

DISCOVER ROTTERDAM

EN

2 Walking and 2 Cycling Routes



ROTTERDAM TOURIST INFORMATION

**ROTTERDAM.
MAKE IT
HAPPEN.**

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Discover Rotterdam

Want to join us on an exciting tour of Rotterdam? Pick one of the walking or cycling routes from this guide, and over the course of a few hours you'll make one discovery after the other! We've included two walking routes (9 and 13 km) and two cycling routes (14 and 17 km). They all start and end at Rotterdam Central Station. And they take you past a variety of well-known landmarks and all sorts of interesting areas that are just off the beaten track. From bustling port sites and green oases to the locals' favourite café terraces.

Each of the descriptions in this booklet comes with a map of the entire route, meaning you can walk or cycle the entire route independently. Where possible, we've linked the cycling routes to existing junctions in the local bike networks. And the routes generally stick to dedicated bike lanes. Nevertheless, always watch out when you cross a road or intersection – for both cars and pedestrians. Have fun!

Rotterdam Tourist Information

Coolsingel 114

Stationsplein 20

+31 (0)10 790 01 85

info@rotterdamtouristinformation.nl

www.rotterdam.info

MUST DO!

Planning to roam the city by bicycle? Use one of the bike sharing schemes in Rotterdam. Of course, you can also rent a bike. Scan the QR code for more information and bike rentals.



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WATERFRONT STROLL

This 13-km walking route takes you along the banks of the river Nieuwe Maas. An adventurous tour, in which you will cross quays and bridges and bump into peninsulas, basins and boulevards. With wonderful vistas, exciting architecture, interesting hotspots and a chance to relax in the breeze.

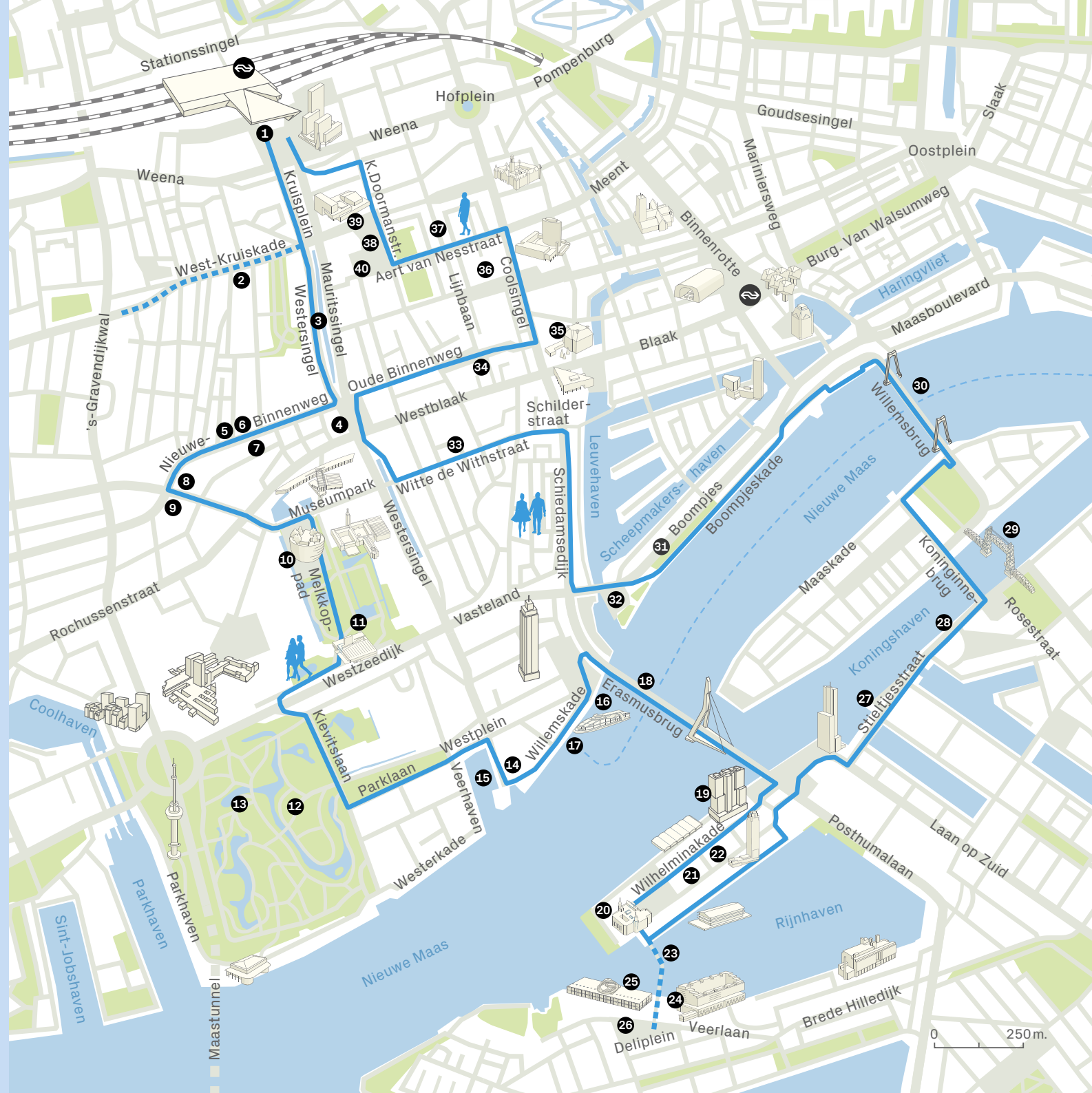


WATERFRONT STROLL

WALKING ROUTE 13 KM



Rotterdam is the epitome of a port city. And you can feel it in the air when you walk along the banks of Nieuwe Maas. With all the splendid views of the water, container ships moving to and fro and water taxis skimming over the waves, you don't know where to look first. This 13-km walking route takes you past quays, bridges, boulevards and basins. After crossing Erasmusbrug to Wilhelminapier with its imposing architecture, you can look out over Katendrecht before returning to the north bank via Noordereiland and Willemsbrug. Along the way, you're free to take the waterbus from Blue Amigo to the windmills at the UNESCO world heritage site Kinderdijk. You can also hop on a Spido boat for a port tour that takes you past a range of shipyards and docks. Or find out for yourself how quick those water taxis really are. After that, you'll probably be in the mood for a relaxing drink at Hotel New York or the Fenix Food Factory. This route treats you to wonderful vistas, exciting architecture and a chance to relax in the breeze.





Santa Claus (2001), Paul McCarthy - Oude Binnenweg

Start at **1** Rotterdam Central Station. Opened in 2014 after nine years of renovations, the new hall is one of the main stops on any architectural tour of the city. From the station, walk a short distance along **2** West-Kruiskade, to get a taste of Rotterdam's multicultural identity. Besides Chinese supermarkets, Surinamese shops and Middle Eastern eateries, this area offers all sorts of street art. The sculptures along Westersingel are part of Rotterdam's **3** International Sculpture Collection. They include works by famous artists like Auguste Rodin, Carel Visser, Joel Shapiro and Umberto Boccioni. Feel like a cup of coffee? At **4** Heilige Boontjes the coffee's roasted and served by ex-detainees in a former police station. Continue along Nieuwe Binnenweg for a bit. Be warned: you may linger at various establishments along the way, like **5** Jordy's Bakery, the bakers at **6** Koekela or the boutique **7** Joline Jolink. Turn the corner at **8** Westerpaviljoen. Across the street, there's a statue of the poet **9** Jules Deelder, who passed away in 2019. The statue stands next to Café Ari, named after

DID YOU KNOW?

The car park below Museumpark has an underground basin that can store up to 10 million litres of water. It prevents the neighbourhood sewers from being overwhelmed during heavy rainfall.



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MUST DO!

On Parklaan, you can visit Schoonoord Historical Garden: a tranquil oasis and a treasure trove for plant lovers. Schoonoord has been designated a national heritage site in recognition of its historical features and exceptional plant collection.



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his daughter. Head over to Museumpark, with the dazzling new **10** Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen designed by the architectural firm of MVRDV. After passing Erasmus Medical Center and the **11** Kunsthal exhibition centre, proceed to **12** Het Park, with its iconic Euromast. This is a popular picnic area when the sun's out. The café terraces at **13** Dudok In Het Park and Parqiet tend to be busy regardless of the weather. Turn onto Parklaan and walk towards the **14** Wereldmuseum. From the historical area of **15** Veerhaven, you can board a water taxi to Hotel New York (Wilhelminapier) or take the ss Rotterdam to Katendrecht. Another option is to continue walking towards Erasmusbrug. The famous **16** Spido port tours start at Willemskade. From here, you can also take the **17** waterbus from Blue Amigo to the windmills at the UNESCO world heritage site Kinderdijk. If you decide to cross **18** Erasmusbrug,



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DID YOU KNOW?
The underground shopping arcade that runs under Coolsingel is known locally as the 'Koopgoot', or 'The Buying Gutter'. This passage connects Lijnbaan and Hoogstraat via the Beurs underground station.

of Rotterdam's shopping and nightlife hotspots, 33 Witte de Withstraat. It's a great area to visit for interesting shops and galleries or a few refreshing drinks. After turning onto Mauritsweg, Central Station almost comes into view again. But first turn left onto Oude Binnenweg. Passing 34 Binnenwegplein, keep walking until you reach Coolsingel, where you find the office of 35 Rotterdam Tourist Information in the garden of the 17th-century Schielandshuis. The large building to your left with the honeycomb facade, is the Dutch luxury department store 36 De Bijenkorf. Near its entrance stands a famous sculpture by Naum Gabo, beloved by many Rotterdammers. Turn left onto Aert van Nesstraat, passing 37 Lijnbaan with its celebrated post-war era flats, until you arrive at 38 Schouwburgplein. This square is home to both the concert hall 39 De Doelen and 40 Theater Rotterdam. From here it's only a short walk to Rotterdam Central Station.



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DID YOU KNOW?
In the ever-changing Rijnhaven, there is the sustainable, energy-neutral and circular Floating Office of the UN climate centre. The floating office also houses restaurant Putaine.

this takes you to Wilhelminapier, which is lined with buildings by some of the world's foremost architects: Renzo Piano, Álvaro Siza, Francine Houben, Norman Foster, and of course Rem Koolhaas with his 19 De Rotterdam. Be sure to have a good look around at Kop van Zuid. Before arriving at the famous 20 Hotel New York, you pass the 21 Nederlands Fotomuseum and Pakhuis Meesteren, home to 22 Foodhallen Rotterdam. Kop van Zuid is linked to Katendrecht by 23 Rijnhavenbrug. See those two old warehouses across the water? The one on the left, 24 Fenix I, has been converted into a housing complex. The one on the right will become the FENIX 25 migration museum, with a mix of creative and culinary entrepreneurs on the ground floor. Crossing Rijnhavenbrug to the opposite bank, takes you to 26 Deliplein, one of the city's culinary hotspots and lined by restaurants. Walk back in the direction of Erasmusbrug. Cross the roundabout and turn left into Stieltjesstraat. Walk past the 27 Jewish Monument and the children's museum 28 Villa Zebra towards the former railway bridge 29 De Hef. Cross the water to Noordereiland and continue until you reach Nieuwe Maas. After scaling some stairs, you can cross the red 30 Willemsbrug. Walking along Boompjes on the banks of Nieuwe Maas, you run into the 31 Flag Parade, which includes the flags of all UN member states. Turn right at the war memorial 32 De Boeg. Walking via Schilderstraat, you reach one



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FOOD, FASHION & DESIGN TOUR

Rotterdam is a city where creative professionals of all ages can make their dreams reality. They open their own restaurants, breweries, boutiques or galleries and join forces to create the most surprising and inspiring environments. Discover some of these hotspots during this 9-km walk.

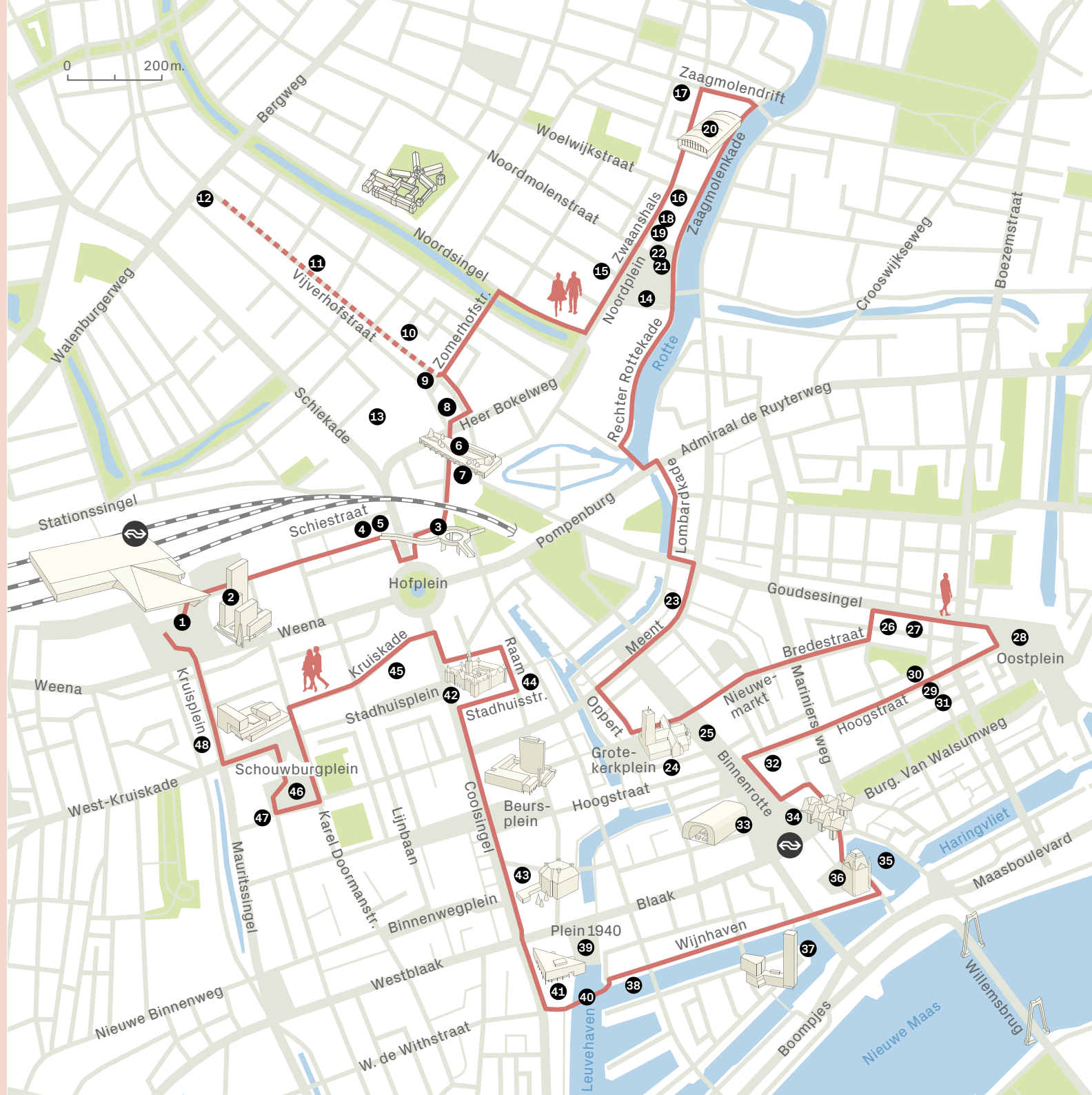


FOOD, FASHION & DESIGN TOUR

WALKING ROUTE 9 KM



Rotterdam is a city where creative professionals of all ages can make their dreams reality. Opening their own beer garden, for instance. Covering the roof of an office building with an urban meadow. Transforming a former railway line into a public park. Organising a farmers' market in a working-class neighbourhood, with regionally sourced products. Setting up a brewery in a vacant building. Breathing new life into a post-war monument. Opening a new concept store or bistro. Launching an unconventional sneaker store, cocktail boutique or groundbreaking art gallery. Together they can create the most surprising and inspiring environments – where there's always something going on. Explore these hotspots on this exciting 9-km walk. This may be the shortest route in our guide, but we recommend reserving the most time for it. Because at some of the locations you'll be sure to stick around longer – there's no way you could resist. Enjoy!





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MUST DO!
Are you a fan of street art? The area around the Luchtsingel is full of murals. Take the Apps of Rewriters and Rotterdam Routes to discover all sorts of art in the public space.

Exit **1** Rotterdam Central Station on the side of the tram stops and walk past the rear of **2** Delftse Poort towards **3** Luchtsingel. This takes you to the **4** Biergarten, which usually buzzes with activity into the wee hours – particularly on a warm summer's eve. Walk to the top of the yellow stairs until you reach the entrance to the **5** Schieblock building. Take the lift to the top floor, where you can step onto a rooftop meadow, complete with bees, vegetable gardens, a view of the city and a restaurant called Teds. Returning to street level, (if the Luchtsingel is closed) you can continue walking via Hofplein to **6** Luchtpark Hofbogen. The roof of this former railway station has been transformed into a green oasis in the heart of the city and is often used for festivals. Directly below the Luchtpark, in the Hofbogen are all sorts of stylish venues, including a stage, club and the restaurant **7** Bird, the flower shop **8** 's Zomers and **9** Brewpub Reijngoud. Across the street, you can play boules at **10** Mooie Boules. Further down are other fun establishments like **11** Man Met Bril Koffie and **12** COPPI Koffie & Fietsen. Behind the building of the Grafisch Lyceum lies **13** Waterplein Benthemplein, designed by De Urbanisten. This square serves as a reservoir for excess water during heavy rain and is also popular with skateboarders and basketball players. Stroll along Zomerhofstraat through the ZOHO-kwartier (ZomerHOfkwartier). This neighbourhood will be given a complete overhaul over the next few years. Onwards to **14** Noordplein. Is it a Saturday, by any chance? Then you're in luck: every



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DID YOU KNOW?
You're walking along the banks of the Rotte. Nowadays this river, which meanders from Rotterdam's back garden to the city centre, is mostly used for leisure and relaxation.

week, Rotterdamse Oogst organises their Weekmarkt where farmers from the region sell a wide range of local products. Cross over towards **15** Zwaanshals and discover one design shop, vintage boutique and pop-up store after the other. Have lunch at **16** Hopper or browse at **17** Isis Inc, **18** Whiskybase and **19** Volle Kast: it's definitely a great area to while away a few hours. Feeling hungry? Thirsty? Maybe just peckish? Visit the courtyard of Zaagmolenkade 46,



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where **20** Brouwerij Noordt has set up in an old fire station. Over on Noordplein, you can find **21** Containerbar Noord – as well as the new restaurant **22** Fermin. After walking along Rechter Rottekade and Lombardkade, you can stroll via Goudsesingel past the seductive shop windows of **23** Meent into the city centre. After reaching Meent, the centuries-old **24** Laurenskerk comes into view. The philosopher Erasmus was born not too far from here, and you can find his statue on Grotekerkplein. Walk past the Laurenskerk along **25** Binnenrotte and continue via Nieuwemarkt and Bredestraat until your reach **26** Het Industriegebouw. This iconic post-war design by architect Huig Maaskant has been transformed into a multi-business complex for creative entrepreneurs. Breakfast and lunch bar **27** By Jarmusch



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is a popular local meeting place. Proceed towards 28 Oostplein until your route dips back into the centre via Hoogstraat. Along the way are all sorts of interesting addresses like the sneaker Walhalla 29 Woei and the 30 Barrelproof cocktail boutique. Feel free to drop by 31 Garage Rotterdam for their latest art exhibition. Walk past Rotterdam's 32 Central Public Library to reach Binnenrotte. And there it is: Rotterdam's celebrated 33 Markthal! Continue via the Blaak railway station to admire the 34 Cube Houses. The Overblaak steps leads you between these unique homes to 35 Oude Haven. Did you spot the 36 Witte Huis yet? For many years, this early skyscraper was the tallest building in Europe. It is one of the few buildings in the city centre that survived the Rotterdam Blitz. You can see all sorts of houseboats moored along Wijnhaven. One of them is the 37 Wikkelboat, a sustainable tiny house out on the water. The bright red lightship 38 Vessel 11 has been converted into a British gastro pub and music stage. To its right is a square, with 39 The Destroyed City, the famous sculpture by Ossip Zadkine. It symbolises the bombing of Rotterdam, which tore the heart out of the old city. Cross the water via the floating 40 Kraneschipbrug, which takes

DID YOU KNOW?

The 6-m-tall sculpture in front of the Markthal is a homage to the Rotterdam comic book artist Marten Toonder, best known for his creation Olivier B. Bommel.



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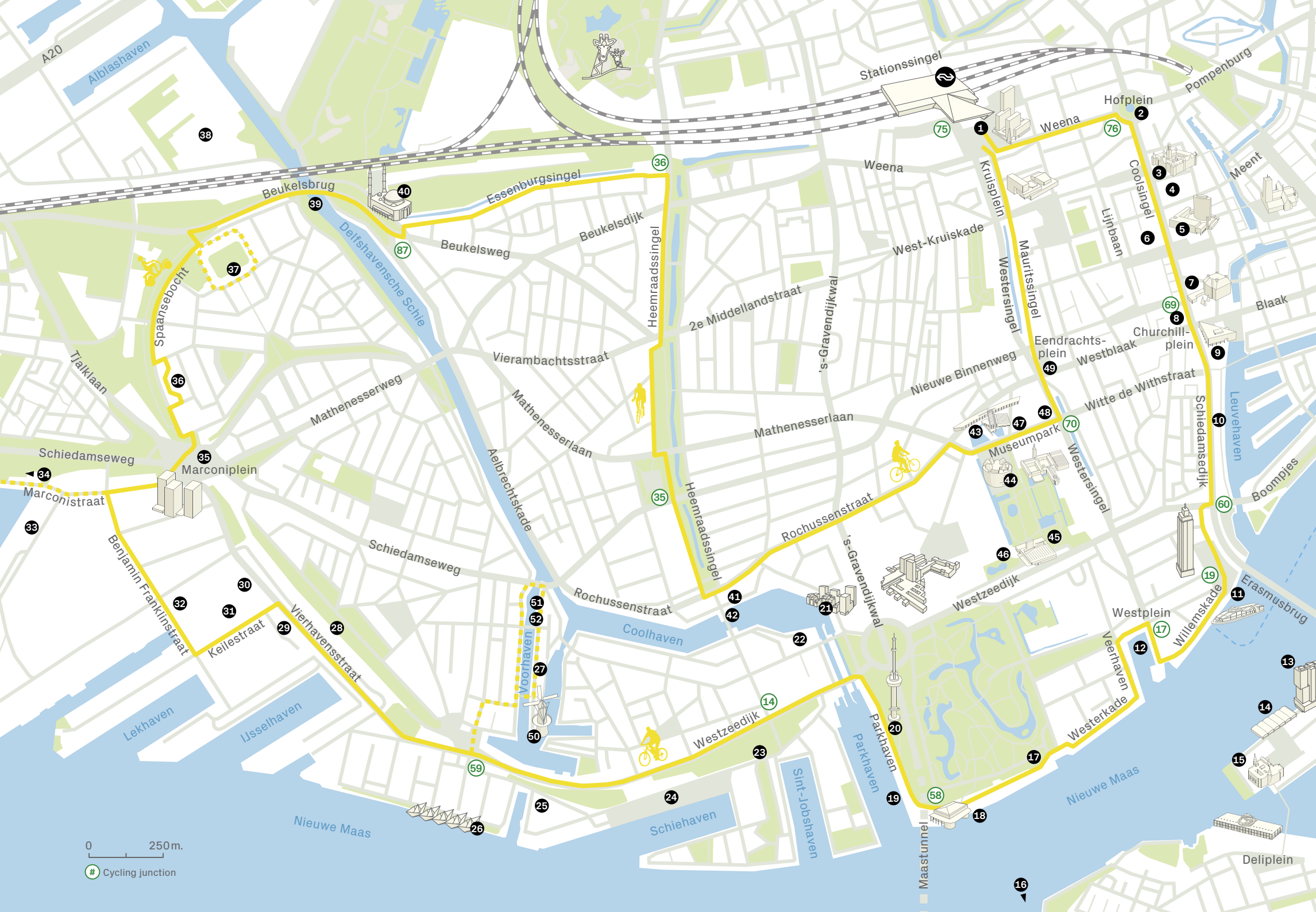
you straight through the museum harbour of the nearby 41 Maritime Museum Rotterdam. Continue along Coolingsingel towards 42 Rotterdam City Hall. The monumental 43 Schielandshuis is on your right. Drop in to take the Rotterdam Discovery tour (free of charge): a short, interactive journey through the city's past, present and future. Turn right just before City Hall to enter the tranquil green courtyard. It's an oasis in the bustling city, and a well-kept secret – even among locals! Behind City Hall lies the 44 Timmerhuis, designed by the architects of OMA. Its occupants include restaurant THOMS and BrewDog Rotterdam. Cross Coolingsingel and continue along Kruisgade, past the 45 Old Luxor Theater towards 46 Schouwburgplein. Have a look around when you reach Schouwburgplein. In one corner of the square, there's a massive artwork, 47 Calypso Falls by Rick Messemaker & Monique Benthin. It resembles a roaring torrent of water and is eerily realistic. Return via 48 Kruisplein to Rotterdam Central Station – ending your tour.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rotterdam has over 1,000 works of art in the public space. Pick up the Sculpture International Rotterdam booklet at Rotterdam Tourist Information and discover hidden gems across the city.



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0 250m.

Cycling junction



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THE BEST OF WEST

This 14-km cycling tour takes you from the city centre deep into the heart of Rotterdam-West. Past picturesque harbours, old breweries, modernist architecture, creative hubs and several iconic Rotterdam landmarks.



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THE BEST OF WEST CYCLING ROUTE 14 KM



This 14-km cycling tour takes you from the city centre deep into the heart of Rotterdam-West. At first, most of the sights along the way are familiar enough: Hofpleinvijver, Coolsingel, the Schielandshuis and the Euromast. But as soon as you start following the water in the direction of the terminal cranes, your surroundings quickly become more unusual – and a lot less polished. This is where you can find the Floating Farm, as well as the ‘dream factory’ set up by artist Daan Roosegaarde. Or the food garden at Keilewerf, where you’re free to drop in. The route also takes you past architectural icons like the Van Nelle Factory and the Justus van Effenblok. You truly get the best of West!



2

DID YOU KNOW?
The French emperor Napoleon stayed at the 17th-century Schielandshuis in the company of his consort Marie Louise and a host of retainers. The cast-iron fence that normally surrounds the townhouse was removed for the occasion.

Depart from ① Rotterdam Central Station and set course to Hofplein. The ② Fountain at Hofplein is Rotterdammers' favourite location for celebrating local victories. Quite a few Feyenoord supporters have gotten themselves soaking wet in its basin at some point. Turn right onto Coolsingel. To the left, you see ③ Rotterdam City Hall, flanked by the old ④ Post Office, which is being redeveloped into POST Rotterdam: a mixed-use residential tower that also houses a hotel and catering establishments. After passing the ⑤ WTC and ⑥ de Bijenkorf department store, you can look down on the underground shopping promenade Koopgoot (The Buying Gutter). Can you make out the ⑦ Schielandshuis, tucked away between the buildings on the opposite side of the road? It is the only 17th-century building to have survived in the city centre. Nowadays, the monumental building houses Rotterdam Tourist Information, where you can visit Rotterdam Discovery or Restaurant Het Schielandshuis. Continuing your route brings you to Churchillplein. This square is also where you find ⑧ Cascade, a sculpture by local artist Joep van Lieshout. To your left, you can see a small lighthouse, a grain elevator and various historical vessels. They belong to the outdoor collection of ⑨ Maritime Museum Rotterdam. By the Port Pavilion a little further up ⑩, you can see an 11-metre aerial photo of the port area.



15



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Just before Erasmusbrug, you need to turn right and, immediately afterwards, left, towards Willemskade. This is the landing and departure stage for **11** Spido's boat tours of the port. Continuing your route, you soon arrive at one of the most picturesque settings in Rotterdam: **12** Veerhaven. Feel free to take a break, so you can enjoy the view of Erasmusbrug and, across the river, **13** De Rotterdam, the **14** Cruise Terminal and the headquarters of the Port Authority, the **15** World Port Center. Behind this skyline, you can see Katendrecht, with the famous steam ship **16** ss Rotterdam moored at the tip of the peninsula. Feel like a drink? Why not have one at the historic tavern **17** De Ballentent, a household name among locals. Cycle past the entrance to the **18** Maastunnel bike entrance and the **19** Chinese Boat. To your right, you can see the **20** Euromast. Turn left in the direction of Delfshaven. Feel like another break? **21** all day cafe Kula, **22** De Machinist and the authentic café **23** Verhip are all great places to have lunch. Now we'll be venturing deeper into Rotterdam-West. We pass **24** Lloyd Multiplein and arrive at **25** De Kroon, a multi-business complex for creators, thinkers and doers. You may want to step off for a moment to check out the

MUST DO!

Curious to see what Rotterdam's skyline looks like from the water? Board the bright yellow amphibious bus of Splashtours to see a variety of highlights – and literally dive into the Nieuwe Maas.

MUST DO!

From Marconiplein, you can cycle over to Schiedam in no time. An array of buildings and the six tallest windmills in historical Schiedam town centre recall the time when the town was the international centre of jenever production.



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Culture Campsite: a campsite that features unique works of art that you can sleep in. At Bartel Wiltonkade, you can find artist Florentijn Hofman's **26** Five Paper Boats, which recall the history of this port area. Proceeding via Spanjaardstraat and 3e Schansstraat, you enter a neighbourhood you wouldn't necessarily expect to find in Rotterdam: **27** Historic Delfshaven.

Bonus route A

Discover Historic Delfshaven on foot (see page 27).

To continue your journey, head over to Vierhavenstraat. One thing you won't see at first glance – since you need to go up the stairs first – is the expansive **28** Dakpark, a rooftop park situated on top of the Big Shops. Cross over and cycle past the **29** HAKA building on the opposite side of the street. This takes you into the Rotterdam Makers District, where local start-ups and artists are jointly inventing the future. Its attractions include the 'dream factory' by **30** Daan Roosegaarde, **31** Keilewerf with the Food Garden and **32** Brutus Garden with art works by Atelier Van Lieshout. Proceed via Benjamin Franklinstraat to Marconistraat.



31

Bonus route B

Visit the **33** Stadshaven Brouwerij and the **34** Floating Farm or from here take the Watertaxi to RDM-Heijplaat (see page 27).

From Marconistraat, cross the **35** Marconiplein, you continue cycling until you reach Spaansebocht, where you can consider stopping at the **36** Justus van Effencomplex. Built in 1922, this was a ground-breaking housing complex in its time, and is still recognised today as a monument of 20th-century architecture. Cycling on, you pass **37** Het Kasteel – the stadium of the football club Sparta, in other words – and the iconic **38** Van Nelle Factory. Cross **39** Beukelsbrug and continue until you've passed the **40** Mevlana Mosque, then turn left onto Essenburgsingel. You can now cycle along the stately Heemraadssingel until you reach the **41** Coolhaven underground station. Coolhaven is also where you can find **42** Museum '40-'45 NU, which is devoted to the events of the Second World War and the massive Rotterdam blitz of 1940. Continue along Rochussenstraat in the direction of Museumpark, where you can visit **43** Het Nieuwe Instituut, **44** Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen, the **45** Kunsthal, the **46** Natural History Museum Rotterdam and the **47** Chabot Museum. After crossing the water just behind conference and debating centre **48** Arminius, turn left and go in the direction of **49** Eendrachtsplein. Cycle down Mauritsweg to reach the end of your tour. Welcome back to Rotterdam Central Station!

DID YOU KNOW?

Essenburgpark is an urban nature area between the Rotterdam-Schiedam railway line and Essenburgsingel. The park is jointly maintained by local residents, the water board and the Municipality and doubles as a floodplain – to help keep the neighbourhood dry.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE EVEN FURTHER?

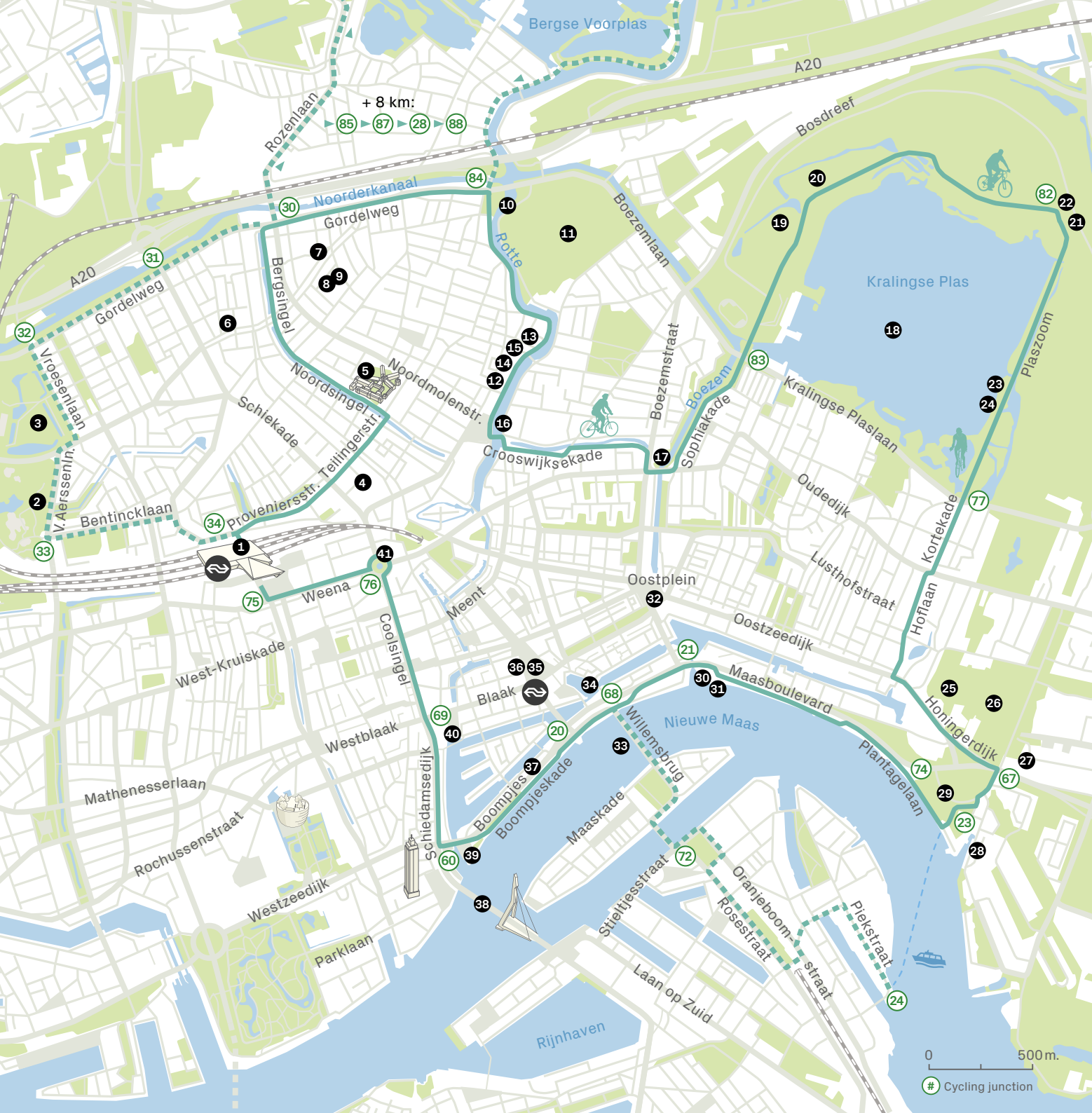
EXTRA ROUTES: THE BEST OF WEST



A Park your bike and venture out on foot to discover Historic Delfshaven. This is where the Pilgrim Fathers departed for the New World in 1620, and it's one of the few parts of the city that survived the aerial bombardment of 1940. Sights in Delfshaven include **50** Korenmolen De Distilleerketel, **51** Stadsbrouwerij De Pelgrim, the **52** Pilgrim Fathers' Church and various antique shops.



B Time for a pit stop? And if you continue along Marconistraat and turn left at Gustoweg, you'll end up at the **34** Floating Farm: an innovative dairy farm with 32 cows, grazing out on the water. From here, you can board the watertaxi departing for RDM (Heijplaat). Heijplaat is a village that was built especially for the shipyard that used to repair and build vessels like SS Rotterdam. Today, it has been transformed into an innovation hub that is buzzing with enterprise, education and research.



NOORD EXPLORED

CYCLING ROUTE 17 KM



Rotterdam is generally thought of as a bustling, rather rugged city, with lots of tall buildings, wide lanes and the largest port industrial area in Europe. Yet it is also a very green town, with all sorts of picturesque sights and settings. Discover this 'softer' side to the City on the Maas on this 17-km cycling tour. It will take you past city parks, green canal banks, gardens and cemeteries. You'll be cycling around Kralingse Plas, through the woods of Kralingse Bos, past the Arboretum and you even have the option of jumping the river to Zuid by taking a Watertaxi at De Esch. And some of the stops along the way aren't just literally green, but also figuratively – like Blue City, a former water park that has been transformed into a circular mini city where there's no such thing as waste. After this, your route takes you through various neighbourhoods in Noord and Oost until you once again reach the heart of the city: Rotterdam Central Station. Along the way, there are loads of places to grab a bite to eat or have a drink, but be sure to take along a picnic blanket if you enjoy relaxing in the sun!

0 500m.

Cycling junction



Hoflaan & Vijverweg

NOORD EXPLORED

A 17-km cycling route takes you past all the highlights of Rotterdam-Noord. From the hip ZoHo district via the working-class neighbourhood of Crooswijk to Kralingse Plas and Kralingse Bos. After that, you can cycle along the waterfront in Rotterdam-Oost until you reach the centre again. Along the way, you'll discover all sorts of interesting spots and sights, offering both culture and nature!



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MUST DO!
If you decide to visit Blijdorp Rotterdam Zoo, be sure to download the Diergaarde Blijdorp App and follow the special heritage and botanical route.

Bonus route A *Turning left here takes you to 2 Blijdorp Rotterdam Zoo and 3 Vroesepark (see page 32).*

Start at 1 Rotterdam Central Station. Cycle along the bike tunnel and exit to the rear of the station. Here, you can fill your water bottle from the free public tap.

Turn right onto Proveniersstraat. Cross Schiekade, which takes you to Teilingerstraat. Cycle along Benthemstraat. See that large blue square with all those stairs to your right? 4 Waterplein Benthemplein is not only popular with basketball players and skateboarders, but it also doubles as a reservoir during heavy rain. It was designed by De Urbanisten. Go straight on until you reach the bridge. Immediately after the bridge turn left onto Noordsingel. To your right lies the former 5 Noordsingel penitentiary, which received a new lease on life as a residential building. You're cycling through the Liskwartier. This friendly residential area has a number of popular neighbourhood restaurants like 6 Tines and 7 Osteria Liz. The former school at Koningsveldestraat 14, is now the home base of all sorts of creative businesses. If you like, you can stop to check out the art at 8 Galerie Untitled or grab a coffee in the lovely garden of 9 De Kok en de Tuinman.

Bonus route B *Take a trip around the Bergse Plassen (see page 32).*

Continue your route via Gordelweg, which takes you along the banks of Noorderkanaal until you reach the 10 Rotte. Turn right just



18



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MUST DO!
Interested in seeing more of Kralingen? Check out Lusthofstraat, Kralingen's foremost shopping street. It's named after a former country estate called 'Lusthof' ('Pleasure Garden').



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before the 11 Crooswijk Public Cemetery and continue along the Rotte. Feel free to park your bike near 12 Zaagmolenkade and Zwaanshals for a bit of shopping. This area offers all sorts of interesting shops like 13 Olga Korstanje (bags and design), 14 Tom Coffee + Paper Goods and 15 Showroom 41 (vintage clothing). Cross 16 Noorderbrug and enter Crooswijksekade (along the water, on the right-hand side). Continue along Spiegelnisserkade. Crossing another bridge, 17 Boezembrug, puts you on the bike path adjacent to Sophiakade. The next stretch of your route takes you along the banks of the Boezem. Similar to Kinderdijk, this dike used to have a row of eight windmills that would raise the water level from that of the Rotte to that of the Maas. Next stop: talk about green! This oasis is called 18 Kralingse Plas, and your tour will take you all the way around the lake. Along the way, there are loads of things to see and do: from stroking the goats at the petting zoo 19 De Kraal, scrambling around the 20 Fun Forest climbing park and visiting the 21 deer park to getting an ice cream at 22 De Eekhoorn. Cycling along the Plaszoom, you pass the 23 Tuin van de Vier Windstreken, a great place to stop a bite. If you're lucky, the historical windmills 24 De Ster and De Lelie may even be open. Continue via Kortekade and the elegant Hoflaan until you reach Honingerdijk, where you need to turn left. A bit further down, you pass 25 Trompenburg Tuinen & Arboretum and the 26 stadium of Excelsior football club. Turn right and cross the road at 27 Erasmus University Rotterdam.

You have now entered De Esch, where you can spot an old **28** Water Tower as well as the green oasis of **29** De Plantage. Stop at the Maaskantine for a snack or a Rotterdam beer.

Bonus route C *At Plantagelaan, you can board a little ferry that takes you to Piekstraat on Feijenoord (see page 32).*

Next we'll be cycling back to the centre via Maasboulevard, which was raised after 1953 to protect the city against flooding. Enjoy the view! Many locals say this point offers one of the best views of Rotterdam's skyline. To your left, is the former indoor water park **30** Tropicana, which creative pioneers have transformed into Blue City: a circular mini city where there's no such thing as waste. The former water slide houses Bar/restaurant **31** Aloha whose chefs make all sorts of tasty dishes from residual flows. At Oostplein, you can find the **32** Monument for the Marines, which commemorates the Dutch marines who died defending Rotterdam in 1940. Keep cycling along the Nieuwe Maas, passing **33** Willemsbrug, **34** Oude Haven and **35** Binnenrotte, where you can also find the **36** Markthal. After reaching Boompjes, a popular route among runners and walkers, you can refill your bottle at a **37** free public tap. Turn right at the foot of **38** Erasmusbrug, near the war memorial **39** De Boeg. After passing **40** Maritime Museum Rotterdam and its museum harbour, you arrive at Coolsingel. Cycle back via Coolsingel and **41** Hofplein to where the whole adventure started: Rotterdam Central Station.

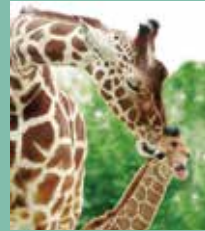
DID YOU KNOW?

Rotterdam has smart traffic lights for cyclists: thanks to a special rain sensor, cyclists don't have to wait as long for a green light and predictor panels indicate how many seconds it will take.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE EVEN FURTHER?

EXTRA ROUTES: NOORD EXPLORED



A You can cycle to **2** Blijdorp Rotterdam Zoo via Bentincklaan. The zoo's characteristic entrance was designed by architect Sybold van Ravesteyn. No fewer than 21 national monuments by this architect are found on the grounds. Ride past the green **3** Vroesenspark to Gordelweg to reconnect with the main route.
1 kilometre extra



B Cycle down Rozenlaan to reach the Kleiwegkwartier. As you ride along Ringdijk, you pass by the Wilgenhof petting zoo and Plaswijckpark. Ride around the lakes of Bergse Achterplas and Bergse Voorplas via the swish neighbourhood of Hillegersberg – known locally as 'Hillbilly' – and the Rotte until you're back on Gordelweg.
6 kilometres extra



C On weekdays, you can take the Watertaxi from De Esch (Plantagelaan) to Piekstraat on Feijenoord. Cycle via Piekstraat, Persoonsdam and Damstraat, turn left at Oranjeboomstraat, and then right at the next turn, to end on Rosestraat. Here, you can pay a visit to the urban gardens of Rotterdamse Munt, before you head on in the direction of Noordereiland and Willemsbrug to pick up the main route again at Boompjes.
1 kilometre extra



Het Schielandshuis

DO IT!

Download our free Rotterdam Tourist Info App (iOS or Android) for the best hotspots, a handy street map, an up-to-date calendar and an overview of wifi access points. The app can also be used offline.

Rotterdam Tourist Information

Coolsingel 114
Stationsplein 21
+31 (0)10 790 01 85
info@rotterdamtourist
information.nl
www.rotterdam.info



#DoRotterdam
#RotterdamMakelHappen

Rotterdam is a place where every day seems to offer new and interesting experiences. Rotterdam Tourist Information has locations on Coolsingel, in the main hall of Rotterdam Central Station and in Hoek van Holland. Our staff look forward to helping you explore this wonderful town! For further inspiration and information, visit our website rotterdam.info, follow us via social media or download the Rotterdam Tourist Info App.

Rotterdam Discovery

Kick off your visit to Rotterdam with Rotterdam Discovery: a journey through the city's past, present and future. You can discover this interactive tour at Rotterdam Tourist Information at Coolsingel 114.

Rotterdam Welcome Card

This tourist card entitles you to a discount of at least 25% at fifty attractions, museums, entertainment venues and restaurants in Rotterdam, as well as 1, 2 or 3 days of unlimited travel on RET underground trains, trams and buses. Buy your card at a Rotterdam Tourist Information location, or online via rotterdam.info.

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