

## lonely planet Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

# SLEEPING

## top picks

- **Fusion Suites** (p220)  
A royal domain blessed with art and nature.
- **Between Art & Kitsch B&B** (p222)  
Comic relief with a bed attached.
- **Hotel Luxer** (p214)  
A slick slumber amid the neon lights.
- **Hotel Résidence Le Coin** (p212)  
Designer pods in a killer location.
- **Hotel Zandbergen** (p221)  
Peaceful and professional, but personal.
- **Maes B&B** (p216)  
Hidden oasis in the not-so-wild West.
- **Windketel** (p224)  
Your top romantic hideaway – and octagonal.
- **Hotel Brouwer** (p213)  
Few frills but great canal views.

# SLEEPING

In its typically charming way, Amsterdam has loads of hotels in wild and wonderful spaces: inspired architects breathed new life into old buildings, from converted schools and industrial lofts to entire rows of canal houses joined at the hip. Some of these lodgings overlook gorgeous canals or courtyards, some are filled with art that's historic or modern, and still others are triumphs of clever design.

But charm doesn't come cheap. There are 37,750-plus hotel rooms in Amsterdam, and at peak times it can seem that all of them are full. If you're looking to 'do' Amsterdam on the cheap, you might find yourself in a tiny, threadbare room and pay more for it than you thought possible. Leave the budget options to the college kids, take a deep breath, swipe that card and sally forth. Or look on the internet for substantial discounts, even at the top hotels.

If you're driving, inquire about parking in advance. In almost all cases parking is a major problem and the most you'll get is a (payable) parking permit out on the street – with all the attendant headaches and security risks – or a referral to the nearest parking garage (up to €40 a day), which may be a fair distance away. Top-end hotels have their own parking arrangements but prefer advance notice. See [Parking \(p241\)](#) for other important info.

Sleeping options specifically for gays and lesbians can be found on [p207](#).

## ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Amsterdam's lodgings run the gamut from baroque palaces and splendid boutique properties to little 'mum and dad' B&Bs, youth hostels and sprawling budget hotels. But the digs are modest-sized compared with those in other capitals – any hotel with more than 20 rooms is considered large, and many rooms are on the snug side. Quite a few hotels are polished gems strung alongside the old canals like Vermeer earrings. Some of the most tempting hotels link two or more such places; the Hotel Pulitzer ([p215](#)) is composed of 25 houses!

You'll see a 'star' plaque on the front of every hotel, indicating its rating according to the Benelux Hotel Classification. The stars (from one to five) have to do with the existence of certain facilities, rather than quality.

This means that a two-star hotel, for example, may be in better condition than a hotel of higher rank, though admittedly with fewer facilities. Accommodation that rates less than one star cannot call itself a hotel, but rather a *pension*, guesthouse or B&B. If a room has both ensuite toilet and shower (or bath) we've used the term 'with bathroom'; if the bathroom and toilet are in the corridor we've used 'without bathroom'. Unless otherwise stated, all rooms have ensuite bathroom.

If you have a special need (wheelchair access, elevator, bathtub as opposed to shower, triple or family-size room), be sure to inquire.

## Bed & Breakfasts

By law, an inn with four rooms or fewer cannot be called a hotel, but a handful of interesting B&Bs has sprung up in recent years. Most don't have exterior signage and access is by reservation only, giving the property an intimate feel. Many visitors enjoy the ability to feel more like a local in a home, an experience that's difficult to get in a larger lodging. Styles range from classic to kitsch to contemporary.

## Houseboats

We're not talking a hardship cruise here. Amsterdam's residents have perfected the art of comfy living above the fishes, and some of the 3000-odd houseboats are rented out at quite reasonable rates. Stick to vessels in the quieter Western Canal Belt and Jordaan, where you're less likely to be disturbed by the wake of those monster tour boats.

## Party & Stoner Hotels

This being Amsterdam, a number of hotels in the budget category cater to party guests (not that reception will ask if that's you) as well as pot smokers. By and large they're pretty basic affairs, but we've included a few for those who can't resist the temptation.

If in doubt whether smoking is permitted, be sure to ask when you make your reservation. At many hotels, smoking of any

kind is prohibited in rooms, and others have strict no-drugs policies. Don't be embarrassed about asking ahead of time – you'll hardly be the first.

## Youth Hostels

The Netherlands youth-hostel association goes by the name [Stayokay](#) ([☎](#) 551 31 55; [www.stayokay.com](#)) and is affiliated with Hostelling International (HI). There are several Stay Okay hostels in Amsterdam, and for those seeking private rooms, most have singles and doubles.

A youth-hostel card entitles you to receive €2.50 a night discount. Prices include breakfast and clean linen upon arrival. Be sure to book well ahead, especially in busy periods (spring, summer and autumn holidays).

There are also a number of non-Stay Okay/HI hostels in town.

## LONGER-TERM RENTALS

If you'll be in town for a while, it may make sense to rent a flat. Get yourself a bike and you'll practically be a local. Prices for furnished apartments start at about €700 per month but can easily be triple that. Houseboats are another option. Many agencies have a minimum rental period (eg six months). See the boxed text, [below](#), for some places to start looking.

## RESERVATIONS

Offices of the VVV ([p255](#)) and GWK ([p248](#)) have last-minute hotel-booking services, though expect queues during peak season. For bookings, the VVV charges a €4 commission for walk-ins and €15 by telephone,

### FLAT CHAT

The following websites are a good place to start if you're looking for an apartment in Amsterdam.

- [Amsterdam Apartment](#) ([Map pp62-5](#); [☎](#) 668 26 54; [www.amsterdamapartment.nl](#); Oude Nieuwstraat 1)
- [Apartment Services](#) ([Map pp58-9](#); [☎](#) 672 18 40; [www.apartmentservices.nl](#); Waalstraat 58)
- [Citymundo](#) ([Map pp58-9](#); [☎](#) 470 57 05; [www.citymundo.com](#); Schinkelkade 47)
- [Goudsmit Estate Agents](#) ([☎](#) 644 19 71; [www.goudsmit.com](#); AJ Ernststraat 735)
- [IDA Housing Services](#) ([☎](#) 624 83 01; [www.idahousing.com](#); Den Texstraat 30)

Some visitors (and this author) have achieved excellent results via local message boards. Among them:

- [www.craigslst.com](#) Worldwide resource for just about anything. Its Amsterdam presence is small but effective.
- [www.expatica.com](#) An excellent resource for the expat community. Go directly to the classified ads.
- [www.viavia.nl](#) For this one you'll need to read Dutch (click 'Woon & Bedrijfsruimte' to start, then click 'Tijdelijk' (temporary) under 'Woningen' (housing).

while the GWK office charges €10 – although with a little forethought, both services are free online.

If you're targeting a particular hotel, check its website or phone directly to inquire. Otherwise, try a travel agent or discount travel websites, where you may be able to get last-minute bookings even at the swankiest hotels; try [www.amsterdam-hotels-guide.com](#), [www.bookings.com](#), [www.hotelres.nl](#), [www.lastminute.com](#) or [http://amsterdam.ratestogo.com](#).

Some smaller hotels won't accept credit-card details over the phone (if they accept cards at all) and may insist on a deposit by cheque or money order before they'll confirm the booking.

When booking for two people, make it clear whether you want a twin (two single beds) or double (a bed for two). It usually makes no difference to the price, but the wrong bed configuration could be impossible to fix on the spot if the hotel is fully booked.

Always get a confirmation in writing.

## ROOM RATES

Once you get used to the idea of cramped rooms at high rates, in general you'll find you get what you pay for: the more you spend, the grander you get.

We list rates for single and double rooms, and sometimes other options where available. Some hotels offer family rates.

The rates in this book are the non-discounted 'rack' rates; treat them as a rough guide. Prices at many hotels drop in the low season (roughly October to April excluding Christmas/New Year and Easter). Even in high season it's worth asking for 'special' rates,

especially for longer stays. Top-end hotels often rely on business travellers and tend to lower rates in the summer months and on weekends. Many hotels also offer discounts via their websites, especially for last-minute bookings.

Most of the quoted rates include a 5% city-hotel tax; at the more expensive hotels, however, this is added separately to the bill. Also, if you're paying by credit card, some hotels add a surcharge of up to 5% (ouch).

## Deluxe

Facilities like air-conditioning, fitness centres (some with pocket-sized swimming pools), conference and banquet rooms, and business services are par for the course. Breakfast is rarely included (and can cost €20 and up).

## Top End

For a bit of luxury, loads of privacy and lashings of personal service, these hotels will put a smile on your dial. Expect lifts, in-room internet access, minibars and room service. Unless stated, rates include breakfast.

## Midrange

Most hotels in this category are big on comfort, low on formality and small enough to offer personal attention. Unless otherwise stated, rooms have toilet and shower (and/or bath) and come with TV, phone and breakfast. Not many hotels in this category over two storeys have lifts (elevators), and their quaint narrow stairwells can take some getting used to, especially with luggage.

## Budget

Lodgings in the lowest price bracket are thin on the ground in Amsterdam. Some are nothing short of run-down flophouses with mouldy smells, due to the damp climate and the Dutch aversion to decent ventilation. The better options tend to be spic 'n' span with furnishings that are, at best, cheap 'n' cheerful.

## PRICE GUIDE

This guide is based on the average price for a double room, tax not included. Breakfast may or may not be included – see the individual listings.

€€€€	over €270	Deluxe
€€€	€160-270	Top End
€€	€80-160	Midrange
€	under €80	Budget

## CITY CENTRE

The myriad contrasts of the old centre, only 1km long and 500m wide, are a powerful draw for guests who want to be in the thick of it 24 hours a day. Accommodation options cover all the bases, from the hostels and party hotels of the Red Light District to deluxe establishments with sweeping river views.

## MEDIEVAL CENTRE

### HOTEL DE L'EUROPE

Map pp62-5

Luxury Hotel €€€€

☎ 531 17 77; [www.leurope.nl](http://www.leurope.nl); Nieuwe Doelenstraat 2-8; s/d €325/400; 🚶 🚶

Oozing Victorian elegance, L'Europe welcomes you with a glam chandelier, a marble lobby, 100 gloriously large rooms (some have terraces and all have handsome marble bathrooms), and smart extras like a shoeshine service and boats for canal cruises. The attached Excelsior restaurant and chichi gym (said to be admired by no less than Governor Schwarzenegger) are equally impressive.

### HOTEL RÉSIDENCE LE COIN

Map pp62-5

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 524 68 00; [www.lecoin.nl](http://www.lecoin.nl); Nieuwe Doelenstraat 5; s €110, d €133-147, q €220

This shiny inn owned by the University of Amsterdam offers 42 small high-class apartments spread over seven historical buildings, all equipped with designer furniture, wood floors, wireless internet and kitchenettes – and all reachable by lift. It's in the thick of things, opposite the popular grand [Café de Jaren](#) (p185) and just a five-minute stroll to pretty Nieuwmarkt. Staff are pleasant, and breakfast costs €9 per person.

### BELLEVUE HOTEL

Map pp62-5

International Hotel €€

☎ 530 95 30; [www.bellevuehotel.nl](http://www.bellevuehotel.nl); Martelaarsgracht 10; s/d/tr/q from €80/110/150/180; 🚶 🚶

Of the small hotels around Centraal Station, this is the only one we'd stay at. Opened spring 2005, rooms are small, white and tidy, and feature mod loos and themes of sand, water and grass. If you're sensitive to noise, get a room in the back. American-style breakfast costs €10.

### HOTEL HOKSBERGEN

Map pp62-5

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 626 60 43; [www.hotelhoksbergen.nl](http://www.hotelhoksbergen.nl); Singel 301; s €84-98, d €90-125, apt €165-220

You sure can't beat Hoksbergen's fantastic canal-side location, and there's a breakfast buffet, but be warned: even sardines would have trouble squishing into the microscopically small rooms (with clean but plain furnishings). If you feel claustrophobic, a self-contained apartment (up to five people) may be a better option.

### HOTEL BROUWER

Map pp62-5

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 624 63 58; [www.hotelbrouwer.nl](http://www.hotelbrouwer.nl); Singel 83; s/d €55/90; 🚶

Our favourite hotel in this price range, it has just eight rooms in a house dating back to 1652. Its rooms, named for Dutch painters, are furnished with simplicity, but all have canal views. There's a mix of Delft-blue tiles and early-20th-century furniture, and – get this – a tiny elevator. Staff dispense friendly advice. Reserve well in advance. No credit cards accepted.

### AMSTEL HOTEL

Map pp62-5

Party Hotel €€

☎ 626 42 47; [www.amstelhotel.com](http://www.amstelhotel.com); Oosterdokskaade 2-4; s & d with land/water view from €78/83, tr with land/water view from €119/124; 🚶

Five minutes' walk from Centraal Station, this floating hotel is usually populated by dazed, Europe-in-four-days bus groups and packs of Brit boys/girls celebrating bucks'/hens' nights. Rooms are sterile (in both senses) and have TV, phone and itty-bitty bathrooms. Breakfast is €10 per person. Note there are occasional two- and three-night stay requirements (eg on weekends).

### HOTEL BRIAN

Map pp62-5

Stoner Hotel €€

☎ 624 46 61; [www.hotelbrian.com](http://www.hotelbrian.com); Singel 69; s/d without bathroom €37/54; 🚶

This ardently shabby and relaxed joint ('joint' being the operative word) was ostensibly given a facelift a few years ago, but honestly, it's hard to tell. But it's churlish to quibble when the rates include a good breakfast buffet, advice from fun,

knowledgeable staff, and the odd chance of scoring a room with skylights and canal views. Kitchen facilities are available, but there are no phones or TVs in rooms.

### FLYING PIG DOWNTOWN HOSTEL

Map pp62-5

Stoner Hotel €€

☎ 420 68 22; [www.flyingpig.nl](http://www.flyingpig.nl); Nieuwendijk 100; dm €22-30; 🚶

Hang out with hundreds of young, dope-smoking backpackers at this very relaxed, very central, 30-room hostel; rates vary by time of year and number of beds per room (the smallest has four). It's pretty grungy, but no-one seems to mind, especially when there's so much fun to be had in the throbbing lobby bar with a pool table, DJs some nights and a chilled-out, cushion-lined basement nicknamed the 'happy room'.

### AIVENGO YOUTH HOSTEL

Map pp62-5

Hostel €€

☎ 620 11 55, 421 36 70; [www.aivengoyouthhostel.com](http://www.aivengoyouthhostel.com); Spuistraat 6; dm weekday/weekend €18/20; 🚶

Funky Aivengo's, with two rooms (18 and 19 beds respectively), is a real winner. It's got a quiet, respectful vibe and wonderful, cheery, modern-Middle Eastern interior. Rates here include clean bed linen and towels as well as a safety deposit box, but there's no breakfast or common rooms. Note: there's a 1pm to 5pm lockout and a 4am curfew.

## RED LIGHT DISTRICT

### NH GRAND HOTEL KRASNAPOLSKY

Map pp62-5

International Hotel €€€

☎ 554 91 11; [www.nh-hotels.com](http://www.nh-hotels.com); Dam 9; d €270; 🚶

Pride of place belongs to this gargantuan, 468-room edifice across from the Royal Palace, one of the city's first grand hotels (1866). NG Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky has elegant if compact rooms and spectacular public spaces. The 19th-century 'winter garden' dining room, with its soaring steel-and-glass roof, is a national monument (the splendid breakfast buffet costs an extra €22), and there are fitness and business centres. Note: rates can vary widely.

**HOTEL LUXER** Map pp62-5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 330 32 05; <http://hotelluxer.tobook.com>;  
Warmoesstraat 11; s/d/tr €85/110/150; ☒ ☑ ☒  
A pleasant surprise if ever there was one, this smart little number is the probably the best option for your money in the thick of the RLD, with vast numbers of pubs and more within staggering distance. Rooms are small but well equipped (air-conditioning!) and at night the breakfast area becomes a chic little bar. The only real drawback is the bathrooms, which are well thought out but miniscule.

**HOTEL WINSTON** Map pp62-5 Party Hotel €€

☎ 623 13 80; [www.winston.nl](http://www.winston.nl); Warmoesstraat 123; s €67-77, d €90-110  
Party central for touring bands and up-for-anything tourists, with rock'n'roll rooms and a busy club downstairs. Most rooms are 'art' rooms: local artists were given free rein, with results from super-edgy (entirely stainless steel) and playful to questionably raunchy. Group rooms sleep up to eight. Look for midweek and off-season discounts. Staff can be less than warm, but hey, it's rock'n'roll, man. Deal with it.

**HOTEL THE CROWN**

Map pp62-5 Party Hotel €€

☎ 626 96 64; [www.hotelthecrown.com](http://www.hotelthecrown.com);  
Oudezijds Voorburgwal 21; s €40-70, d €80-120, tr €120-160; ☒  
Rooms at this Brit-run, Red Light District hotel are pretty monastic (shared toilet, no TV or phone), and don't even bother asking for breakfast. Although it is priced in our midrange bracket, quality is firmly budget. So what's the draw? Fun. The 1930s Art Deco bar has sports on TV, a pool table, a dartboard and hordes of celebrating stag-nighters. Spliff-smoking is permitted (some would say encouraged) in the bar, but no smoking in rooms.

**OLD NICKEL** Map pp62-5 Party Hotel €€

☎ 624 19 12; [www.oldnickel-amsterdam.nl](http://www.oldnickel-amsterdam.nl);  
Nieuwe Brugsteeg 11; s/d/tr/q without bathroom €50/80/120/160

Location, location: the Nickel will appeal to everyone looking for a simple place to crash after a red-light romp. Go up (and up and up) the steep stairs from the historic, well-stocked pub, and you'll find clean no-nonsense rooms, all bathrooms shared. Rates include a big cooked breakfast and drop sharply during the week.

**NIEUWMARKT****MISC EAT DRINK SLEEP**

Map pp62-5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 330 62 41; [www.hotelmisc.com](http://www.hotelmisc.com); Kloveniersburgwal 20; r €135-215; ☒  
Steps from Nieuwmarkt Square, the Misc's six rooms make up in visuals what they lack in size. Feeling romantic? Book the lovely 'baroque' room. The 'Africa' room is an escape, while the 'room of wonders' is a modern Moroccan escapade. It's so relaxed that a freshly cooked breakfast (included in rate) is served until noon, and staff will arrange for massage services. Canal View rooms cost more, but the Garden View rooms are equally charming.

**STADSDOELN YOUTH HOSTEL**

Map pp62-5 Hostel €

☎ 624 68 32; [www.stayokay.com](http://www.stayokay.com); Kloveniersburgwal 97; dm €20-28, s €25-36, d €36/72; ☒ ☒  
Efficient Stadsdoelen is always bustling with backpackers and we can understand why. The staff is friendly and the mix of 11 ultraclean, single-sex and mixed rooms (each with up to 17 beds and free lockers) offer a modicum of privacy. There's a big TV room, a great smoke-free bar, a pool table and laundry facilities.

**CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOSTEL**

**'THE SHELTER CITY'** Map pp62-5 Hostel €

☎ 625 32 30; [www.shelter.nl](http://www.shelter.nl); Barndesteeg 21; dm ind breakfast €16, Jul & Aug €19; ☒ ☒  
The price is right at this rambling hostel just outside the Red Light District, but *only* if you can handle Christian rock music piped through the PA system and enormous 'Jesus loves you' signs. The pros of staying here include large, airy, single-sex dorms (and bathrooms, which are frequently cleaned), filling breakfasts, a quiet garden courtyard, eternal salvation and a tough no-drugs or alcohol policy. The cons include a 2am curfew – and a tough no-drugs or alcohol policy. Its partner hostel in the *Jordaan* (opposite) has less missionary zeal.

**JORDAAN**

This colourful district has but a few sleeping options in its tangle of narrow lanes, due in part to the paucity of sights close by. But the cosy cafés, quirky shops and charming village character make the *Jordaan* a great place to get forty winks.

**HOTEL AMSTERDAM WIECHMANN**

Map p86 Inn €€

☎ 626 33 21; [www.hotelwiechmann.nl](http://www.hotelwiechmann.nl); Prinsengracht 328; s/d/tr from €85/140/195; ☒  
This family-run hotel occupies three houses. It has a marvellous canal-side location, cosy but lovingly cared-for rooms furnished like an antique shop with country quilts and chintz, and lobby *tchotchkes* (knick-knacks) that have been there for some 50 years (including a suit of armour and a potbellied stove). It's very *Ghost & Mrs Muir* and very friendly.

**HOTEL ACACIA** Map p86 Inn €€

☎ 622 1460; [www.acacia.nl](http://www.acacia.nl); Lindengracht 251; s/d/tr/q €70/85/100/120, on a boat d €115-125, q €130  
If you simply want to park your bones after a day on the canals, the Acacia is just the ticket, fully devoid of extras in a sleepy corner of the Jordaan. Rooms in the angular corner building are larger than the norm, if oddly shaped, and all have a bath and WC attached. And if you've seen steep stairs before, think climbing gear this time. Management is friendly and has a few houseboats to rent too.

**HOTEL VAN ONNA** Map p86 Inn €€

☎ 626 58 01; [www.hotelvanonna.nl](http://www.hotelvanonna.nl); Bloemgracht 102-108; r per person €45; ☒  
Even if the 41 rooms here won't win any design awards, they're reasonably priced and you're in a gorgeous section of the Jordaan, within earshot of the bells of the Westerkerk (get a room in the back if you're sensitive to noise). Rooms sleep up to four people. Try to book the attic room with its old wooden roof beams and panoramic views over the Jordaan. No phone, TV or credit cards.

**INTERNATIONAL BUDGET HOSTEL**

Map p86 Stoner Hostel €€

☎ 624 27 84; [www.internationalbudgethostel.com](http://www.internationalbudgethostel.com); Leidsegracht 76; dm €28-30, tw €70; ☒ ☒  
Reasons to stay: canal-side location in a former warehouse; really close to night-life; four-person limit in rooms; cool mix of backpackers from around the world smoking in the lounge (though smoking is strictly prohibited in rooms, as are hard drugs); clean rooms with lockers; staff who're more pleasant than they need to be; lower off-season rates. Reasons not: your money will go further elsewhere as breakfast isn't included.

**CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOSTEL**

**'THE SHELTER JORDAN'** Map p86 Hostel €

☎ 624 47 17; [www.shelter.nl](http://www.shelter.nl); Bloemstraat 179; dm €16-22, q €80-94 ☒ ☒  
OK, we'll put up with the 'no-everything' (smokin', drinkin', spliffin') policy and the curfew at this small hostel because it's such a gem, on a quiet block yet steps from the tram line. Single-sex dorms are quiet and clean, breakfasts – especially the fluffy pancakes – are beaut and the garden patio is a relaxing retreat. The café serves cheap, cheap, cheap meals the rest of the day.

**WESTERN CANAL BELT**

For sleeping in centuries-old style, the wide, tree-lined canals and stylish mansions of the Western Canal Belt take some beating. Incredibly, as many structures are protected monuments, there may be little difference between the façade of a luxury hotel and that of a hostel. The café-filled Jordaan district is nearby, and shoppers will appreciate the Negen Straatjes boutiques on their doorstep.

**DYLAN** Map p92 Deluxe Hotel €€€€

☎ 530 20 10; [www.dylanamsterdam.com](http://www.dylanamsterdam.com); Keizersgracht 384; s/d from €295/445  
London hotelier Anouska Hempel was behind the design of this hotel, known until recently as Blakes. Although Hempel has parted company and the name has changed, the Dylan remains a true temple of style. Slink through the 17th-century canal house's courtyard entrance and past the gorgeous staff to ensconce yourself in the restaurant or the black-and-white lobby where world beats don't so much play as fizz. Its 41 sophisticated, individually decorated rooms might have Japanese or Indonesian motifs; fluffy towels, silk pillows piled high and spacious bathrooms make them serene and sumptuous. Plus, there's free health-club access, and a lounge *par excellence*.

**HOTEL PULTIZER** Map p92 Luxury Hotel €€€

☎ 523 52 35; [www.luxurycollection.com/pulitzer](http://www.luxurycollection.com/pulitzer);  
Prinsengracht 315-331; d from €255; ☒ ☑ ☒  
Spread over 25 lovely canal houses, the Pulitzer manages to combine big-hotel efficiency with boutique-hotel charm. Beautifully restored rooms vary from house to house, but all have mod cons galore, including sweet and cosy bathrooms. There are loads of extras too: choose from a cigar

bar, an art gallery, private 75-minute canal cruises, garden courtyards and a wonderful restaurant, all high on elegance and low on pomposity.

### CANAL HOUSE HOTEL

Map p92 Boutique Hotel €€€  
 ☎ 622 51 82; www.canalhouse.nl; Keizersgracht 148; r €140-190

Where to spend your time in this splendid 26-room hotel dating from MDCCLXXX (as it says on the façade)? In the ornately furnished, high-ceilinged, 17th-century dining room resplendent with chandeliers, grand piano and garden views? The plush, burgundy-hued bar? Or the small but inviting, antique-filled guest rooms? Staff are agreeable, and rooms have phones and computer connections.

### HAMPSHIRE CLASSIC HOTEL TOREN

Map p92 Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 622 60 33; www.toren.nl; Keizersgracht 164; s/d from €125/155; ☒ ☑ ☒

A title-holder for price, room size and personal service. The Toren's communal areas are pure 17th century with gilded mirrors, fireplaces and magnificent chandeliers, while its guest rooms are elegantly furnished with modern facilities. Treat yourself and book the room with the two-person Jacuzzi and the garden patio (from €270). Breakfast costs €12.

### MIAUW SUITES

Map p92 Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 717 34 29; www.miauw.com; Hartenstraat 36; r/ste €145/245 ☒ ☒

Located above the designer fashion shop of the same name, Miauw's spacious quarters are just what the doctor ordered for a weekend's shopping blitz in the Negen Straatjes district. The snug rooms mix stylish and vintage interior décor, and have electronic goodies such as widescreen TVs and wi-fi. Minimum stay is two nights. The suites are more like one-bedroom flats with a full living room and an open kitchen.

### FREDERIC'S RENTABIKE & HOUSEBOATS

Map p92 Houseboats €€  
 ☎ 624 5509; www.frederic.nl; Brouwersgracht 78; d €105-135, tr/q €140/150

Some visitors harbour a Mark Twain fantasy of drifting on the waves all night (sans the nasty steering) and then find their rust-bucket is cold and clammy. Not so with

Frederic, whose nicely outfitted houseboats on the Prinsengracht, Brouwersgracht and Bloemgracht are bona fide floating holiday homes with all the mod cons.

### MAES B&B

Map p92 B&B €€  
 ☎ 427 51 65; www.bedandbreakfastamsterdam.com; Herenstraat 26hs; s €70-90, d €95-130; ☒ ☒

If you were designing a traditional home in the western canals, it would probably turn out a lot like this four-bedroom property: oriental carpets, wood floors and exposed brick. It's actually fairly spacious for such an old building. The kitchen (open all day for guests to use) is definitely *gezellig*. Rooms have TVs but no phones.

### HOTEL NEW AMSTERDAM

Map p92 Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 522 23 45; www.hotelnewamsterdam.nl; Herengracht 13-19; s €85, d €120-130, tr €140; ☒ ☒

This building, which was once a brothel, a sailors' hostel and the basic Hotel New York, received a makeover in 2004 and has become a quick favourite among the cultural crowd, as well as establishing quite a considerable gay following. Perhaps it's because of the fresh-painted murals in guest rooms and common rooms (some peppered with naughty bits), fresh-pressed OJ for breakfast, and fresh-faced, friendly staff. Phone calls and drinks won't break the bank.

### HOTEL NADIA

Map p92 Inn €€  
 ☎ 620 15 50; www.nadia.nl; Raadhuisstraat 51; s/d/tr/q €90/120/170/220; ☒ ☑ ☒

Originally built for an insurance firm, this handsome building has a precipitous set of stairs (go figure) but the nice folks at Nadia will tote your luggage up them and do just about everything else to make you feel at home. Rooms are immaculate, with linens that will bounce coins. Rooms to the front have great views of the Westerkerk, and apart from the trams (ear plugs) there is little to fault.

### BUDGET HOTEL CLEMENS

AMSTERDAM Map p92 Inn €€  
 ☎ 624 60 89; www.clemenshotel.nl; Raadhuisstraat 39; s without bathroom €60, d without bathroom €75-80, d/tr with bathroom €120/150; ☒

Tidy, renovated, steep-staired Clemens gears itself to all budgets. Take your pick of the chic themed rooms (one with a sexy

red-gold interior, another with delicate French antiques) all with TV, phone, safe and fridge. Your gregarious hostess will lend PCs for in-house wireless internetting (€8 per night). Breakfast is €7 extra.

### HOTEL PAX

Map p92 Inn €€  
 ☎ 624 97 35; Raadhuisstraat 37; s without bathroom €25-40, d without bathroom €35-60, d with bathroom from €60

This budget choice in hotel-lined Raadhuisstraat – an eight-room hotel run by two friendly, funky brothers – has an artsy-student vibe. All eight rooms have a TV and each is individually decorated. The larger rooms face a street with noisy trams, but the view of the Westerkerk and Keizersgracht more than makes up for it. Breakfast is not included.

## SOUTHERN CANAL BELT

This is a cradle of Golden Age riches, so no surprise that many of Amsterdam's swankiest hotels are located here, not far from the dining hub of Utrechtsstraat and the antique shops of Nieuwe Spiegelstraat. Yet the elegant Southern Canal Belt has accommodation for all sizes of wallet.

### SEVEN ONE SEVEN

Map pp100-1 Deluxe Hotel €€€€  
 ☎ 427 07 17; www.717hotel.nl; Prinsengracht 717; r €415-670; ☒ ☒

One of the most wonderful hotels in Amsterdam – designed, boutique and simply breathtaking. Its eight hyper-plush, deliciously appointed rooms come with that rare luxury: space. Step into the splashy Picasso suite – with its soaring ceiling, prodigiously long sofa, gorgeous contemporary and antique decorations, and bathroom as big as some European principalities – and you may never, ever want to leave. Rates include breakfast, afternoon tea, house wine and oodles of one-on-one service.

### AMSTEL INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

Map pp100-1 International Hotel €€€€  
 ☎ 622 60 60; www.amsterdam.intercontinental.com; Professor Tulpplein 1; r from €410; ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Everything about this five-star edifice is spectacular, from its imposing location overlooking the Amstel, to its magnificent colonnaded lobby and, of course, its wallet-walloping room prices. Lavishly decorated

rooms, reverential service and luxe extras such as [La Rive restaurant](#) (two Michelin stars, p166), chauffeured limousines, heated indoor pool and fitness centre with all sorts of steam options delight even the fussiest trans-Atlantic celebrities and Euro-royalty.

### AMSTERDAM AMERICAN HOTEL

Map pp100-1 International Hotel €€€  
 ☎ 556 30 00; www.amsterdamamerican.com; Leidsekade 97; r €140-240; ☒ ☒ ☒

You can't get much closer to the action than this, right off Leidseplein and a quick walk to the Museum Quarter. Its grand Art Deco shell is filled with a mixture of Deco and '90s contemporary furnishings. Since new owners took over several years ago, the ornate façade and tower have been restored to their original splendour, and all 175 rooms are now smoke-free. Guests have use of a gym with a sauna. Thankfully you don't need to be staying at the hotel to dine in the stunning [Café Americain](#) (p190).

### SEVEN BRIDGES

Map pp100-1 Boutique Hotel €€  
 ☎ 623 13 29; Reguliersgracht 31; s €90-220, d €110-260

Private, sophisticated and intimate, the Seven Bridges is one of the city's loveliest little hotels on one of its loveliest canals. It has eight tastefully decorated rooms (all incorporating lush oriental rugs and elegant antiques). The urge to sightsee may fade once breakfast, served on fine china, is delivered to your room.

### BANKS MANSION

Map pp100-1 International Hotel €€€  
 ☎ 420 00 55; www.banksmansion.nl; Herengracht 519-525; s €159-189, d €189-219; ☒ ☒

One of our favourite new hotels in town. There's no nickel-and-diming over incidentals like the lobby bar, breakfast, coffee, internet and snacks. Thoroughly renovated a few years ago, the rooms now feature contemporary décor, a plasma-screen TV, a DVD player, a wet bar (free gin, whisky etc), a terry-cloth robe and an enormous showerhead.

### HOTEL AMSTELZICHT

Map pp100-1 Inn €€  
 ☎ 623 66 93; www.hotelamstelzicht.nl; Amstel 104; s/d €95/159, apt €195-245 ☒ ☒

The view out front is straight from a 17th-century painting, so make sure you get one of the rooms facing the Amstel river and the gabled houses beyond. The '70s décor

here has a suitably bourgeois feel, and you'll enjoy the room amenities (minibar, hairdryer, coffee and tea kettle etc). It's bang in the action, just a minute's walk from Rembrandtplein. The self-catering apartment has an open kitchen, a living area and a balcony.

### HOTEL AGORA Map pp100-1 Inn €€

☎ 627 22 00; [www.hotelagora.nl](http://www.hotelagora.nl); Singel 462; s & d €108-126, tr from €165, q €193; 📍

Fifteen minutes by foot from everything, the well-run Agora offers smallish rooms with understated décor, up-to-date bathrooms, and a cheerful garden off the breakfast room. All rooms have a phone, a TV and computer hookups. Rooms without private bathroom cost about one-third less.

### EUPHEMIA HOTEL

Map pp100-1 Stoner Hotel €€

☎ 622 90 45; [www.euphemiahotel.com](http://www.euphemiahotel.com); Fokke Simonszstraat 1; d €70-120, tr €75-132; 📍 📺 📺 📺 Euphemia's institutional layout falls short of glamorous, but the rooms are neat and many are quite large. Other pluses? It's gay-friendly, on a quiet block (with even less traffic during Metro construction on nearby Vijzelstraat) and there's a sharp, funny manager (though maybe too sharp for some). Smoking is prohibited in the rooms, but even spliffing is OK in common areas. Check the website for specials.

### HOTEL FREELAND Map pp100-1 Inn €€

☎ 622 75 11; [www.hotelfreeland.com](http://www.hotelfreeland.com); Marnixstraat 386; s/d/tr €65/110/130; 📍 Freeland has the Leidesplein scene twigged, because what it supplies – basic but clean and tidy rooms at an excellent location, all with ensuite shower, some with balconies overlooking a canal, an ashlick from the next coffeeshop and unusually quiet – pretty much kills the competition. The congenial owners, Rick and Pascale, will make sure you get a big tasty breakfast.

### HOTEL DE ADMIRAAL Map pp100-1 Inn €€

☎ 626 21 50; [www.admiraalamsterdam.nl](http://www.admiraalamsterdam.nl); Herengracht 563; s €65-85, d with/without bathroom €105/75

Near bustling Rembrandtplein, the Admiraal is sweet, homey and blessed with an interesting history. Nine clean and bright canal-side rooms (all with safes and TV, no phone)

are outfitted with seriously mismatched furniture. There's also a large 'family room'. The hotel attic was a hideout for Jews during WWII, while Nazi soldiers lodged and dined below. Breakfast is not available.

### HOTEL ADOLESCENCE Map pp100-1 Inn €€

☎ 626 39 59; [www.adolesce.nl](http://www.adolesce.nl); Nieuwe Keizersgracht 26; s/d/tr €65/100/120; 📍

In a lovely nook near Waterlooplein, this little economy hotel based in an old canal house will put a smile on your face. There are bright art prints in the clean, simple rooms. There's no breakfast, but you can help yourself all day to coffee, tea and snacks, including fruit.

### HOTEL ORLANDO

Map pp100-1 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 638 69 15; [www.hotelorlando.nl](http://www.hotelorlando.nl); Prinsengracht 1099; s/d/tr from €85/100/115; 📍 📺 📺 📺

Oh Orlando, how do we love thee? Let us count the ways. One: five biggish, high-ceilinged, canalside rooms at smallish rates. Two: hospitable, gay-friendly hosts. Three: breakfast in bed. Four: impeccably chic, boutique style with custom-made cabinetry and satin curtains. We could go on, but we'll leave you to discover more.

### HOTEL KAP Map pp100-1 Inn €€

☎ 624 59 08; [www.kaphotel.nl](http://www.kaphotel.nl); Den Texstraat 5b; s/d/tw €60/98/132; 📍

Wilhelmina Kap ran a *pension* here before the war, and some of the features seem that historic: midcentury wood panelling, no phones or nonsmoking rooms. Still, some bright rooms have French windows, wicker furniture and up-to-date bathrooms. A buffet breakfast is served in an attractive dining room and the courtyard garden, and courteous, gay-friendly owners round out the experience. Most rooms have private showers but shared toilets.

### CITY HOTEL Map pp100-1 Inn €€

☎ 627 23 23; [www.city-hotel.nl](http://www.city-hotel.nl); Utrechtsestraat 2; d with/without bathroom €90/80; 📍

Above the Old Bell pub, practically on Rembrandtplein, is this unexpectedly fabulous choice: it's clean, neat, good value and well run by a proud, warm family. The rooms are decorated with crisp linens and each comes with a TV. Rooms sleep two to eight people (from €25 per person). The attic annex has a wonderful view of town.

### QUENTIN HOTEL Map pp100-1 Party Hotel €€

☎ 626 21 87; [www.quentinhotels.com](http://www.quentinhotels.com); Leidsekade 89; s without bathroom €45, d with/without bathroom €89/72

The Quentin, decorated with colourful murals, rock-star art and contemporary handmade furniture, offers a variety of rooms for the weary traveller from cramped to well sized, some with balconies, canal views, phone and TV. It's popular with the gay community and international actors and musicians performing at nearby Theatre Bellevue, Melkweg and Paradiso. There's an elevator, and breakfast costs €7.

### HOTEL PRINSENHOF Map pp100-1 Inn €

☎ 623 17 72; [www.hotelprinsenhof.com](http://www.hotelprinsenhof.com); Prinsengracht 810; s/d without bathroom €49/69, s/d with bathroom €84/89

Honest value, this 18th-century house features ahh-lovely canal views, a breakfast room with some Delft-blue tiles, and 'Captain Hook', the electric luggage hoist in the central stairwell (gets around the no-lift issue). Staff are affable and the rooms spacious with antique and, well, not-antique furnishings. The attic quarters with diagonal beams are most popular.

### HEMP HOTEL Map pp100-1 Stoner Hotel €

☎ 625 44 25; [www.hemp-hotel.com](http://www.hemp-hotel.com); Frederiksplein 15; s without bathroom €60, d with/without bathroom €75/70; 📍

Proof positive that Amsterdam is the capital of the northern 'hempisphere', this chilled-out hotel serves hemp-flour rolls (tetrahydrocannabinol or THC-free) with your breakfast, the café sells hemp teas and beers, and all five colourful and individually decorated rooms (hemp soap and fabrics included) exude a 'just back from Goa' vibe. Dope-smokers reserve now (though you can't buy pot here – you gotta draw the line somewhere).

### HANS BRINKER BUDGET HOTEL

Map pp100-1 Party Hostel €

☎ 622 06 87; [www.hans-brinker.com](http://www.hans-brinker.com); Kerkstraat 136; dm €21, tw/tr/q per person €35/30/24; 📍

When a hotel promotes itself with the slogan 'Improve your immune system' next to a close-up of bacteria, you're bound to be pleasantly surprised. The lobby is mayhem, spartan rooms have all the ambience of a public hospital, and its 538 beds are almost always filled to capacity with school groups and boisterous backpackers. But the

bar is bright and happy, the disco pulsates, the restaurant serves cheap meals, rooms have shower and toilet, and rates include breakfast and bed linen. Drug-use equals automatic expulsion.

## OLD SOUTH

This quarter of wide, 19th-century boulevards and grand museums shouldn't be overlooked by hotel-seekers. Rooms here are a stone's throw from the renowned Concertgebouw and collections of Van Gogh and Rembrandt, and the delights of the city centre beckon just a few steps further.

### HILTON AMSTERDAM

Map p110 International Hotel €€€

☎ 710 60 00; [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com); Apollolaan 138-140; r from €240; 📍 📺

Although it's an old-school hotel with lots of business guests, the Hilton grabs the spotlight every once in a while. It was 'flower power' central in 1969 when John Lennon and Yoko Ono staged their 'bed-in' for world peace (you can rent the room). Herman Brood, the famously wrecked artist-musician, used to frequent the hotel bar carrying a parrot on his head before he jumped off the hotel roof (parrot survived). This tower fronts a grassy park with a marina out back; rooms are international business standard; the health club features a sauna and a Turkish bath; and service is crisp and professional.

### COLLEGE HOTEL Map p110 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 571 15 11; [www.thesteingroup.com/college](http://www.thesteingroup.com/college); Roelof Hartstraat 1; r from €175; 📺 📍

A breath of fresh air, this venerable property was originally a 19th-century school. It's now a trendy hotel with stylish accents: flat-screen TVs, silk-throw pillows, cordless phones, the occasional stained-glass window and exposed beams on the top floor. Here's the difference, though: it's staffed by hotel-school students. Continental breakfast costs a steep €17.50, but if the dining hall was this cool where we went to college, we'd have figured out a way not to graduate.

### HOTEL FITA Map p110 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 679 09 76; [www.hotelfita.com](http://www.hotelfita.com); Jan Luijkenstraat 37; s €100, d €130-160; 📍 📺

This tiny, family-owned hotel on a quiet street off Museumplein and PC Hooftstraat

was renovated a few years ago and is now one of the best in the Old South. It's got 16 handsome rooms with nicely appointed bathrooms, an English-style breakfast buffet and an elevator. Plus, room rates include free telephone calls to Europe and the USA.

### XAVIERA HOLLANDER BED & BREAKFAST

Map p110 **B&B €€**  
 ☎ 673 39 34; [www.xavierahollander.com](http://www.xavierahollander.com); Stadionweg 17; d from €120; 📍

A living legend of flickering celluloid, and glad to provide all the details, the *Happy Hooker* star has settled down to run this fabulous B&B, that is, when she's not writing columns, producing theatre shows or poring over her next set of memoirs. The interior contains plenty of racy allusions to her past life, in leather, shag and stain-proof formica, but chambers are uniformly luxurious, particularly the princely garden hut. Xaviera's still something of a media star, and customers past and present are always dropping by. From the same culture who gave us Calvinism.

### MUSEUM SQUARE HOTEL

Map p110 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 671 95 96; [www.museumsquarehotel.nl](http://www.museumsquarehotel.nl); De Lairesestraat 7; s/d/tr from €109/119/149; ✕ 📍

A great location close to the Concertgebouw, this small, family-run hotel has rooms larger than Amsterdam standard for the price, with big windows and comfy beds. The superb staff are extremely helpful with planning your day out. Trams stop right outside the front door (as well as the Schiphol Interliner bus 370 – nice), but it's not noisy at all for guests staying on the street side.

### COLLECTOR

Map p110 **B&B €€**  
 ☎ 673 67 79; [www.the-collector.nl](http://www.the-collector.nl); De Lairesestraat 46hs; r €80-115; 📍

This B&B is a real find: just three rooms near the Concertgebouw. The 1914 building is spotless with contemporary renovations and furnished with museum-style displays of clocks, Amsterdam School furnishings, wooden shoes etc. Each room has a balcony and a TV, and the owner will buy food for you to prepare breakfast at your leisure; the kitchen is open all day.

### HOTEL AALDERS

Map p110 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 662 01 16; [www.hotelaalders.nl](http://www.hotelaalders.nl); Jan Luijkenstraat 13-15; s/tw/tr from €79/109/145; ✕ 📍  
 There are fancier hotels in town, but the family-owned Aalders is homely and well situated on a quiet street near the Museumplein. Each room in its two row homes is different (the old-style room has wood panelling and leaded windows), but all have wireless internet access. The breakfast room has a Venetian-glass chandelier. Huge rooms are available for large groups.

### HOTEL ACRO

Map p110 **Party Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 662 55 38; [www.acrohotel.nl](http://www.acrohotel.nl); Jan Luijkenstraat 44; s/d/tr/q €92/109/155/180; 📍  
 Once a bit austere, the Acro has given its '80s-décor rooms a useful facelift and the result is pleasant indeed. Rates are reasonable for the quiet location (near Museumplein), the bar is welcoming (it's just had a makeover from its big-hair club to more of a brown café), and the staff are warm and helpful. Maybe that's why so many British guests return year after year.

### HOTEL BEMA

Map p110 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 679 13 96; [www.bemahotel.com](http://www.bemahotel.com); Concertgebouwplein 19b; s from €45, d with/without bathroom €85/65; 📍  
 Climb the stairs to this seven-room hotel in a higgledy-piggledy mansion house across from the Concertgebouw and filled with African art. Expect extra-big doubles and breakfast in bed but no phone in the room. Staff can also arrange private apartments for up to four people.

## VONDELPARK & AROUND

An aura of wealth, history and privilege is inevitable in urban surrounds as beautiful as the Vondelpark. The difference here is that this neighbourhood is refreshingly free of class pretension. The various consular staff and bankers who casually jog in the park will be happy to confirm it.

### FUSION SUITES

Map p116 **Luxury Hotel €€€**  
 ☎ 618 46 42; [www.fusionsuites.com](http://www.fusionsuites.com); Roemer Visscherstraat 40; ste €245-275; ✕ 📍  
 Just a minute's walk from the hustle of Museumplein, and nestled in a quiet tree-

lined street, these spacious suites go right off the comfort charts without being over the top. Four-poster beds with Cocomat mattresses, free-standing baths, flat-screen computers and TVs, and tasteful décor in Eastern earth tones are just a few reasons you may choose never to go out. Personal touches abound, such as vases of fresh flowers, international newspapers and tasty sweetjams at breakfast (€22).

### HOTEL ROEMER

Map p116 **Boutique Hotel €€€**  
 ☎ 589 08 00; [www.vondelhotels.com](http://www.vondelhotels.com); Roemer Visscherstraat 8-10; d €155-255, ste €295-345 ✕ 📍  
 This cosy, beautifully designed hotel is an oasis of calm, with an excellent location close to the Vondelpark and the Museum Quarter. All rooms overlook either a quiet, leafy street or the stately back garden, have high ceilings and an abundance of natural light. Room 28 is typical of the gadgetry you'll find – flat-screen TVs, an iPod dock and a DVD player. Business people will appreciate the ergonomic workspaces and the room service. Breakfast (€23) is a bit pricey for what you get.

### HOTEL VONDEL

Map p116 **Boutique Hotel €€€**  
 ☎ 612 01 20; [www.vondelhotels.com](http://www.vondelhotels.com); Vondelstraat 28-30; r €85-185; ✕ 📍  
 Owned by the same attentive people who run [Hotel Roemer](#) (above), this chic establishment now consists of seven houses linked together after a recent makeover. They upgraded the rooms too, with minimalist yet comfy décor. Discounts are available in low season – check the website.

### HOTEL ZANDBERGEN

Map p116 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 676 93 21; [www.hotel-zandbergen.com](http://www.hotel-zandbergen.com); Willemsparkweg 205; s/d/tr/q €109/140/175/205; ✕ 📍  
 The Zandbergen stands out like sterling silver in a tray of plastic cutlery. The caring staff in this wonderful, nonsmoking hotel go overboard, the rooms are absolutely faultless and the generous breakfast brings raves from guests. Rooms at the rear have balconies overlooking a quiet courtyard. As in many Amsterdam hotels, the stairs are steep but there are nice rooms at ground level. The beautiful Vondelpark is just over the road, where the tram will get you to the centre in a jiffy.

### HESTIA HOTEL

Map p116 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 618 08 01; [www.hotel-hestia.nl](http://www.hotel-hestia.nl); Roemer Visscherstraat 7; s €85, d €99-140, tr/q €168/198  
 Friendly, family-run Hestia Hotel, with 18 rooms decorated in fresh blue and white, offers a quiet retreat after a day of sightseeing. Scrupulously neat rooms vary in size and height – some have balconies overlooking the Vondelpark. The stair-phobic can rejoice: there's an elevator here too.

### HOTEL PIET HEIN

Map p116 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 662 72 05; [www.hotelpiethein.nl](http://www.hotelpiethein.nl); Vossiusstraat 52-53; s/d €92/135; 📍  
 Located close to the museums and looking at the Vondelpark's fine old harbour, this immaculate hotel offers a startling variety of rooms (including good single 'business' rooms) in a quiet location. There is a relaxing bar that's open late, wi-fi throughout the hotel and a decent breakfast.

### OWL HOTEL

Map p116 **Inn €€**  
 ☎ 618 94 84; [www.owl-hotel.nl](http://www.owl-hotel.nl); Roemer Visscherstraat 1; s/d from €98/128; 📍  
 Some guests love this place so much that they send in owl figurines from all over the world. Staff are warm and welcoming, and the dapper, bright and quiet rooms come with lots of facilities (hairdryers, laptop plugs). Best of all, buffet breakfast (included in the price) is served in a serene, light-filled room overlooking a gorgeous garden.

### HOTEL DE FILOSOOF

Map p116 **Boutique Hotel €€**  
 ☎ 683 30 13; [www.hotelfilosoof.nl](http://www.hotelfilosoof.nl); Anna van den Vondelstraat 6; s/d from €111/125  
 A hotel owned by two sisters, with 38 rooms themed after philosophers. Sounds quaint, no? But it's also a professional, warm and well-run operation near the Vondelpark. There are larger rooms in town, but few more thoughtfully decorated: from lush furniture and over-the-top wallpaper to minimalist paeans to serenity. The variety of breakfast rooms may remind you of museums you've visited.

### FLYNT B&B

Map p116 **B&B €€**  
 ☎ 618 46 14; [www.flynt.nl](http://www.flynt.nl); 1e Helmersstraat 34; r €70-120; ✕ 📍  
 Flynt's building, on a quiet block off the Overtoom, is almost a century old, but the

look is contemporary, bright and spotless. Frank, the easy-going owner, will purchase breakfast food for you, and the kitchen is yours 24/7. The owners have cats and dogs, and your pets are welcome too. Rooms are nonsmoking, though hallways are not.

### BORGSMANN VILLA HOTEL

Map p116 Inn €€

☎ 673 52 52; [www.hotel-borgmann.nl](http://www.hotel-borgmann.nl); Koningslaan 48; d/q €107/145; ☒ ☒ ☒

One of the more refined options around the leafy rim of the Vondelpark, the Borgmann has comfortable, quiet, wi-fi-linked rooms that overlook an affluent residential street or, yes, the grand Vondelpark. The fourth floor is a bit cramped but other rooms are quite spacious. Seasonal offers can be sensational, so check the website. The British Consulate is right next door.

### APPLE INN HOTEL

Map p116 Inn €

☎ 662 78 94; [www.apple-inn.nl](http://www.apple-inn.nl); Koninginneweg 93; s/d from €59/79; ☒

A good solid find, in a nice residential area near the Vondelpark. Note that all doubles are twins, and the rooms (with peppy quilts meeting European hardwood) vary a lot in size, from enormous with big bathrooms to rather small – clear this up ahead of time. Whichever way you slice it, it's fine value with an easy tram ride to Leidseplein (five minutes).

### STAYOKAY VONDELPARK

Map p116 Hostel €

☎ 589 89 96; [www.stayokay.com](http://www.stayokay.com); Zandpad 5; dm

€24-30, tw €74; ☒ ☒

A blink away from the Vondelpark, this 535-bed hostel attracts over 75,000 guests a year – no wonder the lobby feels like a mini-UN. All bedrooms are nonsmoking, have lockers, a shower, a toilet and well-spaced bunks. There are lifts, a café, two restaurants and bike-hire opportunities. There's no curfew but the no-visitors-at-night, no-drugs policy is strictly enforced. From March to October and during public holidays the maximum stay is three nights. Discounts are offered in low season.

## DE PIJP

A quiet influx of capital for renovations means this area next to the Southern Canal Belt is an increasingly rewarding place to stay. Seeking

the frisson of an 'ethnic' neighbourhood with a modicum of comfort and a great restaurant scene? Then De Pijp is for you.

### HOTEL AALBORG

Map p119 Inn €€

☎ 676 03 10; [www.aalborg.nl](http://www.aalborg.nl); Sarphatipark 106;

s/d €80/99; ☒

More like a farmed-out Ikea than the Golden Age, but who's to quibble because the rooms at Aalborg are clean, tidy and newly installed. The front rooms enjoy a fine view overlooking the lush Sarphatipark. It's only a 10-minute bus ride from the centre and geared toward weekend breakers, so rates may plummet during the week.

### BETWEEN ART & KITSCH B&B

Map p119 B&B €€

☎ 679 04 85; [www.between-art-and-kitsch.com](http://www.between-art-and-kitsch.com);

Ruysdaelkade 75-2; s/d from €80/90, tr €120; ☒ ☒

Mondrian once lived here – that's part of the art – and the kitsch is bits like a crystal chandelier in the baroque room and the smiling brass Buddha nearby. The Art Deco room, meanwhile, has seriously gorgeous tile work and views of the Rijksmuseum. Husband and wife Ebo and Irene (and Ruysdael the Jack Russell terrier) are your hosts, 3½ storeys up on a quiet canalbank at the edge of De Pijp. Rooms are nonsmoking, though common areas are not.

### BICYCLE HOTEL AMSTERDAM

Map p119 Bicycle Hotel €€

☎ 679 34 52; [www.bicyclehotel.com](http://www.bicyclehotel.com); Van

Ostadestraat 123; d €115, s/d without bathroom

€65/80; ☒

If you're into the bed-and-bike thing, this is the place to go. Run by Marjolein, who loves pedal-power, this casual, friendly, green-minded hotel has rooms comfy and familiar, and serves a killer organic breakfast (included). You can hire popular carrier-bikes – great for city spins with children.

## PLANTAGE, EASTERN ISLANDS & EASTERN DOCKLANDS

If you're used to thinking outside the box, welcome. The hotels of these eastern suburbs offer charms of a sort that are rare in the old centre: abundant greenery, cutting-edge architecture, the rippling expanse of the IJ

dotted with riverboats. The smart money comes here after the party downtown.

## PLANTAGE

### EDEN LANCASTER HOTEL

Map p122 International Hotel €€

☎ 535 68 88; [www.edenhotelgroup.com](http://www.edenhotelgroup.com); Plantage

Middenlaan 48; s/d from €90/109; ☒ ☒

This 93-room place next to a park is bigger than it looks, and a top-to-toe renovation a few years back has made it one of the smartest lodgings in the Plantage. Rooms all have TV, phone, free wi-fi and motifs of blonde wood, red brick, cream, and the stylised St Andrew's crosses of the city seal. Breakfast costs €14 and includes hot dishes.

### HOTEL PARKLANE

Map p122 Inn €€

☎ 622 48 04; [www.hotel-parklane.nl](http://www.hotel-parklane.nl); Plantage

Parklaan 16; s €75-95, d €100-110; ☒

This 12-room one-time dressmaker's shop is being renovated room by room by kindly owners who care about doing things right. The rooms (large by Dutch standards) are comfy and equipped with fridges; the baths are sparkling and modern with great water pressure; and the well-sorted buffet breakfast will keep you going into the afternoon.

### HOTEL REMBRANDT

Map p122 Inn €€

☎ 627 27 14; [www.hotelrembrandt.nl](http://www.hotelrembrandt.nl); Plantage

Middenlaan 17; s €73, d €95-115, tr/q €140/165; ☒

Although the hallways could stand a touch-up, the Rembrandt shines where it matters: rooms are spotless and have TVs, phones and coffeemakers and some have hardwood floors and bathtubs. The wood-pannelled breakfast room is a beaut, with chandeliers and 17th-century paintings on linen-covered walls. Rooms 2 (large double with a balcony overlooking a small garden) and 21 (four-person, split-level, sunny and modern) offer plenty of bang for your buck.

### LILIANE'S HOME

Map p122 Inn €€

☎ 627 40 06; [l.meisen@zonnet.nl](mailto:l.meisen@zonnet.nl); Sarphatistraat

119; d from €90

Once Amsterdam's sole women-only inn, this seven-bedroom private home in a smart 'Herenhuis' recently began to allow male visitors, and that's a nice thing for you gents. It has loads of personality, rooms with huge windows (some with balconies),

and amenities including a TV (no phone), a fridge and books to read. Reservations are required, since there is no bell desk.

### HOTEL HORTUS

Map p122 Stoner Hotel €

☎ 625 99 96; [www.hotelhortus.com](http://www.hotelhortus.com); Plantage

Parklaan 8; dm €27, s/d €40/54; ☒

Facing the Botanical Garden, this old-shoe comfy, 20-room hotel has small doubles with or without showers (luck of the draw); all have a safe and a sink. It's run by the same crew as [Hotel Brian](#) (p213), so it's no surprise that the lounge is chock-full of young, happy stoners transfixed by the large-screen TV. Large rooms sleep up to eight people. Rates include a cooked breakfast.

## EASTERN DOCKLANDS

### MÖVENPICK HOTEL CITY CENTRE

Map p122 International Hotel €€€

☎ 519 12 00; [www.moevenpick-hotels.com](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com); Piet

Heinkade 11; d €145-250; ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Situated on the water's edge next to the Passenger Terminal building, the fetching exterior of this 20-storey business hotel is layered with stripes of glass, green granite and white concrete. Views of the busy harbour, dotted with ferries, cruise ships and passing barges, are best from the picture windows on the upper floors. Rooms have relaxed contemporary décor, comfy beds, small but sleek bathrooms and lots of little extras. It's a good 10-minute walk to Centraal Station but there's an hourly shuttle during the day.

### LLOYD HOTEL

Map p122 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 561 36 36; [www.lloydhotel.com](http://www.lloydhotel.com); Oostelijke

Handelskade 34; d €80-300; ☒

This ultrastylish building used to be a hotel for migrants back in 1921, and many of the original fixtures still exist (tiles, cabinetry etc), combined with triumphs of more contemporary Dutch design. The result is a combination hotel, cultural centre and local gathering place. Rooms span one star (bathroom down the hall) to five star (plush and racquetball-court sized). Yet many are also so quirky and individualistic (teeny tiny doubles, bathtub in the centre, giant bed for eight) that some guests may be turned off. Accept it on its terms and you'll love it.



## OOSTERPARK & AROUND

The Oosterpark may look like a Saharan outpost on the map, but in reality it's just a short tram or bus ride away from the City Centre – and the accommodations here are spacious, quiet and comfy. While you're here, don't miss visiting the exotic Tropenmuseum (p128).

### HOTEL ARENA Map p129 Party Hotel €€

☎ 850 24 00; [www.hotelarena.nl](http://www.hotelarena.nl); 's Gravesandestraat 51; d €79-149, ste €154-204; 📍

With more facelifts than a Hollywood star, this building, bordering lush Oosterpark, has morphed from chapel to orphanage to backpackers hostel to, now, a modern, 121-room hotel with a trendy restaurant, café and nightclub. Minimalist rooms – 'designer industrial hospital' chic – are more Ikea than *Wallpaper\** magazine, but the large, split-level double rooms are a sun-drenched delight. Rooms in sections A, B, E and F tend to be quieter. Breakfast costs €12.50.

## OUTER DISTRICTS

### CAPTAIN'S PLACE Map pp58-9 Houseboat €€

☎ 419 81 19; [www.meesvof.nl](http://www.meesvof.nl); Levantkade 184; d €95-155

This charming number is set on a rebuilt ship, the *Pas Meprese*, in the former ore harbour of the Eastern Docklands. There are all of two rooms, both large and comfortably fitted out, with their own heated bathrooms. As the owner is a bit star-struck the quarters are dubbed Orion and Cassiopeia. The best part is the on-board garden for grazing (nice breakfast) and plain lazing, even in the foul Dutch weather because it has a sliding glass roof.

### HOTEL V Map pp58-9 International Hotel €€

☎ 662 32 33; [www.hotelv.nl](http://www.hotelv.nl); Victorieplein 42; s €80-90, d €120-145, t €170; 📍

This small hotel is a modish number, with a fresh, minimalist style with brilliant flashes of colour and a groovy fireplace. With only 24 understated rooms it's a personal and personable hotel with enough mod cons (including wi-fi) to keep hipsters happy while still being close to the bars of de Pijp.

### WINDKETEL Map pp58-9 Apartment €€

☎ 682 26 66; [www.windketel.nl](http://www.windketel.nl); Watertorenplein 8c; d €125; 📍

Built into an octagonal, three-storey tower from 1897, and once part of the municipal water works, the cute-as-a-button 'Wind Kettle' tops our list of romantic getaways in Amsterdam. There's just one apartment, but what a place – a kitchen and living room with state-of-the-art appliances, stereo, wi-fi and TV, a bathroom decked out in cosy tile and wood fittings, and a skylit bedroom directly under the sloping roof. It shares a courtyard with [Café-Restaurant Amsterdam](#) (p175) and the entertainment complex [Westergasfabriek](#) (p130).

### QBIC HOTEL Map pp58-9 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 321 11 11; [www.qbichotels.com](http://www.qbichotels.com); Strawinsky-laan 241; r €39-139; ☒ 📍

Located in the World Trade Center office complex, this spanking new hotel pushes the design envelope with its 'Cubis', queen-sized beds and shower-washrooms melded into single monolithic units (note: no WC door, so intimacy is assured). You pay up front, and prices swing with demand like seats on cheapie airlines. Businessfolk will like its proximity to the RAI conference centre, and it's on the metro/tram networks.

### YOTEL Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 44 (0) 207 100 11 00; [www.yotel.com](http://www.yotel.com); Schiphol Airport Plaza; d from €85; 📍

As we went to press, Yotel had announced plans to open a branch of its Japanese-style capsule hotels at Schiphol Airport in early 2008. Prices for the standard 7-sq-metre cabins are time-based, starting at four hours for short layovers. It's a blessing for travellers who need to catch a red-eye flight.

### STAYOKAY AMSTERDAM ZEEBURG Hostel €

Map pp58-9 ☎ 551 31 90; [www.stayokay.com](http://www.stayokay.com); Timorplein 21; dm from €27, d/q from €60/120; 📍

Housed in a former school from the *fin-de-siecle*, the newest Stayokay (opened in summer 2007) is a bit removed from the centre's crowded hostels. Like this chain's other hostel-hotels (eg in [Vondelpark](#), p222), all bedrooms have their own bathroom and subtle design touches. Take tram 14 from Centraal Station, a 15-minute journey.

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