



Rotterdam in the top ten Best in Travel 2016

Lonely Planet has put Rotterdam on its list of the top ten Best of Travel cities of 2016. "The Netherlands' second-biggest metropolis is a veritable open-air gallery of modern, postmodern and contemporary construction", according to the Lonely Planet.

Futuristic architecture, inspired initiatives such as inner-city canal surfing, a proliferation of art, and a surge in drinking, dining and nightlife venues make Rotterdam one of Europe's most exhilarating cities right now. All this and more is why Lonely Planet has the metropolis on the Maas at number 5 on its Best of Travel list.

According to the Lonely Planet, a number of "eye-popping recent openings" make Rotterdam a must-see city. The Markthal is specifically mentioned. The first indoor food market in the Netherlands, according to a spectacular design by architect Winy Maas (MVRDV), the Markthal attracted 8 million visitors just in the first year since it opened in 2014. The De Rotterdam on the Kop Van Zuid peninsula is also considered a must-see. This vertical city was designed by OMA, the architecture firm headed by Rem Koolhaas. The same firm also signed on for Rotterdam's latest architectural acquisition, the Timmerhuis. Featuring a

"cloud-like design", according to Lonely Planet, the building houses Museum Rotterdam, among other institutions, and will be opening its doors in January.

Rotterdam's innovative character is also acclaimed. According to the Lonely Planet, its innovative flair is expressed in daring, exciting transformations of underutilised urban neighbourhoods, in surprising water features designed to accommodate rain-water runoff, and intriguing, cutting-edge attractions like the upcoming RiF010, a channel for surfers in downtown Rotterdam.

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The city's classics, like the iconic Hotel New York (the Holland-America passenger ship line's former HQ with timber-panelled suites in its old boardrooms) and the historic inner harbour of Delfshaven, are more than worth visiting, as the travel guide affirms.

"A fantastic compliment for Rotterdam," Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb says in response

to making it into the Lonely Planet's top ten. "We're from Rotterdam, we'll keep going' appeared on a placard just days after the city was devastated by aerial bombing on 14 May 1940. This resolute motto in many ways typifies the character of Rotterdam and its inhabitants. It explains in my opinion how a buzzing metropolis was built literally on the post-blitz ruins. Today Rotterdam is a port city, where around 170 different nationalities help create an open and cosmopolitan atmosphere. And where the resolute perseverance of Rotterdam people still motors the city's continual push for innovation."

"It's a city where you can positively soak up the 'can do' spirit just about everywhere you go. And more and more people seem to be discovering its charms. Our city receives more and more international visitors every year, coming here for leisure or business. The fact that the Lonely Planet has put us in the top ten of its Best of Travel list is a well-deserved recognition of the hard work done by all the locals who built Rotterdam and made the city what it is today. And I look forward to welcoming you to Rotterdam in 2016."

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