

# ROAMING ROTTERDAM

EN

Walking / bicycle route through  
imposing architecture

## ROTTERDAM INFO

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# ADVENTURE THROUGH ART



Maurizio Cattelan, Untitled, 2001. Copyright Maurizio Cattelan, courtesy Marian Goodman Gallery, New York. Photo: Attilio Maranzano

Visit Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen and embark on an adventure through art from the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century. Discover the museum's unique collection of masterpieces by Bosch, Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Dalí. Add to this the sensational temporary exhibitions of art and design from different eras and the restaurant with its outlook on the statue garden, and you are guaranteed hours of enjoyment in the museum.

[www.boijmans.nl](http://www.boijmans.nl)

## ROAMING THROUGH ROTTERDAM

Welcome to Rotterdam, the city that enjoys growing international acclaim as a popular destination for city trips. Why? You'll find out for yourself as you roam through Rotterdam. The walking route brings you past iconic architecture and shows the eclectic mix of old and new that has made Rotterdam so famous – from the Late Gothic architecture of the Laurenskerk to the futuristic Markthal. From the Cube Houses on Blaak to the gleaming high-rise buildings on the Kop van Zuid peninsula. The route also takes you through residential neighbourhoods, parks and shopping streets and along sidewalk cafés, museums and the waterfront. From Erasmus Bridge you'll enjoy the view of the Maas River and the water taxis and ships sailing by. You're looking out at one of the world's biggest ports – not to mention that spectacular skyline that Rotterdam is famous for.

Walking the entire Roaming Rotterdam route (approx. 10 km) takes about half a day. It takes about two hours by bicycle (you can rent a bicycle at various locations). You're naturally also free to opt for a shorter section of the route (see page 23) or take public transport for part of the way.

Have lots of fun exploring Rotterdam!

### Rotterdam Info Coolsingel

City promotion centre Rotterdam Info 'Coolsingel' inspires and informs you about what's on offer to tourists and how to spend your free time in Rotterdam. You can go in to get a map of the city or a walking route, tips about going out or information about architecture. Also on offer are the Rotterdam Welcome Card, gifts, gift vouchers, souvenirs, Feyenoord merchandise, and tickets for entertainment and transport. Temporary exhibitions and a large model of the city centre give an idea of the latest (architectural) developments in Rotterdam.

### Rotterdam Welcome Card

The Rotterdam Welcome Card offers discounts of 25% and more at 50 attractions, museums, restaurants and places of entertainment in Rotterdam and 1, 2 or 3 days of unlimited travel with RET metro, tram and bus. Available at Rotterdam Info 'Coolsingel' and Rotterdam Info 'Centraal Station' or order it via [www.rotterdamwelcomecard.com](http://www.rotterdamwelcomecard.com).  
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### Which way?

You can start your tour at any number you like. There are three ways to navigate through the city:

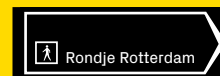
- > the map on page 25,
- > the Roaming Rotterdam street signs 'Rondje Rotterdam',
- > the Rotterdam City Guide app (download it from the App Store or Google Play now).



Tips about the route are provided in the margins. Some signs may not be easy to see at the busier intersections.



Where the bicycle route deviates from the walking route, a note has been added in the margin. The alternative route is shown on the map as a dotted line, but there are no street signs marking it.





# ROTTERDAM IN CONSTANT MOTION

'Rotterdam is a  
must visit city'  
(*Rough Guides travel  
guide*)

"Rotterdam is bursting  
with modern, post-modern  
and contemporary  
construction and offers  
a veritable array of art,  
top-class restaurants and  
atmospheric nightlife,  
making it one of Lonely  
Planet's must-see  
destinations for 2016"  
(*Lonely Planet*)



Maastoren

Rotterdam is an authentic melting pot. The city is home to 176 different nationalities, and that international mix is reflected in the city's many exotic restaurants and shops, famous festivals like the Summer Carnival and North Sea Jazz, but above all in the wide-ranging diversity of the people who live here. The atmosphere is open and cosmopolitan, offering fun options that cater to every taste. Many new hotels, restaurants, coffee bars and clubs have opened in recent years, often at exciting locations.

Rotterdam's dynamic, cosmopolitan character is most palpable on the waterfront. The ships you see in the port come from all over the world, and the architecture around the Maas River is internationally acclaimed. The soaring high-rise structures designed by famous architects like Álvaro Siza Vieira and Rem Koolhaas are along the river, not to mention the famous Erasmus Bridge designed by UNStudio. The juxtaposition of old and new architecture – high and low, long-standing and still under construction – is a familiar sight for Rotterdam locals. It's an intrinsic aspect of the cityscape in a metropolis that never stands still and never fails to fascinate its visitors.

## Rotterdam, then and now

Rotterdam formed around the Binnenrotte, where the little Rotte River once flowed. A dam was built here around 1270, becoming the centre of a small fishing village. Trade and shipping flourished and 'Rotterdam' grew rapidly. The Nieuwe Waterweg channel was excavated between 1866 and 1872, giving Rotterdam a better connection to the sea and allowing it to grow into a truly world-class city. On 14 May 1940, during World War II, almost the entire city centre was destroyed by bombardments. The 'fire boundary' is still marked today by small lights in the shape of red flames embedded in the pavement.

The people of Rotterdam were pro-active and hands-on; reconstruction efforts started just two weeks after the war ended. The city had the courage to make a radical break with the past, opting for spacious design and modern architecture. Light, air and space were the watchwords. In the decades that followed, Rotterdam continued its commitment to ground-breaking architecture, creating the contemporary image the city has today. That drive for innovation is still characteristic of Rotterdam's own. The skyline is internationally acclaimed as an 'ode to modern architecture', and there's so much more to discover here. Rotterdam: a definite must-see? Absolutely!





The signposting begins on Rotterdam Central Station square. The first signpost is located underneath the tip of the station's v-shaped roof.



**Lebkov**  
This coffee bar offers an extensive selection of coffees, as well as delicious sandwiches, soup and sweet treats. Savour them at your leisure or take your order to go. *Stationsplein 50*

### 1. Rotterdam Central Station

*Team CS\* (2014), M. Struijs (2014)*  
Nearly 110,000 travellers pass this spot every day to take the bus, tram, metro or train. The roof over the tracks is partly covered in solar panels and transitions smoothly into the roof over the station hall. Its tip points towards the city centre. A number of historic elements from the former station building (1957) designed by Sybold van Ravesteyn have been retained, such as the original clock on the façade, the letters spelling out Central Station (now in LED lights) and the 'speculaas cookies', two granite sculptures on track 1. The underground metro station and bicycle parking facility were designed by Maarten Struijs.

\* Benthem Crouwel Architects, Meyer & Van Schooten Architects and West 8.

### 2. Groot Handelsgebouw

*H.A. Maaskant and W. van Tijen (1953)*  
This national monument is a typical symbol of post-war reconstruction in the early 1950s. The huge structure, 220 by 84 metres in size, was built in the early 1950s to accommodate businessmen who had lost their premises during the bombardment. It was and is the biggest trade centre in the Netherlands. There are offices and shops distributed across various levels, with a 1.5 kilometre 'road' through them. With over 170 tenants, the building is a small town in itself and is a leading meeting place for national and international entrepreneurs in Rotterdam. Bar Brasserie Engels is located on the Central Station Square side of the building.

### 3. Delftse Poort

*A. Bonnema (1991)*  
Until 2005, the Delftse Poort and its mirrored façade was the highest building in the Netherlands. Although higher buildings have risen in Rotterdam since its construction, this one is still one of the city's prominent landmarks.



The low tower is 93 metres high, while the highest section soars to 151 metres. The building has 28 lifts.

### 4. Calypso

*Alsop Architects (2012)*  
The façade of Calypso is designed so the building appears to be floating. Its 22 floors contain 407 luxury apartments as well as shops, offices, cafés and restaurants, and a car park. At the far right, you'll see the renovated Pauluskerk (rust brown), where assistance to the city's homeless and addicts.

### 5. Schouwburgplein

*A. Geuze (1992-1997)*  
Acclaimed and denounced in equal measure by architecture critics all over the world, the square was built on the roof of a parking garage. Various materials were used in its construction, including an epoxy floor, steel and natural stone plates, and wooden flooring. The bent red lamp posts are evocative echoes of dockside cranes. The square is lined in sidewalk cafés, restaurants and theatres.

### 6. De Doelen

*E.H. and H.M. Kraaijvanger with R.H. Fledderus (1966) / J. Hoogstad (2000)*  
De Doelen Concert Hall and Conference Centre hosts many concerts every year, encompassing every genre, from classical to world music and jazz. The acoustics of its concert halls are widely praised. De Doelen is also home base for the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. The building was expanded in 2000 to include additional conference facilities and the HMD School of Music and Dance.

### 7. Pathé Schouwburgplein

*K.J. van Velsen (1996)*  
When a number of older cinemas had to close down, this multiplex with seven cinemas was





#### Café Floor

Floor is in the cultural heart of Rotterdam, adjacent to the Schouwburg municipal theatre. The menu features local and organic products prepared in modern ways. When the weather is fine, head through to the courtyard garden: an oasis of calm in the busy city. *Schouwburgplein 28*



Follow the route outside the pedestrian zone and pick up the route again at number 15.



#### Café Beurs

Once a cinema, this is now a popular café and restaurant. Café Beurs is a pleasant place to stop while walking or shopping, or at the end of your day. *Kruiskade 55*

built. An ultralight structure was needed due to the car park located under the complex. A light steel construction was used with cladding made from transparent corrugated plates. Insulating felt was used in the walls of the cinemas to prevent noise from leaking out between the cinemas or to the outside.

#### 8. Rotterdamse Schouwburg

*W.G. Quist (1988)*

The municipal theatre presents many theatre, dance and music performances every year. The Schouwburg is also a popular festival location. The floor plan is almost symmetrical: stately staircases sweep from the entrance (right below the theatre tower) and along the main theatre to the foyer at the back. Scenery pieces are brought in and taken out again using an ingenious freight lift on the right of the building.

#### 9. Lijnbaan

*J.H. van den Broek and J.B. Bakema (1953)*

Lijnbaan is one of the most frequented national monuments in Rotterdam. In the 1950s, when it was the first car-free shopping promenade in Europe, it was seen as a revolutionary design and copied all over the world. Lijnbaan is still a shopping valhalla. The shops here are open seven days a week.

#### 10. City Hall

*H. Evers (1920)*

City Hall was one of the few buildings to survive the bombardment in 1940. Queen Wilhelmina laid the first stone in 1915. The listed building in Beaux Art style with Byzantine, Roman and Art Deco influences is symmetrically structured around an inner courtyard which can be reached via the street that 'intersects' City Hall. The richly decorated façade features various sculptures. The mayor's office is on the first floor of the right corner pavilion.



The route continues up top, along the Beurstraverse.

#### 11. Beurstraverse

*The Jerde Partnership, P. de Bruijn (de Architecten Cie) (1996)*

The sunken shopping passage, referred to locally as the 'Koopgoot' ('shopping gutter'), crosses under Coolsingel. The traverse links two important shopping streets, Lijnbaan and Hoogstraat, via the Beursplein underground metro station. The interior of the traverse was designed by Jon Jerde, the American guru of fun-shopping.

#### 12. De Bijenkorf

*M. Breuer, A. Elzas (1957)*

The façade of this luxury department store is partly clad in hexagonal travertine panels that reference its beehive logo. The architect wanted to place an artwork in front of the entrance so he wouldn't have to adapt his design to the urban development plan that required an extension on the front of the building. The store sells exclusive fashion and cosmetic brands, but also interior accessories, bonbons, books and toys.

#### 13. Zonder Titel / Untitled

*N. Gabo (1957)*

26.2 metres high and weighing 40 tonnes, this steel artwork known as 'Untitled' stands outside the entrance to the Bijenkorf as an 'ideological contribution to constructivism', as Gabo himself put it. Despite its massive bulk, the sculpture creates an impression of weightlessness.

#### 14. Beurs-WTC

*J.F. Staal (1940), R. van Erk (1987)*

The lower building of the stock exchange was the first building in Rotterdam to be restored to its former glory following the 1940 bombardment. The World Trade Center, the office building in the form of a flattened ellipse, was built on top of the exchange hall in 1987.



#### Staal

Popular with conference attendees, businesspeople and shoppers, at the foot of Beurs-WTC. The outdoor seating area offers a great view of Coolsingel and the lively 'Koopgoot'. *Beursplein 33*





### 15. De Meent

In recent years, De Meent has blossomed into the most glamorous street in the city. A better class of fashion and shoe stores is supplemented by a number of good restaurants, lunchrooms, bars, cocktail lounges and a famous ice cream salon.

### 16. Post Rotterdam

*G.C. Bremer (1923)*  
Like City Hall, the former post office survived the bombardment of 1940. The exterior seems fairly sober and solid. The interior, in contrast, is light and high and still retains many historic details. The sculpture by Joop van Lunteren on the façade still provides a symbolic reference to the building's former function: post office, telegraph office and telephone services. Redevelopment of the building into a hotel, wellness centre and shopping area will commence in 2016.

### 17. Timmerhuis

*R. Koolhaas (OMA) (2015)*  
The Timmerhuis city office is located behind City Hall and Post Rotterdam. The building's renovated section and new addition mesh seamlessly. This architectural masterpiece of glass and steel houses both municipal offices and apartments, shops, cafés, restaurants, the Rotterdam Museum and a car park.

### 18. Café Brasserie Dudok

*W.M. Dudok (1953), H. Kossmann and J. Dijkman (1991)*  
Once an insurance firm, it is now a lively meeting point named after the building's architect. Traces of the original structure of the glass-walled offices can still be seen in the large open space, as well as many authentic details. Maisonette apartments are situated above the café.

### 19. Erasmus

*H. de Keyser (1622)*  
The statue of Desiderius Erasmus is the oldest public statue in the Netherlands. As one of the most important humanist philosophers, Erasmus is world-famous. He was born in Rotterdam around 1468 and has come to symbolise the city of his birth.

### 20. Laurenskerk

*Unknown (between 1449-1525)*  
The Late Gothic church is the only building still remaining from the medieval city centre. The church received its current shape around 1525, but took heavy damage during the bombardment in May 1940. It now stands in striking contrast to the new architecture that surrounds it. Besides its regular church services, the building now also hosts tours, concerts, exhibitions, lectures and events. It also houses a permanent exhibition entitled 'A monument full of stories'.

### 21. Binnenrotte

Around 1270, a dam was built in the small Rotte River, with the Maas on one side and land on the other. Here, on this 'Binnenrotte', a settlement arose that grew to become Rotterdam. In 1871, the Binnenrotte was filled in to allow for the construction of a rail line to Dordrecht. De Hef – the rail bridge across the Nieuwe Maas River – was part of this line. However, the underground Willemsspoor Tunnel was opened in 1993. One of the country's biggest outdoor markets is held on the large square created at that time.

### 22. Erasmus University College

*D.B. Logemann, N. Lansdorp and J. Poot (1923), E. van Egeraat (2014)*  
The international programme of Erasmus University Rotterdam has been housed in this building since 2014. The Central Municipal Library was located here in the early 20<sup>th</sup>



#### Dudok

This city brasserie is bustling all day long. No matter what time of day, the menu offers a wide range of options: breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, drinks or dinner. Or enjoy a cup of coffee with Dudok's famous apple pie.  
*Meent 88*



Take the alternate route on market days, or get off your bicycle and take a short walk.





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#### Urban Espresso Bar

A coffee bar avant la lettre. Cosy and nearly always packed. You'll sit amongst creative locals who are there to work, meet or exchange ideas.  
*Botersloot 44a*

century. The building was spared during the bombardment in 1940 and offered shelter during the war to the Advisory Bureau for the City Plan of Rotterdam (ASRO), which set up operations on the top floor to work on the new city plan.

#### 23. Central Library

*Van den Broek & Bakema (1983)*  
The Central Library has approximately 400,000 books distributed across six floors. The yellow pipes provide a flow of fresh air into the library. A quote by Erasmus, accompanied by his signature, graces the façade: 'The whole world is my homeland'.

#### 24. Markthal

*MVRDV (2014)*  
Covered market halls are found in various cities around the world, but the way this market is combined with housing is unique. The apartments are draped over the daily market in a horseshoe shape. The main hall houses the market itself, as well as shops and various restaurants, with a supermarket and a four-storey car park situated below. As you wander along the market stands, look up to see Arno Coenen's and Iris Roskam's 'Horn of Plenty'.

#### 25. Blaak Station

*H.C.H. Reijnders (1993)*  
Between 1987 and 1993, the rail viaduct and rail bridge were replaced by the Willemsspoor Tunnel. From that point on, train traffic through this area was underground. Blaak Station is part of this subterranean line. Only the station's tram stops can be seen from street level. The metro tracks are at -1, and the rail tunnel for national and international trains from Rotterdam to the south and vice versa is situated another level down. A fragment of Rotterdam's fourteenth-century city wall is on display in the station.



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At the first Cube House, take the steps on the left and head up. Walk between the houses and take the stairs on the right down to the water. Walk along Oude Haven to the left to get the best view.



Follow the alternative route; cycle under the Cube Houses along the right side of the road, then take the red cycle path to the right Koestraat) 50 metres later.

#### 26. Tribute to Marten Toonder

*De Artoonisten (2002)*  
Over six metres high, this statue is a tribute to Rotterdam's famous comic book writer, Marten Toonder, known for such titles as Olivier B. Bommel. It was erected in honour of his ninetieth birthday.

#### 27. Cube Houses

*P. Blom (1978-1984)*  
Architect Piet Blom was commissioned to build an unusual bridge over the busy arterial road between Blaak and Oude Haven. The famous result is the Cube Houses, also known as the 'Blaakse Bos forest'. The Kijk-Kubus at number 70 is a fully decorated museum house that shows what it's like to live between slanted walls. The Stayokay hostel in one of the Cube Houses is also worth checking out if you'd like to stay overnight for a first-hand experience.

#### 28. Oude Haven

Historic ships contrast beautifully with the modern backdrop of the inner harbour of Oude Haven. In warm weather, the sidewalk cafés are packed all evening. Even when the season is brisk, many locals find their way to Oude Haven to dine, drink and dance. Traditionally, this area also includes popular student hangouts. The inner harbour has a direct link to open seas via the Nieuwe Maas, so ebb and flood tides have a visible effect here. The red Willemsbrug can be seen in the background.

#### 29. Witte Huis

*W. Molenbroek (1898)*  
In 1898, this office building rising 45 metres high was the first skyscraper in Europe. Rather than a steel construction, which would have been considered modern at the time, the architect used thick load-bearing walls made of brick. The façade is clad in white-glazed





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#### Mooii

The cuisine served in this stylish restaurant has a French base with influences from all over the world. Mooii also serves lunch on weekdays. The terrace offers a lovely view of the Oude Haven inner harbour in summer. *Oost-Wijnstraat 8-16*



Follow the bicycle route to the end of Wijnhaven.



At the end of Wijnhaven, take the Kraneschipbrug across the water to Schiedamsedijk. Walk right beside the quay (there are stairs at the end) or along Schiedamsedijk.

brick decorated with mosaics and Art Nouveau images.

#### 30. The Red Apple

*KCAP Architects & Planners (2009)*  
The apple market was historically held at this location. An old apple tree along the waterfront still stands as a reminder. The name of the residential high-rise and office building recalls that piece of history and offers a playful reference to the Big Apple, New York City. The bright red lines in the 127-metre tower narrow as they rise up the façade, emphasising the building's sleek shape.

#### 31. Verwoeste stad (The Destroyed City)

*O. Zadkine (1951)*  
This bronze artwork is the city's main war monument. The sculpture represents a human figure without a heart, symbolising how Rotterdam was cut to the heart by the German bombardment in World War II.

#### 32. Water taxi

The ultimate way to travel from A to B and savour the authentic flavour of maritime Rotterdam is the water taxi. These fast boats offer passenger transport seven days a week from various boarding points. You can opt for a shorter walking route by catching the water taxi from the Kraneschipbrug dock to Hotel New York and continuing the route from there.

#### 33. Maritime Museum Rotterdam

*W.G. Quist (1986)*  
The oldest shipping museum in the Netherlands curates a collection comprising half a million maritime objects. Its diverse exhibitions include MainPort Live, an impressive multimedia presentation about the dynamic port city of Rotterdam. Outside, on the Leuvehaven quay, you can admire ships, dock cranes and other port-related exhibits dating back to the period between 1850 and 1970.



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Cycle across via the right side of Erasmus Bridge. Turn right at the end.



Walk across via the left side of Erasmus Bridge. Turn right at the end.



#### Prachtig

When the weather is fine, the lounge sofas on the outdoor waterfront terrace are lovely. Even indoors, you'll have a great view of the river and the ships sailing past. Prachtig is located at the foot of Erasmus Bridge. *Willemsplein 77*

#### 34. Erasmus Bridge

*UNStudio (1996)*  
The Erasmus Bridge is the definitive icon of Rotterdam. The 800-metre bridge spans the Maas River and links the north and south of Rotterdam. The 139-metre steel pylon, which earned the bridge its nickname of 'The Swan', is secured with 40 suspension cables.

#### 35. De Hef (Koningshaven Bridge)

*P. Joosting (1927)*  
The railway drawbridge was originally part of the rail line between Rotterdam and Dordrecht. De Hef was no longer needed once the underground rail tunnel was completed, but this national monument is still a defining element in the city skyline.

#### 36. De Brug

*JHK Architects (2005)*  
The transparent office building that houses Unilever Netherlands is 133 metres long and 'floats' 25 metres above the old factory complex, supported by a minimal construction. The entire steel construction was assembled beside the location and then rolled over to its final location.

#### 37. Maas Tower

*Dam & Partners Architects (2009)*  
At over 164 metres (including rooftop structure), the Maas Tower is currently the highest building in the Netherlands and has 44 floors. Sustainability was a major focus in its construction. An innovative heating and cooling storage system was installed that utilises the temperature of the river water. 22 different shades of grey were used to create the transition from dark to light across the façade.

#### 38. De Wilhelminahof

*R. Ligtoet (Kraaijvanger Urbis) and C. Dam (1997)*  
Situated at the foot of Erasmus Bridge,





this complex of three buildings was designed by two architecture firms. The natural grey stone building at the front accommodates courtrooms and a detention complex operated by the judiciary (Ligtvoet). The large complex in red brick (Dam & Ligtvoet) is located immediately behind it and houses the offices of the court, the tax authorities and the customs authorities. The high-rise building on the left (Dam) is occupied by various companies. The Galleria connects the buildings. The courtyard behind them was designed by West 8. This building-free zone is immediately above the metro tunnel.

#### 39. Toren op Zuid

*R. Piano (2000)*

The Italian architect allowed the surface of this office tower to lean forward as an echo of the suspension cables of Erasmus Bridge. The giant light installation on the façade consists of 900 tiled flat lamps, together forming a screen that displays various images and texts. Fun detail: the slope is nearly 6 degrees, identical to the leaning Tower of Pisa.

#### 40. De Rotterdam

*R. Koolhaas (OMA) (2013)*

Together, the three linked towers soar to nearly 150 metres high and form a 'vertical city' of high-class flats, a 4-star hotel, offices, shops, restaurants, fitness and parking. The building stands on a plot of land the size of a football field and was constructed according to stringent standards of sustainability. The name refers to the ss Rotterdam steamboat, which once took regular trips to New York and incorporated many luxurious amenities to ensure the comfort of its passengers.



#### 41. Cruise Terminal

*Brinkman & Van den Broek & Bakema (1938 and 1949)*

Between 1873 and 1970, thousands of passengers headed off for America from this spot. The halls were largely destroyed during the war. The former departures hall (1938) and arrivals hall (1949) of the Holland America Line were fully restored, however, and are now considered industrial cultural heritage sites. Since 1997, the arrivals hall has been redubbed Cruise Terminal and used as an events venue. Many cruise ship passengers still enter the city via this terminal every year.

#### 42. Las Palmas

*Van den Broek & Bakema (1953), Benthem Crouwel Architects (2007)*

The building that once housed the industrial workshops of the Holland-America Line from 1953 stands in the middle of the Wilhelminapier. Built in 1953, the historic building was redeveloped in 2005 and now houses several institutions, including the Nederlands Fotomuseum with its varying exhibitions of historic and contemporary photos from the Netherlands and abroad. During the redevelopment, a penthouse office was added on the roof.

#### 43. World Port Center

*Sir N. Foster & Partners (2000)*

The World Port Center was the first high-rise on the Wilhelminapier. The Port Coordination Centre at the top of the building coordinates all shipping in the port of Rotterdam.

#### 44. Hotel New York

*J. Muller, C.M. Droogleever Fortuyn and C.B. van der Tak (1901-1919)*

One of the most beautiful historic buildings in the city, Hotel New York is a Jugendstil structure. The former headquarters of the Holland-America Line looks out towards sea



#### nhow Rotterdam

Bar and restaurant nhow has a terrace that literally places you in the heart of the skyline. Take the lift to the 7th floor and look out across the city as you enjoy your lunch, cocktails or dinner.

*Wilhelminakade 137*



#### Hotel New York

Rotterdam locals, businesspeople and tourists all know how to find HNY. They come here to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner, or an extensive high tea or friendly drinks. At this historic location with its spacious waterfront terrace, it all tastes equally delicious.

*Koninginnenhoofd 1*





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and is now a hotel and restaurant. The authentic details in the building are reminiscent of the early twentieth century and recall its ties to the maritime world. Firmly grounded in history, HNY offers the height of modern luxury.

#### 45. Lost Luggage Depot

*J. Wall (2001)*

The cast-iron monument filled with suitcases and bags from various eras references this location's history as a departure terminal for America. The monument with its lost luggage symbolises how people cut their ties to their homelands and sailed off, saying their farewells here.

#### 46. Montevideo

*Mecanoo Architects (2005)*

Work, home and leisure in a single spot. That was the guiding principle behind the development of this tower: a city within a city. Luxury apartments are located in both towers. The middle section is reserved for offices and a health club. Various cafés, restaurants and catering options are on the ground floor.

#### 47. Katendrecht

The Katendrecht peninsula, known locally as the Cape, was once a notorious dockside area and red light district with a sailor's pub on every corner. This area has been extensively redeveloped and is now very hip and happening. The Fenix Food Factory is a fresh produce market and culinary hotspot where you can buy and taste locally produced and sourced delicacies. There is a diverse range of restaurants and outdoor cafés on Deliplein square. Katendrecht is easy to walk to from Wilheminaapier across the Rijnhavenbrug.



There is a dock beside HNY. Extend the route by taking the water taxi to the ss Rotterdam, or take an extra fifteen-minute walk across the Rijnhavenbrug. If you'd rather shorten the route, take the water taxi to Veerhaven (number 53).



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#### 48. ss Rotterdam

*(1959)*

The steamship ss Rotterdam is the former flagship of the Holland-America Line and boasts a wealth of history. The ship (228 metres long, 28 metres wide and 61 metres high) was built in Rotterdam, returning to its home port in 2008 after many peregrinations and nautical miles. Since then, it has been moored alongside Katendrecht and used as a hotel, restaurant and events venue. The terrace on deck offers a unique view of the city. An audio tour guides visitors through the authentic details in the restored lounges and decks and offers a peek at the engine rooms.

#### 49. New Orleans

*A. Siza Vieira (2010)*

The lower two floors of New Orleans are home to LantarenVenster, the definitive theatre for a better class of films, concerts, jazz music and festivals. Apartments, a health club and a car park are located in the tower. The natural stone façade gives the building a warm feel.

#### 50. Nieuwe Luxor Theater

*Bolles & Wilson (2001)*

The Nieuwe Luxor Theater stages large-scale productions, ranging from musicals and shows to cabaret, theatre concerts and dance performances. The hall seats approximately 1500. The light, spacious foyers overlook the Rijnhaven or Erasmus Bridge. There is a separate ramp outside for lorries bringing scenery in and out.



Walk back via the left side of the bridge. Right before the end, take the stairs down to continue the route.



Cycle back via the right side of the bridge and follow the road signs and map.

#### 51. Spido

The name Spido was introduced in 1919 for a ferry service that linked different parts of the port. The Spido was first used for tourism in 1931, but also delivered post to sailors and transported employees of port-based businesses to and from their work. The focus of Spido's activities has solidly shifted to tourist





tours of the port these days. The city's architecture, its skyline and the port activities are seen to their best advantage from the water itself. Spido also offers tours to the new Maasvlakte 2 seaport.

#### 52. Wereldmuseum

*A.N. Godefroy (1851)*

The building was decorated by the Royal Yacht Club, established in 1846 by Prince Hendrik. Since 1885, the Wereldmuseum has occupied the premises. This prominent ethnographic museum has 2000 top pieces from all over the world in its permanent collection. It also hosts a range of high-profile, temporary theme exhibitions. The museum's restaurant holds a Michelin star.

#### 53. Het Scheepvaartkwartier

This romantic corner of Rotterdam is a protected urban landscape. The city's rich maritime history lives on here in stately town houses lining beautiful lanes, not to mention Het Park and broad waterfront quays. The Veerhaven harbour is currently home port and stop-off point for historic ships that still sail the seas.

#### 54. Het Park

*J.D. Zocher jr. and L.P. Zocher (1862)*

A green oasis in the heart of the city. Het Park is a beloved spot for relaxation and barbecues in summer. All sorts of festivals and events are held here.

#### 55. Euromast

*H.A. Maaskant (1960)*

The Euromast was designed for the Floriade world flower show in 1960 and is the highest observation tower in the Netherlands. The observation deck at 100 metres offers a restaurant with a 360-degree panorama of the city. Take it to the next level and board the rotating Euroscop lift to go all the way up to 185 metres.



#### Loos

Café and restaurant Loos is a charming meeting point overlooking the romantic Veerhaven and Scheepvaartkwartier. The interior exudes a Parisian atmosphere, with opening hours to match: Loos is open from early in the morning till late at night.

*Westplein 51*



At the end of Scheepstimmermanslaan, first cross the Westzeedijk. Then turn left to follow Westzeedijk.



Turn right just before Kunsthall and cycle underneath it. Then turn right. Cycle between the Kunsthall and Het Natuurhistorisch Museum into Museumpark. Follow the alternative route in the park.



From the dyke, take the passageway that leads directly through the Kunsthall to Museumpark.

#### 56. Westelijk Handelsterrein

*T.L. Kanters (1894) / renovations: H. Klunder, J. van der Weerd (2001)*

The stately façades of this late 19th-century listed building conceal a complex of 36 warehouses distributed over two levels, now largely occupied by restaurants and cafés. The glass roof over the warehouses creates a spacious covered courtyard, where the restaurants have created cosy sidewalk cafés.

#### 57. Kunsthall Rotterdam

*R. Koolhaas and F. Hoshino (OMA) (1992)*

The Kunsthall is not a museum with a permanent collection, but a venue for ever-changing temporary exhibitions: from ancient art and traditional culture to modern design, fashion and photography. The building itself is on the list of the world's 1000 most-discussed of the 1990s. The way that it abuts the Westzeedijk, it resembles a modern version of a traditional Dutch dyke house. The six-metre gradient is bridged by a system of sloping ramps. The sculpture on the roof is 'The Camel and his Driver' by Henk Visch.

#### 58. Het Natuurhistorisch Museum

*J.F. Metzelaar (1852) / E. van Egeraat (1995)*

On this former Hoboken estate, the Hoboken family lived in Villa Dijkzigt from 1856 on. After renovations, Rotterdam's natural history museum moved into the neo-classicist national monument in 1987. In 1995, a modern glass pavilion was added to the villa, which is used as an exhibition hall and library.

#### 59. Erasmus MC

*A. Viergever, B.M. den Hollander (1961).*

*Medical faculty: OD 205, J. Prouvé (1968). New complex: EGM Architects (2009-2018)*  
The old section of the hospital was built to replace the Coolsingel Hospital, demolished in the war. It was expanded in 1968 to add a medical faculty for education facilities,





#### Het Nieuwe Café

Surrounded by the dynamic city, this café offers a quiet spot for coffee, sandwiches or drinks. It has an outdoor terrace with wonderfully comfortable benches in summer, overlooking Museumpark. The seasonal menu is organic where possible. 'The Netherlands' best museum café in 2015'.  
*Museumpark 25 (in Het Nieuwe Instituut)*

research labs and a car park. The complex is outdated by now. Between now and 2018, it will be transformed into an entirely new Erasmus Medical Centre, covering over 300,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### 60. Museumpark + car park

*R. Koolhaas, Y. Brunier (1993, 2011) / P. de Ruiter (2010)*

The Museumpark is divided into four zones: a paved zone on the Kunsthal side, a romantic zone with trees and a pedestrian bridge, an asphalted city zone for events, and a well-tended orchard. The car park (De Ruiter) underneath the Museumpark uses split levels and lots of glass for a light, spacious and transparent look. A water reservoir prevents downtown flooding in the event of heavy rainfall.

#### 61. The New Institute

*J. Coenen (1993, modifications in 2010)*  
The striking building houses a museum of architecture, fashion, design and e-culture. Besides its archives and library, it also includes a bookshop and a cosy museum café on the waterfront.

#### 62. Sonneveld House

*J.A. Brinkman & L.C. van der Vlugt (1933)*  
The Sonneveld house is one of the best-preserved examples of Dutch modernist architecture. The use of new materials and a steel skeleton express the modernist principles of light, air and space in very spacious living areas with large ribbon windows and a roof terrace. As part of the New Institute, the Sonneveld house is a museum home open to the public.



#### NRC

A diverse assortment of guests come and go all day long. The room is large and light, varying in height. The menu is extensive all day long.  
*Witte de Withstraat 63*



Cross Westblaak and turn left. Cycle past the skate park. Turn right on Eendrachtsplein.

#### 63. Chabot Museum

*G.W. Baas & L. Stokla (1939)*

The museum in the white corner villa – a monument to Dutch modernist architecture in its own right – displays paintings, drawings, sculptures and graphic works by famous Rotterdam-based artist Henk Chabot. Works by his contemporaries and kindred expressionists from the Netherlands and abroad are also on display.

#### 64. Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

*A. van der Steur (1935) / A. Bodon (1972) / Daem & Robbrecht (2003)*

This is one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands. In 1849, prominent lawyer Boijmans left his art collection to the city. When the collection amassed by Van Beuningen was added in 1958, the museum's name was lengthened to accommodate the change. The collection of Dutch and European masterpieces offers an overview from the Early Middle Ages to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Van Bosch, Rembrandt and Van Gogh to Dalí and Dutch Design. The museum also regularly hosts temporary exhibitions on diverse topics.

#### 65. Sylvette

*P. Picasso (1970)*

Sandblasted in concrete, this portrait of 20-year-old Sylvette, the girl Picasso met in the spring of 1954 who became his muse, is a collaboration with Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar.

#### 66. Witte de Withstraat

The ultimate arts and culture street in Rotterdam is known for its artistic, multicultural and lively character. Referred to as the city's 'Axis of Art', it runs from Museumpark to the Martim Museum and is lined in galleries, avant-garde fashion boutiques, restaurants and (art) cafés.





#### Sijf

Enjoy a bit to eat or have a drink at the bar; both are possible at Sijf. The atmosphere is cosy, and the interior with its Art Deco details is well worth seeing. *Oude Binnenweg* 115

#### 67. Oude and Nieuwe Binnenweg

Oude Binnenweg, and Nieuwe Binnenweg leading on from it, form one long trail filled with surprising shops and entertainment venues. Pubs, cafés, night bars and restaurants line the roads. Art & design aficionados will also enjoy the area's various furniture and design shops.

#### 68. Santa Claus

*P. McCarthy (2001)*

Controversial and conspicuous, the Santa Claus sculpture – known colloquially as the 'Buttplug Gnome' – is the bronze symbol of Western consumerism. It stands on Eendrachtsplein in plain view of local shoppers.

#### 69. Westersingel sculpture route

*W.N. Rose, J.D. Zocher (1859) / M. Struijs (2000)*

The Westersingel canal was installed in 1859 as part of a water project that was intended to improve water management and public hygiene in the old city. The sculpture route has been on the waterfront since 2000. The route runs from Kruiskade to Westzeedijk and features work by such major sculptors as Rodin, Carel Visser and Joel Shapiro.

#### 70. De Unie

*C. Weeber (1986) inspired by J.J.P. Oud (1925)*

De Unie has an eye-catching façade. De Stijl colours, rectangular advertising signs, a billboard and square windows create an exceptional composition. This is not the original façade designed by J.J.P. Oud, but a replica. The original building on Coolingsingel was destroyed in the 1940 bombardment. In 1986, the façade was reconstructed by Carel Weeber at a new, comparable location between 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings.

## SHORT ROUTES

No time to take the whole walk? Or are you simply interested in a specific aspect of downtown Rotterdam? Opt for a shorter route and combine it with public transport from Central Station. Purchase a public transport chipcard (or top up your current card) at Central Station or one of the metro stations.

#### Skyline

This part of the route features the most beautiful views in Rotterdam: the skyline, the port, the architecture of the Wilhelminapier. Regardless of which Maas riverbank you're on, you will enjoy the stunning panoramas of the varied décor.



*Route: From Central Station, take tram 20 (towards Lombardijen), 23 (towards Beverwaard) or 25 (towards Carnisselande). Get out at Leuvehaven. Start the route at number 34.*

*Shorten the route further by catching the water taxi from Hotel New York to Veerhaven and continuing the route from number 53.*

#### Arts & Culture

Love arts and culture? Curious to explore Rotterdam's museums and public art? Make sure don't miss this part of the route, which takes you past Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Kunsthal Rotterdam and the Westersingel sculpture route.



*Route: From Central Station, take tram 7 (towards Willemsplein). Get out at Westplein and start the route at number 52.*

#### Maritime roots

Visit the historic inner harbours, like Oude Haven and Leuvehaven, and walk along the quay to the Nieuwe Maas: experience historic and modern life in Rotterdam along the water.



*Route: From Central Station, take tram 24 or 21 (towards De Esch). Get out at Blaak Station. Start the route at number 25. This route continues until number 34. Do not cross Erasmus Bridge. Instead, continue the route from number 51.*



*In Veerhaven (number 53), you can take the water taxi to ss Rotterdam or catch tram 7 (towards Woudestein) to Central Station.*

#### Heart of downtown

If you mainly want to explore the dynamic city centre, with all its shops, restaurants and cafés, then limit your walking route to downtown Rotterdam. You'll stroll down fun, lively boulevards and shopping streets and end up on the Binnenrotte, the site of Rotterdam's earliest origins.



*Route: Follow the marked route from Central Station to number 25. When you reach Blaak Station, take tram 21 (towards Woudhoek) or 24 (towards Holy) back to Central Station.*

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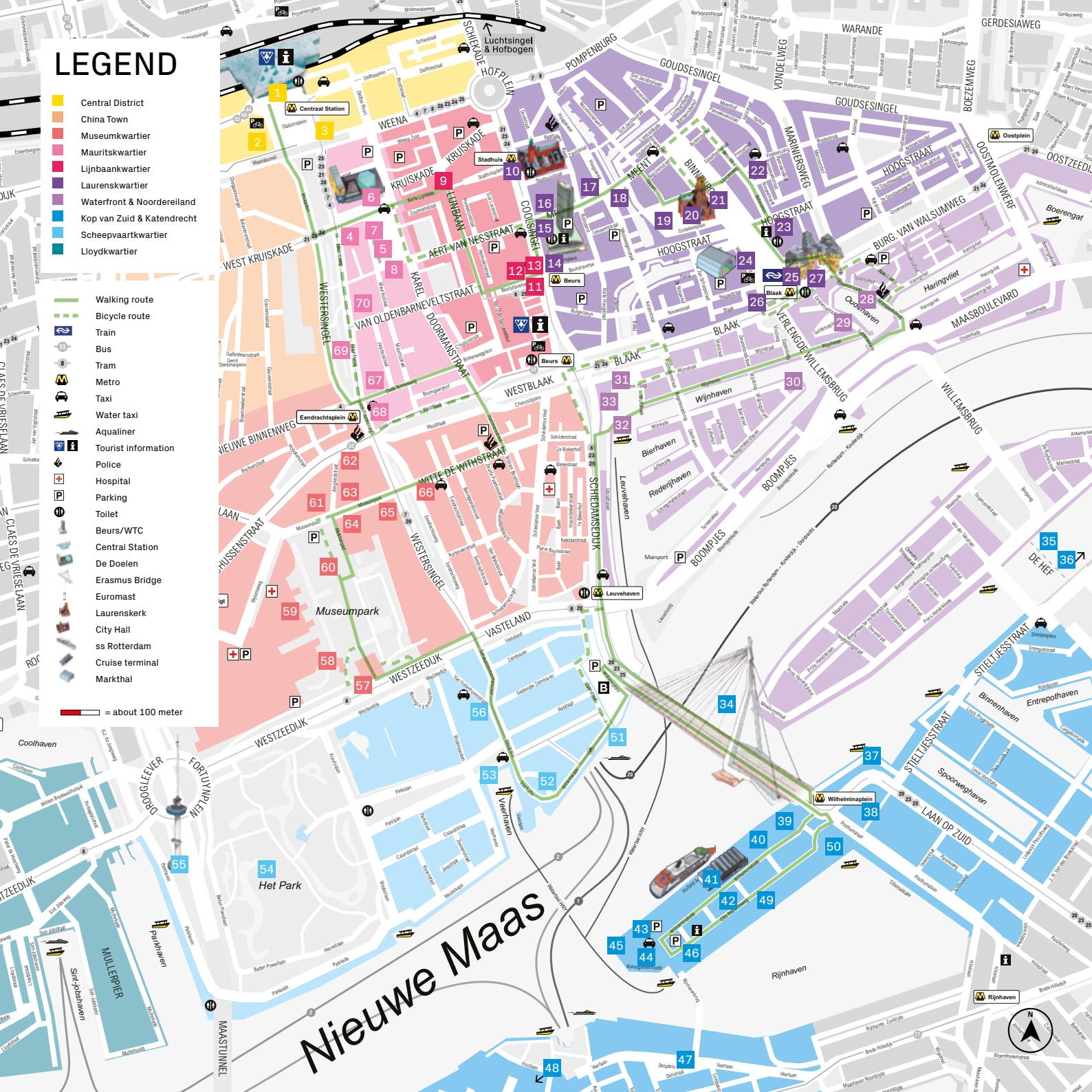
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