



Nijmegen

INCLUDING
**CITY
WALK**



visitnijmegen.com



Nijmegen old city, young vibe

Nijmegen is the Netherlands' oldest city and the centre is bursting with unique historical sites. The city walk will take you back in time to a period stretching from the Roman Empire to the Second World War, and you will pass green urban parks and interesting museums. But Nijmegen offers more than just a rich cultural heritage; the huge student population, numerous events and festivals, unique hotspots and ever-growing number of lively lunchrooms all help to create an irresistible vibe in the city. Feel the sand between your toes on a fabulous city beach situated along the banks of the River Waal, or watch the world go by from one of the countless pavement cafés. To complete your day (or weekend) in Nijmegen check out the shopping opportunities, which range from high-street chains to small and unique speciality stores. You can stop for a well-earned drink or bite to eat in one of the numerous inviting cafés and restaurants.

CITY MAP
PAGE 16-17



PAGE | TOPIC

- 4 > Hotspots
- 6 > Shopping
- 8 > Eat, drink, sleep
- 11 > Culture
- 13 > Nature
- 15 > Wellness
- 16 > City map
- 18 > City walk

MORE INFORMATION:

VVV Tourist Information Centre
Nijmegen (inside the city theatre),
visitnijmegen.com

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Published by: Regional Tourism Board
Arnhem Nijmegen

Map: Przewalski Ontwerpers

Design & layout: kingling.nl

Images: Jurjen Drenth, RBT KAN et al.

EN.STEVENSKERK.NL

GRAND LANDMARK IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

The mediaeval Stevenskerk church is an iconic landmark in the centre of Nijmegen. The church suffered considerable damage during the Second World War, but various renovation projects have since restored it to its former glory. After admiring the impressive exterior, step inside to explore the treasures hidden within the sturdy walls of the church. Eye-catching highlights include the 14 splendid chandeliers dating from 1640 and the König pipe organ, which is renowned for its unique

sound. The church also contains various tombstones of important city locals from previous centuries. You can also visit the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre. Besides holding church services, Stevenskerk also hosts lectures, exhibitions and concerts.



MUZIEUM.NL

AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be blind or visually impaired? Find out for yourself at muZIEum! Choose the dark experience or go on an 'expedition' through the city centre complete with VR headset. The guides themselves are blind or partially sighted and speak out of their own experience.



VALKHOF.NL

ST. NICOLAAS CHAPEL

St. Nicolaas chapel is one of the oldest brick buildings in the Netherlands. The chapel is a rare example of Byzantine architecture in northwest Europe. Feel free to take a look inside if it is open. An enthusiastic volunteer will happily tell you more about the building. The chapel also hosts exhibitions and musical performances throughout the year.



MUSEUMHETVALKHOF.NL/ENGLISH ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Today, Museum Het Valkhof stands on the former site of a Roman army camp. The museum displays the best of the Roman influences in the Netherlands – a colourful collection of modern art and a splendid collection of old art. There is plenty of focus on Nijmegen's impressive history, such as Charles the Great's Valkhofburcht castle, the Roman army and everyday life in Nijmegen in Roman times, when it was the biggest city in the land. It is also worth visiting the contemporary museum building to see the collections of modern-day expressionism, Pop Art, centuries-old paintings, drawings and crafts.

Every Sunday the museum holds a lively Valkhof Junior Lab for children, where they can set to work themselves with real-life museum exhibits. They will learn all about Roman times and life in the Middle Ages, such as by investigating a mediaeval potty or helping to design a Roman mural.



AFRIKAMUSEUM.NL/EN

JUST LIKE BEING IN AFRICA

Afrika Museum is situated on the outskirts of Nijmegen, in the green and hilly surroundings of Berg en Dal. It is a museum about people and comprises an indoor museum and an open-air museum. The permanent collection is supported by two large and two smaller temporary exhibitions each year. This gives you a good impression of contemporary art from Africa and traditional objects that tell their own stories about the cultures and habits in various African countries.

You can stroll around a Dogon village from Mali or explore pile dwellings from Benin, and the children can clamber around in the special children's sculpture wood. The museum also organises colourful festivals

such as the Ketu Koti Festival, during which the rhythmical African music makes it impossible to sit still. At Afrika Museum, you'll find out that, apart from a few small differences, we're all basically the same!



hot toShop

If you love shopping, you'll be spoilt for choice in Nijmegen. Besides all the well-known and popular chain stores, the city has an extensive range of unique shops. Lange Hezelstraat, which is the Netherlands' oldest shopping street, in combination with Houtstraat, Van Welderenstraat and In de Betouwstraat will definitely make your 'shopping heart' beat a little faster. And if you're unlucky with the weather, you can simply head inside the indoor shopping centre called Molenpoortpassage. Happy shopping!



ZEVENZOMERS.NL NOMADIC ART GALLERY

At the Zeven Zomers gallery they sell 'natural art' by Rob Plattel and colourful paintings by Eelko van Iersel, and you can admire temporary exhibition of sculptures made from bronze, glass, ceramics and more. Making it even more special, the gallery unique leads a nomadic existence; over the years, it has been housed in many different prime locations in the centre. Check the website for the current address.

ANAMORFOSA.NL ARTFUL ANTIQUE BOOKS

There are some very unique shops on Van Welderenstraat, and Anamorfoza fits in there perfectly. Anamorfoza stocks an unusual yet successful mix of books and art. The antique bookstore is specialised in books on all kinds of art – from classic to modern – but also sells picture books and biographies. After perusing the special publications, first editions and signed books in the shop, you can move to the rear of the store to admire the artworks, based around temporary exhibitions presenting paintings and photos by national and local artists. And if something special catches your eye you can buy it on the spot – whether it's a book or a work of art!



MARIKENSTRAAT.NL SPLIT-LEVEL SHOPPING

Marikenstraat is a split-level shopping street containing more than 40 stores. The modern architecture combined with the variety of shops and the city-centre location make Marikenstraat one of Nijmegen's most unique shopping streets. The split-level street has been designed to capitalise on the difference in elevation between Burchtstraat and Mariënborg. The two levels, which are interconnected by walkways, offer a very varied choice of shops. The lower level includes Bever, Oil & Vinegar, Costes, Douglas and NAME IT, while the upper level is home to some exclusive names such as River Woods, Rivière Maison, Hugo Boss and Cape Cod Fashion.

Has all that shopping made you hungry? If so, stop off at New Dutch or Restaurant Zeezicht and take your pick from a range of tasty lunch options. Marikenstraat is particularly spectacular on special occasions such as the Four Days Marches, when it is colourfully decorated, and various activities are organised there throughout the year, such as St. Nicholas's grotto. Free Wi-Fi is available in the whole street – so there's no shortage of reasons to visit Marikenstraat while out shopping in Nijmegen!



VLAAMSARSENAAL.NL/EN

ENJOY GOOD THINGS IN LIFE

The Vlaams Arsenaal consists of, a modern, trendy grand café and inviting brasserie for all ages. Discover the tastiest dishes based on French and Mediterranean cuisine as well as delicious wines and irresistible craft beers. The venue has a lively terrace and Friday afternoon is Happy Hour, with appetisers served on the house.



DEFIRMANIJMEGEN.NL

CELEBRATE LIFE

To celebrate life, go to De Firma! Enjoy the fabulous view of the River Waal from the terrace, while the sunshine warms your face. Or throw a party to celebrate in style with friends and family. Dine in an informal atmosphere, sharing small tapas-style dishes prepared with the utmost care and attention by the team of chefs. Discover the surprising range of options for lunch, drinks or an evening meal.

DEWAAGHNIJMEGEN.NL

HISTORICAL EYE-CATCHER

To experience authenticity, go to De Waagh. This former weighing house dating from 1612 is a real eye-catcher. Stop by with friends or family for a drink on the lively terrace or enjoy a meal in the tastefully furnished restaurant. De Waagh also offers you the opportunity to throw a party in one of the most attractive spots in Nijmegen.



WIJNCAFEPINOT.NL

WINE IN THE LEADING ROLE

If you want to savour a good glass of wine and a tasty bite to eat, Wijncafé Pinot is the place to be in Nijmegen. There is a choice of more than 25 different wines every day. You can order a mini tasting session of wines and appetisers as a fun and relaxed way of trying a variety of flavours.

PLAATS1.COM

TICKLE YOUR TASTE BUDS

Plaats1 is located in a centuries-old building away from the bustle of the city centre. This contemporary restaurant prepares seasonal produce with tender loving care! The food is definitely not your standard fare and everything is designed to tickle your taste buds. The restaurant is specialised in paired wines, so feel free to ask which wine would work best with your chosen meal. Plaats1 is the ideal location, whether for a lingering dinner or a quick lunch.



HOOGSTRAATJE.NL

PANCAKE HEAVEN

Fancy a pancake? If so, head to 't Hoogstraatje pancake house! There are so many mouth-watering options on the menu that you'll be spoilt for choice. Why not try a special batter, such as wholemeal or buckwheat? The restaurant has an outside seating area, which is a sunny spot in the summer and heated in the winter. And for the kids there's a special play area full of games. 't Hoogstraatje offers something for all the family.

HOTELCOURAGE.NL

ROMAN NIGHTS

If you want to spend more than just a day in Nijmegen, why not stay overnight at the splendid three-star Courage Waalkade hotel in the heart of the historical city centre. As the name suggests, this comfortable 33-room hotel is situated on the River Waal. The rooms have all mod-cons and the hotel has free Wi-Fi throughout. And if you're looking for a very special way to spend the night, book one of the six rooms that are furnished and hand-painted in Roman style. Breakfast is available every morning in the lobby. Grab freshly-baked bread from the old bicycle trailer and fry your own eggs on the grill. With its coloured tiles, photos on the wall and relaxing leather chairs, the lobby is also a great place to relax and unwind with a drink after a busy day exploring Nijmegen.



NIJMEGEN.PANNENKOEKENBOOT.NL/EN CAPTAIN, MAY I JOIN YOU?

What better way to enjoy the River Waal than by boat? Take a trip on De Pannenkoekenboot Nijmegen which combines a river cruise with all-you-can-eat pancakes! The boat offers a Bridge Cruise and a 75-minute Cruise all year round, on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. During the cruise, the captain tells you more about the city's bridges, the countryside and the newly constructed side channel of the River Waal.



RESTAURANTDEHEMEL.NL/EN HEAVENLY FOOD AND DRINK



De Hemel is situated in a mediaeval monastery called the 'Commanderie van St. Jan'. Savour the beers from the Brouwerij de Hemel brewery, chocolate from Chocolaterie Chocobreak and freshly roasted coffee beans from the Holy Beans coffee company, all of whom are based on the premises! Enjoy the view of the River Waal or take a seat on Nijmegen's most charming terrace to relish the artisanal skills in action at De Hemel!

IN-CREDIBLE.NL NOT JUST ORDINARY BUT (IN)CREDIBLE

Whether you're looking for a drink, a bite to eat or an affordable overnight stay in the centre of Nijmegen, it's all possible at Credible! Challenge your friends or family to a board game while enjoying a drink or refuelling after a busy day of shopping. Rather than being run-of-the-mill, Credible is innovative, creative and just that little bit different.



CAFEDAEN.NL FEEL AT HOME AT DAEN



Café Daen is a traditional gastro pub that has been based in the magnificent listed building called 'De Laeckenhal' for more than 20 years. It is open every day, serving a range of craft beers, tasty lunches and tapas. Café Daen also has a function room which is available at no extra cost for parties and special occasions, whether for business or pleasure.



NIJMEGEN, AN OLD CITY THAT IS YOUNG AT HEART

The tens of thousands of (former)students give the city a fabulously young and contemporary vibe. Uniquely, the centre of Nijmegen also has several kilometres of beach, so after spending a summer's day at the beach you're never far away from one of the countless bars and restaurants. The summer festivals are well worth a visit, or immerse yourself in the cultural entertainment on offer in the local theatres and cinemas. If you prefer to just sit and watch the world go by, there are plenty of pavement cafés to choose from!

5 REASONS WHY NIJMEGEN IS THE SUMMER CAPITAL OF THE NETHERLANDS:

1. AWAKEN TO NATURE

Start your day with a walk in the countryside surrounding Nijmegen. Wonder at the wild and natural beauty, just a stone's throw from the city.

2. RELAX ON THE BEACH

Thanks to Nijmegen's riverside position on the banks of the Waal, the city has terrific sandy beaches where you can paddle in the cool water while enjoying spectacular views of the city skyline and the surrounding area.

3. REFUEL AT A PAVEMENT CAFÉ

Pay a visit to one of the countless pavement cafés, either in the city centre or in one of the vibrant neighbourhoods such as Nijmegen-East. Chat to the locals and order a delicious beer from one of Nijmegen's numerous breweries.

4. EXPLORE THE CITY ON FOOT

Take your time to stroll around the city and discover Nijmegen's rich history. Tucked away in the narrow streets you'll find shops offering unique clothes, selling beautiful gifts and bars and restaurants where you can enjoy great food and drink.

5. PARTY THE NIGHT AWAY

Why not round off a summer's day with a drink or two, and you might even end up dancing deep into the night. If you prefer, catch some evening entertainment such as a pop or rock concert at Doornroosje, a festival at Goffertwei or a dance event at Honigcomplex, or simply chill out in a local pub or at the LUX arthouse cinema.

For more tips, see summercapital.nl.

INTO NATURE



If you've had enough of the hustle and bustle of the city, the natural wilderness of the Ooijpolder nature reserve is just a five-minute walk away from the Waalkade quayside – and that makes Nijmegen unique! The Ooijpoort literally bridges the gap between the city and nature. The new river park on the northern bank of the River Waal is well worth a visit. It's a great place to go for a walk, relax on the beach or take a refreshing dip on a hot summer's day. But that's not the only natural splendour on offer in the Nijmegen region. You can cycle through the rolling hillside of Berg en Dal towards Kranenburg just over the border in Germany, walk along the dikes in the 'Land van Maas en Waal' and wander over the Overasseltse and Hatertse Vennen moors. And in August, Mookerheide is a stunning mass of purple heather.



VVVARNHENNIJMEGEN.NL/ALLEDAAGSE FOUR DAYS MARCHES APP

Nijmegen is especially well known among walkers and hikers for the International Four Days Marches, also known as the 'Vierdaagse'. Each year in the third week of July, around 40,000 people embark on four days of walking along specially selected routes in the Nijmegen area. Download the free 'Alledaagse' app to follow the very same Four Days Marches routes, all year round. You choose your own start date, time, location and distance. The most important thing to remember is to enjoy the splendid natural scenery, because there's often little time to do so during the 'Vierdaagse' event itself.



NIJMEGENACTIEF.NL ACTIVE IN NIJMEGEN

Are you looking for a fun day of team activities with your family, friends or colleagues? If so, the Nijmegen Actief company has plenty of suggestions! Feel the wind in your hair as you explore the local countryside on an electric Waalscooter moped. You can combine a ride on the Waalscooter with beer tasting or a chocolate-making workshop. Other activities such as archery, a GPS hunt or the Beach Team Tournament are also ideal ways of boosting the team spirit. Bicycle and mountain-bike rental is also available from this location on the Waalkade quayside.



CULTURE

As the wide range of cultural activities and events organised in the city throughout the year demonstrate, Nijmegen is bursting with energy! The municipal theatre and the concert hall, not to mention the numerous smaller venues, offer you a broad choice of evening entertainment, whether you prefer cabaret, dance or musicals. The Doornroosje music venue is the place to be for live performances or to dance the night away to the best dance music. In addition to the multiplex cinemas, Nijmegen is also home to LUX, the Netherlands' biggest arthouse cinema.



Nijmegen organises numerous happenings for people of all ages throughout the year. The best-known event is the International Four Days Marches of Nijmegen – the world's biggest walking achievement event which starts on the third Tuesday of July each year. The daytime and evening celebrations that are held in the same week attract over a million visitors to what has become Europe's biggest free annual outdoor festival. But the city has plenty going on in the rest of the year too, such as the Go Short Film Festival, the Roman Festival, Gebroeders van Limburg and the Seven Hills Run ("Zevenheuvelenloop").

The Honigcomplex is a new hotspot that has recently opened in the west of the city. The former Honig factory, it is now a melting pot of young entrepreneurs, art and culture.

Activities range from belly dancing classes to indoor beach volleyball, or you can sample the beers from the on-premise brewery or attend various large-scale and small-scale events.

For an overview of all the events in Nijmegen, see visitnijmegen.com



THERMENNIJMEGEN.NL

PURE PAMPERING

You can completely relax and unwind at Sauna & Beauty De Thermen, making it the perfect way to end a day of cycling or shopping. De Thermen's woodland setting adds to the relaxing atmosphere. This medium-sized sauna and spa complex is spacious and offers almost every conceivable spa and sauna-related facility. The pure quality and welcoming atmosphere will ensure that you soon feel at ease at De Thermen. Some of the saunas include aromatic herbs, honey or even music. The pools are filled with pure spring water that

is pumped up from the source hundreds of metres underground. Relax during a full body scrub in the Hammam or book a hot-stone massage to soothe your tired muscles.

A wide range of food and drink is available in the relaxation areas, the restaurant and the gardens. The choice includes freshly squeezed fruit juices, smoothies and freshly prepared salads – so a visit to De Thermen pampers your taste buds too!





HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The route is indicated by a green line on each page. The walking directions are listed above the route line, and beneath the line you will find more information about the points of interest (1 to 32) you will see along the way. The total walking distance is about 5 km. See pages 16-17 for the route map.

Leaving the VVV Tourist Information Centre through the main entrance, you will see four sculptures (**Nassausingel**) representing the four seasons. On your left, diagonally across from Nassausingel, lies **Kronenburgerpark**. Cross Nassausingel and continue towards this park > see 2.

Walk through the park in the direction of the lake, keeping the lake to your right. At the end lies **Joris Ivensplein** > see 3.

Turn right, into the shopping street (**Lange Hezelstraat**) > see 4.

After about 200 metres, turn left (**Begijnenstraat**) > see 5.



START:
Tourist Information Centre
Nijmegen, Keizer Karelplein
32h (inside the city theatre).

1. KEIZER KARELPLEIN

For a long time, the city of Nijmegen was enclosed within its own walls. It was only in 1874 that the town walls were demolished to make way for urban expansion. Following the course of the former town canals, a series of grand, wide avenues was laid out, the hub of which was the Keizer Karelplein. In the middle of this busy roundabout you will see a bronze statue of Charles the Great on his eternally rearing horse. The sculpture is uniquely illuminated based on a misting technique.

2. KRONENBURGERPARK

• MORE INFO: EXCITINGHISTORY.COM

You are now in the lovely town park. The great variety of tree species (more than 150!)

and it's undulating nature make it unique in the Netherlands. Part of the old town wall has been preserved here, and gives a good idea of the impressive defensive fortifications which once encircled the town. From right to left, you can see: the never completed St. Jacobstoren (Tower of St. James) from 1525, the Rondeel (Round Tower) from 1527 and the imposing Kruittoren (Gun Powder Tower) from 1425.



3. JORIS IVENS

The sculpture on this square is a monument to the internationally renowned film maker Joris Ivens, born in Nijmegen. He was primarily focused on making documentaries, and caused controversy in his home country because of his film in support of the Indonesian independence movement.

4. THE NETHERLANDS' OLDEST SHOPPING STREET

The Lange Hezelstraat was an important thoroughfare even back in Roman times. In the Middle Ages, it became one of the main trading routes in the region, and can rightly be called the oldest shopping street of the Netherlands. As one of the first Dutch towns, Nijmegen had stone houses built along this street back in the 13th century. Most of the remaining facades, on the other hand, are

fairly new and date from 1900. Nowadays, you'll find a wide variety of exclusive shops and welcoming lunchrooms.

5. THE LOWER TOWN

Now you are walking into the Benedenstad (Lower Town). The fact that the terms Upper en Lower Town refer to differences in elevation, will hardly be apparent to you here, but you will soon find out that it is. The Medieval atmosphere of the town is almost tangible in the Begijnenstraat. To your left you can see the former Arme Borgeren Home for Orphaned Children. In its present form, the building dates from 1644. In 1817 it changed its name to the Protestant Children's Orphanage. The building opposite the orphanage is the former Reformed Church. In the new facade of no. 30 is an original plaque depicting a beer barrel, a reminder of the time when there were many breweries in the Lower Town.

Turn right at the end of the road
(**Oude Haven / Lage Markt**) > [see 6](#).

Opposite St. Antonispoort turn into
Priemstraat, where you will get a clear
view of the Stevenskerk church. Then
walk towards a little square (**Kitty de
Wijzeplaats**). In the square is a monu-
ment to the Jews of Nijmegen who lost
their lives during the Second World War.
At the square, turn left (**Nonnenstraat**)
> [see 7](#).



Synagogue

6. OUDE HAVEN

The name, meaning old harbour, refers to the harbour which used to be contained within the town walls on this spot. The harbour was filled in at the same time the town walls were demolished. If you cross the road and look back at the row of facades, you will see that several of the old merchant houses have been preserved. Where Oude Haven transitions into Lage Markt you take a further step back in time. Here, the history of most houses dates back to the 16th century. On your left, fifty metres further on, you will see the St. Anthonispoort. This is the only town gate of Nijmegen which still remains.

7. SYNAGOGUE

On the left is the former Jewish Synagogue from 1756. One of its cantors was Isaac Presburg, whom we will come across

later on our walk. The synagogue was built in a nondescript style because at that time it was not acceptable for expressions of the Jewish faith to be recognisable as such. Since 1913 the building has fulfilled various functions, but it is now once again in use as a synagogue. Beside the synagogue on the left is the Jewish School in oriental style dating from 1873.

8. STEVENSKERK

• [MORE INFO: EXCITINGHISTORY.COM](#)

Along your left are the massive walls of the Stevenskerk (Steven's Church). The building of this church started in 1254, and renovation and extension work continued until well into the 16th century. As you walk around the exterior of the church, you will see various styles of architecture. The church and the tower were badly damaged in the Second World War. Both the interior and exterior of



Stevenskerk

Turn back and cross **Kitty de Wijzeplaats**. Continue straight ahead towards the **Ganzenheuvel**. After about 50 metres, turn left up the stairs towards **St. Stevenskerkhof**. At the top, head to the right > [see 8](#).

Walk towards the main entrance of the church > [see 9](#).

the Stevenskerk are splendid monuments of the town. If the church is open, feel free to take a look inside too. Climb the 200 or so steps to the top of the Stevenstoren tower for a spectacular view of the city centre and surrounding countryside.

9. MOENEN

On the steps across from the entrance you will see a modern sculpture of 'Moenen'. This is the devil in the famous mediaeval miracle play Mariken van Nieumeghen. Mariken was seduced by Moenen and lived with him in sin for seven years. She repented on the Grote Markt. After staying in the convent for seven years she was forgiven for all her sins. She went on to lead a virtuous and devout life. Moenen sits, symbolically, with his back to the church.



Foto: J. Geertman

To the left of Moenen is the **Latin School** > see 10.

Feel free to walk all the way around the exterior of Stevenskerk. Then pass beneath the Kerkboog archway to **Grote Markt** > see 11,12,13,14.



Latin School

10. LATIN SCHOOL

To the left of Moenen is the Latin School. This predecessor of the grammar school was founded in 1546 by the Apostolic Church of Cologne. Boys from wealthy families received instruction here. The Catholic influence disappeared quickly, however, when it was taken over by the town council, and later by the Protestants in 1591. Reminders of the Apostolic founders, however, can be seen in the statues of the twelve apostles, the text of the Ten Commandments between the windows and the statues of the four Church Fathers above the entrance. You will also see, under the eaves, sculpted skulls and cross-bones which point to the original purpose on this spot: "the Churchyard."

11. VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Note especially the difference in building

styles between the building above the Kerkboog (entrance to the Church yard) and the entrance itself. The Kerkboog dates from 1542 and contains many Gothic elements, such as natural stone pillars, a cross vault and sculpted heads. The building above is barely half a century older, but looks totally different. In the top gable one can recognise playful classical elements. With this dramatic shift from Gothic to Dutch Renaissance style, in no more than half a century the Middle Ages were left behind for good. It is no coincidence that this shift took place at the same time as the 'liberation' from Spanish domination during the Eighty Years' War.

12. DE LAECKENHAL

In the Middle Ages, the Laeckenhal (Cloth Hall) extended over the full width of the row of houses. This room was 54 metres long and formed the centre of the textile trade and the Guild's meeting place. The ground floor was

Het Waaggebouw



open to the market place and thus formed a kind of gallery with pillars. The gallery was open until 1542. A number of pillars are still visible in the facade.

13. HET WAAGGEBOUW

The Waaggebouw (Weigh-house) on the Grote Markt dates from 1612 and is another fine example of Dutch Renaissance style. The official weighing scales hung on the right of the building, and this was where all the market wares were weighed. The tradesmen with their wagons came in through the large door and left the building through a similar door at the rear. On the left was the official Vleeshuis (Meat Hall). Here the animals were slaughtered and sold on the spot. The unsold meat – by now not smelling particularly pleasant – had to be removed after two days. It was sold to the less well-off outside the town gates.

14. MARIKEN VAN NIEUWMEGEN

• MORE INFO: EXCITINGHISTORY.COM

In the middle of the Grote Markt you will see Mariken, separated from Moenen and contemplating her sins. The little alleyway further along, in amongst the bars and cafés, is called Vijfringengas. This refers to the rings which Mariken had to wear round her neck as a punishment. Only when she had been forgiven did they fall off. The five rings can be seen on the post which bars the alley.



Mariken van Nieuwmeegen

Turn into the narrow street (**Achter de Hoofdwacht**) to the left of the Waaggebouw > [see 15](#).

Continue straight ahead past the park. At the end, on the left, you will see the 'Commanderie van St. Jan' > [see 16](#).

De Commanderie van St. Jan



15. OLDEST CAFÉ OF NIJMEGEN

We continue in the direction of the Café 'In De Blaauwe Hand'. This is the oldest café of Nijmegen. The name is connected with the Laeckenhal (Cloth Hall). The indigo pigment which the cloth dyers used, was particularly difficult to wash off their hands. They would go to the café after a hard day's work, their hands still stained blue, and so giving it its name "In the Blue Hand".

Café In De Blaauwe Hand



16. DE COMMANDERIE VAN ST. JAN

• [MORE INFO: EXCITINGHISTORY.COM](#)

The original building dates from 1196 and takes its name from the monastic order of the Knights of St. John, who occupied it from 1214 onwards. This legendary order of Knights devoted their lives to the care of the sick from the time of the Crusades. The building was badly damaged during the Second World War and in the 1970's stripped of all its later additions and completely reconstructed. The Commanderie van St. Jan houses several companies such as City Brewery De Hemel and Restaurant Plaats1.

17. MARX AND PHILIPS

On the site of the building at number 33 was the former home of Isaac Presburg, cantor at the Synagogue in Nonnenstraat. His daughter Henriëtte married the German Heinrich

When you reach the Commanderie, turn right (**Pepergas**) towards Grotestraat. Please note: **Grotestraat** has a considerable difference in elevation. If you have difficulty walking, you may prefer to stay in the Upper Town and walk to Valkhofpark via Burchtstraat (see street map). > [see 17](#).

Just before the end, turn right into **Steenstraat** > [see 18](#).

Marx in 1814. Their son Karl became world-famous. Another daughter of Isaac, Sophie, married Leon Philips in 1820. Their son Philip, together with grandson Gerard, founded the light bulb factory, Philips in 1891. Marxism and the multinational Philips have therefore, strangely enough, the same Nijmegen roots!

18. BESIENDERSHUIS

The name Steenstraat (Stone Street) is a reminder of its ancient origins. Two of the old buildings on this street are the Brouwershuis (Brewers' House) and the Besiendershuis (Toll Master's House). The Brouwershuis dates from the 16th century, although the step gable displays the date 1621. The Besiendershuis from 1500 is also adorned with step gables. Around the turn of the century the Steenstraat was not nearly as elegant as these two houses might suggest. It was a noisy affair with brothels, disreputable lodging houses and pubs.

Besiendershuis



When you reach the Besiendershuis, turn left on to the **Waalkade**. Then turn right > [see 19](#).

19. DE WAAKKADE

The Waalkade quayside received a considerable tourism boost in the 1980s. This is evident in all the bars, restaurants and outdoor cafés in the area. A display case outside Holland Casino contains the remains of a Roman under-floor heating system. This house probably belonged to a small settlement from the late Roman period (3rd – 4th centuries).

Waalkade



Further along the Waalkade quayside towards the **Waalbrug bridge** > **see 20**.

Go up the wide steps (*Veerpoorttrappen*) or take the lift on the right-hand side. At the top, turn left into **Valkhofpark** via a flight of steps > **see 21**.

Walk to the **St. Nicolaaskapel** > **see 22**.

Cross the park towards the **ruin** > **see 23**.

Valkhofburcht, doek van Jan van Goyen



20. MUSEUM QUARTER

• **MORE INFO:** EXCITINGHISTORY.COM

Further along the Waalkade quayside towards the Waalbrug bridge you will see a number of grand 17th-century houses. De Bastei, a centre for nature and cultural heritage, will be located in between these houses as of early 2018. The walls of De Bastei have been built around the former Stratemakerstoren tower to protect it from weathering and erosion. The Stratemakerstoren was part of the mediaeval fortifications. In the underground passageways, the embrasures for the canons used to protect the nearby city gate against the Spanish are still visible. Next door to De Bastei is the National Cycling Museum Velorama. You will find a large number of unique bicycles here, such as original run bikes, velocipedes, penny-farthings and bikes that used to belong to the royal family.

21. HET VALKHOF

• **MORE INFO:** EXCITINGHISTORY.COM

You are now standing on the most famous and important piece of ground in Nijmegen: the Valkhof. Here the Romans founded the Oppidum Batavorum ('the capital of the Batavians') which was set on fire in about 70 AD by the Batavian Rebel Julius Civilis. In the late Roman period (3rd–4th centuries) military reinforcements were stationed here. At the end of the 8th century Emperor Charlemagne built a 'pals' (palace), which grew to become one of his most important residences. Even the Normans occupied the Valkhof during one winter. Later Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire too could regularly be found at the Valkhof. Emperor Frederick Barbarossa had it converted it into a castle in 1155. This fortress stood for many centuries, but was demolished in 1796. Thankfully the citizens of

Valkhofkapel



Barbarossaruïne



Nijmegen protested then, and the two chapels were preserved.

22. ST. NICOLAASKAPEL

Part of the St. Nicolaaskapel (St. Nicolas chapel), also called Valkhofkapel, dates from 1030 and is therefore one of the oldest existing stone buildings in the Netherlands. It is also a rare example of Byzantine architecture in northwest Europe. Normally churches in this region have a cross form. Byzantine churches however usually have a square, round or polygonal floor plan. That can be seen clearly on the St. Nicolaaskapel.

23. BARBAROSSARUÏNE

The St. Maartenskapel (or the Barbarossa ruin) on the right, was built in 1155 and was attached to the fortress. If you look from here in the direction of the St. Nicolaaskapel and

allow your imagination to fill in the intervening area of the former fortress, you will have some idea as to just how large it was. On your right-hand side, to the right of the two benches, is where the 50-metre-tall 'donjon' tower stood. This is being rebuilt in 2018.

All that actually remains of the St. Maartenskapel is the semi-circular apses and a smaller part of the choir. In the interior wall are a number of arches on which an intervening floor was supported. This chapel was built using old construction material, as evidenced by the Roman corner columns topped with elements from the time of Charles the Great. Valkhof was also the site of fierce fighting in the Second World War. The occupying forces had set up lines of defence there for the Waalbrug bridge. Miraculously, the two chapels escaped serious damage during the battles.

Godenpijler



Leave the Valkhof by the bridge in the direction of **Museum Het Valkhof** > see 24.

Walk round the museum (on its right) and into **Hunnerpark** > see 25, 26, 27.

Keep to your left in the direction of **Belvédère** > see 28 and 29.

24. ROMAN REMAINS

• MORE INFO: EXCITINGHISTORY.COM

Designed by the architect Ben van Berkel, Museum Het Valkhof houses one of the country's most important collections of Roman art and artefacts. The monument in front of the museum is made from the remains of an ancient Roman pillar, discovered in 1980, which stood nearby in the year 17 AD. The discovery of this pillar, showing images of gods, led to definitive recognition for Nijmegen as the Netherlands' oldest city.

Written on the ten sides of the granite column are texts referring to the past, quotes about the town through the ages. The column also serves as a Roman sundial. On top of the column is a bronze tortoise. On a sunny day, the monument's shadow slowly moves across the square. The four legs of the tortoise represent the four wind directions.

25. OLD CITY WALLS

You are now walking over the old city wall, which dates from the 15th century. In the 16th century, though, this system of defence was already out of date. The invention of gunpowder meant that the walls were vulnerable and had to be strengthened on the town side with a thick earth embankment. That is what you are now walking on. A little further along you will see a part of the massive walls which still survived and a vaulted arch of the casemates.

26. THE NIJMEGEN TRAM

At the beginning of the town wall you see a kiosk on your right-hand side. This used to be a tram house and dates from 1911. It is one of the few reminders of Nijmegen's tram days. The Nijmegen tram became especially famous because of line no. 2, which travelled

Belvédère



Waalbrug



via Beek to Berg en Dal, covering a difference in elevation of some eighty metres. Just before and after the War, this so-called 'Mountain Railway' was a national tourist attraction.

27. EMPEROR TRAJAN

Continue on, and you will see right in the centre of the traffic intersection a statue of the Emperor Trajan. This Roman Emperor granted Nijmegen official market rights around the year 104 AD. This made Nijmegen the very first town on Dutch soil. He also gave his family name (Ulpian) to the town, which from that moment was then called Ulpia Noviomagus.

28. BELVÉDÈRE

The original 15th century Wall Tower was replaced in the middle of the Golden Age

(around 1650) by this tower in Renaissance style. From the balcony the name says it Belvédère – you have a magnificent view of the town and countryside around. At the foot of the Belvédère you see a German cannon which was left behind after the Second World War, still aiming towards the intensely fought-over Waal Bridge.

29. WAALBRUG

• MORE INFO: LIBERATIONROUTE.COM

The Waal Bridge dates from 1936. A few years after it had been opened, however, it was sunk by the Dutch army because of the impending threat of war. It was rebuilt during the War, and miraculously remained intact during the liberation by the Allies (Operation Market Garden) in 1944, later with thanks to the resistance fighter Jan van Hoof the bridge was not blown up.

Turn right (**St. Jorisstraat**), and keep museum Het Valkhof on your right. You are now walking along St. Jorisstraat. Its continuation is called **Burchtstraat**. Walk some way along Burchtstraat until you see the City Hall on your left > see 30.

Walk back the way you came a little way and then turn right into **Marikenstraat**, the split-level shopping street > see 31.



Marikenstraat

When you reach the end of Marikenstraat, continue rightwards towards **Koningsplein**. Bear left on the square until you pass the pavement fountains ('**Bedriegertjes**'). Then turn left into **Ziekerstraat**. Take the second street on your right. Turn left (**Bisschop Hamerstraat**) towards **Keizer Karelplein**. > see 32.

Walk to the right along Keizer Karelplein, back to the Tourist Information Centre. **You have reached the end of this walk.**



30. CITY HALL

The city hall on your left dates in its present form from 1554. Then it was regarded as a very modern building with a striking number of elements from the early Renaissance. For example, we see 'classical' sculptures of the emperors who made Nijmegen great. Large round plaques display images of the 7 virtues. The entrance door is richly ornamented with wood carvings. Next to the city hall is a second gateway. This is the Gedeputeerdenpoort (Gate of the Deputies) from 1663, which gives access to the meeting rooms for the deputies of the region Gelre. The gate is clearly intended to impress, and particularly to show a distinctive contrast with its 'city' neighbour. The city hall, escaped the city bombing, but was however set on fire after the liberation. The building was restored in the 1950s.

31. MARIËNBURG

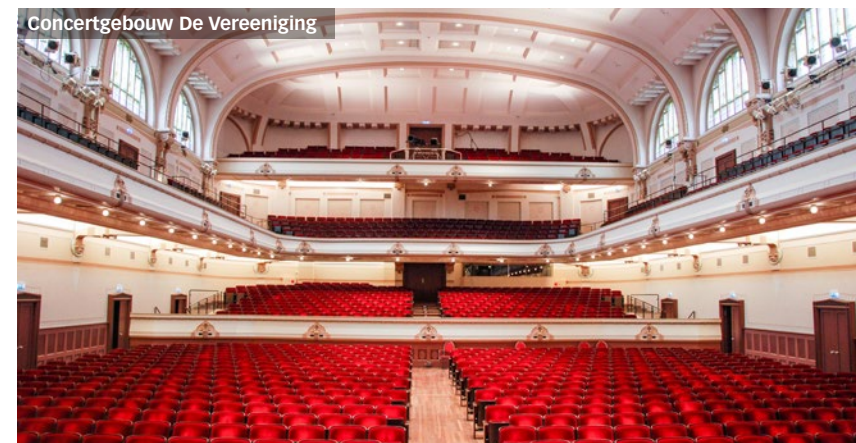
• MORE INFO: EXCITINGHISTORY.COM

Together, Marikenstraat and Moenenstraat form Nijmegen's newest shopping street. The natural difference in elevation in the town centre has created two levels in Marikenstraat, which joins Mariënburgplein. This is the site of the centuries-old Mariënburg chapel with the House of the History of Nijmegen ('Huis van de Nijmeegse Geschiedenis'). It is also home to the 'Huis van de Letters' library, the Regional Archives Nijmegen and Europe's biggest art-house cinema: LUX Nijmegen. The buildings in Mariënburg lean inwards slightly towards the top, with protruding walls, differently coloured facades and unusual windows.

32. CONCERTGEBOUW DE VEREENIGING

On your left, across the square, lies Concertgebouw De Vereeniging (Concert Building). It was built in 1915 by Oscar Leeuw, who was

himself inspired by the famous architect Berlage (well known for many buildings, in particular the Stock Exchange in Amsterdam). The predominantly brick building gives a massive impression, but is fanciful at the same time through the lively variation in form.



Concertgebouw De Vereeniging

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