My top 2 city in my list is Paris. Paris is just 2.5 hrs away from Rotterdam if you take the high-speed train. Before go to Paris, you better have a friend speaking Basic French, which makes the whole journey much easier. As everyone told you, French are not very willing to learn and even speak English. In some local restaurants (if you want to enjoy the high quality and relatively cheap food, try to avoid the tourist area), the waiters can only speak limited English and the menu is sometimes only in French. Paris is definitely a paradise for shopping and food. Make sure to do the homework before you go to Paris because a lot of people say that the food in Paris or the people in here suck. If you do your homework first you can avoid the bad restaurant and you know the people are rude at first, you will not be surprise after you really in Paris. By the way, there are a lot of pocket picker in the Metro or train, be aware.