

FOU FOW RAMEN



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SINO JAPANESE CUISINE

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75 LAVINIA GOOD FOOD

73 **GEBR. NIEMEIJER**  
**Nieuwendijk 35**  
**Old centre ②**  
**+31 (0)20 707 67 52**  
**[gebroedersniemeijer.nl](http://gebroedersniemeijer.nl)**

Okay, maybe (award-winning!) French croissants and pastries don't count as a proper lunch, but for those that can resist there are plenty of responsible choices too: what about a big lemony salad, a soup of the day or a fresh fruit smoothie?

74 **ELIXER**  
**Egeldonk 50**  
**Southeast**  
**+31 (0)6 21 96 61 95**  
**[restaurantelixer.com](http://restaurantelixer.com)**

Smack in the middle of some impressive Bijlmer flats sits a cosy circular restaurant called Elixer. What do they mean by circular? Well, for starters everything in the locale is reused or recycled. And the food is sourced from local producers. Most importantly: it's tasty and healthy!

75 **LAVINIA GOOD FOOD**  
**Kerkstraat 176**  
**Canal Belt South ③**  
**+31 (0)20 626 14 32**  
**[laviniaoodfood.nl](http://laviniaoodfood.nl)**

Lavinia serves three types of veggie cocktails (green, orange and red), and big sourdough sandwiches for lunch, with mashed avocado, tuna or grilled pepper, or spelt pizzettas with lamb or salmon. If you're lucky, there might be a space on the comfy leather sofa. A second location opened at Amstelveenseweg 192.

## 5

# WELL-STOCKED BOOKSTORES

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### 146 HET MARTYRIUM

Van Baerlestraat  
170-172  
Museum Q ③  
+31 (0)20 673 20 92  
[hetmartyrium.nl](http://hetmartyrium.nl)

There's a hushed library atmosphere in this bookshop. It's easy to spend an hour leafing through the books here. There's a particularly big sales section that offers a surprising range of old and new good books. The English literature, poetry and non-fiction sections are quite good as well.

### 147 ATHENAEUM

Spui 14-16  
Old Centre ②  
+31 (0)20 514 14 60  
[athenaeum.nl](http://athenaeum.nl)

Athenaeum, opened in the sixties, is well known for its large section of non-fiction and academic literature and has become the preferred supplier of cultural and academic institutions. The Nieuwscentrum next door probably has the best selection of foreign newspapers and magazines in town.

### 148 WATERSTONES

Kalverstraat 152  
Old Centre ②  
+31 (0)20 638 38 21  
[waterstones.com](http://waterstones.com)

Stepping into Waterstones is like stepping into an atmospheric old library, with personal tips from employees snuck in between the books. The store is housed in a monumental building by the Dutch architect H.P. Berlage, adjacent to 'book square' Het Spui, with its weekly book market on Fridays.

### 149 SCHELTEMA

Rokin 9  
Old Centre ②  
+31 (0)20 523 14 81  
[scheltema.nl](http://scheltema.nl)

Scheltema was founded in 1853. But the end seemed near in early 2014, when the company that owned Scheltema went bankrupt. Luckily, it made a fresh start at a new location, and now has five floors filled with a staggering 120.000 books. That also includes second hand books, a fine selection of English and German literature, and a coffee bar on the first floor.

### 150 AMERICAN BOOK CENTER

Spui 12  
Old Centre ②  
+31 (0)20 625 55 37  
[abc.nl](http://abc.nl)

It's easy to get lost as you wander through the bookcases in this four storey mecca of English language literature. ABC also has good sections on travel, fantasy and games, and organises regular lectures, meetings and exhibitions in their Treehouse located across the square at Voetboogstraat 11.



# The 5 most CROOKED HOUSES

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## 251 VIJZELGRACHT

Vijzelgracht 4-10  
and 20-26

Canal Belt South ③

The construction of the underground North-South line has caused a significant nuisance. In 2008 and 2012, several monumental 17th-century houses along Vijzelgracht sagged 15-23 cms because of the construction work, forcing residents to temporarily leave their homes.



## 252 SLUYSWACHT

Jodenbreestraat 1  
Waterlooplein Q ②  
+31 (0)20 625 76 11  
sluyswacht.nl

This very crooked free-standing house was built in 1695 as the lockkeeper's house, opposite the Rembrandt House museum. One of the oldest pictures of this lock was painted by Rembrandt when he still lived across from it. In the last twenty years Sluyswacht has been a cafe.

## 253 THE DANCING HOUSES

Amstel 100-112  
Waterlooplein Q ②

There's almost something comical about the way these houses seem to lean into one another. However, their crooked stance is a tell-tale sign that the marshy ground these monuments were built on isn't all that stable. The wooden beams that support them have a mind of their own.

## 254 ROKIN

Rokin 116  
Old Centre ②

The buildings on Rokin used to be near the water, but this last section of the Amstel River was drained in the 1930s. A Persian rug store and an art dealer were initially located here. In 2003 the building was vacant and was squatted twice in a year. It has since been renovated, but has retained its distinctly crooked shape.

## 255 SPIEGELGRACHT

Spiegelgracht 6  
Canal Belt South ③

This tiny house with its clock gable comfortably rests on its neighbour. The 17th-century Spiegelgracht, a canal opposite the Rijksmuseum, is lined with galleries, art shops and jewellerys, and has several crooked houses. Canal houses often leaned forward so their façades wouldn't be damaged when hoisting goods up into the attic.



# The 5 most unexpected places in VONDELPARK

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## 301 CENTRUM DE ROOS

**P.C. Hooftstraat 183**  
**Museum Q** ③  
**+31 (0)20 689 00 81**  
**roos.nl**

De Roos is a centre for mindfulness and spirituality and was founded in 1984. Their patio or sun porch is a great place to stop for a coffee, a sandwich or a slice of freshly-baked apple pie. The centre is located near the park exit leading to chique Pieter Cornelisz Hooftstraat.



## 302 VONDELKERK

**Vondelstraat 120**  
**South** ⑥

Architect Pierre Cuypers placed Vondelkerk (Vondel church) right in the middle of Vondelstraat. The church was built in 1872 in a neo-Gothic architectural style. After WWII, it fell into disrepair. The diocese sold it to an investor for one euro. In 1984, squatters moved in, saving the church from demolition. It was later renovated.

## 303 STORKS

**Island in the park**  
**South** ⑥

The stork population reached a critical level several decades ago. To prevent the species' extinction, environmental groups started breeding projects and helped the birds to find nesting sites. Vondelpark has an artificial nest. It's fenced off for visitors, but they can't be missed. You'll easily spot them from the rose garden.

## 304 VONDELBUNKER

**Vondelpark 8**  
**(under the bridge)**  
**South** ⑥  
**vondelbunker.nl**

Not much is known about the atomic bunker under the bridge connecting Eerste Constantijn Huygenstraat and Van Baerlestraat. It was built in the 1940s and subsequently became a music centre for hippies and squatters. Even Pink Floyd performed here. It's now a rehearsal space, bar, and an arts and debating centre.

## 305 PICASSO'S 'FIGURE DÉCOUPÉE (L' OISEAU)'

**South** ⑥

Pablo Picasso donated this statue of a fish-like bird to the city of Amsterdam, on the condition that the artwork would be permanently exhibited in the park. It was a gift to celebrate the centennial of Vondelpark in 1965.

## The 5 nicest places for **OUTDOOR FUN**

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### 386 **KINDERBOERDERIJ WESTERPARK**

**Overbrakerpad 10**  
**Westerpark Q ④**  
**+31 (0)20 682 21 93**  
**[boerderijwesterpark.nl](http://boerderijwesterpark.nl)**

This petting zoo has lots of different goats, sheep, ponies, and a cow called Teuke. There are also smaller animals to pet, including rabbits and guinea pigs. Besides animals, there's a great playground. It makes for a nice stop when walking through the Westerpark. Sit down and enjoy a coffee or lemonade on the terrace.

### 387 **GEITENBOERDERIJ RIDAMMERHOEVE**

**Nieuwe Meerlaan 4**  
**Amsterdamse Bos /**  
**Amstelveen**  
**+31 (0)20 645 50 34**  
**[geitenboerderij.nl](http://geitenboerderij.nl)**

Goats galore! At this working farm, white dairy goats roam around big barns. They are curious animals and can be petted. You can even feed the little ones a bottle of milk. There's a shop where they sell goat's milk products, and a nice self-service restaurant.

### 388 **ARTIS**

**Plantage Kerk-**  
**laan 38-40**  
**Plantage Q ②**  
**0900 278 4796**  
**[artis.nl](http://artis.nl)**

This old city zoo has put a lot of work into turning its outdated confined cages into natural and spacious environments. Visit the bird and monkey houses where the tiniest monkeys jump around your head in the same space where large green iguanas roam around freely and bats hang from the ceiling.

### 389 **KINDERBOERDERIJ DE UYLENBURG**

**Staalmeesters-**  
**laan 420**  
**New-West ④**  
**+31 (0)20 618 52 35**  
**[kinderboerderij-uylenburg.nl](http://kinderboerderij-uylenburg.nl)**

This fun little petting zoo is located in the outer most corner of Rembrandt Park, close to the Ramada Apollo Hotel. They have goats, pigs, horses and numerous small animals such as rabbits, chicken and turkeys. You can buy animal feed for just 50 cents and feed the critters. There's also a small playground and a nice terrace to enjoy a coffee or a chocolate milk.

### 390 **FUN FOREST**

**Bosbaanweg 3**  
**Amsterdamse Bos /**  
**Amstelveen**  
**+31 (0)88 369 70 00**  
**[funforest.nl](http://funforest.nl)**

Soar through the treetops on a zip wire, climb up ladders and make your way across flimsy rope ladders. There are nine different climbing and survival courses in this tree park, suitable for kids 4 years and up. The three-hour climbing experience is fun for adults as well, although some courses are for kids only.





# 5

## HOTELS

with HISTORY

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### 416 GRAND HOTEL AMRÂTH

Prins Hendrik-  
kade 108

Old Centre ②

+31 (0)20 552 00 00

[amrathamsterdam.com](http://amrathamsterdam.com)

Het Scheepvaarthuis (the Shipping House) is one of the finest examples of the Amsterdam School architecture. It was built in 1916 as a modern office building for six shipping companies, teeming with references to Holland's rich shipping history. Lavishly decorated, the Shipping House is a feast for the eyes. The building was restored and reopened as a five star hotel in 2007.

### 417 DE WINDKETEL

Watertorenplein 8-C  
Westerpark Q ④  
[windketel.nl](http://windketel.nl)

The Windketel is the smallest building on the site of the former municipal gas and waterworks. The small octagonal brick tower, which was built in the late 19th century, is located in a quiet car-free square, somewhat overshadowed by the apartment buildings of an eco-friendly neighbourhood and a large white water tower. Amazingly, this tiny tower is now a three-storey luxury apartment for two, furnished with Dutch design. It is run by a cooperative of neighbours.



417 DE WINDKETEL

# 5

## FILMS

### featuring Amsterdam

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#### 496 **THE FAULT IN OUR STARS**

**Leidsegracht 4**  
**Canal Belt South** ③

The bench before the house at Leidsegracht 4 suddenly disappeared following the success of *The Fault in Our Stars*. It's the place where Hazel and Gus talked and kissed each other along Amsterdam's canals. Nobody knew what happened to the bench, but the municipal government didn't rule out that a fan had taken it. The municipality replaced the bench in the summer of 2014.

#### 497 **AMSTERDAMNED**

**Canal Belt South** ③

The Dutch director Dick Maas' *Amsterdamned* (1988) is a cult classic about a psychopath in the Amsterdam Canals. The detective Eric Visser, played by Huub Stapel, is tasked with stopping him. The movie's climax is a pursuit through the canals. Part of the chase, it must be said, was shot on the canals of the city of Utrecht.

#### 498 **TURKS FRUIT**

**Old Centre** ②

Paul Verhoeven's *Turks Fruit* (1983) is one of the most successful Dutch films of all time. The story, after Jan Wolker's eponymous novel, is about a young sculptor called Erik who meets Olga while hitch-hiking. She's the love of his life. They get married, but their luck doesn't last forever. In an iconic scene, the couple cycles through the historic city on one bike.

#### 499 **PRINS**

**North** ⑦

Most films about Amsterdam use the picturesque canal belt as a backdrop, but not Sam de Jong's debut *Prins* (*Prince*, 2015). Instead he focused on a poor area in Amsterdam North, telling the coming-of-age story of Ayoub (15) who does everything to win a girl's attention, from buying fancy shoes to collaborating with a notorious criminal.

#### 500 **OCEAN'S TWELVE**

**Handboogstraat 29**  
**Old Centre** ②

This second movie about Danny Ocean and his band of master thieves is partly set in Amsterdam. George Clooney, Brat Pitt and Matt Damon meet their client in the Dampkring coffee shop at Handboogstraat 29. Another scene is set in Amsterdam Central Station. Unfortunately, it was under renovation at the time. The scene was therefore shot in Haarlem's Central Station.