



**JULIA!**  
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NOVEMBER 2017

BEAUTY  
AWARDS  
THE 57  
PRODUCTS  
THAT  
ACTUALLY  
WORK

FEEL  
GOOD  
NOW

GET THE SLEEP  
YOU NEED  
SHOP  
SUSTAINABLY  
& EAT LIKE  
A GROWN-UP

ELLE TRAVEL



Clockwise, from far left: Amsterdam's canals and gabled houses; A'dam Toren's view of the city; Cafe 't Smalle; the A'dam Toren; the Museum Café at the Museum of Bags and Purses

**PUT THE  
MAP AWAY**

*The wandering tourist's guide to Amsterdam.* BY CIARA RICKARD

I love to travel, but I hate looking like a tourist. Even though globe-trotting has never been cooler—our social-media feeds are full of #wanderlust, recent grads put their adventures on their resumés and there's nary a dating profile that does not proclaim a love of it—there's just something inherently embarrassing to me about standing out in a foreign locale. So I dress impractically in sundresses and my fave Ale... checking my map too often, I seek out non-tourist-trap places. The downside of this stubborn... the upside, however, is stum... otherwise miss en route to... Amsterdam, with its picture... incredible exhibitions, is a gr... destination. Here are a few ha...

In 1996, *Munt-try*: The museum's home is an old canal house, and on the second floor is a beautiful baroque café that seems transported from a bygone era—perfect for afternoon tea with a view.



**REMBRANDT HOUSE MUSEUM**

One of my favourite things to do when travelling is visit the homes of long-gone writers, musicians and artists. (Wardsworth's twee Dove Cottage in the Lake District, U.K., and the sprawling Paris apartment where Victor Hugo started writing *Les Misérables* are favourites.) Seventeenth-century painter Rembrandt (the artist responsible for what might be the city's most prized piece of art, *The Night Watch*) lived and worked in Amsterdam's

**A'DAM TOREN**

The A'dam tower is hard to miss: It's 100 metres tall and looms over the IJ, the river between Amsterdam-Noord and Centrum. (Formerly a Skell tower, it's now home to offices, a hip hotel, restaurants and bars.) I wasn't exactly lost when I happened upon it, but I was tired and fed up after walking around for an hour in search of what promised to be a rustic-yet-cool, off-the-beaten-path café. (I never found it. Tourist fail.) So before getting on the (free!) ferry back to the centre, I headed up to the lookout point on the A'dam's roof—via a fun high-speed glass elevator with a dizzying light show all the way up. Here, I took a ride on the new mechanical swing, which



**CAFE 'T SMALLE**

On a dark night, this little pub stands out like a beacon—warm light glows through its leaded-glass windows, inviting you to come in, get cozy and drink beer. Which is exactly what I did— a Belgian blond called La Chouffe, to be exact. Café 't Smalle is in the trendy Jordaan neighbourhood (which is on the western edge of the centre), and inside is all dark wood, vintage posters, candles and the hum of relaxed conversation. One of the city's many "brown cafés"—trad



**MUSEUM**

If ever you stroll through the evolution of the modern day, a silky embroidered closet. Or the modern Kelly's Hat Madonna



**WHERE TO STAY** Getting lost can be exhausting. (See my earlier hangry breakdown.) So if you need a break from wandering, the Dylan Amsterdam makes it easy to lay low without feeling like you're wasting precious touring time. The boutique hotel has that elusive combination of both a relaxed atmosphere and high luxury, from its 40 rooms and suites to the pretty courtyard and let's-just-drink-by-the-fire-all-night bar. It's housed in a 17th-century canal house within "the Nine Streets," the ridiculously charming concentric network of streets in Amsterdam's historic centre. If you want to "stay in" for dinner, you've got options: Food at OCCO is excellent, and the Dylan's other resto, Vinkeltes, has a Michelin star. Further temptation to never leave comes in the form of "High Wine": a selection of fine wines and savoury bites served in the late afternoon. □