNBAANSSTEEG 5, TALESANDSPIRITS.COM
- CAFÉ DE KLEPEL, PRINSENSTRAAT 22, CAFEDEKLEPEL.NL

### AFTER DINNER

Still fancy a cocktail after dinner? Then go to Vesper around the corner of the Haarlemmerstraat.

VESPER, VINKENSTRAAT 57, VESPERBAR.NL

1 P.M.  
Museum

3 P.M.  
The Nine  
Streets



5 P.M.  
Drinks

7 P.M.  
Early dinner



An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, streets, and greenery. A large white circular graphic is overlaid on the top left, containing the word 'EAST' in a serif font, with four short black lines radiating from the center of the circle.

**EAST**





Amsterdam East has undergone a radical transformation in the past five years. From multicultural district with the Dapper Market as its beating heart to hipster neighbourhood with one hotspot after the other opening its doors. It has beautiful parks, like the Oosterpark and Frankendael Park, surrounded by stately buildings and lively food markets. But the district is also home to the raw Wibautstraat, the Beukenplein with its abundance of terraces, trendy Javastraat and the up-and-coming Czaar Peterstraat. It is this diversity that makes Amsterdam East so popular with locals.



### 19 Oosterpark

Oosterpark is East Amsterdammers' back garden. The park has recently undergone renovations, and it is now a lovely place for a stroll, a picnic or a jog. There are lots of cosy neighbourhood cafés near the Oosterpark, as is the Tropenmuseum.

### 24 Tropenmuseum

The Tropenmuseum is devoted to world cultures and is housed in a magnificent building on the edge of the Oosterpark. A *must* not only for the changing exhibitions that comment on the current zeitgeist, but also because of the museum's lovely café. The terrace of the Grand Café De Tropen on the balcony of the museum is a *must* in the summer.

LINNAEUSSTRAAT 2, TROPENMUSEUM.NL, 088-0042800, TRAM: 9 – EERSTE VAN SWINDENSTRAAT

### 5 Canvas & de Volkshotel rooftop

You could probably count Amsterdam's rooftop terraces on one hand, but they're certainly worth visiting for a bit of that New York feeling. When in East, check out the hip Volkshotel, where you can sleep, work, eat and club. Canvas restaurant is on

the seventh floor, and offers not only tasty food, but also fantastic views of the city below from its roof terrace.

WIBAUTSTRAAT 150, VOLKSHOTEL.NL, 020-2612110,  
METRO: 51, 53 & 54 – WIBAUTSTRAAT,  
TRAM: 3 – WIBAUTSTRAAT/RUYSCHSTRAAT

### 25 Javastraat

The trendy Javastraat is one of the nicest streets in East. This part of the East is also called the East-Indian neighbourhood. You'll find many authentic local shops here, with products from all around the world. Alongside the Turkish greengrocer you will now also find nice coffee bars, fine restaurants, cosy cafés to drink in and concept stores.

### 8 Park Frankendael & Pure Markt

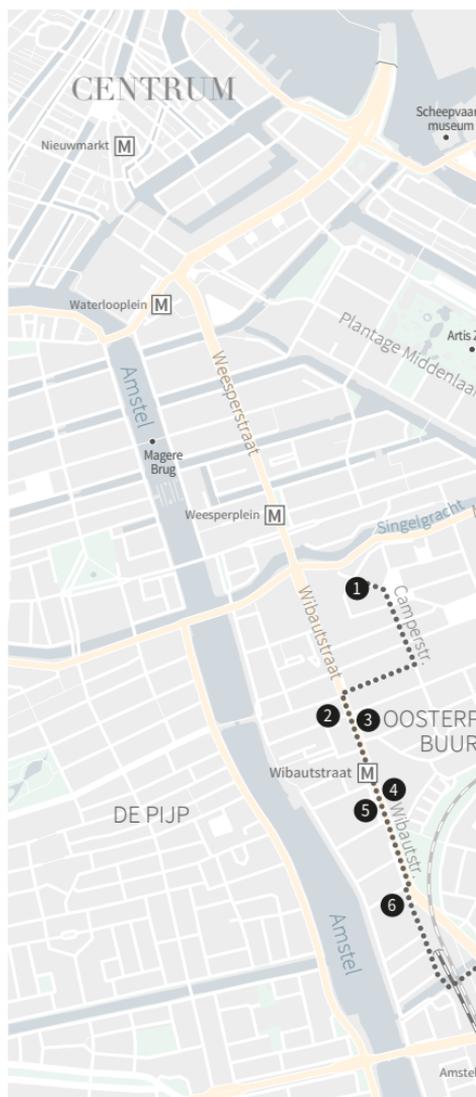
Once a city nursery providing Amsterdammers with fresh vegetables, now a beautiful park where you can enjoy a lovely stroll. In the park stands Amsterdam's only remaining country estate: Huize Frankendael. After your walk, you can enjoy a drink here in the Merkelbach restaurant. The park hosts regular events, including the Pure Market, which takes place almost every month on Sunday – the place to be for traditional food and a culinary afternoon.

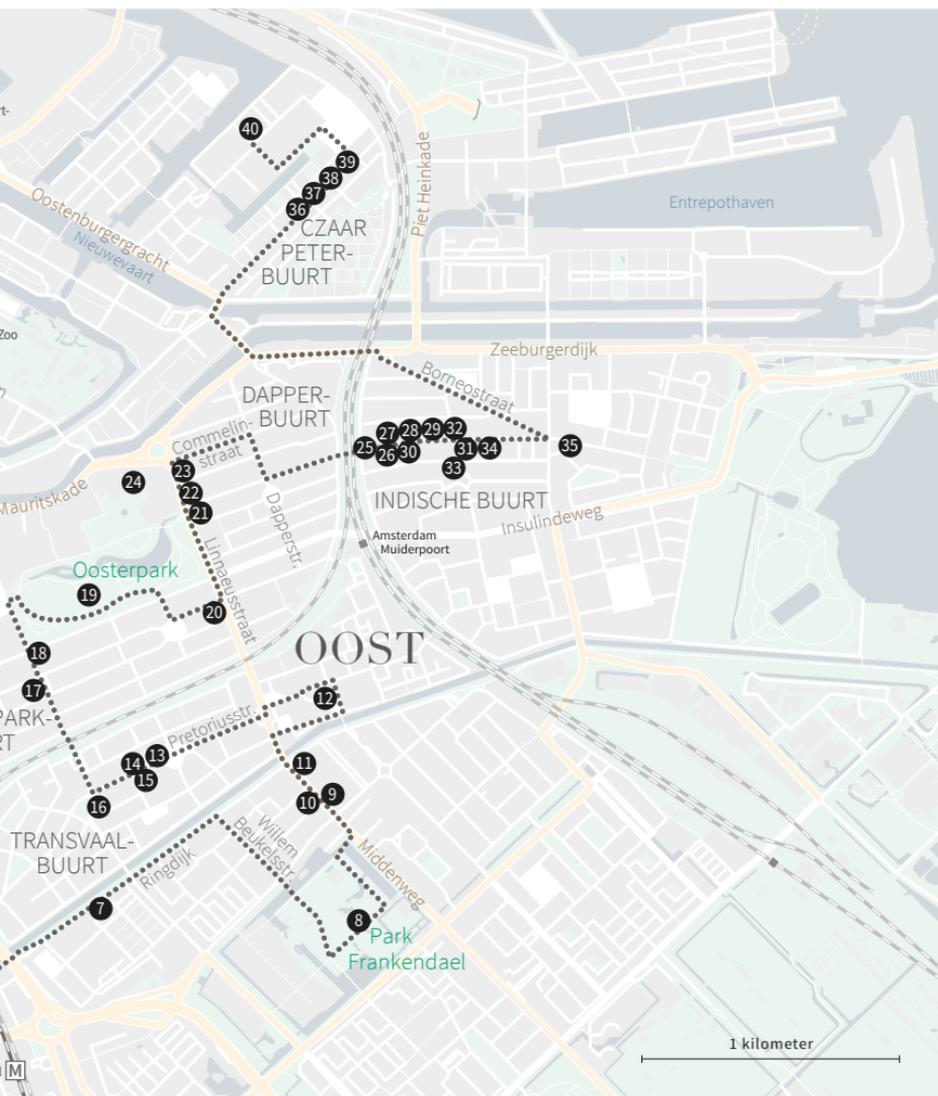
HUIZEFRAKENDAELE.NL, PUREMARKT.NL



## TOUR 1

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 BOTERHAM                            | 21 WE ARE VINTAGE                            |
| 2 BETER & LEUK                        | 22 DE BIERTUIN                               |
| 3 STEK                                | 23 LOUIE LOUIE                               |
| 4 RESTAURANT C                        | 24 TROPENMUSEUM                              |
| 5 CANVAS & DE VOLKS-<br>HOTEL ROOFTOP | 25 JAVASTRAAT                                |
| 6 RIJSEL                              | 26 DIV. HERENKABINET                         |
| 7 DE VERGULDEN<br>EENHOORN            | 27 HARTJE OOST                               |
| 8 PARK FRANKENDAEL<br>& PURE MARKT    | 28 BEDFORD STUYWESANT                        |
| 9 BIGGLES                             | 29 BAR GALLIZIA                              |
| 10 &KLEVERING                         | 30 THE WALTER<br>WOODBURY BAR                |
| 11 BAR WISSE                          | 31 BAR BASQUIAT                              |
| 12 HET FAIRE OOSTEN                   | 32 NELIS                                     |
| 13 MICHEL-INN                         | 33 DRAAGBAAR                                 |
| 14 OLIVES & MORE                      | 34 DIV. DAMESBOUDOIR                         |
| 15 THULL'S                            | 35 WILDE ZWIJNEN & EET-<br>BAR WILDE ZWIJNEN |
| 16 EDDY SPAGHETTI                     | 36 KEF                                       |
| 17 COFFEE BRU                         | 37 CP113                                     |
| 18 BAR BUKOWSKI                       | 38 MAGAZIN                                   |
| 19 OOSTERPARK                         | 39 WORSCHT                                   |
| 20 ALL THE LUCK IN<br>THE WORLD       | 40 AMSTERDAM ROEST                           |







### 23 LOUIE LOUIE

Housed in a beautiful large building overlooking the Oosterpark and offering a warm welcome from early morning till late evening, Louie Louie is the living room of the East for breakfast, lunch or just a coffee or drinks. The menu is inspired by Latin American cuisine. The volume of the music typically goes up a notch as evening becomes night.

LINNAEUSSTRAAT 13, LOUIELOUIE.NL,  
TRAM: 9 – EERSTE VAN SWINDENSTRAAT



#### TIP!

Book a table in advance to secure your spot at the fashionable restaurants.

### 6 RIJSEL

Rijsel is jam-packed every night of the week. Which isn't surprising, since here it's all about pure and authentic food inspired by French cuisine. The menu changes frequently and always includes delicious three-course options. This unique restaurant, with its huge open kitchen and vintage furniture, is located in a former domestic science school.

Reservations are a must!

MARCUSSTRAAT 52, RIJSEL.COM, 020-4632142, TRAM: 3 – WIBAUTSTRAAT/RUYSCHSTRAAT, TRAM: 12 – STATION AMSTERDAM AMSTEL, METRO: 51, 53 & 54 – WIBAUTSTRAAT

### 3 STEK

If you're looking for a nice spot for breakfast or lunch, go to Stek on the Wibautstraat. Don't be put off by the building's somewhat ugly exterior. Inside it's both cosy and industrial: sturdy wooden tables, wild flowers in vases, and old school chairs. The menu offers a variety of sandwiches, salads and soups, and Stek also serves drinks at weekends.

WIBAUTSTRAAT 95, STEK-AMSTERDAM.COM, METRO: 51, 53, & 54 – WIBAUTSTRAAT, TRAM: 3 – WIBAUTSTRAAT/RUYSCHSTRAAT





Bar Bukowski

## 11 BAR WISSE

You can spend the entire day at Bar Wisse on the Linneauskade, from early morning until late at night. With its cheerful blue façade, this is a bar where you feel at home immediately and can get a good meal anytime of the day. The wall mural and beautiful bar are quite eye-catching. In summertime Bar Wisse has a terrace next to the water.

LINNAEUSKADE 1A, 020-2219228, TRAM: 9 – HOGE WEG OR PRETORIUSSTRAAT

## 18 BAR BUKOWSKI

There are all sorts of food and drink spots on the Beukenplein in East and Bar Bukowski is one of the favourites. A quintessential all-day hotspot, open from breakfast-time until late at night. This cosy café serves delicious Flammkuchen,

boasts a sunny terrace during the summer months, and at weekends one area becomes Henry's Bar, where you can order and enjoy delicious cocktails!

OOSTERPARK 10, BARBUKOWSKI.NL, 020-3701685,  
TRAM: 3 & 7 – BEUKENWEG

## 17 COFFEE BRU

For the best coffee in the up-and-coming Beukenplein, go to Coffee Bru. It's cosy inside, so chances are you'll be staying for more than one coffee. Light wood, lots of green plants and a small terrace in the summer. They serve the most delicious cakes to go with the coffee, such as the Red Velvet Cake. You can also have breakfast and lunch here.

BEUKENPLEIN 14, COFFEEBRU.NL, 020-7519956,  
TRAM: 3 & 7 – BEUKENWEG



### 27 HARTJE OOST

Hartje Oost revolves around two things: great coffee and interesting brands. Have breakfast or lunch here and choose from a selection of homemade dishes prepared with local ingredients, wherever possible. Then shop in the store for the latest must-haves. You'll find a well-curated collection at this store on the Javastraat, from fashion to accessories and from vintage to self-designed items.

JAVASTRAAT 23, HARTJEOST.NL, 020-2332137, TRAM: 7 – MOLUKKENSTRAAT



**TIP!**

Fill up a picnic basket with goodies from Kef and Worscht and visit the Oosterpark.

### 33 DRAAGBAAR

Nowadays as you walk through Javastraat, you should also check out the side streets. On the Sumatrastraat you'll find Draagbaar, a concept store: shop and hair salon under one roof. They only work with organic products in the salon, leaving your hair silky smooth. The store is stocked with beautiful products from up-and-coming designers, including many from Amsterdam.

SUMATRASTRAAT 54, DRAAGBAAR.NU, TRAM: 7 – MOLUKKENSTRAAT

### 15 THULL'S

The term 'Amsterdam pickles' is truly honoured at Thull's in Pretoriusstraat. It's all about pickles at this unique food shop: pickled vegetables of all kinds. The lunch menu has a long list of specialty sandwiches with authentic toppings that you don't often see anymore on Amsterdam menus. And that's what makes Thull's such a nice hidden gem. Tip: You can also order everything to go, from evening meals to homemade preserves for the pantry.

PRETORIUSSTRAAT 69, THULLS.NL, 020-3635474, TRAM: 7 – BEUKENWEG



Thull's



Hartje Oost

## 10 &KLEVERING

Those who love shopping for beautiful home accessories should remember the name &Klevering. Here you'll find the most original items that are always on trend. This store has several branches in town, and the one in East is on the Middenweg. Those looking for a special gift, new crockery or home accessories have come to the right place.

MIDDENWEG 38, KLEVERING.NL,  
020-3637354, TRAM: 9 – HOGEWEG

## 37 CP113

At concept store CP113, named after the abbreviation of the street name and the address number, you'll find everything collected under one roof. This is where to shop for trendy brand-name clothes, curated from around the world. But

you can also buy vintage items and fun accessories. And did we mention that you can unwind here over a cup of coffee, too?

CZAAR PETERSTRAAT 113, CP113.COM, 020-2231976,  
TRAM: 14 – PONTANUSSTRAAT, TRAM: 10 – EERSTE  
LEEHWATERSTRAAT

## 12 HET FAIRE OOSTEN

Het Faire Oosten (The Fair East) is a shop and art gallery in one. Great for home accessories, clothing and personal care products. But better yet, almost everything here is locally made and fair trade.

Exhibitions are held a few times a year in the gallery section, with artworks on sale at affordable prices.

WALDENLAAN 208, HETFAIREOOSTEN.NL,  
TRAM: 7 – LINNAEUSSTRAAT/WIJTTENBACHSTRAAT