Amsterdam

Bars:

Café Scrapyard (Bar) - Baconnaise Fries! Some of the tastiest bar food you can find. Good hospitality with plenty of *Gezellig*. Micro brewed beer is sometimes a rarity in Europe and they specialize stocking some of the smallest. A nice curve ball after having some obligatory Heineken or Carlsberg. You will be surprised to even find a tasty IPA on the menu.
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/caf%C3%A9-scrapyard-amsterdam >>

De Bekeerde Suster (Brewery) - Great beer and great food. Situated within Nieuwmarkt, the Centrum and only a stone's throw from the Red Light district this place is a gem hidden within tourism. Highly recommend making this your choice among the options. A classic Dutch style bar with beers ranging from blondes to darker options you cannot go wrong with the tap or bottled options. And do yourself a favor... and save some room for a slice of beer bread with beer butter! *<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/de-bekeerde-suster-amsterdam >>*

Wynand Fockink (Spirits) - Wonderful liquors! Taking them to the next level are the mixologists behind the bar counter. They were able to recreate any flavor described to them by mixing various spirits together to customize the experience. We even got them to successfully create root beer, a popular American soda flavor, even though the bartender had never before had such a drink. Tucked into the back of a neat alleyway off one of the main squares in the city, a must see. *<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/wynand-fockink-amsterdam >>*

Bakeries/Cafes:

De Bakkerswinkel West (Bakery, Cafe) - Quiche to die for among other offerings like yummy scones. You can get breakfast, brunch and a light lunch here in single or platter type dining options. This bakery is nestled into a very neat and surprisingly airy building near one of the many waterways and Amsterdam's large park, Westpark. Perfect for a lazy morning walk and a late breakfast. *<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/de-bakkerswinkel-west-amsterdam >>*

De Vier Pilaren (Pancakes/Pannenkoeken) - Poffertjes! Also know as mini pancakes are popular in Dutch cities and often you will find them situated within a carousel. You can have them served plain or with fresh fruit, chocolate, Nutella, whipped cream and or powdered sugar. They also have some savory options as well here but the focus here is on the Poffertjes! They are perfectly paired with an espresso or a cappuccino. There are other imitations throughout the city to avoid but De Vier Pilaren uses fresh ingredients and it makes a difference.
<< https://www.yelp.nl/biz/de-vier-pilaren-amsterdam >>

Lanskroon Banketbakkerij (Bakery, Cafe) - A national delicacy the stroopwafel is served here in grand form. They come in both honey and caramel flavors. Highly recommend ordering them with a coffee and placing the stroopwafel on the top of the mug like a lid for a few moments to warm up the inner contents of the pastry.
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/lanskroon-banketbakkerij-amsterdam >>

Tourism:

This list is a "must do" simply for the need to check life experiences off the list. All recommendations are certainly good for one time experiences. Some will push your boundaries and all will give you a greater appreciation for the city of Amsterdam. Be aware that they all draw large amounts of tourists and the lines can be exceptionally long. Remember to have an open mind and have fun!

Amsterdam

Bloemenmarkt Tulip Flower Market (Shopping) - Remnants of Tulip Mania industry from 1637. Tulip shops and general tourism shops galore. Interesting to see such demand for the Dutch tulip market to this day, albeit with much lower prices than the height of the mania.
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/de-bloemenmarkt-amsterdam >>

Heineken Experience (Entertainment) - Heineken brewery museum tour, gift shop and tasting. After winding through the tour learning about Heineken history and recopies you are able to sample a beer directly off the line and then proceed to the Heineken bar for further refreshments.
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/heineken-experience-amsterdam >>

Red Light District and Casa Rosso (Entertainment) - De Wallen tourist area is known for its window viewing of sex workers. Environment is oddly safe and relatively calm given possible expectations. Live sex show provides unlimited viewing and two drinks in a theatre setting.
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/casa-rosso-amsterdam-2 >>

Rijksmuseum (Museum) - Historic museum dedicated to art and history to include Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Johannes Verneer and is located in museum square near the Van Gogh museum.
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/rijksmuseum-amsterdam-3 >>

Shopping:

Albert Heijn (Grocery) - Many American's visualize every corner of Seattle with a Starbucks and they would be right. In Amsterdam and throughout the Nederland's you will find an Albert Heijn. Worth a stop in whether you are looking to eat... or drink... on a budget or simply for the experience. They have some of the best fresh squeezed orange juice, in any size you could imagine! You will also find quality meats, cheese, bread along a wide drink selection at reasonable prices. *<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/albert-heijn-amsterdam-40 >>*

Special Events:

Canal Parade (Parade, Party) - Many progressive cities throughout the world host gay pride events culminating in parades but only Amsterdam can do it this uniquely. As nearly 100 uniquely decorated canal boats, canal "floats"? ;) pilot down the river for all to see. An annual celebration of rights and free expression pops off for one day at the beginning of August. Top viewing areas are at the starting point of the parade and the Magere Brug on the Amstel River. Grab your spot early if you want a clear view of the canal, it gets crowded!
<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/gay-pride-canal-parade-amsterdam?page_src=best_of_yelp >>

Taste of Amsterdam Festival (Food Festival) - An annual duty celebration of the culinary arts! Food, Drinks and Music! You will experience foods of a wide spectrum from down to earth guilty pleasures to the most extravagantly crafted dishes. A four day festival usually held in early July in Amstelpark near the RAI train station. Book tickets at http://en.tasteofamsterdam.com/ and don't forget food tickets. Pro tip to save some money, many of the vendors offer tastes of their dishes and after a few rounds of the venue you will need to buy very little additional food in the way of meals. *<< http://www.yelp.com/biz/taste-of-amsterdam-amsterdam/ >>*

