

**OCTOBER 2025 • SLAM DUNK: PIONEERING PHOTOGRAPHER CO RENTMEESTER • AMAZING AUSTIN •
24 HOURS IN TAIPEI • A SURPRISING STAYCATION IN ISTANBUL • YOUR FREE COPY TO TAKE HOME**

HOLLAND HERALD



*"Making an original photograph
is working with what you've got"*

DUTCH PHOTOGRAPHER CO RENTMEESTER



Original

Ref. 20052RgW-TRg

"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
W A T C H E S

Welcome

Marjan Rintel

TRADITION AND PROGRESS



Cover Story

Photographer Co Rentmeester's iconic image of Michael Jordan came from his unique idea to have the then upcoming pro basketball player affect a ballerina's pose on top of a hill next to a basketball goal. This is just one of many famous, pioneering photos that Rentmeester (p. 26) took during his career, which will be celebrated with the *Witnessing Life* exhibition at Foam photography museum in Amsterdam from 10 October 2025.

That KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is celebrating its 106th anniversary in October 2025 is the result of perseverance, vision and innovation. Founded in 1919, our airline's first scheduled service took place between London and Amsterdam in 1920. Since then, KLM has not only survived, but has also reinvented itself time and again. As the first airline in the world with an intercontinental scheduled service to Jakarta, KLM helped to put the Netherlands on the world map. We now fly to more than 160 destinations.

Despite competition and crises, KLM has continued to operate for a simple reason: to offer memorable experiences and connect people. So, 106 years later, KLM isn't just the oldest airline still flying under its original name, it's living proof that tradition and progress aren't mutually exclusive. In fact, they fly forward together.

In terms of tradition, we've remained true to our Dutch character: down-to-earth, hospitable and approachable, just like our colleagues who are happy to serve you. Tradition is also reflected in the timeless design of our blue aircraft and the Delft Blue houses, which have been miniature symbols of Dutch culture for our World Business Class passengers since the 1950s.

"We're renewing our fleet with the latest Airbus, Boeing and Embraer aircraft"

Without innovation, there's no progress; that's why we're renewing our fleet with the latest Airbus, Boeing and Embraer aircraft, allowing us to fly cleaner and quieter. We're also renewing our service on board with our newest Premium Comfort travel class. With the advent of the Internet, we were early adopters of online bookings and customer service on social media channels. Today, with the help of AI, we're making our online service faster and better.

We're proud of our roots, and so is Dutch photographer Co Rentmeester (p. 26), who left Amsterdam for the US, rising to fame as a photojournalist with his images of basketball legend Michael Jordan, Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz, the Vietnam War, and American culture in the 1960s and 1970s. Where Rentmeester uses his lens to tell stories from all over the world, KLM brings the world together through our air connections. Both demonstrate how travel enriches, surprises and connects.

Welcome on board!

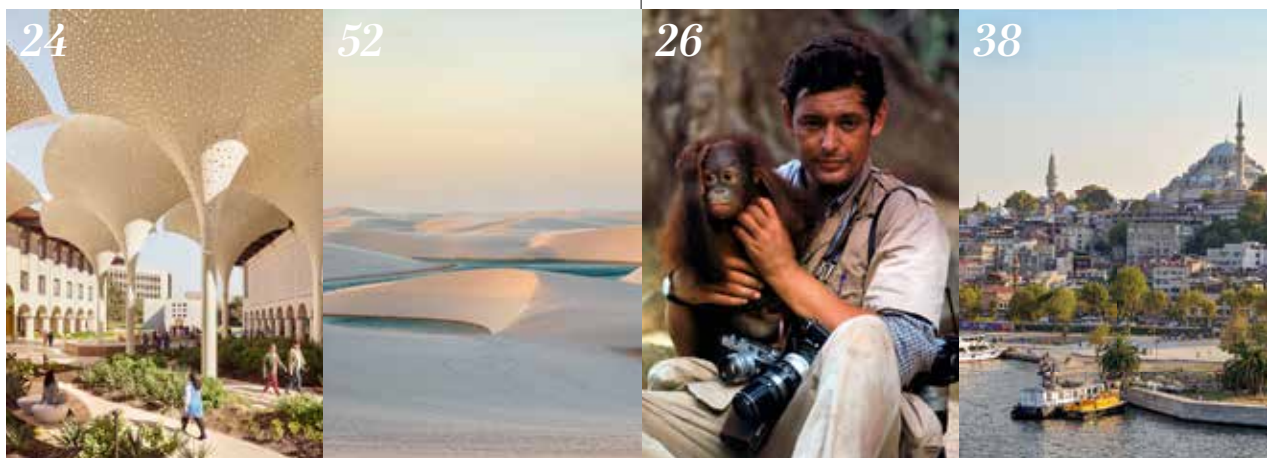
Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO





MR MARVIS

Play Every Day with MR MARVIS' Autumn/Winter collection. Discover timeless styles like the new Downtown Jacket, warm pullovers and the perfect cold-weather trousers. Try a new look with The Fine Cords or opt for favourites such as The Coolerdays, The Cords and The Jeans. Made in Portugal. Shop the collection now on mrmarvis.com



October 2025

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Your Next Destination

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

Contributors

MEET THE TEAM



Sevil Delin

Sevil, a freelance writer, business owner and voice artist based in Istanbul, writes the *Louis Vuitton Istanbul City Guide*, and her work has been featured in the *Monocle*, *Condé Nast Traveller* and *Wallpaper* magazines, and *The Guardian* newspaper. Sevil wrote the travel story on Istanbul (p. 38). **Sevil's travel tip:** "Don't get stranded poolside: in Bodrum, Turkey, a car is essential. Only then can you go from Yalikavak's chic marinas to Gümüşlük's bohemian cafés and Mazi's pristine shores, discovering the peninsula's endlessly varied bays and moods at your own pace."



Bülent Yüksel

Bülent is a creative designer with a keen interest in magazines, books and smart ads. He's always on the lookout for cool visuals and stories that give him fresh ideas. Whether it's an ad campaign or a magazine layout, he uses that inspiration to make designs that catch the eye and tell a story. Bülent backs up our design department. **Bülent's travel tip:** "Visiting the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Standing before these ancient wonders, I felt awe and admiration. The desert, towering structures and setting sun formed an image that will be with me forever."



Daphne Hogenboom

Daphne, KLM Head of Content Marketing, is responsible for *Holland Herald*. She works together with the editorial team to place a magazine in the seat pockets every month. Filled with stories that go beyond the typical tourist attractions, *Holland Herald* truly connects travellers to the essence of each destination. **Daphne's travel tip:** "I grew up in Italy, and the love and passion for food is still what fascinates me most about the country. Wherever you are in Italy, choose the small, family-run restaurants where the locals eat. You'll be rewarded with simple yet delicious food."

Colophon

Holland Herald is created on behalf of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines by Hearst Netherlands

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Published by
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1013 BC Amsterdam
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holland-herald@hearst.nl
holland-herald.com

Printed by
Senefelder Misset

ISSN 0018-3563
Paper cover: 200 grams
Paper inside: 70 grams

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The **new** duty free

New at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol:
Today Duty Free in Lounge 1. Discover your favourite
international brands and niche labels at our new
duty free store. Shop perfumes, cosmetics, liquor
and sweets with duty free benefits, no matter your
destination. Everything to make your day extra
special - all in one place.
Come see it for yourself in Lounge 1 at Schiphol.

Today[•] Duty Free

THROUGH *your lens*



Morocco

THE GOOD LIFE

VINCENT VINK FELL IN LOVE WITH COLOURFUL MOROCCO, AND CAPTURED SOME OF ITS BEAUTY IN THE FISHING VILLAGE OF TAGHAZOUT.



When I was around 17 years old, I started getting into photography in the same way a lot of people get into the craft: with a hand-me-down camera. In my case, it was my dad's old Canon SLR. Back then, I also began travelling more. I soon discovered that there's so much colour and beauty in the world, and I was itching to start capturing it. This beach, in the sleepy fishing village of Taghazout – home to one of the world's best surfing spots – in Morocco is a good example. The blue of the boats is offset by the beach and displayed beautifully. Although this village has a more modern feel to it than others I visited while in Morocco, it's still incredibly picturesque. I happened upon Taghazout during a trip through the country with an ex-girlfriend (who's Moroccan) in the summer of 2022. She showed me a lot of the great things that Morocco has to offer. I've returned to the country many times since, as it's a

photographer's paradise. The colours, history, culture, liveliness, markets, and children playing and people laughing (or arguing) on the streets: Morocco has it all. It's very different to the Netherlands, where I'm from. I'm not sure when I'll return as I'll be heading off to Patagonia next. But I'll definitely return one day.

Your Photo

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

Monthly Prize

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

Some of the images are also available as fine art.

jimmynelson.com/
fine-art-intro





We co-own five unique holiday homes

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



Lene & Danny, a 21-5 family

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

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

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

What do you like most about 21-5?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Has 21-5 been a good investment for you?

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

FACTS ABOUT 21-5

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



For more information:

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Scan for
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WOVEN SHIRT

The casual dress shirt



SUPERFINE MERINO WOOL | 15+ COLOURS | BUTTON UNDER

A casual yet classy dress shirt of 100% superfine Merino wool. An odd choice? Not really. Merino wool naturally regulates moisture and temperature. This makes this colour-fast and practically wrinkle-free woven shirt very comfortable. For days on end.

Visit us online at joemerino.com. Designed in Amsterdam, available worldwide.
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Luxury Merino Wool Essentials for Men

The SELECTION

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

Rotterdam

SCULPTING THE SENSES

With her innovative approach to couture, blending traditional craftsmanship with cutting-edge technologies such as 3-D printing and laser-cutting, Dutch designer Iris van Herpen is considered a pioneering figure in fashion. The exhibition *Sculpting the Senses*, at Rotterdam's Kunsthall, is her first major retrospective, showcasing more than 100 of her iconic designs. Until 1 Mar; kunsthall.nl

TO *see*

Tokyo

FROM JAPAN TO THE WORLD

With many cultural shifts taking place within the country and around the world, the 1990s and early 2000s were an interesting time for artists in Japan. *Prism of the Real: Making Art in Japan 1989–2010* at The National Art Center, Tokyo, focuses on Japanese art made during this period and the global influence of Japanese culture.

Until 8 Dec; nact.jp

Design Weeks

DESIGNING THE FUTURE

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS FULL OF INTERESTING DESIGN EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD. HERE ARE THREE TO LOOK OUT FOR.

Barcelona Design Week

Celebrating its 20th edition, Barcelona Design Week brings together the local creative scene with a focus on future innovation. 7-17 Oct; barcelonadesignweek.com

PAD London

Taking place in the heart of Mayfair, this design event is dedicated exclusively to 20th-century and contemporary design, decorative arts and collectible jewellery. 14-19 Oct; padesignart.com

Dutch Design Week

This annual design fair in the Dutch city of Eindhoven is mainly focused on innovation and sustainability. This year's theme is *Past Present Possible*. 18-26 Oct; ddw.nl

Paris

GEHRY'S VIEW

While Paris' Fondation Louis Vuitton prepares its exhibition spaces for the upcoming retrospective of German artist Gerhard Richter, which opens on 17 October, visitors are still welcome to explore the museum's architecture designed by iconic Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry at a special rate. The permanent exhibition *Architectural Journey* takes visitors into Gehry's imagination and vision for the museum's unique design. fondationlouisvuitton.fr



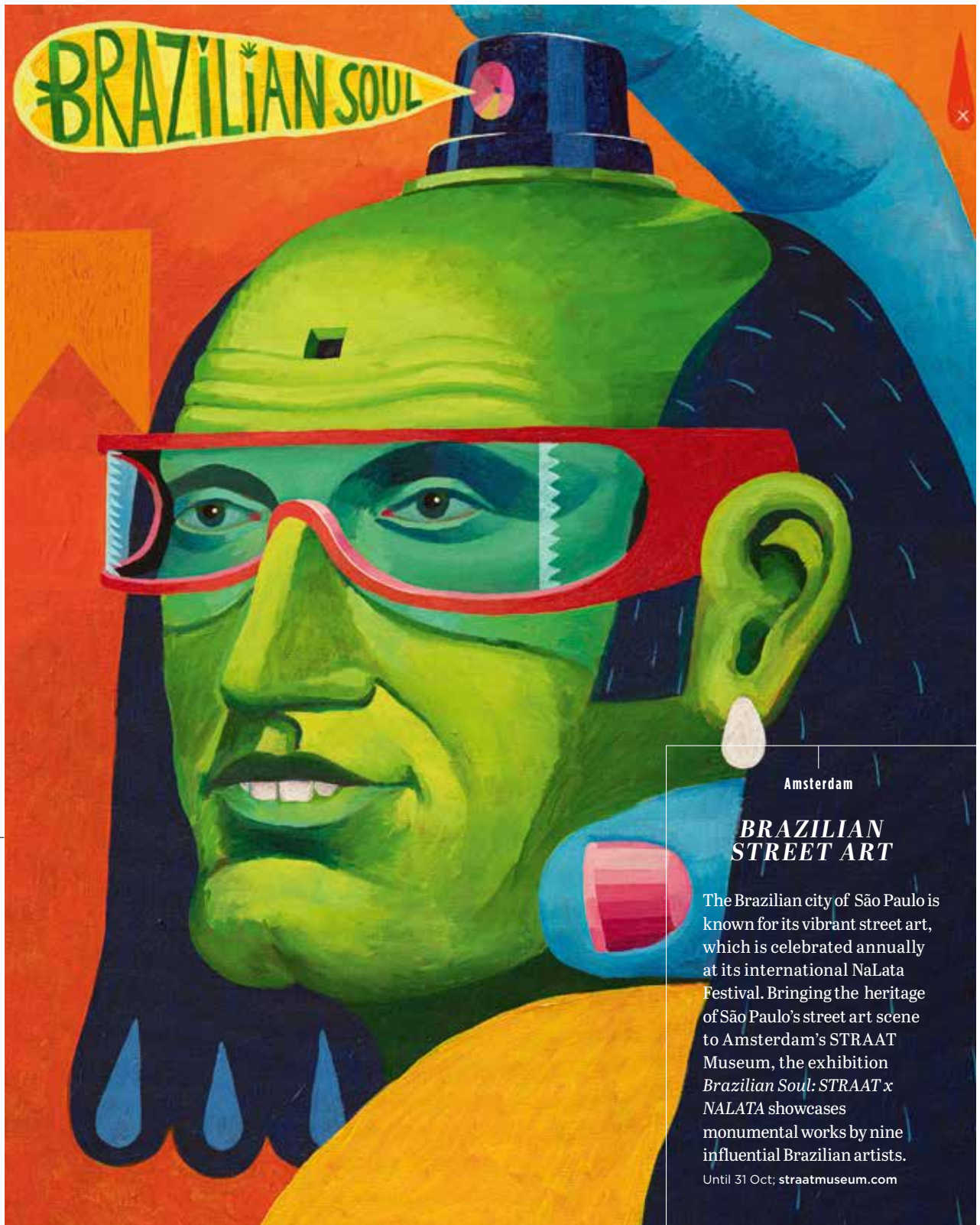
Eye-catcher

Good-looker

French artist Chloé Foulquier transforms borosilicate glass into magical, one-of-a-kind glass rings. Her JOLIPNJ rings are hand-sculpted, capturing unique colours, shapes and textures.

From €180; jolipnj.com

Modern graffiti, **created using spray paint**, can be traced back to New York and Philadelphia in the 1960s



Amsterdam

BRAZILIAN STREET ART

The Brazilian city of São Paulo is known for its vibrant street art, which is celebrated annually at its international NaLata Festival. Bringing the heritage of São Paulo's street art scene to Amsterdam's STRAAT Museum, the exhibition *Brazilian Soul: STRAAT x NALATA* showcases monumental works by nine influential Brazilian artists.

Until 31 Oct; straatmuseum.com



Steltman Collection/Handmade in the Steltman workshop
Rose gold ring from the Steltman Gem Collection, set with diamonds and a lagoon tourmaline

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Steltman
ATELIER - JEWELRY - WATCHES



BY APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT
OF THE NETHERLANDS

TO *do*

Research shows that listening to electronic dance music can **stimulate neuroplasticity**, the brain's ability to form new neural connections



Woodstock

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENT FILM

Renowned for celebrating independent cinema and fostering emerging as well as established filmmakers, Woodstock Film Festival in Woodstock, NY, takes place for the 26th time this October. The festival, which is sponsored by KLM, includes diverse films across genres, from powerful documentaries to innovative narratives. With most filmmakers attending in person, it's both a creative hub and a platform for art that engages with activism and social commentary.

15-19 Oct; woodstockfilmfestival.org

Seoul

DANCE TO CONNECT

Featuring a broad panorama of international choreographies across various venues, the first edition of Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels in Seoul celebrates dance in all its forms and varieties. Besides watching contemporary dance pieces by Korean artists such as Sung Im Her and international artists, dance enthusiasts can also attend classes and workshops.

16 Oct-8 Nov; dancereflections-vancleefarpels.com



Amsterdam

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN

ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC FANS AND PROFESSIONALS GATHER AGAIN FOR AMSTERDAM DANCE EVENT THIS MONTH.

With its 30th edition and the city's 750th anniversary coinciding, Amsterdam Dance Event is set to be bigger than ever. More than 1,000 events will take place at 200 locations across the capital, and there are lots

of special shows on the cards, such as solo gigs by Black Coffee and Klangkuenstler at Ziggo Dome, a Q&A with Skepta and a marathon-set by Job Jobse. 22-26 Oct; amsterdam-dance-event.nl



TO *taste*

Ceramics

CARTE BLANCHE WITH CARDBOARD

The simple and minimalistic cardboard designs often used for prototypes were the inspiration for Dutch designer Annebet Philips' Carte Blanche range for homeware brand Serax. For the collection, consisting of cups and saucers, a mug, a milk jug and a teapot, Philips deliberately kept all the fold lines and uneven edges when she transformed the cardboard designs into porcelain. The result is a playful and perfectly imperfect set.

From 19.50; serax.com



The word 'dessert' comes from the French word '*desservir*', meaning 'to clear the table'

Paris



RETRO COOL

ENJOY CLASSIC FRENCH FARE IN A COOL RETRO SETTING AT PARIS' LE CORNICHON.

Located in one of Paris' hottest creative neighbourhoods, the 11th arrondissement, Le Cornichon is housed in a former *bar-tabac*, a typical French bar where you can buy cigarettes, lotto tickets, and cheap coffee or glasses of wine. The design of this cool café-restaurant is 1970s retro with lots of velvet and mirror-topped tables. The menu consists of classic French fare, such as terrines, steak and fries and, of course, plenty of French cheeses.

lecornichon.paris

The Hague

SWEET TREATS

When and why did Europeans decide to eat sweets after a meal? The exhibition *Grand Dessert – The History of the Dessert* at The Hague's Kunstmuseum dives into the fascinating history of desserts in Europe from 1600 to the present day. It highlights the cultural and social significance of desserts, their colonial ingredient origins, and artistic expressions related to sweets. Works include hyperrealistic sugar flowers, historical moulds for jellies and puddings, and even dessert-shaped art objects such as bags inspired by sweets. A must-see if you have a sweet tooth. Until 26 Oct; kunstmuseum.nl



TO meet

The **Jan Merino sweater**, made in collaboration with the Knitwit Stable, consists of 80% wool from Dutch sheep and 20% wool from Dutch alpacas

Q&A Ron Beckers

FASHIONED OUT OF A LOVE OF WOOL

AT THE AGE OF 50, DUTCH ENTREPRENEUR RON BECKERS WAVED GOODBYE TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN WOMEN'S FASHION TO START HIS OWN MENSWEAR LABEL, JOE MERINO.

When and why did you launch menswear label Joe Merino?

In 2011, after running several successful brands in women's fashion for decades, I decided it was time for a change. Women's fashion is a fun but very fickle industry, with high volumes and quickly shifting trends and styles. I was longing to start my own brand and develop a product for men; one that was designed to last and made out of a love of high-quality and long-lasting materials. In my experience, men tend to focus less on trends and more on high-quality basics, so it made sense to start with one product and make it perfect. That product became a timeless merino wool sweater with a v-neck, which was the start of Joe Merino. Our collection now consists of 50 essentials in a wide range of colours. We sell most of our products online but also have four physical stores in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

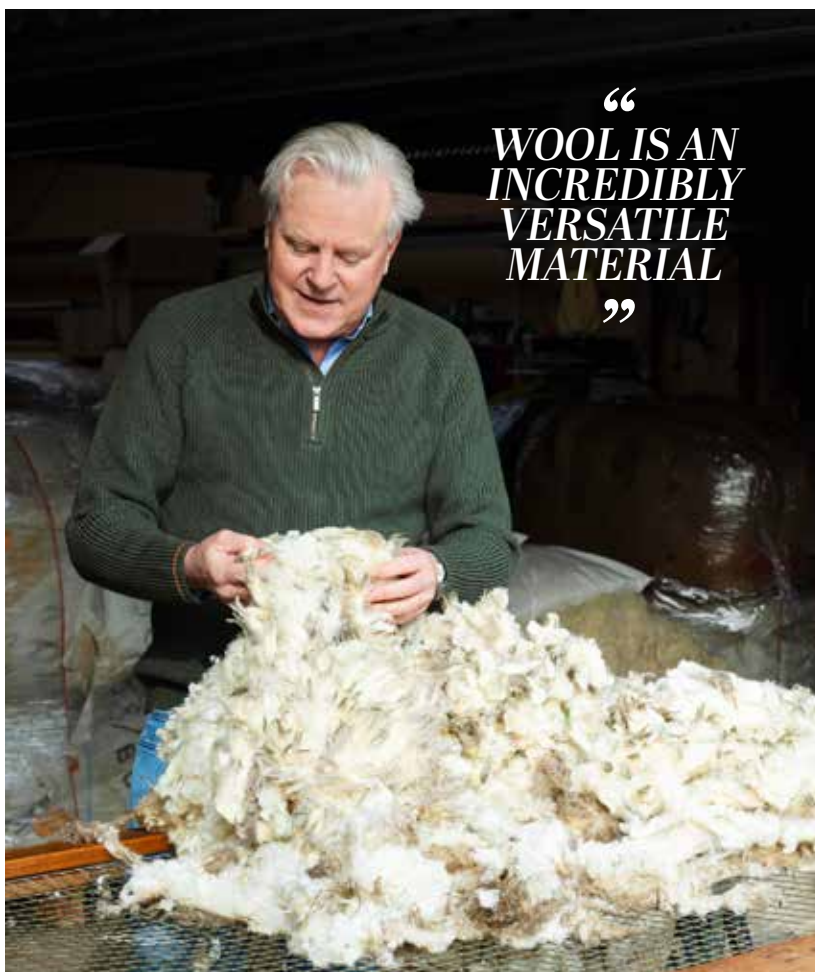
Who inspired you in your journey to start a fashion brand? I really like the concept of Dutch brand LaDress, which also started with the idea of creating one perfect dress for all women and selling it exclusively online. Other than that, I'm mostly inspired by classic British and Italian menswear brands that have stayed true to their heritage of producing high-quality products that are made to last.

Why did you choose to work exclusively with wool? In my many years of working in fashion, I developed a deep love of wool. It's an incredibly versatile material that

keeps its shape and is beautiful to dye. Being a 100% natural material, it doesn't contain any microplastics and is completely biodegradable. What's more, it's suitable for all seasons, not just for winter. The Bedouins have been wearing thin wool clothing in the desert for centuries, as it absorbs moisture from the skin and helps to dissipate heat more rapidly.

What advice do you have for people looking for sustainable fashion?

Unfortunately, there are a lot of false claims nowadays when it comes to sustainable clothing. A four-euro top can hardly be sustainable, so ask questions, do your research and don't fall for bargain deals. Truly sustainable brands are very transparent and include all the info on their websites. joemerino.com



“
WOOL IS AN
INCREDIBLY
VERSATILE
MATERIAL
”

TO wish for



Coffee-table book

HIP-HOP AND HOROLOGY

For many hip-hop artists, wristwatches are not just practical objects, but also essential expressions of identity and status. The book *Million Dollar Hip Hop Watches* highlights the connection between rap and luxury watches and explains the exceptional craftsmanship of brands such as Rolex, Audemars Piguet and Patek Philippe. It also dives into the stories of some of the most extraordinary timepieces and their owners, including rappers 2Pac and Jay-Z.

€100; teneues.com

Vintage luxury watches are considered to be good investments, largely due to their **rarity and rich historical significance**

Bathroom design

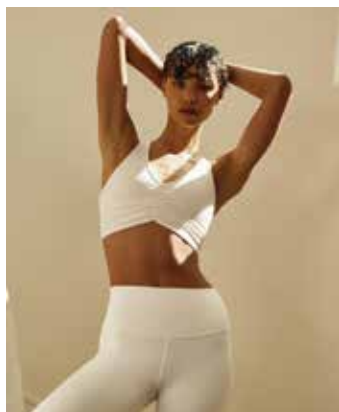
TOO HOT TO HANDLE

If you like a nice, warm towel after your bath or shower, but don't want to install a towel rack on your wall, this free-standing Scaletta towel rail by Italian brand Tubes Radiatori may well be for you. It comes with an electric cable and is available in various colours. tubesradiatori.com



Yoga

BEYOND THE MAT



Born in 2007 from the idea of creating yoga apparel that would look as good on the streets as in the studio, LA-based premium athletic apparel brand Alo Yoga has gradually secured a global fan base. Besides offering apparel for men and women, the brand also has its own skincare line, nightwear collection and wellness platform, where yoga fans can sign up for classes and wellness advice. They now also have two stores in Amsterdam. aloyoga.com



Design objects

VINTAGE MEETS MODERN

MEMBERS' CLUB SOHO HOUSE AMSTERDAM NOW SELLS A COLLECTION OF DESIGN OBJECTS THROUGH SOHO HOME.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and now with 35 locations worldwide, members' club Soho House is known for its classy interiors, mixing vintage and modern design in warm and neutral tones. Members and non-members can now shop the Soho Home collection of signature design objects at a designated studio and store area at Soho House Amsterdam. sohohouse.com



Skincare

Hydration in the air

With its patented ingredient Bioquantine®, a fully natural and organic extract composed of a complex blend of bioactive ingredients, Dutch skincare brand Eave Cosmetics says it offers cellular regeneration and skin renewal. Test it for yourself with this discovery set made to pack in your carry-on.

€99.95; eavecosmetics.com

Column

Freek Vonk

LOCAL HEROES

FREEK, A DUTCH BIOLOGIST WHO STUDIES AND FILMS UNIQUE ANIMALS WORLDWIDE TO INSPIRE A LOVE FOR NATURE, TALKS ABOUT ANIMALS THAT ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED.

“I’m transfixed by a truly bizarre spectacle”



I’m lying on my belly, hidden between ferns and tall grass that cling cool and wet to my cheeks. My arms are damp with dew. Around me, I hear hissing, rustling and birdsong. I’m transfixed by a truly bizarre spectacle. Right in front of me, two ancient creatures are mating: leopard slugs. They’re dangling together from a thread of slime they’ve secreted onto a tree trunk. And hanging below them is something pale blue, almost transparent and protruding from the sides of their heads. These are their sex organs. And they, too, are entwined in a slow, deliberate spiral. As they spin, they exchange sperm.

Where am I? Well, I’m not deep in the Amazon, nor am I on some Galápagos island. I’m in the park near my house in The Hague. And these are just slugs. Their slime alone is a marvel. It hardens when they rest, but liquefies again the moment they move. It even works like built-in GPS: slugs can retrace their own trails. And laced into that slime are pheromones: chemical signals that help them let each other know when they’re ‘in the mood’. And if that’s not impressive enough, some species have up to 25,000 tiny teeth; all packed onto their tongue – the radula – and used to scrape bits of leaf into their mouths. If you listen closely, you can sometimes hear them munching. The Netherlands is bursting with surprising animals. What about mammals the size of a labrador that can fell entire trees

with nothing but their teeth? I’m talking about beavers, giant aquatic rodents with webbed feet, blazing orange incisors and a wide, spatula-shaped tail. They’re the greatest engineers of our lowlands. No other animal reshapes its environment quite like a beaver does. Or how about the white-tailed eagle, known as the ‘flying door’ due to its 2.5m wingspan? It’s the largest bird of prey in the Netherlands. You might spot one gliding above the Oostvaardersplassen or Lauwersmeer reserves. We even have four species of lizard, including the slow worm: a legless lizard.

Suddenly, the slugs catch my attention again. Something’s happening. They let go of their silken thread and slide apart. Both are now fertilised as they’re hermaphrodites: they possess both male and female sex organs. In a few days, they’ll each lay around 50 eggs: tiny, glassy pearls, tucked beneath a leaf or stone. As they move away in opposite directions, there’s no trace left of the strange, almost alien ritual I just witnessed. They look like ordinary slugs again, crawling through the damp after rainfall.

And that’s why I want to leave you with this: slugs are every bit as wondrous as lions on the African savannah or grizzly bears in Canada. Nature is all around us; you must simply shift your perspective a little to see it. Look closely, listen well and let yourself be surprised. The wild is closer than you think.

EAT *out*



Amsterdam
The Netherlands



LESS IS MORE

This 'millefeuille' of beetroot served with a beurre blanc, has long been a staple on the menu at RIJKS®, the fine-dining restaurant located within the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. It's the perfect example of Chef Joris Bijdendijk's focus on high-quality ingredients and simplicity. It might look sober and a little dark, but this signature dish is a deliberate choice. Inspired by Rembrandt's late work, where light would only shine on subjects that matter, the dish is a fitting tribute to the Dutch master. rijksrestaurant.nl

My

US



AUSTIN

JAPANESE-AMERICAN SARAH NATSUMI MOORE IS A COMMERCIAL AND EDITORIAL PHOTOGRAPHER BASED IN AUSTIN. SHE'S TRAVELLED AND LIVED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT ALWAYS FINDS HER WAY BACK TO TEXAS' CREATIVE HUB. SARAHNATSUMI.COM



What do you love about Austin? I've always had a soft spot for this city. For me, 'old' Austin is sort of hippie, creative and a bit iconoclastic, while the newer Austinites tend to be younger, more tech-oriented, and health-conscious. There are so many other vibes going on, but I see those two worlds cohabiting in this city. What I love most is how genuinely friendly, open, warm and curious everyone is. I also really appreciate the balance here: people are ambitious and creative without being consumed by hustle culture.

Which are the best areas to visit? I'm partial to East Austin as I lived there for over a decade; it's flat, relaxed and bikeable, and there's so much to do and see in terms of art, eateries and boutiques. If you like nature and bigger tourist attractions, Travis Heights, right behind trendy and pedestrian-friendly South Congress ①, ticks those boxes. And North Loop is a hidden

gem; it has a very local vibe, and I love all the restaurants, bars and vintage shops there.

What are the must-sees/dos? For me, Lady Bird Lake ② is a must. It offers kayaking, stand-up paddling and a hike-and-bike trail, so you can make a day of it. Austin is often called the 'Live Music Capital of the World', so you obviously need to get your dose of live music and dancing. I recommend The White Horse (500 Comal St) or Donn's Depot (1600 W 5th St) for some old-school two-stepping, C-Boy's Heart & Soul (2008 S Congress Ave) for amazing local live music, and Monks Jazz Club (501 Pedernales St Suite 2E).

Where should we eat? Start your day with tasty, budget-friendly breakfast tacos from Veracruz All Natural (several locations) or head to Joe's Bakery (2305 E 7th St) for a classic Tex-Mex diner-style breakfast. Mickelthwait (4602 Tanney St) is my

favourite spot for barbecued food; Birdie's ③ (Unit A, 2944 E 12th St) serves up great dishes and natural wines; and if you're feeling fancy, The Peacock at the Austin Proper Hotel (600 W 2nd St) offers the best Mediterranean food.

How about retail therapy? For shopping, I love mixing local style with unique finds. Lovecraft (1107 E 11th St) is my go-to when I'm shopping for beautiful, well-curated clothes, while Stag (1423 S Congress Ave) and Daughters (1210 S Congress Ave) are great for Austin fashion; they're effortlessly cool with a Texas twist. Finally, book (and coffee) lovers should head to the cosy First Light Books (4300 Speedway).

Which art spots do you recommend? Don't miss the Blanton Museum of Art ④ (200 E Martin Luther King Jr Blvd) or The Contemporary Austin ⑤ (700 Congress Ave), which also has a sculpture park outside the city.

Martha's (4115 Guadalupe St) is a smaller, beautifully curated gallery space, and for something truly special, visit the James Turrell Skyspace (2201 Speedway) at sunset.

And what about hotels? For an upscale stay, go to Hotel Saint Cecilia (112 Academy Dr). It's beautiful and feels like a hidden oasis even though it's right in the middle of all the action. The Carpenter Hotel ⑥ (400 Josephine St) has a more laid-back, retro vibe that's super-charming, and a great café and pool too.

Book this story



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Birdies ③



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*Make a day of it with
all the activities on
offer at Lady Bird Lake*



The Contemporary Austin ⑤



The Carpenter Hotel ⑥



South Congress ①

Jacobus 'Co' Rentmeester

HISTORY CATCHER

Dutch photographer Co Rentmeester (89) competed in the 1960 Summer Olympics, documented the Vietnam War and created one of the most iconic images in sports photography. He has walked many paths and, thankfully, usually had his camera with him.

Text **Marieke Verhoeven**



“ *s this thing on? Can you hear and see me?”*

Co Rentmeester is at his home in The Hamptons, an upscale resort community on Long Island, about two hours east by car from downtown New York City. We're a few months away from the opening of *Witnessing Life* – the overview exhibition of his remarkable career – at Foam photography museum in Amsterdam on 10 October. Rentmeester is busy going through his archives, together with the museum's curator (who's travelled to the US to assist him), selecting the images that will be part of the exhibition. “It's not an easy task,” he admits once we've established our video connection. “Every image is special to me and holds so many memories. But I must narrow it down to a total of 250 pictures, of which the curator will make a final selection. It's a difficult but pleasurable activity; I feel honoured to come back to the city where I was born for my first-ever overview exhibition. It feels like I'm coming full circle.”

Where do you start when interviewing someone who might not be well-known in his home country, yet has witnessed and documented some of the 20th century's most historic moments? Beginning in the 1960s, Rentmeester's work spans wars, civil unrest, wildlife, lifestyle and sports, and he's captured many film stars, sporting heroes and world leaders through his lens. He once climbed Mount Shiga in Japan to photograph snow monkeys bathing in natural hot springs, and worked on major commercial shoots, such a campaign for a leading tobacco brand, a visual ode to the classic American cowboy culture. Rentmeester's picture of an American M48 tank gunner looking through the tank's main gun sight, which he took while documenting the Vietnam War, was named World Press Photo of the Year, 1967. His other notable works include the sharp close-up shot of Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz (named World Press Sports Photo of the Year, 1973) and his bone-chilling coverage of the Munich hostage crisis. “Let's start at the beginning,” Rentmeester suggests. “Due to my age, I sometimes have trouble remembering names and dates, but I hope to give you a coherent story.”

Born in Amsterdam in 1936, Rentmeester lost his mother during the height of WWII to bilateral pneumonia. Since his father, who was a professional violinist, had his own ensemble, played for the Dutch radio (AVRO) and worked mostly during the evenings, Rentmeester and his two sisters were

“
TO ME, THERE
WAS SOMETHING
MAGICAL ABOUT
THE ROLLEIFLEX
”

taken in by an aunt. “During the German occupation, food was hard to get,” he shares. “I remember my father getting on his bicycle and going into the countryside to trade old family jewellery for a bag of wheat. I'd then grind the wheat with a coffee mill before cooking it in some water. There was simply no food in Amsterdam, so we'd eat whatever we could get our hands on.” In the post-war years, thanks to his father's Rolleiflex, a high-end, professional analogue camera, Rentmeester developed an interest in photography. “To me, there was something magical about that beautifully crafted machine,” he reminisces. “I had this great little pocketbook by Kodak that explained all about shutter speed and aperture; it helped me when I began experimenting with the camera. I loved photographing the planes at Schiphol Airport. Commercial aviation was still a new phenomenon in those days, and I fantasised about travelling the world.”

To please his father, who was a huge football and tennis fan, and to fit in with other boys his age, Rentmeester got into sports as a teenager. “I wasn't good at football or tennis, but by coincidence, I met someone who was a member of Amsterdam's rowing club, Willem III,” he explains. “I decided to try it and something about it pulled me in. I've always had a competitive spirit, so I wanted to become good at it immediately. At the same time, I was still taking pictures with my Rolleiflex wherever I went.” Rentmeester didn't just become good at rowing, »

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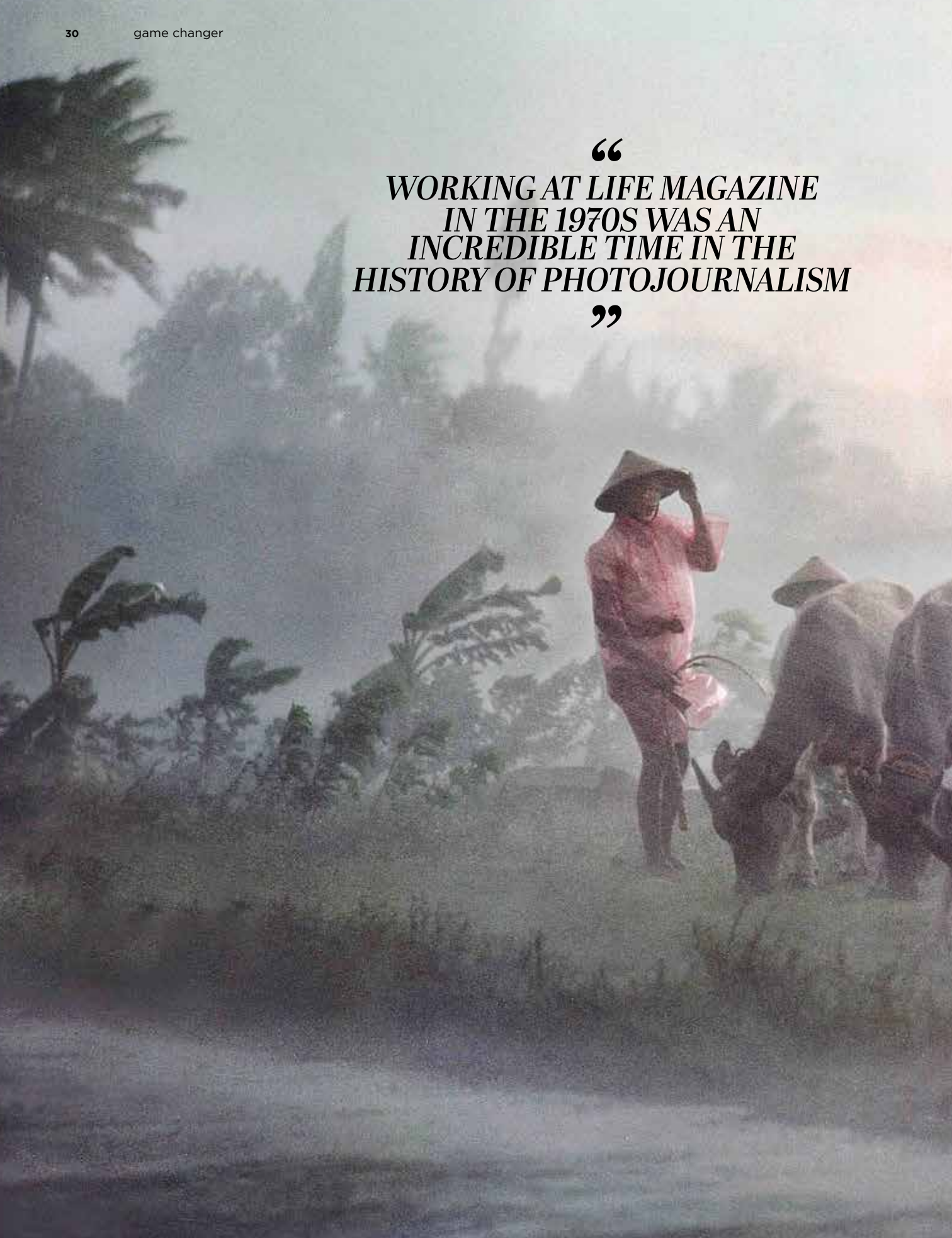
Rentmeester with a baby orangutan at a rehab centre in Sabah, Borneo, 1968

Right page

Kecak Dance, Bali, 1968 (top); Greg Louganis diving off a 10m tower during a 1984 diving contest with Russia in LA (bottom)



**“
WORKING AT LIFE MAGAZINE
IN THE 1970S WAS AN
INCREDIBLE TIME IN THE
HISTORY OF PHOTOJOURNALISM
”**





he became one of the country's best rowers, and competed in the final of the Men's Double Sculls event at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, finishing in fifth place. Despite this result, Rentmeester's rowing career wasn't lucrative, so his father felt it was time for him to pursue 'a real job'.

Tuning out the noise

What happened afterwards is an extraordinary series of coincidences. Rentmeester recalls the whole story in surprisingly precise detail. Here's the short version: he met a wealthy American entrepreneur at the Olympics in Rome who offered him a job at a woodworking company in a small town in California. Rentmeester accepted but didn't enjoy his job much, so, to keep up his physical fitness, he started training on the track of a local high school. The high school principal there encouraged him to sign up for a bachelor's degree in photography at the ArtCenter College of Design in LA, which he did. In 1964, Rentmeester landed – via photographer John Bryson, his brother-in-law – an internship at the prestigious *Life* magazine, known for its photojournalism. Rentmeester's eyes light up when he speaks about his time at *Life*, where he ended up working as a staff photographer until 1972, when *Life* folded (and continued as a freelancer working for multiple magazines). "It was an incredible time in the history of photojournalism," he says. "I was working and competing with some of the best photographers in the world, such as Alfred Eisenstaedt and Elliott Erwitt. I was eager to prove myself, so when they asked me to go to Vietnam to cover the war in 1965, I didn't hesitate." Rentmeester ended up spending about 2.5 years in Southeast Asia, until he was shot in the hand during a firefight near Tan Son Nhat Airport in Saigon in 1968, and had to return to the US to recover. Seeing all the despair and destruction left a mark on him, but while he was on the battlefield, Rentmeester made a conscious choice to tune out the noise. "I quickly realised that I couldn't let anything affect me personally, so I found a way to zero in on making the best pictures possible," he explains. "I was young, fearless and wanted to develop my own style, so I was constantly looking for different ways to work with composition, light and angles. If that meant hanging out of fighter planes, I'd do it." Back in the US, Rentmeester focused on nature and sports photography, and developed his signature style further, especially in his portraiture work.

“
**I WAS YOUNG,
FEARLESS AND
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DEVELOP MY
OWN STYLE**
”

The series he produced before and during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, in which he photographed athletes in original compositions, unorthodox surroundings and often in extreme close-up, was considered a groundbreaking technique; and it inspired many photographers after him. To understand his way of working, Rentmeester gives the example of the picture he took of American track cyclist Rebecca Twigg, for a series in *Life* in preparation for the 1984 Summer Olympics in LA, called *American Excellence*. "I was supposed to photograph her riding around the city of Dallas, which seemed a little boring to me," he says. "But then I spotted this glass facade of the Hilton hotel with a Mondrian-like cubic structure, and I decided to have her ride on one of the lower ridges and create this isolated image of her in motion with that flat, glistening background, almost like a painting. This was a purely impromptu decision. Making an original picture is working with what you've got and simply looking at the world with different eyes." Perhaps the best example of Rentmeester's unique eye and creative vision is the picture he took in 1984 – for *American Excellence* – of an upcoming American basketball player called Michael Jordan. "I knew that Jordan had an incredible jumping power, so I had this idea of him jumping and flying through the sky like a ballerina; not on a basketball court, but outside on a curved hill. Just him, the hoop, and the setting sun and some scattered clouds in the background. He »

Previous pages

Buffaloes in Solo, Java, during a monsoon, 1967

Right page

Mark Spitz in a swimming pool in Santa Clara, California. Featured on *Life* magazine's cover in August 1972 (top); Photograph featured in *The New York Times Fashion Special*, 1980 (bottom)





showed up late, and I had about 30 minutes to take the picture, but he was very kind and immediately understood the assignment. In the end, the photo came out exactly as I'd planned."

The Jumpman affair

Rentmeester's photo of Jordan is one of his greatest sources of pride, but it has also caused a lot of pain and frustration over the years. Just a few months after publication, sportswear brand Nike asked to borrow slides of his photo for a small fee and under a limited licence, explicitly stating that they wouldn't reproduce or duplicate the image. However, Rentmeester soon spotted a Nike ad on a billboard featuring a strikingly similar image of Jordan in the same mid-jump position. Nike had commissioned its own photographer to recreate the pose, which Rentmeester considered a direct copy of his work. When he confronted Nike, they agreed to pay him \$15,000 for a two-year licence to use his image in North America, but continued to use the concept well beyond the agreed period and didn't renew the licence. Nike eventually based the logo for its Jordan brand on their version of the photo. In 2015, Rentmeester sued Nike, alleging that both Nike's photograph and the 'Jumpman' logo infringed on his original image. However, US courts ruled in favour of Nike, determining that while Nike's image was inspired by Rentmeester's, it was different enough to not be an exact copy and 'it's not possible to copyright an idea'. The whole affair is the subject of the documentary *Jumpman*, directed by Tom Dey, Rentmeester's son-in-law, which premiered at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival. These days, the photographer prefers to forget about the ordeal and count his blessings. He now spends most of his time in the green surroundings of his home, going for walks with his wife and photographing the wildlife. "I've had an incredible life, travelling the world and meeting so many extraordinary people," he says with a smile. "I'm lucky to have wonderful children and grandchildren, and a wife who's my support system. Despite my age, I'm still excited for the future and exploring new ideas. I've always been interested in cinematography. I even shot and directed my own film some years ago. Can you guess what it's about? Rowing, of course!" «

'Witnessing Life' opens on 10 October 2025 at Foam photography museum in Amsterdam. foam.org



Life cover with female snow monkey in the hot springs in the rugged Japanese Alps, 1970

Left page

Biking in a velodrome in LA, 1984. Featured in an Olympic Kodak poster (top); Photo from the *California Girls* Spangle the Beach cover story for *Life* magazine, 10 July, 1970 (bottom)

Rentmeester's Favourites

Amsterdam

Even though I've spent most of my life in the US, my hometown still holds a special place in my heart. I'm excited to have my exhibition at Foam, one of the many great museums in Amsterdam. I always enjoyed strolling through the city, especially the Rivierenbuurt area where I grew up. There's a charming Lutheran Church on Uiterwaardenstraat. I like to call it the 'love church' because it's a romantic spot to me. My favourite place growing up was the Bosbaan in Amsterdam Forest, the city's biggest rowing course where I used to train.

Donald Sutherland

I've photographed many celebrities over the years, but the series I made for *Life* of American actor Donald Sutherland and his then young son Kiefer (who also became a famous actor) remains one of my favourites. I visited him and his family at their home in Upstate New York, and they were the nicest people. The black-and-white portraits reflect their kindness and the intimacy of the shoot.

Indonesia

One of my fondest travel memories is of the time I spent in Indonesia in the 1960s and 1970s. I travelled through Bali, Java and Sumatra, and came across the most breathtaking nature. I was also fascinated by the connection to spirituality, culture and welcoming people. My pictures were published in my first book called *Three Faces of Indonesia*. The exhibition at Foam will also feature some of my Indonesia work.

Analogue

I'm an older man, so, of course I'm going to choose analogue over digital. I think it's incredible what you can do with a smartphone these days, but analogue photography is more interesting and powerful to me because you have to be deliberate. You must wait for exactly the right moment and can't waste your camera roll on random snapshots. Instead of simply clicking away, I advise young people to be more intentional when they take pictures. I ask them: "If you had to tell a story in 10 photos, what would you photograph?"

TAIPEI *by day*

Taiwan



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The Red House in Ximending ❶



Tian Jin Onion Pancake ❸



Longshan Temple ❷



Elephant Mountain trail ❹

Getting around

Taipei is pretty compact, and each district has its own character. There's historic Wanhua, cosmopolitan Xinyi, energetic Ximending ❶ and cultural Zhongsha. Travelling on public transport is simple with the EasyCard (available at any metro station), and the Taipei Metro connects all the major areas. But you can also discover the city at your own pace, as it's very pedestrian-friendly. What's more, the public YouBike system has more than 400 stations throughout the metropolitan area. Pro tip: the bike paths along the Tamsui and Keelung rivers provide scenic routes away from traffic.

Art & culture

Longshan Temple ❷ (211 Guangzhou St) is Taipei's oldest and most famous

temple, and is definitely worth a visit, especially during one of the three daily chanting ceremonies. Just minutes from the temple, the Bopiliao Historic Block (Ln 173, Kangding Rd) showcases traditional architecture and offers an idea of 19th-century Taiwanese life. Many of the renovated buildings now house small galleries, museums and shops. For a more modern-day experience, visit the Museum of Contemporary Art (39 Chang-An W Rd) for a fix of Asian art, or the Chi-Wen Gallery (No.32, Ln 2, Sec. 6, Zhongshan N. Rd), which focuses on video and photography.

Chow time

Fuel up with a typical Taiwanese breakfast of *xian dou jiang*, a savoury soup

made from soya milk, salty broth and vinegar, that's served with savoury toppings. A great place to try it is Fuhang Soy Milk (100 Zhongxiao E Rd), one of the oldest traditional breakfast shops in town. For lunch, check out Michelin-recommended Mai Mien Yen Tsai (106 Anxi St) for their signature soup noodles (think: chewy and full of umami flavours). This place has been around for more than 80 years yet has kept its authenticity. For an afternoon snack, try a flaky spring onion pancake at Tian Jin Onion Pancake ❸ (No.1, Ln 6, Yongkang St). Yes, you'll have to stand in line, and yes, it will be worth the wait.

Natural escapes

Taipei has plenty of nature and green spaces. Take the

Visit Longshan Temple during one of the daily chanting ceremonies

Maokong Gondola up into the hills for a refreshing cup of Taiwanese oolong in a traditional teahouse and panoramic views of the city. Another rewardingly picturesque walk is the fairly easy Elephant Mountain trail ❹ (220 Xiangshan Rd). Alternatively, visit the National Palace Museum (No.221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd), a stunning hillside building that's surrounded by Chinese gardens and has a large collection of Chinese art and artefacts.

TAIPEI *by night*

FROM BUSTLING NIGHT MARKETS TO FINE DINING, TAIPEI IS A PARADISE FOR FOODIES. THANKS TO THE CITY'S 24-HOUR CULTURE, YOU WON'T FEEL BORED FOR A MINUTE.



The National Theater and Concert Hall ⑦



MUME ⑥



Shilin Night Market ⑤



Eslite Hotel ⑧

Food stalls & fine dining

No Taipei experience is complete without visiting a traditional night market. Shilin Night Market ⑤ (101 Jihe Rd) is the largest and most famous, offering everything from tofu and oyster omelettes, bubble tea and shaved-ice desserts to local favourites such as *gua bao* (pork belly buns) and spring onion pancakes. You'll also find authentic flavours, but in a more intimate setting, at Raohe Street Night Market, Taipei's oldest night market. The juicy pork-filled pepper buns at Fuzhou Shizu Pepper Bun (249 Raohe St) are a must-try. But Taipei also has a fine-dining scene that rivals any major city. At MUME ⑥ (28 Siwei Rd), you'll experience an exciting fusion of Northern-European cuisine and Taiwanese

ingredients. The chef uses foraged local plants and sustainable seafood in artistic dishes, all served in a minimalist, industrial setting. Adachi (No. 12, Ln 239, Zhuangjing Road) is a 12-seat counter restaurant and one of the best places for sushi, where the omakase tasting experience will blow your mind. And for something more traditional, visit Mountain and Sea House (No. 94, Sec. 2, Ren'ai Rd), where century-old family recipes are elevated to gourmet status using organic, locally sourced produce.

Evening entertainment

Taipei's cultural scene thrives after dark. The National Theater and Concert Hall ⑦ (21-1 Zhongshan S Rd) hosts world-class performances, from traditional Chinese

opera to contemporary dance. Ho Long Red Theater (10 Chengdu Rd), a historic octagonal building in Ximending, is a shopping paradise during the day, but reinvents itself at night when an array of LGBTQ+ bars open in the courtyard. Live music enthusiasts should head to Legacy Taipei (No. 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd), the city's premier concert venue that hosts international and local acts in an intimate setting.

Where to stay

The Grand Hotel (No. 1, Sec. 4, Zhongshan N Rd) is an iconic landmark that features traditional Chinese architecture and offers panoramic city views, while also implementing modern energy-saving initiatives. Eslite Hotel ⑧ (98 Yanchang Rd) is known for its eco-

friendly practices and partnerships with local organic farms, which they combine with a literature-themed design and a curated library in every room. Budget-conscious travellers will appreciate CityInn Hotel Plus (several locations), which have clean, modern rooms, and are within walking distance of major attractions and metro stations.

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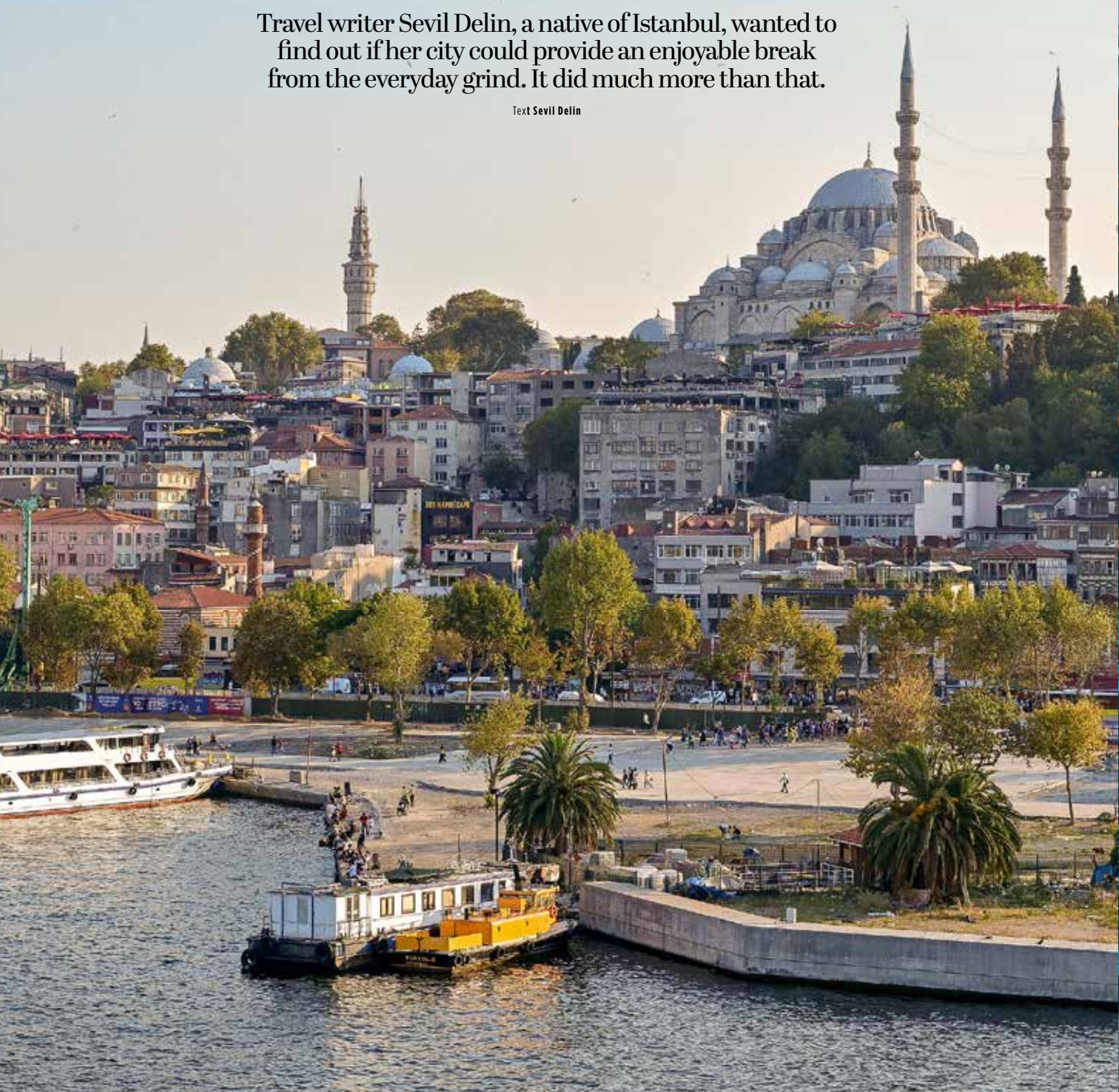
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HOME SWEET HOME

Travel writer Sevil Delin, a native of Istanbul, wanted to find out if her city could provide an enjoyable break from the everyday grind. It did much more than that.

Text Sevil Delin





Balat
Kadrafi
-kafe-

çalikus



Balat
Kadrafi
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TJLIXDAMAK
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Istanbul Turkey



As I dip my oars into the shimmering waters of Istanbul's Golden Horn, the hum of the city unfolds softly around my rowing boat: the whoosh of tyres on the shoreline road, music signalling the end of lessons at a school and the lilting melody of the *Ezan* – the Islamic call to prayer – drifting from distant minarets. Above me, a seagull tips its wings into the sun, and just beyond, a cormorant slices into the water, sending ripples across the surface. I've lived in Istanbul for more than two decades, and the city still never ceases to surprise me. East and West meet in an eternal conversation, where tradition and innovation walk side by side, and where the past is always pressing its palm against the shoulder of the present. My actor husband, Devrim Nas, and I are raising our two sons here, in a city where Byzantine stone walls line the shore, glass towers soar into the sky, and mosques, churches and synagogues share neighbourhoods with tattoo parlours, third-wave coffee shops and old-school *döner* ('doner kebab') vendors.

Cool for cats

Istanbul is a living, breathing giant: 15+ million people packed into a slender wedge of land, a space so dense and alive that it sometimes feels like the streets themselves are pulsing and shifting underfoot. And it isn't just the people; the city's cats are as much a part of its identity as any of its grand monuments. This is 'Catistan', where cats reign supreme, draped across café chairs, nestled in shop windows and stretched out under ancient trees. The municipality vaccinates, sterilises and marks them with a clipped left ear as a sign of their protected status. But you don't need to be a feline to be welcome here. Turks are fiercely proud of their hospitality. Wherever you go, a glass of deep-red tea in a tulip-shaped glass seems to materialise as if by magic. (It's no accident that tulips, long associated with the Netherlands, trace their roots back to the Ottoman Empire; in fact, the 18th century's Tulip Era was a time of cultural flourishing.)

Even after all these years, I still find myself pausing to appreciate Istanbul's magic: the way the early morning light touches the worn stones of the Old City, the sudden shock of colour when a hidden courtyard bursts into bloom and the small kindness of a stranger offering a cup of tea on a cold winter's day. Istanbul, I've learnt, isn't a city you master, it's a city you surrender to, a city that reshapes itself every time you think you've figured it out.

One of the most striking recent changes is Galataport, a once-forgotten stretch of waterfront now transformed into a vibrant, open-air district. Where customs warehouses once stood, you now find sleek boutiques, airy cafés and a palpable sense of renewal. Not to mention a remarkable new hotel: The Peninsula Istanbul. For a family of hotel-lovers such as ours, this was the perfect excuse for a 'staycation'. My American father is a retired hotelier, and I grew up trailing through hotels; even today, nothing feels quite as delicious as slipping away for a weekend of soft sheets, breakfast buffets and sunlit balconies. The Peninsula Istanbul is set across four historic buildings including the old passenger terminal. From the moment we step into the vaulted, atrium-like lobby, time seems to slow. The air is softly scented with fig, the lighting warm and low, and just beyond the windows, the Bosphorus Strait glitters like a living ribbon of light. We're welcomed with chocolate treats for the boys and a suite outfitted with a telescope. Having checked in, we take the tram to Sultanahmet Square, where the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque rises before us, its monumental dome heavy with the centuries it has lived through, the mosaics inside glinting faintly in the half-light. Walking barefoot across the vast carpets, I can feel the coolness of the stone beneath, the hush of centuries wrapped around us. Upstairs, in the gallery where the Byzantine Christian mosaics are displayed, sunlight pours through the windows, throwing golden patterns onto the walls. At the nearby Basilica Cistern, the restored wooden walkways seem to float »

Previous pages

Suleymaniye Mosque and Golden Horn harbour (left); Coffee shop in the Balat district

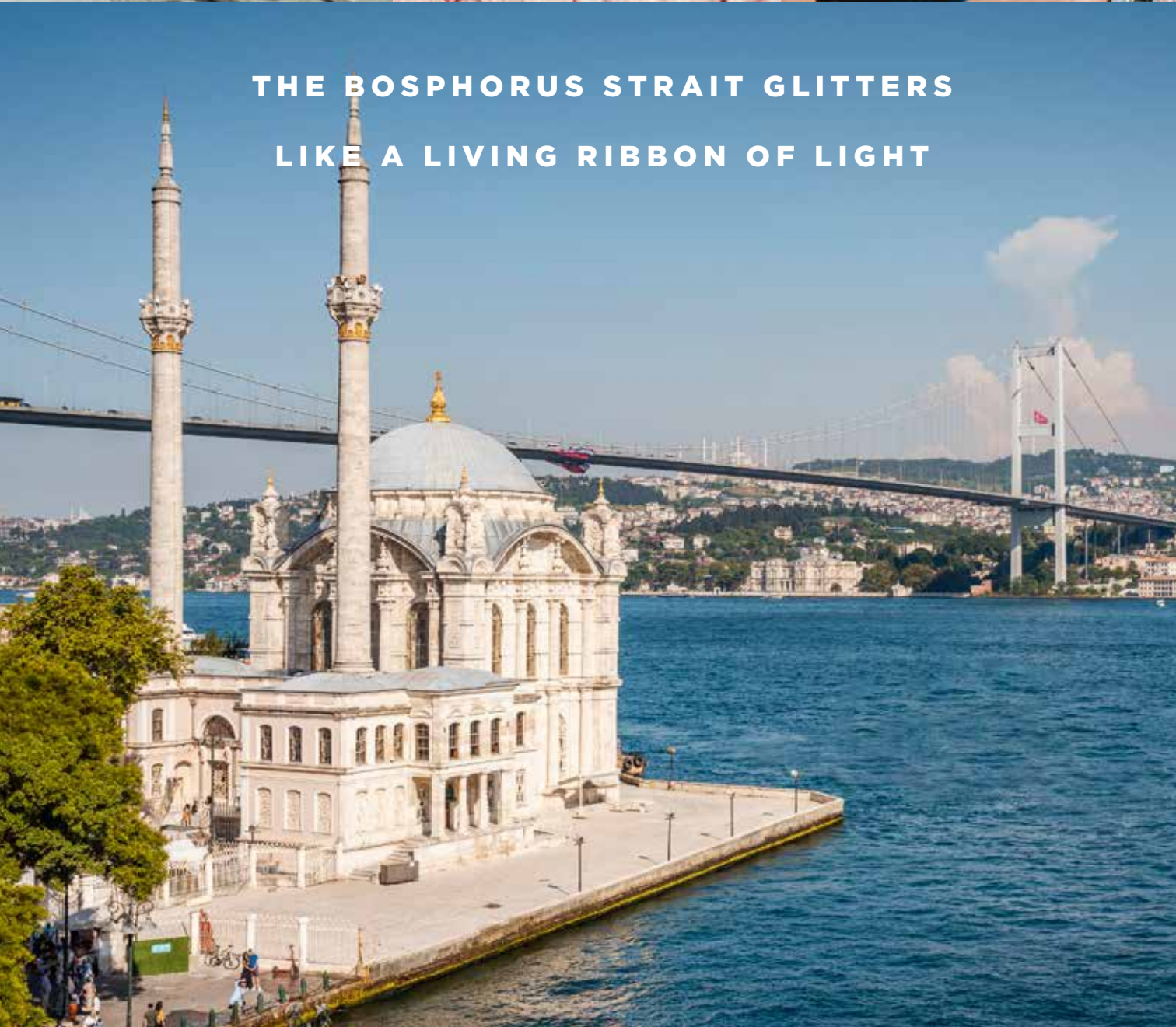
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The nostalgic red tram on Istiklal Avenue; Turkish delight; Grand Bazaar

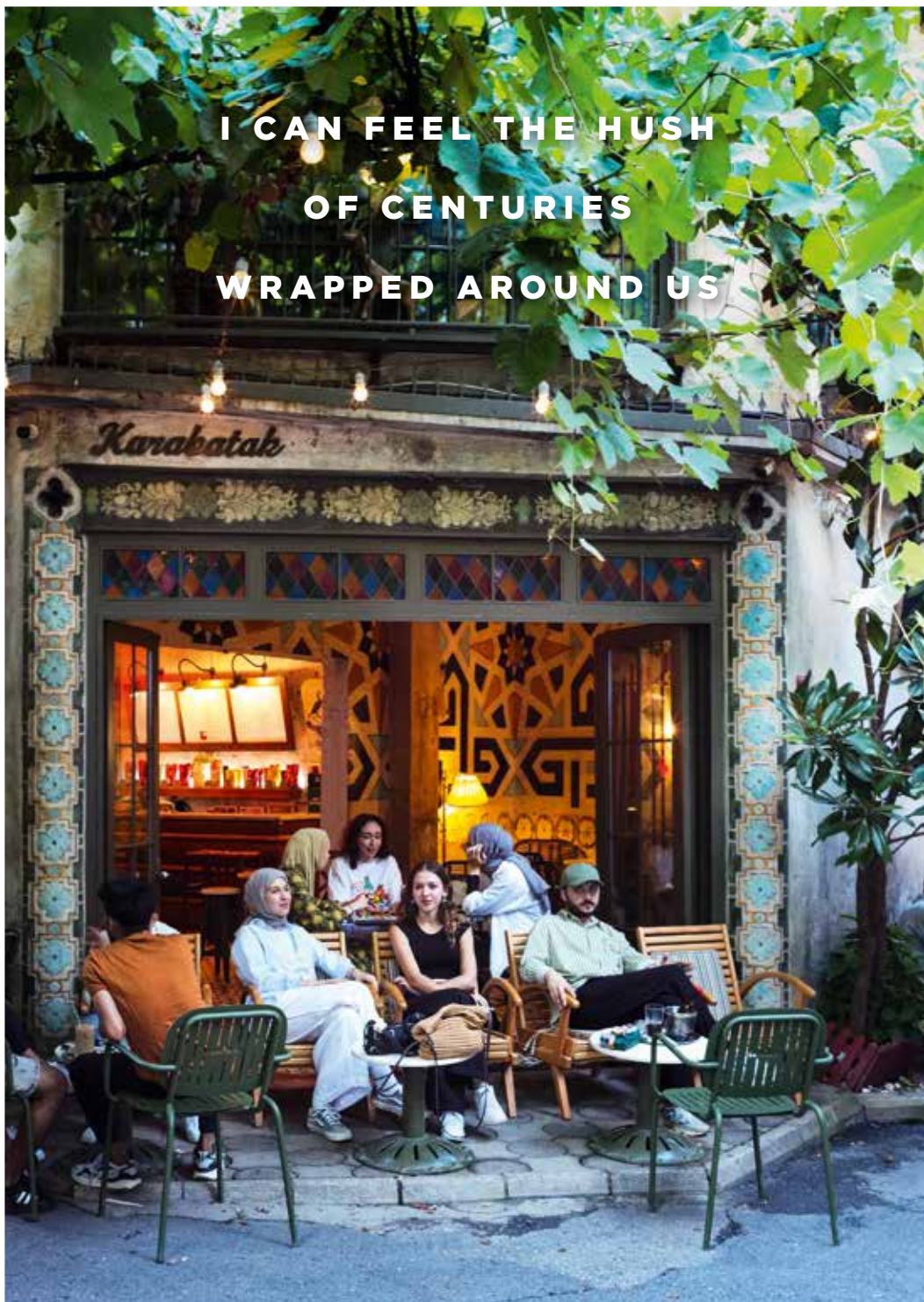
Bottom Ortaköy Mosque and the Bosphorus Bridge



THE BOSPHORUS STRAIT GLITTERS LIKE A LIVING RIBBON OF LIGHT







Above Karabatak, a coffee shop in the Beyoğlu district
Left page Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque

ISTANBUL ISN'T A CITY YOU MASTER,
IT'S A CITY YOU SURRENDER TO



above the still, dark water, a forest of columns rising eerily from below. The Medusa head at the base of one pillar seems almost to smirk. It's an ancient riddle that no one has quite solved.

After that, we join my friend, photographer Monica Fritz' Grand Bazaar and Rooftop walking tour. Fritz has been doing these tours for more than a decade. "The part I love the most is sharing my excitement with others," she says. "We mainly have very small groups that allow us to meet new people from all over the world and have wonderful conversations. The tour doesn't just bring you to the lesser-known and more authentic areas of the bazaar, but introduces you to the people who have been working there for generations, the artisans and their workshops, the ancient and beautiful caravansaries, the internal stock market; there are so many stories to be told. We also know how to access the rooftops with splendid views and some surprises."

Hammam heaven

Our last port of call for the day is the newly reopened Zeyrek Çinili Hamam. Crossing its threshold, we enter a new world: the scent of freshly cut blocks of soap hangs in the air with a warm, enveloping hug of steam. Designed by Mimar Sinan, the premier architect of the Ottoman era, it's a masterpiece, and the new owners have opened an adjacent museum that tells the story of not only the hammam, but of the traditions of Turkish baths. There are two sections – one for men and one for women – and this is a rare hammam that offers a special treatment for children. Lying on the heated marble slab beneath the star-windowed dome, wrapped in a beautiful *peshtemal* ('bathing towel') designed by Hussein Chalayan – the British-Cypriot fashion designer, who's won the British Designer of the Year award twice – the tension in my muscles and the noise in my mind dissolve.

Back at the hotel, our journey across Istanbul's rooftops continues with its restaurant, Gallada. Seated at the edge of the

terrace, we watch the ferries glitter below, their lights darting across the water like scattered jewels. Chef Fatih Tutak's inventive dishes – a playful dance between Turkish and Asian flavours – arrive as small works of art.

As I taste seaweed tangled with *sujuk* (spicy sausage) and miso folded into *manti* ('dumplings'), I feel that distinct Istanbul sensation: suspended between continents, between histories, tasting something both ancient and entirely new.

The next day, after a blissful post-hammam sleep and breakfast of *menemen* (scrambled eggs with tomatoes and chillies), olives and thick slices of village cheese, we linger at Galataport's Paket Postanesi shopping centre, where local designers such as Arzu Kaprol and Figg display their work in airy, light-filled spaces, perfect for fashion-forward souvenirs. From there, we wander to Istanbul Modern, the modern and contemporary art museum (and Renzo Piano's architectural marvel), and then take the Karaköy-Tünel Funicular (metro) to within walking distance of Galata Tower. After climbing its narrow spiral stairs, we stand where, centuries ago, Ottoman scientist Hezarfen Ahmet Çelebi is said to have strapped on wings and flown across the Bosphorus Strait. Gazing at the city's layered skyline, I see the old and new intertwined like a tapestry. It's hard not to feel a little lift in the chest; a reminder that Istanbul has always belonged to soaring dreamers. We walk down İstiklal Avenue, catching the nostalgic red tram to Taksim Square, its bell ringing softly as we roll past cafés and bookshops.

Fit for a prince

On our final day, we take a ferry to Büyükada, the largest of the Princes' Islands, an archipelago just off the shores of Istanbul. A sitit-seller calls out from the dock, balancing his tray of sesame-flecked rings like a crown, and we buy a few to munch on, tearing off morsels and tossing them to the seagulls hovering hungrily in our wake. Once upon an Ottoman time, these »

Left page, top
Waterfront on the Princes' Island of Burgazada
Bottom (from left to right): Cyclist on Büyükada, the largest of the Princes' Islands; cups of Turkish tea and *börek* ('pastries'); K.Maras Dondurması ice cream shop

A full-page photograph of a narrow, cobblestone street in Istanbul. The street is flanked by multi-story historic buildings with ornate architectural details. In the distance, the Galata Tower, a prominent stone structure with a conical roof and a golden finial, rises above the rooftops. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. Pedestrians are walking along the sidewalks, and a few cars are visible in the distance. The text "IT SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE THE STREETS THEMSELVES ARE PULSING AND SHIFTING UNDERFOOT" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center of the image.

IT SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE THE
STREETS THEMSELVES ARE PULSING
AND SHIFTING UNDERFOOT

Left page
Galata Tower

islands were where dissidents and usurping princes were sent into exile; today, they're having a revival as a luxury retreat. These islands are car-free, a rule dating back to the 19th century when they became a haven for Ottoman elites seeking clean air and calm. Today, this ban creates a unique, timeless atmosphere. The only sounds are the whir of electric bikes, the chatter of picnickers and the whisper of waves. The best way to explore Büyükada is on foot or on a rented bike, pedalling along pine tree-lined paths, past timeworn Ottoman mansions and blooming gardens. We board a modern, high-tech electric bus to the foot of a steep hill, climbing to the Greek monastery at the peak. The climb isn't easy, and the last stretch is especially steep, but the view of Istanbul and the Sea of Marmara makes it worthwhile. We tie a piece of string on a wishing tree, adding to the many dreams that float on its branches.

Wes Anderson ending

Our last experience happens to be our accommodation for the night, the Splendid Palace Hotel: an Art Nouveau fantasy dating from 1908, with red shutters, sweeping staircases, an antique lift and a dining room straight out of a Wes Anderson film. The family-run hotel has just reopened after its winter renovations, and the excited staff are proudly wearing their crisp red-and-white uniforms. The fine-dining restaurant, Mualla, serves some of the best food on the island, its ambience transporting guests to a more gracious era.

Alas, when we awaken the next morning, it's time to go home. On the ferry back to the mainland, Istanbul's cityscape reappears: minarets, palaces and gleaming towers stitched together like a storybook. Before long, our home is once again before us. As I turn the key in our front door, about to break the spell of the past few days, it occurs to be that a 'staycation' here isn't a compromise, it's a gift. In a city constantly reinventing itself, all you must do is step outside and follow the current. «



WRITER SEVIL DELIN'S WORK HAS BEEN FEATURED IN *THE GUARDIAN*, *MONOCLE* AND *WALLPAPER*, AMONG OTHER PUBLICATIONS. HERE ARE HER TIPS FOR ISTANBUL.

To eat

Giritli Restaurant

Tucked away behind high stone walls in a 19th-century wooden villa, Giritli is a quiet haven near the Blue Mosque; the kind of place that feels like a secret. The fixed-price, multi-course tasting menu – a generous spread of Aegean and Cretan meze, grilled fish, and sweet treats – leans into slow rhythms and deep flavours, arriving in a leisurely parade. (Turkish website.) giritlirestoran.com

Sultanahmet Köftecisi

No-frills, all flavour. Cooking up its famous Turkish meatballs since 1920, this beloved institution has served the same humble lunch to locals, presidents, and visiting pilgrims alike: *köfte* (meatballs), *piyaz* (white bean salad), a slab of bread and a bracing glass of *ayran* (a salty yoghurt drink). sultanahmetkoftesi.com

To stay

Princes' Palace Resort, Büyükada

Opened in March 2025 and set in a meticulously

restored historical mansion, Princes' Palace offers a full spa and hammam, sea-view suites, fine dining and an infinity pool; ideal for those looking to unwind without ever leaving the island. princespalace.com

Georges Hotel Galata

A quiet gem on a cobbled side street near Galata Tower, this local boutique hotel blends Art Deco elegance with French-inflected charm: high ceilings, ironwork balconies, bathrooms rich with marble, and one of the most cinematic views in town from its rooftop: ferries sweeping across the Bosphorus Strait as the skyline melts into gold. georges.com

To do

Nova Kürek

For a completely different view of Istanbul, take to the water with Nova Kürek rowing club. Morning rows along the Golden Horn reveal a quieter, more meditative side of the metropolis. No prior experience is required and the instructors are both skilled and deeply passionate about

the city's waterways. It's a side of the city few ever see; one that moves to the rhythm of breath and tide.

[@novakurekkulubu](https://www.instagram.com/novakurekkulubu)

Grand Bazaar and Rooftop Tour

Join Monica Fritz to explore the lesser-known side of the Kapalı Çarşı. Move through narrow alleys and duck into caravansaries and timeworn workshops where artisans hammer, stitch and polish as they have for generations. Climb via a secret path to the rooftops, and see the city stretched in all directions, the domes and minarets shimmering under a hazy sun. alternativecitytours.com

Book this story



KLM operates a daily nonstop flight to Istanbul Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on klm.com

Nadina Galle

“
**CITIES CAN'T
 THRIVE WITHOUT
 NATURE, AND
 NEITHER CAN WE**
 ”

Preserving nature in our cities has never been more urgent, says Dutch ecological engineer Nadina Galle (32). As a researcher, writer and speaker, she's on a mission to make nature impossible to ignore. Text Marieke Verhoeven Photography Dana van Leeuwen

How and when did you become passionate about urban nature preservation? When I was six years old, my family and I moved from the Netherlands to a small community outside Toronto, Canada. As nature was on my doorstep there, and extra-curricular activities at school involved being out in the woods, parks and lakes, I spent a lot of time outdoors, and didn't know much else. But like most cities, my city was rapidly expanding, and I noticed the little wild spaces where my sister and I played were being gobbled up by suburban sprawl; only to be replaced with developments carrying names such as 'Flower Meadow' or 'Forest Heights', even though little of the original ecosystem remained. But people still longed for a connection to nature.

This contradiction fascinated me: we destroy wild places, then try to recreate fragments of them in our backyards. I realised that having nature close to us served more than an ecological purpose: it was deeply meaningful, even spiritual, and essential for our mental health and wellbeing. This insight shaped my studies in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – at the University of Toronto – and my curiosity about how the absence of nature changes us. Over time, that curiosity grew into a mission to bring nature back into the places most of us now live: in urban landscapes. Cities, towns and villages are our default habitat, so why not design them to work for both people and nature – more like the environments we evolved in – without losing the comforts of modern

life? That's what led me from a degree in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology to a PhD in Ecological Engineering, where I learnt to design living systems such as urban forests, wetlands and green roofs. Doing that today requires technology, and that intersection of people, ecology and tech is what I call the Internet of Nature.

Can you explain what you do in your role as an urban ecological engineer? My role is part ecological engineer, part science communicator. I work with city leaders to design nature-rich environments that address public health and biodiversity loss. That can mean mapping a city's trees in 3-D to reveal where shade is most needed, creating systems to reuse rainwater for cooling streets, or developing »



coffee break

49



projects that spark public curiosity, such as the 'tweeting tree' in Liverpool that shares live data with passers-by. My aim is always the same: to restore the relationship between city dwellers and the natural world. As a science communicator, I wrote the book, *The Nature of Our Cities*, to explain how we can harness the power of nature and survive a changing planet, and I speak about this topic at events globally.

Why is it so important for people to have access to nature in cities?

Most people know that trees capture CO₂ and release oxygen, or that they cool cities by providing shade and improving airflow. But what's less known is how deeply they affect our mental and physical health. Time in nature lowers cortisol, the stress hormone, and studies in Japan show that 'forest bathing' [*Shinrin-yoku*] can boost immune cells that help fight disease. In Belgium, research has found that children who grow up surrounded by greenery score higher on IQ tests, regardless of background or socioeconomic status. And beyond the science, nature gives us

perspective, reminding us that we're just one small part of something much bigger, a realisation that can be both grounding and freeing.

What about insects? Insects are like the threads of a hammock: take too many away and the whole thing collapses. Without them, birds go hungry, flowers aren't pollinated, and entire food chains start to unravel. That's why I find it so encouraging that research from Leiden University shows that even the smallest green spaces – such as a strip of plants on a building's facade – can be home to hundreds of species. These tiny habitats are crucial lifelines in the city. Thanks to new tools, such as an AI-powered insect-monitoring camera that automatically identifies and counts species, we can track the health of urban insect populations in real time. And through global citizen science events, such as the City Nature Challenge, thousands of people help record and identify plants and animals with an app; often uncovering species we never knew existed.

Who's been the greatest source of inspiration in your work? I've long been inspired by American author Richard Louv, who coined the term 'Nature-Deficit Disorder' to describe the human cost of growing up indoors and disconnected from the natural world, especially for children. I interviewed him for my book, and the final chapter is dedicated to children's innate connection to nature. Watching my own son, I'm reminded that kids don't need instructions on how to be in nature; they simply run, climb and explore without hesitation. Adults, meanwhile, have largely forgotten that nature is more than scenery, it's a place to play, to wonder and to restore ourselves. Louv's work may focus on children, but the lesson applies to us all. Relearning this may be the most important lesson of all.



“
**WE'RE
BORN TO
PLAY IN
NATURE**
”

What keeps you motivated?

The belief that nature should be as fundamental to city life as clean water or public transport. I'm working towards a future where every real estate project starts with green space at its heart, every child learns in a forested school playground, every office worker looks out at trees and every hospital is surrounded by healing gardens. Nature isn't something we 'add', it's something that just 'is,' as it always has been. I see promising signs of change, but there's still so much to do. And that challenge keeps me going every day. «





Mark Manders' Mindstudy

AT MUSEUM VOORLINDEN



Director at museum Voorlinden Suzanne Swarts on the new solo exhibition by Mark Manders.

Mark Manders likes to travel through the depths of the human brain. With his often fragmentary sculptures, layered paintings and poetic installations, he pauses moments,

thoughts and emotions – and makes them tangible. 'I'm interested in the strength and weakness of our thinking', says the Belgian-based artist, 'that we, as thinking beings, are vulnerable to thinking errors, neuroses and also hope.' For his solo exhibition *Mindstudy* at Voorlinden, Manders allows visitors to delve into the thinking brain. 'It is a beautiful thing that, as an artist, you can create

something that the viewer will maybe only see a few seconds, but yet can carry around in the mind for decades to come.'

Where and when?

On Display: Until January 18, 2026

Address: Buurtweg 90, 2244AG Wassenaar

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

restaurant (10.30am-6pm)

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

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

SITES FOR SORE EYES

From ancient architectural masterpieces to magnificent natural wonders, these miraculous places around the world have been named UNESCO World Heritage Sites for a very good reason.

Text Joanne Wienen



Yogyakarta, Indonesia

PRAMBANAN TEMPLE COMPOUNDS

Anyone visiting Java shouldn't miss the Prambanan Temple Compounds near the city of Yogyakarta. Built in the 9th century, Indonesia's largest Hindu complex is dedicated to the Trimūrti, the trinity of supreme divinity in Hinduism, and renowned for its mysterious stone carvings and reliefs that tell stories from Hindu epics. It's relatively close to the nearby Buddhist *Borobudur* monument, demonstrating the cultural richness of medieval Java. **Top tip:** Hiring a knowledgeable local guide, available at the entrance, can add real value to your experience, as they can tell you all about the depicted stories of epic battles, divine love stories and spiritual teachings.





Vers-Pont-du-Gard, France

PONT DU GARD

Hundreds of aqueducts were built throughout the Roman Empire. Today, only ruins of a handful remain. The Pont du Gard, the bridge section of the 50km Aqueduct of Nîmes, is by far the most spectacular and complete survivor. Built in the first century, it was constructed to carry water across the Gard River from the Eure springs near the town of Uzès (a Gallo-Roman administrative settlement called Ucetia in Roman times) to the city of Nîmes (Nemausus back then). The bridge-aqueduct has three tiers of arches, is approx. 48m tall and its longest storey is 360m. **Don't miss:** Walking the approx. 140 steps up to the top of the monument puts you in the exact same stone channel where Roman water flowed centuries ago.



Ifugao, Philippines

RICE TERRACES OF THE PHILIPPINE CORDILLERAS

Located in the mountainous Ifugao province of northern Luzon, these rice terraces were carved into the steep mountainsides by the Ifugao people using nothing but their hands, some wooden tools and brilliant understanding of their environment. Even today, the terraces, which are divided into five clusters, are still actively farmed using traditional methods, although the conservation of this landscape is endangered due to threats from modernisation, out-migration and climate change. **Good to know:** The best time to visit is during planting season (April and May), when the terraces are a vibrant green, or during harvest season (from September to November), when the rice turns a golden yellow, creating a warm, glowing landscape.

Maranhão, Brazil

**LENÇÓIS
MARANHENSES
NATIONAL PARK**

Despite its appearance, this national park with white sand dunes as far as the eye can see technically isn't a desert because it receives too much rainfall to qualify. During the rainy season, from January to June, rainwater collects in the valleys between the dunes, forming thousands of temporary lagoons in stunning shades of blue, green and turquoise. The result is a landscape of otherworldly beauty where migratory birds, fish that appear seasonally, and several endemic plants thrive. **Good to know:** Getting around requires a four-wheel drive vehicle as the park has no roads.







Quảng Bình, Vietnam

PHONG NHA-KE BANG NATIONAL PARK

Hang Son Doong, the world's largest cave system, is located close to the Laos border within this World Heritage Site. It stretches nearly 9km and the tallest measurable depth is 200m. In other words: it could easily house a 50-storey skyscraper. Hang Son Doong features underground rivers and, in places where the ceiling has collapsed allowing sunlight to enter, even its own jungle ecosystems. Witnessing this phenomenal place first-hand is for the lucky few: to protect this delicate ecosystem, only about 1,000 people are permitted to visit annually. **Nice to know:** Local farmer Ho Khanh found the entrance in 1991, when he heard the rush of a subterranean river, but it wasn't until 2009 that a group of British cavers discovered how big it was.



Matera, Italy

THE SASSI OF MATERA

While this may seem to be a typical city in southern Italy, some of what you're looking at is actually facades of cave dwellings dating as far back as the Old Stone Age. Over the centuries, inhabitants carved into limestone rock, creating a vast complex of homes, churches and even an amphitheatre in what is now the centre of Matera, which comprises two districts: Sasso Caveoso and Sasso Barisano. Considered a national shame due to extreme poverty and poor living conditions in the mid-20th century, Matera has been transformed into a lively city with restaurants, cultural spaces and boutique hotels. **Don't miss:** The Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario museum, where you can see a replica of a cave dwelling.

Welcome
on board



KLM NEWS

KLM House

NO. 10: THE CROWNED TURNIP



Located at Oudezijds Voorburgwal 57 in Amsterdam, *De Gecroonde Raep* ('The Crowned Turnip') is one of the city's oldest buildings. This special, richly

decorated canal house was designed by famous Dutch architect Hendrick de Keyser. It was constructed in 1615 in the typical Amsterdam Renaissance style of the time, with a stepped gable, double pilasters linked by shields, and wall buttresses on the first floor. In the 19th century, The Crowned Turnip was home to a cigar factory. As a result of its architectural significance, the Hendrick de Keyser Association purchased Oudezijds Voorburgwal 57 in 1946.

Mark Wagtendonk (left)



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Ask the expert



CABIN CREW MEMBER
KRISHAN QURESHI ANSWERS
YOUR BURNING QUESTION.

What do the cabin crew do before passengers board



We board the plane 15 to 20 minutes before the passengers and do the flight safety checks. Each cabin attendant is given an area to inspect using a checklist on an iPad, and looks for discrepancies, such as a lack of oxygen bottles. Depending on our destination, we then conduct an extra security check of the lavatories and cupboards, before checking the beverages and food. If something's missing, we alert the purser, who asks for the stocks to be replenished. Once any missing items have arrived (usually within 5 to 10 minutes), and we've confirmed that everything's in order, we let the passengers board.

Do you have a burning question for the experts at KLM? Email us at 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 light-hearted banter was just what I needed”

FORMER AMERICAN DIPLOMAT
ERIC BENJAMINSON
THOROUGHLY ENJOYED HIS
FLIGHT FROM LAGOS TO
AMSTERDAM.



I've been flying with KLM since 1976, and that's when my appreciation for the airline began. However, it didn't reach its peak until 1984, when I was returning home to the US after I'd been stationed as a diplomat for two years in Nigeria. I look back on that period of my life fondly, even if it did have its ups and downs. When I finally reached the gate at Lagos airport to board my flight, I was stressed and sweating because of the humidity. I immediately

felt at ease when the cabin attendant greeted me – as I boarded the Boeing 747 – with some hilarious Dutch sarcasm by saying: “Looks like you've had a peaceful trip.” This light-hearted banter, coupled with the cleanliness of the aircraft and the air conditioning, was just what I needed. I fell asleep quickly, waking up just before we landed. When I looked out over the green landscape, with its beautiful houses and windmills, I felt content

that I'd chosen to fly via Amsterdam. I'd booked a package that included a stay at Hotel Krasnapolsky, which I also enjoyed immensely. I flew back to the US the next day, and have been travelling with KLM ever since; most recently to Rome for a cruise along the Italian coast with my wife.

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

KLM partner

THE ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA ON TOUR

Recognised as one of the world's top three orchestras, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra has been making music for 137 years, and taking their unique sound worldwide since 1895.

Up next is a visit to South Korea in early November, where they will

play in Seoul for the eighth time. They will then visit Japan for the 21st time in mid-November.

Familiar face Klaus Mäkelä will conduct. He made his debut in September 2020 and has conducted the orchestra several times each season. Mäkelä will formally assume the role of Chief Conductor in 2027.

As the orchestra's partner since 2013, KLM has been flying its members globally. But KLM also collaborates with the orchestra on marketing, branding, sales and social engagement.

concertgebouwworkest.nl/en



#Travelhack

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TRAVEL WELL



Airbus A321neo

SILENT FLIGHT

KLM IS REPLACING ITS BOEING 737S WITH NEW AIRBUS A321NEOS, AND HAS ADDED 10 OF THESE AIRCRAFT TO ITS FLEET SO FAR. ANOUK BOWMAN, CONTENT CREATOR AT *HOLLAND HERALD*, FLEW FROM AMSTERDAM TO STOCKHOLM ON KLM'S FIRST A321NEO, WHICH ARRIVED IN 2024.

The first thing I notice when boarding the fabulous new plane, which KLM has affectionately named *Swallowtail*, is Purser Jennifer de Wagenaar touching a wall panel. "I love this feature," she says as the cabin is suddenly bathed in a soft pink hue. "It allows me to change the colour of the ambient light, giving the cabin a whole new feel." I agree that the cabin feels more welcoming. "Oh, and give me a heads up if you're cold," she adds. "With the 737, we had to ask the pilots to adjust the temperature, but now we can change it ourselves."

Bigger is better

The surprises continue as Cabin Attendant Thara Nievaart helps me to my seat in the spacious cabin and expertly stows away my jacket in one of the luggage compartments. "There's so much more room compared to our previous plane," she says. "The seats are wider, the aisle is broader and the overhead bins are the largest on the market." As I put my bag in one of these compartments, which still has plenty of room despite housing my neighbours' bags, I'm inclined to agree with her. She's right about the seats, too. While plugging my charger into the USB-C port, another nifty feature, I notice that my seat feels more spacious and softer than the Boeing 737's seats. "This new material is soft and easy to keep clean," explains Nievaart. "And just wait until we're in the air and you experience the noise reduction. You'll be able to hear me, even if I whisper."

More efficient and quieter

As we reach our cruising altitude following one of the quietest take-offs I've ever experienced, I don't bother to use my

noise-cancelling headphones as it's so silent compared with what I'm used to. When Nievaart asks me – with the whisper she spoke about earlier – if I'd like to see the cockpit on this special occasion, I gladly accept.

Captain Heiko Groenendijk greets me as I arrive. "Welcome to our 'ballroom'. Isn't it huge in here?" he says. I'm amazed by the state-of-the-art dashboard panels, the incredible view and, once again, the relative silence, which I'm keen to point out. "Not only is this aircraft considerably quieter on the inside, but it also produces a lot less noise than our B737-800, which is one of the big advantages; as is the fact that it can transport approximately 40 more passengers and therefore produces fewer CO₂ emissions per passenger per kilometre," summarises Groenendijk. "Then there's the advanced warning system, which immediately alerts us, and supports in detecting any matters that require our attention, via the main screen." He points at the screen in the middle of the cockpit. "Now that we're almost at Arlanda Airport, I can show you the approach guidance systems. The A321neo can fly very accurate approaches using satellite information. We have the option to fly curved approaches, which helps us to avoid populated areas when approaching airports." Groenendijk shows me a map of the runway on the screen. "So, we need to land here. Our system is now receiving a signal that will guide us to the landing runway, which the plane 'latches' onto."

Once we've landed, I have a final word with the pilots and ask them what their favourite feature is. Groenendijk laughs and points at a fold-out table in front of him. "The improved cockpit design has made room for a table. To us, that feels luxurious too."



Above Purser Jennifer de Wagenaar (top left), Cabin Attendant Thara Nievaart and Captain Heiko Groenendijk

Left page (clockwise from top left): The wider seats; Arlanda Airport seen from the cockpit; the A321neo; Cabin Attendant Thara Nievaart using a panel



Fleet renewal is one of KLM's most pursued goals. In mid-September 2024, KLM received its first new A321neo, an important step in the rigorous renewal programme initiated to support cleaner, quieter and more efficient flight operations. Since then, KLM has welcomed 10 A321neos. These aircraft are replacing its Boeing 737 fleet, which serves more than 20 European destinations, such as Copenhagen, Berlin and Stockholm.

KLM FLEET

Specifications

A FLUTTER OF PLANES



New planes call for new names, and the A321neos added to KLM's fleet this year take on the names of butterflies. The first A321neo addition was the *Koninginnepage*, literally translated as 'Queen's page', but known as swallowtail in English. Other members of the new fleet will be named *Porseleinvlinder* (clouded magpie), *Braamvlinder* (peach blossom moth) and *Citroenvlinder* (common brimstone).



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



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 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 737-900

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: 25
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



Wheels

NO TIRED TYRES

“These two sets of six wheels are part of a Boeing 777-200ER’s landing gear,” says Gaston Baro, KLM Lead Ground Engineer at Hangar 11, Schiphol. “To ensure that all wheels are in great condition for their next flight, we perform a visual inspection of the tyres, as well as checking the tyre pressure indication system in the cockpit. If the tyre pressure isn’t

within a specified pressure range, we inflate it with nitrogen up to 215 psi (14.8 bar). Or if we detect wear that’s out of limits, the wheel will be replaced. It’s hard to say how often this happens, as it’s dependent on the condition of the tyres. Does an aircraft ever get a flat tyre? Due to these inspections, that hardly ever happens.”

TRAVELLERS



Richard



“With his political experience, he could offer interesting insights”

RICHARD GLEN
TRAVELLING TO ZURICH
ON FLIGHT KL1923

Reason for travel? “I’m going to Zurich for two days to enjoy the city, before heading to Venice to meet up with my nieces. They live in London, but one of them is a big fan of Italy, which is why we’re meeting up in Venice. It’s quite smart of them to invite me – now they’ll have someone to pay for their dinners.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I enjoy drag racing, and my son is keen on NASCAR-racing [National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing], so we’ve been to the US a few times to watch those kinds of races. We hope to be able to travel to Atlanta again this year for them.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “Mark Rutte might be an interesting companion. With everything going on in the world today, and with his political experience in the Netherlands and at NATO, he could probably offer some interesting insights.”

Harjeet & Brar

HARJEET SINGH AND
BRAR SHAMSHER SINGH
TRAVELLING TO CALGARY
ON FLIGHT KL677

Reason for travel? Harjeet: “We live in Calgary, and are flying back home. We were in India for two months, to catch up with relatives and friends. It was great seeing everyone again, eating the food and being able to go to the temple together. I’m originally from India, but I studied to be a medical office assistant in Calgary and was able to get permanent residency.”

Still on your travel bucket list? Harjeet: “I’d really like to visit the US. I’ve heard from most of my friends that they really enjoyed their time there. There are so many things I would like to see – the Hollywood sign, for example, or Times Square.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Harjeet: “My mum. I always share everything with her, and I don’t get to see her often, so it would be a great way to catch up and talk about anything we want.”



Stephany

STEPHANY VAN DER WAL
TRAVELLING TO NEW YORK
ON FLIGHT KL641

Reason for travel? “To visit my sister, she’s living and studying in New York City. I’m not sure what she’s studying, but I know that it has to do with law. I’ll be staying with her for a little over a week. I haven’t been there before, and she’s planning on showing me around. Apparently, she has an entire itinerary, so I’m looking forward to it.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I haven’t been to the Asian continent before, so there’s still loads to explore there. Japan or South Korea have been on my list for ages. So maybe Kyoto or Osaka? And I’ll be going to India next month.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “I’m not the best conversationalist. So, for that reason, I’d probably choose my sister. She’s the most comfortable option for sure. It would be nice to catch up, but if I don’t feel like talking, she would be okay with that too.”

Enjoy every Mile of your journey



Flyingblue
AIRFRANCE  

Travel shapes you with incredible experiences that become forever part of your journey. And Flying Blue, the loyalty programme of Air France-KLM Group, is here to help you enjoy every Mile along the way.

With Flying Blue and its many partners, you can earn Miles on air travel and daily activities which can be spent on flights and other enriching experiences. Plus, unlock more benefits as you level up in the programme.

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FLYING BLUE

20th Anniversary

THANK YOU FOR SHARING OUR JOURNEY



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

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

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

For more information: flyingblue.com

My Miles



**"I always choose
KLM because the
service is stellar"**

BO HITZERT IS SAVING UP
HER MILES FOR A
SPECIAL DESTINATION



New York

I've been working for Amazon for almost seven years, and my role often requires me to fly to Luxembourg, where my engineering team is located; San Francisco, where my partner teams are based; and Seattle, to visit my head office. I always choose KLM; not just to save up Miles and XP, but also because the service is stellar and it's easy to take luggage on board. Furthermore, I often

choose Accor Live Limitless hotels for my stays, which allows me to save up Miles, and I pay for big purchases with American Express, further adding to my tally. The Miles I've earned have allowed me to travel to New York to visit my sister Zoey, often with my other sister, Floor, once a year for our so-called 'sister weekend'. I've become very well acquainted with the Tribeca area,

where Zoey lives. I'm currently saving my Miles for a unique trip. A friend of mine is getting married in Hawaii next year, and my fiancé and I hope to have gathered enough Miles by that point to exchange for our plane tickets.

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



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

ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT



**Elio is convinced that
being abducted by aliens
will help him fit in**

Watch, listen or play

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

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

Our pick



ELIO

How do you tackle childhood issues such as loneliness and alienation with a film? According to Pixar's *Elio*, you add an orphaned boy with these challenges to a war brewing in the galaxy. The film follows Elio (voiced by Yonas Kibreab) who, after a visit to a space-exploration museum, becomes convinced that being abducted by aliens will help him fit in. When Elio is finally taken aboard an alien spaceship, he's mistakenly declared a candidate for Earth's Ambassador by the Communiverse, an organisation of aliens. To complicate matters, he's sent in as a diplomat to broker peace between the Communiverse and Lord Grigon (voiced by Brad Garrett).

Animation, 1h38min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



© 1995 New Line Productions, Inc.

Seven

Crime, 2h7min

In this dark 1995 thriller, which took the world by storm, veteran detective William Somerset (Morgan Freeman) and rookie David Mills (Brad Pitt) have the difficult job of finding a serial killer who is committing a series of murders based on the seven deadly sins.



© 1984 Warner Bros.

Gremlins

Comedy, 1h46min

Inventor Randall Peltzer (Hoyt Axton) buys a cute creature, called a 'Mogwai', as a Christmas gift for his son Billy (Zach Galligan) in an antique shop. Mayhem ensues when it begins multiplying and then changes into something sinister. *Gremlins* is a classic film from 1984.



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Materialists

Romance, 1h56min

While attending the ninth wedding she's responsible for, eternal bachelorette and matchmaker Lucy Mason (Dakota Johnson) faces a dilemma when running into ex-boyfriend John Finch (Chris Evans) and meeting successful financier Harry Castillo (Pedro Pascal).

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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And Just Like That...

Comedy, 44min

Carrie, Miranda and Charlotte are back! This spin-off based on the *Sex and The City* series follows the New York-based trio through new trials and tribulations, such as Miranda's new sexual preferences and Carrie's love life.



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My Mom Jayne

Documentary, 1h45min

Actress Mariska Hargitay, known for her role in *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, researches the life and fame of her mother, Hollywood icon Jayne Mansfield, who died tragically in a car accident at the young age of 34. Hargitay was only three years old at the time.



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Based on a True Story

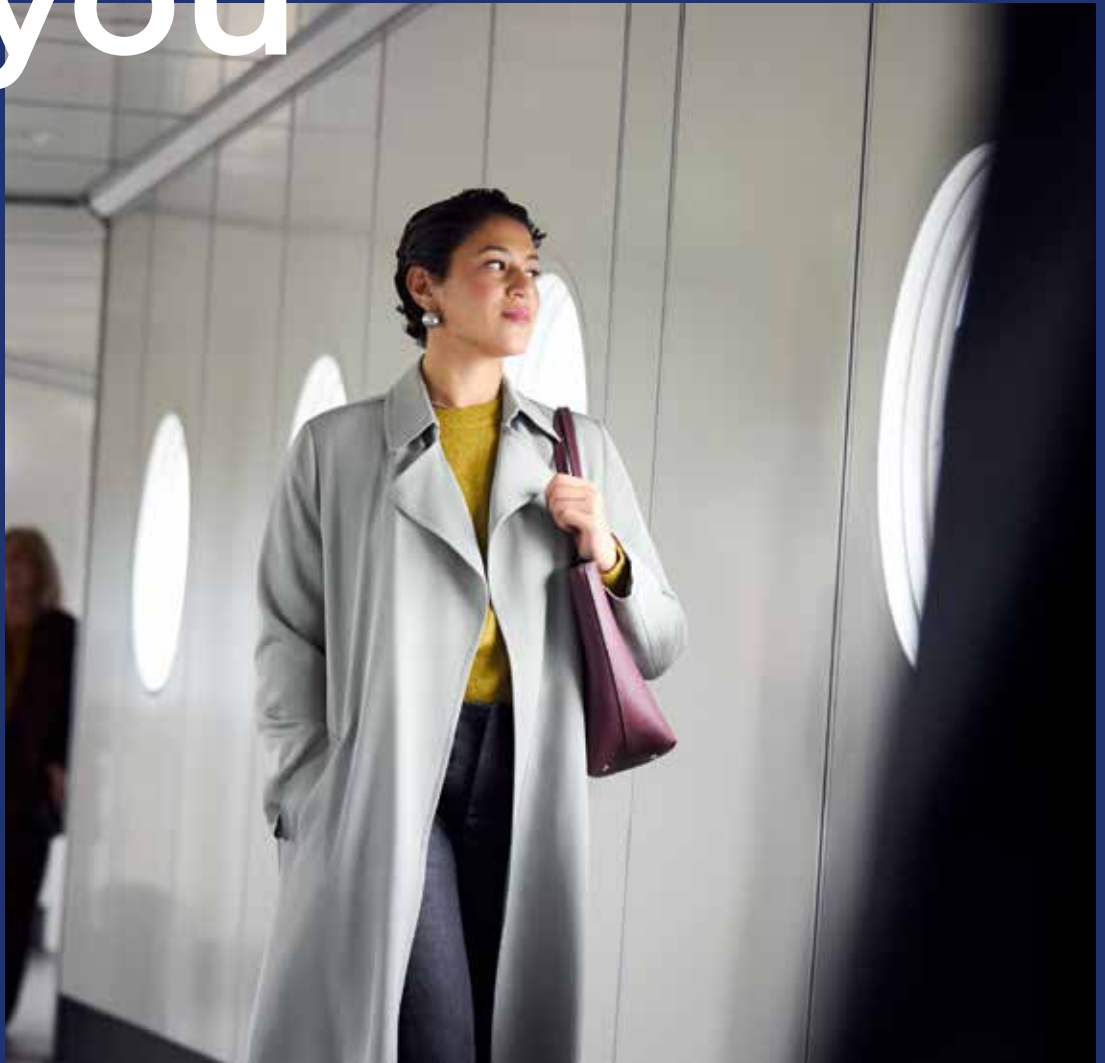
Dark comedy, 30min

This series pokes fun at society's obsession with everything true crime-related. When real estate agent Ava (Kaley Cuoco) notices a number of details that could help solve a local murder, she teams up with husband Nathan (Chris Messina).

The priority is you

Your journey deserves the best. At SkyTeam, our member airlines focus on delivering an exceptional travel experience that puts you first. With seamless connections to 945+ destinations, innovative solutions designed to ensure smoother journeys and exclusive benefits that reward your loyalty, we make every moment unforgettable.

[SkyTeam.com](https://www.skyteam.com)



SKYTEAM

Joint Declaration

STANDING AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A DEVASTATING AND OFTEN INVISIBLE CRIME THAT VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFFECTS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE. MANY VICTIMS ARE TRANSPORTED BY AIR DURING RECRUITMENT AND EXPLOITATION.



As a global airline alliance that connects millions of passengers, SkyTeam recognises its responsibility and opportunity to act. Our member airlines are unanimously committed to helping fight this crime.

Our Declaration

On 1 June 2025, SkyTeam and its members signed an Anti-Human Trafficking Declaration, becoming the first airline alliance to launch a joint initiative to address this issue. The Declaration formalises our shared commitment to action, guided by five core values: Ethical Responsibility, Empathy and Respect, Awareness and Education,

Collaboration and Partnerships, and Survivor Support.

“This isn’t just a pledge – it’s a platform for change,” said SkyTeam CEO, Patrick Roux. “Human trafficking is a hidden crime impacting 50 million people worldwide. The aviation industry must take action. As a global airline alliance, SkyTeam recognises its unique position to intervene. By uniting our efforts, we can drive change and have far greater impact than any single airline acting alone.”

Taking action

SkyTeam’s alliance-wide programme focuses on four areas: training staff, raising awareness, sharing

best practices across airlines, and building partnerships.

Member airlines have been taking meaningful steps to combat human trafficking for years. Some have launched initiatives to raise awareness among passengers – for example, including dedicated content such as films and documentaries in in-flight entertainment, and placing human trafficking prevention cards on board.

Many members have invested in training for front-line staff and across departments to identify suspected trafficking and assist victims. Others have partnered with law enforcement, government agencies, and NGOs to support broader anti-trafficking efforts. Now, these actions are coming together under SkyTeam’s initiative – scaling proven approaches to enhance impact across all member airlines.

Shared responsibility

Thanks to passengers, many trafficking cases have been identified. If something doesn’t feel right, inform airline staff. Our alliance remains committed to driving change and making air travel safer for everyone. Together, we are helping shine a light on a crime that too often remains in the dark.

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

HOUSE RULES

Electronics on board

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

Cabin crew may request that all electronic devices are switched off completely if it is deemed necessary.

Drinks and smoking

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

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

Privacy

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

Lithium batteries

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

Hand luggage at EU airports

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

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

Animal products

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

Airport shopping

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

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

Wi-Fi & free messaging

STAY IN TOUCH ON BOARD

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



1

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



2

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



3

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

Social networking
since 1873.



Heineken

Helping children in need at KLM destinations

Wings of Support is a non-profit initiative founded by KLM staff. Since 1998, we have supported over 1,000 local projects at KLM destinations worldwide, giving children in need access to education, shelter, and medical care. With overheads kept to a minimum, your support truly reaches the children who need it most.



Learn more, explore our projects, and support us at:
www.wingsofsupport.org

 [wingsofsupport](https://www.instagram.com/wingsofsupport)

EUROPE

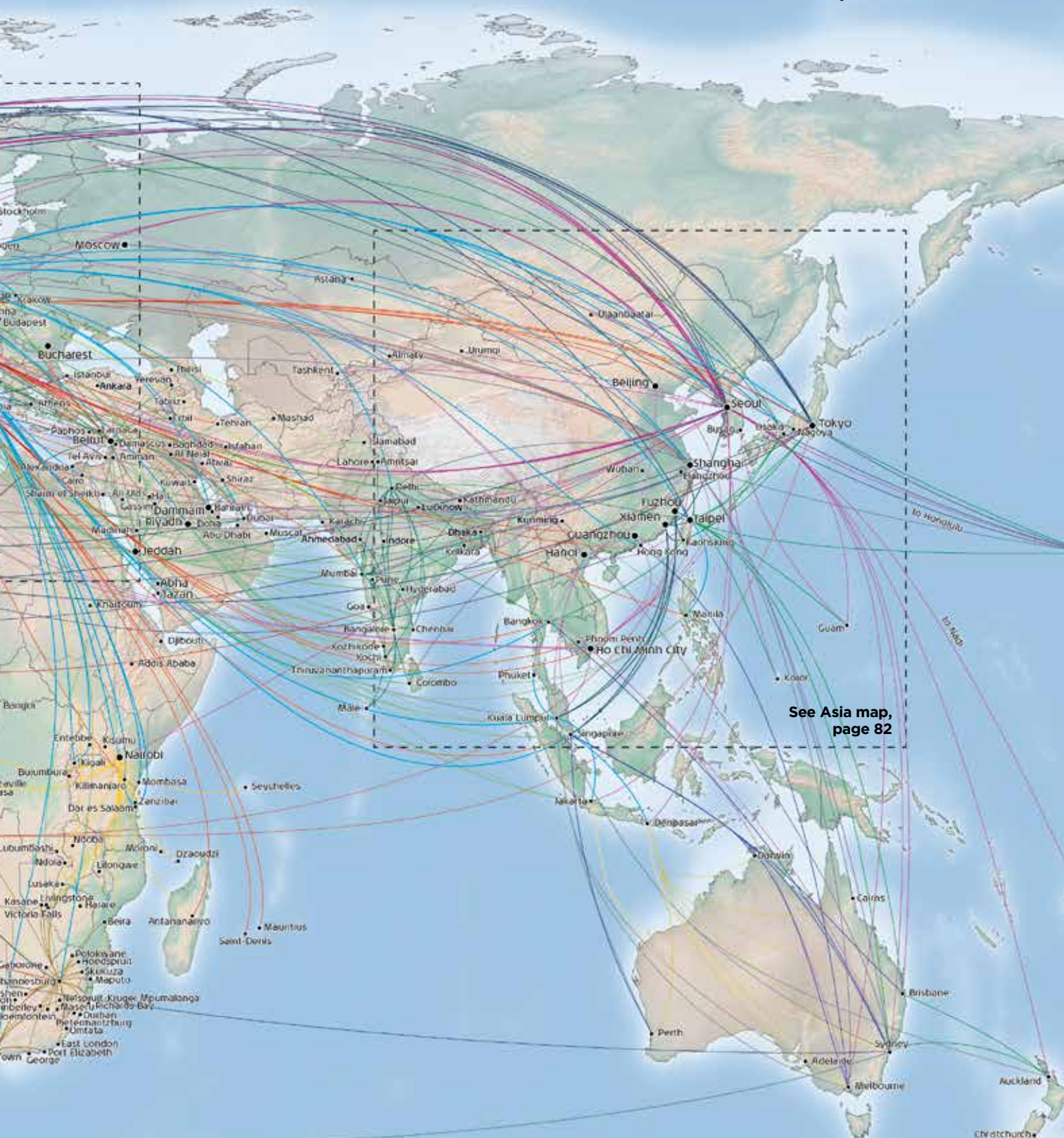


See Europe map,
page 79

See North America map,
page 84

WORLD





See Asia map,
page 82

**KLM, SkyTeam
and select
code-share
partner routes**

— KLM
— Aerolíneas Argentinas
— Aeroméxico
— Air Europa
— Air France

— Air Link
— China Airlines
— China Eastern
— COPA Airlines
— Delta Air Lines
— Garuda Indonesia

— Indigo
— Jetstar Airways
— Kenya Airways
— Korean Air
— GOL
— Malaysia Airlines

— Middle East Airlines
— Qantas
— Saudia
— TAROM
— Transavia
— Winair

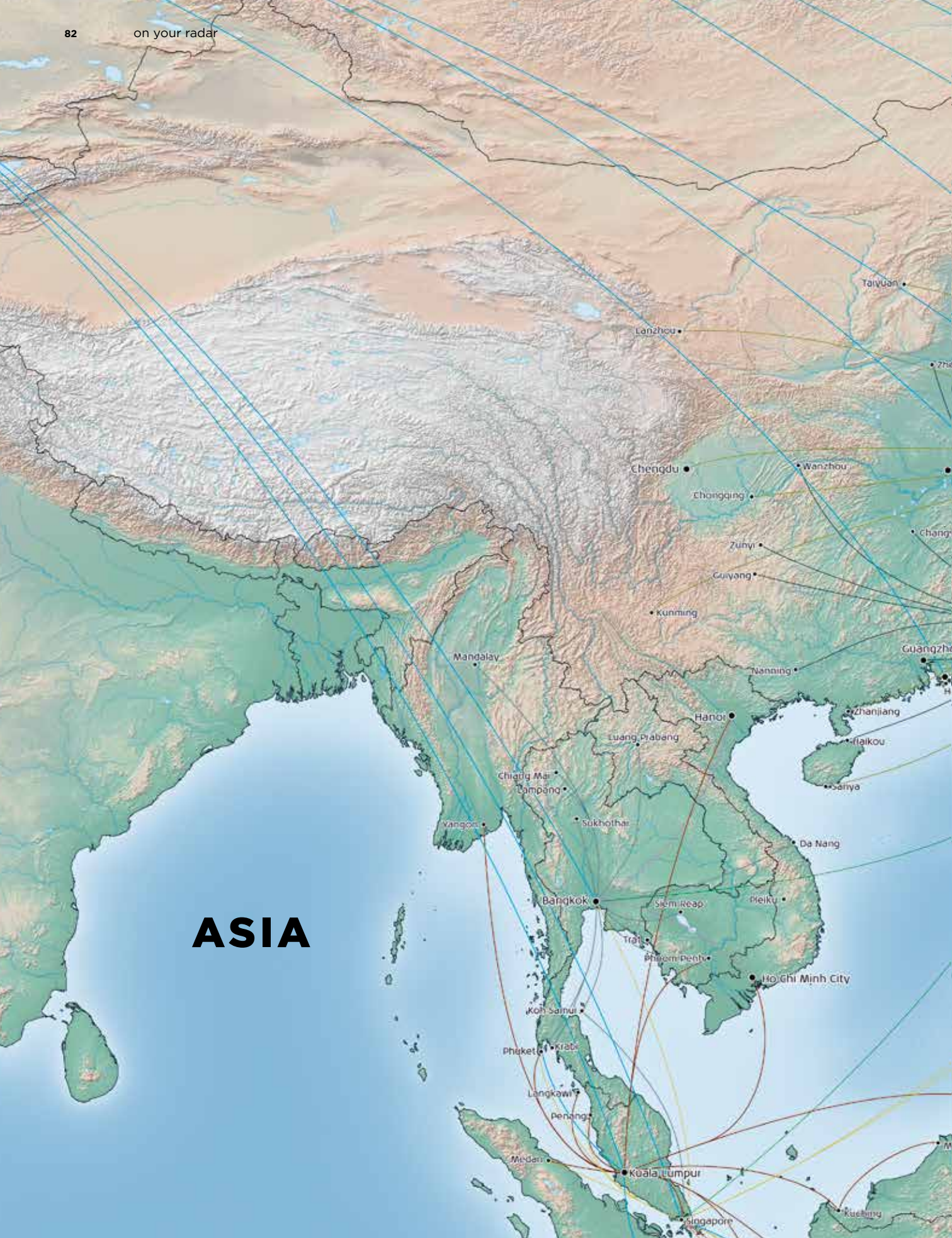
— Vietnam Airlines
— Virgin Atlantic
— XiamenAir
— SkyTeam member

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

We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

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

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




ASIA





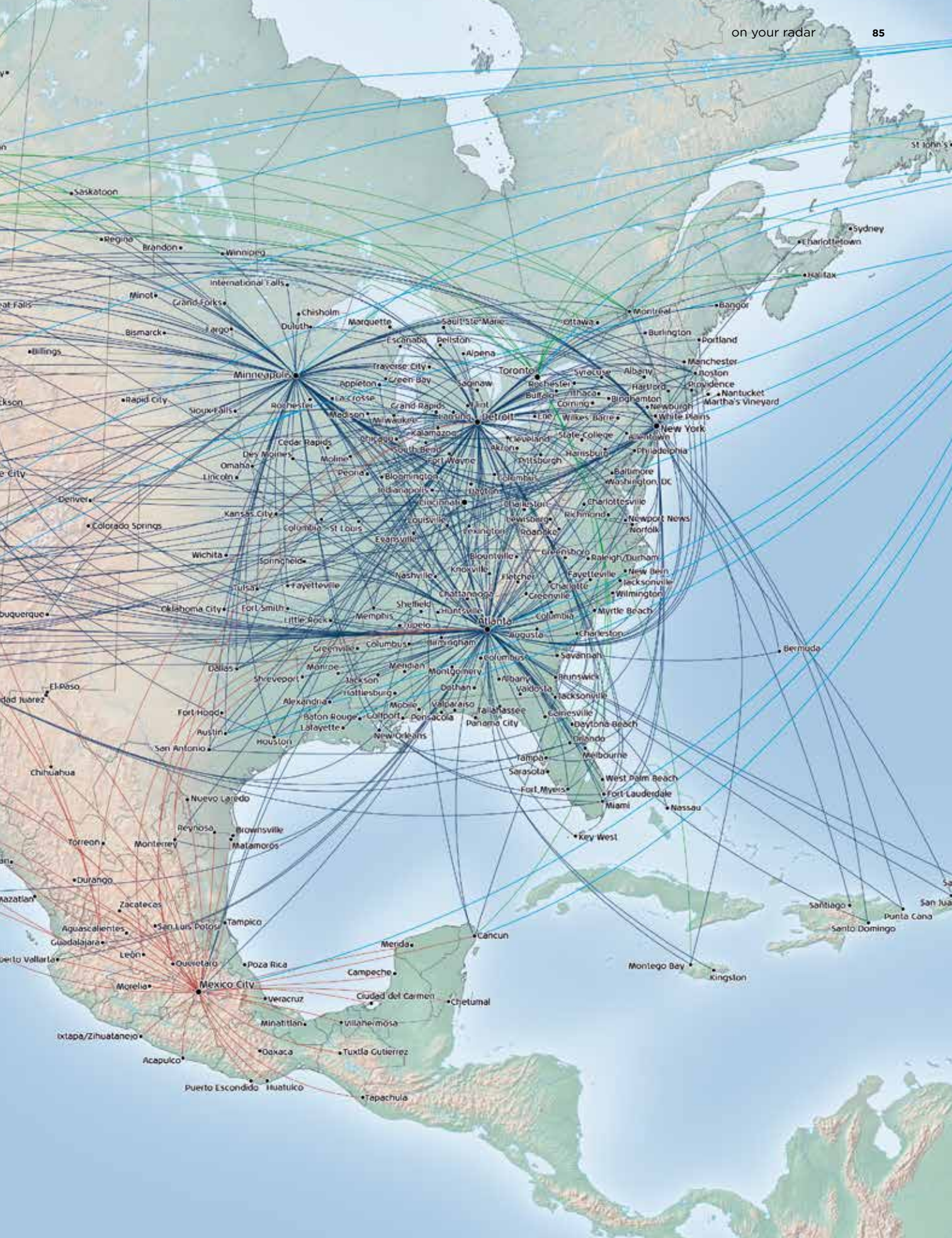
NORTH AMERICA

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

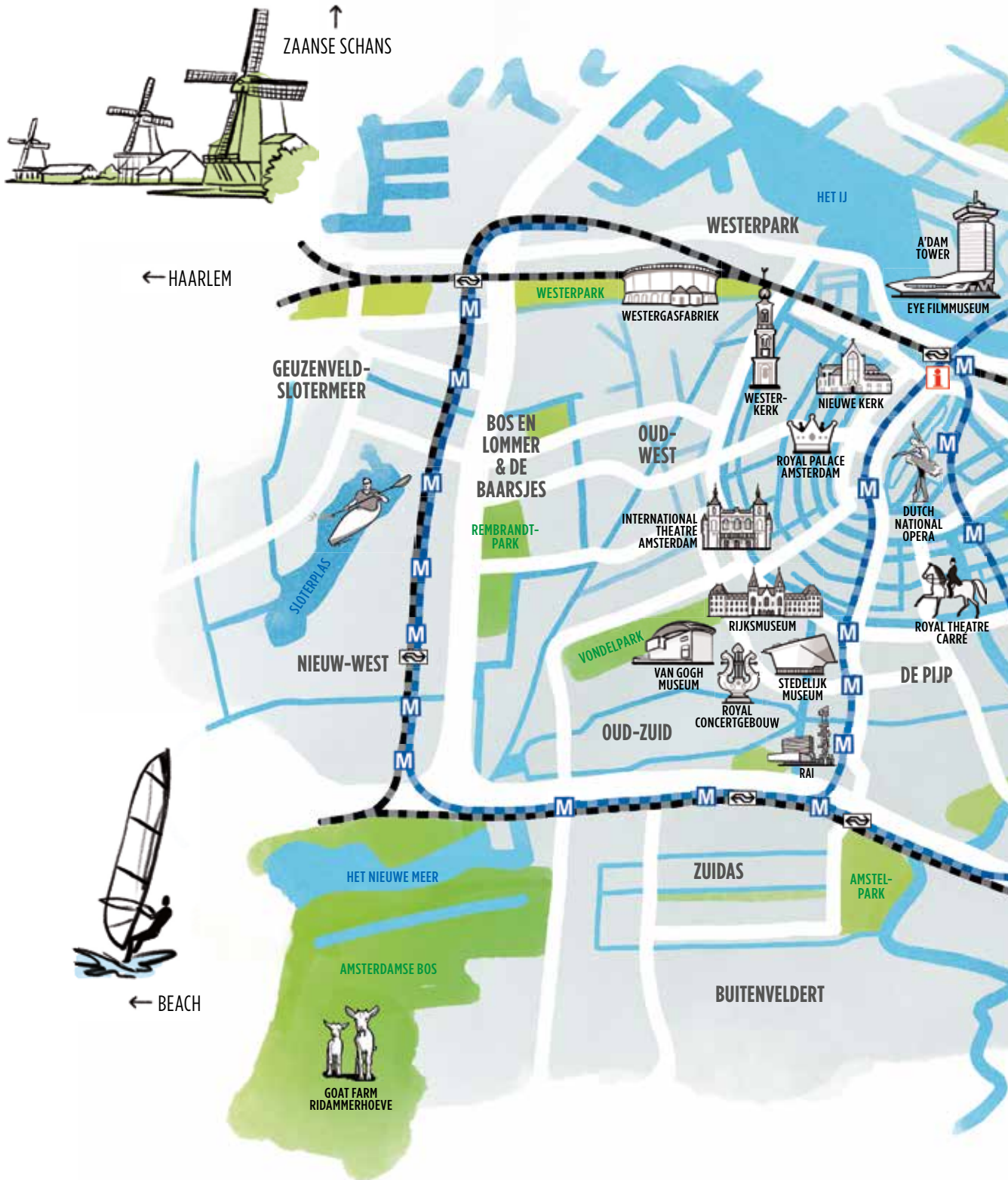
 SkyTeam member

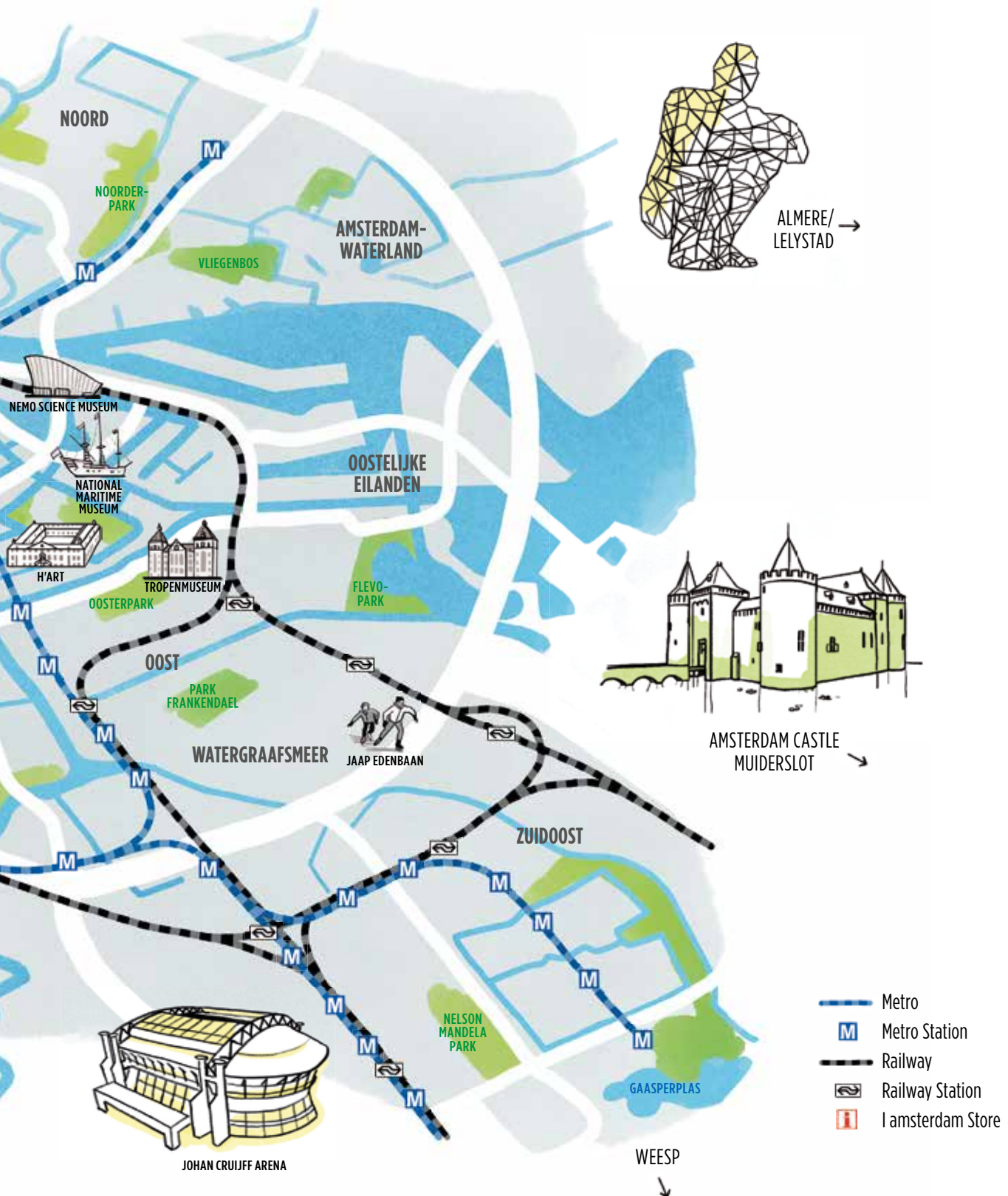
- KLM 
- Aeroméxico 
- Delta Air Lines 
- WestJet 

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



AMSTERDAM

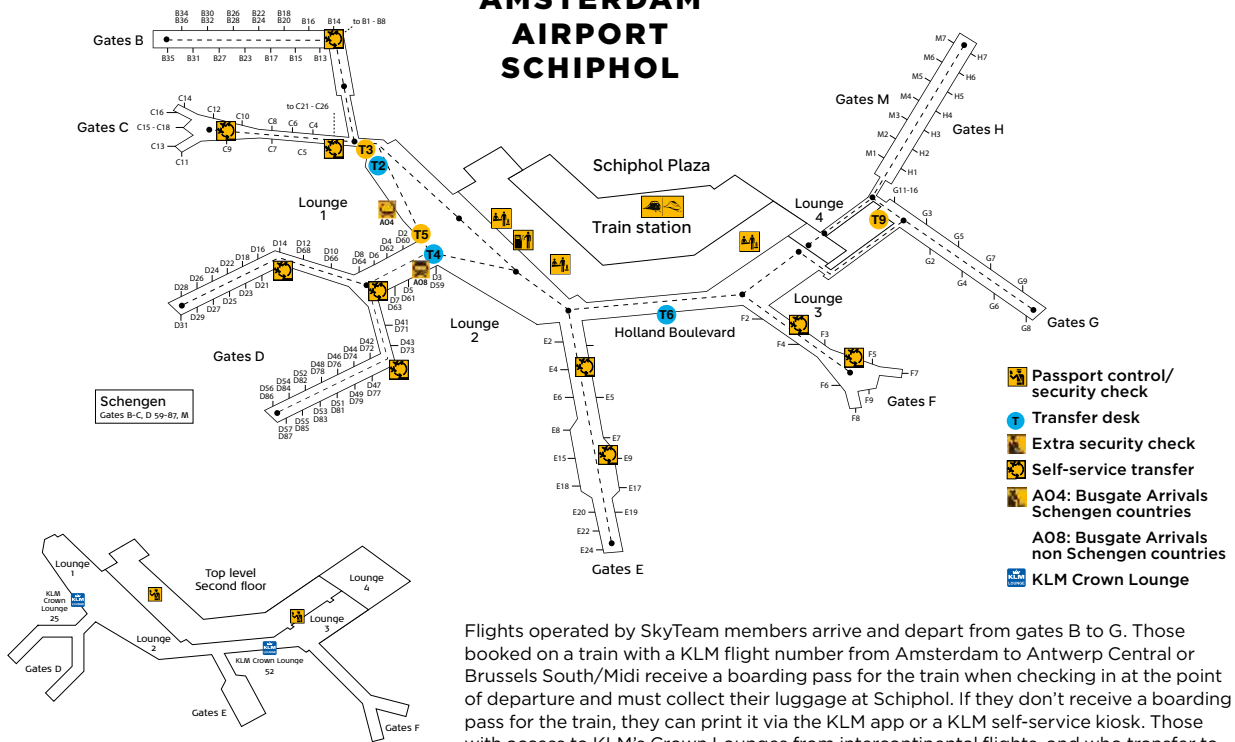




AIRPORT MAPS

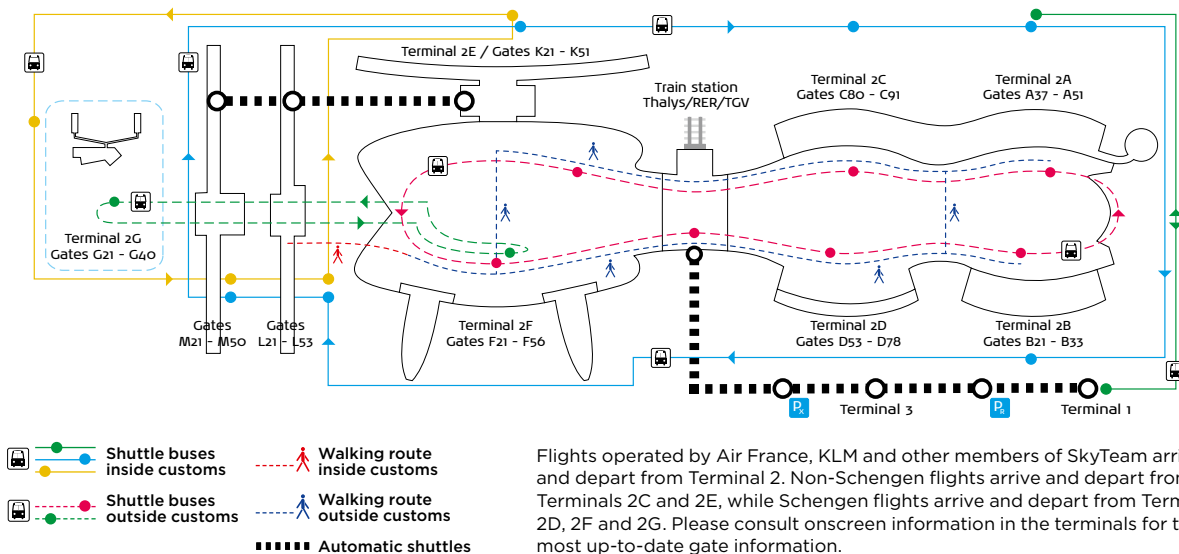
The Netherlands

AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



France

PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL 2



OUT OF THE BLUE

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue KLM cabin attendant uniform with a white shirt and a dark tie, is sitting in a large, blue, egg-shaped chair. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blue wall with several circular inset images showing various scenes from an airplane cabin.

Lisa Beijer

CABIN ATTENDANT AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER LISA BEIJER TALKS ABOUT HER DUAL ROLE, ROUTE INTO AVIATION AND FAVOURITE DESTINATION.

What does your job at KLM entail?

As cabin crew, we're responsible for ensuring that passengers are not only comfortable, but safe too. And that means keeping an eye on everything happening in the cabin. For example, a group of people chatting in the aisle may look like fun, but if we experience turbulence, it could be a safety hazard. Our regular training sessions ensure that our knowledge of procedures remains strong.

How did you end up in the aviation industry?

After studying Lifestyle & Design at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam, I worked at an ad agency. At the time, I was dating someone whose mother was a cabin crew member at KLM. She'd come home with fresh bagels from New York and loads of stories as well. She inspired me to join KLM's cabin crew, which I did in 2019. I love my job. I particularly enjoy connecting with people from all over the world, and I've learnt so much about various cultures. I'm grateful that I can combine my work at KLM with my other passion: design. I now work as a layout designer for *Holland Herald*.

What's your favourite destination?

Cartagena. This city is brimming with life, there are great coffee spots, rooftop bars galore, music is everywhere and the Old Town (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is stunning. What's more, the Caribbean Sea is never far away, so if you'd like a break from Cartagena, you can easily find a place to go snorkelling, for example.

"I enjoy connecting with people from all over the world"

GDANSK

Poland



War museum

With an array of museums, Gdansk has something for everyone. The Museum of the Second World War, where visitors learn about the victims, heroes and perpetrators of the 1939-1945 war, is arguably the most impressive.

12°C

With October temperatures averaging 12°C during the day, but dropping to lows of 7°C at night, taking a warm coat is advised. While Gdansk only receives an average of six days of rainfall in October, it's probably wise to carry a packable umbrella.

Tourist Card

With free entry to more than 20 museums, and discounts for cultural institutions and restaurants, the Gdansk Tourist Card – available at several outlets in the city, and in the handy app format – is a worthwhile purchase.

Ahoy there

Gdansk is best viewed from the water, and GetYourGuide's cruise in an intimate, replica of a historic boat is a great way to do so. Beginning near Gdansk Shipyard, it makes its way through the Old Town before passing Granary Island.

500

Located in Gdansk Bay, the 500m Sopot Pier provides stunning views of the Baltic Sea during a pleasant stroll. Those who'd like to relax while enjoying the surroundings can sit on one of the many benches along the pier.

Pierogi

Visitors shouldn't miss the staple Polish dish: *pierogi*. These dumplings have either savoury or sweet fillings, and typically contain meat, vegetables, or fruit. Try Pierogarnia Mandu restaurant, which is known for its *pierogi* menu.





FEMALE CANCER
FOUNDATION

“
QUALITY CARE FOR WOMEN
ISN'T OPTIONAL, IT IS ESSENTIAL
”

Cervical cancer is the second most occurring cancer for women under the age of 45. Nearly 94% of deaths occur in low- and middle income countries, caused by a lack of healthcare and screening programs. Yet, cervical cancer is easy to prevent with early diagnosis and timely treatment. Female Cancer Foundation provides care and education on the spot in hard to reach corners of the world. **Scan the QR code**, save a woman's life. With just 15 Euro you can save her and give her children a brighter future!





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WAHTS Brand Store, Cornelis Schuytstraat 9, Amsterdam.