AMSTERDAAAAMN!

**Breakfast**

Grab yourself a smoothie at [Juice to Boost](http://www.juicetoboost.com/) or [Roots](http://rootsamsterdam.nl/) (the salted caramel is seriously the bomb), an acai bowl at [Pluk](http://www.pluk-amsterdam.com/en/) or [The Meets](http://www.themeets.nl/#new-page), or if you’re down to brunch then [Staring at Jacob](http://www.staringatjacob.nl/) and [Bakers & Roasters](http://www.bakersandroasters.com/) cannot be missed!

[Lavinia](http://www.laviniagoodfood.nl/): The quintessential spot for a lazy brunch, most ideally on a rainy day. The brunch menu is bursting with fresh and satiating foods, all prepared in their open, airy kitchen. Come in here at breakfast and try the creamy oatmeal laden with homemade raspberry jam, almonds and elderberries, or the granola with Greek yoghurt and berries.

[G’S really nice place](http://reallyniceplace.com/): This is a place that understands the art of tending to a hangover, and offers breakfast specials complete with two bloody Mary’s per person. The menu is separated into sections; ‘Foreplay,’ ‘The Main Act,’ ‘Happy Endings,’ ‘Tipsy,’ ‘Hot’ and ‘Sober,’ and contains every element necessary for a boozy Saturday brunch or a sobering Sunday morning feast.

**Caffeinate**

There are plenty of effortlessly cool and quirky cafes to stop by for an afternoon pick-me-up. [Toki](http://www.tokiho.amsterdam/), [Quartier Putain](http://quartierputain.nl/), [Vinnies](http://vinnieshomepage.com/) and [Sweet Cup](http://www.sweetcupcafe.com/) are my top five – plus they’re also full of cosy corners to set up your laptop should you have deadlines to meet!

The bright, friendly [Dignita](http://eatwelldogood.nl/) in the city’s south has a brunch which is definitely worth travelling for, while [Lot Sixty One](http://lotsixtyonecoffee.com/) serves what’s widely considered to be the city’s best coffee from its tiny roastery-meets-café on Kinkerstraat. Its famed beans are sold by many Amsterdam coffee shops, but it’s also worth looking up [Walter White’s Espresso](http://walterwhitesespresso.com/welcome), a roving espresso bar from enthusiastic and impassioned Amsterdammer, Nico. If you’re lucky enough to track him down, the conversation and convivial atmosphere that comes with any of Nico’s coffees are perhaps the finest example of gezellig.

[Two for joy](http://twoforjoy.nl): Two for Joy is located on Haarlemmerstraat, the vibrant stretch of road dotted with vintage boutiques, curiosity shops and the city’s oldest cinema. They offer a delightful array of baked cakes and brownies, as well as fresh sandwiches, soups and small bites. But ultimately, it is beloved for its coffee, which is roasted in-house and sends plumes of bittersweet scents gliding into the street outside.

[Lunchroom T](http://www.t-etenendrinken.nl): for everything from breakfast and coffee to lunch and [KOKO Coffee & Design](http://ilovekoko.com) for a cup of coffee full of taste and fashion.

When the sun goes up it's an amazing opportunity to visit [Roest](https://www.amsterdamroest.nl) and really enjoy the whether with a cup of coffee or a cold beer or you have the time also go to the [Hannekes Boom](http://www.hannekesboom.nl/contact/) for an amazing view of the port. Take the ferry and go to the [Noorderlicht](http://noorderlichtcafe.nl), it is the best thing you could doand it will make your summer night colourful. Not many places have been graded with a 5/5 but [T Nieuwe Diep](http://www.nwediep.nl) is one of those places, worth visiting on Amsterdam’s Flevopark.

**Ease that Hanger**

Check out [Bazar](http://www.hotelbazar.nl/en/restaurant-bazar-amsterdam/) for incredible African and Middle Eastern dishes, [Sla](http://ilovesla.com/) for a creative and aesthetic salad that will more than satisfy your hunger, or if you’re feeling like some Latin American then [Huis van Lopez](https://www.facebook.com/huislopez/) is an absolute must-visit. [Little Collins](http://www.littlecollins.nl/): Two words: bloody Mary. Collin’s is open for brunch and dinner, and serves inventive dishes like mackerel kedgeree, coconut-crumbed French toast with homemade lemon curd, oysters, Korean beef tartare and braised beef brisket. Whether you’re after traditional brunch fare or something a little jazzier, Collin’s has the lot. The setting is simple, cool and clean, with glass-fronted benches.

[Venkel](http://www.venkelsalades.nl/): Aside from being incredibly bright and airy, Venkel refuses to let you leave its doors without having been fully revitalised from head to toe. The menu is all in Dutch, but one of the squeaky-clean staff will ask you what you like, and proceed to rustle up a salad of titanic health benefits right in front of you. They serve pretty much every seasonal vegetable you could think of, and offer up a rainbow of fresh juices.

Go to [Cafe Modern](https://modernamsterdam.nl) and stay till dinner starts to the Jacques Jour, you wont regret it!

Located on the impressive Keizersgracht canal is newcomer [Restaurant Jansz](http://janszamsterdam.com/), combining a gezellig atmosphere with style and flair. Marble tables and copper accents with an open kitchen and some of the friendliest staff in town, with food to match. On a leafy street in De Pijp, [Volt](http://restaurantvolt.nl/?lang=en) is a decidedly more low-key affair, with a small but seasonally changing menu; the Amsterdam equivalent of your favourite Sunday local. For a Dutch-meets-Spanish version of gezelligheid, you can’t miss [Pata Negra](http://pata-negra.nl/), a tapas bar which erupts into a full-blown dance hall the minute the remains of the gambas have been cleared. Finally, tucked away on a tiny street in the Jordaan is [Pazzi](http://pazziamsterdam.nl/), a small restaurant that serves the kind of pizza you’d expect to find down a Neapolitan alleyway.

[Mama Kelly Amsterdam](http://cravingsinamsterdam.com/2017/11/16/mama-kelly-amsterdam/) is for vegan junk food and a nice salad

Foods that are worth the extra pedal push: [Wilde Zwijnen](http://wildezwijnen.com/contact.html) if you are in the mood for good meat and [Bak restaurant](http://www.bakrestaurant.nl/en) for a more gourmet approach on the west.

**Treat Yo’ Self**

If you’re in the mood for something sweet then there’s plenty of spots to satisfy that craving. On a Summer’s evening head to [Monte Pelmo](http://montepelmo.nl/) or [Het Ijsboefje](https://www.facebook.com/hetijsboefje/) for some damn fine ice cream, or if cheesecake is more up your street then [Festina Lente](http://cafefestinalente.nl/) offers the best in town. If you’re feeling a little more experimental then be sure to visit [Chicks love Donuts](https://www.facebook.com/chickslovedonuts/) in Amsterdam’s [Foodhallen](http://www.foodhallen.nl/) for a unique combination of sweet meets savoury – you won’t be disappointed! Also, [WINKEL](http://www.winkel43.nl/" \t "_blank) apple pie!

**Drinks**

Café de Wetering: Behind the Rijksmuseum to this back street brown café. Split between two levels with a fireplace upstairs, Café de Wetering is about as cosy and inviting as they come. If you’re hungry – and lucky – the bar’s owner will come around with trays of cheese and crackers or delicate slices of cured meat. Be sure to swing by an ATM before as it’s cash only.

De School: With a 24-hour licence, De School is an ideal spot for those looking to boogie into the wee hours (or the next day). The DJ stage, located within the crowd, mostly hosts local acts and you won’t find any external promoters here; even though[**500 movers**](https://suitcasemag.com/travel/stories/uva/)and shakers can fit on the dancefloor, De School always feels intimate. Wearing a collared shirt? Flip it inside for a faux Mao collar, and pray you get in.

Café De Heuvel: The heart of local drinking culture in Amsterdam are the [brown cafés](https://suitcasemag.com/travel/explore/best-coffeeshop-amsterdam/), and if you’re looking to avoid the tourists at Hoppe then head to Café De Heuvel. Situated on a busy corner in the Spiegelkwartier, Café De Heuvel overflows with rosy-faced drinkers every afternoon. Signs and stickers plaster the walls and ceilings and polaroids of patrons are tacked up in every nook and cranny, letting you know this place is for regulars. Though you won’t drink any fancy cocktails here, a biertje and a bowl of nuts are all you need.

Claire: One of Amsterdam’s newer clubs, Claire took over what was formerly Studio 80 in Rembrandtplein. Though tourists normally flood this square, you’ll be partying among locals at Claire. With an indoor smoking area and an impressive line-up of fresh talent and big-name name DJs (think vibey house and disco) this club is definitely the place to be.

If you want to experience an authentic Amsterdam brown bar, you can’t ignore [Café Nol](http://cafenol-amsterdam.nl/). Its drinks aren’t world class and the carpet is probably due for a clean but the embrace you’ll receive from the folk-signing beer-drinkers is amongst the most Dutch you’ll find in modern Amsterdam. Something a little less traditional is [The Butcher](http://the-butcher.com/), a secret bar concealed behind a burger joint, hidden behind the facade of a butcher. With some of the city’s best cocktails, the low-lit space definitely makes for one of the cosiest nights out – once you find it, that is. Honourable mentions go to the lively and relaxed [Café Kostverloren](http://cafekostverloren.nl/en/) in the west, and the hipster’s favourite, [Bar Bukowski](http://barbukowski.nl/index.html) in the east which has a teaming terrace in the summer. [Vault Bar (Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam)](http://cravingsinamsterdam.com/2016/06/09/vault-bar-waldorf-astoria-amsterdam/)

A great way to feel a local vibe while drinking your beer is by going to the [Cafe Eddy Bar](https://www.facebook.com/Eddy-Bar-115150835240334/) or [Cafe Ruk & Pluk](http://www.bourgondisch.amsterdam/aanrader/cafe-ruk-pluk/) in beautiful Linaustraat. For what is the “best cocktails” in Amsterdam you can try the [Coctail Bar Hiding in Plain Sight](http://www.hpsamsterdam.com) but for a very good wine with friends you definitely should go to [Worst Wijncafe](http://deworst.nl). Finally for hand crafted beers there is no other than [Beer brewery Butcher's Tears](https://butchers-tears.com).

Feel like dancing? Don’t miss [De nieuwe Anita](http://www.denieuweanita.nl) which even with it’s vintage look makes you shake it and the [Pacific Parc](https://www.pacificparc.nl) for a more swing alternative mood!

**Get Creative**

If you want to work out your brain as well, be sure to check out [The Port Game](http://www.theportgame.nl/) for a thrilling mix of creativity, puzzles, and adrenaline.

For a well-curated edit of [sustainable clothing](https://suitcasemag.com/fashion/global-style/sustainable-fashion-a-matter-of-style/), vegan leather goods and fine jewellery which champions local designers, visit the newly opened [Verse](http://versegoodstore.com/). Housed on the ground floor of a restored canal house on the picturesque Prinsengracht, it also has a coffee and smoothie bar. Around the corner is [Skins](http://skins.nl/en/), a beauty mecca housing cosmetics from RMS, Kjaer Weis and Ellis Faas, [skin treats](https://suitcasemag.com/fashion/health-and-beauty/10-winter-skin-savers/) from Aesop and Susanne Kaufmann, as well as a lust-inducing selection of candles and fragrances by Diptyque, Byredo and Frederic Maille. Among your next beauty cabinet favourite, trays of tea and sweets are a store mainstay. In a typically narrow Amsterdam house on the corner of the rambling Spuistraat is the homely [Athenaeum Boekhandel](http://athenaeum.nl/). Stocking a fine collection of independent titles, the staff are happy to oblige even the most far-fetched reading requests.

For the best vintage clothes in town go to [Marbles Vintage & Design](https://www.instagram.com/marblesvintage/?hl=nl) in the centre and at [Jutka & Riska](https://www.jutkaenriska.com) for Dutch hand-picked pieces. For more shopping ideas in [The Darling](https://thedarlingamsterdam.com) you can find the more in fashion clothes as well as in [Things I like things I love](http://www.thingsilikethingsilove.com).

Feeling like having a walk on the city and buy different things from the street? Don’t forget to pass from [Utrechtsestraat](http://utrechtsestraat.amsterdam) and the [9 Straatjes](https://de9straatjes.nl/en/shops) from the centre. In [Hutspot](http://www.hutspot.com) you can find from amazing bikes to the most alternative barber shops.