

OCTOBER 2026 • DREAM ROAD TRIP IN SALTA • ROME FOOD GUIDE • 24 HOURS IN CURAÇAO • RIJKSMUSEUM'S GALLERY OF HONOUR • KLM INSIDER STORIES & UPDATES




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Marjan Rintel

THE POWER OF ICONS



Cover Story

We asked BUCK, the design studio behind KLM's new inflight safety video (p. 64) – which will be shown on board from this month – to design this issue's cover. The result is a visual ode to Amsterdam, KLM's home base, which captures the relaxed vibe of the Dutch capital, with its canals, cyclists, and characteristic canal houses.

When KLM took to the skies in 1919, the idea was simple: bring people and cultures closer together. As we celebrate our 107th anniversary this month, that same spirit continues to drive everything we do. Looking back over more than a century of aviation, we're reminded that true icons are not born overnight; they're forged through passion, and a constant drive to innovate.

This Icons Issue celebrates the classics that continuously reinvent themselves. We invite you on a private tour through the Rijksmuseum's prestigious Gallery of Honour (p. 26), where 50 masterpieces, leading up to Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*, showcase the timeless power of Dutch artistic genius. Our first Airbus A350 aircraft bears the name of Rembrandt's iconic masterpiece. Last summer, we proudly welcomed *The Night Watch* to our fleet.

At KLM, we believe in building on our rich heritage while continuously driving progress. This is beautifully represented by our partners at design studio BUCK, who have crafted our signature illustration style and our brand-new inflight safety video (p. 64). Fusing traditional craftsmanship with modern animation, this video ensures that your safety remains our top priority in a uniquely warm and Dutch way.

“We believe in building on our rich heritage while continuously driving progress”

Our journey of progress is also visible in our sustainability ambitions. For many years, KLM has been investing in making aviation cleaner, quieter, and more fuel-efficient. In addition to our fleet renewal, SAF (alternative aviation fuel) is one of the most effective ways to significantly reduce aviation's CO₂ emissions. Construction began this year on the SkyNRG facility (p. 61) in the Netherlands. KLM is a cofounder of SkyNRG,

which supplies airlines with SAF, and has been closely involved in developing the SAF market from the outset. We're committed to buying 75% of the plant's output. This milestone represents a key step in scaling up SAF production.

If you're looking to discover some icons of your own, why not explore the breathtaking bridges featured in *Happy Places* (p. 52). From the spectacular Fredvang Bridges in Norway to the modern Millau Viaduct in France, these architectural landmarks connect people and places – just as our flights do every day.

Welcome aboard!

Marjan Rintel
KLM President & CEO





Rijksoverheid

What can and can't you bring?

Would you like to bring home a souvenir from your trip? Like jewellery, a local delicacy, or seashells? Some rules apply: you may need to declare some items, arrange a licence, or pay tax. Especially if you travel beyond the EU, different rules apply. Make sure that you are well-informed and prepared, so that you can enjoy the memories without a hitch.



Find out more at douane.nl/en/luggage



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Your Next Destination

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

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MEET THE TEAM



Anouk Bowman

Anouk became our Content Creator after studying journalism and then working as an intern for (Dutch) *Cosmopolitan* magazine. She writes *Through Your Lens* (p. 8) and the KLM pages, among others. With a healthy dose of curiosity, Anouk enjoys finding interesting angles for every story.

Anouk's travel tip: "I recently moved to the North Island of New Zealand and have been blown away by its luscious, green nature and relaxed vibe. If you visit, don't skimp on tourist attractions; the Hobbiton Movie Set, Cathedral Cove, and the geothermal pools are crowd-pleasers for a reason."



Simon Buijs

As a Design Director at BUCK in Amsterdam with 20 years' experience, Simon specializes in combining branding, illustration, and mixed media. He's worked with brands including Adobe, Amnesty, Google, Spotify, and KLM (cover & p. 64), creating their illustration systems.

Simon's travel tip: "Sardinia pleasantly surprised me. Exploring the west coast reveals stunning white sandy beaches, towering sand dunes, and rugged inland areas. On clear evenings, you can gaze at the night sky with occasional flocks of flamingos flying overhead."



Suzanne Stougie

As a freelance journalist and editor, Suzanne writes about travel, culture, food, books, and the many ways places tell stories. She's a regular contributor to *Holland Herald's* Happy Places; for this month's article (p. 52), she crossed some of the world's most remarkable bridges.

Suzanne's travel tip: "This summer, I stumbled upon the Puente Colgante in Spain's Basque Country: a grand old oddity of a bridge that's still wonderfully useful. It carries passengers and cars across the estuary in a suspended gondola – a working piece of industrial heritage."

Colophon

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THROUGH *your lens*



Utrecht
The Netherlands



LOW LANDS, HIGH CULTURE

PHOTOGRAPHER EZRA BÖHM GOT UP EARLY TO CAPTURE THIS IMAGE OF THE NIEUWEGRACHT CANAL IN UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS.



I've always found it funny how insistent people are about vacationing in

a different country to “take in the culture,” when we have so much heritage and culture in the Netherlands. We have a remarkable variety of subcultures, and I'm very proud of that. Every region, sometimes every village within a region, has its own characteristics in terms of food, clothing, language, and more – they're all slightly different. Take the region around Lake IJssel, where the local way of life is deeply ingrained in the fishermen, or simpler things, like how much the Dutch enjoy being out on wide-open grassy plains or how they use their bicycles for virtually every trip. When I was 19, I began photographing Dutch crafts and traditional clothing; that's when my love for local culture was sealed. While I find inspiration everywhere, Dutch culture is my main theme. For this image, taken on September 29, 2025, I'd checked the weather reports

for that week and taken note of the fog forecasts. So I got up at 5 a.m. and cycled around the center of Utrecht, where I came across this gentleman crossing the Magdalena Bridge on the Nieuwegracht canal. This was one of many images I took that morning. Not only was the fog beautiful, but the light was, too.

Your Photo

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

Monthly Prize

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

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





We co-own five unique holiday homes

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



Lene & Danny, a 21-5 family

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

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

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

What do you like most about 21-5?

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Has 21-5 been a good investment for you?

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

FACTS ABOUT 21-5

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



For more information:

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The SELECTION

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

London

KOREAN CREATIVITY

Korean culture didn't begin with K-pop, *Squid Game*, or contemporary fashion – the country's cultural influence today has roots in centuries of creativity, adaptation, and exchange. The exhibition *Korea* at London's British Museum introduces visitors to Korea's long artistic history, through ceramics, ornaments, painting, sculpture, textiles, and everyday cultural objects.

Until Jan 31; britishmuseum.org

TO *see*

Marseille

NEW STYLE

How did the organic curves of Art Nouveau give way to the geometric lines and modernist spirit of Art Deco? The exhibition *Art Nouveau – Art Deco: Marseille at the Heart of These Styles* at Musées de Marseille explores the transition.

Until Apr 25; musees.marseille.fr



Leiden

THE ART OF FLOWERS

LEIDEN'S MUSEUM DE LAKENHAL REVEALS THE RICH WORLD BEHIND 17TH-CENTURY FLORAL STILL LIVES.



In the 17th century, floral still lifes were popular among the affluent in the Netherlands and Flanders. The exhibition *Garden of Delights – The 17th Century in Bloom* at Museum De Lakenhal in Leiden explores floral artworks as a reflection of beauty, wealth, science, and mortality. Featuring artists such as Jan Brueghel the Elder and Clara Peeters, the exhibition combines the works of Old Masters with contemporary fashion and natural-history objects in an immersive scenography created by Belgian fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck. Until Mar 29; lakenhal.nl



Amsterdam

KUSAMA'S DIVERSITY

Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum celebrates Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama with an exhibition that spans more than 70 years of her career. Housed in the museum's new wing, the showcase brings together the late artist's broad oeuvre, from her early works and New York experiments to recent artworks from Tokyo. Highlights include works not previously shown in Europe and the iconic *Infinity Mirror Rooms*. Until Jan 17; stedelijk.nl

Antwerp

Sculptures for social justice

Social and political themes, particularly issues of migration, are at the core of Belgian artist Philip Aguirre y Otegui's humanistic artworks. With his sculptures, especially those in public spaces, he expresses the hope that beauty can help alleviate social inequality. A solo exhibition at Antwerp's

KMSKA offers an overview of his work, from the 1980s to the present day, combining his larger sculptures with smaller works.

Oct 3–Jan 17; kmska.be



The speculative frenzy of **Tulip Mania (1634–1637)**
heightened Dutch fascination with flower painting



Cincinnati

CELEBRATING PHOTOGRAPHY

For the entire month of October, America's greater Cincinnati region becomes a sprawling showcase for photography by established artists and new talent alike at the FotoFocus Biennial. With 74 exhibitions taking place across 65 venues, this year's edition is themed "The Long View" and explores how photography and film shape the ways in which we understand time, memory, identity, technology, and the world around us.

Until Oct 31; fotofocus.org

TO *wish for*



Menswear

COOL BY CHELO

German-Zambian DJ and fashion designer Chelo Wieland is the face of luxury fashion and lifestyle brand Marc O'Polo's fall/winter men's denim line. Shot in Copenhagen, Denmark, the campaign showcases the collection at some of the capital's coolest locations. The range centers on transitional items influenced by sportswear and workwear. marc-o-polo.com



Journal

SCRIBBLES ON THE GO

Whether you prefer planning a trip down to the last detail or are more likely to go with the flow, with Moleskine's Traveller's Journal, you can write down your thoughts and plans before, during, and after your travels. €36; moleskine.com

Writing by hand **strengthens memory retention** more effectively than typing

Camera



Capture the moment

The screenless Camp Snap CS-V105 digital camera offers the simplicity of a traditional disposable camera, with the convenience of transferring your snaps to other devices. It comes with a 4GB memory card and has a long battery life. €59.99; campsnapphoto.com

Headphones

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TO meet

During **Amsterdam Dance Event**, Black Coffee is playing at the Ziggo Dome on October 21

Q&A Black Coffee

FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE WORLD

THE AMSTERDAM DANCE EVENT (OCTOBER 21-25) TURNS 30 THIS MONTH, JUST AS SOUTH AFRICAN DJ AND PRODUCER BLACK COFFEE MARKS THREE DECADES IN THE INDUSTRY.

How has the electronic music scene evolved over the past 30 years?

Electronic music has become an international language, and house music is now a household sound. DJs and producers from all around the world have left their mark, allowing the sound to evolve and translate into something larger than it's ever been. Artists in this space have now become as recognizable as pop stars and collaborate across R&B, hip-hop, and the like, which is exciting to see. Music clearly knows no boundaries. For me, it's always been about playing the music I love while adapting to the room I'm performing in. As long as you make and perform music that resonates with you on a personal level, it will always click with your audience. The whole room needs to feel it. Also, as someone from Africa, I try to showcase as much of the continent's culture as possible, even when it might seem unpopular.

How did your upbringing in South Africa inspire your music?

South Africa has a very strong global music culture, from classical to jazz and everything in between. I was fortunate enough to be exposed to different sounds when I was growing up, but I've never forgotten my roots and I'm always seeking growth. My childhood created a good foundation for me as an African artist with dreams of traveling the world.

What are your favorite places in the world to perform at? It varies, as every show is special in its own way. Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to perform at unique venues, such as

London's O2 Arena, Arènes de Nîmes in France, and the Teotihuacán pyramids in Mexico. While those places create an unforgettable atmosphere, I also enjoy performing at more intimate spaces, such as Moni, a nightclub on Mykonos in Greece. Every space serves a different purpose. I also really love playing in Amsterdam; it has a very special energy – especially during the Amsterdam Dance Event. Music

lovers from all over the world come together to let loose and connect around a passion for electronic music.

Who would you like to sit next to on a long-haul flight? At this particular moment in my life, it would have to be the late Steve Jobs. I'd like to discuss innovation and his views on artificial intelligence technology.

realblackcoffee.net



“
**MUSIC CLEARLY
KNOWS NO
BOUNDARIES**
”

TO *taste*

Loose tea

A BETTER BREW

Once a habitual coffee drinker, US-born, Amsterdam-based business owner Geoff Gordon wanted a warm, nourishing alternative to start his mornings with. He dove into the world of loose-leaf tea, eventually launching Amsterdam Teas, which offers sustainably sourced and produced teas from around the world. amsterdamteas.com



London

SUPREME SUSHI

ENJOY THE BEST OF JAPANESE OMAKASE DINING AT LONDON'S SUSHI AMAMOTO RESTAURANT.

Omakase is a Japanese style of dining in which you place your full trust in the chef to prepare your meal, rather than ordering from a menu. At Sushi Amamoto, in the heart of London's Mayfair, rest assured that you're in good hands with revered sushi master chef Shogo Amamoto. One of his signature dishes is *oshizushi*, mold-pressed sushi made with rice and river trout, wrapped in kombu, a type of kelp. amamotolondon.com

Amsterdam

A TOAST TO LIFE

Fancy an Out of Office cocktail? Or would you rather sip on a One Way Ticket? Arca Bar in Amsterdam offers a cocktail menu inspired by the *Course of Life* series created by art studio Atelier Van Lieshout. The bar also serves non-alcoholic cocktails, along with bites that draw on Portuguese flavors and traditions. arcaamsterdam.com



Kitchen appliance

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If you love to bake, but don't have space for large appliances, the compact Kenwood Go mixer might be just what you need. Only 30 cm high, it delivers 800 W of power – perfect for making pies and pizza dough.

€300; kenwood.com



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TO *do*

Kids

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Looking to keep the children entertained without relying on screens? The Yoto Mini is a compact screen-free audio device for kids aged 3 to 12 that plays stories, music, podcasts, and educational content using physical Yoto Cards. It's Bluetooth- and Wi-Fi-enabled, and has a pixel display, headphone port, and rechargeable battery. Parents can also control content through the Yoto app. €69.99; yotoplay.com



Interactive art arose in the late-50s as artists sought less rigid exhibition spaces



London

PLAY, INTERACT, EXPERIENCE

At London's immersive gallery Frameless, masterpieces by Van Gogh, Klimt, and Dalí are transformed through animation, music, and interactive effects.

Rather than simply viewing the works, visitors are surrounded by them, creating a playful, sensory experience. The permanent gallery *Beyond Reality* uses mirrors and clever giant projections to create mind-expanding optical illusions. frameless.com

Wellness

CHECK IN AND CHILL OUT

FOR MANY TRAVELERS, WELLNESS HAS BECOME A REASON TO HIT THE ROAD. THESE RESORTS OFFER PROGRAMS FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO RETURN HOME RECHARGED.

Atzaró

Non-guests can book spa days at this family-owned luxury *agroturismo* ("farm stay") in Ibiza, Spain. It also has a Longevity Program that includes cryotherapy, a 3D body scan, and more. atzaro.com

Kamalaya

Holistic wellness resort Kamalaya on the island of Koh Samui in Thailand is a true sanctuary with various programs, from detoxing to brain enhancement. It also offers online guidance. kamalaya.com

Nesslerhof

This self-proclaimed "natural happiness hotel" in the Austrian Alps has everything a fitness-minded traveler could wish for, from pools and saunas to yoga and reformer Pilates. nesslerhof.at



Column

Freek Vonk

NIGHT RIDER

FREEK, A DUTCH BIOLOGIST WHO STUDIES AND FILMS UNIQUE ANIMALS WORLDWIDE TO INSPIRE A LOVE FOR NATURE, TALKS ABOUT HIS MISSION TO LOCATE A SPECIAL ANIMAL IN NAMIBIA.

“The last thing I want is to find myself before a hungry pride of lions”



The 4x4 jolts as it hits potholes and ridges. I'm driving quickly across Namibia's vast savanna in the dark. The dry air smells of scorched grass, and dust gets in my clothes, shoes, and even between my teeth. Tonight, I'm looking for a mysterious nocturnal animal that's rarely seen in the wild. It's a female, and she's wearing a transmitter, which allows researchers to track her movements. I'm still a few minutes away but its battery is almost dead. I may never be able to find her again if I don't get there in time.

A new signal appears on the receiver. She's close. I stop the vehicle and step outside. As I walk toward her, I scan the area every few meters. The last thing I want is to find myself before a hungry pride of lions. I slowly sweep the beam of my torch across the grass. Nothing. Then I hear rustling. Something is moving in the dry grass. A Cape pangolin emerges. Her body is 50-cm long and covered in thick, overlapping scales. To provide her heavy body with enough energy, she eats millions of ants and termites every year.

Pangolins are slow, so they rely on their armor. As I get closer, she curls herself into a compact sphere. Her scales are made up of countless incredibly thin layers, making them hard, but also extremely strong. Even lions struggle to bite through them. Pangolins are, therefore, almost untouchable. Almost. There's one enemy that even the strongest armor cannot protect them from. Us. Pangolins are among the most heavily

trafficked mammals in the world. Their scales are used in traditional medicine. People falsely claim that pangolin scales can help treat arthritis or cancer. But pangolin scales are made of keratin, so those people may as well promote chewing on one's own fingernails. And that's why this little transmitter is so important. It helps protect her from poachers, and gives us valuable information about how pangolins live and if they're healthy. The more we learn about them, the better we can protect them.

I check the transmitter. I've arrived just in time. The battery has just died. Now I need to replace it. Using a red light so I don't disturb her, I try to reach the transmitter between her thick scales. But everything's packed together like a suit of armor, and there's hardly any room to work. It takes a bit of fiddling, but eventually, I manage it. The new battery is in.

Now we must weigh her. The pangolins being monitored here get a monthly check-up. If one of them starts losing weight, it could mean it's ill or struggling to find food. Her weight is stable. She looks healthy. We step back and give her space. Slowly, the ball opens, her body unfolds, and she continues her journey into the night. And maybe that's the true magic of pangolins. Even in the places where they live, you almost never get to see one. Right now, that's because they're nocturnal, secretive, and difficult to find. But one day, they could disappear because of poaching. We cannot allow that to happen.

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What do you love about Rotterdam?

Despite its international character, it still feels as though it truly belongs to the locals. We're honest and hardworking, we embrace one another's cultural backgrounds, we complain together and we build together.

What's the typical Rotterdam mentality?

"Don't talk, just get on with it" has long been the slogan that defines Rotterdammers. We don't care much for pretense. Fancy talk won't get you very far here; you must first show us what you're made of.

What makes for a perfect day here?

Rotterdam has some of the country's most progressive architecture, so start in the City Triangle district and experience the amazing horseshoe-shaped Market Hall ❶ (Dominee Jan Scharpstraat 298), residential tower The Pencil, and the Cube Houses. Afterwards, go to RiFoio (Steiger 2), where

you can surf artificial waves in a historic canal. From there, head to the Erasmus Bridge ❷ for a selfie before crossing into Kop van Zuid to visit the fashion boutique Margreet Olsthoorn (Wilhelminakade 52). Continue across the Rijnhaven Bridge and stop by the Fenix Museum ❸ (Paul Nijghkade 5), a beautifully restored warehouse that tells Rotterdam's migration story. Then take a water taxi to the Scheepvaartkwartier to admire its stately historic buildings. It's then just a short walk to the Kunsthall museum (Westzeedijk 341), which offers art, photography, design exhibitions, and events.

Where should we eat?

Burro e Salvia (Delistraat 16) is my favorite Italian restaurant. It's small and serves pure, rich flavors at reasonable prices. For breakfast or lunch, head to Man Met Bril Koffie (Vijverhofstraat 70) for delicious dishes and locally roasted Rotterdam coffee. For

a special occasion, Restaurant Renilde ❹ (Museumpark 24) is highly recommended, not only for its seasonal, local cuisine, but also for its spectacular views. And if you can't decide what you're in the mood for, Station Bergweg ❺ (Bergweg 335) offers several different cuisines under one roof in a former railway station, complete with a great atmosphere and a lovely rooftop terrace.

What about vintage stores?

For the best curated vintage pieces, try Marly (Schiedamse Vest 98B). The owner is based in Rotterdam, personally selects everything in the store, and knows exactly what Rotterdammers like. Another good option is Dearhunter Vintage (Eendrachtsweg 55A), which offers a cool curated and well-priced selection.

What's your favorite nature spot? I love Rotterdam's Kralingse Bos park. Although it's just outside the city center, it offers beautiful views of the

skyline. You can walk around the lake in about an hour and return to the city feeling re-energized.

The best place to stay?

The Penthouse Prison ❻ (Eendrachtsplein 3) bed and breakfast has transformed a former police station into a comfortable place to stay. It's part of a social enterprise that uses the coffee industry to reintegrate marginalized young adults and ex-offenders into society.

Book this story



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Fenix Museum ③



City Park with the Erasmus Bridge in the background ②



Market Hall and The Pencil ①



Penthouse Prison ④

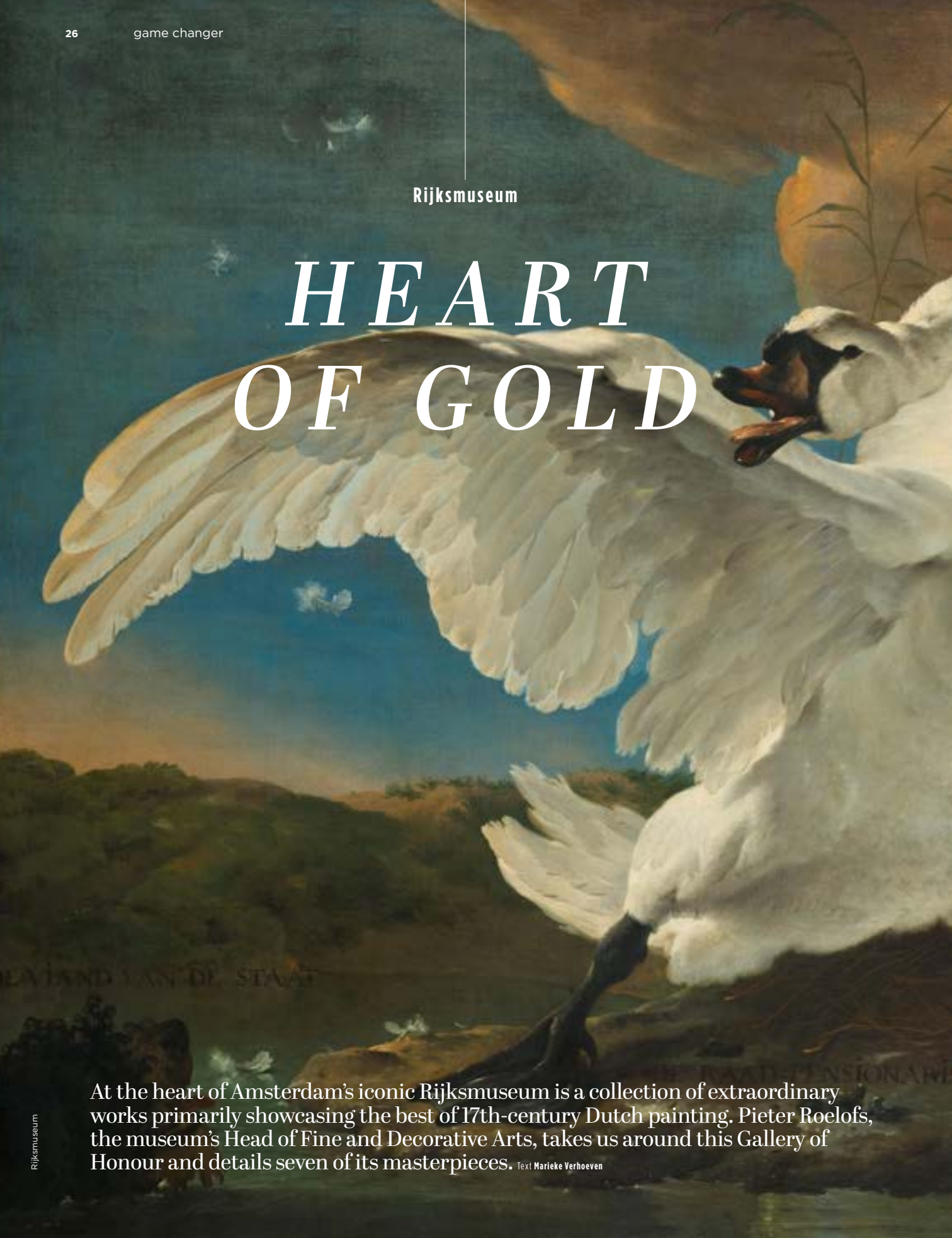


Restaurant Renilde ④



Station Bergweg ⑤

Rijksmuseum



HEART OF GOLD

At the heart of Amsterdam's iconic Rijksmuseum is a collection of extraordinary works primarily showcasing the best of 17th-century Dutch painting. Pieter Roelofs, the museum's Head of Fine and Decorative Arts, takes us around this Gallery of Honour and details seven of its masterpieces. Text Marieke Verhoeven



THE THREATENED SWAN

Jan Asselijn (ca. 1650)

As one of the museum's earliest acquisitions, *The Threatened Swan* originally came from the royal collections and entered what would become the Rijksmuseum around 1800, when it was first established in The Hague.

What Asselijn depicts here is a female swan protecting her eggs from a dog. But at some point, someone added inscriptions to the painting. The eggs were labeled "Holland". The swan came to represent Johan de Witt, effectively the prime minister of the Dutch Republic. The dog in the bottom left corner was labeled "The Enemy of the State" because De Witt was murdered during a turbulent political time, allegedly by his opposition. One of the remarkable things about Asselijn's work is that we all believe we're looking at a white swan, while there isn't much pure white paint at all. There are blues in the wings, grays, yellows; he observed carefully how light behaves across white feathers. Then there are all those tiny feathers floating through the air that reinforce the tremendous force of the swan's movement and the incredible sense of drama. The frame is also original; it dates from the 17th century, which is quite rare. Asselijn grew up in Amsterdam and later traveled to Italy, where he joined a group of Dutch and Flemish artists known as the *Bentvueghels* ("Birds of a Feather"). They nicknamed him *Krabbetje* ("Little Crab") because one of his hands was deformed. He had difficulty holding a paintbrush, yet he became one of the most successful painters of his generation.



THE JEWISH BRIDE

Rembrandt van Rijn (ca. 1665–69)

This is one of Rembrandt's last and most intimate paintings. It heavily inspired another Dutch master.

When Vincent van Gogh traveled to Amsterdam in 1885 to visit the newly opened Rijksmuseum, he sat in front of *The Jewish Bride* for a long time. He later told a friend that he would give 10 years of his life if he could spend just 2 weeks sitting in front of this painting. Rembrandt let himself go with this work. He used a palette knife, even his thumbs. By applying the paint so thickly, he allowed for the light to catch details like the embroidered sleeve in a virtually sculptural way. While a lot of mystery surrounds *The Jewish Bride*, we do know that Rembrandt was about 60 when he painted this masterpiece. By then, he'd experienced considerable personal loss; of his close friends and

family, only his daughter Cornelia and son Titus were alive (although Titus may have died by the time the work was finished). Painting people of flesh and blood is one of Rembrandt's defining characteristics. He shows strength and vulnerability. You feel that life is literally flowing through his figures. You can almost see the veins beneath the surface. He succeeds here in bringing the figures forward out of the darkness more than in any other work. At its heart, though, it's about tenderness. One of the nicest things is seeing young visitors react to it. They ask what's happening between these people. Their responses often reflect their own age and experience. The important detail is the woman responding positively to his touch. In 17th-century visual language, this tells us that the affection is mutual.

THE MILKMAID

Johannes Vermeer (ca. 1660)

The mastery of Vermeer's *The Milkmaid* is in its simplicity and intimacy.

Where Rembrandt is all about grand gestures, Vermeer is about stillness. He focuses on intimate moments, small scenes from everyday life, and zooms in on them. Like the maid here, who seems to be making porridge in a simple kitchen scene. What I find so extraordinary is that his oeuvre consists of only about 35 paintings, and painting wasn't even his main occupation. He ran an inn and dealt in works of art. Nevertheless, he created works unlike anything anyone had ever achieved before. His paintings draw us directly into the scene. We become witnesses. If you look closely at *The Milkmaid*, you realize just how carefully he observed reality. You can actually see the milk swirling as it flows. It's astonishing. Once you've taken in the composition as a whole, you notice the details: the broken pane of glass; the nails in the wall, complete with their shadows. I also love that Vermeer wasn't at the height of his career when he painted *The Milkmaid* – he was only in his mid-20s, a genuine prodigy. We often think of Vermeer as a kind of 17th-century photographer who painted what he saw. But research over the past few years has shown that his process was far more deliberate. Originally, there was a rack for jugs hanging on the wall behind the maid; you can still make out traces of it. There was also a fire basket. Even during the final stages of painting, he made changes. He was searching for the perfect composition. That's one of the reasons why Vermeer feels so contemporary today.



“
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SEARCHING FOR
THE PERFECT
COMPOSITION
”

“
*IT SEEMS LIKE THESE
MEN ARE STEPPING
OUT OF THE PAINTING*
”



THE NIGHT WATCH

Rembrandt van Rijn (1642)

It's one of the world's most famous paintings, and new details and surprises have emerged during its ongoing restoration.

The Night Watch depicts the civic guards from the district between what is now the Royal Palace on Dam Square and the area around Central Station. These were prominent citizens who, alongside their jobs as lawyers, cloth merchants, and the like, were responsible for safeguarding the city. Normally, civic guard portraits showed everyone neatly lined up, so they could be seen clearly. Rembrandt overturned that convention by creating a single sweeping narrative filled with movement and drama. It seems like these men are walking toward us, stepping out of the painting. He also uses light in a fascinating way, creating great depth. I compare him to a filmmaker before cinema existed. He creates drama, uses movement, and places visual cues where he wants the viewer to look. A few years ago, we set ourselves three objectives: understand how Rembrandt painted *The Night Watch*; determine its current condition; and find out what needed to be done to preserve it for future generations. We began the largest scientific investigation ever undertaken into this masterpiece, followed by the ongoing conservation treatment. Last year, one of our curators found out that the dog in the bottom right corner can be traced to an early-17th-century drawing by Adriaen van de Venne. When we announced that discovery, it reached more than 150 million people worldwide. That's what art can do.





THE LITTLE STREET

Johannes Vermeer (ca. 1658)

Vermeer had a deep love for Delft, and this painting is considered an ode to his hometown.

The Little Street has a remarkable story. For a long time, people wondered if it depicted a real location. A few years ago, an art historian at the University of Amsterdam identified it as the house where Vermeer's aunt lived. The building no longer exists, but the street does; it's on the Vlamingsstraat in Delft. Again, we tend to imagine Vermeer simply placing his easel outside and painting exactly what he saw. In reality, that was unlikely. Artists rarely painted outdoors in the 17th century; not least because paint wasn't available in portable tubes. And besides, he also altered reality. Take this green shutter. If it were opened, it would

block the doorway. It couldn't actually function like that. We also know that Vermeer changed the shutter on the right from green to red. If you imagine it remaining green, the painting immediately loses some of its dramatic effect. That's what makes it so fascinating. Even at this level of mastery, he's making tiny adjustments that strengthen the image's storytelling power. The painting dates from just after the 1654 Delft Thunderclap, an explosion that destroyed a quarter of Delft when the city's gunpowder magazine, stored in a former convent, exploded. Many houses were badly damaged, and you can actually see cracks and repairs in these façades. Those details are historically accurate and reflect the devastation caused by the explosion.

TWO CHILDREN WITH A CAT

Judith Leyster (ca. 1629)

She might be an unknown name to many, yet Judith Leyster had a distinct, innovative, and powerful painting style.

For a long time, Leyster was in the shadow of her famous contemporary Frans Hals. It was even assumed that she had been one of his pupils. But increasingly, we're recognizing just how distinctive her own work really is. You can see it here in the way she captured movement by depicting a moment of transition within the scene. The little boy is holding the cat while teasing it with a bread roll. You sense that something is about to happen. The calm scene you're looking at now is only temporary. In another second, the cat is either going to leap away or lash out, which creates anticipation. Leyster lived and worked in Haarlem and was already highly regarded during her own lifetime. We believe she was the first female artist to be admitted to the Haarlem painters' guild, which tells you a great deal about the reputation she enjoyed; especially considering that she didn't come from a wealthy artistic dynasty. She earned that recognition entirely on the strength of her own talent. And she trained pupils herself. As far as we know, she's the only female painter of the 17th century whose pupils are actually documented by name. Compared to Frans Hals, I also find her use of color quite striking. She had such a wonderfully loose brushstroke. Whether you look at the children's hands, the folds in their clothing, or the way she constructs the faces, everything is built up from patches of color rather than from sharply drawn outlines.



“
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”



“
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”

STILL LIFE WITH FLOWERS ON A MARBLE TABLETOP

Rachel Ruysch (1716)

Rachel Ruysch is perhaps one of the finest practitioners of flower still-life painting. She took the genre to an incredible level and even surpassed her own teacher.

Dutch flower still lifes are, of course, a category entirely of their own. I think they're quintessentially Dutch. People often imagine that an artist simply placed a vase of flowers on a table and painted what was in front of them. But that's not how these paintings were made. The flowers bloom at different times of the year, so the bouquets were carefully constructed and deliberately arranged, often over the course of time. The extraordinary precision of Ruysch's technique stands out in her work. Look at the crisp contrasts between light and dark. In Italian paintings, or in Rembrandt's work, colors often melt softly into one another. Ruysch applies them much more decisively. It's almost photographic. She also aimed for an exceptionally smooth paint surface. Of course, the painting is now more than 350 years old, so time has changed its appearance somewhat, but originally, she wanted it to be as refined as possible. If you look carefully, you can spot an insect or an ant among the flowers. Even those minute details received her full attention. What makes Ruysch remarkable is that she was hugely successful during her own lifetime. Her paintings were collected by the great European courts, from the Elector of Prussia to the Medici family in Italy, and even the French court. She was held in exceptionally high regard as an artist.

Rijksmuseum (left), Erik Smits (right)



GALLERY OF HONOUR

BEING THE BEATING HEART OF THE MUSEUM IS WHAT
MAKES THE GALLERY OF HONOUR SO SPECIAL.

In most major national museums, if there's a central space, it's usually devoted to religious art or royal art. Here, however, it's about ordinary citizens. That reflects what the Netherlands has traditionally stood for and what it's always wanted to present to the world. In the end, it was decided that the heart of the museum should showcase the highlights of 17th-century Dutch painting. We see this as the Golden Age of the Dutch painting tradition. People often think of Rembrandt and Vermeer, but it's clearly much broader than that. We want visitors to experience a wonderful overview, in all its diversity, of the highest achievements of Dutch art from that period. The Gallery of Honour has been here since the museum first opened in 1885. At the time, the only neighboring building on the Stadhouderskade

was the Heineken brewery. When this building appeared, it was the largest in the country, and it was intended to serve as a monumental gateway to the countryside beyond. You could even drive straight through it. These days, the underpass is for pedestrians and cyclists. Fun fact: if *The Night Watch* needs to be removed quickly, it can be passed through a hatch beneath it that goes directly to the underpass. When the museum reopened in 2013 after a major renovation, we returned to the original vision and once again presented the great masters here. We also include women artists now, which is wholly justified when you consider that the 17th century produced many outstanding female painters. They were essentially written out of history, but we brought them to where they belong: in the beating heart of the Rijksmuseum. «

CURAÇAO *by day*

Curaçao



FROM FARM-TO-TABLE GARDENS TO SECRET SNORKELING COVES, AND A MANGROVE FOREST YOU CAN PADDLE THROUGH, CURAÇAO WILL REWARD YOU WITH AMAZING AND TRANQUIL EXPERIENCES.



Street art in Otrobanda ①



Maira's Kitchen ③



Van Gogh Specialty Coffee ②



Grote Knip beach ④

Explore Willemstad

Willemstad has lots of colorful areas worth exploring beyond the popular Handelskade, with its brightly hued colonial buildings. Scharloo is a trendy, creative area that has huge murals by international street artists on the façades of its beautiful 19th-century homes. Check out the open-air gallery around Street Art Skalo (Scharlooweg), then walk across the Queen Emma Bridge to visit Otrobanda ①, where you'll find street art and historic buildings.

Breakfast & lunch

For coffee and pastries, visit Van Gogh Specialty Coffee & City Roastery ② (Pietermaai 25), housed in a handsome historic building. The beans are roasted on-site and the lentil *pastechi*, a deep-fried pastry, is amazing. Maira's

Kitchen ③ (Hoogstraat 24), in Otrobanda, has a generous breakfast and lunch menu, which you can enjoy in its pretty courtyard. The watermelon salad is great. Out of town, you'll find Hofi Cas Cora (Landhuis Cas Cora, Willemstad), a working farm where much of what lands on your plate is grown steps away.

Best beaches

Of course, there are the famous Grote Knip ④ and Cas Abao beaches, but for a more secluded experience, check out the rugged west of the island. Playa Lagun is a small cove with limestone cliffs and superb snorkeling spots along the rocks on the left. Go before 10:30 a.m. for a shady chair, and keep an eye out for sea turtles. Playa Jeremi, a small beach between the cliffs, is

wonderfully calm and simple, but take refreshments as there are no facilities here.

Into the green

Hôfi Mango (Santa Cruz 23, Bandabou) is a peaceful park of mango trees, butterflies, and strolling peacocks, with well-marked trails and an open-air restaurant for lunch. At Curaçao Rif Mangrove Park (Gouverneur van Slobbeweg, Otrobanda), a serene public mangrove, you can take the guided kayak tour. Your ranger will explain the ecosystem as you paddle through tunnels of green.

Blue Curaçao

The famous blue liqueur is made at Landhuis Chobolobo (Saliña, Willemstad). The tours take you through the yellow 19th-century mansion

Go for coffee and pastries in a handsome historic building

and its distillery, where you'll learn how the liqueur gets its flavor and why the real thing is nothing like the imitations. You can also opt for the cocktail workshop, where you'll mix your own drinks guided by experts.

Getting around

Willemstad is best explored on foot. For nearby beaches, an e-bike or electric scooter is a breezy, low-impact way to travel, and the hills and trade winds make the electric assist worth having. Rent a car to reach the wild west coast.

CURAÇAO *by night*

SIP GREEN RUM IN THE ISLAND'S OLDEST BAR, SHARE PLATES WITH YOUR TRAVEL BUDDIES, OR PULL UP TO A ROADSIDE FOOD TRUCK AT MIDNIGHT: CURAÇAO'S EVENINGS ARE BEST SPENT THE LOCAL WAY.



Queen Emma Bridge 7



Barrio Hotel 8



MosaCaña Bar & Kitchen 6



Caleo Crudos y Parrilla 5

Shared dining

Many of the island's best restaurants have embraced the concept of "shared dining", making it a fun way to taste your way through the island's menu of local delicacies, fresh seafood, and Caribbean-Latin fusion. Caleo Crudos y Parrilla 5 (Kura Hulanda Village, IJzerstraat 56) serves delicious open-fire dishes in a relaxed courtyard setting. Bodega Siete Gotas (Ferdinandstraat 28) is a charming restaurant away from the crowds. Along the Pietermaai seafront, MosaCaña Bar & Kitchen 6 (Penstraat 41) does Latin-Caribbean-Asian sharing plates and seriously good cocktails, while Soig5 (Penstraat 95) plates up creative Southeast Asian tapas. Book the rooftop for the best atmosphere and views.

Drinks & street food

For a true slice of local life, head over to Netto Bar (Breedestraat 143), the oldest bar on the island and the home of Ròm Bèrdè, the bright-green house rum that's been poured here since 1954. The bartenders are friendly and the crowd is mostly islanders. Complete your night with a stop at a *truk'i pan*, the island's beloved roadside food trucks, which fire up the grill around 9 p.m. and serve snacks until the small hours. BBQ Express Caracasbaai (Caracasbaaiweg 177) has grown from a single truck into a string of them with fairy lights, rustic tables, and a buzzing crowd.

Music after dark

Pietermaai comes alive on Thursday nights, and Mundo Bizarro (Nieuwestraat 12),

with its faded Old Havana interior, is the heart of it. Expect live music, a vibrant atmosphere, and drinks flowing until late. For something more low-key, The Captain (De Rouvilleweg 9E) sits within walking distance of the Queen Emma Bridge 7 in Otrobanda, with a breezy terrace, good food, and a postcard view of the lights of Punda. For live jazz, visit Mr. Porter Street Café (Nieuwestraat 42), an intimate room in the heart of Willemstad where bands from across the Caribbean and beyond play.

Sweet dreams

For a stay with character, check out Barrio Hotel 8 (De Rouvilleweg, Otrobanda), which is housed in a cluster of restored historic buildings around a pool. BijBlauw (Kaya

Wilson Godett 82-84), a boutique hotel right on the water, has whitewashed walls, rattan furniture, and an ocean view the moment you walk in. It also has one of the loveliest sunset terraces in the district. Alternatively, a few doors down, Scuba Lodge & Ocean Suites (Kaya Wilson Godett 104) has an infinity pool, private steps down to the sea, and an easy walk into town.

Book this story



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SALTA OF

THE EARTH

Otherworldly rock formations, high-desert vineyards beneath the snow-capped Andes, and gaucho culture: this road trip in the province of Salta dazzles at every turn.

Text Ynske Boersma



Salta
Argentina



As I walk the empty streets of Salta on a Sunday morning, a clatter in the distance draws my attention. I walk toward the sound through cobblestone streets lined with low-rise buildings against the backdrop of the Andes, and find myself surrounded by hundreds of horses. Riding them are men, women, and even children, all dressed in red woolen ponchos, with faces partly hidden by wide-brimmed sombreros. As this winter parade shows, gaucho culture is very much alive in this northwestern corner of Argentina, where, 200 years ago, a gaucho force led by General Martín Miguel de Güemes repelled incursions by the Spanish royalist armies. Though the lonesome cowboy roaming endless pampas is hard to find these days, the “Gauchos of Güemes” remain faithful to their traditions.

Early the next day, I pick up my rental car in Salta’s historic center. Nicknamed *La Linda* (“The Beautiful”), Salta is one of South America’s best-preserved colonial cities and deserves a couple of days in your itinerary. Salta is also famous for its nightlife, with music venues called *peñas*, where folk artists turn dinners into dance parties. But I’m here for the road. “I’m giving you a brand-new car,” says a beaming Diego. I look at the spotless white Toyota and mutter that a slightly dented car might suit my needs better, knowing the route ahead will be bumpy at times. But Diego waves away my worries and cheerily sends me off into the morning traffic, the first phase of a roughly 550-km round trip through the mesmerizing Salta province.

Salta – Cafayate (197 km)

Driving southbound through the verdant Lerma Valley toward the Andes rising in the distance, Route 68 soon becomes a spectacle. Passing the ghost town of Alemania, the valley gives way to the red-rock mountainscapes of Quebrada de las Conchas (“Shells Gorge”). While the Lerma Valley receives plenty of rainfall, the mountains on this side block the

same rains from reaching the canyon. The change in scenery is abrupt: green hills become rust-colored ridges, with cacti and patches of dry shrubs as the only vegetation.

From here, driving becomes more challenging. Millions of years of rain and wind have sculpted the rocks into surreal formations that seem like pieces of art, while minerals in the rock provide color palettes ranging from bright pink to sulfur yellow, chocolate brown, and mossy green. I find myself speaking out loud in amazement at almost every turn. I often pull over to take in the views, moved to tears at times.

Six hours after leaving Salta, I enter Cafayate. This small historic town is the heartland of Salta’s principal wine-producing region. Though much smaller than Mendoza, Salta is a wine destination in its own right: situated at the base of the Andes, this region has some of the world’s highest vineyards, with vines planted from 1,700 m to over 3,000 m above sea level. Salta is blessed with around 300 days of intense sunshine per year, while the mountains ensure cool nights, both of which are great for winemaking.

I park the car, now covered with a layer of red dust, and check into my hotel, a cozy colonial place just off the main square. Though the vineyards are dormant during my visit in July, the wineries are bustling with life. Cafayate has about eight bodegas within strolling distance of one another and even more in the immediate surroundings. I opt for the easiest option: one block from my hotel, I enter the 129-year-old Bodega Nanni, an early producer of organic wines in Salta. While Argentinian families buy bottles by the box – Nanni sells its wines exclusively in Salta – a friendly employee pours me a glass of perfumy white Torrontés, made from Salta’s signature grape. “This grape prospers in only a few provinces. It loves high altitudes. We call this wine *El Mentiroso*: ‘The Liar’. The first things you taste are its fruity notes and sweet aromas of peach, citrus, and orange blossom. But »

Previous pages

Quebrada de las Conchas (“Shells Gorge”)

Right page, top from left to right

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, Cafayate; vintage wine bottles in the cave of the Bodega Las Arcas de Tolombón winery, Colalao del Valle; Los Cardones National Park, Salta

Bottom Gaucho at the Tolombón ruins, an important archaeological site in northwestern Argentina



**GAUCHO CULTURE IS
ALIVE IN THIS NORTHWESTERN
CORNER OF ARGENTINA**





Above The New Time café on Plaza 9 de Julio, Salta
Right page Estancia Colomé hotel and its winery

**DRIVING ROUTE 40 IS A
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME JOURNEY**



I OFTEN PULL OVER TO TAKE IN THE VIEWS,
MOVED TO TEARS AT TIMES



don't be fooled. Its finish is dry, crisp, and high in acidity." I take a sip and let The Liar reveal its true self. I love it.

Cafayate – Estancia Colomé (131 km)

The next morning, I hit Route 40, Argentina's most legendary road and one of the world's longest highways. It stretches from the border with Bolivia to Cabo Vírgenes in Santa Cruz Province in the south, spanning 5,200 km parallel to the Andes, and is known for its dazzling variety of landscapes and altitudes along the way. For many Argentinians, driving Route 40, a national icon, is a once-in-a-lifetime journey. In the past 11 years, I've traversed a great deal of the route, from endless drives in Patagonia to road-tripping through the highlands of the northern Puna. Today, I'm repeating one of Route 40's most otherworldly stretches: the Quebrada de las Flechas ("Gorge of the Arrows"), named for its towering limestone formations along the road snaking through the moonlike landscape.

Despite its fame, this part of Route 40 has remained as remote as it was when I left it in 2015. Passing the historic village of San Carlos, 20 minutes from Cafayate, the road continues mostly unpaved until Cachi – a 130-km unpaved stretch to the north. The beauty of Route 40 is its solitude. I hardly encounter any other vehicles while plotting my way through the gorge, going slowly and making stops to marvel at the limestone spires, resembling arrows pointing toward the sky, on both sides of the road. The hamlets I pass along the way – clusters of earth-colored adobe houses with clay ovens, a whitewashed church, and a dusty soccer field – seem abandoned, with an occasional plume of smoke as the only sign of life. Reaching Molinos, a colonial town halfway to Cachi, feels like being catapulted back into civilization. I park next to the church and have lunch on the shaded patio of Hacienda Los Molinos. From there, another 18 km of

gravel road through dusty desert land leads me to my bed for the night at Estancia Colomé boutique hotel – home to Bodega Colomé, Argentina's oldest operating winery – in the Andes. Developed by the late Swiss wine magnate Donald Hess, Bodega Colomé produces one million bottles a year and exports them all over the world. It has vineyards at elevations of up to 3,111 m that are among the world's highest. (Hess, who died in 2023, loved to think big and is remembered as "the visionary".) My room overlooks the almost two-centuries-old bodega, dormant vineyards, and the snow-capped Nevado de Cachi mountain. The rest of the day is well spent: tasting Malbec and Torrontés wines, paired with great food and even better vistas. Old Hess was indeed a visionary.

Colomé – Banda Grande (28 km)

Rolo's instructions are short: "Left, right, forward, stop." I've just mounted Whisky, an aging stallion, and Rolo – sturdy, with Indigenous features and teeth stained with coca leaves – is teaching me how to ride before we explore the estancia on horseback.

For over two decades, Rolo has worked on Estancia Banda Grande, a 30,000-hectare property just across the Calchaquí River. Owner Jan van Limburg Stirum, a Dutch count, bought the centuries-old ranch in 2002, when the Argentinian crisis drove many landowners into bankruptcy. It was in ruins, recalls Van Limburg Stirum: "Eight families lived on the property, without water or electricity. The land was hardly productive. Slowly, we restored the farmland and built new houses for the families." Since 2022, he and his wife, Leonie, have also hosted guests at a lodge on Estancia Banda Grande, now a working farm with cattle, crops, vineyards, and a private nature reserve. It's the perfect place to slow down and get a taste of Argentinian ranch life.

"Don't worry, he's very tame," Rolo assures me when my stallion starts moving. Born in »

Top Los Cardones National Park, Salta **Bottom left** A young vicuña in Los Cardones National Park **Bottom middle** Man in the Acsibi Caves near the historic town of Seclantás **Bottom right** El Cortijo Hotel Boutique

**SALTA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS
MUSIC VENUES WHERE DINNERS
TURN INTO DANCE PARTIES**



Left page The center of Salta

Molinos, Rolo learned to ride at the age of five. “A lifetime spent on horses,” he tells me while we cross the desertlike plains toward the red-rock mountains in the distance. We spend the next few hours riding in silence, traversing canyons carved out of bright red rock that contrast with the cloudless cobalt sky so sharply that my vision seems Photoshopped. Back at the lodge, sunburned and with my bottom sore, I end the day with a hard-earned glass of Torrontés while the sunset paints the sky a flaming orange above the yellow-grass fields. I hear nothing but the soothing sound of the wind and feel the blissful fatigue of having left all daily stress behind, ready for the final stretch back to Salta.

Banda Grande - Cachi - Salta (197 km)

Beyond Molinos, Route 40 continues 27 km farther north to the historic town of Cachi, dramatically set at the base of the snow-capped peak of the same name. From there, the road is paved until Payogasta, where I turn onto Route 33, the last leg of the triangle leading me back to Salta. This stretch is as much a spectacle as the first two legs of the circuit. I traverse the highlands of Los Cardones National Park, dotted with thousands of tall cacti. Guanacos graze in the fields, and several times, I stop to let a fox cross the road. From there, the Cuesta del Obispo (“Bishop’s Slope”) zigzags up to Piedra del Molino (“The Millstone”), its highest point at 3,348 m above sea level, before descending toward Quebrada de Escoipe (“Escoipe Gorge”) and back to the Lerma Valley. Standing at the peak, looking at the dry plains surrounded by bare, coal-black mountains shaped by river canyons, the valley in the distance filled with clouds, I feel like I’m on top of the world. Numerous stops to gaze at the views turn the three-hour drive into a daylong journey before I deliver the road-trip-infused Toyota back to Diego in Salta.” He awaits me with a smile. “And?” he asks. I smile back. It’s been a hell of a ride. «



YNSKE BOERSMA IS A TRAVEL WRITER WHOSE WORK HAS APPEARED IN PUBLICATIONS WORLDWIDE. HERE ARE HER TIPS FOR THE SALTA REGION.

To eat

Casa Diaz

I stumbled upon this pretty courtyard restaurant in Seclantás, along Route 40, and loved it. Casa Diaz cooks using ancestral recipes from the Calchaquí Valleys and homegrown organic ingredients. Try *chuchoca*, a stew made from dried and ground maize, pumpkin, and slow-cooked beef. You won’t find it anywhere else.

@casadiazseclantas

Casa de Té Tacuara

This tiny restaurant, part of Hostería Villa Cardón in Cachi, is like grandma’s kitchen: cozy, warm, and smelling of slow-cooked food. The friendly host prepares everything, from breakfast pastries to soups and stews on a wood-fired stove.

@villacardon

To stay

Hotel Villa Vicuña Cafayate

Housed in a beautifully restored colonial building, this boutique hotel is located off the main square in Cafayate, ideal for bodega-hopping on foot. As everything on the breakfast buffet

is homemade, you’ll be welcomed by the smell of baking pastries.

villavicunacafayate.com.ar

Hotel El Cortijo

Comfortable and chic, El Cortijo sits in a renovated, centuries-old finca in the whitewashed colonial town of Cachi. Its rooms feature local crafts, and the courtyard resembles an oasis, with a swimming pool as the centerpiece of a lush garden.

elcortijohotel.com

To do

Artisans’ Road

Parallel to Route 40, just north of Seclantás, is a generations-old artisan community of weavers famous for their woolen ponchos and other woven goods. Driving along Artisans’ Road, you’ll see families selling handwoven ponchos, blankets, and shawls from stalls in front of their houses.

Rent a car

The province of Salta is ideal for road trips: the roads on the described circuit are good – even the unpaved ones – and the

landscapes are fantastic. I opted for a worry-free, all-inclusive car from Sunny Cars, available at locations in the city center and at Salta airport.

sunnycars.nl

Cachi

Cachi sits at the base of the 6,380-m, snow-capped Nevado de Cachi mountain, which rises spectacularly above the town. Like Cafayate, Cachi is famous for its high-altitude wines, and it has daily markets where local artisans sell their crafts.

argentina.travel/actividades/cachi

Book
this
story



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Eating **ROME**

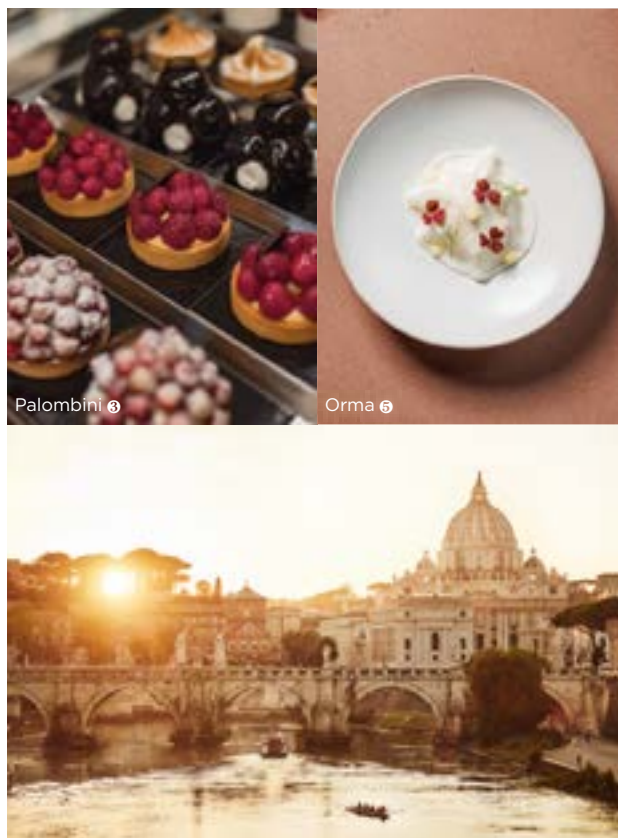




AS ITALIAN CHEF GIORDANO GIANFORCHETTI WAS BORN AND RAISED IN ROME, ITS VIBRANT FOOD SCENE IS PART OF HIS DNA. HE STILL LIVES AND WORKS IN ITALY'S CAPITAL AS THE HEAD CHEF OF YEZI RESTAURANT AND BAR, LOCATED INSIDE ART'OTEL ROME VIA VENETO.

Rome's food culture is defined by... the fact that it wasn't created in luxury restaurants; it was born on the streets. It comes from a culture of necessity and poverty, where people created extraordinary dishes using only a handful of high-quality ingredients. Roman cuisine is all about simplicity and speed. Many of our iconic dishes use only three or four ingredients, but the result is unforgettable. The flavors are intense, honest, and full of character. Roman food reflects the soul of the city. During the week, life in Rome moves quickly, so the food does too. That's why our street food scene is incredible. The only time we really slow down is for Sunday lunch with family.

My favorite neighborhoods for food in Rome are... the historic center, with its many iconic restaurants. A prime example is Il Convivio, which is run by the Troiani family – three brothers. One is the chef, and the other two look after the dining room and wine cellar. You really feel that family atmosphere. Their pasta *amatriciana*, made with tomato, *guanciale* (cured pork jowl), and pecorino, is exceptional because after



crisping the *guanciale*, they deglaze it with vinegar instead of white wine. It gives the sauce a subtle sweet-and-sour note. Across the Tiber River lies Trastevere, perhaps Rome's most atmospheric food neighborhood. Cobble streets are lined with traditional trattorias, pizzerias, and lively wine

bars. It's also home to the historic Pizzeria Ai Marmi, which has been serving Roman pizza for decades. The dough is simple – it's essentially just flour, water, and time.

I get my groceries at... one of the great food markets. My first choice is always Campo

de' Fiori Market ❶, in the historic center. You can buy olives, fresh fruit, nuts and seeds, and simply wander around while eating. You really feel the soul of the city there. Esquilino Market, just behind Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, is probably the most multicultural market in Rome. You can find ingredients from all over the world here alongside traditional Italian produce. Lastly, Nomentano Market feels like a true neighborhood market. I know the fruit and vegetable sellers, the butcher greets me by name, and often invites me for a coffee. It feels like a community rather than simply a place to shop.

My morning coffee spot is... Faro ❷ for its great specialty coffee. It's nestled between the busy Roma Termini station and Villa Borghese, yet it's tranquil. The vibe is modern, with an industrial design, and they pay attention to the quality of the beans. I also like Caffè Sant'Eustachio, one of the most iconic cafés in Rome. It's just a short walk from the Pantheon and has been serving coffee for generations. They roast a wide range of beans.

And I go to Palombini ③ for the warm, local feel. The coffee has a beautifully toasted, slightly sweet flavor, but what I love most are the old-school bartenders who know everyone and make you feel like you've been going there for years.

I eat gelato... almost every day. Fassi ④ has a proud history dating back to 1880 and always takes me back to my childhood. The people may have changed, but the flavors are the same. The modern Fata Morgana chain, on the other hand, innovates. They create unusual flavors by combining natural Italian ingredients with foreign influences. The result is tasty concoctions such as strawberry lavender and ginger with honey, lemon, and chestnut.

For the best pasta in town, I go to... Betto e Mary in Appio Latino. It's a family-run restaurant where several generations are involved. It's also where I had my first pasta carbonara, so it has a special place in my heart. You can use the best pecorino, *guanciale*, eggs, and pasta, but if the temperature isn't right, the sauce won't come together properly. You must also serve it at the right moment. They have mastered the technique.

My guilty pleasure is... pizza *rossa* ("red") from La Casa del Suppli. They make



Fassi ④



Drink Kong ⑥



Campo de' Fiori Market ①

a simple pizza with tomato sauce, but as soon as it comes out of the oven, they finish it with plenty of olive oil, garlic, and fresh parsley. The first bite is amazing. You taste the ingredients all at once.

For special occasions, I book a table at... Orma ⑤. I've been following chef Roy Caceres for years. His cuisine combines Italian ingredients with influences from Japan, Northern Europe, and South America. It's very personal cooking. He isn't trying to imitate another cuisine; he

brings different culinary cultures together in a way that still feels balanced and elegant. For example, he combines *kombujime* fish – fish cured using the Japanese technique of wrapping it in dried kelp – with elderflower *beurre blanc*.

If I want something healthy, I go to... Ginger, especially when I'm shopping around Via del Corso. It's a great restaurant with a healthy approach to food. They serve salads, fresh fruit, grain bowls, and light dishes.



Giordano's Favorites

Maritozzo

This is a typical soft, sweet Roman bun that's sliced open and generously filled with whipped cream. It looks simple, but when it's made well, it's one of Rome's great pastries. If I crave one, I go to Il Sorcettaro, where they prepare different fillings daily.

Cedrata Tassoni

I rarely drink alcohol, so I usually order this soft drink. It's a sparkling citrus beverage that's been around for generations. Sometimes people think it's an Aperol Spritz because of the color. Most classic bars in Rome serve it; I often order it at Freni e Frizioni. Drink Kong ⑥ is another spot to get this drink or a more modern cocktail in a cool setting.

Filetto di baccalà

Fried salt cod is a local favorite, and I eat it at Dar Filettaro a Santa Barbara. They prepare it using a light batter made with beer, which gives it a wonderful flavor. The real secret is the frying technique: they fry the fish twice, using two different oil temperatures.

Book this story



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Meeting of Icons

AT MUSEUM VOORLINDEN



Suzanne Swarts, Director at Museum Voorlinden, on the anniversary exhibition *Celebrating the Icons of Art*.

What happens when some of the most celebrated artworks of the 20th century are placed in dialogue with contemporary art? In *Celebrating the Icons of Art*, presented to mark Voorlinden's 10th anniversary, masterpieces of modern art meet their much-loved contemporary

counterparts from the museum's collection. In a series of striking encounters, bringing together artists across generations, the exhibition shows familiar masterpieces in a new light. Unexpected dialogues and surprising connections emerge, revealing that art history isn't a closed chapter; the exhibition highlights its continuing relevance and influence. With works by artists including Francis Bacon, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Nick Cave, Damien Hirst, David Hockney,

Yayoi Kusama, Henri Matisse, Claude Monet, Gerhard Richter, and Ron Mueck with his 4.5-m-high sculpture *Boy*, the exhibition offers a vibrant journey through artistic innovation and imagination.

Where and when?

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

Exhibition on display: Until March 7, 2027

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

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

OVER AND ABOVE

More than shortcuts across rivers and ravines, these six bridges are dashing destinations in their own right.

Text Suzanne Stougie





France

MILLAU VIADUCT

On misty mornings, the asphalt above the Tarn Valley seems to skim a sea of clouds. Sailing above are seven slender piers that appear almost too delicate to carry a highway. At its highest point, the viaduct rises above the height of the Eiffel Tower. The brainchild of French structural engineer Michel Virlogeux and British architect Norman Foster, the Millau Viaduct regally relieves summer traffic traveling from Paris toward the Mediterranean coast. Record-breaking as well as award-winning, the Millau Viaduct has become an alluring attraction with guided tours. Climbing, kayaking, and canyoning are available in the surrounding area. **Don't miss:** See the viaduct from Peyre, a picturesque troglodytic village built beneath a tufa cliff.



Portugal

PONTE 25 DE ABRIL

Lisbon's vermillion suspension bridge spans both the Tagus River and Portugal's modern political history: once named after dictator António de Oliveira Salazar, it now commemorates the 1974 revolution that overthrew the country's authoritarian regime. Stretching for more than 2 km, the Ponte 25 de Abril has become as integral to the cityscape as Lisbon's colorful azulejos and riverside monuments. Cars rumble across the upper deck, and trains traverse the level below, while Almada's grand statue of *Cristo Rei* ("Christ the King") rises above the southern bank. **Top tip:** At Pilar 7, a vertiginous ascent leads to a panoramic platform offering an unusual perspective of Lisbon, Belém, and the river.



Italy

PONTE VECCHIO

Rebuilt 12 years after the 1333 flood had swept much of it away, the Ponte Vecchio carries not just a crossing but a compact urban street lined with workshops and bustling commerce. It was once the trading ground of Florence's butchers and fishmongers until Ferdinando I de' Medici banished them from the bridge. Goldsmiths would eventually occupy the vacated shops, lending the bridge its lasting polish. Above it all, Giorgio Vasari's private corridor allowed members of the Medici family to pass unseen between Florence's Palazzo Vecchio and Palazzo Pitti without mingling with the crowds. **Don't miss:** Cross into Oltrarno – an authentic, artisanal area where bookbinders, gilders, and leatherworkers continue Florence's centuries-old tradition of skilled craftsmanship.

Spain

**PUENTE
NUEVO**

Ronda's Puente Nuevo doesn't merely traverse the El Tajo gorge – it appears to rise majestically from its sheer rock walls. Built from locally quarried stone between 1759 and 1793, the monumental bridge joined the old Moorish quarter, La Ciudad, to the expanding El Mercadillo district. Far below, the Guadalevín River carved the ravine that gave Ronda its formidable natural defenses. A chamber above the central arch historically served as a prison and was reportedly used as a torture chamber during the Spanish Civil War. It now houses a small museum devoted to the crossing's eventful history.

Top tip: Follow the Camino del Desfiladero into the gorge for close-up views of the Puente Nuevo's towering arches.







US

MANHATTAN BRIDGE

Steel towers, rattling subway trains, and a unique skyline framed between its cables: the Manhattan Bridge is New York in concentrated form. Completed around 1912, the spectacular suspension bridge stretches across the East River, from the crowded streets of Chinatown to Brooklyn's former warehouse district – now home to the galleries, cobblestone streets, and converted lofts of hipster hot spot DUMBO. Cars, cyclists, and four subway tracks stream across its multiple levels, making the bridge not just a city landmark but also part of New York's relentless urban pulse. **Don't miss:** Enter the vaulted DUMBO Archway beneath the tracks, where passing trains turn the bridge's steelwork into a thunderous urban soundscape.



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Welcome
on board



KLM NEWS

KLM House

NO. 86: TEYLERS MUSEUM



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

museum's namesake, Pieter Teyler van der Hulst. A wealthy silk merchant and banker in his time, when he died, Van der Hulst left behind a fortune of 2 million guilders (about €22 million today) that was to be used to start a new foundation in his name – its primary goal being to spread knowledge about subjects such as theology, the sciences, and the arts. The museum is central to the Teylers Foundation's efforts to achieve that goal. It's thought to be one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands, having been opened to the public in 1784, several years following Van der Hulst's death.

The future of aviation

SAF TAKES OFF IN THE NETHERLANDS

KLM AND FUEL COMPANY SKYNRG HAVE BEGUN CONSTRUCTION OF DSL-01, THE FIRST DUTCH PLANT DEDICATED TO PRODUCING ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUEL.

Using alternative aviation fuel (SAF) can significantly reduce aviation's impact on the environment. In 2025, KLM achieved an average CO₂ saving of 92% using SAF. While SAF produces the same amount of CO₂ emissions during flight as fossil kerosene, its lifecycle emissions, from production to combustion, are much lower, reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 65% and up to more than 90% compared to kerosene. SAF is three to four times more costly than fossil kerosene. This plant is a key milestone, but more efforts are needed to accelerate SAF production and make it more available and affordable. The plant will start producing SAF in 2028.



Ask the expert



SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
COMMUNICATION KRISTEL
THIJSEN-SMETS ANSWERS
YOUR BURNING QUESTION.

Who names KLM's new planes



About six months before a new aircraft is introduced, the KLM board considers possible names. For our new Airbus A350, KLM opted for a theme that encapsulates what we do: connecting people from all over the world with various destinations, including bringing them to the Netherlands. Many travel to our country for its art and culture, which is why KLM chose famous Dutch artworks as the theme for our A350 aircraft. Our first Airbus A350 is named "De Nachtwacht" ("The Night Watch") after Rembrandt van Rijn's painting. This also reflects our partnership with the Rijksmuseum and celebrates our Dutch cultural heritage.

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

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KLM NEWS

Memorable flight

"The cabin crew were so grateful for the gift"

MATTHIJS VAN VUUREN
BROUGHT ALONG TOKENS
OF APPRECIATION FOR THE
KLM CABIN CREW.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I chose to be on the move whenever restrictions permitted. I thought that since I had to work from home anyway, I'd try to make the experience as pleasant as possible. There was still so much of the world that I wanted to see, so in 2020, I started traveling a little more – as much as my job in software and the pandemic regulations would allow, that is. I visited several places in Spain, Bonaire in the southern

Caribbean, and Thailand. I was also running my fashion and accessory brand, Freaking Monday. One of the products I stocked was a range of mugs that were very close in color to the "KLM blue" and featured phrases such as *"Je bent een topper"* ("You're a star"). I started bringing some of these mugs with me on my travels to give to members of the cabin crew as a thank-you for their hard work. On one particular flight, from Valencia

to Amsterdam in July last year, I gave these mugs to the crew. They were so grateful for the gift, and gave me a card to thank me. Several of them also stopped by my seat during the flight to express how much this small token meant to them. It was such a lovely, unforgettable experience.

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*.



SAF

A LITTLE EXTRA

When you book a KLM flight, you can contribute to SAF (alternative aviation fuel). You'll see an estimate of your flight's CO₂ emissions per passenger and the expected reduction from your contribution. Your purchase matters because SAF costs three to four times more than fossil kerosene and supply is limited. EU regulations require a 2% blend. Anything above that depends on demand; this accelerates production. Your contribution is used to buy extra SAF, which enters the airport's fuel system within 12 months, on top of the 2%. Flying Blue members earn 1 XP for every €10 or 2,000 Miles contributed. Already booked? Go to klm.com, open "My Trip" and select "Extra Options" (also available after your flight).

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.

Toe/heel raises: While seated with your heels on the floor, lift your toes up, then place them back on the floor and lift your heels up. Alternate between the two positions.

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.

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

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

TRAVEL WELL



Inside the studio

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND KLM'S NEW LOOK

WORLD-RENOWNED ANIMATION AND DESIGN STUDIO BUCK IS THE BRAINS BEHIND KLM'S REDESIGN, FROM APP ICONS TO WEBSITE HEADERS. CREATIVE DIRECTOR WARD GRAUMANS EXPLAINS HOW THE TEAM BROUGHT THIS WORLD TO LIFE.

While traveling with KLM, you may have noticed that the airline's visual world looks a bit different. New illustrations and icons now appear in the app, on airport screens, and on the safety card in your seat pocket. It's the work of animation and design studio BUCK, which created more than 100 illustrations for KLM over seven weeks.

BUCK's Amsterdam headquarters looks every bit like the global creative company it is. A row of illustrated portraits lines one wall – everyone here gets their own illustration in graphic novel style; on another wall, five clocks display the time in Amsterdam, London, Los Angeles, New York, and Sydney – all the cities where the studio has offices.

From sketchbook to safety card

For the rebrand, BUCK was tasked with conveying the airline's "Travel Well" ethos – the idea that traveling with KLM is about more than simply reaching a destination; it's about making connections, creating memories, and finding inspiration. The brief for BUCK was clear: give KLM's communication platforms a warmer face. "KLM is very relatable, and that's what needed to come through in the visual language," says Creative Director Ward Graumans.

He shows us the various approaches the team tested. A character-driven design sits alongside a sketchbook-style aesthetic inspired by the notebooks that travelers might keep on them. "In the end, we felt a more artistic style wasn't really suitable," says Graumans. "The

style we landed on is clear enough to communicate important information, yet has enough warmth, capturing the spirit of KLM."

The team then scaled down to four designers, and the real production work began. Art Directors Simon Buijs and Fabrizio Lenci oversaw the entire process, ensuring the color, character proportions, and other small details remained consistent. We wondered if we could see some of the original sketches on paper. "I'd love to have

"The style has enough warmth, capturing the spirit of KLM"

printed something out," says Graumans, "but it was a fully digital process – no physical sketching was involved."

Making the inflight safety video

With older aircraft being replaced with quieter, more fuel-efficient models under KLM's fleet renewal program, a new inflight safety video was needed.

"Nowadays, these videos are elaborate, cinematic even," says Graumans. This wasn't the direction KLM wanted to take for something this important. Instead, the same illustration style developed for the wider brand proved well-suited to the safety instructions. The action takes place inside the cabin, and crew members are the center of the story.

In the video, a crew member hands a toy rabbit back to a child, a traveler secures their seatbelt, and another sleeps peacefully. "You want movements like this to look natural," says Graumans. "That's why animator Jardeson Rocha acted out every movement on camera first." That gave the team a reference for timing and posture. The sleeping traveler is actually drawn to look like Jardeson. "Other team members are also represented in the video," says Graumans with a smile.

The power of illustration

The same safety video features across seven types of aircraft and is presented in English, with subtitles in 13 languages, making essential information accessible to passengers of various nationalities. Illustration was chosen for that very reason. Graumans explains that an illustrated character or gesture isn't tied to a specific person or setting, so anybody can recognize themselves in it. "Anyone can find a point of connection in what we've created," he says.



Creative Director Ward Graumans

Left page (clockwise from top left): The BUCK team; the new safety video; capturing the spirit of KLM; creating realistic movement in the safety video; Graumans shows the team a book of KLM ads; color palette check

KLM FLEET

Specifications

THE NEW AIRBUS



If you're flying to Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Montreal, Nairobi, or Zanzibar from October 2026 onward, you might be aboard the latest addition to KLM's fleet: the fuel-efficient and relatively quiet A350-900, which has set a new standard in comfort.

Airbus A350-900

Number of aircraft: 1
Cruising speed (km/h): **882**
Range (km): **12,200**
Max. take-off weight (kg): **283,000**
Maximum passengers: **331**
Total length (m): **66.61**
Wingspan (m): **64.75**
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



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



Airbus A321neo

Number of aircraft: **17**
Cruising speed (km/h): **876**
Range (km): **3,500**
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 747-400ER Freighter

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



Boeing 737-800/700

Number of aircraft: **26/6**
Cruising speed (km/h): **850/850**
Range (km): **4,200/3,500**
Max. take-off weight (kg): **73,700/65,317**
Maximum passengers: **186/142**
Total length (m): **39.47/33.62**
Wingspan (m): **35.80/35.80**
Wi-Fi on board



Boeing 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**



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



Embraer 190/175

Number of aircraft: **16/17**
Cruising speed (km/h): **850/850**
Range (km): **3,300/3,180**
Max. take-off weight (kg): **45,000/36,500**
Maximum passengers: **100/88**
Total length (m): **36.25/31.68**
Wingspan (m): **28.72/26.00**



Embraer 195-E2

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

Yoke

NO YOKING MATTER

“This is the yoke, which is used by pilots to steer an aircraft; in this case an Embraer 175,” explains KLM pilot Joris Kuijper. “In use, it’s more like a handlebar than a steering wheel. By moving the yoke forward and backward, the pilot moves the nose of the aircraft up and down. To turn the aircraft, the pilot tilts the yoke, a movement you can compare to turning the handlebars of a motorcycle. The yoke has various buttons that the pilot can press without having to take his or her hands off the controls. The red button you see here, for example, disengages the autopilot, which allows the pilot to quickly resume manual flying. Other buttons control functions such as the trim, which is used to keep the aircraft in balance.”

TRAVELERS



Eshema, Cillian & Alison

“I’d like to visit Japan – I think the technology there is incredible”

ESHEMA, CILLIAN, AND ALISON
NDILIMA TRAVELING TO
ENTEBBE ON FLIGHT KL539

Reason for travel? Alison: “We’re going back home to Entebbe, Uganda. Unfortunately, we had a two-day layover in Holland due to a canceled flight. We’d been visiting relatives in Ireland, and took day trips to places such as Dublin.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Eshema: “I’d like to visit Japan – I think the technology there is incredible. I’d like to visit Tokyo and the rest of the country, maybe during the *sakura* (cherry blossom) season.”
Cillian: “New York. I’ve been before, and I loved the vibe. Or the Maldives.”
Alison: “The Himalayas. I’d like to hike for a while, but end the trip at a five-star hotel.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Eshema: “Griphook from the *Harry Potter* series.”

Cillian: “My best friend, or a comedian, like Kevin Hart.”

Alison: “My sister, or someone like Brad Pitt.”

Zoë

ZOË COPP TRAVELING
TO SEATTLE
ON FLIGHT KL6033

Reason for travel? “I’m flying back home after visiting the UK. I’d taken part in an ultramarathon that was held in the Lake District. I live in Anchorage, Alaska, so I’ll have to take another flight after this one.”

Still on your travel bucket list? “I’ve always wanted to visit Madagascar. I think it would be unlike any place I’ve been to before – not to mention it’s home to a huge lemur population. I love these animals. I’d be keen to see them in the wild someday, perhaps in a desert, as I’ve never been to one before.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? “I’ve read plenty of Stephen King books during my travels. I’ve even seen his house. He seems like he’d be an interesting person to sit next to. His books are always good reads. I might ask him why he sometimes publishes under a pseudonym, or about his life on the East Coast in the US.”



Faan & Mieke

FAAN AND MIEKE WETZELS
TRAVELING TO CURAÇAO
ON FLIGHT KL0735

Reason for travel? Mieke: “My niece lives on Curaçao, so we’re going to visit her and have a vacation at the same time. This will be our first time visiting the island.”

Faan: “We’ll be there for two and a half weeks. We aren’t the biggest fans of warm weather, so we’ll see how it goes.”

Still on your travel bucket list?

Faan: “We’ve been fortunate to see a lot of the world; I’d like to go back to Vietnam.”

Mieke: “We’d love to visit Vietnam again. We had a great travel guide who showed us beautiful spots and introduced us to interesting people, such as Phan Thị Kim Phúc, the woman who was captured in the famous photograph as a young girl covered in napalm.”

Who’s your dream passenger to sit next to? Mieke: “I don’t really care, as long as they’re quiet and speak a bit of Dutch.”

Faan: “Agreed.”

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more enriching. With two subscription options, Essential and Extended, each valid for 12 months, you can choose the one that suits your travel style best.

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My Miles



“I loved the Delft Blue houses we were given”

YOON BYUNG SUK HOPES TO USE HER MILES TO BUY HER PARENTS BUSINESS CLASS TICKETS TO THE NETHERLANDS.

Busan, South Korea



I spend quite a bit of time in California and Amsterdam, so I frequently travel between the Netherlands and the US. I often fly with Delta and KLM because they're both part of the SkyTeam alliance and are Flying Blue partners. I also try to pay for bookings with my American Express card to accumulate as many Miles as possible. While I'm not the best at keeping an eye on deals that might increase my XP or Miles,

I know they're available, and prefer to use them on Wi-Fi to keep me connected during my flight. I've had very good experiences with KLM's Wi-Fi. Last year, I used my Miles to partially pay for a Business Class flight to South Korea, as it was a special moment for me – I hadn't been back in 10 years. I thoroughly enjoyed flying Business Class, not just for the extra amenities and comfort, but also for

the adorable Delft Blue houses we were given at the end of the flight. If my parents ever had the chance to visit the Netherlands, I'd love to be able to use my Miles to buy them Business Class tickets – perhaps I should start saving them!

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



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ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT

**Bonnie's new smart
tablet threatens the toys'
place in her life**

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Our pick



TOY STORY 5

The latest installment of the *Toy Story* franchise pits toys against tech. Eight-year-old Bonnie (Scarlett Spears) is struggling to fit in because she still plays with toys rather than electronics. That is, until her obsession with Lilypad (Greta Lee), her new smart tablet, threatens the toys' place in her life. Bonnie's toy leader Jessie the cowgirl (Joan Cusack) becomes key to keeping Bonnie connected to the world of imaginative play. Meanwhile, Woody (Tom Hanks) returns to team up with Buzz (Tim Allen) and help Jessie, but malfunctioning Buzz Lightyear figures complicate their efforts.

Animation, 1h42min

Films

WATCH IT NOW



Disclosure Day

Sci-fi, 2h25min

When Daniel Kellner (Josh O'Connor) steals tech from his employer, a corporation concealing evidence of alien contact, he sets in motion a chain of events that could reveal the truth about extraterrestrial life – and change humanity's understanding of its place in the universe.



The Witches of Eastwick

Comedy, 1h58min

Single women Alexandra (Cher), Jane (Susan Sarandon), and Sukie (Michelle Pfeiffer) feel strangely attracted to Daryl van Horne (Jack Nicholson), a new arrival in their quiet town of Eastwick who's far more dangerous than he seems.



Supergirl

Action, 1h48min

Kara Zor-El (Milly Alcock) reconnects with her cousin Superman (David Corenswet) and meets Ruthie (Eve Ridley), a young alien seeking revenge for her family's murder. Their encounter sends Kara on an intergalactic journey of vengeance and justice.

Games

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYER

Angry Birds World Tour

The birds are back! Much of the new gameplay is based on the Angry Birds Classic game. There are 30 available levels, which are split into five episodes of six.

Trivia Tournament

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

Golf Open

Live all the excitement of a professional golf game. With its accurate physics and stunning 3-D graphics, this golf version will give you all the thrills of the game in the comfort of your own seat.

TV

IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM...



Jimmy O. Yang Finally Home

Comedy, 1h15min

After 25 years, Hong Kong-American comedian Jimmy O. Yang finally returns to his hometown of Hong Kong to talk in both English and Cantonese about family, arguing over who pays the bill, and his experience as an immigrant.



Modern Family

Sitcom, 30min

In Season 10 of the popular sitcom, Phil (Ty Burrell) stumbles into a new career; Haley (Sarah Hyland) and Dylan (Reid Ewing) reunite, resulting in an unexpected pregnancy and twins; and the extended Pritchett-Dunphy-Tucker family navigates another year of hilarious milestones.



New Girl

Comedy, 24min

After a bad breakup, the eccentric Jess (Zooey Deschanel) must find a new place to live. She moves in with Nick (Jake Johnson), Schmidt (Max Greenfield), and Coach (Damon Wayans Jr.) who do their best to support her through this difficult time.



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SKYTEAM

The Aviation Challenge

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE UNITING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE AVIATION CHALLENGE? THIS SKYTEAM GLOBAL INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO HELP ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACROSS THE AVIATION INDUSTRY.



has engaged 28 unique airlines. Collectively, these airlines have developed and implemented more than 760 solutions, from operational improvements to technological advancements, helping participants make measurable, scalable progress.

Airlines compete not only to innovate but also to demonstrate verifiable progress, sharing data and lessons that benefit the sector. Participants compete for awards across 21 categories, including flight operations, alternative aviation fuels, cargo, and more, recognizing diverse areas of innovation and achievement. While the early editions focused on generating ideas, TAC now emphasizes putting solutions into practice – showing how they can be effectively adopted, scaled, and rolled out across the wider industry.

By providing a platform to test and implement solutions, TAC supports airlines in taking meaningful steps toward more sustainable aviation. Through collaboration, competition, and a shared commitment to measurable results, TAC is helping chart a course toward a more responsible future for the industry.

Industry collaboration

In 2026, The Aviation Challenge (TAC) marks five years of advancing sustainable innovation and knowledge sharing in aviation. This year's theme, Collective Momentum, reflects TAC's focus on collaboration and the role of shared action in driving sustainability progress.

Through friendly competition, TAC brings together airlines, sustainability leaders, and global innovators to help accelerate the aviation sector's

transition toward a more sustainable future. Participating airlines commit to sharing learnings and best practices to promote industry-wide change. TAC serves as a platform where solutions are developed, implemented, tested, and showcased for wider adoption.

Driving impact

In recent editions, participants from outside the SkyTeam alliance have also joined, broadening the initiative's reach. Since its launch in 2022, TAC

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

HOUSE RULES

Electronics on board

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

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

Drinks and smoking

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

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

Privacy

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

Lithium batteries

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

Carry-on baggage at EU airports

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

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

Animal products

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

Airport shopping

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

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

Wi-Fi & free messaging

STAY IN TOUCH ON BOARD

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



1

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



2

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



3

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

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EUROPE



See World Map for intercontinental flights, page 80

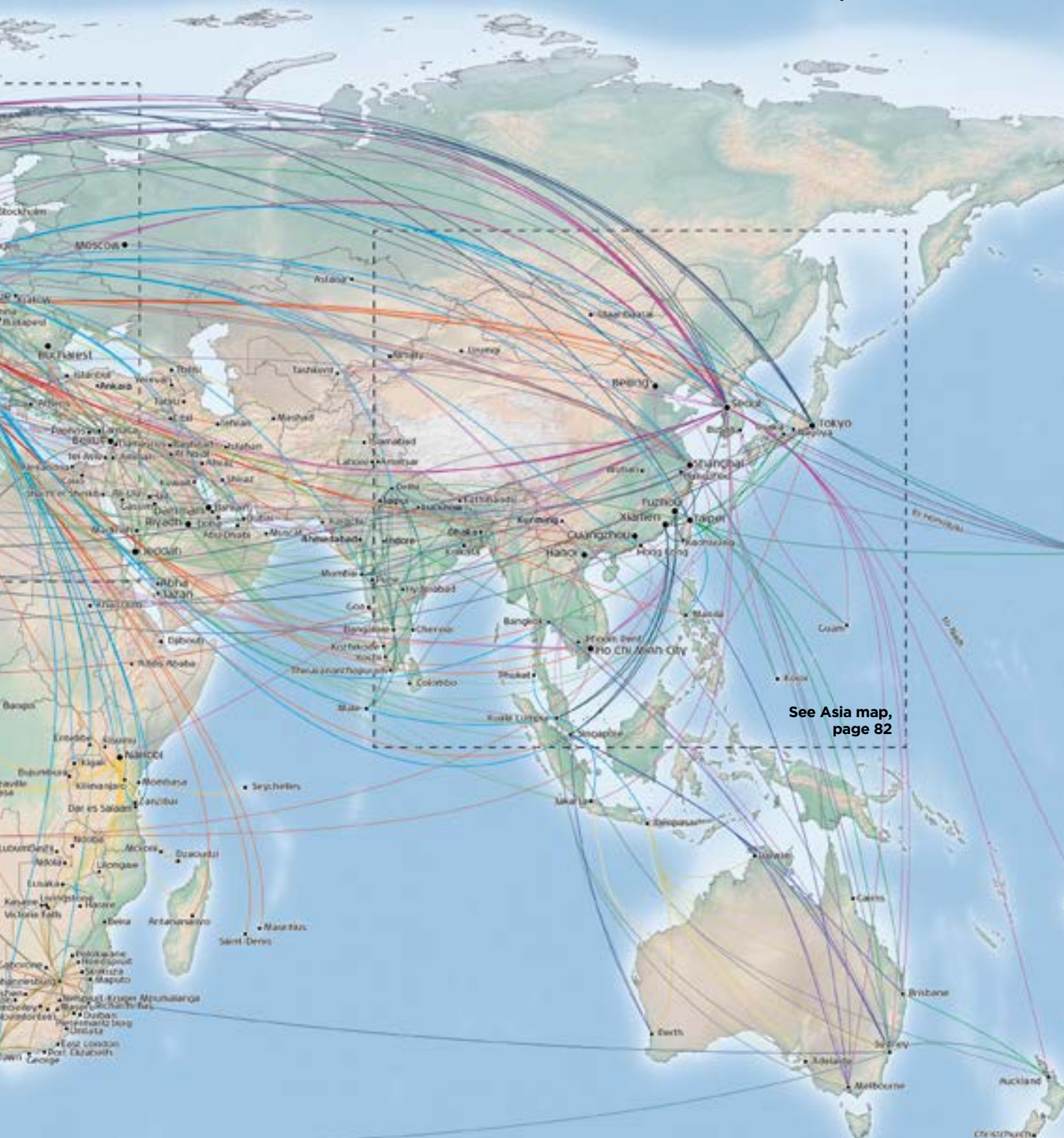
The lines are illustrative and do not represent the actual routes taken by the aircraft.
We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

See Europe map,
page 79

See North America map,
page 84

WORLD





See Asia map,
page 82

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

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

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

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

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

— Vietnam Airlines
— Virgin Atlantic
— XiamenAir

SkyTeam member

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

We do not currently fly over Russia or Ukraine.

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

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

ASIA







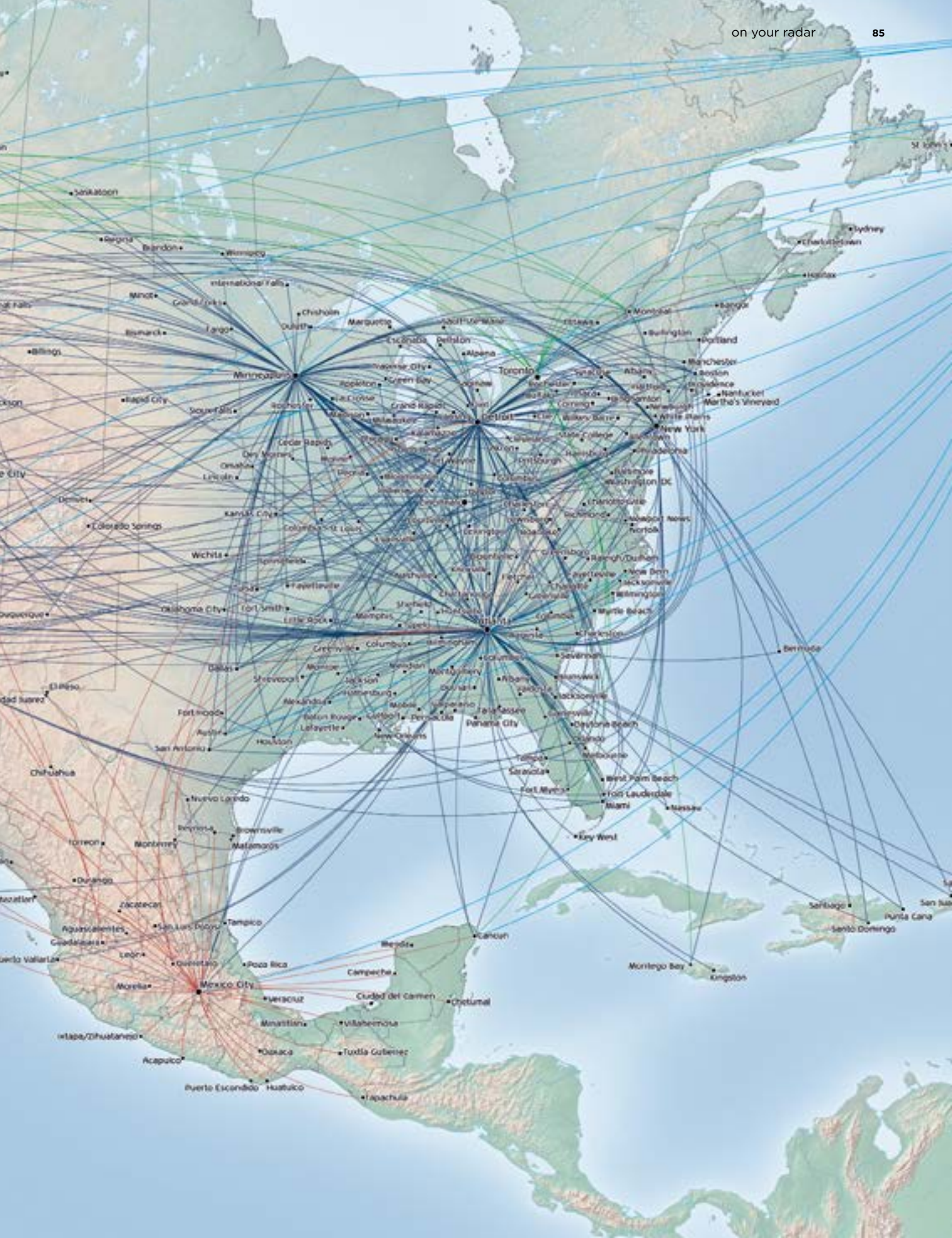
NORTH AMERICA

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

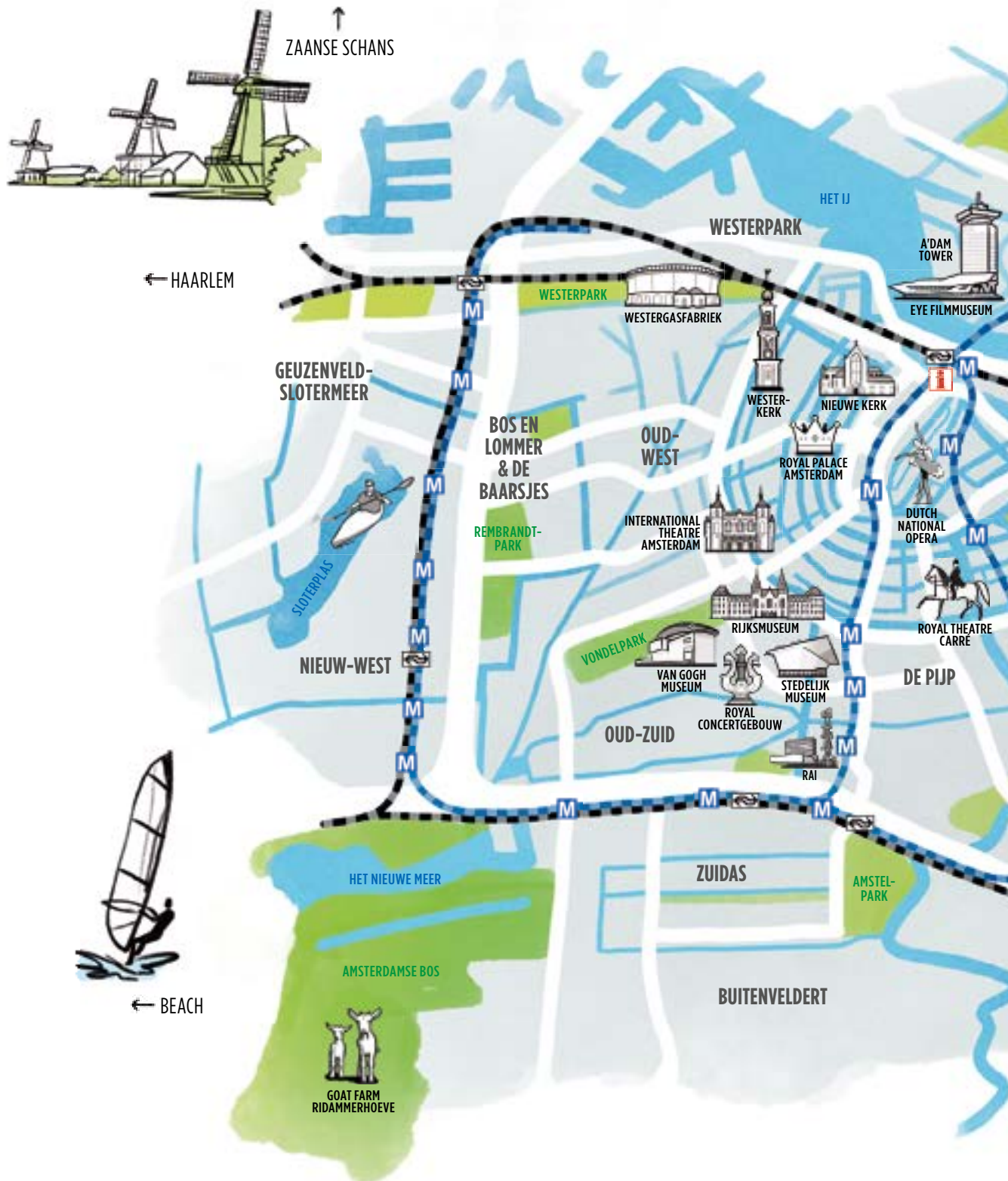
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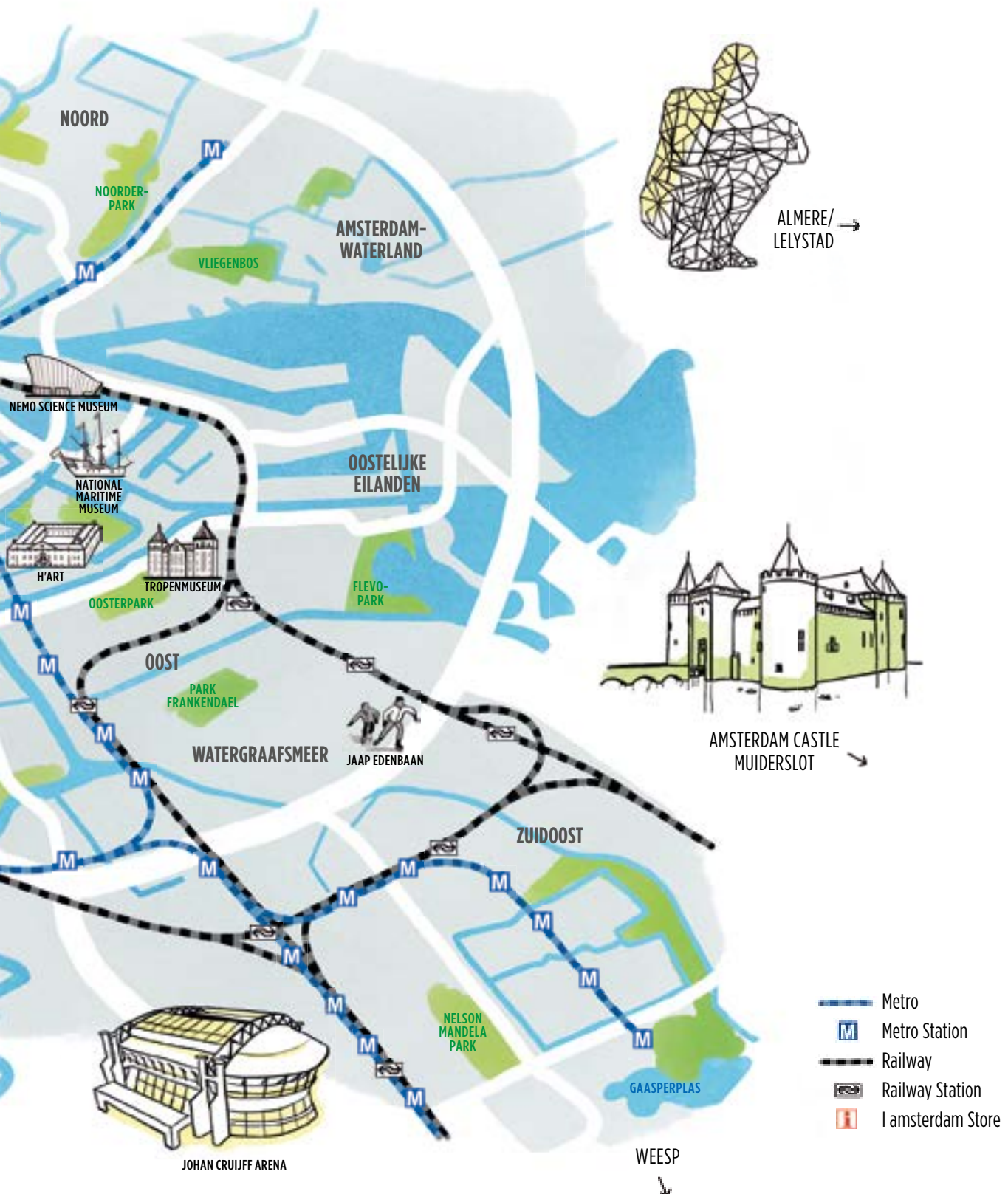
- KLM 
- Aeroméxico 
- Delta Air Lines 
- WestJet 

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



AMSTERDAM

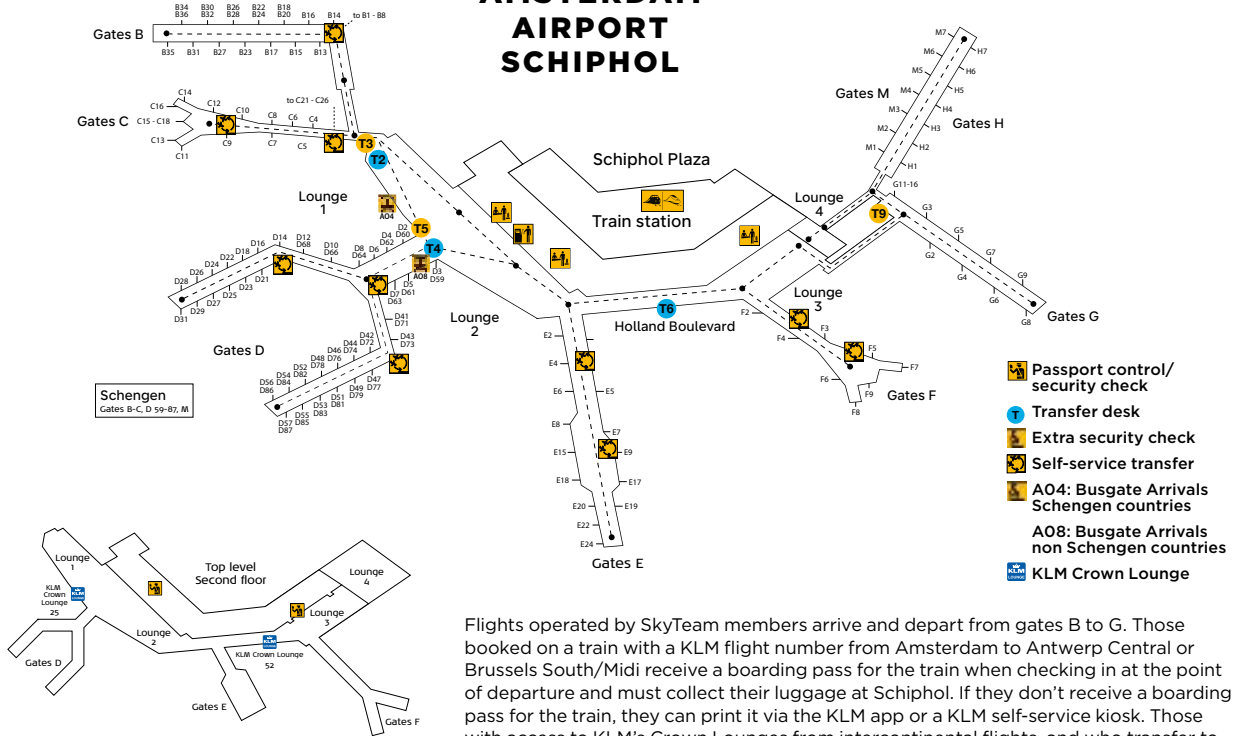




AIRPORT MAPS

The Netherlands

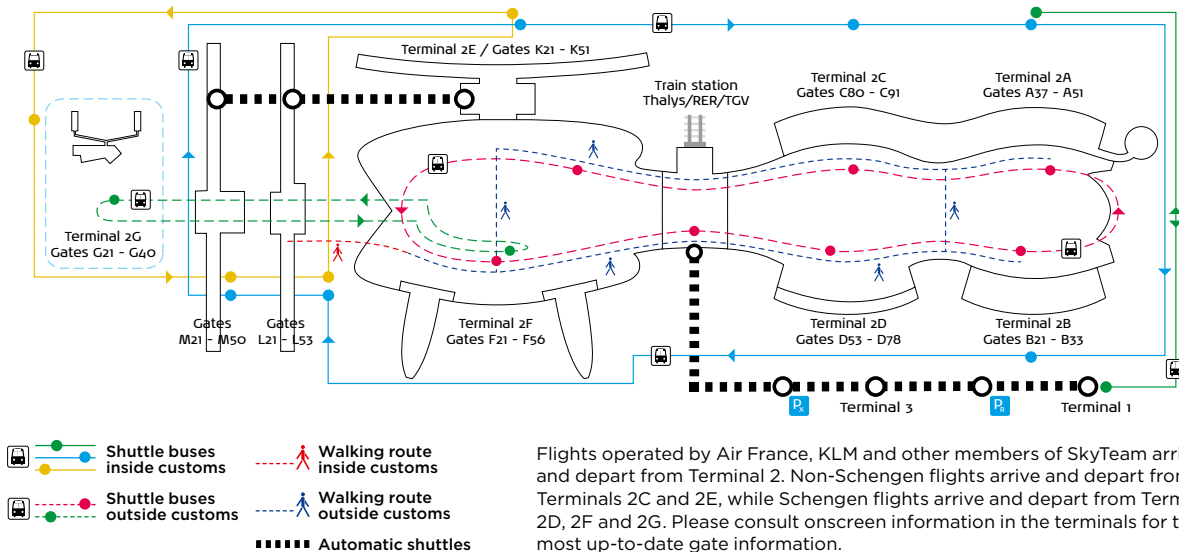
AMSTERDAM AIRPORT SCHIPHOL



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



Hülya and Necla Talmac

THEY MIGHT NOT BE DUTCH NATIONALS, BUT FIRST OFFICERS AND TWIN SISTERS HÜLYA AND NECLA TALMAC HAVE FULLY EMBRACED THE SPIRIT OF KLM.

What does your job entail?

Hülya: “We fly for KLM Cityhopper, mainly piloting short flights between European cities in Embraer planes, carrying passengers safely and efficiently to their destinations. Our routes typically take us to Central Europe, France, Scandinavia, and the UK; we also fly to destinations in Spain and Italy on occasion.”

Necla: “Because these are short flights, with only 30 or 40 minutes of turnaround time, we sometimes fly up to four times a day.”

Did you always want to work in aviation?

Hülya: “It was always our childhood dream. Our father used to work in military aviation in Germany. He didn’t fly, but he was part of ground operations. He used to talk about it a lot, and his enthusiasm was infectious. That’s how we became interested in aviation.”

Necla: “We attended the FFL flight school in Essen, near Düsseldorf in Germany. We kept each other motivated during our studies, and graduated within two years.”

How did you come to fly for KLM?

Hülya: “While stationed at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol’s crew center for our previous job, we heard through the grapevine that pilot positions might soon be opened to non-Dutch nationals. We applied on the first day the vacancies were posted.”

Necla: “Hülya and I are among the first non-Dutch pilots at KLM; we are of Kurdish descent and grew up in Germany. We only started about six months ago, and we’re thoroughly enjoying our time at the airline.”

OSAKA

Japan

Street eats

Stop by Kuromon Market and the Hozenji Yokocho alleyway for street food and traditional Japanese dishes. Try *takoyaki*, a ball-shaped snack filled with diced octopus, or *okonomiyaki*, a cabbage-based pancake with fillings or toppings such as cheese, kimchi, or pork belly.

24°C

With mild to warm temperatures ranging from 16°C to 24°C, Osaka has pleasant weather in October. You might experience some humidity, making some afternoons feel warm and muggy. While there are relatively few rainy days during the month, it's advisable to keep a waterproof jacket on hand.

Nara day trip

Take a 45-minute train ride from Osaka to Nara and head to Nara Park, home to more than 1,000 free-roaming deer. Also visit Horyu-ji in Ikaruga, a historic Buddhist temple complex and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

1583

Osaka Castle is in the heart of the city and overlooks the picturesque Nishinomaru Garden. Construction of the original castle began in 1583 under Chief Imperial Minister Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who, after years of unrest, envisioned it as the center of a newly unified Japan.

Neon nights

The neon-lit Dotonbori district runs along the Dotonbori River, and is packed with clubs, bars, restaurants, and shops. One of its best-known photo spots is the iconic Glico Running Man sign, advertising the Japanese food company Glico.

264,000 M²

Katsuo-ji Temple (pictured) in the Minoh area is known as the "Temple of Luck" and attracts visitors from across Japan seeking good fortune. Its expansive 264,000 m² grounds are the ideal place to take in seasonal beauty, from cherry blossoms to autumn foliage.

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VAN DER GANG
WATCHES





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