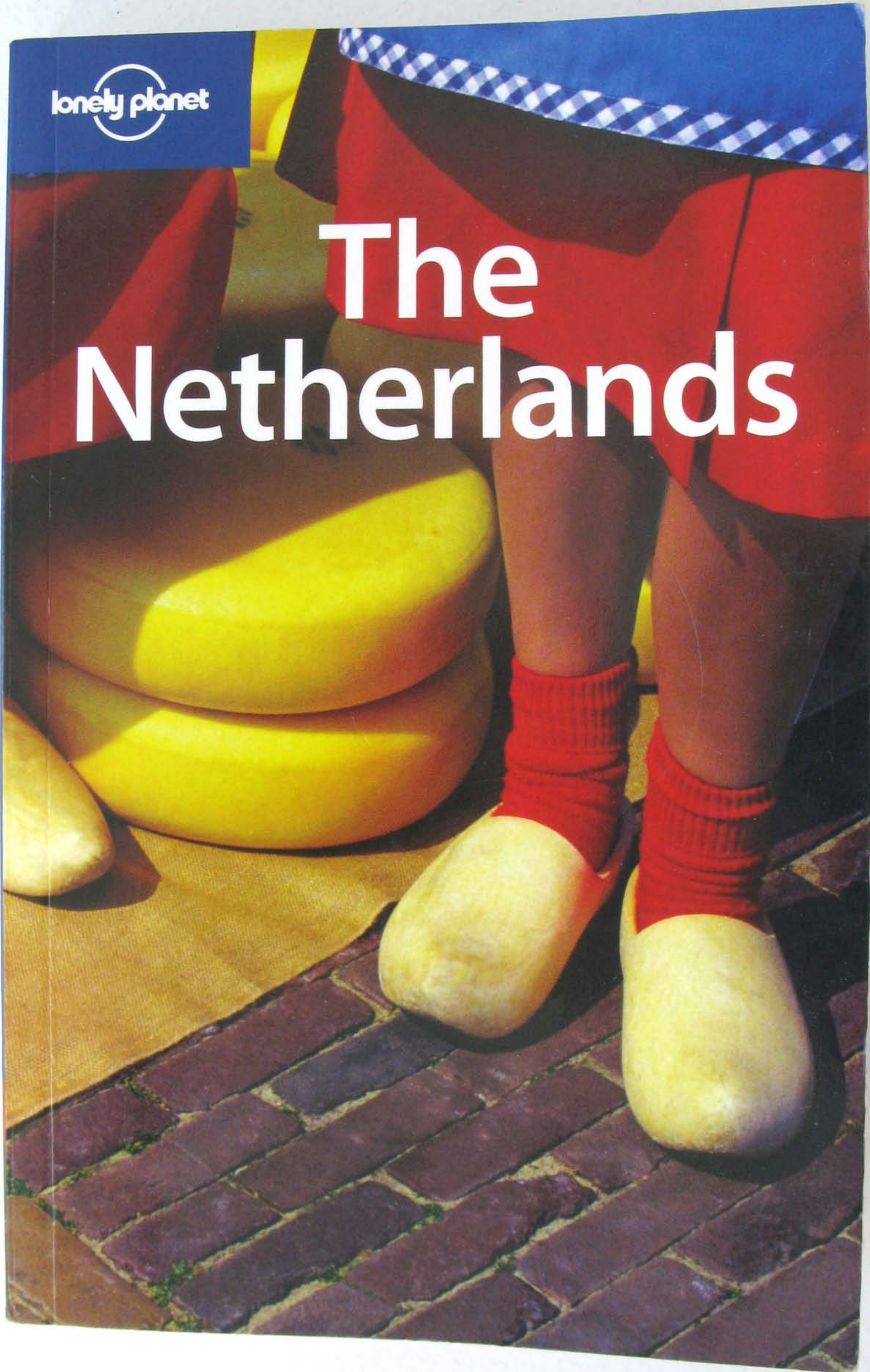
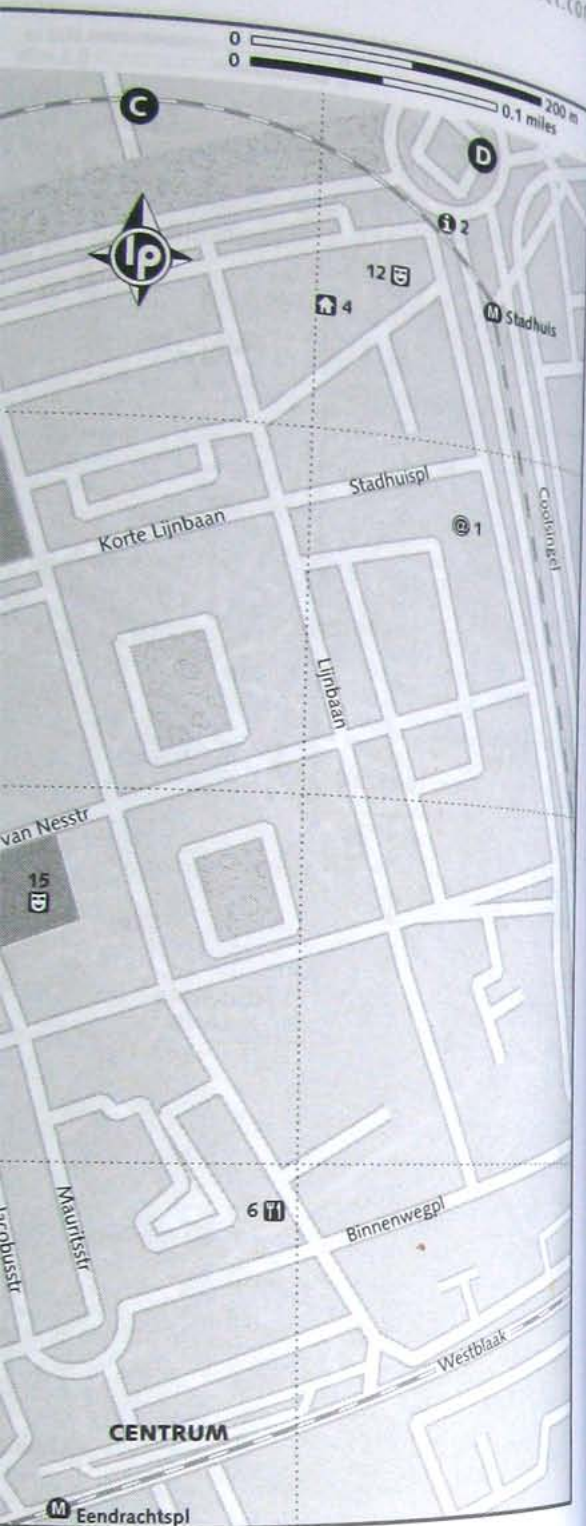


lonely planet

The Netherlands





The design and aesthetic seems thoroughly current today; during the '30s it must have seemed the ultimate in futurism, making full use of light and space, and filled with tubular steel furniture and tech gizmos – including no fewer than 12 telephones, considered the height of modern life at the time.

OTHER SIGHTS

Maritiem Museum Rotterdam (Map pp210-11; ☎ 413 26 11; www.maritiemmuseum.nl; Leuvehaven 1; adult/4-16yr €5/3; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat & 11am-5pm Sun year-round, 10am-5pm Mon Jul & Aug) is a comprehensive museum that looks at the Netherlands' rich maritime traditions. There's an array of models that any youngster would love to take into the tub, plus more interesting and explanatory displays.

Near here, on Schiedamsedijk, is the **Rotterdam Walk of Fame** (Map pp210-11), featuring handprints from luminaries including Bryan Adams, Bryan Ferry, Dizzy Gillespie, 'Diamond' David Lee Roth, Kamahl, Roxette, Willie Nelson – and even Spandau Ballet (the Netherlands being perhaps the only country in the world that still remembers who they are).

The **Oude Haven** area, near the Blaak train, metro and tram station, preserves the oldest part of the harbour, some of which dates from the 14th century. It's a decent place for a stroll, especially if you take time to look at the large collection of historic boats.

The **Openlucht Binnenvaart Museum** (Map pp210-11; ☎ 411 88 67; Koningsdam 1; admission free; ☎ 8am-8pm) has a collection of historic inland waterway boats that fills much of the basin. You can see the ongoing restoration and can stroll around looking at the boats, even outside the official opening hours.

The city's history is preserved at one of the centre's few surviving 17th-century buildings, at the **Historisch Museum het Schielandhuis** (Map pp210-11; ☎ 217 67 67; www.hmr.rotterdam.nl; Korte Hoogstraat 31; adult/child €3/1.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun). Exhibits focus on everyday life through the ages, such as the (purportedly) oldest surviving wooden shoe. Clogs ahoy!

The **Nederlands Fotomuseum** (Map pp210-11; ☎ 213 20 11; www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl; Witte de Withstraat 63; adult/child €3.50/2; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun) is a fabulous photo museum that's also an archive and information centre for photographers. Its activities were recently bolstered by a bequest from one H Weertheim, who wanted to 'further the interests of photography in the Netherlands'. Note that the museum is moving to Wilhelminakade 66 in 2007.

Nearby, the **Wereldmuseum** (World Museum; Map pp210-11; ☎ 270 71 72; www.wereldmuseum.rotterdam.nl; Willemskade 25; adult/child €8/4; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat) is dedicated to providing a user-friendly repository of multiculturalism for people to use to better understand each other. It's wonderfully apt that it's in a polyglot port like Rotterdam. The building is dominated by a huge sculpture of a stylised woman by artist Nikki de Saint Phalle. Enter through the statue's legs.

On the south side of the Koningshaven, in the middle of an old dock district being reborn as a trendy neighbourhood, there is a solemn reminder of the recent past. A fragment of a wall has been preserved here – the wall once surrounded a warehouse that, during WWII,

was the departure point for Jews being sent first to Westerbork and then on to concentration camps.

Walking Tour

Start at the **Maritiem Museum Rotterdam** (1; opposite) for a maritime history lesson, before making your way to **Oude Haven** (2; left) for real-world aquatic nostalgia.

View the vessels on display at the **Openlucht Binnenvaart Museum** (3; left), then cross the **Willemsbrug** (4; p211), drinking in the superb views over the river, before emerging on the other side in **Noordereiland** (5), a residential island that has been styled as the MS *Noordereiland*, a 'ship on the Maas', by artist Joe Cillen, with its 3000 'sailors' (residents). To the left is **De Brug** (6), an apartment block with Cillen-constructed starboard lights on the roof (green and red).

Walk towards Noordereiland's eastern tip, where you'll find the ship's **engine room** (7) – an alleyway behind the Aldi supermarket that's been decorated with mechanical sculptures by local artists and kids. Backtrack and walk west along Maaskade, admiring more watery views before stopping in at the maritime-themed pub also named **Willemsbrug** (8; p217). Here

WALK FACTS

Start Maritiem Museum Rotterdam

Finish Euromast

Duration Three hours

