

SEPTEMBER 2026 • LITERARY LANDSCAPES • BLOOMING BOGOTÁ • QUEEN OF DUTCH
DESIGN SABINE MARCELIS • A GUIDE TO HAMBURG • KLM INSIDER STORIES & UPDATES

HOLLAND HERALD

*"Smile with face,
smile with mind, and
good energy will come"*

KETUT LIYER, THE BALINESE HEALER IN THE BOOK *EAT, PRAY, LOVE*

YOUR FREE COPY TO TAKE HOME

Summer in September.



Big Green Egg®

Welcome

Marjan Rintel

WHERE GREEN SPACES INSPIRE NEW JOURNEYS



Cover Story

Bali, Indonesia, is where author Elizabeth Gilbert seeks balance in her popular memoir *Eat, Pray, Love*. We feature this emerald paradise in our Happy Places article (p. 52), which takes you to the spectacular landscapes around the world where some famous books were set.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the transition from summer to autumn brings a unique energy. As we settle back into our routines, it's reassuring to know that green oases remain within reach. Here, the Dutch find space to recharge – cycling along dedicated lanes and through parks.

That same mindset can be found across the globe. In Colombia, correspondent Ynske Boersma guides us through Bogotá (p. 38). Every Sunday, around 120 km of main roads are closed to traffic, and the city transforms into a huge urban park where millions of residents cycle, skate, and walk. And in Medellín, green corridors provide vital cooling in response to rising temperatures, showing how urban design can work in harmony with nature.

This balance between the built environment and the natural world is also reflected in the work of Dutch designer Sabine Marcelis (p. 26). Known for her refined use of light and materials, she's now using bio-based resin – demonstrating how innovation and sustainability can be combined. It's this kind of thinking that also shapes the way KLM continues to connect people worldwide.

“We believe that traveling is about connecting with people, cultures, and nature”

This year, we celebrate 60 years of KLM Cityhopper (p. 64) – a key part of our European network. With our newer Embraer 195-E2s, we're taking important steps forward: these aircraft are quieter, cleaner, and more fuel-efficient than the previous generation, and connect you with your next green getaway such as Hamburg (p. 36), one of Europe's greenest cities with its Feldstrasse bunker rooftop garden, and Stockholm (p. 24) where nature is never far away.

While our aircraft continue to evolve, it's the experience on board that defines every journey. KLM was honored with the APEX Award for Best Cabin Service in Europe (p. 61) – a recognition of the care and dedication our colleagues would like to bring you on each trip.

We hope this edition inspires you to discover your own green getaways. At KLM, we believe that traveling the world is about connecting with people, cultures, and nature, rather than simply collecting destinations. It allows us to see the world differently – and to better understand it.

Welcome aboard

Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO



JOEMERINO.COM

Luxury Merino Wool Essentials for Men



TRAVEL OVERSHIRT



TRAVEL PANTS



TRAVEL VEST

TRAVEL SHORTS

TECH WOOL

61% Merino wool
34% recycled polyamide
5% elastane

SCAN FOR
TRAVEL
COLLECTION



JOE TRAVEL COLLECTION DESIGNED TO MOVE

The Joe Travel Collection strikes the exact right balance: elegant, easy to wear and fit for purpose. Designed specifically for the man on the move, no matter how long the trip. From going to the shop around the corner to long-haul flights. Made of our new tech wool, which is a one-of-a-kind blend of 61% Merino wool, 34% recycled polyamide and 5% elastane. Merino wool is breathable and super comfortable. Add to that the recycled polyamide and elastane and you get a strong, stretchy fabric with a subtle shine. Fading? No way! Machine-washable? Of course. Available in 4 colours and 5 styles. All perfect for mixing and matching.

Order at joemerino.com or come to one of our stores. Shipping and returns are on us (within the EU).

AMSTERDAM
Kerkstraat 167-171

ANTWERPEN
Steenhouwersvest 57

DEN HAAG
Coming soon

DÜSSELDORF
Kasernenstraße 14



September 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

8

Through Your Lens

A courtyard in **New Delhi**
by Meijer Mijksenaar

13

The Selection

The latest & greatest
reasons to go exploring

14 – To See

16 – To Meet

17 – To Taste

19 – To Do

20 – To Wish For

22

Earth's Ambassador Freek Vonk

Dr. Vonk goes diving off
the coast of Mexico in search
of Humboldt squid

23

Bon Appétit

Try this striking and tasty sea
bass dish at **Zilte**, which is in
Antwerp's MAS Museum

24

Local Insider

CEO of fashion retailer Lager
157 Stefan Palm's **Stockholm**

26

Game Changer

We interviewed Dutch design star
Sabine Marcelis in Rotterdam

36

24 Hours

Your day & evening guide to
the hottest places in **Hamburg**

38

Around The Globe

Mystic nature, the *Ciclovía* open-streets
program, and amazing views: **Bogotá** is
Colombia's best-kept secret

48

Art Talk

Founder **Joop van Caldenborgh**
and Director **Suzanne Swarts** give the
lowdown on Museum Voorlinden

52

Happy Places

Spectacular landscapes
featured in famous books

60

On Your Radar

KLM & airline industry
information, personal
stories, and entertainment

61 – KLM News

64 – Travel Well

66 – Fleet

68 – Travelers

71 – Flying Blue

72 – Now on Board

75 – SkyTeam

76 – House Rules

79 – Maps

86 – Amsterdam Map

88 – Airport Maps

89 – Out of The Blue

90

Your Next Destination

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

Contributors

MEET THE TEAM



Marieke Verhoeven

As *Holland Herald's* Senior Editor, Marieke travels the globe for our feature interviews and is also responsible for The Selection pages (pp. 13–20). For this issue, she interviewed Dutch designer Sabine Marcelis (p. 26) and the heads of Museum Voorlinden (p. 48).

Marieke's travel tip: "Ibiza is no hidden gem, but to me, it's an island that remains irresistible for its vibrant mix of culture, nature, and wellness. With its communal energy, focus on operating in synergy with nature, and vinyl music bar, new hotel Nômade Temple Ibiza in Portinatx is a great example of this."



Marloes van Wijnen

Marloes is a freelance writer for Dutch magazines such as *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*. She loves to travel to new destinations and write about the highlights worth visiting. In this issue's Happy Places article (p. 52), Marloes dives into the locations where some famous books are set.

Marloes' travel tip: "Japan might be known for its cities, but don't forget to explore the country's rural areas too. The forests in the Ishikawa Prefecture were the highlight of my trip. I also loved Shirakawa-go, a village in Gifu Prefecture with pretty traditional wooden houses."



Ynske Boersma

Based in Bogotá, Dutch travel writer Ynske never tires of exploring Latin America. Always seeking lesser-known paths, she travels throughout the continent, contributing to renowned travel magazines. Ynske wrote the story about Colombia's capital (p. 38).

Ynske's travel tip: "I recommend Los Llanos, a region in eastern Colombia with endless savannas full of wildlife, where ecotourism combines wildlife conservation and cowboy culture. On a single day of my Llano Safari, I spotted countless capybaras, hungry caimans, hundreds of cows, an anaconda, and a jaguar."

Colophon

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

KLM Head of Content Marketing
Daphne Hoogenboom

Editorial Team
Content Director
Alexandra de Jong
Art Director
Karon Lastdrager
Chief Subeditor
Ben Clark
Subeditor/Proofreader
Maya Skillen

Senior Editor
Marieke Verhoeven
Photo Editor
Monique Kolmeijer
Content Creator
Anouk Bowman
Layout Designer
Anna Ciepiela
Contributors
Reinier van der Aart,
Adriaan Backer, Ester
Gebuis, Josta Rutten,
Mike van den Toorn,
Studio Tween, Bastiaan
Verweij, Freek Vonk,
Mark Wagtendonk,
Joanne Wiene, Monique
Wijbrands

Advertising Sales
Hearst Netherlands
Sr. Client Partner
Erik-Jan Sanders
+31 624 191 828
Erik.jan.sanders@hearst.nl

Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Ammerlaan

Portfolio Director
Bram Mullink
Finance Director
Pieter Heezemans
Chief Technology Officer
Remmert Bolderman
Production Management
Joyce van Onselen

Photo Director
Copyright & Syndication
Caroline Brugman

Published by
Hearst Netherlands
Moermanskade 500
1013 BC Amsterdam
The Netherlands
holland-herald@hearst.nl
holland-herald.com

Printed by
Senefelder Misset

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

Reproduction without written permission is prohibited. The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. The publisher has made every effort to arrange copyright in accordance with existing legislation. Those who feel that rights may apply to them can, in spite of this, contact the publisher.



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

KUNSTMUSEUM DEN HAAG

Kunstmuseum Den Haag
is the place for lovers of
modern & contemporary
art, fashion, photography
and design.

The museum holds the
world's largest collection
of works by Piet Mondrian,
a pioneer of abstract art.
The museum is housed
in a landmark Art Deco
building designed by the
influential Dutch architect
H.P. Berlage.

**You can find us
in The Hague.**

Easy to reach from
Schiphol by train
within 30 minutes.

Stadhouderslaan 41
2517 HV Den Haag



Scan the QR-code:
Reflections on Fashion
till 03 January 2027



Den Haag

VRIENDEN
LOTERIJ

THROUGH *your lens*

New Delhi
India



AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY

FOR PHOTOGRAPHER MEIJER MIJKSENAAR, NEW DELHI'S HISTORIC CENTER WAS A KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR.



In July last year, my job took me to New Delhi in India for 10 days. It was my third

visit to the country, and while work kept me busy during the week, I wanted to explore the capital a bit more. I was able to head into the city at the weekends,

specifically Old Delhi, the historic city center. It's a maze filled with age-old streets, colorful buildings, scents, sounds, and loads of locals. As with much of India, this area was an absolute feast for the senses. I should have kept a diary, because by the time I'd returned to the hotel that evening, my mind was overflowing with impressions. There was too much to process all at once. As a photographer, I hardly knew where to begin – until I reached a small hidden gate. Curiosity got the better of me, and when I looked through, I saw this courtyard featuring balconies, colorful shutters, and laundry hanging out to dry. The minute I noticed all the colors and shapes, I got to work and started taking some photographs. It was only later, when I reviewed the photo on my camera and zoomed in to look more closely at the details, that I discovered two eyes peeking out from behind the little wall.

Your Photo

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

Monthly Prize

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

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







We co-own five unique holiday homes

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



Lene & Danny, a 21-5 family

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

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

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

What do you like most about 21-5?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Has 21-5 been a good investment for you?

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

FACTS ABOUT 21-5

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



For more information:

+45 44450388
info@21-5.com

www.21-5.com



wahts

HYBRID MENSWEAR

wahts.com

The SELECTION

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

Breda

SNAPSHOTS OF SOCIETY

Under this year's theme *Our Songs Came Through*, the Benelux's leading biennial photography festival, BredaPhoto, presents the works of over 40 national and international artists, showcasing photography, videos, and immersive installations. The festival, which takes place at various locations around the city, also features talks, performances, and workshops.

Sep 11–Oct 25 | bredaphoto.nl

TO *see*

Amsterdam

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

What do intergenerational memory and trauma look like in art? The exhibition *Names in Our Veins* at Amsterdam's Buro Stedelijk explores this question by bringing together the works of Indonesian contemporary artist FX Harsono, a recipient of the 2014 Prince Claus Award, and Dutch-Chinese-Indonesian artist Vincent Ruijters.

Sep 3–Nov 1; burostedelijk.nl



Detroit

THE ART OF ARCHITECTURE

American modernist painter Georgia O'Keeffe had a deep love of and fascination with architecture. This lesser-known side of her oeuvre is highlighted at the Detroit Institute of Arts, with the exhibition *Georgia O'Keeffe: Architecture*.

Featuring around 35 paintings, it explores her striking depictions of skyscrapers, barns, and New Mexico adobe buildings, revealing how she transformed architecture into bold, abstract compositions. Sep 11–Jan 3; dia.org

Athens

BIG CITY ENERGY

FOR HIS COLLAGE-STYLE PAINTINGS, ARTIST URS FISCHER IS INSPIRED BY FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER EUGÈNE ATGET.



The late French photographer Eugène Atget was fascinated with the modern city, something that Swiss artist Urs Fischer resonates with. While Atget spent decades documenting the streets of old Paris with almost archival precision, Fischer turns his attention to contemporary Los Angeles, capturing its highways, billboards, buildings, and visual clutter. For his first solo presentation at Gagosian Athens in Greece, Fischer draws on the French pioneer's work to explore memory, perception, and image-making in ever-changing city life. Until Sep 12; gagosian.com



Rotterdam

Please (don't) sit down

Is a chair just a chair, or can it represent something more? *A Chair and You* at Kunsthal Rotterdam is showing one of the world's most significant private collections of unique chairs, assembled by the late Swiss collector Thierry Barbier-Mueller. Sep 26–Jan 31; kunsthal.nl

Verner Panton's 1967 **Panton Chair** was the first all-plastic chair made in one piece with a cantilever design

The Hague

FRESH EYES ON FASHION

The exhibition *Reflections on Fashion* celebrates 75 years of Kunstmuseum The Hague's fashion collection with a fresh perspective. Dutch designers were granted access to the museum's collection of more than 50,000 historic pieces and contemporary garments, and invited to curate their own selections from it, revealing fashion as a living archive shaped by identity, culture, and reinvention. Until Jan 3; kunstmuseum.nl



TO meet

Dutch fashion award Cultuurfonds Mode Stipendium includes a cash prize of €50,000

Q&A Hul le Kes

FASHION AS A MOVEMENT

WITH THEIR CLOTHING LABEL HUL LE KES, DUTCH DESIGNERS SJAAK HULLEKES AND SEBASTIAAN KRAMER PROVE THAT TRUE CIRCULARITY IN FASHION IS POSSIBLE.

When and why did Hul le Kes come to be? Hullekes: “Ten years ago, after more than a decade of working in the clothing industry, we felt increasingly disconnected from the reason we’d fallen in love with fashion in the first place. We wanted to create something that put people, craftsmanship, and the planet first, and spent more than two years imagining a different kind of fashion brand. Hul le Kes is the result: an alternative model built around circularity, creativity, and social impact. We work almost exclusively with existing textiles, giving discarded fabrics a second life rather than producing new ones. Every garment comes with a clothing passport that records its story; we also offer repair and natural-dyeing services to help extend its lifespan. Everything is made locally in our Arnhem ateliers. Hul le Kes is more than a fashion label; we see it as a movement, an ongoing search for ways in which fashion can have a genuinely positive impact.”

Can you give us an example? Kramer: “One of our proudest initiatives is the Hul le Kes Recovery Studio, where people recovering from mental health challenges repair garments, working on their own recovery as they mend clothing. We also developed a gender-inclusive sizing system, and continue to experiment with new techniques, such as making natural dyes with waste materials.”

What does true sustainability in fashion look like to you? Hullekes: “We prefer the term ‘circularity’, because it better reflects the way we work. Around 95% of our fabrics come

from existing textiles, mainly post-consumer materials collected through partners such as thrift organizations ReShare and 2Switch. Some pieces are dyed using natural colorants made from waste materials, such as onion skins and avocado pits. We see growth differently, too. For us, success isn’t about selling more clothes – it’s about reusing them and creating opportunities for others.”

You recently won the Dutch fashion prize Cultuurfonds Mode Stipendium; what does that mean to you? Kramer: “Winning this award isn’t just a great honor; it also gives us greater visibility, allowing us to introduce more people to a different way of thinking about fashion. Financially, it gives us the freedom to invest more in our creative development. We see this award as the start of a new chapter.” hullekes.com



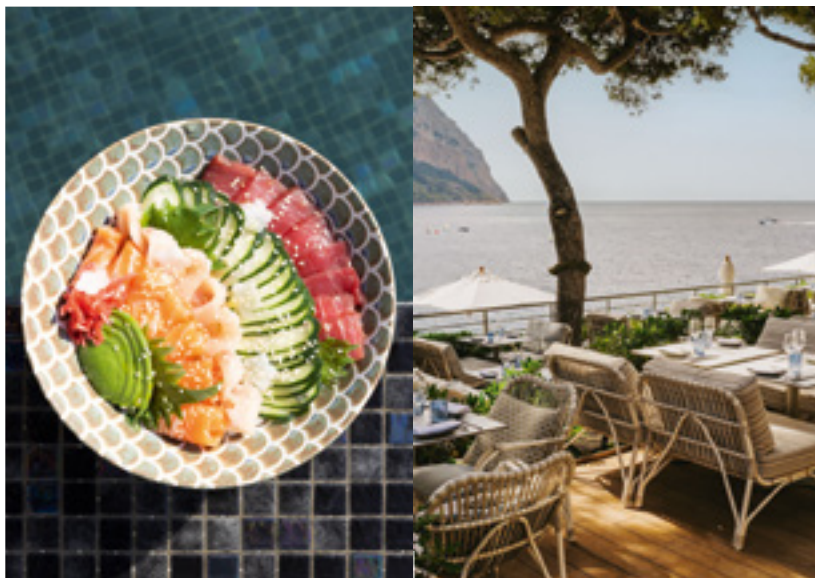
Designers Sebastiaan Kramer (left) and Sjaak Hullekes

TO *taste*

Tableware

BRINGING COLOR TO THE TABLE

Danish-French couple Charlotte and Philippe Guéniau started interior design brand rice out of a personal desire to bring more color and playful design into everyday life. The collection began with a handmade raffia bag from Madagascar, and has expanded to include tableware, blankets, kitchen utensils, and much more. They also offer products for kids, such as lunch boxes and alphabet cups. ricebyrice.com



Cassis

FRENCH ELEGANCE

PERCHED BETWEEN THE HARBOR OF CASSIS AND CALANQUES NATIONAL PARK, RESTAURANT LES BELLES CANAILLES OFFERS THE FINEST OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA.

Housed in a mansion built in 1887, Les Roches Blanches on the French Riviera is a glamorous five-star hotel with a long list of famous visitors, including the late former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French singer Edith Piaf. At the hotel's signature restaurant, Les Belles Canailles, recently appointed Executive Chef Alessandro Guardiani creates elegant Mediterranean dishes that celebrate fresh seafood, vegetables, and locally produced olive oil. roches-blanches-cassis.com

Drinks

NATURAL STIMULUS

Many energy drinks on offer contain artificial sweeteners, sugar, or ingredients with mysterious properties. The Dutch founders of VYVO set out to offer a healthier alternative with Healthy Boost, a refreshing energy drink with natural ingredients, such as guarana, vitamins B6, B12

and C, magnesium, and electrolytes. It also contains real fruit juice, and L-theanine, found in green tea, promising to keep you focused and avoid afternoon crashes. Healthy Boost comes in three flavors: Raspberry, Apple Lime, and Mango Passion.

€1.60/€22 for a 12-pack; drinkvyvo.com



Culture is a basic need.

Image courtesy of Prince Claus Fund
Awardee Gabriel Pinto (Venezuela).

The Prince Claus Fund — 30 years of connecting worlds through culture.

With thanks to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, artists and cultural changemakers—from Accra to Bogotá, from Nairobi to Delhi—are connecting communities, exchanging perspectives, and creating a more open world. Join our global community and support the power of culture.

princeclausfund.nl

Supported by:



× Gemeente
× Amsterdam



Fonds

TO do

Hong Kong

EVERYDAY DESIGN

Learning through play is the best way for kids to get excited about how and why things are made. That's why Hong Kong's museum of contemporary visual culture M+ created the exhibition *Design Ah! Experience the Wonder of Everyday Design*. This interactive, family-friendly showcase explores design and its role in daily actions through hands-on games, participatory installations, and immersive audiovisual environments.

Until Jan 10; mplus.org.hk



Venice enforces a strict speed limit on its canals, **ranging from 5 to 20 km/h**



Film festivals

CINEMATIC SCENES

SEPTEMBER IS ALL ABOUT CINEMA IN THESE THREE DESTINATIONS THAT ARE HOSTING FILM FESTIVALS.

San Sebastián

The San Sebastián International Film Festival, held in the Spanish Basque city of San Sebastián, features hundreds of films from around the world across genres. Sep 18-26;

sansebastianfestival.com

Venice

As part of the Venice Biennale, the Venice Film Festival is one of the most famous film festivals in the world, both for its Hollywood guests on the red carpet and its iconic screening locations.

Sep 2-12; labiennale.org

Vlissingen

Film by the Sea in the Dutch coastal city of Vlissingen is many a cinephile's favorite for its pairing of arthouse films with literature. Screenings take place indoors and outside. Sep 11-20;

filmbythesea.nl

Smartwatch

WATCH YOUR STEPS

If you like keeping track of your daily step count, sports activities, and sleep quality, Decathlon's Fit 100 S GPS smartwatch might be the device you've been looking for. Thanks to its battery that lasts up to seven days and bright AMOLED screen, you'll have easy access to all your fitness and health data. €69.99; decathlon.nl



TO *wish for*

Interior design

BEADS BY HAND

By fusing traditional Moroccan weaving techniques with modern Dutch design, Moroccan-Dutch designer Mina Abouzahra brings together the two cultures that shaped her and continue to inspire her. While she mainly produces modern interpretations of Berber carpets, Abouzahra also creates hand-beaded furniture, like this chair. minaabouzahra.com



The motifs on **Berber rugs** have a symbolic and spiritual meaning



Menswear

ON THE ROAD

Traveling light while still having a stylish wardrobe that's suitable for all occasions can be challenging. Luckily, menswear brand Joe Merino offers a collection of high-quality basics that can easily take you from a business meeting to a beach party. Its signature merino wool is also suitable for most types of weather. joemerino.com



Accessories

SPIRIT OF SCOTLAND

FOR ITS FALL/WINTER COLLECTION, ACCESSORY BRAND BARTS WAS INSPIRED BY THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.

In the summer of 1986, Dutch entrepreneur Bart Koene was selling hand-sewn swim shorts on a Saint-Tropez beach, when one of his assistants wrapped a piece of fabric around her head as protection from the sun. Soon, people were asking if

they could buy the "cool bandana" – and an accessory brand was born. Forty years later, BARTS' new collection Spirit of the Mountains was inspired by the Scottish Highlands, with its deep color palette, rough textures, and distinct shapes. barts.eu



Security device

Safety first

For many women, feeling uneasy when out alone at night is a sad reality. Safety tool EVA triggers a 130 dB alarm when activated, can start an emergency call via a paired smartphone, and shares your location with loved ones. eva-alert.com



Today • Duty Free

Make
it yours
today

At Today Duty Free, you enjoy the benefits of duty-free shopping, no matter your destination.

Perfumes and cosmetics are up to 25% cheaper. Every month, we compare our prices with Dutch retailers to ensure you always get a great deal.

So, looking for a new fragrance or that skincare product from your favourite brand? Start your journey right and shop in our stores after security at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Schiphol.nl/todaydutyfree

Today • Duty Free

Column

Freek Vonk

IN THE REALM OF THE RED DEVIL

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

“Their big eyes reflect the green light as they study us closely”



I'm in a boat off Baja California, Mexico. Above me, stars sparkle across the sky. Below me lies a dark abyss. I'm here for one of the most mysterious deep-sea predators on Earth. We lower two powerful green lights into the water, illuminating the sea beneath with an eerie emerald glow, just as a shark passes by.

Flashes soon emerge from the darkness below. I grab my dive light, pull on my fins and mask, and slip into the water. My colleague follows. Entering the sea alone in darkness is a bad idea. Any sharks in the area are generally less likely to approach two people, but you can never be sure. We descend toward the lights. We're soon surrounded by a living wall of moving bodies, some half a meter long. They dart around us at incredible speed, turning, accelerating, and stopping in an instant. Their big eyes reflect the green light as they study us closely.

These creatures are Humboldt squid, voracious predators known as Red Devils. Driven by a hyperactive metabolism that requires them to consume massive amounts of food, they'll devour anything they can. Their eight arms and two feeding tentacles are lined with muscular suckers surrounded by hardened rings of sharp teeth. At the center sits a razor-sharp, parrot-like beak that's capable of slicing prey into pieces. During a famous National Geographic expedition, a Humboldt squid shattered two Kevlar bite plates with that beak. For this reason, some divers use metal cages.

As I float among them, their bodies constantly change color between deep red and bright white. Scientists suspect these rapid changes play a key role in communication, but what they're saying remains a mystery. As impressive as this may be, what fascinates me most is their ability to adapt, which we do understand.

Until around 2010, the Sea of Cortez was famous for its giant Humboldt squid, which reached lengths of 1.5 to 2 m. When a powerful El Niño event warmed the sea, reducing oxygen and supporting fewer prey, these squid seemed to vanish overnight. As it turned out, they'd matured far more quickly, investing less energy in growth and feeding on smaller species. The squid were still there, but they'd become a lot smaller: some were just 25 cm long.

In biology, we call this phenomenon phenotypic plasticity: the ability of an organism to change its appearance, behavior, or physiology in response to environmental conditions, without changing its DNA. What makes this adaptation even more remarkable is that it's reversible. If the sea were to become colder, future generations could once again grow into giants.

As I watch the squid disappear into the darkness, I have one pervading thought: Nature is constantly changing, and perhaps the greatest superpower any animal can possess is the ability to change with it. Humboldt squid embody that principle perfectly.

EAT *out*



Belgium
Antwerp



A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

It isn't just Zilte's location within the MAS Museum in Antwerp – with panoramic views over the city – that makes it so spectacular; it's chef Viki Geunes' focus on seafood and vegetables, his favorite ingredients to work with, that makes the experience so distinctive. And then there's the chef's love of the visual arts, resulting in dishes that are not only a feast for the taste buds but also for the eyes. This is beautifully reflected in this sea bass, aged using the *kombujime* method (between dried sheets of kelp), served with *myoga* ginger and wasabi, and accented with peppery *shiso* flower, sweet carabinero prawn, and tapioca pearls. zilte.be

Sweden



My

STOCKHOLM

AS THE FOUNDER AND CEO OF SWEDISH FASHION RETAILER LAGER 157, STEFAN PALM SPLITS HIS TIME BETWEEN STOCKHOLM AND GÄLLSTAD. HE DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM STOCKHOLM'S UNIQUE BLEND OF CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND PROXIMITY TO NATURE.



What do you love about

Stockholm? The balance. It has the energy, creativity, and opportunities of a capital city, but nature is never far away. Within minutes, I can move from a meeting to running along the city's waterfront or sitting somewhere quiet, such as Hagaparken, part of the Royal National City Park ❶.

Any advice for newcomers?

Slow down a bit. Walk around the city without a plan and let it reveal itself to you. Have a *fika*, a break with coffee or tea, a pastry, and good company. Vete-Katten (several locations) is one of the city's best pastry shops (try a fruit tartlet there) and is the ideal place for a *fika*. You should also visit the historic Gamla Stan ❷ district. Go early and capture its beauty in the morning light. I also suggest swimming from one of the public docks during summer, and enjoying the sunset from Monteliusvägen ❸, a path on the Södermalm cliffs with amazing city views.

What about food?

For something classic, Tranan (Karlbergsvägen 14) is a Stockholm institution and its meatballs are some of the best in town. Krog Agrikultur (Franska Bukten 10) offers a more intimate dining experience with a focus on seasonal ingredients, while Kouthoofd Familie Winkel (Stora Nygatan 19) is a hidden gem. Its food is inspired by Dutch and Indonesian cuisine, and it has a stylish, 70s-inspired interior. And Solen ❹ (Hallgränd 45) has become a popular meeting place. It serves tasty wood-fired pizzas and delicious sharing plates such as yellowtail ceviche.

Where should we shop?

Design and furniture store Svenskt Tenn (Strandvägen 5) represents the best of Swedish design. It's cool and creative, with a sense of *mysighet* – our term for cozy, warm, and welcoming – which will surely give you inspiration for your home.

For vintage and secondhand shopping, Södermalm remains one of the most interesting areas in the city. Local favorite Lisa Larsson Second Hand (Bondegatan 48) has been around since 1986 and offers timeless fashion pieces and a curated collection of Swedish interior design objects. And then there's Myrorna (multiple locations), our Salvation Army charity shop. You might find some treasure there.

Which art spots do you recommend? Don't miss the Fotografiska Stockholm photo museum (Stadsgårdshamnen 22), one of our most inspiring cultural spots. Moderna Museet ❺ (Exercisplan 4) is essential if you're interested in contemporary art. A new architectural highlight is Wisdome Stockholm ❻ (Museivägen 7). This is an educational cinema in a stunning state-of-the-art, 360-degree dome built primarily out of wood.

Where should we stay?

Stockholm Stadshotell (Björngårdsgatan 23), a fabulous recent addition to the city. It's housed in a listed 19th-century heritage building originally built in memory of King Oscar I. The rooms are a blend of classic and modern design, and there's a nice bistro and a spa with a cold plunge there. If you prefer a place in nature, try the charming Hotel J (Ellensviksvägen 1) in the waterfront district of Nacka Strand, which has regular ferries taking you to the city center in about 30 minutes.

Book this story



KLM operates several daily flights to Stockholm Arlanda Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

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



Wisdom Stockholm ⑥



View from Monteliusvägen ③



Gamla Stan ②



Moderna Museet ⑤

*Capture Gamla Stan's
beauty in the morning light*

Solen ④ The Royal National City Park ①





Sabine Marcelis

MINIMALIST MATERIALIST

Renowned for her mesmerizing use of light and materiality, and her elegant, minimalist designs, Dutch designer Sabine Marcelis (41) has emerged as one of the world's most sought-after designers. Living in Rotterdam, a no-nonsense city of builders, keeps her grounded. Text Marieke Verhoeven

Sabine Marcelis is a busy woman. When we meet at her Rotterdam studio and workshop near the Dutch city's harbor, she's finishing an online presentation for one of her many clients. Marcelis uses one part of the huge former warehouse, filled with slabs of colored glass and hunks of polished resin and marble, for design purposes; the workshop where her work is produced is in the hall next door. Once we sit down at a picnic table on a grassy area she created at the back of the building, Marcelis sums up all the projects she's currently working on. "My schedule is crazy for the upcoming months," she says. "I have my solo exhibition *Phases* at Salon 94 Design in Manhattan, New York, this summer. After that, I'm going on a three-week trip to Melbourne, where I'm co-designing the Cartier exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria, together with my partner, Paul Cournet, who's an architect. Luckily, our six-year-old son and eighteen-month-old daughter will also be traveling with us. Then, there's the opening of a massive public art installation at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport that we've been working on for four years, plus preparations for *Sabine Marcelis – Light and Color*, my first museum exhibition, at Museum für Gestaltung Zürich. I'm also designing the award for Louis Vuitton's classic car race from Venice to Monza, taking place at the beginning of September."

Fascinated by light

Ever since Marcelis graduated from Design Academy Eindhoven (in 2011) with an original and innovative home winemaking system and a table that could shift between transparent and opaque, she's been steadily climbing to the top of the global design world.

Her breakthrough came in 2016 when she gained attention with a few outstanding projects for prestigious clients. The colorful polyester resin *Candy Cubes* she designed for the stores of French luxury brand Celine, and the colored mirrors with varying degrees of reflection she created for the Parisian store of Italian jewelry brand Repossi, were quickly picked up by high-profile press and design professionals. That same year, Marcelis presented her *Dawn Light Series* – a collection of minimalist, sensorial light sculptures featuring a single white neon tube embedded in thick resin – at Design Miami. The resin filtered and diffused the

“
I USE LIGHT
TO TURN STATIC
OBJECTS INTO
DYNAMIC
EXPERIENCES
”

neon light, capturing the gradient of hues during a sunrise or sunset. An article in *The New York Times* raving about her work led to a considerable boost in Marcelis' international recognition.

Surprisingly, becoming a designer was anything but a childhood dream for Marcelis, who was born in the Dutch city of Alkmaar but moved to Waihi in New Zealand with her parents and sister at the age of 10. Her parents started a flower farm while the two girls grew up surrounded by nature. Marcelis became a fanatic snowboarder and competed in international youth competitions until a nearly fatal ruptured appendix at the age of 21 led her to reassess her life choices. Since she didn't think she could make it to the top of the sport, she enrolled in the School of Design Innovation at Victoria University of Wellington. "It was a random decision, but I soon started feeling excited about the world of design," explains Marcelis. Looking back, there were early signs of her interest in how things were made and her innate creative talent. "One of my earliest memories related to what I do now involves the glasses I wore as a child," she explains. "The lenses had a polarizing layer. When sunlight passed through them, it cast a dark shadow, even though the lenses themselves were transparent. I found that captivating and wondered how something transparent could create a dark shadow." Snowboarding and spending a lot of time in nature also contributed to her fascination with »

Previous pages
The "Ra" Sundial sculpture, 2023; commissioned by Art D'Égypte / Forever Is Now

Right page
The Maze installation, 2026, part of the Coachella Art Program in California (top); the *Totem Lights* series, 2019, commissioned by Side Gallery (bottom left); the *Swivel* installation, 2022, at London Design Festival (bottom right)



“
**BEING
CREATIVE IS A
GREAT WAY
TO ENTERTAIN
YOURSELF**
”







light and materials, she says: “The way light is experienced above the clouds and how sunlight is filtered through snow goggles to change your perception of depth felt interesting. When I studied design and started asking myself what inspires me, those memories returned in a completely different way. Suddenly, they became sources of inspiration and the starting points for assignments.” Marcelis’ creative and entrepreneurial spirit was also reflected in the jewelry she made from marbles and wires, which she would sell at markets next to her parents’ flower booth. “I also made my own clothes and bags,” adds Marcelis. “We lived in the middle of nowhere, so I had to invent things to do. Being creative is a great way to entertain yourself.”

Material nerd

When the chance came to study at the Design Academy Eindhoven, she didn’t hesitate. “When I was living and studying in New Zealand, there was a major exhibition about Droog, a Dutch design collective whose founders graduated from the Academy,” explains Marcelis. “Droog was a pioneer for the Dutch Design movement of the early 21st century. I remember seeing it and thinking: I want to go wherever this comes from. After two years in New Zealand, I transferred to the Academy to finish my bachelor’s degree there. One thing this revered establishment teaches you is that you must stay true to yourself. You’re not supposed to see something you admire and then make your own version of it. The question is: what interests you? For me, that’s always been materials, light, and transformation. I like to use light to turn static objects into dynamic experiences.”

For Marcelis, everything starts with the source material. She began working with resin as a student because it was more accessible and cheaper than glass. What began as an experiment became her signature material, allowing her to create the luminous, glowing effects that define many of her best-known designs. Marcelis is now intent on using a bio-based resin. “The resin we currently work with is 60% bio-based,” she explains. “A new version has just become available that is 99% bio-based. That only happened because we kept asking our supplier for it. As our projects grew, we were able to order larger quantities and create demand. I also reuse materials and I never want to create objects or installations that end up being thrown away.”

“
WE LIVED IN
THE MIDDLE OF
NOWHERE, SO
I HAD TO INVENT
THINGS TO DO
”

Potential clients sometimes baffle her by sending AI-generated images to show what they’re looking for, or asking her to recreate something she’s made before. “I became a designer because I love thinking about materials, refining them, testing them, and improving them,” explains Marcelis. “If you outsource that process to AI or simply copy yourself, what remains? Where is the enjoyment? Ultimately, I’m an object maker, not an image maker.”

Whether she’s designing an installation for the prestigious design fair Salone del Mobile in Milan or creating her collection of lamps for IKEA, Marcelis does everything with the same dedication and drive. I ask her if she ever has time to enjoy her success. “It’s easy not to stop and think about it because I feel like I’m on a rollercoaster all the time,” she admits. “But it’s important to celebrate the special moments with my team. I have four designers and two administrative support staff who’ve been with me for years and are the reason we’re able to do all these fabulous and diverse projects. That’s why we all went to the Coachella festival together, where we designed a huge inflatable, maze-like installation. It was magical. When you’re working on a project, you lose sight of the context because you’re focused on making things happen. Then you arrive at the venue and you’re surrounded by huge crowds and all those artists, and you realize: this is actually a big deal.”

The social aspect of her work – interacting with clients and networking – is something that comes »

Above The installation by Marcelis and CLOUD studio at *CARTIER: Melbourne Winter Masterpieces**, 2026, NGV International, Melbourne

Bottom Marcelis in her studio, 2026 (left); *Mirage*, 2021, a triptych commissioned by Dubai’s Gallery COLLECTIONAL (right)



The Sabine
 Marcelis x The
 Lake Como
 EDITION Jelly
 Float installation,
 2025, launched at
 Art Basel, Miami

naturally to Marcelis. “I’m very socially sensitive; I understand group dynamics quite well,” she says. “I can usually sense which personalities work well together, which ones don’t, and which projects suit certain people. That kind of people knowledge is useful when you’re talking about your work as well. I never try to ‘sell’ it; I simply talk about something I care about and want to share that excitement.”

Group package

Finding balance and saying “no” to commissions that don’t resonate with her has been a challenge in the past. “I’m a people-pleaser by nature and I can genuinely get excited about a lot of different things,” admits Marcelis. “Early in my career, I’d also work through the night sometimes. I now know that there are limits.” That has also gotten a lot easier since Marcelis became a mom in 2020, she says: “My priorities have simply shifted. Before, I’d be available 24/7 if clients wanted to reach me. Now, I work until 5 p.m. and then spend time with my family until 8 p.m. If something needs to be finished, I’ll do it afterward, but preferably the next day. Nothing work-related is so important that it can’t wait. And when I travel for work, I try to take the kids with me as much as possible. We come as a group package.”

Living in Rotterdam, instead of moving to Paris, London, or New York, has also kept Marcelis grounded. “There’s an entrepreneurial mentality here. The city still feels unfinished, which means there’s room for people to create things. It’s a city of builders and it’s incredibly diverse. I love that my son’s class includes 16 different nationalities. To me, that reflects what the world actually looks like.” A practical reason for being in Rotterdam is that it’s a port city, explains Marcelis. “If I need something to be made, shipped, assembled, or transported, I rarely have to go far. And of course, there are so many amazing architecture firms here as well with whom I’ve collaborated such as OMA, MVRDV, and CLOUD.” Marcelis’ humility is also reflected in the fact that most parents from her son’s school have no idea that she’s a world-famous designer. “When I pick him up from a playdate with a classmate, I sometimes spot the doughnut lamp [part of IKEA’s catalog] hanging on their wall. My son will then point it out and tell them proudly: ‘My mom designed that!’ That’s quite funny and sweet.” «

The Netherlands



Sabine's Favorites

Rotterdam

This city is always evolving and I love that energy. I like to get a coffee at Hotel âme, housed in a beautiful historical building. The Fenix Museum of Migration is another favorite, and so is the Dutch National Museum of Photography. My partner, Paul, is opening a new café next to Rotterdam Central Station next month. It’s called Echo and is a listening space and café. I think I’ll be spending quite a bit of time there.

Mies van der Rohe

Creating an installation at Mies van der Rohe’s Barcelona Pavilion, which is one of my favorite buildings, was a dream come true. In 2019, I presented my *No Fear of Glass* series there. It’s a collection of five glass pieces that seemed to emerge from the building’s architecture. I’m still proud of this project, and elements of it will be part of my show at Museum für Gestaltung Zürich in October.

Simple design

I love objects that seem so simple that

you find yourself wondering: why didn’t anyone think of this before? The intelligence is often hidden in the function. Jenny Nordberg makes these amazingly simple mirrors that are just a splash of silver on a glass sheet. It’s all you need for a functional mirror.

Vault of ideas

New ideas come to me when I’m away from the studio; often when I’m on a plane, walking somewhere, or playing with my kids. I also love getting inspiration from dance, music, and performance art events, such as No Art Festival in Amsterdam. I have a vault of ideas that come whenever my mind has the space to organize itself.

Book this story



KLM operates nonstop flights from around the world to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, a 40–50-minute train journey from Rotterdam.

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

HAMBURG *by day*

Germany



IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE, TRENDY SPECIALTY COFFEE BARS, AND WORLD-CLASS CONCERT HALLS: WELCOME TO HAMBURG, A PORT CITY IN NORTHERN GERMANY.

Elbphilharmonie ❶



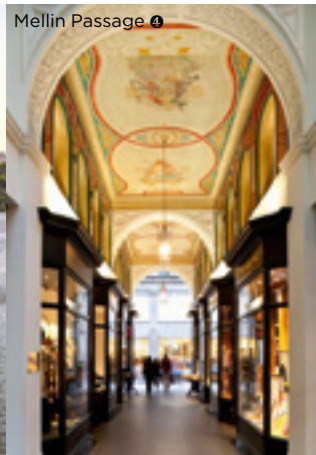
Black Hat Coffee ❷



Alster Lake ❸



Mellin Passage ❹



Music and free views

In the middle of the Elbe River, there's the wave-shaped Elbphilharmonie ❶ (Platz der Deutschen Einheit 4) concert hall, a glass building sitting on top of an old warehouse. If you can, book a concert: the Grand Hall is world-famous for its acoustics. For amazing views of Hamburg, visit the Plaza, Elbphilharmonie's viewing platform. Tickets are free on-site, subject to availability, or can be prebooked online for a small fee. The St. Pauli Bunker (Feldstraße 66) shouldn't be missed. Around the facade of this huge World War II structure, you'll see plants placed all the way up to the rooftop garden. Inside, you'll find the renowned nightclub and concert venue Uebel & Gefährlich.

Coffee o'clock

For the best coffee, head to one of Hamburg's small roasters. Black Hat Coffee ❷ (Eppendorfer Weg 66) is a tiny espresso bar with a rotating selection of beans. They also sell cakes, sandwiches, and pastries. Playground Coffee (Detlev-Bremer-Straße 21) is a colorful, laid-back spot run by an owner who handpicks his beans from all over the world and roasts them himself. And Nord Coast Coffee Roastery (Deichstraße 9) is the ideal spot for a quick coffee or a full breakfast. Try the organic scrambled eggs with porcini butter on sourdough bread. Last but not least, Good One Café (Sternstraße 25) is a great place for a vegan- and gluten-free brunch. Don't miss out on the pistachio-matcha French toast, which is delicious.

Around the lake

Hamburg is a city of water. Besides the Elbe, there's also the Alster Lake ❸ in the heart of the city. On sunny days, rent a kayak or stand-up paddleboard and experience the city from a different perspective. Grab a snack or drink from café-kiosk Alsterperle (Eduard-Rhein-Ufer 1), on the easternmost tip of the lake, and enjoy it by the water.

Shops with history

Fashion mogul Karl Lagerfeld was born and raised here. Whenever he visited his hometown, he stopped by Felix Jud (Neuer Wall 13), a bookstore that's been around for almost a century and has a carefully curated collection of books, antiques, and art. It's in the Mellin Passage ❹, which is the oldest shopping

Rent a kayak or a paddleboard and experience the city from a different perspective

arcade in the city, and arguably also the most beautiful.

Getting around

Hamburg's public transit system covers the city by U-Bahn, S-Bahn, bus, and ferry. A day ticket lets you hop on and off all day, including the harbor ferries, which also serve as a free river cruise along the Elbe. Alternatively, the StadtRAD bike-sharing system has stations all over the inner city.

HAMBURG *by night*

WITH LATE-NIGHT RESTAURANTS, COCKTAIL BARS, CLUBS, AND A MINIATURE WORLD THAT STAYS OPEN UNTIL 1 A.M., THIS CITY KEEPS GOING LONG AFTER THE SUN HAS SET.



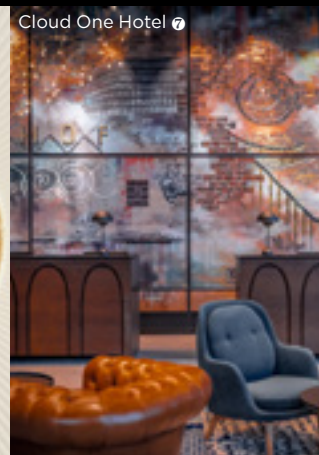
Hamburg at night



Liquid Garden ⑥



Zeik ⑤



Cloud One Hotel ⑦

Dinner time

Erika's Eck (Sternstraße 98) takes the schnitzel game to another level. It has generous portions, a laid-back vibe, and is ideal for a late-night snack. More traditional northern German cuisine can be found at Old Commercial Room (Englische Planke 10). It's the perfect place to sample *Pannfisch*, fried or boiled white fish served with fried potatoes and a distinctive mustard sauce. Head to Zeik ⑤ (Sierichstraße 112) for unpretentious Michelin-starred cuisine. Their homemade nonalcoholic pairings are superb.

Cocktail hour

After dinner, drop in at the Le Lion • Bar de Paris (Rathausstraße 3) cocktail bar for a Gin Basil Smash. This now world-famous drink was

invented here in 2008. Liquid Garden ⑥ (Mohlenhofstraße 6), a well-designed cocktail bar in the Kontorhaus district, also serves thoughtfully created cocktails, both modern classics and specials that change about every six months. For an affordable night out, grab a beer at any *Kneipe*, a traditional German neighborhood pub, in St. Pauli or visit Frau Möller (Lange Reihe 96) in the more local St. Georg neighborhood.

Not just for kids

Miniatur Wunderland (Kehrwieder 2), the world's largest model railway, is also aimed at adults. One of Hamburg's most beloved attractions, it's well-known for its detailed miniature world. There's Knuffingen Airport, where tiny planes actually take off and land, as well as the

Swiss Alps, the Grand Canyon, and a detailed replica of Hamburg itself. Miniatur is open late into the evening, so you can enjoy it after dinner.

Fischmarkt after-party

Hamburg has a lively clubbing scene. One of the coolest clubs is Hafenklang (Große Elbstraße 84). If you're there into Sunday morning, walk to the nearby Fischmarkt, which comes alive at 5 a.m. in the summer. Inside the historic Fish Auction Hall (Große Elbstraße 9), a live band plays while some people drink beer and eat fish sandwiches, still in last night's clothes. It's quintessentially Hamburg.

Where to stay

Superbude St. Pauli (Juliussstraße 1–7) is the kind of hotel that makes you want to hang out in the lobby.

There's a 24-hour snack bar, and the friendly staff genuinely seem to enjoy working there. And Cloud One Hotel ⑦ (Willy-Brandt-Straße 20–22), in the Kontorhaus district, feels more like a boutique hotel than its price suggests, with compact yet well-equipped rooms and a great breakfast featuring organic, regional produce.

Book this story



KLM operates several daily nonstop flights to Hamburg Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

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

HIGH CULTURE

Fiercely creative, inclusive, and full of hidden natural treasures: Colombia's capital city, Bogotá, is still a well-kept secret, but that may be about to change.

Text Ynske Boersma





Colombia



As I cycle down the hill separating my barrio from the urban sprawl, the sun has just risen above the forest-covered mountains, bathing the metropolis in a flood of bright Andean light. Up here, a few hundred meters above the densely inhabited plain, Bogotá usually sounds like a motorized hummingbird. But today, the noise has faded. Descending the steep streets, I round a corner onto the main artery, Avenida Séptima, and pass a temporary sign that says *Ciclovía* (“cycle path”). Rather than the usual six lanes of gridlock, I slide into an endless stream of Lycra-clad citizens riding bicycles, roller-skating, and the like. Today, the avenue belongs to us.

Serious cyclists whiz past the more recreational riders, from bunches of friends chatting while they ride along to toddlers on tricycles and kids riding ragged bikes with just one wheel. There are even dogs in baskets wearing helmets. The sidewalks are taken over by street vendors roasting corn, solo musicians trying their luck, and on this particular Sunday, there’s a man lip-syncing to famous songs dressed as a cow. This is the scene every Sunday, when the largest avenues of the metro area are closed to traffic. From 7 a.m. until 2 p.m., much of the capital is transformed into a park. An estimated 1.5 million join the party. The *Ciclovía* dates back to December 1974, when cycling activists opened a car-free circuit on several major roads for The Great Pedal Demonstration. Five thousand cyclists took part in the protest, shouting “Down with air pollution” as they rode the traffic-free streets. A tradition was born: two years later, the city council adopted their idea. Since then, the *Ciclovía* has grown into one of the world’s largest and oldest open-streets programs.

Cultural capital

It’s just another example of Bogotá’s creativity, explained by its citizens as the urge to “do something different”. Much of that creativity, however, is rooted in hardship. Decades of armed conflict left millions of Colombians displaced and seeking refuge in cities. In little more than a century, Bogotá grew from a town of 100,000 to a city of millions. But by the end of the 20th

century, the city had become unlivable: highly polluted, plagued by hellish traffic, and rife with crime. Few felt they belonged here.

So much has changed since. Progressive mayors tripled the city’s green spaces, built more than 600 km of cycling paths, and introduced an imperfect but functioning public transit system. They also embraced culture as a vehicle for social change – not as a pastime for the wealthy, but as an egalitarian affair, just like the *Ciclovía*. That includes a major free Festivals in The Park program and dozens of other annual music festivals, heavily subsidized art-house cinemas, and lots of great museums – including the famous Botero Museum – entirely free as well. And street art.

Last Tuesday, I met local tour guide Juan Zambrano in La Candelaria, Bogotá’s colonial city center, where the streets are lined with adobe-walled houses. Until 15 years ago, graffiti was considered vandalism and street artists faced harsh crackdowns by the police. The turning point was the killing of a 16-year-old artist by a police officer, which led to massive protests against police brutality. Instead of being criminalized, street artists are now encouraged to make art. “Today Bogotá is one of Latin America’s leading cities for street art,” said Zambrano as we walked the cobbled streets. This area resembles an open-air gallery, with skillfully painted murals covering every other wall. The paintings are more than mere decoration: they depict contemporary Colombia, often conveying a message of social protest. “Many murals are dedicated to women, as a means of balancing society because we still deal with a lot of machismo,” explained Zambrano in front of a painting of a Colombian *campesina*, a peasant woman. The artworks also depict Colombia’s enormous cultural diversity – from its 115 different Indigenous peoples to the Black communities that make up about 10% of the country’s population, to descendants of the Spanish colonists and everything in between. All these cultures come together in Bogotá, which Zambrano described as a country condensed into a city: “My mother was a Black woman who fled poverty in the »

Previous pages
Bolívar Square
(left); La Candelaria
district (right)

Right page, top
(from left to right)
Hand-woven yarn
installation at 93
Park; dish at
Afluente; Botero
Museum
Bottom *Ciclovía*,
Bogotá’s
open-streets
program

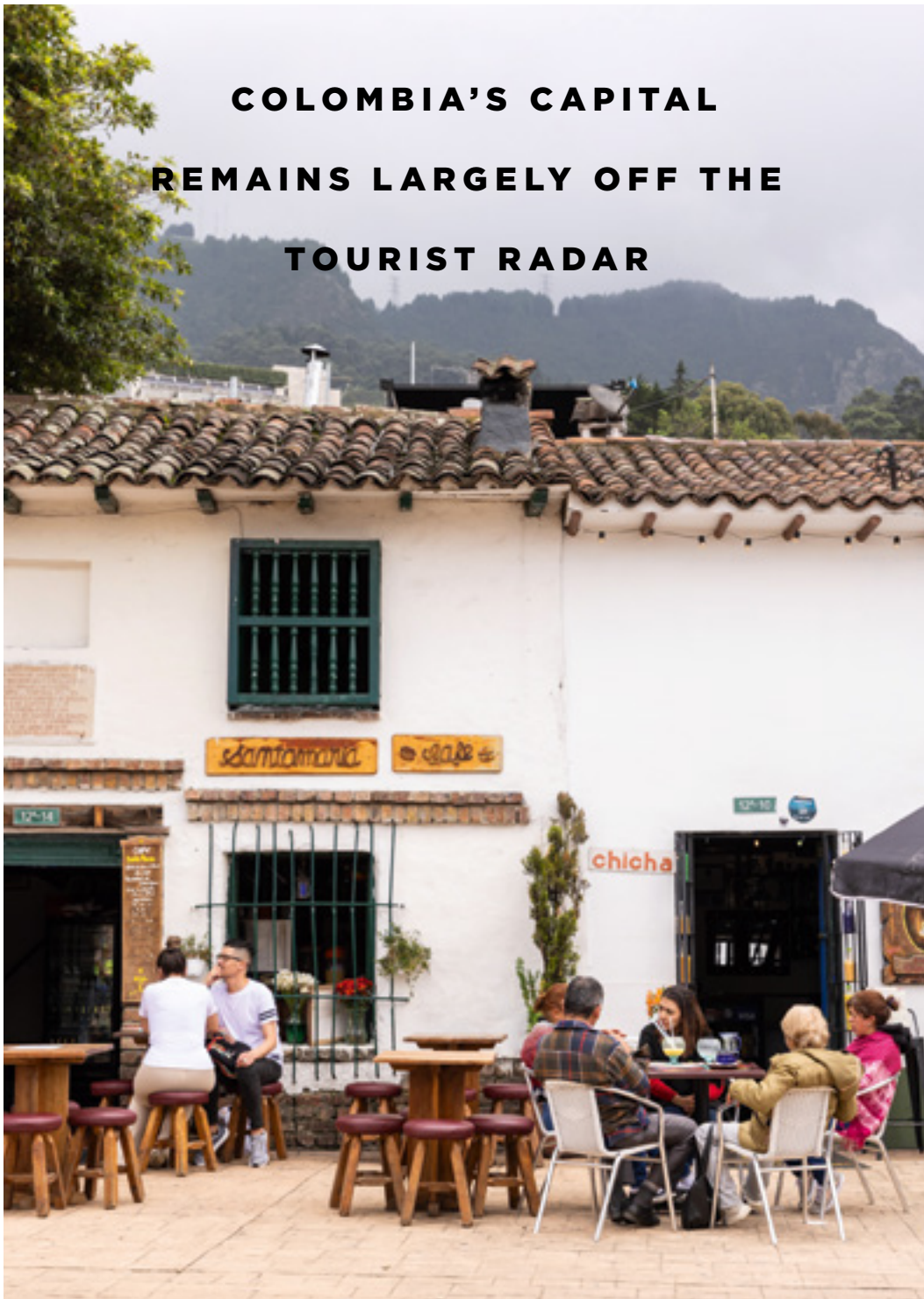


**EVERY SUNDAY, MUCH OF BOGOTÁ
TRANSFORMS INTO A PARK**





COLOMBIA'S CAPITAL REMAINS LARGELY OFF THE TOURIST RADAR



Above *Tranvía de Bogotá*, a heritage trolley replica that provides guided tours through Bogotá's historic La Candelaria district.

Left page Locals and visitors at a café in La Candelaria

**THE EASTERN HILLS
ADORN THE CITY WITH
A MYSTIC TOUCH**



Pacific, and my father came from a White community in the mountains of Cocuy, displaced by the political violence of the 60s,” added Zambrano. “They met in Bogotá and fell in love.”

Natural treasures

Despite these changes, Bogotá remains largely off the tourist radar. Few spend more than a day in the city before continuing their travels to Colombia’s more famous destinations. That’s understandable: Bogotá isn’t postcard-pretty like Cartagena and lacks the fame of Medellín. And, admittedly, its high-altitude climate, at more than 2,600 m above sea level, can be a challenge. But give this urban jungle some time and you’ll understand why its residents came to love their city so much. I speak from experience: nine years ago, riding my bike here for the first time on a Sunday, I decided to make this city my home.

Since the 2016 peace agreement with the FARC, which formally ended more than 50 years of conflict between the government and the guerrilla group, Bogotá has undergone a rapid transformation. Neighborhoods such as Chapinero, Teusaquillo, and La Macarena have become hipster hotspots, with cool cafés serving the finest Colombian coffee, hip cocktail bars, and a thriving culinary scene that boasts 4 restaurants on the 2025 Latin America’s 50 Best list. Local artists have set up shop in the working-class neighborhood of San Felipe, declared a “creative district” by the city council, opening galleries and artsy cafés and hosting a monthly open art festival. Yet it hasn’t become overly gentrified or lost its identity. You can still drink 50-cent beers in the *tiendas*, ubiquitous local cafeterias that go by names such as Donde Willy’s and La Esperanza. Or play *tejo*, a weirdly fun ancestral game that involves throwing a heavy steel disk into a clay box, trying to hit folded paper packets filled with gunpowder. Yes, they explode.

The less fortunate neighborhoods have opened up too. Several of these are “favelas” built on the steep hills that enclose the eastern part of Bogotá. As a result, these mountains

covered with Andean forests have also become accessible again. *Los Cerros Orientales* (“The Eastern Hills”) – part of the eastern Andes mountain range and a vast overhanging wall of green that adorns the city with a mystic touch – form the characteristic background of Bogotá, and make sure you never get lost. More importantly, these hills – declared a protected forest reserve in the 1970s – serve as the green lung of the city and its main water reserve.

At elevations above 3,000 m, the hills connect to the *páramos*, tropical mountain ecosystems found mainly in the northern Andes and parts of Central America, which are famous for their frailejones, plants resembling hooded friars. For a long time, this vast nature reserve right at their doorstep was largely off-limits to *Bogotanos*. Only a few trails, with police presence during certain hours, posed no danger of assault. Three fervent trail runners came up with a better solution. Instead of answering crime with police force, they made the inhabitants of the barrios bordering the *páramos* the guardians of a newly established nature reserve: Santuario Las Moyas.

It was 7 a.m. when I started my ascent to the 3,300-m Las Moyas last Wednesday. Upon arriving, I was welcomed with some *tinto* – dark, sweetened coffee – by Diego, one of the founders of the ecotourism startup that now employs about 30 eco-guardians. The entrance to the forest lies in Rosales, a wealthy neighborhood with gated apartment buildings that enjoy unobstructed views over the city. The reserve thus connects two separate worlds. “For decades, drug-smuggling routes passed through *Los Cerros Orientales*, making it a dangerous place,” Diego told me. Even though the drug lords have disappeared, crime remains an issue in the hillside barrios; however, a recent initiative is having a positive effect. “These kids have so few opportunities that gangs are a major outlet for them,” says Diego. “Instead of responding to violence with more violence, we made them part of the solution by training them to become forest guards. Now it’s cool to be one.”

After hiking the steep path for 20 minutes, along a rocky trail with vistas of the city at »

Left page
Top *Páramo*
(tropical mountain ecosystem) near Bogotá

Bottom (from left to right) La Mariposa neighborhood; street art in Bogotá; young local wearing a handcrafted handbag and ring

**VILLA DE LEYVA IS
THE *BOGOTANOS*' FAVORITE
WEEKEND GETAWAY**



Left page

Villa de Leyva, a colonial-era village that's an ideal day trip from Bogotá

every curve, I arrived at a viewpoint manned by three youngsters from San Luis, armed with walkie-talkies. They were selling coffee and chatting with a group of college kids. "In the beginning, not everyone in San Luis was happy about their neighbors becoming eco-guardians," said "Zago", who raps on public buses to make money. "But now they see how the project supports many families in the neighborhood." Just a few hundred meters down, the sprawling city sounded like a growling beast. But when I reached the *páramo*, the noise faded and I found myself completely alone, hearing nothing but wind and birds, surrounded by silky yellow frailejones. Dark clouds covered the mountains and shortly afterward soaked me with a timely *aguacero*, Colombian slang for tropical downpour.

The Butterfly Effect

Further to the north, the inhabitants of La Mariposa, a historically stigmatized neighborhood that forms a colored butterfly against the hills, have set up their own ecotourism initiative: *Efecto Mariposa* ("Butterfly Effect"). The foundation offers guided tours through the mountains surrounding the barrio and works to restore nature by planting native species. Early the next morning, I'd been greeted with a hearty beef soup at the local *panadería* ("bakery") then been taken up into the barrio in a dazzling jeep ride along hairpin curves to the starting point of a 6-km hike. Even more invigorating was the "cultural tour" afterward with my guide Miguel, who grew up on the steep streets of La Mariposa. From the murals depicting the neighborhood's social struggles to the narrow alleys connecting the self-built brick houses, with laundry drying everywhere, it was all fun and, above all, authentic. We even stopped for the best empanada I've ever had.

Back here at Avenida Séptima, where *Bogotanos* are enjoying the *Ciclovía*, I realize what I love most about Bogotá. It's the city's boundless creativity in turning hardship into solutions, such as its *Ciclovía*, inclusive cultural policies, and neighborhood youngsters guiding nature treks. The Butterfly Effect indeed. «



YNSKE BOERSMA IS A TRAVEL WRITER. HER WORK HAS APPEARED IN PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS *COLUMBUS MAGAZINE* AND *DE VOLKSKRANT*. HERE ARE HER TIPS FOR BOGOTÁ, WHERE SHE'S BEEN BASED SINCE 2017.

*To eat***Afluente**

Afluente opened less than two years before its 2025 debut on Latin America's 50 Best Restaurants. Its carefully composed – and tasty – dishes are a celebration of the *páramos*, the tropical mountain ecosystems vital to Colombia's biodiversity and food supply, and the fertile inspiration for chef Jefferson García. For a true culinary ride, choose the Connectivity tasting menu.

afluenterestaurante.com

Chichería Demente

Located in a republican-era house in the artsy neighborhood of San Felipe, Chichería Demente is a hotspot for traditional Colombian fare. The restaurant specializes in cured meats, all sourced from Colombian farmers. You can try *chicha*, a traditional fermented corn beverage, and fancy cocktails here.

@chicheriademente

*To stay***HAB Hotel**

Located in an iconic house in Chapinero,

steps away from Colombia's best restaurants, HAB Hotel offers what it calls "a home away from home." Besides a good night's sleep in its stylish rooms, the experience includes freshly prepared organic dishes at HAB Café, the farm-to-table restaurant.

habhotel.co

Casa Terra

Villa de Leyva, one of Colombia's most beautiful colonial-era villages, about three hours from the capital, is the *Bogotanos'* favorite weekend getaway. Opt for Casa Terra, an oasis of luxurious tranquility just two blocks from the main plaza. The breakfast, served under the walled garden's olive trees reminiscent of Italy, is top notch.

casa-terra.hotels-villa-de-leyva.com

*To do***Villa de Leyva**

Close to Bogotá, there's a whole other world to explore. Don't miss Villa de Leyva, a whitewashed, perfectly preserved colonial village surrounded by stunning mountains. At an altitude of 2,149 m, its climate is pleasantly mild and

dry, making it great for hiking. DE UNA Colombia Tours, a Dutch travel agency based in Bogotá, can help organize your trip.

deunacolombia.com

Hiking the páramos

Bogotá lies near several *páramos*, home to the frailejón, a weird-looking plant that can capture water from the clouds and release it into the soil. Ecotourism startup LiveHappy works directly with local communities in and around the *páramos* of Las Moyas – the one closest to Bogotá – and Sumapaz, the world's largest *páramo*, which can be visited on a day trip from the city.

livehappycol.com

Book this story

KLM operates a daily nonstop flight to Bogotá's El Dorado Intl Airport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Book your flight on klm.com.

Joop van Caldenborgh & Suzanne Swarts

“
**WE ALWAYS LOOK
 FOR ART THAT
 AFFECTS PEOPLE
 EMOTIONALLY**
 ”

Less is more is one of the key principles of Museum Voorlinden near The Hague. In celebration of its 10-year anniversary, Founder Joop van Caldenborgh and Director Suzanne Swarts explain the museum's vision and success. Text Marieke Verhoeven

How and why did Voorlinden come to be? Van Caldenborgh: From a combination of circumstances, ambitions, and ideas. I've been a private art collector for many decades, and Suzanne has been helping me organize the collection for the past 20 years. In 2011, the Kunsthal Rotterdam presented *I Promise to Love You*, an exhibition showcasing part of my collection. We had a lot of fun building the exhibition and received a very positive response from visitors. That's when we asked ourselves: "Why don't we start doing this more often?" We initially thought of opening a temporary exhibition space, because we felt a museum would be too ambitious and pretentious. But once we found the right location, on this beautiful piece of land in Wassenaar,

and were able to build Voorlinden to meet all international standards in terms of light, climate control, and security, we decided that it deserved the title of museum. Since then, we've organized 65 exhibitions, ranging from major solo exhibitions to smaller presentations from our own collection.

What makes Voorlinden different from other museums? Swarts: It's the combination of art, architecture, and nature that makes the experience of visiting Voorlinden special. From the moment visitors arrive, we want them to feel inspired, relaxed, and energized. That starts with the beautiful garden created by garden architect Piet Oudolf and continues inside with the use of natural light and our minimalist

interior. We deliberately hid all distractions, whether they're bright exit signs or elaborate labels. Instead of overwhelming visitors with a huge collection of artworks, we consciously limit our exhibitions to just a small selection of outstanding pieces. Our current one, for example, contains only 13 works. What's interesting is that people spend more time at Voorlinden than at other museums with much larger collections; we think it's exactly because of our limited collection. Artworks really get their moment to shine and get visitors' full attention. What perhaps also distinguishes us from many other museums is that we combine exhibitions by famous artists with those by completely unknown artists. That combination is important »



to us: recognition and discovery. You need to draw visitors in and then keep them engaged.

Can you explain how your collection process works? Van Caldenborgh: I started collecting art as a teenager, so it's always been part of my life. Thanks to a successful career in the chemical industry, I was able to travel the world and build a meaningful collection, which is now mostly stored in a depot. It's an instinctive process – something speaks to me or it doesn't. I guess there needs to be an element of surprise, mystery, or tension there. A good example is *Everyday Life* (2025) by Arcangelo Sassolino, which consists of a massive rock that's balancing on a bent glass plate that could seemingly collapse at any moment under the rock's weight. That's exciting to me. I occasionally give lectures, and people love hearing the artworks' background stories. But for me, everything begins with the work itself. We collect according to our own taste. If we think something's beautiful or important, we want it. I still travel the world a lot, visiting art fairs, museums, and artists' studios, searching for new inspiration. Suzanne often travels with

me and is the one who builds the exhibitions, often based on an artwork that's already in our collection or a new artist we discovered and are both excited about. Naturally, we also think about practical matters. Do the works physically fit inside the museum? Can we display them properly?

Your permanent collection is often shared on social media. Was that a strategic decision? Swarts: No, we never set out to collect Instagrammable art. We always look for art that affects people emotionally and that has strong visual power. We fall in love with a piece because the image itself communicates something to us. If a work only becomes interesting after a long explanation, then perhaps art isn't the right medium for that message. I think the visual power of our artworks is also why people enjoy photographing them. We noticed early on that visitors were sharing photographs of their visit on Instagram. We thought that was wonderful, so we started reposting those images, with their permission of course. I believe we were one of the first museums to do that. Visitors loved it, and it created a snowball effect. Before long, we were invited to international conferences and museum symposia to explain our Instagram strategy and won the award for "Most Instagrammable Museum". The funny thing is that we didn't have a strategy. We just thought it was fun to share visitors' experiences.

What's the anniversary exhibition *Celebrating the Icons of Art* about? Swarts: We're pairing iconic works from other museums with artworks from our own collection. Some pairings are based on an interesting visual contrast; in other cases, the themes overlap. Over the past decade, we've built strong relationships with museums and collections all over the world, allowing them to borrow works from our collection. This allows us to borrow works in return that people would

“
**I DON'T RECALL
EVER LEAVING
A DISCUSSION
WITHOUT
RESPECT FOR
ONE ANOTHER**
”

otherwise have to travel to see. For this exhibition, we were able to collaborate with institutions including the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebæk, near Copenhagen, and several other major museums. One of the biggest works we're borrowing from the ARoS Aarhus Art Museum in Denmark is *Boy* (1999) by Ron Mueck. It's 4.5 meters high and weighs 500 kg. We weren't 100% sure it would fit at Voorlinden, but luckily, it did.

What's the secret behind your partnership? Van Caldenborgh: We're both outspoken people, so we don't always agree, but I don't recall ever leaving a discussion without respect for one another. We know what the other person is good at and respect each other's strengths. And we never disagree on the art we want to purchase and showcase. Swarts: I have a lot of respect for Joop. He's been an incredible mentor to me for 20 years. I still learn new things here every day. I think this museum turned out so well because Joop has one guiding principle: "Impossible doesn't exist." Whether it was a complication we encountered while building it or we wanted to organize a challenging exhibition, Joop finds a way to make it happen. I find that incredibly inspiring. «





KLABU

Become a member.

JOIN THE KLABU.

We build sports clubs in refugee camps. And now, so can you.

What makes KLABU special is that unlike traditional clubs, your membership is not about playing yourself, it's about making play possible in refugee camps.

The membership starts at €1 per month. Easy and accessible to everyone, just like our sports clubs. So join us, join the KLABU.



klabu.org



Paris, France

THE DA VINCI CODE

Dan Brown's famous thriller paints Paris as an electric and mysterious city full of surprises, and the author uses places, art, and history to do so. Works by Leonardo da Vinci are treated like puzzles, history is woven with mystery, and architecture is intertwined with ancient code. It makes you want to discover the places yourself – especially the area around the Louvre, where the book's inciting murder occurs. Suddenly, it isn't just a museum anymore; it's a maze of secrets. In general, *The Da Vinci Code* reminds you that Paris has different faces and a rich history. **Top tip:** For the full *Da Vinci Code* experience, visit the book's locations – including Palais du Louvre and Place du Carrousel – at night.

BY THE BOOK

We take you around the world to the locations where some famous books are set.

Text **Marloes van Wijnen**





Edinburgh, UK

HARRY POTTER

Although no part of the *Harry Potter* series is set in Edinburgh, the city served as inspiration for the books. While living in Edinburgh, J.K. Rowling wrote in cafés such as The Elephant House – a fan favorite – as she built the world of *Harry Potter*. Greyfriars Kirkyard, a graveyard, is also said to have inspired some of the characters' names. Part of the magic behind the books, Edinburgh is enchanting. Its narrow alleys, steep streets, and hidden courtyards create a city that feels like it's from a world of wizards. And then, of course, there's Edinburgh Castle towering above the city, creating an even more dramatic and mysterious atmosphere. **Don't miss:** One of the many *Harry Potter* walking tours that take you to the places that inspired J.K. Rowling.



Bali, Indonesia

EAT, PRAY, LOVE

Bali has turned into a popular destination among travelers in search of the beach life, rice fields, and laid-back vibe. But what Elizabeth Gilbert found there was something entirely different. In

her book *Eat, Pray, Love*, her time in Bali is all about balance. After Italy, where she finds pleasure, and India, where she encounters spiritual devotion, she learns in Ubud how to live in harmony and balance the physical and spiritual worlds. Temples, ceremonies, rituals, and small offerings will inevitably cross your path while traveling around Bali, and *Eat, Pray, Love* lets you experience and appreciate them on a whole different level. **Good to know:** Remember that temples are still used for ceremonies, so be sure to respect local customs during your visit.

Yorkshire, UK

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

In Emily Brontë's famous book, the region of Yorkshire isn't just a setting; it shapes the entire story. The wild, open moors reflect the emotions of the characters:

intense, unpredictable, and sometimes harsh. The remote landscape also creates a sense of separation from society.

With few neighbors, life feels enclosed and dramatic, which heightens the tension and tragedy. While *Wuthering Heights*-specific locations are quite limited – Top Withens, a farmhouse ruin on the Haworth Moors, inspired the location of the Earnshaw home – Yorkshire is more about experiencing the atmospheric, wild landscapes. **Top tip:** Visit the village of Haworth, where Brontë lived. The Brontë Parsonage Museum there gives insight into how the surroundings influenced her writing.





Barcelona, Spain

THE SHADOW OF THE WIND

Portraying Barcelona as a dark city where murder, madness, and love go hand in hand, *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón is set in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. In the book, that history lingers everywhere. Barcelona feels haunted, with secrets hidden in old buildings, forgotten streets, and quiet courtyards. Overall, the city shapes the tone of the novel by pulling readers in with its mysterious nature. And Barcelona contrasts sharply with the sunny, lively city that most visitors experience. Walking through the Gothic Quarter, with its narrow alleys and hidden squares, therefore feels different after reading the book. **Don't miss:** Plaça de Sant Felip Neri, a square known for its melancholic charm, where the fictional character Nuria Monfort lives.





Ischia, Italy

MY BRILLIANT FRIEND

The story of *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante unfolds mainly in a working-class Neapolitan area, while Ischia plays a small but key symbolic role. For main characters Lila and Elena, it's where they experience a sense of another life beyond where they live. Ischia represents possibility, freedom, beauty, and romance. So while Naples represents constraint and intensity, Ischia symbolizes escapism. When visiting Ischia, the warm beaches, clear water, relaxed island villages, and slow rhythm will bring this feeling to life.

Top tip: Plan a day trip to Naples. Take the ferry from one of the main ports of Ischia and experience the hectic life in the Neapolitan neighborhoods.

Welcome
on board



KLM NEWS

KLM House

NO. 83: MUSEUM VAN LOON



In 1672, Flemish merchant Jeremias van Raey commissioned architect Adriaan Dortsman to design Keizersgracht 672 in

Amsterdam. The canal house's first occupant was the painter Ferdinand Bol, a pupil of Rembrandt's. The property, which had several owners during the decades that followed, changed hands for the last time in 1884 when Hendrik van Loon bought it as a wedding present for his son, Willem Hendrik. The last resident of Keizersgracht 672 was Maurits Van Loon, Hendrik's great-grandson. In 1960, Maurits started the Van Loon Foundation, now known as "Museum Van Loon", to maintain the building and its contents, including its artworks. The house was opened to the public in 1973. Van Loon's daughter Philippa Colomb de Daunant-van Loon took over after his death, and remains a member of the board to this day.

APEX Awards

TOP HONORS FOR CABIN SERVICE

KLM EARNED THE TITLE OF "BEST CABIN SERVICE" AMONG EUROPEAN AIRLINES AT THE 2026 APEX BEST™ AWARDS.

This prize is particularly special because it's awarded to airlines on the strength of passengers' experiences during their flight. More than one million flights were rated across five categories: seat comfort, cabin service, food and beverages, entertainment, and Wi-Fi. "At KLM, we believe that every journey can be meaningful," said Bas Gerresen, Executive Vice-President of KLM Inflight Services. "KLM's cabin crew is ready to offer travelers a warm welcome and personalized attention, so they feel at home when traveling with KLM. The APEX Award for Best Cabin Service in the

European airlines category, which is based entirely on passenger reviews, is a tremendous recognition of our cabin crew. It shows that our customers appreciate our service."



Ask the expert



CABIN ATTENDANT
NICKY BLOM ANSWERS YOUR
BURNING QUESTION.

What happens when a cabin crew member is expecting?



Once a member of the cabin crew has informed KLM that she's pregnant, she's given a suitable temporary position on the ground until she goes on maternity leave. I became a mother to a beautiful girl four months ago. Because I'm still breastfeeding, I haven't resumed my position as a cabin crew member. In such instances, KLM extends temporary office assignments for a slightly longer term, or our flight schedules are changed to accommodate breastfeeding. I'm currently working at the Human Resources Shared Service Center.

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*.

AI CAN'T CREATE **THE MOMENT**
YOU TAKE A DEEPER BREATH.
CROATIA CAN.

PHOTO: ZEMANJA

croatia.hr

CROATIA
Full of life

KLM NEWS

Memorable flight

"The card was a beautiful personal gesture"

A THOUGHTFUL ACT
MADE JUDITH KIERS'
FLIGHT TO BELGRADE
UNFORGETTABLE.



I've lived and worked in the western region of the Balkans for about 25 years. I've always had a special place in my heart for the area, as the people are incredibly friendly and the pace of life differs drastically from what we're used to in the Netherlands. This led to a radical decision in April 2022, when a friend and I saw a plot of land and a house for sale in Fruška Gora, a mountain between the Danube

and Sava Rivers. Within two weeks, we'd decided to buy it – and that's how I found myself on an evening flight from Amsterdam to Belgrade shortly thereafter. I told the steward why I was flying, and he gave me a small gift to wish me luck, as well as a card. I've kept that card ever since; it was a beautiful personal gesture. Four years have passed since then, and we've been building a house on the land. It's made

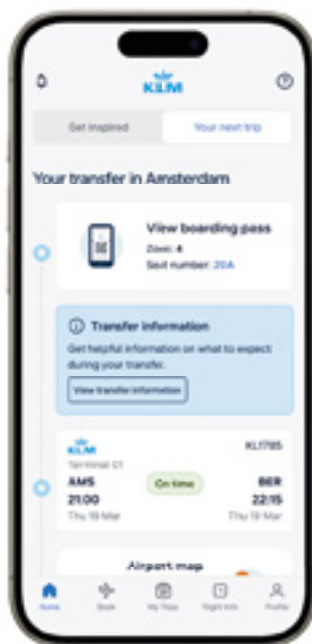
of recycled materials, 100-year-old bricks, and reeds for insulation. The house received a prize from the Belgrade Salon of Architecture for its sustainable and ecological construction – a great crowning achievement for a great adventure.

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*.

Smoother journey

A NEW TRAVEL COMPANION

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



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



KLM Cityhopper

SIX DECADES OF CONNECTING EUROPE

IT'S BEEN 60 YEARS SINCE KLM CITYHOPPER WAS FOUNDED. LUCE VAN KEMPEN, HEAD OF STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION AT KLM CITYHOPPER, TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE LIFE CYCLE OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY CARRIER.

“While KLM Cityhopper is part of the KLM network, it’s an independent carrier – we prefer to think of ourselves as a daughter of KLM,” says Van Kempen. “Although being 60 years of age might make us somewhat of an old daughter, it’s nothing compared to our mother company, KLM, which is more than 100 years old.”

KLM Cityhopper emerged due to a need for a dedicated carrier to serve KLM’s domestic network. It began in 1966 as Nederlandse Luchtvaart Maatschappij (“Netherlands Airline Company”; NLM), later becoming NLM Cityhopper. The airline for European flights we know and love today was created in 1991 following the merger of NLM Cityhopper and NetherLines, a Dutch airline acquired by KLM in 1988.

Stretching our wings

Some significant changes have taken place since 1991. For example, onboard crew members no longer have to function as agents at the gate, and Fokker aircraft have been replaced by Embraers. The number of destinations and passengers that KLM Cityhopper serves has also increased significantly – from 36 destinations and 1 million passengers in 1991 to more than 80 destinations and 8 million passengers annually today.

“We’re responsible for about half of all KLM flights, while using only about 10% of KLM’s fuel,” explains Van Kempen. “This is because we fly solely to European destinations, using smaller planes and covering shorter distances.”

The destinations aren’t the only difference between KLM Cityhopper and KLM. “Cityhopper aircraft operate with smaller, younger teams, usually consisting of three cabin crew members and two pilots,” says Van Kempen. “Instead of operating one flight a day, it’s possible to fly to three different destinations.” And the locations aren’t always the same. “While some places remain popular, such as favorites in Britain or Linköping in Sweden, our destinations change each season. This

“Cityhopper excels at flying to cities that aren’t necessarily capitals”

summer, for instance, we added Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, and Jersey. We also excel at flying to cities that aren’t necessarily capitals, so passengers are able to reach smaller destinations with only one layover instead of having to catch multiple flights.”

Spotlighting sustainability

Mother and daughter are similar when it comes to family values. “We recognize the importance of sustainability and how vital it is to share this knowledge,” says Van Kempen. “More than 5% of our crew are sustainability ambassadors, which means they keep a close eye on sustainable initiatives that are already in

place, such as sorting waste for recycling and combi-loading; they even take note of passenger suggestions.”

And that’s not all. “KLM Cityhopper has led many sustainable initiatives. In 2024, we held the E-Turnaround Challenge, during which we collaborated with our outstations to work with more electric vehicles instead of running everything on diesel. Also, to bring passengers along on our sustainability journey, last year we conducted an SAF [alternative aviation fuel] initiative with KLM, in which passengers flying two specific routes had a 100% SAF surcharge included in their ticket price. Our alliance, SkyTeam, even presented us with the Pioneer of the Year Award for this initiative!” KLM later adapted the venture in a different form, adds Van Kempen. “That’s what I like about KLM Cityhopper – we’re the daughter who has the room to experiment and who gives her mother new ideas.”



Luce van Kempen, Head of Strategy and Sustainable Transformation, KLM Cityhopper

Left page (clockwise from top left): An NLM fleet in 1968 (top right); the Fokker 50’s final flight in 2010 (bottom left); NLM uniforms in 1973 (bottom right)

KLM FLEET

Specifications

KLM'S SUNFLOWER



KLM is one big family and, as with family members, the airline's aircraft have names. KLM's 13-strong fleet of 787-9 Dreamliners is named after flowers and plants. The first 787-9 was called *Sunflower*, and the rest have names such as *Lavender*, *Dahlia*, *Jasmine*, and *Lily*.



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 777-300ER/200ER

Number of aircraft: 16/15
Cruising speed (km/h): 920/900
Range (km): 12,000/11,800
Max. take-off weight (kg): 351,543/297,500
Maximum passengers: 381/286
Total length (m): 73.86/63.80
Wingspan (m): 64.80/60.90
Personal inflight entertainment
Wi-Fi on board

Boeing 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 737-800/700

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



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



Airbus A321neo

Number of aircraft: 17

Cruising speed (km/h): 876

Range (km): 7,400

Max. take-off weight (kg): 89,000

Maximum passengers: 227

Total length (m): 44.51

Wingspan (m): 35.80

Personal inflight entertainment

Wi-Fi on board



Boeing 737-900

Number of aircraft: 5

Cruising speed (km/h): 850

Range (km): 4,300

Max. take-off weight (kg): 76,900

Maximum passengers: 188

Total length (m): 42.12

Wingspan (m): 35.80



Embraer 195-E2

Number of aircraft: 25

Cruising speed (km/h): 876

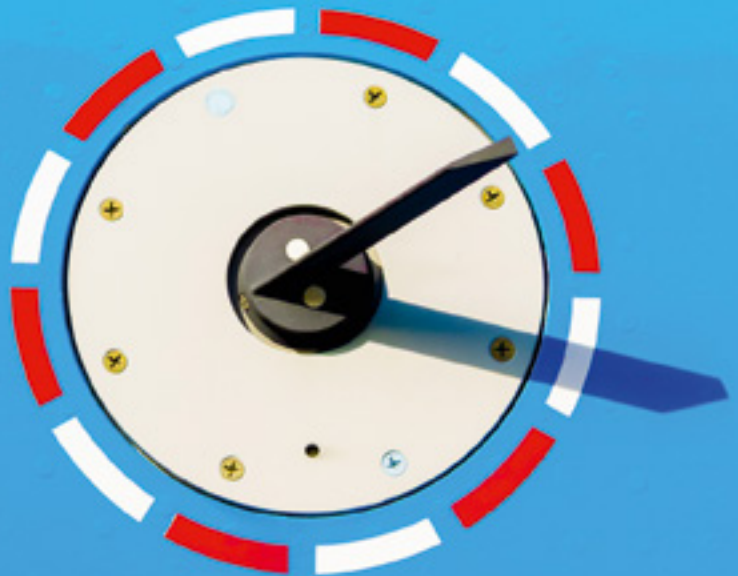
Range (km): 4,815

Max. take-off weight (kg): 56,700

Maximum passengers: 136

Total length (m): 41.5

Wingspan (m): 35.12



Angle of Attack vane

SLOW AND STEADY

“This is one of the A321neo’s Angle of Attack (AoA) vanes, a type of sensor found on most aircraft in one form or another,” explains Patrick Bührmann, Ground Engineer Boeing 737, 777, 787, and Airbus. “AoA vanes measure airflow and provide critical data on lift and performance, which the aircraft’s systems use to optimize handling and protect against stall conditions. The data is crucial if the pilot wants to fly slowly yet maintain altitude. To keep this data accurate, these sensors are heated to avoid freezing at high altitudes. AoA vanes are found at three points at the front of the A321neo: two on the left-hand side and one on the right. Multiple sensors provide redundancy while ensuring that accurate data is always available, thereby supporting a safe and efficient flight.”

TRAVELERS



Joel



“Dubai really appeals to me; the city seems to have a very relaxed vibe”

JOEL RAMOS TRAVELING
TO ISTANBUL
ON FLIGHT KL1959

Reason for travel? “I’m traveling from Oklahoma to Istanbul. It will be my first visit to Europe. I’ll be in Istanbul for five days to see the city and possibly to get a hair transplant, as it’s much cheaper there than it is in the US.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “Dubai really appeals to me. From everything I’ve seen online, I think I could fit in quite well there, even though I’m not Middle Eastern. It seems to have a very relaxed vibe. I’ll be going there next month with some friends.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “The Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. He’d probably be a good person to know in the city. Or Dana White, the CEO of the Ultimate Fighting Championship. I love watching mixed martial arts. He’d probably have loads of good stories.”

Susan

SUSAN ROBINS
TRAVELING TO LOS ANGELES
ON FLIGHT KL2861

Reason for travel? “I’m flying back home to Los Angeles, where I’ve lived for the past 20 years. I was in Sweden to visit my son and his family. It was only a week, but it was a nice visit, nonetheless. It was Christmas the last time I was there. It’s fortunate that I get to see my grandchildren occasionally.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I’d love to spend some more time in Sweden with my family. If that wasn’t an option, I’d like to take them with me to one of the Greek islands, where it’s nice and sunny and warm. I’d prefer to stay somewhere quiet, out of the city.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “Barack Obama. I’m curious to see if his viewpoints have changed – how he looks at the world today. I’d like to know if he had trouble fitting in when he started out in politics. I’d love to have a conversation with him.”



Debbie & Grace

DEBBIE AND GRACE NDEGWA
TRAVELING TO NAIROBI
ON FLIGHT KLO565

Reason for travel? Debbie: “We’re on a layover from Canada; we’re going to Nairobi to visit family for about a month or so.”

Grace: “I’m looking forward to seeing my relatives, and going to the beach. We haven’t been back to Kenya since 2019, so it’s been a while.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Grace: “Thailand. From what I’ve seen online, Phuket looks so beautiful. I like beautiful beaches, so I think I’d like Thailand.”

Debbie: “Every time I’m in the Netherlands, it’s only for a layover. I’d love to visit Amsterdam or the countryside. It’s probably very different from Canada.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Grace: “My best friend, Farhad. We’d really like to travel the world together.”

Debbie: “I’d ask the co-pilot to take my seat so I could sit in the cockpit. I’m sure the view would be incredible.”

Enjoy every Mile of your journey



Flyingblue
AIRFRANCE / KLM

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

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

Join at flyingblue.com

Flying Blue is the loyalty programme of



FLYING BLUE

Boost your Flying Blue balance

EARN MILES EVERY MONTH



With Subscribe to Miles, growing your Flying Blue balance is simple. Each month, you receive Miles automatically, making it easier to build up your balance over time. Select the option that suits your needs: Starter (2,000 Miles for €28/month), Smart (5,000 Miles for €65/month), Advanced (10,000 Miles for €120/month), or Complete (17,000 Miles for €187/month). Once you've subscribed, your Miles are credited every month, helping you move a step closer to

your next travel plan. The Miles you receive can be used in many ways to enhance your journey. Put them toward a reward ticket, enjoy access to an airport lounge, or book a stay at a boutique hotel. It's a flexible way to turn your monthly subscription into valuable travel experiences. Scan the QR code to get started. flyingblue.com/en/mileshub/subscription



My Miles



"The extra legroom made all the difference"

KAREN DE LOOS SPENDS HER MILES ON UPGRADES SO SHE CAN ENJOY EXTRA COMFORT ON LONG FLIGHTS.



Kyoto, Japan

As a freelancer in the marketing field, I've worked for various international companies, which has allowed me to travel throughout Europe. I also travel once or twice a year on Economy Class flights to India as a pro bono consultant for Women on Wings, an organization that helps social entrepreneurs in rural India grow their businesses, which then provide women with jobs. These flights have

enabled me to save up plenty of Miles, which I spend on upgrades for long flights. The most rewarding use of my Miles was in April this year, when I booked a trip to Japan for a milestone birthday. I wasn't able to use my Miles on a Premium Comfort upgrade for my flight to Osaka, but I could use them on an upgrade to Business Class for my flight from Tokyo to Amsterdam. It made the long flight more pleasant,

as I struggle to sleep when sitting upright. The fact that my seat could recline, coupled with the extra legroom, made all the difference. I'll probably spend my Miles on another ticket to Japan, or on an upgrade while traveling there.

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*.

Flyingblue
AIRFRANCE KLM

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

ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT



The Mandalorian and Grogu
is the latest addition
to the *Star Wars* franchise

Watch, listen, or play

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

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

Our pick



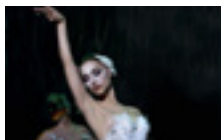
THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU

Following numerous films and series comes the latest addition to the *Star Wars* franchise: *The Mandalorian and Grogu*. When Colonel Ward (Sigourney Weaver) tasks bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal) and his apprentice Grogu – the central characters in *The Mandalorian* (Disney+) – with finding the notorious Imperial warlord Commander Coin, the pair embark on a romp through the galaxy. Their search brings them to Rotta the Hutt, Jabba the Hutt's son and heir to the Hutt crime syndicate. The duo's task is soon complicated by rival Hutts and Imperial forces.

Sci-fi, 2h12min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



Black Swan

Thriller, 1h48min

When ballerina Nina (Natalie Portman) is cast as the Swan Queen in *Swan Lake*, she's challenged to embody the innocent White Swan and the seductive Black Swan. As Nina struggles with the latter, she feels threatened by potential rival Lily (Mila Kunis).



The Hangover

Comedy, 1h40min

Alan (Zach Galifianakis), Phil (Bradley Cooper), and Stu (Ed Helms) wake up with no memory of the previous night's bachelor party. Following a trail of clues, they piece together what happened as they attempt to locate the missing groom in time for his wedding.



Fantastic Mr. Fox

Animation, 1h28min

Nominated for two Oscars, this stop-motion film directed by Wes Anderson follows Mr. Fox (voiced by George Clooney), who has outsmarted three local farmers once too often. Now he has to call on his animal community for help to survive the farmers' retaliation.

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

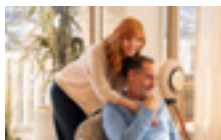
Test your general knowledge by answering questions from a wide range of topics. You can play alone or compete against other players. Challenge yourself and learn something new.

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

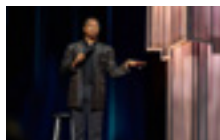
IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM...



The Comeback

Sitcom, 30min

Season 3 follows Valerie Cherish (Lisa Kudrow) as she prepares to play Roxie Hart in *Chicago* – despite never having seen the musical. After struggling, Cherish quits but later accepts the lead in *How's That?*, Hollywood's first sitcom written entirely by AI.



Josh Johnson: Symphony

Comedy, 1h

In this stand-up special, American comedian and writer Josh Johnson entertains his audience with original material about shared human experiences, family, religion, relationships, and the absurdities of everyday modern life.



Rooster

Comedy drama, 34min

Set on a fictional New England college campus, *Rooster* explores the complex relationship between author Greg Russo (Steve Carell) and his daughter, art professor Katie (Charly Clive), who's navigating life on campus after separating from her fellow professor husband.



Move with ease

Traveling the world has never been easier. With seamless connections to 960+ destinations worldwide, SkyTeam member airlines work together to provide you with more travel options, greater flexibility and faster ways to reach your destination.

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

SKYTEAM

On social media

A GLOBAL CONNECTION

FROM INSPIRING JOURNEYS TO THE LATEST ALLIANCE UPDATES, OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS OFFER A WINDOW INTO THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EXPERIENCES THAT DEFINE SKYTEAM.



Every journey tells a story, and SkyTeam is proud to help make those stories possible. Through our global network of member airlines, we connect people and places around the world, making travel smoother, more seamless, and more rewarding every step of the way.

Discover SkyTeam

SkyTeam was founded with our customer at the center, built on the promise of “caring more about you”.

Today, our alliance of 18 member airlines connects more than 960 destinations across 165+ countries. Every day, those journeys inspire stories and exciting updates that we share across our social media channels, bringing the world of SkyTeam closer to travelers wherever they are.

Get inspired

On Instagram and Facebook, you’ll discover the latest alliance updates, the benefits of flying with SkyTeam, and

destination inspiration from across our global network. If you’re flying with our member airlines, don’t forget to share your own travel moments using #SkyTeam for a chance to be featured on our channels and showcase your journey to fellow travelers around the world.

Stay informed

Follow us on LinkedIn and X for member news, industry insights, and a closer look at the partnerships, innovations, and people driving the future of seamless travel. In Greater China, travelers can also stay connected through our dedicated WeChat channel.

Whether you’re planning your next adventure or already on your way, our social channels are your window into the world of SkyTeam. Be among the first to discover new destinations, lounges, customer experiences, and inspiring travel stories from across our global network. We’re delighted to have you on board today and look forward to staying connected, wherever your next journey takes you.

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



Beyond the Beach

DISCOVER THE MANY FACES OF MIAMI

Few destinations combine cosmopolitan flair, cultural diversity, and outdoor living quite like Miami. And with four non-stop KLM flights per week from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to Miami International Airport, reaching this vibrant American city has never been easier.

Set between the Atlantic Ocean and the gorgeous landscapes of the Everglades, the city offers a unique blend of world-class experiences, all under a year-round subtropical sun. Miami's iconic coastline is an

obvious draw. In South Beach, wide stretches of white sand meet the pastel-colored Art Deco architecture that has become synonymous with the city's identity.

Creativity and culture

Yet, Miami's appeal extends far beyond its beaches. Creative districts such as Wynwood showcase an ever-evolving scene of striking murals, galleries, and innovative culinary concepts, while Little Havana immerses visitors in the rhythms, flavors, and traditions of the city's rich Cuban heritage.

Elevated airport experience

Miami International Airport is where the Miami experience begins. As one of the busiest and most globally connected airports in the US, MIA is investing \$14 billion to elevate the passenger journey from the moment you land. Travelers will discover brighter, more spacious terminals, modernized facilities, and thoughtful design upgrades that create a calm and welcoming environment after a long flight. And with the complimentary MIA Mover that connects travelers to public transit, the Rental Car Center and regional transport, reaching Miami's neighborhoods is quick and simple.

Visit klm.com, start planning your Miami adventure, and discover the many faces this city has to offer.



Fans have more friends.



be drinkaware.co.uk

EUROPE



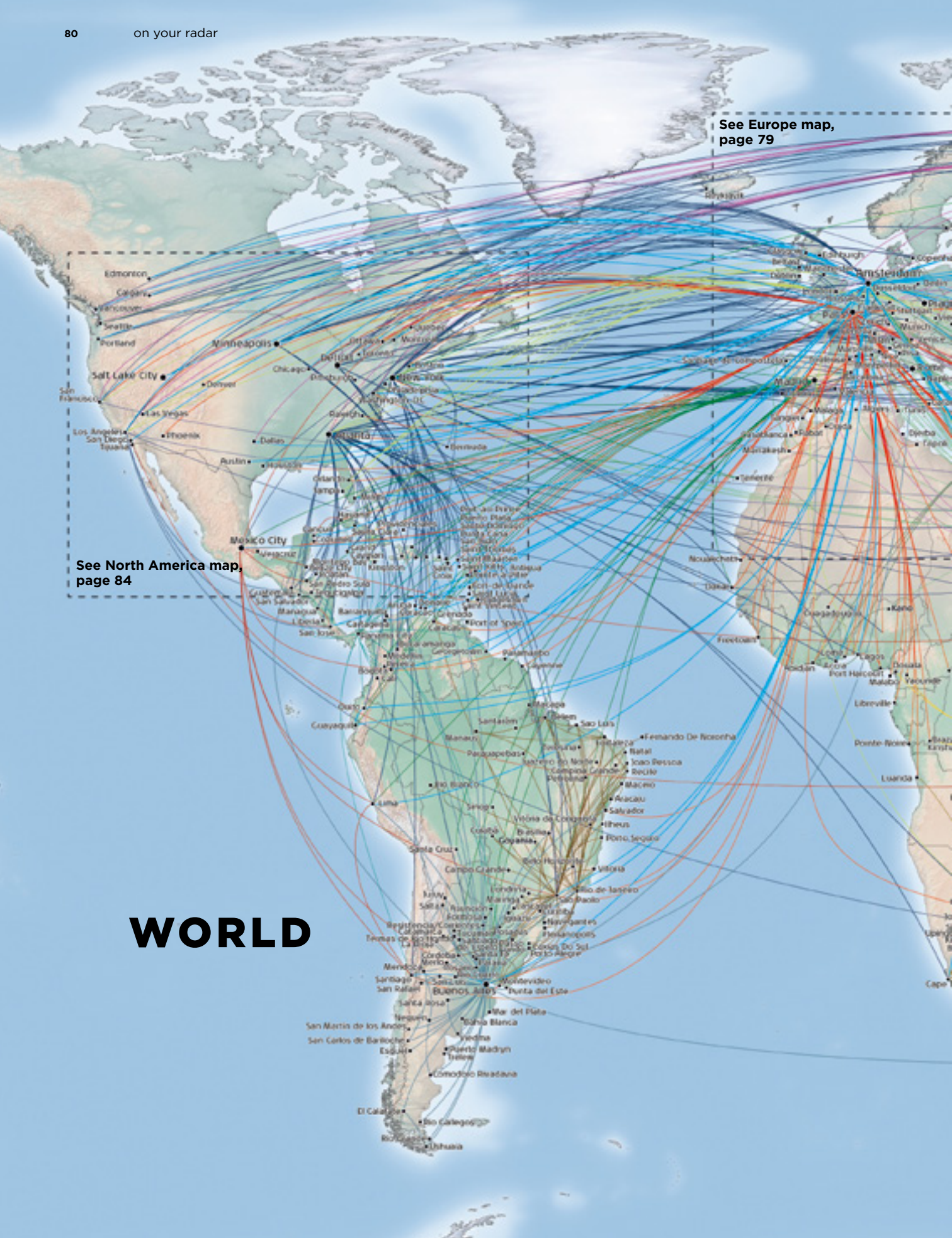
See World Map for intercontinental flights, page 80

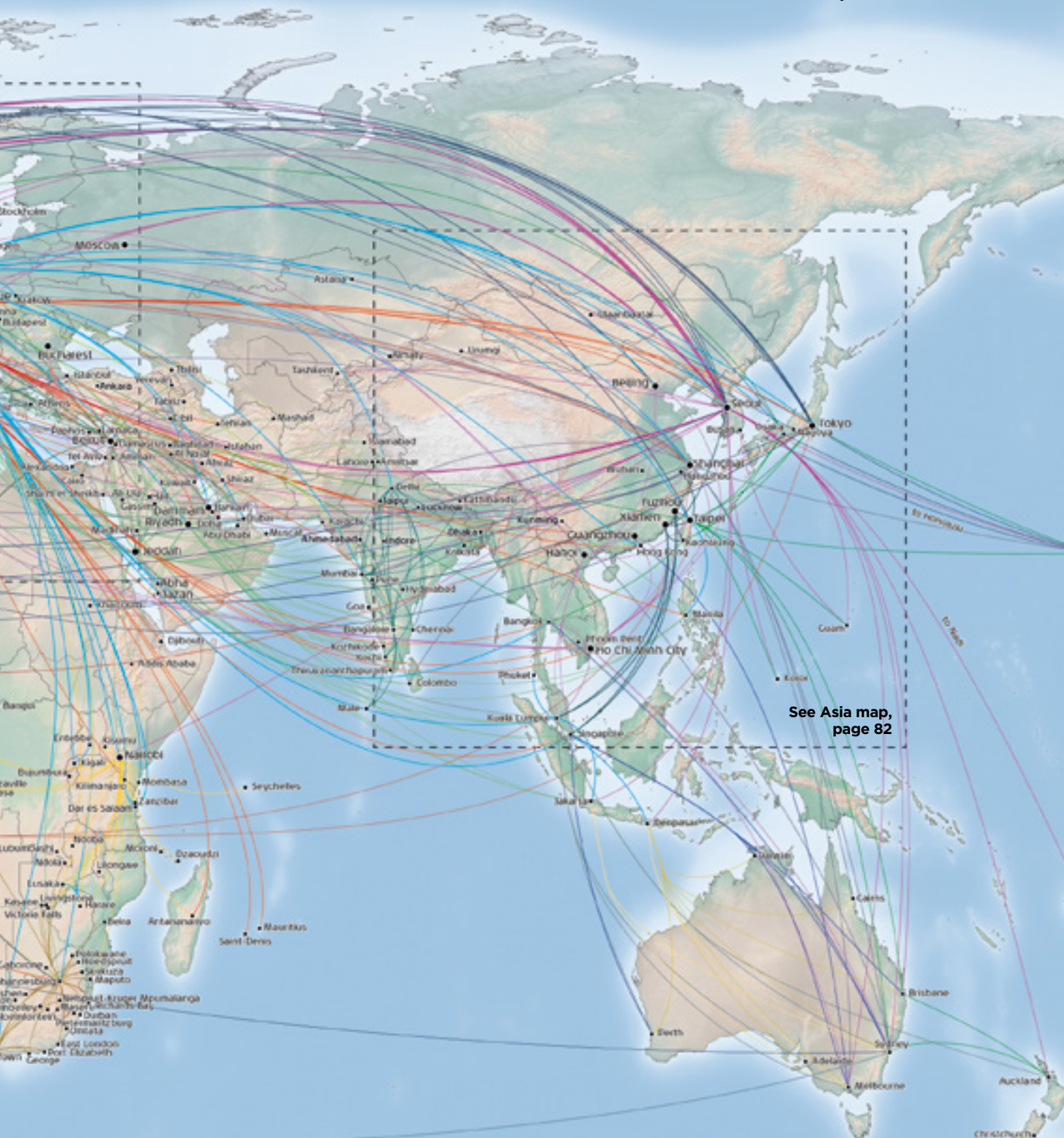
The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft.
We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

See Europe map,
page 79

See North America map,
page 84

WORLD





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





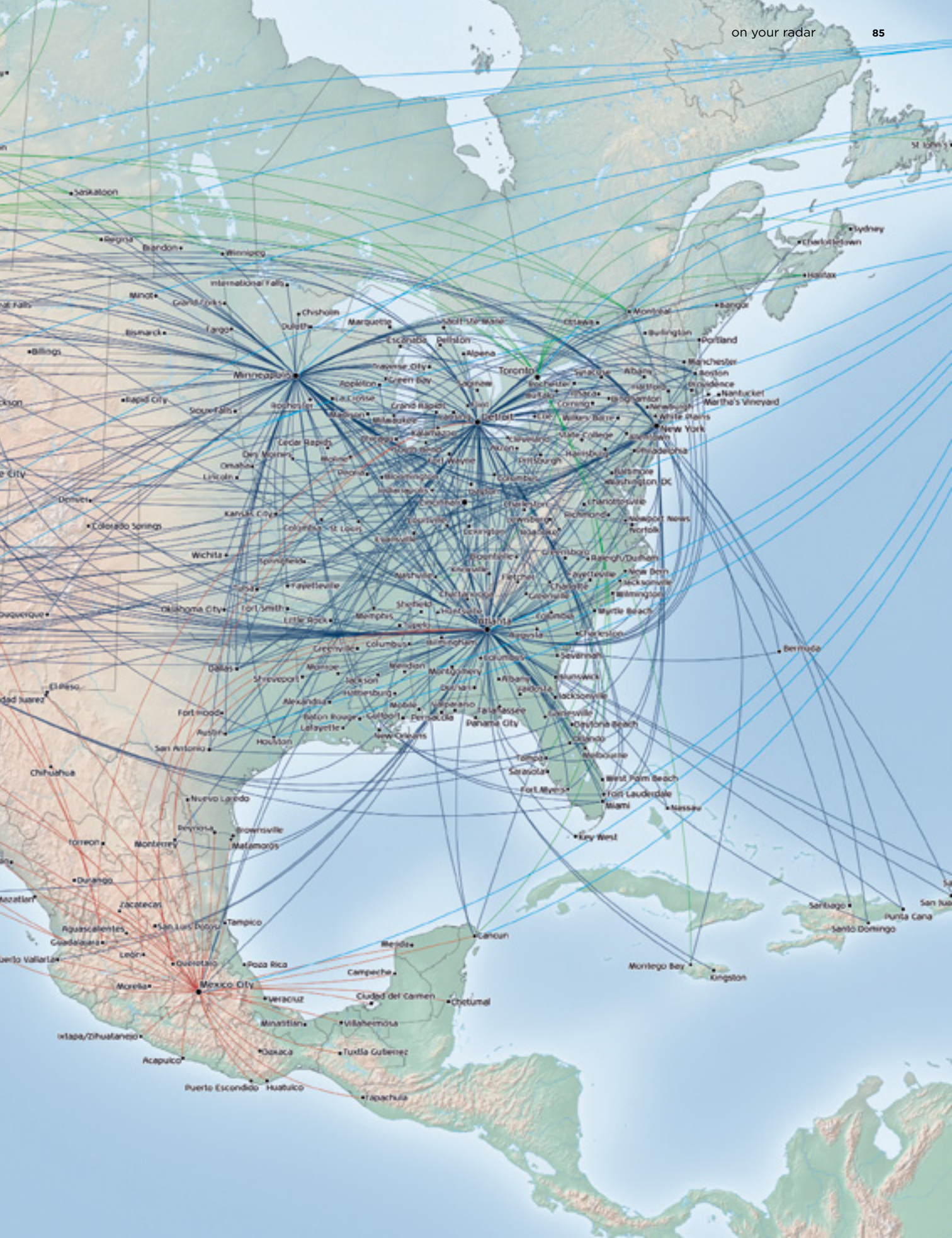


KLM routes, KLM
code-share routes
and other SkyTeam
destinations in
North America.

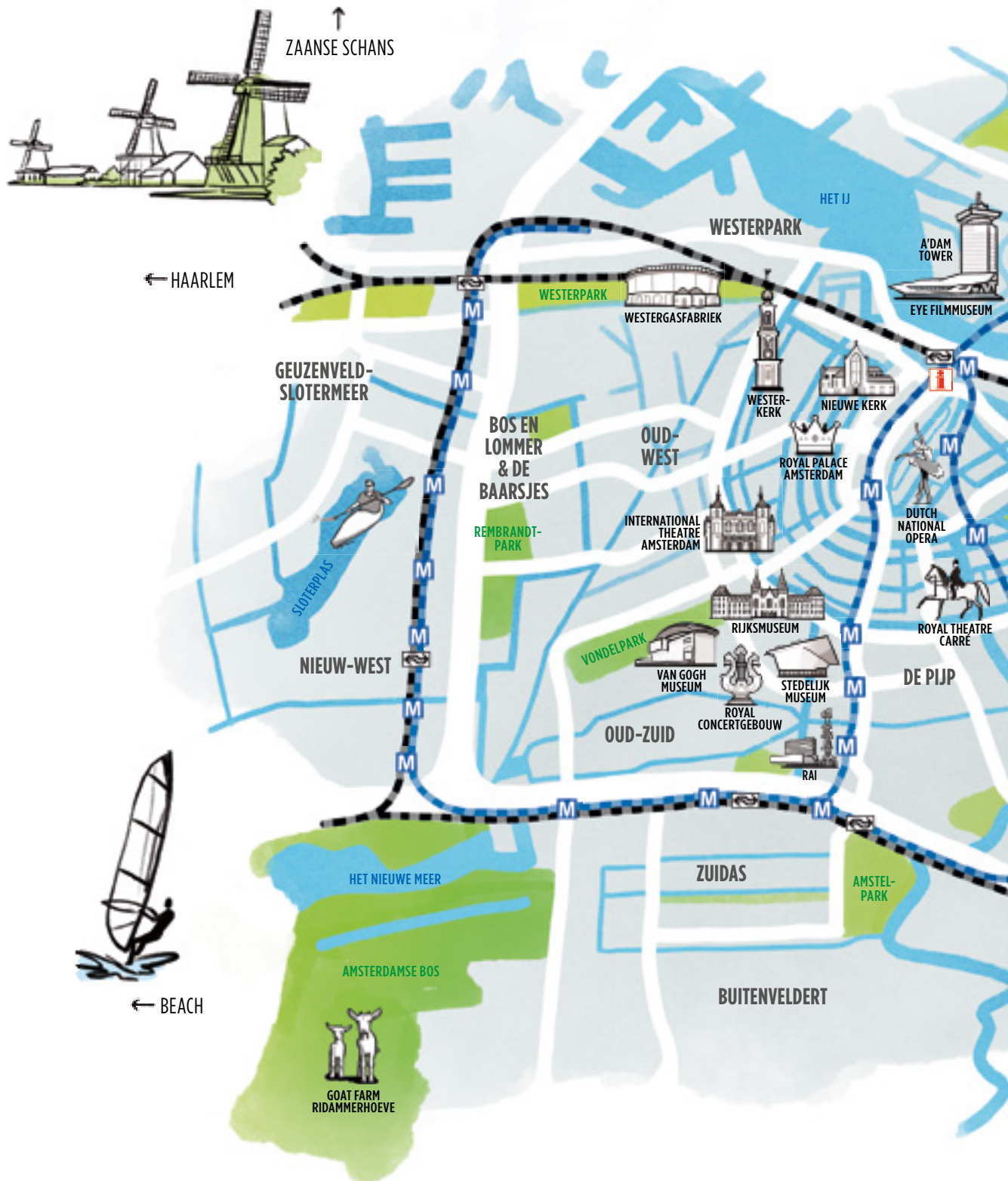
 SkyTeam member

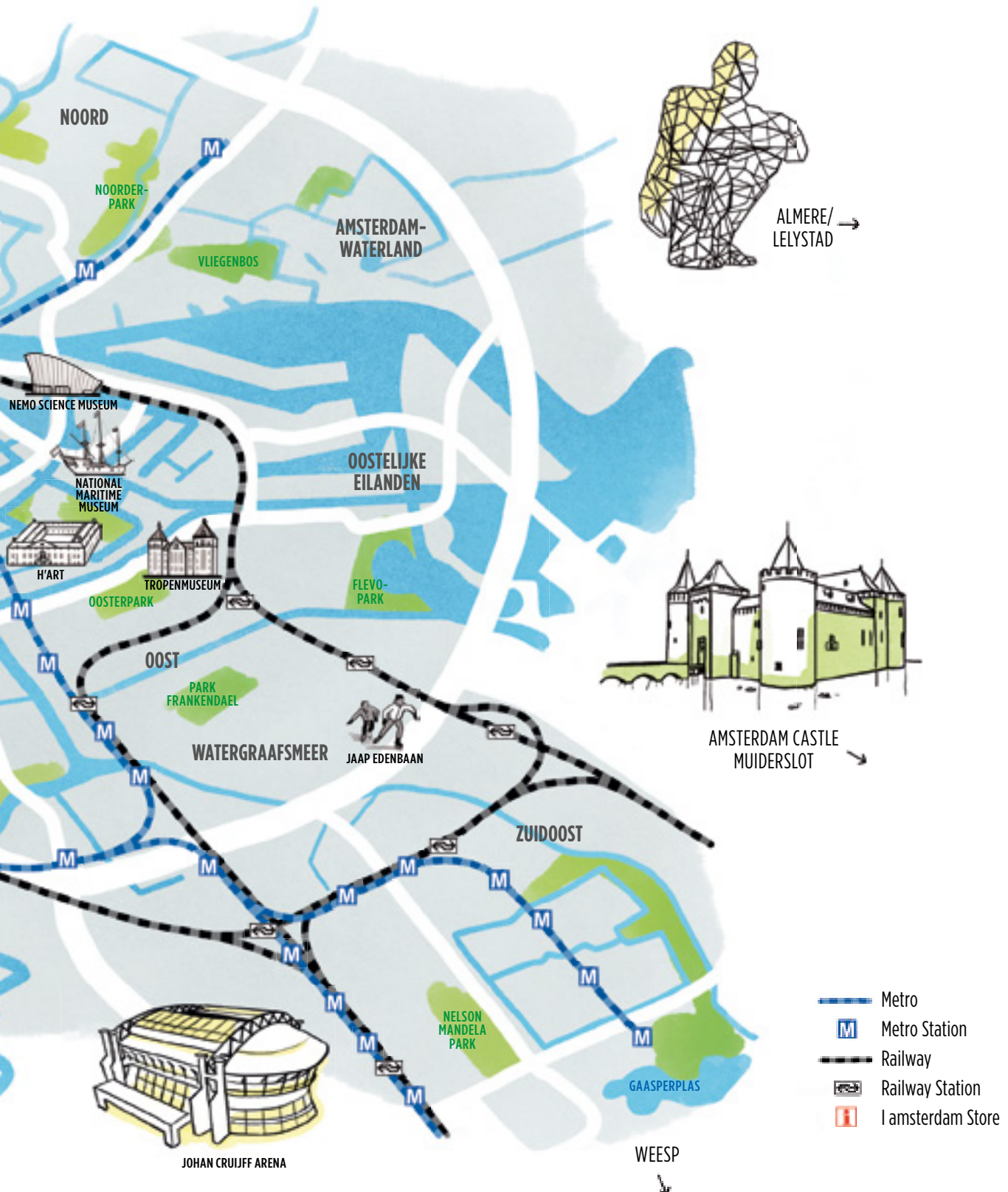
- KLM 
- Aeroméxico 
- Delta Air Lines 
- WestJet 

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



AMSTERDAM

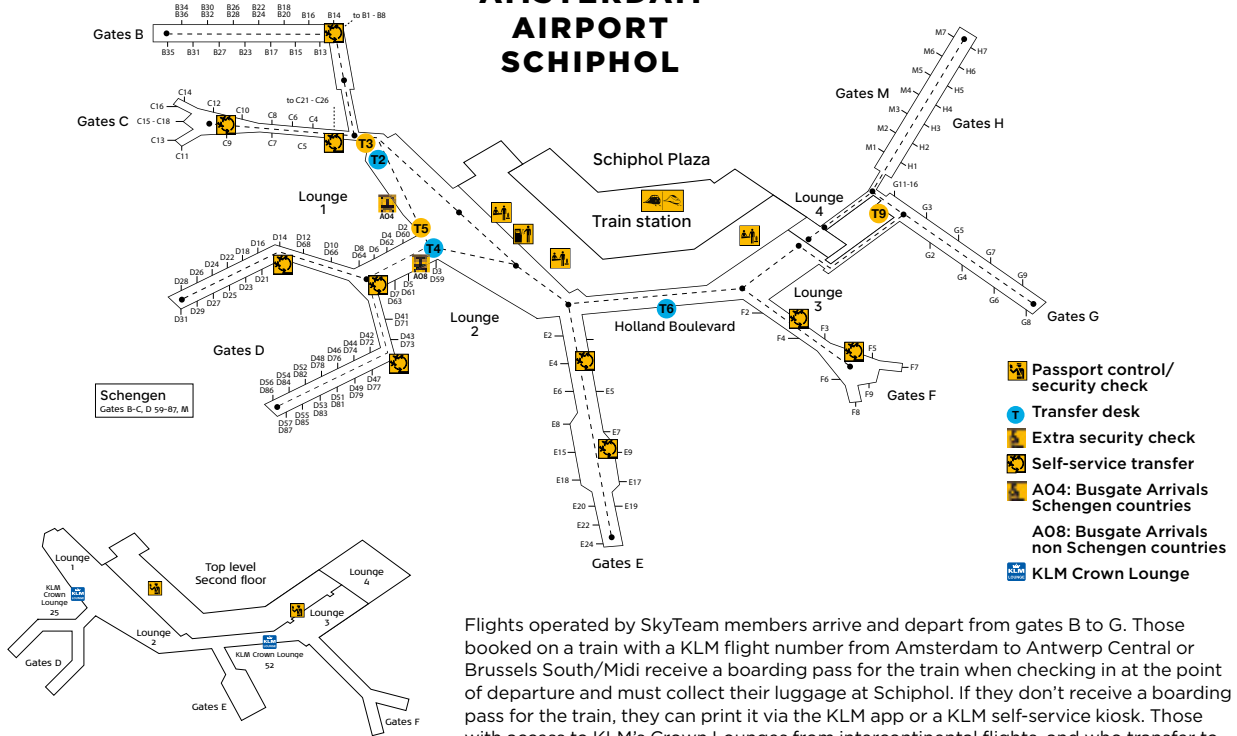




AIRPORT MAPS

The Netherlands

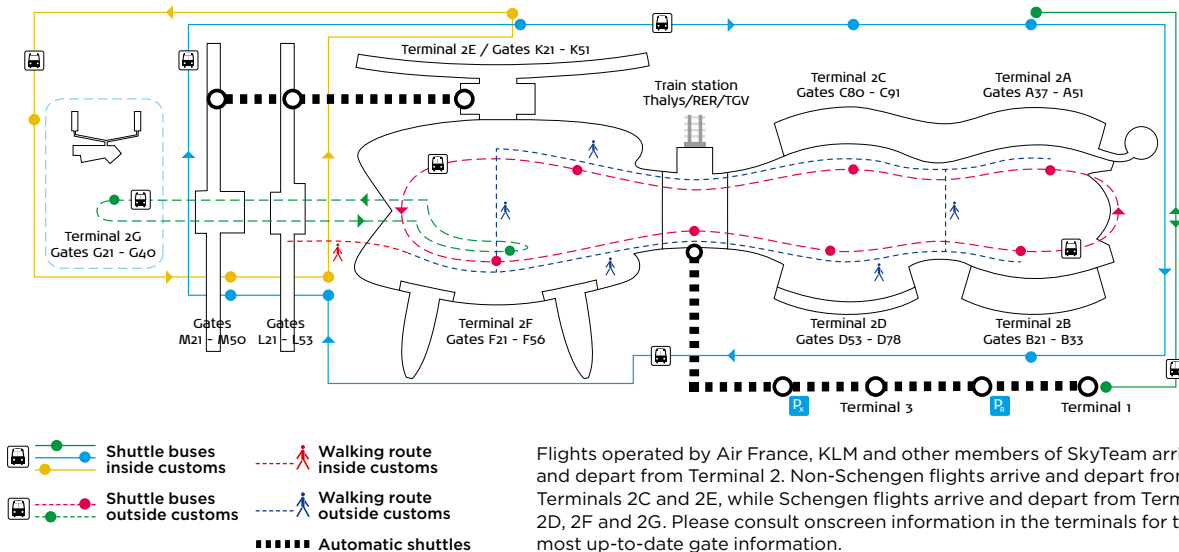
AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



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



Nitant Shinde

AS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE MANAGER AND SUSTAINABILITY LEAD, NITANT SHINDE KEEPS AN EYE ON CUSTOMER PERCEPTION.

What does your job entail? As Customer Experience Manager, I measure customers' travel experience with KLM. I base my assessments on the results of surveys, which are sent to passengers after their flight. The survey isn't about the flight; it covers the entire process, from check-in to landing. We also assess how likely customers are to return to KLM, and if they return, how they'd book another flight – via the website, app, or another way. There are many options. Once this data has been collected, I try to translate it into useful findings for several departments within KLM so that we can make better decisions for

customers. In my role as Sustainability Lead, I work with colleagues to measure and improve customers' perceptions of KLM's sustainability initiatives.

Did you always want to work in the aviation industry? I've always liked aviation. I came to the Netherlands 15 years ago to study Aerospace Engineering at Delft University of Technology. After completing my master's, I took up a technical position at engineering firm Haskoning and then another company, before becoming a product manager at KLM. After working in product management in the digital

department, I moved over to customer experience.

What do you like about working at KLM? I don't think of KLM as an airline, but as a partner in connectivity. I value the impact we can make in people's lives, by keeping them connected with the experience of discovery and with loved ones. I'm proud that I can make someone's journey as seamless as possible by connecting them when they're flying with KLM and by making sure that, when they continue their journey with another airline, the connection happens easily too.

BEIJING

China



The Great Wall

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987, the Great Wall of China was built over more than two millennia. Today, travelers can visit the Badaling section of the wall by taking a high-speed train from downtown Beijing.

Peking duck

The renowned Peking duck hails from Beijing. Among the more famous eateries that serve the meaty delicacy are Bianyifang – established in 1416 during the Ming Dynasty – and Quanjude, a restaurant chain that's offered the dish since 1864.

17°C

September is a wonderful month to visit Beijing, with average temperatures ranging between 17°C and 27°C, and the sky staying relatively clear. A few layers – such as long-sleeved shirts, T-shirts, and a light jacket – should keep you comfortable while you explore the capital city.

1979

The name “Peking” originated in the 17th century, when European traders and missionaries transcribed the name phonetically. In 1979, the Chinese government introduced a system for romanizing Mandarin Chinese pronunciations, resulting in “Peking” becoming “Beijing”.

2008

Many structures built for the 2008 Olympics are still popular today. One of the most famous is the Beijing National Stadium, nicknamed the “Bird’s Nest” and designed by Swiss architects Pierre de Meuron and Jacques Herzog. It's attracted millions of visitors since its opening.

Museums

With over 200 museums, Beijing offers something for every interest. Explore the country's rich history with a visit to the National Museum of China, or head to the National Natural History Museum of China to view the skeletons of mammoths and more.

Hutongs

Ancient *hutongs* (narrow alleyways) are an example of the strict urban planning adhered to when the city was being built. Most are located in the historic center near the Forbidden City, and many have become commercial hubs.



Helping children in need at KLM destinations

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



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

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



Steltman Collection / Handmade in the Steltman workshop
Whitegold Alexandra ring set with indigolith (blue tourmaline) and diamonds

Plaats 26
2513 AE The Hague
The Netherlands
tel +31 70 346 96 01
juwelier@steltman.nl
WWW.STELTMAN.NL

Steltman
ATELIER - JEWELRY - WATCHES



BY APPOINTMENT TO THE COURT
OF THE NETHERLANDS