

Open Monuments Day

Since 1984, several European countries have organised annual Heritage Days or Open Door Days to celebrate their national architectural and natural heritage. The Netherlands is proud to join in this cultural tradition with its very own nationwide Open Monumentendag ('Open Monuments Day')!

Open Monumentendag takes place every second weekend of September, when thousands of historic buildings and sites open their doors to the public, free of charge. In the city of Utrecht, it is held on **Saturday** from 10 am until 5 pm, with more than 80 historic buildings open to the public. Many locations also organise on-site activities such as exhibitions, musical performances and guided tours. Please note that most activities are in Dutch. Translations cannot always be provided.

This leaflet introduces 23 must-see highlights in the city centre of Utrecht. The numbers correspond to the numbers of the sites on the map. But there are many more monuments accessible today. Just notice the 'Open Monument Day' flags that signify the monument's participation. Have fun exploring the historic sites of Utrecht!

The full programme is available on our website:
www.openmonumentendagutrecht.nl

Walking route

START: DOMPLEIN SQUARE
GO INSIDE THE DOM CHURCH:

1. Domplein 31, Domkerk

In 1253 a fire decimated the old Romanesque cathedral that stood on this site. A new church was erected in the Gothic style between 1254 and 1517, with an imposing tower completed earlier, in 1382. In 1674 a severe storm (a 'derecho') destroyed the central part of the nave. The church remained in a ruinous state for 150 years. Today, the paving stones on the square indicate its original plan.

LEAVE THE CHURCH AND CROSS THE SQUARE DIAGONALLY TO THE RIGHT. IN THE CORNER IS:

2. Domplein 9, VVV Tourist Info

This building sits on the remains of a residence for the canons of the cathedral chapter, parts of which are visible through the windows in the floor. The current building dates from 1909 and was designed as a warehouse with apartments in the upper stories.

EXIT THE SHOP AND WALK PAST THE DOM TOWER ON YOUR RIGHT. IN FRONT OF YOU IS A GATE TO:

3. Servetstraat 7, Flora's Hof/ Museum Speelklok Restoration Workshop

In 1803, eminent garden designer Hendrik van Lunteren bought the vacant site where the episcopal palace once stood to start a nursery with his brother, calling it Flora's Hof. Today the courtyard is maintained as a 19th-century show garden by the society

of friends of Flora's Hof. The sculptures were designed by P.J.H. Cuypers for the Dom's restored Pandhof garden and depict scenes from the life of St Martin. Adjoining the garden is the former premises of an auction house, now the restoration workshop of Museum Speelklok.

LEAVE THE GARDEN VIA THE PASSAGEWAY UNDERNEATH DOM TOWER, RETURNING TO DOMPLEIN SQUARE. CROSS THE SQUARE DIAGONALLY TO THE RIGHT. IN THE CORNER IS:

4. Domplein 29, Academiegebouw

Built in 1891-1894, the architectural style of Utrecht University Hall was the subject of a nationwide debate lasting five years. Should it match the Gothic style of the Dom Cathedral, or the Neoclassical style of most academic buildings? In the end, the university rejected Pierre Cuypers' Gothic Revival design and opted for a Renaissance Revival building by E.H. Gugel and F.J. Nieuwenhuis. Inside, the 15th-century cathedral chapter hall now serves as the auditorium.

AFTER LEAVING THE BUILDING, TURN RIGHT AND GO THROUGH THE GOTHIC ARCHWAY NEXT DOOR TO UNIVERSITY HALL. THIS GATE LEADS TO:

5. Domplein 29, Pandhof

The Pandhof was the cathedral's cloister garden and dates from the 14th century. It connected the church to the Great Chapter House, now Utrecht University Hall. Sections of the Gothic cloister's detailed tracery in the arches and cross-ribbed vaults date back as far as the 15th century. In 1876-1896 the cloister

was restored under the direction of Pierre Cuypers. The gablets above the arches were replaced at this time, but the stone was too porous and later was removed to decorate Flora's Hof.

LEAVE THE GARDEN VIA THE REAR EXIT, TURN RIGHT AND WALK TO THE END OF THE STREET, PAUSDAM. CONTINUE UP KROMME NIEUWGRACHT AND TAKE THE FIRST BRIDGE ON THE LEFT. GO THROUGH THE GATE TO:

6. Kromme Nieuwegracht 49, Paushuize

In 1517, Cardinal Adriaan Florisz, then residing in Spain, commissioned the construction of this Late Gothic style house. In 1522 Adrian was elected pope, giving this building its name, which means 'papal house'. Sadly for him, he died in Rome in 1523, having never set eyes on the house. The gate and the bridge date from 1633. When the building was restored in the years 2009-2011, a set of 19th-century 'Pompeian' frescos was uncovered, unique in the Netherlands. The statue of Pope Adrian IV, designed by Anno Dijkstra, was erected in front of the building in 2015.

RETURN TO PAUSDAM AND TURN INTO THE FIRST STREET ON THE RIGHT, PAUSDAM (BECOMES ACHTER ST-PIETER). TAKE THE NEXT STREET ON THE RIGHT, PIETERSKERKHOF. WALK ANOTHER 50 METRES UNTIL YOU REACH THE ENTRANCE, ON THE RIGHT, TO:

7. Pieterskerkhof 3, Pieterskerk

The Romanesque church of St Peter dates from 1048 and has a notable interior, with red sandstone columns

topped by characteristic cubic capitals. Underneath the chancel is a crypt containing unusual sculpted columns as well as 12th-century relief carvings along the staircase. This church was also damaged in the 1674 storm, which destroyed the westernmost bay and two towers. Nonetheless, it is the best-preserved Romanesque church in Utrecht. The chapter hall is Baroque and dates from 1649. St Peter's has served Utrecht's Walloon community since 1656.

WALK BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF PIETERSKERKHOF AND TURN DOWN THE FIRST STREET ON YOUR RIGHT, ÄCHTER ST-PIETER. TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT ON KEISTRAAT. CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD UNTIL YOU REACH THE ROAD. CROSS IT AND THEN TURN LEFT TOWARDS THE TREE-FILLED SQUARE, JANSKERKHOF. YOU ARE NOW AT THE REAR OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH. WALK AROUND THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE TO THE ENTRANCE.

8. Janskerkhof 26, Janskerk

Construction of St John's began in the 11th century. The church still has its 13th-century roof and original painted timber barrel vault. The storm of 1674 severely damaged the western apse and façade, which was replaced with a classicising entrance. The chapter room is hung with gold leather and has a stucco ceiling dating from 1755. The chancel, which dates from 1550, was used as the university's library from 1636 to 1821.

ON EXITING THE CHURCH, TURN IMMEDIATELY LEFT AND CROSS THE ROAD. WALK PAST THE EQUESTRIAN STATUE AND TURN DOWN KORTE JANSSTRAAT ON THE RIGHT, AND THEN RIGHT AGAIN ON MINREBROEDERSTRAAT. TO YOUR LEFT IS:

9. Minrebroederstraat 21, Willibrordkerk

Construction of church of St Willibrord started on the former site of a Catholic orphanage in 1895. The Gothic Revival design by Alfred Tepe has a plain exterior that contrasts sharply with the incredibly rich ornamentation inside. This interior was the joint creation of a number of artists from the St Bernulf's Guild and is colourfully painted, with generous use of gold leaf. Other features include wood carvings and stained glass windows depicting scenes from the life of St Willibrord.

ON LEAVING THE CHURCH, TURN LEFT. WALK DOWN THIS STREET, CROSS A SMALL SQUARE, AND THEN CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD, PROCEEDING ALONG GANZENMARKT, UNTIL YOU REACH THE CANAL. TO YOUR RIGHT IS:

10. Oudegracht 158, Winkel van Sinkel

The Winkel van Sinkel was built in 1837-1839 and was one of the country's first department stores. Designed by P. Adams, the building has a notable Neoclassical façade with massive iron female figures, known as caryatids, that were cast in England. The iron statues were so heavy that they warped the city's old crane and it had to be scraped. Inside, the store's central hall retains its original carved and stucco ornamentation.

WALK BACK ALONG GANZENMARKT UNTIL YOU REACH THE SMALL SQUARE YOU CROSSED EARLIER. TURN RIGHT AND WALK PAST THE CAFÉ TERRACES. ON YOUR RIGHT IS:

11. Korte Minrebroederstraat 2, Stadhuis

Utrecht's town hall was created in the 16th century by tearing through and combining several medieval houses. The complex was rebuilt many times over the centuries. The Neoclassical sandstone façade overlooking the bridge across the canal was designed in 1823 by civic architect J. van Emden. Facing the complex on the opposite corner was once the city's weigh house, where goods were weighed. The rear section was renovated in 2000, for which Enric Miralles of the firm EMBT Arquitectes (in Spain) supplied the design.

LEAVE THE BUILDING AND WALK AROUND THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE TO THE CANAL. CROSS THE BRIDGE AND TURN INTO THE FIRST STREET ON THE LEFT, CHOORSTRAAT. TAKE THE FIRST STREET ON THE RIGHT, STEENWEG, AND THEN THE FIRST LEFT, 1E BUURKERKSTEEG. THIS BRINGS YOU TO:

12. Buurkerkhof 12, Buurtoren

This 55-metre tall tower is part of an old church and dates from 1388. Up until 1125, this church, known as the Buurkerk, was Utrecht's only parish church; all the others were for the city's clergy. The building was struck by fire and rebuilt numerous times. The tower contains two historically significant unconsecrated bells: one that called the populace together to hear the proclamation of judgements and city council decisions, and an alarm bell that was sounded when danger threatened and the city gates were closed.

WALK INTO THE NARROW STREET LEADING AWAY FROM THE TOWER, 3E BUURKERKSTEEG, AND TURN LEFT. THIS STREET GIVES ONTO A SHOPPING STREET. CROSS IT AND WALK THROUGH

KUIPERSTEEG. AT THE END, FACING YOU ACROSS THE STREET IS:

13. Boterstraat 22, St Eloyen Gasthuis

In 1440, Utrecht's guild of metalsmiths, dedicated to St Eloy, acquired this building for the care of ailing guild members. The regents' chamber and Renaissance entrance gate emblazoned with a gilded crowned hammer, carved by Peter Franszoon in 1644, belong to the original infirmary. In 1730 a kolf court was created inside, where the traditional game is played to this day. In 1885, much of the building was rebuilt in the Eclectic style.

LEAVE THE BUILDING AND TURN LEFT TOWARDS THE SQUARE, MARIAPLAATS. CROSS THE SQUARE AND THE STREET AND CONTINUE ALONG THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE LARGE YELLOW BUILDING, UTRECHT'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY. YOU ARE NOW IN PANDHOF ST. MARIE, THE FORMER CHURCH OF ST MARY, WITH REMNANTS OF A ROMANESQUE CLOISTER. LEAVING THE GARDEN, WALK DIAGONALLY TOWARDS AND THROUGH THE TALL GREEN METAL GATES AND THEN TURN LEFT. CONTINUE TO THE END OF THE STREET, STOPPING IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING SITE, AND THEN TURN LEFT ALONG THE PAVEMENT. AFTER AROUND 100 METRES YOU WILL SEE, ON YOUR LEFT:

14. Willemsplantsoen 2, St Gertrudis Kathedraal

During the Reformation, Catholic church services were prohibited. Catholics therefore gathered in clandestine churches to celebrate mass. The most beautiful 17th-century clandestine church in the Netherlands was St Gertrude's Chapel (entrance next to the cathedral). The cathedral next door was built when the congregation outgrew this chapel, in 1912-1914, and today is the seat of the Roman Catholic archbishop of Utrecht. The building, designed by E.G. Wentink, presents an austere Romanesque Revival exterior, but is richly embellished within.

ON LEAVING THE CHURCH, TURN LEFT AND WALK TO THE END OF THE ROW OF HOUSES. DIAGONALLY TO THE RIGHT IS A PAVED ROAD FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS THROUGH THE PARK. FOLLOW THIS ROAD ALONG THE WATER UNTIL YOU REACH THE FIRST BRIDGE. TURN LEFT ONTO LANGE SMEESTRAAT. ON YOUR RIGHT IS:

15. Lange Smeestraat 40, Bartholomeus Gasthuis

This building has provided long-term care for the ill and infirm since the 14th century. The regents' chamber was

built in 1632 and is hung with splendid landscape tapestries produced in Delft. They were woven in 1642-1648 by Maximiliaan van der Gucht, a tapestry manufacturer of international renown. All of his wall hangings include a portrait of his little dog at the bottom. Now a nursing home, this building is the earliest in the Netherlands to have served without interruption as care facility.

PROCEED ALONG LANGE SMEESTRAAT UNTIL YOU REACH THE NEXT CROSSING AND TURN RIGHT ONTO SPRINGWEG. AT THE END OF THE STREET, ON YOUR RIGHT, IS THE CHURCH OF ST GERTRUDE. WALK AROUND THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE CHURCH TO THE ENTRANCE.

16. Geertekerkhof 23, Geertekerk
This church was originally built around 1250 and is the smallest of Utrecht's four parish churches. It was enlarged several times over the centuries, and used variously as a Protestant church, a stable for horses, a warehouse and a military barracks. In 1954, by then little more than a ruin, the building was acquired by the Remonstrant Brotherhood and restored. The church has a simple cruciform plan with a nave and two side aisles and a tower over the west end, and also has a large organ.

EXIT THE CHURCH FROM THE REAR ONTO GEERTESTRAAT. AT THE END OF THE STREET, CROSS THE BRIDGE OVER THE CANAL AND CONTINUE ALONG VROUWJUTTENSTRAAT. WALK TO THE END OF THIS STREET AND THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO LANGE NIEUWSTRAAT. AFTER AROUND 100 METRES, YOU WILL SEE, TO YOUR LEFT:

17. Lange Nieuwstraat 106, University Museum/Oude Hortus
The Utrecht University Museum today occupies the buildings that used to house the laboratories of the botanic garden (1902-1920), with modern glazing by Koen van Velzen (1995). Behind them lies Utrecht University's original botanic garden, first planted in 1723. As well as several unusual trees and plants, it also has an orangery dating from 1726, a professor's residence and a seed house from 1768. In 1964 the space grew too cramped and the university's botanic garden was moved to its present-day location at the De Uithof campus.

WALK TO THE END OF LANGE NIEUWSTRAAT AND THEN TURN LEFT ONTO AGNIETENSTRAAT. FOLLOW THIS STREET OVER THE BRIDGE ACROSS NIEUWGRACHT AND THEN TURN LEFT. WALK ALONG THE

CANAL UNTIL YOU REACH THE SECOND BRIDGE AND THEN TURN RIGHT INTO SCHALKWIJKSTRAAT. CONTINUE TO THE END OF THE STREET AND THEN TURN INTO BRUNTENHOF, IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR LEFT.

18. Schalkwijkstraat, Bruntenhof

In 1621, the lawyer Frederik Brunt had this complex of small homes built on the property of his house Klein Lepelenburg, of which some 14th-century remnants survive in the main building. The richly ornamented entry gate leads to the regents' chamber. The single-room residences provided independent housing for poor Catholic widows, who were also supplied with food and fuel. Today, Utrechts Monumentenfonds (Utrecht historic buildings fund) owns the complex and had it restored in 1979-1981. Behind Bruntenhof is a lovely courtyard garden.

WALK TO THE END OF BRUNTENHOF, THEN TURN LEFT INTO BRIGITTENSTRAAT AND CONTINUE TO THE END OF THE STREET. CROSS THE BRIDGE OVER THE CANAL AND THEN ENTER THE NARROW LANE DIAGONALLY IN FRONT OF YOU TO THE LEFT, CATHARIJNESTEEG. AT THE END, ON YOUR LEFT, IS:

19. Lange Nieuwstraat 36, Catharinakathedraal

Originally built for a Carmelite friary and later incorporated into the monastery of St Catherine, this church was completed around 1550. After the Reformation it long stood vacant, up until the re-establishment of the episcopal hierarchy in 1853, when the church of St Catherine was elevated to cathedral of the Archdiocese of Utrecht. Bishop Schaeapman commissioned Alfred Tepe, a well-known architect, to restore the front façade. In 2002, after a centuries-long hiatus, the church resumed holding traditional processions with the relics of St Willibrord, which can be viewed inside.

NEXT DOOR TO THE CHURCH IS THE ENTRANCE TO:

20. Lange Nieuwstraat 38, Museum Catharijneconvent

Now a museum, this complex originally consisted of a church, a monastery and a guest house owned by first the Carmelite order and later the Order of Saint John. After the Reformation the city turned the guest house into a hospital, and until 1811 it served as Utrecht's Academic Hospital. These days it is a museum dedicated to Christian art. Decorating the stairwell is a stained glass window made by the artist Marc Mulders in 2006.

EXIT THE MUSEUM AND CONTINUE NORTH UP LANGE NIEUWSTRAAT. AT THE CROSSING WITH HAMBURGERSTRAAT, TURN LEFT. ON YOUR LEFT IS:

21. Hamburgerstraat 9, Lutherse Kerk

In 1412 a wealthy resident of Utrecht named Abraham Dole founded a convent here dedicated to St Ursula. In 1745 the chapel was converted and enlarged to serve as a clandestine church for the Lutheran community, disguised as a canal-side house with a Louis XIV façade topped by a richly ornamented crest. During a later renovation a barrel vault was placed underneath the still extant medieval vault. The pulpit, baptismal gate and organ date from the 19th century.

WALK BACK TO LANGE NIEUWSTRAAT. CROSS THE STREET AND WALK THROUGH THE ENTRANCE OF THE FENCE ON YOUR LEFT. THE BUILDING IN FRONT OF YOU IS:

22. Hamburgerstraat 28, Het Utrechts Archief

In the 11th century, the Abbey of St Paul was established on this spot. After the Reformation the complex was converted into a court house. In 1838 all traces of the former abbey were covered with a Neoclassical façade. More recent renovation has once more revealed the old Gothic pointed archway leading to the chapter hall and the original springers of the vault. In the basement, the cells of the old court house still remain. The imposing staircase has murals painted by Jan Goeting in the 1950s. Today, this site houses the exhibitions of The Utrecht Archives.

OUTSIDE, WALK BACK TO THE INTERSECTION AND TURN RIGHT ONTO KORTE NIEUWSTRAAT. ON YOUR RIGHT IS:

23. Korte Nieuwstraat 6, Huize Molenaar

This house was built in 1707 after the church belonging to St Paul's Abbey was torn down. The plain cornice gable belies the rich interior, boasting 18th-century stucco ceilings, elaborate chimney breasts and carved wooden banisters. The picturesque garden occupies part of the former abbey, the wall incorporating a restored section of the church's northern transept wall.

RETURN TO KORTE NIEUWSTRAAT AND CONTINUE TOWARDS THE DOM TOWER. THIS WILL BRING YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU STARTED, DOMPLEIN SQUARE.

End of the route

