

SEPTEMBER 2025 • CLAUDE: A RISING STAR WITH HIS FEET ON THE GROUND • TORONTO CITY GUIDE  
• 24 HOURS IN SANTIAGO • A CAPTIVATING TRIP TO CAPE TOWN • YOUR FREE COPY TO TAKE HOME

# HOLLAND HERALD



*"I've learnt from  
experience that every  
new day is a gift"*

CONGOLESE-DUTCH SINGER CLAUDE





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ATELIER - JEWELRY - WATCHES



BY APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT  
OF THE NETHERLANDS

# Welcome

Marjan Rintel

## WELL BEGUN IS HALF DONE



### Cover Story

Arriving in the Netherlands from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a boy, Claude (p. 26) didn't have the easiest start in life; yet he blossomed into a talented, uplifting and humble singer-songwriter who now finds himself on the path to stardom.

**A**fter the warm summer, the fresh autumn season begins in the Northern Hemisphere. A few weeks before the trees change colour and nature transforms, pupils are ready to embark on their new journey at the start of their school year.

Years ago, a primary school teacher at an asylum seekers' centre made learning fun and gave the children in his class hope for the future. That was the start of an amazing and inspiring journey that led to one of them becoming Claude (p. 26), the singer-songwriter who represented the Netherlands at this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Claude came to our country as a refugee when he was nine years old, together with his mother, brothers and sisters. In the asylum seekers' centre, he was inspired by the different nationalities around him, and he now shares his musical journey with many, just as KLM shares its network with its customers.

Choosing to start your trip with KLM means choosing memorable experiences; during your journey and at your destination. How about Santiago in Chile (p. 36), the gem at the foot of the Andes? Or a unique design hotel (p. 52) such as The Siam in Bangkok or Romeo Roma in Rome?

Perhaps you're heading to your European destination on board our new Airbus A321neo?

### **"Choosing to start your trip with KLM means choosing memorable experiences"**

Passengers have described their flight in our new aircraft as an experience with extra onboard comfort and convenience. This plane flies with a new type of engine that helps to ensure that the A321neo emits less CO<sub>2</sub> and is significantly quieter than its predecessor.

Each journey is the beginning of a new experience, and as we embrace the freshness of this new season, we're looking ahead to our winter service with new destinations from Amsterdam. Take, for example, the warm Bridgetown in Barbados, to which we will fly three times a week from 26 October. Or join us on our flights to wintery Kittilä, the gateway to Finnish Lapland, with weekly departures starting on 23 November.

Welcome on board!

**Marjan Rintel**  
KLM President & CEO





**Let's keep that  
Summer Feeling.**



**Big Green Egg®**





September 2025

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Building the case for a  
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## Contributors

## MEET THE TEAM



Anne Timmer

Anne is a lifestyle photographer with many years of experience. She works for various magazines and fashion clients, and she knows where to find the best locations for photoshoots in Europe and beyond. Anne photographed Congolese-born Dutch singer-songwriter Claude (p. 26 and the cover).

**Anne's travel tip:** "Oahu, Hawaii, was more raw than I expected. The northern beaches, with their big waves, are amazing. The local mentality also impressed me. Aloha means 'hello' and 'goodbye', but also stands for being respectful towards one another and nature."



Marloes van Wijnen

Marloes is a freelance journalist who writes about travel, fashion, interiors and modern lifestyle. While travelling, she likes to capture the beauty of the local environment, and the way of life, with both images and text. In this issue's Happy Places article (p. 52), Marloes introduces you to some of the world's best design hotels.

**Marloes' travel tip:** "I love visiting the Pitti Palace in Florence. For the ultimate cultural afternoon in this amazing city, wander through the beautiful palazzo and the fabulous surrounding Boboli Gardens."



Mark Wagtendonk

Mark has been flying with KLM since 2008. He currently serves as First Officer on the Boeing 777 and 787, and recently achieved 10,000 flying hours. Mark is also a passionate photographer who regularly supports KLM projects, including *Holland Herald*. One of Mark's photos is featured on the opening page of On Your Radar (p. 60) each month.

**Mark's travel tip:** "Whether exploring its temples, wandering through night markets, or simply enjoying street food with the locals, embrace Bangkok's energy and will surprise you at every turn. I love this vibrant city."

## Colophon

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# THROUGH *your lens*







Iceland



## CHASING WATERFALLS

IT TOOK WERNER VAN BEUSEKOM  
JUST ONE WEEK TO FALL FOREVER  
IN LOVE WITH ICELAND.



In April 2023, I finally got the opportunity to travel to Iceland, a country that, as

a photographer, I'd wanted to visit for a while. Two friends of mine had also never been, and seeing as our wives didn't see the appeal, we decided to go together. I prepared a week-long trip as well as I could, and even made a PowerPoint presentation to show the beauty of the country to my friends. It also identified specific spots for photography that I was aching to visit, and hoped would provide us with some great shots. Luckily, my friends were sold. And that's how we ended up on a road trip in Iceland, during which I took this photo of Kirkjufell ('Church Mountain'). With its stunning waterfalls and impressive surrounding landscape, it was an incredible sight, and it encapsulates just how beautiful Iceland is. It made a lot of sense to me that some scenes from the *Game of Thrones* TV series were filmed there. Another of my favourite spots was the impressive,

60m-tall Skógafoss waterfall. In fact, Iceland's nature as a whole is amazing. With its rough landscapes populated with numerous waterfalls, mountains and volcanoes, it can make you feel somewhat insignificant. I'm itching to return during the winter season. But, first, I'd like to experience Patagonia in South America.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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:**

+45 44450388  
info@21-5.com  
**www.21-5.com**



**original 01, brushed**



The original freestanding shower is more than just a design icon – it embodies over 20 years of JEE-O philosophy. A design so striking, so functional, and so pure in its form that became the foundation of everything JEE-O stands for today. Designed for both indoor and outdoor use, the original 01 redefines the shower experience. Made from high-quality stainless steel, it is built to withstand the elements while maintaining its timeless appeal.

**WE ENERGISE**

**JEE-O®**





# The SELECTION

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



Berlin

## CAUGHT ON THE RIVIERA

Berlin-born Helmut Newton was a pioneering force in fashion photography during the second half of the 20th century. The Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin is holding a double exhibition: *Newton, Riviera* and *Dialogues: Fotografis x Helmut Newton*. The former is a series Newton made on the French Riviera; the latter is created with photography institute Fotografis. Until 15 Feb, [helmut-newton-foundation.org](http://helmut-newton-foundation.org)



# TO *see*

Copenhagen

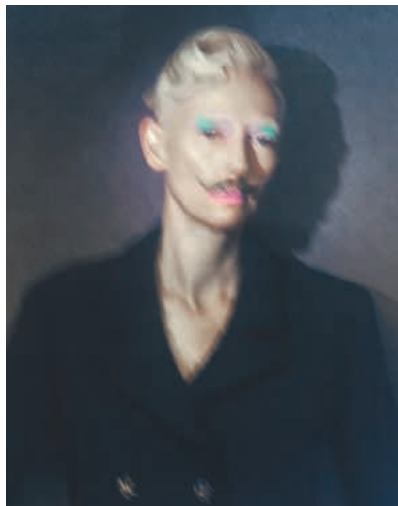
## DANISH BY DESIGN

A combination of clean aesthetics, an eye for functionality and a focus on sustainability has made Danish interior design popular around the world. The permanent exhibition *Danish Modern* at Designmuseum Danmark [sic], Copenhagen, gives an overview of the best Danish design objects from the 1920s until the year 2000. [designmuseum.dk](http://designmuseum.dk)



Amsterdam

## TILDA'S UNIVERSE



BRITISH ACTRESS TILDA SWINTON PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION AT AMSTERDAM'S EYE FILM MUSEUM.

Much more than 'just an actress', Tilda Swinton is a multifaceted performer, artist and muse of many fashion designers and directors. For her exclusive exhibition, *Tilda Swinton, Ongoing*, at Amsterdam's Eye Filmmuseum, the actress collaborated with some of her artistic partners and close friends, including Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar and American director Jim Jarmusch.

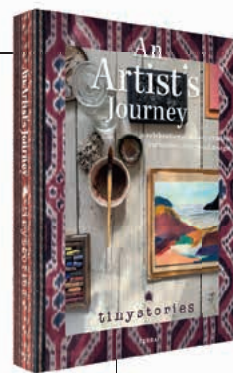
28 Sep-8 Feb; [eyefilm.nl](http://eyefilm.nl)



Eersel

## PERFECT STILL LIFE

By carefully composing and photographing scenes (often inspired by historical artworks) and then digitally manipulating and layering these images, the works of Dutch photographer Hans Withoos have a complex, painterly effect. The overview exhibition *The Joy of Life* at Galerie Persoon in the innovative Oogenlust estate in the small Dutch town of Eersel shows 75 of Withoos' photo-realistic artworks. Until 18 Oct; [galeriepersoon.com](http://galeriepersoon.com)



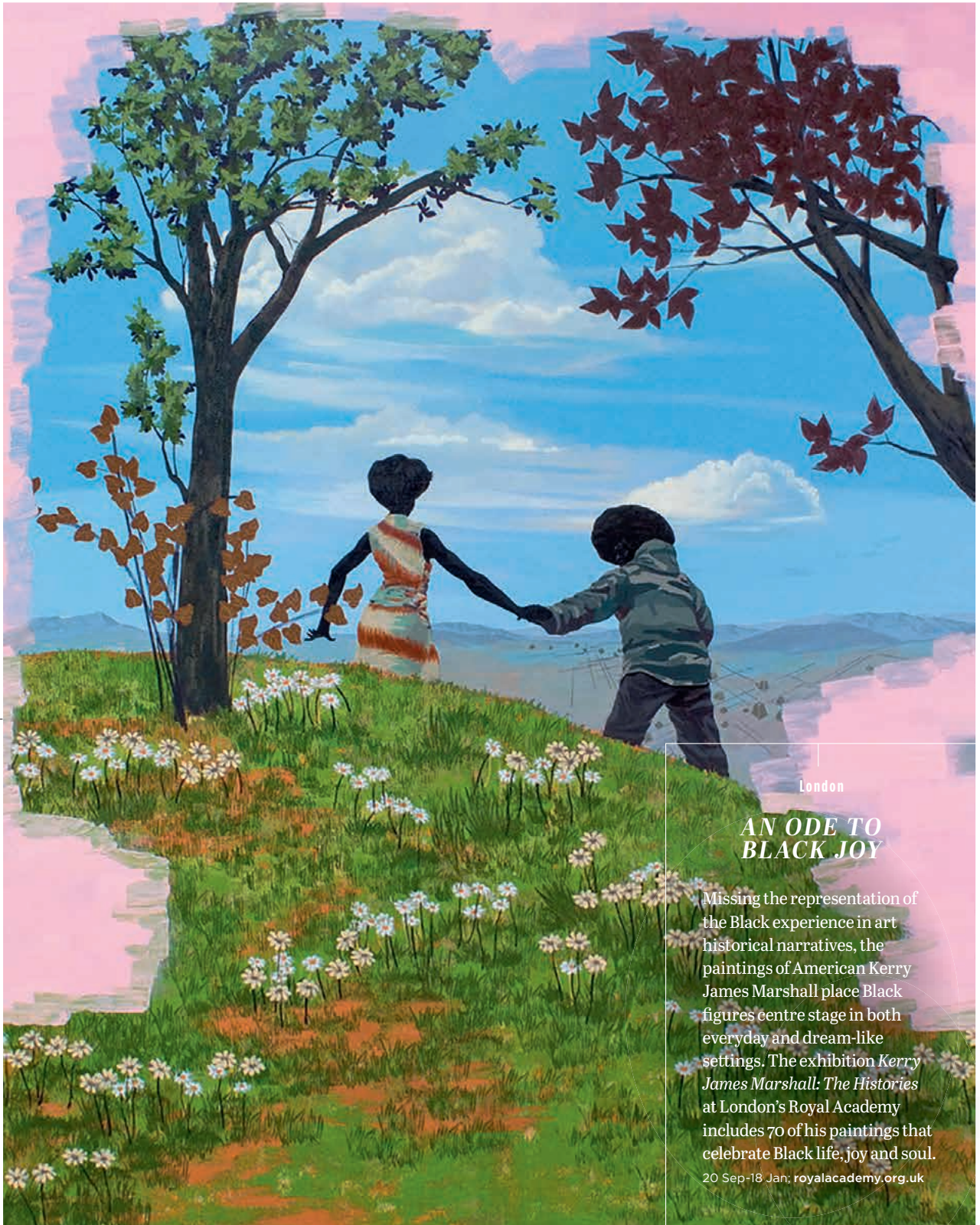
Book

### The creative eye

Dutch artist Tiny de Vries (aka tinystories) often travels for inspiration and uses the colours, shapes and structures she comes across in her art. In her book *An Artist's Journey*, she shares how to look at the world as if you're planning to paint it. €49.99; [tinystories.nl](http://tinystories.nl)



Some historians trace Danish design back to the functional and aesthetically conscious **designs of Viking ships**



London

## AN ODE TO BLACK JOY

Missing the representation of the Black experience in art historical narratives, the paintings of American Kerry James Marshall place Black figures centre stage in both everyday and dream-like settings. The exhibition *Kerry James Marshall: The Histories* at London's Royal Academy includes 70 of his paintings that celebrate Black life, joy and soul.

20 Sep-18 Jan; [royalacademy.org.uk](https://royalacademy.org.uk)





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# TO do

## Watches



### Smart run

Aimed at professional athletes and recreational runners alike, the Forerunner 570 and 970 – the latest GPS running and triathlon smartwatches by Garmin – offer training tools, recovery insights and personalised workouts.

From €549.99; [garmin.com](https://garmin.com)

## Italy

## TUSCANY TRAILS

While Tuscany is best-known and loved for its ancient cities, patchwork fields and famous vineyards, the Maremma region on the southern coast of the province is lesser known but just as beautiful. The Maremma Regional Park covers 9,000 hectares and offers cycling and hiking routes for all levels, as well as pristine beaches, adventure trails and archaeological sites dating back to the Etruscan civilisation. [visittuscany.com](https://visittuscany.com)



Walking for 30 minutes a day can **increase cardiovascular health,** muscle power and endurance

## Berlin

## MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCE

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN INTERACTIVE ART AT DARK MATTER IN BERLIN.

The permanent exhibition *Kollektion* at interactive art space Dark Matter in Berlin offers a series of immersive, multisensory experiences created by German light artist Christopher Bauder.

Each of the seven rooms blends light, sound and movement to create unique atmospheres, from contemplative and meditative to playful and interactive. [darkmatter.berlin](https://darkmatter.berlin)



## Workout

## ACTIVE EVERYWHERE

With the Gymproluxe One Portable Gym, there are no more excuses not to work out at home or while on the road. The lightweight and easy to store resistance band and bar set can be adjusted to

different levels, enabling you to do a full workout. By setting your personal goals in the accompanying app, you can exercise as instructed by professional trainers.

From €232.95; [gymproluxestore.com](https://gymproluxestore.com)

# TO *taste*

The Burgundy region in France produces approximately **200 million bottles of wine a year**



London

## HEAVENLY HIMALAYAN

VATAVARAN IN LONDON'S KNIGHTSBRIDGE IS THE NEW FINE-DINING CONCEPT BY CHEF ROHIT GHAI.

Inspired by the majesty and elemental force of the Himalayas, Indian restaurant Vatavaran takes its name from the Hindi word for 'atmosphere', and is a celebration of Sigrī cooking in which open-flame techniques elevate seasonal ingredients and spotlight India's diverse regional flavours. Every dish channels earth, fire and spice: from the lamb chop with black cumin and Kashmiri chilli, to vegan plates such as beetroot chops with cloves and vanilla. [vatavaran.uk](http://vatavaran.uk)

Mineral water

## HYDRATION WITH SOUL

Dutchman Menno Koopmans started Soul Water to offer a sustainable alternative to plastic water bottles. The mineral water is sourced close to its distribution points, the packaging is circular and recyclable, and part of the profits go to Soul Community, a non-profit dedicated to a greener future. [soul-water.com](http://soul-water.com)



Wine and fashion

## THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

For the Dutch owners of menswear label Ange Projects, great style goes far beyond fashion and means bringing a high quality to all facets of life. That's why they recently launched their own wine label, Ange Winery. Their first release features two wines from the Burgundy region in France: a 2023 Maranges Pinot Noir and a 2022 Bourgogne Côte d'Or Chardonnay. Appropriately, the label also sells its own wine glasses. [angeprojects.com](http://angeprojects.com); [angewinery.com](http://angewinery.com)





# TO meet

Acupuncture is an **ancient healing therapy**, with origins in China dating back more than 2,000 years

Q&A Ross J. Barr

## BALANCING THE ELEMENTS

LONDON-BASED ACUPUNCTURIST ROSS J. BARR USES THE CHINESE FIVE ELEMENTS THEORY TO TREAT HIS CLIENTS. HE ALSO DEVELOPED HIS OWN WELLNESS PATCHES.

### When and why did you decide to become an acupuncturist?

When I was 20 years old, my dad died unexpectedly. This was obviously a life-changing event, and my mum recommended acupuncture for the heartbreak and shock. I went into the session absolutely broken, and I came out with a completely different feeling. There was a sudden sense of calm and clarity. I wanted to do for others what this acupuncturist had done for me, so I went to the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine in Reading, UK, and got my Bachelor's degree. I focused on Five Element acupuncture, an ancient theory that emphasises the balance of Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water within body, mind and spirit. I also studied Japanese Seitai chiropractic body therapy, gaining knowledge in bodywork therapies that combine principles of chiropractic and osteopathy.

### What are the benefits of

**acupuncture?** In Traditional Chinese Medicine, the general idea is that we all have a kind of current, or energy flow, running through our body, called Qi. What the needles do is help distribute, or redistribute, that Qi to invigorate it. Acupuncture also helps stimulate the organs to do their jobs more efficiently. With Five Elements, the focus is on restoring the natural balance of the elements within your body. Everyone has all five elements in their body and they're all connected to certain organs and functions. A big misconception is that acupuncture is a painful procedure. It's not. You might feel a tingling sensation but it's mostly a relaxing experience.

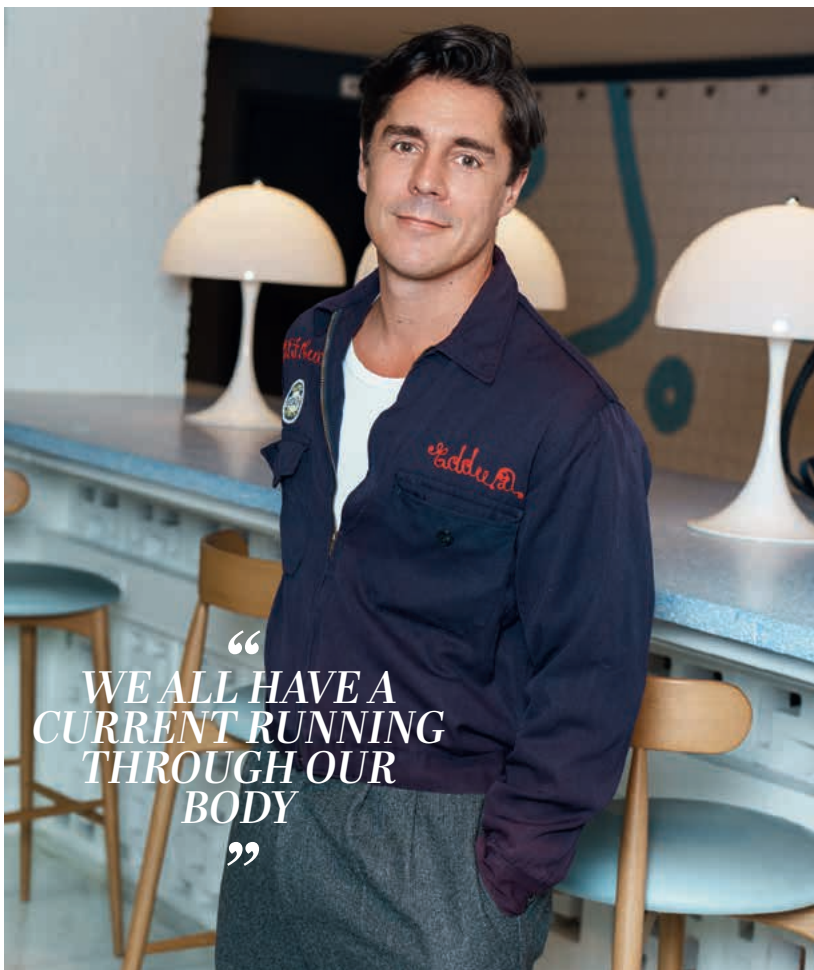
### What do your wellness patches do?

The patches started during lockdown as a way to reach patients I couldn't see in my clinic. We launched the Healing patch first for aches and pains, and later added Sleep and Calm patches. The smell of the herbs helps calm the nervous system and they stimulate the acupuncture point. The transdermal absorption is minimal – it's more about the sensory and energetic effect. We

created the Patch Pack for travellers, which has a bit of everything.

**Any travel wellness tips?** Unpack your bag properly, no matter how long you're staying. It sounds small, but it grounds you. I try to use travel time to do the things I rarely manage at home, such as reading fiction or watching a film from start to finish with my phone off.

[rossbarr.com](http://rossbarr.com)





# TO *wish for*

GPS tracking was first developed **for military and intelligence applications** in the 1960s

## Speakers

### STYLISH SOUNDS

Danish electronics brand Bang & Olufsen is known for combining high-quality audio with stylish design, and its upgraded Beosound A1 portable speaker is no exception. The new A1 delivers deeper bass and has a battery life that now lasts up to 24 hours. €349; [bang-olufsen.com](http://bang-olufsen.com)



Lighting

## A BLOOM OF LIGHT

Bringing humans closer to nature and each other by using technology might sound contradictory, but not according to the Dutch design duo Vouw. With their self-proclaimed 'slowtech', they aim to calm and unite people in the real world. Their Bloomlight S lamp responds to human movement by opening up like a flower to the sun. It emits a soft 2700K light and the materials include aluminium, glass fibre, steel cable, ASA and custom electronics.

From €3,500; [vouw.com](http://vouw.com)

## Fashion

### MEXICAN CHARM



In an effort to support local production and the rich artisanal history of her country, Mexican Carla Qua founded Agnes Lab, a fashion brand and dyeing workshop in Mexico City. Every garment in her unisex collection is handmade and dyed individually or in small batches to offer unique editions and consistent, unrepeatable colours. The brand also only uses responsibly sourced and harvested plants or soils.

[agnes.store](http://agnes.store)



Gadget

### Smart Finders

If you're the type of person who often loses their keys or smartphone, the Smart Finders by Dutch electronics brand Fresh 'n Rebel might be the solution for you. With these GPS trackers, you can find them in no time. €19.99; [freshnrebel.com](http://freshnrebel.com)





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# Column

Freek Vonk

## DATE WITH A MOUNTAIN GORILLA

FREEK, A DUTCH BIOLOGIST WHO STUDIES AND FILMS UNIQUE ANIMALS WORLDWIDE TO INSPIRE A LOVE FOR NATURE, TALKS ABOUT HIS ENCOUNTER WITH A SILVERBACK GORILLA.

**“The silverback walks straight towards me”**



It's a misty morning in the dense jungle of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda. I've been trekking for hours through glistening ferns and tangled roots, and I can feel that I'm getting close. Suddenly, a colossal silverback gorilla rises from the greenery a few metres ahead of me. Although he's about as tall as the average man, he's built like a tank: 204kg of raw power wrapped in black and silver-grey fur.

I've stood eye-to-eye with many large and potentially dangerous animals, but there's something different about being this close to a silverback. It's humbling. He stares at me with a calm yet unshakable authority. I'm careful not to lock eyes with him. In his world, that's considered a power move, as it signals dominance or defiance. Then, without a sound, he turns and starts eating again. In those few seconds, he's judged me and decided I'm not a threat. Within moments, leaves rustle, branches sway aside and I find myself surrounded by a family of mountain gorillas. They're among our closest living relatives, and yet they're also some of the rarest on Earth and are almost extinct.

As the undisputed leader, the silverback's in charge. He has only one mission: to protect his family. Every female and every youngster in the group looks to him for safety. But despite his enormous size, huge strength and fearsome reputation, he only fights when it's necessary. When

challenged, a silverback first relies on intimidation and display. He'll rise to his full height, growl, drum on his chest, bare his teeth, or even lunge forward in a dramatic bluff.

Gorillas don't actually beat their chests with clenched fists, they cup their hands to amplify the sound, so their palms can act as resonators. Rather than a display of machismo, this is clever communication. It's meant to prevent a fight, not start one. You see, the bigger the gorilla, the lower the frequency of the sound he produces. In a sense, he's broadcasting his weight class. Chest-drumming allows silverbacks to size each other up by sound, so they can figure out who's likely to win, without fighting. Most conflicts end with nothing more than sound and posture.

Suddenly, the quiet breaks as the silverback rises. Calm and purposeful, he walks straight towards me. My heart races; not from fear, but from awe. He comes so close he brushes me gently aside with his enormous shoulder. Then he lowers himself onto the ground behind me, his furry back facing mine, as if to say: "You're one of us now."

Overwhelmed by a deep emotional connection, my mind drifts to the way we characterise gorillas as creatures to be feared. But this is to completely misunderstand these intelligent animals. Fewer than 1,100 mountain gorillas are left in the world, so the only thing we should be fearing is their extinction.



# EAT *out*

Miami  
US



## UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Guests who are lucky enough to get a reservation at Itamae Ao in Miami are invited to sit at one of 10 seats at the counter, where they're treated to an 8-course *omakase*—seasonal dishes chosen by the chef—menu of Peruvian-Japanese fare by chef Nando Chang. Sourcing is a priority for Chang, who regularly flies whole fish in from Japan. This bigfin reef squid ceviche is a perfect example of his attention to detail and aim to achieve the perfect balance between acidity and spice. This dish can't be guaranteed however, as the *omakase* format means frequent changes to the menu.

[itamaeao.com](http://itamaeao.com)





Canada



My

# TORONTO

TORONTO-BASED MELISSA CHAI IS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY CREATIVE PRODUCER WHO BRINGS CONCEPTS TO LIFE, CRAFTS MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWS ALL THE BEST SPOTS IN THE CITY. @MELISSA\_CHAI



**What do you love about living in Toronto?** It's a place that refuses to be just one thing. Every pocket of the city has its own rhythm, its own flavour and its own people. Toronto wears its diversity proudly, with every neighbourhood telling a different story through food, art and energy.

## How would you spend a day exploring the city?

I'd start at a cosy local café, such as Sam James (multiple locations) for a strong, no-fuss espresso, or Milky's (multiple locations) for design-forward vibes and dreamy lattes. Then, I'd wander into a gallery and get happily lost among the art. Gallery 1888 (20-225 Sterling Rd), Cultural Goods Gallery (Unit 15, 1444 Dupont St) and Cooper Cole ❶ (1134 + 1136 Dupont St) all showcase thoughtful, often underrepresented voices in contemporary art. Next, I'd go and explore boutiques and vintage shops, including 313 Design Market (313

Roncesvalles Ave) for curated finds, Blue Button Shop (1499 Dundas St W) for timeless, high-quality fashion, and Mjolk (2959 Dundas St W) for carefully selected Japanese and Scandinavian design treasures. And finally, I'd enjoy some chill time in High Park ❷, just soaking up the sounds and watching the city breathe.

**Which areas do you recommend?** The Distillery District ❸ is a beautiful, historic part of town that's great to wander around. Little Portugal and Brockton Village are bustling with indie galleries, lively terraces and cool energy. And Dovercourt-Wallace Emerson-Junction is more under the radar, but buzzing with breweries, studios and industrial charm. It feels like a work-in-progress – in the most exciting way.

**Where should we eat?** Family-run Maha's (226 Greenwood Ave) is a must for

brunch, serving up Egyptian comfort food that's totally worth the queue. For pastries, head to Coco's (668 College St), Roselle (362 King St E) or Emmer (161 Harbord St), where everything is golden, buttery and made with love. Dinner-wise, Imanishi Japanese Kitchen (1330 Dundas St W) serves up homestyle cooking in a warm, low-key space; Fat Pasha (414 Dupont St) brings bold, joyful energy to Jewish and Middle Eastern comfort classics; and Dotty's (1588 Dupont St) offers nostalgic bistro vibes with simple, yet refined, seasonal dishes.

## What about the nightlife?

To dance, head to Standard Time (Unit A, 2nd Floor, 165 Geary Ave) for sleek vibes and a killer sound system, or Cafeteria (1650 Dupont St) for a late-night crowd that knows how to move. To chill and soak up live music, Rooms (915 Dupont St) is a go-to for soulful beats and eclectic nights.

## Best hotels to stay at?

1 Hotel Toronto (550 Wellington St W) and Ace Hotel ❹ (51 Camden St) are both central and perfect if you want to stay close to the action while surrounded by great food, culture and beautifully curated spaces. For a more boutique, west-end experience, I love The Drake Hotel ❺ (1150 Queen St W) – an artsy institution with live music, rooftop cocktails and rooms that feel like mini creative studios – and The Annex (296 Brunswick Ave) – which is more minimalist and mellow.

## Book this story



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Cooper Cole 1



The Distillery District 8



Toronto city view

*Every pocket of the city has its own rhythm, its own flavour and its own people*



High Park 2

Ace Hotel 4

The Drake Hotel 5









Claude

# CHEERFUL NOTE

Singing live for a TV audience of 166 million ought to be daunting, but for Congolese-born Dutch artist Claude (21), the Eurovision Song Contest 2025 was all about enjoying the moment; something the young singer learnt to do early in life. Text **Marieke Verhoeven** Photography **Anne Timmer**



**T**here are some people who simply seem to bring the sunshine with them wherever they go. Claude is one of those individuals. The moment he steps into the luxurious entrance of the Rosewood Amsterdam hotel, housed in the former Palace of Justice on Amsterdam's central Prinsengracht canal, it seems to light up with his sunny disposition. "Good morning, I'm Claude!" he says with a radiant smile and bright eyes as he introduces himself by hugging the entire production crew. When we sit down for the interview at the hotel's speakeasy-style bar with a cup of tea and honey ("a must for any singer"), I ask him if he'd mind me taking a picture of him for a friend's nine-year-old daughter who's a massive fan. But he proposes to make a selfie video instead. "That's much nicer, right?" says Claude before accepting my smartphone and recording a short video, thanking his young fan for her support. It might be his age, or the fact that he's new to the music business, but Claude displays a genuine curiosity and sense of excitement about his newfound success that's infectious. After his first single 'Ladada (Mon dernier mot)' – which he sang in French, his mother tongue, and Dutch – became a hit in his adopted country in 2022, Claude's star quickly began to rise. Since representing the Netherlands at the 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest in Basel in May, his popularity increased even further, and he's now garnered more than 3.4 million monthly listeners on streaming platform Spotify alone.

### **Singing with family**

Growing up in the war-torn Republic of the Congo in Central Africa, Claude's current situation is a far cry from his early childhood. After his father passed away unexpectedly, Claude's mother had to care for their seven children on her own. With his six siblings (he has three older brothers, two older sisters and one younger sister), he moved around his home country often, trying to find refuge whenever a place became unsafe. "I remember hearing bombs and hiding under couches and behind refrigerators," recalls Claude. "We were constantly on high alert, and I didn't get to go to school very often. But at the same time, we were also doing normal kids' stuff: being outside a lot and playing football." An important outlet for the family was music, he says: "We sang every day, mostly

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**GROWING UP,  
I SANG WITH  
MY SIBLINGS  
EVERY DAY**  
”

church songs because I was raised as a Christian. And I loved watching Trace Africa, Africa's number-one music channel, admiring artists such as Adele, Beyoncé and Michael Jackson.”

Claude's musical talent wasn't noticed by his family at first. He was often asked to “sit this one out” when his older siblings would begin harmonising, and he wasn't allowed to be in the band they formed. “They weren't very impressed with my skills,” says Claude, laughing. “I wasn't bad, but they're all good singers. I guess being one of the youngest, they didn't take me that seriously. But I was always determined and eager to make something of myself; I just didn't know in which capacity yet.”

When Claude was nine years old, he moved with his family to the Netherlands after his mother secured refuge there for herself and her children. Claude has warm memories of his time spent at an asylum seekers' centre in the Dutch city of Alkmaar. “I remember being genuinely happy there,” he shares. “I've always had an interest in other cultures and languages, and suddenly, I was living in the same building as kids from Iran, Somalia, Syria and many other countries. I was picking up other languages and making new friends in no time.” The asylum seekers' centre's primary school teacher Mr Kees became an important mentor for Claude and even inspired him to consider a career in teaching. “I have major respect for Mr Kees,” says Claude in »







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GOING TO  
THERAPY HELPS  
ME STAY  
GROUNDED  
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a serious tone. “I can’t imagine how challenging it must be to teach a class of kids who don’t speak the language and are often traumatised and distracted. But, somehow, he made it fun and engaging for all of us, and I find that inspiring. Teachers deserve the utmost respect.” Even though he spent a relatively short period – 1.5 years – at the asylum seeker’s centre, Claude’s still in touch with his former teacher and some of his fellow students. “We keep in touch via social media, and try to get together for dinner or drinks every few months. Obviously, they want to know everything about my music career and all the craziness that comes with it, but I’m just as curious and proud of everything they’re doing. It’s amazing to see each other’s journeys and realise how far we’ve come.”

### Talent competitions

The asylum seeker’s centre is also where Claude watched Eurovision for the first time. He vividly remembers being instantly mesmerised: “It was 2014, the edition where Austrian singer Conchita Wurst won, and I was in awe of the spectacle, the scale and the variety of the acts. But I still had no idea I’d ever end up on that stage myself; it seemed very far from my daily reality.” Five years later, when Claude was living in the city of Enkhuizen with his family, attending a local high school and waiting tables on the side, he saw an audition call for the popular *The Voice Kids* singing competition TV series. This inspired him to submit a video of himself singing – recorded by his younger sister – to the show. “My initial drive was to make it to Disneyland Paris for the auditions,” admits Claude. “It wasn’t even about the competition; I just wanted to visit the theme park. But, once I made it to the second round and tasted the experience of being on stage with a studio audience cheering me on, I knew that I wanted more of it.”

Even though Claude didn’t make it past that second round, his performance of Belgian singer Stromae’s hit ‘Papaoutai’ touched the hearts of many. Unfortunately, the pandemic abruptly brought an end to his emerging singing career. “It wasn’t a major disaster for me,” explains Claude. “I was just focusing on school again and got a job as a clerk at a national chain of pharmacies. So, when I was scrolling on Instagram in 2022 and saw a post about Are You Next?, a talent competition initiated by music label Cloud 9 Music and music channel

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**TEACHERS  
DESERVE THE  
UTMOST  
RESPECT**  
”

XITE, I didn’t think much of it. I actually deleted Instagram for a while after that to focus on school. But when I downloaded it again and this was the first post I saw, I decided to enter.” To Claude’s surprise, he won the competition and got the opportunity to book multiple studio sessions with a team of experienced writers, producers and other music professionals. “I guess they liked the fact that I was mixing French, Dutch and English, and had a different sound,” he reflects. “There was also an instant chemistry between me and the songwriters, with whom I still work and who became my friends and musical mentors. Before we knew it, we had written a few songs. One of them was ‘Ladada (Mon dernier mot)’, which was soon picked up by national and international radio stations.” After that, he started landing singing gigs and began performing at small venues around the country.

### Bizarre experience

His multilingualism, international appeal and charming personality were also the reasons for Claude being approached to represent the Netherlands at the Eurovision Song Contest in Basel. His performance of the song ‘C’est la Vie’, an uplifting tune in which he mixed English and French, made him one of the jury’s favourites, but in the end, he came in 12th place out of 26 in the Grand Final. “It was such a bizarre experience, a rollercoaster ride with all those camera »





Claude's music is available in the audio section of our inflight entertainment system.

## Amsterdam The Netherlands



### Claude's Favourites

#### Amsterdam

I've only been living in Amsterdam for 1.5 years, so I still have a lot to explore, but I enjoy the international character of this city. You can find people from all walks of life here. My favourite thing to do is to simply stroll around the canals or meet up with friends at coffee places, such as Cafecito, which has a few locations around the city.

#### Friends

I'm obsessed with American 90s sitcom *Friends*. It took me a few episodes to get into it, but now I can't stop watching it. I've almost finished all 10 seasons, and I'm dreading the moment when I do. I find it hilarious, and it's the perfect series to relax with in the evenings; the characters are so funny and unique.

#### Pearls

At one of my first big performances, a stylist gave me a pearl necklace to wear, and it somehow became my lucky charm. I now wear pearls in one way or another for every show; I even rushed backstage once

right before a performance because I was missing my pearl necklace. Besides looking beautiful, pearls symbolise purity and wisdom, and I like that meaning.

#### Adele

British artist Adele is probably my favourite singer of all time. I went to see her show in Munich in the summer of 2024 and was crying tears of joy for most of her performance. Even at a huge venue, Adele can make you feel like she's singing only for you. That's a rare skill. And her voice is incredible. I still play her latest album on repeat. A duet with Adele is my ultimate dream.

### Book this story



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media attention," says Claude. "But it was a lot of fun as well. Once I was on that stage, I was solely focused on making a connection with the live audience, not with the hundreds of millions watching at home. And even though I didn't end up in the top five, I received so many supportive messages from people all over the world on social media, telling me how much the song resonated with them." The message behind the song, which is an ode to living life to the fullest and accepting all its ups and downs, has a lot to do with Claude's childhood, he explains: "The Latin phrase *carpe diem*, which means 'seize the day', is very important to me because I know from experience that every new day is a gift. You can't take anything for granted." When asked if the positively spirited singer ever has an off-day, he smiles and then says: "Of course I do! The state of the world right now can make me sad at times. Why can't we just all get along and be nice to each other? That's why I delete my social media from time to time. I don't want to be confronted with all that negativity and the constant flow of news." He's also open about seeing a therapist, which he began doing every now and then when his career started taking off. "It's great to be able to share my thoughts and experiences with an objective professional who doesn't judge me. Going to therapy is still taboo for some people, but I've experienced the benefits and can recommend it; I see it as a workout for my mind."

After a busy summer of performing at various festivals and venues, including a special concert with the Metropole Orchestra at Amsterdam's prestigious The Concertgebouw concert hall, Claude is now focusing on releasing new music and recording the next season of *The Voice Kids*, which will air in the Netherlands in January 2026. This time however, he's a judge and mentor rather than a contestant. Claude realises that it's a full-circle moment early in his career: "It's amazing to be on the other side already, seeing the raw talent of those kids and helping them to develop further. Putting on that mentor hat and showing them the ropes of this industry is something I really look forward to. I've had a lot of great mentors and opportunities in my life so far, and I can't wait to pay it forward." «



# SANTIAGO *by day*

Chile



SANTIAGO OFFERS A UNIQUE BLEND OF TRADITIONAL CHARM AND CONTEMPORARY ENERGY, ALL WITH THE GORGEOUS BACKDROP OF THE SNOW-CAPPED ANDES MOUNTAINS.



Confitería Torres ②



City view with the funicular ③



Empanadas



Historic city centre ①

## How to get around

Santiago's neighbourhoods, or 'barrios', each have their own, distinct character. There's the historic centre ①, with grand colonial buildings; the modern business district of Las Condes; bohemian Bellavista, with its artsy vibe; and upmarket Providencia, with elegant boutiques and restaurants. The Metro de Santiago connects most of the areas of interest, and a BIP! Card, available at any station, gets you access to both the metro and buses. Santiago has lots of wide streets, so for shorter distances, walking or cycling (use the Bike Itaú app) are great options.

## An 'old-school' lunch

White tablecloths, mahogany walls, lace curtains and a menu of Chilean classics: stepping into Confitería

Torres ② (Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 1570) feels like stepping into the Santiago of a century ago – which isn't surprising as it's the oldest restaurant in the city, having opened its doors in 1867. Another great option is Emporio Zunino (P. Puente 801), Santiago's oldest *empanadería*. It might be busy, but it's worth the wait, as they make their empanadas fresh all day long. Pro tip: take your empanadas and eat them in the nearby Parque Forestal. And at family-owned Antigua Fuente (Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 58), you'll find no frills, just great sandwiches with fresh ingredients on homemade bread. They're so good that they've been hailed by locals as the best sandwiches in town for more than 50 years.

## Parks and Politics

The city's long boulevards, hillside lanes and green parks make it a paradise for bikers. Find out for yourself by booking a tour with La Bicicleta Verde (Constitución 153). Their signature Parks & Politics tour guides you through Santiago's historic centre and leafy parks while recounting Chile's fascinating political history. Local, English-speaking guides will show you around areas rarely seen by tourists, stopping at local markets to sample fresh produce.

## Dive into culture

Another way to learn about Chile's politics and history is at the Museum of Memory and Human Rights (Av. Matucana 501), which aims to raise awareness of the human rights violations committed

*Each neighbourhood, or barrio, has its own distinct character*

by the Chilean state between 1973 and 1990. For a more lighthearted experience, the Mirador Interactivo Museum (Av. Punta Arenas 6711) is a science museum that's fun for both adults and kids. Also worth visiting is La Chascona Museum House (Fernando Márquez de La Plata 0192), which was owned by politician and poet Pablo Neruda. Besides his belongings, it houses an art gallery, a collection of African wood carvings, and items by designer Piero Fornasetti.

# SANTIAGO *by night*

AS THE SUN SETS BEHIND THE ANDES, SANTIAGO TRANSFORMS INTO A VIBRANT PLAYGROUND WITH A GREAT CULINARY SCENE, NUMEROUS CULTURAL VENUES AND A LIVELY VIBE ON THE STREETS.



San Cristóbal Hill ④



Boragó ⑤



The Singular Santiago ⑦



Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center ⑥

## Sunset drinks

As the day draws to an end, take the 10-minute Santiago Funicular ③ ride from the boarding point at Plaza Caupolicán and head up to the park on top of San Cristóbal Hill ④. Grab a cup of *mote con huesillo*, a traditional Chilean (non-alcoholic) drink made of cooked wheat and dried peaches, from one of the carts selling it, and enjoy the view over the city as the sun sets.

## Must-try restaurants

Santiago's culinary scene has blossomed in recent years, with chefs celebrating local ingredients and traditional techniques, and giving them a contemporary twist. For an authentic Chilean experience, visit El Mesón Nerudiano (Dominica 35), housed in a historic building near Neruda's former home.

Dishes such as *pastel de jaiba* (crab cake) and *caldillo congrio* (conger eel soup) honour recipes mentioned in his poetry. For contemporary Chilean cuisine, head to Boragó ⑤ (Av. San José María Escrivá de Balaguer 5970) and try the 16- to 20-course *Endémica* menu, which changes daily. Chef Rodolfo Guzmán sources his ingredients from all over Chile, as well as from the restaurant's biodynamic farm and orchard. A more laid-back option is Chipe Libre (José Victorino Lastarria 282), which offers modern takes on Chilean and Peruvian classics, and pisco-based cocktails.

## Evening entertainment

Santiago's nightlife offers something for every taste. The Municipal Theatre

(Agustinas 794) presents a year-round programme of classical music, ballet, opera and plays in a magnificent 19th-century building. For contemporary performances, check the schedule at Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center ⑥ (Av. Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins 227), a dynamic arts complex that hosts theatre, dance and music events in a repurposed building with striking architecture. Jazz enthusiasts can get their groove on at The Jazz Corner (Santa Isabel 451), an intimate venue that features both local and international musicians.

## Sleep tight

At The Singular Santiago ⑦ (Merced 294), one can expect nothing less than a five-star experience, as this hotel boasts an award-winning

restaurant, a rooftop pool with mountain views, a prime location and fabulous service. And the Renaissance Santiago Hotel (Av. Kennedy 4700) is one of Chile's most sustainable hotels and a great choice for travellers who like to enjoy luxury and comfort in an eco-friendly way. Ask for a room on a higher floor and enjoy the amazing view of the Andean peaks.

## Book this story



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# THE CAPE CRUSADER

Known as the 'Saint-Tropez of Africa', Cape Town has become a magnet for digital nomads who are taking advantage of the good life set against a backdrop of stunning mountain views and picturesque beaches.

Text Yvette Bax





## Cape Town South Africa



I arrived late last night among the ghostly outlines of trees and rooftops beneath an inky sky. As I fumbled with the keys to my cottage, the warm, moist air contrasted sharply with the crisp cold of winter I'd left behind in the Netherlands. Cape Town was just a silhouette of shadows and blinking lights in the distance. But even in the dark, I could feel it: that subtle thrill of returning to a place you love. And now, with the morning sun pouring in, I have butterflies in my belly as I step outside to be greeted by the city in full colour. And rising behind it all: Table Mountain. The most enchanting mountain I've ever laid eyes on. I let out a deep sigh. I'm home again.

When people ask me why I love Cape Town, I always say it's because it has everything. The city is surrounded by unspoilt nature, white-sand beaches, rugged mountains, charming bays and sprawling vineyards. During my first visit here 14 years ago, I fell in love with the city's rich mix of cultures and nationalities, the warmth, openness and friendliness of its people, and its amazing food and wine. For six winters in a row, I've swapped my Amsterdam apartment for a home base in 'the Cape'. I'd usually stay for a few months, but this time it's just a visit of six weeks. Which is why I want to soak up every bit of Cape Town life while I can.

### Strolling along the prom

One of the first things I do after arriving here is visit the Sea Point Promenade: a broad, 3km stretch that runs right along the ocean's edge. I grab a flat white to go from Bootlegger and start walking. The Atlantic Ocean shimmers in the distance as seagulls call overhead. It's the best cure for jetlag. This is where Cape Town awakens and gathers. From as early as 7am, 'the prom' comes alive with joggers, cyclists, dog-walkers and early birds soaking up the fresh sea breeze, greeting each other in a friendly manner as they go by.

To extend my warm-up, I do the short but steep hike to Lion's Head: the lion-shaped peak that towers beside Table Mountain. The trail

winds in tight spirals, past fynbos bushes and rocky outcrops, as the city grows smaller with every step. The climb takes about 90 minutes and rewards me with sweeping views of the city, the mountain and the coastline beyond. Up here, the world lies at my feet, and I feel the powerful energy of the African soil and a deep connection with Mother Earth, all at once. It's one of the most photogenic spots the city has to offer, together with the historic Bo-Kaap neighbourhood at the foot of Signal Hill, known for its iconic rainbow-coloured houses. But they're more than just photogenic, they tell a story.

After slavery was abolished in the 19th century, many former slaves and their descendants settled in Bo-Kaap. Painting their homes in bold colours became a tradition said to symbolise freedom and self-expression, a joyful legacy that still lights up Bo-Kaap today. Cape Town looks good from just about any angle. Turn your head and there's a view. Add in the golden light that photographers dream of and it's no wonder the city is a favourite with international film crews and for fashion shoots. It's no coincidence that the streets are filled with cool creatives and pretty people.

Once I feel fully reconnected to the Mother City following my climb, I meet up with my friends. Many of them came here for a short stay but ended up building a life here. Cape Town seems to have that effect on people. Jennifer Dröse first landed here in 2000 while working as a flight attendant for KLM, and kept coming back. Eventually, she stopped leaving altogether. During her layovers, Dröse used to find hidden gems and share them with her colleagues. Now, she runs Tailor-Made Cape Town with her cofounder Claudia Schotman, creating custom-made holidays focused on slow travel, local connection and small-scale, nature-based stays. "We believe in creating meaningful memories with the people you love, in the most unique places we know," explains Dröse. "There's a huge increase in people coming to live here for a while. Families with young »

#### Previous pages

Bo-Kaap neighbourhood (left), Camps Bay (right)

#### Right page, top (from left to right)

One of Cape Town's many beaches; Reuben's in Franschhoek; The Strangers Club

#### Bottom

Babylonstoren: a farm, hotel and restaurant near Franschhoek





**I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE  
OPENNESS AND FRIENDLINESS  
OF CAPE TOWN'S PEOPLE**





THE CITY'S SURROUNDINGS OFFER  
MORE BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY THAN  
YOU CAN FIT INTO ONE TRIP









EACH TURN REVEALS A NEW  
PICTURE-POSTCARD VIEW LEAVING  
ME IN COMPLETE AWE





children, freelancers, remote workers. Some even relocate permanently.”

Our mutual friend Emmelie Steentjes tells a similar story. She visited 10 years ago and now lives here. As the founder of Bumbuntu – a company that primarily provides private offices and a coworking space – Steentjes has experienced the rapid growth of the digital nomad scene from the inside and helped shape it. “Bumbuntu was born out of a personal need,” she says. “I was missing a real connection with locals.” At the same time, she felt the urge to give something back. “As a freelancer, I was earning well, and the contrast between wealth and poverty is impossible to ignore here. That’s why I created a space that connects people across backgrounds and communities.” Bumbuntu organises events and activities, always hosted by locals, and in collaboration with local entrepreneurs. Ten percent of the membership fee goes to the Ukhanyo Foundation, which gives young people from the townships a second chance at education. “We chose that cause deliberately,” she explains. “If you ask people in South Africa how to break the cycle of poverty, most people say the same thing: education.”

### Wine o’clock

When the weekend comes, it’s time to explore Cape Town’s stunning surroundings. After five days working from the city, I’m itching for a trip to the Cape Winelands, a group of wine-making towns that luckily aren’t far. Constantia is just half an hour by car, Stellenbosch and Paarl about an hour’s drive, and Franschhoek – also known as ‘Africa’s culinary capital’ – another 30 minutes from there. And it’s not just your palate that’s spoilt along the way: the drive itself is a treat too. Think rugged mountains, wide valleys and endless fields heavy with hanging grape clusters. Whether you stay at a romantic rustic estate, grab a farm-to-table lunch or enjoy a great wine tasting, you won’t be disappointed.

My favourite spot is Babylonstoren, just outside Franschhoek, my destination this afternoon. I’ve lost count of how many times

I’ve been for long lunches at their farm-to-table restaurants, for tastings of their crisp white and bold red wines, or simply to wander through the vast gardens: five hectares of herbs, veg, exotic plants, colourful flowers; all immaculately laid out like a living painting and reachable via perfectly manicured paths. The estate itself spans 250 hectares and has everything from a bakery and butcher to its own beehives. What began as the Manor House with a garden grew into one of the Cape’s most iconic wine estates, with a hotel, spa, restaurants and shops, all rooted in the botanical richness of the land. During my visit this time, I speak to the founder Karen Roos. “Diversity is our aim,” she says. “The garden features more than 300 tree varieties and thousands of plant species. We also have ducks, chickens, bees, and our own herd of water buffalo for fresh mozzarella. This is a paradise anchored to the land. A place to reconnect with the beauty of the landscape.”

### Rock art and stars

A few weeks later, I trade the city for an escape in the red dust of the stunning Cederberg Mountains, known for their rich legacy of ancient rock art, made by Bushmen. The area boasts more than 2,500 rock art sites, some dating back as far as 6,000 years. While hiking the Sevilla Rock Art Trail, I come across red paintings of elands, elephants and half-human and half-animal figures, which are faded but still powerful, whispering stories of a time when humans and nature were deeply entwined. At Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve, my shelter for the night, luxury tents come with hot tubs and, on this occasion, perfect views of the Milky Way as I stargaze following a wood-fired dinner. The next morning, I head home via Paternoster: a sleepy coastal village where the whitewashed houses and blue sea make you feel like you’re in Greece. But that’s not why I’m here. Arguably the best thing about Paternoster is Wolfgat, a world-class restaurant hidden in a humble fisherman’s cottage, where just 20 guests are served at a time, and I’m one of the first. Chef Kobus »

**Left page, top**  
Chapman’s  
Peak Drive

**Bottom (from  
left to right)**  
Stellenbosch  
Wine Bar; Zeitz  
MOCAA; V&A  
Waterfront



**THE TRAIL WINDS IN TIGHT  
SPIRALS AS THE CITY GROWS  
SMALLER WITH EVERY STEP**



**Left page**

Table Mountain  
Aerial Cableway  
and Lion's Head

van der Merwe does it all: from foraging seaweed at dawn to cooking and plating, and also pouring your wine. It's not just lunch, it's a beautifully curated, local and wildly delicious experience, with the Atlantic Ocean as your backdrop.

**The end of the world**

Cape Town's surroundings offer more beauty and diversity than you can possibly fit into one trip. On my final day here, I squeeze in an experience that captures a fair amount of it, and that's the drive to the end of the world: Cape Point, to be exact, the tip of Cape Peninsula, which is about 65km from Cape Town. The first stretch of the route, known as Chapman's Peak Drive, is considered one of the world's most beautiful coastal roads, and has featured in countless car commercials. It's only 9km long, but has more than 100 bends winding along wild cliffs. As I meet the first of those bends, the wind whistles through the windows, the fresh sea air wakes up every cell in my body and each turn reveals a new picture-postcard view leaving me in complete awe. I feel a deep sense of freedom. But there's more beauty ahead: the untamed bay of Misty Cliffs, where waves crash so fiercely that a veil of sea mist always lingers. This mysterious, damp, wild coastline feels otherworldly. Then comes the hippie town of Scarborough, where I wave at the barefoot locals crossing the street with their surfboards. And finally, Cape Point Nature Reserve, where the wilderness begins. There's nothing here but open space and untouched nature, until you reach the tip of the peninsula. And when the road ends, there's only one way to go: up. I go on foot, but you can also opt for the little funicular that takes you to the lonely lighthouse. As I arrive, the world falls quiet, except for the howling wind.

From the end of the world, I head to the airport for my flight home. With a happy heart, and my stomach full – of butterflies and far too much food – I say a temporary goodbye to my beloved Cape Town, because it's always a 'see you soon'. «



FREELANCE WRITER YVETTE BAX HAS VISITED 130+ COUNTRIES, BUT SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS HER FAVOURITE. HERE ARE HER TIPS FOR CAPE TOWN, HER SECOND HOME.

*To work***Bootlegger**

Bootlegger serves some of the best coffee in town. Their Green Point location is spacious, with plenty of seating and a cosy covered terrace, which is great for getting a few hours of work done. Try their delicious green smoothies.

[bootlegger.coffee](http://bootlegger.coffee)

**The Strangers Club**

Part café, part concept store, The Strangers Club is great for breakfast and lunch. Their mushroom ragout on avocado toast is a vegetarian's dream.

[thestrangersclub.co.za](http://thestrangersclub.co.za)

**Our Local**

The cosiest spot is Our Local: a quirky, plant-filled café where digital nomads and caffeine lovers blend right in. Their shakshuka (poached eggs in a tomato and bell pepper sauce) is the best in town.

[ourlocal.co.za](http://ourlocal.co.za)

*To do***District Six Museum & Robben Island**

The District Six Museum tells the story of apartheid through one neighbourhood, where more than

60,000 people were removed in 1966. And just off the coast lies Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent most of his long sentence. The half-day tour includes a boat trip and a guided visit of the prison.

[districtsix.co.za](http://districtsix.co.za);  
[robben-island.org.za](http://robben-island.org.za)

**Zeitz MOCAA**

Inside a converted grain silo on Cape Town's V&A Waterfront, you'll find Zeitz MOCAA: the largest museum of contemporary African art on the continent. With more than 100 galleries, it's thought-provoking and beautifully curated.

[zeitzmocaa.museum](http://zeitzmocaa.museum)

*To eat***Kloof Street House**

This is one of Cape Town's funkiest and cosiest restaurants. It has an eclectic interior with a library corner and baroque chairs, and a lush garden with fairy lights adorning the trees, a perfect setting for a romantic dinner. Must-try: the ostrich steak.

[kloofstreethouse.co.za](http://kloofstreethouse.co.za)

**Neighbourgoods Market**

This vibrant market takes over the Old

Biscuit Mill in the heart of Woodstock every Saturday and Sunday. Partly indoors, partly outdoors, it's a lively mix of great food, live music, local designers, artisan jewellery and quirky shops.

[theoldbiscuitmill.co.za](http://theoldbiscuitmill.co.za)

*To stay***The Silo Hotel**

This former grain silo, perched above the Zeitz MOCAA museum, is now an eclectic design hotel bursting with contemporary African art. Head to the rooftop terrace for a dip in the pool and enjoy panoramic views of Cape Town and Table Mountain.

[theroyalportfolio.com](http://theroyalportfolio.com)

**Book this story**

KLM operates a daily nonstop flight to Cape Town Intl Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on [klm.com](http://klm.com)



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Meta Roostenberg

“  
***THE PROSPECT  
 OF SAVING HALF  
 A MILLION LIVES  
 IS EXCITING***  
 ”

Meta Roostenberg is professor of vaccinology, and clinical head of the Controlled Human Infection Center, at Leiden University Medical Center. She's currently working on a groundbreaking malaria vaccine. Text Charlotte Latten Photography Dana van Leeuwen.

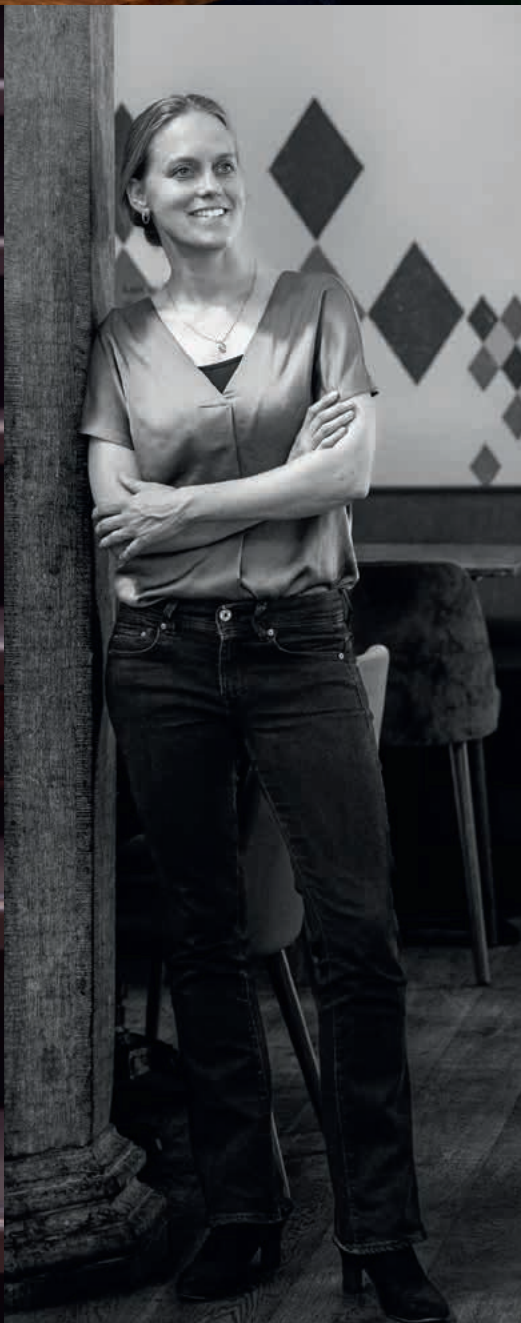
**W**hat inspired you to study medicine? I was looking for a subject that would build on my analytical mindset and could positively affect other people. As a teenager, I struggled to answer the existential question: What's the meaning of life? I eventually realised that, for me, it's to try to leave something behind for society. That was mainly due to the fact that I felt privileged being born in the Netherlands where opportunities are plentiful. I decided to sign up for courses in both medicine and pharmacy, and I was accepted onto a medicine programme. But I didn't yet have a clear idea of what I wanted to do with it.

**What sparked your passion for infectious diseases?** In my third year of study, I did a public health internship

in the Philippines. While I was there, I saw how much rural populations, particularly the poor, suffered from infectious diseases, such as TB, HIV and malaria, and how much these diseases affected their everyday lives. Since the pandemic, most people now understand the impact an infectious disease can have on a society, but back then I had no idea. It made me realise how much there was to gain in that field. I eventually saw that there was only so much I could do as a medical doctor, and I decided to focus on developing my research skills instead. Research can lead to new developments and products, such as vaccines, that can impact the lives of millions of people.

**Why did you choose to focus on malaria?** I had told my professor at the

medical centre that I wanted to be in poverty-related vaccine research, so he introduced me to the research group of Robert Sauerwein, a very well-known professor of malaria who asked me if I'd like to be his PhD student. I agreed on the spot, and I was hooked from day one. Malaria is caused by parasites; they're truly fascinating creatures. Do you know the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, where a caterpillar changes into a butterfly? Parasites also transform. When malaria parasites go into their host, they change the way they look and behave, and they can multiply themselves by 10,000. Perhaps even more fascinating is the fact that they can travel through our body without being noticed by our immune system. When I learnt about that, it boggled my mind. I wondered »





how this could be, and how we could turn it around. I arrived at the following question: How can we train our body to recognise parasites and attack them appropriately? The answer has immediate consequences for the design of a vaccine.

**In which stage are you and your team regarding the new malaria vaccine?**

We're in the experimental phase. We cultured a parasite in the lab that's 'crippled': it lacks a gene that it needs to enter the blood. Because it cannot enter the blood, it cannot make people sick. By infecting healthy people with this parasite – via mosquitos – we can train their immune systems. In this way, next time a malaria-carrying mosquito bites them, their immune system will start attacking the parasites. The results show that one exposure to these crippled parasites induces full immunity in 9 out of 10 people. If you translate this to vaccinology, it means that you only need to get your shot once and you'll be protected. That's better than current vaccines, which are 30-70% effective. So, the concept is there and it's promising, but there's no vaccine yet.



**Could you estimate how much longer it will take?**

That's hugely complicated to answer. What we have shown now in adults in the Netherlands doesn't necessarily translate to countries in Africa, where malaria is endemic. If it did, there could be a vaccine in 5-10 years, but if we stumble upon problems, we'll need to solve those first. And then there's the funding problem: we need more money for research. But overall, I'm positive: we're running a race we'll finish. We're talking about half a million people, mainly children below the age of five, in Sub-Saharan Africa, that die of this horrible disease every year. The idea of being able to prevent that is exciting.

**Why do healthy people agree to be infected with malaria for vaccine research?**

For several reasons. They want to contribute to science, to society in general, or they want to know what it's like to participate in medical research; a lot of them are from the medical field. And, of course, they're financially compensated for their time. But that's not the main reason; you get much more money when you work in a bar. To me, these people are heroes. They contribute to science and society; as far as I'm concerned, we should appreciate this altruism. I find it strange that a lot of people consider it weird. It's normal to become a fire fighter, but it's not normal to participate in a clinical trial? It's the same thing to me.

**You also work as a physician and have two teenage sons. How do you manage it all?**

The secret weapon is my husband. He works part-time as a nurse and made the choice to reduce his hours to be there for the kids. He does most of the work at home, as well as being a taxi driver for our kids, so I never have to worry about that. If you want to put your mind to something really complicated, you need to have a mind free of the worries associated with the small things that

“  
**I WANT TO  
LEAVE  
SOMETHING  
BEHIND FOR  
SOCIETY**  
”

need to happen at home. I wouldn't be who I am and where I am today without my husband's support.

**Do you travel a lot for work?** Once every two months roughly; mainly for meetings with colleagues worldwide. I took my kids to Kenya last year. We did a street tour in Nairobi guided by a man who used to be a street kid. I wanted my sons to know that life can be very tough if you grow up in a place where your options are limited. It affected them a lot, and I hope it helps them to be aware of the responsibility they have to society. They don't need to change the world, but they can make their own small difference in their own circle. If everyone did this, the world would be a better place. «





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Schiphol Parking



## Schiphol

Parking at Amsterdam Airport





Elciego, Spain

## MARQUÉS DE RISCAL

Does this hotel remind you of anything? The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao perhaps? Well, its architect, Frank Gehry, also designed Marqués de Riscal, which is located in the Spanish town of Elciego. The futuristic design creates an interesting architectural contrast with the old buildings around it. Completed in 2006, the hotel is divided into two parts that are connected by a glass bridge, has two restaurants (one with a Michelin star), a library and a luxury spa. The interior might be less otherworldly than the exterior, but it's still guaranteed to be a heavenly visit for design lovers. **Nice to know:** The hotel is part of a historic winery, whose original facilities were designed by Ricardo Bellsola in 1858. [marquesderiscal.com](http://marquesderiscal.com)



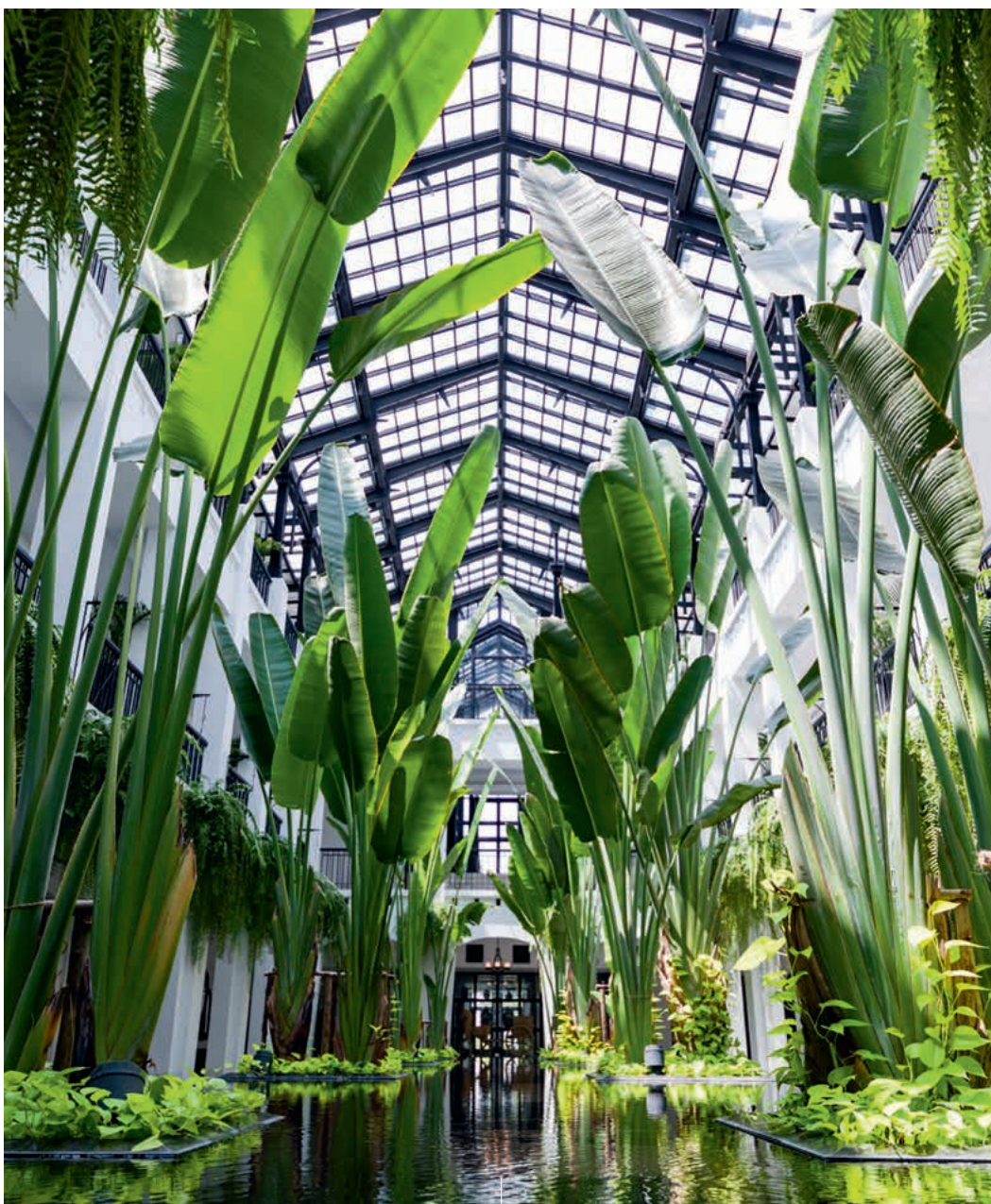
# STAY IN STYLE

From extraordinary exteriors to eclectic interiors, those who want to indulge themselves in design on holiday need to put these hotels on their bucket list.

Text Marloes van Wijnen







Bangkok, Thailand

### THE SIAM

For the concept of The Siam in Bangkok, architect Bill Bensley immersed himself in Bangkok's greatest era: that of the beloved King Rama V. Located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, the hotel features Art Deco accents, such geometric shapes and furniture made of dark wood. Bensley is something of a treasure hunter, and this is confirmed by the unique presence of some 25,000 antiques in the hotel, from the lobby to the sleeping rooms. He seems to have focused a lot of attention on the atrium, where an expansive pool, surrounded by tropical plants, is illuminated by rays of sunlight. **Top tip:** Guests can explore Bangkok by river using the hotel's private boat service. [thesiamhotel.com](http://thesiamhotel.com)





Athens, Greece

## SEMIRAMIS

'Playful' best describes Semiramis in Athens, the first hotel that the well-known industrial designer Karim Rashid ever designed. Rashid was hired by the owner of the building, Dakis Joannou, who wanted to open a hotel in Athens to house part of his art collection. The request: to have it look nothing like a quiet museum. Well, leave that to Rashid, who's known for his futuristic style, bold colour palettes and organic shapes; not even a bathroom is boring. With its curvy form and lively use of colour, the swimming pool is the hotel's masterpiece. **Nice to know:** Lighting plays a crucial role at Semiramis. The concept was composed by Focus Lighting in New York, under the direction of designer Paul Gregory. [donkeyhotels.gr](http://donkeyhotels.gr)



Tulum, Mexico

## AZULIK

Nature and design are rarely as intertwined as they are at the Azulik in Tulum. This eco-resort, a project by Mexico-based architect Eduardo Neira (aka Roth), was built to blend in with the jungle.

Roth took inspiration from the shapes of nature, and chose a cave-like form for the hotel. The architect also came up with creative ways to work in harmony with nature,

such as a method to incorporate concrete in his designs without the use of heavy machinery during construction.

**Top tip:** Azulik has its own museum (and creative space), SFER IK, which exhibits work by international artists.

[azulik.com](http://azulik.com)











Rome, Italy

### ROMEO ROMA

Historical architecture and modern interior design meet under the roof of the 16th-century Palazzo Capponi, which entrepreneur Alfredo Romeo bought in 2012. He enlisted the late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid to transform it into the modern Romeo Roma hotel, while retaining the palazzo's impressive ancient details. Hadid's fluid, organic forms and innovative design elements blend perfectly with historical features, such as the staircase, grand suite with fresco-covered walls, and even ruins, which were discovered during the renovations and are now displayed beneath the glass floor of Romeo Roma's swimming pool. **Nice to know:** Guests are offered a breakfast menu created by top chef Alain Ducasse. [theromeocollection.com](http://theromeocollection.com)





# Start your art journey

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**With Bloomberg Connects, you'll be taken on a full 360-degree tour of the museum or cultural space you visit.**

Amsterdam is full of incredible art and culture. By using Bloomberg Connects, you can fully immerse yourself in what's on show at the city's many museums, and learn more about the making of exhibitions and the museums themselves. Upon arrival at the museum of your choice, you'll be given access to exclusive content, available in over 50 languages.

#### **Curated content**

Created by artists and cultural insiders, Bloomberg Connects gives you customised tours of exhibitions, plus

a description of each work and a custom map. These are all curated by the museum itself, meaning the information is trustworthy, expert-driven and up-to-date.

#### **Take a closer look**

Explore Amsterdam's Nieuwe Kerk, for example, where you'll be taken on an audio tour of the angels perched throughout the 600-year-old church. At H'ART Museum, the 'Take a Closer Look' exhibition encourages you to explore individual works, with 30-second audios to better understand what you're looking at. And if you see a Bloomberg Connects QR code near an item, you can scan the code to learn even more about the artwork.

#### **Bring a space to life**

For anyone with accessibility needs, the app helps adapt the exhibition through voiceovers, image zoom and font-size adjustments. It also offers fun facts about the gift shop, museum's café, and fascinating insights that bring a space to life.

Bloomberg Connects is available in over 1,000 museums and cultural spaces around the world, so there's plenty for art and culture lovers to explore!



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Welcome  
on board





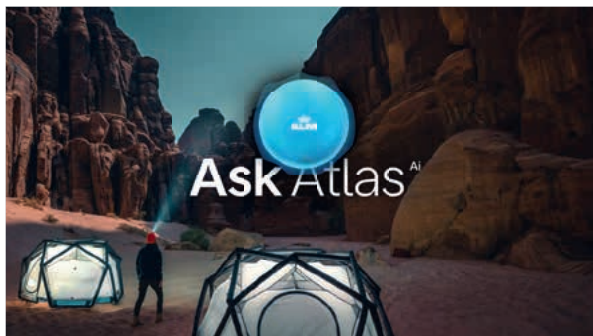
# KLM NEWS

KLM House

## NO. 14: HOUSE WITH THE TWO GODS OF THE SEA ON THE GABLE



Built in 1688, this beautiful building at Herengracht 510 in Amsterdam bears the curious name, House with the Two Gods of the Sea on the Gable, referring to the sandstone scrolls decorating the structure's neck gable. Neptune, the god of the sea, and his son, Triton, are depicted on the left and right respectively. The building's external decorations aren't the only elements that make this structure interesting: it also has three intact period rooms. The most remarkable is the front room, where two of the three overdoors are dated '1760' and signed by painter 'A.H. van Beesten'. Furthermore, Herengracht 510 comprises front and back sections and is 29m deep.



Your AI travel guide

## INTRODUCING ASK ATLAS

LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT TRAVEL DESTINATION BUT NOT SURE WHERE TO START? ASK ATLAS IS HERE TO HELP.

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Ask the expert



CABIN ATTENDANT SOPHIE  
BEL ANSWERS YOUR BURNING  
QUESTION.

## What if a cabin crew member's uniform becomes soiled



It's of the utmost importance that KLM's cabin crew maintain a polished and well-groomed appearance, but uniform mishaps make this challenging. Accidents can happen at any stage of our journey, but they usually occur during flights, when we're serving food or drinks. Luckily, we have special cleaning cloths from Cee-Bee that can be used for stains. If we're at Schiphol when our uniform is soiled, we can ask to borrow a spare one from Service Point at our Crew Centre, but they don't have every size, so luck is of the essence. Another option is to clean heavy stains ourselves once we arrive at our hotel, or use the hotel's dry cleaning service.

**Do you have a burning question for the experts at KLM? Email us at [hollandheraldhome@hearst.nl](mailto:hollandheraldhome@hearst.nl) and your question might be featured in the next issue of *Holland Herald*.**



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# KLM NEWS

## Memorable flight

### “The KLM crew’s compassion moved us deeply”

DESPITE SAD CIRCUMSTANCES, GEM AND TONY BROWN HAD A GOOD EXPERIENCE FLYING FROM STAVANGER TO AMSTERDAM.



In February, we travelled from Brisbane to Madrid for my husband's mother's funeral. The plan was to fly via Stavanger in Norway (where we would visit my sister), with a short stop in Amsterdam. But our flight from Norway was delayed, meaning that we risked missing our connection, and possibly the funeral. When we eventually took off for Amsterdam, we were so stressed that we reached out to our purser, Dominica, for

advice. She listened to our story with a lot of compassion and assured us that she'd keep us updated and informed. Dominica was true to her word, and even explained some potential solutions in case we should miss our connection. She also offered us plenty of food and drinks, ensuring that we were as comfortable as possible. Since we only had 10 minutes to transfer upon arriving in Amsterdam, the KLM crew kindly arranged for our

bags to be delivered to our hotel in Madrid. Luckily, we made it to the funeral on time, and despite all the exhaustion and stress, the KLM crew's genuine compassion moved us deeply and turned this flight into a memorable experience for us both.

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

## KLM E&M Engine Services

### TECHNICAL TALENT WANTED

ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED MECHANIC OR TECHNICALLY MINDED? THEN KLM IS LOOKING FOR YOU.

More than 700 skilled employees work daily on aircraft engines and their components for KLM and other airlines at KLM E&M Engine Services, and there are plenty of opportunities for people with technical talent. You don't necessarily need aviation engineering experience, a technical background or be based in the Netherlands to join us.

We train new mechanics on Boeing 737 and Airbus A330 engines, so you can become an engine mechanic. We'll provide extensive training in the first few

months, after which you'll have time to perfect your skills via apprenticeships and training for engine specialists. After the first three months, you'll work on other engines, such as the A320's new-generation LEAP engine.

Many technicians have been with us for years and have specialised knowledge, often of specific engines. We're ready to invest in you too, and we hope you'll have a great future at E&M Engine Services. [careers.klm.com](http://careers.klm.com)



#Travelhack

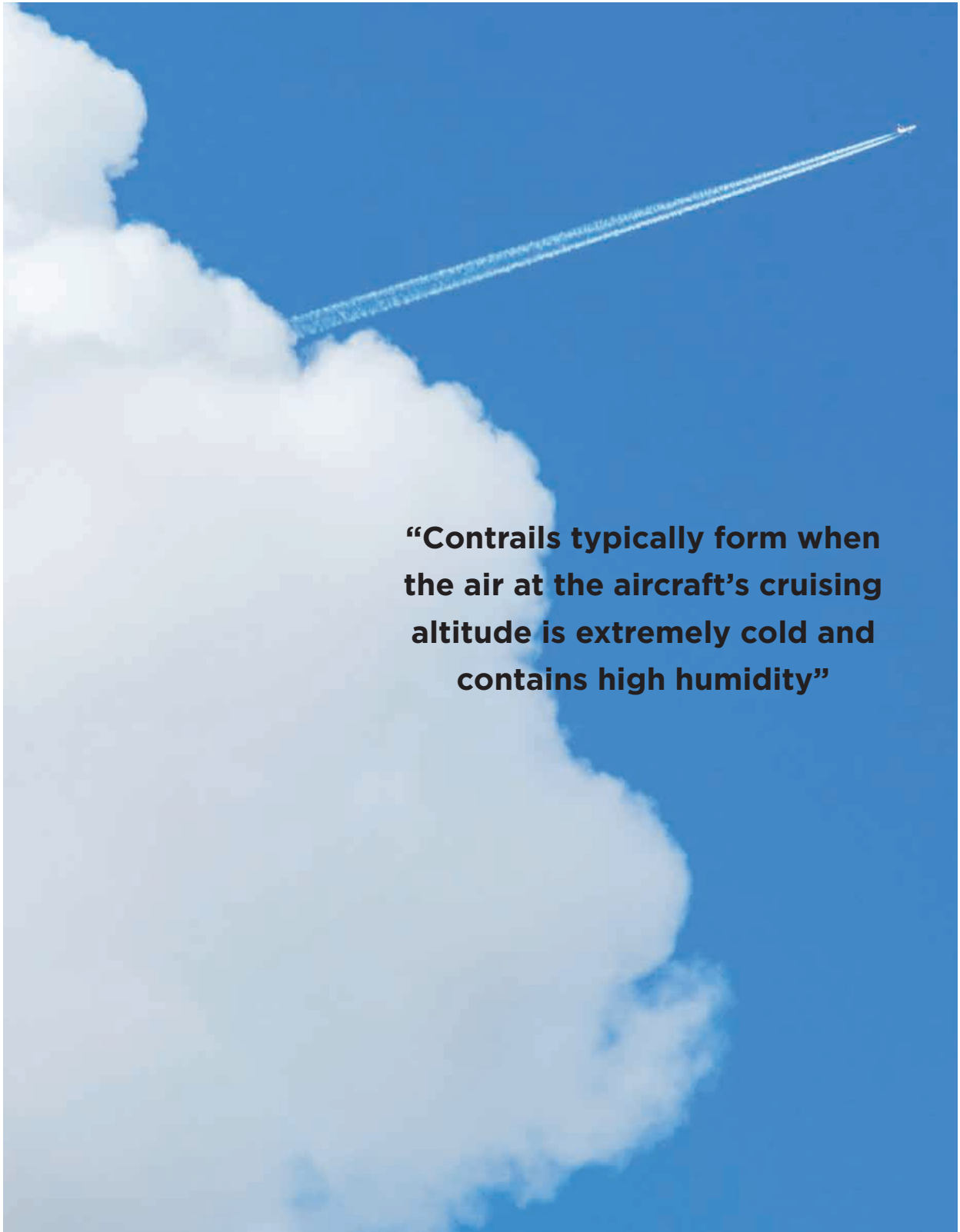
### Look who's talking

With up to 112 languages, and free Internet access in almost 200 countries, the Vasco Translator V4 universal translator is ideal for those who want to speak the lingo when they go abroad.

€389; [vasco-electronics.com](http://vasco-electronics.com)



# TRAVEL WELL



## Condensation clouds

## THE LOWDOWN ON CONTRAILS

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT THOSE WHITE STREAKS AIRCRAFT LEAVE BEHIND IN THE SKY? THEY'RE CALLED CONTRAILS. BUT WHY DO THEY FORM? AND WHAT'S THEIR IMPACT? SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER LISANNE VAN WIJNGAARDEN PROVIDES AN INSIGHT.

**S**hort for 'condensation trails', contrails form under specific weather conditions, typically when the air at the aircraft's cruising altitude is extremely cold and contains high humidity. "They form as a result of burning kerosene in the engines," Van Wijngaarden explains. "However, the combustion process is never completely perfect and some particles, such as soot, don't fully burn. So when these very hot particles are released, and they enter cold, humid air, water vapour begins to cling to them and quickly freezes. This forms tiny ice crystals. As more soot particles and moisture accumulate, the crystals grow and eventually form a cloud – a 'contrail'."

### Changing altitudes

While contrails are much too high up in the atmosphere to affect air quality on the ground, they do impact global warming alongside aviation's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. "The longer these contrails linger, the more damaging they are as they form a little blanket in the sky. This reflects sunlight from reaching the Earth, which has a cooling effect. But it also traps the warmth of the sun that radiates back from the Earth. So, on average, the effect is warming."

According to recent research, rerouting just 5% of flights could reduce the climate impact of contrails by as much as 80% but in practice, that's easier said than done. "At the moment, it's still very hard to predict precisely when and where these contrails form," says Van Wijngaarden. "Naturally, it makes sense to avoid certain altitudes where conditions are favourable for contrail formation. But, if all airlines begin to follow the same routes or fly at the same altitudes, this can lead to congestion. Aircraft need to remain at safe

distances from each other, and safety will always be our highest priority."

### Hopeful developments

Van Wijngaarden believes scientists, airlines and meteorological institutions are heading in the right direction when it comes to reducing the climate impact of contrails. "KLM has partnered with an external provider who developed a weather model that predicts contrail-forming regions. We connected this to our flight dispatch department, and ran a six-month trial in 2023 in which we integrated the weather data into our flight-planning process once a week to help minimise the risk of forming contrails. It was highly insightful." So why not keep going? "Currently, it's still a very labour-intensive process as the systems aren't fully integrated, but we're exploring options to incorporate accurate weather forecasts for humidity and temperature directly into our planning systems, so we can automatically take these contrail-forming regions into consideration. I believe that by 2030, we'll have made significant progress in reducing the non-CO<sub>2</sub> effects of aviation, including contrails. The integration of weather models is key for this."

Rising awareness of the issue also helps. A 2020 European report outlined the climate impact of contrails and led to the first policies on these non-CO<sub>2</sub> aviation emissions. "Airlines flying within Europe now need to monitor and report the climate impact of their contrails annually. This will lead to more research, and hopefully, faster solutions," says Van Wijngaarden. "As long as we continue to work closely with the scientific community, I'm confident that a solution is within reach."



**Above:** Lisanne van Wijngaarden, KLM Sustainability Manager

**Left page:** A contrail



# KLM FLEET

## Specifications

### TWO FOR ONE



The Airbus A330's advanced cockpit design makes it possible for pilots to fly its sister aircraft, the A350, with just eight days of training, and without the need for full flight-simulator sessions.



#### 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



#### 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 787-10/9 Dreamliner

Number of aircraft: 14/13  
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

#### 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 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: 23/17  
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: 10  
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

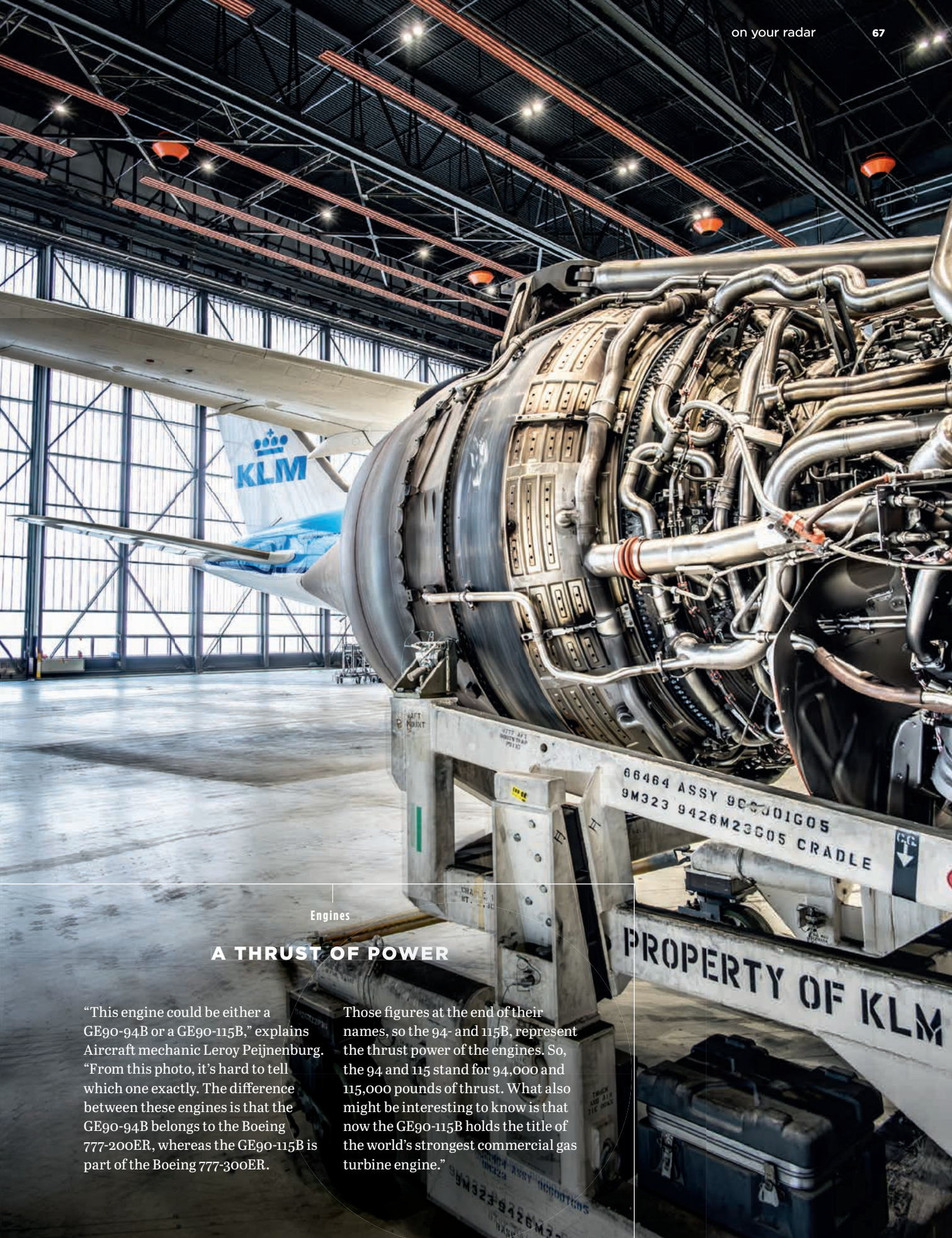
Number of aircraft: 5  
Cruising speed (km/h): 850  
Range (km): 4,300  
Max. take-off weight (kg): 76,900  
Maximum passengers: 188  
Total length (m): 42.12  
Wingspan (m): 35.80  
Wi-Fi on board



#### 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





### Engines

## A THRUST OF POWER

“This engine could be either a GE90-94B or a GE90-115B,” explains Aircraft mechanic Leroy Peijnenburg. “From this photo, it’s hard to tell which one exactly. The difference between these engines is that the GE90-94B belongs to the Boeing 777-200ER, whereas the GE90-115B is part of the Boeing 777-300ER.

Those figures at the end of their names, so the 94- and 115B, represent the thrust power of the engines. So, the 94 and 115 stand for 94,000 and 115,000 pounds of thrust. What also might be interesting to know is that now the GE90-115B holds the title of the world’s strongest commercial gas turbine engine.”



# TRAVELLERS



Kick, Isabela and Gabriela

## “I’m curious if what you see in films and TV series reflects the city well”

KICK VAN DOORN AND ISABELA AND GABRIELA CEFALI TRAVELLING TO SÃO PAULO ON FLIGHT KL791

**Reason for travel?** Kick: “We’re going to Brazil for the wedding of Isabela’s and Gabriela’s nephew.”

Gabriela: “We’ll be there for two weeks in total – a few days in São Paulo first before heading up north.”

**Still on your travel bucket list?**

Isabela: “I’ve never been to New York, and I’d love to see it. I’m curious if what you see in films and TV series reflects the city well.”

Gabriela: “The Philippines. It looks so idyllic and beautiful.”

Kick: “Canada. It always seems like the ideal combo between rugged nature and enjoyable cities. And as I own a coffee bar, I’d love to check out some Canadian coffee as it’s supposed to be really good.”

**Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to?** Isabela: “No one, please. That would be extra comfortable.”

Kick: “Ronaldinho. He’s my favourite footballer of all time; I would love to hear all his stories.”

John

JOHN RUBIDGE  
TRAVELLING TO EDINBURGH  
ON FLIGHT KL931

**Reason for travel?** “A weekend trip. A friend of mine owns a farm near Edinburgh, in St Andrews. On Friday I’ll be helping around the farm. On Saturday there’s a Six Nations rugby match between Scotland and Wales, so we’ll probably head into Edinburgh and stay there for the night. Maybe we’ll play some golf too.”

**Still on your travel bucket list?**

“Kenya, Tanzania... I wouldn’t mind returning to Zambia, too. That was one of the best trips I’ve ever had in my life. I stayed at a house near the river and could see the wildlife from my window. I wasn’t able to leave the house – the wildlife was just there, roaming around, and there wasn’t a fence in sight.”

**Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to?** “Nelson Mandela. Despite everything he faced – the abuse, the imprisonment – he was still able to guide such a peaceful transfer of power. It’s awe-inspiring.”



Marc

MARC TRUYENS  
TRAVELLING TO STUTTGART  
ON FLIGHT KL1829

**Reason for travel?** “For work. I have a meeting with an American client and a company dinner in Stuttgart tonight, and I’ll be flying back tomorrow morning. It’s quite convenient, since it’s saved me having to fly to the US. Although I’ve been to Stuttgart before, it’s only been for work, so unfortunately, I haven’t been able to see much of the city.”

**Still on your travel bucket list?**

“There’s a place in Oman called Whales Head Camp, which is supposed to be a great spot for kitesurfing. Apparently, it takes several hours of driving through the desert to get there. I’ve no idea how I discovered it; might have been via Instagram.”

**Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to?** “Although I don’t like to sit in the middle seat, I would make an exception to sit next to both my parents during a long flight. I lost them at a young age, so it would be a nice opportunity to catch up.”



# ELEVATE YOUR SENSES

Ask your  
cabin crew  
to order



# FLYING BLUE

Enhanced programme

## THE APP HAS ARRIVED

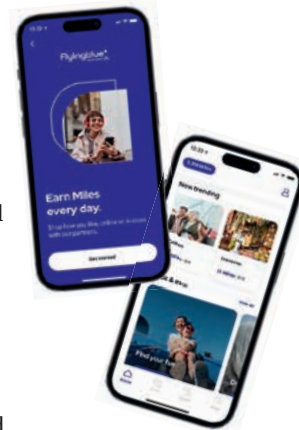
Flying Blue unveils Flying Blue+, an app that allows Flying Blue members to earn Miles via their everyday purchases. It's available in the App Store (iOS) and Play Store (Android) for members in the US and UK. With Flying Blue+, earning Miles has never been easier. By linking their payment card and using

the shopping and booking links integrated within the app, members can earn Miles with a vast network of partners by:

- Booking stays, car rentals, activities, or restaurants directly through the app;
- Making online or in-store purchases at partner retailers;

- Taking advantage of offers and promotions highlighted in the app.

Each partner sets its offers and corresponding Miles-earning rates. The Spend My Miles tab give access to affiliated airlines' websites, so members can book reward tickets, upgrades, or buy additional travel options.



For more information:  
[flyingblue.com](http://flyingblue.com)

My Miles



## "I suggested a trip to the Cinque Terre"

FRANK HULSHOFF USED HIS MILES FOR AN AUDACIOUS DATE WITH A FORMER COLLEAGUE.



Cinque Terre

Over the course of my career so far, I've been lucky enough to work for international companies for whom I've been required to travel a lot intercontinentally. Due to the long flights to countries such as the US, China and Australia, I've accumulated quite a few Miles, which I've often exchanged for plane tickets. In 2018, when a former colleague agreed to meet me in a private capacity, as a

date, I had the chance to use my Miles for something out of the ordinary. I suggested a trip to the Cinque Terre, a series of picturesque fishing villages on the Italian Riviera, for three days. This is how I ended up acquiring tickets to Milan from Amsterdam for us. Although it might seem risky, we both agreed that even if we weren't a match, at least we'd have a getaway in a beautiful place with great food. I even

rented a Fiat 500 convertible for the occasion. Luckily, we had the time of our lives and have been together ever since. I'm now saving my Miles for a family holiday to California, which I hope we'll be able to go on next year.

**Do you have a Miles-related story to tell? Send it to [hollandheraldhome@hearst.nl](mailto:hollandheraldhome@hearst.nl) and your story might be featured in the next issue of *Holland Herald*.**

**Flyingblue**  
AIRFRANCE KLM

**Sign up now!** Earning Miles with the Flying Blue+ app means there's never been a better time to sign up with Flying Blue 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](http://flyingblue.com).



# ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT

**Tom Cruise once  
again performs wild  
stunts himself**

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](http://entertainment.klm.com) for the full listing before your next trip. For now, sit back, relax and enjoy your journey.

Our pick



### MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING

With their elaborate stunts, cool hero, memorable music and, of course, big budgets, the *Mission: Impossible* films have set the benchmark for action movies for some time. The same formula has now been used for eight instalments in the franchise. In this latest – and supposedly final – film, which reportedly cost \$400 million to make, Tom Cruise once again performs wild stunts himself as he reprises his role as Ethan Hunt, rogue IMF agent extraordinaire. Together with his team, Hunt must save the world from a malevolent AI known as the Entity. But will they succeed?

Action, 2h49min

Films

### WATCH IT NOW

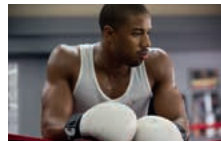


© 2025 Disney

#### Lilo & Stitch

Sci-fi, 1h48min

This live-action remake of animated film *Lilo & Stitch* (2002) follows the same story. When Stitch (voiced by Chris Sanders) escapes from prison in space, he ends up in an animal shelter on Earth, where he's adopted by Lilo (Maia Kealoha), who's unaware that her new pet is an alien.



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#### Creed

Drama, 2h13min

World Heavyweight Champion Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) agrees to be coach and mentor to Adonis Johnson (Michael B. Jordan), son of his late friend, and former adversary, legendary boxer Apollo Creed. A fascinating relationship develops.



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#### Eddie the Eagle

Comedy, 1h46min

From a young age, Michael Edwards (Taron Egerton) has wanted to compete in the Olympics. When he narrowly misses joining the British skiing team for the 1984 Winter Olympics, he switches to ski jumping and aims to compete in 1988's event instead. Based on a true story.

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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#### Brilliant Minds

Drama, 42min

Inspired by the life and work of world-famous physician Oliver Sacks, this series follows neurologist Oliver Wolf (Zachary Quinto) and his team of interns at Bronx General Hospital as they grapple with matters of the mind as well as their personal lives.



© 2025 Disney

#### The Ghost and Molly McGee

Animation, 23min

When tweenager Molly McGee (voiced by Ashly Burch) brings moody ghost Scratch (voiced by Dana Snyder) back to life, things take a turn for the worse. The curse that Scratch places on Molly backfires, forcing him to be with her for eternity.



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#### Night Court

Comedy, 22min

This series is centred on Abby Stone (Melissa Rauch), a Manhattan Criminal Court judge. Together with other notable figures, such as her clerk and the assistant district attorney, Abby presides over the night shift, as her late father once did.



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# SKYTEAM

Loyalty programme

## GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR MILES

WITH SKYTEAM MEMBER AIRLINE LOYALTY PROGRAMMES, EVERY TRIP BRINGS YOU CLOSER TO YOUR NEXT AWARD TICKET. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MILES AND ENJOY MORE REWARDING TRAVEL.



### Every Mile counts

Whether you're travelling for business or leisure, every flight is a chance to earn. Add your loyalty programme membership number to your flight reservation before departure to ensure Miles are automatically added to your account. Many programmes also partner with hotels, car rentals and more, so you can accrue Miles or enjoy other perks even when you're not flying.

### Recognition wherever you go

Elite and Elite Plus members enjoy added benefits across the SkyTeam

network. From extra baggage to SkyPriority services at global airports, your status unlocks a range of perks no matter which member airline you're flying with. Elite Plus members can also relax before takeoff in one of hundreds of airport lounges across our network – perfect for grabbing a bite or catching up on work.

To check which benefits apply to your next trip, use SkyTeam's Loyalty Benefits Calculator on [skyteam.com](http://skyteam.com). Just enter your programme, status and airline to quickly see your perks at a glance.

### Never miss a Mile

Forgot to add your loyalty programme number before your flight? No problem. Simply log in to your programme's website, enter your travel details and your request will be confirmed in seconds.

### Reward yourself in a matter of clicks

You can easily redeem your Miles for award tickets on any SkyTeam-operated flight. In just a few clicks, check what's available and book your award ticket directly through your loyalty programme's website.

### Not a member yet? Here's how to join

It's easy – and free – to sign up for a SkyTeam member airline's loyalty programme. Join just one to start accruing and redeeming Miles across all 18 member airlines. It only takes a minute, and you'll earn Miles from your very first trip.

The only thing left? Start dreaming about where you'll travel to next. Visit our member airlines' websites to learn more, and let your loyalty take you further.

SkyTeam is the 18-member airline alliance. Find out more about news, services and upcoming events at [skyteam.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://connect.klm.com) Or scan the QR code

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# EUROPE

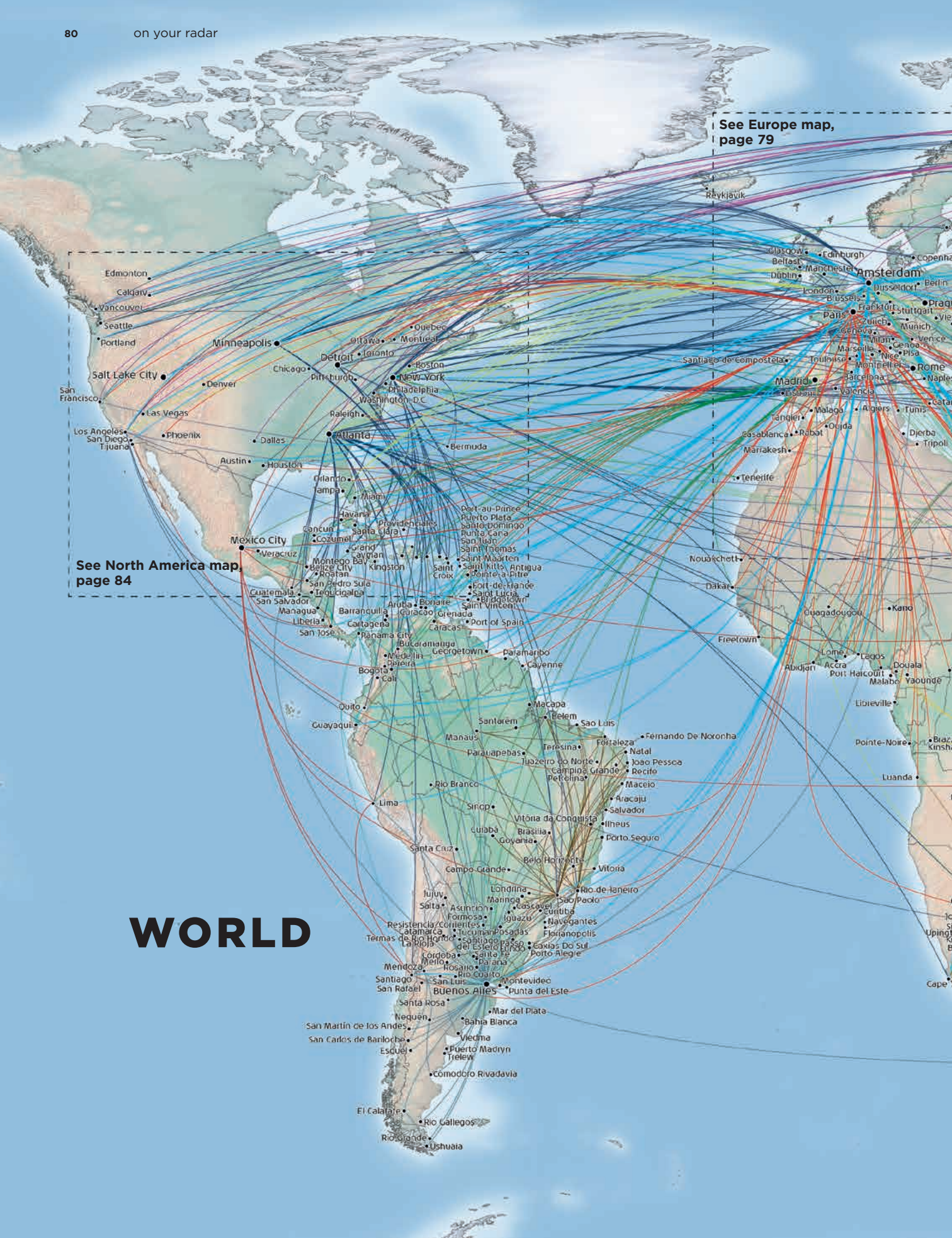




See Europe map,  
page 79

See North America map,  
page 84

# WORLD











# ASIA










# NORTH AMERICA

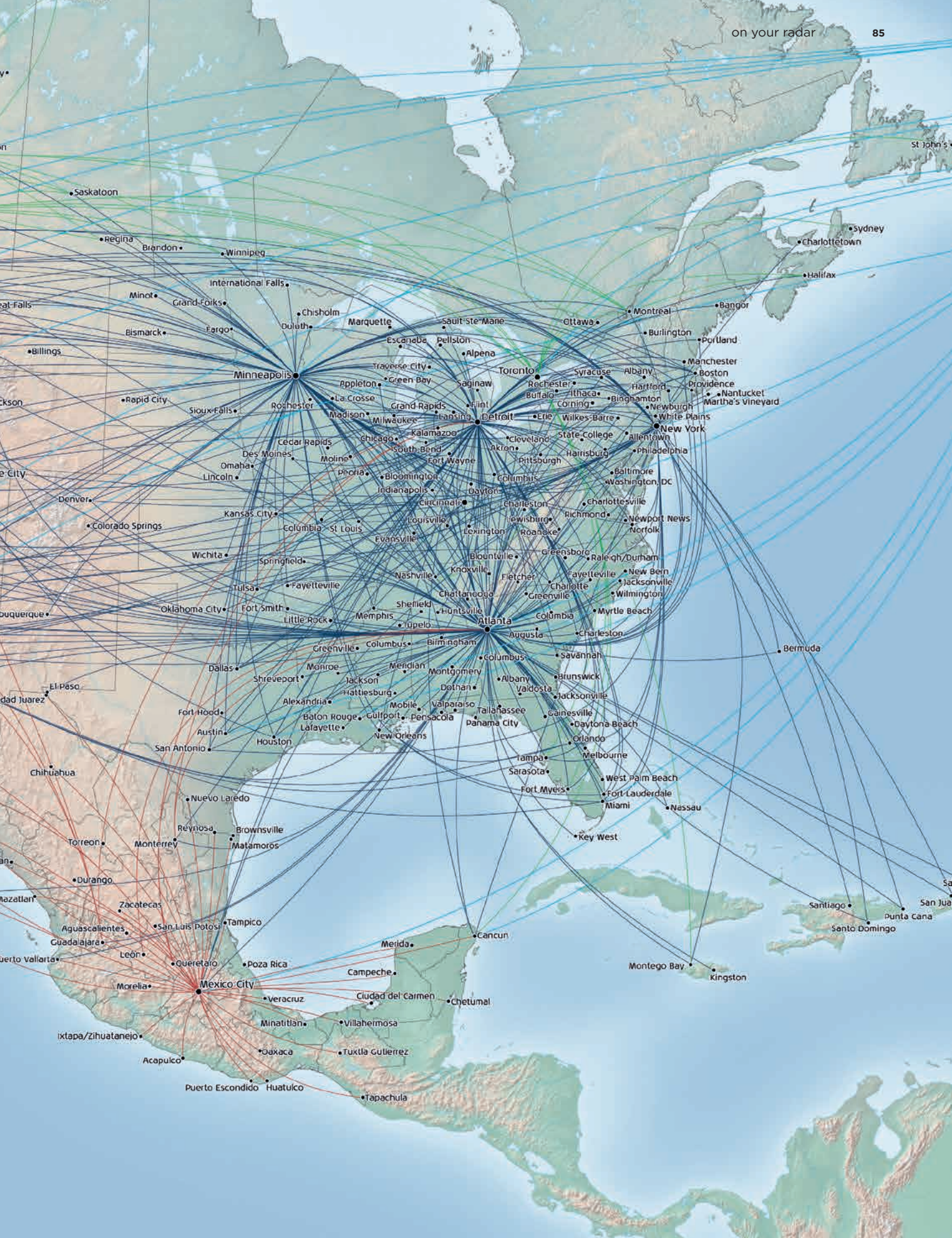
KLM routes, KLM code-share routes and other SkyTeam destinations in North America.

 SkyTeam member

- KLM 
- Aeroméxico 
- Delta Air Lines 
- WestJet

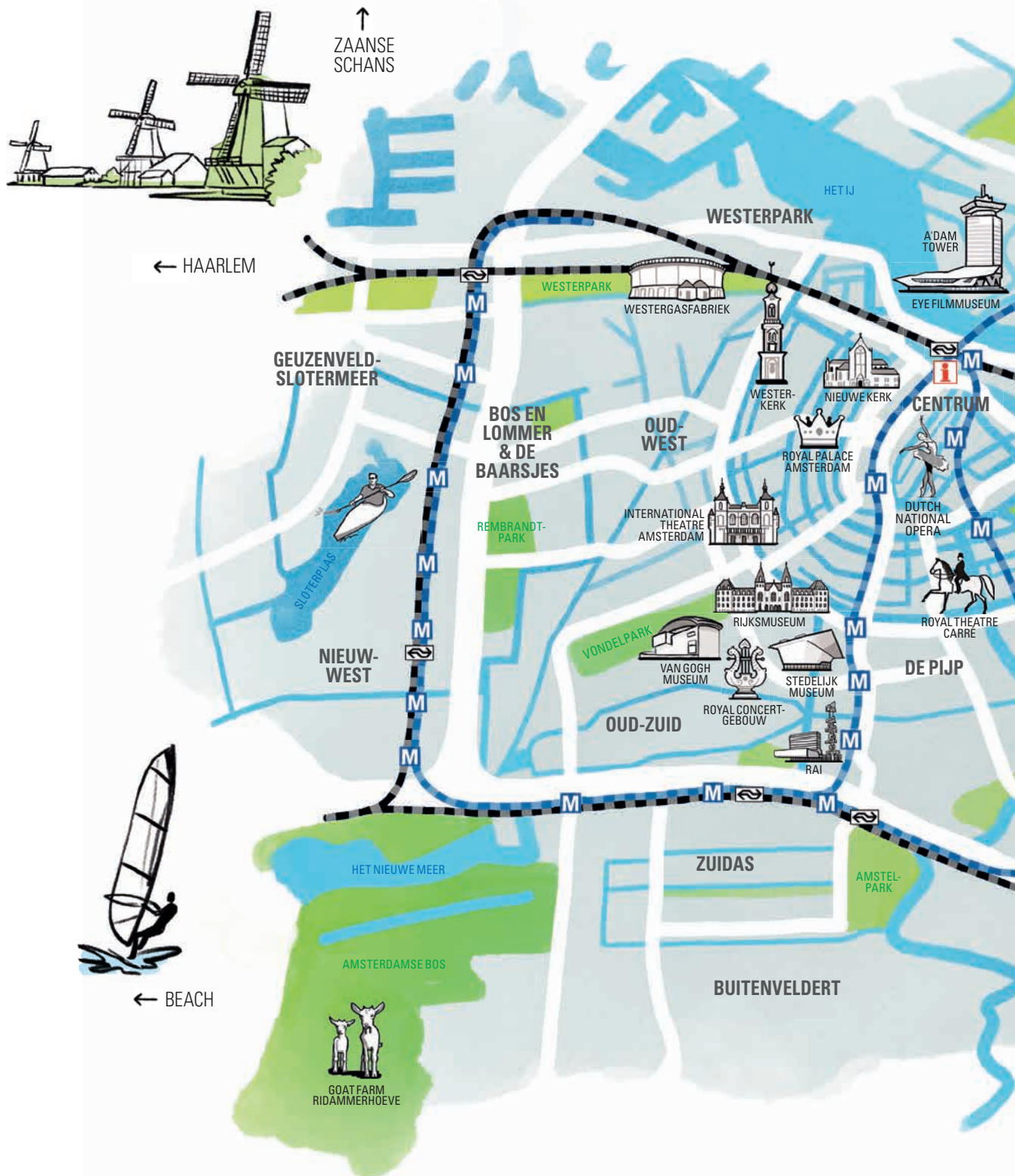
The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft.

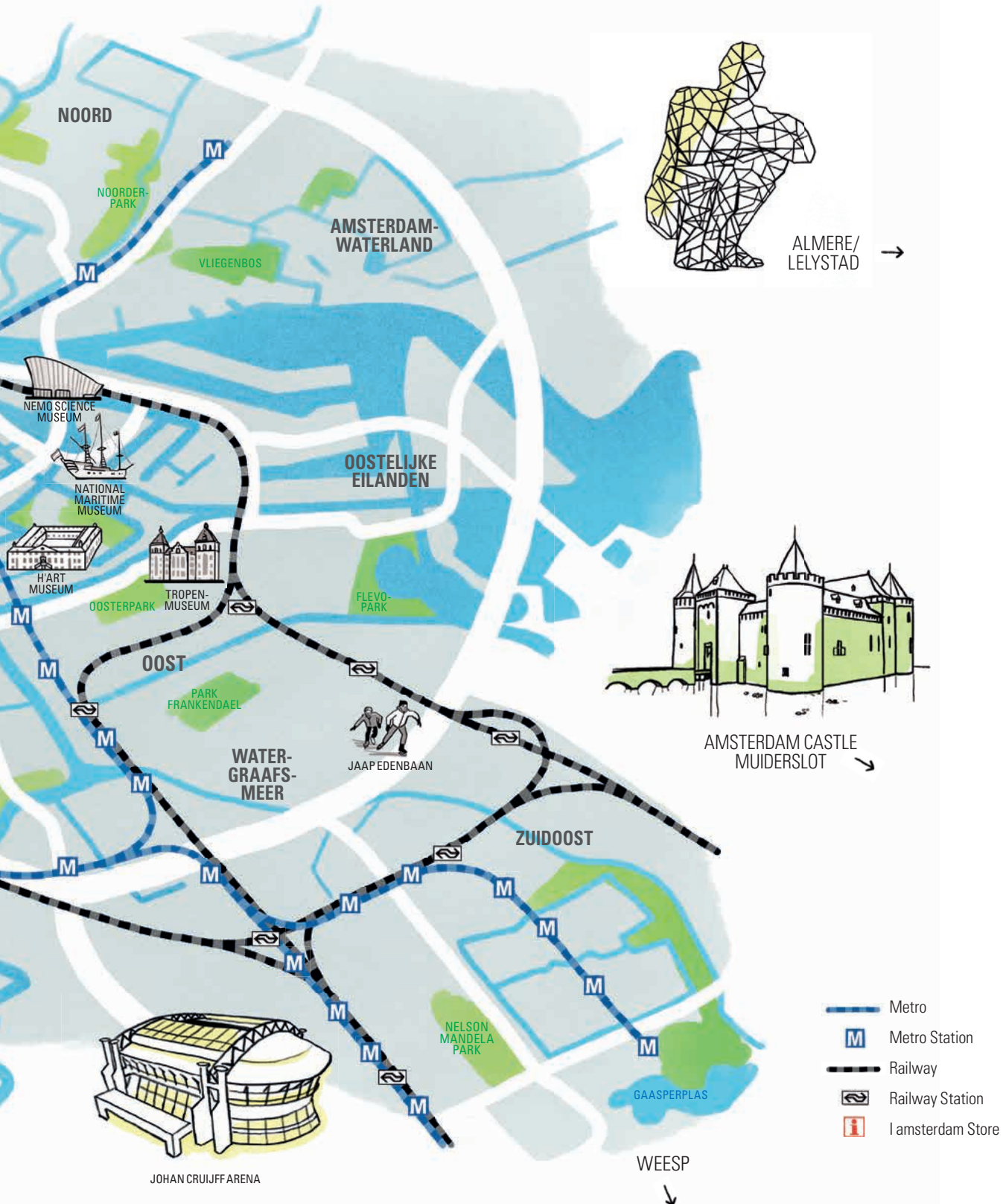






# AMSTERDAM



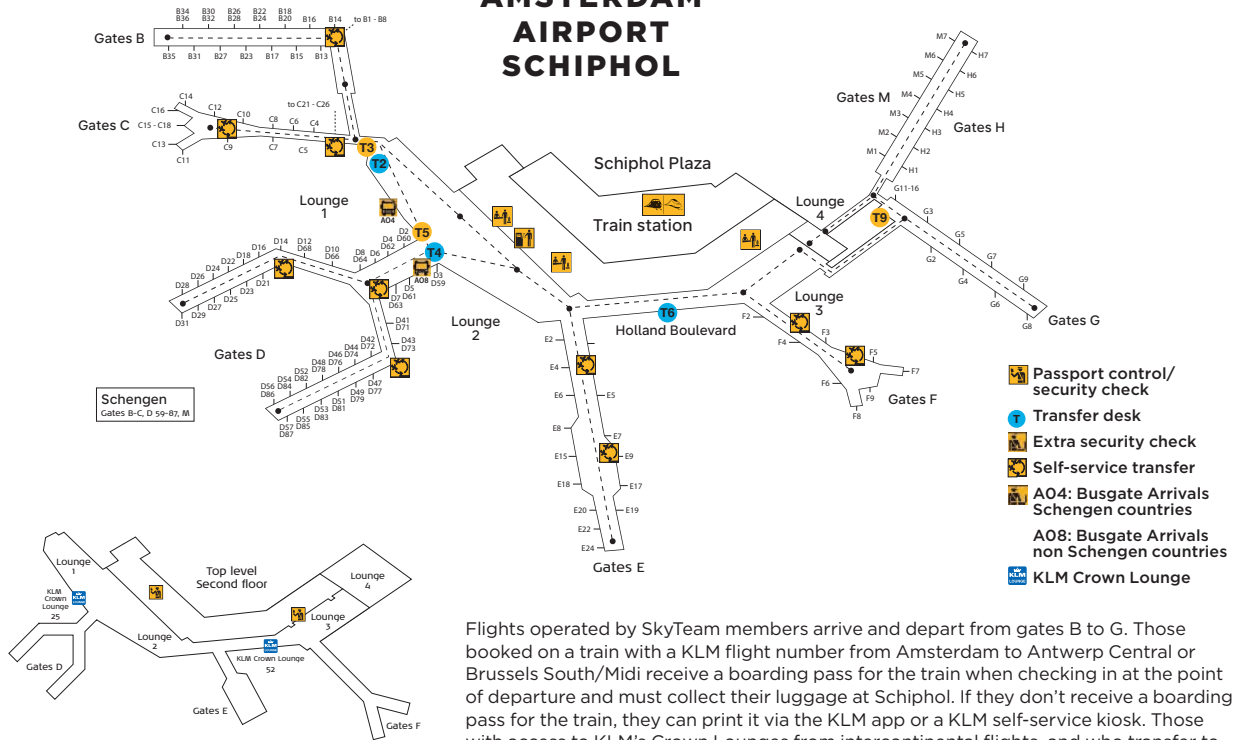




# AIRPORT MAPS

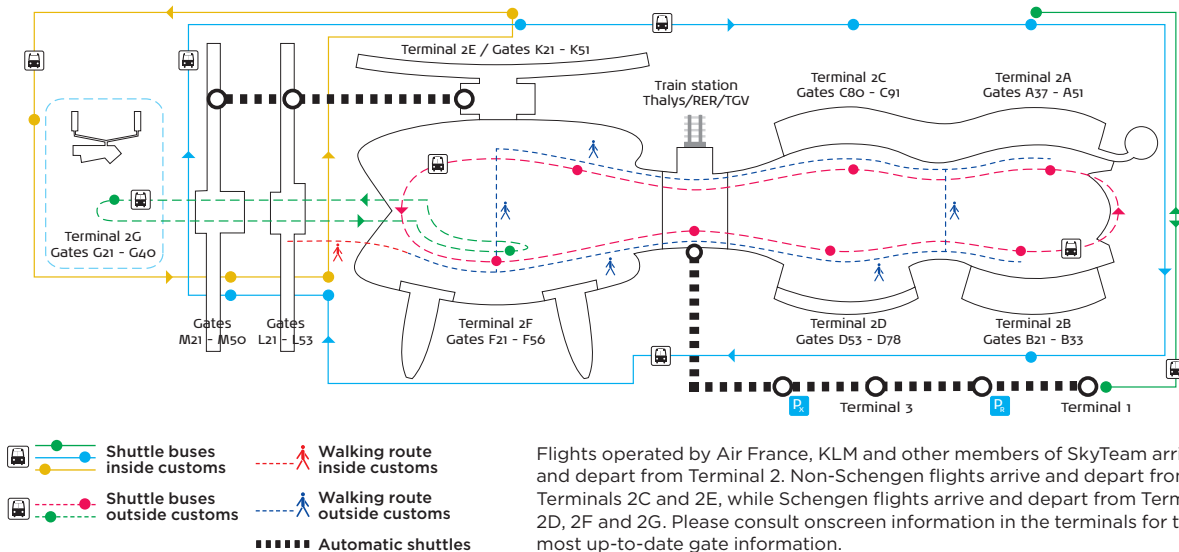
The Netherlands

## AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



France

## PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL 2



# OUT OF THE BLUE



**“My work-life balance is ideal at KLM”**

Garret Gaari

GARRET DISCUSSES HIS ROLE AS SECOND OFFICER, ROUTE INTO KLM AND INVOLVEMENT IN KLM'S CONNECTING COLOURS ORGANISATION.

**What does your job entail?** As a Second Officer, I work in a team with other pilots. Our primary objective is to fly our passengers efficiently and safely to their destination. Before each flight, the cabin and cockpit crews meet at the KLM Crew Centre to check in and conduct the Flight Briefing. During this briefing, we discuss our flight at length, covering important subjects such as our flight path, weather conditions, unusual cargo and the amount of fuel we need.

**Did you always want to work in aviation?** Sort of. As a child, I lived next to Gilze Rijen Air Base. I often watched F-16 fighter jets taking off. This inspired me to fly gliders when I was 15. Later, I became an athlete and studied at the Johan Cruyff Institute. When an injury caused me to change course, I decided to join the Martinair Flight Academy. After graduating, I worked for Ryanair as a First Officer and then at Norwegian as a Captain. I joined KLM in 2019.

**What do you like most about working for KLM?** My work-life balance is ideal at KLM. I also enjoy the diversity of the colleagues and passengers I connect with around the globe. In addition, working at KLM has enabled me to become an ambassador for Connecting Colours, an organisation within KLM that promotes diversity and inclusion. I love how willing KLM is to receive, and act on, feedback provided by Connecting Colours.



# SINT MAARTEN

## Local fare

Discover the taste of Caribbean fusion on the island. Be sure to try conch and dumplings, the national dish of Sint Maarten. It's a broth of conch (a type of sea snail) herbs, spices and fluffy dumplings.

## Dive in!

With 30+ dive sites in its waters, Sint Maarten is a diver's paradise. Beginners can take PADI courses offered at several diving schools on the island, and those already certified only need to rent some scuba gear and pick a spot.

Sint Maarten



## Beach bums

Exotic beaches abound on Sint Maarten. Visitors looking for a spectacular sunrise should visit Dawn Beach. Simpson Bay Beach, with its calm, shallow waters and proximity to amenities, make it ideal for young families.

## 31°C

Pack your summer clothes for a trip here. Due to its Caribbean climate, the island has pleasant year-round temperatures. In September, they range from 25°C to 31°C.

## Aye, aye, captain

Sint Maarten's many neighbouring islands are a short ferry ride away. For example, St Barths (45 minutes) is known for its pristine beaches and high-end shopping, and Saba (60 minutes) is renowned for its stunning hiking trails and dormant volcano.

## 1631

When Dutch colonists arrived in 1631, they built Fort Amsterdam, the first Dutch military fortification in the Caribbean. Over time, the surrounding area developed into Philipsburg, the capital of Sint Maarten.

## Dutch and French

Sint Maarten is the Dutch southern part of the island of Saint Martin; the northern part, Saint-Martin, is French. With an 'open border', there are no checks when crossing into either part for the island.





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# Chronograaf

Ref. 20019BW-TRh-S

"For me, the beauty of our watches  
is the result of well-balanced design in which no element dominates.  
Precise manufacturing techniques are applied in combination  
with the use of high-quality materials. Attention is devoted to every single detail.  
Driven by perfection without compromise."

Wybe van der Gang



VAN DER GANG  
WATCHES