FREE
GRONINGEN
CITY GUIDE
Groningen city, with its infinite energy, history and culture, is definitely worth exploring. It has something for everyone, from first-time visitors to long-term residents. This city is dotted with interesting places, from subtle art in the streets and lovely boutiques to small-scale high-quality restaurants.

This city guide leads you through Groningen, taking in iconic highlights and splendid unfamiliar gems. A platform is given to Groningen residents who have lost their heart to the city. They elaborate on their city and favourite places.

Want know more about Groningen? Go to the Groningen Store (Tourist Information Office) in the Forum.
Famous mainly for the Martinitoren, Groningen city naturally has many more great highlights: from the Hoge and Lage der A to the Grote Markt and the Vismarkt. We’ll focus on various highlights you should not miss. Tip: be sure to look beyond what you see.

1. MARTINITOREN
Fire, lightning or collapse: the Martinitoren has stood firm. 97 metres high, Old Grey is still the highest building in the city. After enjoying the wonderful view from the top, don’t forget to check out inside the beautiful Martinikerk. Get your admission token for the tower at the Groningen Store (Tourist Information Office), located in the Forum.

2. HOGE DER A
Old warehouses by the canal tell the story of the industry of former days, when ships would continuously enter and depart. Stroll along the quays with listed buildings where you can almost hear wheels rattling and horses stamping as they did long ago. It’s like you have stepped right into a painting.

VISITGRONINGEN.COM/HOGE-DER-A
3. FORUM GRONINGEN & GRONINGEN STORE (TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE)
A meeting place in the heart of the city for those with an interest in our contemporary world and the possibilities of tomorrow, the distinctive Forum is a relatively new addition to Groningen city centre. It features the Groningen Store, Storyworld, film theatres, the Smartlab, a restaurant and cafés, the city library and the highest roof garden in Groningen.

NIEUWE MARKT 1 | FORUM.NL | GRONINGENSTORE.NL

4. GRONINGEN ALMSHOUSES
There was a time when almshouses gave housing to the poor, widowed and sick. Today, these quiet courtyards are homes of individuals who relish the peace and quiet of these city oases. Some of them are open to visitors wishing to enjoy a little quiet contemplation. Past residents may well have done the very same, under the very same trees! Courtyard tour guides are available at the Groningen Store.

VISITGRONINGEN.COM/ALMSHOUSE-COURTYARDS

5. MAIN RAILWAY STATION
The most beautiful station in the Netherlands has a very special façade, so don’t forget to take a backward glance when heading towards the Groninger Museum.

STATIONSPLEIN 3 | VISITGRONINGEN.COM/HOOFDSTATION-CONCOURSE

6. VISMARKT
Market workers shout out their wares as cyclists wind around pedestrians. People buy their lunch in the former Korenbeurs grain exchange, or enjoy a snack of fried fish. This is where shops, restaurants and cafés invite you into their historic premises under the watchful eye of Der Aa-Kerk. The Vismarkt is a hive of city activity, and has been for centuries.

VISITGRONINGEN.COM/VISMARKT

7. DER AA-KERK
Around 1200, a small chapel was established on the banks of the Aa for sailors and merchants. Over the centuries, it developed into the impressive Gothic-styled Der Aa-kerk which today also functions as a venue for exhibitions, events and concerts.

AKERKHOF 2 | DERAAKERKGRONINGEN.NL

8. PROVINCIEHUIS
The wooden hatches, striking sculptures and distinctive round tower of the provincial government building are all references to the 16th century. While the building has yet to celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Latin school at the Singelstraat, which includes the council hall, is one of the oldest buildings in the city.

MARTINIKERKHOF 12
9. STADSSCHOUWBURG
In 1883, the marvellous Stadsschouwburg city theatre was built on the site of the former Kruithuis. During construction, frugality was of the essence. You’d never guess this when you look at it today. The Groninger Schouwburg is considered one of the most beautiful city theatres in the Netherlands.

TURFSINGEL 86 | SPOTGRONINGEN.NL

10. ACADEMIEGEBOUW
Since 1614, the Broerplein has functioned as the academic heart of the city. Starting out in an old monastery complex, in 1850 a new academy building was constructed, and was unfortunately lost in a fire in 1906. The current richly decorated Academiegebouw is a wonderful example of the North Netherlands NeoRenaissance style and was designed by government architect J.A. Vrijman.

BROERSTRAAT 5

11. GRONINGER MUSEUM
Established in 1994, the striking architecture of the Groningen Museum has been a topic of discussion ever since. And let’s be honest: its colourful exterior alone is reason enough to visit. The walls exude creative energy and its highly versatile collection and innovative exhibitions complete your experience.

MUSEUMEILAND 1 | GRONINGERMUSEUM.NL

12. NOORDELIJK SCHEEPVAARTMUSEUM
Learn about the rich history of shipping in the north of the Netherlands. Two historical 15th-century buildings at the Brugstraat function as the backdrop for the collection of the Noordelijk Scheepvaartmuseum nautical museum.

BRUGSTRAAT 24 | NOORDELIJKSCHEEPVAARTMUSEUM.NL

13. GRID – GRAFISCH MUSEUM
Heritage printmaking comes to life in the GRID Grafisch Museum Groningen printmaking museum. Explore the printing office and bookbindery and get to work with graphic design, typesetting and various printing techniques. Join a workshop for adults or children and learn all about the past and present of graphic art.

SINT JANSSTRAAT 2 | GRIDGRONINGEN.NL

14. DE DRIE GEZUSTERS
Sooner or later, every student in the city ends up in the Drie Gezusters pub. They serve breakfast, lunch and evening meals inside or out at the heated outdoor café. This largest pub in the Netherlands with no fixed closing times also serves the popular eierbal snack.

GROTE MARKT 36-39 | DEDRIEGEZUSTERS.NL
The Rolling Stones – Unzipped is the first international exhibition by and about the world-famous rock band. Following stints in London, the United States, Australia and Asia, the show tours Europe in revamped form in 2020, starting in Groningen. More than 400 original objects from the band’s personal archive provide an impressive look behind the scenes. Along with instruments, audiovisual material, diaries, posters and album covers, there are stage designs, iconic costumes and even a reconstruction of the band’s recording studio and apartment in Edith Grove in London.
THE CITY OF JOOST

Joost has had an interest in city and country maps since forever. About five years ago, he moved to Groningen to study and immediately became besotted with both the city and province. His love runs deep, forcing him to return home after each of his many trips. Joost preferably refers to himself as a Stadjier (original Groningen city resident). We’re okay with it. After all, you don’t have to be born here to be or become a Groningen resident.

What is your favourite venue?
You’ll always find this lovely atmosphere at the Vismarkt market square, even if it is empty and the booths are not set up. It’s all about the setting – the views of the Korenbeurs, Der AaKerk, and the Hoge der A and Lage der A are the icing on the cake. They may be somewhat commonplace, but then again, there is a reason for that.

Where do you go for a meal?
I like these small-scale restaurants and gastropubs, such as De Padang that serves delicious Moroccan food. Mechoui’s menu features tasty North-African dishes. And then there is the Toko Semarang – the very best Indonesian takeaway in Groningen.

What is the place in Groningen nobody has ever heard of?
I love to explore the cities I visit and determine which way to go on the spot. I still do this in Groningen and it always leads me to new venues and places. If you head out to the former Suikerfabriek sugar factory, you find yourself in the middle of a wooded area – rough and uncultivated. When entering another special venue, the ‘secret garden’ of the Pieternelagasthuis, you find yourself in an entirely different world. No matter how often you’ve seen it, it always feels like first visit.

Why Groningen?
You know, the funny thing is that the image people hold of this city is usually far from the truth, which makes the discovery an even bigger thing. Distinctive and rebellious, Groningen city has old and close ties with foreign countries, which is clearly in its architecture.

Which shops would you recommend?
You will find a variety of high-quality antiques dealers and lovely special shops, in the smaller streets in particular. I love going to J&Z Handmade and the Reisboekenwinkel De Zwerver travel book shop. I was astonished to find out that the Museumwinkel of the Groninger Museum was not proclaimed the best museum shop in the Netherlands. The Kaaskop cheese shop, DAD Design Stories, Russian specialty shop Vjatka; all of these are worth a visit.

The best product from Groningen is...?
I use mustard from Abraham’s Mosterdmakerij in Eenrum in bulk; deliciously coarse and spicy. I can’t resist a Baxbier beer and if you do get to visit Groningen, you simply must try the eierbal. This Groningen take on the Scotch egg may not exactly be haute cuisine, but it sure is typical of the region.

Where do you find peace and quiet?
When you go by bike, be sure to pedal to the Wall House or the Noordermolen area. Now that your legs are turning, take it a bit further to the Garmerwolde church. One single look and you’ll see why I have become a contributor of the Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken (old Groningen churches foundation).

What is the best building in the city?
Groningen residents will generally refer to the Martinitoren, but I must say that I am not that impressed. On the other hand, it does represent this feeling of home, identity and pride. The Academiegebouw stands for Groningen university city. It has a beautiful interior with a view of and entrance to the lovely enclosed garden.

THE CITY OF JOOST
1. **Wadapartja**

Wadapartja – which translates into something like ‘how extraordinary’ – is rightfully among the greenest addresses in Groningen. This is where people come to eat, drink, listen to their wonderful choice in music and relax in the living room. Everything you see here – from the tables to the coffee beans – is for sale, which is quite… unorthodox.

GEDEMPTE ZUIDERDIEP 39-41 | POTTEBAKKERSRIJGE 21 | WADAPARTJA.NL

2. **Café Der Witz**

Der Witz is a special venue in the very heart of Groningen with a large outdoor café. During the day, it’s frequented by shoppers and students on a well-deserved break. At the end of the working day, people come in to unwind and have a drink. With eleven draught beers and sixty varieties of bottled beer, Der Witz can rightfully be referred to as a beer pub.

GROTE MARKT 47 | DERWITZ.NL

3. **Eetcafé De Padang**

Is this a Moroccan gastropub? Well, yes! Is this a neighbourhood café? Yep, that as well. Eetcafé De Padang is the place where people go for a drink, a chat and the latest newspaper. It is also the place to go to enjoy Berber dishes prepared on the grill or in a tajine. Always fresh and prepared with plenty of love.

PADANGSTRAAT 3 | PADANG.CAFE

4. **Café de Koffer**

Bierlokal Café de Koffer is a friendly café on the outskirts of the city centre and draws a varied clientele from loyal regulars, locals and – international – students to beer lovers. But then again, what else would you expect from a place where they serve no fewer than 375 different beers? In 2010, Café de Koffer became a member of the Alliantie van BierTapperijen: a club of cafés with a focus on speciality beers.

NIEUWE BLEKERSTRAAT 1 | DEKOFFER.NL

‘Everything you see here – from the tables to the coffee beans – is for sale, which is quite… unorthodox.’
TIPS FROM JOOST

PIETERNELLA-GASTHUIS
The city centre and Hortusbuurt are dotted with almshouses. In 1877, Ludewé Vink established this almshouse in memory of her deceased husbands and children. The name was derived from her children’s names: Pieter and Pieternella. The almshouse came with very strict rules for its residents: they were expected to be of ‘exemplary conduct’. Today, this is a lovely green venue with a special secret garden.
GROTE LEILIESTRAAT 34 | MOGHUL.NL

VOILÀ
With a name like this, Voilà must have a French cuisine. Here, guests dine according to the table d’hôte principle, which is French for a meal that is mainly prepared using daily fresh and delicious regional produce. Those who can’t choose have come to the right place: the one and only menu available is a five-course surprise menu. The only thing the cook takes into account are dietary requirements.
W.A. SCHOLTENSTRAAT 39 | RESTAURANTVOILA.NL

DE MINNAAR CAFÉ
Café de Minnaar is an intimate café in one of the friendliest Groningen districts – the Hortusbuurt. This is where you are sure to have a lovely evening in a relaxed and open atmosphere with friendly employees, special and friendly people that come to visit in large numbers and a lovely outdoor café under the trees. In short, a wonderful meeting place for locals, students, teachers and international guests and residents.
KLEINE ROZENSTRAAT 64 | DEMINNAAR.NL

DE KAASKOP
Come in to sample delicious food, regional produce and unexpected flavour combinations. The Kaaskop sells cheese as well as dairy, nuts, tapas and various wines. The fondue bag – with the ingredients for a cheese fondue – is highly recommended.
ZWANESTRAAT 24 | KAASKOPGRONINGEN.NL

‘Café de Minnaar is an intimate café in one of the friendliest Groningen districts – the Hortusbuurt.’
De Zwerver features a giant collection of travel guides, terrestrial globes and maps of countries and the world. The employees are addicted to travel and happy to provide advice. Whether you want to work in Australia, cycle in La Rioja, hike in Ireland, defy glaciers in Patagonia or simply explore Groningen: they’ll inform you about any topic. By the way, the shop is an expedition in its own right.

OUDE KIJK IN ’T JATSTRAAT 43 - 45 | DEZWERVER.NL

Everything you see at J&Z Handmade is actually handcrafted. This furniture shop features special wooden interior decoration accessories laid in with mouth-blown glass. They also sell oriental lamps, glass art, leather bags, soap, ceramics, mosaic and kilim rugs; in short, the place to be for large and small gifts for yourself or a loved one.

FOLKINGESTRAAT 36 | JZ-HANDMADE.NL

Utrecht has the Rietveldhuis, Fayette County has Fallingwater, and Groningen has the Wall House. It’s quite surprising that you don’t see crowds of tourists waiting here every day to visit it, because it is a really special house and an icon from the city’s international architectural history by architects John Hejduk. The Groningen Museum deals with this special building’s programme.

A.J. LUTULISTRAAT 17 | GRONINGERMUSEUM.NL

What is to be transformed into a lively new district over the next few years currently functions as a place for experimentation with plenty of greenery. Creative entrepreneurs can carry out their plans at the former Suikerfabriek sugar factory location, home to Podium EM2, the RebelRebel Hostel, De Wolkenfabriek restaurant and Paradigm: the best underground club in the Benelux.

SUIKERLAAN 20 | SUIKERTERREIN.NL
Henk Helmantel
Meesterschilder

4 OKTOBER 2020 T/M 7 MAART 2021 | DRENTSMUSEUM.NL
BESTEL TICKETS VIA DRENTSMUSEUM.NL

www.prinsenhof.nl
+31 (0) 50 3176555 | MARTINIKERKHOF 23 | HOTEL@PRINSENHOF.NL
Groningen city centre is greener and quieter once you leave the ring of canals; the perfect place for a walk in charming streets and the lovely Noorderplantsoen park.
**13. BOEL**
BOEL is the jeu de boules bar on the outskirts of the Noorderplantsoen, the place to go if you are up for a game and a drink or some good food. You book a lane, and they'll provide the rest. Experience not required.

NIEUWE EBBINGESTRAAT 163 | BOELGRONINGEN.NL

**14. EETWINKEL BUURMAN EN BUURMAN**
Buurman en Buurman pizzas are not like you know them. They use fresh and local ingredients and prepare their pizzas in an Italian wood-fired oven. From a vegan shawarma and chicken to a mushroom pizza, this is the perfect place for a meal, a pint and some heartfelt fun.

RODEWEG 6 | FRIESEESTRAATWEG 41 | BUURMAN-GRONINGEN.NL

**15. EETWAAR**
Five favourite contemporary dishes, prepared with the very best seasonal products; this is Restaurant Eetwaar’s concept. In addition to organic and fair trade products, owners Pim and Marieke use Groningen produce where possible.

KLEINE LELIESTRAAT 33 | RESTAURANTEETWAARGRONINGEN.NL

**16. FLORENTIN**
Florentin was inspired by Tel Aviv, with its lively atmosphere and Balaganstyled food. The owners feel that Tel Aviv food, drinks and its vibe are comparable to that of Groningen city. All of this can be tasted and experienced in the historic corporate hall of the Oude Gasfabriek.

LAGENBRAAT 66 | FLORENTINGRONINGEN.NL

**17. MAHALO**
Mahalo – where you will find everything is homemade, organic and 100% vegan – is all about good food, good vibes and community. The view of the Noorderplantsoen is just one of their pluses.

VERLENGDE GRACHTSTRAAT 1 | MAHALO.NU

**18. TIM TOM**
Tim Tom is a vintage concept store with a Scandinavian touch, where you find vintage items, house plants and second-hand design interior items. Their selection ranges from rare record players to fresh plants and from Scandinavian design to fine art prints.

NIEUWE EBBINGESTRAAT 19 | TIM-TOM.NL
The City of Fareeda

Fareeda is the head chef of Achterwerk and the very person to have put vegan fine cuisine on the map in Groningen. A self-taught cook, she grew up in Groningen and studied Dutch language and culture. In addition to her work as a chef, she develops healthy snacks, holds workshops and is writing a cookbook. No wonder she chose to live in a city filled with pubs, restaurants, wine shops and culture.

What is your favourite venue?
I love to walk around the Noorderplantsoen area. The best time is spring, when the plants and trees start to bud. Apart from that, I am really into restaurants and places to eat, such as Pernikkel and Bellami’s. Club OOST is a wonderful place to go in the evenings, and if you have the time, be sure to take in a performance by the NNT, Club Guy & Roni or a NITE evening.

Where do you go for a meal?
In recent years, Groningen has really undergone a development in the culinary area and the number of places for a high-quality meal has mushroomed. Take Vive la Vie, that never ceases to surprise with their wonderful flavour combinations and special dishes. I love taking the time to try their amuses bouches accompanied with a glass or two of good wine. And that’s where Barrel comes into the picture.

What is the place in the city nobody knows about except you?
As a child, I was really into the Natuurmuseum and highly disappointed when it ceased to exist. It was not until much later that somebody told me that Groningen actually still features a nature museum in the city at a private home on the Korreweg. A former biologist set up an entire collection. You have to call and make an appointment for a guided tour. Really super nice.
– klaasnanninga.nl/natuurmuseum.

Why Groningen?
I grew up in Groningen and always assumed I would leave the city to go and study. I didn’t. When I was studying, I thought I’d leave when I graduated, but I’m still here. Groningen is a lovely city to live – it has a nice atmosphere and people are relaxed and down-to-earth. Much more is on than you might think, in the cultural sector as well. And things don’t have to be hip and trendy by definition, which is refreshing.

The best product from Groningen is...
I was going to say Groningen dry sausage, but come to think of it, I actually prefer the Drenthe variety.

Where do you find peace and quiet?
I find the Stadspark to be a place full of special sites and atmospheres. I love to visit the Heemtuin garden in the north-western part of the park; a lovely quiet and tranquil place.

What is the best place in the city?
Some parts of the Schildersbuurt are beautiful, in the A-kwartier also. I’d love to buy a house near the Noorderplantsoen. There is this house in the Akkerstraat with a pretty bay window with plenty of sun light coming in; I would not mind living there.
**CLUB OOST**

Far from the masses and back to personal contact and good music, OOST comes to life each Friday and Saturday. OOST is an intimate nightclub that provides a stage for appealing local and international artists from the dance scene. The fact that this is not a regular nightclub is proven from the OOST Discourse evenings, when OOST transforms into a venue for public debates.

**OOSTERSTRAAT 13A | KOMOOST.NL**

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**SPIJSLOKAAL PERNIKKEL**

The name Pernikkel was derived from the Flemish word *pernikkelen*, meaning the irresistible craving for something like sustainable, delicious and healthy food. Pernikkel has a modest weekly menu of breakfast, lunch and evening meal dishes. The chef uses unprocessed products, ingredients from local farmers and fresh seasonal vegetables where possible.

**AWEG 2 | PERNIKKEL.NL**

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**DE WILDE SLAGER**

De Wilde Slager is a shop, kitchen, butcher, bar and school, all in one. This is the only place in Groningen to buy, prepare, feel, discover, touch, smell and taste sustainable game from the Netherlands and Germany, in particular from the provinces Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe. The objective of David Rutgers – owner of De Wilde Slager – is to make game accessible to everyone.

**NIEUWE KERKHOF 10 | DEWILDESLAGER.NL**

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**DE BIOTOOP**

The Biotoop – a village within a village – comprises seven buildings on eight hectares of land, which provide living and working spaces in an inspiring green environment. The former Biologisch Centrum of the University of Groningen is a space for art, handicraft and creativity. In addition to dozens of artists, various enterprises are established here, and Vleugel F is a meeting place for all groups.

**KERKLAAN 30, HAREN | BIOTOOP.ORG**

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TIPS FROM FAREEDA

This is the only place in Groningen to buy, prepare, feel, discover, touch, smell and taste sustainable game.
The Stadspark is one of the Groningen’s green crown jewels. Rich history meets lovely nature in a park much quieter and larger than the Noorderplantsoen. People go here for a lovely walk, bicycle ride or to while away a sunny afternoon by the water, enjoying the views of the English-styled park. The beautiful Heemtuin is located in the north-eastern corner of the park.

Le Souk exudes the atmosphere of an Arab market in Groningen city centre.

Le Souk

Le Souk exudes the atmosphere of an Arab market in Groningen city centre. The North African baker and grocer sells a wide variety of delicacies from Maghreb countries, Mediterranean delicatessen and snacks from the Middle East. This authentic speciality shop sells products not found anywhere else in Groningen or the Netherlands.

Le Souk

Vera is famous for staging bands and artists on their way to world fame. ‘Veri et Recti Amici’ is inscribed above the door of the building, and means ‘True and Sincere Friends’; an inscription reminiscent of the Reformed student union Vera a century ago. When you enter, you cannot miss how the walls are completely covered with posters, newspapers and photos from the venue’s rich musical history.

Vera

Vive la Vie is a friendly contemporary restaurant where guests enjoy a surprise menu consisting from four to seven courses. Dishes are prepared according to traditional methods and using daily fresh products of the best quality possible, fresh daily and no menu. Their French cuisine is combined with influences from other countries to make for great flavour combinations.

Vive la Vie
27  **ARIOLA**

Many consider Ariola to be the best food shop in Groningen, or even in the entire country. With its huge selection of delicatessen, from buckets filled with pesto and tapenades, to stuffed vegetables and spinach quiches, everything at Ariola carries the aromas and flavours of Italy. This Italian shop prepares a lunch of fresh pasta or an Italian roll with various fillings.

FOLKINGESTRAAT 54

29  **ANTIQUARIAAT ISIS**

Antiquariaat Isis has a rich collection which includes literature, history, art, religion, esoterics, topography and old and specialist books. In addition, the shop specialises in philosophy, with an emphasis on humanities; the science of human beings. Isis thus carries on a great Groningen tradition: the nurture and education of important scholars, such as Rudolphus Agricola and Ubbo Emmius.

FOLKINGESTRAAT 20 | ISIS-BOOKS.NL

28  **BARREL**

**WINE BAR AND WINE SHOP**

Barrel has a down-to-earth philosophy of wine: they like a good glass served expertly, hold the small talk. Their wine list includes over one thousand different wines and delicious snacks from the best suppliers. They also serve over fifty different wines by the glass every week. If you like a good wine, be sure to visit their shop at the Nieuwe Ebbingestraat.

HADDINGESTRAAT 27 (WINE BAR) | NIEUWE EBBINGESTRAAT 23 (WINE SHOP) | BARREL-WIJN.NL

30  **ZICH ZACH**

Key words to describe Zich Zach’s selection are sustainability, beautiful prints and colours. They combine mainly new items with a vintage clothing collection. This is also the place for bags, jewellery and accessories by local designers.

GELKINGESTRAAT 43 | ZICHZACHGRONINGEN.COM
Flinders Café is een bruisend café-restaurant gelegen bij de Poelebrug op de hoek van de Nieuweweg en het Schuitendiep, een paar minuten lopen van de Grote Markt. Buiten zit je op groot terras, binnen te midden van design van talentvolle ontwerpers. Zowel ’s ochtends, ’s middags als ’s avonds kun je er uitstekend eten en drinken geserveerd met een lach.

Nieuweweg 2, Groningen
050 737 02 42
www.flinderscafe.nl
ELKE DAG OPEN 9.00 tot 1.00 uur

El Santo
Mexicaans/Amerikaans
Bij El Santo eet je uitstekend en origineel voor de prijs van een pizza. 3 superieure taco’s voor slechts € 12,-, Jerk Style Chicken voor € 15,-, een 100% angus beef burger voor 10,- of de beste spareribs van Groningen voor maar € 15,-. Tip: neem verse nacho’s vooraf en het door het Dagblad van het Noorden geprezen gefrituurde ijs plus 25 cocktails en 7 tequila’s en geniet van de ongelooflijk gezellige sfeer.

Oosterstraat 30, Groningen
050 364 61 86
www.elsanto.nl
DINS. - ZON. OPEN vanaf 17.00 uur

Kom langs in het grootste zeehondenziekenhuis van Europa en kijk mee bij de dagelijkse verzorging van de zeehonden!

#zodichtbijwasjenognooit

Tickets verkrijgbaar vanaf € 6,-
www.zeehondencentrum.nl/koop-tickets
Sample all the city’s aromas and colours in medieval Groningen city. Take in the Der Aa-kerk, the Vismarkt, the Accademiegebouw and the Martinitoren. Rest your feet at the Martinikerkhof before continuing on and explore charming and beautiful places in the city centre.

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31. ASBRAN
The beautiful Asbran specialist shop guarantees hours of browsing fun. The greater part of the high-quality items sold here are made of wood, from pushing trolleys, carrier tricycles, service stations, play kitchens and doll’s houses to cars and trains.
KLEINE PEPERSTRAAT 10 | ASBRAN.NL

32. BONBON ATELIER LUCA
The glorious fragrance of chocolate in the shop is a dead giveaway. Bonbon Atelier Luca uses their expertise, enthusiasm, private recipes and the very best natural ingredients to make the tastiest of creations in their own chocolaterie.
GROTE KROMME ELLEBOOG 12 | BONBONATELIERLUCA.NL

33. BROODJE VAN EIGEN DEEG
At Broodje van Eigen Deeg, everything is French except for the baker. Similar to the French, they bake bread throughout the day so you never have to wait long for your freshly baked and crusty bread to come out of the oven. Honest, unrefined and with respect for the trade.
BRUGSTRAAT 11 | BROODJEVANEIGENDEEG.NL

34. VAN ERP DRANKEN
For four generations, Van Erp has supplied the northern part of the Netherlands with liquors, wines and beers from all over the world. Whiskey and wine tastings are held in the back of the shop. With about five hundred bottled beers in their selection, this is the ideal place to go for a gift to keep or give away.
GROTE KROMME ELLEBOOG 16 | VANERPDRANKEN.NL

35. GODERT WALTER
The Godert Walter book business has been a household word in the city for over seventy-five years. They sell Dutch, English, French and German literature, history, architecture, philosophy, nature and science and Groningana – books about Groningen.
OUDE EBBINGESTRAAT 53 | GODERTWALTER.NL

36. GRONINGEN STORE (TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE)
You will find the Groningen Store on the ground floor of the Forum. Come by for any information you need about the city and its environs, guided tours, a visit to the Martinitoren, group outings and the VVV gift voucher. They also sell gadgets by Groningen producers.
NIEUWE MARKT 1 | GRONINGENSTORE.NL
37. HANDMADE HOPES
The Handmade Hopes daycare project and concept store helps young people with a difficult history to discover their talents. Young people who are temporarily unable to attend school or go to work due to personal circumstances create beautiful products and restore old furniture.
OOSTERSTRAAT 28 | HANDMADEHOPES.NL

38. KAASHANDEL VAN DER LEIJ
Delicious cheese, great flavours, lovely aromas and sometimes very special shapes: many of these cheeses have their own history, of which the producers are genuinely proud. Since 1934, Kaashandel van der Leij is the ultimate Groningen address for cheese lovers.
OOSTERSTRAAT 61-63 | KAASVANDERLEIJ.NL

39. WIRWAR SPELLEN EN PUZZELS
If you don’t ever want to stop playing games, you will find a kindred spirit in Kim and Eelco Hoetjes and their employees. Wirwar is a specialist shop with thousands of games, puzzles and brainteasers, from classic and well-known to less known. For any age and from a few minutes to an entire day of fun.
OEDE KIJK IN ‘T JATSTRAAT 40 | WIRWARSPELLEN.NL

40. BESS
BESS’s collection consists of carefully selected clothing by European brands. Their eclectic blend of styles has BESS written all over and consists of artistic and sometimes daring articles in exciting colours with a nod to vintage.
POELESTRAAT 37 | BESS-MODE.NL

41. BIEN
This trendy concept store is a cradle of inspiration in the areas of fashion, living and lifestyle. With its industrial ambiance and Scandinavian touch, take your time to select a treat for yourself or someone else.
OOSTERSTRAAT 54 | BIENONLINE.NL

42. CLEDING RAAD
At Cleding Raad, customers find stylish clothing and receive valuable advice from Clement, the owner of this shop that sells men’s clothing. With a regularly changing collection of famous and less known brands, a visit to Cleding Raad is always a surprise.
ZWANESTRAAT 9 | CLEDINGRAAD.NL
43. KOKOTOKO
Shop at your heart’s – and conscience’s – content at KOKOTOKO. Almost everything you find here is sustainable, fair trade and organically certified. They sell men’s and women’s clothing, accessories, household tools and maps and posters by Groningen designers.
OOSTERSTRAAT 26 | KOKOTOKO.NL

44. MARQUANT
Marquant Jeans & Casual is all about a personal approach. These distinctive shops – which mainly sell products by fair trade brands – draw clients from home and abroad.
OUDE BOTERINGESTRAAT 3 | OUDE EBBINGESTRAAT 1-1 | MARQUANT.STORE | MARQUANT-DEPARTMENT.NL

45. MARY JANE
Entering Mary Jane will make you feel as if you have just stepped out of a time machine which took you straight into the roaring 1920s. They sell handmade shoes produced in Spain, Portugal, Italy and other countries.
OOSTERSTRAAT 23 | MARYJANEBOETIEK.COM

46. ODDITY
Oddity puts an end to uniformity and sameness. They combine distinctive and stylish clothing with trends, so customers can discover and develop their own personal style and feel good.
OOSTERSTRAAT 16 | ODDITYWEAR.NL

47. RECESSIE
Recessie has been a household word in Groningen city for over twenty-five years. Specialising in second-hand clothing from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, this is also the place to be for elegant gowns and clothing for themed parties.
OUDE KIJK IN ’T JATSTRAAT 54 | RECESSIE.COM

48. SCHOENENZAKEN
‘Masters in men’s shoes’ is inscribed on the façade of SchoenenZaken. And yes, this shop definitely excels in special shoes by renowned and mostly Dutch brands. Trade and attention are considered of paramount importance here.
ZWANESTRAAT 20 | SCHOENEN-ZAKEN.NL

49. WIJSENEUS
Wijsneus, a shop that sells children’s clothing, soft toys, toys, books and accessories, is located at one of the most beautiful markets in the Netherlands. They sell trendy clothing for babies, toddlers and older children.
VISMARKT 26 | WIJSENEUS.NL
50. WITTING & ZOON  
Since 1876, lovers of hats of all sorts have frequented H. Witting & Zn. While their establishment looks classic and the old shop bell still sounds as it did a century ago, the collection is far from that: Witting stocks the trendiest headwear from all over the world.  
OOSTERSTRAAT 51 | WITTING.NU

51. ACHTERWERK  
Achterwerk proves that vegan cuisine is for everyone. Subtly located in the back of the old Willem Lodewijk Gymnasium corridor, it also has a sunny outdoor café. Serving vegan dishes in a relaxed and informal environment, this is the place to go for a great culinary experience.  
OOSTERSTRAAT 13A | LEKKERACHTERWERK.NL

52. BAKKERIJ BLANCHE  
Bakkerij Blanche is a baker and a breakfast and lunch venue all in one. With its high walls and numerous hanging plants in a pleasant and elegant establishment, this is not the place for trendy street food. Instead, they serve tasty, fresh, simple and affordable dishes.  
BRUGSTRAAT 28 | BAKKERIJBLANCHE.NL

53. BLACK & BLOOM  
This is the ultimate place to go for fantastic black coffee and eccentric Groningen hospitality. Knowledge about and love for the trade is unequalled, so be sure to check it out.  
OUDE KIJK IN ’T JATSTRAAT 32 | BLACKANDBLOOM.NL

54. CAFÉ WOLTHOORN & CO  
The Wolthoorn has been an Ellebogenbuurt district gem for almost a century. Tradition and quality is nourished in this authentic pub filled with paintings and other memorabilia. People often say that the Wolthoorn is the best café in the Netherlands for a reason.  
TURFTORENSTRAAT 6 | CAFEWOLTHOORN.NL

55. CAPPUVINO  
If you like to start your day with a cup of delicious coffee and conclude it with a fine glass of wine, check out Cappuvino – a modern wine and coffee bar. They also serve finger food to the guests as they enjoy a great view of the Vismarkt.  
VISMARKT 1 | CAPPUVINO.COM
56. **FLFL**
After years of selling their falafel from a delivery bicycle, Daan and Jesse now have a permanent establishment where you can enjoy the best of falafels. They also serve other healthy, fresh and tasty vegan and vegetarian dishes.
OUDE KIJK IN ‘T JATSTRAAT 44 | FALAFEL.NL

57. **GUSTATIO**
If you would like to taste Rome in Groningen, head out to Gustatio. You will not find any pizzas on their menu, but instead delicious and homemade pastas, lasagnas and desserts. Gustatio blends Italian classics and trends from Italian cuisine. This is as good as it gets.
OOSTERSTRAAT 3 | GUSTATIOGRONINGEN.NL

58. **HOTEL SCHIMMELPENNINCK HUYS**
Few hotels in Groningen are packed with nostalgia like the Schimmelpenninck Huys. This historic building has a beautiful and sheltered enclosed garden for a lovely high tea. Their bread and most delicacies are prepared in the hotel bakery, the Bourgondisch Broodhuys.
OOSTERSTRAAT 53 | CHARMEHOTELS.EU/NL/GRONINGEN

59. **KONBU STREETFOOD**
Vietnamese Pho and Japanese ramen noodles are the definite specialities of Konbu Streetfood, in addition to other delicious south-east Asian food. This charming, trendy and relaxed venue is the perfect hotspot for Asian food enthusiasts.
OOSTERSTRAAT 10 | KONBU-STREETFOOD.NL

60. **MR. MOFONGO**
Whether a quick drink and a snack, or an evening of culinary indulgence by a private cook at the Chef’s Table; global food specialist Mr. Mofongo is the place to be.
OUE BOTERINGESTRAAT 26 | MOFONGO.NL

61. **N’25**
N’25 is all about distinctive lunches and early meals, and healthy and tasty dishes made from fresh and pure ingredients. Feel free to bring your laptop or tablet to enjoy a snack, drink and some low-key lounge music.
OUDE KIJK IN ‘T JATSTRAAT 25 | NO25.NL
62. P.S.
P.S. the perfect address for a delicious and honest cup of coffee, and their tea sommelier can tell you all about the varieties they serve. Cakes are all homemade and they serve breakfast and sample plates throughout the day.
OUDE KIJK IN ‘T JATSTRAAT 24 | MIJNPS.NL

63. DE PINTELIER
Flemish hospitality reigns supreme in the Belgian Pintelier café with a clientele that ranges from city residents and students to teachers. Serving 23 draught beers and over 80 bottled varieties, the Pintelier is the best place to enjoy your favourite abbey or Trappist beer.
KLEINE KROMME ELLEBOOG 9 | DEPINTELIER.NL

64. SPAAK KOFFIE & KOERS
Groningen’s bicycle café is embodied in Spaak, a popular venue for racing cyclists and coffee fans. Every Saturday and Sunday, everyone is more than welcome to cycle along in the Spaak ride. Rest assured: you don’t have to be a bicycle fan to come in and enjoy a cup of coffee, lunch or cake.
OUDE BOTERINGESTRAAT 66 | SPAAK.CC

65. ‘T FEITHHUIS
’t Feithhuis city café and restaurant is established in a beautiful historic building. It also features a lovely and intimate outdoor café so you can choose where you wish to enjoy your breakfast, lunch, brunch, drink or meal. The baristas here whip up the best of espressos and cappuccinos.
MARTINNERKHOF 10 | RESTAURANT-FEITHHUIS.NL

66. THE SMOOTH BROTHERS
At The Smooth Brothers, enjoy your smoothie in a jazzy setting. It’s all about jazz here, from the walls to the menu which includes delicious smoothies, breakfast and lunch bowls and good music. Let’s go back to those good old days filled with jazz and soul.
ZWANESTRAAT 31 | THESMOOTHBROTHERS.NL

67. DE UURWERKER
Local residents, students and entrepreneurs have known since forever that the Uurwerker is the place to be, and where guests are welcome from coffee to beer o’clock. They prepare delicious pizzas in their wood-fired oven.
UURWERKERSPLEIN 1 | UURWERKER.NL
THE CITY OF HERMAN

As a collector, Herman proves that time does not affect everything around us. Herman collects racing bicycles, furniture, rarities, design, art and anything beyond and between. Born in Soest, Herman started collecting during his student days and ultimately became a professional vintage treasure hunter. He lives in a typical – naturally vintage – building in Groningen city centre.

What is your favourite venue? The Lage and Hoge der A, a lovely part of the city in any season. The canal is a perfect place for outdoor cafés and more and more of these are popping up here. I also like the Oosterhaven, which has so many options. Just close your eyes and imagine what this could be.

Where do you go for a meal? I love to go out and see whether there are any new developments or initiatives in the city centre. Mennoos Kookerij in the Corpus den Hoorn district serves a good meal for a reasonable price. It’s located in an old people’s home and provides people who are distanced from the labour market with a place to work. I like initiatives like these. Another favourite is the Smederij that has been doing the same thing since forever. And then there is the Brouwerij Martinus brewery with its roof garden.

Why Groningen? Groningen is a dynamic city; pleasant, easy to take in and full of students and culture. You’re always surrounded by music and history and you bump into acquaintances all the time. It’s a perfect blend. Almost everything is within walking distance and you can cycle across the entire city in about thirty minutes. Moving about the city by bike is best anyway. You see much more and it’s so easy go from one district to the next to see new and special things.

Which shops would you recommend? I’m not that into standard shops. I pay particular attention to design, style and atmosphere and the city has an abundance of vintage and second-hand shops. I find it very relaxing to browse shops. After all, this is my work and passion. But I also enjoy a nicely elaborated concept, such as that new shop Laif & Nuver.

A day out of town? I know I may be putting my foot in it, but I like the province of Friesland best for a day excursion. To real city residents, a day to the island of Schiermonnikoog is the perfect outing. I also love the Ommelander route, which can be done by motorbike, car and even by bike – if the number of kilometres doesn’t put you off, that is. A wonderful way to explore the villages and special venues around the city.

The best product from Groningen is...? Knols ginger cake is number 1 by far, although the variety with nuts is delicious also. You can get it at the baker’s shop at Hoendiep 93.

Where do you find peace and quiet? I am a collector so I love to surround myself with my vintage design and spend time in my shop or in some depot. And I love to spend time at home in a friendly district on the outskirts of the city, with a large south-facing garden.

What is the best building in the city? I have a taste for old industrial buildings that have been given a new function. And cultural venues such as the Machinefabriek, the Grand Theater, the Puddingfabriek and the Wolkenfabriek in the Zeefgebouw of the former Suikerfabriek. Really superb!
ON THE WATER
Groningen city centre is completely surrounded by a beautiful city canal. It used to have a defensive function of course, and today you can explore Groningen from an entirely different angle. Board a Rondvaartbedrijf Kool or Boot Groningen water-bus, hire a sloop or canoe or go ‘supping’ – Standup Paddleboarding, a hardcore water workout.

VISITGRONINGEN.COM/ON-THE-WATER

LAIF & NUVER
Laif & Nuver doesn’t really feel like a shop. The beautifully renovated building is filled with lovely spaces and cosy corners. Enter one trendy living room and the next to find a wealth of timeless furniture, home interior items and gifts. The collection changes continuously, ensuring that each and every visit is an entirely new exploratory expedition.

RODE WEESHUISSTRAAT 7 | LAIFENNUVER.NL

PRINSENTUIN
After in 1594 the Prinsenhof became the residence of the vice-regents – the princes of Nassau – in 1626 the Prinsentuin was laid out especially for them. This garden is the most peaceful location in the centre. Surrounded by the walls of the Prinsentuin garden, it’s easy to imagine yourself in an entirely different world. Wander through the pergolas, enjoy a cup of tea at the tearoom or read a book and forget about time.

MARTINIKERKHOF 23 | VISITGRONINGEN.COM/PRINSENTUIN

DE WOLKENFABRIEK
The Wolkenfabriek restaurant has a great location in the old Suikerfabriek. A huge kitchen and hall were realised on the first floor, resulting in a lovely place to spend time between the impressive industrial elements. The Wolkin takes place every Sunday and features live music, coffee, tea, drinks and a delicious meal.

SUIKELAAN 18 | DEWOLKENFABRIEK.COM
Sometimes you need to be pointed to a restaurant. One example is the Kleine Moghul. Once you pass the pick-up counter, you enter the restaurant: an attractive and colourful place devoid of any hoo-ha. Enjoy their tasty dishes from all corners of India. Not easily found, the Moghul has many loyal fans because of their delicious and reasonably priced food.

NIEUWE BOTERINGESTRAAT 62 | MOGHUL.NL

De Smederij gastropub has remained unchanged through the years, which proves the strength of their concept. Known for their vegetarian dishes and Chateaubriand, they have a wide selection of whiskeys/whiskies, cognacs, brandies and beers. For the past 29 years, they have featured a concert and live jazz session each Tuesday evening, making it a popular venue for jazz musicians and music students.

TUINSTRAAT 2 | EETCAFEDESMEDERIJ.NL

Each year, Groningen city is the proud owner of a city beach. The Ebbingekwartier district features a water surface fenced off with buoys for swimming. On sunny days, people come here to play beach volleyball, table tennis, table football or chess. The lifeguards complete the summery picture. There is no way you can miss DOT: a hotspot in a special place where lots of interesting things take place.

BLOEMSINGEL | DOTGRONINGEN.NL

Some cycling is involved to get to Mennoos Kookerij, which is located in the Menno Lutterhuis in the post-war district of Corpus Den Hoorn south of Groningen city. Enjoy your lunch, meal or cup of coffee and take in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Their basic premise is to serve varied and traditional meals at affordable rates.

PATERSWOLDESEWEG 267 | MENNOOSKOOKERIJ.NL
76 EETCAFÉ LAMBIK
The charming Lambik gastropub is located on the outskirts of the Noorderplantsoen park, where guests of all ages come to enjoy a fresh daily meal after whiling away an afternoon in the park. They serve two daily dishes: with meat or vegetarian. On warm summer nights, when tables and chairs are moved outside, it’s easy to imagine yourself at an outdoor café in France.

GROTE KRIISSTRAAT 73 | EETCAFÉ-LAMBIK.NL

77 NOORDERPLANTSOEN
On sunny days, the banks of the ponds in the Noorderplantsoen park are crowded. Would these people be aware of the fact that wars were fought here, on the remnants of an old fortress? Or that, way before then, the hills in the area originated from an ice cap being pushed along? But then again: why think about this when you can spend some time chilling in the park?

KRIISSINGEL | VISITGRONINGEN.NL/NOORDERPLANTSOEN

78 CAFÉ DE SLEUTEL
De Sleur has this great and authentic atmosphere that makes everyone feel right at home. The cask in the corner with a key is reminiscent of the century-old brewery function of Café De Sleutel. Far-off days are still tangible at this venue where people go for a good glass of wine or a refreshing beer. If it’s too late to go home and prepare a meal, simply stay and eat what’s cooking.

NOORDERHAVEN 72 | CAFEDESLEUTEL.NL

79 DE PRAEL
You’ll find the Groningen establishment of de Prael brewery café right beside the former Gerzon’s Vleeschconservenfabriek – currently Simplon. This old building with its special inner court unites humans and beer, which is De Prael’s creed. They dole out delicious meals served with beer made on the very spot.

BOTERDIEP 75 | DEPRAELGRONINGEN.NL

‘If it’s too late to go home, simply stay and eat what’s cooking.’
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paddepoel.nl
Until the late 19th century, the old city fortress was located where boulevards are laid out today. What used to be a thick earthen bank has been transformed into a lovely green quarter with beautiful villas. The route takes in the boulevards and Folkingestraat, which for years has been one of the best shopping streets in the Netherlands. Explore the best spots in this quarter.
80. BAKKERIJ CREBAS
Bakkerij Crebas – established in 1880 – proudly carries the royal coat of arms and the title of ‘By Appointment to the Court of the Netherlands’. The mere twelve square feet of shop surface by no means prevents the baker from displaying all kinds of delicacies.
STEENTILSTRAAT 7

81. BEAUTIES
Beauties has a wide variety of natural skincare products and gifts available. They also provide skin analyses, facials and natural body care products. The interior is totally in line with their philosophy and was built using natural and recycled materials.
FOLKINGESTRAAT 55 | BEAUTIESGRONINGEN.NL

82. LA BOTTEGA DI AMORE E PUTIPU
This shop simply must be the best promotion of Italy in Groningen. La Bottega di Amore e Putipu – which is run by Italians Daniele en Roberta – is filled to the brim with sweets, chocs, Italian coffee and homemade cakes and desserts.
STEENTILSTRAAT 18

83. HAASTJE REPJE
From trendy to casual, classic to sporty and from just that bit different to casual; Haastje Repje sells clothing for every woman, from size 6 through 16. If you can’t choose, we are happy to help you find something suitable for you.
GELKINGESTRAAT 41 | HAASTJE-REPJE.NL

84. STARDUST
Stardust is the place to go if you are looking for high-quality and affordable vintage clothing. They collaborate with various studios and passionate Groningen designers to realise their remade vintage collection.
CAROLIEWEG 13 | STARDUST-STORE.NL

85. BISTRO DE GROTE FREDERIK
Although this small and friendly bistro in the Oosterpoort district has a French cuisine, the chef loves to flirt with other countries and continents. Their menu changes every six weeks. The Volkskrant newspaper: “Unpretentious and good food prepared with love”.
FREDERIKSPL 7 | DEGROTEFREDERIK.NL
86. BISTRO BOYS
You will find none of that chic and stiff stuff here, but instead a casual place to enjoy a simple and delicious meal and drink. Perennially cheerful hosts Guido and Floris, also referred to as the Bistro Boys, serve up lunch and dinner to their guests.
FOLKINGESTRAAT 46 | BISTROBOYS.NL

87. BROUWERIJ MARTINUS
Hop boilers now simmer and bubble in an industrial building where a printing press once operated. The Martinus microbrewery brews beer according to rather daring recipes. Enjoy their beer in many Groningen pubs, or in their gastropub.
KOSTERSGANG 32-34 | BROUWERIJMARTINUS.NL

88. DE GROENE STOEL
In addition to good food, delicious coffee and homemade cake, the De Groene Stoel has a good story. Using organic and local ingredients, this restaurant provides training and job opportunities in the restaurant and catering sector to refugees.
GEDEMPTE ZUIDERDIEP 26 | DEGROENESTOEL.NL

89. DE OLIJFBOOM
De Olijfboom combines a Greek traiteur and ouzerie. The traiteur is a food shop with fresh snacks and dishes. In addition, they sell Greek products. Enjoy these delicacies at the adjacent Ouzerie; a Greek gastropub.
STEENTILSTRAAT 28 - 28-1 | OLIJFBOOMGRONINGEN.NL

90. TOET HET TOETJESPARADIJS
You could honestly say that coffee is served with a delicacy at the TOETjesparadijs instead of vice versa. They prepare their daily varying products using organic, local and gluten-free products where possible. This is also the place to order a cake or follow a workshop.
GEDEMPTE ZUIDERDIEP 85 | TOET.NU

91. UIT DE BUURT
At Uit de Buurt, everything is local, even the employees. Inspired by what small regional producers provide, they combine the classic cuisine with exotic and new tastes, ensuring an ever-changing menu.
VERLENGDE HEREWEG 30 | UITDEBUURT.COM
ACCESSIBLE GRONINGEN

Over the coming years, extensive road and railway construction activities will take place in and around Groningen city. A new southern ring road will be laid out and the main railway station, station area and railway will undergo major reconstruction. Other projects are scheduled for the city centre to make it even more attractive, hospitable and accessible.

Activities may cause temporary disruption on roads and railways. Be sure to check groningenbereikbaar.nl for the latest traffic and travel alternatives.

EVENTS YOU SHOULD NOT MISS

Find the complete overview and updated information at: visitgroningen.com/whats-on
GRONINGEN STORE (TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE)
Look beyond what you see or venture out across the dyke, and you will find that there is just so much to explore in the city and province of Groningen. If you would like help in selecting the tips and tops, go to the Groningen Store in the Forum Groningen; the starting point for your expedition of Groningen. This is where you find information about the city and environs, guided tours, a visit to the Martinitoren, group excursions and VVV gift vouchers. They also have fun, delicious and sustainable products available, all from the hands of Groningen producers and inventors. This is also a place for inspiration outside opening hours.

MORE INFORMATION
Groningen Store
(Tourist Information Office)
Nieuwe Markt 1
+31 (0)50-3139741
info@vvvgroningen.nl
visitgroningen.com

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