

Plantage, Eastern Islands & Eastern Docklands

PLANTAGE | EASTERN ISLANDS | EASTERN DOCKLANDS

Neighbourhood Top Five

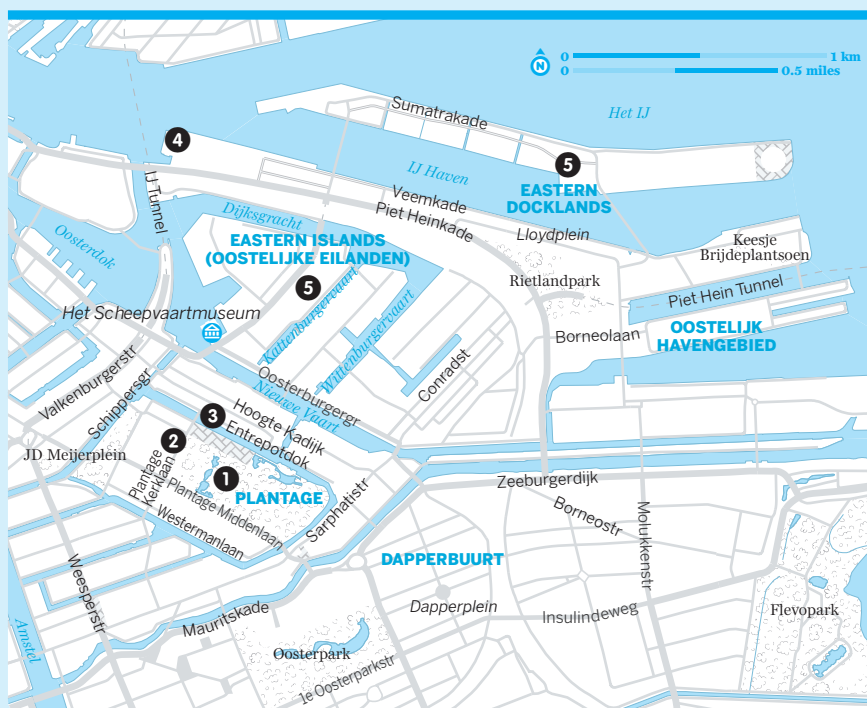
1 Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Frolicking with the animals at the gorgeous **Artis Royal Zoo** (p178) is one of Amsterdam's wildest adventures.

2 Put yourself in the shoes of courageous WWII Dutch Resistance fighters at the sobering yet inspiring **Verzetsmuseum** (p177).

3 Imagine a time when the Dutch East India Trading company ruled the seas at the atmospheric **Entrepotdok** (p177).

4 Experience live classical music or jazz at the acoustically, and visually, stunning **Muziekgebouw Aan 't IJ** (p178).

5 Glimpse the future of Amsterdam at the **Eastern Docklands** and **Eastern Islands** (p178), where modern architecture and design meet a forward-thinking yet ages-old maritime tradition.



For more detail of this area, see Map p310 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Too many travellers overlook the Eastern Docklands and Eastern Islands, thinking them too far out of the centre (when it's actually less than a 10-minute bike or tram ride). If you're remotely into boats, maritime history or modern architecture, don't even think about skipping this area.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Fifteen (p180)
- ➔ Koffiehuis van Den Volksbond (p180)
- ➔ Odessa (p180)
- ➔ Café Kadijk (p180)
- ➔ Paerz (p180)

For reviews, see p179 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Brouwerij 't IJ (p182)
- ➔ KHL (p182)
- ➔ Café Koosje (p182)
- ➔ Star Ferry (p182)
- ➔ Kanis & Meiland (p182)

For reviews, see p182 ➔



Best Sights

- ➔ Artis Royal Zoo (p178)
- ➔ Verzetsmuseum (p177)
- ➔ Hortus Botanicus (p177)
- ➔ EYE Film Institute (p177)
- ➔ Het Scheepvaarts-museum (p178)

For reviews, see p177 ➔

Explore: Plantage, Eastern Islands & Eastern Docklands

The leafy district known as the Plantage (Plantation) was once a district of parks and gardens, named after the plantations the Dutch tended in their colonies. That legacy lives on, and the neighbourhood is a lovely place to stroll and admire the 19th century architecture.

North and east of the Eastern Islands (the epicenter of Amsterdam's residential and commercial expansion projects), the historic Eastern Docklands, a one-time shipyard and warehouse district, sat derelict for decades. If you're looking for one place to see the cutting edge of Dutch – and indeed European – architecture, this is the place.

Spend the first day in the Plantage, with at least a couple of hours at the Artis Royal Zoo, followed by a walk through the Hortus Botanicus. Have a picnic lunch in the Wertheimpark before you spend your afternoon at the Verzetsmuseum.

The Eastern Docklands and Eastern Islands are literally a breath of fresh air – invigorating to visit as a contrast to the city centre. There are few traditional sights, but mod architecture such as the silver building dubbed 'the Whale', the swooping red footbridge off Borneo, the shiny central library and the sparkling performance halls of the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ are arresting.

Local Life

➔ **Web Check** Eastern Docklands Amsterdam (www.amsterdamdocklands.com) is a good resource for history and a general introduction to the area.

➔ **Hotel History** You don't have to stay at the Lloyd Hotel to experience its fascinating past. Pop in to wine or dine, and don't skip the hotel history exhibit.

➔ **Bike It** The Eastern Docklands and Eastern Islands are best seen by bike – so take a bike tour.

➔ **Dinner & Nightlife** Come for dinner, stay for the DJs, dancing and stargazing onboard the fabulous Odessa.

➔ **Lights, Camera, Action** Locals have long awaited the opening of the EYE Film Institute, Europe's most innovative homage to the cinematic arts.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Tram** Trams 9 and 14 are handy for reaching the Plantage; tram 10 goes to the Eastern Islands and Eastern Docklands.