



MAASTRICHT

Koningsdag

2022

King's Day 2022: Leef Maastricht!

Programme

The King's Day celebrations will take off on a bridge: the Sint-Servaasbrug. It is the oldest bridge of the Netherlands, located near the place where the Romans laid the foundations for the city of Maastricht shortly after the beginning of our era: Trajectum ad Mosam, bridge over the Maas. It is a place of historical value, but above all a symbolic place – the bridge as a symbol of connection between the lives in the city. The life of *bon vivants* and students, cultural and international life, traditional and modern life, and all the other lives that give colour to Maastricht and the South Limburg region. The bridge also symbolises solidarity and freedom, both of which have remained strong in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is a country where living together is essential. All this is inextricably linked to the theme of King's Day 2022: **Leef Maastricht!** (In English: Live Maastricht). Which, not coincidentally, also means 'Dear Maastricht' in Maastricht dialect.

1. Arrival: Sint Servaasbrug

The bus of the royal family will drive from the Wyck district to the Sint Servaasbrug on King's Day, preceded by a musical procession. The following brass bands will take part in the procession:

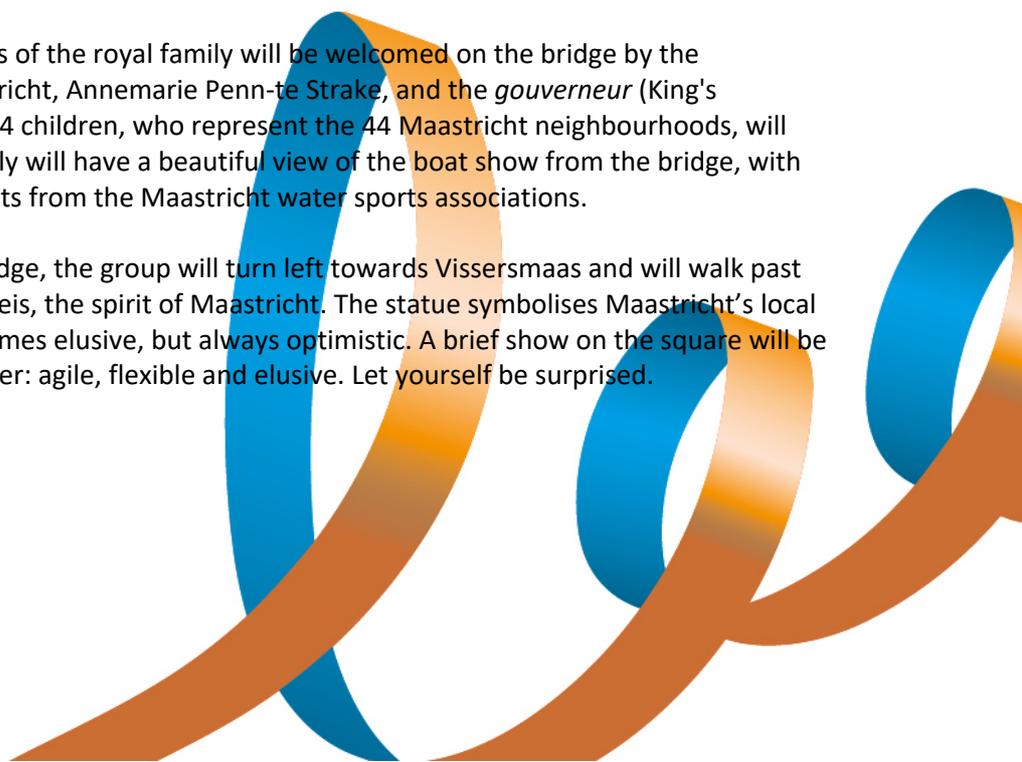
- Harmonie St. Petrus & Paulus (from the Maastricht district of Wolder)
- Koninklijke harmonie Ster van Maastricht
- Koninklijke harmonie Saint Cécile (from Eijsden).

The procession will consist of a total of 300 men, women and children. Musical star Joes Brauers will be leading the way. He plays the role of chaplain Erik Odekerken in the well-known musical *Dagboek van een Herdershond*, which will premiere in Maastricht soon.

The entrance is sure to be overwhelming, announcing that music will predominate during King's Day 2022. The programme is abundant in resounding names. It gives an impression of the musical life in our region and of the harmony among people and population groups.

The king and the other members of the royal family will be welcomed on the bridge by the *burgemeester* (mayor) of Maastricht, Annemarie Penn-te Strake, and the *gouverneur* (King's Commissioner) Emiel Roemer. 44 children, who represent the 44 Maastricht neighbourhoods, will hand over the flowers. The family will have a beautiful view of the boat show from the bridge, with hundreds of large and small boats from the Maastricht water sports associations.

After the programme on the bridge, the group will turn left towards Vissersmaas and will walk past the statue of the Mestrechtter Geis, the spirit of Maastricht. The statue symbolises Maastricht's local character: agile, flexible, sometimes elusive, but always optimistic. A brief show on the square will be in line with Maastricht's character: agile, flexible and elusive. Let yourself be surprised.





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2. Life in Maastricht: Het Bat

On the street that runs parallel to the Maasboulevard, the first substantive part of the programme will follow: Life in Maastricht

In the run-up to King's Day, the lives of various South Limburgers – ranging from ordinary to extraordinary – have been captured on film. The footage will come to life on King's Day at Het Bat, giving the royal guests and TV viewers an impression of what life in the region is like. All 16 South Limburg municipalities will present themselves. We are only revealing one of the 16 performances in advance: the three girls from dance group Let it Happen from Meerssen, who were previously featured on The Ellen DeGeneres Show

Het Bat and the Maasboulevard lead to the Graanmarkt. During King's Day, an enormous Gateway to Europe will be built there. After all, the Maastricht Treaty – marking the birth of the European Union and the euro – forever links Maastricht to Europe. Both the Union Treaty and the first euro will be featured on the route. Two royal guests will mint the first commemorative coin of the Maastricht Treaty. *Muntmeester* (mint master) Bert van Ravenswaaij and designer Rinus van Hall will assist them.

Maastricht's international student life will also present itself at the Graanmarkt. The string players of the Philharmonie Zuidnederland and the internationally renowned Maastricht DJ duo Lucas & Steve will perform a musical spectacle. The students of Maastricht University, the most Europe-oriented university in the Netherlands, will complete the show.

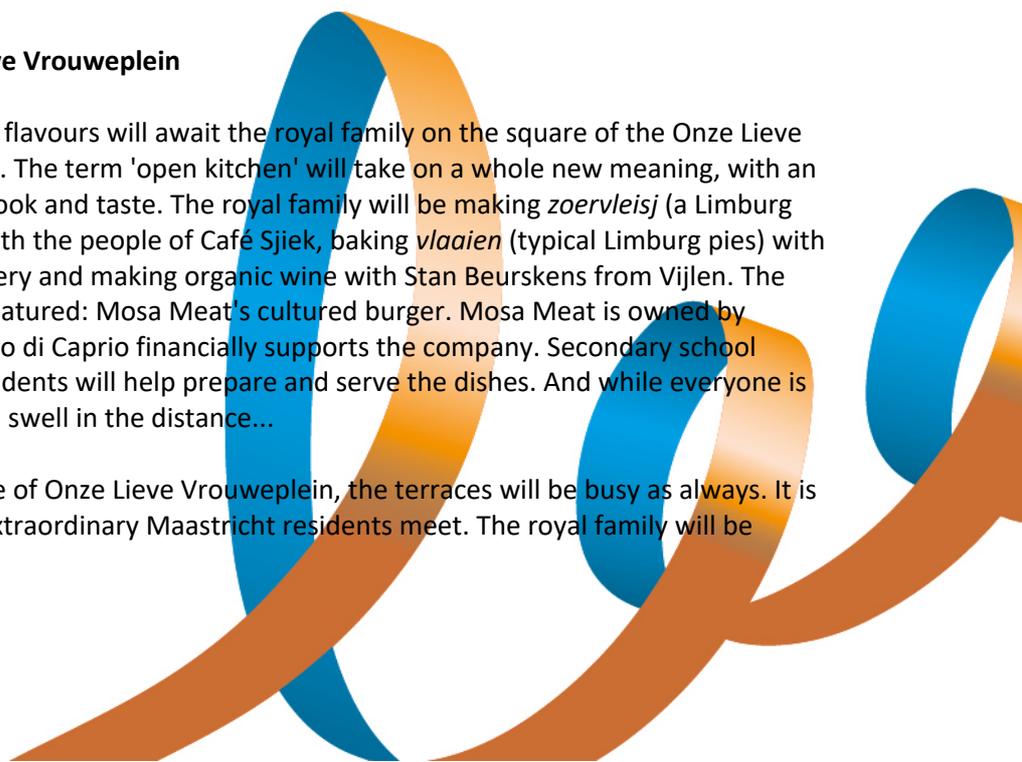
3. Life in Maastricht II: Graanmarkt/ Onze Lieve Vrouweplein

From the Graanmarkt, the royal family will walk towards Onze Lieve Vrouweplein. However, access to the Old Town requires a certain level of knowledge of the specific local customs and especially of the unique local language, *Mestreechs*. Under the leadership of the well-known Maastricht actor Jon van Eerd and with the help of Veldeke Kring, the Mestreechs Volkstheater and Room Escape, an aptitude test in *Mestreechs* must be taken.

4. Life of *bon vivants*: Onze Lieve Vrouweplein

An experience full of scents and flavours will await the royal family on the square of the Onze Lieve Vrouwe 'Star of the Sea' Basilica. The term 'open kitchen' will take on a whole new meaning, with an open invitation to participate, cook and taste. The royal family will be making *zoervleisj* (a Limburg regional meat stew) together with the people of Café Sjiek, baking *vlaaien* (typical Limburg pies) with the 2 bakers from Hermans bakery and making organic wine with Stan Beurskens from Vijlen. The food of the future will also be featured: Mosa Meat's cultured burger. Mosa Meat is owned by scientist Mark Post and Leonardo di Caprio financially supports the company. Secondary school pupils and Hoge Hotelschool students will help prepare and serve the dishes. And while everyone is feasting, the sound of music will swell in the distance...

Because there, on the other side of Onze Lieve Vrouweplein, the terraces will be busy as always. It is the place where ordinary and extraordinary Maastricht residents meet. The royal family will be





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invited to take a seat, to experience Maastricht life for a while and to have a chat with the inhabitants of the city. On stage a world-famous Maastricht resident will play with his orchestra in his own city. André Rieu will get the terraces into a festive mood, so that everyone can enjoy King's Day together.

6. Cultural life: Bredestraat – intersection Bredestraat/Heggestraat

It is time for our rich cultural life. Associations, amateur arts and professional arts are more intricately linked in Limburg than anywhere else. They fuel and stimulate each other and form a connection that we will visualise and make tangible during King's Day. We will do so in an interactive way. A tour through the Fifth Season will begin in the Bredestraat. After all, Limburg knows another season in addition to summer, autumn, spring and winter, which is the season of *vastelaovend* (eve of the fasting, from January 1 to Ash Wednesday). *Vastelaovend* is our own, authentic form of carnival. We dress up once a year to become someone else for a while – or maybe to get closer to our own, true selves. We will theatrically portray carnival under the motto '*vastelaovend* meets fashion', while Beppie Kraft – singer and queen of *vastelaovend* – will invite us to enjoy life together. Opera Zuid will provide the dazzling finale of the programme in the first part of the Bredestraat.

7. Association life: Bredestraat

In the second and last part of the Bredestraat, Maastricht will show how rich its association life is. The royal family will walk along an "association life gallery" over a length of 50 metres. A selection of members of dozens of diverse associations will wave to them. From football association to scouting group, from shooting club to brass band, from gymnastics team to theatre company. All association members will be wearing their recognisable uniform.

8. Orange life: Vrijthof

The royal family will reach Vrijthof square (called *de Vriethof* in Maastricht dialect). According to many, Vrijthof is the most beautiful square in the Netherlands. Thousands will have gathered in front of the big stage, with the monumental churches Sint Jan and Sint Servatius as the backdrop. On stage Rowwen Hèze will perform a song composed especially for the occasion. We will then sing *Het Wilhelmus* together – the national anthem of the Netherlands – backed by the men of Koninklijke Mastreechter Staar.

9. Farewell

After the closing words and words of thanks, we will wave goodbye to the royal family with that one song that echoes the idiosyncrasy of Limburg with a sympathetic twist. "Het is een kwestie van geduld, even wachten tot de dag, dat heel Holland Limburgs ..." (Rowwen Hèze - Kwestie van geduld).

Program summary:

300 musicians from the brass bands St. Petrus en Paulus, Saint Cécile and Ster van Maastricht
A royal bus
Several members of the royal family





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A burgemeester and a gouverneur
44 children from 44 neighborhoods
Hundreds of volunteers
Thousands of people along the route
Hundreds of boats on the Maas
The Mestrecht Geis
Freerunners Minded Motion
Wheelchair dancers Limbo Wheelers
16 South Limburg municipalities
Three girls from dance group Make it Happen
The gate builders of Regalo and Mosa
The Treaty of Europe
A coin
The strings of Philharmonie Zuid
Lucas & Steve
Hundreds of students
John van Eerd
De Veldeke Kring, Mestreechs Volkstheater and Room Escape
The largest open kitchen in the Netherlands
The kitchen brigade of Café Sjiem
Hermans Bakery
Winegrower Stan Beurskens
Mosa Meat's cultured burger
Students from hotel schools
Terraces full of Maastricht residents
André Rieu and his orchestra
Connecting arts
Beppie Kraft
Dressed up carnival celebrants from Fashion Clash
Professional dancers from Project Sally
Singers of Opera Zuid and a children's choir
A piano on a cargo bike
A hall of fame of dozens of Maastricht associations
Thousands of people at Vrijthof square
Rowwen Hèze
A special song
A word of thanks from the mayor
Royal closing words
One hundred singers of the Mastreechter Staar
Waving and reminiscing together
And the thousands of selfies, kisses, waving hands, presents and other spontaneous expressions of friendship, fraternisation and connection.

Leef Maastricht!

