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SHOPPING

top picks

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The place for settling many a musical score.
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In Dutch, that means sizzling interiors.
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Stock up on threads for all your nine lives.
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Where photos meet fashion under one roof.

SHOPPING

Amsterdam was once the warehouse of the world, stuffed with riches from the far corners of the earth. The Dutch empire has gone the way of the dodo, but vendors here still have a knack of bringing you rare, exotic or just plain wacky goods. Sure, you may be able to find glowing Mexican shrines or banana-flavoured condoms back home, but Amsterdam has entire shops devoted to such items.

Some popular gifts include tulip bulbs, rounds of Gouda cheese and bottles of *jenever* (Dutch gin). Fantastic bargains are rare, but it's worth chasing photographic art, recorded music, vintage and Dutch designer clothing, diamonds and antiquarian books. For a souvenir of quality, try a Delft blue vase – or a custom-made bong. There's definitely something for everyone.

The Dutch have mastered the art of casual fashion, and it streams right out of the no-nonsense side of the national character. The result is simple, affordable and practical designs that don't get caught in the spokes.

The best shops are in charming canal houses on cobblestone streets, in a village-like ambience. The Negen Straatjes area has the best boutiques. But Amsterdam also has wonderful outdoor markets, from Waterlooplein's vast flea market to more intimate, low-key venues where organic produce, spices and flowers are sold from carts on tree-lined squares.

SHOPPING STREETS

You won't find any huge shopping malls in town, but you can scratch the chain-store itch on Nieuwendijk and in the Magna Plaza shopping gallery; the department and clothing stores of busy Kalverstraat and Leidsestraat are a little more upscale. Fancy PC Hooftstraat is for major fashion brands like Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Gucci.

The most satisfying browsing is among the pint-sized boutiques of the Negen Straatjes (Nine Alleys), within the Western Canal Belt. The Jordaan bristles with quirky shops and galleries, while antique and art buffs head for the Nieuwe Spiegelstraat in the Southern Canal Belt.

OPENING HOURS

Generally, shops are open between 9am and 6pm Tuesday to Saturday, with the exception of Thursday, with late-night shopping until 9pm. Monday tends to have shorter hours, from noon till 6pm, while shops in the Canal Belt areas are generally open 1pm to 6pm Sunday. Art galleries keep limited hours and are often only open afternoons from Wednesday to Sunday. Shops selling smart drugs tend to stay open into the evenings. Where hours vary significantly from these opening times, we've noted it in individual listings. Note, however, that many shops operate on limited schedules during summer holidays.

CONSUMER TAXES

The Dutch abbreviation for value-added tax is BTW, and it's calculated into the purchase price. The standard rate of BTW is 19% (20% from 2009), while a reduced rate of 6% applies on certain items such as groceries and books. Provided you are not a citizen of the European Union, and you are buying expensive items that you will export from the EU within three months, you may be entitled to a refund of the tax, minus a service fee.

The store must subscribe to the Global Refund system (look for the sticker in the window), your purchase there must total at least €50 in a single day, and you must request a Global Refund cheque at the time.

If you are departing the EU from Schiphol airport, present your goods along with your receipt, passport, air ticket and your Global Refund cheque at the Global Refund office in Terminal 3. You can receive cash, a credit to your credit card or a bank cheque.

If you leave the EU from another airport, inquire locally, but generally you must take your goods and documents to customs for authorisation.

BARGAINING

For a nation of born traders the Dutch don't haggle much, if only because most retailers aren't set up for it. Flea-markets, art galleries and antique shops are among the few places where you'll be tempted to try.

A SHOPPER'S GLOSSARY

Virtually any sales clerk you meet in Amsterdam will speak English, but to make things quick, here's a short list of words you're likely to encounter on signage:

kassa – cashier

kassakorting – discount taken at register

korting – discount, as in '25% korting'

laatste dagen – final days

opruiming, uitverkoop – clearance sale

soldes or sale – sale

tot or t/m – up to, as in 'tot 50% korting'

vanaf or va – literally 'and up', as in '€20 va' (€20 and up). Note that this can be a clever ploy in which, for example, a clothing rack marked '€10 va' includes just a few items at that price – the rest can be much higher.

CITY CENTRE

The old core contains Amsterdam's greatest stock of emporia, from multilevel department stores to vendors of your favourite boudoir duds. In Nieuwmarkt, much of the action takes place at the Waterlooplein flea market, but veer away and you'll discover home-grown shops that are much sweeter and more low-key.

MEDIEVAL CENTRE

HERMAN BROOD GALERIE

Map pp62-5

Art & Antiques

☎ 623 37 66; Spuistraat 320

This gallery is dedicated to Herman Brood, Amsterdam's legendary rocker and club promoter (1946–2001) who shone brightly before crashing big-time on drugs and alcohol. His oil paintings are upstairs from the busy Café Dante.

AMERICAN BOOK CENTER

Map pp62-5

Books

☎ 625 55 37; www.abc.nl; Spui 12

Recently relocated here, this excellent five-storey store is the biggest source of English-language books in Amsterdam. Its greatest strengths are in the artsy ground-floor department, but upstairs there's fiction and oodles of special-interest titles, plus a good travel-guidebook section. It also stocks foreign periodicals (eg the *New York Times*).

ATHENAEUM BOOKSHOP & NEWSAGENCY

Map pp62-5

Books

☎ 622 62 48; Spui 14-16

This multilevel store on the square has a vast array of both usual and unusual books and

cheerful, helpful staff. The separate newsagency on the corner is your best choice for international newspapers and magazines.

AU BOUT DU MONDE

Map pp62-5

Books

☎ 625 13 97; Singel 313; ☎ Mon-Sat

From angels to Zen, this tranquil two-storey shop stocks books on Eastern and Western philosophy, Tibetan Buddhism, Freud, alternative medicine and pretty much anything else for your religious, psychological or spiritual needs.

WATERSTONE'S

Map pp62-5

Books

☎ 638 38 21; Kalverstraat 152

Four storeys and a central location near the Spui make Waterstone's a great resource for English-language books (often discounted). There's an emphasis on travel guides, magazines, newspapers and novels.

PINOKKIO

Map pp62-5

Children's

☎ 622 89 14; www.pinokkio.net; Magna Plaza, Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 182

This pleasant shop stocks wooden and educational toys, rocking horses, wooden vehicles, replica canal houses, mobiles and, of course, lots of Pinocchio dolls. Since this is Holland, there's also a Miffy section.

C&A

Map pp62-5

Clothing

☎ 530 71 50; Beurspassage 2

There's little that's fancy about this Euro-chain (what's a designer brand?), but it's a fine choice if you need inexpensive knockabout clothes. Choose carefully and you may even find some wares with style.

H&M Map pp62-5

Clothing

☎ 624 06 24; Kalverstraat 125

This fashion chain store has up-to-the-minute clothes for all ages at several locations. You may find higher quality elsewhere, but prices are remarkably low.

UNIVERSITY SHOP Map pp62-5

Clothing

☎ 525 36 55; Spui 23

The University of Amsterdam has a lovely logo, and you can wear it on your lovely person with T-shirts or sweatshirts, or carry it around on book bags or bottle openers.

DE BIJENKORF Map pp62-5

Department Store

☎ 621 80 80; Dam 1

The city's most fashionable department store in the highest-profile location, facing the Royal Palace, it has a small restaurant or snack bar on each floor. Design-conscious shoppers will enjoy the well-chosen clothing, toys, household accessories and books.

CLOTHING SIZES**Women's clothing**

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	S	M	M	L		
UK/USA	35	36	37	38	39	40

Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only, try before you buy

HEMA Map pp62-5

Department Store

☎ 638 99 63; Nieuwendijk 174

What used to be the nation's equivalent of Marks & Spencer or Woolworths has undergone a facelift and now attracts as many design aficionados as bargain hunters. Expect low prices, reliable quality and a wide range of products, including good-value wines and delicatessen goods.

MAISON DE BONNETERIE

Map pp62-5

Department Store

☎ 531 34 00; Rokin 140

Exclusive and classic clothes for the whole family are featured here. Men are particularly well catered for with labels like Ralph Lauren and Armani, best purchased during the brilliant 50%-off sales, but there is still plenty for the ladies. Note the amazing chandeliers and beautiful glass cupola.

VROOM & DRESMANN

Map pp62-5

Department Store

☎ 622 01 71; Kalverstraat 201

Slightly more upmarket than Hema, this national chain is popular for its clothing and cosmetics. Its fabulous cafeteria, La Place, serves well-priced, freshly prepared salads, hot dishes and pastries.

FEMALE & PARTNERS

Map pp62-5

Erotica/Clothing

☎ 620 91 52; www.femaleandpartners.nl; Spuistraat 100

Everything you need for your inner dominatrix...or the one who's waiting for you at home. Female & Partners is filled with clothing, undies, leather and toys for women and those who love them. Thank goodness men aren't the only ones who get to have fun!

LAUNDRY INDUSTRY Map pp62-5

Fashion

☎ 420 25 54; www.laundryindustry.com; Spui 1

Hip, urban types head here for well-cut, well-designed clothes by this Dutch design house. Watch glamorous couples coveting soft leather coats and perfectly fitted suits. There's another branch at Magna Plaza, but the Spui location is the main store.

CRACKED KETTLE Map pp62-5

Food & Drink

☎ 624 07 45; www.crackedkettle.nl; Raamstreeg 3
Cheers! Run by a couple of home brewers, this delightful shop stocks about 80 Dutch beers as well as German *Rauchbier* (smoked

beer), Belgian Kriek and Great Divide Yeti Imperial Stout, to name a few. It also carries beer glasses, and ships worldwide.

DE BIERKONING Map pp62-5

Food & Drink

☎ 625 23 36; Paleisstraat 125

Beer. Just beer. Some 950 varieties including hundreds from Belgium, Germany, Britain and, of course, Holland – plus glasses, mugs and books on home brewing. It's centrally located right near the Royal Palace, so you have no excuse not to go.

LE CELLIER Map pp62-3

Food & Drink

☎ 638 65 73; Spuistraat 116

You'll find a splendid selection of Dutch *jenever*s, absinthe, spirits and liqueurs, a super range of Old and New World wines and around a hundred beers.

BEAUFORT Map pp62-5

Jewellery

☎ 625 91 31; www.beaufortsieraden.nl; Grimburgwal 11; ☎ Tue-Sat

Exquisite handcrafted contemporary jewellery is created on site; many of the pieces combine silver and gold. The necklaces and rings are particularly beautiful.

BLUE NOTE Map pp62-5

Music

☎ 428 10 29; Gravenstraat 12

This is the place for jazz in Amsterdam. You'll find a wide range of artists – Dutch, European and American – as well as Japanese pressings, lounge music, and a few listening decks.

FAME MUSIC Map pp62-5

Music

☎ 638 25 25; Kalverstraat 2-4

This megastore has an enormous number of titles with broad (and mainstream) collections of pop, jazz and classical CDs, DVDs and videos. It also sells tickets to big concerts. Sale prices can be quite reasonable.

RITUALS Map pp62-5

Perfume & Cosmetics

☎ 344 92 22; Kalverstraat 73

The flagship store of this heavenly brand (now a successful global franchise) turns out sublime products focused on enlivening everyday cleaning, refreshing, relaxing and energising rituals – from bathing to washing the dishes. We especially love its Rice Scrub, Hammam Body Mud and Lotus Massage Oil.

AMSTERDAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Map pp62-5

Photography

☎ 621 12 56; www.scottgeggert.com; Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 114; ☎ noon-8pm

Classic and experimental shots of Amsterdam at its most photogenic, especially at night. Photos can be printed up to A2 size, matted and framed. Its congenial owner, Scott from New York, is happy to mail your choice home.

CONCRETE Map pp62-5

Photography/Fashion

☎ 0900 262 73 83; www.concrete.nl; Spuistraat 250

Part exhibition space showing rotating exhibitions of adventurous photography, graphics and illustration, and part cool clothes store. Features floating racks of zany Walter van Beirendonck T-shirts and jeans, Dutch labels Razk and D-Cent, plus interesting gear from Maharishi, Obey, Buddhist Punk, Michiko Koshino, Homecore and Minus Ung.

KALVERTOREN SHOPPING CENTRE

Map pp62-5

Shopping Centre

www.kalvertoren.nl; Singel 457

This popular, modern shopping centre contains Vroom & Dreesmann, a small Hema, and big-brand fashion stores like Replay, Quiksilver, Levi's, Timberland and DKNY.

MAGNA PLAZA Map pp62-5

Shopping Centre

☎ 626 91 99; Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 182

This grand 19th-century landmark building, once the main post office, is now home to a marvellous upmarket shopping mall with over 40 stores stocking fashion, gifts and jewellery – everything from Mango and Sissy Boy to Pinokkio.

CHILLS & THRILLS Map pp62-5

Smart Drugs

☎ 638 00 15; Nieuwendijk 17

Always packed with tourists straining to hear each other over thumping techno music, this busy shop sells herbal trips, E-testing kits, psychoactive cacti, amino-acid and vitamin drinks, novelty bongos and life-size alien sculptures. Check out the minivaporiser, a smoke-free way to consume grass.

INNERSPACE Map pp62-5

Smart Drugs

☎ 624 33 38; www.innerspace.nl; Spuistraat 108

Known for good service and information, this large shop started as a supplier to large parties, and now the shop sells herbal ecstasy, psychoactive plants and cacti. True

to its origins, it's also a good place for party info and tickets.

MAGIC MUSHROOM GALLERY

Map pp62-5 Smart Drugs
☎ 427 57 65; www.magicmushroom.com;
Spuistraat 249

The nifty bubble-glass displays will put the zap on your head even before you buy anything. The cool, open-plan 'gallery' has the best choice of 'shroom products and souvenirs in town. Feel free to wobble the garden swing while you nurse a smart drink, or wait for the herbal XTC to kick in.

BAZAR

Map pp62-5 Souvenirs

☎ 638 44 04; Nieuwendijk 128
If you collect kitsch souvenirs or want to buy the boys on the bucks' night some gifts (so they don't go blabbing back home), then this is the place to head for the widest range of ridiculous tourist trinkets – everything from rude-shape egg fryers to fluffy clog slippers.

3-D HOLOGRAMMEN

Map pp62-5 Speciality Shop

☎ 624 72 25; Grimborgwal 2; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Fri, noon-5.30pm Sat, 1-5.30pm Sun & Mon
This fascinating (and trippy) collection of holographic pictures, jewellery and stickers will delight even the most jaded peepers.

BLOND

Map pp62-5 Speciality Shop

☎ 06 2468 4086; www.blond-amsterdam.nl;
Singel 369; ☎ Tue-Sat
Actual blondes Femque and Janneke glaze plates and dishes in designs that

SMART SHOPS & 'SHROOMS

Just as raves and house music were hitting Amsterdam in the early 1990s, smart-drug shops began popping up all over town and filling a retail niche for New Age and designer drugs. Mostly funky but occasionally quite swanky, these vendors now stock a wild array of hallucinogens such as herbal joints, seeds (poppy, marijuana, psychoactive), mood enhancers and aphrodisiacs, both organic and synthetic in origin. Like marijuana in Dutch coffeshops, these soft drugs are perfectly legal to buy over the counter in Amsterdam, if not for you to take back home.

That said, the days may be numbered for magic mushrooms, or at least ones sold legally. Named for the psychotropic chemicals psilocybin and psilocin, these fungi have been blamed for a recent series of high-profile incidents involving tourists, including the death of a French schoolgirl who jumped from an Amsterdam bridge after eating the plants. As we went to press, the Dutch government had called for a ban on magic mushrooms, and barring a last-minute compromise – such as stiffer controls on buyers, as proposed by Amsterdam mayor Job Cohen – smart shops will take 'shrooms off their shelves in 2008.

Whatever mind-bending products you do pick up in a smart shop, ask what dosage to consume and what to expect from your trip, and staff should be eager to put you on the right plane.

are hilarious, adorable and very colourful: ladies lunching, beach scenes, chocolates, and cheeses. You can custom order as well.

FAIR TRADE SHOP

Map pp62-5 Speciality Shop

☎ 625 22 45; Heiligeweg 45
This charity shop features quality, stylish products including clothes, toys, CDs and ceramics from developing countries. The company works directly with producers and provides ongoing business training.

RED LIGHT DISTRICT

ANTIQUARIAAT KOK Map pp62-5 Books

☎ 623 11 91; www.nvva.nl; Oude Hoogstraat 14-18
A wide and engaging range of used and antiquarian stock (literature, coffee-table books, old prints etc) is sold here, including biology, art and architecture titles.

WONDERWOOD

Map pp62-5 Design & Homewares

☎ 625 37 38; www.wonderwood.nl; Rusland 3;
☎ noon-6pm Wed-Sat & by appt
Head here for originals or reproductions of '40s and '50s Dutch furniture design. Classics include the T46 coffee table by Hein Stolle, works by Gijs Bakker and Han Pieck, and the box chair, which folds up into its own box – you can actually ship it with your luggage!

GEELS & CO

Map pp62-5 Food & Drink

☎ 624 06 83; Warmoesstraat 67; ☎ Mon-Sat
Operating from this aromatic store for over 140 years, this distinguished tea-and-coffee merchant also sells chocolate, teapots and coffee plungers. Be sure to visit the interesting little [museum](#) (☎ 2-4.30pm Tue & Sat) upstairs.

HANS APPENZELLER

Map pp62-5 Jewellery

☎ 626 82 18; www.appenzeller.nl; Grimborgwal 1;
☎ Tue-Sat
Appenzeller is one of Amsterdam's leading designers in gold and stone, known for the simplicity and strength of his designs. If his sparse work is not to your taste, all along the same street is a row of jewellery shops of all kinds.

ABSOLUTE DANNY

Map pp62-5 Sex Shop

☎ 421 09 15; www.absolutedanny.com; Oudezijds Achterburgwal 78
Named by Dutch *Playboy* as Amsterdam's classiest sex shop, Absolute Danny specialises in fetish clothing, lingerie and leather, plus hard-core videos and dildos just for fun.

KOKOPELLI

Map pp62-5 Smart Drugs

☎ 421 70 00; www.consciousdreams.nl;
Warmoesstraat 12
Were it not for its main trade, you might swear this large, beautiful space was a fashionable clothing or homewares store. In addition to mushrooms and smart drugs, there's an art gallery, internet facilities, books and a chill-out lounge area overlooking Damrak.

CONDOMERIE HET GULDEN VLIES

Map pp62-5 Speciality Shop

☎ 627 41 74; www.condomerie.nl; Warmoesstraat 141; ☎ Mon-Sat
Where the well-dressed Johnson shops. Perfectly positioned for the Red Light District, this boutique stocks hundreds of types of condoms, lubricants and saucy gifts. Some of the condoms are decorated like minitropical scenes, or may remind you of your favourite cartoon character.

HIMALAYA

Map pp62-5 Speciality Shop

☎ 626 08 99; www.himalaya.nl; Warmoesstraat 56; ☎ Mon-Sat
What a surprise: a peaceful, New Age oasis in the Red Light District. Stock up on crystals, incense and oils, ambient CDs and books on the healing arts, then visit the lovely tearoom.

NIEUWMARKT

JACOB HOY & CO

Map pp62-5 Alternative Medicine

☎ 624 30 41; Kloveniersburgwal 12; ☎ Mon-Sat
This charming chemist's shop – with its walls of massive, wooden drawers – has

been selling medicinal herbs, homeopathic remedies and natural cosmetics since 1743. You can also get teas and seasonings for chicken or fish.

PO CHAI TONG

Map pp62-5 Alternative Medicine

☎ 428 49 56; Waterloooplein 13; ☎ Mon-Sat
If nothing seems to take away your stress, fatigue or jet lag, pay a visit to Dr Kai Zhang's kindly Chinese herbal-medicine and acupuncture shop. It's far from fancy, but clients have included opera singers and conductors from the nearby Stoperla.

TYPO GALLERY

Map pp62-5 Art

☎ 623 85 52; www.ewaldspieker.nl; Groenburgwal 63; ☎ ring for opening hours
A peek inside the artistic mind of Ewald Spieker, who creates graphic art out of typography. He's been exhibited all over and published books of his work. Just a few of his works are for sale; the red 'YES' made of stacks of cardboard had our name written all over it.

BOOK EXCHANGE

Map pp62-5 Books

☎ 626 62 66; Kloveniersburgwal 58
Near the university, this rabbit warren features four rooms of secondhand books, with temptingly priced occult, sci-fi and detective novels, many of them in English.

NIJHOF & LEE

Map pp62-5 Books

☎ 620 39 80; www.nijhoflee.nl; Staalstraat 13a; ☎ Tue-Sat
Design fans will want to head here for a swell selection of international architecture, art and typography books and posters in an intimate but contemporary setting. One wall boasts a substantial selection of well-priced remainders.

DE BEESTENWINKEL

Map pp62-5 Children's

☎ 623 18 05; Staalstraat 11; ☎ Tue-Sun
From teeny tiny teddy bears to pink plastic pig snouts, this pleasantly crowded shop sells *de best* (best) of *de beesten* (animals). Other *bests*: plush toys from great toy-makers, lamps in animal shapes, and lots of plastic reptiles.

KNUFFELS

Map pp62-5 Children's

☎ 623 06 32; St Antoniesbreestraat 39-51
Avert the kids' eyes or they will be drawn by the irresistible force of bobbing mobiles

from the ceiling of this busy corner shop. Adults, too, may be drawn in by the soft toys, puppets, beautiful mobiles, teddies and jigsaw puzzles.

RIELE Map pp62-5 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 623 34 08; St Antoniebreestraat 128; ☺ daily
Fancy and edgy at the same time, this minimalist space lets the clothes do the talking. Designers include Ines Raspoort (Dutch), E Play (Italian), Tone Barker (Danish) and Ghost (British). Accent them with accessories from the Dutch designers Chick on a Mission.

DROOG DESIGN

Map pp62-5 Design & Homewares

☎ 523 50 59; www.droogdesign.nl; Staalstraat 7b; ☺ noon-6pm Tue-Sun

A relative newcomer on the international design scene, this slick Amsterdam-based firm is already a market leader with inventions like the 85-lamp chandelier, the cow chair, and curtains with dress patterns. There are over 180 products by 100-plus designers.

HENXS Map pp62-5 Fashion

☎ 638 94 78; http://shop.henxs.com; St Antoniebreestraat 136

The two tiny floors of this indie clothes store are crammed with fave labels of skaters and graffiti artists such as Hardcore, Bombers Best, Evisu and G-Star, along with graffiti supplies and edgy accessories.

PUCCHINI BOMBONI Map pp62-5 Food

☎ 626 54 74; www.puccinibomboni.com; Staalstraat 17

We're not the only ones who go gaga over Puccini's large, handmade chocolate bonbons with rich fillings. Unforgettable chocolates include plum, marzipan or the calvados cup. There is another branch at Singel 184 (☎ 427 83 41). Note: shops have been known to close in warm weather – for the sake of the chocolates, of course.

SEVENTYFIVE Map pp62-5 Shoes

☎ 626 46 11; Nieuwe Hoogstraat 24

At this true temple to trainers, stimulate your sports-shoe obsession with brands like Gola, Diesel, Everlast, Nike and Adidas. Naturally, Von Dutch makes an appearance too.

'T KLOMPENHUISJE Map pp62-5 Souvenirs

☎ 622 81 00; Nieuwe Hoogstraat 9a; ☺ Mon-Sat
Reasonably priced and finely crafted, traditional Dutch clogs are just the thing to potter around the garden in, away from prying eyes. Good ones are surprisingly comfortable. There's also handmade leather goods and baby's woollen slippers.

JOE'S VLIAGERWINKEL

Map pp62-5 Speciality Shop

☎ 625 01 39; Nieuwe Hoogstraat 19; ☺ Mon-Sat
Whether you're after a kite for the kids that flies in nice patterns, or you're looking for something more exotic, head to this specialised kite shop where you can also buy build-it-yourself kits.

JORDAAN

Shops here have an artsy, eclectic, home-made feel. The area around Elandsgracht is the place for art, particularly photography, and speciality shops from hats to cats. On Haarlemmerdijk, the extension of Haarlemmerstraat, lots of new shops have opened to pick up the overflow of shoppers.

CLAIRE V Map p86 Accessories

☎ 421 90 00; www.clairv.nl; Prinsengracht 234f; ☺ Mon-Sat

The silk handbags, wraps and accessories embroidered with patterns and floral designs are gorgeous, but that's not the only reason they're worthy. Claire's wares are made at a training centre for Cambodian landmine victims, so by shopping here you'll look good and do good.

ROCK ARCHIVE Map p86 Art

☎ 423 04 89; www.rockarchive.com; Prinsengracht 110; ☺ Wed-Sat

The whites are white and the blacks are black at this professional shop of limited-edition rock'n'roll prints. Robert Plant, Debbie Harry, Sting and tons of others are all there to be had for small change, in a format of your impeccable choice.

JOSINE BOKHOVEN Map p86 Art & Antiques

☎ 623 65 98; www.galeriejosinebokhoven.nl; Prinsengracht 154

Across the canal from the Anne Frank Huis, this friendly gallery features contemporary art and the work of emerging young artists, including German artist Ralph Fleck.

HUG GALLERY FOR INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY Map p86 Art Gallery

☎ 489 42 40; www.hughug.info; 1e Tuindwarsstraat 16

Small but important gallery that attracts some of the top names, especially from Britain. It's one of the few galleries that partners with photography museums like Huis Marseille (p95) and FOAM (p99).

KLEURGAMMA Map p86 Art Gallery

☎ 423 05 03; Hazenstraat 51-55; ☺ Mon-Sat
In this minimalist space you may find the work of some nearby photographers on the walls, or have your own prints processed. You'll feel better knowing that the Rijks and Van Gogh Museums get theirs done here too.

TORCH GALLERY Map p86 Art Gallery

☎ 626 02 84; Lauriergracht 94; ☺ Thu-Sat
Torch, one of Amsterdam's most cutting-edge galleries, is proud of its diverse selection. Around a dozen shows per year include photography and new media from many countries, and occasional painting and sculpture, from artists like Anton Corbijn (whose coverage of U2 was famous) and Annie Sprinkle.

ENGLISH BOOKSHOP Map p86 Books

☎ 626 42 30; http://shop.englishbookshop.nl; Lauriergracht 71; ☺ Tue-Sun

This attractive, canal-side shop has a well-chosen selection of English-language biographies, novels and translations of the works of Dutch writers.

FOTOGRAFIA Map p86 Books

☎ 639 39 39; 2e Laurierdwarstraat 60-64; ☺ Tue-Sat

This classy shop is as simple as a photo lab and stocked full of publications featuring the likes of Alfred Stieglitz, Charlotte Dumas, Rineke Dijkstra and Magritte.

BROER & ZUS Map p86 Children's

☎ 422 90 02; www.broerenzus.nl; Rosengracht 94; ☺ Mon-Sat

Cosy little 'Bro & Sis' specialises in Dutch designers and fabrics for kids from birth to six years. You can get brands like Kidscase, tiny tops emblazoned with slogans like 'Mr Charming' and 'ladykiller', and wild prints (think Hawaiian shirts).

MECHANISCH SPEELGOED

Map p86 Children's

☎ 638 16 80; Westerstraat 67; ☺ Mon, Tue, Thu-Sat

This fun shop is crammed full of nostalgic toys including snow-domes, glow-lamps, masks, finger puppets and wind-up toys. And who doesn't need a good rubber chicken every once in a while?

EVA DAMAVE Map p86 Fashion

☎ 627 73 25; www.evadamave.nl; Lauriersdwarstraat 51c; ☺ Wed-Sat

Eva Damave creates funky woollen sweaters and zip jackets with her signature front patchwork panels made up of graphic cotton, silk and wool squares. She only produces one-offs or in small series, so you're unlikely to see anyone else wearing your woolly knit.

DE BELLY Map p86 Food

☎ 330 94 83; Nieuwe Leliestraat 174

This organic supermarket, in the Jordaan for over three decades, has a great bakery and a small but smart selection of prepared foods, even organic tarts and chocolates.

'T ZONNETJE Map p86 Food

☎ 623 00 58; Haarlemmerdijk 45; ☺ Tue-Sat
In a space that's been a teashop since 1642, you can find teas from all over the world, coffees and implements, and be waited on by a commendably cheerful owner. High tea is served upstairs (reserve for large groups).

HET OUD-HOLLANDSCHE

SNOEPWINKELTJE Map p86 Food & Candy

☎ 420 73 90; Egelantiersdwarstraat 2

This corner shop is lined with jar after apothecary jar of Dutch penny candies with flavours from chocolate to coffee, all manner of fruit and the inscrutable, salty Dutch liquorice known as *drop*.

ARNOLD CORNELIS Map p86 Food & Drink

☎ 625 85 85; Elandsgracht 78; ☺ Mon-Sat

Your dinner hosts will think you're in the know if you present them with something from this long-standing shop. Just a sample: marzipan fruits, chocolate bonbons with wasabi (it creeps up on you) and blue spheres made with Malaga wine. At lunch,

grab a flaky pastry filled with cheese, meat or vegetables. There is another branch at **Van Baerlestraat 93** (Map p110; ☎ 662 12 28).

JG BEUNE Map p86 Food & Drink

☎ 624 83 56; Haarlemmerdijk 156-158
This elegant sweet shop with original antique fittings has specialised in pastry and chocolate-making since 1882. Buy a box of delicious rich milk chocolates in the shape of *Amsterdammertjes*, the cast iron bollards around the city that protect you from traffic.

GOLDSTRASSE Map p86 Jewellery

☎ 420 20 95; Elandsgracht 89; ☎ Wed-Sat
Some 14 designers from the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and more exhibit here. One example is Amsterdam-based Marina Alexandre, a jewellery designer and teacher. You'll see rings in gold, silver and silicone. Fittingly, since many of the artists graduated from the Rietveld Academy, works here are more like wearable art.

DISCOSTARS Map p86 Music

☎ 626 11 77; Haarlemmerdijk 86
Both the disco generation and the 'disco sucks' generation will enjoy this repository of the music of yesteryear. If any of the names Olivia Newton-John, Engelbert Humperdinck, Paul Young, Celia Cruz, Candy Dulfer, Buddy Holly, Yves Montand, Doris Day or Roy Rogers mean anything to you, you'll find lots more to like.

LA SAVONNERIE Map p86 Perfumes & Cosmetics

☎ 428 11 39; www.savonnerie.nl; Prinsengracht 294; ☎ Tue-Sun
Aromatic Savonnerie makes more than 80 natural soaps on the premises, as well as stocking wonderful varieties from around the world – from rustic Aleppo olive-oil soap to gentle Belgian donkey-milk soap. There's an enormous range of loofahs, sponges, back-scrubbers and gift-packs.

CATS & THINGS Map p86 Speciality Shop

☎ 428 30 28; Hazenstraat 26
Head here when the cat (or cat-lover) back home deserves a souvenir. There's the expected assortment of kitty toys, sculptures, grooming needs, beds and climbers, but this shop proves that feline-themed

merchandise need not be kitschy and can even be cool.

CHRISTODOULOU & LAMÉ Speciality Shop

Map p86
☎ 320 22 69; Rozengracht 42
Handwoven Tibetan silk pillows, velvet throws and hand-beaded saris from this treasure-trove of sumptuous soft furnishings will transform your home into a plush sanctuary. It's a real festival of colours.

DE LACH Map p86 Speciality Shop

☎ 626 66 25; www.moviepostersdelach.com; 1e Bloemdwarsstraat 14; ☎ Tue, Thu-Sat
This eccentric corner shop sells vintage movie posters from all over the world (eg the Italian version of *Some Like it Hot*) from €12 to €1000. There's a mini Walk of Fame, signed by Dutch stars, on the path outside.

INTERNATIONAAL DESIGN CENTRUM Speciality Shop

Map p86
☎ 521 87 10; Rozengracht 215-217; ☎ Tue-Sat
Begun over a century ago, this shop has repped the forefront of Dutch design ever since – Gispen, Edra and Artifoot – and some foreign designers as well. Its affiliate, De Kasstoer (across the street), applies the same design concept to kitchens and lighting (towel hooks are simultaneously slick and cute).

KITSCH KITCHEN Map p86 Speciality Shop

☎ 622 82 61; www.kitschkitchen.nl; Rozengracht 8-12
You want it flowered, frilly, colourful, over the top or just made from plastic? Chances are you'll find it here – everything from handbags to homewares to kiddie toys and doll gowns. Plus lamps, Mexican tablecloths, pink plastic chandeliers from India and, of course, bouquets of plastic flowers.

LA DIABLITA Map p86 Speciality Shop

☎ 06 1085 7333; Binnen Oranjestraat 11; ☎ Mon & Wed-Sat
You've got a night on the town and need sparkly, spangly jewellery, gold sandals, yellow shoes or pink high-tops? This tiny storefront off the Haarlemmerdijk can help you. You say you need the same for your young daughter? They have a small selection for her too.

top picks

SHOPPING STRIPS TO WANDER

- **Albert Cuypmarkt (p118)** Soak up local colour, snap up exotic produce.
- **PC Hoofstraat (p109)** If you've got doubloons to spare, this street has the city's most high-end fashions.
- **Haarlemmerstraat (Map p92)** Head west to this up-and-coming street for the newest and coolest.
- **Negen Straatjes (p91)** Lose yourself in the 'Nine Alleys', where boutiques specialise in everything from clothing to art to tempting chocolates.
- **Spiegel Quarter (p107)** Hunt for antiques in this quarter in the Southern Canal Belt.

NOU MOE STRIPWINKEL Speciality Shop

Map p86
☎ 693 63 45; Lindenstraat 1
This tiny corner shop features Asterix to Garfield, Tintin to 24 (yes, that 24). More importantly, it sells the merchandise: soft toys, notebooks, stickers, games, coffee mugs and bedroom slippers.

PETSALON Map p86 Speciality Shop

☎ 624 73 85; www.petsalon.nl; Hazenstraat 3; ☎ Wed-Sat
In Dutch a *pet* is a cap, and lifelong milliner Ans Wesseling has been designing hats from this shop since around 1990. One perennial favourite has an elaborately woven net down the back, which gives new meaning to letting your hair down. Step into his workshop and gasp.

GALLERIA D'ARTE RINASCIMENTO Traditional Souvenirs

Map p86
☎ 622 75 09; www.delft-art-gallery.com; Prinsengracht 170
This pretty shop sells Royal Delftware ceramics (both antique and new), all manner of vases, platters, brooches, Christmas ornaments and interesting 19th-century wall tiles and plaques.

WESTERN CANAL BELT

You could easily spend all of your shopping time in Amsterdam – indeed all your time in Amsterdam, period – in the Negen Straatjes (Nine Alleys) in the Canal Belt just east of the

Jordaan. The selection is arty, worthwhile and constantly changing, and lots of cafés mean plenty of break time.

KLEIN ANTIK Map p92 Antiques

☎ 622 82 61; Gasthuismolensteeg 11; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sat
Tiles from tip to toe, including Delft blue, as well as Dutch pottery, some going back to medieval times. Don't expect great bargains (broken pieces sell from €25), but it's a lovely place to shop.

NIC NIC Map p92 Antiques & Kitsch

☎ 622 85 23; www.nicnicdesign.com; Gasthuismolensteeg 5
A trip here is like a visit to a gallery of 20th-century design. Cramped shelves take you from Art Deco to Bauhaus, googie, the '70s, *The Simpsons* and heaven knows what else.

MENDO Map p92 Art & Antiques

☎ 612 12 15; Berenstraat 11; ☎ Wed-Sun
The Mendo ad agency has opened this smart, black-walled gallery specialising in young Dutch painters. Works range from bright to disturbing-but-alluring. It also sells an intriguing selection of art, design, architecture and photography books.

ARCHITECTURA & NATURA Books

Map p92
☎ 623 61 86; www.architectura.nl; Leliegracht 22; ☎ Mon-Sat
This charming canalside shop has art, architecture, design, landscape and coffee-table books. Upstairs, *Architectuurantiquariat Opbouw* (Architecture Antique Shop; ☎ 638 70 18) has a selection of its namesake.

BOEKIE WOEKIE Map p92 Books

☎ 639 05 07; Berenstraat 16; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Fri, noon-5pm Sat
While other shops handle art books, here they sell books *as art*, created by artists specifically for this medium. Some tell stories (elegantly illustrated, naturally), others are riffs on graphic motifs; you may want to browse for a long time.

VAN RAVENSTEIN Map p92 Clothing

☎ 639 00 67; Keizersgracht 359
Chic men and women shop here for upmarket Dutch and Belgian designers including Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester,

Dirk Bikkembergs, Martin Margiela and Viktor & Rolf.

VOLKSBOND SHOP Map p92 Clothing

☎ 428 30 72; Haarlemmerstraat 146-148
A relic from the days when Haarlemmerstraat was not so chic. Proceeds from sales of used clothing (most items €0.50 to €10) help finance facilities for the homeless: halfway houses, counselling services and the like.

SKINS COSMETICS Map p92 Cosmetics

☎ 528 69 22; www.skins.nl; Runstraat 9
The Netherlands' exclusive importer of special brands of fragrances, cosmetics and skin-care and beauty products: think Aesop, Dyptique, Etro, Laura Mercier and the Art of Shaving. They also do makeup sessions and facials.

FROZEN FOUNTAIN

Map p92 Design & Homewares

☎ 622 93 75; www.frozenfountain.nl; Prinsengracht 629; ☎ Mon-Sat

The city's best-known showcase of furniture and interior design. Prices are not cheap, but wares are offbeat and very memorable (designer pen-knives, kitchen gadgets).

BE INNOCENT Map p92 Fashion

☎ 320 59 87; Oude Spiegelstraat 9
Style-savvy fashionistas will be familiar with these Victorian Gothic-inspired frilly babydoll dresses from the elegant Gothic Lolita look of the Japanese Harajuku subculture. Although it took off in Japan in the '90s, its recent appropriation by Gwen Stefani is now popularising it in the West.

EXOTA Map p92 Fashion

☎ 620 91 02; www.exota.com; Hartenstraat 10
Head here for hip gear from indie labels such as King Louie and Aem Kei to global brands such as Kookai and French Connection. Also has kitsch accessories such as kooky dolly bags by local designer Olga Harbidge.

FATES Map p92 Fashion

☎ 624 05 00; Herenstraat 19
Modern fashion accessories made of natural materials, from fair-trade studios in India and Southeast Asia. We were particularly

taken with the groovy tulip-shaped bags from Bali, diaphanous silk shawls and freshwater pearl necklaces.

LADY DAY Map p92 Fashion

☎ 623 58 20; Hartenstraat 9
This is the premier location for unearthing spotless vintage clothes from Holland and elsewhere. The leather jackets, swingin' 1960s and '70s wear, and woollen sailors' coats are well-priced winners. There are also some men's suits and new shoes.

LAURA DOLS Map p92 Fashion

☎ 624 90 66; www.lauradols.nl; Wolvenstraat 7
Compulsive style-watchers head to this vintage-clothing store for fur coats, 1920s beaded dresses, lace blouses and '40s movie-star accessories like hand-stitched leather gloves.

LOCAL SERVICE Map p92 Fashion

☎ 620 86 38; Keizersgracht 400-402
Media types (male at 400; female at 402) hunt here for the latest Paul Smith (Amsterdam's exclusive dealer for his main line), and the Ghost, Stone Island and Dreikorn collections.

MIAUW Map p92 Fashion

☎ 422 05 61; www.miau.com; Hartenstraat 36
Analik is one of Amsterdam's edgiest young designers. Her latest enterprise, Miauw, is a showcase for her idiosyncratic collections, and likeminded labels such as Preen, Karen Walker, Kokon to Zai, and Henrick Vibskof. It also has changing exhibitions of graphic, media, graffiti and conceptual art.

URI DURI Map p92 Fashion

☎ 422 94 57; Huidenstraat 30
South Korean An-Su Kim's tiny boutique stocks funky little dresses (little being the key word) in retro fabrics that she designs and her mother and sister sew up in Seoul. These sassy numbers you won't find elsewhere are teensy – but they're worth dieting for.

ZIPPER Map p92 Fashion

☎ 623 73 02; Huidenstraat 7
Amsterdam hipsters head here for seriously nostalgic, retro secondhand gear – wacky printed shirts, stovepipe jeans, '40s zoot suits, porkpie hats and the like.

MEEUWIG & ZN Map p92 Food

☎ 626 52 86; Haarlemmerstraat 70; ☎ Mon-Sat
Fill your own bottle from metal crocks containing over 50 types of olive oil from around the world. You'll also find bottles of gourmet vinegar, mustard, chutney and fresh olives.

UNLIMITED DELICIOUS Map p92 Food

☎ 622 48 29; Haarlemmerstraat 122
Is it ever! It's tempting to dive into the gorgeous, sculptural cakes and tarts, but – if you can – walk past them to the dozens of varieties of chocolates made in-house. Some of the more outlandish combinations (that somehow work) are rosemary sea salt, caramel cayenne and Laphroaig whisky. More standard choices include coffee, nougat and our favourite: Ceylon cinnamon.

DE KAASKAMER Map p92 Food & Drink

☎ 623 34 83; Runstraat 7
A small shop with 440 cheeses from around Europe and Holland, and deli items like pâté, cured meats and baguettes. At lunch time it does a roaring sandwich trade.

URBAN PICNIC Map p92 Food & Drink

☎ 320 88 66; www.urbanpicnic.net; Oude Spiegelstraat 4

Everything you need for a picnic in the park or a snack for the train: baskets, plasticware, paper goods, nifty biodegradable wooden utensils and, oh yes, the food, like sandwiches of smoked Irish salmon with horse-radish cream, or lamb sausage with mustard mayo.

NIUWS Map p92 Gag Gifts

☎ 627 95 40; Prinsengracht 89
A mind-boggling array of kooky trinkets cram this entertaining store – from quirky action figures (we love the Crazy Cat Lady, the Obsessive Compulsive, Rosie the Riveter and Albine Bowler!) to mini patron saints, foreplay dice and voodoo dolls. Travellers love the Wash Away Your Sins soap.

GAMEKEEPER Map p92 Games

☎ 638 15 79; Hartenstraat 14
The selection of board games is dizzying, as is the imagination that went into making them. Start with checkers, chess and mah jong, and move on to Cathedral (build a city in the style of the Great Wall of China or the souk in Marrakech) or Rush Hour (help

a car get out of traffic). 'Cooperative' games encourage players to play with, not against, each other.

BEADIES Map p92 Jewellery

☎ 428 51 61; Huidenstraat 6
Once the funky jewellery in the window draws you in, you'll find yourself here for hours selecting gorgeous beads, gems, charms and trinkets to design your own necklaces and bracelets. Our advice: don't start from scratch, opt for a variation on Beadies' fab designs.

ZINNE & MINNE Map p92 Sex Shop

☎ 330 34 82; Wolvenstraat 89
Women won't find this sensual store the least bit intimidating and its lovely owner, Inez Reijbroek, is happy to help or leave to browse. Try Geisha's Secrets, with essential love oils and tickle feathers, or the Kamasutra Bedside Box with honey dust and massage oil.

ANTONIA BY YVETTE Map p92 Shoes

☎ 627 24 33; www.antonibyyvette.nl; Gasthuismolensteeg 12
If *Sex and the City* was shot in Amsterdam, we bet that the girls would spend half their time in this shop. Shoes, boots, sandals and espadrilles run from supremely classy to just plain fun. There's also a small section for guys.

HESTER VAN EEGHEN Map p92 Shoes

☎ 626 92 11; www.hestervaneeghen.com; Hartenstraat 1; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sat
Designed in Amsterdam and handcrafted in Italy from fine leather, internationally renowned Hester van Eeghen's unique shoes are for those who dare to dress their feet dramatically in bright colours, fur suede, and geometric patterns and prints. Her handbags are just as attention-grabbing.

AMSTERDAM WATCH COMPANY

Map p92 Speciality Shop

☎ 389 27 89; www.amsterdamwatchcompany.nl; Hartenstraat 4; ☎ Tue-Sat
A husband and wife team of watchmakers restore old watches (postwar to mid-1970s) and are the exclusive Amsterdam dealers of such brands as Germany's D Dornblüth and the Dutch Christiaan van der Klaauw, who makes fewer than 200 watches a year.

BRILMUSEUM Map p92 Speciality Shop

☎ 421 24 14; www.brilmuseumamsterdam.nl; Gasthuismolensteeg 7; ☎ Wed-Sat
This long-standing shop is an institution, both for its wares and its presentation. You can take in the 700-year history of eyeglasses as well as a very 21st-century collection, some of which is pretty outlandish.

DE WITTE TANDEN WINKELMap p92 Speciality Shop

☎ 623 34 43; Runstraat 5
We love shops that are obsessed, and 'The White-Teeth Shop' certainly is – with dental hygiene. There's a huge selection of toothbrushes, toothpastes from around the world, brushing accessories you never knew you needed and friendly advice.

SANTA JET Map p92 Speciality Shop

☎ 427 20 70; Prinsenstraat 7
Forgot to pack your love potion? Or fresh out of prayer candles? The interior's vivid colours alone are worth a visit to this quirky shop, as are the Mexican shrines, religious icons and Day of the Dead paraphernalia.

EPISODE Map p92 Vintage Clothing

☎ 626 46 19; www.episode.eu; Berenstraat 1
Visiting rock stars head to Episode to trawl through two floors of fabulous vintage and secondhand gear. Most impressive when we last dropped in were the seemingly endless racks of 1970s suede coats, folkly peasant blouses, colourful ponchos and big, bright plastic sunshades.

SOUTHERN CANAL BELT

From sleek Dutch fashion and design to colourful bouquets and rare Dutch *jenever*s, the variety of goods on offer in the Southern Canal Belt is nothing short of staggering. The Nieuwe Spiegelstraat (aka the Spiegel Quarter) is celebrated for its antique stores, bric-a-brac collectibles, tribal and oriental art, and commercial art galleries.

CITYBOEK Map pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 627 03 49; www.cityboek.nl; Kerkstraat 211; ☎ by appt
We normally don't write up shops selling souvenir posters, but this small publishing house is an exception, with precisely drawn, multicoloured, architecturally

faithful prints, books and postcards of Amsterdam's canalscapes (eg images of the entire Herengracht or Singel).

DECORATIVA Map pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 320 10 93; Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 9a
An amazing jumble of European antiques, collectables and weird vintage gifts fills this large space. Look up and you'll even see paintings on the ceilings.

EDUARD KRAMERMap pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 623 08 32; Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 64
Specialising in antique Dutch wall and floor tiles, glass and silver, Eduard Kramer is bursting with vintage homewares.

EH ARIËNS KAPPERSMap pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 623 53 56; www.masterprints.nl; Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 32
This pretty gallery stocks original prints, etchings, engravings, lithographs, maps from the 15th to 20th centuries, and Japanese woodblock prints.

JASKI Map pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 620 39 39; www.jaski.nl; Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 27-29
This large, commercial gallery sells paintings, prints, ceramics and sculptures by some of the most famous members of the CoBRA movement (see p36).

LIEVE HEMEL Map pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 623 00 60; www.lievehemel.nl; Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 3
You'll find magnificent contemporary Dutch realist painting and sculpture at this smart gallery. It shows works by Dutch painters Ben Snijders and Theo Voorzaat, and astounding, lifelike representations of clothing – hewn from wood – by Italian Livio de Marchi.

REFLEX MODERN ART GALLERYMap pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 627 28 32; www.reflex-art.nl; Weteringschans 79a; ☎ Tue-Sat
This prominent gallery, opposite the Rijksmuseum, is filled with contemporary art and photography, including works by members of the CoBRA and the Nouveau Réaliste movements.

REFLEX NEW ART GALLERYMap pp100-1 Art & Antiques

☎ 423 54 23; www.reflex-art.nl; Weteringschans 83; ☎ Tue-Sat
This new branch specialising in new art is across the street from the original Reflex. There's an emphasis on photography, and artists include young up-and-comers like David La Chapelle, Robin Lowe, Roger Bal-len, Larry Sultan and Nobuyoshi Araki.

GALERIE LAMBIEK Map pp100-1 Books

☎ 626 75 43; www.lambiek.nl; Kerkstraat 78; ☎ daily
Serious collectors of comics will lose themselves amid tens of thousands of titles of Dutch and worldwide comic-book art. Crumb, Avril and Herriman are just the tip of the 4000-plus author iceberg.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE & FILM BOOKS Map pp100-1 Books

☎ 622 64 89; Leidseplein 26; ☎ Mon-Sat
In the Stadschouwburg building, this excellent shop is crammed with books on its namesake subjects, as well as special-ity sections on, for example, musicals and famous directors. The majority of titles are in English.

SELEXYZ SCHELTEMA Map pp100-1 Books

☎ 523 14 11; Koningsplein 20
The largest bookshop in town is a true department store, with many foreign titles and New Age and multimedia sections. It can be dizzying. Readings and book launches take place next to the upstairs café

CARL DENIGMap pp100-1 Camping, Outdoor & Sport

☎ 626 24 36; Weteringschans 113-115; ☎ Tue-Sat
Opened in 1912, this is Amsterdam's oldest and best outdoor retailer, though you pay for the quality. There are five floors of packs, tents, hiking and camping accessories, snowboards and skis.

TINKERBELL Map pp100-1 Children's

☎ 625 88 30; Spiegelgracht 10; ☎ Mon-Sat
The mechanical bear blowing bubbles outside this shop fascinates kids, as do the intriguing technical and scientific toys inside. You'll also find historical costumes, plush toys and an entire section for babies.

SPOILED Map pp100-1 Clothing

☎ 626 38 18; Leidsestraat 27
At this one-stop urban-lifestyle store you'll find labels like Mads Norgaard, Rare, Junk De Luxe, Skunk Funk, True Religion, Stella Nova, My Ass, Fred Perry, Tommy Hilfiger and Tiger of Sweden, along with stylish shoes and accessories, cool magazines and art. You can also throw back an espresso and get your hair cut.

YOUNG DESIGNERS UNITED Clothing

Map pp100-1
☎ 626 9191; www.ydu.nl; Keizersgracht 447
Angelika Groenendijk Wasylewski's boutique is a showcase for young Dutch designers. Check out Suzanne de Jager and Natasja Leenders' bold and playful Guten Appetit label, Heidi Long's striking collection, Marjoleine Innemee's Asian-inspired Minneme, Ester Peters' fun Kinky Dream Wear, sexy Amber Rose, and Sarid Khomnoy's extravagant Amm Couture.

BEBOB DESIGN Design & Homewares

Map pp100-1
☎ 624 57 63; www.bebob.nl; Prinsengracht 764
Lovers of international 20th-century design classics – from Arne Jacobsen Swan chairs to Isamu Noguchi lampshades – should make this their first stop in Amsterdam. While the store arranges shipping, a George Nelson ball clock should fit nicely in the carry-on.

CORA KEMPERMAN Map pp100-1 Fashion

☎ 625 12 84; Leidsestraat 72
Kemperman was once a designer with large Dutch fashion houses, but since 1995 she's been working on her own empire – now encompassing nine stores, including three in Belgium. Her creations feature floaty, layered separates and dresses in linen, cotton and wool.

HANA ZUKI Map pp100-1 Fashion

☎ 422 95 63; Vijzelstraat 87
Local designers started this funky boutique-come-studio as a showcase for their creations and those of their friends. Check out Hana Zuki's own graphic fashion, hip Aiko label, and edgy Phatoak by Dutch Natasja van den Elzen, along with illustrations, magazines, Lomos, and Maomaland's handmade toys.

LOOK OUT Map pp100-1

Fashion

☎ 625 50 32; www.lookoutmode.com;
Utrechtsestraat 91 & 93

Looking through the racks at these wonderful neighbouring men's and women's stores is a real delight. Look out for super stylish labels such as Paul Smith, Philosophy, Etro, Kenzo, Bruuns Bazaar and Annie Verbeke.

DESHIMA Map pp100-1

Food & Drink

☎ 625 75 13; Weteringschans 65; ☎ Mon-Sat
Downstairs, Deshima is a health-food store with all sorts of macrobiotic products, but upstairs there's a lovely selection of prepared foods (plates from €8.50 to €10.50) and a few seats for eating in. Try the salads and cooked veggies, cakes and tarts.

EICHHOLTZ Map pp100-1

Food & Drink

☎ 622 03 05; Leidsestraat 48
This small deli is bursting with everything homesick Brits and Americans yearn for, such as Oreo cookies, Betty Crocker cake mix, Heinz baked beans, peanut butter (Skippy, Jif or Peter Pan!), HP sauce and Bird's custard.

HART'S WIJNHANDEL

Map pp100-1

Food & Drink

☎ 623 83 50; Vijzelgracht 27; ☎ Tue-Sat
Listen to classical music as you peruse the large selection of *jenevens* and French and Italian wines at this peaceful shop. It's been around since 1880, and supplies many a local restaurant with top tittle.

CONCERTO Map pp100-1

Music

☎ 623 52 28; Utrechtsestraat 52-60
Most excellent. This rambling shop, spread over several buildings, has Amsterdam's best selection of new and secondhand CDs and records; you could spend hours

on end browsing in here. It's often cheap, always interesting and has good listening facilities.

GET RECORDS Map pp100-1

Music

☎ 622 34 41; Utrechtsestraat 105
This deceptively large store has an eclectic and wide range of rock, folk, country and blues CDs. It's a decent break from the club music scene.

SHOEBALOO Map pp100-1

Shoes

☎ 626 79 93; www.shoebaloo.nl; Leidsestraat 10
We like the chic shoes here: imports like Fendi, Helmut Lang, Miu Miu and Prada Sport, and the less expensive, but just as wearable, house label. The branch at **PC Hoofstraat 80** (Map p116; ☎ 671 33 10) has one of our favourite interiors in town: imagine a giant spaceship-green tanning bed lined with shoe shelves and eggs for you to sit on.

CONSCIOUS DREAMS

Map pp100-1

Smart Drugs

☎ 626 69 07; www.consciousdreams.nl; Kerkstraat 119

You can enhance whatever needs enhancing at Amsterdam's original smart shop, founded in 1993. The enthusiastic staff can explain everything about trippy herbs, extracts and cacti. There's a small but excellent book section, club-night flyers and internet facilities.

BLOEMENMARKT Map pp100-1

Souvenirs

Singel; ☎ closed Sun winter
It's hard to resist the quivering tulips at Amsterdam's signature flower market, near Muntplein. Once you've chosen your 10lb bag of Burning Heart or Queen of Night bulbs, ask the traders if you can take it back home. Ireland and the UK allow an unlimited number of bulbs to be brought

WHERE TO GET YOUR GROOVE ON

If club music is your thing, you can swing, sway and swap notes with knowledgeable locals at these shops. The chill cat next to you at the listening booth may be spinning for you that night. Here are just a few of the joints we tested (also supreme for the latest club and dance-fest info):

Back Beat Records (Map p86; ☎ 627 16 57; Egelantierstraat 19)

Boudisque (Map pp62-5; ☎ 623 26 93; Haringpakkerssteeg 10-18)

Killa Cutz (Map pp62-5; ☎ 428 40 40; Nieuwe Nieuwstraat 19d)

Rush Hour Records (Map pp62-5; ☎ 427 45 05; Spuistraat 98)

Wax Well Records (Map p92; ☎ 528 68 80; Gasthuismolensteeg 6a)

MARKET WATCH

No visit to Amsterdam is complete if you haven't experienced one or more of its lively markets. The following are merely a selection. Watch out for pickpockets.

- **Alberts Cuyppmarkt** (p118) Exotic goods as well as cheap basics from nations around the globe.
- **Antiques markets** Nieuwmarkt (Map pp62-5; ☎ 9am-5pm Sun May-Sep); Amstelveid (Map pp100-1; ☎ 9am-6pm last Fri of the month in warmer months) There are many genuine articles here and lots of books and bric-a-brac.
- **Art markets** (☎ 10.30am-6pm Sun Mar-Oct) Thorbeckeplein (Map pp100-1); Spui (Map pp62-5) These quiet markets, dealing in mostly modern pictorial art, are a bit too modest in scope to yield real finds.
- **Bloemenmarkt** (opposite) Amsterdam's signature flower market.
- **Boerenmarkt** (Farmers' Market; ☎ 10am-3pm Sat) Noordermarkt (Map p86); Nieuwmarkt (Map pp62-5) Pick up home-grown produce, organic foods and picnic provisions.
- **Book market** (Map pp62-5; Oudemanhuispoort; ☎ 11am-4pm Mon-Fri) In the old arcade between Oudezijds Achterburgwal and Kloveniersburgwal (blink and you'll miss either entrance), this is the place to find that 19th-century copy of *Das Kapital* or a semantic analysis of Icelandic sagas, and some newer books and art prints. Another book market takes place on the Spui (Map pp62-5; ☎ 8am-6pm Fri).
- **De Looier antiques market** (Map p86; ☎ 624 90 38; Elandsgracht 109; ☎ 11am-5pm Sat-Thu) Indoor stalls selling jewellery, furniture, art and collectibles.
- **Lindengracht market** (Map p86; Lindengracht; ☎ 11am-4pm Sat) General market, very much a local affair.
- **Noordermarkt** (Map p86; Noorderstraat; ☎ 9am-1pm Tue, 9am-6pm Sat) This Jordaan market has a split personality: Tuesdays are for antiques, fabrics and secondhand bric-a-brac, while Saturdays see a delightful farmers market with organic produce.
- **Plant market** (Map pp100-1; Amstelveid; ☎ 3-6pm Mon Easter-Christmas) All sorts of living green things, pots and vases are sold here.
- **Stamp & coin market** (Map pp62-5; Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 280; ☎ 10am-4pm Wed & Sat) This little street-side market, just south of Wijdesteeg, sells stamps, coins and medals.
- **Waterlooplein flea market** (Map pp62-5; Waterlooplein; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5.30pm Sat) Amsterdam's most famous flea market is full of curios, secondhand clothing, music, electronic stuff slightly on the blink, hardware and cheap New Age gifts.
- **Westermarkt** (Map p86; Westerstraat; ☎ 9am-1pm Mon) Cheapish clothes and textiles, some real bargains.

back in, as do Canada and the USA (accompanied by a certificate, which will be provided). Japan permits up to 100 certified bulbs, while Australia and New Zealand have banned the importation of bulbs altogether.

AURORA KONTAKT

Map pp100-1

Speciality Shop

☎ 623 40 62; Vijzelstraat 27-35

If your favourite electronic or computer gizmo has stopped working, this no-nonsense store can sell you a replacement at competitive prices.

MARAÑON HANGMATTEN

Map pp100-1

Speciality Shop

☎ 622 59 38; www.maranon.com; Singel 488

Anyone who loves hanging around should come here and explore Europe's largest selection of hammocks. The colourful creations, made of everything from cotton to pineapple fibres, are for everyone from

adults to babies, and are made by many producers from indigenous weavers to large manufacturers.

VLIEGER Map pp100-1

Speciality Shop

☎ 623 58 34; Amstel 34

Since 1869 this two-storey shop has been supplying paper to Amsterdam, and not just any paper: Egyptian papyrus; lush handmade papers from Japan, India, Nepal and Guatemala; papers inlaid with flower petals or bamboo; and paper textured to look like snake skin.

HEINEN DELFTWARE

Map pp100-1

Traditional Souvenirs

☎ 627 82 99; www.heinen-delftware.nl;
Prinsengracht 440

With four floors of Delftware, all the major factories are represented and all budgets catered for (spend about €4 for a spoon, €2600-plus for a replica 17th-century tulip vase).

CHAINS WILL KEEP US TOGETHER

Some shops have several locations around town. For chocolates and ice cream, look out for **Australian Homemade** Leidsestraat 101 (Map pp100-1); Singel 437 (Map pp62-5). Albert Heijn is a ubiquitous chain of general supermarkets, while Blokker sells simple homewares. Personal-care products can be found at any **Etos store** Nieuwendijk 69 (Map pp62-5); Nieuwendijk 182 (Map pp62-5); Leidsestraat 82 (Map pp100-1); Overtoom 77 (Map p116). **Gall & Gall** (Map pp62-3; Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 226a) should fill all your wine and liquor needs; outlets are also found within most branches of Albert Heijn supermarkets.

OLD SOUTH

The real concentration of shops is around the PC Hoofstraat, which teems with brands that need no introduction: Hugo Boss, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, JA Henckels, Louis Vuitton, Mont Blanc, Zegna and more. Across the Vondelpark, Overtoom has furniture and home-design stores as well as secondhand shops.

DE WINKEL VAN NIJNTJE

Map p110 Children's
☎ 671 97 07; Beethovenstraat 71; ☎ Mon-Sat
Dutch illustrator Dick Bruna's most famous character, Miffy ('Nijntje' in Dutch), is celebrated in toys and kids' merchandise. Items range from pencils and soap bubbles to note pads, mouse pads, books, plush toys, clothing and playhouses, to Royal Delftware plates.

XSMALL

Map p110 Children's
☎ 470 26 00; www.xsmall.nl; Van Baerlestraat 108; ☎ Mon-Sat
Outfitting the moppets of the Old South with toys and extra-cute clothes for kids aged 0 to 10. They can also create digital portraits in Andy Warhol style, from your own digital photo of your little darling (from €45).

DE WATERWINKEL

Map p110 Food & Drink
☎ 675 59 32; Roelof Hartstraat 10
Thirsty? With over 100 types of bottled water (mineral, sparkling, still and flavoured), this calm and pretty store will keep your juices flowing.

BROEKMANS & VAN POPPEL

Map p110 Music
☎ 679 65 75; www.broekmans.com; Van Baerlestraat 92-94; ☎ Mon-Sat
Near the Concertgebouw (surprise!), it's the city's top choice for classical and popular sheet music, as well as music books. Head to the 1st floor for a comprehensive selection from the Middle Ages through to classical and contemporary.

LAIRESSE APOTHEEK

Map p110 Pharmacy
☎ 662 10 22; De Lairessestraat 40hs; ☎ Mon-Sat
Both a pharmacy and installation art, with graphics of the periodic table filling the entrance and a rotunda of green backlit cases inside.

VONDELPARK & AROUND

The winding paths of the Vondelpark must inspire a certain wanderlust because the nearby streets are full of outdoor and travel gear shops. You're in capable hands: Holland has produced more than its fair share of world adventurers. Stroll down Overtoom and return equipped to tackle something more strenuous than a canal-boat tour.

PIED À TERRE

Map p116 Books
☎ 627 44 55; Overtoom 135
The galleried, skylit interior of this classy travel-book shop feels like a Renaissance centre of learning. It specialises in pretty much any book you'll need for outdoor pursuits: hiking and cycling tomes, topographical maps and travel guides.

BEVER ZWERFSPORT

Map p116 Camping, Outdoor & Sport
☎ 689 46 39; Stadhouderskade 4; ☎ Mon-Sat
Everything you need for a local hike or a Himalayan expedition: camping equipment, mountaineering gear, clothes and shoes.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR WORLD

Map p116 Camping, Outdoor & Sport
☎ 412 28 79; Overtoom 51-53
Owned by Bever, one of the city's leading sporting-equipment shops, the WOW had to open a separate shop due to overwhelming

demand. It also sells nongender-specific equipment (eg tents).

MEVIUS & ITALIAANDER

Map p116 Speciality Shop
☎ 618 02 56; Overtoom 21-25
This shop doesn't have a lot of street presence, but it's cavernous where it counts (in the back) and loaded with the unexpected: old posters and dishes from faraway lands, new espresso pots and used LPs, furniture and lamps. Prices start at €0.50.

DE PIJP

Most shoppers in De Pijp seem to be at the Albert Cuypmarkt (p118), and with good reason. It's block after block of clothing, food and homewares, reasonably priced. More than that, it's where the city comes together: from the most recent immigrant to the Queen (locals are still talking about how she shopped here for the market's 100th birthday in 2005 – and ran out of money).

FIETSFABRIEK

Map p119 Bicycles
☎ 672 18 34; www.fietsfabriek.nl; 1e Jacob van Campenstraat 12; ☎ Tue-Sun
Wessel van den Bosch trained as an architect, and now he makes custom bicycles from this wild 'n' crazy workshop, one of several in Amsterdam. Come in and pick up a *bakfiets* (cargo bike), a *familiefiets* (with covered 'pram') or even a standard *Omafiets* (one-gear city bike). Just browsing is a joy.

STADSBOEKWINKEL

Map p119 Books
☎ 251 15 10; Vijzelstraat 32; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun
Run by the city printer, this is the best source for books about Amsterdam's history, urban development, ecology and politics. Most titles are in Dutch (but you can always look at the pictures) – you'll also find some in English. It's in the City Archives building.

YOI

Map p119 Fashion
☎ 670 55 40; 1e Jacob van Campenstraat 27; ☎ Tue-Sun
This 'hip honest guerrilla store' sells Dutch fashion produced with respect for humans, animals and the environment, made from organic cotton, hemp, secondhand clothes, recycled parachutes and prison blankets.

Labels include fair-trade threads by Fuck the Fashion, Lazy One, and This is a Story by Meike Beckers.

DE EMAILLEKEIZER

Map p119 Home Wares
☎ 664 18 47; 1e Sweelinkstraat 15; ☎ noon-6pm Tue-Sat
Email sounds like something you want to send, but in Dutch it means 'enamel', so it's something you'll want to keep. This colourful store brims with it: metal tableware and more coated in interesting designs from China, Ghana, Poland etc.

STENELUX

Map p119 Speciality Shop
☎ 662 14 90; 1e Jacob van Campenstraat 2; ☎ Thu-Sat
Buy an old fossil for that old fossil you left back home. Stenelux has a smart collection from this world and beyond (including meteorites).

PLANTAGE, EASTERN ISLANDS & EASTERN DOCKLANDS

If you've come to Amsterdam to have a new interior put in your multimillion-dollar yacht, the dockyards out here will hit the spot. Other shoppers come for the renowned deli or maker of custom-made boxes. The pierside cafés make a great place to unwrap your booty.

FRANK'S SMOKEHOUSE

Map p122 Food & Drink
☎ 670 07 74; www.smokehouse.nl; Wittenburger Gracht 303
Frank is a prime supplier to Amsterdam's restaurants. He learned how to smoke fish from the Swedes, and his excellent Alaska salmon, halibut and yellowfin tuna can be vacuum packed for easy passage through airport customs (which works, unlike with meat).

DE ODE

Map p122 Speciality Shop
☎ 419 08 82; Levantkade 51, KNSM Is; ☎ by appt only
Here you can find a final resting place with a difference: a bookcase that converts in to a coffin when you join the library in the sky, or a coffin on wheels with bicycle towbar – perfect for pedalling friends to their last bike rack.

DIAMONDS

Amsterdam has been a diamond centre since Sephardic Jews introduced the cutting industry in the 1580s. The Cullinan, the largest diamond ever found (3106 carats), was split into more than 100 stones here in 1908, after which the master cutter spent three months recovering from stress. A large oval diamond cut here, known as the Koh-i-Noor (Mountain of Light), was acquired by Queen Victoria and now forms part of the British crown jewels.

The four diamond factories listed below offer guided tours, but the Gassan tour is probably the most enlightening. Tours are free and usually run 9am to 5pm daily.

Diamonds aren't necessarily cheaper in Amsterdam than elsewhere, but between the tours and extensive descriptions and factory offers, you'll know what you're buying.

Amstel Diamonds (Map pp100-1; ☎ 623 14 79; Amstel 206-208)

Amsterdam Diamond Center (Map pp62-5; ☎ 624 57 87; Rokin 1)

Coster Diamonds (Map p110; ☎ 305 55 55; Paulus Potterstraat 2-6)

Gassan Diamonds (p79; ☎ 622 53 33; Nieuwe Uilenburgerstraat 173-175)

OUTER DISTRICTS

SO DUTCH FASHION Map pp58-9 Clothing

☎ 617 09 57; www.dutchfashionfoundation.com; 2 World Fashion Centre, Wilhelminaplein 13, Tower 1, fl 13; 🕒 Mon-Fri

The Dutch Fashion Foundation promotes the best of Dutch fashion and helps

designers develop their labels into commercial brands. Its showroom at the World Fashion Centre provides *haute couture* ateliers and carries collections by the hottest Dutch designers, such as Mada van Gaans, Jan Taminiau, Bas Kosters and Percy Irausquin.

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