

# Jordaan & the West

JORDAAN | THE WEST



For more detail of this area see Map p313, p314 and p316 →

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Losing yourself in the labyrinth of narrow streets and charming canals while walking through the **Jordaan** (p149), before spending the evening in the neighbourhood's atmospheric brown *cafés* (bars) – nothing is more quintessentially Amsterdam.
- ❷ Learning about the fascinating history and production of the country's favourite bloom at the **Amsterdam Tulip Museum** (p150).
- ❸ Listening to rare jazz and classical tunes play on vintage pianolas at the **Pianola Museum** (p149).
- ❹ Discovering what life is like on the city's waterways at the quaint **Houseboat Museum** (p150).
- ❺ Pedalling around the unique mash-up of reedy wilderness and old gasworks buildings turned into cafes and theatres in **Westerpark** (p151).

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Be aware that trams 3 and 10 don't pass by Centraal Station, but take ring routes around the centre instead. If you're heading to areas such as Westerpark and Westergasfabriek from Centraal, a bus is by far your best bet.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Balthazar's Keuken (p154)
- ➔ Marius (p157)
- ➔ Restaurant Fraïche (p154)
- ➔ Brasserie Blazer (p154)
- ➔ Boca's (p151)

For reviews, see p151. ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ 't Smalle (p157)
- ➔ De Kat in de Wijngaert (p158)
- ➔ Cafe Soundgarden (p158)
- ➔ Tripel (p158)
- ➔ Westergasterras (p160)

For reviews, see p157. ➔



### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Moooi Gallery (p162)
- ➔ Het Oud-Hollandsch Snoepwinkeltje (p162)
- ➔ Noordermarkt (p164)
- ➔ Antiekcentrum Amsterdam (p162)
- ➔ Back Beat Records (p162)

For reviews, see p162. ➔

## Explore Jordaan & the West

Though gentrified today, the Jordaan was a rough, densely populated *volksbuurt* (district for the common people) until the mid-20th century, and that history still shows. You'll discover that this neighbourhood is a curiously enchanting mix of its traditional gritty, hard-drinking, leftist character and its revitalised, trend-conscious sheen.

The area doesn't have many traditional sights, but that's not the point. It's the little things that are appealing here – the narrow lanes, the old facades, the funny little shops. The Jordaan is about taking your time wandering and not worrying if you get lost.

Start the day at the northern end of the Jordaan and crisscross towards the neighbourhood's south, catching the area's museums, architecture and, if you time it right, markets, along the way. Take a coffee break at one of the many canal-side cafes along the Prinsengracht.

On day two, go west. Hop on a bike and wend through the Western Islands before a spin around verdant Westerpark. In the evening, revel in the possibilities that any evening in the Westergasfabriek presents, from an art-house film to jazz or rock and roll.

## Local Life

➔ **Market Life** Morning bliss in the Jordaan means cruising the weekly outdoor markets – Noordermarkt (p164), Lindengracht Market (p164) and Westermarkt (p164) – for mouthwatering food, bargain clothes and funky flea-market treasures.

➔ **Cultural Life** Locals flock to the former gasworks turned cutting-edge cultural complex, Westergasfabriek (p161).

➔ **Docklands Life** Two of Amsterdam's most extraordinary bar-restaurants – in a former offshore pirate radio and TV rig, and aboard a moored 1927-built ferry – are just north of the Western Islands in the Western Docklands (p155).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Tram** Trams 3 and 10 along Marnixstraat skirt the neighbourhood's western edge; trams 13, 14 and 17 along Rozengracht go through its centre.

➔ **Bus** Buses 18, 21, 22 and 48 provide the quickest access from Centraal to the neighbourhood's north, west and Western Islands.

➔ **Car** Whatever you do, don't try to drive through the Jordaan's narrow streets. Seriously.