



**SATURDAY** Stroll to the nearby **Het Nieuwe Instituut** ([hetnieuweinstiutuut.nl](http://hetnieuweinstiutuut.nl)), a museum dedicated to Dutch design and architecture. Afterward, cruise the river in a water taxi to spot a few examples in person, like the Erasmus Bridge and De Rotterdam, a striking skyscraper by Rem Koolhaas. This summer, cool off with a dip at **Rif010** ([rif010.nl](http://rif010.nl)), an artificial-wave park in the Steigergsgracht canal. Once you've worked up an appetite, take in the skyline while dining on dishes such as veal tartare with langoustines and *pata negra* at **HMB Restaurant** ([hmb-restaurant.nl](http://hmb-restaurant.nl); small plates \$5–\$24). Cap off the evening with a bespoke G&T at **Ballroom** ([ballroomrotterdam.nl](http://ballroomrotterdam.nl)), where your ideal elixir is crafted with one of more than a hundred gins.

**SUNDAY** Art is everywhere in this city—more than a thousand pieces adorn the public spaces. Walk along the Rijnhaven for a glimpse of *Bobbing Forest*, a surrealist installation of floating trees by art collective Mothership, then head to **De Markthal** ([markthal.nl](http://markthal.nl)), a vast, mural-covered space where vendors sell aged Goudas and cinnamon-kissed stroopwafels. It's also home to *De Tijdttrap*, an exhibition of medieval artifacts excavated from the ground on which the building now stands. Save room for dinner at **Fenix Food Factory** ([fenixfoodfactory.nl](http://fenixfoodfactory.nl); entrées \$3–\$27), in buzzy Katendrecht. In the winter, a hip crowd hovers indoors over cured meats and pear cider. In warmer months, benches overlooking the canal are the setting for long, boozy evenings.



## Weekend Getaway

# Rotterdam Uncovered

Known for its pulsing student nightlife and alternative vibe, Rotterdam is starting to steal Amsterdam's spotlight. Here's how to spend three days in this dynamic Dutch city.

**FRIDAY** Start your weekend off by checking in to the **Mainport** ([mainporthotel.com](http://mainporthotel.com); doubles from \$165), a wellness-oriented hotel where you can book a room with a Finnish sauna, or the **CitizenM Hotel Rotterdam** ([citizenm.com](http://citizenm.com); doubles from \$92), which feels like your design-savvy friend's living room. Wander north for some shopping in Oude Noorden, a vibrant residential area with experimental fashion and home-design boutiques. Grab a pre-dinner drink at **Brouwerij Noordt** ([brouwerijnoordt.nl](http://brouwerijnoordt.nl)), a brewery with 20 beers on tap situated in a former firehouse. Continue the tasting tour with a 15-minute bike ride to **Roffa Streetfoodbar** ([roffafood.nl](http://roffafood.nl); entrées \$9–\$28), a smokehouse that serves bread, beer, and cheese from some of Rotterdam's best producers. The brisket—slow-cooked over oak for 24 hours—is not to be missed.