

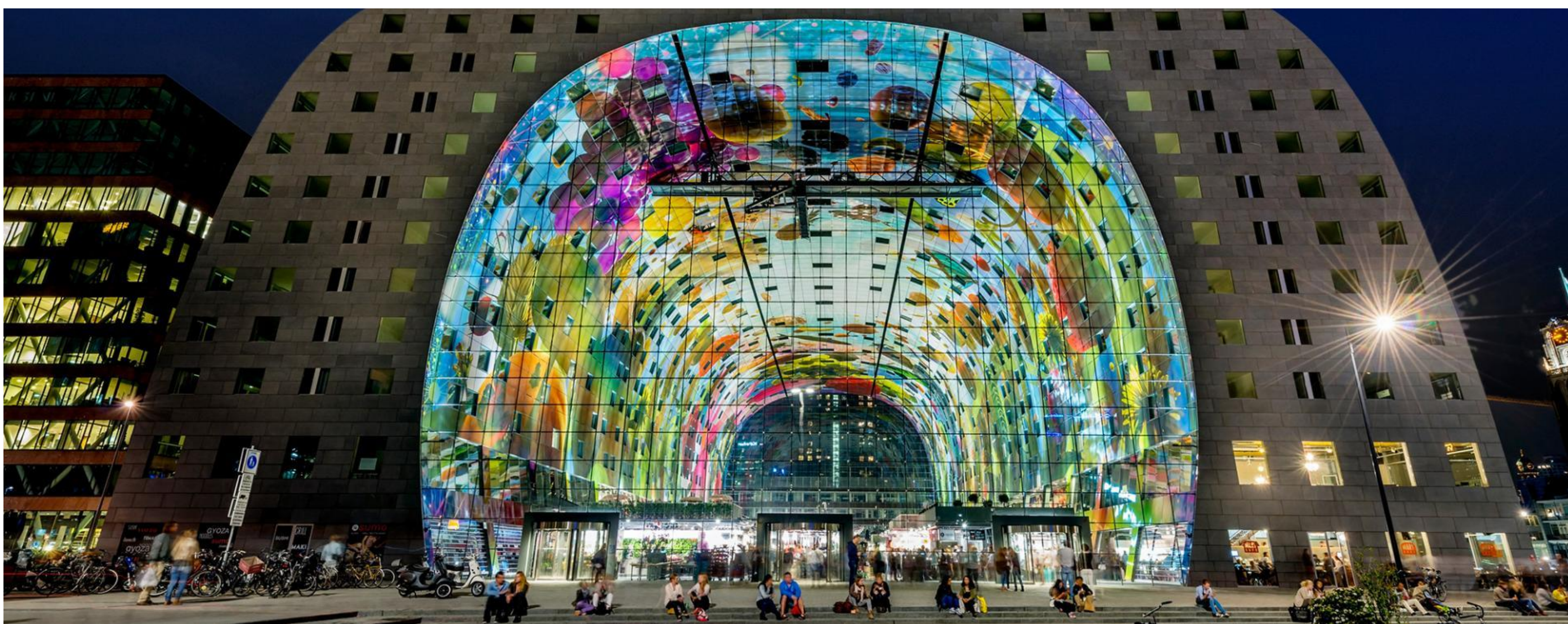
# ROOM'S DIY - FOOD TOUR

< 90 minutes

**This is a non-circular tour to the Markthal.  
The first part brings you past some of the  
city's highlights. This is a great route  
towards the Mecca of Food that is the  
Markthal, where we will guide you through  
some typical Dutch food.**

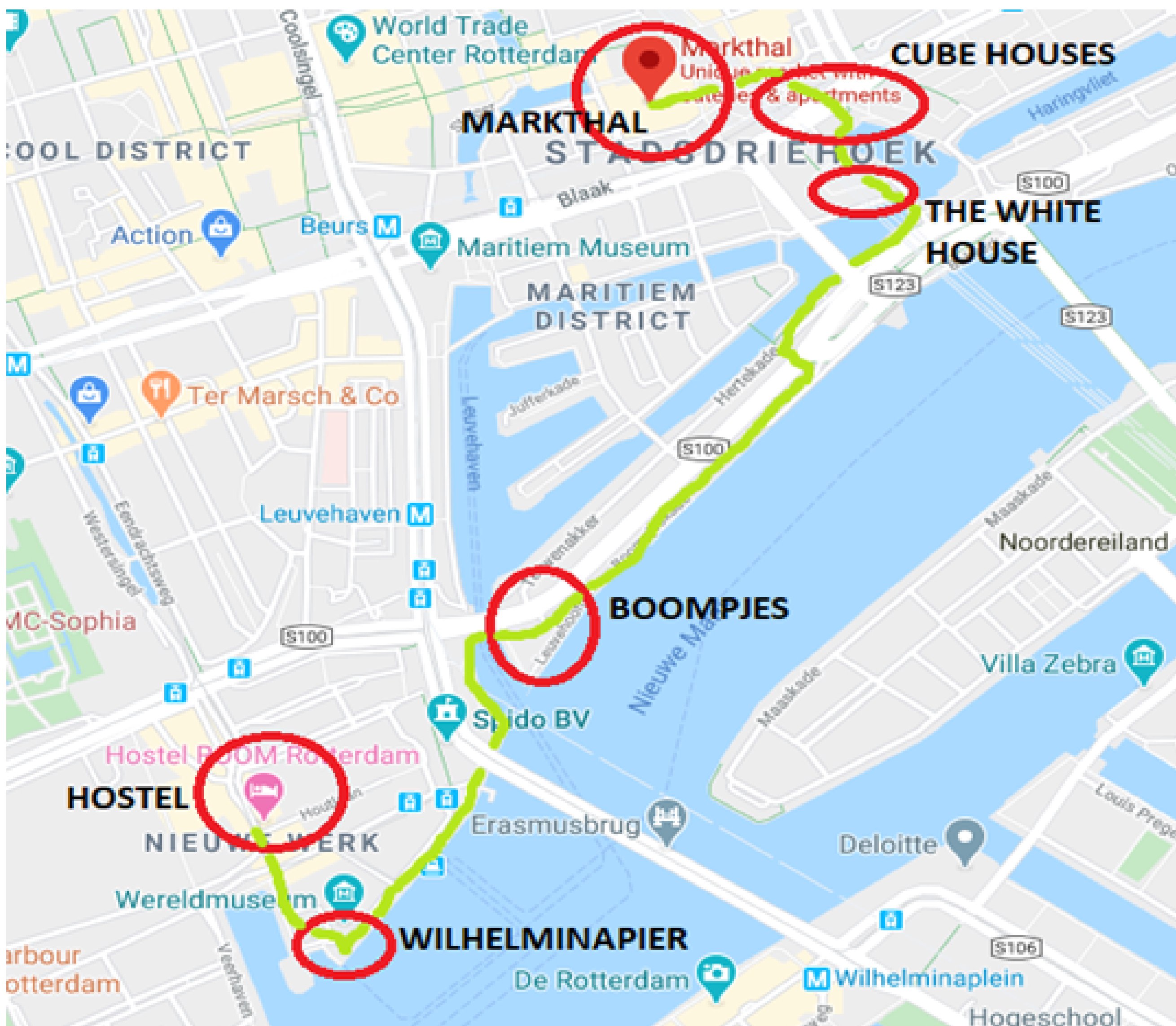
**Get a taste of Rotterdam!**

**HOSTEL ROOM ROTTERDAM**  
**Van Vollenhovenstraat 62**  
**Tel: +31102827277**





# ROOM'S DIY - FOOD TOUR



## Introduction

This tour starts at the hostel, in the 'Scheepvaartskwartier', a historic neighbourhood that was barely affected by the most important event of the recent history of Rotterdam, the 1940 bombing of Rotterdam by Nazi Germany as a part of the Second World War.

When you are at the entrance of the hostel with your back to the door, you turn left, following the sidewalk to the river. While you walk towards the first stop, de Willemskade with a view to the Wilhelminapier, notice how the buildings are from the 18th century. This is one of the few well-preserved historic neighbourhoods that Rotterdam still has.



## 1, Caland Monument

On your way to the Wilhelminapier, you will walk past the Caland Monument.

This monument remembers engineer Pieter Caland who designed and dug the Nieuwe Waterweg (The New Waterway), which directly connects Rotterdam with the sea. As a result, the Nieuwe Maas, the river that flows through Rotterdam, connects with all three main rivers in the Netherlands, that flow into Belgium, France and Germany, guaranteeing the Rotterdam Port of its leading role in Europe.



## 2, Wilhelminapier

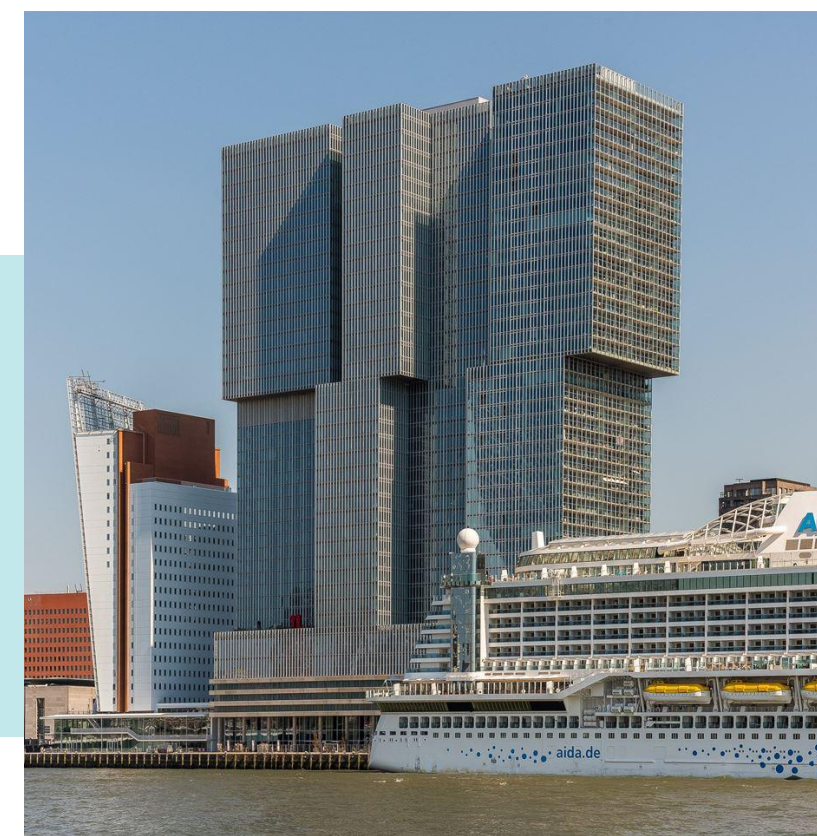
When continueing your way down to the river, you arrive at the Willemskade, from where you have a perfect view, across the river, of the Wilhelminapier, or the skyline of Rotterdam.



The instantly recognizable Erasmus Bridge, which was finished in 1996, also known as 'The Swan', created a new connection between the city centre and the South. The South has always been behind but the construction of the Erasmusbrug has brought impressive development.



At the Wilhelmina Pier you can now find the largest (not the highest) building in The Netherlands, the blocky building with 3 connecting towers, 'de Rotterdam'. A vertical city, designed by Rotterdam's most important architect, Rem Koolhaas. In here you will find a hotel, offices, apartments, a gym, restaurants and many other things that you would typically find in a city. This impressive structure was finished in 2014, and is one of the newest additions to the always improving city.



The smaller building with the green roofs and the clocks all the way to the right is the former main office of the Holland-America Line. The HAL was one of the main transporters of goods and people from mainland Europe to North America. This company was started in 1872 and still exists today. In its time it has highly contributed to the colonization of North America, until 1971 when taking the airplane became increasingly affordable. This was the moment that the HAL reinvented itself and became a cruise company. In 1989 the company was bought by an American cruise operator and its main office moved to Seattle, Washington. In 1993, Hotel New York opened in this beautiful historic building. It's a high-end hotel with a great restaurant.



### Splashing Tip:

The small yellow water taxis have a direct connection to it, taking one is a great way of transportation and a great little local experience. Call: +31104030303 and have them pick you up at one of the many little ports.



### 3, Boompjes

Follow your route along the river, leaving the historic part and entering the modern city centre. Walk along under the bridge, around the corner at restaurant 'Prachtig', up the pier and turn to your right over the small white bridge and follow the sidewalk to the flags.



Boompjes is the name of the street that runs parallel to the river. The long line of flags, except for the first bunch which usually promote big events in Rotterdam, are national banners that represent every single ethnicity that can be found in Rotterdam. No less than 174 flags wave here in honour of the diverse city. Rotterdam is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world, rivalled only by Amsterdam and Toronto.

Boompjes offers a nice boulevard and a good view of the residential island 'Noordereiland', connected by the red Willems Bridge, which is also mostly unaffected by the war.

**Fun Fact:**  
Some of these flags represent just 1 or 2 people!

### 4. The White House

ROUTE: Walk along the flags all the way until the end, and then cross the busy street to your left at the traffic lights.

**Fun Fact:**  
The big white office building that stands right across the road is famous for its use in the 1998 Jackie Chan film 'Who Am I', where Chan slides off the side of the building.



CONTINUING ROUTE: Here the route takes a bit of an odd turn. Once you crossed the road, there is a possibility to walk under this specific building, just walk right down and then across, and on the other side there is a bike path and another river, where you suddenly see a very different side of Rotterdam. Follow this small river towards a port with historic sailboats. Please don't enter any of these boats, people often live there. You will see a high historic white building with the words 'Calex' on the top. This is the White House. Cross the small bridge.



The White House is officially the first skyscraper of Europe, built in Art Nouveau style, inspired by New York City. The White House was built at the end of the 19th century as a Trade Centre. Building the White House was very risky, because the Dutch soil doesn't support very heavy structures. At that time it was not done to build any higher than 4 or 5 floors, but the White House has 11! This is also the area that was most heavily bombed during WW2, yet the White House is one of only 3 surviving structures in the old city centre. This beautiful building survived everything, but sadly it is mostly empty now, except for the restaurant at the ground floor.



## 5, Cube Houses

ROUTE: You've probably already noticed the yellow Cube Houses a bit further down the street. Just walk towards it, along the Old Port, and move up the stairs towards the Stay Okay Hostel.



You will now find yourself on the viaduct that is known as the Forrest of Blaak, with the mindboggling structures called the Cube Houses. Cross the viaduct towards the other end, and amaze yourself at the houses that tower over your head. This area was meant as an oasis of peace in the middle of the city centre, with houses looking much like trees, and open spaces for leisure. These were finished in 1984 and designed by Piet Blom. Although maybe not the most practical houses to live in, they sure are special.

### Tip:

At the 'Kijk Kubus', which is a Museum Cube, you can enter for €3.50 p.p. and see what it really looks like from the inside.

## 6. Blaak / Markthal

ROUTE: When you exit the Cube Houses and walk down the stairs, you move around the tall residential building and continue onto the Blaak Market square. Here you are surrounded by some strange structures. with even stranger names.



There is the City Library with its big yellow pipes, the Blaak Tower that looks like a pencil, the Cube Houses, the UFO-like entrance to an underground Metro and Train station and finally, on the other side, the Markthal, also known as the pencil sharpener.

### Tip:

In the middle of the Markthal, there is a staircase that leads to an underground parking garage, along the walls there are glass vitrines that showcase artefacts that have been found while digging out the foundations. These were dated and now tell a story of the history of this place.



The Markthal is one the most impressive architectural feats of Rotterdam, integrating an indoor market and apartments. The market is solely focused on food, representing the multi-cultural city with delicacies from all over the world. On the ceiling you will find the largest art work in the world, looking much like a still from a Pixar movie, giving the visitor a true Alice In Wonderland experience. The food in the Markthal is generally of high quality and thus a bit pricy, but definitely worth trying.



## 7. Inside the Markthal

Now comes the most important part of the tour, FOOD! The Markthal offers a great mix of food from all over the world, but today we will focus on some Dutch delicacies. Maybe you're thinking of cheese, or Stroopwafels, but have you ever heard of Kibbeling? Did you even imagine that you could try local specialties from the Eastern Dutch region of Twente?

**We encourage everyone to try out as much as possible, but if you want to try the best that The Netherlands has to offer, don't skip the following:**

### 1. Kibbeling and/or Haring:

These are two typical fish dishes that are adored across The Netherlands. Kibbeling are chunks of white fish, deep fried in batter with a special spice mix. Always choose 'Kibbeling sauce' or 'Ravigote sauce' (they are the same thing) to go with them. Haring is for the more **adventurous** foodies among you. Haring is raw herring, usually eaten with small pieces of raw onion. And if you don't eat it like this, why would you eat it at all?

Get your Kibbeling & Haring at Andalus Fish! All the way in the back of the Markthal.



### 2. Stroopwafels:

If you've spent more than 5 minutes in The Netherlands, you probably know what Stroopwafel is, if you don't, you are in for a treat! Stroopwafel is nothing more than two waffles with syrup in between, and they are delicious! The secret is in where to get them. Supermarket? NO!! Markthal? YES!! Get them freshly made for you and enjoy them while they are still warm. You will be able to choose from many different toppings, but honestly, there is a reason why the 'stroop' is the classic one, it's simply the best.

Get them big and steamy at Goudstroop, also in the back.



### 3. Kaas:

Kaas means cheese. And we love cheese. Of course we like French cheese, and Swiss cheese, and Greek cheese, but why bother when you have Dutch cheese! The absolute best can be found at 'Brandstore De Rotterdamsche Oude'. There are a few other authentic cheese stalls, but this is our favorite.

The cheese with the best flavour might be a Rotterdamsche Oude, but we let you be the judge of that, you can always ask to try a piece. Find this stall at the first central block of market stalls, on the left side.





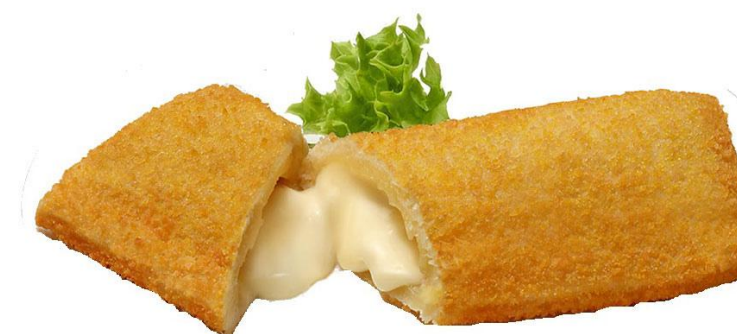
#### 4. Snacks:

Maybe today is not diet day. Maybe today is snack day. And if today is snack day, mama mia you came to the right place. The Netherlands offers a wide variety of deep-fried snacks, most of them you will probably never have heard of. Frikandel, Kroket, Kaassoufflé, Berenklauw. All unique and beautiful. Bram Ladage is a Rotterdam icon, but if you want to try something more special, maybe have a look at Het Kroket Locket.



#### Tip:

Many of the market stalls offer a rooftop terrace where you can enjoy your food in peace. You will experience the remarkable calm there, compared to the busy ground floor.



Finally, we didn't want to keep this one from you.. Just outside the Markthal there is a place called 'Poffertjessalon Seth'. If you can still manage to eat something after visiting the Markthal, this is the place to go.



#### 5. Poffertjes:

Poffertjes are small fluffy pancakes, and this is the best place to get them in Rotterdam. Our favorite would be poffertjes with strawberries and cream!!

If you are with more people, we suggest you to order a big plate to share! It's cheaper! ;-)

# THE END

If you have any questions, please ask at the reception. We would also love to hear your feedback about the tour!