



# City Walk Bergen op Zoom

**Brabantse Wal**  
Bergen op Zoom | Steenberg | Woensdrecht

*...waar Brabant Zeeland Kust...*

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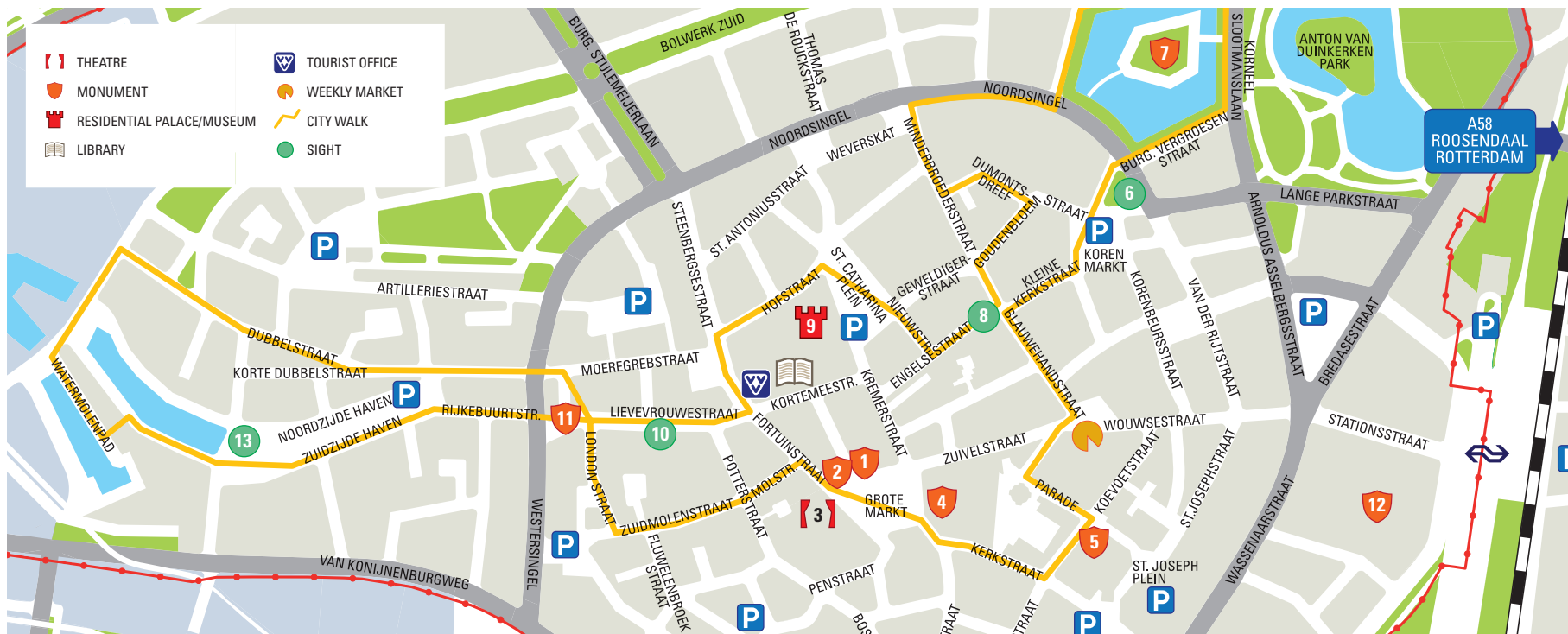


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Midway between one metropolis and another, and where the province of Brabant kisses the province of Zeeland, you will find the age-old gem of Bergen op Zoom. Narrow streets, ancient squares and wayward listed buildings recount the story of a rich and eventful past that dates back for over eight hundred years. The dense city centre is packed with over 800 heritage sites and over 200 of these are listed buildings.

The best way to get acquainted with the old city centre is by walking. The City Walk will guide you along the monuments and sites that were of great historic importance to the city and its region. Wandering around the citycentre you can enjoy a good meal in a cosy pub, enjoy a drink in an outdoor café and indulge in some fun-shopping. Please contact VVV Brabantse Wal for visiting hours for the monuments and museums. We wish you a pleasant stay!





street during the biannual fairs in the first half of the 15th century. This street boasts various historic or listed buildings. The architecture is quite special; wooden medieval constructions are still in tact in many of the houses.

### 11 LIEVEVROUWE- or GEVANGENPOORT (Our Lady's Gate or Prisoner's Gate)

Bergen op Zoom's only surviving medieval town gate. It was built at around 1335, when the town was surrounded by a defensive stone wall and a moat. This oldest listed building in the city started out as a fortification, but was also used as a prison and for other purposes. In 2015, the Gevangenpoort was restored and renovated. Now, the stories of the gate and its inhabitants can be experienced even better.

### 1 STADHUIS (City Hall)

The top of its façade has an inscription of the maxim 'Mille periculis supersum' (I will overcome a thousand hazards) on the ornamental cornice. This was inscribed during the period of Revolt when Bergen op Zoom withstood a siege (in 1588) and survived various assaults on the town (1605/6). The City Hall is still in use and is definitely worth a visit.

It is regarded as the oldest hotel in The Netherlands.

### 3 DE MAAGD (The Virgin Theatre)

'De Maagd' is the municipal theatre which is located in a former Roman Catholic church of the parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Assumption. It is a very intimate theatre, equipped with all the necessary mod cons and it seats an audience of about 650.

### 4 SINT GERTRUDISKERK (Saint-Gertrude's Church)

The church was named after the patron saint of Bergen op Zoom, St. Gertrude, and is sometimes also known as the Grote Kerk (Great Church). The tower was nicknamed the 'Peperbus' (The Pepper Box). You can climb to the top of the 'Peperbus' during opening hours. It offers a specta-

cular view on Bergen op Zoom and the surrounding area.

### 5 SYNAGOGUE (Synagogue)

The synagogue was founded in 1832 by the High-German Jewish community, with grants from King William I and donations from private benefactors. The building is used for purposes that are in keeping with the character of a former place of worship. The bathing facilities in the basement offer a view on the nature of the ritual cleansing ceremonies that were once carried out here.

### 6 BLEEKVELD

A bronze sculpture of a goat sits prominently on Bleekveld: this is called 'the goat of Mie d'n Os' and is Bergen op Zoom's symbol of Carnival. It is particularly important in local folklore when the ceremony to open the Carnival season is held

around this monument on 11 November (11-11).

### 7 RAVELIJN OP DEN ZOOM (Ravelin on the Zoom)

One of the last remaining elements of the fortifications designed by Menno van Coehoorn, dating from 1702. The walls are provided with spy holes and firing slits as well as three canon casemates. The 'Ravelijn' belonged to an extensive system of fortifications, which surrounded the town up until the end of the 19th century.

### 8 ENGELSESTRAAT (English street)

The first visitors of the open trade-fairs in Bergen op Zoom were English traders and merchants. In 1480 the front rooms of the houses in the Heilige Geeststraat (Holy Ghost Street) were taken over by the English merchants and that is

how this street rapidly became known as Engelsestraat. The northern side of the street is packed with listed, historic buildings.

### 9 HET MARKIEZENHOF (Marquess' Court)

The city's most remarkable monument. The former residential palace of the Lords and Marqueses of Bergen op Zoom is now used as a museum. Get an impression of the elegant life style of its former residents when you roam about this vast palace with its many halls, rooms, galleries, turrets, courtyards and gardens.

### 10 LIEVEVROUWESTRAAT

Names of houses remind us of the fact that there were strong links with English merchants and traders who had stalls on this

### 12 VERBORGEN VESTING (Hidden Fortifications)

A unique glimpse of the Ancient Stronghold of Bergen op Zoom. Below street level, various projection screens display the story of the development of Bergen op Zoom from a trade and garrison town into the important fortified town it was at around 1700.

### 13 VOORMALIGE HAVENGEBIED (former harbour area)

In the former harbour area, you will find some very attractive historic buildings. Between the open harbour and the part, which has been filled in, you can see a small sluice house, built in 1951. Many properties which were formerly used for pottery production are located in this area.