

Nieuwmarkt, Plantage & the Eastern Islands

NIEUWMARKT | PLANTAGE | EASTERN ISLANDS

Neighbourhood Top Five

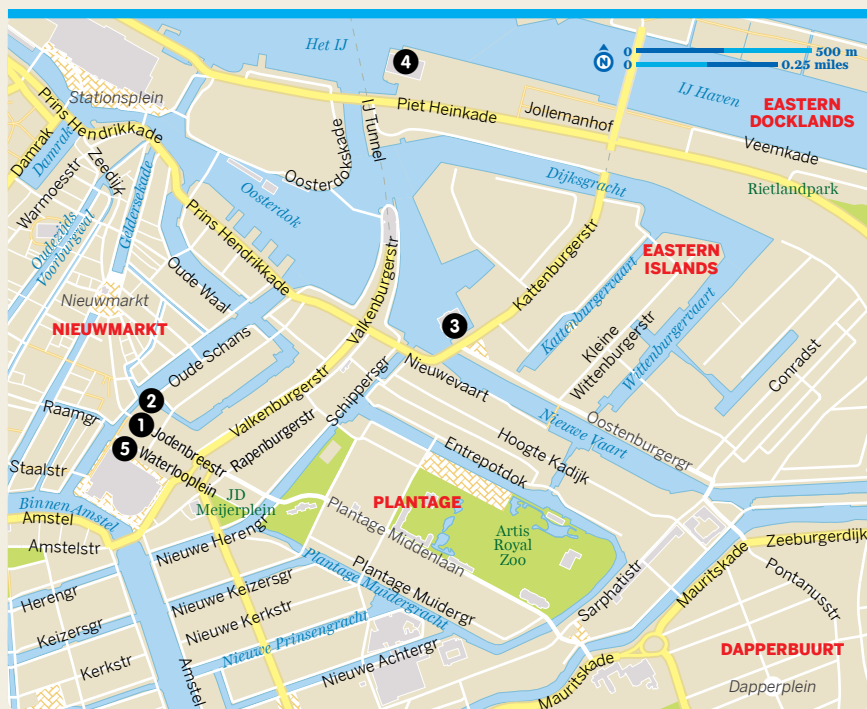
1 Viewing Rembrandt's studio at the **Museum het Rembrandthuis** (p94), where you can see his brushes, sketches and cabinet stuffed with seashells and Roman busts.

2 Downing a Dommelsch beer in the old lock-keeper's house at **De Sluyswacht** (p105).

3 Fathoming the history of Dutch seafaring through the extensive maritime collection at the **Het Scheepvaartmuseum** (p98).

4 Catching live classical music or jazz at the acoustically and visually stunning **Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ** (p108).

5 Browsing the **Waterlooplein Flea Market** (p109), filled with bric-a-brac from porcelain teapots to Buddha statues.



For more detail of this area see Map p306 and p308 ➔

Explore Nieuwmarkt, Plantage & the Eastern Islands

Centred on its namesake square, Nieuwmarkt (New Market) is a district as historic as anything you'll find in Amsterdam. Rembrandt painted canalscape in Nieuwmarkt, and Jewish merchants generated a fair share of the city's wealth with diamonds and other ventures here.

The neighbourhood's top sight is Museum het Rembrandthuis, the master's impressive home/studio. In the old Jewish quarter is an excellent museum and a synagogue. The famed Gassan Diamond factory is also here, offering free tours.

East of Nieuwmarkt, the leafy district known as Plantage (Plantation) is a lovely place to stroll and admire the 19th-century architecture.

Further east, the former shipyard and warehouse district of the Eastern Islands (Oostelijke Eilanden) and their Eastern Docklands (Oostelijk Havengebied) is a must for cutting-edge Dutch architecture. Explore traditional sights like the Het Scheepvaartmuseum, as well as mod designs such as the sparkling performance halls of the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, and swooping views from NEMO's roof.

Local Life

➔ **Plaza Life** The *cafés* (pubs, bars) ringing Nieuwmarkt square buzz in the afternoon and evening. When the weather cooperates, everyone sits outside in the shadow of the turreted Waag (p95).

➔ **Shopping Life** Fill your bag with juggling balls, chilli-spiced chocolates or old posters at the neighbourhood favourites along Staalstraat. Then plunge into the Saturday Boerenmarkt (p110) at Nieuwmarkt square.

➔ **Snack Life** Follow the crowd for a spicy bite of Suriname at Tokoman (p101), famed for its *broodje pom* (chicken-and-tuber-mash sandwich).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Tram** Trams 9 and 14 go to Waterlooplein and the Jewish sights, as well as Plantage; there are no trams to Nieuwmarkt square, but it's a short walk from Waterlooplein. Tram 10 goes to the Eastern Islands and Eastern Docklands. Tram 26 travels along the IJ waterfront.

➔ **Metro** There are stops at Waterlooplein and Nieuwmarkt.

➔ **Bus** Buses 22 and 48 are useful for areas of the Eastern Islands and Eastern Docklands that the tram doesn't reach.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Nieuwmarkt has heaps of intriguing architecture, from the imposing Scheepvaarthuis (a classic example of the Amsterdam School style) to the mishmash Stopera. Unique buildings cluster near where Kloveniersburgwal and Oude Hoogstraat intersect, including Amsterdam's narrowest house and the Oostindisch Huis, office of the 17-century, world-dominating Dutch East India Company. Keep an eye out as you wander the neighbourhood.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Greetje (p105)
- ➔ Gebr Hartering (p104)
- ➔ Sterk Staaltje (p101)
- ➔ Tokoman (p101)
- ➔ Moes (p102)

For reviews, see p101. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ De Sluyswacht (p105)
- ➔ Amsterdam Roest (p107)
- ➔ Brouwerij 't IJ (p107)
- ➔ SkyLounge (p106)
- ➔ Hannekes Boom (p107)

For reviews, see p105. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Droog (p109)
- ➔ Waterlooplein Flea Market (p109)
- ➔ Pols Potten (p111)
- ➔ Knuffels (p109)
- ➔ Frank's Smokehouse (p110)

For reviews, see p109. ➔