

**JULY 2026 • ECO-FRIENDLY SAFARIS IN KENYA • 24 HOURS IN PALERMO • HOME
SWEET HOME: AFRICAN ART • COOL CARTAGENA • KLM INSIDER STORIES & UPDATES**

HOLLAND HERALD

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of our culture and heritage
now, in our own way"*

KENYAN ARTIST THANDIWE MURIU



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Welcome

Marjan Rintel

TO TRAVEL IS TO LIVE



Cover Story

For her Camo series, Kenyan artist Thandiwe Muriu makes her subjects blend in with the background, addressing the search for individualism in the face of the persistent generalization of what it means to be African. Read about Muriu's work and the evolution of African art on page 26.

One of my favorite travel destinations is Africa, where nature, often grand and untamed, shows just how powerful and resilient our planet is. What captivates me most about this continent is the sheer diversity of its landscapes: from vast savannas and tropical rainforests to deserts and mountain ranges, Africa has it all.

In this edition of *Holland Herald*, we take you to Kenya (p. 38) where the wildlife corridors – lifelines for so many magnificent animals – are under pressure due to agricultural development. This story shares how Maasai families lease their land for conservation, allowing animals to migrate safely and access food and water. And the most beautiful part is that by staying in a lodge, such as Elerai Camp, you directly contribute to preserving this unique ecosystem. It's a powerful example of how tourism and conservation can go hand in hand.

In many places around the world – from Peru to Indonesia, and from Norway to Rwanda – you'll find unique accommodations in the

“Key to KLM is the *travel well* principle: truly connecting with people, cultures, and nature”

wilderness (p. 52), where a deep love for local life clearly shines through. These places offer you the chance to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Key to KLM is the *travel well* principle: embracing the world – not just to tick off beautiful destinations from your list, but to truly connect with the people, cultures, and nature that make these places so special. It also means following your own feet instead of your social feed.

From experience, I know how challenging it can be to be fully present in the place where you are. In our busy lives, our attention is constantly pulled elsewhere. Professor and psychologist Susan Bögels (p. 48) explains how mindfulness can help us with that.

“To travel is to live” is a famous quote by the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen. I couldn't have said it better myself. It expresses exactly what we at KLM hope you'll experience.

Welcome on board; welcome to the world.

Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO



REFLEC- TIONS



ON FASHION

UNBOXING WITH.... Tess van Zalinge, Jan Taminiau,
Janice Deul, Tailors & Wearers, KledingCast, Lisa Konno,
Guillaume Schmidt & Victor Crezée, Ronald van der Kemp,
Alu Studios, Karolina Żebrowska, ULKUHANBATUHAN, Bas Kusters

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LOTERIJ



July 2026

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Your Next Destination

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

Contributors

MEET THE TEAM



Joanne Wieneen

Joanne is a freelance journalist who primarily writes for Dutch magazines and newspapers, such as *ELLE*, *Vogue*, and *NRC*. Joanne's work requires her to cover a wide range of topics. For this issue, she details the best way to spend 24 hours in Palermo (p. 36), the capital of Sicily.

Joanne's travel tip: "I often explore a new city on foot or by bike. That way, I can stumble upon hidden gems. In Bangkok, I even stayed in the Old Capital Bike Inn, a charming hotel that offers free vintage bikes and free evening biking tours during my stay. I highly recommend it."



Harriet Akinyi

Harriet is an award-winning travel journalist based in Nairobi, Kenya. She contributes to a range of publications, including *Lonely Planet* and *Condé Nast Traveler*. Harriet examines the growing challenge of wildlife corridors in Kenya (p. 38) and the ways lodges are helping to protect them.

Harriet's travel tip: "When touring Kenya, consider spending time in lesser-visited parks such as Tsavo East National Park or Amboseli National Park. Visit during early morning or late afternoon for the best wildlife sightings and, in Amboseli, clear views of Mount Kilimanjaro."



Karon Lastdrager

Karon is the Art Director of *Holland Herald* and *Flying Dutchman*.

She studied Graphic Design at Kunstacademie Den Bosch and later worked as a designer for various major Dutch magazines. Karon has a passion for print media and loves to travel. Through her work for *Holland Herald*, she's able to combine both.

Karon's travel tip: "As I have a family of boys, I'm always looking for places with plenty to do. I've found Verdon Gorge in France, a spectacular river canyon with lots of hiking trails and various water sports on offer, to be ideal for an action-packed vacation."

Colophon

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THROUGH *your lens*

Tintamarre
Island

COASTAL COMPANIONS

INSTEAD OF USING HIS UNDERWATER CAMERA TO SHOOT MARINE LIFE ON TINTAMARRE ISLAND, JOOST LELY MADE HERMIT CRABS THE STARS OF HIS PHOTO.



For the past few years, my work as a cameraman for Dutch TV

shows and my mother's work as a midwife have allowed us both to travel the globe. We have a tradition of looking each other up: she's visited me in South Africa, and in December last year, my girlfriend and I went to see her on Saint Martin in the

Caribbean. I took this photo while on a day trip to Tintamarre Island, a tiny island northeast of Saint Martin. I'd brought an underwater camera with me, but quickly realized that the storm the previous evening made it hard to take clear shots in the water. I noticed these hermit crabs in the sand and decided to use the underwater camera to take some images on land. I'd seen a BBC program in which they used the same technique. This turned out to be my favorite shot from the trip. We were fortunate to spend about a month on Saint Martin, and had the opportunity to visit the island of Saba, which is beautiful and idyllic. I took many pictures there too. I've always had a love of imagery. My father had good equipment, which I used to practice with in order to shoot better skiing videos during our winter holidays. Now, 20 years later, it's safe to say that photography is no longer just a hobby, but a significant part of my life. I hope to shoot some images in either Japan or Mexico on our next holiday.

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
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The SELECTION

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



at
London

THE MAKING OF AN ICON

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) is arguably one of the most influential artists of the 20th century and a cultural icon who continues to inspire new generations of art lovers. The exhibition *Frida: The Making of an Icon* at London's Tate Modern explores the many layers of Kahlo's art, her passions, friendships with historic figures, and relationship with painter Diego Rivera.

Until Jan 3; tate.org.uk

TO *see*

Naples

THE ART OF PEACE

With his street art and clothing brand, Obey, American artist Shepard Fairey has been spreading a message of peace and activism since the 1990s. The exhibition *Obey: Power to the Peaceful* at Naples' Gallerie d'Italia explores how Fairey has developed a powerful and immediate aesthetic that serves as a tool for social critique and political awareness. Until Sep 6; gallerieditalia.com



Amsterdam

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY

Since 2007, photography museum Foam Amsterdam has been organizing an annual talent competition and exhibition. This year's edition of Foam Talent features 15 emerging artists, selected from nearly 3,000 submissions across 107 countries. With different interpretations of the medium, these visual storytellers showcase its variety and importance.

Until Aug 28; foam.org

New York City

ARCHITECTS OF LIBERATION

NEW YORK CITY'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART EXAMINES ARCHITECTURE IN WESTERN AFRICA DURING THE TURBULENT SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY.



What role do architects play when countries have established their independence after decades, or even centuries, of foreign occupation and influence? The exhibition *Architects of Liberation: Modernism in Western Africa* looks at how a generation of African architects in seven West African countries made

their mark between the 1950s and 1980s. The exhibition features about 450 objects, including architectural drawings, models, and archival photographs, drawn from the collections of over 50 lenders. It also examines the role of architecture in the broader context of Pan-Africanism.

Until Jan 2; moma.org

With about 17 million visitors a year, The Palace Museum in Beijing, China, is **the most visited museum in the world**

Los Angeles

WHERE AI MEETS HUMANITY

When Turkish artist Refik Anadol first saw the movie *Blade Runner* (1982) at the age of eight, he became fascinated by its futuristic and dystopian portrayal of Los Angeles. So it seemed only appropriate to open his project Dataland, the first museum dedicated to AI arts, at The Grand L.A. Co-founded with his wife, Efsun Erkiş, Anadol aims to blend human experience and artificial intelligence through immersive art experiences. data.land/art



Coffee to start

Ever since I once missed a flight, I now always like to arrive at the airport extra early. Not only does it save me unnecessary stress, it also gives me time for some shopping and to grab a coffee at Schiphol Plaza. The Up to Do Good store sells a collection of sustainable brands and serves great coffee by De Koffiesalon. I can rarely resist their delicious cakes.



Better and faster

Another way of saving time and making my departure and arrival extra comfortable is my Privium membership card, which allows me to park next to the terminal in the Privium Excellence garage and move quickly through security. Thanks to the iris scan at border control, I can walk straight into the terminal. The Privium ClubLounge West also offers me the opportunity to grab a drink, a quick healthy bite, and to work on my laptop in comfort.

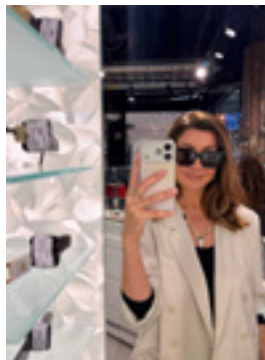
My Schiphol moments



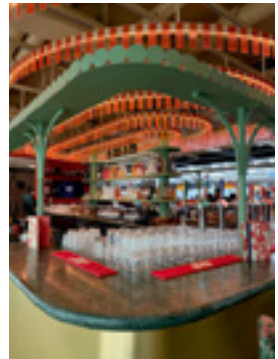
Holland Herald's Senior Editor Marieke Verhoeven often travels from and to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and shares her favorite places to go and things to do while she's at the airport.

Last-minute shopping

Whether I'm looking for some last-minute beauty products, sunglasses for a summer holiday, or tech gadgets for a work trip, there are plenty of options here to get all of my traveling supplies. The new Today Duty Free stores sell niche brands such as Le Labo and Aesop, and offer perfumes, cosmetics and more up to 25% cheaper on average.



"The Wanderer is the perfect place to relax before your flight"



Cocktails in style

A somewhat hidden gem on the first floor of Lounge 1 is cocktail bar and restaurant The Wanderer. Not only do they serve great cocktails and mocktails (the Paloma 0.0% is my favorite), they also offer surprising streetfood dishes from all over the world, such as Korean Crispy Oyster Mushroom and Japanese gyozas. It's also a very stylish and chill place to sit and relax before your flight or during a layover. There's a vending machine serving non-alcoholic mixed drinks and there's even a live DJ playing on rotation (usually on Fridays). It's definitely a place where you can lose track of time, so make sure you don't miss your flight while you're enjoying your drinks, bites, and favorite tunes!

TO meet

The North Sea Jazz Festival celebrates its **50th anniversary** from July 10-12

Q&A Adekunle Gold

A FRESH VERSION OF FUJI MUSIC

NIGERIAN ARTIST ADEKUNLE GOLD WILL BE PERFORMING HIS REINTERPRETATION OF TRADITIONAL FUJI MUSIC AT THE NORTH SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL IN ROTTERDAM THIS MONTH.

What exactly is Fuji music and how has it influenced you? Fuji is one of the oldest musical sounds from Nigeria. It comes from Wéré music, Islamic devotional music performed during Ramadan. Every Ramadan morning, Muslims would gather to sing and play drums. The music is very spiritual, almost like invoking spirits, but through prayer and singing. Nigerian artist Ayinde Barrister transformed it into something else: he started singing about politics, love, and everyday life. Some people say the name “Fuji” comes from the word *faji*, which means “enjoyment” or “pleasure” in Yoruba; others say Barrister saw the word “Fuji” during a trip to Japan. Fuji has long been the soundtrack of parties in Lagos. Once it starts playing, everybody sings and dances. My auntie played it in our house, so it surrounded me growing up. A lot of Afrobeats today are inspired by Fuji.

What’s your latest album, *Fuji Xtra*, about? I wanted to preserve Fuji by interpreting it in my own way and making it more digestible for people who are unfamiliar with the sound – people in the diaspora or listeners outside Nigeria who may never have heard Fuji before. My hope is that after hearing my album, people become curious and start exploring the roots of Fuji music themselves. It’s also a highly personal album, with songs dedicated to my father who passed away in 2019 and my daughter who was born in 2020.

Tell us about the live orchestra that you’ve been performing with. The dream of performing with an orchestra

started forming back in 2018 while I was visiting Nigerian singer Asa. We were talking about what my music would sound like with orchestral arrangements. Last year, I finally did it at the London Jazz Festival at the Royal Festival Hall, and it completely changed my perspective as a performer. There’s something magical about blending Fuji percussion with orchestral strings. I won’t be bringing

an orchestra to the North Sea Jazz Festival, but it will be a party nonetheless.

Which musical hero would you like to sit next to on a long-haul flight?

It would have to be Beyoncé. I’d really love to talk to her about her performance preparations – how she gets herself ready to go on stage.

northseajazz.com



TO do

Amsterdam

STORIES OF THE CITY

In 2020, Amsterdam native Tom Jongbloed and his daughter Josephine started an Instagram account to share stories and fun facts about their beloved city. The father-daughter duo now also organizes walking tours around the city center, inviting guests to look beyond the obvious. Their special porcelain plate is the perfect souvenir.

€34; ommetjemettom.com



Covering **around 16,900 square meters**, China's Guangzhou University City Skatepark is the biggest skatepark in the world



Rotterdam

LIVES IN MOTION

Last year, Rotterdam welcomed Fenix, a museum about migration housed in a historic warehouse. At its heart is the Tornado, a double-helix staircase designed by MAD Architects that leads visitors up to sweeping views of the city. Inside, Fenix brings together art, personal stories, and interactive experiences, such as a labyrinth of suitcases to walk through. fenix.nl

Skateboarding

GET ON BOARD

EVEN IF YOU AREN'T A SKATER, IT'S WORTH VISITING THESE CITY SKATEPARKS TO TAKE IN A FEW TOP TRICKS.

Accra

Created in 2020 with the help of the late designer Virgil Abloh and fashion brand Daily Paper, Accra's Freedom Skatepark focuses on supporting the local youth through sport.

freedomskatepark.org

Amsterdam

The Urban Sports Zone in Zeeburg is one of Europe's biggest skateparks, and features more than 40,000 custom Delft Blue tiles created by Tile Bakery.

amsterdam.nl/sport/sportparken

La Paz

For skaters who want to test their endurance, check out Pura Pura Skatepark in La Paz, Bolivia. Set about 3,500 meters above sea level, it will take your breath away.

facebook.com/skateparkpurapura



TO *wish for*

Jewelry

MANY HUES OF BLUE

With gems such as London blue topaz, peridot and blue sapphire, the Rhapsody in Blue collection by Dutch fine jewelry brand Bron is an ode to the color blue (and a bit of green) in all its splendor and variety. Committed to supporting local craftsmanship, more than 90% of Bron's jewels are handmade at the company's in-house atelier in the Netherlands.

bronjewelry.com



Raffia is a **natural, biodegradable fiber** harvested from the leaves of the raffia palm tree



Skincare

STAY AWAY MOSQUITOES

Fighting off mosquitoes in hot, humid weather can be a struggle. With the Citronella spray by Spanish natural personal care brand Haan, you'll be able to ward them off, thanks to its mix of citronella and essential oils. Unlike many other repellents, this botanical spray doesn't contain the chemical ingredient DEET, is all-natural, non-sticky, and has a light texture.

€7.90; haanbrand.com



Bags

ROOTED IN RAFFIA

BAG BRAND AAKS PRESERVES TRADITIONAL GHANAIAN RAFFIA WEAVING TECHNIQUES.

Ghana has a rich history of traditional raffia weaving. Akosua Afriyie-Kumi, founder of Ghanaian bag brand AAKS, made it her mission to introduce the world to the country's beloved weaving techniques while creating

job opportunities in Africa. The raffia used in the bags is carefully harvested using sustainable practices that protect the environment, and is woven by local women artisans.

aaksonline.com

Sunglasses



FROM OUTER SPACE

What happens when an iconic sunglasses brand and a major movie franchise join forces? You get the Mandalorian and Grogu™ collection by Ray-Ban and Star Wars™, which features sunglasses and spectacles for all ages. ray-ban.com





William Forsythe makes you move

AT MUSEUM VOORLINDEN



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

Having led dance companies for many decades and influenced generations of artists, world-renowned choreographer William Forsythe has had a profound impact on contemporary dance. With *Choreographic Objects*, his series of installations, he brings movement into the museum space, inviting visitors to shift from passive viewing to participation. Several of these installations are included in his exhibition at Voorlinden. In *The Fact of Matter*, Forsythe has placed 350 rings at varying heights, accompanied by the invitation: "Please traverse the space using only the rings." As you pass through the installation, you become entirely dependent on your own strength and increasingly aware of the weight of your body. You soon notice how challenging it is to progress in a destabilizing environment designed to resist your efforts. It demands improvisation, concentration, and coordination. Through works like this, Forsythe explores how the body continuously reorganizes 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

Column

Freek Vonk

FIREFLIES WHERE FIRE SLEEPS

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

“By combining luciferin and luciferase with oxygen, it produces light”



It's the dead of the night, and I'm in the rainforest on Gunung Rajabasa, a 1,281-meter-high stratovolcano at the southern tip of Sumatra in Indonesia. Around the mountain, gas and steam escape through small openings in the ground, and there are hot springs, heated by magma. These hissing gases and bubbling pools reveal that the thermal engine beneath the mountain is running, even though the surface looks like an innocent green paradise.

To sharpen my senses, I switch off my headlamp. Instantly, the rainforest orchestra swells with chirping, rustling, and a constant buzzing. Then I see a light. And another. Before I know it, hundreds of them are flickering in the darkness. What I'm looking at is a dazzling display by male fireflies who are doing everything they can to attract a mate. Romantic? Absolutely. But in the jungle, love is rarely without danger. Some female fireflies mimic the flashing signals of other species. When an eager male flies in, expecting a mate, he isn't met with romance but with execution. These so-called “femmes fatales” seize their victim and devour him. In doing so, they extract a chemical from his body that protects them from predators. Even among the smallest creatures on earth, ruthlessness sometimes prevails.

As I watch the light show, something catches my eye on the

forest floor. It's glowing softly as it crawls along. When I switch my headlamp back on, I see a creature like a small caterpillar with armored plates along its back. But when I turn my lamp off again, two bright “lights” shine from its rear end. This is the larva of a firefly, commonly known as a glow worm. The name is misleading. It's not a fly, and certainly not a worm, but a beetle in the making. Inside its body is a tiny chemical laboratory. By combining luciferin and luciferase with oxygen, it produces light; living light. Nature invented its own flashlight millions of years ago.

But don't be fooled by that soft glow. For many small creatures in the jungle, this is no friendly night-light, but a beacon of death. This larva is a true predator, hunting snails at night. With its powerful jaws, it grabs a snail and injects a paralyzing toxin. Then it releases digestive enzymes into its prey, turning the snail into soup, which it calmly sucks up. It's an efficient and merciless process.

So why does this baby beetle glow when there's no mate to attract? It's a warning to stay away because it's toxic. So, rather than hiding from predators, the glow worm does the exact opposite. It's a bold strategy, but one that works. Most predators have learned that anything glowing in the jungle is better left alone.

As I begin my descent, I realize that while Gunung Rajabasa may be sleeping, everything on its slopes is very much awake.

EAT *out*

Warsaw
Poland



BEET BY BEET

In a town house east of the Vistula River in Warsaw lies hub.praga, the brainchild of chef Witek Iwański. After completing his culinary journey through some of Europe's top restaurants – during which he won the prestigious Gault & Millau Poland Chef of the Year award (in 2018) – Iwański opened hub.praga. And here, he executes his vision to use what the local nature has to offer, respecting seasonality, and working with local vendors. The summer season is beautifully reflected by this salad of roasted golden beets, spicy yogurt, finger lime, nasturtium, and a gelée of beet juice with pink pepper; finished with tonburi. hub-praga.pl



Colombia



My

CARTAGENA

TWELVE YEARS AGO, AUSTRALIAN KRISTY ELLIS MOVED TO CARTAGENA AND FELL IN LOVE WITH ITS VIBRANCY. WITH HER TRAVEL COMPANY, CARTAGENA CONNECTIONS, SHE ORGANIZES FOOD TOURS, HISTORICAL WALKS, AND COOKING CLASSES IN THE CITY CENTER. @HOLAKRISTY_



What do you love about Cartagena? Friendly people, food made with love from abundant local produce, an aesthetically pleasing painted backdrop of UNESCO-listed architecture ❶, and nights of dancing in diverse rhythms. Cartageneros are experts in *cógela suave*, the art of taking it easy. You'll fit in best if you go with the flow.

What are the must-dos? Music and dance have their own language in Cartagena, so I suggest a dance class or a jam night. A street-food tour is also a great way to connect with the culture. And nothing beats seeing a full orchestra playing live salsa at Cafe Havana (corner of Cl. Media Luna and Cl. del Guerrero). The best things in life are free here. Go to Callejón Angosto ❷ to enjoy street performances, or walk along the centuries-old city walls ❸, and see the sun setting. And at Centenario Park you can observe sloths ❹ and tamarin monkeys in the trees.

Which local dish should we sample? The most famous local snack is *arepa e huevo*. It consists of fried corn-dough filled with egg and optional ground beef. Also don't miss the specialty drink, *limonada de coco*, a blend of coconut and lime juice.

Best places to get coffee? Mientras Cartagena (Cjón de los estribos, 2–114) is where the cool locals go. Libertario Coffee Roasters Cartagena (Cra. 10, 30–14) is for the true coffee aficionados, and their breakfast pancake stack wins a lot of fans. For overall best breakfast-and-coffee combo, try Pascal (Cl. 30, 8b–108).

How about the food scene? At Ahito Bistro ❺ (Cra. 10C, 29–184) you'll find the best renditions of Colombian classics such as *encocado*, fish in coconut sauce, and *posta cartagenera*, slow-cooked beef in a rich sauce. La Cocina de Pepina (Cl. 25, 9a–06, Local 2) lives up to its declaration, "We don't have a bad dish,"

with its menu of unique family recipes. I'm always in the mood for their *copa sí, sí, sí*, a three-tiered ceviche, and their *mote de queso*, yam and cheese soup, is legendary. Lastly, Salón Tropical (Cra. 10C, 28–36) has a selection of starters that pack a punch, and meats and seafood come in portions perfect for sharing.

Where should we shop? You'll find plenty of incredible stores throughout the walled city, but a little off the main tourist trail, I recommend Casa Preci ❻ (Cl. Gastelbondo Calle 36, 2–124, Local 7–8), which has a huge range of products by Colombian designers. One of Colombia's most famous accessories is the handwoven *mochila* bag. You can find great and affordable options at Hecha a Mano (Cl. 36, 5–76) near Cartagena University. For home goods, Casa Chiqui (Cl. de la Universidad, 36–127) offers a treasure trove of finds from Colombia and beyond.

Your favorite hotels? Cartagena is abuzz with the Four Seasons Hotel and Residences (Cl. 30 Media Luna 8B, 8B–44), which opened in April. It's a stunning and luxurious property that invokes the grandeur of the city's golden age. Lovers of unique interior design should opt for Casa Lola (Cl. del Guerrero 29, 108/118), an oasis of lush greenery, water features, curated art, and an inviting rooftop. For a classy and central stay that's smart value, I recommend Mood Matuna (Cra. 9a, 32–12).

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Callejón Angosto ②



Casa Precis ③



Old Town walls ④

*You'll fit in best if you
go with the flow*



A sloth in
Centenario
Park ⑤



Ahito Bistro ⑥



UNESCO-listed Old Town ⑦

African art

REFRAMING AFRICA



Over the past decade, a fresh wave of contemporary African art has been carving out its place on the global art scene. Young artists across the continent are moving the needle and turning their hometowns into creative hubs. Text Marieke Verhoeven

For a long time, the story of African art was told from the outside. Filtered through a narrow lens, it was reduced to anthropology, tradition, or crisis. If you encountered images from Africa in global media, they tended to reinforce a limited narrative – one that flattened complexity and left little room for nuance. Think of a traditional African mask that, while historically meaningful and striking, has little contemporary relevance. Over the past decade, however, there has been a shift: artists from Africa and its diaspora are now included in major biennials, global gallery programs, and museum exhibitions such as the recent *Ideas of Africa: Portraiture and Political Imagination* at New York's MoMA and *Nigerian Modernism* at London's Tate Modern. The growing interest in African art has even catapulted some artists, such as Ghanaian painter Amoako Boafo, to global stardom. Boafo's painting *Hands Up* (2018) sold for more than \$3.4 million at Christie's, 10 times the estimate. And at the 1-54 Marrakech fair in 2025, his painting *Blank stare* (2021) was acquired for Tate's collection for an undisclosed amount.

But perhaps more importantly, African cities continent-wide are emerging as cultural anchors, each with their own rhythm, identity, and way of building. Lagos in Nigeria has developed a strong collector base alongside a fast-moving creative scene that blends art, fashion, and music. Over the past decade, its annual art fair, Art X Lagos, has connected artists from over 70 countries and attracted more than 700,000 cumulative visitors from 170 nations, making it West Africa's leading art fair. Ghana's capital of Accra has also positioned itself as a cultural destination, particularly through its 'Detty December' season, when art fairs, exhibitions, and music events draw visitors from across the diaspora. Dakar in Senegal continues to hold a central place through its long-running Dak'Art Biennale, one of the most respected art events on the continent. And Marrakech, through its 1-54 fair, has become a meeting point where African and international audiences intersect. During 1-54, the city transforms: exhibitions spill beyond gallery walls and studio visits offer glimpses into artistic processes. While 1-54 is now held annually in London, Marrakech, and New York, the African art world was much different when Touria El Glaoui launched 1-54 in London in 2013. "African artists were largely absent from the global art market's core conversations," she explains.

“ MORE ARTISTS ARE CHOOSING TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES ”

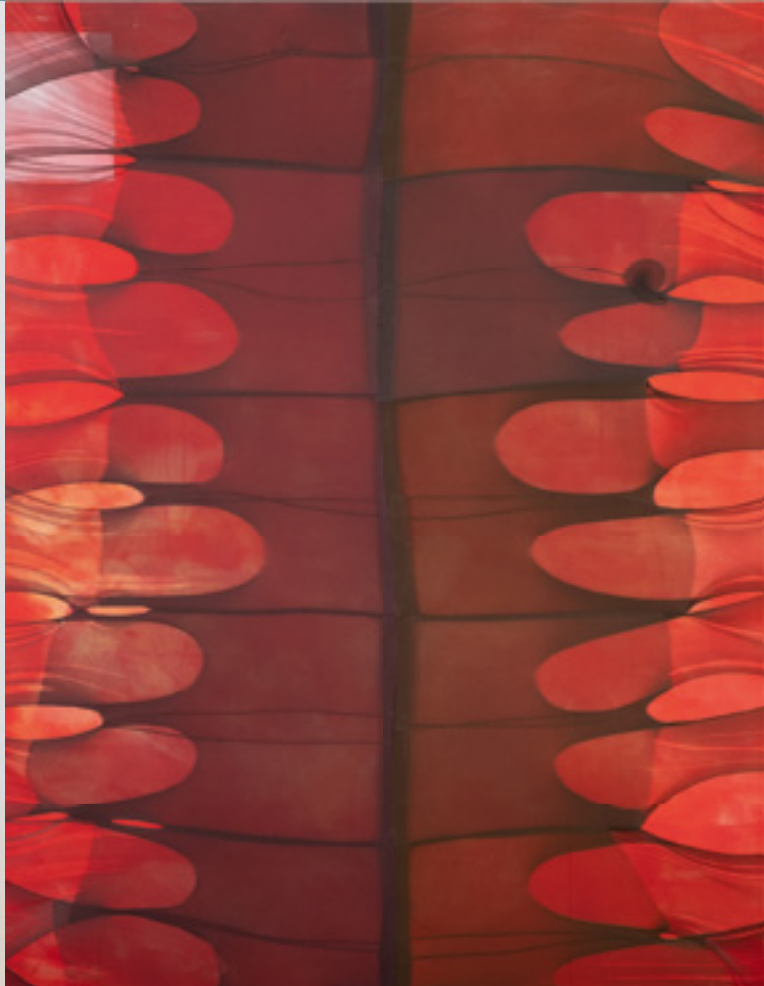
"Interest was often sporadic and framed through trends. That's changed."

Structural gaps

According to Ghanaian-American curator Larry Ossei-Mensah, that cross-over effect is part of the shift. Born in New York to Ghanaian parents, Ossei-Mensah has built a career around championing artists from Africa and the diaspora as the cofounder of art platform Artnoir, while also interrogating how their work is contextualized within institutions. His practice sits at the intersection of storytelling, curating, and advocacy, helping artists shape not just visibility but also understanding cultures around the continent. "For many years, artists had to leave to gain attention and build a career," he says. "You went to Paris, London, New York, and you stayed there. That model is beginning to shift. More artists are now choosing to remain rooted in their home countries, or to move fluidly between continents, rather than relocating." Ossei-Mensah explains that the shift is quietly transformative: "Artists don't just produce work; they contribute to ecosystems, open studios, and mentor younger artists. They create spaces, opportunities, and networks that didn't exist before. Organizing an art event creates possibility and commercial opportunities because it can generate serious revenue. Milan's annual art and design event Salone del Mobile, for example, generates hundreds of millions." Ossei-Mensah »

Previous pages *Maridadi*, 2022, Thandiwe Muriu (left); *The World We Carry*, 2026, Derrick Ofosu Boateng (right)

Right page *Ama Aidoo*, 2024, Djibril Drame (top); *Nii Okine, the classic man*, 2025, Kwesi Botchway (bottom left); *Untitled*, 2023, Turiya Magadlela (bottom right)





Above Acrobat, 2012, Hassan Hajjaj
Right page Parrots, 2026, Amoako Bofo





regularly travels around the continent, and he has noticed exciting things happening not just in Accra and Lagos, but also in lesser-known cities such as Benin's Porto-Novo and Uganda's Kampala. "We often talk about Africa in terms of its future potential, but it's happening now."

At the same time, the foundations that sustain a thriving art scene remain uneven. "The talent and desire to build are there, but the structure still needs work," says El Glaoui. With that structure, she points to the gaps that are often invisible to outsiders but shape daily realities for artists across the continent. These include limited access to studios and materials; high costs; logistical barriers around shipping work internationally; visa restrictions that make travel – and therefore exposure – difficult; and a lack of formal institutions or training structures in many regions. In that context, even something as basic as getting work from a studio to a gallery can be complex. "Social media has helped level the playing field," says El Glaoui. "Platforms such as Instagram have allowed artists to share their work globally, connect directly with audiences and, in some cases, bypass traditional gatekeepers. But in the end, social media is just a tool. Building a sustainable career still requires networks of curators, galleries, institutions, and collectors alongside the less visible but equally important systems of support."

Setting an example

Kenyan artist Thandiwe Muriu has built a successful career with original work that tells her story while highlighting a key part of her culture long overlooked. "Where I come from, being a photographer either meant being a photojournalist or a commercial photographer," she explains. "I did the latter for a few years, but my heart wasn't in it. A friend asked me, 'If you could work without a client or brief, what's the craziest thing you'd do? Do that.' After some soul-searching, I chose to celebrate my identity as an African woman using the continentally popular wax fabric as my canvas. They became the foundation of my Camo series: presenting my vision of womanhood using strong fabric to redefine, celebrate, and remember. I posted a few pictures of my work on Instagram and, to my surprise, I was approached by a gallery in Paris that wanted to showcase my work." Fast-forward to 2026, and Muriu has international exhibitions and solo shows in New York and Paris, plus collaborations with prestigious brands such as

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**AFRICAN
CITIES ARE
EMERGING
AS CULTURAL
ANCHORS**
”

Longchamp and Swatch. For many artists before her, global success might have triggered a move abroad. "There's this idea that if you can leave, you should leave," she says. "But despite some of the logistical challenges, I've come to appreciate what we have here." By staying in Nairobi, she not only remains connected to the environment that shapes her work but also can contribute to it. "There's so much talent here," she says. "Sometimes what's missing is just opportunity. By building my studio and sharing my knowledge, I want to show other young artists that it's possible to build a successful career from home. And since my work is largely inspired by my culture and heritage, it makes sense to stay here."

That decision to stay, to build, and to be visible locally is echoed across the continent. And it connects to a broader shift: the growing sense that success doesn't have to mean departure. In fact, some artists are reinvesting their success into their communities. Moroccan artist Hassan Hajjaj has built a creative universe in his home city. His gallery, Riad Yima, functions as a cultural hub, too. Hajjaj has also been involved in initiatives that directly support local communities. Following the devastating earthquake in 2023, he contributed to earthquake-relief fundraising supporting education-focused work in affected rural communities, demonstrating how artistic visibility can translate into tangible impact. In Ghana, painter Kwesi Botchway, who's known for his distinctive, richly textured portraits, »

Left page

The Power of Alliances, 2021, Nuits Balnéaires (top); *Keseyu*, 2019, Romuald Hazoumè (bottom left); *Cosmic lovers' oasis*, 2023, Kylie Wentzel (bottom right)



has similarly invested in creating space for others. Through studio initiatives and mentorship, he's part of a growing group of artists helping to shape the next generation. These efforts may not always make headlines, but they're quietly redefining what it means to succeed as an artist. "It's incredible," says El Glaoui. "Artists are thinking about community, not just their success."

Narrative control

At the same time, the content of the work itself is evolving. There was a moment, particularly around 2020, when Black portraiture gained increased global attention. The Black Lives Matter movement and a broader reckoning within cultural institutions led to a surge in visibility for Black figurative painting. That moment marked a shift in recognition, but it also brought new challenges. "There was a kind of overexposure," explains El Glaoui. "Now people are looking for quality, for authenticity – not a repetition of what they've seen before." The artists whose work was rooted in a genuine exploration of identity and form have continued to develop. Those who followed the trend without depth have faded away. What's emerging now is a more diverse, less easily defined landscape. And perhaps that's the most significant shift of all. Contemporary African art is no longer asking for inclusion; it's asserting its place. Even the label "African art" is increasingly treated with caution. "You can't talk about it as one thing," says Ossei-Mensah. "There are too many practices, voices, and contexts. 'African art' still serves a purpose as it creates visibility, a shared point of reference, but it can also obscure the very diversity it seeks to highlight. Artists today are pushing back against that flattening. They're working across mediums, themes, and geographies, often resisting easy categorization. They're also claiming what was long denied to them: narrative control."

The deeper work, however – strengthening ecosystems, building infrastructure, and redefining narratives – is still unfolding. For artists such as Muriu, the most important shift is internal: the confidence to speak, and to be heard, on her own terms. "We're telling the full story now, in our own way," she says. "I love African proverbs. There's one that particularly suits our mentality nowadays: 'When the roots are deep, there is no reason to fear the wind.'" «

Left page
Ahuofefuo, 2025,
Kwaku Yaro

© Courtesy of Gallery 1957 and Kwaku Yaro, photo Nii Odzenma

Exhibitions

Photography at MoMA

The *Ideas of Africa: Portraiture and Political Imagination* exhibition at New York City's MoMA examines how photographers and their subjects contributed to the proliferation of Pan-African identity during the mid-20th century.
Until Jul 25;
moma.org

The Venice Biennale

The prestigious, art affair around the city of Venice from May to November includes 12 African national pavilions this year, including Cameroon and the DR Congo. It's Somalia's first time at the event.
Until Nov 22;
labiennale.org

Project a Black Planet

With the summer exhibition *Project a Black Planet: The Art and Culture of Panafrika*, London's Barbican looks into the influence of Pan-Africanism on art, film, music and culture around the world.
Until Sep 6;
barbican.org.uk

In Brilliant Light

The exhibition *In Brilliant Light* at Wereldmuseum Berg en Dal in the Netherlands celebrates the richness and diversity of art from Africa and its diaspora, and

offers a dynamic dialogue between the present and the recent past.
Until Nov 26;
bergendal.
wereldmuseum.nl

Chale Wote

During one week in August, parts of Accra turn into open-air galleries during the Chale Wote street art festival. In addition to local and international street artists, the festival includes live music, food, and movie screenings.
Aug 10-16;
[@chalewoteofficial](https://www.instagram.com/chalewoteofficial)

Art X Lagos

Since its launch in 2016, Art X Lagos has become one of the leading art fairs on the continent. The broad program includes exhibitions, lectures, film, music, fashion, and much more.
Nov 5-8;
artxlagos.com

The Land of Chocolate Sprinkles

Hagelslag, chocolate sprinkles, is a typical Dutch bread topping, but how is it made, and at what cost? For the *Het Land van Hagelslag: Building a New World Together* exhibition at Amsterdam's H'Art Museum, Congolese art collective CATPC created 30 chocolate sculptures, each telling a story of chocolate's complexity.
Until Nov 8;
hartmuseum.nl

PALERMO *by day*

Italy



MAJESTIC CHURCHES NEXT TO WEATHERWORN BUILDINGS AND LIVELY MARKETS AROUND THE CORNER FROM QUIET MONASTERY GARDENS: PALERMO IS A CITY OF BEAUTIFUL CONTRASTS.



Palermo Cathedral ❶



Pretoria Square ❷



A cannolo at I Segreti Del Chiostro ❸



Ballarò Market ❷

Old and new

Palermo's history dates to the 8th century BC and, over the centuries, its architecture was influenced by Arab and Norman conquerors. The famous Palermo Cathedral ❶ (Via Vittorio Emanuele 490), for example, incorporates Norman, Moorish, Baroque, and Gothic elements. Visit the roof for spectacular views of the city. While Palermo has many architectural masterpieces, it's also known for its raw aesthetic with lots of neglected buildings, graffiti, and lively street life. That vibe is still there, although in the last decade or so, many aging buildings have been repurposed. The Baroque-style Butera Palace (Via Butera 18), for example, now houses a contemporary art museum, a public library, and a large terrace overlooking the

Mediterranean Sea. And at the former industrial area of Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa (Via Paolo Gili 4), you'll find a cinema, art galleries, a theater, and multifunctional spaces where you might stumble upon a music festival one day and a photo exhibition the next.

Local lunch

For roughly a millennium, Palermitani have flocked to Ballarò Market ❷ (Via Chiappara Al Carmine 23) for their daily groceries, and Palermo's oldest market is still bustling with energy. Here, you can buy fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, cheese, meat, and seafood at a low price. Take a five-minute stroll to Trattoria Bersagliere (Via San Nicolò all'Albergheria 38), an alluring restaurant with all sorts of classic Italian dishes

on the menu for reasonable prices. Order the Southern-Italian specialty *pasta con aglio, olio e peperoncino* ("pasta with garlic, olive oil, and chili") and watch the locals as they communicate theatrically.

How to get around

The city is best experienced by foot. Top highlights in the historic center are all just a few minutes' walk apart. Tired feet? Take the free Amat shuttle bus, which stops at the key sights in the center. For longer distances, Amat's city buses are the most affordable and eco-friendly option. Tickets can be purchased via the PalerMobilità app, or at the various tobacco shops, newsstands, and Amat kiosks.

Holy cannoli

For a sweet pit stop, visit I Segreti Del Chiostro ❸

Enjoy a cannolo among the orange trees in the monastery's lovely garden

(Via Discesa dei Giudici 33), a *pasticceria* ("pastry shop") inside the Santa Caterina Monastery, just steps from Pretoria Square ❷ with its famous fountain. The delicious pastries served at I Segreti Del Chiostro are all prepared according to once-secret recipes passed down from the older to younger nuns of the convent. Order a *cannolo*, a fried pastry shell filled with sweet ricotta cream, and enjoy it among the orange trees in the monastery's lovely garden.

PALERMO *by night*

WHEN THE SUN SETS, PALERMO SHIFTS GEARS. RESTAURANTS FILL UP, THE STREETS OF THE OLD CENTER COME ALIVE WITH CHATTER AND CLINKING GLASSES, AND THERE'S USUALLY A TABLE WAITING SOMEWHERE.



Massimo Theater ⑥



Aja Mola ⑥



Nightlife in Palermo



Hotel Wagner ⑦

Three fun activities

Joining a guided tour is a great way to get to know a city. The sunset food tour of Hili Travel takes you along several of the city's piazzas to snack on Sicilian specialties, such as *arancini*, rice balls filled with meat and/or veg, and *panelle*, fried chickpea fritters. Prefer to stay in one place? Try the wine tasting at Bottega Monteleone (Via Monteleone 10), a natural wine bar in an old garage, and taste wines from local makers, paired with delicious Sicilian bites. Feeling fancy? Wear your nicest clothes and attend an opera at Massimo Theater ⑥, Italy's largest opera house.

Dinner with a cause

From classic Sicilian dishes such as *pasta alla Norma*, pasta with eggplant sauce, to couscous and *maffè*, a

Senegalese peanut stew, the menu at Moltivolti (Via Giuseppe Mario Puglia, 21) reflects the background of the owners, a group from eight countries who aim to use food as a bridge between people and cultures. They do this with measures such as employing immigrants and refugees, and serving as a co-working space. Their social efforts resulted in a visit from the Dutch king and queen.

Pasta, pizza, and pesce

At Funnaco Pizza Lab (Via Pantelleria 19) you can choose from many different types of dough for your pizza base, including lactose- and gluten-free options. And Bisso (Via Maqueda 172A) has a good selection of traditional Sicilian dishes, including *busiate* pasta, a corkscrew-shaped variety typical of the island.

It's served with sea bass, caper and mint pesto, and sautéed artichokes. Fish restaurant Aja Mola ⑥ (Via dei Cassari 39) has great vibes, friendly service, and creative dishes, such as *pane, burro e alici*, a dessert of butter ice cream, crispy bread, and anchovies.

Italian dreams

If you feel like splurging, try Grand Hotel Wagner ⑦ (Via Riccardo Wagner 2). With antique furniture, rich carpets, chandeliers, old paintings, and a lovely bar and spa, this hotel exudes luxury. For those looking for a more intimate experience, boutique hotel Sui Tetti di Balarm (Piazza del Ponticello 7) is a great pick. It's located on the third and last floor of a beautiful 17th-century building in the historic center and has tastefully designed

rooms. If possible, book one with a panoramic terrace and outdoor Jacuzzi. Looking for smart value? Cortile dei Giusti (Vicolo San Carlo 28) offers affordable dormitories and private rooms, all refurbished and fully equipped. It has helpful staff and a top-notch location: close to all major sights, but in a quiet street away from the crowds.

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GUARDIAN ANGELS

With domestic economic pressures threatening the wildlife corridors in Kenya, locals are intervening. As a result, many lodges now help to protect these animal habitats while offering unique, refined stays.

Text Harriet Akinyi





Kenya



It's late morning in Kitenden Wildlife Corridor south of Amboseli National Park and the landscape feels unusually alive. The rains have arrived, painting the plains in rich shades of green. Our vehicle rolls over Elerai Conservancy's rough terrain, each bump a reminder of what Kenyans jokingly call the "African massage". We scan the horizon for wildlife but the drive is quiet. Paul, our guide, isn't concerned. "During the rainy season, there's water and food everywhere, so the animals spread out," he explains.

Eventually, we spot a tower of giraffes, one heavily pregnant, in the distance. In times of abundance, when the grass is thick and there's plenty of water, wildlife thrives, and with it comes new life. We're soon blessed with another encounter: a herd of elephants feeding quietly from an acacia tree. Elephants here move in tightly bonded family groups led by matriarchs whose memory and experience guide the herds across a fragile landscape. Years of poaching and increased human-wildlife conflict have shaped their behavior, making many herds cautious, alert, and deliberate in their movements. They stay closer together, relying on collective awareness to detect threats, while their routes increasingly weave between protected areas and human communities as they search for water and pasture. But these movements rely on wildlife corridors, designated pathways – or strips of natural habitat – that connect separate wildlife areas, allowing animals to move safely between them to access food, water, and places to breed. Across the Amboseli system, expanding settlements, farms, roads, and unplanned developments are steadily shrinking the land that elephants and other wildlife have relied on for generations. This makes conflict between wildlife and human communities inevitable. Elephants, known for their vast roaming patterns, often stray into farms, destroying crops and threatening livelihoods, and lions sometimes come into contact with livestock. "Land demarcation is the main problem," explains Paul as we step out of the safari vehicle. "People sell their land and switch to farming, reducing space for wildlife and increasing conflict."

Elerai Conservancy came about because eight Maasai families living in Kajiado decided to lease their land for conservation, so that wildlife will continue to move unimpeded. The Elerai Camp lodge is built on part of that land and the camp operator pays rental fees, bed levies, and conservation fees to the community. In addition, the lodge employs locals and, through donations from guests, they offer scholarships, bursaries, clean water, and better roads. Furthermore, the locals gain direct revenue when guests from lodges visit their villages to experience traditional dances, crafts, and daily life. Staying in this lodge for three nights will allow you to fully immerse yourself in the experience while your visit directly benefits the local community. Apart from game drives and the cultural experience, I enjoy taking a guided bush walk with Paul. Every step reveals something new, from giraffe tracks in the red earth to mounds of termite hills rising from the ground; each one a bustling ecosystem teeming with life.

Conservation models

Across Kenya, several lodges prioritize corridor protection. At Kimana Sanctuary, Angama Amboseli Lodge safeguards a migration corridor linking Amboseli National Park with Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West. A direct three-hour shuttle ride takes me to Kimana from Nairobi. Once I arrive, my first order of business is a photography safari with guide Jeremy Lorinyo and conservation photographer Jay Supeyo. The landscape is intimate here. As we set out by 4x4, I'm captivated by the prominent acacia tree shadows breaking the golden light. "The lion population has increased tenfold over the past 20 years," says Lorinyo as we drive through the sanctuary. "In the past, lions were sometimes killed during Maasai initiation ceremonies. Traditions have changed with conservation awareness, and lion populations are recovering."

As we drive on, the conversation shifts to the giants that define this community-owned wildlife sanctuary. Established in 1966, Kimana not only forms part of a centuries-old migratory route used by elephants – and other wildlife – moving across the greater Amboseli ecosystem but has also long played a key role in securing »

Previous pages

Elephants in
Amboseli
National Park

Right page, top from left to right

Kimana Sanctuary,
Angama Amboseli
Lodge; Baby
monkey; walking
safari in Amboseli
National Park
Bottom Lion family
in Amboseli
National Park



THE RAINS HAVE ARRIVED,
PAINTING THE PLAINS IN RICH
SHADES OF GREEN





Above A ranger on the lookout in the Maasai Mara National Reserve
Right page Spotting zebras in Amboseli National Park

**LOCALS HAVE GROUPED PARCELS
OF FRAGMENTED LAND, ALLOWING
WILDLIFE TO MOVE FREELY**



**A HERD OF ELEPHANTS MOVES
WITH CALM PURPOSE,
FRAMED AGAINST KILIMANJARO**



dispersal areas beyond the national park boundaries. Kimana is owned by 844 Maasai families, and Angama Lodge operates through a long-term sub-lease agreement that ensures consistent lease income flows directly to these landowners. Angama partners with the Big Life Foundation, and this supports conservation, anti-poaching patrols, and corridor protection. We've stopped for a photo opportunity. A hush falls over the savanna as a herd of elephants moves with calm purpose, framed against the majestic white-and-grey Mount Kilimanjaro rising above the golden plains. "These elephants are monitored closely," explains Supeyo. "Rangers patrol the area regularly, keeping an eye out for threats such as poachers while also managing human-wildlife conflict."

Among the elephants that once roamed these lands was the late Craig, one of Africa's most iconic big tuskers, whose long, sweeping ivory nearly touched the ground. His presence drew global attention to Amboseli and underscored the importance of protecting such rare individuals. The sanctuary not only protects these animals but also ensures that their migratory corridors are secure while minimizing poaching and human-wildlife conflict. After an unforgettable morning tracking the elephants through the sanctuary's protected corridors, I return to my suite where the wild seems to follow me inside. Featuring colours that echo the surrounding landscape, the tented space is light-filled and airy, with floor-to-ceiling screened doors that blur the line between inside and out. One notable feature of the camp is that it's unfenced to allow wildlife to move in and out as they please.

Preserving the Maasai Mara corridors

After departing Angama Amboseli Lodge, I travel 100 km northwest by road, passing through rolling plains and small Maasai towns until I arrive at Nashulai Maasai Conservancy in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Here, through the community-owned Oldarpoi Wageni Camp, the conservancy works tirelessly to preserve vital wildlife corridors across the Mara, protecting routes that have existed for generations. On a game drive, the camp's CEO

and cofounder, Nelson Ole Reiyia, shares that, 50 years ago, few lodges existed in the Mara but more tourist establishments have since emerged, reducing space for wildlife. Internal migrations, such as the Loita migration of wildebeest and zebras, have almost disappeared. "The Mara needs conservation corridors, not more camps," he says as we drive through the vast conservancy. "We aim to balance tourism with ecological preservation and community benefits." Reiyia reveals that, over the years, the camp has evolved into a model of tourism for social change, blending conservation, education, and cultural preservation while securing critical wildlife corridors. "The community itself is the driving force," he stresses. "They've grouped fragmented parcels of land, removed fences, and created a dispersal area allowing wildlife to move freely between the Mara and surrounding conservancies." Nashulai Maasai shares borders with the Maasai Mara and neighboring community conservancies, such as Siana, Nabiosho, and Olkinyei.

After the game drive, I step into the camp's infinity pool. The water reflects the vast Mara sky above the seemingly endless plains. As I relax in such a wonderful environment, it's comforting to know that my stay here ultimately helps to support the positive work that Oldarpoi Wageni is doing locally. Apart from safeguarding the wildlife corridors, the camp preserves Maasai traditions through initiatives, such as the upcoming Stories Café, and offers employment to the locals. In addition, they've built a cultural training center that educates young leaders in hospitality, tour guiding, and community-based conservation; partnering with local and international institutions, including the University of Nairobi, Michigan State University, and the University of Toronto. Nashulai Maasai Conservancy aims to expand conservation efforts across the Greater Mara ecosystem in the future.

Around two hours from Oldarpoi Wageni Camp, I set off in another 4x4 across the Mara's rolling plains, weaving through open grasslands dotted with acacia trees with the occasional herd of antelope grazing in the distance. By the time I arrive at Kicheche Mara North Camp in the Mara North Conservancy, it feels like a sanctuary. After »

Top Jeep safari in Amboseli National Park with Mount Kilimanjaro in the background
Bottom from left to right Giraffes in Amboseli National Park; charming Elerai Camp Cottage; the Elerai Maasai

**I'M CAPTIVATED BY THE
ACACIA SHADOWS BREAKING
THE GOLDEN LIGHT**



Left page Sunset
in Amboseli
National Park

a short briefing from the general manager, I'm ushered to my tented suite – a beautifully understated space that blends seamlessly into the surrounding wilderness. Inside, it's surprisingly elegant with soft linens draped over a large bed, warm wooden furnishings, and subtle décor inspired by the Mara's earthy tones. A private veranda provides uninterrupted views of the plains, letting in the golden light and distant sounds of the wild, so that even indoors, I feel immersed in the landscape.

I sleep like a log, awakening early the next morning for another game drive. I head out with my tour guide, Jimmy Tinka, whose knowledge of Mara North is second to none. The game drive is rich and I manage to catch a glimpse of graceful giraffes browsing on acacia trees, and plains game including zebras, impalas, and topis scattered across the grasslands. I'm also lucky to see a pride of lions lounging under a shrub after a successful catch at night.

What makes Mara North special is its exclusivity: fewer vehicles mean more intimate sightings, allowing you to linger longer and absorb the rhythm of the wild. The conservancy is a wildlife corridor connecting animals from the Mara population to Loita Hills. We pause to watch a herd of elephants feeding beneath a lone acacia tree. Their movements are almost ceremonial, a testament to the conservancy's role in giving them space to thrive. Tinka shares the by now familiar story of local landowners uniting to protect these lands, leasing parts of them to the conservancy to ensure wildlife can roam freely while communities benefit from tourism revenue.

On my final morning, a simple yet satisfying spread awaits: freshly brewed coffee, tropical fruits, warm pastries, eggs, sausages, and toast laid out on a linen-draped table in the open. Around us, golden grasslands shimmer, dotted with the distant silhouettes of grazing wildlife under the rising sun. As we eat, I'm more aware than ever that there's no sound in the background except birdsong and the soft rustle of the savanna where an assortment of wildlife roams unrestricted. I'm pleased that my chosen path here, a true revelation, has contributed to keeping it that way. «



HARRIET AKINYI IS AN AWARD-WINNING TRAVEL JOURNALIST BASED IN NAIROBI. HERE ARE HER TIPS FOR KENYA'S WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.

To stay

Angama Amboseli Lodge

Angama Amboseli has just a handful of suites and feels like a front-row seat to one of Africa's most iconic wildlife landscapes. Built within the Kimana Sanctuary, it directly supports a critical wildlife corridor linking Amboseli National Park to the Chyulu Hills and Tsavo West National Parks, ensuring animals can move freely. Every stay contributes to conservation and community, from ranger patrols to land leases that keep this space wild. angama.com

Oldarpoi Wageni Camp

Set within Nashulai Conservancy, this camp sits along an important wildlife corridor, where animals move beyond the reserve. The tents open to sweeping views of the plains where zebras, antelopes, and (occasionally) elephants drift past. This camp works closely with local Maasai landowners to keep these dispersal areas open and free from fragmentation. oldarpoimaracamp.co.ke

Elerai Camp

Staying at the Elerai Camp lodge is an experience shaped as much by its setting as by its purpose. Tucked within a community-owned conservancy on the edge of Amboseli National Park, the camp offers uninterrupted views of Mount Kilimanjaro. The tents and cottages are designed to blend into the environment, offering comfort without taking away from the rawness of the bush. eleraicamp.com

To do

Wildlife corridor safari

A safari in a wildlife corridor offers far more than just a game drive. Most lodges offer a cultural village experience where guests can learn about, and participate in, the local life. It's important to dress modestly and ask for permission before taking photos.

Photography safari

If you're interested in storytelling through images, lodges such as Angama Amboseli offer tailored photography safaris.

Walking safari

You can also take guided walking safaris, stepping off the vehicle and into the landscape, giving you a different perspective on nature.

Night game drive

For the more adventurous, a night game drive (available in the conservancies) reveals another side to staying in the wild. This is your chance to see nocturnal wildlife such as genets, civets, and porcupines.

Bush dinners & sundowners

If you'd prefer something slower, bush dinners and sundowners offer unforgettable moments under the skies, often with wildlife moving in the distance.

Book this story



KLM operates a daily nonstop flight to Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Intl Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on klm.com.

Susan Bögels

“
**MINDFULNESS
 IS ABOUT
 RETURNING
 TO YOUR
 AUTHENTIC CORE**
 ”

As a professor in Family Mental Health, Dutch psychologist Susan Bögels teaches people how to use mindfulness as a tool to improve their relationships with others and with themselves. Text Marieke Verhoeven Photography Ester Gebuis

What's your definition of **mindfulness**? It's essentially a form of attention psychology, a way of consciously directing our attention to the present moment without judgment; or at least postponing our judgment about what we perceive. On average, 80% to 90% of our thoughts are irrelevant: they're often about the past and the future, not about the present moment. For example, if I'm going on holiday and I'm sitting on a plane, wondering what I need to do after I land and what I may have forgotten to pack, I'm not present in the moment. This is something we've partly lost in our busy society; mindfulness encourages us to rediscover that. It's also about remembering where you come from. You could even say that it's about returning to your authentic

core. That's why I think remembering is such a beautiful second definition.

But if you're remembering, you're not in the present anymore, are you? Yes you are. When I'm aware of what I'm thinking or remembering in this moment, I'm mindful about what's going on in the field of my awareness. For example, if I'm walking through an orchard and I smell apples, it can suddenly bring me back to a moment from my childhood when I picked an apple from a tree. That's what happens in consciousness: we can be in the present moment, but we can also travel back to earlier experiences. We generally don't have conscious memories from the first four years of our lives, but those years play a very important role in how the rest

of our life unfolds and how we perceive things. Children are very good at being in the present moment. And in that sense, mindfulness is really about regaining access to that beginner's mind: the mind of a child. Traveling back to earlier experiences also helps you remember where you come from and understand why you react in certain ways.

What sparked your interest in mindfulness and psychology? I recall being seven years old and seeing a movie in which a prisoner was tortured by being put in a cold cell. But as he meditated, it didn't affect him. I also recall observing a circus artist who was able to sit still in a small cage with his legs behind his head. I tried this myself; it was the beginning of a meditation practice. My fascination »



was about the flexibility and strength of the human mind and the intricate body-mind connection. Another defining factor was my father's anxiety. I was exposed to a lot of patterns of anxiety in my childhood. That's why, after my study in Psychology, I began researching social anxiety in adults. They were constantly monitoring other people's reactions and were looking at themselves through the eyes of others. I developed a treatment called "task concentration training" in which they were taught to focus their attention on the (social) task rather than on themselves. A British professor read the publication, and emailed me: "Isn't this the same as mindfulness?" I'd never heard the word before, but I studied the literature, started Vipassana meditation, and it felt like coming home.

Was this a eureka moment? You could say that. In the late 1990s, when I started the mindfulness research, mindfulness was not a common term yet. I initially developed a mindfulness training program for adults with social anxiety and noticed a lot of their patterns were anchored in childhood experiences. Later on, I started working in an



academic child and youth clinic, where most of the children typically have ADHD or autism. Their attention was often very scattered, and their behavior impulsive, and so I thought that mindfulness meditation could help them too. For their parents I developed a parallel mindful parenting training, as, in order to teach a child to be mindful, it's helpful for parents to be mindful too. With the UvA minds clinic that I started in the early 2000s, we became the first to integrate mindfulness in child and parent treatment.

You've written several books. What's your latest one about? The core purpose of *Parenting Ourselves* is learning how to become your own secure attachment figure. We're used to caring for others, our children, partners, parents, but we often forget to direct that care inward. Everyone has an inner parent, one with disciplining, nurturing, and guiding qualities. The first step is recognizing this and then understanding where it comes from and who in your life has contributed to it. After that, you can call on that inner parent when needed. I sometimes say: when you go on a date, reserve a table for three. Bring your inner parent along. Let it observe whether this is good for you or not. You can apply it to everything: work, relationships, and decisions. It's mostly that positive, caring voice that we don't listen to. It could be a voice that kindly tells you at night that you've worked enough and should go to sleep.

Do the stories we tell ourselves about our childhood help or harm us? That's a very good question. These stories can help us, but they can also trap us. They often become about "blaming and complaining". What really matters is that the underlying pain is acknowledged. So instead of saying, "I was neglected," you return to the actual feeling: "I was alone in a room and I was afraid." And you tell

“
**THE STORIES
WE TELL
OURSELVES
ABOUT OUR LIVES
CAN HELP US,
BUT ALSO
TRAP US**
”

that story from the vulnerable child you were at that time to your inner parent, who can respond: "I know, I was there. I couldn't help you then, but now I can." Then you enter an inner dialogue: "What do I need to feel safe now?" That's very different from simply repeating the story.

Do you have a practical mindfulness travel tip? Walking is very powerful. When you walk, you leave home and you become part of something bigger. That creates freedom and connection. Nature softens our attention and affects our thinking. After a long trip, before doing anything else, I suggest going for a walk. You can repeat, either in your head or out loud: "I am home. I have arrived." That helps you to ground yourself. «





Rijksoverheid

Welke souvenirs mag je wel en niet meenemen?

Wil je iets leuks meeterugnemen van je reis? Zoals een mooi sieraad, een lokale delicatessen of schelpen van het strand? Niet alles mag zomaar mee: soms moet je iets aangeven, een vergunning regelen of betalen je belasting. Vooral als je buiten de EU reist, gelden er andere regels. Bereid je goed voor, dan kun je zorgeloos nagenieten van je reis.

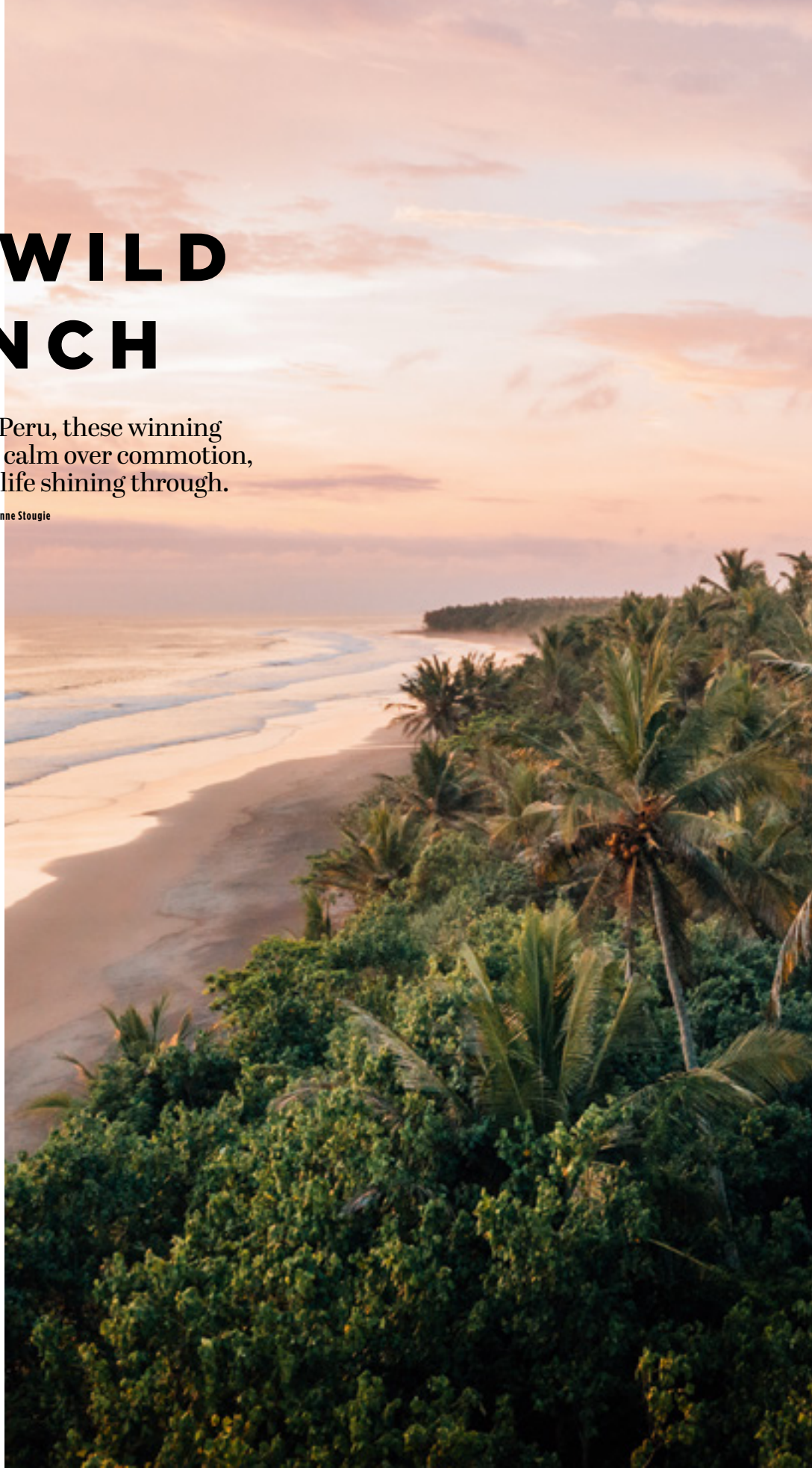


Ontdek het op douane.nl/bagage

THE WILD BUNCH

From Indonesia to Peru, these winning wilderness stays favor calm over commotion, with a love for local life shining through.

Text **Suzanne Stougie**





Bali, Indonesia

LOST LINDENBERG

Set along Bali's quieter west coast near Pekutatan, Lost Lindenberg greets its guests with a striking neon artwork by Tobias Rehberger. Beyond, eight elevated wooden suites are hidden between coconut palms and meticulously manicured jungle. At Lost, you'll happily forego the island's polished resort life for something slower and more elemental: days drifting from dips in the jungle pool to restorative forest walks and shared bonfire suppers. With a sustainability certificate from The GreenSign Institute and an education and surf program for local kids called The Lost Bunch, the resort keeps its footprint light. **Don't miss:** After your complimentary surf session, soothe sore muscles with a deep-tissue bamboo massage. thelindenberg.com



Midtøy, Norway

LILLØY LINDENBERG

On the private island of Midtøy north of Bergen, life is pared down to the essence: wind, water, and time. Lilløy Lindenberg is split into two properties: the main house, its rooms all timber and exposed beams, snug fabrics, and alluring art; and a playful mint-green boathouse right on the North Sea. There's little to do beyond what's outside the door: cold-water swims, slow walks along rocky shores, and cooking a meal on the Aga in the cozy communal kitchen. Alternatively, ask chef Antje de Vries to turn hand-harvested kelp into a sustainable supper. **Don't miss:** A wartime electricity station has been repurposed as a sauna, a sanctuary scented with local herbs, offering the chance – if you're lucky – to spot orcas in the distance. thelindenberg.com

Colca Valley, Peru

PUQIO

Stylish in its simplicity, the canvas canopies of Puqio's tented camp reflect the quarters of the Andean valley's explorers of yore. Each *carpa*, a variety of tent, comes with antique furnishings, a wood-burning stove, and even an exterior bathtub – perfect for daytime contemplation and nighttime stargazing. Evening meals are family-style feasts made the traditional way: over an open flame. A four-hour drive from Arequipa, Puqio's solitary setting is a hiker's dream – volcanic peaks and pre-Incan terraced fields give way to the dazzlingly deep Colca canyon, while the regal condor soars through the skies. **Don't miss:** Watch authentic alpaca textiles being woven in the nearby village of Chivay. puqio.pe



Ruhengeri, Rwanda

WILDERNESS BISATE LODGE

Overlooking the mist-shrouded Virunga Mountains, Bisate Lodge's six ultra-luxurious spherical forest villas mirror Rwanda's traditional, thatched King's Palace. Domed ceilings arch above dried and woven grass walls, crackling fireplaces, and bamboo balconies. Here, days center on guided gorilla treks – quiet, closely regulated encounters in the nearby rainforest – balanced by serene hours spent bird-watching, or enjoying a rejuvenating foot ritual at The Sanctuary spa. Bisate's reforestation projects, community initiatives, self-sufficiency, and sustainability combine to create a visionary way to travel, protecting and expanding the beautiful land. **Don't miss:** Plant a native tree with the lodge's reforestation team. It's a tangible contribution to restoring Rwanda's fragile forests.

wildernessdestinations.com







Fogo Island, Canada

FOGO ISLAND INN

On the rocky shores of Fogo Island, off the northeast coast of Newfoundland, the 29-room Fogo Island Inn forms a stark, sculptural, and deeply sustainable presence. Inside, floor-to-ceiling windows frame sea, snow, and sky, bringing the outside in, while wood stoves and colorful quilts – as well as a sauna and rooftop hot tubs – keep you cozy. Chef Timothy Charles uses local ingredients to cook up delightful dinners served under imaginative wildflower-inspired white chandeliers. Owned by the Shorefast charity, Fogo Island Inn provides employment for many locals and invests operating surpluses into the community. **Don't miss:** From boat building to berry picking and bird-watching, the inn's guided outings are led by local hosts. fogoislandinn.ca

MR MARVIS



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Play Every Day with the perfect shorts from MR MARVIS. This season, we're introducing The Short Weekenders: structured canvas shorts with a slightly shorter cut for a relaxed look. Familiar favourites like The Originals – we're celebrating their 10th anniversary this year – as well as The Short Terries return in new colours. Complete your look with our polos, shirts and T-shirts. Timeless design, made in Portugal. Shop now on mrmarvis.com or in our brand stores.



Welcome
on board



KLM NEWS

KLM House

NO. 86: TEYLERS MUSEUM



At Spaarne 16, in the center of Haarlem, you'll find the Teylers Museum, which showcases extraordinary items collected by the

museum's namesake, Pieter Teyler van der Hulst. A wealthy silk merchant and banker in his time, when he died, Van der Hulst left behind a fortune of 2 million guilders (about €80 million today) that was to be used to start a foundation in his name – its primary goal being to spread knowledge about subjects such as theology, the sciences, and the arts. The museum is central to the Teylers Foundation's efforts to achieve that goal. It's thought to be one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands, having been opened to the public in 1784, several years following Van der Hulst's death.

Mark Wagtendonk (left), Alamy (Teylers Museum)

Digital luggage tags

TAG, YOU'RE IT

THE ELECTRONIC BAGTAG ALLOWS PASSENGERS TO CHECK IN LUGGAGE WITHOUT HAVING TO WAIT FOR MANUALLY ATTACHED PAPER TAGS.

To make checking in your luggage even more convenient, KLM is expanding its electronic baggage tag support with BAGTAG, an app that enables passengers on most KLM flights to create digital tags that can be attached to their luggage instead of the usual paper tags. Created by a Dutch company, the BAGTAG app aims to speed up baggage drops and support sustainability goals by reducing the use of paper. Passengers generate a digital label in the app, send it to their BAGTAG device, and attach the device to their luggage. Compatible devices include first-generation BAGTAGs, BagID,



the battery-less BAGTAG, and RIMOWA suitcases, which feature similar built-in technology.

bagtag.com/klm

Ask the expert



**Who
decides
what music
is played
when
passengers
board the
plane**



KLM IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT
MANAGER LARS VAN
STRATEN EXPLAINS.

Do you feel a slight shift in your mood when you board a plane? Chances are it has to do with the music you hear when you enter the cabin. "Passengers might not know that KLM flight attendants pick the music," Van Straten says. "They can choose from three playlists: easy, medium, or up-tempo. Every list is compiled to suit the mood of the flight. For example, if you board an evening flight, you'll probably hear the easy playlist, which has a mellow vibe. What's more, all of our playlists can be found on Spotify, and often feature upcoming talent."

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

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KLM NEWS

Memorable flight

"I'm grateful to the special-assistance staff"

VIJAYA ARULAMPALAM WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE SMOOTHNESS OF HER TRAVELS FROM MALAYSIA TO CANADA.



I was slightly nervous before starting my journey in May last year from Malaysia to Canada to visit my daughter in Winnipeg. My trip coincided with my 70th birthday and my granddaughter's 9th birthday. Before arriving in Canada, I traveled to several destinations, from Ipoh in Malaysia to Singapore, Amsterdam, Florence, Stockholm, Keflavik, Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto, and

Copenhagen. I returned to Malaysia in September, with a few more detours. As a 70-year-old with her fair share of mobility issues, I'd expected some trouble along the way, having read about delays and lost luggage. I began my journey with an elbow crutch and ended it with a walker. Despite this extra luggage, everything arrived intact at Ipoh airport, where I ended my journey. I'm grateful to the

special-assistance staff at various airports for their courteous service. I also commend the KLM cabin crew on my flights from Singapore to Florence, and on to Stockholm. They were attentive and helpful. If I travel to Europe again, I'd like to do it with KLM.

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*.

Now available

THE WORLD'S BEST CHEESE

Beemster® Royaal Grand Cru is available to taste in World Business Class from July to October. The cheese, which is made in the Beemster polder in North Holland, was named the world's best at the 2026 World Championship Cheese Contest in Wisconsin in the US. It outperformed more than



3,000 cheeses from 25 countries, with a final score of 98.86. This recognition highlights the strength of a local cooperative, where farmers and cheesemakers work closely to create exceptional cheese. From high-quality milk to careful maturation, every step matters. Rich, layered, and full of character, Beemster® Royaal Grand Cru has a distinctive taste, and is a reminder that real cheese is crafted with care and dedication. This is a proud moment for Beemster Cheese and for KLM, which has been a partner of Beemster for the past 10 years.

Health

FIT FOR FLYING

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

Walk around: To promote healthy blood flow in the legs and feet, go for a walk at least every two hours.

Knee lifts: While seated, alternate lifting your knees so each foot comes up from the floor.

Heel/toe rotations: While seated, lift and rotate your heels while keeping your toes on the floor. Then, lift and rotate your toes while keeping your heels on the floor.

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

TRAVEL WELL



The Aviation Challenge

IMPROVING TOGETHER

FOR THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE AVIATION CHALLENGE, KLM AND KENYA AIRWAYS JOINED FORCES FOR A SPECIAL COLLABORATION THAT PUT SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF EVERY DECISION.

What happens when you ask a group of airlines to carry out the most sustainable flight possible? KLM presented this idea to the SkyTeam airline alliance a few years ago – today, that concept has evolved into The Aviation Challenge, which is underway for the fifth time this year. “The idea behind the friendly competition is simple: to exchange knowledge, and work on a more sustainable aviation industry together,” says Bas de Glopper, KLM Program Manager: The Aviation Challenge and Sustainability Engagement. “Every participating airline is expected to operate short-, medium-, or long-haul flights as sustainably as possible, to destinations that are part of their network. Airlines can win awards in several categories, such as for the lowest CO₂ emissions, innovation, or for the transparent knowledge exchange among participants.”

A meeting of minds

Through this collaboration and the challenge, De Glopper connected with Wakina Mutembei, Senior Manager: Action and Sustainability at Kenya Airways. “Kenya Airways made great progress during the 2024 challenge and was a clear choice for KLM to collaborate with,” De Glopper says.

“Reducing our CO₂ emissions has been very important to us,” Mutembei says. “We were pleased when KLM approached us to collaborate. I’ve met Bas a few times at The Aviation Challenge Awards, and during our most recent meeting, we discussed how KLM

and Kenya Airways could help each other reach our emissions-reduction goals.” That was the beginning of an information exchange.

“First, we had to figure out where we needed to make adjustments,” Mutembei says. “Each of us met with different departments and came up with a game plan.” The meetings resulted in more than 30 people from various departments sharing their knowledge over the course of five Teams meetings,

“When it comes to recycling, Kenya Airways has made some impressive strides”

on everything from inflight catering, exterior washing, and digital knowledge to communication, ground handling, and flight operations.

Shared insights

The collaboration between KLM and Kenya Airways not only resulted in a Special Recognition honor at the most recent Aviation Challenge Awards but also gave both airlines valuable takeaways on how they might improve in the future. “KLM had some useful insights on aircraft washing,” Mutembei says. “They work with a semi-dry wash method, which saves a lot of water. Their communication around SAF [alternative aviation fuel] was also educational, as

our recent research has shown that our passengers are interested in adding SAF to their journey – this resulted in an SAF plant being built in Nairobi as we speak.” Kenya Airways shared interesting points on catering. “When it comes to recycling, Kenya Airways has made some impressive strides, such as using reusable cups, reflecting their commitment to waste reduction,” De Glopper says.

Will there be more knowledge exchange in the future? “I hope so,” he adds. “I wouldn’t mind a sit-down with Scandinavian Airlines, as I’d like to do a deep dive into their de-icing methods. That’s what this competition is all about in the end: learning from each other.”



Wakina Mutembei, Senior Manager: Action and Sustainability at Kenya Airways (left), and Bas de Glopper, Program Manager: The Aviation Challenge and Sustainability Engagement at KLM

Left page Recycling on board Kenya Airways (top left); KLM and Kenya Airways received a Special Recognition honor at The Aviation Challenge Awards (top right); aircraft washing at KLM (bottom right)

KLM FLEET

Specifications

POWER TRIP



Until July 12, 2019, the GE90-115B engines used on the Boeing 777-300ER held the Guinness World Record for the most powerful commercial aircraft jet engine. They achieved 127,900 lbf, or about 569 kN, of thrust during testing.



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



Boeing 737-800/700

Number of aircraft: 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 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



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



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



Boeing 787-10/9 Dreamliner

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



Boeing 737-900

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



Embraer 195-E2

Number of aircraft: 25
Cruising speed (km/h): 876
Range (km): 4,815
Max. take-off weight (kg): 56,700
Maximum passengers: 136
Total length (m): 41.5
Wingspan (m): 35.12

A321neo

ENGINEERED EFFICIENCY

“This is the rear of an engine belonging to an Airbus A321neo,” explains KLM Aircraft Mechanic Ferry Veldhuizen. “KLM’s A321neo is powered by CFM International LEAP-1A engines. I find it quite interesting that the abbreviation ‘neo’ stands for ‘new engine option’. KLM selected the LEAP-1A engine because of its reduced emissions, high efficiency, and lower fuel consumption. From the rear, hot exhaust gases leave the engine core at high speed, generating part of the engine’s

thrust. However, an even larger volume of air – about 11 times as much air as passes through the engine core – flows around the core via the large fan and bypass section. This bypass airflow generates most of the engine’s thrust, while also significantly reducing fuel consumption, noise, and emissions. Combined with its advanced modern design, the LEAP-1A engine helps to make the A321neo quieter, cleaner, and more fuel-efficient than previous generations of Airbus aircraft.”

TRAVELERS



Geliana, Gaella & Gentil



“I don’t like to travel anywhere without my girls”

GELIANA, GAELLA AND GENTIL
MWENGULA TRAVELING
TO KIGALI ON FLIGHT KL0539

Reason for travel? Gentil: “We’re on our way to Centurion in South Africa; it’s between Pretoria and Johannesburg. We’re going to visit my brothers and sisters, and we’ll be there for two weeks. It will also be a holiday for us as we make our way down from Kigali.”

Geliana: “We used to live there. I’m surprising my best friend. She doesn’t know when we’re coming.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Gentil: “I’d like to see more of Canada – Ottawa, in particular.”

Geliana: “Montreal was my favorite. But I really liked Toronto, too. If I could choose one more place, I’d want to see the beaches in Cape Town.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Gentil: “I don’t like to travel anywhere without my girls, so it would be them. Traveling with relatives feels like a safe option, as you know each other well. I’d like to show the girls some more of the world.”

Maxime

MAXIME DEN HOUDIJKER
TRAVELING TO LONDON
ON FLIGHT KL1011

Reason for travel? “I’m traveling to London on business. I work in the hospitality sector – I’m the assistant director of sales for Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam, a luxury hotel. This isn’t my first visit; I travel to London about five times a year. It’s become one of my favorite cities. I like it because every neighborhood has its own character.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

“A trip to Japan, not just to experience its culture, but for the food. The cuisine is supposed to be incredible. So I wouldn’t say no to a plane ticket to Tokyo, to experience all that Japan has to taste!”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit

next to? “My mother is quite curious and loves to hear about my travels. My father is pretty happy to be in the Netherlands, or to travel by car and stay a little closer to home. I’d love to take my mother along with me on my trips.”



Maartje & Brigitte

MAARTJE KAMPMAN & BRIGITTE
VAN DRIEL TRAVELING TO SAN
FRANCISCO ON FLIGHT KL0605

Reason for travel? Maartje: “We’re visiting an American exchange student who lived with us in the Netherlands for a while. This was years ago, but he visited us last year, so now we’re traveling to San Francisco to visit him. He’ll be showing us around Palm Springs, where he lives, but we’ll also visit places such as Yosemite National Park. We can’t wait!”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Brigitte: “Australia. I’d love to hire a camper van and just drive around; I’d love to see as much as possible.”
Maartje: “Hawaii. I’d like to visit Pearl Harbor and learn more about its history.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit

next to? Maartje: “My partner. He knows exactly what I like when we’re traveling, so I’d be comfortable.”
Brigitte: “I’d also choose my husband, for the same reason, or my daughter, as we enjoy going on trips together.”

Enjoy every Mile of your journey



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*Terms and conditions apply.



My Miles



“The fun started when I received my amenity kit”

BÜLENT YÜKSEL'S VACATION GOT OFF TO THE PERFECT START WHEN HE USED HIS MILES FOR AN UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS.

Some time ago, while booking my flight to Bangkok for a well-deserved vacation in Thailand, I discovered that I'd accumulated quite a few Miles. I'm fairly tall, and airplane seats often feel a little uncomfortable, so I decided to use my Miles for an upgrade to Business Class. I was incredibly impressed with the experience. The fun started when I received an amenity kit designed

by luxury brand Viktor&Rolf, and it continued when I opened the elaborate menu to choose my meal. But my enjoyment didn't end there. Later, I was able to recline my seat completely in my own nook and get some sleep. The entire flight went by very quickly and it was a fantastic way to start my vacation.

My favorite experience in Bangkok was traveling on the BTS Skytrain,

the elevated rapid transport system that connects much of the capital. It offers a fabulous view of the city, particularly in the evening, when you can see Bangkok in all its well-lit glory as you ride between the huge skyscrapers.

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*.



Bangkok

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Sign up now! With Hertz, you can use your Flying Blue Miles to book car rentals. Join Flying Blue for free and use your Miles for reward flights, hotel stays, airport lounge access, and more. For more info: flyingblue.com.



ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT



**Mabel transfers
her consciousness into
a robotic beaver**

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LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

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Our pick



JUMPERS

The yearning to communicate with the animal kingdom (think *Dr. Dolittle*) and the conflict between man and nature (*Avatar*) are well-known tropes, and writer-director Daniel Chong leans on them to great effect in *Jumpers* (also called *Hoppers*). The story follows Mabel Tanaka (voiced by Piper Curda), a teenager who transfers her consciousness into a robotic beaver to connect with the animals living in a threatened forest tied to her family's past. Curda gives Mabel warmth and determination, making her easy to root for. *Jumpers* is an uplifting family story with plenty of charm.

Animation, 1h44min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



Free Guy

Comedy, 1h55min

When bank teller Guy (Ryan Reynolds) meets software developer and player Millie Rusk (Jodie Comer), he discovers that he's actually a non-player character in the popular video game *Free City*. This revelation changes his role in the game entirely.



Mickey 17

Sci-fi, 2h17min

To escape from a loan shark, Mickey (Robert Pattinson) and his friend Timo (Steven Yeun) board a spaceship going to ice planet Niflheim. Mickey signs up as an Expendable, a disposable crew member sent on deadly missions and "reprinted" as a new clone each time he dies.



The Help

Period drama, 2h26min

When aspiring writer Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan (Emma Stone) returns to Mississippi, she's appalled by the treatment of Black maids there. By interviewing Minny Jackson (Octavia Spencer) and Aibileen Clark (Viola Davis), Skeeter tries to reveal the truth about the racism they face.

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

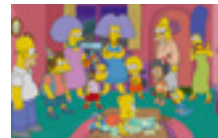
IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM...



Modern Family

Sitcom, 22min

In Season 10 of the popular sitcom, Phil (Ty Burrell) explores an exciting new career, while Claire (Julie Bowen) and Jay (Ed O'Neill) deal with a merger. Meanwhile, Haley (Sarah Hyland) reconnects with Dylan (Reid Ewing) as she considers her future.



The Simpsons

Comedy, 22min

Season 36 begins with "Bart's Birthday", a fake series finale hosted by Conan O'Brien. As Bart turns 11, he becomes aware of strange changes around Springfield, including Mr. Burns' death and Principal Skinner's departure, and tries to stop the show from ending.



Walking with Dinosaurs

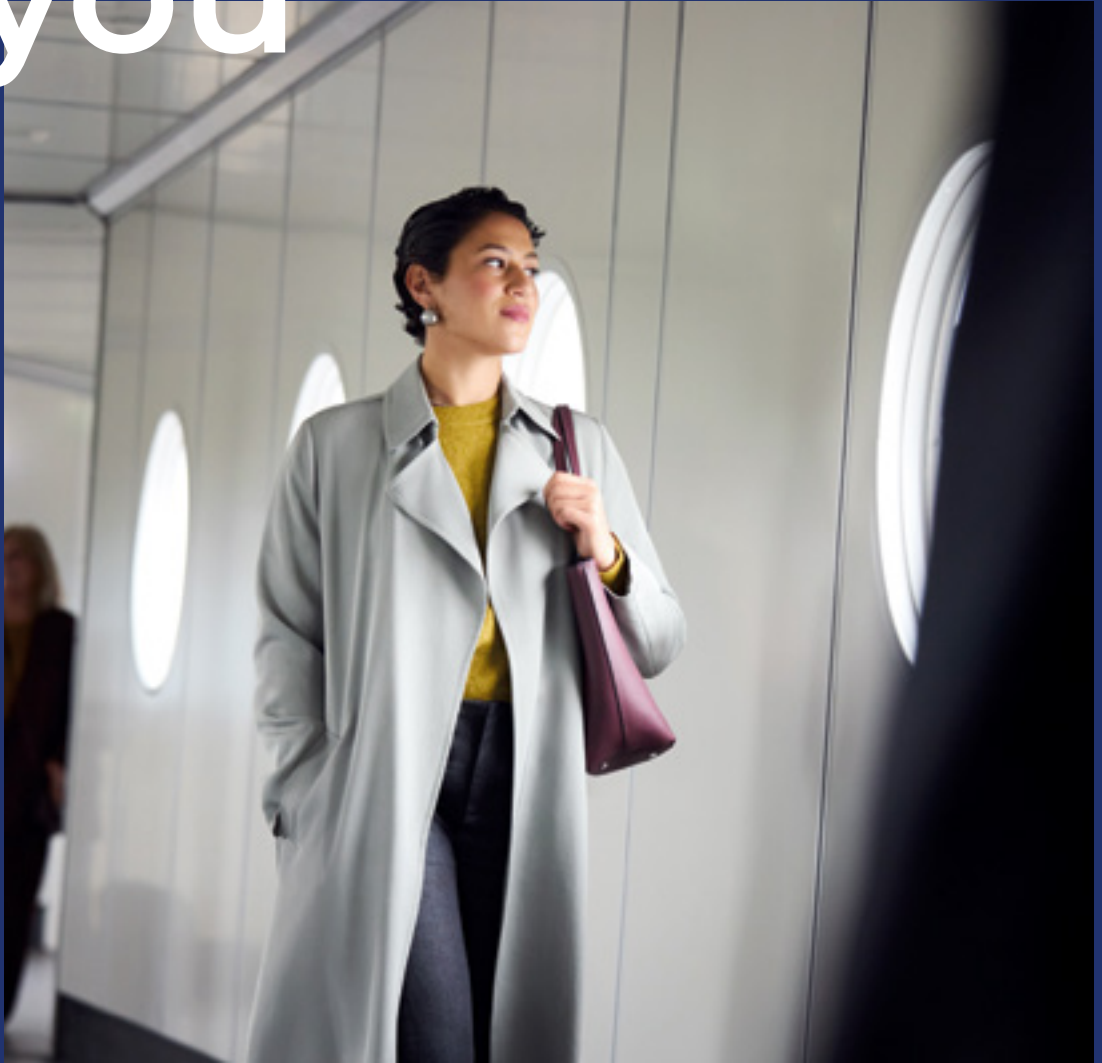
Documentary, 48min

In this 2025 reimagining of the iconic series, world-leading paleontologists uncover dinosaur remains at dig sites around the world, using the fossils to piece together dinosaurs' struggles, lives, behaviors, and environments.

The priority is you

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SKYTEAM

Alliance commitment

TAKING A STAND AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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



As a global airline alliance that connects millions of passengers, SkyTeam recognizes its responsibility and opportunity to act.

Our declaration

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

Survivor Support. Member airlines have been individually taking steps to combat human trafficking for years. Now, these actions are coming together under SkyTeam's unified initiative – scaling proven approaches to enhance impact across all member airlines.

Shared responsibility

According to the International Organization for Migration, nearly 80% of international trafficking journeys pass through official checkpoints, such as airports. This makes airlines and airports critical points for potential intervention.

SkyTeam's alliance-wide program focuses on training staff, raising awareness, sharing best practices, and building partnerships.

On the ground or in the air, passengers can also play a role by staying aware. Subtle signs of human trafficking may include travelers who appear uncomfortable or intimidated, seem unsure of their travel plans, or aren't in control of their documents or belongings. Allowing someone else to speak for them or showing signs of emotional or physical abuse can also be indicators.

There have been many cases where passengers helped prevent human trafficking. However, passengers should not intervene directly. If something doesn't feel right, the most effective step is to discreetly inform a member of the cabin crew or airport staff. Trained personnel can assess the situation and take appropriate action, often in coordination with law enforcement. Our alliance remains committed to driving change and making air travel safer for everyone. Together, we can help shine a light on a crime that too often remains in the dark.

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

HOUSE RULES

Electronics on board

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

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

Drinks and smoking

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

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

Privacy

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

Lithium batteries

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

Carry-on baggage at EU airports

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

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

Animal products

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

Airport shopping

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

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

Wi-Fi & free messaging

STAY IN TOUCH ON BOARD

Our ICA fleet has Wi-Fi and more and more of our European aircraft are being equipped with it. If your aircraft has a Wi-Fi logo on it, you can use Wi-Fi. Follow the instructions to the right. **Fast Wi-Fi is available to Flying Blue members for free on our Wi-Fi-enabled European aircraft.** On ICA as a Flying Blue member, you can send basic texts with our free message package. Non-members can enrol for free during the flight via the Onboard Portal. If you'd like to surf the Internet, send & receive emails, listen to music, use social media, or stream a film, you can buy a Wi-Fi pass for the full flight or 1 hour on ICA.



1

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



2

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



3

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

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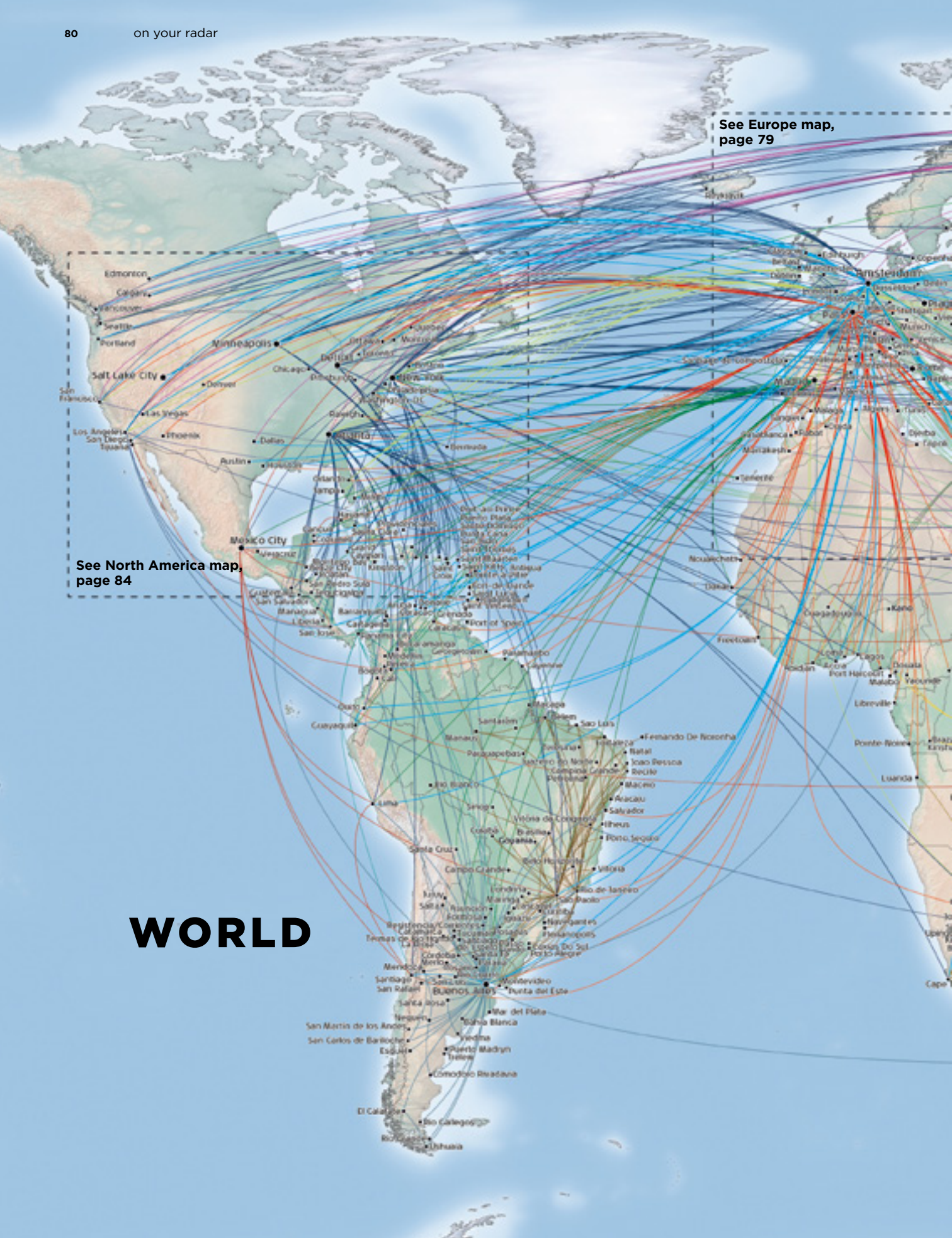
EUROPE

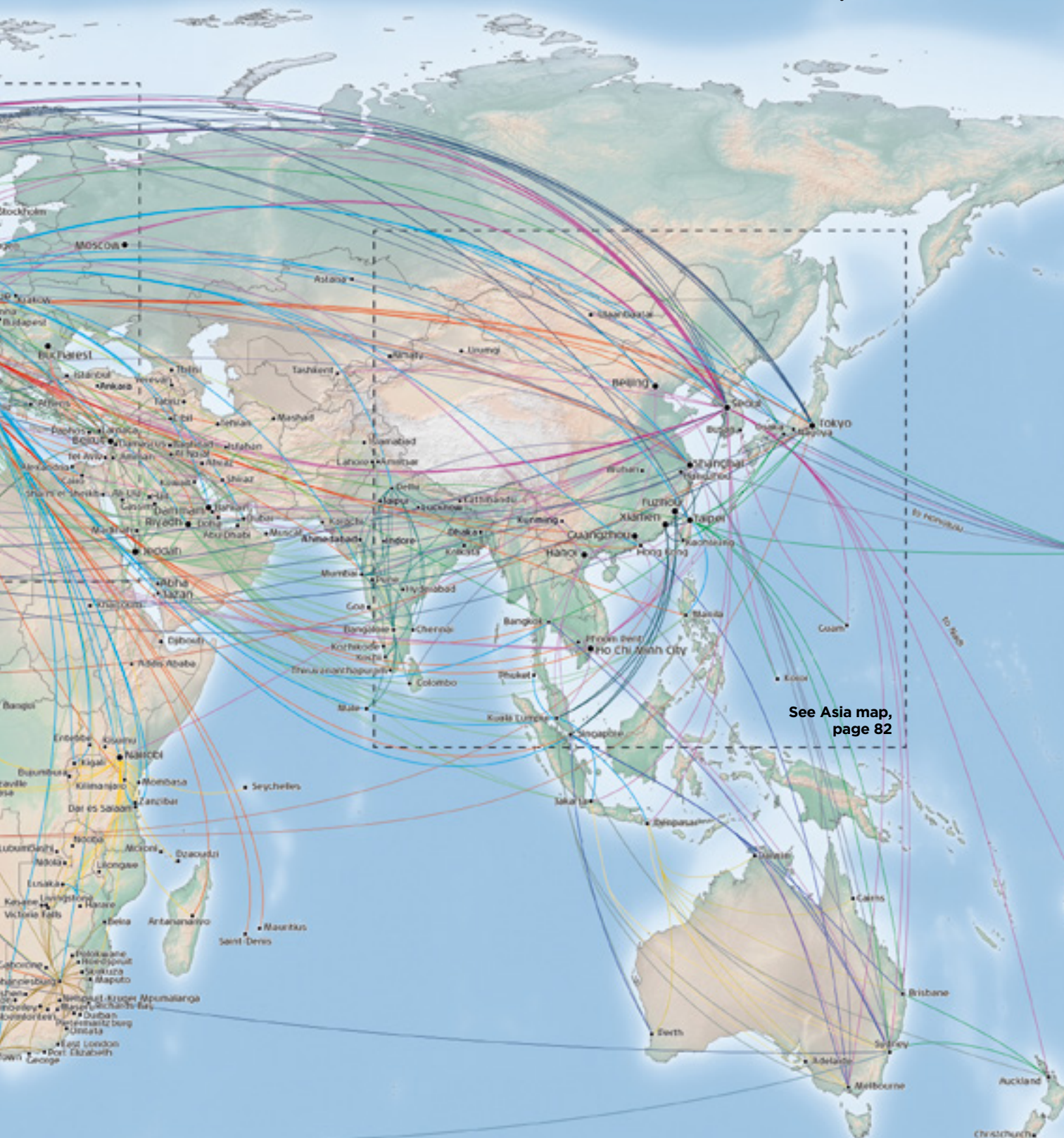


See Europe map,
page 79

See North America map,
page 84

WORLD





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



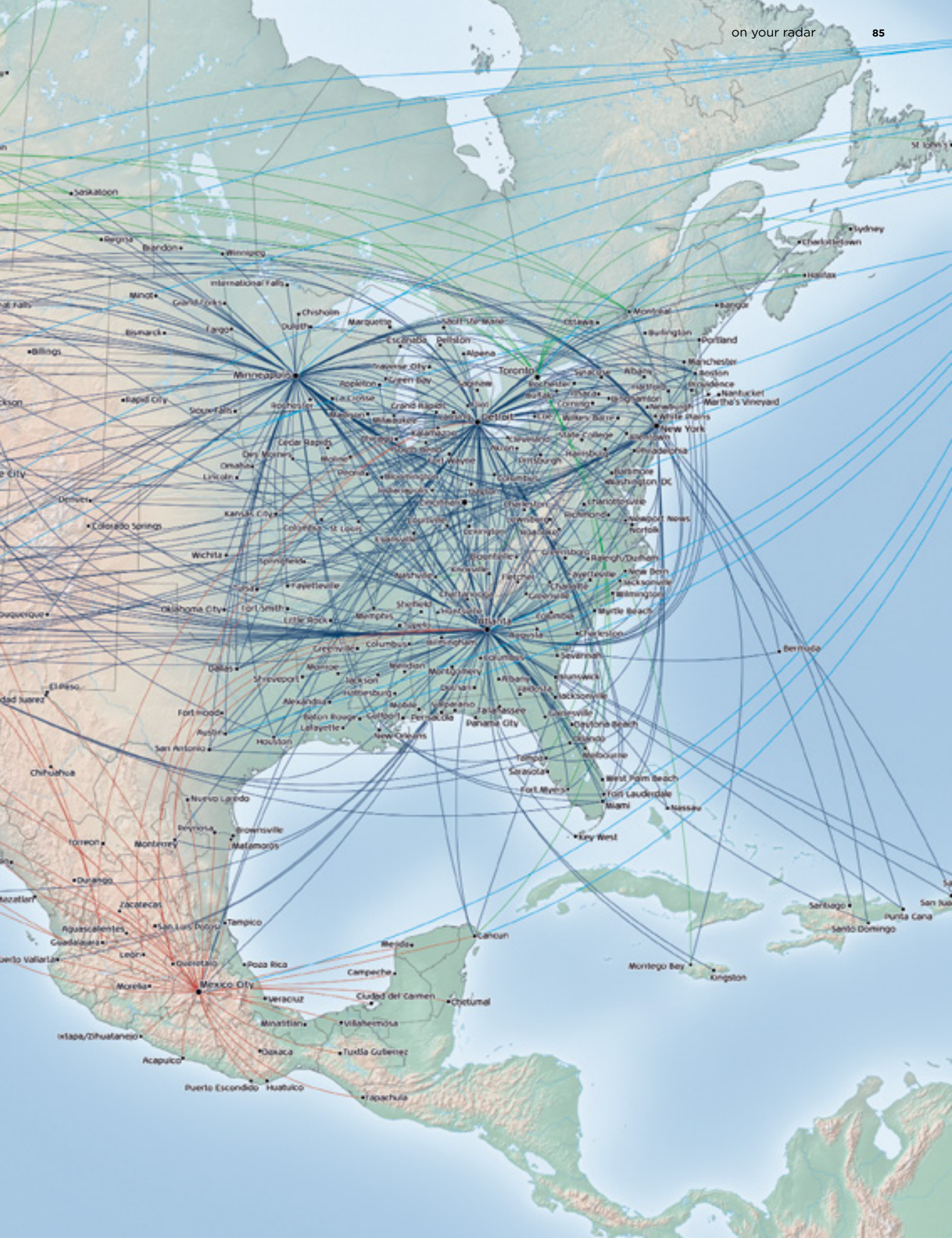


KLM routes, KLM
code-share routes
and other SkyTeam
destinations in
North America.

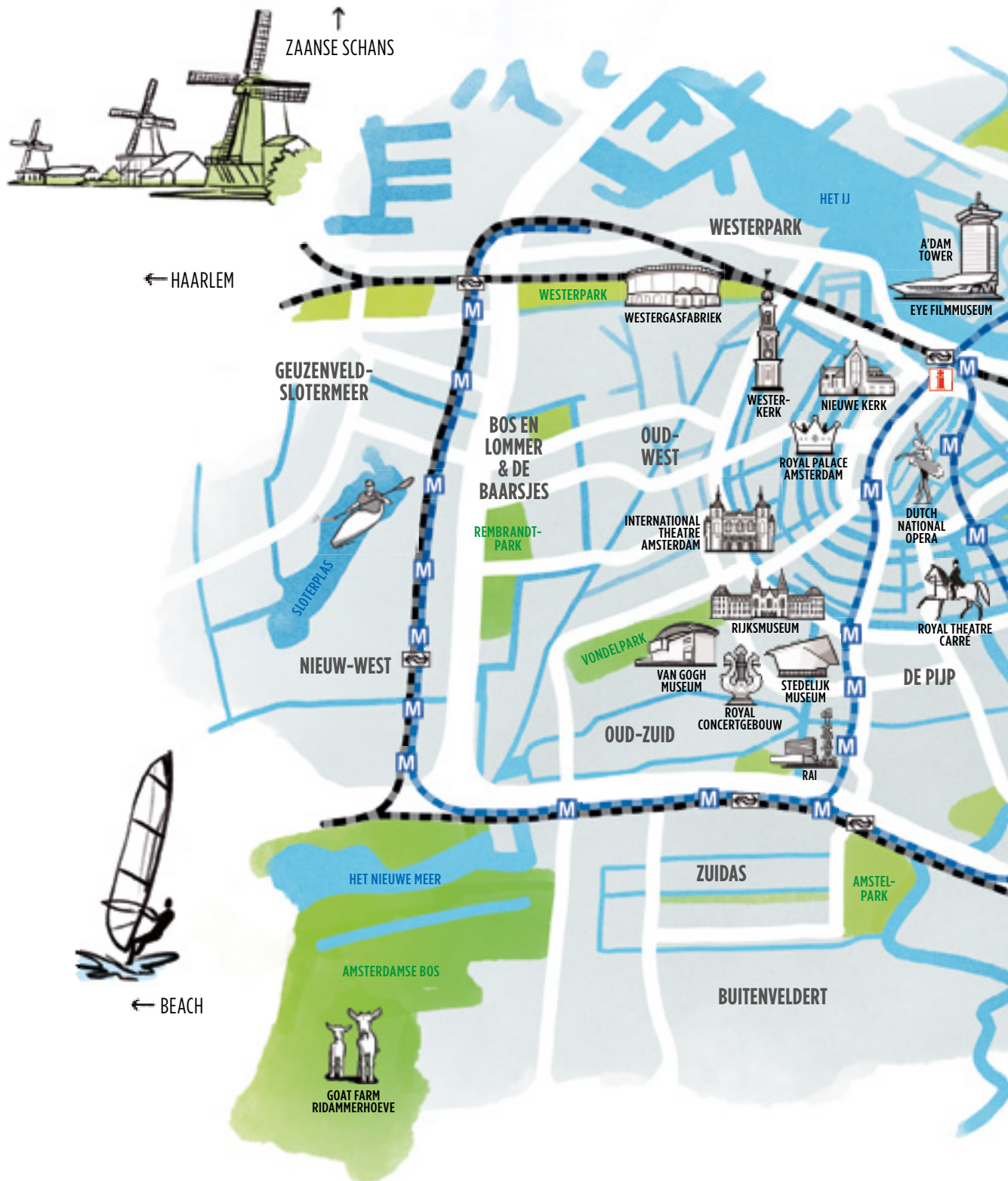
 SkyTeam member

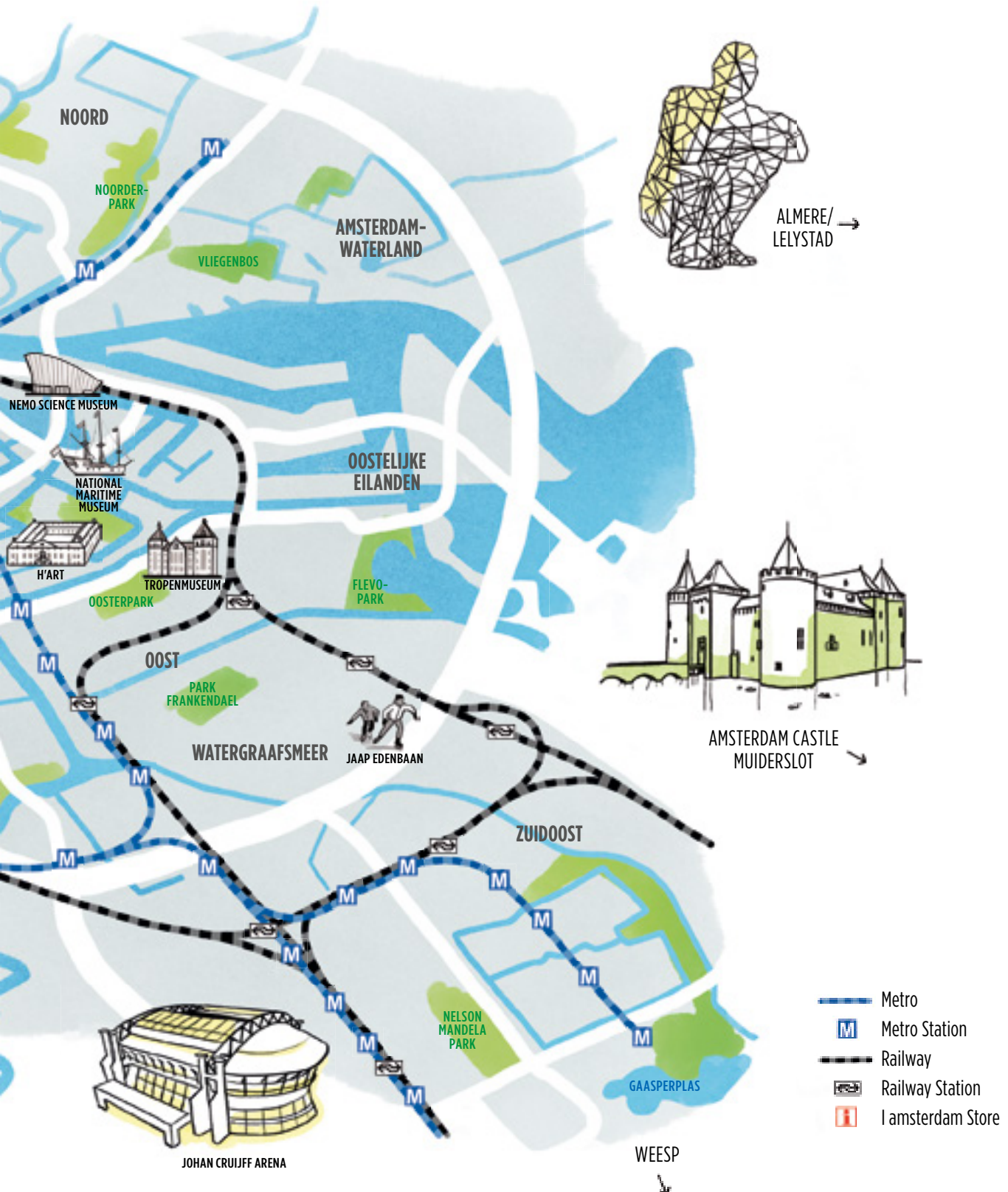
-  KLM
-  Aeroméxico
-  Delta Air Lines
-  WestJet

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



AMSTERDAM

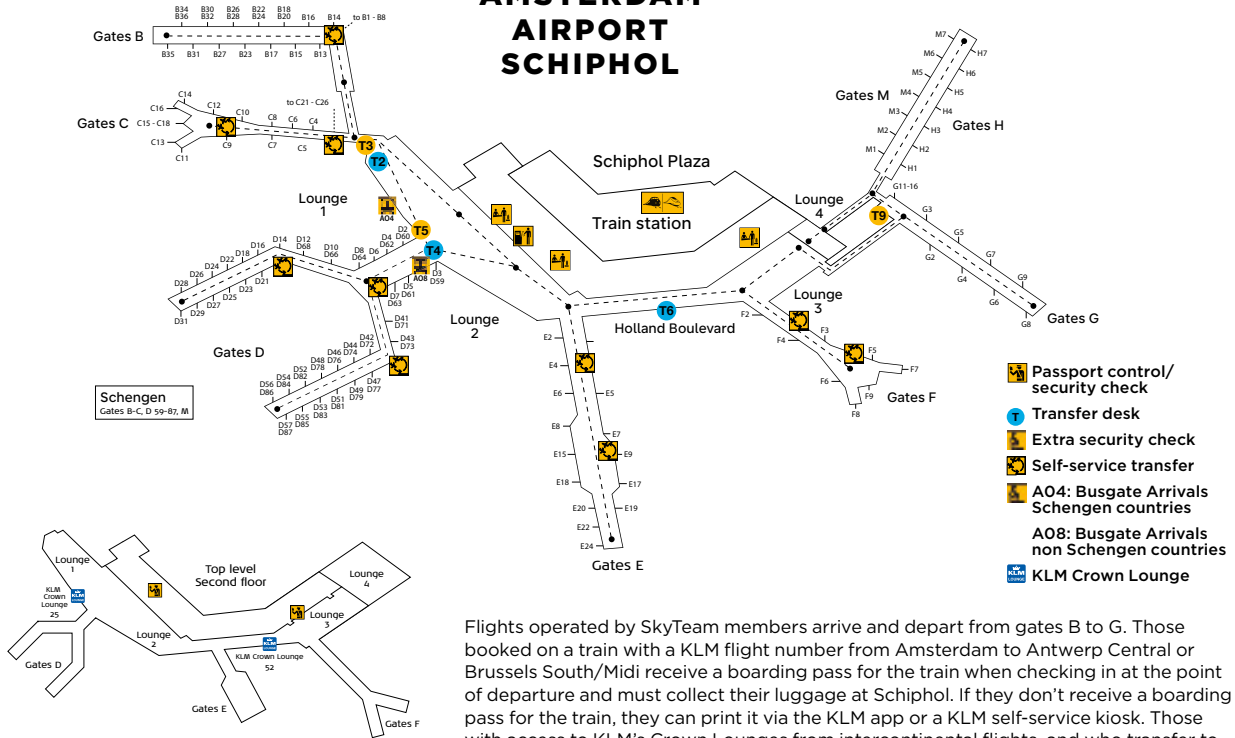




AIRPORT MAPS

The Netherlands

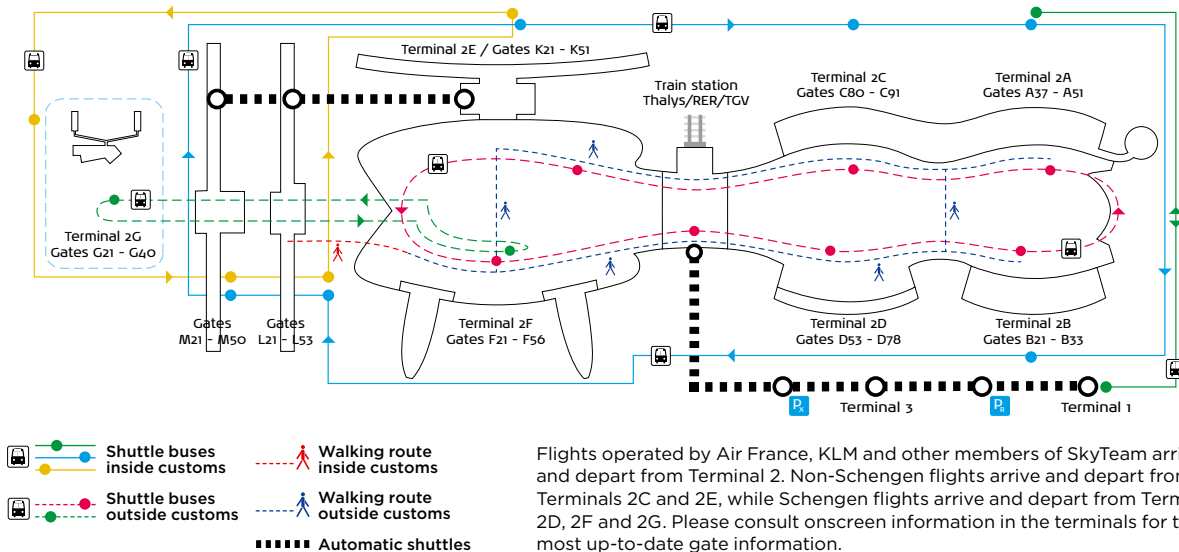
AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



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

France

PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL 2



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

OUT OF THE BLUE

Jasper Diepman

AS A FINANCE BUSINESS ANALYST: NETWORK AND ALLIANCES, JASPER DIEPMAN KEEPS A CLOSE EYE ON KLM'S ROUTES.

What does your job entail?

I mostly monitor our routes to see how well they perform in terms of cost and profitability. We try to optimize routes, and share our findings with other departments who make final decisions regarding the KLM network. I also discuss KLM's financial performance with our partner airlines.

Did you always want to work in the aviation industry? I've always had a love for aviation. I think the way it connects people who live in the most remote parts of the world and allows people to experience different cultures after traveling for only a few hours is magical. When I was young, I'd drag my parents to Twente Airport in Enschede to spot planes. I also made aircraft out of LEGO and named my fleet "Jasper Air" or "Jappie Airways". After studying international business and doing internships in finance, KLM was the only choice for me.

What's still on your travel bucket list? Hiking the Acatenango volcano in Guatemala or visiting Hong Kong for some incredible dim sum. As a wildlife enthusiast, exploring Namibia's natural landscapes with a four-wheel drive is also a must-do.



"KLM was the only choice for me"

ZANZIBAR



Beaches

One thing Zanzibar can boast about is its crystal-clear waters that create the perfect conditions for diving, snorkeling, or kitesurfing. Nungwi Beach is a diver's paradise, while kitesurfers should head to Paje Beach.

25°C

With an average temperature of between 25°C and 30°C during the day, which is considered on the cooler side for Zanzibar, and following its rainy season in April and May, July is the ideal time to visit the islands and enjoy all they have to offer.

Food

Dubbed "Spice Island", Zanzibar's historical role in the global spice trade shaped its culinary traditions. Spices are prominent in dishes such as Zanzibar pilau, a rice dish made with cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, and turmeric, and the coconut-based octopus curry.

19th

Stone Town, the old quarter of Zanzibar City, has a multicultural past of Arab, Indian, European, and African influences, which are evident in its coral-stone buildings – built during the 19th-century spice trade – carved wooden doors, and labyrinthine streets.

Queen

Queen's former frontman Freddie Mercury was born in Zanzibar in 1946. Though he rarely spoke about his upbringing there, a lucrative tourist trade has developed in his birthplace. The singer's childhood home was even converted into the Freddie Mercury Museum.

50

Often mistaken as an island, Zanzibar is in fact an archipelago that consists of over 50 islands. The two largest are Unguja, better known as Zanzibar Island, and Pemba, to the north. The most well-known smaller islands are Mnemba, Chumbe, and Chapwani.



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