

**MAY 2026 • WILD & WONDERFUL GUYANA • 24 HOURS IN JERSEY • MEET GARDEN
DESIGNER PIET OUDOLF • BREATHTAKING HIKES • KLM INSIDER STORIES & UPDATES**

HOLLAND HERALD



*Guyana harbors
a wealth of rare
charismatic wildlife*



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BY APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT
OF THE NETHERLANDS

Welcome

Marjan Rintel

GREEN PLACES



Cover Story

"I'm pleased to report that this close-up of a rather fabulous male black curassow required zero birding credentials," says photographer Jurriaan Teulings. "I simply shot this image from the comfort of my breakfast table at Atta Rainforest Lodge in Guyana [p. 38], where curious curassows gawk at birders on their daily patrol of the lounge, as much as those birders gawk at more elusive species in the canopy around the nearby Iwokrama Canopy Walkway."

According to various scientific studies, 15 minutes in a "green" environment can improve your mental health. I personally try to make time several times a week to seek out the peace and quiet of nature in our busy and crowded country, the Netherlands, especially by going for a walk. It helps me to unwind and recharge. In this edition of *Holland Herald*, we highlight the world's most beautiful hikes (p. 52), cutting straight through nature – from the Brennisteinsalda Trail in Iceland to the Kalalau Trail in Hawaii.

But even in large, often hectic, cities green environments, such as gardens and city parks, can help reduce stress and even feelings of gloom. We speak with world-famous Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf (p. 26). He started out selling Christmas trees and ultimately became responsible for designing famous gardens and city parks around the world, such as the High Line in New York and the Lurie Garden in Chicago. His garden designs are a kind of promise. As a designer, he envisions what the garden will look like in the future – trusting in what he knows will bloom into a breathtaking landscape, even when there is little to see at that moment.

"Green environments can help reduce stress and even feelings of gloom"

At KLM, we're happy to take you to those breathtaking landscapes and natural wonders worldwide, because we believe that travel enriches lives. That's why we continue to connect you to the world, with respect for the planet we share.

With our summer schedule having started at the end of March, we've opened the doors to more than 160 destinations. A green gem we're adding in Europe is the Channel Island of

Jersey (p. 36), just 22 kilometers off the French coast. Nature and history come together here in a uniquely appealing way.

A green, discovery-worthy KLM destination in South America is Guyana (p. 38). Unspoiled rainforest covers 87% of the country, making it one of the last great wildernesses on Earth. A visit here goes far beyond a 15-minute walk.

Wherever your KLM journey takes you, we hope you'll find energy and inspiration there.

Welcome aboard,

Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO



FENIX

Art Museum about Migration
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Photo: Iwan Baan

TIME

WORLD'S
GREATEST
PLACES

2026

fenix.nl



May 2026

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Your Next Destination

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

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MEET THE TEAM



Iris van den Broek

Discovering new places is one of travel writer and photographer Iris' greatest passions in life. When she's not on the road, Iris is often searching for new and relatively undiscovered spots around the world. For this issue, she wrote about the Channel Island of Jersey (p. 36).

Iris' travel tip: "Try not to squeeze too much into your itinerary. Focus on one or two areas instead and explore them in depth. The last time I visited the US, rather than rushing through several states, I spent two weeks in Oregon. Slow travel gives you the time to truly connect with a place."



Nienke Pleysier

Nienke is a journalist who specializes in human-interest storytelling. A journalism school graduate, she contributes to Dutch newspapers and magazines.

Nienke spent her younger days backpacking around the globe. As a mom of three, she now gravitates to quiet spots near the sea. Nienke wrote the article about garden designer Piet Oudolf (p. 26).

Nienke's travel tip: "I went to Rotterdam recently for a serious art fix. My favorite experience was my visit to the newly opened Dutch Photography Museum. The photo book library on the ground floor alone is reason enough for a visit."



Monique Kolmeijer

As Photo Editor, Monique contributes to *Holland Herald's* visual voice by selecting imagery that brings destinations to life and inspires curiosity and exploration. For this issue, she especially enjoyed choosing the photos for the feature about the world's most beautiful hikes (p. 52).

Monique's travel tip: "Go for a hike in Switzerland's Appenzel Alps. Start at Äscher, the iconic cliffside inn, and then hike to Bollenwees where you can sleep next to Lake Fälensee. The next day, the trail winds via Meglisalp down to Lake Seealpsee, framed by towering Alpine cliffs."

Colophon

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THROUGH *your lens*





PICTURESQUE PADDIES

REINIER POSTHUMUS AND HIS FAMILY WERE DAZZLED BY SCENIC BALI.



During our summer vacation in August 2025, I visited Bali and Lombok with my wife and our two sons. We toured the region for three weeks, beginning our travels in Denpasar, before continuing on to Sidemen village, where this photo was taken. While Sidemen is slowly becoming more well-known, I thought it still had a pretty authentic feel to it. It's smack dab in the middle of beautiful rice paddies. Understandably, it's a big *faux pas* to walk over the terraces without a village guide, as the land is being cultivated. So in order to fully experience the rice paddies and the natural beauty surrounding Sidemen, we booked a walking tour with a local female guide through an organization that helps women to acquire work. Our guide did a wonderful job taking us through the paddies, where we came upon this woman working. The entire scene was so visually striking that I couldn't help but take a photo. Of course, this wasn't the only image

I captured on our trip. The Balinese people, the food, the colors, the landscape – everything was so photogenic. During our entire three-week vacation, I had a really hard time putting my camera down. I wouldn't mind returning to Indonesia, although I'd like to explore another region next time around.

Your Photo

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

Monthly Prize

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

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





We co-own five unique holiday homes

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



Lene & Danny, a 21-5 family

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

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

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

What do you like most about 21-5?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Has 21-5 been a good investment for you?

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

FACTS ABOUT 21-5

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



For more information:

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The SELECTION

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

Vancouver

THE IDEA OF NATURE

As one of Canada's most influential modernist painters, Emily Carr (1871–1945) is known for her expressive depictions of forests and Indigenous sites of the Pacific Northwest. The overview exhibition *That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the Idea of Nature* at the Vancouver Art Gallery delves into Carr's fascination with nature, spirituality, and cultural identity.

Until Nov 8; vanartgallery.bc.ca

TO *see*

Amsterdam

MID-CENTURY MODERNISM

With the exhibition *Kho Liang Le, Mid-Century Modernist*, Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum celebrates the work of Indonesian designer Kho Liang Le (1927–1975). His functional and minimalist design is known for its focus on typography, space, and user experience. Until Oct 18; stedelijk.nl



Barcelona

REARRANGING MIRÓ

After a large reorganization of its collection, Barcelona's Fundació Joan Miró museum has rearranged more than 100 works by the famous Spanish artist. Under the title *Joan Miró: Circles*, the new display moves away from a chronological or thematic presentation and instead explores the artist's work through his creative process. The museum has also reopened its signature Cypress Garden. fmirobcn.org

Paris

THE CULTURE OF K-BEAUTY

PARIS' GUIMET MUSEUM EXAMINES SOUTH KOREA'S INFLUENCE ON GLOBAL BEAUTY STANDARDS.



With its holistic approach to beauty – incorporating ancient rituals, soft feminine aesthetics, and the latest technology – the concept of K-Beauty has spread from South Korea around the world through popular culture. Bringing together masterpieces from the collections of Paris' Guimet Museum and major South Korean institutions, the exhibition *K-Beauty. Korean Beauty, Story of a Phenomenon* deciphers its codes and shows how they're part of a centuries-old tradition, aiming to strike a balance between virtue, naturalness, and sophistication.

Until July 6; guimet.fr



Antwerp

Trailblazers

Forty years after their groundbreaking presentation in London, MoMu Antwerp is celebrating the Antwerp Six, a group of Belgian fashion designers, with a major exhibition. It also features designs by other former Royal Academy of Fine Arts students. Until Jan 17; momu.be

Spanish artist Joan Miró was incredibly prolific, creating **over 8,000 artworks** in his lifetime



The Hague

BY INEZ AND VINOODH

Having photographed some of the world's biggest celebrities, and fashion campaigns for various luxury brands over the past four decades, Dutch-born duo Inez van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh Matadin are considered photography royalty and pioneers of digital image-making. The overview exhibition *Can Love Be a Photograph: 40 Years of Inez & Vinoodh* at The Hague's Kunstmuseum celebrates their impressive careers.

Until Sep 6; kunstmuseum.nl



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TO do

Socks

FEET FIRST

Frequent runners know that the right gear can make all the difference. Stox's running compression socks are designed to boost circulation and fight fatigue, while padded toe and heel cushioning keeps you comfortable on mixed terrain. For night runners, there's a special edition with reflective details at the cuff and ankle. From €34.95; stoxenergy.com



Saunas

INVIGORATING RITUAL

BOOST YOUR ENERGY BY COMBINING A SWEAT SESSION WITH A COLD PLUNGE AT THESE SAUNAS IN THE NETHERLANDS.

Kuuma

With 12 locations around the Netherlands, Kuuma offers a classic Nordic community sauna concept and an easy self-service booking system. You can book a private or shared session. kuuma.nl

Badhus

Designed as a social sauna, Badhus in Amsterdam-Noord is all about connecting through heat and cold. Facilities include an indoor and an outdoor sauna. Badhus also offers guided sessions. badhus-amsterdam.nl

Thermen Maarsse

With 15 types of saunas, this spa complex near Utrecht offers the ultimate sauna experience. The latest addition is a meditation sauna that provides silence and lake views. thermenmaarsse.com

Amsterdam

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY

Travel back to a time when dinosaurs roamed and ruled the planet. *Prehistoric Planet: Dinosaurs*, the latest installment at Fabrique des Lumières in Amsterdam, takes visitors on a trip from the origin to the extinction of dinosaurs, using

room-filling visuals. The immersive experience is inspired by the TV series *Prehistoric Planet* and is suitable for dinosaur fans aged seven and older. The soundtrack is partly composed by Hans Zimmer. dinos.fabrique-lumieres.com



TO meet

In addition to being rich in omega-3 fatty acids, algae also contain **magnesium and vitamin B 12**

Q&A Thom Siersema & Gijs Dröge

THE GREEN POWER OF ALGAE

THANKS TO THEIR ULTRA-HIGH NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION, ALGAE ARE THE FOOD OF THE FUTURE, SAY THE FOUNDERS OF ALGAE SUPPLEMENT BRAND PLNKTN.

How did you come up with the idea for your company, PLNKTN?

Siersema: I was introduced to algae about five years ago through my stepfather. I'd often see him drink a glass of water mixed with green powder, which turned out to be spirulina, a kind of algae. I was curious why he used it, so I started asking him questions about it. I'd just graduated at the time and was at that stage in life where you're thinking: what do I want to do? My ambition was to become an entrepreneur, but I wanted to do something I truly believed in, something impactful and future-proof. Through those conversations and by diving deeper into the benefits of algae, I discovered that algae really are the food of the future. That realization only grew stronger once Gijs and I started working together.

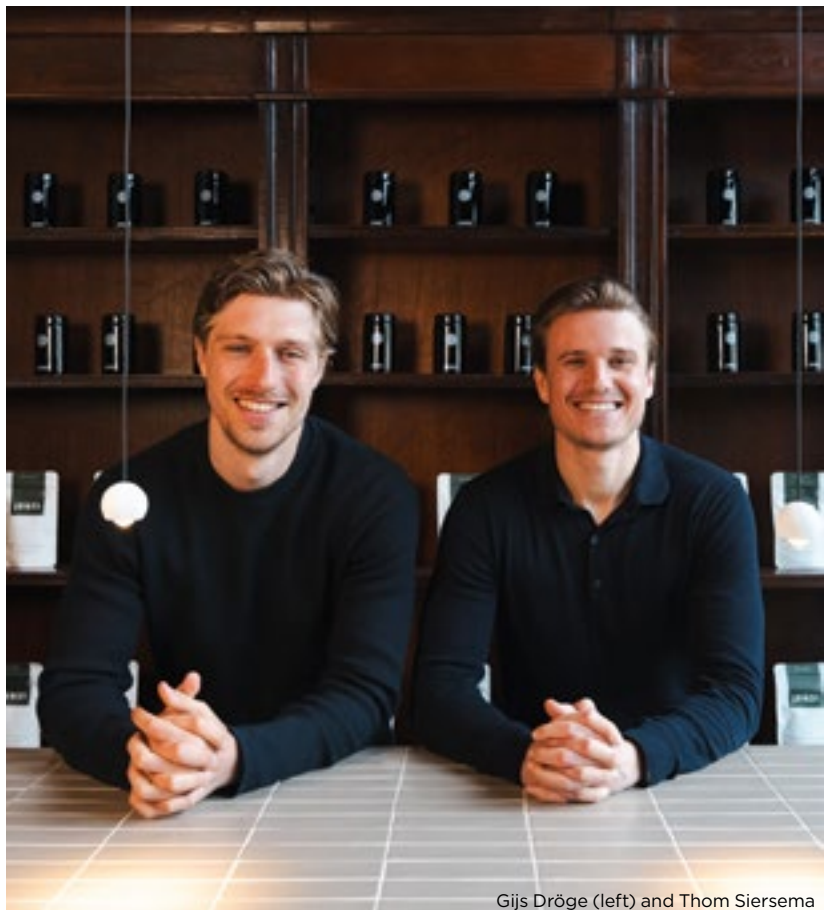
What makes algae the food of the future? Dröge: Algae are incredibly nutrient-dense: they contain a high concentration of nutrients per gram. Most people think fish contain omega-3, which are essential fatty acids, but fish actually get them from algae. So we say: skip the fish and go straight to the source. It's better for the fish population and the environment overall. Algae produce more than half the world's oxygen and play a crucial role in ecosystems. They also absorb harmful substances from their environment, so you don't want to take them from the wild. Fortunately, algae are easy to farm sustainably, as they require very little land and water, and they grow rapidly,

up to 10 times faster than traditional crops. We get our algae from specialized producers that have scientific backgrounds; we then translate that science into a range of products that people find easy to use.

What are the main benefits of taking algae products? Siersema: Algae contain specific fibers, plant pigments, vitamins, and minerals such as calcium, which is known to support

digestion. Our customers have shared positive feedback about their digestion with our main product, a blend of four algae species. Some algae contain up to 70% protein, placing them among the world's richest sources of protein.

Any other fun algae facts? Dröge: Did you know algae can be used as a biofuel in the aviation industry? KLM has actually been a pioneer in exploring its possibilities. pinktn.com



Gijs Dröge (left) and Thom Siersema

TO *taste*

Outdoor cooking

THE ONYX

THE SEASON FOR OPEN-AIR COOKING IS HERE, AND BIG GREEN EGG HAS THE RIGHT TOOL, IN A NEW COLOR.

Inspired by traditional Asian kamado clay ovens, Big Green Egg has been making ceramic, egg-shaped, portable ovens since 1974. Because the ceramic material retains heat extremely well, users need less charcoal, and a strong, smoky flavor is conserved. Whether you're grilling, smoking, or baking, this versatile outdoor oven can do it all. Big Green Egg introduces The Onyx, a new edition of its signature product in the color onyx. biggreenegg.eu



There are about **14,000 species of mushroom**, most of which are inedible for humans



Rome

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

Located on the sixth floor of the Hassler Hotel in Rome, Italy, and overlooking the city's Spanish Steps, Michelin-starred restaurant Imàgo is more than a culinary experience. Led by Italian chef Andrea Antonini, it offers contemporary Italian cuisine using modern techniques and seasonal ingredients. The menu is mostly tasting-based.

imagorestaurant.it

Book

MUSHROOM MAGIC

Used and revered as a source of food, medicine, or sacrament, the humble mushroom has always played a special role in the kitchen. Whether it's for their nutritional value, psychoactive properties or simply their delicious flavor, the uses of mushrooms are many. Taschen's *The Gourmand's Mushroom. A Collection of Stories & Recipes* combines mushroom recipes with images and stories of its cultural and historical significance. €40; taschen.com



TO wish for

Bags

BAGS TO BEHOLD

For her bag brand, Wandler, Dutch designer Elza Wandler often finds inspiration in art. In the temporary gallery space Kamer in Amsterdam, Wandler presents her latest collection alongside curated art and design objects. wandler.com



Sneakers

SUSTAINABLE STEPS

Made from shoes that are recycled directly from unsold inventory, the Neotide™ collaboration sneaker by Japanese sportswear brand Asics and Dutch shoe brand Studio Hagel is a sustainable and stylish option for anyone looking to consciously combine fashion and comfort.

€190; asics.com

Clothing

REDEFINED STYLE

MENSWEAR BRAND WAHTS IS ALL ABOUT EVERYDAY LUXURY.



Blending luxury menswear and contemporary sportswear, Dutch brand Wahts aims to bring clarity, confidence, comfort, and understated athleticism to men's wardrobes. Their new spring/summer collection exudes minimalist elegance, and explores the space between luxury and performance. The range is characterized by muted colors, architectural silhouettes, elevated fabrics, and effortless tailoring. wahts.com



Accessories

Stories in silk

Belgian designer Marylène Madou creates hand-painted silk scarves, accessories, and more inspired by old illustrations of flora and fauna. Her latest collection, Hotel Maison Madou, has a 1970s feel, with lots of browns and ochres. marylenemadou.com

LONDON CALLING

Francis Bacon • David Hockney
Lucian Freud • Paula Rego

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from Rotterdam

2 hrs
from Brussels

3 hrs
from Paris

KUNSTMUSEUM
DEN HAAG



Column

Freek Vonk

THE FOREST BENEATH THE WAVES

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

“I’m moving through a canopy of tree-sized seaweeds”



As I skim across the water along the South African coast in a dinghy, the sun burns my face, the wind pulls at my hair, and the salty spray stings my lips. To me, this is the taste of adventure.

Here at Cape Agulhas, two worlds meet: the warm Indian Ocean and the cold Atlantic. Where they converge, deep, nutrient-loaded water rises to the surface where sunlight can reach it – and that equals a lot of life. I have reached my stop. With my dive gear on, I let myself fall backward. As I descend into the deep, sounds fade and my movements become slower.

Before long, I’m moving through a swaying canopy of tree-sized seaweeds, following their sturdy stalks toward the seabed. Welcome to the kelp forest – an underwater-woodland world teeming with life. The long kelp fronds break the force of the waves, calming the water. Just like coral reefs, kelp forests protect not only the coastline from the power of the sea but also the life they shelter. These forests are safe underwater neighborhoods filled with endless hiding places, abundant food, and nursery grounds where young animals can grow up safely before venturing into the open ocean.

Continuing my descent, the rocky bottom soon comes into view. It’s covered with purple sea urchins and bright orange sea stars. Here, the kelp is firmly anchored to the stone and long stipes stretch upward toward the light. This forest runs on sunlight.

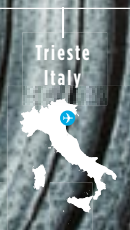
Kelp possesses gas-filled floats known as pneumatocysts, small bladders that act like tiny life jackets, keeping the fronds upright and lifting them toward the sun.

I see something shift suddenly between the rocks. A reddish-brown cuttlefish emerges. As I move closer, I expect it to dart away, but it approaches me. Its body ripples gently as it hovers almost motionless in the water, before carefully extending its tentacles toward me. I slowly stretch out my hand. The cuttlefish lands softly on my dive glove, the suction cups on its arms touching me gently as it explores, and its skin becomes dark, almost the shade of my gloves. It’s communication, cuttlefish-style.

For a moment, we float there together, face-to-face. Her pupils have that characteristic W-shape – almost alien – yet her gaze feels anything but empty. It’s as if she’s studying me. Cuttlefish have remarkably complex brains and they use numerous tricks to mislead their enemies. Experiments show that they remember where and when they previously found food and adjust their behavior accordingly. That requires memory, timing, and flexibility. They’re among the most intelligent invertebrates we know. After a minute, she lets go, drifts backward, and slowly dissolves into the background of rock and kelp.

Every time I dive, I realize that you don’t have to travel to another planet to see something alien; you need only descend beneath the waves.

EAT *out*



BOLD AND AUTHENTIC

Chefs Matteo Metullio and Davide De Pra share a love of bold pairings with authentic flavor. The duo met in 2013, when Metullio arrived to work as De Pra's right-hand man at La Siriola in San Cassiano. The restaurant held two Michelin stars during their tenure. In 2017, the pair started Harry's Piccolo in Trieste, which has since been awarded two Michelin stars. Pictured here is the restaurant's signature dish, "Harry'sotto", a creative reinterpretation of risotto featuring the bold flavors of plankton, capers, anchovies, and basil. harryspiccolo.it

Canada



My

MONTREAL

COLOMBIA-BORN AND MONTREAL-BASED, DANIEL IREGUI IS THE FOUNDER OF IREGULAR, A DIGITAL ART STUDIO THAT CREATES INTERACTIVE SCULPTURES, IMMERSIVE SPACES, AND ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS AT THE CROSSROADS OF ART AND TECHNOLOGY. @IREGULAR.IO



What do you love about Montreal? It's large enough to offer everything you need, but it's still walkable, and its neighborhoods are close in distance yet distinct in character, making it possible to get a taste of the city's charm within minutes. Montreal also pairs historic buildings with modern skyscrapers, creating a unique cityscape ①.

What are your favorite neighborhoods? My two favorites are Plateau and Outremont. They highlight the best of Montreal's artistic spirit from distinct perspectives. Plateau ②, bustling with colorful houses, murals, lively cafés, street festivals, and vintage shopping, exudes vibrant creative energy. If you're into thrifting, Avenue Mont-Royal is the perfect spot for exploring secondhand shops. On the other hand, Outremont offers a calmer, more upscale atmosphere. Avenue Bernard and Laurier

Street are two of the area's most lively arteries, with lots of luxury boutiques, restaurants, and terraces.

Where should we eat? Montreal's food scene is exceptional. For brunch, you can't go wrong with Bistrot La Fabrique (3619 Rue Saint-Denis) and Beauty's (93 Ave du Mont-Royal Ouest), which is famous for its blueberry pancakes. St-Viateur Bagel ③ (multiple locations) serves great bagels and offers a wide array of toppings. For *poutine* (French fries with cheese curds and gravy), I suggest Montréal Pool Room (1217 Blvd Saint-Laurent), a no-frills restaurant opened in 1912. For fine dining, try Bouillon Bilk (2 Rue Sainte-Catherine Est), which serves modern creative cuisine and offers vegetarian and vegan options.

What are the best nature spots? The city is uniquely built around Mount Royal, so no matter where you are, you

can make your way to the mountain and climb to the top, where you'll be rewarded with a panoramic view of the whole city. It's perfect for a hike, a jog, or a casual stroll. Nearby, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal ④, a Catholic shrine and pilgrimage site, offers breathtaking views of the city along with gorgeous gardens and architecture.

Which museums do you recommend? Arsenal Contemporary Art (2020 Rue William) is ideal for contemporary and digital art, with an impressive collection of experimental works. For history and cultural context, McCord Stewart Museum (690 Rue Sherbrooke Ouest) offers fascinating exhibitions on Montreal's past, from fashion and photography to Indigenous cultures. And of course, if you're into fine arts, you can't miss the nearby Montreal Museum of Fine Arts ⑤ (1380 Rue Sherbrooke Ouest), which has a great

permanent collection and rotating international exhibitions.

What are your favorite hotels? The Cove Hotel (4501 Rue Drolet) and Mont Royal Suites M11 (4490 Rue Saint-Denis) give you that feeling of a home away from home. In the luxury segment, the Ritz-Carlton (1228 Rue Sherbrooke Ouest) is the ultimate splurge, even if you're just visiting for their high tea experience. It's a great way to relax and enjoy a special moment in the city.

Book
this
story



KLM operates a daily nonstop flight to Pierre Elliott Trudeau Intl Airport in Montreal from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

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Piet Oudolf

NATURE'S CARETAKER

Garden designer Piet Oudolf went from selling Christmas trees at a garden center to designing landscapes for some of the world's foremost gardens and parks. The seed was planted when he chose to break with long-held tradition and work with nature.

Text Nienke Pleysier

Soft morning light filters through the windows of garden designer Piet Oudolf's workspace in Hummelo, a rural village in the east of the Netherlands. Dozens of rolls of designs for world-famous gardens and parks are stacked under the drafting table: the High Line and the gardens of The Battery in New York; Lurie Garden in Chicago; Noma restaurant in Copenhagen; the Vitra Campus garden in Germany; and royal and historic sites in the Netherlands to name but a few. Winsor & Newton markers and pencils in all the colors of the rainbow are scattered across the desk.

Oudolf creates his first design by hand: flowing shapes filled with circles in various patterns and colors. Just as painters have their paints, composers their notes, Oudolf has his plant knowledge. This is the palette he uses to create his compositions. His gardens are characterized by their natural appearance and the use of grasses and forgotten plant species. "A wild garden that is still tightly directed", in the words of the 81-year-old designer, who's still working every day. "I can't get away from the assignments," says Oudolf with a laugh. "There are always things to get excited about. I've never felt that this is a job; it has been more of a passion for me. I love using plants in a way that makes it seem like they naturally belong in a place." Oudolf prefers to work in public spaces because that's where you reach the most people. "Ideally, a beautiful garden helps you connect with yourself and the world around you, just as it is in that moment," he explains.

The garden center springboard

Oudolf grew up in a hospitality family, and it was expected that he would take over his parents' business. They had a simple café-restaurant in Bloemendaal, a village on the edge of the North Holland dunes. He worked in the business until he was in his early 20s, when he realized that working behind the bar was not what he wanted to do for the rest of his days. By then, he had met Anja, who has been by his side for almost 60 years now, and they had had two sons. "I tried all kinds of jobs, from working at a fish market to laboring in a steel factory, until I ended up at a garden center at the age of 25," he explains. "It

“
**BY LEAVING
FADED PLANTS
AND FLOWERS
STANDING,
YOU SUPPORT
WILDLIFE**
”

was winter and I helped with the Christmas tree sales. When I stayed on for the busy spring season, my interest really took off." Oudolf became fascinated with growing plants and the endless variety of species. "I devoured all the books I could find on garden plants and started collecting plants myself, which I planted in my mother's garden to see how they behaved." Meanwhile, he gained experience at various landscaping companies and took evening classes. In 1975, Oudolf started his own business as a gardener and designed his first gardens for private clients.

Building the nursery

Back then, most garden designs were still based on the same old-fashioned ideas from the Victorian era. Think of neat lawns with borders full of abundant, annual flower beds, often arranged by color. In October, as soon as the flowers had faded, everything was cut back and cleared, and the long wait for a new blooming season began. Oudolf had little interest in this trend. He was drawn to a looser, more natural way of garden design and the use of wild-looking and less cultivated plants. "But there was very little supply from existing nurseries," he recalls. "So for every vacation, my family and I traveled to England, Scandinavia, or Germany, looking for new plants and seeds to grow at home." »

Previous pages

Oudolf in his private garden in Hummelo

Right page

The Vitra Campus garden (top); Oudolf at work (bottom left); Oudolf Field at the Hauser & Wirth gallery in the UK (bottom right)





“
***I LOVE USING PLANTS IN A WAY THAT
MAKES IT SEEM LIKE THEY
NATURALLY BELONG IN A PLACE***
”





Driven by a desire for more space and to set up his own nursery, Oudolf and his wife bought a run-down farm surrounded by a hectare of land in Hummelo in 1982. “Our early days here were tough,” says Oudolf. “I spent the evenings renovating the farm, which was much more work than I’d anticipated, and I worked on building the nursery during the day. In the beginning, we lived off the money Anja earned from selling her cut flowers to local flower shops.” But the hard work paid off and the nursery in Hummelo soon became well-known. “Because we had a large supply of special plants with a natural look, plant lovers and garden clubs from home and abroad found us. At the same time, we were part of the emerging naturalistic garden movement, which is a more ecological way of gardening. By trimming less and leaving faded plants and flowers standing, you help support wildlife. I also discovered the beauty of decay. If you’ve ever seen the skeleton of a dried *Echinacea*, covered with a layer of frost, you’ll know what I mean: it’s enchanting.” His looser, more natural and wilder style of garden design took shape. And gradually, the Dutch Wave, or New Perennial Movement, championed by Oudolf and fellow Dutch designers such as Henk Gerritsen and Ton ter Linden, conquered the world.

Seeing into the future

Oudolf walks over to the corner of his workspace and sits down at his computer, where he keeps the carefully documented photos of his work. “I used to walk around with a camera around my neck all the time, but nowadays I use my phone. Photographing the plants in different stages is part of the process. I always look at the coherence, the composition. In a photo, you can clearly see if the composition is right. Anyone can take a great photo of a garden under the right conditions. But for me, it’s about something still looking beautiful even when the circumstances aren’t perfect. That’s when you know you have a good design.” Oudolf scrolls through the photos, pointing and explaining. These are some pictures of bare gardens, taken once everything has been planted. “A garden design is a kind of promise. As a designer, you imagine what the garden will look like in the future. I can see it in

“ A GARDEN DESIGN IS A KIND OF PROMISE ”

my mind because I know how everything will grow and when each plant will bloom. This requires trust from the client in me and in the approach.” He usually only notices the potential risks afterwards. “On a large scale like the High Line, an extensive park built on a former train track in the middle of Manhattan, a lot can go wrong: when you must plant 100,000 plants, you’re taking a risk. The conditions the plants have to grow in can end up being different from what you expected. Some plants might die or not take root. Plus, it’s a public space, so if people don’t like it, you’ll hear about it. It’s probably a good thing I never think about all those things beforehand. When I take on an assignment, I mainly consider all the possibilities and what I can do with the space.”

High notes on the High Line

In the 15 years since it was created, the High Line has become a popular tourist spot. More than seven million visitors a year now enjoy this oasis in the heart of the city. Oudolf also visits regularly, and these occasions bring him great joy. “The park seems to float through the city, and from each block, you have a different view,” he says. “It’s nature showing up where you’d least expect it; a kind of wildness in a human-dominated environment. I’m really happy that it has lasted. And that’s partly thanks to the good »

Previous pages
Oudolf Field at the Hauser & Wirth gallery in the UK

Left page
Noma restaurant in Copenhagen, Denmark (top); Oudolf and his wife Anja (bottom left); Oudolf’s desk (bottom right)



craftsmanship of the people who work there.” Oudolf clicks on a video showing a long line of people. “Look, these are the volunteers who maintain the Oudolf Garden in Detroit. The work of volunteers is essential for maintaining these pieces of nature. Don’t be mistaken, it looks wild, but it’s all controlled.”

The winter garden

It’s time for a walk through Oudolf’s garden, which was open to the public until 2018. The first thing that strikes you is the variety of pretty grasses in endless shades of brown and gray, the wind like a hand ruffling hair as it moves around this curated colosseum of nature. Though the colors all come from the same palette, the scene feels rich and surprisingly diverse. Rising above the grasses, faded flower heads, skeletal, really, sway back and forth. Oudolf notes that it’s a “flat day”, referring to the pale sunlight. “When the weather is overcast, you can see much more of the dark winter garden,” he explains. “Then it looks even better. The beauty of gardens is, of course, that they’re never really the same,” he says, looking out over the adjacent meadow. “If you come back here in a week, it will be different again because the other plants will be blooming. It’s a process that unfolds throughout the year. Before spring, there seems to be nothing left, but everything is just underground. And when it slowly emerges from the earth, you get to see something again that you’ve missed for a whole year. In a garden, there’s always something to look forward to.” Oudolf walks along a small body of water that’s bursting with life in the summer. “We actually have everything here that you want in your garden, and a lot of what you don’t want, such as field mice. They eat from the seed heads of some species such as *Stachys* and *Echinacea*. In winter, the mice shelter under the winter-worn grasses, and just before spring, when we cut back the grass, the birds of prey have a better view and the mice become bird food.” A breeze suddenly picks up. “Everything is ultimately a cycle. And what takes us humans a lifetime to experience, happens here, in the garden, in just one year,” Oudolf concludes as the grasses gently rustle in the breeze. «

Oudolf's Gardens

High Line

One of his most famous projects is the High Line in New York. This elevated park, built on a former railway track, has become a beloved green space for both locals and tourists. The High Line showcases Oudolf’s signature style, with its naturalistic planting design that mimics wild landscapes. The park’s success has inspired similar projects in other cities.

Lurie Garden

This garden in Chicago’s Millennium Park, designed in collaboration with Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd, features a mix of ornamental and native plants that provide year-round interest. The Lurie Garden highlights Oudolf’s ability to create dynamic and sustainable landscapes that thrive in urban environments

Oudolf Field

This garden at the Hauser & Wirth gallery in the UK, which features a range of grasses and perennials arranged in bold, sweeping drifts, exemplifies Oudolf’s talent for creating immersive, sensory experiences that engage visitors and encourage them to connect with nature. The garden’s dynamic palette of colors and textures

reflects the seasonal rhythms of the surrounding landscape, providing an ever-evolving backdrop for the gallery’s art exhibitions.

Vlinderhof

Oudolf’s work at the Vlinderhof in Utrecht, the Netherlands, is a prime example of his ability to create intimate spaces within larger landscapes. The garden’s design features a rich tapestry of flowering plants and grasses arranged in a way that encourages exploration and discovery. The Vlinderhof is a testament to Oudolf’s belief in the power of gardens to inspire and uplift the human spirit.

Museum Voorlinden

The garden designed by Oudolf for Museum Voorlinden, is a living artwork that changes with the seasons. Instead of focusing on colorful blooms alone, Oudolf emphasizes structure, texture, and movement. Grasses, perennials, and native plants are arranged in natural-looking patterns. Even in winter, the garden remains visually striking, showing dried seed heads and subtle tones. This design also complements the architecture.

JERSEY *by day*

✚ New destination

Channel Islands



JERSEY MAY BE ONLY 116 KM², BUT THIS TINY ISLAND IS PACKED WITH THINGS TO DO. BLENDING BRITISH CHARM WITH FRENCH INFLUENCE, JERSEY IS UNIQUE.



St. Helier ③



Jersey War Tunnels ①



Beauport Bay ⑥



Central Market ④

Coastal landscapes

Jersey's abundant nature is its greatest luxury and attraction. Walk the Jersey Tidal Trail that circles the island, passing hidden coves, seabird colonies, and panoramic viewpoints where rugged cliffs plunge into the English Channel. On clear days, you can even spot the French coast on the horizon. For something a bit gentler, head to St. Ouen's Bay, a sweeping stretch of sand backed by dunes and rolling greenery, popular with surfers and walkers alike. With mist lifting off the sea and only the sound of wind and water, early mornings here are especially magical. If you prefer to explore on two wheels, Jersey is ideal for biking. Ride the route along the old railway track from St. Helier to La Corbière.

History & city sights

Apart from all the nature, Jersey also has a lot of history. Explore the Jersey War Tunnels ① (Les Charrières, Malorey, St. Lawrence), an underground tunnel complex about 1,000 meters long from WWII, or visit the impressive Mont Orgueil Castle ② (Castle Green, Gorey, St. Martin), which rises dramatically from the rock above the relaxed fishing village of Gorey. For a city day, make your way to St. Helier ③, Jersey's charming capital. Sample treats at the historic Central Market ④ (Beresford St) or explore the glorious Elizabeth Castle (St. Aubin's Bay), which was built in the 1500s. On lively King St, an array of shops and quirky cafés will certainly keep you busy for a few hours. Don't miss Harriet & Rose (no. 71), a gift shop full of home

accessories that make for great souvenirs, or the iconic de Gruchy department store (no. 50-52), which has been on the island for more than 200 years. End the day with a classic English cream tea at the historic manor house, Château La Chaire (La Vallée De Rozel, St. Martin).

All about the water

Jersey has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world, and the landscape transforms spectacularly throughout the day. At low tide, sandy plains appear, revealing rock pools, oyster beds, and causeways leading to offshore reefs. Join a boat excursion to Les Écréhous, a group of islands northeast of Jersey, where crystal-clear lagoons and white sand feel almost Mediterranean. If you're up for a swim, Green Island

Go kayaking in the stunning Beauport Bay

Beach and St. Brelade's Bay offer peaceful swimming spots, golden sand, and gentle coastal paths. For a more intrepid outing, go kayaking in the stunning Beauport Bay ⑥ and paddle past hidden caves, or rent a snorkel in the quiet Bouley Bay surrounded by Jersey's tallest cliffs.

Getting around

Jersey is a compact island and easy to explore. Renting a car or e-bike allows you to reach remote beaches and cliff paths with ease. Buses are reliable and scenic, while walking trails crisscross the island.

JERSEY *by night*

JERSEY TRANSFORMS AS THE SUN GOES DOWN. WHETHER YOU'RE INTO FINE DINING, INTIMATE WINE BARS, OR A MOONLIT WALK ON THE BEACH, THIS ISLAND HAS IT ALL.



Mont Orgueil Castle 📍



Bohemia Bar & Restaurant 📍



Grosnez Castle 📍



The Atlantic Hotel 📍

Culinary treats

Jersey's cuisine is shaped by its surroundings. Expect exceptional seafood, fresh vegetables, and the famous creamy dairy products. For dinner, head to The Crab Shack (La Route de la Baie) in St. Brelade, a relaxed spot known for locally caught crab, oysters, and sharing plates. For refined dining, the Michelin-starred Bohemia 📍 (The Club Hotel & Spa, Green St, St. Helier) offers cuisine with seasonal menus that highlight Jersey's finest ingredients. Along the coast, Salty Dog Café, Bar & Bistro (La Neuve Route, St. Brelade) serves modern European dishes with a focus on fresh fish. Or go to El Tico Beach Cantina (Grande Route des Mielles, St. Peter) where they serve everything from salad bowls to tempura

prawns, and classic British fish and chips. For drinks, head to a cozy pub or wine bar in St. Helier or St. Aubin. With a beautiful Victorian bar and live jazz and blues most nights of the week, Blue Note Bar (20 Broad St, St. Helier) is a local favorite.

Evening magic

Jersey nights are not about rushing. Go for a sunset walk along St. Aubin's Bay, where pastel skies reflect on the water and locals gather for evening swims year-round. Or go stargazing at the ruins of Grosnez Castle 📍 where there's little light pollution. If you're interested in learning about our universe, admire the dark skies from the Sir Patrick Moore Astronomy Centre (Les Creux Country Park, St. Brelade). Fancy more action? Sign up

for a bioluminescence tour on the beach with Jersey Walk Adventures. During this moonlit walk, enthusiastic guides will show you creatures that glow and twinkle in the ocean.

Where to stay

The Atlantic Hotel 📍 (Le Mont de la Pulente, St. Brelade), perched on the cliffs near St. Ouen's Bay, combines low-key luxury with sweeping ocean views and coastal walks right outside the door. For boutique charm, try Longueville Manor (Longueville Rd) near St. Helier. This elegant hotel sits in a wooded valley, offering historic elegance, tranquil gardens, and one of the island's best restaurants. If you prefer something more modern, The Club Hotel & Spa (Green St) in St. Helier offers sleek interiors and an

award-winning spa. The old Radio Tower (Rue de la Corbière, St. Brelade) – built during WWII – makes for a very special stay. Today, it's self-catering accommodation with amazing views. For a night under the stars, book a bell tent or safari tent at the Beuvelande Campsite (Rue de Beuvelande, St. Martin), which come fully equipped and with comfortable beds.

Book this story



KLM operates one nonstop flight per week to Jersey Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

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GREEN GIANT

Ancient rainforest covers 87% of Guyana, making it one of the last great wildernesses on Earth. Here, indigenous communities have turned tourism into a tool for conservation – making any visit as much an adventure as an act of preservation.

Text and photography Jurriaan Teulings



Guyana



Guyana rarely makes headlines. Most people struggle to find it on a map. This nation of 800,000-plus inhabitants between Venezuela and Suriname is often confused with French Guiana (on Suriname's eastern flank) and occasionally even with Guinea and Ghana (they're not even on the same continent). This country is the very definition of "wild", and by venturing beyond the coastal strip where the bulk of Guyanans live and work, you'll understand why.

I arrived at Caiman House just before nightfall. This lodge and research station sits at the edge of Yupukari, a hilltop village of around 600 souls in the Rupununi, an expanse of yellow grass and red sand about half the size of the Netherlands wedged between two oceanic stretches of rainforest. Georgetown, Guyana's capital – from which I arrived this morning by way of a small propeller plane and a pick-up truck – is 400 km to the north. This is the domain of the Makushi, an Indigenous people so isolated from the rest of the continent that many villages had little to fear from the colonial powers (first the Dutch and then the British) who first arrived in the 17th century to establish their plantation economies along the coast. Even in modern-day Guyana, the indigenous villages of the Rupununi still function semi-autonomously: villagers choose their own leaders, manage their land collectively, and support themselves financially through modern eco-projects and tourist lodges.

So what's the catch?

You might call Caiman House savanna chic. It has decorative caiman skulls instead of decorative cushions and shelves lined with well-thumbed bird guides. Guests contribute not only to the village economy but also support the Caiman Capture Project, a large ongoing study of caiman behavior that has recorded 861 animals since the mid-2000s, which is now largely funded by something called "participatory tourism". For me, that means participating in the catch of a three-meter-long caiman in the dead of night. Howard, the Makushi guide who was assigned to me,

explains why this isn't as terrible an idea as it sounds, "In the dark, caimans are easy to detect at a distance – their eyes shine up in our powerful spotlights."

After our stealthy approach in a small boat, the men slip a steel cable around the neck of the animal, which seems convinced that it's about to be turned into a handbag and a pair of boots. With startling violence, the caiman's silhouette suddenly shoots through the glare of our torches, its fetid breath of rotten fish cutting through the humid air. Jaws snap, scales scrape, but it's already too late. Rather than its skin, we're after its metrics, and the beast will soon be released. Here in the Rupununi Savanna in southern Guyana, the hunt is for science, not shoes.

What follows is a brief but violent tug-of-war. On one side, the sputtering outboard engine, on the other, the unsettling rasps – somewhere between a hiss and a growl – of the furious reptile. "We exhaust them very slowly, without hitting them or anything like that," Howard explains. "Of course, the caiman will fight, but we work with that and keep it as calm as we can." The men in the boat know the drill: the animal will take about 15 minutes to completely exhaust itself, after which they'll be able to tape its powerful jaws shut. Next, they'll have a half hour before it regains its power; just enough time to haul it ashore to safely mark, tag, measure, and weigh it. Lifting it requires at least four people, which is when spectators are finally asked to become participants.

Specimen #862, we note, weighs 200 kg and measures 328 cm. A quick poke around its cloaca confirms it's a male. I decline the honor of collecting that final data point, deciding the reptile has suffered enough indignities to be harassed by a tourist. When all the measuring is done, the caiman is released at the water's edge. I hide behind a tree as the final piece of tape is removed from its snout. Briefly, #862 fixes us with a murderous glare. Then, without rippling the moonlit surface of the river, he silently glides back into the murky shallows.

With projects like this one, in which tourism, conservation, and the well-being of the »

Previous pages

Kaieteur Falls

Right page, top (from left to right)

Wooden dormitory at Kaieteur; the Hoatzin, locally called the Canje pheasant, Guyana's national bird; catching a black caiman for science, not shoes

Bottom The Essequibo River winding through a vast expanse of rainforest



**THE JUNGLE SEEMS SO PRISTINE
THAT WE COULD'VE GONE
A MILLION YEARS BACK IN TIME**



**TOURISM, CONSERVATION,
AND THE WELL-BEING OF THE LOCALS
ARE INTERLINKED HERE**





Above Delven Adams in his backyard café in Georgetown
Left page Surama village



**GUYANA'S SPECTACLE
REMAINS HIDDEN
IN ITS LUSH INTERIOR**



locals are interlinked, Guyana has gained considerable international recognition. In 2019, the country was named the number one eco-destination at the world's largest travel fair in Berlin. And only last year at the same fair, Guyana's tourism minister, Oneidge Walrond, received the award for Tourism Minister of the Year with the jury having village-based tourism models such as the Caiman project in mind. Combining scientific conservation with community development, this project conducts long-term field research on the black caiman – including capture, measurement, tagging, and release to monitor population recovery and behavior – while training and employing Makushi residents as researchers and guides. They use carefully managed tourism to fund the work and replace hunting with conservation-based livelihoods.

We are family

For now, Guyana's spectacle remains hidden in its lush interior: an untouched place for connoisseurs. Avid birders, adventurers, and documentary filmmakers have long known that the Guiana Shield – a rare, tectonically stable fragment of Earth's crust that has remained largely unchanged for more than two billion years – harbors an abundance of charismatic wildlife. Alongside elusive jaguars, feces-slinging primates, and a bewildering variety of birds, these eons of ecological continuity have also sustained giants: not just caimans, but arapaimas – an ancient species of pony-sized fish – giant river otters, giant anteaters, and the Goliath bird-eater, a puppy-sized species of spider that I'm in no hurry to meet.

Karanambu, an hour downstream on the banks of the Rupununi River from Yupukari, is the mother of all eco-lodges in Guyana. I'm welcomed by Edward and Melanie McTurk. "We're not a village and we're not a resort. We're a family home, and people are invited into our life," Melanie says during our introduction. The McTurks come from a long line of adventurers and cattle ranchers, and they're widely known for their rehabilitation skills, having cared for injured or orphaned wildlife since the 1960s.

It all started when Edward's aunt, Diane McTurk, turned the family ranch by the Rupununi River into a sanctuary for giant otter cubs. "She did something that I think is quite remarkable," Melanie says. "She convinced the hunters that were driving the otters into extinction to give her the cubs of the families they killed for their pelts. She didn't judge them because she understood the economic pressures that people were facing. Because baby otters cannot live without adults for the first two years of their lives, Karanambu became a surrogate family for those cubs, and Diane developed methods to raise them successfully for release into the wild." The project attracted international attention early on. Since a visit by David Attenborough in 1990, documentary crews from the BBC, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian have been frequent guests. The ranch evolved into a small lodge where travelers could help care for the animals. Ecotourism supports the training of Makushi as guides and conservationists.

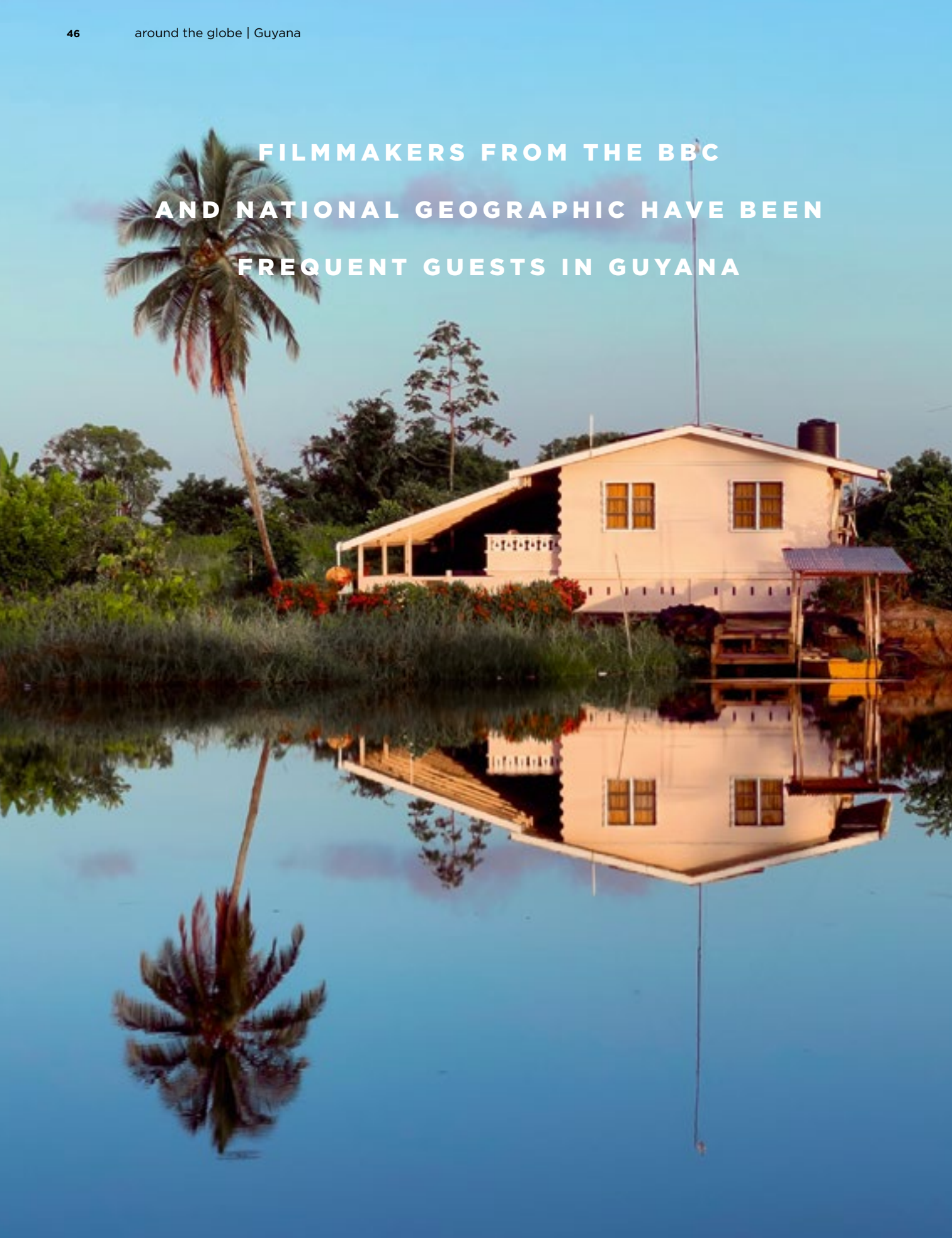
Beyond otters, giant anteaters are Karanambu's main draw, but I have no luck spotting them: the savanna is no catwalk and despite their size, the 1.83-meter-tall giants remain hidden in the grass. The McTurks amply make up for this with their great storytelling. Over dinner, the conversation turns to the spirits and ghosts that inhabit Guyana's complex cultural history. From the spirit animals of Amerindian shamanism to traditions brought by enslaved people from Africa, and East Indian Kali worship. Melanie dishes up some colonial folklore, too, "In areas where there were once Dutch plantations, there are stories of ghosts captured in old bottles, that would escape if you unearthed and opened them."

Up in the air

The next morning, it's time to leave the spirits and move on. North of Karanambu awaits Iwokrama, a rainforest "laboratory" one and a half times the size of Luxembourg, where scientists and Makushi work together to derive economic value from the forest without destroying it. I visit the Iwokrama Canopy »

Top Spotting birds at eye level from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway
Bottom (from left to right) A cock-of-the-rock eyeing humans; a ranger scanning for elusive giant anteaters at Karanambu; a spider monkey on Surama Mountain

**FILMMAKERS FROM THE BBC
AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC HAVE BEEN
FREQUENT GUESTS IN GUYANA**



Left page
Morning at the
Mahaica River

Walkway – a series of suspension bridges up to 30 meters above the forest floor, where this idea is put into practice: numerous trogons, toucans, and cotingas flutter around at eye level, making it into a birder's paradise. Down the road, the Iwokrama River Lodge serves as a hub for researchers, rangers, and visitors. Here, a propeller plane awaits to take me to the grand finale of my itinerary. Looking out of my window, the jungle seems so vast and pristine that we could've flown through a wormhole and gone a million years back in time, and I'd have never been able to tell the difference. During the 45 minutes in the air, I spot zero evidence of humanity, all the way to the table mountains on the horizon. It's hard to imagine a greater wealth than this.

As the plane descends towards a tiny airstrip, suddenly Guyana's greatest natural spectacle comes into view. Below us, the Potaro River drops over the edge of a forested plateau, 225 meters into a vast, winding gorge. This is Kaieteur Falls: a private theater of mist, sheer cliffs, and giant bromeliads that shelter golden frogs. Its single drop is about four times higher than Niagara- and more than twice as high as Victoria Falls, but aside from a small airstrip and a visitor center, there's virtually no infrastructure – no fences, information panels, hotels or restaurants, and not a single road leading here.

Of the lucky few that make it here, most only spend a few hours of sightseeing before flying back to Georgetown. I consider myself even luckier than that as I get to spend the night in a spare room in the wooden dormitory just behind the falls, where the men who maintain the airstrip reside. Ironically, their bathroom has no running water, but I'm told I can bathe in the shallows between the rocks a few meters behind the roaring cascade. There, soaped up under the rising moon, I shudder as I think about the caiman. As it turns out, I'm not about to be devoured. Unlike humanity, caimans have been around since the age of the dinosaurs, outlasting them by 66 million years. A successful species like that knows better than straying near the edge of an abyss. «



JURRIAAN TEULINGS IS A WIDELY PUBLISHED TRAVEL WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER. HERE ARE HIS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GUYANA.

To eat

Taste of Freedom

From Georgetown, I joined "singing chef" Eon John on his Taste of Freedom tour, focused on Afro-Guyanese history and food, covering important slave monuments and Victoria, the first official freed village in Guyana. It ended with a delicious meal in his own backyard kitchen, and yes, a song. singingchefadventures.com

Delven Adams

Another chef, another backyard café; though this time it was Delven Adams, who introduced me to the wondrous, indigenous flavor of *cassareep*, a syrup made from bitter cassava, and its place in pepperpot, the national dish. instagram.com/backyardcafe.gy

To stay

Cara Lodge

Georgetown's Cara Lodge, housed inside one of the city's oldest surviving wooden buildings, has all the history and charm that big chain hotels lack: built in the 1840s, it has hosted President Jimmy Carter, HRH

King Charles III and Mick Jagger. It's worth visiting just for a drink on the patio or a dinner at the Bottle restaurant. caralodge.com

Surama Lodge

The community-run Surama Lodge offers an authentic window into Makushi indigenous life. The village of Surama itself is small but welcoming, and the eco-lodge provides simple but comfy accommodations, and guides for jungle treks, birdwatching, and night safaris. I climbed the nearby Surama Mountain at dawn for panoramic views over unbroken rainforest and learned about cassava processing from local villagers. suramaecolodge.com

To do

Mahaica River

Though getting to Kaieteur Falls or the Rupununi savanna requires a plane ride, many of the birds and primates of Guyana's green interior can also be enjoyed on a boat trip along the Mahaica River, close enough to Georgetown for a morning visit. I arrived early enough to find the bleary-eyed howler

monkeys supremely relatable. wilderness-explorers.com

Birds, birds, birds

Lacking the patience of a birder, I still found Guyana's glorious diversity of rare and colorful species irresistible. For bird lovers, a stay at Atta Rainforest Lodge near the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway is a must; to me, the sheer number of supposedly rare cocks-of-the-rock at Kaieteur Falls were the highlight. iwokramacanopywalkway.com

Jurriaan Teulings was invited to Guyana by Sapa Pana Travel, a Dutch specialist in bespoke journeys through Latin America. sapanatravel.nl

Book this story



KLM operates two direct flights per week to Guyana's Cheddi Jagan Intl Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on klm.com

Sterrin Smalbrugge

“
**WHEN I HELD A
 KING COBRA IN BALI,
 SHE SPOKE TO ME
 VIA HER BREATHING**
 ”

As a young girl, Sterrin Smalbrugge (32), an ecologist and herpetologist, promised herself to make the world a better place for animals treated unfairly. To this day, she continues to pursue that mission passionately. Text Charlotte Latten Photography Brenda van Leeuwen

Where does your love for animals and, in particular, reptiles stem from? I was born an animal lover. As a young girl, I bred rabbits and my best friends were my pony and dog. Growing up, I noticed that we don't treat animals consistently: we take good care of dogs, but we eat pigs; yet they're also smart and social animals. It didn't make any sense to me. I saw the same thing happening on a bigger scale: in wildlife conservation, big organizations focused on pandas, lions, and rhinos but not on crocodiles or snakes. I wondered if that's because we only care for the animals we find cute or charismatic. As I always felt like an outsider myself, I strongly connected with animals that we treat as outsiders. I'm an introvert and growing up I never really felt part of the group. When I was around

nine years old, I learned about Steve Irwin, the famous Australian crocodile hunter who also did a lot of important wildlife conservation work. He instantly became my biggest hero. When I grow up, I thought, I want to follow in his footsteps and continue his mission.

At such a young age? Yes, I just knew. It became my dream to go to Australia and thank him for everything that he did for animals and nature. But when I was 12, he died and I was utterly devastated. On that same day – and I remember this vividly because I said it out loud – I made a symbolic promise to dedicate my life to making the world a better place for animals, especially those that are unfairly viewed in a negative light. This became my life mission. I studied Ecology and

learned how to handle venomous snakes in my spare time. A professor at my university – who knew about my love for reptiles – one day asked me if I wanted to give a lecture with him. I brought a 4.5-meter king cobra to the university and the local radio picked up on it. That's how things started rolling.

You have a podcast, write books, and have done theater shows. Why did you choose these channels to support your mission? Steve always said, “People want to save things that they love,” and I think the way to change people's opinions so they can love animals that scare them is through education. Knowledge takes away fear caused by misinformation. For instance, most people are afraid of snakes and crocodiles and this leads to these »



animals being killed in certain situations. But they're not so different from us; they also have emotions and their own unique personalities; and every animal has a role in the ecosystem. For example, snakes disperse seeds by eating rodents that have seeds in their stomachs, and snake venom is used to make life-saving medicines for humans. Once public opinion about these animals changes, it will be easier to conserve them. A famous Native American chief once said: "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We're but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect." If we think we can annihilate a species because we consider it dangerous or a pest, we're weakening the entire web. And it's not just about education for me; I also do a lot of projects and research around the world. When I'm in the wild with a snake or a crocodile, I truly come alive.

Can you give an example? King cobras are my favorite snakes. A few years ago, I followed snake rescuers in Bali for a documentary, and they got a call that a king cobra mother and her nest had been



found. To prevent the snake being killed and her eggs being destroyed, we had to rush to rescue her. When people see me handling a snake, they often think that I'm just improvising. But handling reptiles is a skill, a profession. It's all about understanding animal behavior. I have a full conversation when I hold a snake. When I held that snake in Bali, she spoke to me through the way she used her tongue, via her breathing, through her muscle tension. That was and still is the best day of my life.

What are some of the projects you're involved in internationally? In Kenya, I work on an awareness project with Health Action International to reduce the number of people bitten by snakes and, in doing so, save the lives of both humans and snakes. I visited a Maasai community and began by listening to their stories to truly understand the challenges they were facing. After that, we handed out a comic-style booklet that shared important safety messages from the perspective of the snake. For example, the snake would say, "I like to sleep under firewood. If you don't place wood right next to your door, the chance of me entering your house is very small." The booklet was distributed through many schools, and the message spread rapidly. A few months ago, I received a message from one of the village elders who told me, "Since you've been here, we haven't killed any snakes." That made me incredibly happy because I live for people and animals living together in harmony. I'm also an ambassador for the Jane Goodall Institute in the Netherlands. Their program for young people is called Roots & Shoots and focuses on cherishing and protecting nature in their local environment.

Just like Steve Irwin, Jane Goodall was a big inspiration to you. For sure. There are few women working in my field, especially in herpetology, and many of

“
**HUMANKIND
 HAS NOT WOVEN
 THE WEB OF
 LIFE. WE'RE BUT
 ONE THREAD
 WITHIN IT**
 ”

the men are very outgoing. In the past, due to being an introvert, that would make me question if I could ever be on a stage. Jane taught me that it's not only possible but that all I had to do was be myself; she never did anything other than be her calm self. I was fortunate enough to meet her twice, and I even gave her a portrait of her childhood dog, Rusty – who had sparked her love for animals – an illustrator friend had drawn for me. Jane loved the present and sent me a handwritten letter to thank me. That was so inspiring; it taught me to consciously take time out of my day to make people feel seen and noticed. «

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NATURAL HIGHS

From knife-edge ridges to desert ripples, these hikes lead through some of the world's quietest landscapes – places where distance, stillness, and nature set the pace.

Text **Suzanne Stougie**





Dolomites, Italy

CADINI DI MISURINA HIKE

Right from the start of the trailhead near Misurina, jagged limestone spires rise abruptly above alpine grassland. From there, the path to Cadini di Misurina climbs steadily through scree and meadow, the landscape growing wilder with every step. At around 2,700 meters, the air thins noticeably, sharpening views across the Dolomites' serrated skyline. The route culminates at an Instagram-famous viewpoint, where pointy peaks fan out in dizzying symmetry, their vertical drama shaped by ancient reefs and erosion. Step just beyond the platform and the crowds reduce quickly, leaving only wind, rock, and vast mountain quiet. **Top tip:** Arrive early or late in the day, when softer light deepens the limestone's color and restores a sense of solitude.



Hawaii, US

KALALAU TRAIL

Along Kauai's wild north shore, the Kalalau Trail threads through the emerald amphitheater of the Nā Pali Coast, where razor-sharp peaks plunge into the powerful Pacific. The narrow path – built around 1860 to connect remote valleys with the coast – weaves around sea cliffs, crosses tumbling streams, and passes wonderful waterfalls. Considered one of the most gorgeous walks in the US, most hikers tackle it as a two-day journey, camping at Kalalau Beach in the most serene of circumstances: showering under a waterfall, watching the sunset from your sleeping bag, and dropping off with the waves as a lullaby. **Good to know:** Not keen on camping? Even the first few kilometers deliver shimmering seas, lush greenery, and sweeping coastline views.

Madeira, Portugal

VEREDA DO AREEIRO TRAIL

High above Madeira's central mountain range, Vereda do Areeiro traces a dramatic spine from picturesque Pico do Areeiro to Pico Ruivo, the island's highest point. En route, you'll pass knife-edged ridges, laurel-clad slopes, and sculpted basalt towers. Stone stairways dive through tunnels – including the popularly nicknamed “Stairway to Heaven” – and along cloud-brushed cliffs, opening to views of ocean horizons and cratered valleys often wrapped in mist. Birdwatchers are in for a treat, too: these high ridges shelter the rare and remarkably elegant Zino's petrel, Europe's most endangered seabird, alongside the Madeira firecrest and the Madeira chaffinch. **Top tip:** Start at dawn from Pico do Areeiro for the sunrise of a lifetime.



Arizona, US**THE WAVE**

Set within the vast Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, the route to The Wave trail is hallowed among hardy hikers. With no maintained trail, the hike at times becomes an exercise in reading the land rather than following signposts. After crossing desolate desert plains, dotted with juniper, slickrock domes, and fossil-rich sand, the land begins to ripple: wind-sculpted Navajo sandstone curls into flowing bands of ochre, rust, and cream, formed over 190 million years ago, with its wave-like shapes carved by erosion. Access is strictly limited; a permit for Coyote Buttes North is required, keeping silence intact. **Top tip:** For great photos, mid-morning to early afternoon is best, with the midday sun chasing the shadows away.







Landmannalaugar, Iceland

BRENNISTEINSALDA TRAIL

Situated in the remote Fjallabak Nature Reserve in Iceland's highland region, the supernatural setting of the Brennisteinsalda Trail feels like walking toward the end of the Earth. The path cuts through obsidian lava fields, then climbs sulfur-yellow slopes and soft rhyolite hills streaked with red and green. Steam hisses from geothermal vents, snow patches linger well into summer, and moss absorbs every sound. From the 855-meter summit, views stretch across the Landmannalaugar landscape and Laugahraun's lava field – a panorama so removed from daily life it feels otherworldly. **Top tip:** Soothe tired legs in Landmannalaugar's natural hot spring – especially delightful at dusk, when most day-trippers have gone.



Appenzell Innerrhoden, Switzerland

EBENALP CIRCULAR TRAIL

High above Appenzell's storybook villages, the Ebenalp Circular Trail winds through fir forests and open alpine grassland, cowbells providing the only soundtrack. Narrow paths cross flower-rich meadows, limestone cliffs, and grazing pastures, opening to vast views of the Alpstein Massif and, on clear days, Lake Constance shimmering far below. Carved into the rock face, the historic Aescher-Wildkirchli guesthouse has sheltered hermits, pilgrims, and mountaineers since the 1800s. Today, it's a welcoming inn where hikers pause for *rösti*, rest, and reflection. **Don't miss:** Continue on to the Wildkirchli caves, where chapels, prehistoric finds, and cool chambers lie hidden in the cliff face.

*Welcome
on board*



KLM NEWS

KLM House

NO 100: HUIS TEN BOSCH



Designed by Pieter Post and Jacob van Campen, Huis ten Bosch in The Hague is a royal palace that was built in the mid-17th century

as a summer house for Prince Frederick Henry and his wife, Princess Amalia. After the prince's death, Amalia dedicated the building to him. In 1815, when Willem I was proclaimed the first king of the Netherlands, he made Huis ten Bosch one of his official residences. Today, the palace is home to the current king of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, and his wife, Queen Máxima. The royal residence also has a ceremonial function: every so often, it's used for formal audiences, where the king or queen receives guests, diplomats, or government officials.

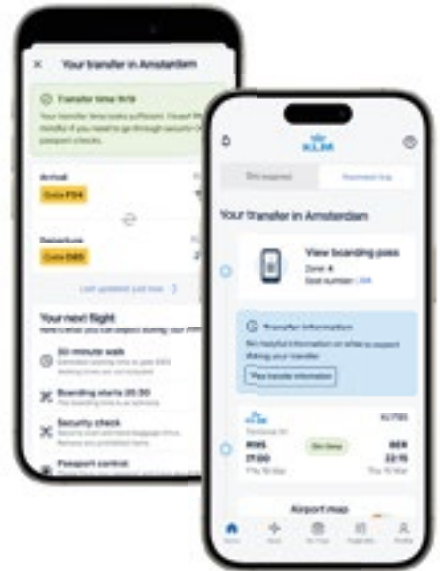
Arnoud Raaven (left), Shutterstock (Huis ten Bosch), Getty Images (KLM app)

KLM app

MEET YOUR NEW TRAVEL COMPANION

THE KLM APP MAKES YOUR JOURNEY EVEN SMOOTHER, WITH A NIFTY FEATURE TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE CONNECTIONS MORE EASILY.

Check in for a flight, receive updates about your journey, book new flights, upgrade your seat, or add extra luggage – anything is possible with the KLM app. Now, the new “Guided Transfer” feature helps passengers who can connect to Wi-Fi on board or at the airport keep an eye on the status of their transfer. Travelers can also use the app to find their way through Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, and Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France. Missed a connection? Use the KLM app to rebook your transfer.



Ask the expert



DIRECTOR OF AIRCRAFT EVALUATION & PERFORMANCE
BERND VIßERS ANSWERS YOUR BURNING QUESTION.


Why are the cabin windows so small



Technically speaking, the ideal aircraft design wouldn't feature windows in the cabin. While they're important for the passenger experience during a flight, windows weaken the aircraft's hull, which has to withstand increased air pressure at cruise. The same is true for the doors. Therefore, windows and doors must have a round shape and need to be reinforced. Their size is decided upon to provide comfort for passengers while maintaining an acceptable weight for the aircraft.

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 gifts were presented with a welcome home card”

MICHEL HERMANS AND HIS WIFE, ANNEMIEKE, WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE CABIN CREW DURING A FLIGHT HOME.

In 1991, my wife and I left the Netherlands to move to the US, after I'd accepted a job at an American company. While the KLM flight in Business class was great, I don't remember much of it, as we were so preoccupied with the move that we were making. I never flew KLM again, because the airline didn't serve my two hometowns in America, Philadelphia and Miami. After 30 years in the US, we decided to return to the Netherlands

permanently. This was during the COVID-19 pandemic, when there were limited flights available. We had to fly from Miami to Madrid, and then on to Amsterdam. But when we arrived in Madrid, we discovered that our flight to Amsterdam had ceased to exist. The airline responsible booked us into a hotel and scheduled a flight with KLM for us the following day. After we'd boarded, we told the cabin crew about our ordeal. Within

10 minutes after takeoff, we received two small bottles of champagne and some sweets. The gifts were presented with a handwritten welcome home card. Before we'd even landed at Schiphol, we started to feel truly at home again.

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*.



Easier travel

YOUR NEW E-BOARDING PASS

In April this year, KLM was pleased to introduce a new, more user-friendly electronic boarding pass. The new pass has been improved with the help of customer input, updates automatically, and is easier to read. The e-boarding pass also provides clearer, more concise information about your journey, such as boarding times. The electronic pass can be quickly and easily generated via the KLM app or the website, klm.com.



Health

FIT FOR FLYING

DURING THE FLIGHT, IT'S IMPORTANT TO MOVE REGULARLY. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:

- Walk around:** To promote healthy blood flow in the legs and feet, go for a walk at least every two hours.
- Knee lifts:** While seated, alternate lifting your knees so each foot comes up from the floor.
- Heel/toe rotations:** While seated, lift and rotate your heels while keeping your toes on the floor. Then, lift and rotate your toes while keeping your heels on the floor.

Blood circulation is essential for good health, supplying oxygen and nutrients throughout the body. During long-haul flights, sitting still for extended periods can slow blood flow in the legs, slightly increasing the risk of thrombosis, a condition caused by a blood clot in a vein. Although rare among healthy travelers, thrombosis can be serious if a clot travels to the lungs and causes a pulmonary embolism. Symptoms may appear during or after travel and include leg pain, swelling, chest pain, or shortness of breath. Staying active, moving regularly, and understanding personal risk factors can help reduce the risk while flying.

TRAVEL WELL



“Children living with any type of disability or illness are welcome to join one of our flights”

Airmiles Foundation

LIFTING SPIRITS, ONE FLIGHT AT A TIME

THE AIRSMILES FOUNDATION BRINGS JOY TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OR ILLNESSES BY GIVING THEM MEMORABLE FLIGHT EXPERIENCES. OPERATIONAL MANAGER PETER BAKKER TELLS US MORE.

A passion turned into a charity – that’s how Peter Bakker, recreational pilot and Operational Manager at the Airmiles Foundation (Stichting Hoogvliegers), describes the beginnings of the charity, of which KLM is a sponsor. “Aviation aficionados and recreational pilots need to fly a certain number of times a year so that our light-aircraft pilot license remains valid,” Bakker says. “It allows us to fly small planes as a hobby. In 2007, a group of pilots came up with the idea to use the flights as a form of entertainment for kids, rather than bringing along the same family members and friends at weekends. And so, the Airmiles Foundation was born. Now, we take kids on flights regardless of whether we need the flight hours or not.”

The flights focus on children aged 6 to 17 who have a disability or disease. “This could be any number of things: chronic diseases, cancer, Down syndrome, or hearing loss,” Bakker says. “Children who are living with any type of disability or illness are welcome to join one of our flights. We also have an ambulance plane to transport kids who aren’t mobile enough to get onto the aircraft themselves or who can’t sit upright.”

On cloud nine

Bakker joined Airmiles in 2010 after learning that the airbase in his region, Hilversum, hadn’t yet hosted any

activities for the foundation. He contacted the airbase to find out why, and was subsequently invited to set up an event. Bakker became involved with the charity from then on. Airmiles is known for its Big Highflier Days, which are held 15 times a year at various airports throughout the Netherlands. “On these days, children are taken to airports on special vehicles to experience a truly magical day, which includes a flight,” Bakker explains.

In March this year, about 60 children were welcomed at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to enjoy one of these days. They were received at a check-in desk manned by KLM CEO Marjan Rintel; Maarten Koopmans, Managing Director of KLM Cityhopper; and Zita Schellekens, Senior Vice-President for Strategy, Sustainability & Transformation at KLM. The group was given special boarding passes and goodie bags before being escorted to gate B35. There, another surprise awaited them. The foundation’s most well-known ambassadors – Dutch DJs Wouter van der Goes and Coen Swijnenberg, and astronaut André Kuipers – were there to greet the children and hand out toys before they boarded a KLM Cityhopper Embraer 195-E2. “What I like about our famous volunteers is that André and Wouter are pilots themselves,” Bakker says. “They actually fly with the children too; they aren’t just there for show.” The kids enjoyed an hour-long flight

– which was sponsored by KLM and powered by alternative aviation fuel (SAF) – along the coast, past the Efteling theme park, and over the Gelderland province. After landing, they were treated to a parade of special vehicles on the apron. Many KLM employees participated voluntarily on the day.

Future flights

The foundation has grown from transporting 79 children in 2007 to 673 in 2025. “We’d like to give 750 children this experience in 2026 and are hoping to receive enough donations; we need about €200,000 to do this,” Bakker says. “Volunteering also helps us a lot. Whether it’s driving the kids, cooking on Big Highflier Days, or taking photos and videos – any help is appreciated.”

stichtinghoogvliegers.nl/over-ons/english-information



Above: Peter Bakker, recreational pilot and Operational Manager at the Airmiles Foundation

Left page (clockwise from top left): Fun at Hilversum air base; astronaut and Airmiles volunteer André Kuipers; ready for takeoff; helping out with cabin crew duties

KLM FLEET

Specifications

BLENDING IN



KLM added the Boeing 737-800 to its fleet in 2007, and with good reason. The blended winglets at the ends of the aircraft's wings not only reduce drag but also lessen the aircraft's fuel consumption by 3%. They also reduce the amount of noise the aircraft makes.



Boeing 747-400ER Freighter

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



Airbus A330-300/200

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



Boeing 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: 381/286
Total length (m): 73.86/63.80
Wingspan (m): 64.80/60.90
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board

Boeing 737-800/700

Number of aircraft: 28/6
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



Airbus A321neo

Number of aircraft: 15
Cruising speed (km/h): 876
Range (km): 7,400
Max. take-off weight (kg): 89,000
Maximum passengers: 227
Total length (m): 44.51
Wingspan (m): 35.80
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board



Embraer 190/175

Number of aircraft: 18/17
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): 28.72/26.00



Boeing 787-10/9 Dreamliner

Number of aircraft: 15/13
Cruising speed (km/h): 920/920
Range (km): 9,900/11,500
Max. take-off weight (kg): 254,000/252,650
Maximum passengers: 318/275
Total length (m): 68.30/62.80
Wingspan (m): 60.10/60.10
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



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: 136
Total length (m): 41.5
Wingspan (m): 35.12



Tires

READY TO ROLL

“In this image, we see a tire belonging to an A321neo,” explains Remon Moolenaar, Test Runner and Ground Engineer. “The durability of aircraft tires is influenced by the way the pilot lands. If it’s a soft landing, they’ll complete approximately 50 flights, at which point the tires are retreaded, meaning that a

new layer of rubber is applied to extend their lifespan. A pair of tires can be retreaded around three times before they can no longer be used. The writing on aircraft tires indicates their speed rating and load capacity; in this case, 225 miles per hour, which is about 362 kilometers per hour, and 54,800 pounds, or 24,857 kilograms.”

TRAVELERS



Yaroslav



“We’re starting in Lima, then moving on to Bolivia and Chile”

YAROSLAV RIABUSHKO
TRAVELING TO LIMA
ON FLIGHT KL743

Reason for travel? “I’m going to Lima to meet up with a friend who’s currently studying in the US. We both wanted to do some traveling, so we decided to do it together. We’re starting in Lima and going to Machu Picchu first. After that, we’ll rent a car and continue to Bolivia, and then Chile.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I’d like to see the US. It’s such a large country, and it seems to have so many different environments. From what I’ve seen in films, it looks beautiful too, especially New York and Los Angeles. Unfortunately, it’s getting harder to acquire a visa, so we’ll see.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “My sister. She lives in Kyiv, and because of obvious circumstances, I worry quite a bit about her. She’s staying there for love, but it’s not the best situation. I’d love to be able to take her away from there.”

Mike & Francesca

MIKE AND FRANCESCA
DOHERTY TRAVELING
TO MANCHESTER ON
FLIGHT KL1035

Reason for travel? Francesca: “We’ve just come back from our honeymoon in Canada. We started off in Calgary before making our way to Banff, where we saw Emerald Lake. We then ended the trip in Vancouver.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Francesca: “We haven’t had the chance to see much of Asia yet, so probably somewhere there. Tokyo comes to mind.”

Mike: “Perhaps Thailand. The food, the scenery, the islands – it all looks so beautiful. Or the East Coast. We still haven’t seen everything in the US.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to?

Francesca: “My grandfather. He’s passed away now, but he used to travel a lot for his work and was very knowledgeable, so he’d be good to be with as he’d teach me a lot.”

Mike: “Someone who’s very successful and could give me some advice. But I’m also a Manchester United fan, so I wouldn’t say no to Sir Alex Ferguson.”



Alice & Eleanor

ALICE CONSIDINE AND
ELEANOR HAWKINS
TRAVELING TO BANGKOK
ON FLIGHT KL843

Reason for travel? Alice: “We started out as study buddies because we both attend the same course at university.

Then we became friends and have been traveling together since. This year, we decided to travel through Thailand for two weeks, and then spend three weeks in Vietnam.”

Eleanor: “We were lucky enough to travel to Tanzania and Kenya last year, which wasn’t too shabby either.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Alice: “Probably Iceland. The natural scenery is supposed to be amazing.”

Eleanor: “I agree. And there’s still so much to see in Northern Europe. But we also said that, for our next big trip, we might want to visit South America.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to?

Alice: “Louis Theroux. I’d love to hear what his experiences with certain people he’s interviewed were like.”

Eleanor: “Former British Olympian Jessica Ennis-Hill. She seems so cool.”

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balance by a fresh 24 months. One action refreshes everything at once. This also applies to your existing balance. If you previously had different expiration dates, the most favorable one applies, giving all your Miles the longest possible validity period. Members can now focus on making the most of their journey, earning more Miles, and saving for future trips. flyingblue.com/en/mileshub/subscription

My Miles



“Buying SAF means I can be more sustainable about air travel”

LARS HEIJENRATH PUTS HIS MILES TOWARD ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUEL (SAF).

I started a new job recently, but my previous job as a strategic consultant involved a lot of traveling to visit international clients. I’ve also been on vacation to China, Japan, the US, and Latin America, among others. All this travel, in addition to using my American Express card and booking rental cars via Hertz, made it easy to save up quite a few Miles. I generally spend them on two things – one of them is upgrades.



Tokyo, Japan

While traveling in Economy is fine, I sleep a lot better in Premium Comfort and arrive at my destination with more energy. I noticed this when I traveled to Tokyo two years ago – I arrived so well-rested that I was able to go into the city immediately and make the most of my vacation. Another consideration is alternative aviation fuel (SAF). Not only does it allow me to increase my Experience Points, but it also means

that I can be a little more sustainable about air travel. I’ve been doing this since I read about the possibility of funding the purchase of SAF with my Miles. In the current climate, and with all the energy transitions going on, it’s the least I can do.

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*.



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a relationship
tested by ambition

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Our pick



SONG SUNG BLUE

Inspired by Greg Kohs' 2008 documentary of the same name, *Song Sung Blue* follows Mike (Hugh Jackman) and Claire (Kate Hudson), a married couple from Wisconsin, at the start of their unlikely career. The two might not have found mainstream success with their Neil Diamond tribute act, but in their home state, the duo became a cult hit. Their success even earned them an invitation from Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder. *Song Sung Blue* traces a relationship tested by ambition, hardship, and the unpredictable nature of performance.

Drama, 2h12min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



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Marty Supreme

Drama, 2h29min

Nominated for no less than nine Academy Awards, *Marty Supreme* follows 23-year-old Marty Mauser (Timothée Chalamet), who swindles his way through life and, despite his hardships, believes he can succeed as a table tennis player.



© 2018 Warner Bros. Entertainment.

Companion

Horror, 1h37min

When Iris (Sophie Thatcher), her boyfriend Josh (Jack Quaid), and his friends go on a weekend getaway to a lake house owned by one of them – Sergey (Rupert Friend) – tensions rise and the trip takes a dark turn as Iris realizes not everyone seems to like her.



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Wuthering Heights

Romance, 2h16min

Loosely based on the novel of the same name by English author Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* follows orphan Heathcliff (Jacob Elordi) and headstrong Catherine (Margot Robbie) as their passionate, destructive bond shapes the course of their lives.

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 3D 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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High Potential

Drama, 40min

Morgan Gillory (Kaitlin Olson) is a single mom of three with exceptional intelligence and a broad knowledge base. While working a cleaning job at the LAPD, her natural curiosity leads her to uncover something that dramatically changes the course of her life.



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Running Wild with Bear Grylls

Reality, 45min

A survivalist, adventurer, former 21 SAS reservist, and TV presenter, Bear Grylls once again ventures into the wild armed with little more than his skills and knowledge. This time, however, Grylls is joined by a celebrity.



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Puppy Dog Pals

Kids, 22min

This animation follows the adventures of fun-loving pug puppies Bingo and Rolly and their friends, the basset hound Lollie and the Pomeranian Keia. The four embark on thrill-seeking adventures, helping neighbors, solving problems, and making friends.

The priority is you

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SKYTEAM

SkyPriority

THE PRIORITY IS YOU

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Our award-winning priority airport services are delivered by every alliance member at more than 970 airports worldwide. Instantly recognizable by its iconic red square, SkyPriority means you can fly with

confidence, knowing that an airport you've never been to before will be as familiar as your favorite hub.

Priority at every step

With the all-important SkyPriority eligibility indicator on your boarding pass, you'll navigate the airport with speed and ease. Skip queues from the start and drop your bags quickly at our dedicated SkyPriority check-in counters. Breeze through security and immigration with exclusive priority lanes at select airports.

At the gate, board first or whenever you prefer via the SkyPriority lane.

When you need to connect, avoid losing precious time with expedited service at transfer desks. On arrival, your bags are among the first on the belt, getting you quickly on your way. From the start of your journey to the end, it's all seamless.

A history of excellence

When we launched SkyPriority in 2012, SkyTeam led the industry by becoming the first airline alliance to align airport benefits for premium customers, all proudly offered by every member at nearly every airport. Fast-forward to today, and SkyTeam remains just as committed to delivering an exceptional SkyPriority service every time you fly across our global network.

Discover which services are available for your next trip at skyteam.com. We look forward to taking your SkyPriority experience to new heights, wherever your travels take you.

* Some services may vary by airport. SkyPriority services available at every airport: priority check-in, priority boarding, priority baggage delivery.

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, takeoff, 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 **video recording** of any person on board without their explicit consent is not allowed.

Lithium batteries

Cell 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.

Carry-on baggage at EU airports

To increase passenger safety, security rules for carry-on baggage are in place for all flights in accordance with EU 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 100 ml

and packaged in a resealable, transparent plastic bag (maximum volume 1 liter, 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. Traveling to the US? Only bring liquids on board bought and sealed at Schiphol. Transfer in the US or Canada? Pack your liquids in your checked baggage.

Wi-Fi & free messaging

STAY IN TOUCH ON BOARD

Our ICA fleet has Wi-Fi and more and more of our European aircraft are being equipped with it. If your aircraft has a Wi-Fi logo on it, you can use Wi-Fi. Follow the instructions to the right. **Fast Wi-Fi is available to Flying Blue members for free on our Wi-Fi-enabled European aircraft.** On ICA 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. 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 on ICA.



1

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



2

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



3

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



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When you travel, travel well.

 **KLM** Royal Dutch Airlines
Travel Well



EUROPE



European routes, including SkyTeam and KLM code-share partners.

- KLM
- airBaltic
- Air Europa
- Air France
- Air Serbia
- Air Malta
- Air Europe
- Atlantic Airways
- Bulgaria Air
- Croatia Airlines
- Georgian Airways
- Loganair
- Scandinavian Airlines
- TAROM
- Transavia
- Widerøe

SkyTeam member

See World Map for intercontinental flights, page 80

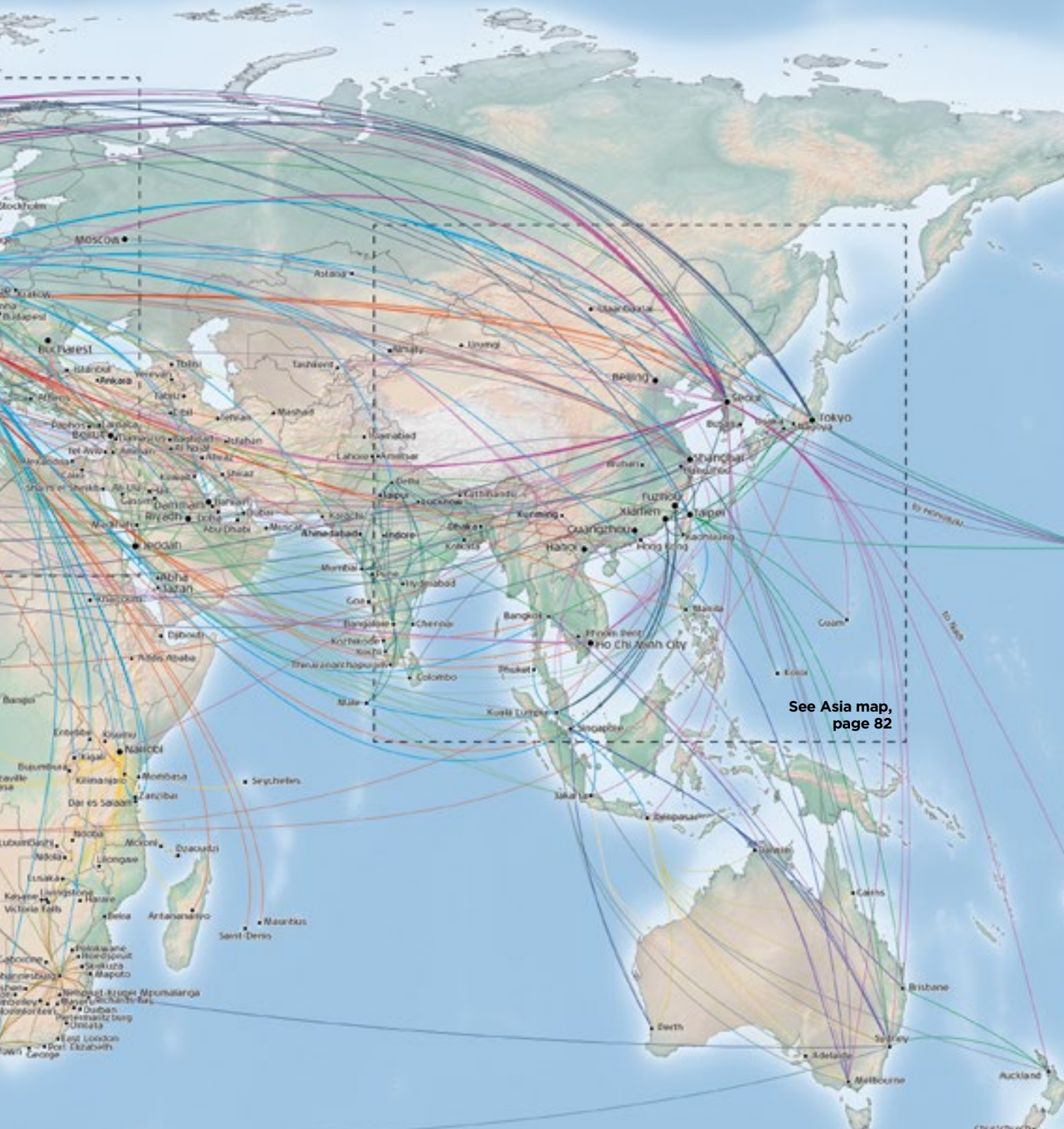
The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft. We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

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

- Taiwan
- Lanzhou
- Chengdu
- Wanzhou
- Chongqing
- Zhuhai
- Cuiyang
- Kunming
- Guangzhou
- Wanning
- Zhangjiang
- Haikou
- Wanya
- Mandalay
- Luang Prabang
- Hanoi
- Da Nang
- Chiang Mai
- Yangon
- Sukhothai
- Bangkok
- Saigon
- Phnom Penh
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Koh Samui
- Phuket
- Krab
- Langkawi
- Penang
- Medan
- Jakarta
- Singapore



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

- KLM
- Bangkok Airways
- China Airlines
- China Eastern
- Garuda Indonesia
- Jetstar
- Korean Air
- Malaysia Airlines
- Vietnam Airlines
- 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.



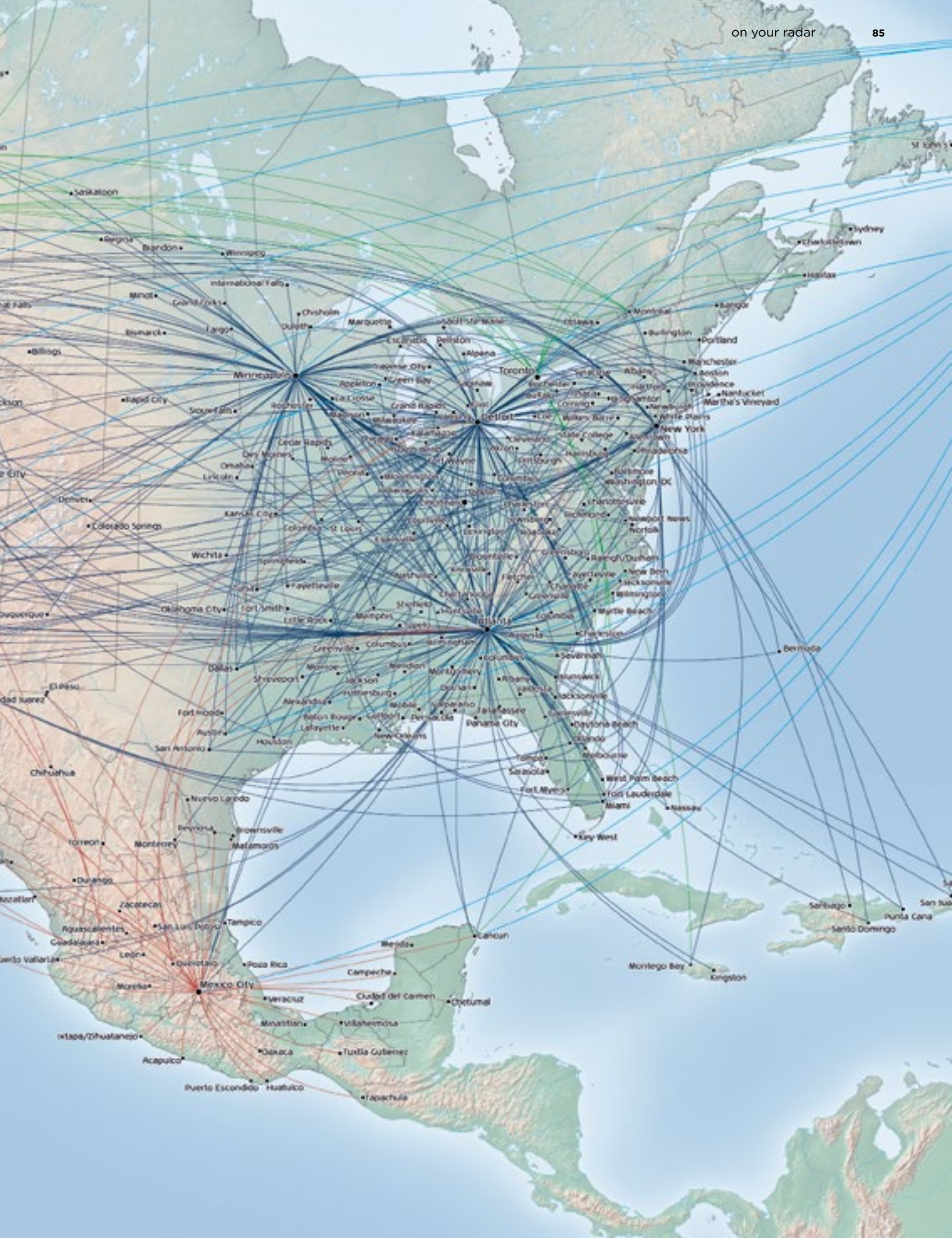
NORTH AMERICA

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

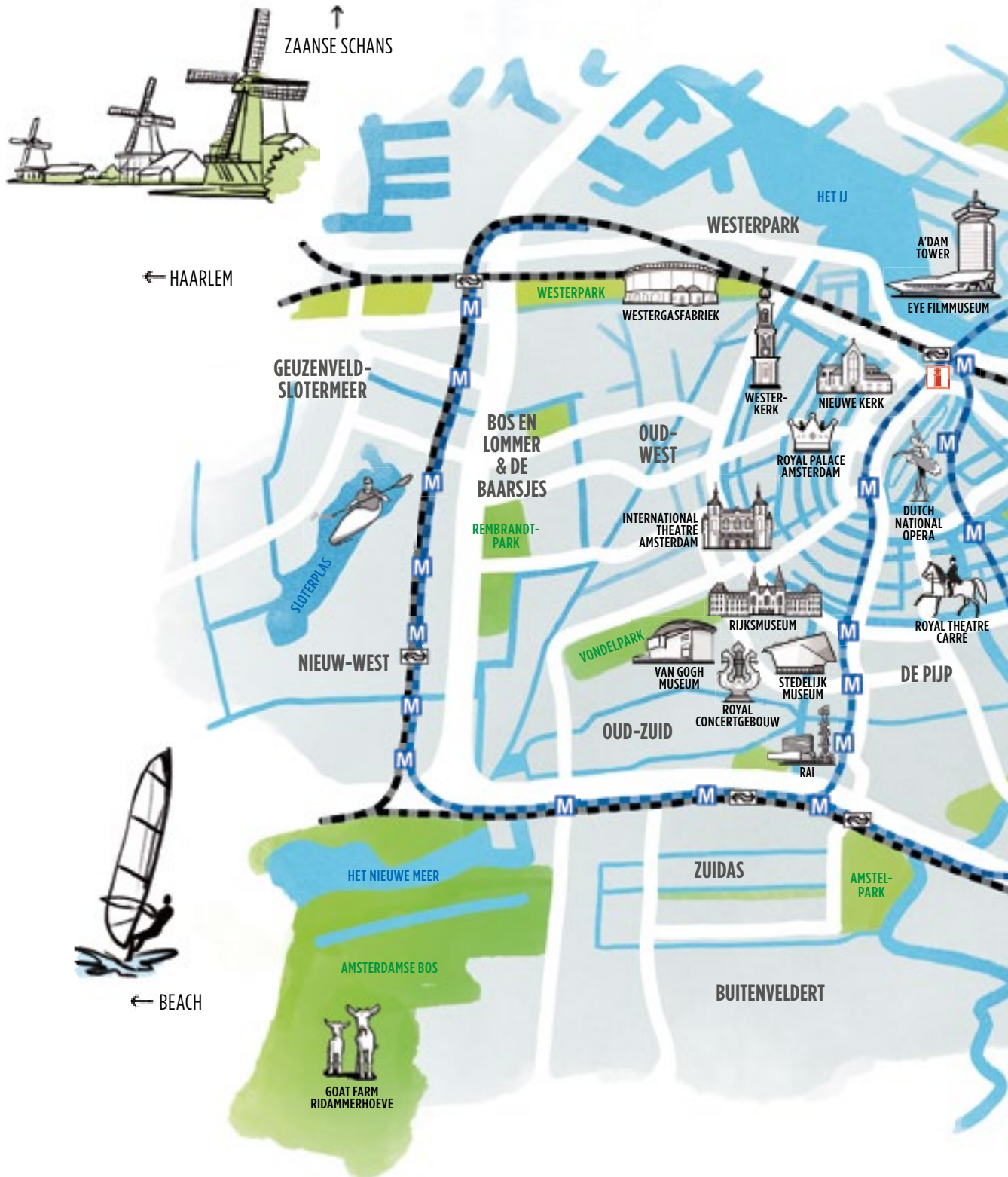
- KLM 
- Aeroméxico 
- Delta Air Lines 
- WestJet 

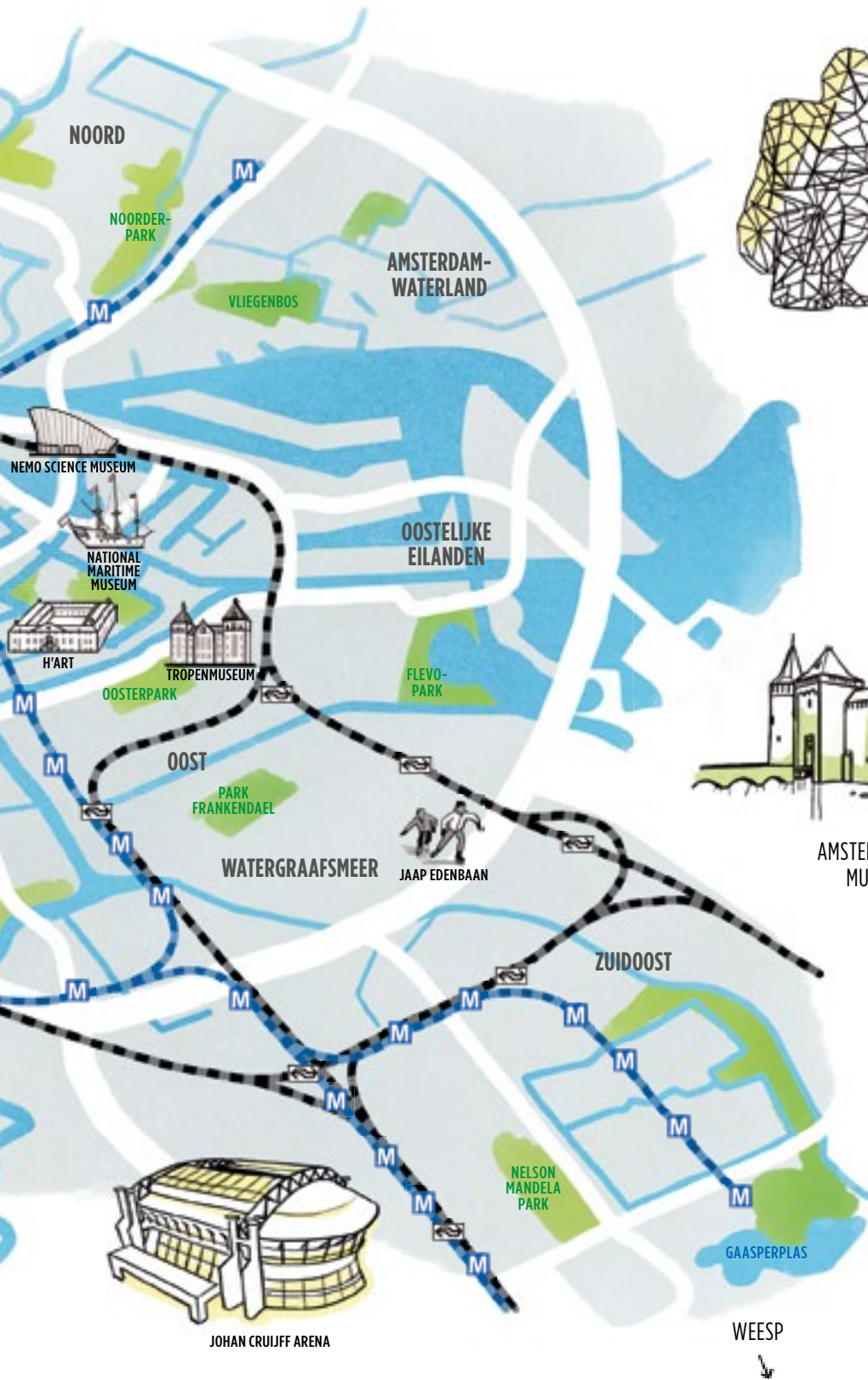
 SkyTeam member

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



AMSTERDAM





ALMERE/
LELYSTAD →



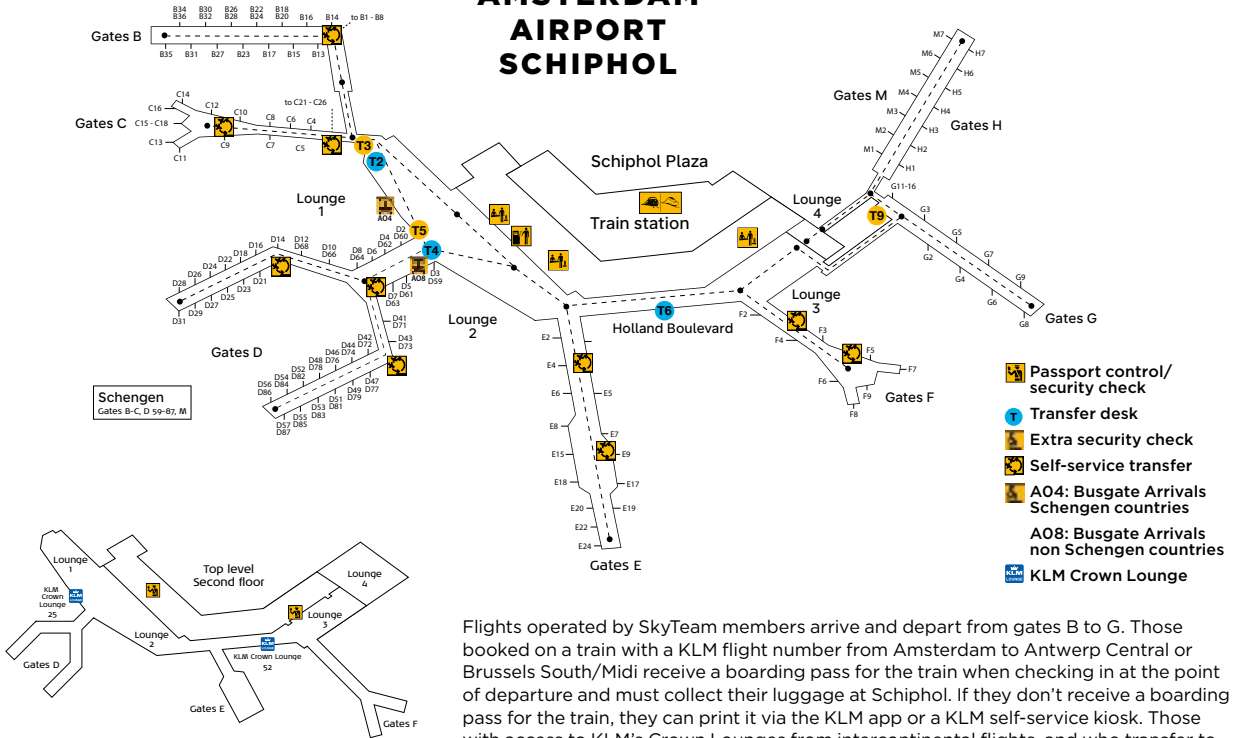
AMSTERDAM CASTLE
MUIDERSLOT →

-  Metro
-  Metro Station
-  Railway
-  Railway Station
-  I amsterdam Store

AIRPORT MAPS

The Netherlands

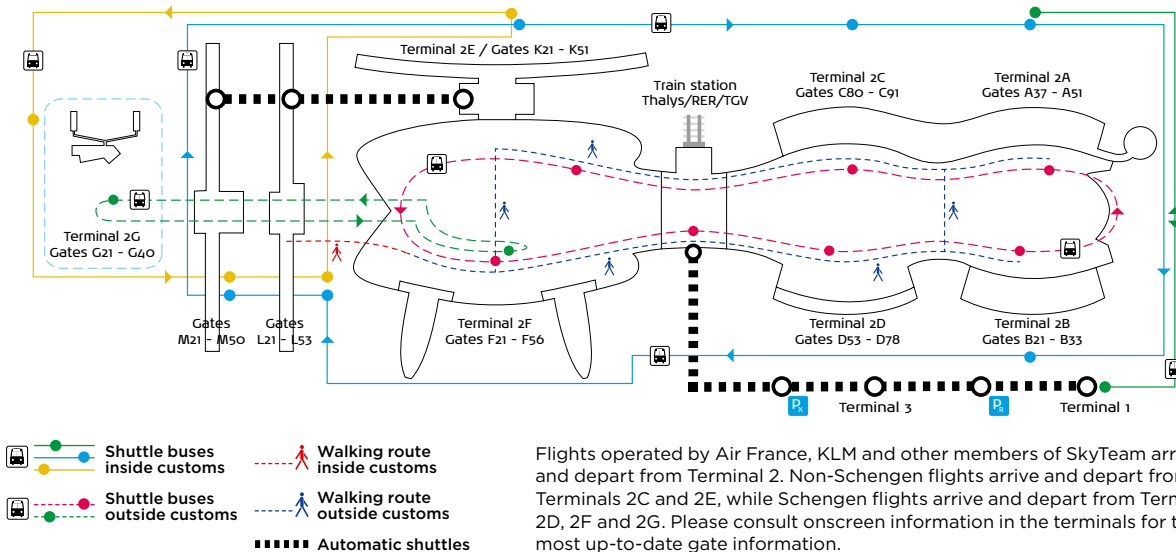
AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



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

France

PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL 2



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

OUT OF THE BLUE



“I get to witness many human moments”

Guido van der Zanden

AS A PASSENGER SERVICES LEAD, GUIDO VAN DER ZANDEN ENSURES THE SMOOTH FLOW OF KLM PASSENGERS MOVING THROUGH AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL.

What does your job entail? I monitor the departure and arrivals areas. There's a flow with which passengers move from the check-in desk to baggage drop-off to customs. If there's a disruption to this flow, I try to solve it with my team of four supervisors and their team of about 50 staff members. This can happen in several ways, from opening an extra check-in desk to assisting a staff member who might be dealing with a difficult passenger. I also keep an eye out for extraordinary

circumstances, such as passengers traveling with pets, or sudden changes in weather conditions.

Did you always want to work in aviation? Yes. I grew up in an “aviation family”. My father worked for the KLM technical team and my mother worked in the Swissport Business Class Lounge. After graduating from the College Airport in Hoofddorp, I worked as a check-in agent for the airline Transavia. Then I worked various jobs, including as a KLM gate agent and a shift leader.

Two years ago, I became a Passenger Services Lead. I celebrated my 25th year at KLM in February last year.

What do you like about your job the most? KLM really is the “royal” airline. I wear my uniform with pride to work every day. The airline was always my goal, and the job itself is incredibly rewarding. I see many beautiful scenes, like passengers being reunited with loved ones, but I also experience their sadness at times. My job allows me to witness many human moments.

LJUBLJANA

Slovenia



Museums

Art and history lovers are in for a treat. The National Gallery houses an impressive collection of Baroque works and art by Slovenian Impressionists, while the National Museum of Slovenia's prehistoric finds include what's thought to be a 60,000-year-old Neanderthal flute.

900

Ljubljana Castle has stood atop a hill in the city center for over 900 years. Its elevated position made it an ideal fortress against local rebellions and Ottoman invasions. These days, it's home to a puppet museum, hosts cultural events, and offers spectacular views of the city.

20°C

With a pleasant 20°C during the day, visitors to Slovenia's capital won't have to worry about feeling cold.

However, some rainfall can be expected as May is one of Ljubljana's wettest months. Keep a warm coat on hand, as the temperature can drop to a chilly 8°C in the evenings.

Food

Thanks to the country's rich beekeeping tradition, Slovenian honey is renowned for its high quality. Other traditional treats are *potica*, a rolled pastry with flavors and fillings such as tarragon and walnut, and *kranjska klobasa*, a lightly smoked pork sausage.

Dragons

Dragons are a feature of Ljubljana, from the city's crest to the Dragon Bridge, on which sit four huge dragon statues. The bridge links the Old Town with Trnovo in the heart of Ljubljana. According to legend, the Greek hero Jason founded the city after slaying a dragon on this spot.

55

Take a 55-km bus ride from Ljubljana to Lake Bled, which is surrounded by forests and mountains. In the middle of the lake is a little island, where you'll find a church that originally dates back to the 12th century. It can be reached by rowboat or a *pletna*, a traditional flat-bottomed boat.





Some hikes make an impression **This one makes a difference**

Together we make a difference

Become a Trailmaker for War Child and make an impact. Join us on a journey to breathtaking Bosnia and Herzegovina – the place where War Child first began. Experience an adventurous trail through untouched nature.

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Ellen - Trailmaker 2025

Your challenge?

Raise as much funds as possible for children growing up with war and violence.

Will you join us?



warchild.nl/trailmakers/english



A brand new jewel.
The Onyx.



Big Green Egg®