

*AIM presents:*



# Amsterdam Starters Guide

Tips and tricks for you to live your best uni life!

# General Recommendations

## Spots for Coffee:

- **AIM Room:** Free and cozy.
- **YUSU:** Conveniently close to campus.
- **Five Ways:** Also near the university.
- **Wakuli:** Excellent variety of coffee options.
- **De Laatste Kruimel:** The ultimate cottagecore vibe. Feels like a cozy grandma's living room, in the best way. Amazing pastries too! They have two locations, but the Jordaan one is highly recommended.
- **CREA:** Great for coffee and snacks on campus, plus they offer amazing cultural events and creative courses.

## Parties:

- **AIM Parties:** Best parties, best prices, best overall vibe!
- **NYX Club:** A vibrant queer club, with free entry on Wednesdays.
- **Melkweg:** Free techno night every Tuesday!

## Live Music

- **Café De Engelbewaarder:** Every Sunday, enjoy jazz sessions starting at 4 PM. It's a cozy spot with great music and a laid-back atmosphere.
- **Bourbon Street:** Located at Leidsekruisstraat 6-8, evenings here feature traditional blues jam sessions. Perfect for winding down your day with some great live music.
- **Mulligan's Irish Music Bar :** Located at Amstel 100, enjoy Irish folk music every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with free entrance. A great spot for lively and authentic music.
- **Jazz Café Altro** if you like jazz, go here and if you want a seat, be early

## Museums

- **NXT Museum:** features immersive digital art installations that are both fascinating and interactive.
- **Straatmuseum:** Explore the largest street art and graffiti museum in the world. The Straatmuseum showcases works from artists around the globe in a unique industrial setting.
- **Van Gogh Museum:** Immerse yourself in art at the Van Gogh Museum, home to the largest collection of Van Gogh's paintings and drawings.
- **Rijksmuseum:** Visit the Rijksmuseum to explore Dutch art and history from the Middle Ages to the present day. Don't miss the famous works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and other Dutch masters.
- **Anne Frank House:** It's a deeply moving experience that offers a glimpse into the life of Anne Frank during WWII.
- **Hermitage Amsterdam:** Discover exhibitions from the vast collection of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. It's a fascinating cultural experience that changes periodically.
- **Cat museum:** Enjoy a beautiful collection of cat themed art and befriend the cats that are walking through the museum

## Experiences

- **A'DAM Lookout:** Head to A'DAM Lookout for stunning panoramic views of Amsterdam. The observation deck also has a swing that lets you swing over the edge of the building
- **Noordermarkt:** Every Monday and Saturday, Lots of fresh fruit and veg as well as clothes and jewellery
- **Madamm Amsterdam** Fancy bar in North with skyline view (Free entry, drinks are pricey tho)
- **IJ Hallen:** once every month Europe's biggest flea market takes place in Noord (free ferry ride to Noord) ;), prices are low and you can find true treasures, enjoy the food trucks, entrance costs 6€ and cash or Tikkie is needed for paying at stands
- **The book exchange:** used english books for cheap, high ceilings filled with books, so the dream of every bookworm, close to the Oudemanhuispoort campus
- **Brouwerij't IJ:** If you like their beer, go visit the windmill for a cozy drink!
- **Cafe Mojo:** a great bar to get a drink, play cards on the terrace and enjoy a cozy evening with borrel snacks in Oost
- **Foodhallen:** a cool food court in the west, worth a visit! There is also a laptop friendly cheap cafe (Café Belcampo)
- **Hortus Botanicus:** a botanical garden close to our campus, reduced entrance with student card

# AIMs Personal Recommendations



**VAISAKH**

## Restaurants:

- **Saravanna Bhavan** - this is a classic restaurant in India that has made it globally! Fantastic South Indian vegetarian dishes for great prices as well!
- **Tacos & Tequila** - great Mexican food! The tequila selection is quite nice as well!
- **Yuan's Hot Pot** - I LOVE hot pots and this place is in my top 3 all time for hot pots... the menu has a wide selection of foods and spice levels! Great place to go with a group of friends!

## Clubs/Bars:

- **de Tulp** - a very chill pub in De Pijp! The interior is absolutely beautiful
- **Parallel** - very nice warehouse-esk club in Noord!

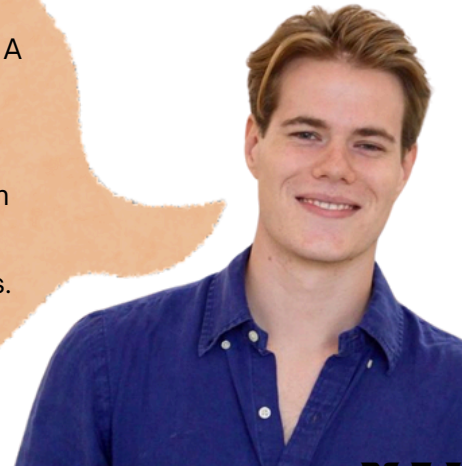
## Activities:

- 100% recommend taking time to sit beside a canal occasionally and have some positive alone time :)
- Go crazy on King's Day!

**MY ONLY TIP:** Make sure to prioritize taking time away from PPLE, AIM, and anything uni related throughout the year! There are very easy day trips, weekend trips, and even activities within Amsterdam to give yourself a well-deserved break... take them!

## Places to grab a bite

- **Shiraz Jardin Des Vins** → an amazing and probably one of the prettiest wine bars in Amsterdam. Beautiful interior and super tasty wine!
- **Cafe Caron** → A super cosy and delicious French restaurant run by a family. A bit pricey but it is definitely worth checking it out.
- **Pho King** → Very ratchet-looking but hands down the best Vietnamese phở I have had anywhere in Amsterdam! The atmosphere is super chill since the restaurant is family-run.
- **The Pantry** → an absolutely amazing Dutch restaurant with exclusively Dutch cuisine. The place is ALWAYS packed so definitely make a reservation. The restaurant is definitely worth it and the prices are super affordable for Amsterdam; 25€ for a three course meal. It does not get any better than this.



**NAJ**



# AIMs Personal Recommendations

- **Spaces to pretend studying** - OBA, coffee company, screaming beans
- **Places to go when studying doesn't help anymore** (sometimes you just have to grab a drink and fries with a friend) - Café Hesp, Café Hans en Grietje, Generator Hostel Bar, Hannekes Boom Café, Tweek Prinsen
- **Food Spots** - Five Ways Coffee Roasters, Umaimon Ramen, Heertje Friet, Tjueh Maret
- **Solid side quests** - Swimming at Marineterrein, escape room (My escape club), Tour through Johan Cruiff Arena (if you like football),
- Trip to the beach, Climbing sesh (Beest Boulders, monk bouldergym), renting a music or dance studio at CREA



CEKA



CEKA

My life revolves around **IJ-Hallen**, the monthly flea market in Noord. Grab friends, take the ferry, and hunt for treasures—if you try hard enough, it's cheap! For bookworms, check out the second-hand “**Book Exchange**” for affordable reads and high ceilings. But beware during exam season—it's dangerously close to Singel Library and Oudemanhuispoort! Start the dreamiest mornings start with a **yoga class at USC Body & Mind**, followed by **coffee at YUSU**.

# AIMs Personal Recommendations



**BAS**

- For studying, I recommend the **OBA near centraal**. Nice place to study and lovely opportunity to take breaks by sitting along the canal outside.
- **Cheeky walk** - take a break from uni and go see the Artis flamingos just around the corner from campus
- **Leave Amsterdam** - seriously, leave. My favourite memory from last year was a weekend trip to Paris we booked for under 100 euros and on 1 day notice (the fact that this was possible blew my Australian mind) so I highly recommend doing the same. Catch a Flixbus, book a cheap hostel and go somewhere. Even a day trip to Groningen, the Hague or Brussels will do much good for getting you away from PPLE.
- **Wok to Walk** - nothing hits harder than walking from uni to Leidseplein and rewarding yourself with a box of noodles after a late night study session

- **Amsterdamse Bos** Though it's a bit of a trek by bike or public transport, this huge forest is perfect for running, walking, or cycling. A great escape from the busy city!
- **Noordermarkt**: Head there early on Saturday for cheap veggies, fruit, and flowers, or go later for a relaxed stroll and street food. Grab coffee from Saint Jean—just expect a queue, but their pastries are worth it!
- **Waterhole Bar**: Not the trendiest spot, but don't be put off! There's always live music on weekends, a laid-back (slightly older) crowd, and pool tables for some friendly competition.



**HANNAH**



# AIMs Personal Recommendations

- **Favourite Club:** Radion – a bit pricey, but totally worth it for great techno vibes!
- **Food Recommendations:** Check out the food stands at Westermarkt, especially the Turkish stand! For something more unique, Oosterse Delic is fantastic, and Lalibela Restaurant is my top pick for Ethiopian cuisine in Amsterdam.
- **Favorite Bar:** Café 't Smalle – a charming, traditional Dutch bar with a cozy atmosphere
- **Places to Study:** Besides the PPLE study spaces, the Singel Library is my go-to, especially since it's open until 1 am, perfect for late-night study sessions.



## Always good to keep in mind

Uni can get pretty overwhelming, so it's super important to take a step back and look after yourself. If you keep pushing non-stop, you'll burn out, and that won't help anyone. Take a break from the books, clear your head, and recharge—whether it's going for a walk, hanging out with friends, or just chilling out. Your mental and physical health matter just as much as your grades, and taking care of yourself will actually help you do better in the long run.