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DISCOVER MY CITY,  
**ROTTERDAM**



THE CITY'S TRAVEL GUIDE

BY GUIDO LEURS

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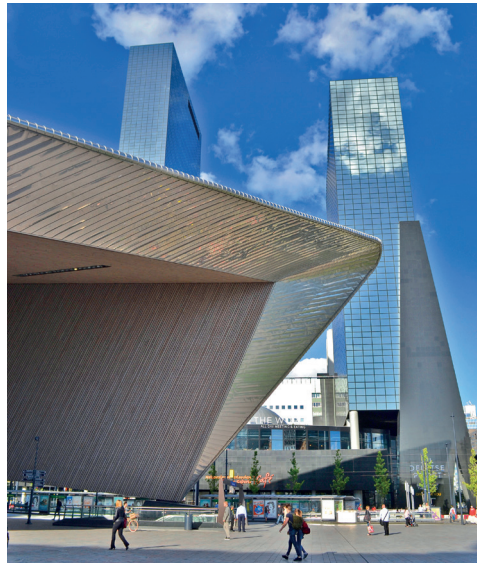
Whether you are looking for some fine art or delicious delicacies, this neighbourhood has everything you are looking for!

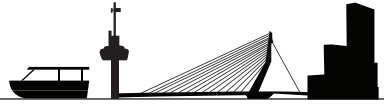
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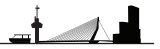
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# KIMBERLY

Rotterdam is a big city and sometimes it is hard to get around as a family. Kimberly, coming from the small town of Steenberg, has learned first-hand how to deal with the people, the culture and its city.

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## IT HAS BEEN A LONG JOURNEY

Kimberly is one of the main reasons why I'm still living in Rotterdam. We met each other 14 years ago during an interview for a position at a department store. Without Kimberly I would not have been hired and that is why I'm so grateful having her as my dearest friend.

She grew up in the small town of Steenberg and at first she had quite some troubles adjusting. "Everything was BIG and overwhelming. I had to get used to the *Rotterdamers* and the directness of the people. I started living in Rotterdam North, the perfect place where you still have that home-ly feeling what I was used to." She is currently pregnant with her second child, which I'm of course very excited about. To see her starting a family, in the big city, stimulated the dad instinct in me and made me realise that I, too, could start a family here.

Over the years we have visited some great places in Rotterdam, such as Gauhochs aan de Maas, drinking cocktails at Elite in the Oude Haven and enjoying the

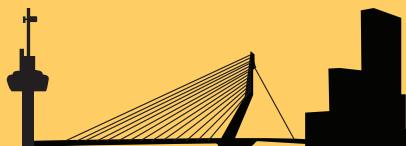
summer nights at Kralingse Plas.

I asked her what you could do if you have kids. Well, she had her answer ready. "There is always something fun to do, Guido. The city is alive! You could go to the children's farm in Kralingse Bos, have an ice-cream at The IJssalon in The Markthal, which is my daughter's favourite. Visit Hotel New York, for it has a pleasant atmosphere for families, de Ballebak playground in Rotterdam South or just have a walk on de Boompjeskade where you can experience the beauty of the city.

What I most like about Rotterdam is that you see so many different cultures living together and, because of that, you have different events and things to do. As for my kids, they will grow up with the knowledge of each and every culture and I think that is an important aspect for the future. If you ask me for advice about travelling with kids to Rotterdam, don't be afraid! It is a big metropolitan city with a lot of options for families. Ask around and anyone is willing to help you out."



PICTURESQUE  
**PART OF ROTTERDAM**





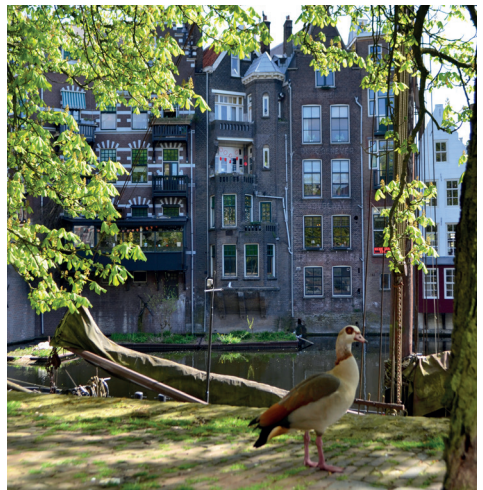


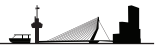
## Rotterdam Delfshaven

Take a walk through both the old and new regions of the Delfshaven area. Enjoy the small galleries, exclusive lunchrooms or modern buildings alongside the river Maas. See the historic canals and imagine yourself in the Old Rotterdam.

Before we start our adventure, let me first give you some historical information about Historic Delfshaven. The area was founded in 1389 and is the oldest part of Rotterdam. The old lock at the beginning of the Aelbrechtskolk has served for centuries as protection against high water levels of the river. During the last century, the lock became unnecessary because of the construction of the canal Coolhaven and the two *parksluizen* (ship locks). The access to the Maas on the south side of Delfshaven was then closed.

Nowadays Delfshaven is a neighbourhood





where you can go for good food and drinks, historical walks, pleasant galleries, exhibitions and museums.

We start our adventure at metrostation Delfshaven (see map page 9). From here it is only a two minute walk to the beginning of Historic Delfshaven. Walk on the right side of the canal because we're going to start at one of my favourite lunchrooms of the area, Bij Loes (1).

I stumbled upon this amazing lunchroom last year when my friends and I were looking for a nice place to have lunch. The owner, Astrid, is a friendly, charming and lovely hostess. From her way of talking, laying the plates and finishing the coffee at our table, you can truly see that she is doing everything with passion.

From Bij Loes we're going to walk all the way down to the last bridge, called Mouterbrug and we're going to cross it. Here you will find the Korenmolen 'De Distilleerketel' (2). The Distilleerketel, which is a third generation mill, was built in 1986. The first mill was built in 1727 and the second was set on fire during WWII. This mill is the only working mill in Rotterdam. Nowadays it is used to grind flour and grain.

On our way back to the beginning of the canal we pass by a monumental church called *Pelgrimvaderskerk* 'Pilgrim Fathers Church' (3). This old church dating from 1417 has survived the WWII bombing because this part of the city was largely left unharmed. Nowadays the church is used as a Protestant Church.

Right next to the church, you will find the



one and only city brewery, *Stadsbrouwerij De Pelgrim* (4). Here you can try out the 2 house beers: Stooambier and Mayflower. Next to that you can also enjoy 12 others like seasonal beers Zonnief and Lammetjesbier or some experimental beers, which are quite popular.

Since we are talking about the cosy cafe's you should also try out Proeflokaal De Ooievaar (5). It is a typical neighbourhood pub bar where many locals gather for a drink in the afternoon. They also serve many Dutch and Belgian gin varieties. With this cafe we end our adventure in Historic Delfshaven and



we continue to the new part of Delfshaven.

We take the metro to Coolhaven and walk from there south towards the harbour. Our first stop is at STROOM Rotterdam (7). This was the former restaurant of Chef Diego Buik where he won ‘Best Hamburger of Rotterdam 2015’. STROOM is a hotel, brasserie, espresso bar, bakery and fresh market all in one. They have an amazing terrace where you can enjoy drinking coffee with a book and feels just right at home.

We’re going to walk down towards the water to see a spectacular view of the river Maas. If you’re at the corner of the Sint-Jobshavenkade (8) you can see the beginning of

the port of Rotterdam on your right side and on your left side the SS Rotterdam Cruiseship next to Katendrecht. A really unique sightseeing experience of the city.

If we walk back alongside the Sint-Jobshavenkade you will see the Sint-Jobshaven (9). I always find this to be a stunning place. In the open water of the harbour, you can occasionally see the waterbus arriving or the water taxi picking up people from the dock. Many people use this way of transportation because it is easy and fast if you live in this area.

We’re going to walk out of this architectural area and walk to the other side of the Parkhaven near the Euromast. Alongside this dock you have many entertainment businesses such as the Splashtour (10). A rare tour bus that brings you to many different places in the city on land but also over the water. This bus can drive itself into the river Maas and becomes a boat.

Lasergame Rotterdam (11) is also a fun way to spend a few hours. Here you will descend into the 300 m<sup>2</sup> hull of the ship. The ship’s interior makes the experience even more memorable.

Situated on a boat next to the dock there’s also an Asian supermarket named Amazing Oriental Rotterdam (12). The supermarket is not only focused on the Chinese market, but also Indian, Suriname, Indonesian and Japanese.

Just across the street you will find a midget golf (13) area hidden between the trees. This is what I like to do with friends. The place has



18-holes and it is a fun way to spend a few hours doing something you would normally never do.

You probably already noticed the white building with the green rooftop. That's the Maastunnel (14). This tunnel connects you to Rotterdam South. You can walk and even bike underneath the river Maas. This building has one beautiful asset, the historical escalators with are quite unique to see.

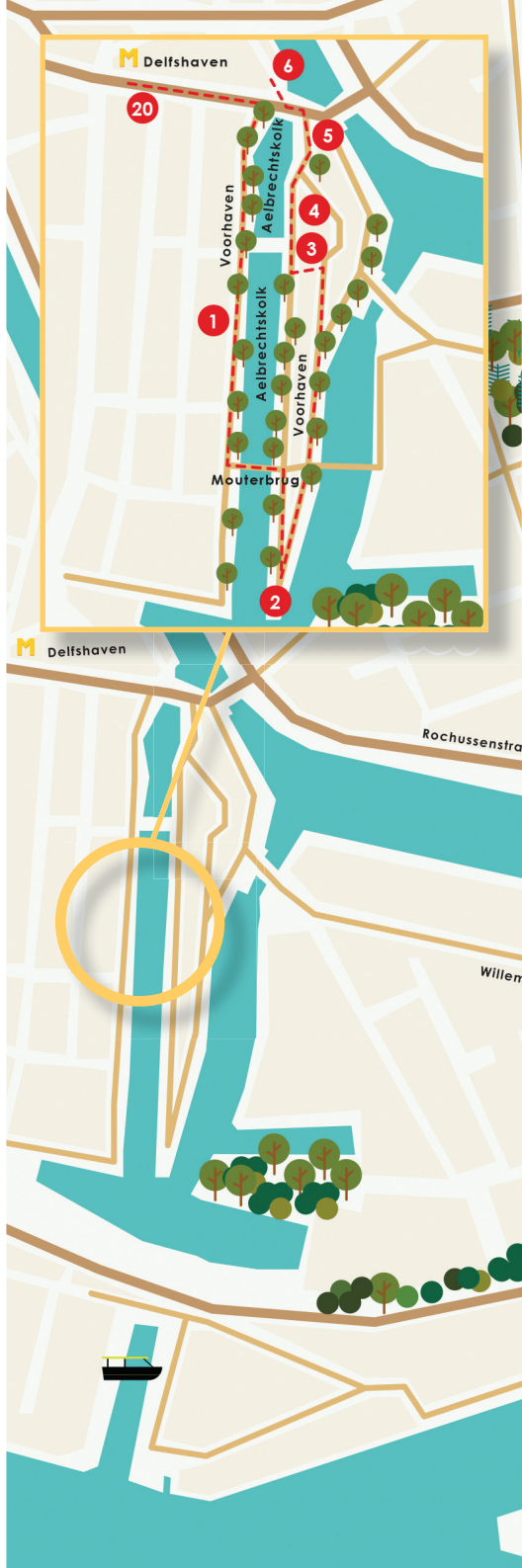
From the tunnel you can easily walk into The Park (15). This city park is one of the biggest and is host to many events in summer. I would recommend grabbing some food and relaxing at the park for a while.

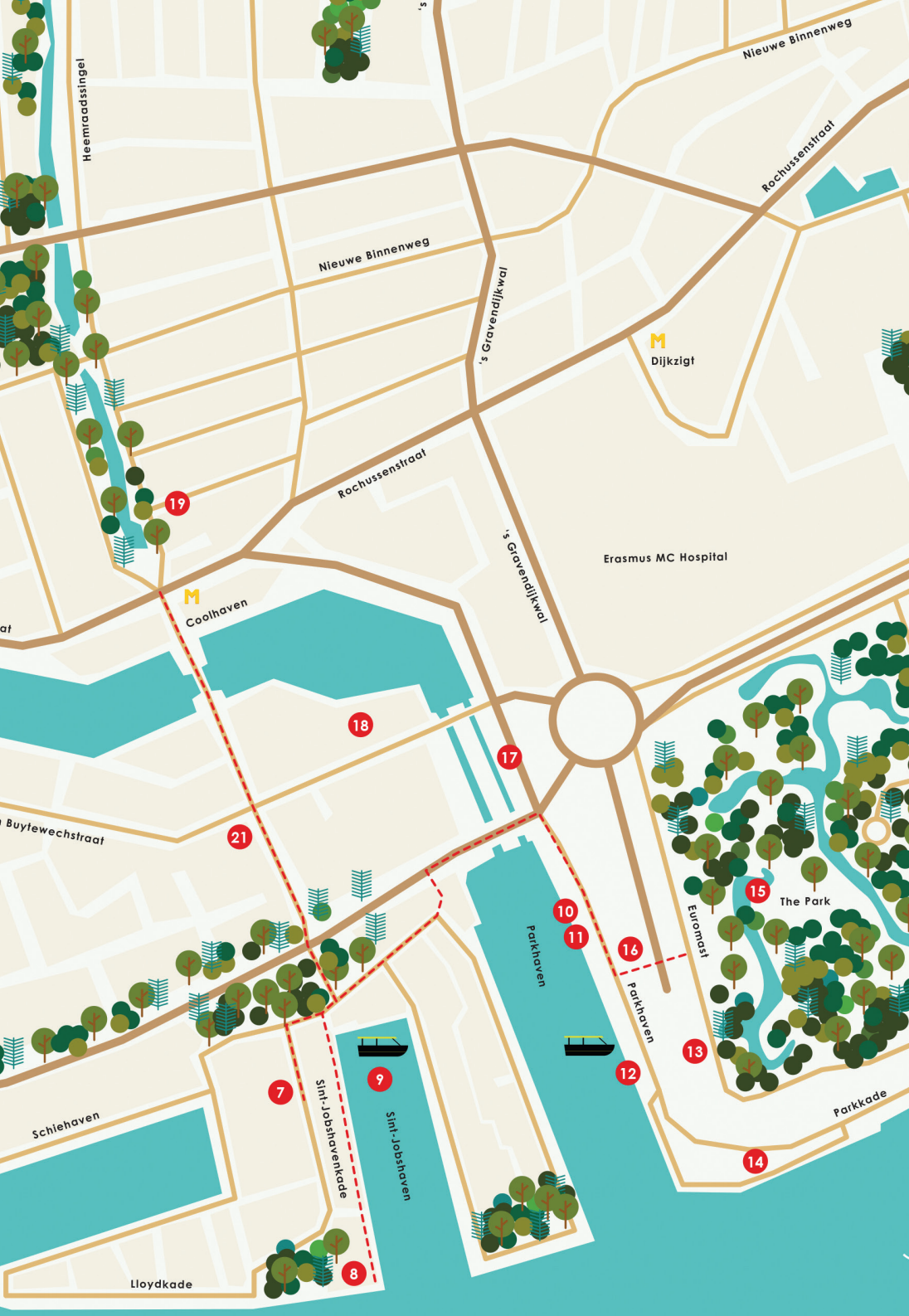
We're almost at the end of our adventure throughout Delfshaven. However you must visit the Euromast (16). From here you can see in all directions. You can also sign up to go abseiling or zip lining from the Euromast. If you're not afraid of heights you should definitely try it.



## Picturesque part of Rotterdam

1. Bij Loes
2. Korenmolen "De Distilleerketel"
3. Oude of Pelgrimvaderskerk
4. Stadsbrouwerij De Pelgrim
5. Proeflokaal De Ooievaar
6. 't Eethuisje van Delfshaven
7. STROOM Rotterdam
8. Sint-Jobshavenkade
9. Sint-Jobshaven
10. Splashhtour
11. Lasergame
12. Amazing Oriental Rotterdam
13. Midget Golfbaan "Parkhaven"
14. Maastunnel
15. The Park
16. Euromast
17. Grote Parksluis
18. De Machinist
19. Heemraadssingel
20. Schiedamseweg
21. Podium Grounds





Nieuwe Binnenweg

Rochussenstraat

Nieuwe Binnenweg

M  
Dijkzigt

Rochussenstraat

Erasmus MC Hospital

's Gravendijkwal

M  
Coolhaven

18

17

21

Buyfwechstraat

15

Euro mast

The Park

10

16

Parkhaven

13

Parkkade

14

Sint-Jobshavenkade

9

Sint-Jobshaven

12

Schlehaven

7

8

Lloydkade