



**2018 PRESS INFORMATION**

**LEIDEN MARKETING**

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## ***"Leiden - Key to Discovery"***

*Leiden Marketing aims to emphasise the culture and knowledge pillars in order to present the city as an ideal destination for Dutch tourists, holiday makers and national or international knowledge workers looking for quality.*

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## 1 General

Leiden is situated in the county of South-Holland, between The Hague and Amsterdam. The distance between Leiden and the North Sea coast is 12 kilometres. The historic compact city, which has lots of attractions within walking distance, links the Bulb Region and the Green Heart.

### Facts and Figures

- 122,000 inhabitants
- 30,000 students
- 200 restaurants
- 60 bars
- 22 hotels
- 3000 hotel rooms in Leiden and its vicinity
- 20 special conference venues
- Conference capacity for up to 1,500 people
- 13 museums, of which 4 national museums
- More than 3,000 monuments
- 28 kilometres of canals
- 88 bridges
- 35 almshouse courtyards
- 30 minutes by car from Schiphol International Airport
- 12km to the North Sea coast
- Third culture city of the Netherlands
- Oldest university in the Netherlands
- Leiden Observatory (Sterrewacht Leiden) is the world's oldest university observatory
- In 1593, the first tulip was planted in Dutch soil, in the Leiden Hortus Botanicus
- Birthplace of Rembrandt van Rijn
- Largest bioscience cluster in Europe
- Internationally renowned research university
- Historic centre with ring of canals
- The 6.5km long outer ring of canals (the canal pattern) is still fully intact
- Leiden Schouwburg is the oldest theatre in the Netherlands
- A number of members of the Royal Family studied in Leiden: Prince Alexander, Prince Willem, Princess Beatrix and King Willem-Alexander.
- Since 1293, a common nickname for the city has been 'the Key City', referring to the two keys in the city's coat of arms.
- Several old masters were born in Leiden: Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Gerrit Dou and Frans van Mieris the Elder.
- The Pilgrim Fathers lived in Leiden for 12 years before leaving for America to found a new state there. Ancestors of President Obama also originate from this city. He is a direct descendant of a Leiden pilgrim family. Presidents Grant, Coolidge, Taylor, F.D. Roosevelt and the Bushes too have Leiden Pilgrims as ancestors.

## 2 Leiden - Key to Discovery

One of Leiden's main features is immediately noticeable: the water. Leiden has the most water flowing within its gates after Amsterdam. Due to its location on the edge of the Holland Lake District (Hollandse Plassengebied), various boating routes for pleasure and touring pass through Leiden and its vicinity. The water surface of the Holland Lake District stretches further than the Frisian lakes. Magnificent boating routes pass over the Old Rhine and the Vliet, straight through the historic inner city, from the one lake area to the other.

Leiden has nearly 3,000 monuments, ranging from almshouse courtyards to mills and from churches to city gates. In fact, the whole of Leiden's inner city is one large monument. A walk or bike tour along the most striking monuments is therefore an absolute must.

No other city in the Netherlands has so many famous museums within walking distance from each other. Master pieces from Rembrandt and Lievens, dinosaur skeletons, crises from Indonesia, an anatomical theatre, an Egyptian temple, treasures from Japan, the botanical garden where the first tulips in the Netherlands grew and a journey of discovery through the human body: Leiden's museums offer a surprising range of nature, art and culture.

Anyone walking through Leiden will sense the energy and atmosphere that can make meetings so special, in the inner city, with a large variety of stores on offer, but also for example in the Bio Science Park, which is buzzing with innovations thanks to the collaboration between companies, the Borough and knowledge institutions.

Leiden city is ideally situated: only a stone's throw from large centres such as The Hague and Amsterdam. The city is within easy reach from abroad, with Schiphol airport 20 minutes away and the smaller Rotterdam The Hague Airport 25 minutes away. Also about a dozen kilometres from Leiden are the North Sea coast, the bulb fields and the Green Heart.

Leiden; a city that makes discoveries and a city that is worthy of being discovered.



### **3 History**

Leiden's history goes back a long way; long before the start of our calendar, people lived on the banks of the Rhine. Around 1200, the settlement had developed such that the Count of Holland offered city rights to the inhabitants; the city of Leiden was born. At the end of the fifteenth century, Leiden was the largest city of the County of Holland. This was largely thanks to the international cloth-making industry. The prosperity experienced by Leiden at that time is reflected in buildings such as the Highland Church (Hooglandse Kerk) and Peter's Church (Pieterskerk).

#### **Relief of Leiden**

From the sixteenth century, the economic tide turned. It was the time of the Reformation and Protestant streams were fiercely pursued. In 1572, Leiden joined the Dutch revolt against the Spanish domination and was besieged by the Spanish. The inhabitants fell victim to disease and hunger and Leiden almost fell into the hands of the Spanish, but on 3 October 1574, the Spanish troops fled and William of Orange's troops entered Leiden. They handed out food: half a loaf of bread with cheese and herring for each inhabitant. This liberation, Relief of Leiden, is still celebrated to this day with a gigantic festival. In gratitude for the heroic resistance upheld by the city during the siege, William of Orange founded the University of Leiden on 8 February 1575.

#### **Decline**

During the seventeenth century, the once prosperous Leiden cloth-making industry went into steady decline: employment figures went down and people deserted the city. This economic decline brought about a lot of discontent. With Napoleon's constant wars, the situation only deteriorated further. To top it all, Leiden was hit by a major disaster. On 12 January 1807, a gunpowder ship exploded right in the centre of the city. Dozens of homes were destroyed and there were at least 160 fatalities.

#### **Nineteenth Century**

From 1815, the city slowly but surely revived. During the second half of the century, Leiden's industry became less one-sided: new industries developed such as metallurgy, the printing industry and tinned food. The growth of the city's prosperity at the end of the nineteenth and start of the twentieth centuries is particularly apparent from the ornate shop fronts.

#### **Leiden Keys**

Leiden is known as the Key City. Keys emerge everywhere around the city. This started as early as 1293, when official documents from the city of 'Leyde' increasingly showed a city seal featuring Apostle Peter carrying a key in his hand. The link between Peter and a key is an old one. It goes back to a fragment in the Bible (Matthew verses 16 to 19) in which Jesus says to Peter: "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." As early as 1121, the Counts of Holland had a chapel built and dedicated to Peter and Paul, the current Peter's Church (Pieterskerk) in Leiden.

## 4 Waterways

Leiden has the most water flowing within its gates after Amsterdam. Leiden's historic inner city has a total of 28 kilometres of canals. Crossing these canals requires bridges. Leiden's inner city has 88. Leiden is great to be viewed from the water. The historic city looks very different from the water. Leiden's cruise companies have a broad range of round trips and cruises on offer, or you can rent your own little boat.

The Leiden canals pass along the museums, Leiden's almshouse courtyards and many historic buildings with magnificent façades. Also, there are food and drink establishments in many places near the canals, often with a terrace immediately on the water.

Leiden is also a convenient departure point for great day trips to the surrounding area. De Kaag and Braassemmermeer are around the corner and towns or cities like Katwijk, Delft and Rotterdam are within easy reach by boat.

### Using Your Own Boat

Leiden is easily accessible using your own boat. Quays are low and there are moorings everywhere. There are dinghy jetties in strategic locations and moorings along various quays. It is important to bear in mind that a number of bridges are relatively low.

Leiden has two passenger ports. The passenger port at Beestenmarkt is set up for day trippers. Staying here overnight is not allowed. However, overnight stays are allowed in the passenger port at the edge of the inner city. This port can only be reached from the east, via the Zijl, the Rhine-Schie Channel and the Old Rhine.

The historic port has historic commercial ships which together form a stunning view of the port.



## 5 Museums

No other city in the Netherlands has so many extraordinary museums within walking distance from each other, offering a large array of nature, art and culture. Exhibitions, workshops and events bring these special collections to life. During weekends and holidays, children are treated to exciting and fun activities.

### **Hortus botanicus Leiden**

Hortus botanicus Leiden is the Netherlands' oldest botanical garden still in existence and has been the University of Leiden's teaching garden since 1590. More than four centuries of collecting, cultivating and studying have produced this magnificent garden featuring plants from all over the world. The extraordinary gardens and greenhouses, such as the Clusius garden, a reconstruction of the first garden created in 1594, the Japanese garden and the Victoria amazonica, are well worth a visit.

### **Siebold House Japan Museum**

Siebold House Japan Museum offers a lot of splendour from old and new Japan in a Dutch house of historic splendour. Seven rooms, each with their own atmosphere, guide the visitor along thousands of treasures from nature, art and culture. The prints, fossils, ceramics, mounted animals, ancient maps and thousands of other treasures were collected by the German doctor Philipp Franz von Siebold during the nineteenth century. The temporary exhibitions show modern Japanese and Dutch design and top pieces from collections on loan.

### **Museum of Ethnology (Volkenkunde)**

A world trip in one's own country; from Indonesia to Africa and from North America to China. There are art treasures from thousands of years ago, images of Incas and Aztecs, Chinese paintings and African bronzes to be admired. From as early as 1837, the National Museum of Ethnology has been housing world-famous collections regarding wide-ranging non-Western cultures. The museum manages more than 240,000 objects and 500,000 audiovisual sources from all over the world. In addition to the permanent exhibition halls with the icons from Ethnology, there is always a temporary exhibition.

### **CORPUS 'Travel through the Human Body'**

Travel through the human body and see, feel and hear in a remarkable way how the human body works. Corpus plays an educational, informative and preventative role in the area of healthy living and wellbeing. It answers questions such as 'how does hair grow?' and 'why do I sneeze?'.

### **Stedelijk Molenmuseum de Valk (The Falcon City Mill Museum)**

The Falcon City Mill Museum is an authentic tower mill dating from 1743. The Falcon has seven floors that are open to the public. The mill museum in Leiden is the only remaining wind mill on Leiden's city walls. Years back, the Falcon museum was accompanied by no fewer than 19 other wind mills on Leiden's city walls. The Falcon museum is 29 metres high and the skeleton was built within just 3 months in 1743. The Falcon mill is old but safe to access for visitors. Visitors to the Falcon Mill, which is still in use, are introduced to the history of the tower mill and its operation. It also covers the miller's craftsmanship from the eighteenth century.

### **Leiden American Pilgrim Museum**

In this original fourteenth-century house, visitors will get an impression of how the Pilgrim Fathers lived in Leiden. Also, the history of their period in Leiden (1608-1620) can be viewed here. The museum also shows a collection of sixteenth and seventeenth century cards and engravings.

### **Leiden Weaver's House (Leids Wevershuis)**

Leiden Weaver's House is located in an ordinary house in an ordinary street. The house itself is the only exhibit. There is no collection, only temporary exhibitions. Visitors are led one hundred years back in time and told about the cloth-making industry, printing industry and tinned food industry. Weaving presentations are done on the antique looms.

### **Academic Historical Museum**

The permanent exhibition of this museum is housed in the Academy Building and shows objects, photos and documents relating to the history of the university and student life.

### **National Museum of Antiquities (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden)**

The National Museum of Antiquities displays many treasures from rich ancient cultures and the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, including world-class collections of mummies and sarcophagi. One showpiece is a genuine Egyptian temple. The museum offers a full overview of the Netherlands' earliest history and organises extraordinary temporary collections and special children's activities.

The National Museum of Antiquities has been renovated and re-opened since mid-December 2015. It now hosts a new, permanent exhibition about the Classical World. The Egyptian section is currently undergoing renovation and will be open to visitors again in the autumn of 2016.

### **Rijksmuseum Boerhaave**

Rijksmuseum Boerhaave is the National Museum for the History of Natural Sciences and Medicine. The collections are among the top ones in the world, reflecting over four hundred years of Dutch science history. Highlights include the microscopes used by Antoni van Leeuwenhoek and the inventions by Christiaan Huygens, such as the first pendulum clock. There are also objects from the Dutch Nobel Prize Winners, impressive anatomical preparations and the Leiden Sphaera: the oldest Dutch planetarium.

### **Museum De Lakenhal**

Museum De Lakenhal makes visual arts, the arts industry and the history of Leiden accessible to a wide audience. Highlights of the collection include the works of world famous Leiden masters such as Lucas van Leyden, Rembrandt and Jan Steen, but also of modern and contemporary artists such as Theo van Doesburg, Jan Wolkers and Erwin Olaf. The history of Leiden is shown from the Relief of Leiden on 3 October 1574.

Museum De Lakenhal is currently closed and is expected to reopen in spring 2019 with new exhibition halls, an auditorium, educational area, cafeteria and offices. In the meantime, the museum will exhibit at various venues including the Meelfabriek in Leiden.

### **Naturalis**

Naturalis has a world-class natural history collection. It is a museum full of animals, plants, minerals, rocks and fossils. Top pieces include the camarasaurus, mammoth and Japanese giant crab. The origin and life on earth can be discovered in the permanent exhibitions, such as the Pre-Historic Parade, Nature Theatre or Treasure Trove. Naturalis always has new exhibitions, workshops, tours and children's activities.

Currently Naturalis is closed as they are expanding. There will be a larger building to accommodate the merger with the Amsterdam Zoological Museum and the Dutch National Herbarium. Also, a dino experience will be created, around the purchase of T Rex – the first T Rex outside of America. The refurbishment will take approximately two years to complete. In the meantime, the museum will be rehoused and expose at the Plague House (Pesthuis).



## 6 Leiden's Inner City

Leiden's inner city, the city centre of Leiden, is the area situated within the canals, which reached its current size in the seventeenth century .

Starting from Galgewater, west of the inner city, the canals are called as follows (clockwise): Morssingel, Rijnsburgersingel, Maresingel, Herensingel, Zijlsingel, Zoeterwoudsesingel and Witte Singel.

The historic and geographic centre of Leiden's inner city is formed by the place where the Old and New Rhine merged. In this strategic location, a hill was created during the Middle Ages with the Leiden Citadel (Leidse Burcht) on top. The area situated within the canals has the status of protected cityscape.

Leiden is also referred to as 'Little Amsterdam'.



## 7 Rembrandt van Rijn

Rembrandt was born on 15 July 1606 at Weddesteeg in Leiden where he lived for the first 26 years of his life. These were important years. He studied classics at the Latin school and then decided to become a painter. Once fully trained, he set up as an independent painter in Leiden. Many master pieces were created in his Leiden workshop. Museum De Lakenhal has a painting on display from the painter's period in Leiden. In 1632, he left his birthplace to try his fortune in Amsterdam.

Every year, Rembrandt's birthday is celebrated. At midnight from 14 to 15 July, a wreath is laid by Rembrandt's bust statue at Witte Singel.

Unfortunately, the house in which Rembrandt was born, is no longer there. There is however a sculpture of Rembrandt at Weddesteeg Rembrandtplein, entitled: 'The young Rembrandt'.



## **8 Theatre**

Music, plays, dance, cabaret; Leiden's theatres offer a varied programme.

### **Leiden Schouwburg**

On 1 October 1705, Leiden Schouwburg opened its doors at Oude Vest.

In 1865, a major refurbishment followed and the hall got its current horseshoe shape, inspired by Italian theatres. With the latest refurbishment in 1997, Leiden Schouwburg returned to the traditional red velvet, chandeliers and golden ornaments from the nineteenth century.

Leiden Schouwburg is the Netherlands' oldest theatre and has a unique atmosphere. It offers a varied programme of plays, dance, musical, cabaret and theatre concerts. In addition to the Leiden Cabaret Festival, there are also a lot of premiers taking place here, giving this atmospheric theatre a national character.

### **Leiden City Auditorium (Stadsgehoorzaal Leiden)**

Located in Leiden's historic centre is the smallest of the Netherlands' major concert halls, catering for every music lover, from pop to classical.

Leiden City Auditorium is a complex with three halls: Grote Zaal, Breezaal and Aalmarktzaal. City Auditorium was built in 1890 and is among the most beautiful concert halls in the Netherlands. It is praised for its excellent acoustics. Various artists and groups perform here.

### **Ins Blau Theatre**

This is the new level-floor theatre at Haagweg in Leiden. This complex contains a 200-seat theatre hall and three rehearsal studios. It has a spacious foyer with a bar.

Ins Blau Theatre offers opportunities to anyone wishing to work out and present their ideas on stage.

Aims: To create and offer opportunities to talent, to support amateurs and professionals, to provide opportunities for try-outs and debates.

### **Scheltema Leiden**

Scheltema is the building of the former Leiden blanket factory on the corner of Oude Singel/Marktsteeg, close to Museum De Lakenhal. It is a new venue for current art and music theatre, offering workshops, performances, lectures, concerts, etc.

In charge of programming are music theatre group 'De VeenFabriek', the University of Leiden and De Lakenhal. Scheltema aspires to be a place where artists, scientists and students meet and collaborate.

### **Imperium Theatre**

Imperium Theatre Group is an active theatre group that produces four plays a year. They have their own theatre at Oude Vest, in Leiden's city centre. They also rent the theatre out to other groups.

## 9 Monuments

Leiden has nearly 3,000 monuments; ranging from almshouse courtyards to mills and from churches to city gates.

Actually, the whole of Leiden's inner city is one monumental centre. The distances within the canals are small, making a walk along the most striking monuments no effort at all and an absolute must.

Here is a short introduction to a number of monuments:

- Academy Building
- De Burcht (Citadel)
- De Waag (Weighing House)
- Doelenpoort
- Gravensteen
- Hooglandse Kerk (Highland Church)
- Koornbrug (Corn Bridge)
- Molen de Put (Put's Mill)
- Molen de Valk (The Falcon Mill)
- Morspoort and Zijlpoort
- Pieterskerk (Peter's Church)
- Rapenburg
- Stadhuis (City Hall)
- Van der Werf Park

### Academy Building

Since 1581, the former chapel of the Dominican or White Nunnery has formed the heart of the University of Leiden. The nunnery was founded in the 40s of the fifteenth century, whereas the chapel dates from around 1507. When the university was founded, the building went through a major refurbishment, whereby the separation arches between both aisles were closed off and the floor levels were installed. To the west side, an external staircase tower was added. The current Large Auditorium was originally intended for lectures of the theology faculty and for official academic ceremonies. The first floor accommodates the Small Auditorium, the Senate's Room, the famous little sweat room and the beadle's room.

Over the years, various restorations, changes and extensions followed, including the work carried out under state architect Jacobus van Lokhorst during 1878-1887. The same architect was responsible for the extension in neo-gothic style added in 1897-1899 at the Nonnensteeg side. During the last restoration, the colours were returned to the ones originally applied by Van Lokhorst. Furthermore, some major changes were applied to make events such as graduations and promotions run more smoothly. With the addition of a lift and a staircase, the accessibility of the building was greatly improved.

### De Burcht (Citadel)

The heart of Leiden is formed by the Citadel. Leiden's Citadel is one of the oldest examples of a motte castle still in existence in the Netherlands. It is an artificially created hill (motte) which initially had a wooden citadel. Burchtheuvel (Citadel Hill) is full of traces providing indications of Leiden's earliest history. Archaeologists discovered that the hill must have been created towards the end of the ninth century using turf and clay. The whole complex was surrounded by a moat. In 1203, a battle took place here for the County of Holland.

The Citadel is situated in a strategic place: two arms of the Rhine merge to the west, and the Mare flows into the Rhine here, making it a great place for ship and crossing inspections.

In 1651, the complex came into possession of the city and the construction was restored. The eighteenth-century iron gate at the foot of Burchtheuvel is stood between two late-Gothic posts originating from nearby Visbrug. At that time, the Citadel still served as a city park and 'water tower'. From a water cellar located under in the hill, water was pumped up to the two water reservoirs up in the Citadel. From there, pipes led to the fish fountain to the other side of the New Rhine plus to a fountain at the foot of the Citadel.

The Citadel is freely accessible and offers a magnificent view over Leiden.

### **De Waag (Weighing House)**

Contrary to most Old Dutch cities, Leiden does not have a central market square. The water from the Rhine was a lifeline for Leiden through the ages. Goods entered the city on flat boats. Next, the wares were offloaded onto the quay and sold. At the Weighing House, the goods supplied were weighed and checked.

From the end of the fifteenth century, there was a wooden Weighing House here. In 1657, it was replaced by a stone building with two floor levels, designed in Dutch classicist style. Sculptor Rombout Verhulst depicts the weighing and the closing of barrels and packs in relief displays above the entrance and in the tympanum.

### **Doelenpoort**

Doelenpoort used to provide access to Saint Joris and Sebastiaansdoelen, the practice grounds of the two Leiden 'militias'. The sand stone gate was designed in 1645 by city architect Arent van 's-Gravesande. The sculptures on the gate depict St. Joris defeating the dragon.

During the nineteenth century, Doelenterrein became an army base. The building located next to the gate, the Arsenal, was part of this base. These days, the building accommodates departments of Leiden University.

### **Gravensteen**

Gravensteen was originally the prison of the Counts of Holland. The square tower is the oldest part of the complex and probably dates from the start of the thirteenth century. In 1463, the building was handed to the city of Leiden and went on to serve as the city prison. During the seventeenth century, a number of extensions followed.

From the gallery in front of the tower, the mayor and aldermen had a view of the execution place, commonly known as 'Schoonverdriet' or 'Groene Zoodje'. The whole of Gravensteen was surrounded by a moat.

### **Hooglandse Kerk (Highland Church)**

Located a stone's throw from the Citadel (Burcht) and behind the New Rhine is Highland Church surrounded by upmarket houses and almshouse courtyards. Next to Highland Church is Hooglandse Kerkgracht (Highland Church Canal). The canal was drained a number of centuries ago, but the street is still one of the most beautiful in Leiden.

Highland Church is located on the 'High Land', part of Waardeiland, and island in the Rhine. In 1314, a wooden 'annex' dedicated to St. Pancras was built in this location. After the expansion of the city, forty years later, this became Leiden's second parish church. Soon after it was replaced by a stone building, which during the fifteenth century, grew out into the imposing construction it is today, meant to show the city's prosperity.

Highland Church was never completed due to a lack of money and the rise of the Reformation. In

1535, all construction work ceased. In 1572, the church fell into Protestant hands.

### **Koornbrug (Corn Bridge)**

On this bridge, as the name suggests, corn was traded for centuries. In order to keep the goods dry, a canopy was built in 1834, making this bridge the oldest covered bridge. Furthermore, the corn was stored under the roof; the holes in the ceiling ensured ventilation.

### **Molen de Put (Put's Mill)**

Put's Mill owns its name to miller Jan Jansz. Put, owner of the mill that was stood in this place during the seventeenth century. During the eighties of the previous century, the mill was refurbished. The mill is located on the north bank of the Rhine. It was built at the start of the seventeenth century. After the Relief of Leiden in 1574, the city had 10,000 inhabitants, by 1600 this number had already grown to 24,000. Leiden was the largest city after Amsterdam and overfull. As a result, the City Council decided to expand to the side of the city.

### **Molen de Valk (The Falcon Mill)**

For a long time, Leiden's city walls had mills. The higher they were placed, the easier they could capture wind. This mill tower was built within two and a half months in 1743. Up to 1925, grain was ground here, whereas in 1966 it became a mill museum that could be visited for a fee.

### **Morspoort and Zijlpoort City Gates**

Leiden once had ten city gates, two of which are still there: Morspoort and Zijlpoort. The other gates were demolished with the city expansions during the nineteenth century.

Morspoort used to be called Gallows Gate (Galgpoort), as it led to the gallows. During the seventeenth century, the City Council decided to rename the gate after the swamp area on the outside of the city.

As the gate of Zijlpoort needed to connect both to the city wall and the bridge in front of it, the building has the shape of a parallelogram. Along Zijlpoort, the Old Rhine flows from the little river Zijl nearby, into the city of Leiden.

### **Pieterskerk (Peter's Church)**

Peter's Church has been a central monument in Leiden from as long as the twelfth century. With an almost 9000-year history, Peter's Church has been an important meeting place in Dutch history. In 1121, the Count of Holland dedicated a chapel to Peter and Paul in this place. Under the name of Saint Peter, Leiden's first church was expanded further through the ages. Up to 1512, there was a tower over 100 metres high to the west side of the church, where a square is located now. In that year, the tower collapsed one night, never to be reconstructed again.

### **Rapenburg**

This canal, Rapenburg, was dug not long after 1200, in order to effectively defend the relatively new city of Leiden. During the seventeenth century, it became the most important and prestigious canal of the city. This is where rich traders and famous professors lived, such as doctor Herman Boerhaave and Japan researcher Von Siebold. These 'dignitaries' had exquisite town houses built here. Some eighteenth-century geographers even described Rapenburg as the most beautiful place in the world.

### **Stadhuis (City Hall)**

The façade of Leiden's City Hall at Breestraat symbolises the 'Dawn' of Leiden's Golden Age. After the siege and relief of the city in 1574, a new period of prosperity began. The City Council wanted a grander entrance and a monumental façade. City sculptor Claes Cornelisz. van Es made the design in 1593-94, advised by the well-known Haarlem architect Lieven de Key. The chronogram on the gable at Breestraat was created by city secretary Jan van Hout and reminds the city of the siege and relief: the gold-plated capitals form the year 1574, whereas the number of capitals indicates the number of

days the siege lasted.

The interior too had to reflect Leiden's new sense of identity. Famous artists, including painters Jan Lievens and Ferdinand Bol, received assignments for mantelpieces, paintings, stained glass windows and wall rugs.

All of this was lost in the destructive fire on 12 February 1929. The old façade could be restored. Behind it, a totally new city hall arose during the 1930s following a design by another Haarlem architect, C.J. Blaauw. After his death in 1947, his colleague H.T. Zwiers continued his work. Again, the interior received a lot of attention. For example, the Wedding Hall has been finished using a lot of marble. Also the furniture of the Council Hall, and the rooms of the College of Mayor and Aldermen and the Mayor are still fully intact; it has recently been restored. Extraordinary are the wooden inlays by M.C. Escher in the Mayor's room and the room of the Mayor and Alderman depicting the growth of the city of Leiden.

### **Van der Werf Park**

This park is the result of a disaster. On 12 January 1807, a ship full of gunpowder exploded here in the Steenshuur. A complete residential area was blown away by this enormous explosion. Some 160 people lost their lives and another 2,000 were injured. Everywhere across the city, buildings were damaged. After the explosion, the disaster area remained undeveloped for a long time.

In 1884, a statue of Mayor Van der Werf appeared on the so-called 'Large Ruin' (Grote Ruïne) surrounded by a park. Van der Werf was perceived as one of the major heroes during Leiden's Siege by the Spanish in 1574. The liberation from the Spanish, the Relief of Leiden, is celebrated every year with a large festival on 3 October. The statue of Mayor Van der Werf still plays an important role as a meeting place.



## 10 Walks

Leiden has a compact and straightforward inner city and is easy to explore by yourself. A city walking tour allows visitors to immerse themselves into Leiden's story. The gables, streets, alleyways and almshouse courtyards; each tell their own story. There are a number of original walks for discovering the city. They can be obtained from Leiden's Tourist Information Office all year round.

### **De Leidse Loper**

*De Leidse Loper* is a special tour through Leiden. This walk is the one to introduce visitors to Leiden's most beautiful places. Many historic monuments and special vistas are generally difficult to find. *De Leidse Loper* offers the solution. The route is sign-posted and there are signs providing extensive background information in a number of places.

### **In Young Rembrandt's Foot Steps**

The Rembrandt Route starts from Museum De Lakenhal. It is a walking route linking all authentic Rembrandt locations in Leiden's inner city, such as Rembrandt's birthplace, his teacher's workshop (Jacob van Swanenburgh), and the Latin school attended by Rembrandt. The themed signs along the walking route provide an impression of Leiden at the time of Rembrandt.

### **Mural Poetry Walk**

This walk along the mural poetry passes about 25 of Leiden's 101 mural poetry sites. The walk is also offered in digital format via [www.muurgedichten.nl](http://www.muurgedichten.nl).

The mural poetry is written in different languages and intended for everyone. Most poems have a sign underneath with a Dutch and English translation. Passers-by will be stimulated by the poem itself and by the visual impression of the letters and the background of the wall. They will be confronted by different scripts, referring to other cultures. Many poems give a reflection of language, colour or the art of poetry.

### **Leiden's Almshouse Courtyards**

Leiden has 35 almshouse courtyards, virtually all of them located in the inner city. Each of these almshouse courtyards are idyllic places, sheltered from city noise and where time seems to have stood still. This city walk passes a selection of Leiden's almshouse courtyards, with the option of a longer or shorter route.

### **Singelpromenade**

This walk passes the edge of Leiden's inner city, through parks, cemeteries, factories and working-class neighbourhoods, showing an area that was in full development during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This walk around the old inner city offers a surprising view of a city that slowly broke free from the entrapment of its city walls.

### **Traces of the Industrial Revolution in a Dutch City**

This concise guide leads visitors past twenty extraordinary Leiden monuments from business and industry: Leiden's industrial heritage, where numerous Leiden citizens once earned their living through long working days. Up to the sixties of the twentieth century, during the industrial revolution, Leiden was an industrial city with pounding machinery and smoking chimneys. Then one factory after the other closed down in quick succession, followed by large-scale demolition. But not all traces have been erased.

### **Along Leiden's Shop Fronts**

From the second half of the nineteenth century, shop architecture arises and decorative shop fronts start to adorn Leiden's streetscape. Leiden still has some great examples of Jugendstil architecture,

which likely go unnoticed by most of the shoppers. This illustrated guide in handy pocket size describes a walking route past the most beautiful old shop fronts in Leiden's inner city.

### **"Grimmige Gruwelloop" (Treasure Hunt for Children)**

This treasure hunt for children leads back to the atrocious practices from the seventeenth century. Grimmige Gruwelloop consists of four booklets with four different characters. Exciting questions and tasks reveal that serious punishments were quite a common occurrence during the seventeenth century. Decapitation, hanging and drowning were the order of the day.

### **Leiden through Rembrandt's Eyes**

A city walk for children (8-12 years old) about Rembrandt in Leiden. Rembrandt lived in Leiden for 26 years. A lot has changed since then of course, and yet... if you placed him in the street today, he would still be able to find his way around. There are places that still look almost the same as in Rembrandt's time, even though 400 years have passed. Some things were totally different back then, but other things have not changed at all.

### **City and Almshouse Courtyard Walk**

During a City and Almshouse Courtyard Walk, a guide from the Leiden Guild will show the most historic places, including some magnificent almshouse courtyards. It is astonishing how much splendour and glory the seventeenth-century inner city has to offer.

Anyone can join the City and Almshouse Courtyard Walk without a reservation.

#### *April to November*

Every day at 11.30 hours

Starting point: Leiden Visitor Centre

#### *1 November to 1 April*

Every Saturday and Sunday at 11.30 hours

Starting point: Leiden Visitor Centre

#### *Throughout the year*

Every Sunday at 14.00 hours

Starting point: Little square in front of the Citadel (Burcht)

#### **Costs**

The walk takes approximately two hours and costs €3 per person. Free for children up to 12 years old (accompanied by family).

## 11 Shopping

Leiden is an ideal city for shopping, with more than a thousand shops and food and drink establishments in the city centre. The city offers a large selection of special shops and food and drink facilities with a lot of terraces in an atmospheric setting and is therefore extremely suitable for a day out 'shopping for fun'.

### Market

Vegetables, fish, fruit, flowers, clothing and delicatessen from across the globe. The market gives Leiden an extra dimension as a shopping city. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the quays of Botermarkt, Vismarkt, Aalmarkt and New Rhine offer an extensive produce market.

- Saturdays: City Centre  
This market has some thirty fruit and vegetable stalls. Also the fresh fish stalls make this market worth a visit. The market is held from 08.00 - 17.00 hours.
- Wednesdays: City Centre  
In addition to the regular produce market, Aalmarkt also offers a 'farmer's market' with various eco products. The market times are from 08.00 - 17.00 hours.



## **12 Music**

Leiden has a vibrant music scene. Big names regularly perform at Gebr. De Nobel and Q-Bus, often featuring many local bands too. Well-known artists can regularly be seen and heard in Leiden's City Auditorium (Stadsgehoorzaal) too.

### **Gebr. De Nobel**

Gebr. De Nobel is the "in" place for pop culture and offers an extensive programme, with something to suit every pop fan. It is a place for local, national and international acts and DJs alike, a meeting place focused on pop culture.

### **Stadsgehoorzaal Leiden (Leiden's City Auditorium)**

Stadsgehoorzaal was built in 1890 and is among the most beautiful concert halls in the Netherlands. Stadsgehoorzaal is praised for its excellent acoustics and many concerts and CD recordings take place here every year.

### **QBus**

Since 1996, QBus is a stage for national and international live performances. There is a wide range of genres to be enjoyed, such as world music, pop, jazz, country and much more.

### **Sociëteit de Burcht (Citadel Society)**

Right in the centre of Leiden is Sociëteit de Burcht: one of the most popular cafés in Leiden with varied music, culture and a great atmosphere. Various nationally and internationally famous jazz musicians have visited Sociëteit de Burcht.

### **Studio de Veste**

Studio de Veste is located right in the centre of Leiden's beautiful inner city. It offers various music styles, ranging from pop to rock, and occasional jamming sessions.

### **Jazz Café De Twee Spieghele**

De Twee Spieghele is a jazz and wine bar offering relaxing musical evenings. This is the "in" place for music and wine lovers, with live music and virtuoso performances at this atmospheric café.

## 13 Restaurants

Leiden has hundreds of restaurants, bistros and pubs. Any cuisine imaginable is represented and has something to offer in every price range. Leiden also has plenty on offer for lunch or for late afternoon drinks. Many restaurants and cafés are established in attractive monuments, giving Leiden's food and drink establishments a special ambiance.

### **New Rhine / Stadhuisplein**

For the real connoisseur, Leiden has a lot to discover. At the New Rhine, a lively part of the city, there are a number of restaurants and bistros with terraces along or on the water in summer. Little boats and cruise ships sail by and there is a market on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

### **Kloksteeg / Pieterswijk**

Pieterswijk is one of Leiden's oldest districts. Surrounding Pieterskerk (Peter's Church), there are many tiny streets with little shops and restaurants. This area is also referred to as Leiden's Latin Quarter. Kloksteeg in Pieterswijk, overlooking the centuries-old Pieterskerk, is one of the most beautiful and most lively alleyways with restaurants and cafés in Leiden.

### **Havengebied / Zijlpoort**

Around the port area are a number of fine restaurants. There is also the historic Zijlpoort which houses a restaurant. The atmosphere in this district invites you to go out for the night.

### **Morspoort / Beestenmarkt**

Once you pass the Morspoort, you encounter culinary diversity, from Spanish tapas and finger food to French delicatessen. Beestenmarkt square offers many terraces.

### **Around Hooglandse Kerk**

The area around Hooglandse Kerk is the perfect location for an evening stroll. Various restaurants are located on the water and often have a floating terrace in summer in Leiden's sunniest spot.



## **14 Accessibility**

### **Leiden, its Location**

Leiden city is ideally situated: only a stone's throw from large centres such as The Hague and Amsterdam. The city is within easy reach from abroad, with Schiphol airport 20 minutes away and the smaller Rotterdam The Hague Airport 25 minutes away. Leiden is also only a dozen kilometres from the North Sea coast, the bulb fields, and the area of the Green Heart is only a step away.

### **Car**

Leiden is easily accessible by car due to its location between the A4 and A44 motorway. The inner city is mainly car-free. There are more than three thousand car parking spaces arranged in a circle around the historic heart, spread across various multi-story and ground-level car parks.

### **Haagweg Car Park**

Leiden's largest car park is located at Haagweg and serves as a Park & Ride. Free shuttle buses take you from the car park to all areas of the city centre and back throughout the day and evening.

### **Public Transport**

Leiden is very easy to reach by public transport. Trains from all directions stop at Leiden central station. The Hague is ten minutes away by train and Amsterdam Central Station only 35 minutes. It is a short stroll from the station to the inner city. There are also high frequency bus services to virtually all areas within the city and its vicinity.

## 15 Hotels

This historic city has plenty to offer for a great weekend, such as the old city centre, the well-known Leiden canals, centuries-old buildings, large numbers of shops, museums, restaurants and much more, and has a large choice of hotels both in the city centre and its vicinity.

Many hotels in all quality categories; comfortable, luxury, etc. Furthermore, many establishments have conference facilities.

- Boutique Hotel Huys van Leyden ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
- Boutique Hotel De Barones van Leyden ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
- Golden Tulip Leiden Centre ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
- Hilton Garden Inn Leiden ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
- Holiday Inn Leiden ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
- Van der Valk Hotel Leiden ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
- Ibis Leiden Centre ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
- Hotel de Doelen ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
- Bastion Hotel Leiden/Oegstgeest ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
- Best Western City Hotel Leiden ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
- Rembrandt Hotel Leiden ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
- Tulip Inn Leiderdorp ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
- City Hotel Nieuw Minerva ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

## 16 Leiden Congrescentrum (Conference Centre)

Leiden offers plenty of opportunities as a venue for medium-sized and even large conferences. There are special venues of all types and sizes for conferences and events, such as a historic church, a museum or a magnificent concert hall. Many venues are located within walking distance from each other and offer the opportunity for special combinations.

Leiden is ideally situated; large centres such as The Hague and Amsterdam are only a stone's throw away. With Schiphol airport 20 minutes away, the city is also extremely easy to reach from abroad.

Leiden offers endless possibilities for 'partner and social programmes'. An experienced city guide may show you to Leiden's hidden treasures and places which are not open to the general public.

### **From Small Meeting Venue to Multifunctional Conference Hall**

Leiden offers all the ingredients to turn any conference, meeting or event into a success. Leiden has a range of historic and modern venues available. The city's compactness offers a special ambiance for a business meeting and also provides the opportunity for various types of relaxation.

Leiden offers a variety of special meeting venues suitable for smaller meetings and gatherings. Additionally, there is also space for larger conferences in one of the many venues that Leiden has to offer.

There are many rooms available in Leiden, ranging from small to large, and often within walking distance from each other, making it possible to create great venue combinations. Due to the collaboration between the various Leiden hotels, there is great diversity in accommodation on offer.



## **17 Leiden is a Significant Knowledge Centre**

In former times, Leiden was known for its textile industry. Later, diverse industries joined, such as metallurgy, the printing industry and tinned food industry. From industrial city to industry leader of the Dutch knowledge economy in the twenty first century; these days, employment opportunities in Leiden are largely determined by biotechnology, education, business services, scientific research and the creative sector. With its universities (University of Leiden and Webster University), college and other educational establishments, Leiden is a knowledge centre of significant regional, national and international renown.

### **Knowledge Industry**

Leiden isn't called "Key to Discovery" for nothing. For many centuries, Leiden has been a big name in innovations. Since the foundation of the University of Leiden in 1575, it attracted famous scientists such as Spinoza, Descartes and Boerhaave.

During the twentieth century, the university produced four Nobel Prize winners (Zeeman, Lorentz, Kamerlingh Onnes and Einthoven) and the university continues to be a leader in many subject areas. For example, the University of Leiden, LUMC and top research institutes at the Leiden Bio Science Park take up an international top position in academic education and research in life sciences.

### **University**

The University of Leiden was founded in 1575 and is the oldest university in the Netherlands. The university has seven faculties, in which more than 19,000 students are enrolled.

The University of Leiden is a research-focussed university. Special attention goes to excellent and internationally competitive research. By collaborating, the university gathers expertise across the boundaries of disciplines and science areas. Interdisciplinary collaboration not only happens between science areas within the university, but there is also collaboration with other research establishments, non-profit organisations, authorities and companies.

Education is strongly interwoven with scientific research.

The University of Leiden has seven faculties, in the areas of Archaeology, Humanities, Medicine, Law, Social Sciences, Maths and Natural Sciences and Campus The Hague.

### **Hogeschool Leiden (College)**

Leiden College is driven by passion, talent and human dimension. With over 800 staff, the College trains some 9000 students for employment opportunities within:

- Management and Business
- Engineering
- Education
- Social Work and Applied Psychology and
- Care

### **Student-Focused**

The educational vision of Leiden College is student-focused. Developing their ambitions is the driving force behind sound education. Leiden College trains students to become junior professionals in response to the demand from partners in the surrounding area and beyond. The education is therefore driven by the employment market and can only be shaped and carried out in partnership with the employment market. In a well-structured and safe area, the college encourages and stimulates the students with the aim of developing a critical, inquisitive and reflective professional attitude and to act accordingly.

## **MboRijnland**

MboRijnland provides education to over 9,000 students from Leiden and a large area around it. The school offers a large number of vocational courses, for young people and adults, and general education at various levels for young adults. Additionally, the school also provides training courses for companies, institutions and basic education for adults.

## **LUMC**

Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) strives to continuously improve the quality of healthcare and is keen to continue to play a leading role both nationally and internationally. LUMC wants to offer the highest quality, both from a medical-technical perspective and in the care and attention for patients. Openness and information are keywords in this.

LUMC is one of eight university medical centres in the Netherlands and, with some 7000 employees, the largest employer in the Leiden area. It is a centre of medical innovation wishing to improve patient care through scientific research, by training doctors, specialist care providers and researchers to contribute to this. In addition to general patient care, LUMC offers specialist treatments that may only be carried out at a restricted number of medical centres. LUMC particularly distinguishes itself as referral centre for complex medical questions for which no ready-made answers are available. Scientists and doctors work together to create a better understanding of diseases and new treatment methods.

LUMC has a tradition of pioneering (bio) medical research giving it a top position at an international level. With its research, LUMC strives to make a contribution to the prevention and solution of health problems.

## **Leiden Bio Science Park**

In Leiden, life sciences are grouped together at the Leiden Bio Science Park. The Leiden Bio Science Park is the largest life science knowledge cluster in the Netherlands with around 60 specialist biotech companies and knowledge institutions. Leiden Bio Science Park's focus is on the biomedical life sciences, that is the medical biotechnology that focuses on the development of new medication, therapy and products for diagnostics with the help of live organisms. The companies at the park develop for example medications for auto-immune diseases, age-related diseases, dystrophy and vaccines.

At the park, there are leading biotech companies, such as Centocor, Crucell, Galapagos, Pharming, OctoPlus, and renowned education and research establishments such as the University of Leiden, LUMC, TNO and Top Institute Pharma.

## **Centre of Excellence in One Location**

The large concentration of excellence in biotechnology in one location makes the park an attractive base for companies, research establishments and scientists. Companies and scientists find each other easily for knowledge exchange and partnership.

The fact that the main players are here is an important reason for companies and scientists to base themselves in Leiden.

## 18 Did you know...

- A number of members of the Royal Family lived at Rapenburg during their studies: Prince Alexander (Rapenburg 22), Prince Willem (Rapenburg 24), Princess Beatrix (Rapenburg 45) and King Willem-Alexander (Rapenburg 116).
- A number of current and former members of the Dutch Royal Family studied at the University of Leiden and some received an honorary doctorate here.
- A common nickname for the city is 'the Key City', referring to the two keys in the city's coat of arms.
- Various old masters have ties with Leiden. For example Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Gerrit Dou and Frans van Mieris the Elder were all born in Leiden. All worked in the city for a long time and - apart from Rembrandt - died in Leiden too.
- The balcony of Rapenburg 56 is where the balcony scene in Paul Verhoeven's film *Soldier of Orange* was filmed. Since 1968, the ground floor of this building has housed Café Barrera.
- Leiden has the oldest theatre in the Netherlands, Leiden Schouwburg, built in 1705.
- Leiden also has the oldest university in the Netherlands. In 1575, William of Orange offered Leiden's citizens the University of Leiden for its heroic resistance during the siege by the Spanish.
- The ancestors of President Obama lived in Leiden. He is a direct descendant of a Leiden pilgrim family. Presidents Grant, Coolidge, Taylor, F.D. Roosevelt and the Bushes too have Leiden Pilgrims as ancestors.
- The approximately 6.5km long outer ring of canals in Leiden (the canal pattern) is still fully intact.

## 19 Leiden Tourist Information Centre

Visitors can turn to the Tourist Information Centre for any questions they may have about Leiden. The Tourist Information Centre is happy to advise about day trips, provides maps and much more. Due to its location next to Leiden Central station and the bus station, the Tourist Information Centre is easy to reach for everyone.

The Tourist Information Centre is the 'key to Leiden'. Visitors receive a warm welcome and are offered the information they need. Services are offered in the areas of transport, overnight accommodation, food and drink establishments, tickets and more.

The Tourist Information Centre houses the Arriva Store.

### Address

Leiden Tourist Information Centre  
Stationsweg 26  
2312 AV Leiden

Phone: 071-516 60 00

E-mail: [info@vvvleiden.nl](mailto:info@vvvleiden.nl)

### Opening Times

Monday to Friday	:	07.00 – 19.00 hours
Saturday	:	10.00 – 16.00 hours
Sunday	:	11.00 – 15.00 hours