

JUNE 2026 🇳🇱 • **GOAL ORIENTED: FOOTBALLER VIVIANNE MIEDEMA** • **THE COOLEST COCKTAIL BARS** • **FUN IN REJUVENATED BERLIN** • **KLM INSIDER STORIES & UPDATES**

HOLLAND HERALD



*"I love the sense of togetherness
football can give you"*

FOOTBALLER VIVIANNE MIEDEMA

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BENNETT WINCH

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND



The Sport Holdall, Olive | [BENNETTWINCH.COM](https://www.bennettwinch.com)

The Game Changer

THE SPORT HOLDALL *by* BENNETT WINCH

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Welcome

Marjan Rintel

THE BEAUTY OF DIVERSITY



Cover Story

Starting out as a prolific goal scorer for a boys' football team, Vivianne Miedema (p. 28) went on to become an important Dutch international while influencing the rise of the women's game from obscurity to worldwide fame. We interview Miedema - now an activist for LGBTIQ+ inclusion in sports - in Manchester, where she currently plies her trade for top Women's Super League team Manchester City.

When the opportunity arises, I love taking a short city trip. A few days in a different environment helps me unwind. I'm drawn to the energy of city life. Cities around the world are culturally rich and vibrant because differences don't merely coexist - they influence and enrich one another. Languages, traditions, and lifestyles come together, creating a dynamic society.

That diversity is especially visible in street life, in public places such as markets, parks, and cultural institutions, and of course at festivals and in restaurants. And that's exactly why I enjoy these places so much.

This summer, KLM takes you to more than 160 destinations worldwide, from major metropolises to places that may not loudly demand attention yet are more than worth a visit. This edition of *Holland Herald* is filled with inspiring examples of both.

One of them is the Spanish city of Oviedo (p. 38), which we welcome as a new destination this summer. Located in the lush green region of Asturias in northern Spain, nestled between mountains and coastline, Oviedo is known for its rich history and strong culinary traditions. It's authentic, relaxed, and ideal for travelers who enjoy venturing beyond the beaten path.

“This summer, KLM takes you to more than 160 destinations worldwide”

At the same time, Vancouver (p. 26), Canada, illustrates just how versatile travel can be. We are guided by Jamal Abdourahman, founder of Vancouver Fashion Week, who captures it beautifully: “In Vancouver, you can start the day by the ocean, be on a mountain trail an hour later, and finish the evening at a fashion show or a great restaurant. It's one of the world's most multicultural cities.”

The beauty of diversity isn't limited to maps or landscapes; it lives within people themselves and in the celebration of their unique identities. That's what we will showcase this summer in Amsterdam during WorldPride. As a proud sponsor of this event, we reaffirm our belief that everyone - regardless of background, sexual orientation, or identity - should feel welcome and valued, both on board and on the ground.

Offering you a warm welcome on board and inviting you to discover the diversity of our world by connecting with others: that's the essence of what drives us.

Welcome aboard.

Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO

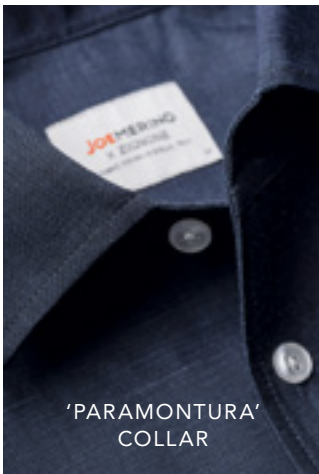




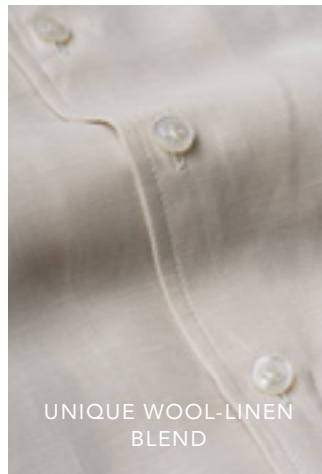
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JOE MERINO

WOOL LINEN SHIRT



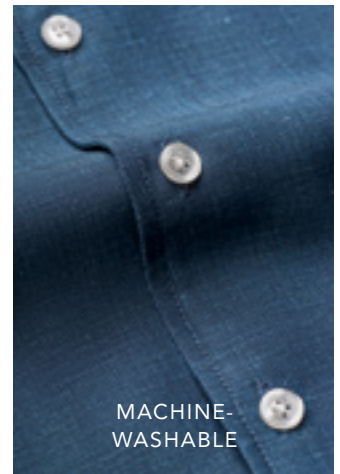
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Joe's Wool Linen Casual Shirt combines the elegance of linen with the practical pros of wool. It shows fewer wrinkles, does not fade and never loses its shape. In short: the best of both worlds. The 'paramontura' or 'one piece' collar gives the shirt an extra distinguished look. Available in 9 colours in the sizes S t/m XXXL.

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June 2026

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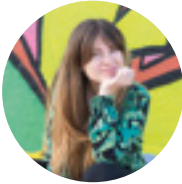
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Your Next Destination

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

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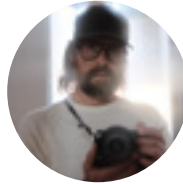
MEET THE TEAM



Gina Miroula

Based in Amsterdam, Gina is a cultural journalist with a deep passion for the arts. She developed a special interest in theater and dance as a child, which eventually led to her job as a theater critic for Dutch newspaper *Het Parool*. Gina wrote the Happy Places article (p. 54).

Gina's travel tip: "Fly to Bari in southern Italy, hire a motorbike, and ride to the tip of the country's heel. Pass through coastal towns and olive groves, staying at *agriturismos* along the way. These farm stays offer home-cooked meals, giving you an authentic taste of the region. If you're lucky, your meal is made by a *nonna* ['grandma]."



Ben Clark

Ben is our Chief Subeditor. He hopes that readers feel inspired while reading *Holland Herald* – identified as a "print icon" by *Monocle* magazine – and that it brings balance to the screen-heavy onboard entertainment experience. "I like to think that reading our magazine is like hiking: it requires some effort but there are great views and lasting benefits."

Ben's travel tip: "I once went on a boat trip to Little Curaçao in the Caribbean. This arcadian island features a shipwreck, rustic beach bar, long stretches of white sand, and the most amazing azure waters. It was paradise for a day."



Paula Pennings

In her role as photo producer, Paula organizes photoshoots. She loves working with creative people and traveling to amazing places. From an early age, she had a love for photography and magazines, and knew that she would end up in publishing. Paula organized the photoshoot for the Game Changer article (p. 28).

Paula's travel tip: "A few years ago, I booked a last-minute trip to Menorca. I was surprised by the beauty of this Spanish island, where I found idyllic, untouched coves and Cap Roig restaurant, where tasty food is paired with a breathtaking panorama."

Colophon

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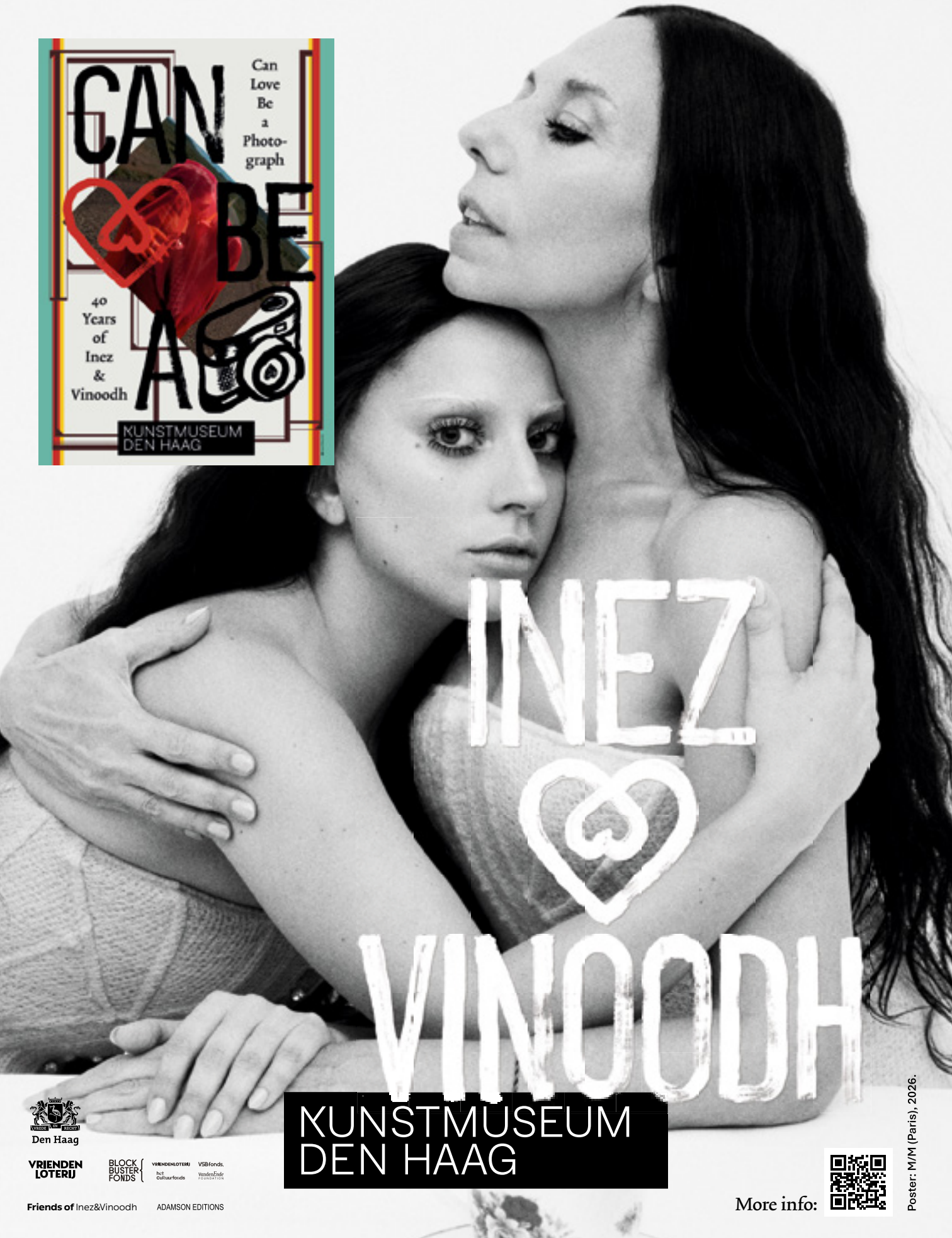
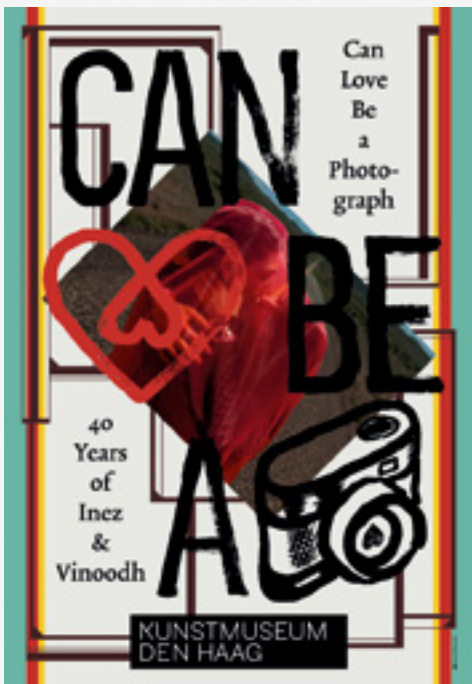
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Poster: M/M (Paris), 2026.

THROUGH *your lens*

Switzerland



PEAKS AND PARAGLIDERS

ANDREW GRIGG'S LATE-SEASON CLIMB UP THE HINTERRUGG IN SWITZERLAND RESULTED IN THIS AWE-INSPIRING IMAGE.



I moved to Switzerland about 10 years ago for my studies at ETH

Zurich university, yet I'd never hiked the Hinterrugg, the highest peak in the impressive Churfirsten mountain range. So on November 11 last year, I finally

decided to attempt the hike, even though it was a bit late in the year to do it. Fortunately, I didn't run into any trouble – instead, I came across this group of paragliders. Having lived in Zurich for many years, I'd frequently seen paragliders flying over the city in the distance. Encountering them like this – just before they zipped themselves into their cocoons and leapt off the cliffs – was fascinating to witness. It's probably why I took this particular image. There's something daring about floating between mountain peaks using a combination of training, equipment, and sheer nerve. On the northern side of the mountain, which is a little more sheltered from the sun, I encountered an area where the first snow had accumulated, which made the climb more challenging but rewarding at the same time. When you know where to go, these mountain ranges really are some of the best things that Switzerland has to offer.

Your Photo

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

Monthly Prize

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

Some of the images are also available as fine art.

jimmynelson.com/fine-art-intro







We co-own five unique holiday homes

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



Lene & Danny, a 21-5 family

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

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

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

What do you like most about 21-5?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Has 21-5 been a good investment for you?

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

FACTS ABOUT 21-5

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



For more information:

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

FENIX

Art Museum about Migration

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Photo: Iwan Baan

TIME

WORLD'S
GREATEST
PLACES

2026

fenix.nl

The SELECTION

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



London

MARILYN FOREVER

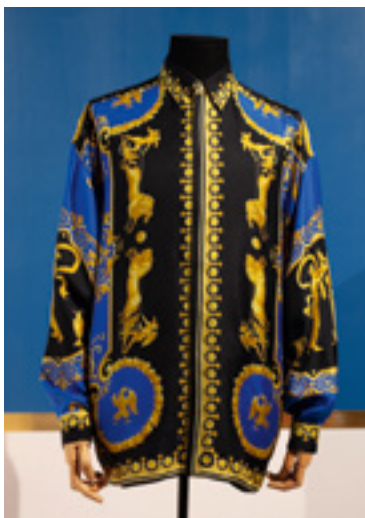
Born in 1926 as Norma Jeane Mortenson, American actress Marilyn Monroe was one of Hollywood's most iconic stars, known for her comedic talent and sex appeal. In celebration of what would have been her 100th birthday and in association with the Marilyn Monroe estate, *Marilyn Monroe: A Portrait* at London's National Portrait Gallery is honoring her legacy. Until Sep 6; npg.org.uk

TO *See*

Paris

VERY VERSACE

As one of the most successful fashion designers of the 1980s and 1990s, Italian Gianni Versace (1947–1997) brought bold colors and Baroque aesthetics to the catwalk. Paris' Musée Maillol gathers over 400 of his designs and personal objects together in a large-scale exhibition. gianniversaceretrospective.fr



Ibiza

BALEARIC ART

CAN ART FAIR IBIZA BRINGS INTERNATIONAL GALLERIES AND COLLECTORS TOGETHER ON THE BALEARIC ISLAND.

More than just a popular nightlife and beach destination, Ibiza is also known for its creative scene, and has historically attracted artists of various kinds.

During the fifth edition of Can Art Fair Ibiza, about 30 international art galleries present their work to an audience of art collectors and enthusiasts. In addition to the main event at the FECOEV fairgrounds, related activities are taking place around the island all month. Jun 25–28; contemporaryartnow.com

NYC

HAAS BROTHERS' WIT AND WHIMSY

Known for their playful designs and surrealistic figures, American twin brothers Nikolai and Simon Haas like to blend art and craft with functionality. In the world of the Haas Brothers, a chair might also be a sculpture and a table may resemble a living organism. The

exhibition *Haas Brothers: Uncanny Valley* at New York City's Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) dives into the mystical and humorous world of the largely self-taught siblings, exploring their unique use of materials and the inspiration behind their fantastical figures.

Until Aug 16; madmuseum.org



French writer and poet André Breton defined the **concept of Surrealism** – unleashing the creative potential of the unconscious mind – in 1924

Santa Monica

THE ART OF CONNECTION

Since relocating to New York City in 1956, Japanese artist Yoko Ono has been exploring ways to use art as a force of connection and change for over seven decades. In collaboration with London's Tate Modern museum, the exhibition *Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind* at Santa Monica's The Broad is Ono's first showcase in Southern California, and includes both her older and most recent artworks. Until Oct 11; thebroad.org



TO meet

Women and girls make up just over half of the estimated **40.8 million** people living with HIV worldwide

Q&A Roel Veltmeijer

SERVING UP AWARENESS

THROUGH THE AMSTERDAM DINNER FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GALA, CHAIRMAN ROEL VELTMEIJER AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND STIGMAS.

What is The Amsterdam Dinner?

It's an annual event that seeks to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and LGBTIQ+ rights, while pushing boundaries and addressing stigmas. It features drag queens, bold performances, and other things you wouldn't usually see at galas. It's one of the most prestigious and longest-running charity galas in the Netherlands. We host about 1,000 people annually, and the event is sold out every year. It started in 1992 on Dam Square, back when HIV was devastating lives, especially within the queer community. A group of friends decided to raise awareness and money by organizing a gala dinner, which took place in a large tent in front of the Royal Palace of Amsterdam. The event had an edge to it from the outset. Many sat at tables knowing that some people there would pass away soon. At the same time, there was a sense of celebration, joy, and openness. That duality is part of its DNA.

Why is the event still relevant and important? Public attention to HIV/AIDS is fading into the background. That's partly due to better treatments, but also because people are getting used to it. Yet in 2024, about 600,000 people around the world died from HIV/AIDS, including 75,000 children. If a new disease killed that many children, the world would panic, yet this has been happening for years. As someone with HIV, I know how much stigma it still carries. People are scared to share their stories for fear of being bullied or rejected by their communities. Sharing our stories and knowledge about the disease is

crucial as it's a way of supporting others and inviting them to open up.

You're also the owner of international arcade chain Gamestate. How do you combine the two roles?

It can be challenging, but the roles strengthen each other. I use my business network to support The Amsterdam Dinner. During meetings, I'll casually ask, "Have you bought

a table yet?" I believe successful entrepreneurs should give back to society. It's about making time in your busy schedule. In the end, it's a choice.

Who would be your dream performer at The Amsterdam Dinner?

Elton John. He's been an advocate for the cause for more than 40 years. I'd love to honor him and have him perform at our event. June 13; amsterdamdinnerfoundation.nl



“
SHARING
OUR STORIES
ABOUT HIV/AIDS
IS CRUCIAL
”

TO *taste*

Water

H₂O BY JEFF KOONS

Always dreamed of owning an artwork by American artist Jeff Koons? Thanks to Evian, you can. To celebrate its 200-year anniversary, the French mineral water brand has unveiled limited-edition glass bottles designed by Koons, featuring his iconic Balloon Dog. €4.50; evian.com



Algarve

VILLA OF JOY

THIS BOUTIQUE RESORT IN THE PORTUGUESE ALGARVE OFFERS A HOME-LIKE STAY AND MICHELIN-STARRED CUISINE.

With only 17 rooms and suites, Vila Joya isn't positioned as a hotel, but as a private home. Curated by German owner Joy Jung, it's inspired by Moorish architecture, and features a private art collection and soulful interior.

At its heart is a two-Michelin-starred restaurant led by Austrian chef Dieter Koschina, who creates a new tasting menu every day. vilajoya.com

Spice blends

STIRRED NOT SHAKEN

Spices like turmeric and cinnamon are known for their anti-inflammatory properties, and can boost your immune system. That's why Belgian brand Stirr created a range of spice blends such as Moon Cinnamon Blend and Golden Turmeric Blend that can be mixed with your favorite smoothie, yogurt, or with a glass of water.

From €13.90; stirr.be



Kitchen design

Keep a lid on it

Fans of *The Great British Bake Off* TV show might recognize the shape of these ceramic jars by Dutch design brand &Klevering, which were inspired by classic Charlotte bread pudding cakes.

From €35; klevering.com

TO wish for



Wall art

PICTURE THIS

If you're looking to adorn your walls with high-quality art and photography for an accessible price, design brand Desenio has got you covered. From their studio in Stockholm, they work with an international network of artists, designers, and photographers, creating affordable prints for various budgets. Their latest series, *Studio Soleil*, captures the essence of the French Riviera. desenio.com

In **Ancient Egypt**, attendants used long-handled feather fans to cool dignitaries

Mini fan

CHILLING OUT

Whether you're stuck in a sticky office, coming out of a hot yoga class, or working up a sweat at a summer festival, the HushJet™ Mini Cool Fan by Dyson will cool you down in seconds. It weighs only 212 g, and its battery lasts up to 6 hours. From €99; dyson.com



Fashion

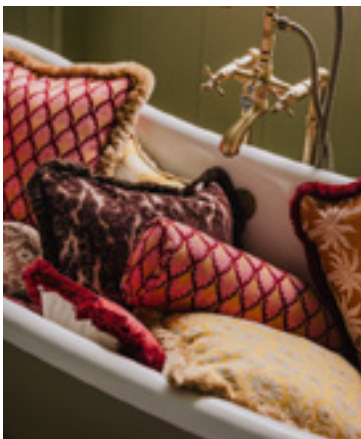
SET FOR SUMMER

With summer arriving in the northern hemisphere, higher temperatures call for lightweight clothing in breathable fabrics. German fashion brand Drykorn's spring/summer collection features cotton and linen garments in both pale and earthy tones. drykorn.com

Home decor

PERFECTLY PLUSH

INTERIOR DESIGN BRAND PALAIS BRINGS DUTCH COZINESS INTO THE SUMMER SEASON.



There really is no place like home – so why not make it as cozy and comfortable as possible? With its latest Positano collection of interior design products, Dutch brand Palais celebrates the quiet beauty of Dutch summers, with its blooming flower fields, green pastures, and outdoor picnics on long, warm summer evenings. Their impressive collection of colorful pillows is water-, sun-, and dirt-resistant, making it suitable for both indoor and outdoor use.

palais.com



Jewelry

Say my name

Nothing says "I love you" (or "I love myself") like a statement piece of jewelry. Belgian designer Jolien Mees created a collection of 18-carat gold rings and pendants with the numbers 1 to 9 and all the letters of the alphabet. The pendants are available with lab-grown or natural diamonds.

From €850; jolienmees.com

TO do

Amsterdam

UNDER THE SEA

After five years of renovations, Artis, a renowned zoo and botanical garden in Amsterdam, is reopening its aquarium, one of the oldest in the world of its kind. By integrating art and interactive installations, the revamped aquarium explains to visitors how fragile the underwater world is and how interconnected all life forms are, both on land and in the water. artis.nl



In 1933, the world's first **drive-in movie theater** opened in Camden, New Jersey



Outdoor cinema

FILMS WITH A VIEW

WHILE MOVIES ARE BEST ENJOYED IN THE CINEMA, THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT WATCHING ONE IN THE OPEN AIR.

UK

Adventure Cinema brings the big screen to 57 spectacular locations around the UK this summer, including Lulworth Castle (pictured above) and the Eden Project in Cornwall. adventurecinema.co.uk

Berlin

During the summer months, the Kulturforum at Berlin's Potsdamer Platz is transformed into Yorck's Sommerkino, with panoramic views. Bring your own snacks and drinks. yorck.de

Zurich

From June 11 to July 5, the courtyard of the National Museum in Zurich turns into a summer garden with an array of activities; visitors can expect drinks, music, dining, and a daily movie screening. hofkino.ch

Chicago

CENTER OF CONNECTION

Located on Chicago's South Side, the Obama Presidential Center recently opened its doors. This educational campus brings together museum spaces, gardens, an athletic center, and community hubs, inviting visitors to explore

ideas of leadership and global connection. Located in Jackson Park, the center aims to offer a cultural attraction as an invitation for a deeper conversation about the future of cities and citizenship. obama.org





Stand tall this summer

DISCOVER GIRAV'S SUMMER WARDROBE FOR TALLER MEN

Sleeves that are too short, shirts that creep up; for taller men, finding well-fitting clothing can be challenging. That's why Dutch clothing brand Girav offers high-quality essentials for taller men that combine timeless design with a perfect, consistent fit.

Since one of its founders Erik de Weerd (almost 2 meters tall) struggled with finding well-fitting clothing firsthand, Girav focuses on designing apparel specifically for men over 1.80 meters in height. The brand's defying feature is its three-length system. Recognizing that a single standard length does not accommodate taller body types, Girav offers garments in Standard, Long, and Extra Long options. This approach enables customers to select both their size from

S-XXL and their preferred length, resulting in a more precise fit and better overall proportions.

Made to last

The outcome is clothing that performs as intended: shirts remain properly in place, sleeves reach the correct length, and trousers fit with accuracy. Using high-quality fabrics that are pre-washed and pre-shaped, garments retain their shape and fit over time, even after repeated laundering. More than just practical, it's also more sustainable, as the garments are made to last.

Full summer collection

In addition to its core range of high-quality garments, Girav offers a complete summer collection. The assortment includes polo and dress

shirts, sweaters, and long and short trousers, all available within the three-length system. This provides customers with a cohesive wardrobe for various summer settings, from the office to leisure travel - all with the perfect fit.

Find your size

Girav's purchasing process is also designed for efficiency and convenience. Customers can order online using a size guide to determine the most suitable fit quickly and accurately. There's free shipping to most European countries and a 100-day return policy.

girav.com

GIRAV



Column

Freek Vonk

THERE BE DRAGONS

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

“The moment I set foot on land, the atmosphere changes”

I awaken as the waves gently rock my boat. I'm anchored off a huge volcanic island that's gradually becoming tinged with a warm golden color as the sun creeps above the horizon. This is Komodo Island, one of the Lesser Sunda Islands, an Indonesian archipelago with a rich volcanic history. It's home to the Komodo dragon, the largest lizard in the world and the last survivor of a lineage of giant lizards that once roamed across much of Australasia.

In front of me stretches a vast, untouched landscape. The contrast between the dry savanna and the bright blue ocean is so breathtaking that it seems surreal, but there's trouble in paradise. Heat, drought, and scarcity set the rules here. To survive, you must be ruthless, and stepping ashore without preparation is a bad idea. The first Western explorers to visit these islands returned with stories that sounded too unbelievable to be true. They spoke of enormous, dragon-like reptiles large enough to kill deer; animals that seemed slow but could be incredibly fast and lethally efficient when it mattered.

The moment I set foot on land, the atmosphere changes. Every step I take is deliberate. Komodo dragons may look slow, but they're capable of explosive bursts of speed. They can accelerate from 0–20 km/h in no time, and they will eat almost anything. From an ambush, hidden in tall grass, they wait – sometimes for days – until a pig, deer, or even a water buffalo

comes close enough. And then, in a single explosive burst, they surge forward, seize their prey, and tear away chunks of flesh with brutal force. Their venom, delivered through glands in the lower jaw, prevents the blood from clotting. Even if the prey escapes, it's often just a matter of time. There are cases of fatal attacks on humans, so I stay on high alert.

Suddenly, I see one. It's a male lying near the beach, half in the shade. Nearly 3 meters long and well over 100 kg, he looks more like a fallen tree trunk than a lizard. His head rests on the ground, but his eyes follow everything. As I move closer, he rises. With heavy steps, he moves onto the beach. I follow him carefully. The animal is less than five meters away. He moves with that unmistakable prehistoric gait. His head sways slowly from side to side as he walks. His massive feet, armed with long, razor-sharp claws, leave deep impressions in the sand. His mouth is filled with large, serrated teeth, designed to tear through flesh. Recent research has shown that these teeth are coated with a layer of iron, a natural reinforcement that keeps them sharp and resistant to wear; perfect for ripping apart prey.

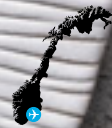
I watch as he continues down the beach and disappears into the dry vegetation. For a brief moment, standing on an island born from fire yet frozen in time, I realize once again that you don't need to build a time machine to experience prehistory.



EAT *out*



Oslo



WILD ABOUT CARROTS

Dishes that evolve with the seasons aren't unheard of, but Mikael Svensson, chef and owner of Kontrast in Oslo, takes the concept a step further. Most of his ingredients are organic, with a strong emphasis on produce foraged from the wilds of Norway. As a result, his menus shift with the rhythms of the Norwegian climate, yielding distinctive and evolving flavor profiles. One standout example is a grilled semidry carrot ragù, paired with miso, elderflower, and sea urchin cream. restaurant-kontrast.no

My

Canada



VANCOUVER

RAISED IN CANADA, JAMAL ABDOURAHMAN IS THE FOUNDER OF VANCOUVER FASHION WEEK. WITH THE GLOBAL FASHION COLLECTIVE, HE ALSO HELPS EMERGING TALENT SHOWCASE ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL RUNWAYS. @JAMALABDOURAHMAN



How would you describe Vancouver's vibe? It's one of the world's most multicultural cities, and that diversity shapes everything: the food, the creativity, and the style. The pace is relaxed, but there's a quiet ambition and a strong independent spirit that I really relate to.

What are your favorite areas? I like to split my time between Gastown, Mount Pleasant, and Kitsilano. Each neighborhood reflects a different side of Vancouver and of my daily life. Gastown ❶ offers an exciting mix of heritage, fashion, and design; Mount Pleasant has a strong independent creative energy; and Kitsilano is where I go to slow down by the water. I also love to take the SkyTrain to New Westminister, walk along Pier Park and visit independent places such as artisan boutique Good Omen (34 Sixth St); handmade-fragrance store Aromatica (672 Columbia St); coffee spot Coasters Coffee (55 Sixth St);

and Mexican restaurant El Santo (680 Columbia St), which serves great ceviche.

Where else should we eat? I'm a fan of Middle Eastern restaurant East is East (3035 W Broadway); it's warm, atmospheric, and unique to Vancouver. Homer Street Café & Bar (898 Homer St) is a cool bistro and one of my go-to meeting places after a show. For brunch meetings, I often go to Maxine's Café & Bar ❷ (1325 Burrard St), which has the perfect balance of classic and contemporary.

Any nature activities you'd recommend? Walking or cycling the Stanley Park Seawall ❸ is essential – it's one of the most beautiful urban waterfronts in the world and a place I often go to reset and find inspiration. I also suggest the Spanish Banks ❹ for the incredible sunrises and the feeling of space and calm so close to the city. And the beautiful mountain resort of Whistler, which offers

alpine adventures year-round, is close enough to Vancouver for an impromptu escape.

Any shopping suggestions? My fashion and lifestyle favorites include inclusive apparel and swimwear brand Nettle's Tale (306 W Cordova St) and eco-friendly skincare store Sunja Link Body Shoppe (3761 Main St). I also like Dream Apparel and Articles for People (Net Loft, 1650 Johnston St), a fashion and accessories store on Granville Island that only sells products from local designers, and fashion consignment store Front & Company (3772 Main St).

Which art spots do you recommend? The Museum of Anthropology (6393 NW Marine Dr) is powerful and tells the story of this place through Indigenous culture and design. The Vancouver Art Gallery ❺ (750 Hornby St) is where I go to see what's going on in the world of contemporary art.

What are your favorite places to stay? The Rosewood Hotel Georgia ❻ (801 W Georgia St) for its history and timeless glamour, and the Fairmont Pacific Rim (1038 Canada Pl) because it brings together art, fashion, music, and design, and has an unbeatable waterfront location. For something more accessible, the Sandman Suites Vancouver-Davie Street (1160 Davie St) is in a great location with beautiful city and ocean views, and it puts you right in the heart of the West End.

Book
this
story



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Stanley Park Seawall ③



Vancouver Art Gallery ⑤



Gastown ①

Rosewood Hotel Georgia ⑥

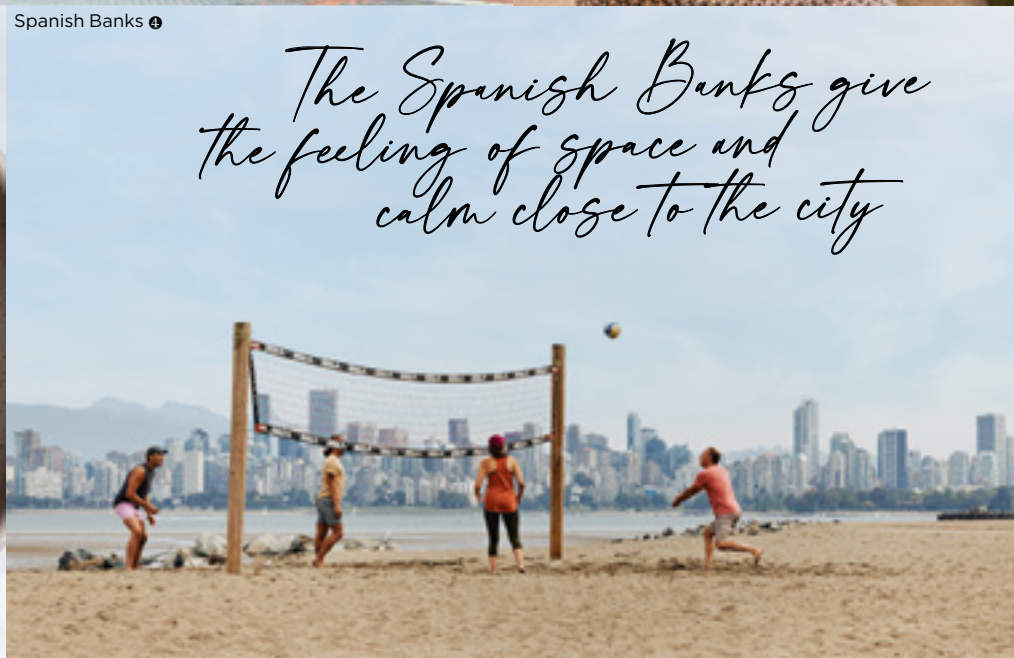



Maxine's Café & Bar ②

Spanish Banks ④



The Spanish Banks give the feeling of space and calm close to the city





Football is a team sport but it takes a special player to raise the profile of “the beautiful game”. Football greats Pelé, Maradona, and Messi defined eras. Manchester City striker Vivianne Miedema has blazed a trail too. And now, in no small part thanks to her, women’s football is writ large and the stadiums are filling up. Text Charlotte Latten Photography Anne Timmer

Vivianne Miedema

GOAL GETTER



A few weeks ago, I was sitting at a small breakfast spot on a Thai island, reading an article about Dutch international footballer Vivianne Miedema on my laptop. Suddenly, a passing waiter stopped and pointed at Miedema's photo on the screen. *"She's so good; she's so strong!"* he said, flexing his arm muscles in admiration. He then beamed as he told me how brilliant Miedema had been during the UEFA Women's Euro 2017 tournament, when he'd watched the Dutch women's team become European champions.

Fast-forward to today, and I'm with Miedema in a lounge at Manchester City's training ground. She's been playing for the Women's Super League (WSL) club for the past two years. When Miedema hears the anecdote, her eyes light up. "No way!" she says, laughing. "That's mental! I mean, I know women's football is big in England and in the Netherlands, but I didn't realize it had reached that far."

Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising; after all, Miedema is the Dutch national team's all-time top scorer: she's scored more goals (104, to be precise) for the Netherlands than any other player – male or female – in history (with Memphis Depay being the top scorer among the men, on 55 goals). In the WSL, she's the all-time top scorer as well, and she's won several prestigious awards, including the BBC Women's Footballer of the Year in 2021.

Playing with the boys

Miedema was five years old when she started playing football. "Mostly because my dad played every Saturday, and I'd be on the pitch next to him, chasing a ball with my friends," she explains. Although she instantly loved the game, it also felt like the obvious thing to do. The first time Miedema realized she had real talent was at the age of eight, when she was selected to play in a district team with players four years older than her. Until she was 14, she played exclusively in boys' teams. "I was lucky because I never experienced much negativity around that. Of course, before games, opponents would sometimes say things such as, 'They've got a girl on their side; piece of cake,'" she says with a laugh. "But then I'd score five goals and they'd go quiet." Miedema always felt fully accepted by her teammates. "I never saw myself as any different from them; I was one of the boys."

At just 15, the talented forward made her professional debut for Heerenveen, playing

“
I LOVE THE
SENSE OF
TOGETHERNESS
FOOTBALL
GIVES YOU
”

alongside teammates twice her age. Three years later, she moved to Bayern Munich – a step she describes as “massive and scary”. Her first year in Germany was tough: she struggled with injuries, homesickness, and the language barrier. But she pushed through. At 21, she signed for Arsenal, where she would spend seven highly successful years and establish herself as one of the best strikers in the world. In 2024, she made the move to Manchester City, where she's once again scoring consistently and competing for the title.

Over the course of her career, Miedema has not only developed as a player, but has also witnessed women's football grow from almost nonexistent to a mainstream sport at major events, becoming one of the fastest-growing sports in the world. "The biggest change for us as players is visibility," she says. "When I started playing for the national team almost 13 years ago, there were perhaps 700 spectators in the stadium. Now we're playing in front of 60,000 people. Of course, the facilities have improved too, although there's still a lot of room for improvement for non-professional teams. Everything in the women's game has grown – and it's still growing fast."

Come as you are

What she hopes will not change with the rapid growth of the women's game is its very inclusive environment. "Everyone is welcome and accepted, »





“
*IT'S OKAY NOT
TO ALWAYS
BE OKAY, AND
TO STRUGGLE
SOMETIMES*
”





and I believe we need to do what we can to keep it as safe as possible.” Miedema is very open about her relationship with her girlfriend, Beth Mead, whom she met when they were teammates at Arsenal. They’ve been together since 2022. “I never feel the need to say, ‘I have a girlfriend.’ I’m just with Beth, and that’s it. I don’t put myself in a box – I also had a boyfriend when I was younger. I just fall in love with a person, and whoever that is, that’s fine. Sadly, there’s still a huge stigma around homosexuality in the men’s game. I find it very difficult to understand that we’re not at a point yet where everyone can simply be themselves and be accepted regardless of who they love. Ideally, in the men’s game, we’ll reach a point where it’s normalized, or where someone high-profile comes out. Footballers are very influential; they have a lot of power over fans. But as long as we can’t be open about these things, how can we use football as a platform for good? So although we say we want to lead the way, we’re not there yet – but hopefully that will change.”

Under pressure

Another, more personal, aspect that the Dutch international speaks openly about is her love-hate relationship with football. At the root of this ambivalence lies the pressure that comes with the game. “I started feeling this when I became a professional – when all of a sudden, I went from being Viv Miedema, a normal girl from a small town, to playing in a World Cup at the age of 18. The expectations were high. I heard things such as, ‘Miedema is going to help us do well at the World Cup,’ and that was just too much for me at that age. I completely shut down. The same thing happened at the European championship in 2017. For the outside world, that was probably my highlight – and don’t get me wrong, I’m very grateful we won and I have great memories of that tournament – but I also struggled a lot with the initial pressure. It might sound weird, but I have dealt with numerous injuries over the years, and although that was very draining at times, I’ve also enjoyed feeling free because there was no pressure.”

So how does she deal with that pressure now?

“To be fair, there are still moments when I don’t deal with it. When things get too overwhelming, you can probably see it straight away: I withdraw and go into myself. That can be perceived as arrogant or selfish,

“

SADLY, THERE’S STILL A HUGE STIGMA AROUND HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE MEN’S GAME

”

when in reality it’s the complete opposite. I need someone to pull me out of that. Beth complements me in that sense. She’s very outgoing, happy, and doesn’t stress – it’s probably one of the reasons our relationship works.”

Wonderwall

Another thing that has helped her to deal with the pressure of professional sports – and life in general – is seeing a psychologist. “It’s that one hour every two weeks where I can let go of whatever I’ve been holding onto, without any judgment. Over the years, I’ve also learned that the more pressure I put on myself, the less likely I am to cope with it. If I’m not feeling well, then that’s just how it is. I work hard and try to be the best I can be, but I can’t always be at my best. And I think we should normalize the idea that it’s okay not to always be okay, and to struggle sometimes – especially for younger people, who often only see picture-perfect lives on social media.” She also uses her voice and her platform – including Instagram, where she has over half a million followers – to share that message. “I’m not saying I’m helping loads of people, but if I post something and even one person feels better because of it, then it’s worth it.”

Throughout her career, particularly during more difficult periods, the same question kept resurfacing: Do I play football because I want to, or because others expect me to? “I think because »



my family always loved me playing football, I felt that pressure – it was like I couldn't disappoint them. And at the same time, I've always felt there's more to me than just football. There have been so many moments where I thought: this is it, now is the time to retire, to stop, to take a break. But somehow, the good memories of the game always pulled me back. That's why I'm still going – and I'm happy that I am." So what does football give her at its best? "It makes me feel like I can bring happiness to others through my game, which in turn makes me feel appreciated. I love the sense of togetherness football gives you, with the team, the spectators, but also for my mom and dad at home. Along the way, I've made so many friends from different cultures, and that's what will last after my career ends. I believe connection is one of the most powerful things we have in the world right now. All of those feelings combined ... I guess they fulfill me."

Gotta serve somebody

Her contract with Manchester City runs until the summer of 2027. What she will do after that, she doesn't yet know. What she does know, however, is that she wants to stop at her peak. And what comes after her football career? "Maybe I'll stay in football. I feel a responsibility within the game to help women's football continue to develop and to give young girls the chance to become professionals. I'm currently working on my UEFA A coaching badge, and I've completed a master's degree in business, with a postgraduate specialization in football and marketing, which could allow me to stay in the game and make a difference." But there's also another side pulling at her. "I'm very interested in the psychological side of things. I studied psychology for a year, and I want to start a course in psychology and well-being in September. So for now, all my options are open. I don't know when retirement will come, and I want to gain as much knowledge and depth as possible so that I can hopefully make a meaningful impact after football – in whatever way that may be." Whatever happens, somewhere on a Thai island a waiter will be cheering for her from afar. «

As this issue went to print, Miedema's team, Manchester City, had been crowned Women's Super League champions for the first time in 10 years.

Manchester
UK



Miedema's Favorites

Myle

Myle is Beth's and my dog. She's a working cocker spaniel – small and playful. Having a dog helps me switch off from being a footballer, because I can just be a dog mum. When I come home from training, her bum's wiggling because she's happy to see me. She's the best thing that has happened to me because she makes me feel relaxed and calm.

Manchester

I've been living in Manchester for two years now, and I really like it. It's a proper sports city: there are great coffee spots and bars, but within 30 minutes you can be in the Peak District, out walking and enjoying nature. I have a good social life here and enjoy going for coffee or dinner, or having a pint after a game with my teammates, who have also become close friends.

War Child

As an ambassador for War Child, I hope to inspire children to play sports. Being active is so important for both mental and physical health –

and it connects people. War Child is a cause close to my heart. I want others to be happy and to have equal opportunities, and I want to stand up for people who are less fortunate than I am. I love working with kids – they're the next generation, so that's where we should invest our time and energy.

Traveling

I can't wait for the day when I can travel on my own terms and really see the places I visit, because right now, I mostly see hotels, airports, and training pitches. I'd love to go back to Australia, where I've been twice, and do the full loop. New Zealand and South America are also high on my list. It's exciting to think about exploring more of the world once I retire.

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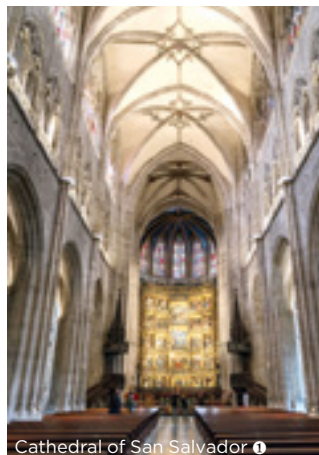
OVIEDO *by day*

+ New destination

Spain



THIS ELEGANT ASTURIAN CITY IN NORTHERN SPAIN BLENDS RICH HISTORY, REFINED CULTURE, AND LUSH SURROUNDINGS IN AN EFFORTLESSLY AUTHENTIC WAY.



Cathedral of San Salvador ❶



Carbayones ❷



Old Town ❸



Silence Beach ❹

Historical sights

Oviedo's historic center is compact, atmospheric, and full of character. Start your day at the Cathedral of San Salvador ❶, a Gothic masterpiece that's a key stop on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. Wander through the surrounding streets of the Old Town ❷, where colorful facades, small squares, and traditional cider bars give the city a village-like feel. Pop into Camilo de Blas (C. Jovellanos 7) – a confectionery store founded in 1914 – for a box of *carbayones* ❸, the popular local almond pastries, or step inside Librería Cervantes (C. Dr. Casal 9), a bookstore that dates to 1921. Don't miss sitting on a lively terrace for a drink at Fontán Square, one of the most charming spots. For a

deep dive into the region's history, visit the Museum of Fine Arts of Asturias (C. Sta. Ana 1–3), home to an impressive collection ranging from medieval art to modern Spanish masters.

Escape to the Asturian countryside

One of this city's greatest assets is its proximity to nature. Step outside Oviedo and you'll find yourself surrounded by stunning landscapes: rolling green hills, rugged mountains, wild coastlines, and deep river valleys. Hiking enthusiasts can explore parts of the Cantabrian Mountains or head to nearby nature reserves such as Somiedo Natural Park, known for its glacial lakes, traditional stone huts, and wildlife including brown

bears and Iberian wolves. If the sea calls, the coast is less than an hour away. Beaches such as Rodiles near Villaviciosa are popular with surfers, while Silence Beach ❹ leaves you speechless with its dramatic cliffs and glassy waters – perfect for swimming and snorkeling (depending on the conditions). Adventure seekers can kayak on the Sella River, following the famous route of the Sella River Descent, one of Spain's most iconic outdoor experiences. In the city, locals head to Winter Park or West Park to relax.

Getting around

Oviedo is ideal for exploring on foot, especially its historic center where most sights are within walking distance. Going further

Silence Beach leaves you speechless with its dramatic cliffs and glassy waters

afield? The city has an efficient bus system connecting neighborhoods and nearby villages. There's also a network of bike lanes, and you can rent a bike or e-bike from multiple places. If you're planning day trips into the countryside, renting a car is highly recommended. It will give you the freedom to explore remote beaches, mountain villages, and natural parks at your own pace.

OVIEDO *by night*

WHEN EVENING FALLS, OVIEDO SLOWS DOWN IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY. NIGHTS HERE ARE ABOUT GOOD FOOD, LIVELY CONVERSATION, AND LONG DINNERS.

Fontán Square ⑥



Casa Fermín ⑤



Eurostars Hotel de la Reconquista ③



La Pumarada ⑦

Incredible cuisine

Asturian cuisine is hearty, honest, and deeply rooted in tradition. Start your evening with a stroll through Calle Gascona, famously known as the “Cider Boulevard”. The waiters here pour *sidra* expertly from above their heads in a ritual that’s as entertaining as it is authentic. One of the best cider bars is Sidrería Tierra Astur Gascona (C. Gascona 1), where it comes straight from the casks. For dinner, try Casa Fermín ⑤ (C. San Francisco 8), a refined restaurant that transforms local ingredients into elegant dishes. If you’re vegan or vegetarian, book a table at EL Manglar (C. Martínez Vigil 14), a cozy restaurant with a lovely garden for dreamy summer nights. Seafood lovers should head to Tierra

Astur (multiple locations) and enjoy classic local plates such as *fabada* (“bean stew”), grilled fish, and local cheeses served in a warm, rustic setting. End the meal with *arroz con leche*: Asturias’ beloved creamy rice pudding.

Drinks and music

Oviedo’s bar scene is relaxed and sociable. After dinner, locals gather in the wine bars and cafés at Fontán Square ⑥ and Calle Mon. Order a glass of local cider and sit down at the communal table at La Pumarada ⑦ (C. Gascona 8), or explore Asturian craft beers at Cervecería L’Artesana (C. Sta. Clara 8). If you’re hungry, sit at the long, narrow bar and order some empanadas. They’re delicious here. For something more up-to-date, pop into one of the city’s cocktail bars, where modern

interiors meet a laid-back northern Spanish vibe. The Black Bar (C. Jovellanos 2) is the place to go if you like bold flavors and beautifully presented drinks in a dark, lounge-style decor. End the day by going for a dance at Salsipuedes, the city’s hottest club. Its four dance floors will leave you spoiled for choice.

A bed for the night

If you’re looking for a memorable place to stay, Eurostars Hotel de la Reconquista ③ (C. Gil de Jaz 16) is hard to beat. Housed in an impressive 18th-century building, this iconic hotel is one of the city’s landmarks. Its grand courtyards and classic rooms make it ideal for travelers who appreciate history with a touch of refinement. For a more contemporary stay,

Barceló Oviedo Cervantes (C. Cervantes 13), just a short walk from the Old Town, offers sleek design behind a beautifully restored historic facade. If location is your top priority, NH Oviedo Principado (C. San Francisco 6) is in the historic center, making it ideal for exploring the city on foot.

Book this story



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THE BERLIN BALL

Few cities have turned reinvention into an art form quite like Berlin, where the past is never demolished so much as repurposed, and where Queer culture has always been at the heart of what makes the city tick.

Text and photography Jurriaan Teulings





Gallery Stock (left). Artwork by Lisa Freudenthaler / HIGHCUTZ (right)

Berlin
Germany



This is so boring,” says Hennig von Berg as he looks around the prison block. Clearly, the photographer (who specializes in nudes) maintains a high standard when it comes to stimulating backdrops. After all, he kickstarted his career, and world infamy, by sneaking six male models into the Reichstag – Germany’s historical parliament building – and having them strip naked. That was in 1998. This evening, he’s in his role of Chairman of prideART, showing me around the open-gallery cell block of The Knast, a Queer cultural space, restaurant, and soon-to-be boutique hotel inside a former women’s prison. Which is obviously not boring at all. Von Berg is merely stating that the place lacks a few opera singers, and naked acrobats swinging from the ceiling. And who could argue with that?

I’d found the huge prison building hiding in plain sight at the heart of Lichterfelde West, a leafy 19th-century villa colony on the outskirts of Berlin. Even for this famously irreverent city, that’s an unlikely location for a Queer nonprofit artists’ collective and exhibition platform. This wealthy neighborhood looks exactly nothing like the cheap-space, anti-corporate, pleasure-driven post-Wall Berlin that former city mayor Klaus Wowereit famously proclaimed “poor but sexy”. Lichterfelde West has never been poor: even the prison is housed in a striking piece of aristocratic Renaissance architecture with steeply pitched roofs and bell gables. And sexy? Debatable, though prideART’s arrival with Germany’s most widely published photographer specializing in nudes in charge is changing that.

I’d spent the previous days rediscovering a more familiar side of Berlin, the city I’ve come to know and love over the course of a dozen or so chaotic, progressively exhausting yet sublimely festive visits since the late 1990s. I booked a room at Hotel Oderberger, a fabulous boutique hotel in Prenzlauer Berg located inside a revamped public bathhouse built around a swimming pool hall. With round arched windows, ornamented sandstone balustrades, and pillars, it looked more like a cloister. Before

its renovation, the late imperial building stood abandoned for several decades, becoming a place for parties, performances, and art exhibitions in the years after Germany’s reunification. Now, the pool was back open and public, serving both local residents and hotel guests. That arrangement had already proven mutually beneficial when my morning swim turned into an informal tourist information session in the sauna. Two friendly neighbors were happy to share hot tips and brutally honest opinions. One lamented Prenzlauer Berg’s gentrification: he joked that it had become a “stroller and sourdough” neighborhood, and suggested I visit the exhibition of everyday life in the GDR on the grounds of the Kulturbrauerei, a redeveloped brewery complex that also houses a cinema, clubs, restaurants, and the Haus für Poesie, Berlin’s main venue for contemporary poetry and literary events. “But you’ll also find plenty of cool bars,” the other offered, “like the ironically named Kapitalist across the street from the hotel, or Topsy Bear, a place with chaotic drag shows, around the corner.”

Nothing square about the square

My first order of business, however, was a tour around Nollendorfpfplatz, the ground zero of Berlin’s Queer history in the Weimar years. It was a short ride south on the U-Bahn (subway) from Prenzlauer Berg to Nollendorfpfplatz. Next to the exit, a pink stone triangle set into the station’s wall linked the district’s riotous prewar Queer life with the Nazi persecution that followed. Nearby, the Schwules Museum is dedicated to famous LGBTIQ+ activists and Berlin’s rich heritage of balls, cabaret, and costume culture. But nothing like the profusion of rainbow flags and unapologetic fetish shop windows in the surrounding streets showed how Queer Berlin has bounced back since. For a closer insight, I’d booked a tour with Fork & Walk, a food tour company that offered guided walks through the district and beyond. With the possible exception of a rainbow layer cake served at Romeo und Romeo café, none of the »

Previous pages
Museum Island, Mitte (left); mural by HIGHCUTZ for Club Athleten’s Disco Dojo, a Queer-friendly workout space at RAW-Gelände (right)

Right page, top from left to right
Hotel Oderberger, built around an early 20th-century public swimming pool; Kunsthaus of the Achim Freyer Foundation in Lichterfelde West
Bottom
Admiralbrücke, Kreuzberg’s “party bridge”



THIS IS THE ONLY CITY
WHERE YOU'LL FIND A MATISSE
HUNG AT KNEE LEVEL







Above Skatehalle Berlin skate park at RAW-Gelände in Friedrichshain
Left page The public swimming pool at Hotel Oderberger

UNAPOLOGETIC BUT WITH
A SENSE OF FUN IS THE ATTITUDE
OF GERMANY'S CAPITAL



bites would be explicitly LGBTIQ+ flavoured, but between a Korean fried chicken restaurant and Tom's Currywurst – a hole in the wall comically situated next to the exit of a gay sauna – my guide Sören Kittel found a way to squeeze in 158 years of Queer history. It turns out that Karl-Heinrich-Ulrichs-Straße is named after the first lawyer to call for the decriminalization of sexual relations between men in 1867. I also learned that an organic supermarket on Motzstraße once housed the Eldorado – a legendary hub of the Weimar-era gay and trans scene – and that Anderes Ufer (now Neues Ufer) was one of the first openly gay and lesbian cafés that counted David Bowie among its regulars.

My first stop this morning was Mauerpark, the former “death-strip” of the Berlin Wall turned public park where I saw a man hauling a karaoke machine as graffiti artists “upcycled” the remains of the Wall. Next, I jumped on the tram to the ever so picturesquely gritty Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg neighborhoods flanking the Spree River, where in the years after reunification, subcultural operators had taken over cheap or neglected lots in former border zones. I enjoyed a quick lunch at Holzmarkt 25, a cooperative riverside cultural village with a deliberately makeshift, playful atmosphere around food, art, and regular Queer night markets. From here, it was an easy walk to RAW-Gelände, a colorfully shabby cultural site with clubs, a skate park, and climbing wall on the site of a former railway repair complex whose name was mercifully shortened from [too long, Ed.]. Finally, I decided on a trip to the Admiralbrücke, a famous wrought-iron bridge over the Landwehr Canal in Kreuzberg, known for impromptu open-air parties. A street performer, who'd just installed herself, started to sing in a shrill experimental voice that the crowd gathered on the bridge seemed happy to indulge. “It only gets better from here,” said a man leaning against the railing, striking up a friendly conversation and encouraging me to stay. “There might be a party later on.” Tempted, I recalled an afternoon that started

in a similar way and ended with a mad crowd of new party friends until the neighbors called the police. “I'd love to stay,” I replied, “but I'm on my way to prison.”

It's an hour by public transport from Kreuzberg to The Knast – “jail” in colloquial German – but my walk from the S-Bahn (railway) station to the prison offered a great opportunity to have a closer look at Lichtenfelde West's eccentric villas. Some were built like miniature castles, and an ornate half-timbered one turned out to be a museum: the Kunsthaus of the Achim Freyer Foundation. The door was open but there was nobody at reception. Following the sound of voices to the top of the stairs, I ran into Achim Freyer, the 91-year-old painter and set designer who had devoted his 2,300-piece art collection to the Kunsthaus. Apparently, none of these works were in storage because the walls of every room and even the stairway were covered from top to bottom with a dazzling array of frames. Blue-chip names shared space with naive works and outsider art. A middle-aged woman, possibly the museum's curator, offered me a tour. This is the only place in the world where you'll find a Matisse at knee level.

Monumental mouse bunker

Outside, shadows had grown, and an abandoned mansion covered in vines looked cinematically ominous. Nearby, the disused Mäusebunker appeared even more unreal: a staggered 117-meter shell of Brutalist concrete with ventilation pipes sticking out on all sides like the guns of a haunted battleship. Its name, “Mouse Bunker”, refers to its history as an animal-testing and experimental-medicine facility. I can't think of a building more cartoonishly evil, but I'm glad to learn later that it's been saved from demolition and the city granted it monument status. Now the mad scientists have left, plans to transform it into a mixed-use cultural venue have been taking shape. After all, that's the sort of adaptive reuse that Berlin does best. »

Top A green sweep of Tiergarten park with Berlin TV Tower rising above the city beyond

Bottom, from left to right Coexist Concept Store with “fashion for weird people” in Friedrichshain; prideArt's cell block at The Knast, a former women's prison in Lichtenfelde West; Brandenburg Gate



Left page

Adieu, a bar in Prenzlauer Berg

Life in the slammer

For now though, The Knast remains the area's sole example of cleverly upcycled real estate. The cells in its 120-year-old prison wing have been turned into workshops and galleries of pride-ART, and this is where I'd just been introduced to Von Berg. I quietly marvel at the space, its history, and the wildly different ways photographers, painters, and ceramists have made use of the cells. However, the chairman firmly insists that I'm missing out. "No," he says with a sigh, "you really should've come during one of our exhibition openings. There are theater shows and acrobats performing. Doors open and opera singers come out. There's interaction. Come back in September."

Luckily, my visit isn't too soon for dinner at The Knast's fine-dining restaurant, which opened last year. The ambitious tasting menu includes Brandenburg Wagyu-Angus beef, North German sea buckthorn, a portobello course with blackberries, and non-alcoholic pairings – built from fermented ingredients, herbs, and tea – that outperform most wine lists. The duo behind the project, Janina Atmadi and her partner Joachim Köhrich, acquired the building in 2017. "I love creating first-time experiences for people here," says Atmadi when she takes over the tour to show me the rest of her "house" as she prefers to call it. As we enter the courtyard, it becomes clear that she's not just talking about my upcoming dinner. "Look, the neighbors can see in," she says while pointing at the windows. "We're hosting a puppy party next week. They're going to be *so* surprised."

Surprised, I should clarify, that such an event doesn't involve any baby dogs, but rather gentlemen enjoying an outing in canine costumes. I love the way Atmadi brings it up: unapologetically, but with a sense of fun. And that dovetails with the attitude of a city where Queer friendliness isn't calculated branding. Here, it's rooted in a genuine respect for how other people choose to live. What others hide, Berliners put in the window. That, dear world, is how you do pride. ◀



JURRIAAN TEULINGS IS A WIDELY PUBLISHED TRAVEL WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER. HERE ARE HIS TIPS FOR BERLIN.

*To eat***Orania**

This boutique hotel in Kreuzberg made its name with the X-Berg Duck – a five-course Peking duck menu that draws from the Chinese imperial tradition but is emphatically Kreuzberg in spirit. The restaurant doubles as a concert venue most evenings. orania.berlin

Bundesbüdchen

A faithful Berlin reincarnation of the legendary kiosk that once fed politicians outside the West German parliament in Bonn – now relocated to Mitte. Enjoy refined versions of German classics such as blood sausage dumplings with caramelized cabbage and Allgäu cheese Spätzle (a type of pasta) with white kimchi. bundesbuedchenberlin.de

BRLO

The BRLO Brwhouse in Kreuzberg is built from 38 recycled shipping containers on the edge of the Gleisdreieck park, which gives the beer garden a this-might-not-be-permanent energy that is entirely Berlin. If

you're visiting during CSD (Berlin Pride), try their Queer Beer. brlo.de

*To stay***Das Stue**

Part of the pink pillow Berlin collection – the city's certified LGBTIQ+ hotels – Das Stue occupies the former Danish embassy in Tiergarten. It's stuffed with art and has a private entrance to the adjacent zoo. Concierge Mattia had wonderful suggestions for every night, including MonGay, Yorck Kinogruppe's Queer Monday film night. das-stue.com

*To do***Gila & Nancy**

Named after Gila Goldstein and Nancy Schneider – two of Israel's first transgender pioneers – this Mitte cabaret-restaurant serves Levantine food along with drag shows from a rotating cast of performers. The adjacent Bellboy cocktail bar is one of the best in the city. gilaandnancy.de

Liquidrom

A saltwater pool under a concrete dome in Kreuzberg,

with music delivered through underwater speakers. On DJ nights, the line between spa and club dissolves pleasantly. Saunas are textile-free; the pool requires a swimsuit; and the bar is open until midnight. liquidrom.berlin

Midnight swim at Hotel Oderberger

Oderberger's neo-Renaissance swimming pool in Prenzlauer Berg can be booked exclusively for two, from 10 p.m. until midnight, with lighting in the color of your choice. Robes, towels, and a bottle of house rosé are included. hotel-oderberger.berlin

Book this story

KLM operates seven nonstop flights per day to Berlin Brandenburg Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on klm.com

Envy Peru

“
**DRAG IS MY
 MASK, MY
 SUPERHERO’S
 CAPE**
 ”

Using her Latin American flair, drag performer Envy Peru (Boris Itzkovich Escobar, 36) – who spoke at a UN forum on sustainable development – is on a mission to spread joy and create awareness about the art of drag. Text Marieke Verhoeven Photography Brenda van Leeuwen

What is drag exactly? It’s a form of entertainment in which someone exaggerates or transforms gender expression, typically as a drag queen or drag king. It’s not just a man dressing up as a woman or a woman dressing up as a man. There’s so much more to it, from creating a persona using makeup, hair, styling, and costume design, to the show elements such as choreography, comedy, and lip-syncing. We don’t typically have big teams behind us; most drag artists are all-round performers. At a drag show, you can expect spectacle, humor, and a full evening of entertainment. People come to escape reality for a moment; they want to forget their problems and enter our fantasy world.

What does “drag” mean to you personally? Drag is an extension of

something inside me; it’s my creative outlet. It has always been a kind of mask for me, almost like a superhero’s cape. Envy Peru is a showgirl, a drag goddess, and drag royalty in the Netherlands. She radiates strength and confidence; she doesn’t let herself be diminished; and she’s a voice for the community. Boris is softer, kinder, perhaps more approachable. But in drag, I dare to do things I might not dare to do as Boris. Recently, I participated in a Dutch television show called *The Box*, in which a group of Dutch celebrities are exposed to different types of physical and mental challenges. They specifically asked me to come as Boris and let people get to know me as myself. Through that experience, I realized that the strength I project as Envy is actually something I carry within me naturally. I don’t want

to be a woman all the time; I’m also very comfortable in my skin as a man, as Boris. The differences are mostly in the presentation, but the core is the same.

How did Envy Peru come to be? When I was young, I always knew that I wanted to do something creative – create beauty and perform – but I had no idea in what capacity. When I was four, I moved from Peru to the Netherlands. I was raised by my mother and aunt in a South American household, where fashion and makeup were always present and celebrated. My mother let me play with whatever I wanted, whether it was Lego or My Little Pony, and there were moments when I tried on her lipstick or her high heels out of curiosity. I went to theater school, and for our class performances on New Year’s Eve in 2013, I decided to do a drag show. »





Air France-KLM and Delta Airlines are the official sponsors of WorldPride

It didn't look great, but I felt beautiful and proud. When I talked about the art of drag in class, my teacher noticed my passion and the sparkle in my eyes. He asked me, "Isn't this something you should pursue?" and I remember feeling offended. I was there to become a serious actor and drag didn't feel serious to me at that time. But he planted a seed. I started going to drag shows in Amsterdam and discovering the community. Around the same time, the American reality TV series *RuPaul's Drag Race* became a hit show around the world. That show, in which drag queens compete for the title of America's Next Drag Superstar, presented drag in such a powerful way that it showed the artistry behind it. That's when I wondered if it might be something for me.

What did winning *Drag Race Holland* mean to you? The show changed a lot, not just for me, but for how drag is perceived in the Netherlands. It helped break stereotypes and people started seeing drag as an art form. For me, it also had an international impact. Since the show was available to watch globally, I gained a large Latin American following.



Latin communities really support their own when they see someone succeed abroad. My drag name, Envy Peru, is also a homage to my roots. When I won, I became the first Peruvian queen to win a *Drag Race* franchise. That was huge news in Peru and other parts of South America. My father saw it on the morning news in Peru and called me immediately.

How does your family feel about your success? They're incredibly proud. I came out to my mother when I was 21. She struggled to accept it at first because she had dreams of a traditional family with a wife and children for me. Understanding where drag fit in was another challenge, but after a lot of open conversations, she accepted and embraced it. I grew up without my father, and when I came out to him, he didn't mind it at all. "I lost you during your childhood years; I'm not going to lose you again," he said, which warmed my heart.

What does Pride mean to you? Pride means being proud of who you are. I always say that being your authentic self is the greatest gift you can give yourself. It's about love over hate, equality, and visibility. It's about reminding people that we are human, of flesh and blood, just like everyone else. Pride started as a protest and it's still a peaceful, celebratory protest. Drag itself is a form of activism. Simply existing, visibly, confidently, and unapologetically, is an act of rebellion. You won't see me at every protest, but if I need to speak out for our community, I will. In 2024, I was one of the first drag queens to speak at the United Nations' High-Level Political Forum about LGBTQ+ rights and I've been an official ambassador of Pride Amsterdam since 2022, building bridges between the community and the rest of the world. I think visibility is incredibly important; especially now when LGBTQ+ rights are under pressure in many parts of the world again.

“
**BEING YOUR
 AUTHENTIC
 SELF IS THE
 GREATEST GIFT
 YOU CAN GIVE
 YOURSELF**
 ”

If you had to name this chapter of your life, what would it be? I'd call it "The Beginning". I'm 36 now, and I always said that once I turned 30, I'd start worrying more about myself and less about what other people think of me. And I truly feel that now. I'm in a place where I focus on myself and on my stability. I just bought a house with my partner, which feels like a new step into adulthood. I'm also very intentional about how I spend my time. I don't just meet up with everyone anymore, and I don't feel the need to be liked by everyone. In terms of my career, I'm not anywhere near finished; I still see so many beautiful things ahead of me. «





Step into the choreography

AT MUSEUM VOORLINDEN



**Suzanne Swarts,
Director at Museum
Voorlinden, on the
solo exhibition by
William Forsythe.**

William Forsythe, the world-renowned choreographer, has had a profound impact on contemporary dance, having led dance companies for several decades and influenced generations of artists. With his Choreographic Objects, he brings

movement into the museum space, inviting visitors to shift from passive viewing to active participation. At his exhibition at Voorlinden, several installations require your involvement to fully come to life. In *Nowhere and Everywhere at the Same Time*, he creates a field of 80 suspended weights that swing unpredictably through the gallery space. The instruction is simple: avoid touching the pendulums. This interactive installation plays with perception and

reflexes, guiding you through a subtle, ever-changing choreography of avoidance. Through works like this, Forsythe explores how the body continuously reorganises itself in response to shifting spatial conditions.

Where and when?

Museum Voorlinden: Buurtweg 90, 2244AG Wassenaar (near The Hague)

Exhibition on display: Until August 23, 2026

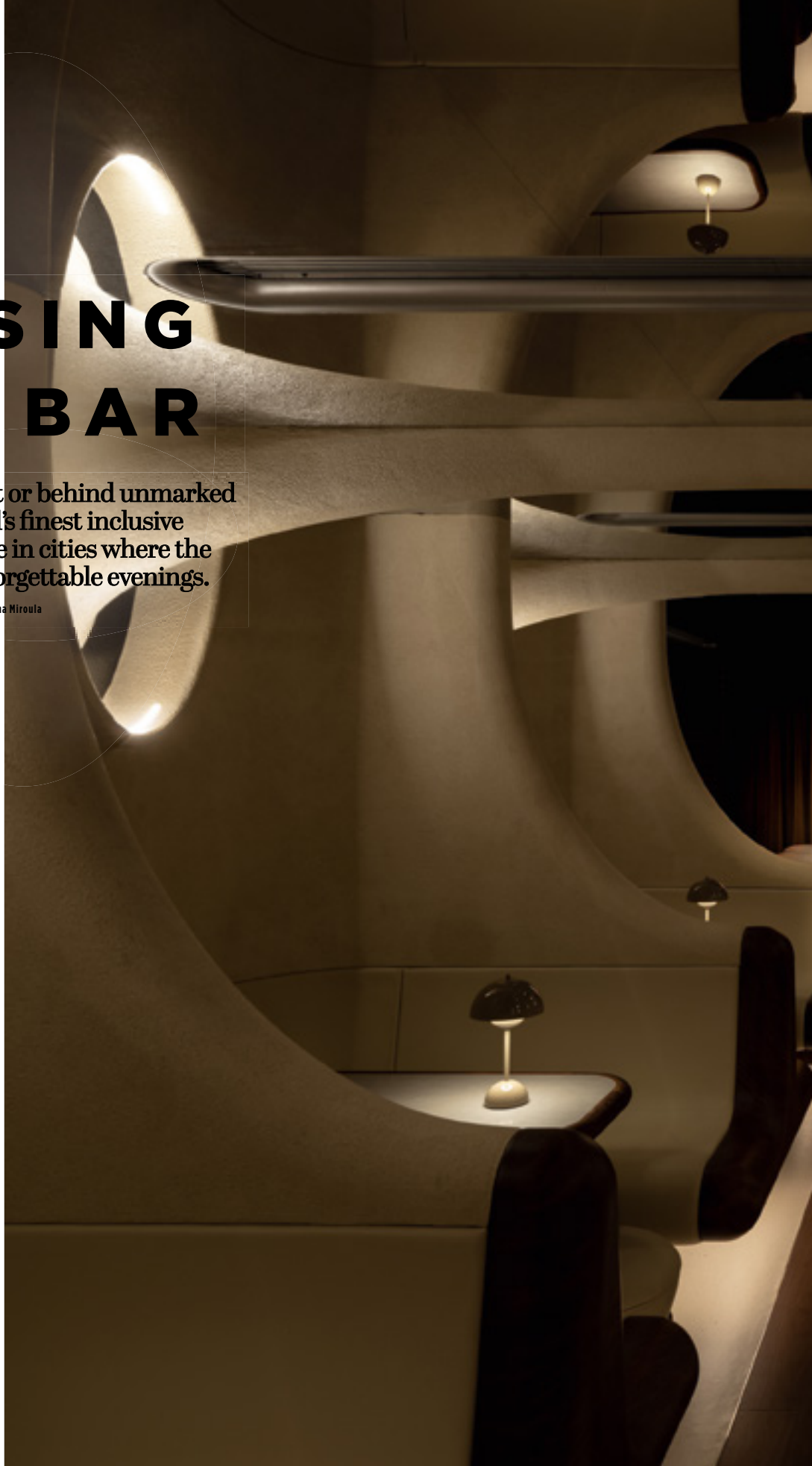
Opening times: museum (11 a.m.-5 p.m.); restaurant (10.30 a.m.-6 p.m.)


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

RAISING THE BAR

High above the street or behind unmarked doors, the world's finest inclusive cocktail bars thrive in cities where the stage is set for unforgettable evenings.

Text Gina Miroula



The image shows the interior of the Artifact bar, characterized by its futuristic and space-age design. The space is defined by smooth, curved arches and a warm, dim lighting scheme. In the background, a bar area is visible with a curved counter and a backlit display of various bottles. The foreground features a dark, curved table with a small, glowing lamp. The overall atmosphere is intimate and modern.

Hong Kong, China

ARTIFACT

Located within BaseHall O2 in Hong Kong's iconic Jardine House, Artifact offers a futuristic space with smooth arches and space-age design. The dim lighting sets an intimate mood, and the drink offerings take you on a sensory journey through time and place – often incorporating elements of the sea – focusing on aged spirits including whiskey, brandy, and rum. Artifact was shortlisted for a Restaurant & Bar Design Award 2023 in the Best Asia Restaurant or Bar category. **Good to know:** Be sure to check out their “Fermentation Journey”, a tasting of six cocktails made with fermented ingredients such as koji. artifactbar.com



Bangkok, Thailand

OJO

Perched on the 76th floor of the King Power Mahanakhon Tower, Ojo offers breathtaking city views through floor-to-ceiling windows. Ojo's cocktails, served in a striking pink and gold interior, blend mezcal with Thai herbs, tamarind, and chili for a perfect balance of smoky and sweet. Chef Francisco "Paco" Ruano, whose restaurant Alcalde ranked 15th in Latin America's 50 Best Restaurants (2025), leads the kitchen. Ojo is his first major project outside Mexico, showcasing refined Mexican cuisine, from crab quesadillas and caviar to papaya ceviche and Ibérico pork. **Good to know:** On the last Saturday of the month, a guest chef curates a special brunch. ojobangkok.com



Paris, France

LA FELICITÀ

In the buzzing Station F complex – housed within a former rail freight depot – is La Felicità, a massive Italian-style food court offering a variety of eateries, including a pizzeria, trattoria, and salad bar. The cocktail bar, part of this energetic space, serves spritz variations made with blood orange, basil, and artisanal vermouth, as well as alcohol-free options with vibrant Sicilian citrus. Neon signs light up the space, disco balls catch the eye, and long communal tables foster a social atmosphere. For a truly unique experience, the venue offers special events during Pride Month. **Top tip:** Every Sunday, the bar hosts a Bingo night and drag show, led by drag queen Minima Gesté. lafelicita.fr



Singapore

ATLAS BAR

Housed in the Art Deco grandeur of Parkview Square, Atlas Bar exudes *The Great Gatsby* glamour. Behind a marble counter stands an impressive gin collection, with more than 1,500 gins displayed in a stunning tower. Cocktails celebrate classic European recipes with modern finesse, from vintage martinis to Champagne-laced creations, while refined mocktails echo the same elegance. The setting, which exudes sophistication, is perfect for dressing up and making a grand entrance.

Good to know: To round off your drinks, catch a world-class performance at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, or explore the nearby Bugis area. atlasbar.sg



Melbourne, Australia

AMPHORA

Located near the Marvel Stadium, Amphora blends Mediterranean warmth with Melbourne's edgy vibe. The bar's terracotta tones and intimate lighting create a cozy ambiance, while its design, inspired by the ancient amphora vessel used by the Greeks and Romans, is a fusion of historic and modern elements. Known for its award-winning ceiling design and hand-painted walls, Amphora offers contemporary cocktails that complement the venue's warm palette and understated glamour. **Top tip:** After drinks, catch an indie gig at The Tote Hotel's Dole Night, a regular event with free entry and live bands. amphora.melbourne

Welcome on board



KLM NEWS

KLM House

NO. 45: KEIZERSGRACHT 140



Many old canal houses in Amsterdam were deliberately built so that their facades leaned forward. There were various reasons for this, such as to allow

for a larger upper floor and to make it easier to hoist up goods. However, the facade of this building stands straight up. This could be due to the fact that in 1896, an extra storey was built on the top of the building after a fire destroyed most of the upper floor. Keizersgracht 140 was used as a meeting spot for Quakers – members of the Society of Friends, a Christian group founded in England – from the second half of the 17th century until the first half of the 19th century. These days, the building is divided into apartments and has a large rooftop terrace.

Arnoud Raaven, (left)



Easing the way

SUNFLOWER SUPPORT

Recognised globally, the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard allows people with unseen disabilities, such as autism, epilepsy, dementia, and Long COVID, to discreetly ask for assistance at airports. This may include needing extra time at security or help when boarding. Those with hidden disabilities can request a lanyard at the assistance desk in the departures hall or order one via the initiative’s website. Watch the video on KLM’s Instagram page or visit the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower site. hdsunflower.com

Ask the expert



MAARTEN VAN SOEST,
DIRECTOR SAFETY & COMPLIANCE
ORGANIZATION, ANSWERS
YOUR BURNING QUESTION.

Why do I need to put my phone on airplane mode



This has to do with the “sending” capacity of the device. Your mobile phone continuously looks for a signal from a mast that’s operated by your telecom provider. However, when you’re high up in the sky, your phone works very hard to find a signal; this increases its sending capacity. This stronger signal could potentially affect aircraft systems, causing interference when pilots try to communicate with air traffic control, for example. That said, newer planes have “satcom”, which allows passengers to use their phone’s Wi-Fi function in the cabin without causing interference.

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*.

Fans have more friends.



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KLM NEWS

Memorable flight

“This personal gesture moved me deeply”

ROBERT VOGEL AND HIS FAMILY WERE TOUCHED BY THE CARE OF A KLM PURSER ON THEIR FLIGHTS TO AMSTERDAM.



In July last year, I flew from Germany to Cape Town to spend time with my father as his health was declining. After he'd passed, I flew back to Germany via Amsterdam. My wife and daughter planned to follow the next day, as they hadn't been able to get onto the same flight. After boarding, I discovered that there was something wrong with my table. A purser tried her best to find a solution, even offering to move someone from Business Class to a different seat

so I could be moved. I didn't want to be any trouble to the person, who undoubtedly was also looking forward to a comfortable seat during their flight, so I declined. The purser was very grateful and asked me if there was anything else she could do. We chatted for a bit, and I shared with her that my wife and daughter were flying the following day and that it would be great if she could help them in some way. Despite dealing with her own

family circumstances, the purser, who had to leave for the hospital right after landing, came through for us. Not only did she gift me with a lovely card and a bottle of wine, but she also moved my wife and daughter into Premium Economy for their flight. This personal gesture and care moved me deeply.

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*.

Top honors

FLYING WITH PRIDE

KLM RECENTLY RECEIVED THE SPARTACUS TRAVEL AWARD FOR BEST LGBTIQ+ FRIENDLY AIRLINE.



KLM was awarded the Best LGBTIQ+ Friendly Airline Award at the Spartacus Travel Awards 2026, held on March 4 in Berlin, Germany. This international recognition focuses on LGBTIQ+-friendly tourism, and is presented to airlines that actively promote equality, diversity, and an inclusive travel experience for LGBTIQ+ travelers and employees,

worldwide. The awards are organized by the publishers of the Spartacus Gay Travel Index, an annual ranking that evaluates countries on LGBTIQ+ rights, safety, and inclusivity for travelers. The award highlights KLM's commitment to diversity and inclusion, both within the organization and for its passengers around the world, reinforcing the airline's reputation for fostering a welcoming environment for all.

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.

Stay hydrated: Drink enough water in the 12 hours before departure and continue to do so during the flight. You can always ask a cabin attendant for a cup of water, or to refill your water bottle, during the flight.

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



SAF

THE ROUTE TO ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUEL

ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUEL, BETTER KNOWN AS SAF, HELPS REDUCE THE AVIATION INDUSTRY'S RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUELS. LEARN MORE ABOUT SAF AND HOW KLM IS WORKING TO INCREASE ITS USE.

What is SAF?

Unlike traditional kerosene, SAF isn't made from fossil fuels. It's produced from waste products such as non-petroleum-based fats, greases and oils, renewable food stock, and wood-based biomass. The production of SAF is a lot cleaner than that of kerosene and, because SAF is made from waste material, food production isn't affected. It produces less harmful emissions like sulphur, and while it does release CO₂, over its entire lifecycle, SAF emits at least 65% less CO₂ than regular kerosene.

Alternative fuels

Several universities and institutes are researching and developing alternative types of fuel for air travel, such as hydrogen or electricity. Even though they're being developed quite quickly, they aren't yet suitable for commercial use. This makes SAF the only alternative that's readily available. That said, SAF accounts for only 1.7% of fuel worldwide, making it a valuable resource that costs three to four times more than regular jet fuel.

65%

Over its entire lifecycle, SAF emits at least 65% less CO₂ than regular kerosene

The development of SAF

SAF production isn't yet meeting demand. That's because the process of making the fuel from biomass is less efficient than making kerosene from fossil fuels. To speed up production, SAF specialist SkyNRG – co-founded by KLM, which is also a shareholder – is expected to begin building a SAF factory in Delfzijl in the Netherlands in 2028. The factory is expected to produce about 100,000 tons of SAF a year, 75,000 of which will be acquired by KLM, making the airline the primary purchaser.

The future of SAF

It's the joint efforts of several companies that will make a real difference to future aviation. Project SkyPower, which KLM founded and co-chairs, is a collaboration

between the world's biggest aviation companies to develop E-SAF, a form of synthetic fuel made from renewable energy. The aim is to invest in the research and production of E-SAF so that this innovative fuel can reach the global market by 2030, to meet the 2050 aviation emission targets.

650

KLM has reduced CO₂ emissions by 650 tons a year with the use of SAF

How to contribute

For flights departing from Europe, 2% SAF is automatically added as European regulations require. Passengers can add extra SAF to their flights when purchasing their tickets, or afterwards. This contribution goes toward the airport's fuel system over a period of 12 months. So while the SAF you bought isn't added to your flight, your contribution helps power another flight, thereby reducing the average CO₂ emissions across all flights.

KLM & SAF



"Last year, KLM reached quite a few SAF milestones," says Remona

van der Zon, Director of Sustainability at KLM. "For example, about 4.6% of our total fuel was made up of SAF. While this might not seem like much, compared to other airlines, it's quite a lot, and it's double the amount used last year. We've also offset 10% of corporate travel with the use of SAF, thereby reducing CO₂ emissions by 650 tons a year. And we've conducted research and testing by adding a 100% SAF surcharge, instead of the usual 2%, to KLM Cityhopper flights to Hamburg and London." The test sought to evaluate passengers' willingness to contribute to the SAF cause. "It showed us that we need to educate passengers about SAF," says Van der Zon. "We've done so with a video, which is available on our in-flight entertainment system."

KLM invites travelers to learn more about alternative aviation fuel, because every contribution helps support the transition away from fossil fuel-based aviation.

KLM FLEET

Specifications

THE BIRDS



Heading to Madrid, New York, or Lisbon? Chances are you're flying in a Boeing 737-800. These planes have been named after our feathered friends in the sky. Examples include: *Zwaan* ('Swan'), *Merel* ('Blackbird'), *Uil* ('Owl'), *Patrijs* ('Partridge'), and *Valk* ('Falcon').



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: 27/6
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



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



Airbus A321neo

Number of aircraft: 16
Cruising speed (km/h): 876
Range (km): 7,400
Max. take-off weight (kg): 89,000
Maximum passengers: 227
Total length (m): 44.51
Wingspan (m): 35.80
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board



Boeing 737-900

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



Embraer 190/175

Number of aircraft: 16/17
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



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



Sharklets

IN GREAT SHAPE

“If this aircraft had been a Boeing, what you see in this photograph would be called a winglet,” explains Remon Moolenaar, Test Runner and Ground Engineer. “But as the airplane in this case is an Airbus A321neo, we call it a sharklet. This is the name given to the device at the tip of each wing, which, as you can see, is curved. This shape is used to reduce the strength of vortices – swirling airflows –

around the wings. This in turn reduces drag during flight, improving fuel efficiency and slightly aiding climb performance. For this reason, many modern airliners have these outer curves on their wings. When it’s humid outside, you can sometimes see airflow effects during landing. That’s when condensation can make the aforementioned vortices visible around the wings.”

TRAVELERS



Coraline



“I’d love to fly over the African continent in a small airplane”

CORALINE SCHAAFSMA
TRAVELING TO VANCOUVER
ON FLIGHT KL0681

Reason for travel? “I’m going to Vancouver to visit my partner, who’s in the city for a few days on business. Afterwards, we’ll be taking a vacation there for about a week. I’m curious to see the city and Vancouver Island. We’re hoping to spot some bears or whales.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I’d love to fly over the African continent in one of those smaller airplanes, like in the movie *Out of Africa*. Or a long trip throughout Asia – that would be amazing. There’s so much I’d still like to see. Next year, we’ll be ticking off Mexico City.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “I wouldn’t say no to Queen Máxima sitting next to me. Not only would that give me an opportunity to practice my Spanish, but I’d also like to hear her thoughts on how we can make today’s women as resilient as possible for the future, in all respects.”

Bruno

BRUNO SURACE
TRAVELING TO DUBAI
ON FLIGHT KL0427

Reason for travel? “I’m traveling to Dubai for work. I’m a professional boxer. I’ll be there for a month in total, not just for the match itself, but for the training beforehand, too. It’s not my first time; I’ve been there once before and I liked it.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “Japan, for sure. It has an intriguing culture. The manga and anime over there are such big things. I’m a fan – the *One Piece* manga series is my favorite. I don’t have one city in mind; I’d like to see as much of the country as possible.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “My best friend, Amar. He’s a childhood friend and like a brother to me. We share everything together. If I had the middle seat, I’d probably put someone like Conor McGregor or Floyd Mayweather Jr. next to me on the other side. They’re professional fighters that I look up to. Their skills are unmatched.”



Rayel and Lovely Diane

RAYEL CHRISTINE AND
LOVELY DIANE BALDO
TRAVELING TO LONDON
ON FLIGHT KL1009

Reason for travel? Rayel: “We’re flying to London and from there, we’ll continue our journey home to Seattle. We’ve just been on a trip through Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. We visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, and it was a sobering experience to say the least.”

Still on your travel bucket list? Rayel: “Antarctica – it’s the only continent I haven’t been to yet.” Lovely Diane: “Tibet, or perhaps Mongolia, is probably where I’ll travel to next. They have such a remote feel to them. These are areas you don’t hear or see much about. I’d love to visit them.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Lovely Diane: “I’d travel with anyone who wants to go. But if I could choose, maybe a member of the boy band BTS. Jimin, perhaps?” Rayel: “That’s an easy choice: my husband. I love traveling with him.”

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Thanks to our partnership with SIXT car hire, Flying Blue members can now turn road journeys into rewards. Whether you're traveling for business or leisure, renting one of SIXT's premium cars offers you the chance to earn up to three Miles per euro spent, depending on the vehicle category. Flying Blue members enjoy privileged status matches with SIXT, unlocking high-value advantages such as priority

service, discounts of up to 20%, and complimentary upgrades based on membership level. Available in over 100 countries, SIXT ensures seamless mobility at airports and in city centers, helping you explore a destination while boosting your Miles balance. Add your membership number when booking or present it at pick-up, and let each drive take you closer to your next reward. sixt.nl/partners/flyingblue/

My Miles



“I love upgrading my tickets: I arrive at my destination well-rested”

KUNAL JAIN USES HIS MILES TO UPGRADE HIS TICKET FOR A MORE INDULGENT EXPERIENCE.

I travel quite a bit for my job in insurance and have been to various destinations, such as Singapore, Australia, and the US. I also regularly fly to European destinations including Paris, Edinburgh, and Zurich. That's usually where the Miles come in, as I mostly accumulate them when booking flights in Europe. I've accrued lots of Miles, which I use for upgrades when I'm not traveling for work. I love upgrading my tickets, as the



Lofoten Islands, Norway

experience is more luxurious: the food is better, the seat is wider, and I arrive at my destination well-rested. I recently had the opportunity to experience KLM Business Class, which was a treat. I've flown with several airlines, but no cabin crew has ever given me the kind of personal attention that KLM's flight attendants have. I also really love the Delft Blue miniature house I received from KLM; it's on my desk at my office.

Every time I look at it, I'm reminded of my wonderful time in Amsterdam. Right now, I'm thinking of saving up Miles for tickets to Iceland or somewhere in Scandinavia for me and my family. I'd love to see the northern lights.

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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AIRFRANCE KLM

Sign up now! With SIXT, you can boost your Flying Blue balance by earning up to three Miles per euro spent on car hire. Join Flying Blue for free and use your Miles for reward flights, hotel stays, airport lounge access, car rentals, and more. For more info: flyingblue.com.

ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT

A man with a pompadour hairstyle, wearing a highly reflective, sequined suit, is seated at a piano on a stage. He is looking down at the keys, with his right hand on the keyboard and his left hand raised in a dramatic gesture. The background is dark with blue curtains and warm stage lights.

Liberace wants to mold Thorson into a version of himself

Watch, listen, or play

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

Our pick



BEHIND THE CANDELABRA

Based on the memoir by Scott Thorson, *Behind the Candelabra: My Life with Liberace* (1988), the film follows legendary pianist and showman Liberace (Michael Douglas) during the last years of his life when he developed an unorthodox relationship with Thorson (Matt Damon). Beginning as Liberace's assistant, Thorson ends up becoming Liberace's lover, who the pianist wants to mold into a version of himself; he even asks Thorson to consider plastic surgery to look like him. *Behind the Candelabra* took home 11 Emmys and 2 Golden Globes. Drama, 1h58min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



Avatar: Fire and Ash

Action, 3h17min

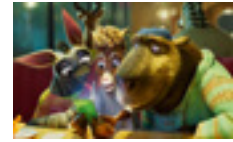
In this Oscar-winning third installment of the successful *Avatar* franchise, Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) encounter a powerful Na'vi group led by Varang (Oona Chaplin) as a new conflict emerges on Pandora.



The Bride!

Horror, 2h6min

Set in 1930s Chicago, *The Bride!* - directed by Maggie Gyllenhaal - draws on Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein* and follows Frankenstein's monster (Christian Bale) as he enlists the help of Dr. Euphronius (Annette Bening) to create a companion.



Goat

Animation, 1h40min

Caleb McLaughlin voices Will Harris, a small goat with a big dream: to be the greatest of all time at roarball, a basketball-like sport dominated by larger and faster animals. As he chases a spot in the top league, he must prove he can compete at the highest level.

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...



You

Thriller, 45min

You, a dark psychological tale of romance spanning five seasons, lives up to its online hype. The story centers on Joe Goldberg (Penn Badgley), a charming but obsessive man whose search for love leads to increasingly dangerous consequences.



Pole to Pole with Will Smith

American Actor Will Smith travels from pole to pole across all seven continents over 100 days, in the company of local experts, scientists, and explorers, as he takes on challenges and explores the wonders of the natural world.



Abbott Elementary

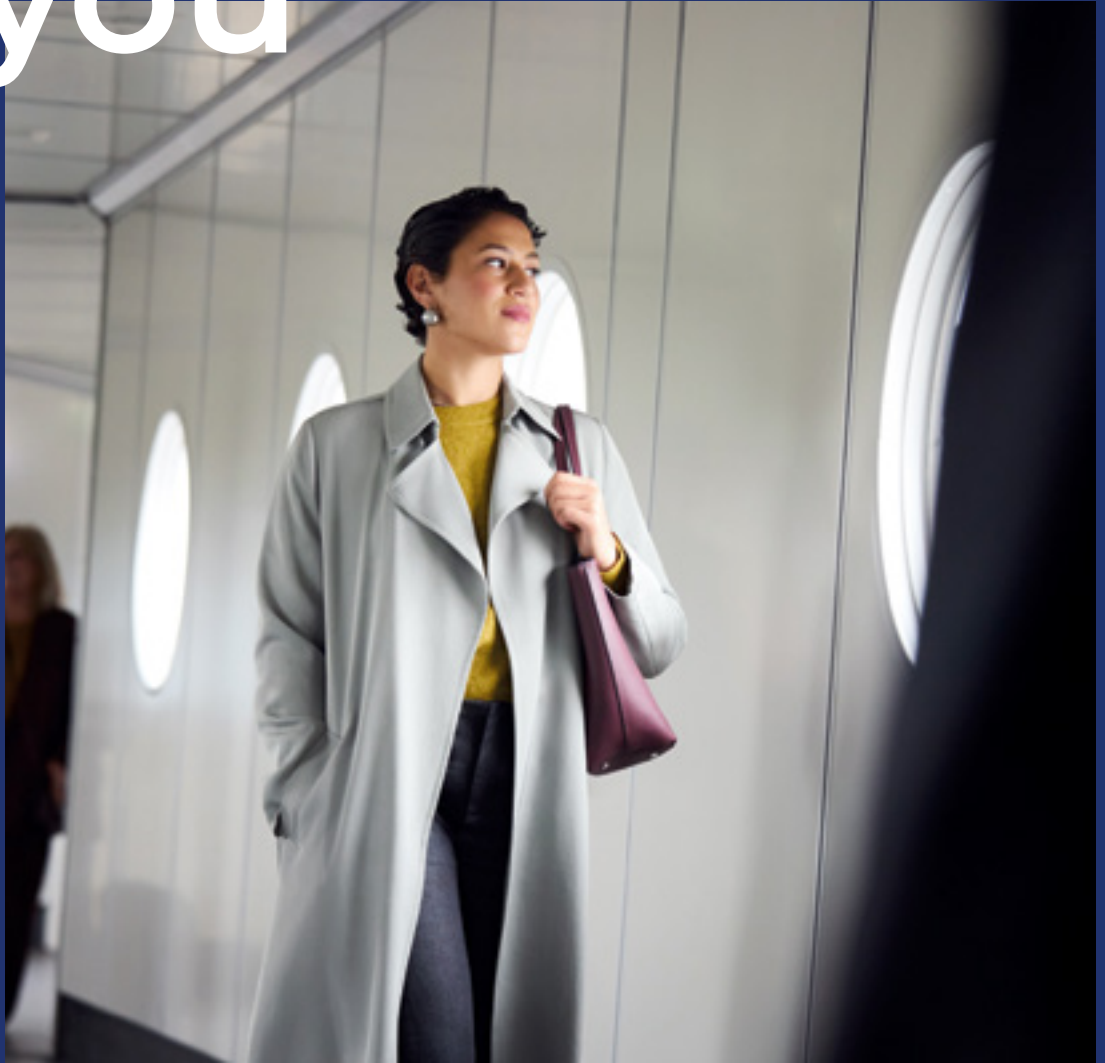
Sitcom, 22min

This mockumentary sitcom follows the teachers and staff of Willard R. Abbott Elementary School, an underfunded and mismanaged public school in Philadelphia, as they try to make the best of a difficult situation.

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SKYTEAM

Journey guidance

FOUR TIPS FOR SEAMLESS TRAVEL

PLANNING A GETAWAY? WITH SKYTEAM, YOUR JOURNEY CAN BE AS SMOOTH AS YOUR DESTINATION IS EXCITING. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE EVERY STEP COUNT.



from check-in and security to boarding and baggage claim. That means less time waiting and more time to relax, whether you're heading to a business meeting or starting a well-earned vacation.

Maximize your Miles

Every time you fly with a SkyTeam member airline, you earn Miles that can be redeemed for free flights, upgrades, and more. Simply add your frequent flyer number to your booking before departure to ensure your Miles are automatically credited. Many programs offer perks with non-airline partners too, so you can earn Miles or enjoy rewards on hotel stays, car rentals, and beyond. It's an easy way to get closer to your next getaway with every trip.

Wherever you're going, SkyTeam and its member airlines are committed to making your journey seamless from start to finish. Travel smarter this season and enjoy every step of the way.

Pack smart

Avoid last-minute hassles at the airport by using SkyTeam's Carry-on Calculator, available on skyteam.com. This helpful online tool lets you enter your airline and class of travel to instantly check the size and weight limits for your hand baggage across all your flights. By confirming your allowance in advance, you'll breeze through security with confidence and avoid unexpected fees or delays.

Check in with ease

When your trip involves connecting across multiple members on the same

itinerary, our goal is to make the experience feel effortless. With SkyTeam's industry-leading seamless check-in technology, you can check in for eligible multi-carrier trips through the website or app of your preferred member airline. Boarding passes for all your connecting flights are issued digitally, allowing you to skip queues and save valuable time.

Enjoy SkyPriority perks

Flying First or Business Class, or traveling with Elite Plus status? Speed through the airport with SkyPriority, available at eight key touchpoints –

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When Every
Emotion Matters,
Feel It All With
Coca-Cola®



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

EUROPE



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

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

SkyTeam member

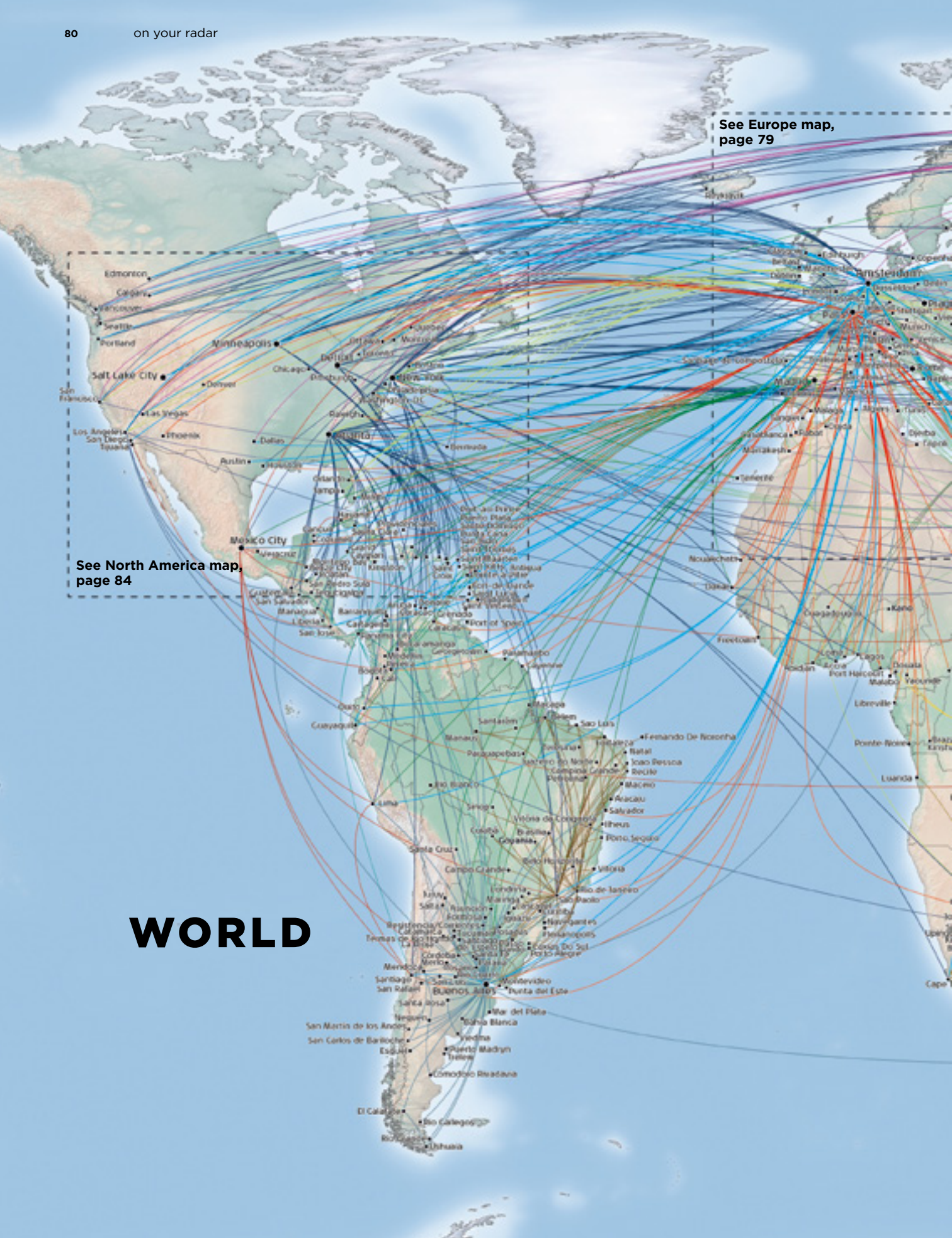
See World Map for intercontinental flights, page 80

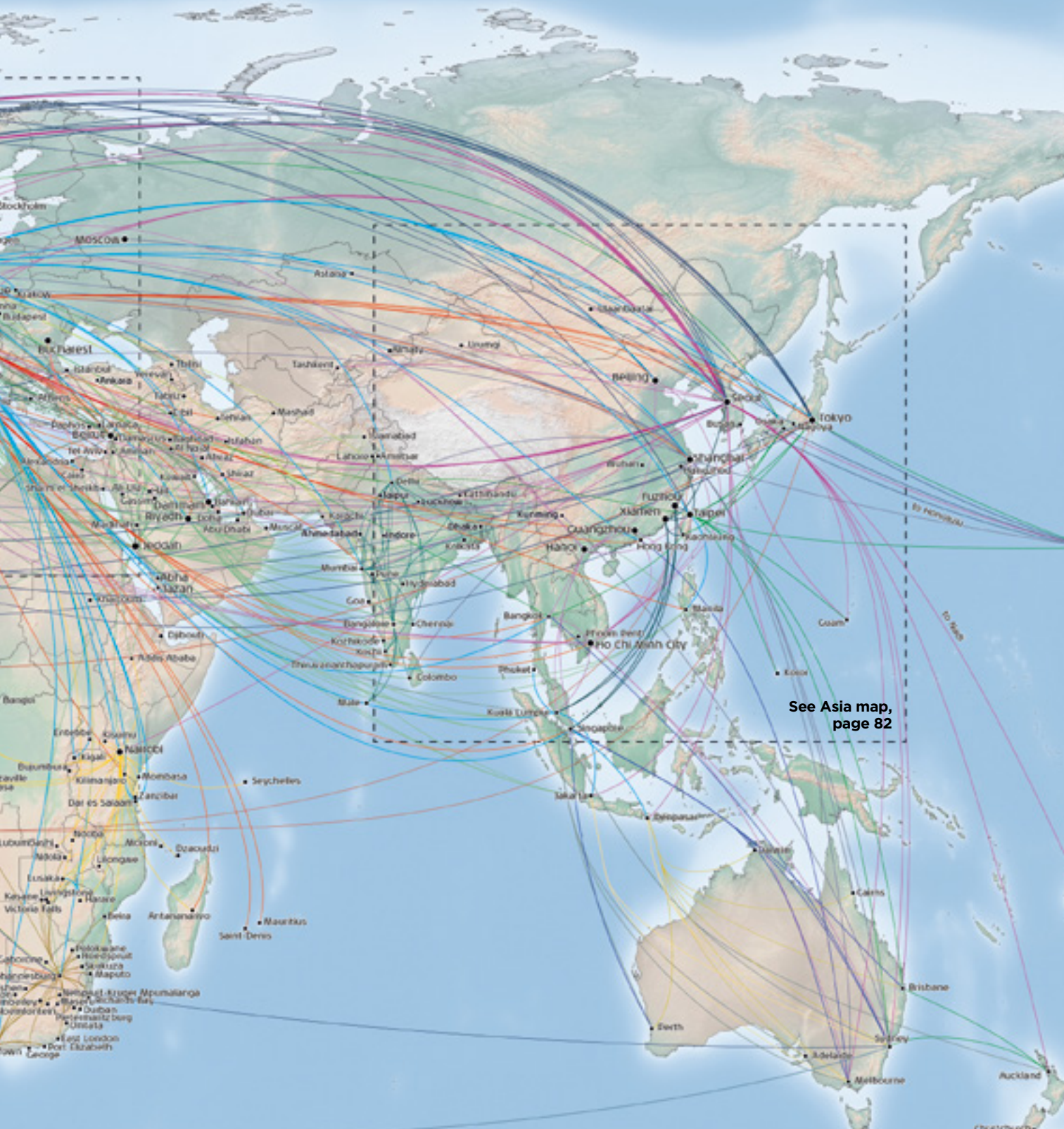
The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft. We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

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

- Taipei
- Chengde
- Wanzhou
- Chongqing
- Zhuji
- Cuiyang
- Kunming
- Guangzhou
- Changsha
- Chang
- Lanzhou
- Chengdu
- Wanzhou
- Chongqing
- Zhuji
- Cuiyang
- Kunming
- Guangzhou
- Changsha
- Chang
- Mandalay
- Luang Prabang
- Hanoi
- Da Nang
- Chiang Mai
- Vientiane
- Sukhothai
- Bangkok
- Siam Reap
- Phnom Penh
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Phuket
- Krabi
- Koh Samui
- Langkawi
- Penang
- Medan
- Kuala Lumpur
- Singapore
- Riyadh

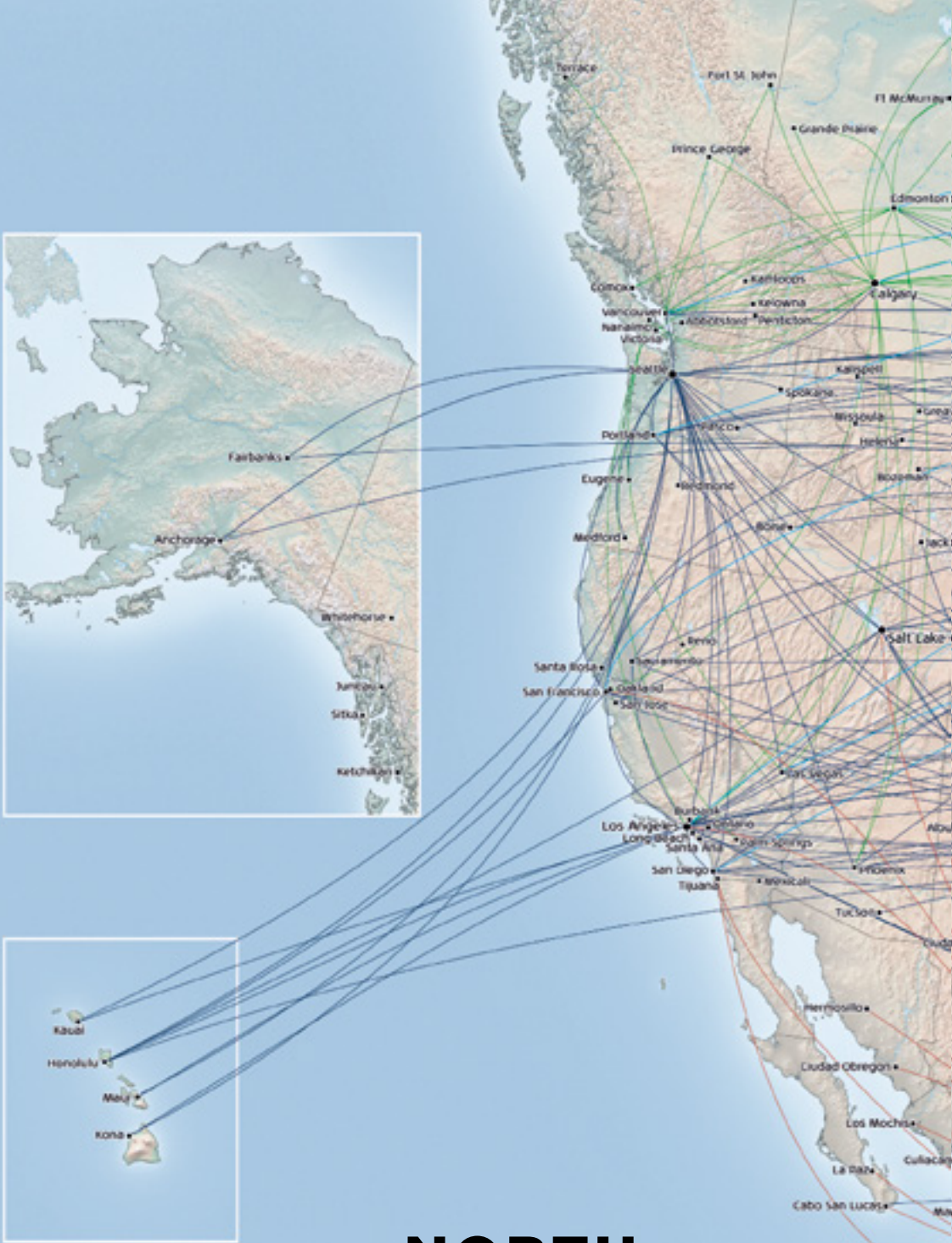


KLM routes, KLM code-share routes and other SkyTeam destinations in Asia.

- 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.



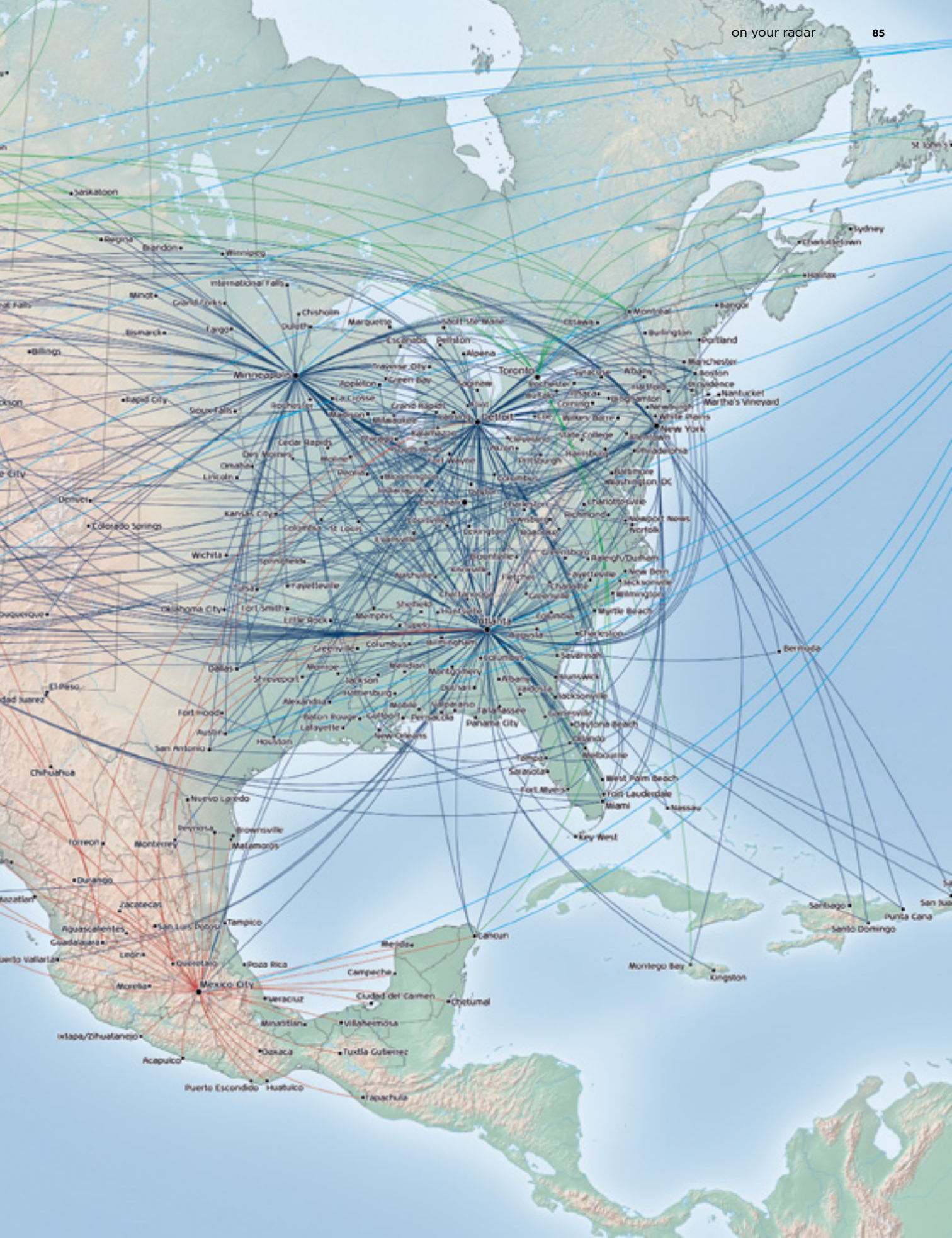
NORTH AMERICA

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

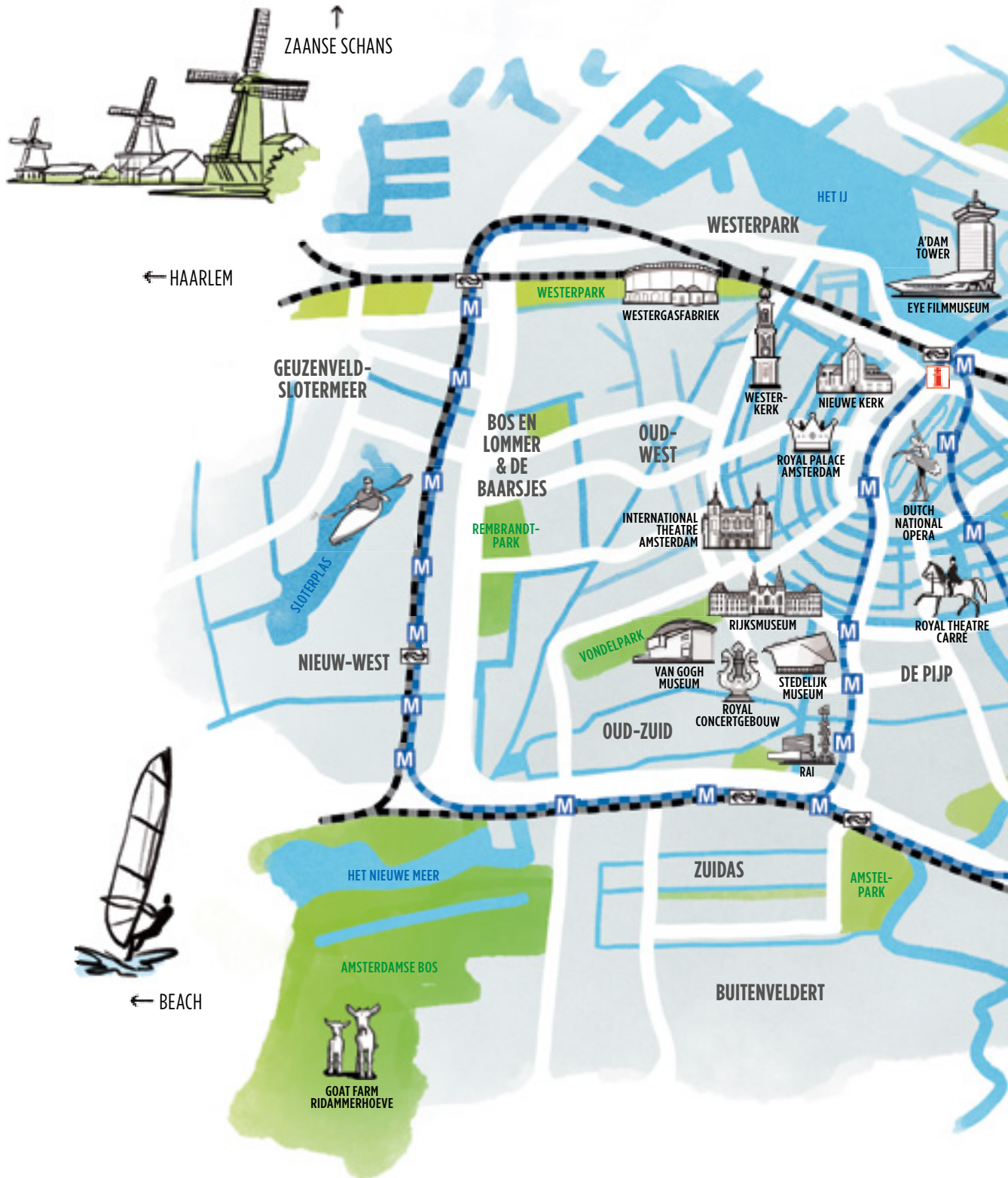
- KLM
- Aeroméxico
- Delta Air Lines
- WestJet

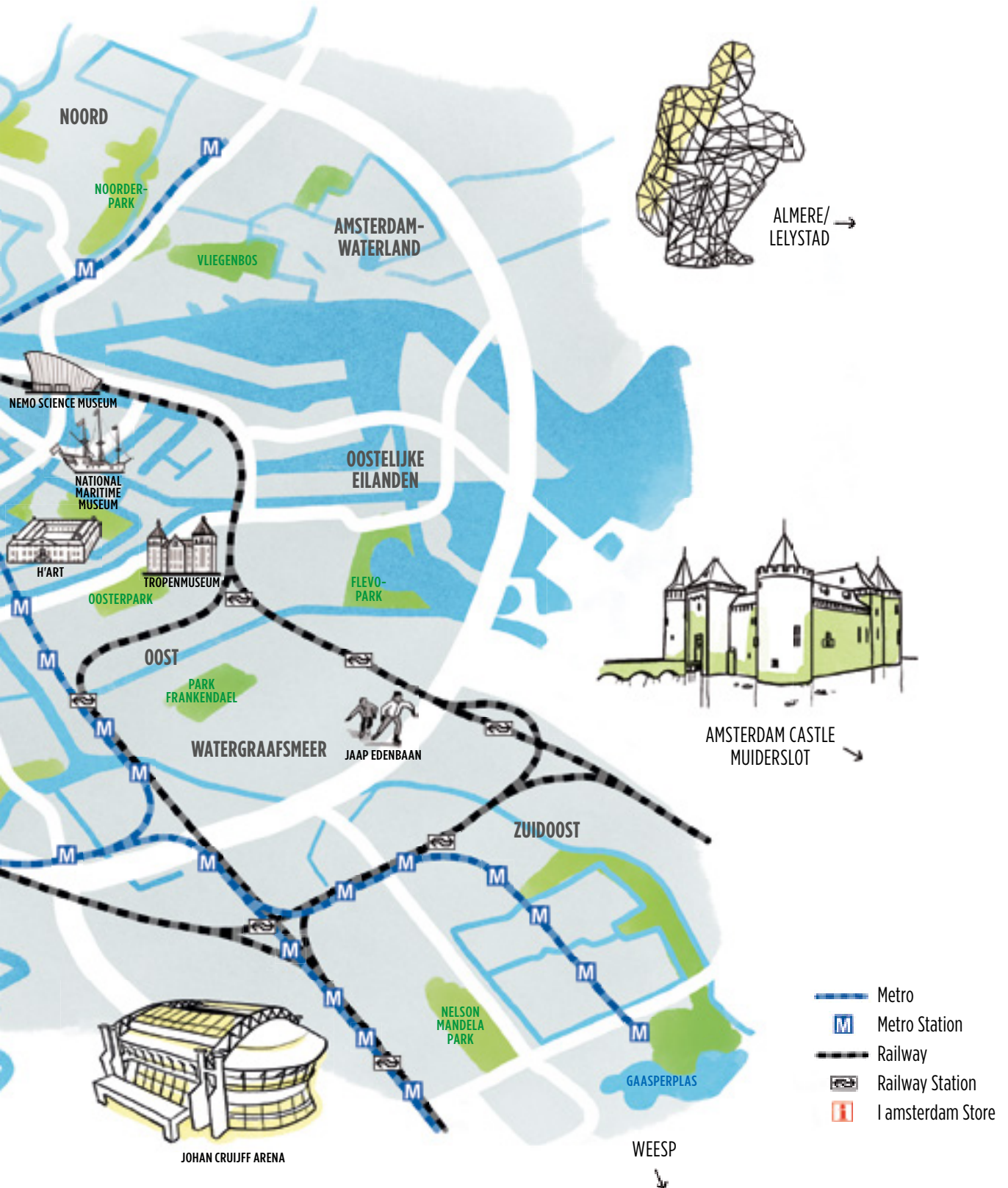
SkyTeam member

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



AMSTERDAM

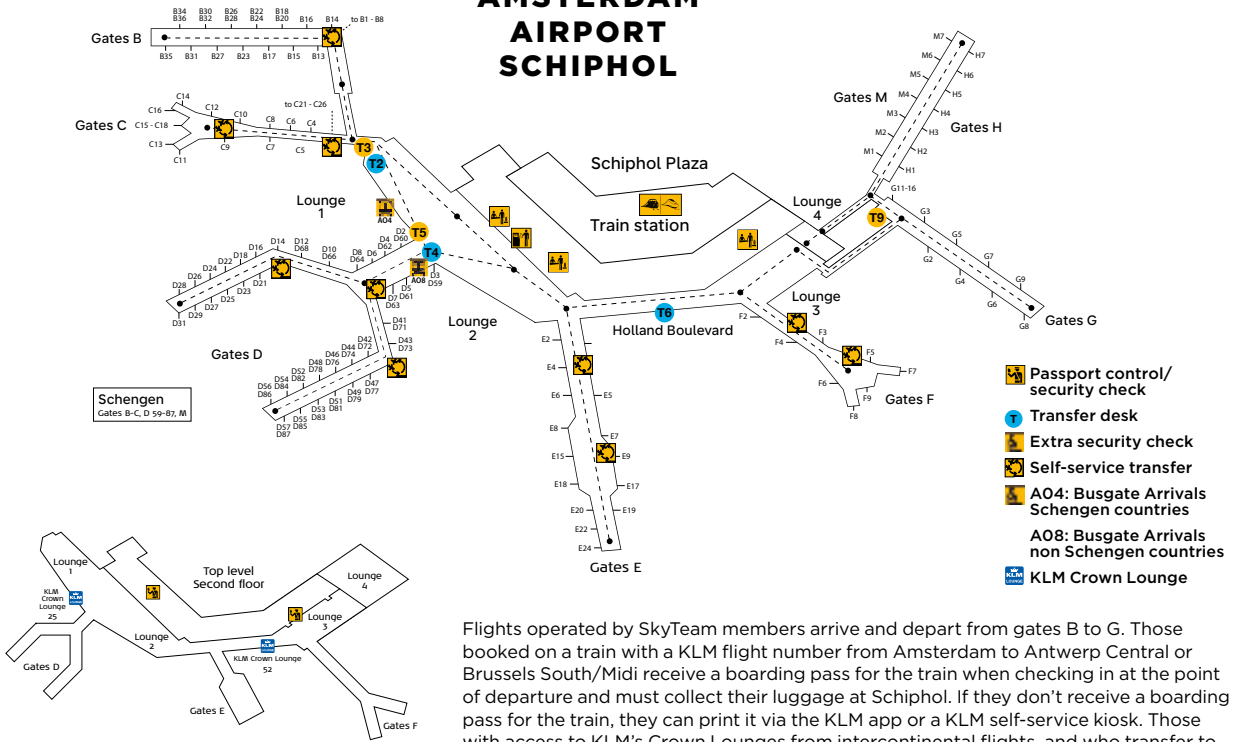




AIRPORT MAPS

The Netherlands

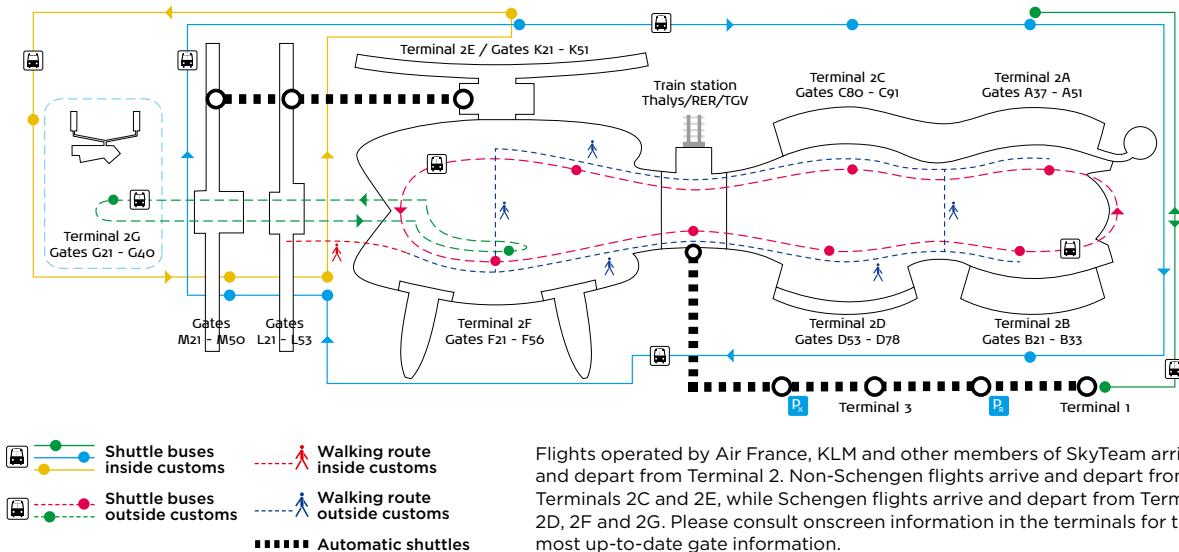
AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



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’ve always liked KLM’s diverse environment”

Patricia Mars

PATRICIA MARS, KLM PROJECT MANAGER COMMUNICATION, TALKS ABOUT HER ROLE AS CHAIRPERSON OF OVER THE RAINBOW, WHICH SUPPORTS THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY.

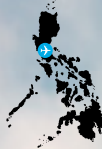
What does your job entail? As Project Manager Communication, I focus on all internal communication at KLM, mostly related to human resources (HR) matters. This ranges from communicating new HR policies to our departments, to editing news items about topics such as safety, health, or inappropriate behavior for KLM’s Newsapp. I joined the employee resource group Over the Rainbow five years ago. It’s important for LGBTIQ+ individuals to be represented in our company in terms of visibility and policy.

What does Over the Rainbow do? We’re involved in everything to do with inclusivity within KLM, from policy to special events. We help managers and departments understand what LGBTIQ+ colleagues may face, such as transitioning, starting a “rainbow” family, and dealing with inequality. KLM recently won the Workplace Pride Ambassador Award for our company policies, communications, and support for the LGBTIQ+ community. A major milestone is KLM’s involvement in WorldPride, an event that celebrates the LGBTIQ+ community. After much

lobbying, we’re delighted about KLM being its official airline partner in 2026! **Did you always want to work in aviation?** Not exactly. I’ve always loved traveling, and spent a few years living abroad. While studying Media and Culture at the University of Amsterdam, I had a part-time job as part of KLM’s ground crew. Then I joined the social media team, before applying for a role with the Corporate Communications team. That was 17 years ago. I’ve always liked the diverse, international environment that KLM provides.

MANILA

The Philippines



Food on cue

Filipino street food is definitely for the culinarily curious. Try *kamote cue*, fried sweet potatoes covered in caramelized sugar on a skewer; *buko* juice, fresh coconut water served from the shell of young coconuts; and *kwek-kwek*, deep-fried hard-boiled quail eggs.

16th

Intramuros is Manila's oldest district, and translates as "within the walls", a reference to the fortifications Spanish rulers built in the 16th century. The San Agustín Church, whose current stone structure was completed in 1607, is one of the city's few surviving buildings from the early Spanish colonial period and is worth a visit.

26°C

With average daily temperatures ranging between 26°C and 32°C in June, wearing breathable clothing is your best bet to alleviate the humidity. Heavy downpours are also common, so it's a good idea to bring along rain gear.

Mall trawl

Shopping malls are a popular refuge from the heat. One of the biggest is the SM Mall of Asia, known as MOA. Located in the Pasay City area, the mall is close to Ninoy Aquino International Airport, making it the perfect stop before you depart.

Museums

Museums are many and varied. The National Museum of Fine Arts houses 29 galleries and exhibitions of 19th-century Filipino artists, while the National Museum of Natural History exhibits an impressive collection that reflects the country's rich biological and geological diversity.

311 m

The active 311-meter-high Taal Volcano is about 60 km from Manila. Apart from the grandeur of the volcano itself, the surrounding area is also a sight to behold. The Tagaytay viewing deck offers epic vistas of the volcano island and lake. A closer look is best undertaken with a tour guide.



Helping children in need at KLM destinations

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



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

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

A brand new jewel.
The Onyx.

by Big Green Egg

Did we dare? Yes, we did. The iconic Big Green Egg has a brand new brother, in a beautiful dark glaze, with a dash of green. Its name? The Onyx. Like the gemstone.

The Onyx will elevate any garden, terrace or balcony with its bold, sleek look and design. All the quality that you expect of a Big Green Egg, now, in a dark colour, while keeping the soul of green.

Biggreenegg.nl



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Green
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