# Pathport



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# Pathport

A green guide to Amsterdam



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Amsterdam radiates an electric energy that can be felt even by those who pass through for a brief visit – it might have something to do with the dizzying amount of bicycles that race through the city at any given moment. Add to the chorus the insistent ringing bells of the trams and the honks of the tourists boats in the canals and it's quite an overwhelming experience.

And still, it's easy to get (welcomingly) lost in the city's small streets. The famous canal belt is something out of a movie; the crooked facades of the 17th-century buildings are so imperfectly perfect that it's hard to believe they're actually real. In a city like this, it's about finding the beauty in the chaos. So I've put together a guide that will take you to some of the lesser-known green places in the city when you're in need of a quiet escape from the crowds. I hope they'll make you fall in love with Amsterdam

# NOORDERMARKT

#### Why should people go there?

Every Saturday morning, the Noordermarkt square near Amsterdam Central Station is transformed into an organic farmer's market boasting fresh and tasty products like cheeses, eggs, fresh fish, bread, honey, herbs, spices, nuts, mushrooms, fruits, flowers and so much more. The bounty on display changes with the seasons and week after week, it's always a pleasant surprise to see what's new. Enjoy browsing the many stalls while sampling bites of cheese and picking up a bouquet of fresh flowers for a few euros just because you can.

#### What's a must have?

Grab a fresh juice from the vendor on the corner of the Lindengracht before making your way to the main market square to join the line at Café Winkel. The slice of warm apple pie (with a dollop of whipped cream, if you want) is well worth the wait!

## When is the best time to go?

The market runs from 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. Go at around 11am when the stalls are still stocked with goods and it's not too busy.





# KARTHUIZERHOF

#### Why should people go there?

The Jordaan neighborhood is a popular area to explore - the small streets are a quiet retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city center. But for an extra special experience, head to one of the 18 'hofjes' (courtyards) scattered throughout the area; while usually quite hidden, most of them are open to the public for a few hours during the day. This one, the Karthuizerhof, was built around 1650 and designed by Dutch architect Daniel Stalpert (1615-1676) who also worked on the Royal Palace on Dam Square.

#### What's a must have?

Walk around the inner courtyard and just take a moment to enjoy the silence. Guests are asked to be mindful of the residents and keep their voices down.

## When is the best time to go?

The courtyard can be visited daily between 10am and 8pm, and is a great stop after visiting the Noordermarkt on a Saturday morning.







# CANAL BELT

#### Why should people go there?

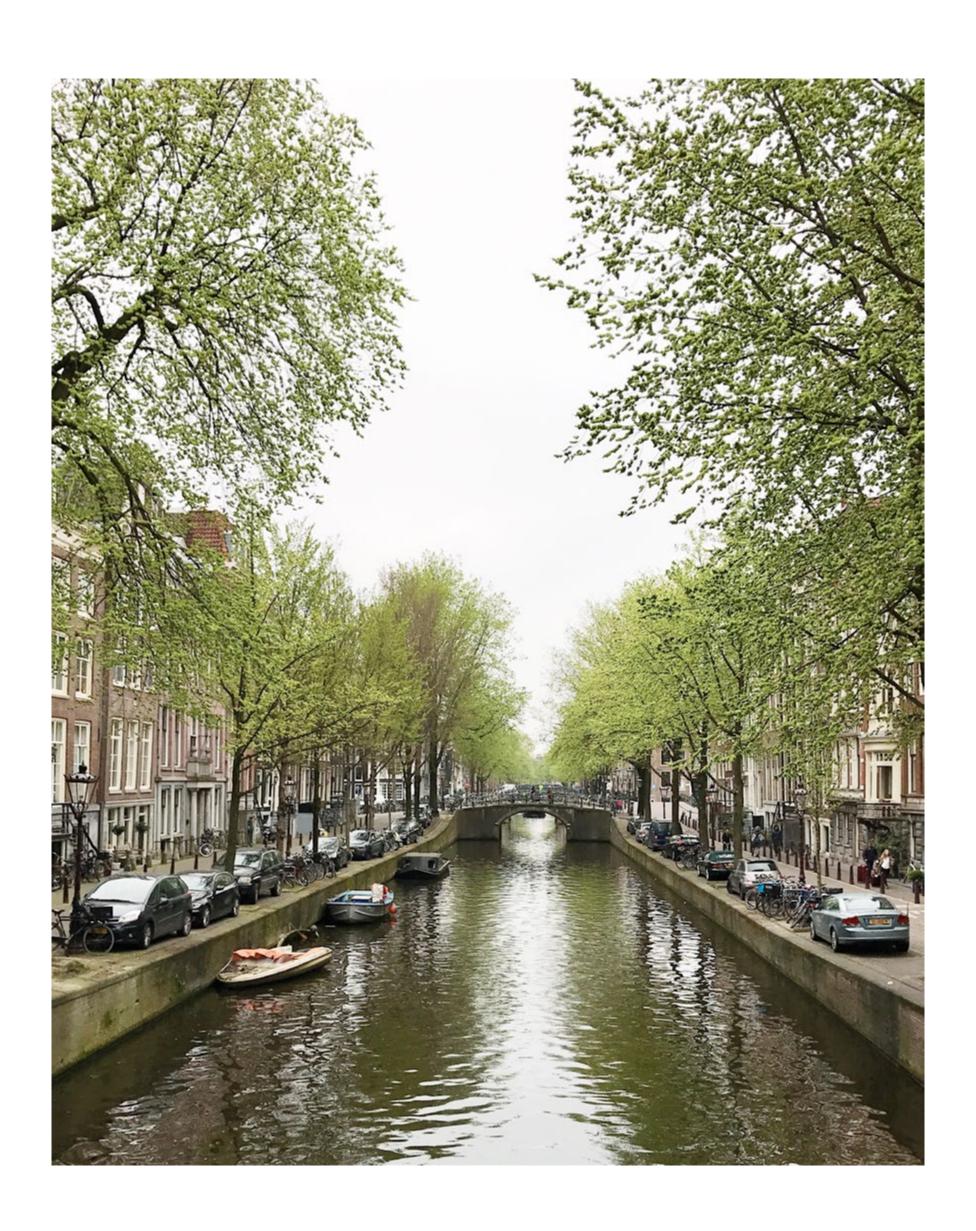
Amsterdam's most famous canal belt is always a must-see when visiting the city. Don't worry, it's hard to miss the canals, you'll end up there at some point or another. But you might be surprised at how green they actually are. Many are lined with elm trees (Amsterdam is said to be home to 75,000 of them) and most houseboats boast miniature gardens either on the deck or neighboring sidewalk. The greener the better, right?

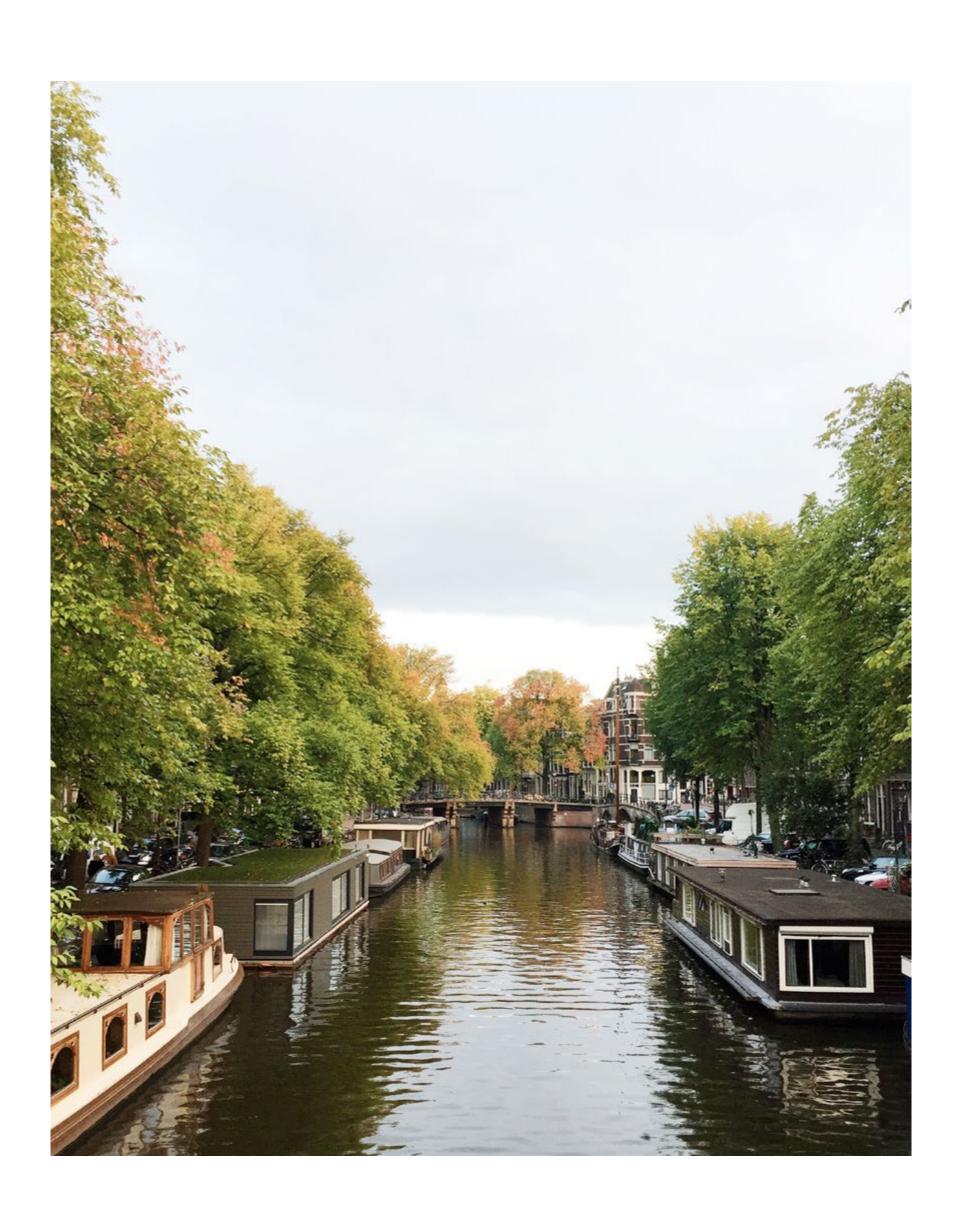
#### What's a must have?

Stroll down the canals and stop to admire the many different facades; many of the old houses have details that provide clues to the building's history. Why not peak into a houseboat to get a feel for what it's like to live on one? And don't forget to admire the many plants that decorate the streets, from potted tulips and wisteria in the spring to the hollyhocks in the summer.

#### When is the best time to go?

The canals are beautiful all year round. In the winter the houses light up with a warm glow as night draws near. In the spring the elm trees scatter the city streets with blankets of blossom known as 'spring snow'. In the summer you're likely to witness the chaos that is boat traffic on the water and the changing colors of the leaves along the canals are a magnificent sight in the fall.





# PULITZER HOTEL

## Why should people go there?

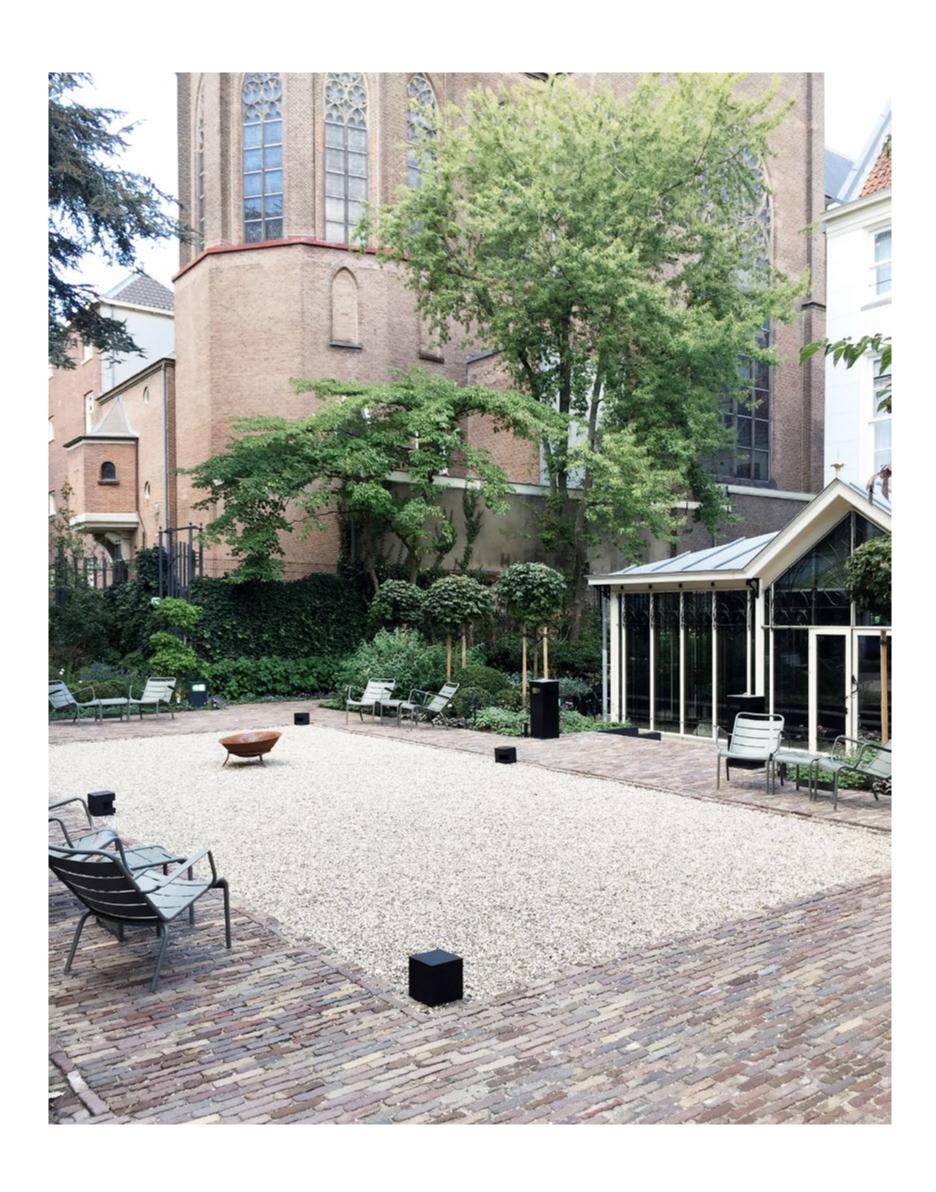
Located on the beautiful Prinsengracht canal is the Pulitzer Hotel, a recently refurbished gem that spans no less than 25 canal houses. The hotel, which feels kind of a like a maze when you step inside, skillfully combines a bold quirkiness with bright colors and an elegant finish. The inner gardens are a surprising oasis in the city – you don't want to miss it.

#### What's a must have?

Grab a seat in the garden on a sunny day or at one of the tables in the neighboring café. Make a reservation at restaurant Jansz for lunch or dinner, or end your day with a Hot Toddy at the impressive Art Deco style bar overlooking the Keizersgracht.

#### When is the best time to go?

On warmer days, the inner courtyard is a lovely place to grab an afternoon cup of coffee. But even in the winter, the heating lamps and blankets are sure to keep you warm – the decorated Christmas tree and carolers add a little holiday cheer!







## BERRY

#### Why should people go there?

Berry is a cute café in the neighborhood of Old West, just a short walk from the canals. Stop by for a delicious coffee, a pastry or a fresh juice. The café is part of a larger collective of sustainable brands including Strawberry Earth, a platform that inspires making social and green choices to inspire change. So get your coffee with a side of positive energy!

#### What's a must have?

Go for the Bloody Berry juice if you're in need of an energy burst; it's packed with a healthy dose of ginger that'll wake you up! Their breakfast platters are hearty and their pastries delicious.

## When is the best time to go?

Beat the crowds in the morning to grab a seat by the window or if it's a nice day, a table outside. They're one of the few cafes in the area with a decent size terrace and it fills up quickly when the sun is out.

Bilderdijkkade 27, 1053VH Amsterdal





## WILDERNIS

#### Why should people go there?

Plant enthusiasts unite! Wildernis is every green-thumbed plant lovers dream (even if you're not really into plants, this place is definitely worth a visit). Located in Old West, just around the corner from the busy Kinkerstraat, this shop is the ultimate urban jungle. Plants hang from the ceiling, leafy indoor plants and cacti of all sizes occupy the space, and the store is stacked to the brim with terrariums, planters, gardening tools, plant books, watering cans and plant-related gifts. It's not only a shop but also a place to immerse in the urban green lifestyle; order a cup of tea, flip through a book, or sign up for one of their many workshops. We all want to know how to keep our plants alive, right?

#### What's a must have?

It'll be a challenge to leave empty handed; what about a tiny cactus from the 'bambino club', a garden print by Amsterdam-based illustrator Sanny van Loon, or a tiny pilea pin to dress up your jacket? No matter how big or how small, there's definitely something for everyone.

## When is the best time to go?

Any time! They're open daily with varying opening hours (most nights till 7pm!) so you should have enough time to fit in a quick visit.





# GATHERSHOP

#### Why should people go there?

Located in the Hallen, a former tram depot turned food/shop Walhalla in Old West, you'll find the wonderful celebration of makers and creators that is Gathershop. Owned by maker enthusiast Jessica Chapman, Gathershop is a lovely store filled with handmade treasures and trinkets she has sourced from small design studios all over the world. And she has a collection of tiny plants and succulents that you'll just want to take home with you.

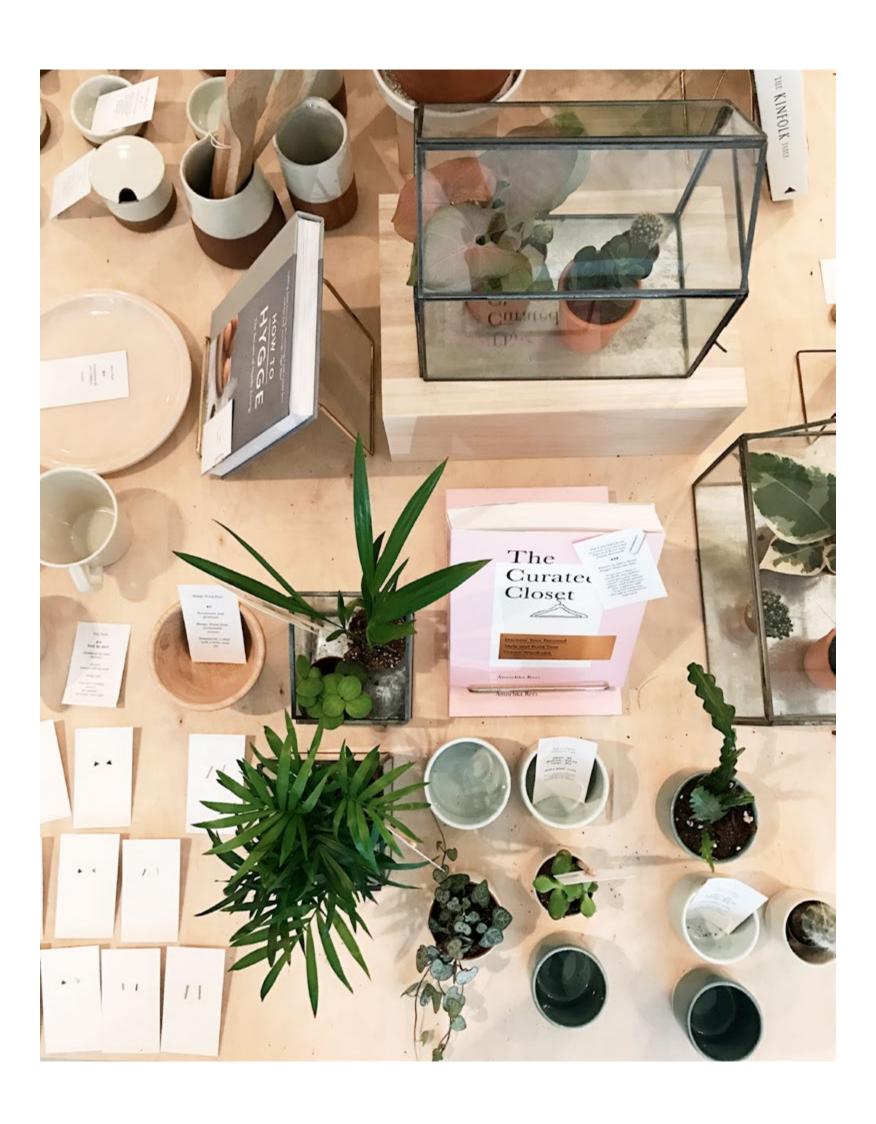
#### What's a must have?

You'll most likely pass by local favorite Lot Sixty One Coffee Roasters on the corner of the Kinkerstraat on your way — pick up a coffee and one of their freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies before heading to Gathershop. You'll want to spend your time there. And be sure to tell Jessica I said hi!

#### When is the best time to go?

Gathershop is open all week except Monday. Grab that coffee and head over there around 1pm. After browsing her beautiful selection you might want to go to the neighboring food market, the Foodhallen, to fill up on delicacies from near and far.

# gathershop We believe in the unique value of simple things We sell handmade, fairtrade and traducts from small design studios and publishers THE GATHERSHOP Amsterdam Hannie Dankbaarpassage 19, 1053R





## FENTO

#### Why should people go there?

Since living in Amsterdam I've been lucky enough to meet some incredibly inspiring people. One of them is Fento's owner, Hilary Metcalfe Ramirez, who I met through my previous project The Makers Amsterdam back when she was organizing the occasional (and very popular!) pop-up restaurant as Hilary's Table. Since then she has quit her job to pursue her dream: starting a plant-based fusion restaurant. Currently running out of a stand at the food market the Foodhallen, they serve Mexican-Asian street food unlike you've ever had it - and it's healthy too. She's bringing more awareness to what we eat, where it comes from, and how it's prepared.

#### What's a must have?

Their Ginger Apple Limeade is a huge hit as is their Green Glow Smoothie with pineapple, spinach, basil, parsley, orange and a touch of apple. For food, try the Fento Veggie Burrito; packed with goodness, it has spiced black beans, local greens, their amazing homemade salsa, fresh vegetarian cheese or chipotle cashew cream for plant eaters and topped off with good gut food, probiotic seasonal pickles!

## When is the best time to go?

The Foodhallen is open all year round; in the winter, grab a bite to eat before heading to the movie theater next door. In the summer, grab a burrito to go and enjoy it in the nearby Vondelpark.



# HUIS MARSEILLE, MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

#### Why should people go there?

You'll find Huis Marseille, one of Amsterdam's two photography museums, housed in two monumental 17th-century canal houses along the Keizersgracht. While the museum hosts numerous exhibitions every year, it's worth a visit for the building alone. The rooms are spectacular, especially the Garden Room; be sure to look up at the impressive ceiling painting by Jacob de Wit that dates back to the 18th century. The garden below is also lovely (and surprisingly quiet for being in the middle of the city!).

#### What's a must have?

Not a must have but a must do! Once you've explored the many different rooms in the museum's adjoining houses, head down to the garden by way of the library. There's a great collection of photography books by both young talents and old masters. And don't miss the reconstructed garden house in the back.

## When is the best time to go?

The museum is open daily from 11am to 6pm (except on Mondays).





# BOCCA COFFEE

#### Why should people go there?

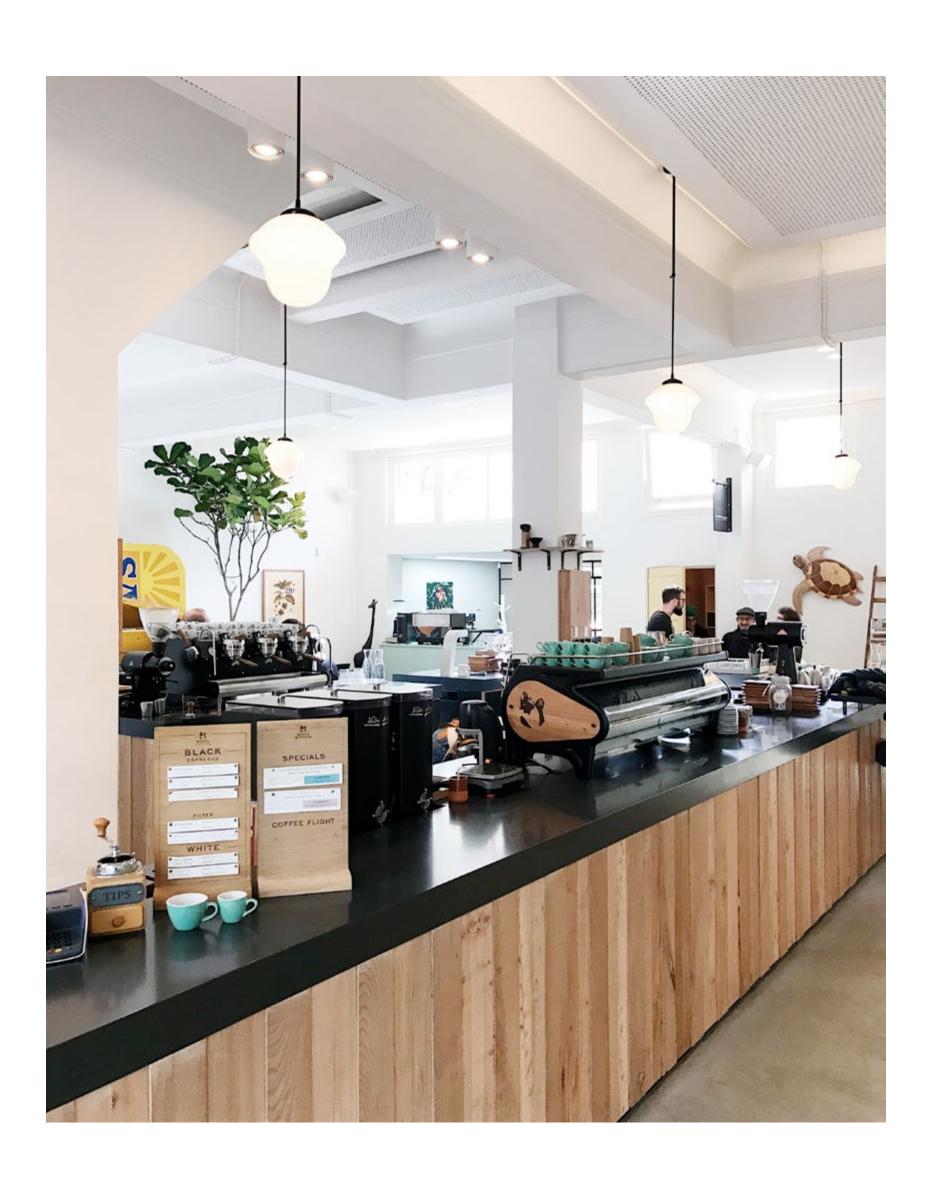
Bocca Coffee was one of the pioneers of specialty coffee in the Netherlands. In late 2015 they opened their café in an unassuming garage on the Kerkstraat in the center of Amsterdam, complete with a tasting room and training space. High ceilings, lots of light and wood create a warm atmosphere that is complemented by state-of-the-art coffee equipment and some of the most talented baristas in town.

#### What's a must have?

While I like my coffee with a little milk, they pride themselves on their filter coffees. Their carrot cake is pretty good, too. If you're still hungry, walk down the street and grab a sandwich at specialty grocery store Stach or a soup on a cold day at Soup en Zo.

## When is the best time to go?

Any time of the day, really. Weekends get pretty busy but you're likely to find a spot open up soon enough. Or grab your coffee to go!





# RIJKSMUSEUM GARDENS

#### Why should people go there?

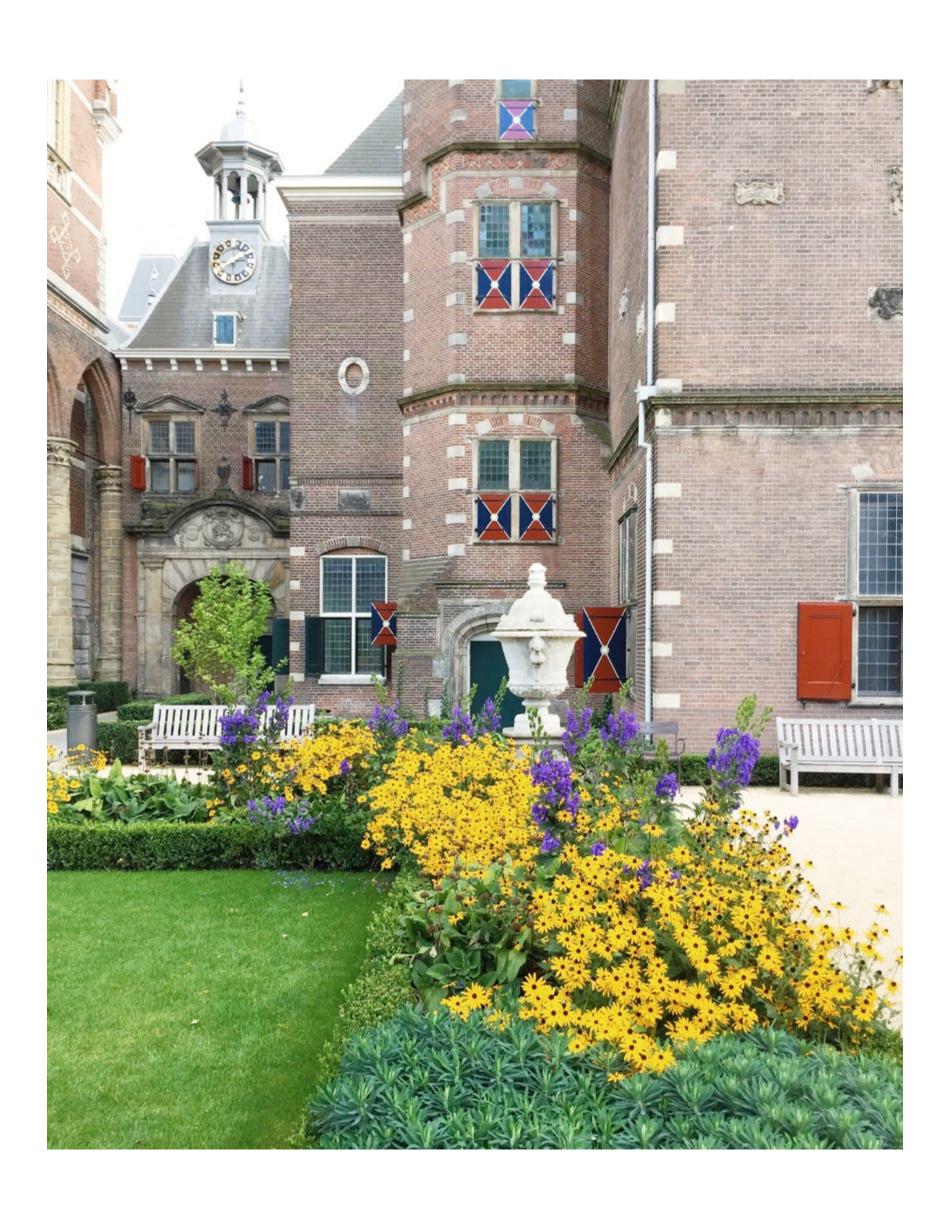
Escape the crowds with a walk through the Rijksmuseum gardens. With their flowerbeds, numerous fountains and lounge chairs, the gardens are really an oasis of peace in the city center. And of course, the museum is worth a visit too. If you're up for checking out the famous sunflowers, head to the nearby Van Gogh Museum. Dutch design more your thing? The contemporary art museum, the Stedelijk Museum, is just around the corner.

#### What's a must have?

Sit by the fountains and watch the world go by; witness cyclists dash by in a hurry, tourists taking photographs of the popular 'iamsterdam' sign, and children dragging their parents to the nearby playground. Oh, and in the summer I've heard you can join a guided tour through the gardens.

#### When is the best time to go?

The gardens are open to the public daily from 9am to 6pm.





# WETERINGSTRAAT

#### Why should people go there?

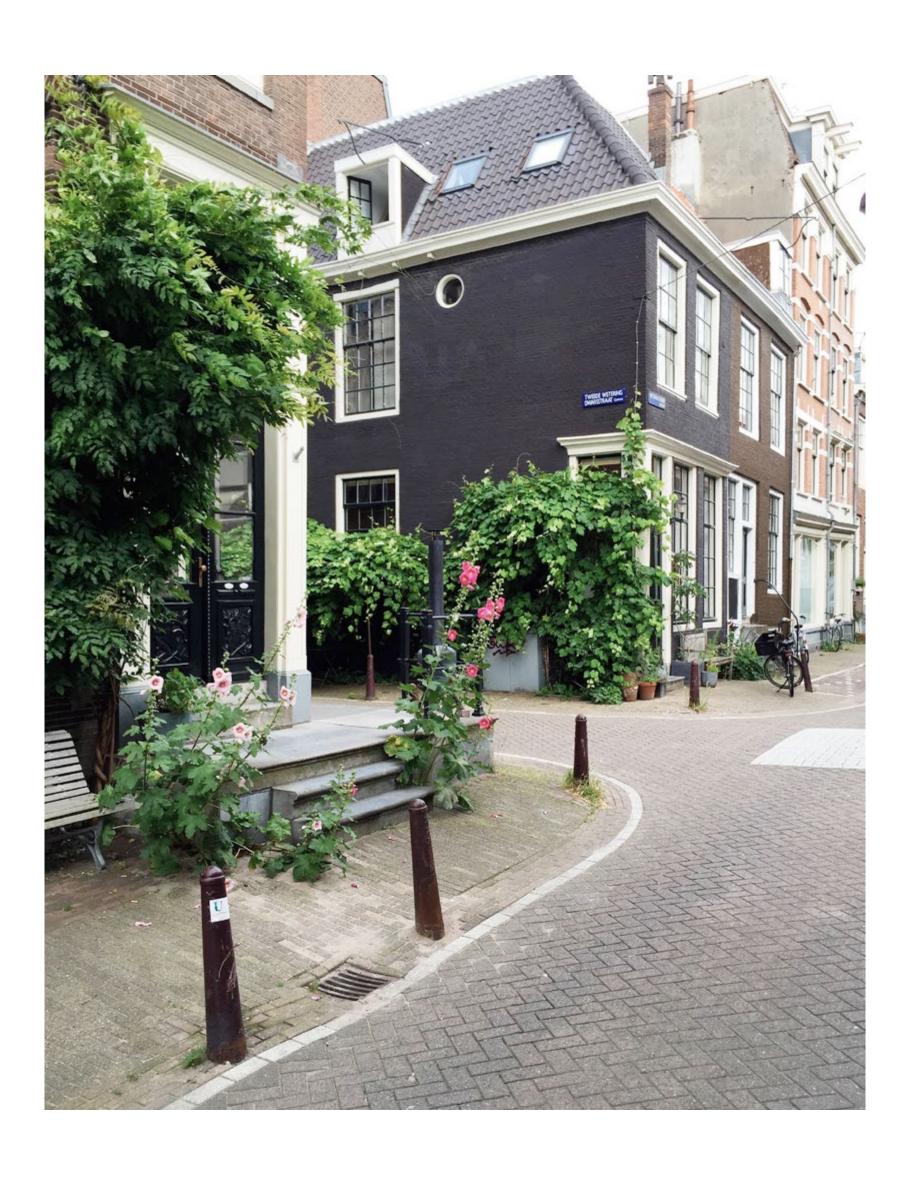
Tucked between two major canals in the city center lies a quiet residential street by the name of Weteringstraat. In the spring and summer, the buildings and sidewalks are enveloped in an impressive amount of greenery; vines adorn the facades and hollyhocks break free from the concrete. It's a breath of fresh air after escaping the Museum Square and neighboring Spiegelkwartier.

#### What's a must have?

Stop by either café Buffet van Odette on one end of the street for lunch (their Ottolenghi-style salad bar is delicious, as is their omelet with truffle mayo!) or Back to Black Coffee for a shot of espresso.

## When is the best time to go?

Spring and summer, definitely.





# FAIRY TALE GARDEN, HÔTEL DROOG

## Why should people go there?

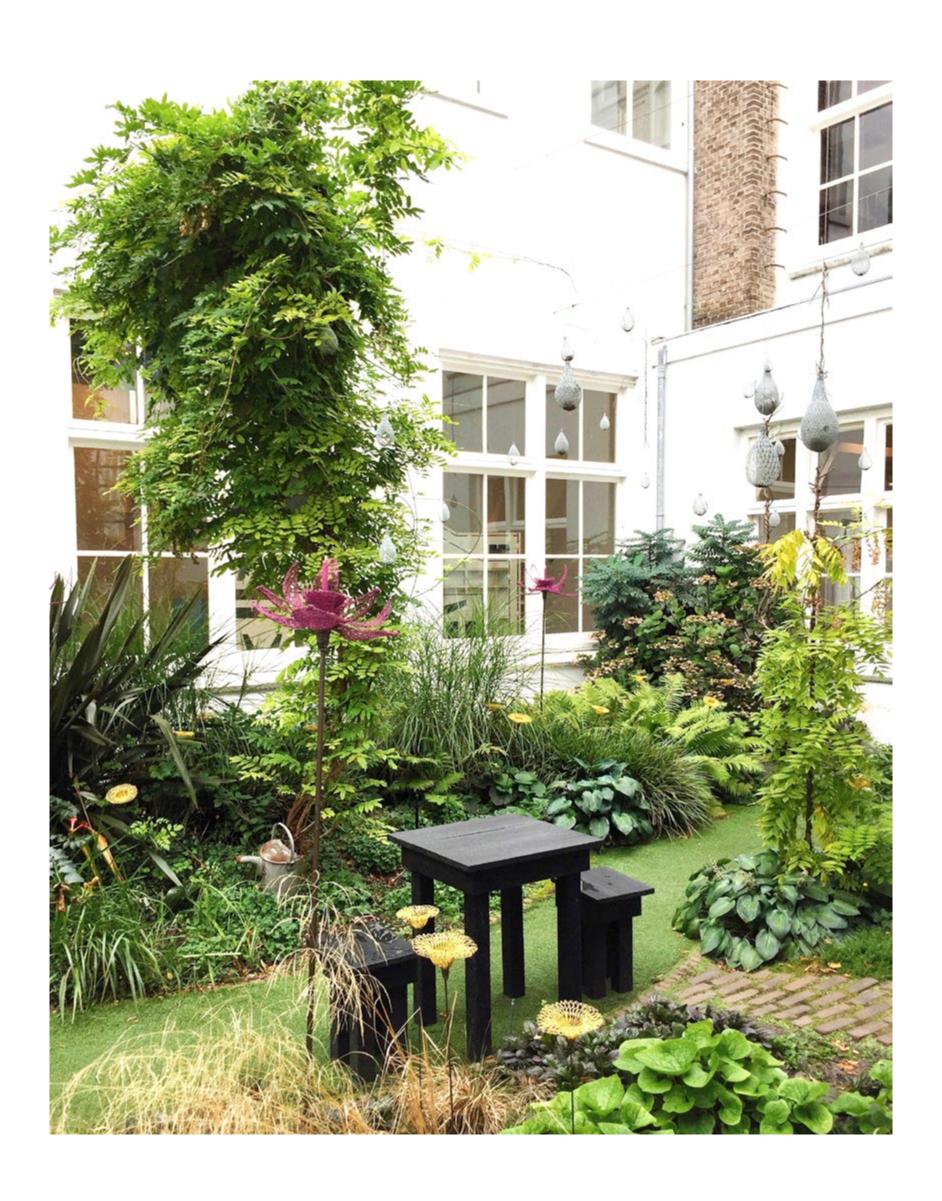
The Staalstraat is nestled between the busy Waterlooplein and even more crowded Nieuwmarkt; it's incredibly central but feels like a welcomed escape from the shrieks of tourists, honks of impatient taxis and ringing of bicycle bells. It's here that you'll find the design emporium of world-renowned conceptual design company Droog. Situated in five historic buildings, Hôtel Droog is more a labyrinth than just a beautiful building and its centerpiece is the enchanting Fairy Tale Garden, designed by Claude Pasquer and Corinne Détroyat.

#### What's a must have?

Pop into the café and order one of the fresh juices (the 'go fruity' or 'go healthy') to enjoy in the garden. Can you find the hidden loveseat?

## When is the best time to go?

Droog Amsterdam is open daily from 9am to 7pm. The garden is definitely at its best in the summer time, but can be enjoyed year-round.





# DIGNITA HOFTUIN

#### Why should people go there?

Popular brunch café Dignita has been serving ethical, sustainable and locally sourced food for a few years now at their first location near the city's largest park, the Vondelpark. Recently they opened up this second location in the gardens behind the Hermitage Museum, and it's like a dream come true! Not only can you enjoy their delicious dishes on the garden terrace, but you also contribute to their great cause with every purchase: 100% of their profits go towards supporting the work of organization Not For Sale. So why not 'eat well, do good'?

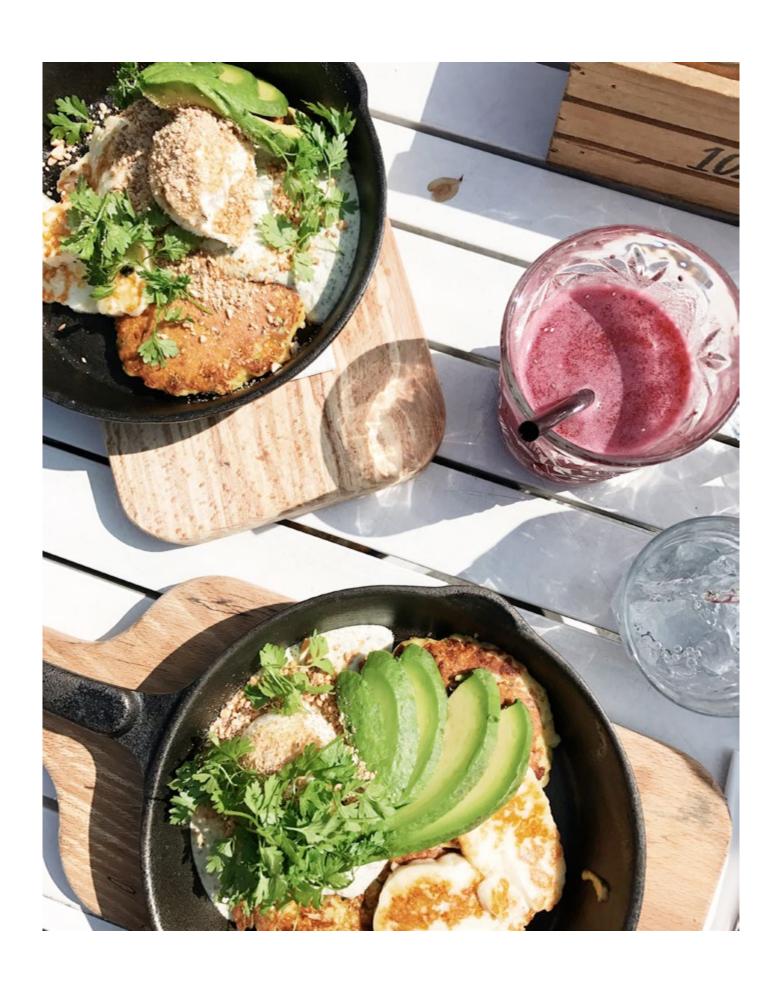
#### What's a must have?

Try the incredibly delicious Zucchini & Chickpea Fritter, served with minted yogurt, grilled halloumi, a free-range poached egg, cashew nut dukkah, lime and a wedge of fresh avocado. For dessert (if you can handle it) share a portion of the fluffy American-style pancakes topped with decadent date 'salted caramel' mascarpone, brûléed banana, crumbled hokey pokey and pure maple syrup. They're the best pancakes in Amsterdam, hands down!

## When is the best time to go?

It's open daily from 9am to 7pm but gets quite busy on weekends. Grab a table on the terrace before the crowds arrive on Saturday morning and enjoy the sunshine!







# ZOKU

#### Why should people go there?

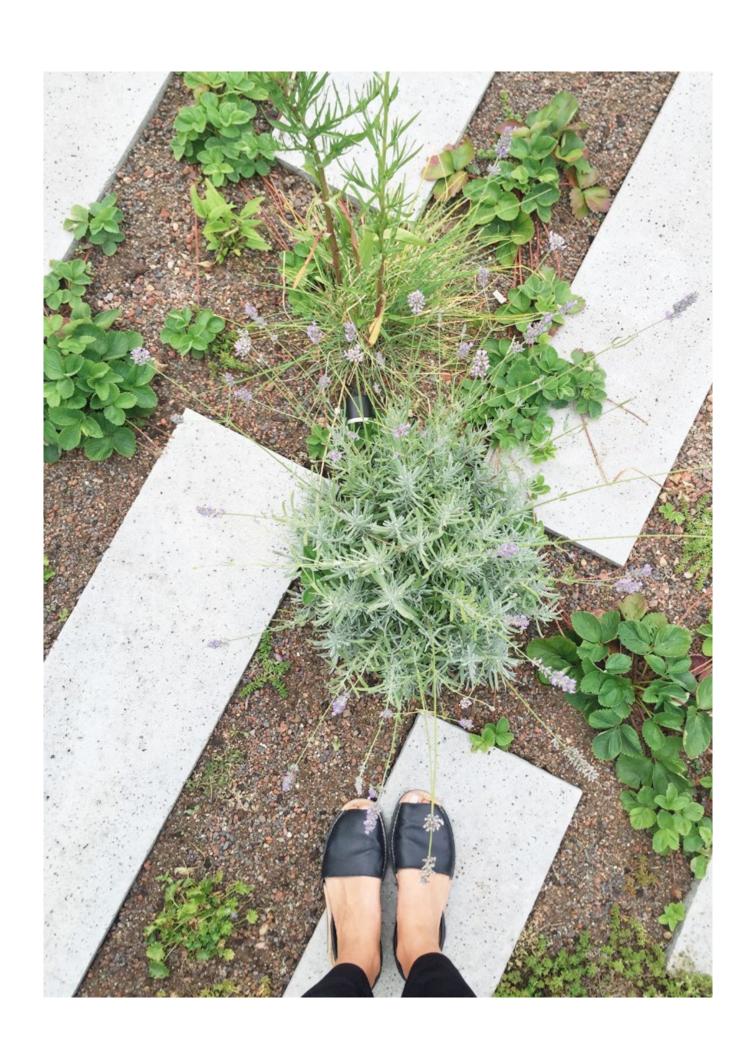
Relatively new to the Amsterdam hotel scene is Zoku, a flexible home/office hybrid in the east of Amsterdam. Their communal areas, which include a restaurant, café, numerous lounge areas and a rooftop garden, are located on the 6th floor of the building. It's quite unusual to find rooftop hangouts in the city and Zoku is a welcomed addition. My favorite is the rooftop garden, complete with a greenhouse that grows some of the vegetables and herbs used by the kitchen staff; they even invite guests to get their hands dirty!

#### What's a must have?

Order a cup of coffee and grab a cookie from the cookie jar before heading out to one of the rooftop terraces; you may even get lucky and score the hammock. If you're planning to stick around for the day and need to get some work done, get a day membership at the bar. You'll get access to the communal working tables and a fresh lunch in the restaurant.

## When is the best time to go?

The perks of being a hotel: they're open 24 hours a day! Best enjoyed during the day though, either in the morning with a cup of coffee or in the evening with a cocktail as the sun sets over Amsterdam.







# HORTUS BOTANICUS AMSTERDAM

#### Why should people go there?

Originally founded in 1638 as a herb garden for the city's doctors and pharmacists, the Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam is one of the world's oldest botanical gardens (and most beautiful too!). It's a tranquil heaven with more than 6,000 different indigenous and non-native trees and plants. Explore the many greenhouses that accommodate plants from desert regions, the subtropics and tropics, the hundreds of butterflies in the Butterfly Greenhouse, and the garden café, the Orangery.

#### What's a must have?

Don't miss the monumental Palm Greenhouse that provides shelter for palm trees in the winter, it's really beautiful! And be sure to exit through the gift shop and pick up a postcard by talented Amsterdam-based illustrator Maartje van den Noort.

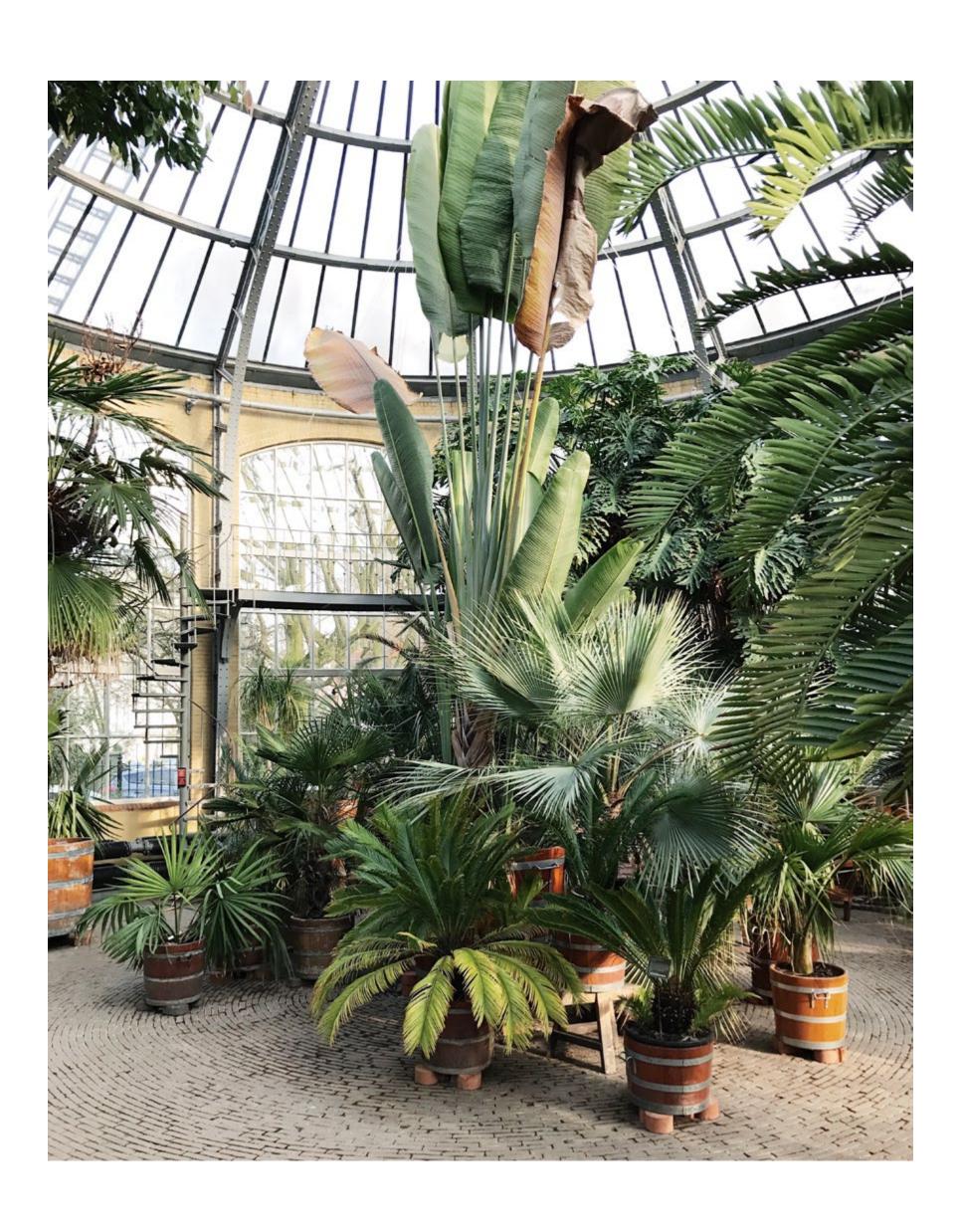
## When is the best time to go?

It's lovely any time of the year, but I have a soft spot for spring. Add some cherry blossoms and magnolia trees to an already beautiful garden and I'm sold!

Plantage Middenlaan 2a, 1018DD Amsterdam







# CAFÉ-RESTAURANT DE PLANTAGE

### Why should people go there?

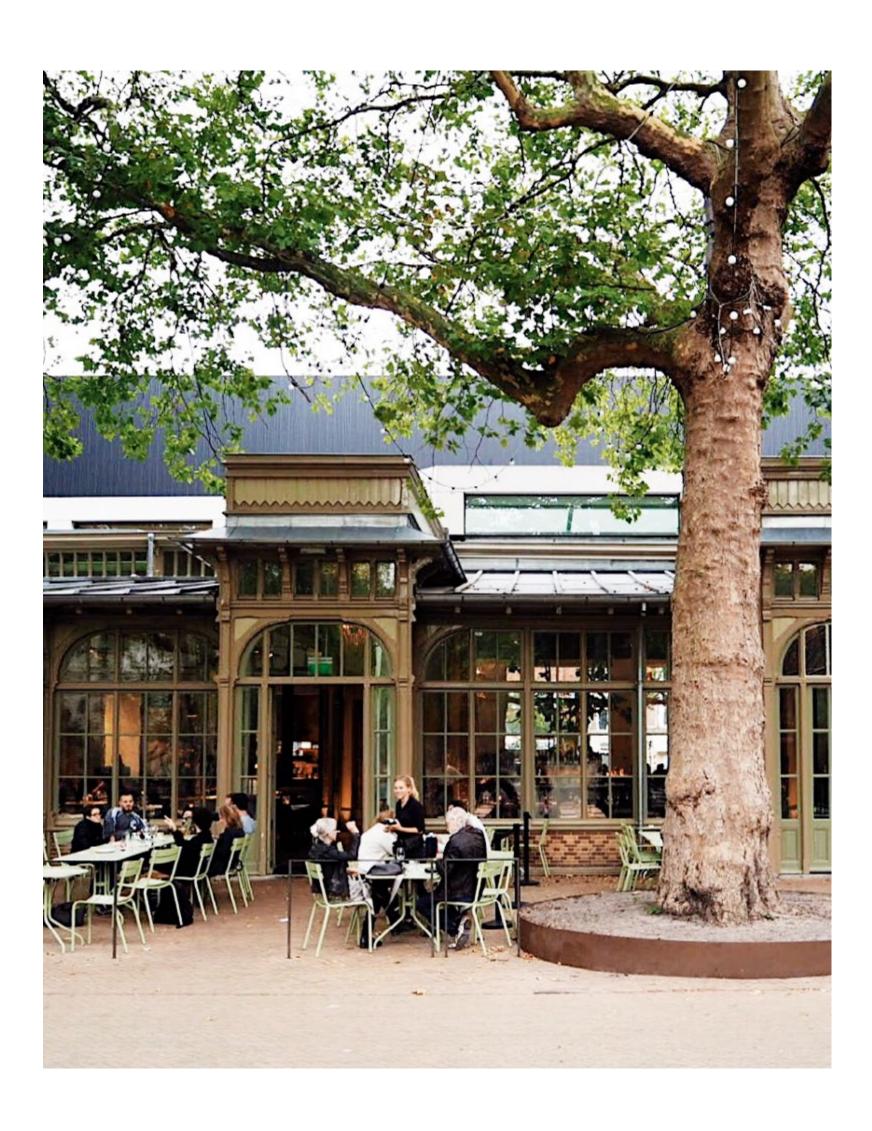
Conveniently located next to the Amsterdam's zoo Artis and around the corner from the botanical gardens, it's another lovely escape from the city's busy streets. Housed in a refurbished 19th-century structure (I think it looks kind of like a grand greenhouse), the simple design brings to light the incredible details of the historic structure. The menu is both modern and traditional, influenced by the rich cultures of Southern Europe, Northern Africa and East Mediterranean - and delicious!

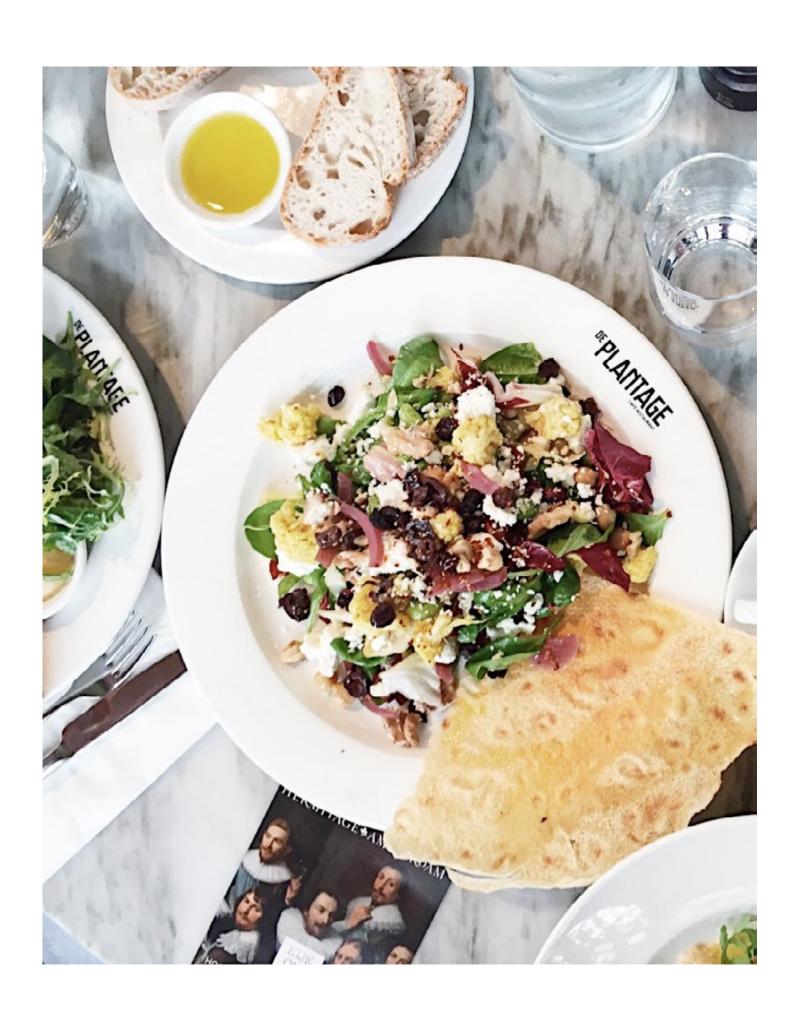
#### What's a must have?

Their mixed sharing plates (choose either meat or vegetarian) include some of their most popular starters and are a great way to start your evening. The 'Curried Fattoush' with cauliflower, olives, feta and walnuts is a favorite. Main courses change with the seasons but there's always a great variety to choose from.

## When is the best time to go?

Definitely for dinner – start with a drink on their terrace under the string lights and listen to the lullabies of the zoo's birds. Be sure to check out the pond on the other end of the square; you won't be disappointed to find a flock of bright pink flamingos!







# BAR BOTANIQUE

### Why should people go there?

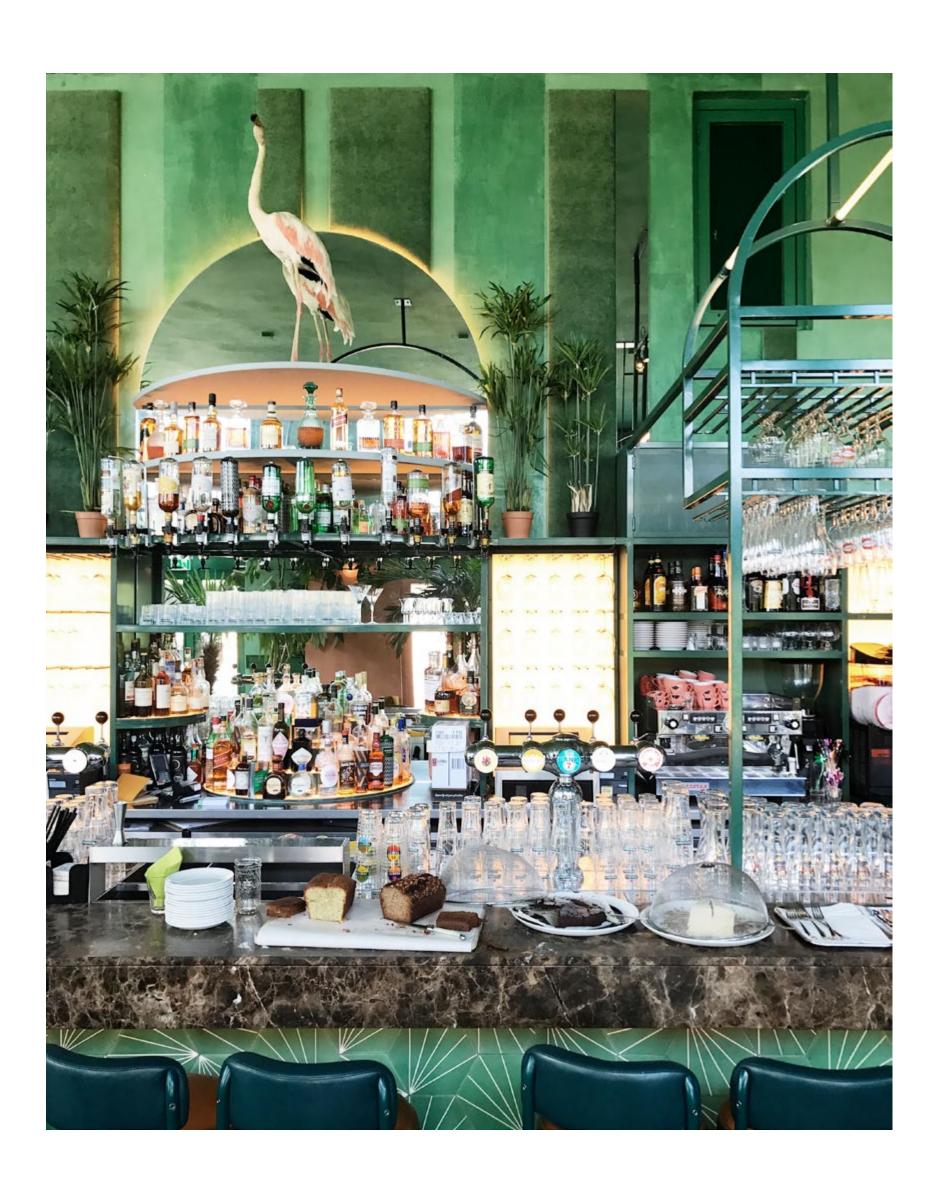
A tropical café in Amsterdam, yes please!
It's not exactly in the center but if you're a plant enthusiast, this really is worth the trek.
The walls, floors, and ceilings have all been painted green and they've arranged clusters of tropical plants like palm trees, ferns, and philodendron to add to the jungle vibe.

### What's a must have?

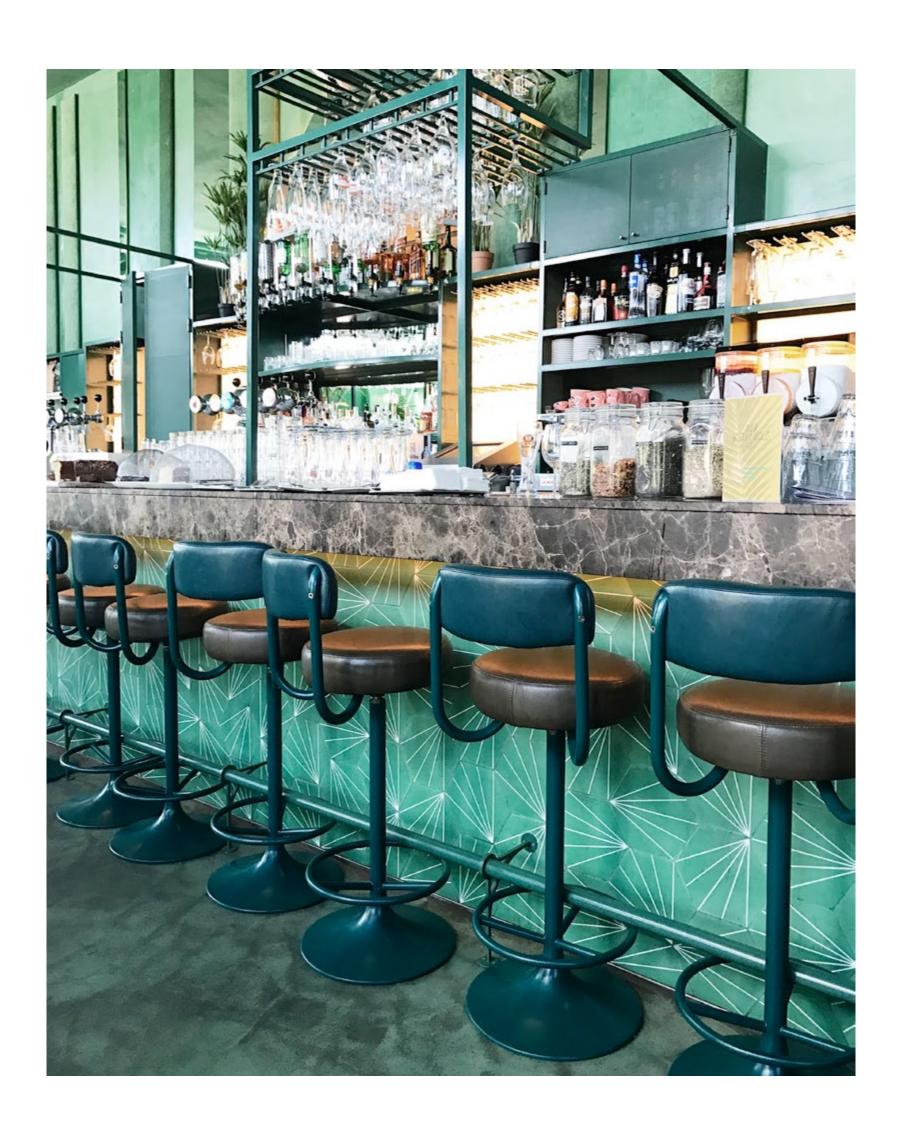
Take a seat in one of the vintage armchairs; order a coffee and the truffle and parmesan cheese scrambled eggs or a slice of lemon poppy seed cake. I've heard their dinner menu isn't bad either!

### When is the best time to go?

It's perfect on a rainy day; as soon as you enter the café, you're enveloped in a warm, tropical glow. But they're open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, so pick your time. And if you're looking for a place to hang out until the early hours of the morning, the café transforms into Club Tropique at night, serving appropriately themed exotic cocktails.







# PARK FRANKENDAEL

### Why should people go there?

Frankendael is Amsterdam's only remaining 17th-century country estate and, located a little further out of the center, it's a nice break from the city. The house (now a café, restaurant, and cultural center) dates back to 1659 and boasts an impressive style garden (in the 1730 Regency style, I've heard) that's free to the public. As you explore the park you'll stumble upon one of Amsterdam's most renowned restaurants, De Kas; located in a 1926 greenhouse, their menu focuses mainly on fresh, seasonal vegetables.

### What's a must have?

Grab a coffee in the style garden at Huize Frankendael before walking through the park. Make a reservation at De Kas for lunch or for dinner – you won't regret it.

## When is the best time to go?

Any day! Once a month on a Sunday morning the food market Pure Markt pops up at Park Frankendael, that's quite fun too. Be sure to check out their website for exact dates.







# CHOUX

### Why should people go there?

Choux is the venture of chef Merijn van Berlo and sommelier Figo van Onna, who previously ran two successful (and incredibly popular) pop-up restaurants by the name of Repéré and Foyer. They opened the doors of Choux, located in Spring House on the south bank of the IJ river near Central Station, in May 2015 and it's been packed every since. The simple and unassuming decor means your attention is focused on the food - and it's so, so good.

### What's a must have?

Order three, four, or seven courses from the monthly-changing menu (there's a great vegetarian option, too). Oh, and you won't go wrong ordering the accompanying wine menu, they really know what they're doing!

## When is the best time to go?

They're open every day of the week except Sunday. If you fail to snag a seat at dinner (make a reservation at least a week in advance!) there's also a three- or four-course menu available at lunchtime.





