

Vondelpark & the Old South

VONDELPARK | THE OLD SOUTH

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Plunging into the Golden Age trove of Dutch Masters paintings, Delft tiles and gilded dollhouses at the **Rijksmuseum** (p167).

2 Being awestruck by the tortured artist's vivid brushstrokes of yellow

sunflowers and purple-blue irises at the **Van Gogh Museum** (p170).

3 Admiring the abstractions of Mondrian, Matisse and their modern compadres at the **Stedelijk Museum** (p172).

4 Listening to music soar within the pristine acoustics of the **Concertgebouw** (p185).

5 Lazing over coffee, searching out sculptures, enjoying a picnic and catching an open-air theatre performance in the **Vondelpark** (p173).



For more detail of this area see Map p322 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you've worked up an appetite strolling or cycling through the park, you're spoilt for choice for places to dine along and just off Amstelveenseweg. Running along the western edge of the park, it's a fabulous eat street, with restaurants ranging from vegan to Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, Indian, Thai, pan-Asian, Dutch, Italian, Brazilian, and American-style steaks, interspersed with stylish wine bars and cosy *cafés* (bars, pubs). Wander along and see what you find.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ron Gastrobar (p178)
- ➔ Dikke Graaf (p178)
- ➔ Foodhallen (p182)
- ➔ Adam (p178)
- ➔ Braai BBQ Bar (p175)

For reviews, see p175. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Franklin (p181)
- ➔ Craft & Draft (p181)
- ➔ Lot Sixty One (p181)
- ➔ Café Bédier (p181)
- ➔ BarBrâ (p181)

For reviews, see p181. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Local Goods Store (p182)
- ➔ Pied à Terre (p185)
- ➔ Edha Interieur (p185)
- ➔ Van Avezaath Beune (p185)
- ➔ VLVT (p185)

For reviews, see p184. ➔

Explore Vondelpark & the Old South

Around the grassy expanse of Museumplein, Amsterdam's top three art museums – the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum and Stedelijk – are all lined up in a walkable row. You could easily spend a full day here alone. In the evening, the action shifts to the Concertgebouw, the grand music hall built in conjunction with the Rijksmuseum, and genteel *cafés* spring to life.

The Vondelpark itself is more epic for its near-pastoral beauty than for its actual size, and can easily be explored in a few hours.

North of the park around Overtoom, streets burst with eateries and shops for all budgets, while those along leafy Cornelis Schuytstraat to the south are more exclusive. Come dinner time, you'll find plenty of dining options on and around Amstelveenseweg at the park's western end, and in and around the city's new foodhall, Foodhallen, inside the De Hallen cultural complex.

Local Life

➔ **Cycling** If you need a crash course in the art of Dutch biking away from the traffic-filled streets, Vondelpark is the perfect place to practise spinning your wheels like a local.

➔ **Skating** Join local in-line skaters setting off from Vondelpark for a two-hour mass skate (p186) every Friday night. In winter, Museumplein's pond looks like the top of a wind-up jewellery box when it becomes a popular ice-skating rink.

➔ **Street Life** Look out for new openings on booming Jan Pieter Heijestraat (p180).

➔ **Bunker Life** Buried inside the 1e Constantijn Huygensstraat bridge, the Vondelbunker (p184) hosts underground entertainment and activist activities.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Tram** Trams 2 and 5 from Centraal Station stop at Museumplein and the main entrance to Vondelpark; tram 2 travels along the southern side of the park along Willemsparkweg. Trams 3 and 12 cross the 1e Constantijn Huygensstraat bridge not far from the park's main entrance, and cross Kinkerstraat near De Hallen. Tram 1 from Centraal travels along Overtoom near the park's western edge.

➔ **Bus** Bus 197 zips to Museumplein from the airport in about 30 minutes, which is handy if you're staying in the neighbourhood.