

**AUGUST 2025 • WIND OF CHANGE: OLYMPIAN KIRAN BADLOE IN SCHEVENINGEN • AMSTERDAM GUIDE
• FUN AT FRANCE'S ATLANTIC COAST • 24 HOURS IN HONG KONG • YOUR FREE COPY TO TAKE HOME**

HOLLAND HERALD

*"On my foilboard,
I thrive on the thrill of
making quick decisions"*

DUTCH-SURINAMESE WINDSURFER KIRAN BADLOE





BY APPOINTMENT TO THE ROYAL DANISH COURT

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FINE JEWELLERY SINCE 1963



BY APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT
OF THE NETHERLANDS

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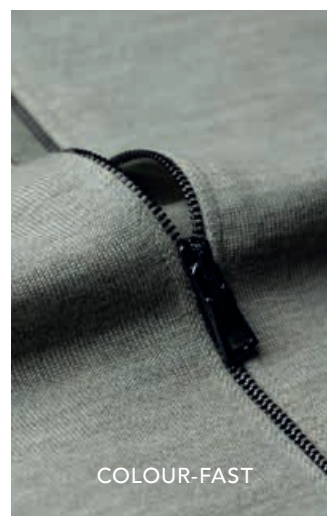
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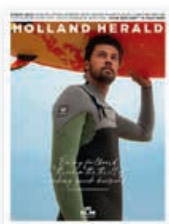
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Welcome

Marjan Rintel

A SWEET SUMMER WITH KLM



Cover Story

Dutch-Surinamese windsurfer Kiran Badloe reached the pinnacle of his sport when he won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Yet, his ambition didn't end there. He campaigned for windsurfing to adopt a new, faster board and then joined the Dutch version of US reality competition show: *Survivor*. Read his incredible story of determination and belief on page 28.

The summer days have finally arrived in Amsterdam (p. 26). The canals, lively and teeming with boats, offer a unique perspective on this 750-year-old city. While you admire the historic facades from the water, a pleasant, gentle breeze makes you momentarily forget that you're in a busy metropolis. What I love about summer is that time seems to pass more slowly and, on sun-soaked terraces in the Dutch capital, the air is filled with the smell of sunscreen, accompanied by laughter and buzz as people enjoy this wonderful time of the year.

At KLM, we want you to capture that same summer magic, wherever you go when you travel with us. Imagine landing in bustling Hong Kong (p. 38) with its impressive temples, skyscrapers and one of the best city walks in the world: the famous Dragon's Back overlooking the South China Sea.

Or you might like to travel to the semi-tropical Portuguese islands of the Azores (p. 57), with their beautiful beaches, sweeping green plains and stunning lagoons. Our Dutch-Surinamese windsurfing champion Kiran Badloe does his training in the warm waters of Spain and New Zealand, and in the article beginning on page 28, you'll find out the reason

**"We want you to capture
that same summer magic,
wherever you go"**

why. Badloe is not only a two-time European Champion and three-time World Champion, but also an Olympic Gold Medallist. His development from an RS:X board to the faster iQFoil board is symbolic of continuous innovation and adaptability that's also paramount to KLM.

Just as Badloe adapts to new challenges in the windsurfing world, KLM also continues to

develop in a rapidly changing aviation world. That's why we continue to add new destinations to our global network, such as Hyderabad (this month). This city in south-central India is a delightful mix of centuries-old monuments, modern buildings, colourful markets and a wonderful culinary scene.

Your choice to fly with KLM inspires us to ensure that your new travel adventures will become not only wonderful, but also unforgettable, summer memories. And that gentle summer breeze is part of the deal.

Welcome on board!

Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO



MR MARVIS



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Your Next Destination

Building the case for a
journey to **Cartagena**

Contributors

MEET THE TEAM



Dennis Branko

Based in Amsterdam and London, Dennis is well-known for capturing people and moments in a uniquely vibrant and captivating way. Over the years, he has become highly accomplished in fashion and portrait/documentary photography. Dennis photographed Dutch windsurfing champion Kiran Badloe (p. 28).

Dennis' travel tip: "I recommend a trip to Split in Croatia. From there, you can visit one of the numerous beautiful islands that the country has to offer in the Adriatic Sea. Each island can be reached very quickly by boat from the Port of Split."



Samira Bilij

Samira is a freelance stylist and creative, and Fashion & Beauty Director for *JAN Magazine*. One day, she's coordinating a fashion story on top of a mountain in Morocco, the next she's on set in a beautiful house styling a celebrity. Samira did the styling for Dutch windsurfing champion Kiran Badloe (p. 28).

Samira's travel tip: "The county of Cornwall in the UK. It's so unique to see palm trees in between English cottages there. And with its numerous beaches, world-class waves and dramatic coastal paths, Cornwall is the perfect mix of a beach/surf and hiking holiday."



Dana van Leeuwen

Dana has been a professional photographer for more than 25 years, creating powerful visual stories for magazines in the Netherlands and abroad. Dana's goal is always to see the person behind the image, and tell their story with honesty and warmth. Dana photographed Robbert Meulenveld of the Plastic Soup Foundation (p. 50).

Dana's travel tip: "Last winter, I was on assignment in Costa Rica for three weeks. It's a magical place: lush nature, kind people, delicious food, and stunning beaches and mountains. I can't recommend Costa Rica enough."

Colophon

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THROUGH *your lens*





Vietnam



TRUE COLOURS

HANS BIEKMANN GOT THE GREEN LIGHT TO TAKE THIS STUNNING PHOTO IN THE COASTAL CITY OF HỘI AN, VIETNAM.



As an amateur photographer, I enjoy perfecting the craft as much as I

can and regularly join workshops hosted by well-known photographers abroad. In September last year, I joined an eight-day-workshop that took me to various locations in the north of Vietnam, eventually winding down to Hội An. Beloved by visitors, this coastal city is decorated with colourful lanterns and is also home to quite a few factories that make them. The tour took us to one of the factories, where in the corner, a handful of lanterns were set up as an example of what the factory was producing. A little girl was playing nearby, and I suddenly had this vision for a photo. So, with the help of our guide, I asked her mother if it would be okay to take a photo. Not only did her mother agree, but she also wanted to change her daughter's dress. After the quick wardrobe change, I was able to capture

this image. To me, it's not only an example of how beautiful and colourful Vietnamese culture is, but also how friendly its people are. After the workshop, I visited Hanoi, and then travelled through the north of Vietnam for three weeks, enjoying all the country has to offer.

Your Photo

If you'd like to have your travel photo featured in this section, email an image (300dpi; landscape mode) to: hollandheraldhome@hearst.nl.

Monthly Prize

If we publish your travel photo, we'll send you a copy of Jimmy Nelson's latest book *Between the Sea and the Sky*, which is about traditional Dutch communities.

Some of the images are also available as fine art. jimmynelson.com/fine-art-intro





We co-own five unique holiday homes

WE SPOKE TO LENE ESPERSEN (FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN DENMARK) AND HER HUSBAND DANNY, WHO'VE BEEN WITH 21-5 SINCE 2013.



Lene & Danny, a 21-5 family

When did you join, and what made you choose 21-5?

We joined the first 21-5 group at the beginning of 2013, so we have been co-owners for over 12 years. At the time, we had been looking for a home of our own in Southern Europe for years, but we couldn't find anything suitable at a reasonable price. When we came across 21-5, we

could instantly see the advantages and eventually decided to join – a decision we have never regretted.

What do you like most about 21-5?

We love the concept of not having to think about all the practicalities and repairs that come with owning a property. When we are on holiday, we are on holiday! For a large family,



it's perfect to be able to choose between a skiing holiday, a city break, or simply relaxing in a warmer location. On top of that, we get to treat our family to great holidays. We often lend our homes to family members - we have enough weeks for everyone.

**What about planning your holidays?
Can you travel when you want to?**

We enjoy planning our holidays well in advance, but we also travel at short notice. If we want to book specific weeks during the school holidays, it's best to plan ahead, but we almost always get the weeks we want.

What has been your experience with the 21-5 team?

Without them, it simply would not work. They are always engaged and quick to respond. They have

a remarkable eye for design and combine this with very practical solutions. Put simply, our homes are great, and even after 12 years, they are still in very good condition. We recently updated our Paris apartment with a new kitchen and an extra bathroom.

Has 21-5 been a good investment for you?

We never joined 21-5 for the money; for us, it was about improving our quality of life. Joining 21-5 has certainly done that. The freedom we feel when we return to our beautiful five homes is a great privilege, and, as mentioned earlier, our homes also allow us to travel with grandparents, siblings and friends. On top of that, 21-5 has also proven to be a very good financial investment - our share has more than doubled since we joined!

FACTS ABOUT 21-5

- Since 2012, over 1,400 families have joined 21-5
- Over 300 homes have been purchased for our families
- Over €540 million has been invested through 21-5
- 21-5 is the world's leading model for families sharing homes in small groups
- The average resale profit is 50%



For more information:

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The SELECTION

Holland Herald presents a global selection of things to see, do, taste, meet & wish for.



A Coruña

SWINGING SIXTIES

Known and admired for his intimate, bold and original approach to portrait and fashion photography, British photographer David Bailey captured the creative and cultural revolution in 1960s' and 1970s' London. The Marta Ortega Pérez Foundation in A Coruña, Spain, is honouring his work with the exhibition *David Bailey's Changing Fashion*, showing more than 140 of his iconic photographs.

Until 14 Sep; themopfoundation.org

TO *see*

Washington, D.C.

THE BEAUTY OF LITTLE BEASTS

Insects may well bug us at times, but they're an essential part of our ecosystem. The *Little Beasts: Art, Wonder, and the Natural World* exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. explores the way in which these tiny creatures inspired 16th- and 17th-century artists. Until 2 Nov; nga.gov



Amsterdam

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR LIFE

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Amsterdam's Huis Marseille looks back at the past two-and-a-half decades of photography, which coincide with the turn of the 21st century and the large-scale shift from analogue to digital. With inclusions of work by American photographer Tyler Mitchell and Dutch photographer Viviane Sassen, the museum's *Memento. Photography, interrupted* exhibition explores how photographs uniquely capture moments in time. Until 12 Oct; huismarseille.nl

Edinburgh

PATTERNS ON PATTERNS

Even design purists can't deny the influence of Swedish design company IKEA and the way it's made interior design more accessible and affordable. The *IKEA: Magical Patterns* exhibition at Dovecot Studios in Edinburgh shows 180 unique fabrics and bold patterns that the company has released over the past 60 years, and highlights how it has supported the creative visions of some of the world's most influential textile designers.

Until 17 Jan; dovecotstudios.com



Eye-catcher

Just like Galileo

Inspired by Italian scientist, astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei, the *Galileo* series of lamps by Italian designer Edoardo Lietti is made of honestly sourced materials, and thanks to their rotating elements, you can play with light and shadow.

edoardolietti.com

While Impressionist painters interpreted nature, Expressionists were fascinated by **the human psyche**



Singapore

ASIAN ARTISTS IN PARIS

During the first half of the 20th century, Paris was the place to be for many young and established artists. While their influence has been largely overlooked, *City of Others: Asian Artists in Paris 1920s-1940s* at the National Gallery of Art in Singapore shines a light on the Asian artists who lived, worked and exhibited in the French capital and, as such, contributed to the city's rich art scene.

Until 17 Aug; nationalgallery.sg



Shiny and new work

AT MUSEUM VOORLINDEN



Director at Museum Voorlinden Suzanne Swarts on the collection exhibition: I ♥ New Work.

As a collectors' museum, the collection is the beating heart of Voorlinden, continuously growing

with new modern and contemporary paintings, photographs, sculptures and installations. At Voorlinden, we're deeply passionate about discovering and collecting new artworks (and artists) that move, surprise and touch us. In I ♥ New Work, you'll see our latest discoveries, such as this shimmering work by Filip Gilissen,

which is made from thousands of golden sequins.

Where and when?

On Display: until 7 September 2025

Address: Buurtweg 90, 2244AG Wassenaar

Opening times: museum (11am-5pm); restaurant (10.30am-6pm)

From Wassenaar by car: The Hague (20 mins); Schiphol (25 mins); Amsterdam (45 mins)

Buy your ticket at the museum or online: tickets.voorlinden.nl

TO do

The 2025 edition of Sail Amsterdam is expected to welcome **more than 800 ships** from all over the world



Festivals

DANCING OUTDOORS

FROM SMALL PARK GATHERINGS TO BIG BEACH PARTIES:
FESTIVAL SEASON IS IN FULL EFFECT THIS MONTH.

Sziget

Held on Óbuda Island in Budapest, Hungary, Sziget is one of Europe's largest festivals, and features more than 1,000 shows. Charli XCX and Post Malone are two of the many acts. 6-11 Aug; szigetfestival.com

Panorama

If you like to mix electronic music with breathtaking nature and Italian cuisine, Panorama festival in Italy's Puglia is the place to go. The line-up includes Black Coffee and Peggy Gou. 14-16 Aug; panorama-festival.it

Rototom Sunsplash

Celebrating its 30th edition in Benicàssim, Spain, Rototom Sunsplash is one of the world's biggest reggae festivals. This year's line-up includes Julian Marley and Spice. 16-23 Aug; rototomsunsplash.com

New York City

VINCENT AND THE BOTANICS

Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh loved being in nature and was inspired by it for many of his artworks. At the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), the immersive, multi-sensory *Van Gogh's Flowers* experience brings his iconic floral paintings to life through expansive botanical displays, large-scale sculptures, and interactive installations. The centrepiece is a monumental field of real and sculptural sunflowers, inspired by Van Gogh's famous *Sunflowers* series.

Until 26 Oct; nybg.org



Amsterdam

SAIL AWAY

Coinciding with the 750th anniversary of Amsterdam and celebrating its own 50th birthday, the 10th edition of maritime festival Sail Amsterdam is promised to be bigger than ever. The multi-day festival will see replicas of historical ships, innovative sailing yachts and even submarines all parading along the city's main river, the IJ. Most events are free of charge, with an option to book special paid water experiences. 20-24 Aug; sail.nl



App

Go hiking

Did you know that in the Netherlands alone, there are almost 9,000 walking trails? With the AllTrails app, you can find the best hiking routes around the world for all levels and of various lengths, and use detailed maps. alltrails.com



TO *taste*

Ceramics

SERVING COOL DESIGN

When serving food, a striking presentation can take a dish from good to great. The colourful set of De La Mer hand-painted dolomite cake plates by interior design brand &k Amsterdam is certainly a sight to behold. One could even consider simply hanging them on the wall as a decoration. €54.99; westwing.nl



Shellfish, and particularly clams, are a great source of **iron and vitamin B12**



Ibiza

OPEN-FIRE ISLAND COOKING

This summer, Amsterdam-based restaurant Nela (which means 'pure' in Sanskrit) is bringing its open-fire cooking concept to Ibiza's 7Pines resort. The pop-up is a collaboration between Nela's founding chefs, Hari Shetty and Ori Geller, and 7Pines' executive chef, Óscar Salazar. This partnership blends Nela's bold, grill-focused style with Salazar's Mediterranean classics and deep commitment to local sourcing.

nelarestaurant.com; 7pines.com

Antibes

EAST MEETS FRENCH RIVIERA

ENJOY EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN FOOD ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA AT THE PASTEL-PINK, BEACH-SIDE BABA RESTAURANT IN ANTIBES.

If eating mezzes and grilled seafood with a glass of rosé and a view over the French Riviera sounds like your kind of summer meal, then grab yourself a table at Baba. Located at the Cap d'Antibes Beach Hotel, nestled between the ports of Gallice and Crouton, this pastel-coloured restaurant and bar is the perfect spot to sit back, relax and watch the chic Riviera crowd enjoy their lunch and dinner. The menu is inspired by Eastern Mediterranean cuisine, reimagined with local French Riviera ingredients. An ice-cream cart stops by every afternoon, offering rotating flavours. restaurant-baba.com



TO meet

The **Araguaia Biodiversity Corridor** stretches over 2,600km and is up to 40km wide

Q&A Ben Valks

ACTION AND HOPE IN THE AMAZON

WITH ITS AMAZON REFORESTATION PROJECT, THE BLACK JAGUAR FOUNDATION (BJF) IS REALISING THE WORLD'S LONGEST BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR. FOUNDER BEN VALKS EXPLAINS HOW.

What is the BJF? We're a Brazilian nonprofit organisation with Dutch roots that's planting 1.7 billion native trees in the coming 20 years to realise the Araguaia Biodiversity Corridor, a huge green artery in Brazil connecting two crucial biomes: the Amazon rainforest and the Cerrado savannah. Even though 50% of the Cerrado and 25% of the Amazon have faced deforestation, the corridor reunites the remaining natural habitats with new pockets of restored nature, safeguarding water levels and numerous species. In total, we're aiming to restore one million hectares of deforested land.

How do you approach such an immense challenge? Over the past 6 planting seasons, we've developed a 17-step reforestation cycle, because it's obviously not as simple as planting a tree here and there or sprinkling some seeds around. It includes everything from partnerships with local farmers and fire prevention to soil preparation and our own nurseries. When you're working on a project of this importance and scale, it's crucial to make it a win-win partnership for all. Luckily, we're getting a lot of support from the local government and communities, and from international and national sponsors. It's an investment that will pay itself back soon and easily; a Green Capital Study from 2020 showed that \$17.1 billion will be saved in costs to save the planet and 24,000 green jobs will be created in BJF's reforestation economy. So, it's anything but charity. Besides, we all know that the Amazon is considered the lungs of the Earth, so it's not a hobby project, but a necessity for all our future.

Where does your personal drive come from? We run our boots-on-the-ground organisation with a large team so it's not about me at all, but my mission to start this started in 2009, when I was in the Amazon to document the rare black jaguar, which I never found. I witnessed severe deforestation there firsthand and was shocked. Around the same time, I watched the documentary *Home* by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, which

emphasises the power of individual action for planetary change. Our mission is one of hope and action, and we're proving it's possible to make a change if you work hard at it.

How can people support the project? You can donate, and also gift someone with, a tree for just €8 via our website. And of course, companies are welcome to become a partner. black-jaguar.org



“
WE’RE
PROVING IT’S
POSSIBLE
TO MAKE
A CHANGE
”

Cycling and the city

EXPLORE NEW YORK CITY ON A DUTCH GAZELLE BICYCLE WITH HOLLAND BIKES

Thanks to its recent and rapid development of cycle paths, New York City is now more bike-friendly than ever before. Time to book a tour or rent a bicycle with Holland Bikes and hit the streets on two wheels!

Always dreamt of cycling around New York and crossing the city's iconic bridges on a bicycle? With Holland Bikes, you can. From our store in Brooklyn, which opened in 2024, you can easily cycle over the Brooklyn Bridge and make your way through Chinatown, Little Italy, the Financial District and old Brooklyn (DUMBO). Following the success of our Brooklyn location, a new store recently opened its doors near Central Park. Being one of the largest public parks in the world, where cars have been prohibited since 2018, Central Park is best explored by bicycle: the perfect way to cruise around in peace.

High-quality tours

You can rent a bike and explore the city by your-

self or join a guided tour. We offer tours in English, Dutch, French, German and Spanish. All tours last 2.5 hours and include stops, and explanations by our experienced and passionate local guides. The bicycles provided are from Royal Dutch Gazelle, which has been producing high-quality bicycles since 1892 in the Netherlands. We offer both regular bikes and e-bikes, and there are even a number of cargo bikes available.

From France to the US

Holland Bikes' mission is to share its knowledge, expertise and excitement about bicycle culture with others. While the two locations in New York are fairly new, Holland Bikes has already been the market leader in France for more than two decades. It has made a major contribution to the development of bikes and the cycling infrastructure around France, particularly in Paris.

For more information:
Want to know more or book a tour?
Go to nyc.hollandbikes.com



TO *wish for*

Watches

INTO THE GREEN ABYSS

In collaboration with luxury watch brand Blancpain, Swatch released the Green Abyss, a dive watch that's water-resistant up to 91 metres. With its bioceramic (part ceramic, part plant-based plastic) face and a strap from recycled fishing nets, it's sustainable too. €400; [swatch.com](https://www.swatch.com)



Fashion

LAZY SUMMER MAGIC

THE NEW COLLECTION BY SPANISH FASHION BRAND NUDE PROJECT IS INSPIRED BY LONG SUMMER DAYS AND NIGHTS.



Moving at a slower pace, having outdoor dinners at long tables with family and friends, and enjoying lazy days in the sun: there's nothing like a Mediterranean summer. With its collection *Más Vino jaja* ('More Wine Haha'), Spanish fashion brand Nude Project presents a collection of playful clothing and accessories in warm tints and made of light materials, perfectly designed to complement you this summer by the sea. [nude-project.com](https://www.nude-project.com)

Dating back around 5,000 years to ancient Persia, **backgammon** is one of the oldest board games



Library objects

ALL ABOUT AESTHETICS

Books about art, design, fashion and travel are often called coffee-table books for good reason: they're objects of art in their own right, and deserve to be displayed. As a publisher of luxury coffee-table books, Assouline has launched its Library Collection of aesthetically pleasing design objects, home fragrances and games to complement your home library. [assouline.com](https://www.assouline.com)



Gadgets

STAY HYDRATED

Made of double-wall, vacuum-insulated stainless steel, the mugs by American outdoor equipment company CamelBak are your ideal companion during a hike, picnic or simply on your way to work. All CamelBak mugs are BPA-, BPS- and BPF-free, ensuring a safe drinking experience. From €34.99; [camelbak.com](https://www.camelbak.com)

Column

Freek Vonk

MAGICAL MIGRATION

FREEK, A DUTCH BIOLOGIST WHO STUDIES AND FILMS UNIQUE ANIMALS WORLDWIDE TO INSPIRE A LOVE FOR NATURE, TALKS ABOUT THE GREAT MIGRATION.

“There’s tension in the air; they know what awaits”



The brown, churning Mara River rushes by relentlessly here in Tanzania. The air above the riverbank seems to dance with heat from the scorching sun. High overhead, vultures circle; a sure sign that death is near. Across the river, a sudden cloud of dust erupts, and in the distance, the first horned heads emerge. This is the Great Migration: one of the most thrilling wildlife journeys on Earth.

Each year, 1.5 million wildebeest, and some 750,000 zebras and antelopes, travel nearly 2,000km across the vast savannahs of Tanzania and Kenya, through areas teeming with predators, in search of nutrient-rich grass. And right in front of me lies one of the toughest trials of their migration: the crossing of the Mara River. The oldest wildebeest in the herd have crossed here many times. There’s tension in the air; they know what awaits. Rising above the churning water, the massive heads of ancient predators emerge: Nile crocodiles. They’re watching the scene intently because they too know what’s coming: their biggest meal of the year. And it’s being delivered.

In nature, countless species migrate because conditions demand it. Sometimes for food or water, sometimes for reproduction, but it’s always a matter of survival. For a long time, navigation and spatial awareness were essential to human survival. Yet in 2025, I know people who get lost in a shopping mall. And

honestly, you can’t really blame them. These days, we rely blindly on GPS and navigation apps. And as a result, we’ve lost much of our innate sense of direction. Use it or lose it, as they say. Animals don’t have GPS, yet they rarely lose their way; even when following routes they’ve never travelled before.

Wildebeest mainly follow the scent and colour of young grasses that grow where rain has recently fallen. They use their noses to detect moisture in the air, and their ears to pick up the distant rumble of thunder. There’s also a strong sense of herd behaviour: when one part of the group begins to move, the rest follow. Older animals serve as guides and their experience acts as a living memory of the savannah. This group migration is a blend of senses, instinct and tradition.

Back at the Mara River, the wildebeest have now reached the riverbank. This is their ultimate test: the crossing. The choice is simple: cross or starve. And so, they leap. What follows is chaos. Waves. Roaring. Hooves. Jaws. There are casualties, many even, but most make it to the other side. Next year, the survivors will be back here. The Great Migration never stops.

While we fumble for our phones the moment we lose our way, they charge across the savannah on instinct alone. And somehow, they arrive where they’re meant to be. For them, life isn’t a journey with a destination. The journey is life.

EAT *out*

London
UK



NATURAL BEAUTY

Earning a Michelin star just eight months after opening is no small feat, yet Da Terra in London did just that thanks to Brazilian-Italian owner and chef Rafael Cagali. Two years later, a second star followed. Inspired by his Brazilian and Italian heritage, and career experiences (particularly in Spain), Cagali creates inventive, playful and personal dishes. A prime example is this Japanese amberjack fish served with fermented manioc juice, pumpkin and jackfruit.

daterra.co.uk



The Netherlands



My

AMSTERDAM

AS CLIENT DIRECTOR AT CREATIVE PR AND COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY UPR, NIELS OOSTENBRINK KNOWS THE INS AND OUTS OF AMSTERDAM, WHICH HAS BEEN HIS HOMETOWN FOR 17 YEARS. WE ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS FAVOURITE SPOTS IN THE CITY. @NIELSOOST



Why do you love

Amsterdam? I love its architecture, history and how easy it is to get from one side of the city to the other by bike. I'm also really enjoying how much more international the city has become over the years – I really like this cosmopolitan energy.

Where should we eat? One of my favourite spots is Verlan ❶ (Prinsengracht 381), in the famous Nine Streets area.

There's always a lively vibe and it has a fantastic wine list and delicious food with a lot of tasty vegetarian options. Another great place is Dinette ❷ (Tweede Tuindwarsstraat 10A) in the Jordaan area. It's a blend of French bistro and American diner, and I love their leek and morel skewer. For special moments, I like going to MOS (IJdok 185), a Michelin-starred restaurant overlooking the IJ river.

Any cultural hot spots? I'm a big fan of art photography, so I visit the photography

museum Foam (Keizersgracht 609) on a regular basis. Their current exhibition, *The Underground Camera*, shows work from photographers who secretly took photos during WWII. A gallery I always love to visit is Ron Mandos (Prinsengracht 282). They have great exhibitions of contemporary art in all its forms. The photography of the late Erwin Olaf is often displayed here.

How do we get around? I do everything in Amsterdam by bike; it has an amazing network of bike paths that make cycling around so easy. Of course, we also have a good tram and metro system to get you anywhere, but I feel the most beautiful way to see the city is by boat. Each time I'm on the water I notice things that I hadn't seen before.

What hidden gems can you reveal? One of my favourite parts of the city is the area around Hazenstraat and Tweede Laurierdwarsstraat.

It's full of lovely, small art galleries, bakeries such as Arnold Cornelis (Elandsgracht 78), and a new but historic-looking pub, Café Pierewaaijer (Laurierstraat 101). Another must-visit is the X Bank ❸ shop, located in the W Hotel (Spuistraat 172). They only sell Dutch labels, from jewellery and accessories to clothing by local designers. And when in Amsterdam, you must try the famous Dutch snack *bitterballen*, which are croquettes filled with beef ragout. I love the ones served at Bar Prik (Spuistraat 109). It's a gay cocktail bar but everyone is welcome; their terrace always has a good mix of locals and tourists, and you can dance there in the evenings.

Where should we stay? Hotel Mercier (Rozenstraat 12) is a beautiful boutique hotel in Jordaan. It's centrally located, but still a bit of a hidden gem. Another top spot is The Pulitzer ❹ (Prinsengracht 323), which

has a lovely bar, beautiful garden (for lunch) and great restaurant called Jansz.

Any events to look forward to? Amsterdam is celebrating its 750th anniversary in 2025 so there are plenty of things happening all year. For this month in particular, Pride Amsterdam ❺ is a must. I've visited many Prides the world over, but Pride Amsterdam is still my favourite. The highlight is the canal parade on 2 August. I love how the whole city celebrates: young, old, gay, straight and everything in between.

Book this story



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The Pulitzer 4



Amsterdam city view



X Bank 6 Verlan 1



The highlight of Pride Amsterdam is the canal parade



Dinette 2



Pride Amsterdam 5



A full-page photograph of Kiran Badloe, a Dutch-Surinamese windsurfer, standing in front of a brick building with red shutters. He is wearing a white tracksuit with a blue logo on the chest. The title 'SURFER CHAMP' is overlaid in large white letters, and his name 'Kiran Badloe' is above it. The page number '29' and the phrase 'game changer' are in the top right corner. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text and a credit line.

Kiran Badloe

SURFER CHAMP

After winning the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Dutch-Surinamese windsurfer Kiran Badloe (30) had to start from scratch when his sport underwent a considerable change. A victory of a different kind rekindled his energy and confidence.

Text **Marieke Verhoeven** Photography **Dennis Branko**

An illuminated patchwork of slow-moving white, grey and golden clouds casts shifting shadows over the sand. It's a bit breezy on this spring day at the seaside town of Scheveningen in the Netherlands, but intermittent shards of sunlight bring relieving warmth. Kiran Badloe is standing barefoot on the beach, transfixed by the dramatic sky on the horizon as waves carrying thick foam crash onto the shore. The tall windsurfer (1.96m) left his regular, heavy windsurfing gear at home, and is holding a much lighter, classic surfboard under his arm. But it's only for the photoshoot because Badloe is not planning to ride any waves today. "I'm used to training in much warmer waters in New Zealand and the Canary Islands during winter and spring," he explains. "So, you could say that I'm spoilt. The North Sea is far too cold for me."

Evolving sport

Chasing the right weather and water conditions around the world with the Dutch national team of professional surfers, sailing athletes and canoeists, over the past 15 years, Badloe has steadily climbed to the top of international windsurfing. He's a double European Champion, a triple World Champion and he won gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (delayed until 2021); all in the RS:X windsurfing class. In 2021, Badloe had to retrain himself when all international competitions changed from RS:X to iQFoil, which uses a board that hovers above the water due to its submerged wing-like foil. It's much faster than the floating 'daggerboard' used in RS:X events. Since the shift was not just about a material change, but also required a completely different technique and racing style, Badloe had to radically adjust his training regime and diet. "Like all sports, windsurfing is constantly evolving," Badloe explains when we sit down at The Hague's central and artsy The Collector Hotel. "RS:X had been used since 2006 and had become a little outdated. iQFoil is much more dynamic and versatile, so we can also do things such as slalom-style racing, making it even more exciting to watch. Since iQFoil is much faster than the RS:X, I had to gain 20kg and do a lot more strength and endurance training to be able to control it. But I didn't mind; I had pretty much perfected the RS:X style and was ready for a new challenge."

Being in the sea is second nature for the star windsurfer, who spent part of his childhood on the

“
**I LEARNT HOW
TO STAY
DISCIPLINED
AND FIGHT
TEMPTATIONS**
”

Dutch island of Bonaire in the Caribbean Sea. Badloe lived there with his parents and younger sister during his father's temporary job assignment working for the national tax authority. Badloe's father surprised him with his first windsurfing classes for his ninth birthday. At the time, he couldn't have imagined that he would go on to achieve so much success. "I didn't even enjoy the first lesson because I was struggling so much," admits Badloe with a smile. "But the gift was for three classes, so I agreed to take them all. After the third lesson, I was hooked." Learning to surf in Bonaire was a great breeding ground, Badloe now reflects. "You have so much time to practise because the conditions are almost always perfect. Consequently, the level is high; I was already surfing with guys who were competing in international competitions when I was young."

When the family moved back to the Netherlands, Badloe continued to train and, after getting used to the grim weather- and water conditions, he was selected to compete with the national junior team. "The Dutch professional windsurfing scene is quite small and, at 12 years old, I was already training with guys who were 5 years older than me," explains Badloe. "That's when I realised that I might have a talent for it." Badloe was never pressured by his parents in any way, he says: "My dad is a major football fan and my mother's not really into sports at all, but they were always supportive in a relaxed »





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AFTER
THE THIRD
WINDSURFING
LESSON, I WAS
HOOKED
”





way. My mother would drive me from our home in Lelystad to Scheveningen for training a few times a week, but she wasn't shouting on the shoreline, pushing me to go faster. She'd just be reading a book in the car until I'd finished."

Passing the torch

When he was 18 years old, Badloe was selected to be part of an international training team of windsurfers under the leadership of fellow Dutchman Dorian van Rijsselberghe. Even though Badloe had enrolled in lifestyle coaching studies at Hogeschool InHolland in The Hague, his drive to become one of the top windsurfers in the world grew even stronger under Van Rijsselberghe's guidance, and he decided to focus on the sport full time. "Dorian became a good friend; we have similar personalities and share the same sense of humour," says Badloe. "I learnt a lot from him too, not just technically, but also in terms of how to deal with the pressure and fame that comes with being a successful athlete. Dorian was one of the favourites at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and, when he won the gold medal, so many people were vying for his attention. He taught me how to stay calm and focused in those circumstances." And more importantly, Van Rijsselberghe taught Badloe how to manage his life when he wasn't on a surfboard. "What a lot of people don't realise is that the life of a professional athlete also consists of considerable downtime," he says. "You train for a few hours a day, but how do you spend the rest of your time? How do you stay disciplined and fight temptations? Dorian gave me the right tools to maintain a healthy lifestyle."

The fact that Badloe surpassed his mentor at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games by beating him in the qualifying finals, didn't change their relationship. "We've always been friends and competitors; that's normal for us," he explains. "Obviously, neither of us likes losing, but Dorian was ready to pass the torch to me at that point." They also lobbied the international sailing federations for the change from RS:X to iQFoil together with their coach. "We're both curious and ambitious, and we we'd already been experimenting with foilboards for a few years. Since there's so much more force involved in iQFoil, you need to make quick decisions and learn to read the wind even faster and more efficiently. We both thrive on that thrill."

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”

Still, the radical change in Badloe's sport didn't work out well initially for him. After training on foilboards for just two seasons, he failed to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The relatively short training period, in part due to the delayed 2020 Olympics, resulted in Badloe pushing himself too hard, he now reflects: "I was rushing myself, which caused a lot of injuries. I was obviously disappointed when I didn't qualify, but it was relatively easy for me to put things in perspective. Some guys who failed to qualify in 2021 had already been training on foilboards for three more years than me, so it wasn't unreasonable that I wasn't one of the best yet. I just needed more time to get the hang of it."

Island survivor

As one door closed, another one opened for Badloe. With the extra time on his hands last year, he accepted an invitation to compete in the reality show *Expeditie Robinson* – the Dutch variant of the American series *Survivor* – in which a group of 20 celebrities are left on a deserted island to fend for themselves and compete against each other in physical and mental challenges. "Being on this show had been a childhood dream of mine," Badloe admits. "I used to watch it with my mum, and I told her that I wanted to go on this show one day. It seemed like a silly dream at the time, but it became a reality." Badloe's experiences growing up on a »



tropical island, combined with his athletic abilities and strategic mindset, resulted in him beating his competition and winning *Expedite Robinson*. The harsh conditions, including sleeping in a leaky tent and eating little more than half a coconut a day, didn't bother Badloe much, he says: "As a child, I was always building huts and climbing trees. I felt like that little boy again, and I wouldn't hesitate to do it once more. The only difficult part was missing my friends and family, especially my wife."

Badloe lives in the Dutch beach town of Noordwijk aan Zee with his wife – a youth councillor whom he met on Tinder in 2017 – and their newborn. For much of the year, he trains and travels in different parts of the world. "My wife used to travel with me for some of the year, but we'll have to see how that's going to work out now we have a baby. It's important for me to spend as much time as possible with my family."

When Badloe's not in competition mode, he's an ambassador for MissieH2, a nonprofit organisation promoting hydrogen as a more sustainable energy source for the future, and for Dutch Wavemakers, a nonprofit community of young water- and energy ambassadors. "As someone who spends a lot of time in nature, it's important for me to share my experiences and create awareness about the effects of climate change," he explains. "Athletes have a big reach and people tend to listen to what we have to say, especially if it's based on our own experiences. When you see a particular tropical beach on social media, it might look perfect, but I know that this beach is heavily polluted because I've seen it with my own eyes. I enjoy sharing my experiences and these organisations' important messages; I feel like it's part of my responsibility."

Badloe's also a motivational speaker at various events and organisations, speaking on his personal experiences dealing with success and failure, and on how to be versatile and focus on what's within your control. "When I'm on the water, I have a pretty good adaptive ability: I know when to push more and when to pull back," he concludes. "And I'm able to be completely aware of everything that's happening around me without losing focus. These are skills that can be applied to any individual in any industry. You can't control the outside circumstances, nor the level of your competition, but you can trust your adaptive skills, learn to ride the waves and just go with the wind." «

The Netherlands



Badloe's Favourites

The Hague

Although I've lived all over the world, the city of The Hague feels the most like home. I moved here on my own when I was 18 years old and still enjoy the mix of historical city, international vibe and the proximity to the beach. Since my father is Surinamese and my parents cook a lot of Surinamese food, it's still my favourite cuisine. New Meyva in the centre of the city has been my favourite place for Surinamese food for a long time.

Extreme sports

I'm a thrill-seeker and enjoy doing extreme sports. I'd love to windsurf along the whole Northwest Passage, the sea lane between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, or cycle a long and tough bike trail in the mountains somewhere. Funnily enough, the only thing that scares me is being underwater. When I can't breathe properly, and must hold my breath underwater, I get very anxious. Luckily, iQFoil is about being above the water, not being beneath big waves.

Beach club

In addition to my other business endeavours and sponsorship deals, I'd like to own my own beach club one day. Until that time, Buiten in Scheveningen is my favourite beach-club hangout. The owners are brothers and friends of mine, and they run a good surf school as well.

Roger Federer

I stay away from athlete adoration because some people give athletes an almost godlike status. But, if I had to pick someone in sports whom I admire a lot, it's Swiss former professional tennis player Roger Federer. To play at such a high level so consistently well while remaining kind and humble, is truly inspiring to me.

Book this story



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HONG KONG *by day*

WHEN YOU THINK OF HONG KONG, YOU PROBABLY ENVISION TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS AND LIVELY URBAN ENERGY, BUT IT ALSO OFFERS ABUNDANT GREENERY AND A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE.



Man Mo Temple ②



M+ ③



Blend & Grind ①



Hong Kong's double-deckers

Breakfast of champions

For a true local experience, start your day in a *cha chaan teng*, a Hong Kong teahouse that serves affordable, filling meals, with no-nonsense, speedy service. Congteakafe (G/F, 4 David Ln) and Sang Kee Congee Shop (7 Burd St) are great spots to enjoy iconic dishes such as Hong Kong pineapple buns (which don't, in fact, contain pineapple) and *congee*, a smooth and creamy rice porridge that's typically paired with *youtiao* (fried dough sticks) for dipping. Craving something healthy? Blend & Grind ① (various locations) has great smoothie bowls for brunch (and tasty morsels for dinner too).

How to get around

Hong Kong is divided into distinct areas: Hong Kong Island with its financial

centre and colonial heritage; Kowloon with bustling markets and cultural attractions; and the New Territories. The Octopus Card is essential for hassle-free travel on Hong Kong's public transport network, which includes the MTR (railway), buses, trams and ferries. And thanks to its extensive pedestrian footbridges and escalator systems between districts, Hong Kong's actually pretty walkable too.

Cultural & green escapes

Catching a break inside the quiet Man Mo Temple ② (124-126 Hollywood Rd), one of Hong Kong's oldest temples, makes for a welcome contrast to the bustle of the nearby financial district. A short walk away is PMQ (35 Aberdeen St), a creative hub housing numerous design

galleries, bookstores and shops, where you're sure to find some unique jewellery, clothing and craft pieces. Another place that serves up a delightful taste of visual culture is M+ ③ (38 Museum Dr). Housed in a stunning waterfront building, this museum is home to an impressive collection of 20th- and 21st-century art, design and architecture. And those feeling the need for nature can escape the concrete jungle with a hike along the Dragon's Back (Shek O Country Park). Consistently rated one of the best and most popular hikes, the trail offers breathtaking views of Shek O, Tai Long Wan's beaches and the South China Sea.

Retail therapy

As well as hosting virtually every brand store in its many

The Octopus Card is essential for hassle-free travel on the public transport network

mega malls, Hong Kong also has lots of cool independent shops. There's B'In Select (various locations) that sells design-savvy watches, bags, jewellery, accessories, stationery and home decor; Footloose Tycoon (G/F, 1D, Kam Ning Mansion, Wong Chuk St), which started out as a vintage clothing store but now creates its own designs; and Daychild Vintage & Goods (2/F, 14 Yiu Wa St) where you'll find unique, carefully curated items that are in great condition.

HONG KONG *by night*

LIGHTS, FLAVOURS, SOUNDS: WHEN EVENING FALLS, HONG KONG TRANSFORMS INTO A DAZZLING SPECTACLE FOR THE SENSES.



VEA ①



Symphony of Lights ②



Quinary ⑦



The Mandarin Cake Shop ③

World-class dining

Hong Kong is a food-lover's dream. The three-Michelin-starred Lung King Heen (8 Finance St), at the Four Seasons Hotel, serves exquisite Cantonese cuisine with seasonal ingredients in an elegant harbour-view setting. VEA ① (198 Wellington St) delivers exciting 'Chinese x French' fusion dishes in its 6- and 8-course tasting menus. And Aqua (15 Middle Rd), offers contemporary Italian cuisine against the backdrop of Hong Kong's skyline framed by floor-to-ceiling windows. Finally, those late-night sweet cravings can be satisfied at one of the many dessert restaurants. Try the black sesame paste at Ho Kee Dessert (Shop 111 & 122, G/F, I-Feng Mansions, 237A To Kwa Wan Rd) and

pair it with some sticky rice balls in ginger syrup. And The Mandarin Cake Shop ③ in the Mandarin Oriental (5 Connaught Rd) serves Lord Stow's egg tarts, delicious handmade pastries that feature a creamy custard filling and caramelised top.

Night lights spectacle

Watching the Symphony of Lights ②, a multimedia show that illuminates the skyline every night, is a must. The best viewing spots include the Avenue of Stars (Salisbury Rd) or aboard the *Aqua Luna* (Central Pier 9), a traditional red-sail junk boat that cruises Victoria Harbour during the show.

Nightcap

End your night with creative cocktails at Quinary ⑦ (56-58 Hollywood Rd), where

award-winning mixologist Antonio Lai pioneers 'multisensory molecular mixology' in a stylish setting. In simpler words: expect some of the best and most innovative cocktails you've ever had. For a more laid-back experience, Tai Lung Fung (5 Hing Wan St) recreates the nostalgic ambience of a 1960s Hong Kong bar with vintage decor, classic cocktails and tasty Hong Kong-style snacks.

Where to stay

The Upper House (Pacific Place, 88 Queensway) is a serene luxury hotel with an energy-efficient design. Its modern Asian minimalism and focus on art and wellness create a perfect escape from the city's bustle. For a boutique experience, family-run Tung Nam Lou

(68 Portland St) combines art and hospitality in a revitalised historic building in the heart of Kowloon, with locally made furniture and artwork in each unique room. And The Fleming (41 Fleming Rd) is a boutique hotel in the vibrant Wan Chai district that features custom-designed furniture and subtle nods to Hong Kong's maritime history.

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INTO THE LIGHT

Vintage sardines, gourmet salt and vanishing seas dictate the rhythm of life along France's Coast of Light, where perfection hides in unlikely places.

Text and photography **Jurriaan Teulings**





Let's play a game. Guess * in the following phrase: 'Powerful on the palate, the flavour of the * unfolds with ease, balanced by notes of green olive and sea salt from the marshes.' Did you guess wine? Cheese? Good effort, but no. Here on the Atlantic coast, in the humble fishing town of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, we're talking about 16-year-old sardines. Trust the French to provide tasting notes on tinned fish.

Our road trip began yesterday, at the tiny Nantes Atlantique Airport. The original plan – to arrive here by mid-afternoon – was foiled by crepes, a fortress-palace and a mechanical elephant. The crepes: lunch in Nantes. The fortress-palace: the Dukes of Brittany. The elephant: the central attraction of Les Machines de l'île, a mechanical art installation on an island in the middle of the Loire River. It was mostly the elephant, though. One does not often come across a 12m tall, 21m long beast of wood and steel with animated legs, ears and trunk, roaming a repurposed shipyard with 50 people on its back, blasting water at anyone getting in the way. "This would be great for my kids," said Philip, my travel companion. "This would be great for me," I thought.

Alas, the French countryside is a buffet of distractions. "Say, this little town called Clisson looks interesting," I said to Philip, back in the car as we planned our route. "Look! It's built around a castle and it's so oddly Italianate that they nicknamed it the Tuscany of France. We could pick up a bottle of Cru Clisson, [I'm reading aloud] 'which exhibits flavours of citrus, stone fruit and saline notes, making it an excellent companion to seafood.'" Surely that would be worth a detour? We were already on our way.

Addicted to detours

Clisson was as dreamy as advertised, but hardly sleepy. Unwittingly, we'd arrived in the midst of Pots de Vin, a street arts festival devoted to natural wines and pottery. A DJ in fluorescent tights emerged from a yellow caravan between the castle moat and the market hall, to challenge

onlookers to a music quiz. Nearby, a man on a ladder prepared to roll a rock down a drainage pipe aimed at a helmeted accomplice strapped into a car seat. I'm not sure how that ended, the lure of the wine-tasting stalls was too strong. On our way out, we could hear our haul shifting in the boot at every turn, that sweet thump of serendipitous finds.

In the spirit of unscheduled detours, we now aimed for Brétignolles-sur-Mer, a seaside town of whitewashed facades, red-tiled roofs and cobalt shutters, just south of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie. We got out of the car for a quick stroll along its craggy coastline, the light of the setting sun casting long shadows across windswept dunes. At last, we'd arrived at the Coast of Light. This 230km stretch of western France receives some 2,300 hours of sunshine each year. In return, the landscape glows with limestone cliffs, salt pans and sweeping sandy beaches. At low tide, land and water blur around white fishing towns, surrounded by mirror-like mudflats, silted plains and marshes. Birds swarm. Flowers bloom. It's as if we had stepped into a jasmine-scented watercolour. This is where we would spend the next few days.

This morning, Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie smelt of breakfast perfection. "That's Comté from Haute-Savoie, and over there you have cured filet mignon," said Laurence, the proprietor of the aptly named Maison l'Envie ('House of Desire') as she introduced us to her cheese and charcuterie. Around us, the carefully colour-coordinated and tastefully decorated breakfast room betrayed her background as a graphic designer, as did the cake that followed, the cherry and apple caramel, jams, and the sheep's milk yoghurt topped with a layer of strawberry-banana compote; all homemade. "Would you like scrambled eggs as well?"

Next, a guided bike tour through the medina-like maze of streets behind the fishing port offered an opportunity to burn off some of those calories. En route, we stopped at a museum and cultural centre dedicated to »

Previous pages

Inside the La Godaille oyster hut; Plage des Dames beach on Noirmoutier island

Right page, top (from left to right)

The Marches des Fiertés steps in Nantes; tins of sardines at L'Atelier de la Sardine; Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie

Bottom

Pont de la Vallée bridge in Clisson



THE FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE IS A BUFFET OF DISTRACTIONS





**IT'S AS IF WE'D STEPPED
INTO A WATERCOLOUR**



Above A colourful home on Noirmoutier island
Left page People cycling near Plage des Dames beach

A SHIMMERING STRETCH OF OYSTER BANKS IS
FLOODING WITH THE INCOMING TIDE



Henry Simon, a prolific 20th-century artist whose expressive brushwork captured daily life in the town, much of it unchanged: the views of the port, the fishing boats, the maritime traditions and bucolic festivals reminiscent of Pots de Vin. Central was his former atelier, housed in a *bourrine*, a thatched-roof cottage typical of the local marshlands, so cartoonishly picturesque I half expected a family of Smurfs to usher us in. But as we explored the rest of town, it soon became clear that the protagonist here is not a painter, but a small, oily, silver-skinned fish.

This is how we've ended up at L'Atelier de la Sardine: half shop, half museum of tinned fish. "Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie lands around 2,500 tonnes of sardines a year," explains our guide Carly Boutevin. Once tinned, these can be kept for over a decade; in fact, that's encouraged. "They age like fine wine. The older they are, the better they become: more tender and buttery." Intrigued, I'm drawn to a locked cabinet of prized tins from the La Perle des Dieux brand, spanning two decades. Each *millésime* ('vintage') features tasting notes and artwork depicting Mademoiselle Perle, a siren-like beauty living her adventures one tin at a time. And sure enough, rather than giving me botulism, the contents of one of those tins melts on the tongue, a lovechild of brine and omega-3.

Flirting with danger for fancy salt

We set off early the next morning to reach Noirmoutier island – about an hour north by car – that, for a few hours around low tide, can be reached via Passage du Gois, a 4.1km tidal causeway. Attracted by the spectacle of driving across the seabed, but alarmed by harrowing Instagram reels of motorists frantically racing to beat the incoming tide, I've studied the tide tables, so we arrive at the right time. After checking in to our hotel, we stock up on hand-harvested *fleur de sel* ('flower of salt') at Marais Salants "La Bonne Pogne", where artisanal salt producer Dylan Petitgas explains how his family practise a centuries-old method

of channelling seawater through a network of precisely levelled evaporation ponds. While the bulk of the salt settles on the bottom, *fleur de sel* only appears on hot, windless days as a thin crust on the surface that vanishes as soon as the air turns humid, or the sun slips behind a cloud. It's sold on the spot, with Petitgas' cooking instructions. "Think of it as a spice for food that's already good on its own, like steak."

That evening, we dine at La Table d'Élise, a bistro on the harbour at the island's western tip. It's a family affair run by Céline Couillon, whose husband, Alexandre, helms the kitchen of their three-Michelin-starred establishment, La Marine, next door. At the chef's counter, we have front-row seats to a tightly choreographed flurry of tweezers, bottles, whispered instructions and wiped rims. Oysters arrive gently roasted in their shells over embers; sea bass, in a broth of rockfish; spider crab, in a savoury custard. This couple has single-handedly transformed the island into a fine-dining destination.

The next morning, we collect e-bikes provided by the hotel to explore the island's eastern coast, where pine-fringed coves, Belle Époque villas and neat rows of white bathing huts face the rising sun. For brunch, we head to Les Petits Bassets, one of the numerous oyster huts scattered across the marshlands. There, we're invited by oyster farmers to join them in a flat-bottomed boat that's then hauled by tractor into the tidal flats where a shimmering stretch of oyster banks is flooding with the incoming tide. Hitching a ride, one of the oyster farmers, a man named Vincent in chest waders, offers his insights into the years of hard work that precede the moment an oyster is served: "The process of turning, sorting and shifting the oysters has changed a lot since my grandfather started our family business. They're all *Crassostrea gigas*, a species introduced from Japan in the 70s after disease wiped out native stocks." Like a crisp Muscadet, Vincent's insights into the business of pampering molluscs into perfection pair »

Top Men inspect a flooded oyster bank

Bottom (from left to right)

Fresh oysters at Port du Bonhomme; dish at La Mare aux Oiseaux; salt producer Dylan Petitgas at Marais Salants "La Bonne Pogne"

THE LANDSCAPE GLOWS WITH
LIMESTONE CLIFFS AND
SWEEPING SANDY BEACHES



Left page Plage de l'Anse Rouge beach on Noirmoutier island

beautifully with the tide-fresh dozen that rounds off our visit at the patio at Les Petits Bassets. After a lifetime of fuss, they finally arrive shucked, on a bed of seaweed, only requiring a splash of lemon.

Before heading back to Nantes, we visit Brière Regional Natural Park, a vast wetland north of the Loire estuary. About 10km inland – and still surrounded by water – we reach La Mare aux Oiseaux, a hotel-restaurant nestled in a cluster of fairytale cottages. In addition to managing and co-owning the property, Félix Rigaud is also a drama teacher, even to the front-of-house staff. “I like them to act as if they’re in a scene,” he says. Diners are ushered into a fabulous dining room filled with travel curios, antiques and aviary-chic bird motifs beneath a mirrored ceiling. It’s a Michelin-starred restaurant masquerading as a psychedelic safari lodge.

Aptly named A Walk in Six Stages, the tasting menu is presented as a leisurely stroll through the region’s edible landscapes. Everything on the menu is ethically sourced within a radius of 50km from the restaurant, starting with perfectly context-appropriate frog legs, which are served alongside prawns from a marine biologist’s start-up, in a cloud of meadowsweet-infused milk, chased by wild garlic oil. Venturing deeper into the wild, the next ‘steps’ include white asparagus with whelks and seaweed mayonnaise, and a positively feral pie of wild boar and leeks. ‘Powerful on the palate’, one might justifiably note, ‘the flavours unfold with ease’. Well, not quite like that; those words, we now know, are reserved for vintage sardines. But in a corner of France where people wax lyrical about tinned fish, what superlatives are left to do justice to a meal as otherworldly as this? Perhaps, after all the steampunk-stamped, brine-wrangling, tin-gazing and oyster-whispering we’ve seen over the past few days, I shouldn’t be so perplexed when faced with yet another instance of alchemy. Leave it to the denizens of these sea-soaked parts to conjure up Michelin stars from a swamp. «



JURRIAAN TEULINGS IS A WIDELY PUBLISHED TRAVEL WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER. HERE ARE HIS TIPS FOR THE COAST OF LIGHT.

To eat

Resistance is futile

Be warned, if you have a sweet tooth, avoid Les Petits Cagnottes in Noirmoutier-en-l'Île at all costs. This heaven of artisanal biscuits, chocolates, jams and brioches also has salted-butter caramel, regional wines, craft beers and other gourmet products, including *molette*, a dense, crumbly shortbread cake found only on the island. You certainly don't want that. lespetitscagnottes.com

To stay

Bougie wonderland

I stayed at Le Général d'Elbée, a plush boutique hotel in Noirmoutier-en-l'Île with antique furniture, chandeliers and hand-crafted wallpapers. For views of the medieval castle across the street, ask for the Camille room. Skip the pricey breakfast; opt for brunch at one of the island's many oyster huts instead. generaldelbee.fr

To do

Festival town

Clisson, a town of 7,459 residents near Nantes, fields a

striking festival line-up. The most theatrical event, which takes place every year in May, is *Les Mascarades* when costumed figures in Venetian masks glide through Clisson in gondolas and perform open-air commedia dell'arte sketches along the river. But there's a big event nearly every month of the year: in August, the town hosts Clisson Vintage, a free gathering that draws thousands of classic Volkswagen fans. france-voyage.com

Salted terroir

Founded in the 90s by Thierry Michon, Domaine Saint Nicolas, just south of Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie, was the first in the region to adopt biodynamic viticulture in the salt marshes of Brem-sur-Mer. Here, a terroir of schist, clay, and a maritime wind, yields fine wines that populate the menus at Michelin-starred restaurants in the region. Michon's youthful character (he needs little encouragement to mimic one of the winery's label designs, a man doing a one-handed handstand) inspire further confidence

in his product. domainesaintnicolas.com

Woodblock prints

In Le Vieil, on Noirmoutier's northern coast, the Tantine Berthe création gallery is run by Gildas Cagnot, an artist (and the brother of Alexandre Couillon, chef of the three-Michelin-starred restaurant La Marine) whose family has lived on the island for generations. He happily shares his knowledge of the island's history and culture, and uses woodblock printing to make artwork that draws on its maritime past as well as Cagnot's life experiences in Africa and Asia. He also created the nearby Gustave Café. cagnot.com

Book this story



KLM operates three nonstop flights per day to Nantes Atlantique Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on klm.com.

Robbert Meulenveld

“
**WE OFFER TOOLS
 TO HELP REDUCE
 THE PLASTIC
 YOU CONSUME**
 ”

Can we create a world without unnecessary plastics? Robbert Meulenveld (57) thinks so. As Director of Dutch nonprofit organisation Plastic Soup Foundation, he's a key part of a global movement that's going places. Text Marieke Verhoeven Photography Dana van Leeuwen

How and why did you become passionate about plastic pollution? If we go back to the beginning, caring for our planet was ingrained in me at an early age. My parents have always been socially and environmentally conscious and, as a result, my two brothers and I ended up working for nonprofit organisations. I vividly remember the World Wildlife Fund for Nature poster we had at home that exposed deforestation in the Amazon. Seeing how many football fields of trees were cut down every day made a considerable impression on me. This was back in the 70s and plastic pollution was not yet on the global agenda. After gaining experience in marketing and branding for commercial companies, I made a shift in 2006 to KWF Dutch

Cancer Society as a temporary brand manager, and later worked at Aidsfonds, an organisation that helps to prevent and cure AIDS and HIV globally. I enjoyed applying my commercial experience in a nonprofit environment, and when I got a freelance job at Greenpeace, I was able to combine it with my interest in nature as well. I was struck by the organisation's many reports on the damaging effect of plastic production on the planet, especially in the Western world. So, when Plastic Soup Foundation was looking for a marketing manager in 2022, I decided to join the cause and try to make a tangible change. This year, I became the organisation's director and spokesperson.

What does Plastic Soup Foundation do? Founded by Maria Westerbos in 2011,

Plastic Soup Foundation was initially focused on raising awareness about the impact of plastic pollution, the so-called 'plastic soup' in our seas. This was around the time that two other Dutch entrepreneurs, Boyan Slat of The Ocean Cleanup and Marius Smit of Plastic Whale, started their nonprofits to help clean up our seas and rivers, and rid them of plastics and microplastics. Instead of focusing on clean-up efforts – which is very important – Plastic Soup Foundation goes back to the root cause of this pollution. We're identifying the source of all this plastic and assessing how to prevent it from ending up in nature in the first place. In addition to raising awareness, we now encourage governments and corporations to do better by informing them about »



possible alternatives. There are tens of thousands of organisations worldwide that are concerned with plastic pollution. If you want to make a real change in this area, you must look at the problem on a global scale, not just in your own country. For example, we want to get rid of single-use plastic, which is still about 50% of all plastic produced, and this takes the joint effort of international players. More recently, we began informing individual consumers about the dangers of microplastics to the human body; not because we want to frighten people, but simply to create awareness and offer alternatives that are much less damaging.

What are these potential dangers?

Together with British grassroots organisation A Plastic Planet, we created the Plastic Health Council, which supports global scientists in spreading research on the harmful effects of plastic. Their work has shown that plastic residue, which is separated into microplastics and nano-plastics, enters our body through our nose, mouth and skin. This can be from wearing synthetic

fabrics to using certain skincare and dental care products. These plastic particles nestle in the lungs, stomach and even the brain, and can cause infections and inflammation, possibly leading to more serious conditions. This is all very concerning, but the good news is that you can reduce your exposure to plastics as a consumer, and we offer tools to help reduce the plastic you consume.

Such as? We developed an app called Beat the Microbead, which you can use to scan products in your bathroom to see which ones contain microplastics. Nine out of ten cosmetics products contain forever-polluting microplastics, so getting rid of those is a great first step. We also recommend that people go on a plastic diet for seven days. By signing up for free via our website, you'll get daily tips to help reduce your plastic consumption. And we've launched the beta-version of our new app, PlasticFreeFuture, which allows you to scan everything in your surroundings for plastics, from your groceries to your clothes. We plan to launch the final version next year.

Aren't governments and plastic producers responsible for plastic reduction? Most of the responsibility lies with those in charge of plastic production. That's why we try to sit down with these players and explain the dangers of plastic, and alternatives for plastic packaging, to them. The problem is the cost: this shift to materials, such as banana leaf and seaweed, calls for an investment from these companies and they must be willing to make it for the sake of our planet and its inhabitants. We've been talking to some big companies who are open to making changes. On the governmental level, the willingness to act varies per country. Germany and France, for example, introduced a plastic tax this year for companies who use single-use-plastic packaging. We still have a long way to go, but it's a start.

“ THE SHIFT TO MATERIALS SUCH AS BANANA LEAF CALLS FOR AN INVESTMENT ”

How do you stay optimistic, facing such great challenges? Over the past 50 years, people have grown accustomed to comfort and instant gratification, at least in the Western world. Our excessive use of plastic is a byproduct of that. I feel that people do want to make a change, but often don't have the right tools or knowledge to do so. Friends and family often ask me about changes they can make, so I see the willingness to do better in my own circle, and that helps me to stay optimistic. If we can get that critical 25% on board – needed to make a large-scale social change – we have a good chance of achieving a future free of unnecessary plastics. «



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TREASURE ISLANDS

From the Arctic allure of Lofoten to the pastel charm of Procida, these incredible islands impress with their unique underwater biodiversity, stunning scenery and ecological harmony.

Text Suzanne Stougie





Rep. of the Marshall Islands

MARSHALL ISLANDS

If you want to get away from it all, travelling to the tropical Marshall Islands does the trick. The five main islands and 29 atolls lie in a mind-boggling expanse of ocean in between Papua New Guinea and Hawaii in the central Pacific. Island life is mostly happening underwater: copious coral reefs encircle sparkling turquoise lagoons, while technicolour tropical fish swim through sunken WWII battleships and one of the world's largest shark sanctuaries.

A diver's dream. **Top tip:** Catch a ride in an outrigger canoe; Marshallese sailors use the age-old art of wave-piloting to sail from islet to islet, using nothing but waves.



Norway

LOFOTEN

Dazzlingly deep fjords and dramatic peaks characterise this archipelago, which sits above the Arctic Circle. Separated from mainland Norway by the Vesterålsfjorden, its five volcanic main islands are home to colourful fisherman's cabins, breathtaking bridges and the world's most striking football stadium (in Henningsvaer). With picturesque Trollfjord, one of the world's best left-handed surfing spots at Unstad, revitalising rock climbing with mountain views, and sea eagles soaring high above them all, Lofoten is a dream destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Don't miss: Lofoten Art Open on 13 and 14 September sees museums, artist's studios, exhibition spaces and galleries open their doors to everyone.



Portugal

AZORES

Located about 1,500km west of mainland Portugal, this nine-island archipelago is home to the biggest protected marine area in the North Atlantic, providing a playground for burly blue whales and dashing dolphins alike. Volcanic activity gifted the Azores outstanding natural beauty, from colossal craters to vibrant green plains. São Miguel Island has the most for visitors to see and do. They can, for example, soak in the healing thermal waters of Furnas and hike to the Vista do Rei viewpoint to see the famous Blue and Green Lakes. **Good to know:** A certified Sustainable Tourism Destination, the Azores are committed to countless eco-initiatives, from reducing non-reusable plastic waste to mitigating light pollution.



Indonesia

RAJA AMPAT

In a remote corner of the world where the Pacific and Indian Oceans meet, Indonesia's Raja Ampat archipelago is a diver's wonderland. Relatively untouched by human hands, its biodiversity is unparalleled: more than 1,300 kinds of reef fish dart in and out of countless coral seascapes, surrounding more than 1,500 limestone islands swathed in rainforest. The island offers fabulous photo opportunities at places such as panoramic Pianemo Hill and traditional Papuan villages, while stunning sandy beaches are perfect for a snooze in the equatorial shade. **Top tip:** Liveaboard diving is a thing here, allowing diving enthusiasts to reach the most pristine spots on overnight trips.



Italy

PROCIDA

Just north of the ankle of Italy's boot in the Bay of Naples, this colourful volcanic island is full of Italian charm: all pleasant piazzas, charming churches and narrow streets.

A delightful day trip as well as a dreamy destination unto itself, pretty Procida is still largely undiscovered despite featuring in the 1999 box office hit film *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Wander around the Port of Corricella sipping a lemon granita made with local lemons, discover the monumental maze that is Palazzo d'Avalos or gaze at the remarkable rock formations at Chiaiolella Beach. **Don't miss:** Local delicacies include mantis shrimp, spaghetti with sea urchin, and palamita, a bluefish similar to tuna.

Welcome
on board



KLM NEWS

KLM House

**NO. 88:
'T LOOTSJE**



In the early 1900s, after the Rozengracht canal had been filled in, many of the buildings that had lined it were replaced. One of them is Rozengracht 99-101,

designed by architect Eduard Cuypers, and constructed in 1902. The building has been home to a few establishments since then, most notably the distillery of well-known Dutch liqueur brand Bols and its tasting house. Although the outside structure, including its gable, remained intact, the interior was changed when, in 1964, the distillery moved to the town of Nieuw-Vennep. On the left side of the facade of number 99, the word *anno* ('year'), paired with three crosses (similar to those on Amsterdam's coat of arms) remains. The construction date, 1902, can still be seen on the building's right side.

Mark Wagtendonk (left, top right)



Official partner

YOUR FLIGHT TO WORLDPRIDE 2026

KLM will be the official airline partner of WorldPride 2026, which will be the largest ever Pride event in Amsterdam. The event's 'Unity' theme matches KLM's vision perfectly. KLM's founder, Albert Plesman, said it more than 100 years ago: "The ocean of the air unites all people." KLM believes in the power of diversity and inclusion, and has been connecting people

worldwide for more than a century. KLM passengers and staff come from various cultures and backgrounds, and KLM's mission is to ensure that everyone feels accepted, valued and respected. This partnership is a logical continuation of this mission and an opportunity to further strengthen KLM's support for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Ask the expert



FIRST OFFICER JORIS KUIJPER
ANSWERS YOUR BURNING
QUESTION

What helps a plane to fly during turbulence



Turbulence is simply air moving in different directions. I like to compare it to water: when swimming with the current, you barely feel any resistance. But imagine that same water as a bubbling jacuzzi, now you're being pushed from all sides. That's what a plane experiences in turbulence. Fortunately, it has wings designed to be both strong and flexible, allowing it to handle those forces. Aircraft are also built with positive stability in mind, meaning their design helps them naturally return to level flight if their balance is disturbed by shifting air currents.

Got a burning question for the experts at KLM?
Email us at hollandheraldhome@hearth.nl and your question might be featured in the next issue of *Holland Herald*.

Discover the fusion during your flight!

Take a sip of the unique fusion taste



KLM NEWS

Memorable flight

“I landed with a big smile on my face”

AMANDA MOLENAAR'S BRAZILIAN ADVENTURE CAME TO A PERFECT END WHEN SHE FLEW HOME WITH KLM.



After three amazing years at my diplomatic posting in Brazil, I was heading back to the Netherlands. It was quite an eventful flight, not just because I was saying goodbye to a country I'd grown immensely fond of, but also because, after weeks of preparations and paperwork, I was finally travelling with my possessions, and my two cats, who I'd adopted after coming across them at a farm. Due to regulations, my cats travelled in the

cargo hold, which made me a little nervous. To soothe the nerves and give my experience an upgrade, I'd booked a Business Class seat with KLM for my 11-hour flight. I don't know what it is, but when I fly with KLM back from a destination, it already feels like I'm halfway home. This time was no exception: the minute I sat down in the wide seat, got a glass of bubbles, realised my cats were safely tucked away in the

storage hold and told my story to the sympathetic crew, I felt more relaxed than I had in weeks. It was the perfect way to come home after my Brazilian adventure. I landed with a big smile on my face, and the three of us made it home safely.

Have you had a special flight? Share it at hollandheraldhome@hearst.nl and your story might be featured in the next issue of *Holland Herald*.

5 things to know

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMFORT

KLM'S PREMIUM COMFORT CLASS IS A SEPARATE CABIN THAT OFFERS MORE SPACIOUS SEATS AND LOTS OF COMFORT.

A comfortable start

The experience begins with a larger baggage allowance and SkyPriority's speedy airport services, meaning you can board sooner.

A cabin of comfort

The quiet cabin has just 21 to 28 seats that are wider and more comfortable than Economy Class seats.

Comforting care

A 13.3-inch personal entertainment screen, complimentary pair of noise-cancelling headphones, and power outlets help you get on with your day.

Comfort food

You'll enjoy delicious meals, delivered in either reusable or recyclable bowls and plates.

Comfort kit

You'll receive a sustainable comfort kit, made in collaboration with REPVEVE® Our Ocean®. Inside the bag, which can be reused, is an eye mask made from recycled plastic, earplugs, Happy Tabs toothpaste, a pen made from wheat straw and a bamboo toothbrush by Bamboovement.



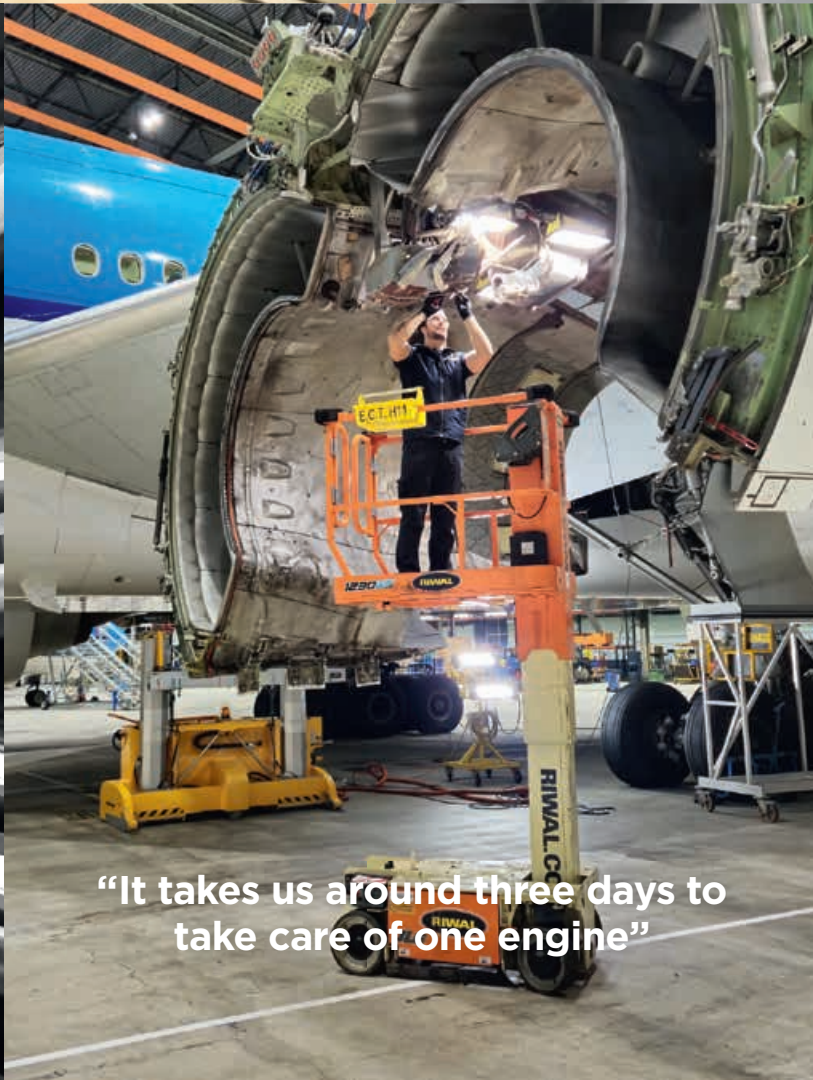
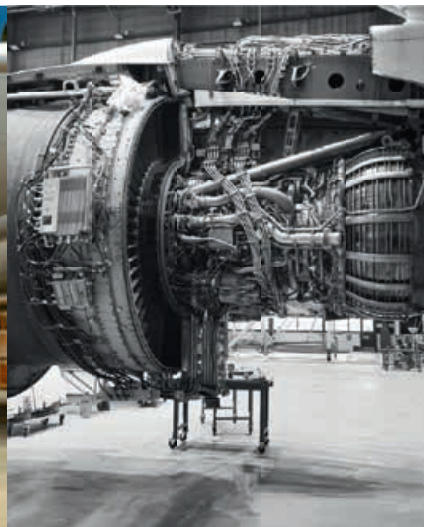
#Travelhack

HAPPY VEGANS

With more than 4.5 million downloads and a 4.8-star rating in the Apple App Store, there's no doubt that the HappyCow app is a popular one. The app tells vegan and vegetarian travellers where they can eat without having to worry about their dietary preferences.

€5.99; Apple App Store

TRAVEL WELL



"It takes us around three days to take care of one engine"

Engine control

SWITCHING IT UP

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT AIRCRAFT ENGINES ARE COMPLICATED BITS OF MACHINERY. AIRCRAFT MECHANIC LEROY PEIJNENBURG EXPLAINS HOW HIS ENGINE CHANGE TEAM WORKS TIRELESSLY DAY AND NIGHT TO CHANGE, REPAIR AND PREPARE THE LARGEST AEROPLANE ENGINES ON THE MARKET FOR THEIR NEXT FLIGHT.

There are plenty of reasons why the aeroplane engines of KLM's wide-body fleet is transported to Hangar 11. A much-needed repair, for example, or simply because it's time for an engine to get some well-deserved maintenance. "Every part within an engine has a certain time stamp," explains Leroy Peijnenburg, Aircraft Mechanic in Hangar 11. "A combustion chamber, for example, typically has a lifespan of around five years. So, before the five years are up, we'll subject the engine to thorough testing and replace the chamber with a new one. If it breaks before then, which can happen, we'll replace the part sooner." So how do you know if a part needs replacing? "There are several indicators. One of them is the exhaust gas temperature (EGT), which is checked regularly. If it's too hot, that might be an indication of a faulty part. Or the amount of oil a plane uses – this is registered before and after a flight. If the engine is using too much oil, we'll take a closer look. Another way to determine if an engine needs checking is if it is producing too many vibrations; this can heat up the engine unnecessarily and cause more defaults.

Test, test, test

So how does one switch an engine? "The entire process is long and complicated," Peijnenburg states. "But in layman's terms: when we receive a plane, the first thing we do is remove the engine. Systems such as hydraulics, oil, electrics and much more need to be detached before we use the Cobra, a precision hoisting system, to completely lift the engine from the plane. We then attach

a newly maintained engine to the plane, reattach all the systems that I previously mentioned, and then request the pushback tug to move the plane to a special testing area. Not everyone is allowed to subject aircraft to testing; in our team, there are only three people with these special qualifications. We then alert the air traffic control tower at Schiphol, since the testing of a new engine can produce quite a bit of smoke, before going over the entire checklist. The whole process takes hours."

The strictest of standards

Peijnenburg's team, consisting of 14 licensed mechanics and ground engineers, is solely responsible for the engines of the Boeing 777s, Boeing 787s and A330s, the largest aircraft that make up KLM's so-called wide-body fleet. "The engines of smaller aircraft receive a different kind of maintenance, that typically takes around eight hours. The engines of the wide-body fleet are a lot more complex. It takes us around three days to take care of one engine, working in shifts of eight hours with a group of seven people." And it's not just the strict, almost military, planning that makes the process complicated. "Due to a safety measure called ETOPS [Extended Range Twin Operations Performance Standards], the group of people that works on one engine will never work on the aircraft's other engine as well. The idea behind this is that if we make a mistake during the maintenance of one engine, at least the mistake won't be repeated on the other side. Safety is the biggest priority in our line of work."



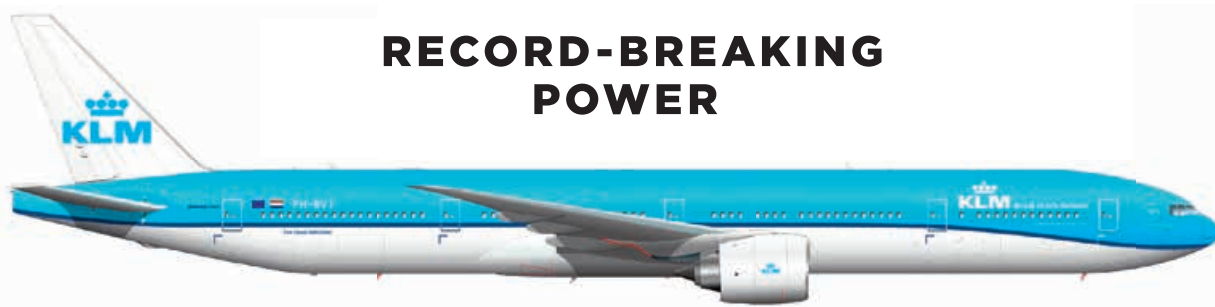
Leroy Peijnenburg,
Aircraft Mechanic KLM

Left page (clockwise from top left): KLM's Engine Change Team; side view of a GENx-1b engine (without the Fan Cowl and Reverser Cowl installed), which sits under the wing of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner; performing a Pilon inspection, which must be done during every engine change. The Pilon is the part where the engine and wing come together; a view through the engine's Fan Blades towards the first stage of the Propeller Engine's Low Pressure Compressor.

KLM FLEET

Specifications

RECORD-BREAKING POWER



Travelling to Dubai, Quito, Guayaquil or Osaka? Chances are, you're flying in a Boeing 777-200ER. Thanks to its powerful jet engines, which are equivalent to 175,000 horsepower, the Boeing 777-200ER can accelerate from 0 to 96km/h in six seconds.



Boeing 747-400ER Freighter

Number of aircraft: 3
Cruising speed (km/h): 920
Range (km): 11,500
Max. take-off weight (kg): 412,800
Max. freight (kg): 112,000
Total length (m): 70.67
Wingspan (m): 64.44



Airbus A330-300/200

Number of aircraft: 5/6
Cruising speed (km/h): 880/880
Range (km): 8,200/8,800
Max. take-off weight (kg): 233,000/233,000
Maximum passengers: 292/264
Total length (m): 63.69/58.37
Wingspan (m): 60.30/60.30
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board



Boeing 787-10/9 Dreamliner

Number of aircraft: 12/13
Cruising speed (km/h): 920/920
Range (km): 9,900/11,500
Max. take-off weight (kg): 254,000/252,650
Maximum passengers: 318/294
Total length (m): 68.30/62.80
Wingspan (m): 60.10/60.10
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board

Boeing 777-300ER/200ER

Number of aircraft: 16/15
Cruising speed (km/h): 920/900
Range (km): 12,000/11,800
Max. take-off weight (kg): 351,543/297,500
Maximum passengers: 408/320
Total length (m): 73.86/63.80
Wingspan (m): 64.80/60.90
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board



Boeing 737-800/700

Number of aircraft: 31/6
Cruising speed (km/h): 850/850
Range (km): 4,200/3,500
Max. take-off weight (kg): 73,700/65,317
Maximum passengers: 186/142
Total length (m): 39.47/33.62
Wingspan (m): 35.80/35.80
Wi-Fi on board



Embraer 190/175

Number of aircraft: 24/17
Cruising speed (km/h): 850/850
Range (km): 3,300/3,180
Max. take-off weight (kg): 45,000/36,500
Maximum passengers: 100/88
Total length (m): 36.25/31.68
Wingspan (m): 28.72/28.65



Airbus A321neo

Number of aircraft: 9
Cruising speed (km/h): 876
Range (km): 7,400
Max. take-off weight (kg): 89,000
Maximum passengers: 227
Total length (m): 44.51
Wingspan (m): 35.80
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board



Boeing 737-900

Number of aircraft: 5
Cruising speed (km/h): 850
Range (km): 4,300
Max. take-off weight (kg): 76,900
Maximum passengers: 188
Total length (m): 42.12
Wingspan (m): 35.80
Wi-Fi on board



Embraer 195-E2

Number of aircraft: 23
Cruising speed (km/h): 876
Range (km): 4,815
Max. take-off weight (kg): 56,700
Maximum passengers: 132
Total length (m): 41.5
Wingspan (m): 35.12

A321neo

POWERING THROUGH

“What we see here is the rear end of an A321neo,” explains Desril Santos Teguh, Ground Engineer A321neo and Boeing 737/777/787. “The most visible elements are the strobe light and the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) exhaust. Strobe lights, such as this one, are used during a flight and when an aircraft enters or crosses a runway. They improve an aircraft’s visibility in all conditions, not just at night or when there’s low visibility. The APU exhaust, the black hole you see in the image, is the outlet for gases from the APU, which is a sort of ‘help engine’ that supplies an aircraft with electricity when it’s on the ground, and sometimes during flights when needed.”

TRAVELLERS



Kara



“I’m curious to know how he was able to stay himself”

KARA OSBAK
TRAVELLING TO EDMONTON
ON FLIGHT KL675

Reason for travel? “I have family in Edmonton, so I’m going to catch up with relatives. I grew up there and left at 19 to study abroad. I’ve been living and working in the Benelux for about 20 years.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I’ll be going to China with my husband soon, for about three weeks. We’ll be travelling to nature parks, and Hong Kong and Beijing, among other places. I’ve been wanting to go there for a while, as I’d like to experience China before it’s completely modernised. The country seems to be developing itself quickly.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “Oscar Wilde. He was way ahead of his time, and he comes across as absolutely brilliant. I also think he must’ve been so funny, a real character. I’m curious to know how he was able to stay himself in an environment that couldn’t accept him for who he was.”

Andy

ANDY MATTHIEU
TRAVELLING TO ZURICH
ON FLIGHT KL1923

Reason for travel? “I’ve just come back from spending two weeks in Trinidad and Tobago. I mostly stayed in the capital, Port of Spain, to celebrate carnival. It was a bit of a spontaneous trip; I was looking for the best spots for carnival, and Trinidad and Tobago came up a few times. I’m Haitian myself, so this wasn’t my first rodeo. I was able to keep up.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “South America. Maybe Colombia in particular. Brazil I could do any day, as it’s easy to get there, but Colombia has something special and is a little trickier. And I’ve heard some good things about Cartagena.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “I’m not picky. I’d probably say a family member; someone I haven’t been able to talk to in a while. Or, as I’m an Arsenal fan, maybe Thierry Henry. I wouldn’t ask him any questions though; just chilling together would be nice enough.”



Hilde & Sasha

HILDE DIRKX AND SASHA FIELD
TRAVELLING TO NEW YORK
ON FLIGHT KL641

Reason for travel? Hilde: “We’re Jehovah’s Witnesses and are off to New York to visit the Headquarters. I’m looking forward to it very much.” Sasha: “There are several buildings there, one of which is where our Bible is printed. I think it’s going to be a very impressive sight to see.”

Still on your travel bucket list? Hilde: “So many places: parts of Africa, South America, northern Europe... Maybe I’ll start with Brazil and Peru; I’ve some acquaintances there from Bible study.”

Sasha: “I’ll join Hilde in South America, even if it’s just for the lovely music that they have in those parts.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Hilde: “Maybe a future partner? You never know who may come along...”

Sasha: “Paul the Apostle. The stories of his work and travels fascinate me. I’d love to ask him how he remained so strong and selfless during his life.”

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Travelling well is not about travelling more, but making the most of every experience. So more than just a business trip, your ticket can take you to unexpected ways to bond with your colleagues from abroad. It all starts with a KLM flight.

When you travel, travel well.

 **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines
Travel Well

FLYING BLUE

20th Anniversary

THANK YOU FOR SHARING OUR JOURNEY



A shared goal of Air France and KLM, Flying Blue was founded 20 years ago to redefine the travel experience, where every trip opens doors to new adventures and unforgettable memories. Today, the programme includes 40 airline partners and is at the heart of an ecosystem of more than 100 commercial partners, allowing members to earn and spend Miles with ease. Since its launch, Flying Blue has

consistently been recognised by the travel industry as one of Europe's top loyalty programmes, and was recently named Best Global Airline Loyalty Program by the experts at point.me, as well as receiving the 2025 Freddie Award: Best Elite Program in Europe/Africa. We want to thank you, along with our nearly 30 million members, for being part of our journey. To mark this anniversary, we'll be

hosting a series of events and surprises that reflect the spirit of travel and the loyalty of our members. This is just the start of what promises to be an inspiring celebration, and a continued commitment to making your travels even more rewarding. So, get ready to be surprised. Get ready to be moved. Get ready for the next chapter in a journey we're proud to share with you.

For more information: flyingblue.com

My Miles



"Business Class made my flight more pleasant"

UPGRADES ARE KAREN DE LOOS' FAVOURITE WAY TO SPEND HER MILES.

Isla Barú



As a freelancer in the marketing field, I've been lucky enough to work on interesting jobs for international companies, allowing me to travel throughout Europe, particularly to the UK. These days, I also travel once or twice per year to India as a pro bono consultant for Women on Wings. This organisation helps social entrepreneurs in rural India to set up their businesses and create job opportunities for women.

These flights have allowed me to save up quite a few Miles, which I usually spend on upgrades for long flights. My favourite use of my Miles was in February last year, when I spontaneously bought a Business Class ticket to Cartagena, to meet up with one of my best friends. It made the long flight from Amsterdam a lot more pleasant. After spending four days on Isla Barú, lounging with cocktails along the water (wonderfully

failing to run out of things to talk about), we had another four days in downtown Cartagena, with its pretty, colourful surroundings. We walked a lot, experienced much of what the city has to offer and ate delicious food. It was a fabulous experience.

Do you have a Miles-related story to tell? Send it to hollandheraldhome@hearth.nl and your story might be featured in the next issue of *Holland Herald*.



Sign up now! Now that Flying Blue is celebrating its anniversary, there's never been a better time to sign up for free. Flying Blue is, in fact, your ideal travel companion: earn Miles and spend them on flights, hotel stays, car rentals and more. For more info, please check flyingblue.com.

ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT



***A Minecraft Movie* is an enjoyable watch that's fun for all the family**

Watch, listen or play

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

Dive into a world of cinematic wonder with more than 300 films from around the globe. Enjoy 400 TV programmes spanning various genres to suit every taste, and immerse yourself in our vast audio library, featuring more than 1,000 albums, playlists, podcasts and audiobooks. Challenge yourself with our selection of Games and set Parental Controls for the Kids Only section. Stay ahead of the curve with our constantly updated catalogue. Each month, we refresh almost 20% of our video content. Check entertainment.klm.com for the full listing before your next trip. For now, sit back, relax and enjoy your journey.

Our pick



A MINECRAFT MOVIE

Based on the best-selling video game of all time, *Minecraft* – the objective of which is to stay alive by crafting objects and surfaces out of blocks in a three-dimensional fantasy world called the Overworld – *A Minecraft Movie* follows main characters Steve (Jack Black), Garrett (Jason Momoa) and the rest of their ensemble as they aim to defeat the monsters from the dark Nether dimension before they spread their evil into the Overworld. Is it a life-changing film? No. Is it an enjoyable watch that's fun for all the family? Most definitely.

Fantasy, 1h41min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



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Edge of Tomorrow

Action, 1h53min

When Earth is attacked by aliens, no military unit in the world seems to be able to stop them. That is until Major William Cage (Tom Cruise) gets thrown into battle. Every time Cage dies, he reawakens at the beginning of his mission and has to do it all over again.



© 2003 Disney

Finding Nemo

Animation, 1h40min

Clownfish Marlin (voiced by Albert Brooks) is a protective parent, so letting his only son Nemo (voiced by Alexander Gould) attend his first day of school is a big step. But when Nemo is captured, Marlin's fears are realised, and he must go on a journey to bring him home.



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Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Fantasy, 2h12min

Set in the same universe as the *Harry Potter* films, the story follows the journey of magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) to the US while dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) escapes his confinement.

Games

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYER

Angry Birds World Tour

The birds are back! Much of the new gameplay is based on the Angry Birds Classic game. There are 30 available levels, which are split into five episodes of six.

Trivia Tournament

Test your general knowledge by answering questions from a wide range of topics. You can play alone or compete against other players. Challenge yourself and learn something new.

Golf Open

Live all the excitement of a professional golf game. With its accurate physics and stunning 3-D graphics, this golf version will give you all the thrills of the game in the comfort of your own seat.

TV

IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM...



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Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Sitcom, 22 min

As one of the police officers at Precinct 99, Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) is not a conventional detective. Luckily, Captain Raymond Holt (Andre Braugher) isn't afraid of a challenge and takes it upon himself to whip Jake and the rest of the team into shape.



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Wise Guy David Chase and The Sopranos

Documentary, 2h40min

Twenty-five years after *The Sopranos'* debut, executive producer David Chase gives viewers a rare behind-the-scenes look at the making and development of the series that helped to change the TV landscape.



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The Last of Us

Thriller, 43min

Twenty years after a fungal outbreak has turned most of Earth's inhabitants into 'zombies', survivor Joel (Pedro Pascal) must deliver teenager Ellie (Bella Ramsey) to the resistance in an attempt to develop a vaccine. Needless to say, things quickly turn awry.

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SKYTEAM

YVR Lounge

A FRESH NEW LOOK

NEXT TIME YOU'RE FLYING INTERNATIONALLY THROUGH VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (YVR), STEP INTO THE NEWLY TRANSFORMED SKYTEAM LOUNGE.



Now more stylish, comfortable and inviting than ever before, the YVR Lounge has been redesigned to elevate your airport experience. SkyTeam Elite Plus-, First- and Business Class passengers are in for a superb upgrade.

What's new?

Fully refurbished, the 528m² lounge now features a fresh, modern design that reflects SkyTeam's commitment to delivering an exceptional airport experience. With upgraded furniture and comfortable seating, it's easy to unwind before your flight. The redesigned layout includes dedicated spaces for both productivity and

relaxation, whether you're travelling for business or leisure.

Savour the experience

As SkyTeam's first lounge in North America, the YVR Lounge invites guests to enjoy a blend of local and international flavours. The dining area serves fresh, seasonal cuisine throughout the day, with offerings available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Passengers can stop by the noodle station or choose from a hot-and-cold buffet featuring internationally inspired menus crafted with local ingredients. The self-service bar also highlights

regional tastes, with wines sourced from Pacific Northwest vineyards and beers from some of Vancouver's top microbreweries.

Around-the-clock comfort

Open 24/7, the YVR Lounge spans two wings and offers sweeping views of the runway and surrounding mountains through floor-to-ceiling windows. Refresh with a shower, catch up on work with complimentary Wi-Fi or simply recharge (yourself and your devices) in one of many cosy corners.

Relax worldwide

When travelling beyond Vancouver, SkyTeam also has you covered with lounges across the globe. You'll find other SkyTeam-branded lounges in Dubai, Santiago de Chile and Sydney, along with a co-branded location in São Paulo. And our network doesn't stop there: through our member airlines, travellers have access to more than 750 lounges worldwide. So, whether you're relaxing, working or fuelling up before take-off, the refreshed YVR Lounge and our other global lounges are here to make your journey smoother. We can't wait to welcome you soon.

SkyTeam is the 18-member airline alliance. Find out more about news, services and upcoming events at skyteam.com.

HOUSE RULES

Electronics on board

On board the aircraft, electronic devices, such as smartphones, tablets and e-readers, may be used at all times. If they include wireless functionality, they must be set to **airplane mode** before the aircraft doors are closed and remain so throughout the flight. You may use an electronic device's Bluetooth mode (e.g. a Bluetooth headset) at all times as long as you enable **airplane mode** before you switch on Bluetooth. If the aircraft offers Internet onboard, Wi-Fi mode may be used at all times as long as **airplane mode** is enabled first. Before connecting to the onboard Wi-Fi, switch off any VPN services on your device. Larger electronic devices (e.g. laptops) must be stowed during taxiing, take-off and landing. If in doubt, check with the cabin crew. **Cabin crew may request that all electronic devices are switched off completely if it is deemed necessary.**

Drinks and smoking

Alcoholic drinks are served **one** at a time to passengers seated in their assigned seats. For safety reasons, the purser may close the bar. Passengers are not permitted to drink alcoholic beverages brought

on board with them. **Smoking**, including artificial cigarettes such as 'SuperSmokers', **is strictly forbidden** at all times on KLM flights.

Privacy

KLM respects the privacy of its customers and staff. Taking a **photo** or making a **film recording** of any person on board without their explicit consent is not allowed.

Lithium batteries

Mobile phones, laptops and other **electronic devices** contain lithium batteries, which can catch fire if they are damaged or if they short-circuit. Please make sure that you keep an eye on your device while it is charging, and do not charge it while sleeping. Please check 'restricted articles' on klm.com for more information.

Hand luggage at EU airports

To increase passenger safety, security rules for hand luggage are in place for all flights in accordance with European Union regulations. When passing through security control, you are required to present liquids, gels, pastes, lotions and aerosols separately, and in individual containers of no more than 100ml

and packaged in a resealable, transparent plastic bag (maximum volume 1 litre, 1 bag per person).

Animal products

To prevent the spread of animal diseases, you are prohibited from entering the EU with meat, meat products, milk and milk products. Small quantities for personal use are permitted on arrival from Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland. For further information, visit europa.eu.

Airport shopping

In the EU: Within Europe, you can travel with your tax-free liquid purchases. They will be packed and sealed for you. The seal is valid for 24 hours. You may not break the seal until you have reached your final destination, even if your journey includes a transfer.

Outside the EU: Transfer at an EU airport? You may bring liquids and gels from non-EU airports. They will be checked at Schiphol. Travelling to the US? Only bring liquids on board bought and sealed at Schiphol. Transfer in the US or Canada? Pack your liquids in your check-in luggage.

Wi-Fi & free messaging

STAY IN TOUCH ON BOARD

Our entire ICA fleet has Wi-Fi, and more and more of our European aircraft are being equipped with it. If there's a Wi-Fi logo on your aircraft, you can use Wi-Fi. Just follow the instructions to the right and select a package of your choice. As a Flying Blue member, you can send basic texts with our free message package. Non-members can enrol for free during the flight via the Onboard Portal and make use of the Free Messaging pass. If you'd like to surf the Internet, send & receive emails, listen to music, use social media or stream a film, you can buy a Wi-Fi pass for the full flight or 1-hour (ICA-only).



1

Switch off any VPN services and then set your device to airplane mode



2

Go to Wi-Fi settings and choose **KLM_WiFi** from the network list



3

Follow the steps on your device Or go to **connect.klm.com** Or scan the QR code

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 Heineken



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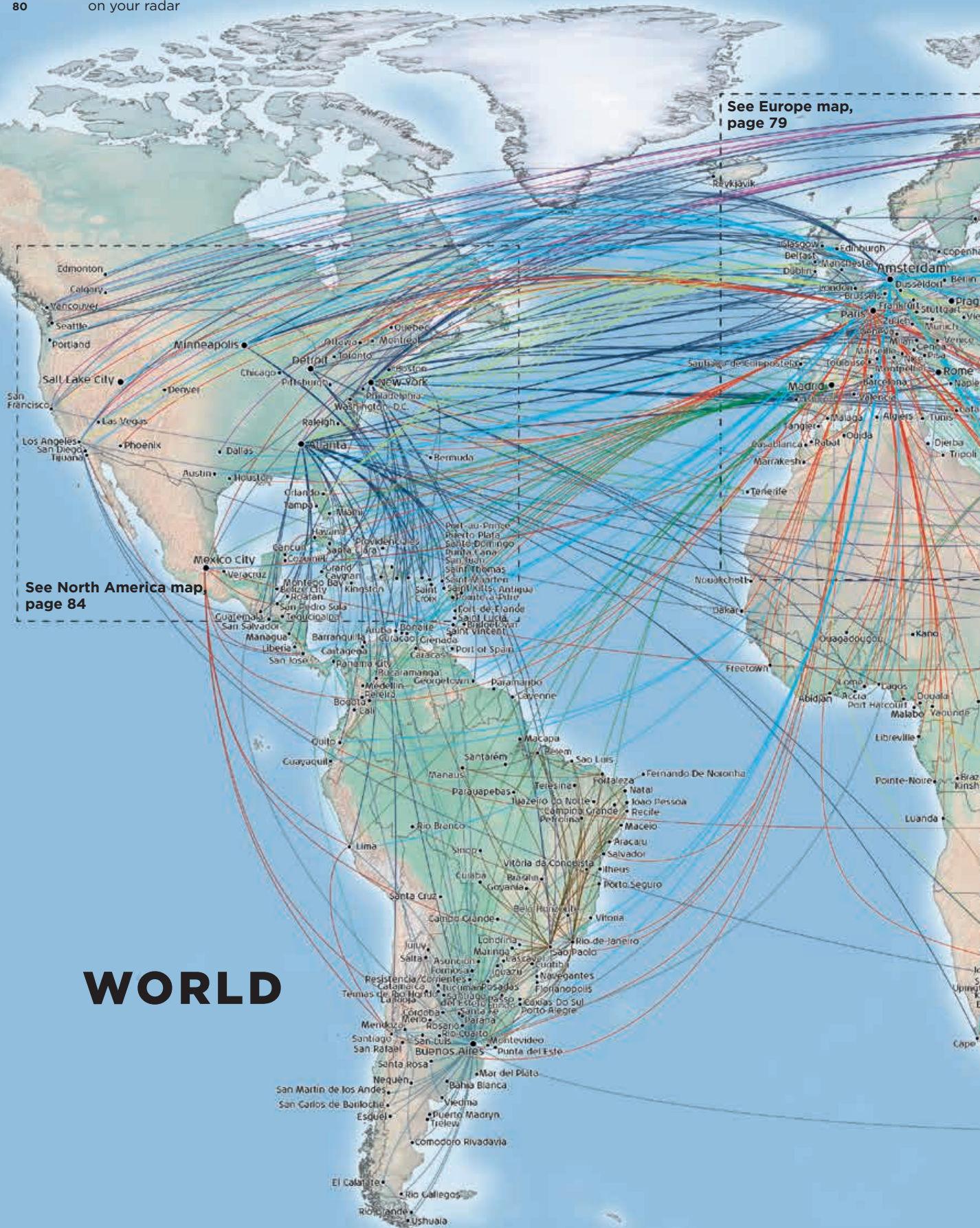
EUROPE

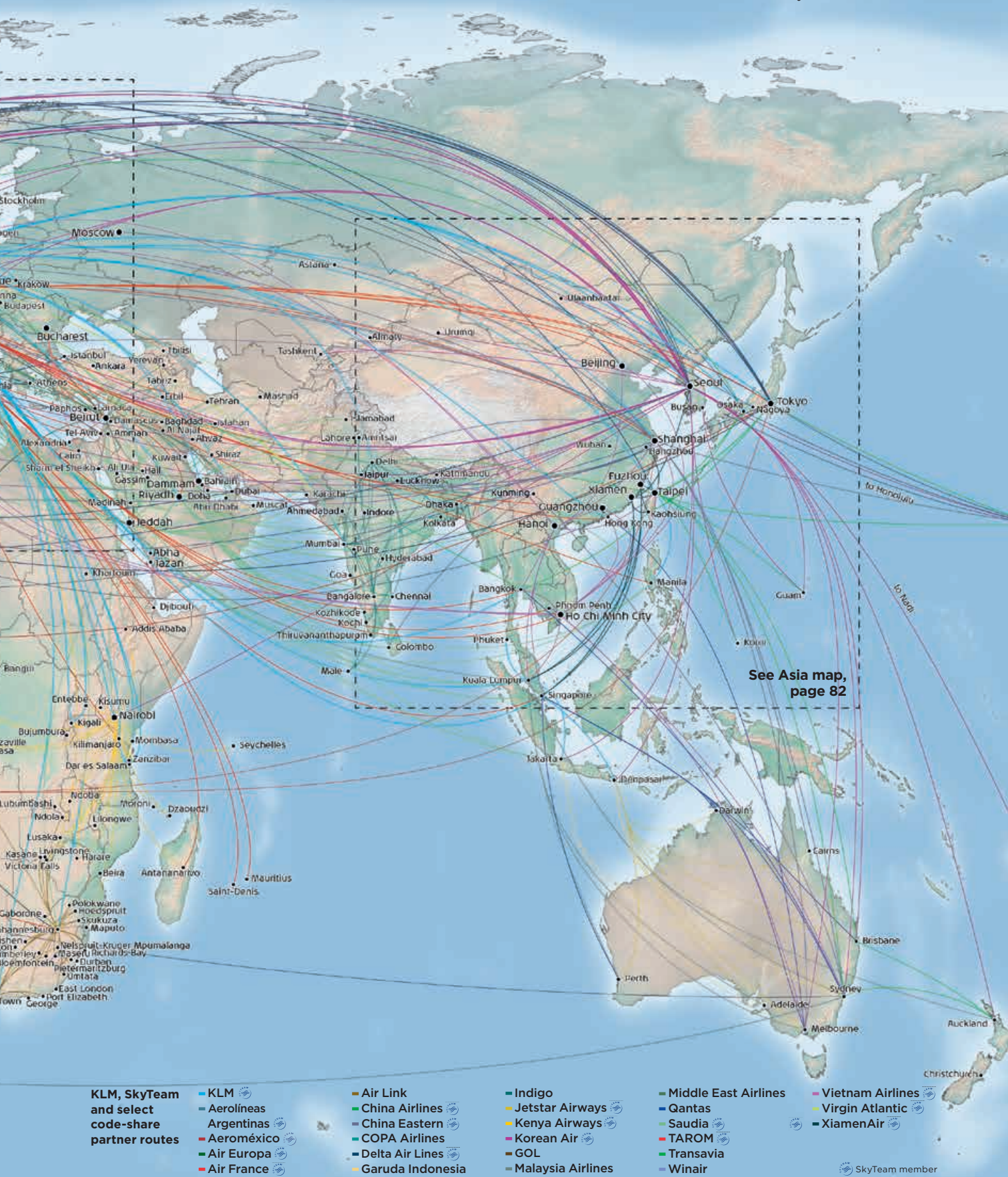


SkyTeam member

See World Map for intercontinental flights, page 80

The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft. We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.





The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft.

We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

We continuously adapt our network to changing circumstances, such as geopolitical developments.

Please check klm.com for the current schedule and routes.



ASIA

Taiwan

Lanzhou

Chengdu

Chongqing

Wanzhou

Zunyi

Guiyang

Kunming

Mandalay

Nanning

Guangzhou

Zhanjiang

Haikou

Sanya

Da Nang

Pleiku

Ho Chi Minh City

Bangkok

Siem Reap

Trah

Phnom Penh

Koh Samui

Phuket

Krabi

Langkawi

Penang

Medan

Kuala Lumpur

Singapore

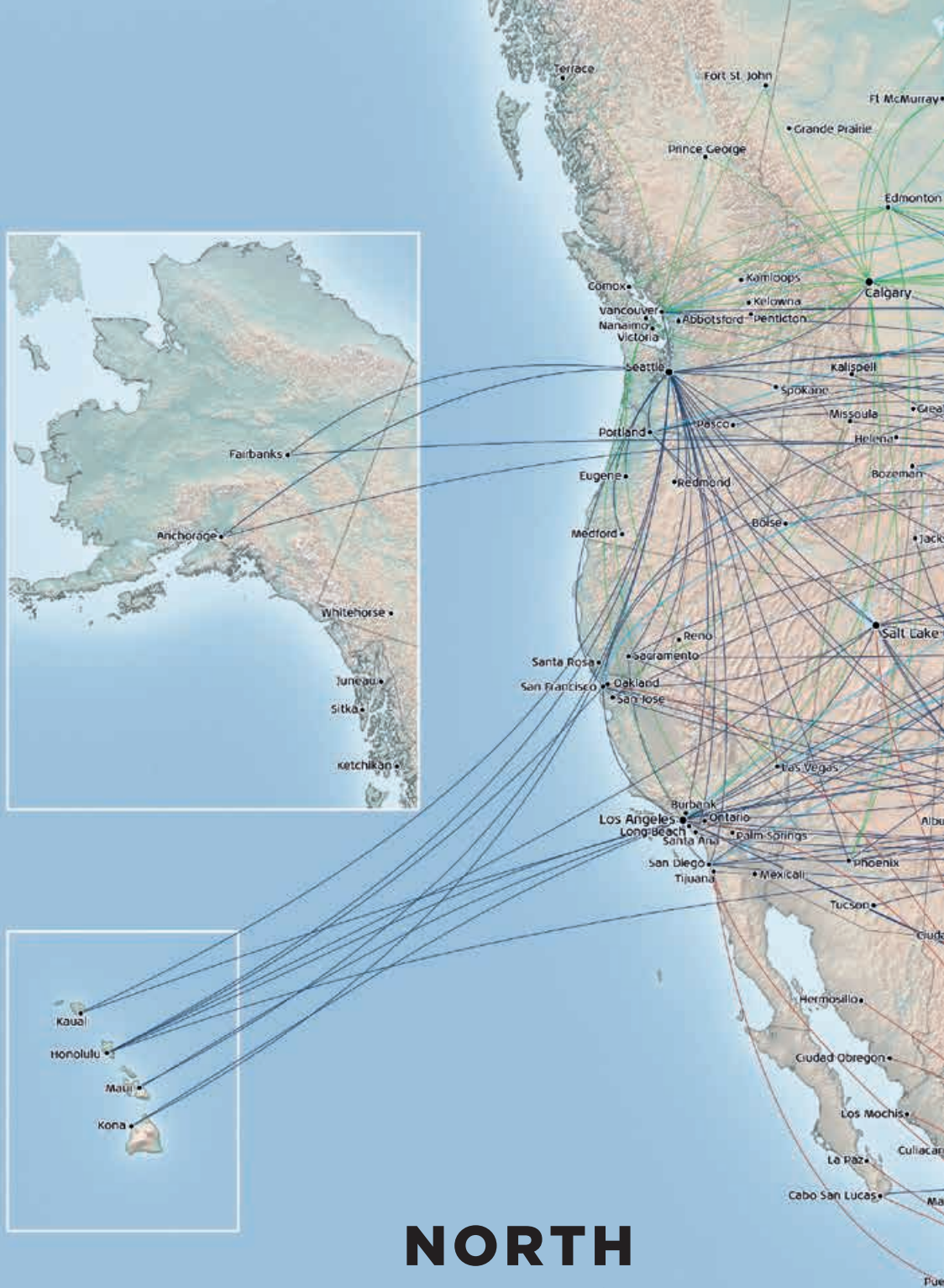
Kuching




KLM routes, KLM code-share routes and other SkyTeam destinations in Asia.

The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft. We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

SkyTeam member

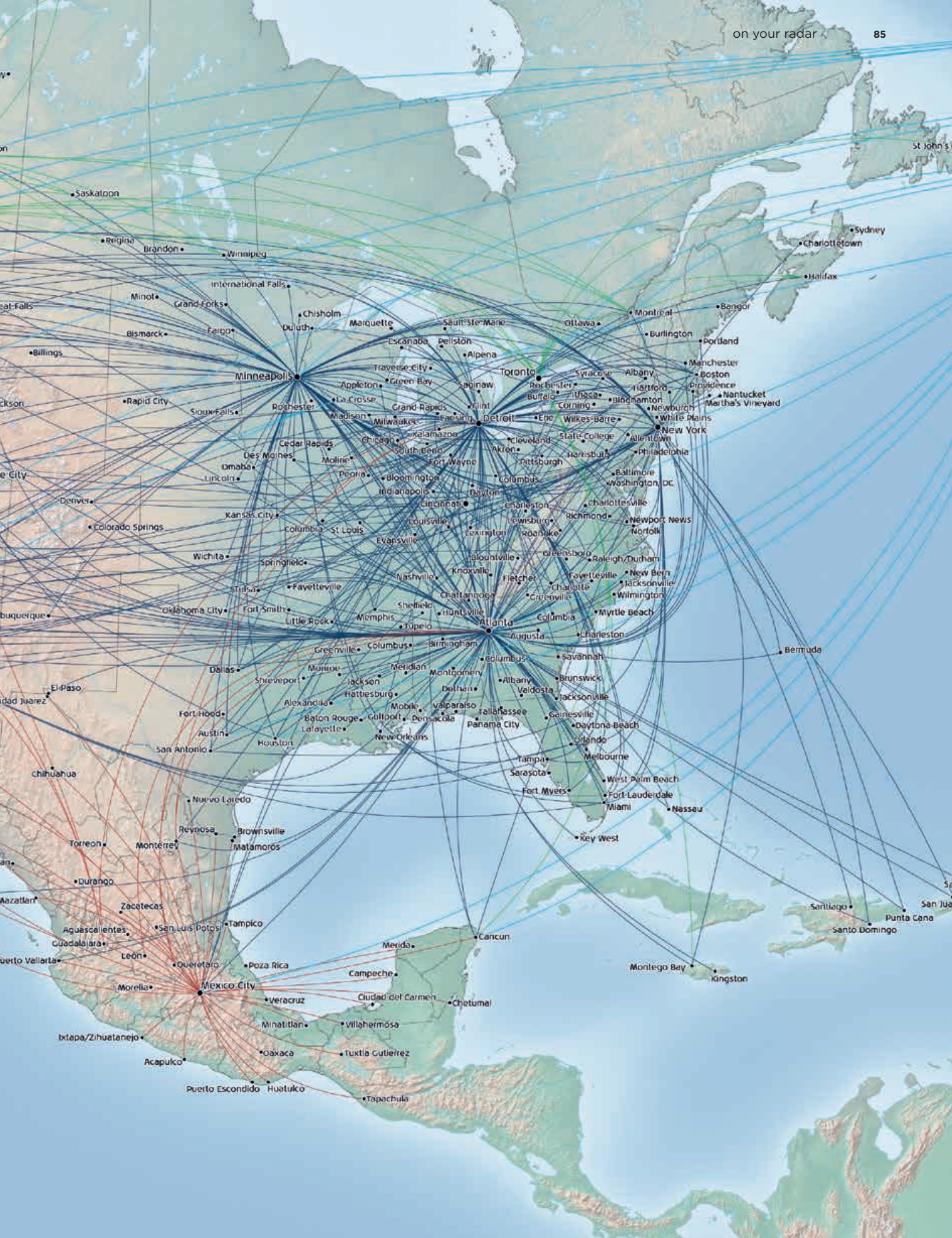


KLM routes, KLM code-share routes and other SkyTeam destinations in North America.

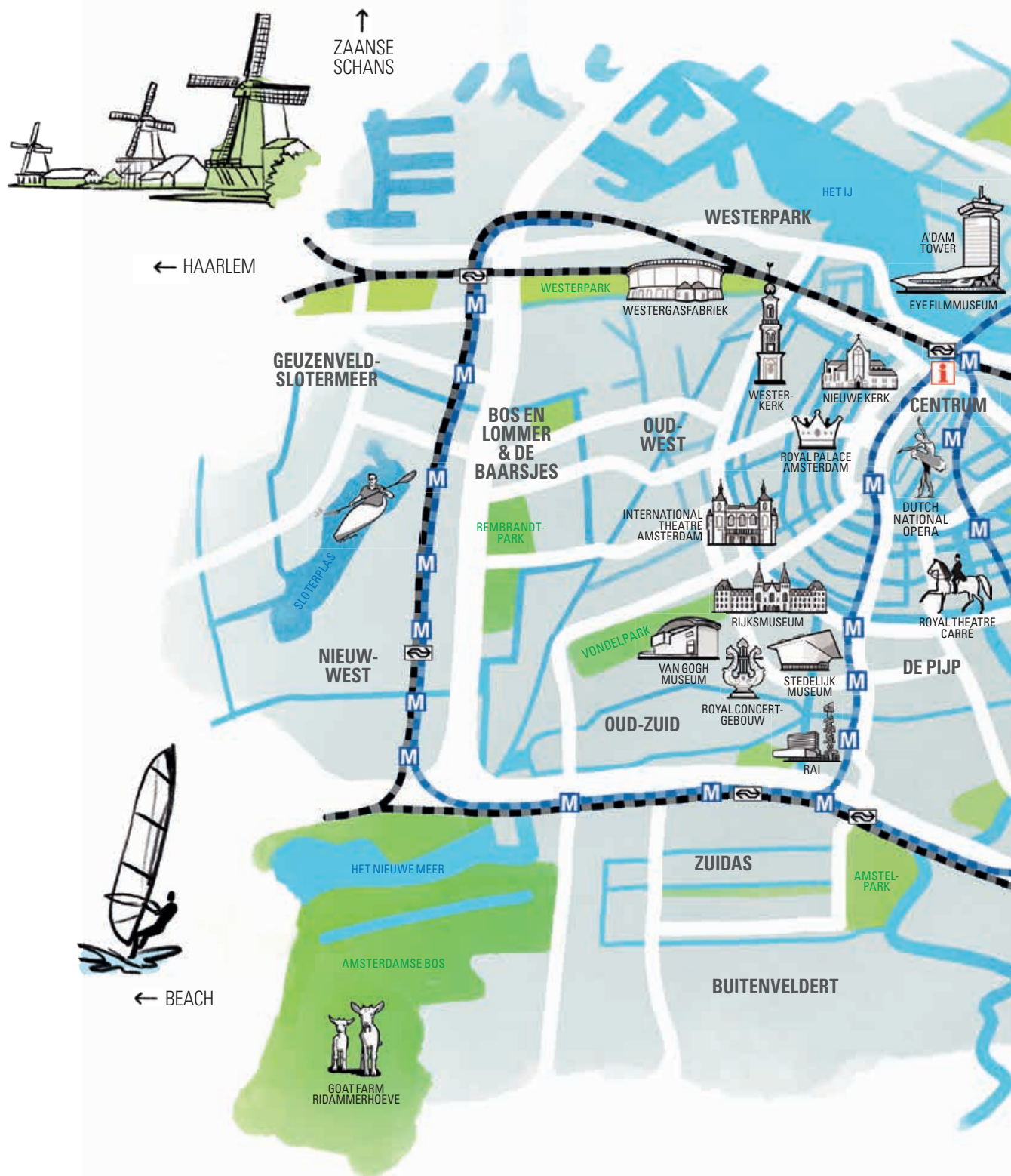
 SkyTeam member

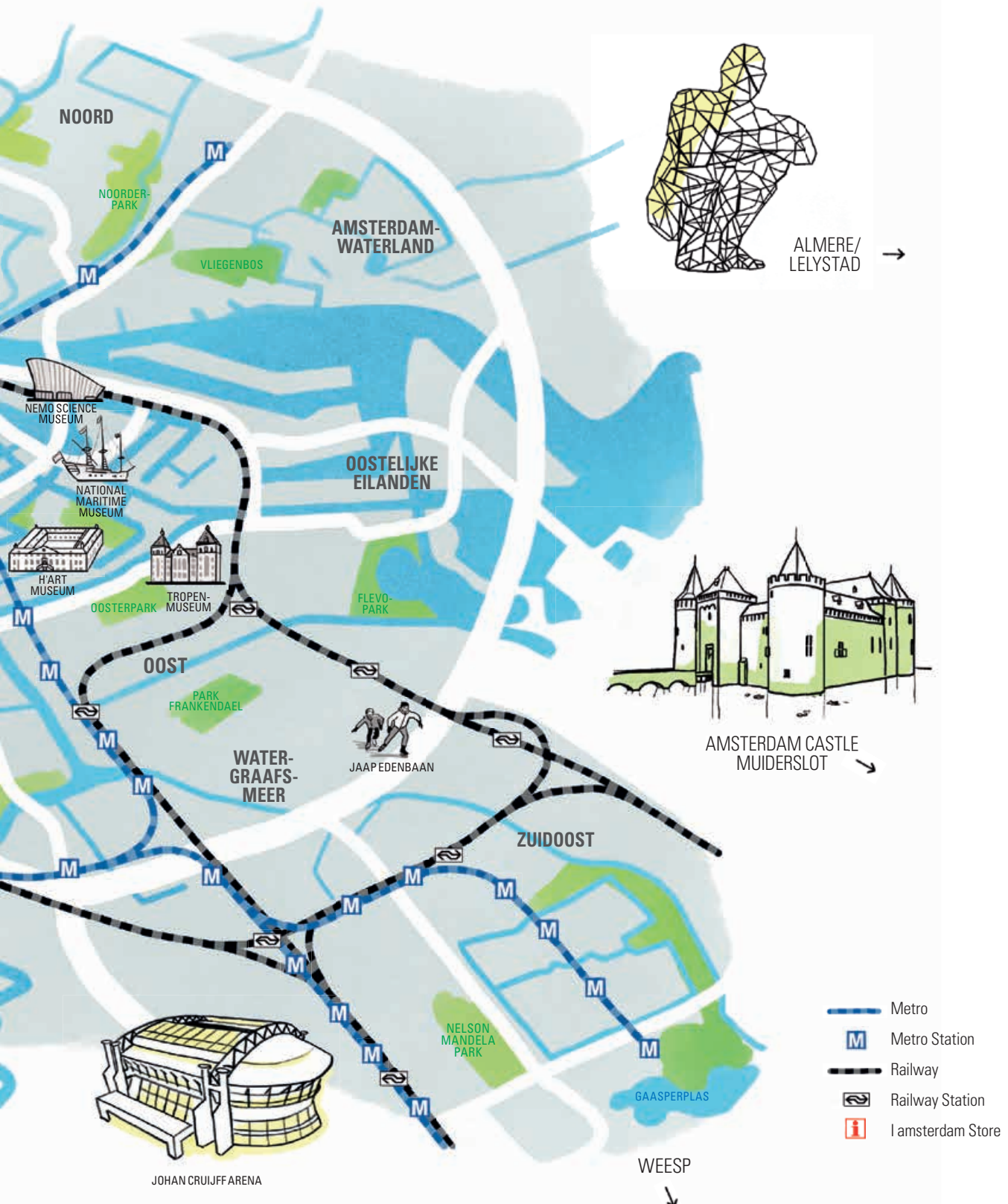
-  KLM
-  Aeroméxico
-  Delta Air Lines
-  WestJet

The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft.



AMSTERDAM

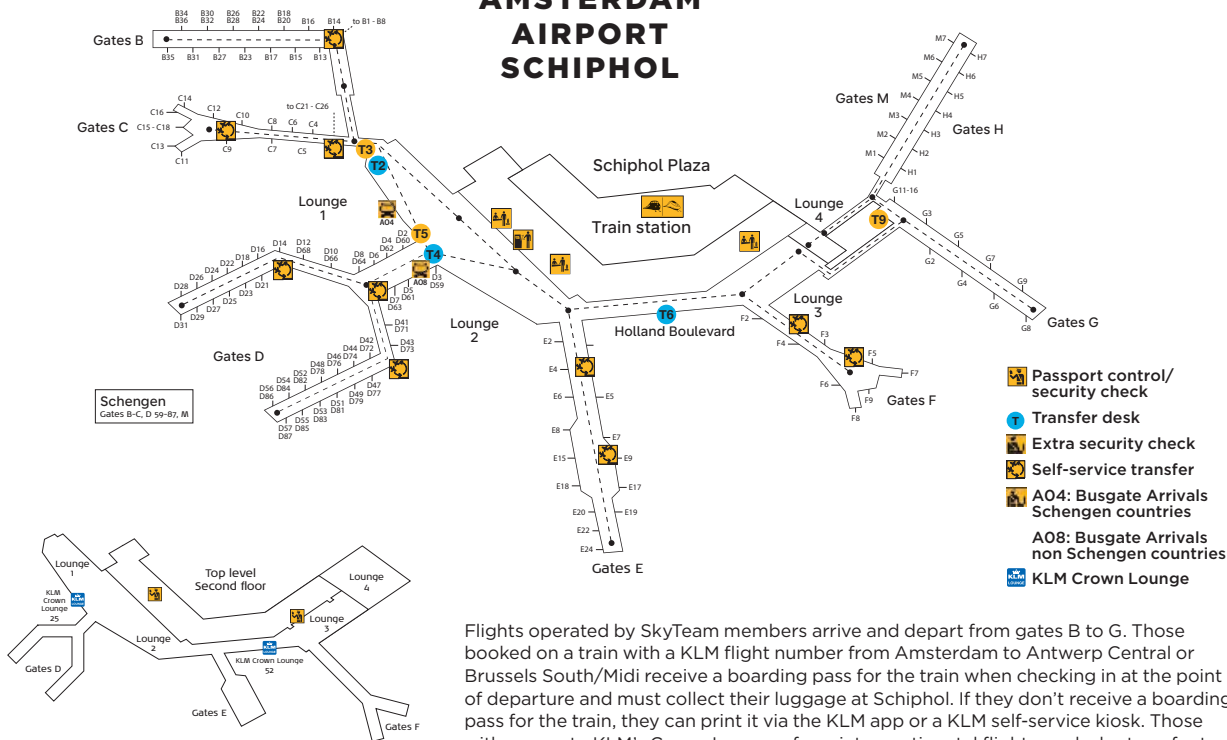




AIRPORT MAPS

The Netherlands

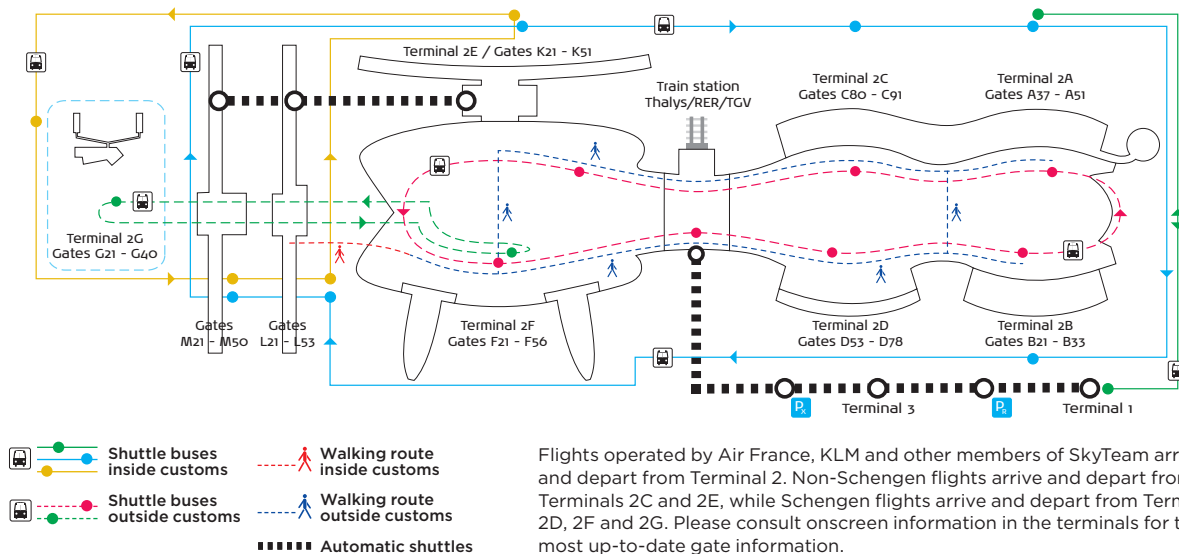
AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



Flights operated by SkyTeam members arrive and depart from gates B to G. Those booked on a train with a KLM flight number from Amsterdam to Antwerp Central or Brussels South/Midi receive a boarding pass for the train when checking in at the point of departure and must collect their luggage at Schiphol. If they don't receive a boarding pass for the train, they can print it via the KLM app or a KLM self-service kiosk. Those with access to KLM's Crown Lounges from intercontinental flights, and who transfer to European (Schengen) flights, can use Crown Lounge 25, beyond passport control.

France

PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL 2



Flights operated by Air France, KLM and other members of SkyTeam arrive and depart from Terminal 2. Non-Schengen flights arrive and depart from Terminals 2C and 2E, while Schengen flights arrive and depart from Terminals 2D, 2F and 2G. Please consult onscreen information in the terminals for the most up-to-date gate information.

OUT OF THE BLUE

Marit Badia Hilligeheken

MARIT, GLOBAL MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE, TALKS ABOUT HER JOB AND WHY SHE JOINED KLM.

What does your job entail? Simply put, it's about spreading awareness of KLM as a brand, particularly abroad where KLM isn't as well-known as it is at home. As a team, we aim to create love for our brand worldwide via marketing campaigns and other forms of communication. In March 2024, we launched Travel Well, KLM's new overarching brand message and our promise to make travel more meaningful for everyone.

Could you tell us about it? As well as introducing KLM as a brand, Travel Well tells a story and offers inspiration about what it means to travel more meaningfully. Travel Well serves as a common thread that connects our brand communications, over time, and is reflected in our campaigns, expressions, tone of voice, visual identity, etc.

Did you always want to work in this industry? Yes. I grew up in an international environment, which triggered my passion for travel and the romance associated with flying. My mum worked at KLM for 30 years, during which time I experienced the 'KLM cares' feeling. KLM staff really do value the meaningful interactions they have with customers. My love for the KLM brand is why I came here from Martinair 14 years ago.

“My love for the KLM brand is why I came here”

CARTAGENA

Colombia



Museums

Cartagena has lots of interesting museums, such as the Zenú Gold Museum, displaying gold and pottery of the Zenú people; and Cartagena Museum of Modern Art, where several pieces by Colombian artist Darío Morales are exhibited.

1630

Commissioned in 1630, San Felipe de Barajas Fort is one of the greatest fortresses ever built by the Spanish in their colonies. The structure remains a prominent part of Cartagena's cityscape.

Heroic City

Cartagena was under constant attack from pirates at the end of the 16th century when it was a key port. This led to its fortification with impressive walls that helped to fend off the pirates, and partly explains why Cartagena is also called the Heroic City.

Street food

Due to the city's European, Caribbean, African and Colombian influences, street food here is a mix of flavours.

Popular choices include *arepas* (filled corn pancakes) and *Coctel de Camarones* (shrimp cocktail).

Old Town

Comprising the historical districts of El Centro and San Diego, the Old Town is mostly known for its beautiful colonial architecture: brightly coloured houses, churches, mansions and monasteries.

31°C

As it's the final month of rainy season here in August, the weather is hot and humid. Temperatures reach average highs of 31°C during the day, but typically cool down to 25°C at night.





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Wybe van der Gang



VAN DER GANG
WATCHES