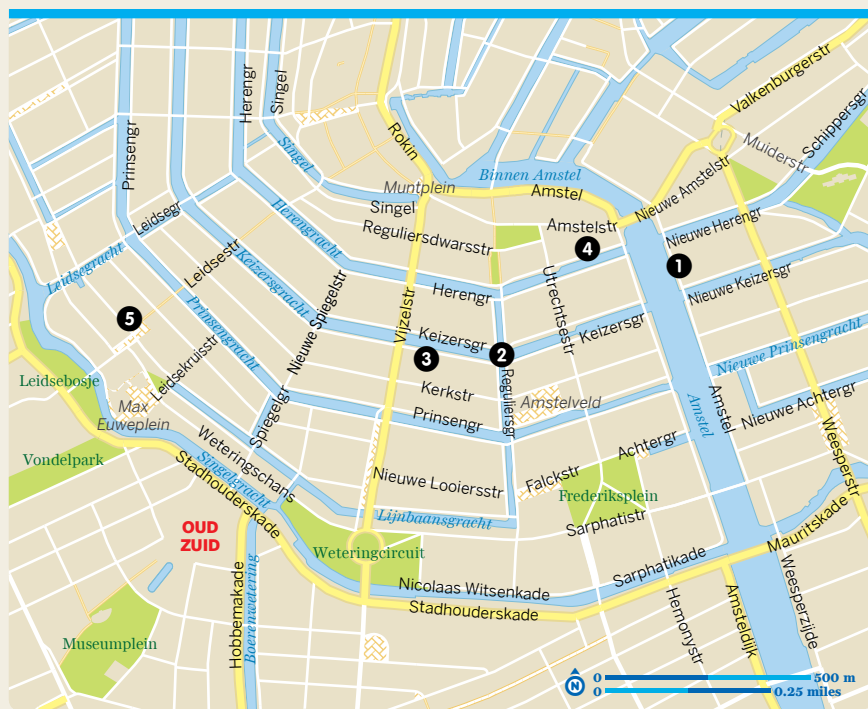


Southern Canal Ring

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Catching prestigious exhibitions at the **Hermitage Amsterdam** (p132), put together from the cache of treasures at the original St Petersburg museum.
- 2 Enjoying an *ahh*-inducing sunset or starry night by the **Reguliersgracht** (p131), aka the canal of seven bridges.
- 3 Exploring the **Museum Van Loon** (p130), Amsterdam's only complete canal house with its back coach house.
- 4 Experiencing patrician canal-house life through the eyes of former servants at treasure-packed **Museum Willet-Holthuysen** (p131).
- 5 Hitting the cafes, bars, theatres and clubs on and around party central **Leidseplein** (p129).



For more detail of this area see Map p318. →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't discount the areas around Leidseplein or Rembrandtplein as simply tourist traps for tour-bus set crowds or cheerfully drunk hooligans on pub crawls (although indeed, they are both). They can be serious (or not-so-serious) fun, with plenty of authentic bars and cafes just waiting to be discovered. To escape the hullabaloo and hang out with the locals, head to happening Utrechtsestraat.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurant Fyra (p137)
- ➔ La Cacerola (p135)
- ➔ Buffet van Odette (p135)
- ➔ Pantry (p135)
- ➔ Tempo Doeloe (p137)

For reviews, see p133. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar Moustache (p138)
- ➔ Eijlders (p138)
- ➔ De Kroon (p138)
- ➔ Sweet Cup (p138)
- ➔ Pata Negra (p138)

For reviews, see p138. ➔

Best Entertainment

- ➔ Stadsschouwburg (p142)
- ➔ Melkweg (p143)
- ➔ Paradiso (p143)
- ➔ Sugar Factory (p143)
- ➔ Koninklijk Theater Carré (p143)

For reviews, see p142. ➔

Explore Southern Canal Ring

Buzzing with activity, the diverse Southern Canal Ring spans the area from the radial Leidsegracht in the west to the Amstel in the east. With museums, restaurants, cafes and shops galore, not to mention miles of gorgeous canal photo-ops, you'll want to give yourself some time here. The neighbourhood is anchored by two key night-life hubs: Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein, so they're ideal end points for each day's exploration here.

Begin your first day at the flower-filled Bloemenmarkt, then meander past the grand Golden Bend houses before checking out the antique and art shops of Nieuwe Spiegelstraat and the Museum Van Loon, as you make your way to Leidseplein.

On your second day, beat the crowds by getting an early start at the Hermitage Amsterdam. Afterwards, stroll down the Amstel to marvel at the Amstelshuizen locks and the Gijsbert Dommer Huis ('House with the Blood Stains!'). Around the corner is the Museum Willet-Holthuysen.

All that sightseeing is sure to make you hungry, so head to Utrechtsestraat's plethora of quality options. Take in the view of the seven bridges along Reguliersgracht and end the night on lively Rembrandtplein.

Local Life

➔ **Snack Life** Do as the Dutch royals do and buy beautiful baked goods from Patisserie Holtkamp (p136), fronted by a royal coat of arms.

➔ **Cafe Life** Off Prinsengracht, tiny Weteringstraat feels like a secret passage; look out for local brown *café* (pub), Café de Wetering (p139).

➔ **Cocktail Life** The door's unmarked and you'll need to send a text message to get in, but the cocktails at speakeasy Door 74 (p139) are worth it.

➔ **Jazz Life** Locals pack lovable Jazz Café Alto (p143) every night of the week to catch smooth jazz by local and international musicians.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Tram** This area is well-served by trams. For the Leidseplein area, take tram 1, 2, 5, 7 or 10. To reach Rembrandtplein, take tram 4, which travels down Utrechtsestraat, or tram 9. Trams 16 and 24 cut through the centre of the neighbourhood down busy Vijzelstraat.