

UTRECHT

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March 2013 - February 2014

Hidden Gardens

Discover Utrecht's
best kept secrets

Royal Changes

A new beginning

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UTRECHT



www.visit-utrecht.com



WELCOME TO UTRECHT

Utrecht is the beating heart of the Netherlands. A lively university city with an unparalleled vitality. A medieval city centre small enough to explore on foot. Large enough to enjoy world class festivals, architecture, culture and shopping for days on end. Located a mere thirty minutes from Schiphol airport. And all of the great Dutch tourist sites nearby.

There is plenty to explore in Utrecht. Roman churches, medieval wharfs and naturally the magnificent Gothic Dom Tower, the highest church tower in the Netherlands. Just outside the city are fortresses and an enchantingly beautiful castle. Utrecht's museum selection is extremely varied. See the UNESCO listed Rietveld Schröderhuis, a singular collection of musical clocks and medieval masterpieces. Take a seat in a royal train or play with Miffy the rabbit. Utrecht stands for pure indulgence. Trendy design shops, urban hotspots and wonderful shop concepts; you can find them at just about each corner. The ancient city centre is the perfect backdrop for a drink or dinner at one of the famous outdoor wharf cafés at the Oudegracht. There is plenty to explore even in the dark. Indulge your senses during Trajectum Lumen, a walking tour taking in enchanting works of light art.

EXPLORE UTRECHT 2013

There is a reason why Utrecht is repeatedly proclaimed the ultimate event city of the Netherlands. With the extensive celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Utrecht, the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF), Pink Saturday, the Call of the Mall art project in Hoog Catharijne, the sailing Wagner production Rheingold on the Rhine and various other events, 2013 is the year to come to Utrecht. Go to www.visit-utrecht.com for updated information.

VVV UTRECHT INFORMATION CENTRE

At the foot of the famous Dom Tower (the symbol of Utrecht) is the city's central information centre. The advisers of the VVV Utrecht Informatie Centrum (VVV Utrecht Information Centre) are happy to help you book tickets, tours and accommodation and are a source of inspiration providing advice and information.

VVV Utrecht Information Centre is the address for:

- Tourist information
- Souvenirs
- Climbing the Dom Tower
- Gift vouchers
- Walks
- Hotel bookings
- Dom Square Treasury guided tours
- Vredenburg Music Centre ticket sales
- Bicycle hire

The information centre is open 7 days a week.

For more information, go to:
www.visit-utrecht.com

UTRECHT



www.visit-utrecht.com

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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Curious about Holland's popular Royal Family? Read all about the House of Orange on p.31

Although many people travel via Utrecht to get somewhere else in Holland, anyone who appreciates cities with unique architecture, picturesque canals and thriving restaurant and nightlife scenes should delay their trip and step off the train at the Utrecht Central Station. Outside you'll discover a fascinating jewel whose history stretches back to Roman times. Within a five-minute walk from your train you'll find the tallest church spire in the Netherlands and one-of-a-kind wharf cellars only found in Utrecht. Don't feel like walking? No problem. You can rent a canoe or kayak and paddle your way through city's waterways and see Utrecht from a different perspective. Naturally, you can also take a boat tour if your biceps aren't quite up to the task.

And if you're looking for the perfect guide to Utrecht for all seasons, then you've come to right place. Even though Utrecht In Your Pocket is only published once a year, it's constantly being updated online, so if you're looking for the latest club to open or the hottest new restaurant feel free to visit www.utrecht.inyourpocket.com for the most current information about this vibrant, historic city. Inside these pages you'll find a selection of the city's best restaurants, cafés, nightlife and sights as well as longer features about interesting local topics and practical information such as where to find a dentist or which tram you should take. In short, if you've got a question about Utrecht, this guide has the answer!

Newsstand

"I went to the Dutch city of Utrecht a few weeks ago, and struggled to find any good information on it - until I came across In Your Pocket. The website has detailed, carefully researched guides that cover dozens of often offbeat European destinations."

The Daily Mail

Cover story



Utrecht's Town Hall Bridge is a popular meeting place for locals, especially on hot, sunny days. What's not evident in this issue's cover photo is that the city's famous Oudegracht or Old Canal flows right next to the people relaxing in this picture. Naturally, Utrecht's famous Dome Tower can be seen in the background.

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

The World of In Your Pocket



It's almost 21 years since we published the first *In Your Pocket* guide - to **Vilnius** in Lithuania - in which time we have grown to become the largest publisher of locally produced city guides in Europe. We now cover more than **75** cities across the continent (with **Oristano**, on the Italian island of Sardinia, the latest city to be *pocketed*) and the number of concise, witty, well-written and downright indispensable *In Your Pocket* guides published each year is approaching **five million**. We also publish an **iPhone app**, including more than 40 guides, which can be downloaded for free from the *AppStore*. Search for 'IYP Guides' by name.

To keep up to date with all that's new at *In Your Pocket*, like us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/inyourpocket) or follow us on **Twitter** (twitter.com/inyourpocket).

As a trade centre, Utrecht has always been well connected with the rest of the world and Utrecht is the most centrally located town in the Netherlands, which means that within two hours you can be pretty much anywhere in the country. The inner city of Utrecht is small enough to be tackled on foot. For longer distances, there are plenty of city buses. Travel within the city using buses and trams is efficient, fast and relatively cheap. We don't recommend driving in the city centre, especially not near or in Old Town, because almost every street is a one-way and cyclists whoosh past from all directions making it a nerve-racking experience. Fortunately there are parking garages around the edges of the centre.

By boat

Arriving by boat in the wonderful city means that you have 14 options to choose from to spend the night. Seven of them in the heart of town, the others are farther away. There is a huge shortage of moorings, because there are only 400 places available. Boats longer than 7m are not allowed to enter the city. Our favourite marinas are the Catharijnesingel (in the south, close to all the action in town) and Weerdsloot (in the north, which is more relaxed).

By bus

The rear of the train station is the arriving and departure point for international buses to various destinations, like Paris and Berlin. Once in the station follow the blue signs marked 'Jaarbeurs'. This will take you to the bus platform automatically. You can take a Eurolines bus to 200 cities in 35 European countries.

By car


Driving to Utrecht can be a difficult task and be quite costly. Parking costs a hefty €4.10/hour and it's hard to find a parking spot in or near the old town. Don't park without paying unless you want to pay a huge fine. If you're coming from out of town, parking at one of the four Park and Ride places is your best option. If you're determined to drive into the Old Town then look for a parking garage. There are no less than 15 in Utrecht and 12 of those are located in and around the centre. The rates vary from €2 - 3/hour. You can find them easily by following the blue signs, which will also tell you how many free spaces are available. Parkeergarage Paardenveld, within walking distance of the Hoog Catharijne shopping mall, is probably your best option. It's not only open 24hrs, it also offers competitive rates and 384 parking places. A parking spot may be difficult to find on nights with late opening hours (Thursdays) and at the weekend.



Renovations at the train station are coming to a close

Tourist information

VVV Utrecht B-2, Domplein 9, tel. (+31) 900 12 87 32, info@vvvutrecht.nl, www.visit-utrecht.com.

The centrally located Utrecht Tourist Office (underneath the Dom) is well equipped with brochures, entertainment schedules, plenty of maps and informative booklets and boasts a friendly, informative and knowledgeable staff. Lots of gifts and souvenirs can also be found here and it's the starting point for many city walking tours and guided excursions, not to mention a distribution point for this guide. They can help with car rental and reserve accommodation and their website is one of the best in the tourism industry in the Netherlands. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. 

By plane

If you arrive at **Schiphol** you can easily take the train to Utrecht. When you leave the arrivals hall, follow the signs to the train station. The trains in the direction of Utrecht leave from platforms 1, 2 or 3 and leave every 15 minutes. The trip takes about half an hour and costs about €8. From **Eindhoven Airport** take the bus to Eindhoven train station, after which you can travel onward by train. The trip takes about 90 minutes and costs about €14. Adventurous travellers can also choose to fly to a **German airport**. The Cologne S-Bahn will take you to **Cologne** central train station, after which the ICE will take you straight to Utrecht. The hip Sky Train from **Düsseldorf Airport** will take you to the Düsseldorf Flughafen train station. From there it's only a short trip to Duisburg station, where the same ICE train will take you to Utrecht. ICE tickets are quite affordable if you book in time and vary from €16 - 63. You can book online by credit card. For timetables and reservations you can go to www.hispeed.nl or bahn.hafas.de. **Weeze Airport** is a small glass and steel box just barely on the eastern side of the border that separates the Dutch from the Germans. Buses and shuttle buses to various destinations in Germany and the Netherlands (including Utrecht) are available outside to the right.

By train

The station area is undergoing a facelift with the ultimate goal to combine the station with the old city centre. Inconvenience has been limited as much as possible but can't be avoided completely. International and domestic trains arrive here very often. Utrecht has no less than five train stations: Utrecht Central and the suburban stations Lunetten, Overvecht, Zuilen and Terwijde. There's not much to experience at the smaller stations, which is why most tourists arrive at Utrecht Central. If you get off at the central station there are two exits: the rear exit leads to the De Jaarbeurs events hall and the front exit leads to the city centre. If you follow the signs for Hoog Catharijne you'll walk in the direction of the centre.

The blue-yellow ticket machines are easily recognisable and can be found at various places in the central hall. They work with the help of a touchscreen and can also display a menu in English. Choose, on the left side of the screen, what type of ticket you'd like. Children under the age of 11 can travel with a discount. Next, choose your destination, first or second class, full price or discount (for discounts you will need a special discount card), the number of tickets and your payment method. The ticket machine takes all cards with a Maestro logo, in principle - but to be sure, it's safer to have some cash. Don't forget to take your ticket from the dispenser at the bottom left of the machine.

Read on and find out why the Dutch allow people to smoke joints, but not to operate a bicycle while intoxicated. Plenty of other funny facts about the Netherlands are available here.

Alcohol

Utrecht is famous for its many cafés and restaurants so you're never far from a glass of wine or a pint of beer. Heineken, Amstel and Bavaria are the three most popular beers on offer at most places in the inner city. Other tasty brews include Grolsch, Hertog Jan and the Belgian Jupiler. Beer is served everywhere, especially Belgian brews, but you must be able to prove that you're at least 16 years old (to drink beer or wine) or 18 for spirits. If you look too young you'll be carded, so always bring identification. This holds true for supermarkets and off-licences, too. If you're a little too tipsy you'll probably be asked (firmly, yet kindly) to leave the premises and if you don't cooperate you could end up spending a night sobering up in a police drunk tank, most likely followed by a decent hangover...

Cycling

Being one of the smaller countries in the world and as flat as a pancake, makes this country attractive for cyclists. Add to that an unbelievable amount of criss-crossed cycle paths, and you know why the Dutch love cycling so much. Although cycling in the bigger cities can be - thanks to lots of traffic - equal to a premature death certificate, we recommend that you cycle as much as possible. Yes, even in the rain. It seems like all foreigners stop simultaneously when there is only a few drops falling from the sky. So, if you're up before happy hour and feel like doing something healthy for your body for a change, rent a bike and discover Utrecht.

Drugs

It comes as no surprise that in many places in the Netherlands residents are allowed to buy and smoke marijuana and other soft drugs. And you may have also heard that dealing or possessing hard drugs is forbidden. You can be arrested for it and punishments are no laughing matter. Soft drugs are sold exclusively at so-called *coffeeshops* so don't buy them on the streets. These products are often not inspected and may be adulterated with unknown rubbish. Again, dealing is forbidden.

Electricity

The electrical current is 220V AC, 50Hz. European plugs are a must.



St. Willibrordus Church

Kerken Kijken



Utrecht celebrates its Roman past

Health & Safety

Utrecht is a relatively safe city for both residents and tourists, but you should watch out for pickpockets and shady street traders. Obviously, don't leave your belongings unattended and use common sense. It might make you more comfortable to know that the old town is full of fake birds which are in fact video cameras watching everyone. If you've lost something visit www.utrecht.nl/verlorenofgevonden where you can register these items. You can pick up found items with a valid ID at Depot Gevonden Voorwerpen at Kanaalweg 50 (open Tue 13:00 - 17:00, Thu 13:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00).

Language

Dutch is an Indo-European Germanic language that is mostly spoken in the Netherlands, Flanders and Suriname (South America). It is closely connected to the Low German dialects which by now have largely been flooded by official German. These dialects managed to keep a number of proto-Germanic characteristics and for this reason Dutch as a language is a living fossil. It represents a group of important dialects that were spoken by the founders of the Frankish Empire and the Saxons. The latter group were the founders of the English language as it is spoken today, hence Anglo-Saxons. Afrikaans, as it is spoken in South Africa, is descended from the 17th-century version of modern Dutch. To the dismay of language purists, many English words have been faithfully integrated into Dutch. Most Dutch have a more than fair grasp of the English language. Many will also be adept at other European languages with German being the most commonly spoken. Mastering the Dutch language can be a terrifying ordeal, but learning a few key phrases will make things easier and may even win you friends and admirers.

Mail & Phones

You can use your mobile phone if your provider has an international roaming agreement with one of four mobile phone networks in the Netherlands. Normally, if you're abroad, you have to pay roaming charges on all incoming and outgoing calls, text messages, mms and internet. Depending on your phone usage, it's well worth considering buying a local SIM card that you simply use in your own phone. A prepaid account starts from around €10. To purchase one you need to show your passport.

All *In Your Pocket* guides list country codes before all telephone numbers. The Dutch country code is (+31), but of course, you only have to use this if you're dialling from abroad. If you're already in the Netherlands and want to call one of the numbers in this guide, just ignore the (+31) prefix, dial 0 and then the nine-digit number.

Money

Since 2002, a large part of the European Union has adopted the euro as its local currency and the Netherlands is no exception. One euro contains 100 eurocents. There are coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 eurocents, and also of 1 and 2 euro. Banknotes are available with the following values: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500. Although a collection of €200 and €500 bills in your wallet might make you feel like Bill Gates, or better yet Steve Jobs, bear in mind that they're almost never accepted in shops or restaurants. You can exchange and withdraw money at most large banks; there are plenty in the centre of Utrecht. All Dutch banks accept Visa and MasterCard at their cash dispensers. At the train station you can find a GWK Travelshop (open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00). Many restaurants, hotels and shops accept Visa and MasterCard, but to avoid disappointment, be sure to carry some cash with you.

Roads

For a country as small as the Netherlands, there are a ridiculously high number of asphalt roads and motorways. Every town, village or hamlet can be reached from the black ribbon that never seems to be more than a few kilometres away. Despite the excellent state of Dutch roads (and cars - it is compulsory in the Netherlands that your car is checked for faults at least once every two years) traffic quite frequently jams at a large number of bottlenecks. This is not very strange if you consider that there are, on average, two vehicles per household. And there are 7 million households! The majority of Dutch drivers never break the speed limit, and considering the severity of traffic fines, this seems wise enough. Driving through a red light? This will cost you €160. Driving too fast within city limits? Be prepared to pay €180! Just a few rules: within city limits you must drive 50km/h, outside city limits 80 and on motorways 100 or 120 (check the road signs!). In the Netherlands you must drive on the right side of the road, and you are not allowed to cycle on motorways! You don't want to know how many tourists are plucked off the road by police each year, happily pedalling to their next destination.

National holidays

On public holidays shops, museums and attractions often close earlier and some stay closed the whole day. Schools, city councils, post offices and banks are closed and some shops and restaurants may also close.

January 1	New Year's Day (Nieuwjaarsdag)
March 29, 2013	Good Friday (Goede Vrijdag)
March 31, 2013	Easter Sunday (Pasen)
April 1, 2013	Easter Monday (Pasen)
April 30	Queen's Day (Koninginnedag)
May 1	Labour Day (Dag van de Arbeid)
May 4	Remembrance of the Dead (Nationale Herdenking)
May 5	Liberation Day (Dag van de Vrijheid)
May 9	Mother's Day (Moederdag)
May 13	Ascension Day (Hemelvaartsdag)
May 23 - 24	Whitsun (Pinksteren)
June 20	Father's Day (Vaderdag)
June 26	Veterans' Day (Veteranendag)
September 21	Budget Day (Prinsjesdag)
December 5	St. Nicolas (Sinterklaas)
December 25 - 26	Christmas (Kerstmis)
December 31	New Year's Eve (Oudejaarsdag)

Useful phrases

How are you?	Hoe gaat het met je?
Pleased to meet you	Leuk kennis met je te maken.
Do you speak English?	Spreek je Engels?
Where is the nearest shop, hotel, restaurant, café, bar or toilet?	Waar is de dichtstbijzijnde winkel, hotel, restaurant, café, bar of toilet?
What's your name?	Hoe heet je?
My name is ...	Ik heet ...
What time is it?	Hoe laat is het?
How much?	Hoe veel kost dit?
This costs too much!	Dit is veel te duur!
Hi	Hoi
Good morning	Goedemorgen
Good evening	Goedenavond
Goodnight (greeting)	Goedenacht
Goodbye	Tot ziens
Bye	Dag
Yes	Ja
No	Nee
Cheers!	Proost!
Thank you	Dank je wel

Days of the week

Monday	Maandag
Tuesday	Dinsdag
Wednesday	Woensdag
Thursday	Donderdag
Friday	Vrijdag
Saturday	Zaterdag
Sunday	Zondag

Smoking

Since the introduction of the ban on smoking in public places on 1 July 2008, smoking has become a lot less common. Today you can have a wild night out and come home without your hair and your clothes reeking of cigarette smoke. For some this is an enormous benefit, and others (read: smokers) find it a pain. Thanks to unclear rules you may suddenly find yourself in a pub where there are people smoking. This is usually in pubs with just a single staff member: the boss. Or you may find yourself in a pub that flouts the ban on smoking. This will not have any consequences for you: if you light a cigarette in a pub and the manager tolerates this, then the manager will receive a fine upon inspection. The Netherlands is of course also known for its wafts of marijuana smoke. For more information see 'Drugs'.



Enjoy Floras Hof with the locals

Toerisme Utrecht

From the rampaging Vikings to Hitler's Nazis, beautiful Utrecht's history has been turbulent to say the least.

47 AD - Castellum Traiectum

Around the start of the Common Era, the Romans expand their empire to the Rhine delta and the areas along the Elbe. In the year 47 AD, Roman emperor Claudius decides that the River Rhine is to become the northern border of the empire. The border, also called Limes, is protected with fortresses. At a fordable place along the Rhine they build the Castellum Traiectum, which will later become Utrecht.



695 AD - Willibrord arrives in Utrecht

In 695 the Anglo-Saxon missionary Willibrord settles in Utrecht. Here he helps build a stone church which he dedicates to St. Martin and founds a second church, the St. Salvator. Willibrord, who had been initiated as Bishop of the Frisians by Pope Sergius I, now tries to convert Frisians while in Utrecht. As a cathedral city Utrecht later grew to be the most important ecclesiastical centre of the northern Netherlands.



857 AD - Vikings attack Utrecht

In 857 AD Vikings reach Utrecht during a typical pillaging journey. During their attack they destroy the town's gates and walls, and they kill civilians and clergymen at the bishop's court. The bishop himself narrowly escapes death by fleeing to the protection of the Frankish king Lothar. The Vikings use Utrecht as a base of operation for plundering the city's surroundings.



Historic images seen here are courtesy of Utrecht Stadsarchief. 1713 map courtesy of Vrede van Utrecht

1122 - Holy Roman Emperor Henry V grants Utrecht a charter

In 1122, Holy Roman Emperor Henry V visits Utrecht to confer with nobles and clergymen. A few days after Whitsunday, fatal clashes arise between the emperor's guards and the servants of Bishop Godebald of Utrecht. Henry imprisons Godebald and lets Utrecht's inhabitants take an oath of loyalty. In exchange he grants the city a charter.



1254 - Building of the Dom Church

In 1253 the Romanesque Dom Church was heavily damaged by a large town fire. The Dom chapter chooses not to renovate and instead decides to build a new Gothic cathedral. In 1254 Bishop Hendrik van Vianden placed the first stone of the new Dom Church. Construction is subsidised by, amongst other sources, Pope Clement's granted indulgences. After the choir, the tower and the transept are built a lack of funds brings building to a halt. The Dom is finally completed in 1520.



1529 - Construction of Vredenburg

After Holy Roman Emperor Charles V conquers the Utrecht bishopric in 1528, he commissions the city's inhabitants to build Vredenburg. This castle built under coercion was meant to keep the citizens of Utrecht under control, as well as to better protect the area against the Duke of Guelders. Spanish troops leave the castle in 1577 after being beleaguered by Dutch rebels. It is then destroyed by the people of Utrecht who feared the Spanish might return.



You're never far from students in Utrecht Ilse Ouwens



Water is part of the local lifestyle Toerisme Utrecht

1579 - Union of Utrecht

On 23 January the signing of the Union of Utrecht took place in the charter hall of the Dom of Utrecht. In this treaty, which was a reaction to the Union of Atrecht, a number of towns and districts - including Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Gent and Bruges - agree to march against the Spaniards. Moreover, the agreement settled some disputes in the fields of religion, defence and taxes; thus it can also be seen as the first version of a constitution.



1636 - Founding of the University

While the first plans for the founding of a university in Utrecht stem from the late 15th century, it is only in the 17th century that the city council takes action. In 1632 the city council founds an 'illustrious school', which is proclaimed to be an academy four years later. Theologian Voetius and lawyer Antonius Matthaëus are the first professors of the new university. In 1642 an observatory becomes part of the university, which makes Utrecht, after Leiden, the oldest university in the world with an observatory.



1713 - The Treaty of Utrecht

The Treaty of Utrecht was concluded on 11 April 1713 and marked a critical moment in the history of Europe and Utrecht. This brought an end to a series of devastating wars that had claimed many millions of lives over a period of two centuries. The Treaty of Utrecht is regarded as an important event that paved the way for European cooperation and conflict management - a forerunner to today's European Union and United Nations.



1807 - Palace of Louis Bonaparte

Napoleon Bonaparte comes to power in 1802 and in 1806 he appoints his brother Louis Bonaparte as king of Holland. As Louis doesn't enjoy The Hague he moves his residency to Utrecht in 1807. After the necessary houses have been purchased, palace construction begins, which Louis will later occupy in 1808. A year after that, he heads off to Amsterdam. Today the building is used as the University Library.

1945 - Utrecht Liberation

On 2 May the news of Adolf Hitler's death is spread throughout the country and on 4 May illegal underground radio reports that the Netherlands has been liberated. Many inhabitants of Utrecht go out onto the streets, but German soldiers shoo people back inside by shooting. While the German commander refuses to acknowledge the capitulation, British and Canadian troops enter Utrecht on 7 May, where they are greeted by rejoicing crowds.



1973 - Opening of the Hoog Catharijne Shopping Centre

In 1962 the local council decides that the old station neighbourhood does not adhere to the needs of modern traffic and asks the company Empeo for advice. Together with the council, Empeo draws up a plan for a new, raised station square with shops, residences, offices and parking garages. After an understanding is reached with Dutch Railways (NS), construction of a new centre is begun. In 1973 Hoog Catharijne - now the oldest example of a shopping and office centre in the Netherlands - is officially opened by Princess Beatrix.



See the city from a canoe or kayak Ilse Ouwens

Worldwide, the Netherlands offers the largest concentration of art and culture per square kilometer and Utrecht is the city with the largest density of cultural treasures in Holland!

Cinemas

Springhaver B-3, Springweg 50, tel. (+31) 302 31 37 89, www.springhaver.nl. This venue has provided entertainment since 1885. Today, it boasts a theatre, a café and a cinema. ▶

't Hoogt B-2, Hoogt 4, tel. (+31) 302 32 83 88, www.hoogt.nl. Art Cinema 't Hoogt is perfectly located in an historic building in the city centre. When it was founded in 1973 it was the first and only art cinema in the Netherlands, but a lot has changed since then and now digital projection guarantees an impressive film experience here. 't Hoogt is well known for its special offers like interviews with directors, debate evenings after screenings and hilarious film quizzes and also for its dedication to world cinema. A restaurant and bar serving local fair and drinks is also at your disposal, so you can enjoy a well-rounded night out all at one place. ▶ Open 18:30 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 13:30 - 22:00.

Concert halls

Acu B-1, Voorstraat 71, tel. (+31) 302 31 45 90, www.acu.nl. The ACU is a political and cultural venue that operates independently of municipal authorities. ▶

dB's D-8, Rondom 100, tel. (+31) 302 93 82 09, www.dbstudio.nl. For a small amount of money, you can discover bands here, before they get big. ▶

EKKO A-1, Bemuurde Weerd WZ 3, tel. (+31) 302 31 74 57, www.eeko.nl. Local and international bands and DJs often perform at EKKO, one of the most trendsetting pop stages in the Netherlands. ▶

Tivoli Oudegracht B-3, Oudegracht 245, tel. (+31) 900 23 58 48 6, www.tivoli.nl. Tivoli is a centre for pop culture in the heart of Utrecht. With 305,000 visitors each year, Tivoli is one of the larger pop stages on the Dutch club circuit. It can host up to 1,000 concert-goers. ▶

Vredenburg Leeuwenbergh C-3, Servaasbolwerk 1A, tel. (+31) 302 31 45 44, www.vredenburg.nl. Vredenburg Leeuwenbergh specialises in unamplified chamber music, jazz and world music concerts, but there's also room for experimental music and young talent. ▶

Vredenburg Leidsche Rijn J.C. Verthorenpad 100, tel. (+31) 302 31 45 44, www.vredenburg.nl. Large-scale concerts will take place in Vredenburg Leidsche Rijn. ▶



Don't miss Utrecht's legendary film festival in September and October. Photo by Bert Spiertz



Pinkpop is the biggest pop festival in the Netherlands. Don't miss it this June. Photo by Jelmer de Haas

Utrecht events in 2013

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr 7	12:30	Football. FC Utrecht vs. ADO Den Haag	SG
22 Mar - 7 Apr		Tweetakt Festival. Theatre, music, dance, stand-up comedy and games at the SSBU, Theatre Kikker and other venues throughout Utrecht	SSBU TK
21	14:30	Football. FC Utrecht vs. NAC Breda	SG
May 5	12:00- 24:00	Liberation Festival Utrecht 2013. Remembering the end of WWII in Holland at the traditional Park Transwijk venue. Utrecht's ambassadors of peace Chef's Special will be the closing act	PT
8-17	11:00	Latin American Film Festival. At the LAFF everything is Latin American: the films, documentaries and shorts, the cast & crew, you name it	LH
12 16-26	14:30	FC Utrecht vs. Heracles Almelo New International Podium Art Festival of Utrecht. Spring Dance & Festival aan de Werf bring us a new platform for the newest in dance, theatre and cross-over acts	SG
June 1	14:00 - 01:00	Counter Culture Festival. The sixth edition of the alternative arts festival	JP
14-16		Pinkpop. This year's line-up will include Green Day, the Killers, Ben Howard, Kensington, Thirty Seconds to Mars, Queens of the Stone Age and more. Tickets: €85 - 165	LM
15 June - 1 July		Midzomergracht Festival. A modern-day, homo cultural event in the heart of Utrecht. Culture, sports, debate, exhibitions and parties	CC
29	10:00- 17:00	Open Garden Day Utrecht. Check out 40 private gardens in the old city usually hidden from the public. For tickets visit the VVV: €12.50	VVV

Utrecht events in 2013

30	12:00	Festival deBeschaving. Music, science, spoken word, theatre and film. €30	BO
July			
4-7		Rock Werchter. Belgium's biggest festival offers four days of music, campsite culture and festival fun. Line-up: Green Day, Bloc Party, Netsky, Dizzee Rascal, Kings of Leon, Blur, John Legend, Kendrick Lamar, Rammstein, Thirty Seconds To Mars and many, many more. Day ticket €80, weekend €200, campsite €18 - 25	FW
19		The Parade. Travelling festival hosting a large variety of theatre, dance, music, film and performing arts acts. Children can go ahead and bake cookies while they make stuff or take a ride in the 'giant's stride'. Free admission until 16:00, after €7	MOP
Jul - 4	Aug		
26-28		Summer Darkness Festival 2013. Dark Underground Disciplinary Festival. "A mixture of music, fashion, arts, market and dark underground dance nights with Apoptygma Berzerk, Welle:Erdball, Clan of Xymox & God is an Astronaut. €70	CC
Aug			
3-4		In Vervoering Festival (In Rapture Festival). Two-day festival that earned its stripes with upcoming bands, artists and guerilla-style endeavors. Located on 3 august at the Korte Minrebroederstraat and on 4 august at the Lepelenburg Park. Free admission	PLE CC
14	17:00	Biton Open Air 2012. Hosted by students, this festival brings rock and heavy metal bands Rouge, KinKobra and Lord Vulture alongside the Eindbaas afterparty. The best in chiptune sounds. Free admission	ZP
Sept			
9	10:00- 19:30	Dragonboat Festival Leidsche Rijn 2013. Dragon boat racing at its finest with entertainment, zumba, percussion and more on the side. Free admission	HP
25		Nederlands Film Festival. This film festival in Holland hosts every aspect of Dutch Cinema. Along side the Golden Calf awards you'll find many more activities, film and food. If you're in town during the festival, it's impossible to miss it. Over 15 venues participate in the festival	CC
Sept - 4	Oct		

Utrecht events in 2013

Oct			
19 - 21		Bock Beer Festival. 20+ different varieties of bock beer. With a tasting and judges you can also enjoy bock beer with several wintry dishes. €18.50 - 33	LE
30		Impakt Festival, or as they call it, a foundation for critical media culture. It's the annual culmination of the activities Impakt embraces: conferences, readings, performances, screenings, exhibitions, presentations and music. Located at Theater Kikker, HKU, Jaarbeursplein, filmtheatre 't Hoogt and the CBKU	TK, JU, HKU, FH, CBKU
Oct - 3 Nov			
Dec			
20	20:30	Rumor. A festival for adventurous music. Improvisation and unusual compositions from Rhodri Davies, Pumporgan & The Ex. €12 - 15	EK
26-30		International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht. After last year's successful 10th edition, the festival returns to many of Utrecht's finer classical venues	CC



Celebrate Utrecht's Liberation Festival on May 5. Photo by Anna van Kooij

Venues

BO	Botanische Tuinen	CBKU	CBKU
CC	City Centre	EK	Ekko
FH	Filmtheater 't Hoogt		
FW	Festivalpark Werchter		
HKU	Hogeschool voor de Kunsten		
HP	Haarrijnse Plas	JU	Jaarbeurs Utrecht
LE	Ledig Erf	LHX	LandgoedHendrickx
LM	Landgraaf Megaland	MOP	Moreelsepark
PLE	Park Lepelenburg	PT	Park Transwijk
SG	Stadion Galgewaard		
SSBU	Stadsschouwburg Utrecht		
TK	Theater Kikker		
VVV	VVV Kantoor Utrecht	ZP	Zochterpark

Utrecht provides plenty of places to stay the night for people of all budgets. If for some reason the hotel reviews listed here aren't enough, the staff at the tourist information centre can also provide visitors with loads of accommodation options. All prices listed here include VAT and most of them offer breakfast (sometimes for a hefty extra fee). Please note that hotel prices rise and fall with the arrival and departure of conventions and events as Utrecht is home to the biggest trade fair complex in the Netherlands - Jaarbeurs.

Upmarket












Apollo Hotel Utrecht City Centre A-2, Vredenburg 14, tel. (+31) 302 33 12 32, www.apollohotelsresorts.com/utrecht. If you're looking for a hotel with a central location in the inner city, this four-star hotel only a stone's throw from Hoog Catharijne is a good option. The spacious bathrooms, the beautiful location, the stunning views from the rooms on higher floors and the comfortable sitting corner all compensate for the lack of other amenities such as a mini-bar, a restaurant or a bar. Don't fiddle around too much with the somewhat complicated remote control or you might find an extra charge of at least €15 for pay-TV on your bill. That's the excuse we gave our boss anyway. ▶ 90 rooms (17 singles €79 - 219, 35 doubles €79 - 219, 4 triples €79 - 219, 34 suites €104 - 244).  ★★★★★

Carlton President B-3, Floraweg 25, tel. (+31) 302 41 41 82, www.carlton.nl/president. Carlton President offers a lot of comfort for only a relatively small amount of money. Extremely friendly service, clean rooms, comfortable beds and loads of extra amenities are all part and parcel of the experience. The terrace and the beautiful garden are extra perks of this four-star hotel located outside the city centre in lush green surroundings. The general atmosphere is pleasant and the excellent leisure centre includes a sauna, fitness room, whirlpool, solarium and Turkish bath. ▶ 164 rooms (148 doubles €90 - 129, 16 suites €140 - 179).  ★★★★★

Grand Hotel Karel V A-3, Geertebolwerk 1, tel. (+31) 302 33 75 55, www.karelv.nl. If you saw pictures of this monumental complex of buildings, you'd hardly believe that this five-star hotel is located in the city centre of Utrecht. Each of the building's two wings, both the Roman and the Napoleonic, has its own charm and previous guests such as Holy Roman Emperor Charles V never had any complaints. Grand Hotel Karel V manages to create a perfect symbiosis between historical elements of style and modern conveniences in an elegant way. The 121 rooms are spacious and equipped with everything you'd expect from such a hotel. Exit the gate of this 14th century oasis and you'll once again find yourself in the bustling centre of present-day Utrecht. ▶ 121 rooms (10 suites €199 - 358, 12 single executive €119 - 258, 2 single superior €149 - 298, 18 deluxe €154 - 298, 37 superior €169 - 318, 42 executive doubles €139 - 278).  ★★★★★


Mitland Hotel H-8, Ariënslaan 1, tel. (+31) 302 71 58 24, www.mitland.nl. Guests who like nature will feel right at home here. This hotel has a delightful setting in a green area by the edge of a lake teeming with water lilies and bird life. The rooms are spacious and fitted with modern conveniences and the staff is friendly and helpful. The indoor bowling alley and alcoholic drinks are, however, rather pricey. Ask for a room with a view of the forest. At a mere 250m from the hotel, you can take a cheap bus into the bustling city centre. ▶ 135 rooms (131 doubles €135, 1 suite €175, 3 junior suites €135).  ★★★★★

Symbol key

 Air conditioning	 Credit cards accepted
 Swimming pool	 Conference facilities
 Fitness centre	 Facilities for the disabled
 Pets allowed	 Guarded parking
 Restaurant	 Sauna
 Free wireless internet	

Park Plaza Utrecht B-4, Westplein 50, tel. (+31) 302 92 52 00, www.parkplaza.com/utrecht. In most circumstances a hotel located this close to the busiest train station in Holland wouldn't guarantee a good night's sleep. However, Park Plaza is full of surprises. Countless numbers of trains leave and approach Utrecht Central Station, but from your room all you can hear is a distant hum. The modern rooms are equipped with all of the modern amenities you would expect like touch screen TVs and wireless internet and the ice machine in the corridor is ideal for people who like a drink before bed. The executive rooms will only cost you €25 more, but have a more luxurious bathing area, a fully stocked mini-bar, trendier interior design and a proper espresso machine. The latest edition of the bible is also available in every room. ▶ 120 rooms (superior from €159, executive from €184).  ★★★★★

Mid-range

Badhu F-8, Willem van Noortplein 19, tel. (+31) 302 72 04 44, www.badhu.nl. Although not exactly what one would call cheap, the eight double rooms in the Middle Eastern-inspired Badhu are definitely worth a try. Each room in this former bathhouse built in 1927 has its own unique colour and style and every room includes a double bed, a bathroom with a bathtub and all kinds of modern amenities such as espresso machines, flat screen TVs and a music sound system. Unfortunately, despite the price of the rooms, breakfast is not included and will cost you an extra €14 per person. ▶ 8 rooms (8 doubles €109 - 139).  ★★★★★

NH Centre Utrecht Hotel B-2, Janskerkhof 10, tel. (+31) 302 31 31 69, www.nh-hotels.com. The biggest advantage of this recently renovated hotel, is its central location in the heart of the city. But bear in mind that this historic building from 1870 is surrounded by dozens of pubs and restaurants, which can be either a blessing or a curse depending on your point of view. In any case, the gorgeous beds with their multiple pillows make this three-star hotel worth a visit. ▶ 47 rooms (47 doubles €90 - 180).  ★★★★★



Stunning scenery at Hotel Mitland



BALIJELAAN 19 3521GJ
T: 030 -2941420 F: 030 -2939933
E: info@beurshotel.nl
W: www.beurshotel.nl
PARTNER: www.hotelwoudrichem.nl



- Costless parking around the hotel
- Free of charge wireless internet
- Gratuitous breakfast buffet
- 1 km away from Jaarbeurs & Station
- Non-Smoking rooms
- Pet friendly
- Budget rooms
- Take away breakfast / lunch packs.
- Special prices for long stays.
- Group accommodation options.
- Reception open from 07.00 till 23.00
- And the nicest staff in town! Dare to check? ;)

Budget

Beurshotel E-10, Balljelaan 1, tel. (+31) 302 94 14 20, www.beurshotel.nl. This small, recently renovated 2-star hotel is located just outside the city centre but on easy walking distance from all attractions. This means that you'll have a good night's sleep. The hotel offers 22 rooms and it excels in its high level of personal service and attention. The six single rooms, fourteen double rooms, two triples are all good value for money. Highly recommended if you don't have big money to spend. ▶ 24 rooms (6 singles €82, 14 doubles €92, 2 triples €119, 2 quads €149). ★★

De Admiraal G-8, Admiraal van Gentstraat 11, tel. (+31) 302 75 85 00, www.hoteldeadmiraal.nl. First of all, De Admiraal is a very friendly place. This is chiefly because the owners live in the hotel and it's as if you're staying in their home, but with the privacy and professional care you would expect from a hotel. De Admiraal has four double bedrooms and four single bedrooms. Most have en suite facilities and four of them have a private balcony with a roof overlooking the spacious and lovely secluded garden of this 19th century mansion. ▶ 8 rooms (4 singles €73 - 93, 4 doubles €113). ★★

Hotel Oorsprongpark G-8, F.C. Dondersstraat 12, tel. (+31) 302 71 63 03, www.oorsprongpark.nl. This is the biggest two-star hotel in Utrecht. No less than 38 rooms are available in this simple and sober hotel, but each provides very comfortable beds. The rooms are a bit small, but since the price is so attractive, nobody seems to mind. The breakfast on the other hand is top-notch. Plenty of fresh food will give you a brisk and energetic start to your day. The communal hall is a great meeting place to sit and have a chat with fellow travellers and you can also rent a bike here. ▶ 38 rooms (17 singles €75, 21 doubles €85). ★★

Apartment rental

D&D Shortstay D-4, Wolder Heukelslaan 68bis, tel. (+31) 302 51 11 39, www.ddshortstayutrecht.nl. This central location offers you a comfortable stay in a building situated in the Oudwijk Quarter within walking distance of Utrecht's highlights. The non-smoking apartment is on the second and third floor and is suitable for couples and families up to four people. On the second floor guests will find a fully equipped furnished dining room and a modern kitchen with a veranda and the toilet and study-room are also located here. A floor higher are the bedrooms, one of which has a balcony, and a fully renovated bathroom. Wi-fi and paid parking are available. ▶ 1 room (1 apartment €100 - 200).

Reserve a hotel room at
www.utrecht.inyourpocket.com

Havaa Apartments B-1, Plompotorengracht 11A, tel. (+31) 302 31 71 00, www.havaa-apartments.com. The apartments are located on the Plompotorengracht, while its studios and penthouse are located on Korte Jansstraat in the historical centre of Utrecht. You can expect luxurious and fully-furnished apartments with doorman service, state-of-the-art fitness centres and indoor private parking in a prestigious high-rise apartment building designed by renowned architect Cees Dam. ▶ 13 rooms (13 Total rooms). From €99 to €179.



HAVAA APARTMENTS

Havaa Apartments has spacious and fully furnished apartments and studios in the Utrecht city centre and a magnificent penthouse and roof garden with a view of the Dom Tower.

Our apartments are perfect for business and tourist stays in the city of Utrecht.

Plompotorengracht 11a
 T 0031 (0) 31 231 71 00

De Korte Jansstraat 2a
www.havaa-apartments.com



Bed aan de Nieuwegracht

We have two comfortable rooms with a modern bathroom, situated at the second floor in a superb 17th-century listed building in the Museum Quarter at the Nieuwegracht.

Nieuwegracht 11
3512 LC Utrecht
T 0031 302 313 326
M 0031 65 32 640 14
E info@bedaandegracht.nl
I www.bedaandegracht.nl

**Bed & Breakfast****B&B Bed aan de Nieuwegracht B-3, Nieuwegracht 11, tel. (+31) 302 31 33 26, www.bedaandegracht.nl.**

Situated in Utrecht's picturesque Museum Quarter, B&B Bed aan de Nieuwegracht is sparsely furnished and not what we would call cosy, but if you're just looking for a clean bed and a central location it will certainly do the trick. The second floor of this historic 17th-century home offers two rooms, which are similar with the exception of the beds. If you'd like to cuddle up with your sweetheart, choose the one with the double bed. The other is equipped with two single beds. And if you're thinking of canoeing while in Utrecht, you've come to the right place. It has its own private dock next to its wharf cellar. The friendly owner will also cook you breakfast for only €7.50. ▶ 2 rooms (1 single €55 - 68, 1 double €55 - 68).

B&B Carla's Smaak E-8, Draaiweg 97, tel. (+31) 624 43 66 32, www.carlassmaak.nl.

Owner Carla is an incredibly charming host who treats her guests with homemade biscuits and an organic breakfast. Despite the fact that the terraced house doesn't look very special from the outside, its comforts will become apparent once you're inside. The apartment stretches across the entire upper floor and consists of a spacious bedroom, a sitting corner and a modern bathroom. ▶ 1 room (1 apartment €70 - 100).

B&B Chambres-en-Ville B-3, Zullenstraat 1A, tel. (+31) 302 36 43 73, www.chambres-en-ville.nl.

The friendly hostess, owner Ida van der Wal, presides over two luxurious rooms with new beds, fine linen, a TV, music system and comfortable sofas and chairs. The first room is located on the second floor of the building and consists of a large double bedroom with its own bathroom and a living room which includes a PC with internet. The second room is also comfortable but smaller with a double bedroom (22m²), writing desk and bathroom. ▶ 2 rooms (2 doubles €100 - 140).

B&B Chez Cho B-3, Haverstraat 8, tel. (+31) 302 51 59 15, www.chezcho.nl.

The contradiction between the tastefully decorated basement and the rest of the haphazardly furnished B&B is striking. Too many colours and a mishmash of styles will no doubt be off-putting to design enthusiasts, but this spacious and moderately-priced apartment is equipped with modern conveniences such as excellent beds, a comfortable bath and even a sauna. You can also cook your own meal in the small kitchen. The apartment is situated on the ground floor and has a private entrance, which is obviously a major perk. Recommended. ▶ 1 apartment (€70 - €115).

B&B Chez Cho

Right in the old heart of the city you can find a well furnished apartment including a large bath, sauna, two rooms and free wifi. The apartment is suitable for 1 up to 3 persons. You are very welcome!

Haverstraat 8
0031 (0)30 - 251 59 15
www.chezcho.nl



- lockers
- breakfast
- kitchen
- garden
- wifi
- bikes for rent

strowis
Hostel Strowis: www.strowis.nl
Boothstraat 8, 3512 BW Utrecht
030-2380280, info@strowis.nl

B&B Chez Marianne B-3, Haverstraat 10, tel. (+31) 653 39 44 77, www.chezmarianne.nl.

This guesthouse is ideally situated in the Museum Quarter of the city centre. Inside this historical monument from 1644 you'll find a fully furnished, recently renovated, spacious apartment. A separate guest toilet, private entrance and garden, kitchen with dishwasher and a living room with wood-burning stove are all major draws. ▶ 2 rooms (2 apartments €75).

B&B Dales Gast-en-Verblijf B-3, Lange Nieuwstraat 22, tel. (+31) 302 31 56 05, www.gast-en-verblijf.nl.

Dales Gast-en-Verblijf is a unique B&B where you can choose from three rooms, each decorated in a different style. On the ground floor of this spacious mansion you'll find an apartment with medieval plaster ceilings, old window shutters and a pine wooden floor. The studio on the second floor is a comfortable room with oak beams and a pretty view of the city. Aan de Werf is the largest apartment and it can accommodate as many as four people. It's located in the yard cellar on the old canal and boasts its own terrace on the water. ▶ 3 rooms (1 double €90, 1 suite €105, 1 apartment €150).

B&B 't Singelhuis B-4, Oudekamp 9, tel. (+31) 306 14 94 67 34, www.bedandbreakfast.nl/bed-and-breakfast-nl/utrecht/t-singelhuis/7392.

The friendly and flexible owners of this B&B rent out three apartments and one room at three different locations in the city. However, all accommodation has one thing in common: the beautiful beds are reason enough to stay here and the thick duvets and pillows could keep you warm and toasty through a Siberian winter. Two apartments are for rent at the Oudekamp 9 (two people €90 - €115 per night), one room at Tolsteegsingel 44 (one room for €90 - €95) and another big apartment is available for four people at Joseph Haydnlaan. ▶ 2 rooms (1 double €70, 1 apartment €85).

Hostels

B&B Utrecht B-2, Lucas Bolwerk 4, tel. (+31) 650 43 48 84, www.hostelutrecht.nl. All inclusive resorts are very popular with the Dutch when they travel abroad, but Utrecht's visitors can also try this concept at B&B Utrecht. Coffee or tea, breakfast, lunch and dinner are all included in the price of a bed or a room. Although the name is misleading, this place is actually a hostel. Complimentary internet and a well equipped music corner with more than 20 different kinds of musical instruments are a couple more reasons why this centrally located hostel is such a hit with the budget-minded. Also the secluded garden is a great place to relax. ▶ Prices from €19.50.

Hostel Strowis B-1, Boothstraat 8, tel. (+31) 302 38 02 80, www.strowis.nl. You'll discover a true backpacker's oasis in this 17th-century building in the middle of the centre. Strowis has clean and spacious dormitories with bunk beds spread out across three floors, with clean showers and toilets. Private rooms are also available. Strowis is equipped with all of the amenities a budget traveller might desire including a kitchen, free lockers, wifi, liberal opening hours, bicycle rental for €7/day and extensive information on the city and its surroundings. Try the all-you-can-eat organic breakfast buffet for €7, after which you can relax outside with the other guests or in the large foyer which has comfy chairs, books, a computer and a bar. Outside, the inviting garden is the perfect place to enjoy an organic draught beer. You might just forget that there's still a whole city to be discovered. Reservations recommended. ▶ Open 08:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 03:00. From €18.

Out of town

Campanile Hotel Amersfoort K-14, De Brand 50, Amersfoort, tel. (+31) 334 55 87 57, www.campanile-amersfoort.nl. The quaint beauty of the town of Amersfoort is in stark contrast with the outdated state of this usually very reliable chain of hotels. Its location, which is just off the motorway in an industrial zone, doesn't add much to the ambience either. Unfortunately, the food at the restaurant is another sign that this Campanile hotel has seen better days. To add insult to injury, a strange and irritating humming sound in the bathroom kept us up half the night. ▶ 74 rooms

Hotel De Bilt - Utrecht J-15, De Holle Bilt 1, De Bilt, tel. (+31) 302 20 58 11, www.biltschehoek.com. The superbly located four-star De Biltsche Hoek is one of the province of Utrecht's finest hotels. The level of service is excellent, while the impressive facilities include a heated indoor swimming pool, a bar, a restaurant and free parking. Its single and double rooms are both comfortable and stylish, but if you've got money to burn you can pamper yourself and book the suite. Standard rooms are also well furnished and equipped and are surprisingly affordable. The breakfast is also well worth the extra cash. ▶ 102 rooms (42 economy, 39 comfort, 19 comfort deluxe, 1 family room, 1 suite).



**Hotel De Bilt - Utrecht
De Holle Bilt 1
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Enjoy our elegant restaurant, heated swimming pool, free Wi-Fi, free parking and our location in a beautiful forest.




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€ 19,50*

ALL PRICES INCLUDE:

- * free breakfast
- * free lunch
- * free dinner
(we supply you cook)
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* on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, during high season, festivities, events we have to charge € 5,- per night per person extra



**The Hostel
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Lucasbolwerk 4
+31 (0)650434884
info@hostelutrecht.nl
www.hostelutrecht.nl**

Mercure Utrecht Nieuwegein J-16, Bulzerdlaan 10, Nieuwegein, tel. (+31) 306 04 48 44, www.mercure.com. The historic city centre of Utrecht lies only 10 kilometres away from this contemporary hotel and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is only a 30 drive. This is the ideal business location due to its strategic position on the A2, Holland's busiest motorway. This four-star hotel offers 77 comfortable rooms, all equipped with modern conveniences. A sauna, fitness centre and pool are major perks. The trendy restaurant Zilver is also where guests feast on a huge breakfast buffet. ▶ 77 rooms (77 doubles €69).

PUUR Lage Vuursche J-15, Koudelaan 25, Lage Vuursche, tel. (+31) 356 66 97 85, www.puurlv.nl. The price often says it all and for more than €100 (or even €200) a night you would certainly expect a lot of service and comfort from your accommodation. But it gets even better when you pay relatively little and receive the same treatment. If this sounds enticing then you should definitely give PUUR (PURE) a try. This small paradise in the countryside offers three different ways to spend the night: in a room, a chalet or an apartment. If you have an adventurous streak, you can also try the wood cabin. We especially recommend the breakfast, which is PURE and farm-fresh. ▶ 16 rooms.

Stayokay Hostel Bunnik J-16, Rhijnauwenselaan 14, Bunnik, tel. (+31) 306 56 12 77, www.stayokay.com. If you want to enjoy a beautiful patch of nature, give Stayokay Bunnik a try. 139 beds are available in three centuries-old buildings dating from 1830 only 5km away from the city. The surrounding woods are perfect for hours of wandering or you can rent a canoe and glide across the picturesque Kromme Rijn river. Naturally, it's also the perfect setting for cycling and there's no danger of running into anything other than a cow or maybe a deer. ▶ 139 beds (€20/person).

The Dutch lack a *haute cuisine* of their own and consequently rely on the rest of the world for tasty food. Utrecht is no exception and it offers a wide array of ethnic restaurants and eateries for all palates. It is, however, also known for its pubs where you can devour a steak for only €10. Of course, in a student town like Utrecht you can still eat on the cheap, but the past few years have given rise to a new trend: exclusive, upmarket restaurants. Drieharingenstraat is the place to go for a culinary treat. If you'd like to dine in style on quality food for affordable prices you won't be disappointed. This is the Netherlands, after all, where people demand the best for the smallest price possible. Tipping is up to the diner, with 10% or a rounding up of the bill both being acceptable, especially if you thought your evening out was exceptional. **Prices listed in parentheses indicate the average price of a main course.**

American

American Steakhouse Broadway B-2, Oudegracht aan de Werf 139, tel. (+31) 302 31 26 43, www.steak-sandrifs.nl. For over two decades this American restaurant has been the place to go in Utrecht if you're like Uncle Sam's cuisine. It's a place for carnivores with large portions of deliciously sweet spareribs, grilled fish, chicken and all kinds of tender slabs of meat, including a massive T-bone steak. The somewhat kitschy décor won't win any awards, but the two monumental vaulted ceilings certainly could. Things would be even better if only the young students on the staff would be a bit more attentive. ▶ Open 17:00 - 21:30. Closed Mon. (€16 - 20). 🍷 📶 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰

Arabic

Badhu C-3, Willem van Noortplein 19, tel. (+31) 302 72 04 44, www.badhu.nl. Formerly a bathhouse, this art-deco style building has been transformed into a hip and stylish Arabic-style hotel and restaurant. You can lounge on the comfortable couches from breakfast all the way through to Middle Eastern high tea, lunch and dinner. The staff is friendly and the portions are big. The restaurant is located out of the city centre (about a 10-minute walk) but is well worth it and after all the baklava and Turkish delight the stroll will do you some good. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (€20 - 25). 🍷 📶

Argentine

Los Argentinos B-3, Oudegracht aan de Werf 127 - 129, tel. (+31) 302 33 14 44, www.losargentinosutrecht.nl. Of the two Argentine restaurants on the Oudegracht this one is our favourite. The steaks are so tender you can cut them with a fork and the menu allows each patron to choose their own piece of meat according to cut, size and weight. You'll have to pay extra for all the tasty side dishes here, but the seven chef's specialities come with a delicious baked potato or fries and the classic Argentine *chimichurri* sauce comes standard with all main courses. Because the beef has never been frozen, you can almost taste the vast pampas in very bite you take. ▶ Open 17:00 - 23:00.

Welcome at LOS ARGENTINOS!

An Argentinian grill restaurant with delicious steaks and ribs, situated at the Oudegracht in Utrecht.

Aan de Oudegracht 127a/129
0631 0030-233 14 44
Utrecht



Symbol key

🌬️ Air conditioning	📶 Credit cards accepted
🎵 Live music	👉 Take away
👶 Child friendly	🔥 Fireplace
🚬 Smoking section	♿ Facilities for the disabled
📶 Free wireless internet	🐾 Pets allowed



Stylish interior at LE:EN

Asian

LE:EN F-11, Heuveloord 140, tel. (+31) 302 51 14 11, www.leen-restaurant.nl. LE:EN has moved to a new industrial building, but luckily its famous blue graffiti dragon and exotic Asian fusion tapas on its ever-changing menu have also made the journey. This two-storey building is also open for lunch now and offers new sensations for your taste buds every three months. The plates are tapas-style, so you'll need at least two and it's located a bit outside the city centre, but it's a place you'll learn to love, if not for the delicious black sesame ice cream, then for the great selection of Asian beers. Take a peek at the toilets, which are decorated with Chinese newspapers. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 22:30. (€6 - 18). 🍷 📶 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰 🚰

Opium B-1, Voorstraat 80, tel. (+31) 302 31 55 15, www.restaurant-opium.nl. This Asian restaurant has an impressive interior that also includes a tranquil garden-like area with goldfish. A mouth-watering menu of, amongst other things, Szechuan duck, Thai curry and hot chocolate pie with an Asian flare are all on offer. Unfortunately, style and good cuisine don't come cheap and the average starter costs just under €10 and mains hover above €15 mark. However, if you ever feel like treating yourself then Opium might just be the place for you. ▶ Open 17:00 - 22:00. (€15 - 19). 📶 📶

Sushi Wang B-2, Voorstraat 98, tel. (+31) 302 23 28 23, www.sushiwang.nl. If you'd like to take a crash course in Japanese, visit Sushi Wang and you'll learn all about sashimi, gunkan-maki, hosomaki, yakitori, uramaki, futomaki and temaki. But even if you don't speak Japanese, the pictures on the menu illustrate clearly what you can expect. And if you still can't make up your mind, choose one of the mixed boxes composed by the chef, who at times becomes a proper entertainer on his raised platform. Due to the freshness of its ingredients, Sushi Wang is one of the better sushi places in town, but it also has a better than average setting that includes comfortable red chairs, fresh flowers and romantic candlelight. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:30, Mon, Tue, Sun 14:00 - 22:30. (€12 - 15). 📶 📶 📶 📶 📶 📶

At the station - Hoog Catharijne

Julia's A-2, Stationshal 9G. The entrance to platforms 18 and 19 are not exactly the busiest tracks at Hoog Catharijne station, but people who have a passion for authentic Italian cuisine should take the time to find this place. In the mornings Julia's is an Italian espresso bar where you can drink fresh coffee standing up with a bite of a freshly baked ciabatta and later on in the day you can come here for three different kinds of pasta and seven different sauces, which you can take with you or enjoy at the central table or at one of five small seating areas. The bright colours and the open kitchen will make you feel like you're in a comfortable restaurant and not at Holland's busiest railway hub. ▶ Open 06:00 - 23:00. (€4 - 6).

Balkan

Balkangrill Boro B-2, Oudegracht aan de Werf 63, tel. (+31) 302 31 69 40, www.boro.nl. For more than three decades Balkan Grill has been a familiar sight on the Oudegracht, but unfortunately little has changed here since the days of disco. Sometimes this can lead to a nostalgic experience, but in this case it's probably best described as deferred maintenance or faded glory. The menu hasn't changed much since Yugoslavia broke up either, but it is brimming with popular dishes from the Balkans. Sadly, once again, the spices and flavours of this exotic cuisine are never fully realised here, which is a pity. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (€13 - 17).

Chinese

Paradijs A-1, Vredenburg 28, tel. (+31) 302 31 62 63. Although it has the appearance of your average take away, once you have a look at the extensive menu you know its dishes are anything but average. Whereas most Chinese restaurants in the Netherlands are a funny mix of Westernised Asian cuisine, this place serves the genuine article. Order a variety of authentic dim sum or a delicious *char sew* and discover why locals believe that this is the only authentic Chinese restaurant in Utrecht that serves Cantonese dishes. You'll have to ignore the curt manner of the majority of the staff, but where else do they bring you your food on a trolley? ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:30.

Soen Lie F-6, Zamenhofdreef 101, tel. (31) 302 61 12 86. The Overvecht Shopping Centre has existed since 1969 and one of its very first entrepreneurs still does great business here, even though it's already the second Soeng generation that runs this Indonesian/Chinese restaurant. Although you can order pretty much anything, the Szechuan dishes are, in our humble opinion, the best. Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday, menus are put away and guests can take advantage of a large buffet. Avoid Saturday nights, if possible, when a somewhat anti-social crowd takes over the restaurant. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:45.

Domplein

Domplein B-2, Domplein 20, tel. (+31) 302 32 28 95, www.brasseriedomplein.nl. Brasserie Domplein is located at the foot of the highest church tower in The Netherlands and Utrecht's main tourist attraction - the sacred Dom. Here you'll see senior citizens enjoying glasses of jenever, while young mothers with packed shopping bags gobble down the affordable special of the day or a pasta pesto, its undisputed number one dish. The high windows offer brilliant views of passers-by and of course one of the most beautiful churches in Holland. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. (€9 - 14).

Restaurant Opium



Opium is a modern Asian restaurant in the heart of Utrecht.
A restaurant where east meets west and different cultures mix.
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Seven days a week open from 5 pm
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0031 (0)30 - 2315515 www.restaurant-opium.nl

NEW

Grand Café Lebowski B-2, Domplein 17, tel. (+31) 302 31 52 17, www.grandcafelebowski.nl. If the makers of the blockbuster film *Madagascar* were considering a yet another instalment, they could definitely seek inspiration at Lebowski, which was opened in 2012. Apart from a life-sized giraffe (which died of natural causes), the interior is filled with all kinds of stuffed animals and a collection of bird cages. The rest of this trendy space is a mismatched selection of kitschy lamps and odd pieces of furniture. Who on earth would consider placing plastic redflowers in white plant pots resembling geese? Despite these bizarre touches, it all seems to melt harmoniously together creating an impressive atmosphere in which to enjoy simple dishes like pasta pesto and spare ribs. The menu doesn't offer many surprises, but we couldn't resist the opportunity to *make-your-own-hamburger* and neither should you. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00.

Drieharingenstraat

De Markt A-2, Drieharingenstraat 27, tel. (+31) 302 30 09 91, www.restaurantdemarkt.nl. The walls of this modern Italian restaurant display the best that Italy has to offer, visually anyway, and its kitchen serves up the best southern European cuisine in and around Utrecht. Although this place has only recently opened, it's still filled to the brim almost every night. De Markt doesn't provide much in the way of privacy, but the cacophony of sounds and the somewhat chaotic service result in an almost realistic copy of the atmosphere you'd encounter at an authentic Italian market. The portions are on the small side, but tasty and we recommend the *antipasti mercato*. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (€14 - 17).



Utrecht has plenty of casual restaurants Toerisme Utrecht

Dutch

Te Koop C-1, Biltstraat 23, tel. (+31) 302 23 11 58, www.eetcafe-tekoop.nl. A night out at Te Koop can become pretty expensive. This somewhat kitschy restaurant is full of great stuff which is all for sale including the chairs you sit on, the plates that the organic and local dishes are served on, as well as the vintage lamp above your head, the Chinese porcelain chicken or a Barbie doll. All are decorated with old-fashioned price tags. The quirky surroundings almost make you forget that the two chefs put plenty of thought into the excellent regional cuisine and delicious seasonal dishes. The attractive 1960s wallpaper continues into the toilet where - thank goodness - at least the toilet has been spoiled a price tag. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Mon, Sun 16:00 - 24:00. (€14 - 18). 🍷 🍴 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Toque Toque A-2, Oudegracht 138, tel. (+31) 302 31 87 87, www.toque.nl. Where Dutch people may have an inclination to get depressed with the changing of seasons (especially in autumn and winter), the chef of restaurant Toque Toque simply loves it. Every four months he surprises his patrons with a new Dutch menu with Mediterranean influences. It's a true pleasure to watch this enthusiastic cook at work in the open kitchen of this monumental building. The interior of the restaurant is a combination of old and new styles, which seem to have been brought together at random, yet somehow complement each other. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. (€18 - 22). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Ethiopian

Sunshine C-3, Pauwstraat 11, tel. (+31) 302 23 25 25, www.ethiorest.nl. Up for something different? Enjoy eating with your hands? Especially off someone else's plate? Then try Sunshine, because this Ethiopian restaurant makes very few concessions to Dutch cuisine. Whatever you order from the menu will end up in small heaps on a large *enjera* (sourdough pancake), which you eat off of together with your friends in a brotherly manner until the restaurant staff drags you away from the table for an African dance. The vegetables, lamb and lentil puree are well-spiced, but given its price the *enjera* could use some more toppings. ▶ Open 16:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (€13 - 15). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Fast food & Quick eats

Doner66 B-2, Vismarkt 22. You'll have to shell out a hefty €6 for a kebab with Turkish bread instead of the usual store-bought pita at this multicultural fast food joint. If the meat was a bit spicier, the bread a bit fresher and the sauce wasn't rationed, we would seriously consider coming back. Right now the vegetarian pizzas are a much better option and the salad bar also looks tempting. That said, the outside seating offers a great vantage point for people watching. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 05:00. (€4 - 8). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Javaans Meisje B-2, Vinkenburgstraat, tel. (+31) 634 28 25 23. If you don't have time for an extensive lunch and if you don't feel like eating the Dutch, deep-fried junk, you can always go to Javaans Meisje. This fixed stand on the corner of the Vinkenburgstraat and Neude is the ideal place for a quick meal. Rinia and Bob have been running the show here for two decades and they specialise in fresh Surinamese and Indonesian sandwiches. Twelve different, large sandwiches with exotic fillings such as shrimp, black-eyed peas, bakkeljauw (dried fish) and roti are sold at great speed to hungry passers-by in a rush. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. (€3 - 5). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Manneken Pis B-4, Vredenburg 154-155, tel. (+31) 346 56 20 40, www.mannekenpis.nl. Manneken Pis has already won the 'Best Fries in the Netherlands Award' by Fritopia three times and in Utrecht it has grown to become the unofficial caterer for the shopping masses. The fries are fresh and crunchy and you can choose from no less than 21 types of sauces like Andalusian, green pepper and low-fat mayonnaise. The servings are named after comic book and cartoon characters so watch out for the 'Obelix' which amounts to nearly a kilo of golden potatoes! ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Thu 11:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. (€2 - 5). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

French

Brass B-2, Janskerkhof 19, tel. (+31) 307 60 07 77, www.brass-utrecht.nl. Although we could emphasise that this stylish French restaurant is pricey and that a number of tables have been placed way too close together, we'd rather focus on the fact that Brass has added an incredible venue to Utrecht's growing list of excellent restaurants. The staff consists of professional experts rather than uncaring students who are only interested in a tip they rarely deserve. The classic menu may be small, but the beautifully presented dishes excel in flavour and freshness. Recommended. ▶ Open 16:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon. (€25 - 29). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

Bresson B-3, Oudegracht 214, tel. (+31) 302 32 26 23, www.brasseriebresson.nl. This stylish place has a French-chic theme and a black and white colour scheme that is present in everything from the spotless wait staff and the photos on the wall to the furniture and pretty much everything else in the restaurant. It's a pleasant break from the usual casualness and fusion of styles so typical of Dutch establishments and, more importantly, the chicness isn't reflected in its prices. For as little as €11 you and a friend can get quite an elaborate spread for lunch. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Mon, Tue 12:00 - 24:00, Wed, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. (€16 - 23). 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷



The perfect sunny terrace

Toerisme Utrecht

Culinair Podium B-4, Lange Nieuwstraat 88, tel. (+31) 306 35 08 88, www.culinairpodium.nl. In Utrecht there's only one choice for people who want to eat at the Michelin-star level, but don't fancy the sky-high price tag that usually comes with it: Culinair Podium (Culinary Stage). That's not to say that this place is cheap. Its unusual menu may be quite limited, but the small works of art brought to your table caress your taste buds to create a superior taste sensation. The restaurant also profits from its friendly and knowledgeable staff, although a less minimalistic decor would considerably improve the atmosphere. ▶ Open 17:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. (€35 - 55).

Greek

Bij Mario's J-15, Plantage 1B, tel. (+31) 302 45 99 40, www.bijmarios.nl. The only downside to this restaurant is its remote location. You'll find this authentic Greek eatery tucked away at the far northern outskirts of Utrecht, but free parking is available if you have a car. If the surroundings fail to impress, which would be hard to imagine, just wait for your order to arrive. The food is simply a knockout and the décor is so tacky that's it's fun. Despite the Italian name, the food and surroundings are as Greek as strikes, student riots and Eurozone shenanigans. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (€19 - 23).

Ice cream

Il Mulino B-2, Adelaarsstraat 2-4, tel. (+31) 302 71 74 11, www.ilmulino.nl. Despite the fact that the name of this lovely ice-cream parlour suggests a Mediterranean influence, the setting and the traditionally-made ice-cream could hardly be more Dutch. Where else can you buy ice-cream with flavours like Dutch liquorice and cucumber? This pastel-coloured jewel is situated in the shade of a windmill bearing the same name. Watch the boats pass by the Weerdsingel, armed with our all-time favourite: creamy mascarpone-orange ice-cream. Even people with food allergies will find something to their liking, but bear in mind that Il Mulino is only open from the end of February until October. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00.

Roberto Gelato D-3, Poortstraat 93, tel. (+31) 302 73 31 14, www.lekkerijs.nl. Authentic Italian ice-cream in over 20 flavours, including gluten-free, sugar-free, and fat-free. A popular flavour is 'wittenvrouwen' (yoghurt, honey and sesame), named after the neighbourhood where the ice-cream parlour is situated. The flavour of the week is always a surprise: from ginger to tomato. Admire how Roberto's father and grandfather made ice-cream in Italy in attractive photographs, while you queue to place your order (and the queue can be long!). You can also order ice-cream in advance via the internet or by telephone. Open from mid February till early October. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00.

Indian

Namaskar A-1, Vredenburg 38, tel. (+31) 302 31 04 47, www.restaurant-namaskar.nl. The smile that seems to have been permanently affixed to the faces of all Indians at birth is certainly lacking from the surly staff at Namaskar. Unfortunately that's not the only problem. Usually one of the most appealing elements of this Asian cuisine is the multitude of vegetarian dishes it offers, not to mention its flavourful and spicy curries. You won't find any here. Fortunately, Utrecht has plenty of other Indian restaurants where the chefs aren't afraid to reach for the spice rack. ▶ Open 16:30 - 23:00. (€16 - 20).



Canalside dining is a must in Utrecht Toerisme Utrecht

Indonesian

Asli C-1, Biltstraat 58, tel. (+31) 302 71 13 85. In this restaurant where almost every customer comes for take-away, there are only five tables. So this is not the type of restaurant where you would come to sit down to an extensive five-course meal as it is not much fun to sit down at a wall full of spice jars and tacky Indonesian masks. However, the lack of cosy ambience is more than compensated for by the high quality of the food. There are over 30 dishes with a variety of vegetables, meat and fish on display. Choose eleven dishes and put together your own menu with top favourites such as Telor Bumbu Bali (boiled egg in hot sauce) and Ayam Besenkek (chicken breast in a spicy Indonesian besenkek sauce). ▶ Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sun 13:00 - 20:00. (€6 - 10).


Blaauw B-3, Springweg 64, tel. (+31) 302 34 24 63, www.restaurantblaauw.nl. What many Dutch people consider to be Chinese food - nasi goreng, sateh and so on - really originates from Indonesia, a former colony of the Netherlands. Usually it's cheap, tasteless take-away, but this restaurant has attempted to prepare Indonesian food like haute cuisine. You will be completely satisfied after your meal, because it's so delicious. For the most part it's not too spicy and a bit sweet, which is typical of Javanese cuisine) with lots of soy sauce. The option of a-bit-of-everything (rijstafel) is recommended. The table will be filled with more than thirteen plates, all filled with delicious ingredients! ▶ Open 18:00 - 22:00, Fri 18:00 - 23:00, Sat 17:00 - 23:00, Sun 17:00 - 22:00. (€21 - 26).

International

Aal B-2, Oudegracht aan de werf 159, tel. (+31) 302 33 48 26, www.aalrestaurant.nl. Aal is housed in a small, attractive wharf cellar that offers the dark atmosphere that's so typical of locations like these. You can get a three-course dinner for €22.50 and the seasonal dishes vary from mackerel rillettes with chive-crème fraiche to lamb with risotto and a cheese platter with balsamic-apple syrup. It's also a good place to go for wine aficionados as Aal doubles as a wine bar. ▶ Open 17:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon, Sun. (€17 - 22).

Bis B-2, Lijnmarkt 26, tel. (+31) 302 31 58 31, www.bis-utrecht.nl. This tiny restaurant is situated in a monumental building on the Oudegracht. Its menu is modest but varied and the food is good. Its clientele consists mainly of business people out for lunch and it tends to get very busy which doesn't make it the best place to go if you're in a hurry. But if you have some time to spare, it's worth popping in for a while. Bis also offers high tea and has a wide selection of wines. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (€15 - 20).

Boslust A-3, Marijistraat 31-33, tel. (+31) 302 30 21 36, www.boslust.com. A sense of humour is an important ingredient at Boslust. It's the only explanation for the name of the place, which is misleading to say the least. Even Google couldn't help you understand why the owners chose to call it Boslust, which in Dutch is a common name for restaurants located in forests. The décor is Mediterranean, yet much of the world's cuisine is represented on its international menu. That said, the beef from the Groene Hart of Holland, a thinly populated area in the Randstad, is a pleasant local addition. The menu itself is dominated by corny humour with suggestions to avoid the pellets when eating the goose, not to mention the fish salad's Jaws theme. A bit off-beat, it's not a bad place to visit if you fancy lots of food for a reasonable price. ▶ Open 11:30 - 22:00, Sat 11:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. (€15 - 22).

Filemon en Baucis B-2, Janskerkhof 22, tel. (+31) 302 30 46 04, www.filemonenbaucis.nl. Filemon en Baucis is a good place to meet up with friends for drinks or to sample some simple, yet well prepared examples of world cuisine. Choices range from decent lamb filets to a generous serving of grilled tuna. Wash it all down with one of its local or imported beers, wines and ciders in a stylish, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The female wait staff may be quite young, but they are attentive and certainly seem to know their way around a restaurant. ▶ Open 17:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. (€15 - 18).


Heerenplein B-2, Lucas Bolwerk 1, tel. (+31) 30 231 75 71, www.heerenplein.nl. Its style is modern and the menu which includes ostrich is rather daring. In summer you can sit at the terrace on Heerenplein, in winter at its bar and after 22:00 every Monday, Thursday and at the weekend dancing is permitted in the restaurant section. What more can one wish for in this place located at the edge of the city centre since 1999? Well, for one thing, a diverse clientele. The many resident student hockey teams that frequent the place even get discounts on their beer. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00, Mon, Tue 16:00 - 22:00, Sun 17:00 - 22:00. (€15).


Keuken & Deli B-5, Oosterkade 30, tel. (+31) 302 52 26 17, www.keuken-deli.nl. If you haven't got time to settle in at one of the small tables, but you'd like to enjoy the wide variety of delicious dishes on offer here, you can have Keuken & Deli's food neatly wrapped up to take home, which is unusual for Dutch restaurants. The cosy atmosphere, the open-plan kitchen and the extraordinary menu full of seasonal ingredients are just a few reasons why this trendy venue is so popular. In case you aren't convinced, the stylish black and white décor is yet another. ▶ Open 17:00 - 22:00. (€15 - 19).


Stadskasteel Oudaen A-2, Oudegracht 99, tel. (+31) 302 31 18 64, www.oudaen.nl. The central location may mark it out as a tourist trap, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Oudaen scores points for excellent nouvelle cuisine. And even if it served only water and dry bread, people would come here for the atmosphere anyway. It's by far the most beautiful place in town and the perfect venue to have a drink, eat a light snack, sip some beer or to have an incredible meal for reasonable prices. We highly recommend the huge salads and the mussels, which could hardly be fresher if you caught them yourself. And although Oudaen is almost always packed with people, the attentive staff keep serving food and delicious micro-brewed beer with a genuine smile. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. (€13 - 18).


Italian

Central Park B-5, Oosterkade 18, tel. (+31) 302 51 11 13, www.centralparkutrecht.nl. Since 1853 New York has been the proud location of the world's most famous park. But Utrecht, too, has a Central Park. If you wish to flee from the stress, noise, and bustle of the city for a moment, then this restaurant is the place for you. Try pizzas, pastas and meal salads with your favourite ingredients for a uniform price of €12. A variety of other traditional Italian dishes are cooked in the restaurant's wood-fired oven. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (€12 - 18).


Pronto Pronto! B-2, Schoutenstraat 19, tel. (+31) 302 14 55 52, www.prontopronto.nl. Although many large cities have a Chinatown, Utrecht has a genuine Little Italy, which revolves around the Schoutenstraat. Many shops, restaurants and domestic caterers breathe a Southern European atmosphere into this area and Pronto Pronto, with its open kitchen, is a great place to go if you enjoy truly fresh ingredients and atypical Italian dishes. You won't find a standard pizza or pasta, however, but there is a range of small, original dishes. Save some space for the homemade apple pie with a dash of rosemary. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (All maincourse orders €9,50).


Japanese & Sushi

Kimono C-1, Wittevrouwensingel 44, tel. (+31) 646 38 57 17, www.kimono-utrecht.nl. Although Kimono has been a great success in the nearby town of Hilversum for years, in Utrecht this Japanese restaurant can't seem to get it right. Despite the uplifting efforts of the staff, it's still mainly disorganised and chaotic, while the food is rather bland. The admirable menu deserves credits and ventures far beyond the usual sushi and teppanyaki offerings. The interior, consisting of many warm colors, is definitely worth a visit and is enlivened with lots of Japanese artefacts. ▶ Open 16:00 - 23:00. (€13 - 18).


Sumo A-2, Potterstraat 16, tel. (+31) 307 63 04 60, www.restaurantsumo.com. The first thing you notice in this spacious, centrally located restaurant are the gorgeous *sakura* (cherry blossom) trees. In Japan these delicate flowers are a symbol of the ephemeral beauty of life. Inside, the stylish décor is superb and the *sakura* trees, which are many metres high, are simply fascinating. The staff are also excellent, tirelessly running around to greet each newcomer with a hearty welcome. However, the sushi itself is just average, which was a bit of a let down after such an impressive beginning. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00.



Utrecht's thriving café culture

Toerisme Utrecht



Try to find a seat on Domplein

Theo Leerintveld

Mediterranean

Abrikoos II A-2, Oudegracht 145 - 149, tel. (+31) 302 33 26 16, www.abrikoos.nl. The thing we like most about Abrikoos II, which also has another branch in Rotterdam, is its spaciousness. Most vaulted cellars in Utrecht are completely packed with tables and chairs to pay the exorbitant rents charged by their lucky owners. That said, it seems that the price of the food has also been inflated here, although the gambas and the fish soup were quite good. Vegetarians will also be happy to know that they'll have plenty to order here. The décor is remarkably cosy and varied, but unfortunately that can't be said of the unimaginative and rather bland menu.

► Open 16:30 - 23:00. (€16 - 22).

Mexican

Popocatepetl B-2, Nobelstraat 163, tel. (+31) 302 31 57 19, popo.nl. The colourful contents of Popocatepetl, which occupies two floors and is named after Mexico's most famous volcano, could easily be transferred to a museum of Central American culture. Should you wish to admire all the curiosities collected here, it would probably take you a week to do them any justice. Absorb the multicoloured ambience of paintings, fake cacti, religious depictions and Mexican nick-nacks while eating its staple cuisine of tapachula and fajitas which it's been serving for over 25 years. ► Open 17:30 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 17:00 - 22:00. (€10 - 15).

Moroccan

Salaam Kanaalstraat 124, tel. (+31) 302 96 76 04. Although many prejudices have been perpetrated against Moroccans in Holland recently, if you've ever eaten at Salaam, you've already embraced this North African nation forever. The spice, but not too spicy dishes, the friendly staff and the attractive prices make this authentic Moroccan restaurant a great place to dine. We recommend the starter 'Harira' (celery soup with chickpeas) and the lamb and chicken couscous as a main course. Hungry eaters can go for the 7-course Salaam dinner, which will only set you back €20. ► Open 11:00 - 04:00, Sun 12:00 - 03:00. (€10 - 15).

Organic

Deeg B-3, Lange Nieuwstraat 71, tel. (+31) 302 33 11 04, www.restaurantdeeg.nl. Deeg is a fairly chic restaurant, but not in an awkward kind of way, and one of the few places in town that only serves organic food. In fact, it has it all from *pomodori* biscuits with sauerkraut salad to trout *saltimbocca* with sage butter. You can choose between a fish menu, a meat menu or a vegetarian option and these semi-fixed menus change monthly depending on what vegetables are in season. It's not the cheapest restaurant in town, but it's ideally located and certainly worth the extra few euros. ► Open 17:30 - 22:00. (€20 - 25).

Utrecht apps

Utrecht City Guide app Imagine every scrap of info on Utrecht on your phone. The app lists all kinds of events in Utrecht and also has a map on which every event is easily found, so you know exactly where to go. Also good for finding restaurants, the app is regularly updated with new features and is available for iPhone and Android.

Utrecht Studentenstad Every student activity in Utrecht is brought together in one app. It has a complete list of activities organised especially for students. This way, every Utrecht student knows exactly which parties, events and performances are available in Utrecht. It includes a map and is free for both iPhone and Android users.

Lumapp Use this app in Dutch or English to follow the Trajectum Lumen route of illuminated art through the exceptional Utrecht city centre. At nightfall, this app guides you to 19 works of art by famous national and international light artists. Trajectum Lumen artistically illuminates buildings, streets, canals and bridges and tells a very inspiring story about the city (total distance: 4.3km, duration roughly 1.5 hours). Simply start at number 1 on the map and follow the white dotted line or the drops of light in the ground. Tap left on the *i* for the legend and on a number for more information about the work of art and the artist. Under the 'guide' tab, select a facts wizard for the app to point out special locations and events from the past.

Sporen van Slavernij In 2013 Utrecht commemorates the 300th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht. It's also exactly 150 years ago that slavery was abolished in Holland and its colonies. Utrecht was also complicit in this odious trade, but you can download this app and find out more about this black chapter in Dutch history.

Scoupy Scoupy grants access to a great number of local discount coupons for your iPhone or Android device. Updated regularly with a variety of new offers, Scoupy scoops up unique locally based discount offers that can only be validated by means of the Scoupy app.

Pathé mobiel With this app you have every movie that's currently playing in theatres at your fingertips. You can order your tickets directly via the app and pay with iDeal, PayPal or a credit card. The app is free and available for iPhone and Android.

NLAgen You no longer have an excuse to miss any gig, performance or concert by your favourite artist, group or DJ. This informative app is available for iPhone, Android, BB and Nokia.

In Your Pocket Since 1992 In Your Pocket has been publishing regularly updated, essential guides to an ever increasing number of European cities. The In Your Pocket iPhone application has incorporated all of what has made In Your Pocket the most respected city guide publisher on the continent: accuracy, regular updates, sharp humour, a keen eye for detail and brilliant writing. This is all combined with the power of the iPhone to create Europe's best travel apps.



Good food & drink at De Markt

Toerisme Utrecht

Out of town

Theehuis Rhijnauwen J-16, Rhijnauwenselaan 16, Bunnik, tel. (+31) 306 56 12 85, www.theehuisrhijnauwen.nl. This tearoom/pancake house is located in the middle of a country estate, only a 15-minute bike ride from the city centre and is a perfect setting to stretch your legs and have a hearty meal. For those already sick and tired of cycling everywhere: you can also rent a canoe in the city centre and paddle your way here! In summer the round-trip boats also moor here. Walk five minutes from the Bunnik train station to Van Zijldeef and take bus Nr.43 six minutes to Rhijnauwenselaan and then walk another five minutes. ▶ Open 11:00 - 21:30, Sat, Sun 10:30 - 21:30. (€5 - 10).

Pizza

Bastacosì G-9, Jan van Scorelstraat 28, tel. (+31) 614 28 66 28, www.bastacosì.nl. This restaurant's name is 100% Italian and the blue football strip worn by the chef is a clear signal of his love for Italy's national football team: the Azzuri. But apart from that, Bastacosì is actually very Dutch and down-to-earth. The industrial setting is a far cry from a traditional trattoria and despite the presence of waiters, you're expected to go to the counter yourself to place an order for one of its speciality pizzas. If you fancy dessert as well you can choose one from the fridge, but we recommend the heavenly *panna cotta*, which is more than worth the four euro price tag. ▶ Open 16:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon. (€8 - 13).

Seafood

De Pier G-10, Jan van Scorelstraat 33, tel. (+31) 302 51 09 10, www.restaurantdepier.nl. This seafood restaurant opened its doors in a child-friendly part of East Utrecht in the middle of 2012, so it's no wonder that its customers are largely young yuppies, often accompanied by screaming offspring. Nevertheless, childless couples, bachelors, singles and other bon vivants will also enjoy the Pier. The staff's clothing may border on the alternative, but the waiters are good at their jobs. When the sun shines you can sit on the surrounding terrace and enjoy dishes which can be ordered as small portions or as full meals. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (€18 - 23).

Harbour E-10, Vellinghavenkade 177, tel. (+31) 302 93 75 63, www.harbourutrecht.nl. Although it might not be the most atmospheric of areas yet, this new marina has got a few things going for it. In addition to pretty yachts to admire, it also houses quite an appropriately named seafood restaurant. The terrace is big and catches the sun's rays until sunset, the atmosphere is sophisticated and the food is tasty and affordable. Harbour offers an à la carte menu, a 'catch of the day' and an unlimited jumbo shrimp buffet. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (€13 - 19).

Spanish

Amor A-2, Oudegracht 109, tel. (+31) 302 36 88 05, www.restaurantamor.nl. This terribly decorated tapas restaurant is located in one of Utrecht's many vaulted cellars. That's the only thing we actually like about this place. But as soon as you walk in, you made your first mistake. This Spanish theme restaurant is heavily over priced and besides that portions are way too small. Also the staff is not a bonus. They seem to have more interest in their cell phones than in helping the few costumers who have not been smart enough to avoid this place. ▶ Open 16:00 - 23:00. (€16 - 20).

Surinamese

Sweetie B-1, Predikherenstraat 21, tel. (+31) 302 32 27 24. If interior design and ambience are an essential component to an evening out for you, then you might want to skip this Surinamese/Indonesian eatery. But if it's simple, authentic cuisine you're after then Sweetie might just be the place for you as the food is too delicious to ignore. That said, the menu is so extensive it reads like a boring treatise on tax law, so we recommend you ask the staff for a suggestion as you probably won't want to browse through all 240 dishes! ▶ Open 16:30 - 22:00. Closed Mon. (€10 - 15).

Thai

The Thai Orchid A-5, Balljelaan 17, tel. (+31) 655 37 57 09. Some restaurants are typical takeaways. You won't spend hours at the table with loved ones or family, but rather end up reading the tabloids until your food is ready. The Thai Orchid is one such restaurant. The Buddhas and the lucky cat are somewhat kitsch, but the food is good all the same. You can expect plenty of choice (also for vegetarians), portions that will keep you fed for days and fresh Thai vegetables. The food has been adjusted for Western taste buds and is therefore rather mild, but it can be properly spiced up upon request. ▶ Open 17:00 - 22:00. (€10 - 20).

Turkish

Orkide E-9, Kanaalstraat 66, tel. (+31) 302 93 54 22, www.orkide.nl. Since 1979 Orkide has been a good example of how Turkish immigrants can successfully combine the rich traditions of their culture with Dutch business acumen. This recently renovated restaurant is located in the multicultural district of Lombok and is now run by the third generation of this enterprising family. Many Eurasian objects enhance the décor, while the display cases are full of delicious food. You won't find gourmet food here, but if you enjoy affordable and freshly prepared halal dishes and homemade soups, you won't be disappointed. Save some room for the deliciously sweet Turkish dessert consisting of pumpkin, sesame oil and walnuts. ▶ Open 08:30 - 21:30. (€7 - 12).

Vietnamese

Saigon B-1, Voorstraat 68, tel. (+31) 302 30 49 83. If there was a competition for the restaurant with the most hideous décor in Utrecht, Saigon would be a strong contender. Still, as far as we're concerned, this Vietnamese restaurant is one of the best places to eat in town. Here the food takes central stage, rather than style or arty marketing concepts that have only been invented to generate more turnover. The only problem is that the menu is so extensive that it could take you hours to order. You could of course just close your eyes and choose a dish, because everything is authentic, spicy and delicious. ▶ Open 16:00 - 22:30. (€13 - 18).

Utrecht's café culture is one of the city's best features. Cafés in Utrecht quite often offer much more than just a cup of coffee with pastry or a cup of tea. Most serve soups, salads and sandwiches, so the border between restaurants and cafés is very thin. But have a look at our carefully selected cafés and pick the one that's just right for you, so *Eet smakelijk* (bon appetit)!

Cafés

Bagels and Beans C-1, Biltstraat 60, tel. (+31) 302 71 73 71, www.bagelsbeans.nl. Although every decent sized town has one of these, it's still worth a visit. As the name suggests, it specialises in coffee and bagels and even though you can get the black stuff of a comparable quality in every single café in the city, bagels are not yet an established lunch item in Utrecht. You can build your own bagel and pick the dairy spread, toppings and dressings of your choice, which is a nice touch. Unless you're principally against chains, or bagels for that matter, there's no reason to skip this one. ▶ Open 08:28 - 17:31, Sun 08:58 - 17:02. Also at Amsterdamsestraatweg 302. (€3 - 6).

Daen's Korte Minrebroederstraat 13 - 17, tel. (+31) 302 31 38 23, www.daens.nl. Whether you come here to buy new clothes or just to satisfy your rumbling tummy, Daen's has it covered. The service is also excellent as the friendly and charming lady who runs the place seems to truly enjoy her job. Delicious cakes and pastries are baked here every day including a large selection of savoury treats like lime coconut and pecan pie. On sunny days the outdoor terrace is a lovely place for people-watching, but the dozen or so tables inside are also great for relaxing. You can take a look at the specials of the day on the blackboard behind the bar, but we expect that anything you choose won't be disappointing. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:30. Closed Sun. (€3 - 8).

De Burgemeester B-2, Korte Minrebroederstraat 5, tel. (+31) 302 31 67 56, www.deburgemeester-utrecht.nl. Big as well as small eaters will get what they're looking for in this attractive lunchroom. A local speciality such as Domborentjes (a type of bonbon), muffins and brownies will satisfy any sweet tooth, while richly filled sandwiches, toasts and paninis will satisfy the largest appetites. Every week four fresh, homemade soups are also available. Size does matter here, cause the 900 ml cups are really popular for take-aways. If you'd like to enjoy it on the spot you can do this in one of the cosy corners or on the terrace of De Zaak (close neighbor). ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. (€3 - 5).

De Moestuin H-10, Laan van Maarschalkerweerd 2, tel. (+31) 302 14 48 69, www.moestuinutrecht.nl. On the very spot where monks used to look after the needy, De Moestuin (The Allotment) now offers socially disadvantaged youngsters a job and a place in society. The service might not always be what you would expect of a typical café, but don't worry about it. The food is more than worth the delay and although the menu is limited, every sandwich is delicious. In short, the chef transforms tasty organic ingredients into small works of art. You shouldn't come here for the atmosphere, but if you enjoy unique vegetables and fresh herbs, which have only just been picked in the kitchen's own garden then by all means give it a try. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. (€3 - 7).

De Rechtbank B-3, Korte Nieuwstraat 14, tel. (+31) 302 33 00 30, www.de-rechtbank.nl. One of the best places to enjoy lunch in Utrecht is located less than 100m from Dom Tower. De Rechtbank offers tasty meals in its stylishly decorated space, which features a large reading table covered in newspapers and magazines, photographs hanging on the walls and a view of the gorgeous terrace through its huge windows. The service is excellent and the lunch menu is top-notch. The buffet and the *12 uurtje* are particularly good, but you can't go wrong with the set-menu of sandwiches and salads either. ▶ Open 06:30 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 07:30 - 01:00. (€16 - 20).

Josephine B-4, Tijnstraat 7, tel. (+31) 302 33 14 59. As soon as you walk into this trendy place you're blinded by the beautiful designer interior that's adorned with containers and shelves full of seductively inviting chocolates and colourful macarons. A bit further in the back you'll find a dozen chairs and romantic leather love seats. Time flies at Josephine, which is probably due to the gorgeous view of the Oudegracht and the impressive menu. The crispy sandwiches are fresh and filled to the brim with delicious ingredients like Spanish ham and Tuscan salami. Unfortunately, we would recommend that the manager instruct the adolescent staff to discuss their personal affairs somewhere else. If we wanted to know what teenagers were thinking we'd stay home and watch MTV. ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. (€4 - 7).

Sector 3 B-4, Tijnstraat 9, tel. (+31) 302 31 15 70, www.sector3.nl. The high tea in super trendy Sector 3 is remarkably different, to say the least. You won't find egg or salmon sandwiches here or other predictable snacks, but rather freshly baked Italian bread filled generously with air dried ham and creamy brie. The different types of tea are by no means standard either and the Indian Chai is our absolute favourite. If nothing else, Sector 3 is a paradise for bread lovers. The beautiful vaulted cellar in a former factory decorated in a modern style is the perfect setting for a lazy afternoon. We would, however, appreciate some cushions on the hard benches. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. (€18.50/person).

The Village B-1, Voorstraat 46, tel. (+31) 302 36 94 00, www.thevillagecoffee.nl. The Village is located on the Voorstraat in Utrecht, though it wouldn't be out of place in a trendy neighbourhood in Berlin or New York. The baristas are not only fast, efficient and good at their jobs, but these good-looking, cool gentlemen are also extremely friendly. Apart from a range of quality treats like the homemade cheesecake, music is also an important part of the experience at this special place. If you'd prefer to quietly read the latest gossip from the tabloid press, you might want to look elsewhere, but if you enjoy an artistic atmosphere and lively people there's no better place than the Village. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.



Just follow the spoon to find good food

From standard bars to more mature music clubs and raging discos, Utrecht has no problem providing a good night out. There's a wide selection of cafés at the Neude and more intimate ones at 't Wed, Janskerkhof and the Domplein. A bit further away is the Ledig Erf, which is immensely popular with locals due to the three huge terraces. Also note that this is by and large an easy going city, so don't worry about walking (or cycling) home on your own late at night. Whether you're after a nightclub with face control and scary bouncers, a dingy dive with cheap beer or an underground bar, Utrecht's nightlife scene won't disappoint. The best are of course listed here.

Bars

De Bastard theatercafé B-2, Jansveld 17, tel. (+31) 302 32 25 55, www.debastard.nl. This so-called 'theatre bar' lacks the highbrow frills one might expect. The Bastard frequently organises small-scale theatrical performances and consequently many of the regulars are Utrecht artists meaning pop musicians, actors, travel writers and other layabouts. The interior is modern and spotlights are aimed at little square tables often occupied by students. The busiest evenings are Fridays and Saturdays, so if you'd like to get a seat it would be best to arrive before 22:00. ▶ Open 16:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 03:00. [CC] [L] [M] [S] [W]

De Morgenster B-4, Oudegracht 323, tel. (+31) 302 34 32 06. Beautifully situated by the canal, this café is an ideal place to recover from a long walk through the city. When other bars get packed and crank up the volume during the weekends, the cosy Morgenster still facilitates a good conversation. The small tables, classic interior and good house wine make this place very well suited for romantic tête-à-têtes. We, too, however wonder why a tremendous medieval weapon (a mace) hangs right above the bar. ▶ Open 15:00 - 02:00, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. [L] [M]

Derat B-4, Lange Smeestraat 37, tel. (+31) 302 31 95 13, www.cafederat.nl. This local pub can be a bit intimidating at first. It's an oversized living room, which in the evenings is packed with people who all seem to know each other. Thankfully, the artistic looking people in their thirties and forties who frequent this place are friendly and the atmosphere is good. The main musical theme is pop on vinyl: they play old pop music on the record player, the ceiling is covered in records and the walls are decorated with Top 40 lists from decades ago. ▶ Open 14:00 - 01:00. [L] [M]

De Stadsgenoot B-1, Breedstraat 8, tel. (+31) 302 23 26 29, www.destadsgenoot.nl. Although this pub encourages patrons to play one of its many board games or to take advantage of the dart board, it's not a place where a bloke can make an inappropriate comment to one of the female guests. After all, this is the favourite hangout of the local rugby team, which means that many of the ladies here can literally pack a punch. Guests who come in peace to this former red light district haunt can relax on the vintage furniture or the black bar stools and enjoy one of four beers on draught or one of the one-arm bandits. ▶ Open 15:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri 15:00 - 03:00, Sat 09:00 - 03:00. [CC] [L] [M] [S] [W]

De Tent F-8, Willem van Noortstraat 1, tel. (+31) 302 71 15 79, www.cafedetent.nl. Should this café ever go bankrupt, its enthusiastic owner, Theo, can always turn it into a Museum for Curiosities. This place is chockablock with Elvis Presley memorabilia and other doo-dads. The main eye-catcher is the tree-trunk which is located in the middle of this brown café. Tasty beers are poured from Theo's taps, but anti-smokers should probably give this place a pass. ▶ [M]

Symbol key

[AC] Air conditioning	[CC] Credit cards accepted
[LM] Live music	[TA] Take away
[CF] Child friendly	[FP] Fireplace
[SS] Smoking section	[FD] Facilities for the disabled
[WIFI] Free wireless internet	[PA] Pets allowed

Flater C-4, Oudegracht 140, tel. (+31) 302 32 17 28, www.cafeflater.nl. Looking for a place in Utrecht where other hipsters, youngsters and the like hang out at night? Members of the surf and skateboard club meet at this small, dark café at a near-perfect location along the canals every Monday. An attractive crowd and equally good-looking bar staff listen to indie and electro music here, but either you're in or you're out: for Flater outsiders, it's usually out. ▶ Open 20:00 - 02:00, Thu 17:00 - 02:00, Fri 17:00 - 04:00, Sat 20:00 - 04:00. [CC] [L] [M] [S] [W]

Stichtse Taveerne B-4, Twijnstraat 43, tel. (+31) 302 31 55 55, www.stichtsetaveerne.nl. To say that this place is a pleasant 'games bar' with a cosy, pub-like atmosphere pretty much sums up the Stichtse Taveerne. It's one of the few establishments where you can always find a place to sit and if you're lucky maybe even get a spot on the balcony at the back overlooking the canal. You can play pool, billiards, darts or one of the many board games on offer and smokers who still haven't kicked the habit can indulge their addiction in a separate room. ▶ Open 13:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 13:00 - 03:00. Closed Sun. [M] [CC] [L] [M] [S] [W]

't Hoogt B-2, Hoogt 4, tel. (+31) 302 31 22 16, www.hoogthoreca.nl. The furnishings of this protected, historic building make it immediately clear that this is no ordinary pub. Inside you'll also see large film posters, loads of TV screens and plenty of artistic-looking people playing with their laptops. The majority of 't Hoogt's patrons come for its organic beer or fresh herb tea as a prelude to watching a film in one of three movie theatres. If you're bored, you can always watch passers-by through the vast windows or browse through one of the high-brow literary magazines laying around. The delicious homemade cheesecake alone justifies a visit to this stylish, yet cosy location. ▶ Open 12:00 - 21:00. [M] [CC] [L] [M] [S] [W]



Candlelight and Asian cuisine at Opium Toerisme Utrecht

Casinos & Gambling

Holland Casino Utrecht D-10, Overste den Oudenlaan 2, tel. (+31) 307 50 47 50, www.hollandcasino.nl/utrecht/NL. This stylish casino has plenty of eating and drinking options. Inside you'll find well-known games like poker, roulette, black jack and loads of slot machines and focused gamblers seated in expensive leather chairs doing battle with machines with imaginative names like Rich Girls, King Kong Cash, Outback Jack and Cash Fever. Convenient mini-guides offering quick courses in gambling are available for beginners who don't know the rules. ▶ Open 12:30 - 03:00. Admission: €5, Wednesdays free.

Clubs

EKKO A-1, Bemuurde Weerd WZ 3, tel. (+31) 302 31 74 57, www.ekko.nl. Thanks to various renovations, EKKO has been transformed from a 1980s youth hangout into a proper music club. The concerts do, however, still have an edge and you can expect raging rock bands from the Netherlands and abroad and nights full of alternative electronics like electro and dubstep. Concert tickets rarely cost more than €10. Saturday night is the most popular night at EKKO, when it'll usually play a medley of pop and alternative dance hits, but try to get here before midnight if you want to get inside. ▶ Open 19:30 - 04:00, Sun 20:00 - 24:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed.

Kosten Koper A-2, Loeff Berchmakerstraat 4, tel. (+31) 302 30 42 41, www.kosten-koper.nl. You won't find much choice in the way of food here (the menu offers only three different main dishes), but every Utrecht insider knows the Kosten Koper isn't really about eating. At the weekend the dinner tables are set aside and the place transforms into a mid-sized club - conveniently located in the midst of the city centre - that functions as the last stop for drunk party people. At 03:00 you can find a diverse audience here eyeballing each other and the eyeballing is usually done by lonely 30-something men at young female students. ▶ Open 17:00 - 04:00, Wed 17:00 - 22:30. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun.

Poema A-2, Drieharingstraat 22, tel. (+31) 302 32 26 73, www.clubpoema.nl. On the outside it doesn't look very appealing. Picture a narrow entrance in a back street, with two or three enormous bouncers beside it. But don't give up just yet. Once you make your way one floor down (the club is literally 'underground') you'll find yourself in one of the most beautiful clubs in the city. It's large, well-maintained and has an impressive sound system and is known as a stage for hard electronic music, especially techno music. Over the past years big names in this genre, like James Holden and Sven Väth, have played here. Perhaps its best feature is that everyone is welcome here from students to real working men from Utrecht. ▶ Open Fri, Sat 23:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun.

Tivoli B-2, Oudegracht 245, tel. (+31) 90 02 35 84 86, www.tivoli.nl. Since squatters took possession of this old trade union office at the beginning of the 1980s (and had trouble keeping out the anti-riot squad), Tivoli has changed a lot. Instead of improvised punk parties, this club's programme now has performances by big alternative bands like T indersticks, Kasabian and The National, as well as dance nights such as the nostalgia show '90's Now'. Also legendary is the dancing night 'Pop-O-Matic' on Thursdays which is free for students. For 12 years this evening has been led by one single DJ, St. Paul, who plays anything from soul, pop and hip hop to indie rock. ▶



Nightlife on the Oudegracht

Theo Leerintveld

Winkel van Sinkel A-2, Oudegracht 158, tel. (+31) 302 30 30 30, www.nachtwinkel.nl. First opened as a department store in the early 19th century, this is probably one of the most famous establishments in Utrecht and it caters to all tastes. Even if you don't have money or simply don't feel like nestling in one of the large, lazy lounge chairs, you can still entertain yourself by checking out the neoclassical façade of this imposing building. Security staff is superfluous including the four enormous cast-iron female statues in Greek togas that have been guarding the place since 1839. The club hosts theme nights with names like Beat Gallery, Funky Night and Disco Inferno. ▶ Open Fri, Sat 23:00 - 05:00.

Cocktails & Lounges

Havana B-2, Oudkerkhof 29, tel. (+31) 302 31 50 40, www.havanautrecht.nl. If you walk into Havana around 22:00, it's obvious that the staff are already busy clearing the furniture. Five days a week this large space is magically turned into an attractive dance floor at night with a proper cocktail bar in the corner. However, it's not much more than a small bar with eight rickety stools and one tap (Jupiler). Fortunately, it sells Cuba's finest beer, Palma Cristal, and the general atmosphere of this place is great. While freedom fighter and cult hero Che Guevara benignly watches you, you can also order the usual cocktails for around €7 each, although Havana's most popular drink is the rather dubiously called a Porno Jo. ▶ Open 17:00 - 04:00, Thu, Wed 17:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

Park Plaza Utrecht B-4, Westplein 50, tel. (+31) 302 92 52 00, www.parkplaza.com/utrecht. If you're not actually a guest at this hotel, there are plenty of more attractive options in Utrecht for a drink than Park Plaza's bar. But if you're staying the night at this four-star hotel, there's no reason why you shouldn't take a seat at one of its eight bar stools and order a cocktail. Not only are the prices attractive, but some thought has also been given to the bar's interior. If one of the Belgian beers doesn't quite hit the spot, try some of the small snacks that are listed on the mirror. The *bittergarmituur* (Dutch croquette-like snacks) is large enough to satisfy a whole football team. ▶ Open 07:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 01:00.

Zussen B-2, Korte Jansstraat 23, tel. (+31) 302 33 36 33, www.zussen.com. Not only hip and trendy people will feel at home in this stylish bar. Parents, too, can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that their children are in safe hands in the play area. While the kids are entertaining themselves in the ball pool or watching a Disney film, mum can flirt with one of the cool bartenders. Reminiscent of Tom Cruise in his best days, these quick young men prepare flashy drinks with flair. Every Tuesday night after 21:00 this place turns into a Tango bar. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Gay Utrecht

Bodytalk A-1, Oudegracht 64, tel. (+31) 302 31 57 47, www.bodytalk.org. For almost 25 years, Bodytalk has been Utrecht's one and only 'real' gay bar. You'll find students, lawyers and refuse collectors in this their home-away-from-home where everyone knows each other's names. It's like the TV series *Cheers*, only the postal workers and psychiatrists are gay. On weekends from 18:00 - 19:00 the bar is packed for happy hour when only Dutch music is played. After a few beers you'll enjoy it more and more and soon enough you'll find yourself singing along even if you don't speak the language. ▶ Open 16:00 - 01:00, Thu 16:00 - 02:00, Fri 16:00 - 04:00, Sat 15:00 - 04:00, Sun 15:00 - 01:00. ☎ 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺

Cafe Kalf A-1, Oudegracht 47, tel. (+31) 302 31 09 19, www.cafekalf.nl. Cafe Kalf is a perfect addition to the vibrant homo scene in Utrecht. Before you move on to the dance floors of places like enSuite and the monthly Pann evenings, take a detour into Kalf - the ideal warm-up to a night out. This long, narrow pub located directly opposite the ever-horny Bodytalk is so small that you're forced to make contact with everyone else in the place. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere in this intimate locale that sports a stylish décor of attractive stained glass windows, leather seats, pink cushions, industrial lights and a tiny dance floor that complements its surroundings. Holland's Queen Beatrix and Argentinian-born Crown Princess Maxima smile approvingly from their framed portraits on the wall. ▶ Open 15:00 - 01:00, Thu, Fri 15:00 - 02:00, Sat 14:00 - 02:00, Sun 14:00 - 01:00. 📍 📞 📺 📺

Live music

Boothill Saloon B-4, Twijnstraat 5, tel. (+31) 302 30 06 31, www.boothillsaloon.nl. Real rock enthusiasts only have one option in Utrecht: Boothill Saloon. When the waitresses aren't dancing on top of the pool table, this brownish bar is an ideal place for a couple of beers. Your drinking buddies will most likely be groupies, old hippies and heavily tattooed music fanatics. If you still need some more information before committing to a visit, the ceiling offers plenty to look at including dozens of hanging boots. ▶ Open 14:00 - 02:00, Fri 12:00 - 04:00, Sat 14:00 - 05:00, Sun 15:00 - 02:00. 📍 📞 📺 📺

't Oude Pothuys B-3, Oudegracht 279, tel. (+31) 302 31 89 70, www.pothuys.nl. Tiny, but full of atmosphere, this place has been a must visit for people into live music since 1976. The century-old corner house has a gig on every single night of the week, ranging from jazz, to DJs and open mic nights. Unfortunately, the space is so confined that loud sounds in a closed cellar can be a bit overwhelming, but that's nothing that its massive range of beers and picturesque atmosphere can't make up for. Also a good place for a simple (and dirt cheap) meal. ▶ Open 12:00 - 03:00, Mon, Tue 14:00 - 03:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺



Colourful graffiti at Rivierenbuurt

Pool, snooker & Billiards

King Arthur A-2, Oudegracht 101-103, tel. (+31) 302 31 11 26, www.kingarthur-utrecht.nl. It's not the best pool bar in Utrecht, but it is without a doubt the most picturesque. When one considers the great view of the Oudegracht, it probably isn't that important if you play well or if you get one of the coveted pool tables. You'll no doubt enjoy yourself no matter what in this spacious, distinctive upstairs pub. ▶ Open Mon 11:00 - 23:00, Tue, Wed 10:00 - 24:00, Thu 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. (€9/hour). 📍

Ozebi Snooker en Lazer C-1, Biltstraat 4, tel. (+31) 302 73 50 00, www.ozebi.nl. Utrecht's most popular billiards joint is on the eastern edge of Old Town in a hidden courtyard just off Biltstraat. Situated in a former swimming pool, *Ozebi* is more like an architectural showpiece than a giant hall where youngsters play pool and snooker. With 10 pool tables, 13 snooker tables and four shuffle tables there's enough entertainment for everyone. Apart from the sport there's also a bar serving 'hip' beers like *Desperado*, *Corona* and the *longneck* version of Heineken. Tables are often busy, but waiting your turn isn't such a bad thing in these beautiful surroundings. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00. 📍 📞 📺 📺

Pubs

ACU B-1, Voorstraat 71, tel. (+31) 302 31 45 90, home@acu.nl, www.acu.nl. Many Utrechters are a bit uneasy when it comes to squatters. Prejudices prevail. But a pub with an adjoining nightclub such as ACU, which was started decades ago in a squatted car workshop, shows that this fear is unfounded. ACU has delicious and cheap organic beer, an eccentric concert programme (punk, queer nights, chiptune, etc.) and a great atmosphere. The only downside: there's no supervised cloakroom and things do get stolen, so keep an eye on your things, or someone might squat in your new coat. ▶ Open Tue 18:00 - 22:00, Wed 18:00 - 24:00, Thu 18:00 - 03:00, Fri 21:00 - 04:00, Sat 23:00 - 04:00, Sun 18:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon. 📍 📞 📺 📺

De Poort B-5, Tolsteegbarrière 2, tel. (+31) 302 31 45 72, www.eetcafedeport.nl. An all-time favourite with people from all walks of life from students to construction workers and everyone in between, this bar/café/restaurant doesn't offer much in the way of interior design, but has plenty of board games, a large selection of Belgian beer on draught and modestly priced dishes like pumpkin risotto and suckling pig salad. Another reason for its popularity is the outdoor café, which is probably one of the busiest in town on summer days. ▶ Open 11:00 - 02:00, Mon, Sun 11:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 03:00. (€13 - 15). 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺

Eigen Schuld C-2, Nachtegaalstraat 29b, tel. (+31) 629 56 24 26, www.eigen-schuld.nl. Eigen Schuld is an authentic local pub where you can enjoy a good drink and a meal for a reasonable price. The menu offers lots of popular favourites like steak, satay and cheese burgers and many of the 25 beers it serves can also be found in the dishes. In fact, many of the meats have been marinated in ales. Musicians who've forgotten their instruments yet feel like jamming can take their pick of instruments from the walls where you'll find enough brass to supply an orchestra. On Sundays the regulars are replaced by a more rowdy crowd of hockey and football players who come here from their nearby sports canteens to enjoy the third half. ▶ Open 16:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 03:00. 📍 📞

Olivier A-2, Achter Clarenburg 6a, tel. (+31) 302 36 78 76, www.cafe-olivier.nl. Looking like a two a penny city residence, first time visitors are in for a real surprise when they walk inside. Olivier is situated in an old religious meeting hall, complete with high ceilings and organ loft. The café owes its popularity to its original setting and the fact that it serves an incredible selection of more than 40 Belgian beers. You can also order mussels, Belgian chicken casserole and of course typical Belgian chips with mayonnaise. The staff is generally friendly, but sometimes you get overlooked in the midst of the crowds. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Mon 11:00 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 22:00. 

Stadskasteel Oudaen A-2, Oudegracht 99, tel. (+31) 302 31 18 64, www.oudaen.nl. The Proeflokaal (tasting room) is the most eye-catching space in this charming castle. Where troubadours once entertained medieval patrons with their attractive songs, locals now enjoy six different draught beers. In fact, the four house beers, which are brewed in the cellars, constantly flow from the taps upstairs. Historic chandeliers, 7m-high walls and six massive windows also welcome you at Utrecht's oldest pub. With all the things to look at, you almost forget that you can order a meal here or just have a drink like everyone else. Our recommendation? Try the Ouwe Daen. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00. (€20 - 22). 

Tilt B-2, Lange Jufferstraat 62, tel. (+31) 302 31 66 29, <http://www.cafetilt.nl/>. At the start of the century this pub was a place to hang out for hip hop artists from Utrecht and their friends, but in the meantime the pub has become rather mainstream. When the tables are moved to the side at half past ten in the evening in order to create a dance floor, these days the DJ plays tasteful house and other easily digestible dance music. The crowd here is young and hip; you'll find many urban professionals and the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. What is exceptional is that at the Tilt you receive service at your table, something which is quite rare in pubs in Utrecht. ▶ Open 15:00 - 02:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 04:00. 

Irish pubs

Mick O'Connell's B-2, Jansdam 3, tel. (+31) 302 36 84 66, www.mickoconnells.nl. There's nothing like a visit to an Irish bar when you're on holiday. Located in the centre of town, this pub represents the heart of Utrecht's international student life with the inevitable fish and chips and Guinness on the menu, rugby matches on the plasma screen TVs and English-speaking staff. The place tends to get very busy in the late evenings, so you might want to get here early. Friendly service, and a wide selection beer (Guinness, Murphy's Red, Heineken, Strongbow Cider to name a few) make this venue a winner. A guaranteed source of phone numbers and hangers come with the 'Irish' experience... ▶ Open 16:00 - 04:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 04:00. (€8 - 13). 

O'Leary's A-1, Adelaarstraat 23, tel. (+31) 302 71 36 80, www.olearys-utrecht.com. In this pub, just outside the city centre, Irish pride seems to be more alive than in similar bars in the city. Irish sports scarves hang from the ceiling and on the wall you'll find paper clippings about a massive victory by the Irish rugby team over their English arch-enemies. And there is no escaping the Kilkenny and Guinness ads which cover any free space. This improves the atmosphere, as does the hearty pub food, the dartboard and the wide screen TV for sporting events that aren't broadcast on Dutch television. The public is varied including locals, but also quite a few English-speaking tourists and students. ▶ Open 16:00 - 01:00, Fri 16:00 - 02:00, Sat 14:00 - 02:00, Sun 14:00 - 01:00. (€8 - 13). 



Try one of Utrecht's lively terraces

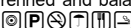
Theo Leerintveld

Student clubs

Jij & Wij B-1, Voorstraat 96, tel. (+31) 302 32 27 52, www.cafelijenwijn.nl. Unsuspecting passers-by would never guess that one of Utrecht's greatest student bars is hidden behind the facade of 96 Voorstraat. In fact, the storefront is more reminiscent of a hairdresser's. Anyone curious enough to see what Jij & Wij has to offer, first needs to survive the irritating Western-style swing doors at the entrance. The regulars of this establishment, who can come up with a reason to party any night of the week, consist mainly of gents belonging to the student union and blond hockey girls. But you'd best leave your good shoes at home as the mush on the floor tends to stick. Once at the bar, the décor with its red and blue walls isn't much to look at, so feast your eyes on one of the beers on draught. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00, Sun 09:00 - 04:00. 

Ouwe Dikke Dries A-1, Waterstraat 32, tel. (+31) 621 58 60 02, www.ouwedikkedries.nl. Nicknames are fairly common in the Netherlands and this popular pub owes its odd name to a former proprietor known as *D'n Dikke Dries* (Old Fat Dries) because of his corpulent build. Nowadays it's a hit with students during the week and at the weekend locals from Wijk C come here in droves. In spite of its small dimensions, the furnishings offer plenty of entertainment. The historical photographs and numerous beer adverts on the wall are worth a closer look, but the two one-armed bandits should probably be ignored. This may also be the only pub in Holland with more disco lights on the ceiling than square metres of floor space. ▶ Open 15:00 - 02:00, Sat 15:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon, Sun. 

Wine bars

Wijncafe Lefebvre B-2, Neude 2, tel. (+31) 302 00 02 25, www.wijncafelefebvre.nl. The walls of this trendy wine bar are decorated with remarkable comments by celebrities from the past. One of these wise quotes by Shakespeare may just inspire you to aim for a higher intellectual level of discourse with your friend or neighbour, although the delicious wines will no doubt silence you now and again. Indeed, we have rarely encountered such fabulous wines when dining in Utrecht's city centre. The comfortable bar stools and matching tables create an ideal atmosphere to start the night off sipping and tasting. The menu is on the small side, but it offers a refined and balanced selection. ▶ Open 15:00 - 01:00. 

Most of the city's historical sights - wharves, churches and monuments - are concentrated in a relatively small area that makes up the old town centre. This means that a full day and a good pair of walking shoes is all you need to cover most of the main sights. However, with inviting cafés every few meters, a couple of large parks that offer aimless wandering and lots of photogenic old buildings, you could spend the better part of a week exploring and still find something new around every corner.

Essential Utrecht

Catharinje Convent B-3, Lange Nieuwstraat 38, tel. (+31) 302 31 38 35, www.catharinjeconvent.nl. Located in a beautiful old building, St. Catherine's Convent Museum invites visitors to discover the past and present of Christianity in the Netherlands. According to us the best religious museum outside the Vatican! View a truly amusing collection of paintings in which Protestants and Catholics mock one another while trying to convince the other side that their view of Christianity is the correct one. For children the interactive presentation "Feest! Weet wat je viert" ("Feast! Know what you are celebrating") is worth a look and adults will find the medieval altar dating back to 1410 of particular interest. This place is definitely worth a detour, wherever you are when reading this. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: €12.

Museum Quarter B-3 & B-4 & C-3 & C-4, Utrecht city centre. The Museum Quarter is the historical centre of the city of Utrecht. This part of the city is famous for its small estates, courtyards, medieval houses, churches, galleries, museums, restaurants and terraces. Discover beauty, history, art and culture in Utrecht's very own treasure chamber. All of the city's essential museums can be found here. ▶

Rietveld Schröder House H-9, Prins Hendriklaan 50, tel. (+31) 302 36 23 10, rheserveringen@centraalmuseum.nl, www.rietveldschroederhuis.nl. The best way to visit the Rietveld Schröder House is on a specially designed Rietveld-bicycle, which you can rent at the ticket desk of the Central Museum. You won't believe your eyes in the only house that has ever been erected according to the principles of Neoplasticism. You'll find yourself face to face with basic colours such as red, blue and yellow, typical of De Stijl (The Style), combined with white, grey and black. According to Gerrit Rietveld and Truus Schröder, who commissioned the house, man has to take an active approach in life and this is why every activity in the house requires a certain prior action. By folding open a wall you gain access to the bathroom and by shifting other walls you screen off the sleeping areas. We recommend you reserve a tour in advance as the house supports only a limited number of visitors. ▶ Open 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission: €11 which is also valid (on the same day) for the Central Museum and the Dick Bruna Huis.



The city by night: Trajectum Lumen Merijn van der Vliet

Symbol key

	Air conditioning		Credit cards accepted
	Live music		Take away
	Child friendly		Fireplace
	Smoking section		Facilities for the disabled
	Free wireless internet		Pets allowed

Trajectum Lumen A-1, tel. (+31) 302 86 00 00, www.trajectumlumen.nl. As soon as the sun sets, Trajectum Lumen comes to life. This route will take you - 365 days a year - along artistically illuminated bridges, churches and canals within the city centre. Download a free route map, pick one up from the tourist information office or just follow the orange lights embedded in the road. Following the map, you'll walk from Vredenburg to the Mariaplaats in about an hour. Spend a few minutes at (#8) along the route and enjoy the changing light show which livens up the otherwise dark niche. Don't forget to take a peek through the gate at St. Willibrord's (#6), where the inside of the church has been projected ingeniously onto its entrance. Sounds abstract? See for yourself! Not all light projects as spectacular as the website promises, but the route does serve as a beautiful guideline for an attractive evening stroll with just that little bit extra. ▶ Guided tour every Saturday night for €10/person at 20:30 beginning at VVV Domein.

Treasury Domein B-2, Domein 9, tel. (+31) 302 36 00 10, www.domein2013.nl. 2000 years of history come to life in the Treasury, or Schatkamer, in the medieval cellars underneath the Dom Square. With new, audio-visual techniques, a stone wall tells its story in front of an audience. In the DIY cellar, visitors can browse through the past and the future of the square. One of the attractions of this one hour tour is the Roman wall, of which large parts were discovered during the building renovations. ▶ Open 11:45, 13:45, 15:45, Sat 11:45, 13:45, 14:45, 15:45, Sun 12:00, 13:45, 15:45. Closed Mon. Admission: adults €8, children 4 - 12 €4.50.


Boat trips

De Rijnstroom J-16, Weg naar Rhijnauwen 2, tel. (+31) 302 52 13 11, www.rijnstroom.nl. Had enough of the hectic city? You can depart from the Rijnstroom in a canoe, kayak or rowboat and in no time you'll find yourself in the beautiful Ameliszweerd Nature Reserve with nothing but fields and forests for as far as the eye can see. You can also head over to the city's canals, but watch your head when passing beneath low bridges! Real daredevils can even go on nighttime canoe trips. Waterproof containers and lifejackets are included, but bear in mind that only cash is accepted. Avoid queues by going in the morning or in the evening. Take bus No.12 from the Central Station and exit after 10 minutes at Krommerijn. ▶ Open 09:30 - 21:00, Sun 09:30 - 20:00. Prices: from €4/hour. Open May - September.


Rederij De Ster A-1, Oudegracht aan de Werf 67, tel. (+31) 302 72 01 11, www.rederijdester.nl. De Ster (The Star) is the only boat company that can reach the most picturesque canal, the Nieuwegracht, but unfortunately its electric boats only depart daily from May to August. Their tours are a bit longer than the other tours (1.5 hours), which probably explains the higher prices. ▶ Open 11:00, 13:00, 14:30, 16:00. Admission: adults €11.50, children (4-12 years) €8.50.




Look for sculptures along Utrecht's canals Toerisme Utrecht


Schuttevaer A-2, Oudegracht t/o 85, tel. (+31) 302 72 01 11, www.schuttevaer.com. Schuttevaer is the oldest canal boat company in town and has been ferrying tourists and locals around for 50 years. The one-hour trip through the city's unique canal system is a must see in Utrecht. The well maintained boats are completely covered and have a heating system for the winter months, but the roof panels and the side windows are opened during the summer. There are many stops along the way where you can hop off or get on and it also offers tours of the River Vecht, the Kromme Rijn and the Hollandse IJssel. Our favorite trip out of the city is the one and a half hour boattour on the Kromme Rijn towards Rhijnauwen, a beautiful nature area. There you have 2,5 hour leisure time for walking or relaxing, before heading back to the canals of Utrecht. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Admission: adults €9.20, children (4-12 years) €6.80. Return boat trips to Rhijnauwen: €16.25, children (4-12 years) €11.25. 

Sloepjehuren utrecht.nl H-10, Blauwe Vogelweg 23, tel. (+31) 613 64 50 92, info@sloepjehuren utrecht.nl, www.sloepjehuren utrecht.nl. Right in the heart of the beautiful Dutch countryside near the FC Utrecht football stadium, you can rent a boat and take to the area's waterways. This company rents boats from its picturesque location on the outskirts of the city and all boats are powered by environmentally friendly electricity. Even without any experience, they're easy to navigate, so why take a canal boat tour when you can rent your own boat and ferry around your friends? You don't even need a licence to drive these electric powered vessels!

▶ Boat rental: three hours for €79; full day €178. 

Buildings

Academiegebouw B-2, Domplein 29, www.uu.nl. Utrecht University's headquarters are located in a beautiful building on the corner of Domplein. The building dates from 1891 and it was built to celebrate the university's 250th anniversary. During the years prior to construction, a large discussion took place between advocates of neo-Gothic architecture, a style that complemented the Dom Tower, and supporters of the neo-Renaissance school, a style that better symbolised the concept of science and progress. Eventually, the latter argument won and the Academy Building was erected in neo-Renaissance style. Inside you can see walls decorated with photographs of prominent professors. It's also interesting to note that in 1579, the Treaty of Utrecht was signed in a room attached to the building. ▶ 



De Ster D-9, Molenpark 3, tel. (+31) 302 99 01 74, www.houtzaamgolen-de-ster.nl. This mill, which dates back to 1722, has a turbulent history that ultimately led to its destruction. Between 1996 and 1998 the mill was completely rebuilt and now each Saturday you can witness age-old activities here - providing the the wind cooperates. ▶ Open Sat 13:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun. 



Utrecht's hidden gardens

Anyone who has ever climbed to the top of the Dom tower knows that Utrecht is littered with loads of green spaces and we're not just talking about the city's parks. The heart of downtown Utrecht is filled with gardens, too. Although some of these picturesque spaces are open to the public, most are privately owned and are hidden behind high walls or buildings cut off from Utrecht's residents and visitors. However, once a year the city hosts Open Tuinendag (Open Garden Day), when locked gates are thrown open and passers-by are allowed to view the wonders beyond. The centre of Utrecht is actually full of urban courtyard gardens, many of which represent impressive feats of landscaping. On Saturday, June 29, 2013, during the third edition of this annual spectacle, everyone is invited to discover these unique pieces of the city's history. Some are large and others are small and privately owned, while some gardens belong to institutions hidden in forgotten courtyards. Some offer sober architecture, while others boast manicured lawns, statues and ponds.



Every year on Open Tuinendag Utrecht roughly 40 of these mysterious spaces are opened to the public between 10:00 - 17:00, but bear in mind that you have to purchase a ticket first that includes a programme containing a description of each location and a handy map. A festival pass costs €12.50 per person and can be bought at the Utrecht Tourist Information Centre (VVV Utrecht) at Domplein 9-10. You can pre-order tickets by phone tel. 0900 128 87 32 or via email at info@opentuinendagutrecht.nl. Reservations are recommended! Visit www.opentuinendagutrecht.nl for more information.




De Zeven Steegjes B-4, Kockstraat. The Seven Streets (De Zeven Straatjes) owe their fame to their simplicity. In 1852, the Catholic Poverty Organisation began building hundreds of simple houses. Although the houses were strictly meant for Roman Catholic families with many children that were dependent on charity. The city's population density in those years was high and there was a realistic fear of a breakout of contagious diseases such as cholera. So it didn't come as a surprise that the government started making demands for the building of houses. The houses on the Seven Streets did not have their own toilets, nor did they have kitchens; nevertheless, they were incredibly modern for those times. The Korte Rozendaal, Lange Rozendaal, Kockstraat, Brouwerstraat, Boogstraat, Moutstraat, Suikerstraat and Fockstraat all managed to retain their working class neighbourhood characteristics. ▶  


Grand Hotel Karel V A-3, Karel van Geertebolwerk 1. In 1348, the Teutonic Order built a monastery within the city walls. Over the centuries important international bigwigs stayed the night here, before King William I turned the monastery into a military hospital. In 1989 the military departed and squatters took possession of the building. It was then converted into the current five-star Hotel Karel V, an ideal place to have a drink and ponder its regal past. ▶  







Paushuizen B-3, Kromme Nieuwgracht 49, tel. (+31) 302 31 23 81, www.paushuizen.nl. Paushuizen (Pope House) is a Renaissance building with Gothic influences and its name comes from the Holland's only pope: Adrian VI. The religious leader had this house built in 1517, even though he never lived there himself. For centuries it was a governor's residence and today it has mostly a representative function. A house that is as great and old as Paushuizen naturally carries a plethora of wild ghost stories. One staircase in the cellar leads to a closed wall. The story goes that the soul of Hortense, wife of King Louis Bonaparte, lives behind this wall and sometimes comes out to haunt the building. The combination of red brick and lighter natural stone, as well as the striking stepped gable, make this historic building noteworthy. ▶  

Rijn en Zon Windmill F-8, Adelaarstraat 30. Just under 100 years ago, the Netherlands boasted over 10,000 windmills. This invention, which was originally Japanese, is now internationally associated with Holland. Unfortunately, less than 1,000 are left, a few dozen in the Utrecht region. One of the most beautiful ones, called Rijn en Zon (Rhine and Sun), was originally located somewhere else. During World War II, this mill from 1745 played an important role for Utrecht inhabitants who had managed to grab hold of a bag of flour. During a storm on 1 March 1949, the mill was damaged and became unusable, and during another storm in 1965, more parts of the gallery came down. In the 1960s, there were plans to demolish the mill, but after the municipality bought it in 1974, it was finally restored. Today the mill still frequently turns and it is sometimes even used to grind flour. ▶ Open, Sat 10:00 - 11:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun.  

Stadhuis Utrecht A-2, Oudegracht. In other cities, the city hall is simply a building, but in Utrecht the local city hall is a collection of buildings at the Stadhuisbrug (bridge), which crosses the Oudegracht. The current building complex is the result of countless renovations over the centuries. Various statue groups symbolise the functions of the city council: Justice, Vigilance, Authority, Policy and Faith. During the latest renovation, Spanish architect Enric Miralles turned the complex into what it is now. Not much remained of the neo-classicist building apart from the outer walls and the entrance hall. Miralles did add new parts to the rear of the complex in a deconstructivist style. ▶ 

Churches

Buurkerk B-2, Buurkerkhof 10. The Buurkerk has always been the largest and wealthiest parish church in Utrecht, which is why so many famous people have been buried here over the centuries. Unfortunately, the church is largely hidden by surrounding buildings and it can therefore only be seen clearly from a few locations. Since 1984 this former house of worship has been the National Museum Speelklok (from Musical Clock to Street Organ). It was the oldest of the town's four medieval parish churches and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The Buurkerk most likely originated in the tenth century in the Stathe trade quarter, but the church was burned to the ground no less than four times in subsequent city fires. After the last fire, a new church arose: an early Gothic basilica, of which the characteristic 56m-high tower still exists. ▶ Admission free. 



Domkerk B-2, Achter de Dom 1, tel. (+31) 302 31 04 03, www.domkerk.nl. The Dom Church draws large crowds for daily guided tours or just a moment of silence and peace. Construction of the Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral began in 1284 and took almost 250 years to complete. It replaced a previously existing Romanesque cathedral piece by piece. The ambulatory, the rest of the choir, the tower, the transept and the nave were built in succession. But by the beginning of the 16th century influences of the Renaissance and the Reformation led to dwindling financial support and enthusiasm for the colossal project. This is the reason why the nave was never completely finished. Its planned brick vaults and buttresses of sufficient height never came to fruition which ultimately led to disaster. In 1674 Utrecht was hit by a freak tornado and the nave of the cathedral collapsed. The last of the debris was only cleared away in 1826. Although the city fathers even considered demolishing the church completely for a time, it was eventually restored several times during the 19th and 20th centuries. The most recent restoration of the church took place between 1979 and 1988. The decorations of the facade were restored and the church pews rearranged. Despite all of the trials and tribulations the church has endured over the centuries, it's still famous throughout the Netherlands due to its 112.3m-high making it the nation's tallest cathedral spire and the city's tallest building. Church services are held Sunday (10:30 and 19:00), Monday (07:00), Wednesday (19:00) and a noon prayer on working days (12:30). ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:30, Sun 14:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission free.      




Utrecht by night

Merijn van der Vliet

Jacobikerk A-1, St. Jacobsstraat 171, tel. (+31) 302 31 78 62, www.jacobikerk.nl The Jacobikerk is one of four medieval parish churches in Utrecht. Although the largest part of the building originates from the 15th century, some sections date back to the 13th century. This impressive Gothic church also boasts the oldest sundial in the Netherlands (1463) as well as some colourful frescoes. The oak pulpit and the copper choir screen are also worth mentioning. Today its 900 seats are occupied by a Protestant congregation during services. ▶  

Janskerk B-2, Janskerkhof 26, tel. (+31) 302 32 16 16, www.janskerkutrecht.nl The oldest part of the Janskerk was built in the 11th century as one of the five collegiate churches which, together, form the Utrecht cross of churches. Until the first half of the 16th century, the architecture of the Janskerk was completely Romanesque. In 1656 the Janskerk was given to a reformed protestant flock, but temporarily served as a military barracks for Russian and Prussian soldiers in the war against Napoleon. It was later used for storage and eventually fell in to disrepair. The choir was finally restored in 1947 and three decades later a new roof tower completed. The church is currently used by the EUG (Ecumenical Student Community of Utrecht), which hosts a service every Sunday at 11:00. ▶ Open Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Sun. Admission free.  

Sint Augustinuskerk A-2, Oudegracht 69, tel. (+31) 302 31 85 45, www.deaugustinus.com For more than 160 years St. Augustine's Church has been a prominent feature of the Oudegracht in Utrecht. Everyone can visit this church for a silent prayer, to light a candle in the Chapel of Our Lady or just to have a look at the interior. The church is home to a vibrant community of believers and mass is held in Dutch every day. English speakers can participate in Holy Mass in English every Sunday at 12:30. ▶ Open 09:30 - 16:30, Sun 10:30 - 16:30. Admission free. 

Sint Catharinekerk B-3, Lange Nieuwstraat 36, tel. (+31) 302 31 85 45, www.dekathedraal.com St. Catherine's is part of a medieval monastery, which also houses the Catherine's Convent Museum. The Carmelites of Utrecht began building a monastery here in 1468, but since 1529 its church has been dedicated to the patron saint Catherine of Alexandria. The Reformation was disastrous for the church and the Catholic faith was completely forbidden later in 1580. The convent lay in ruins until a large-scale renovation project was undertaken in 1955. Based on drawings from 1636 by Pieter Saenredam, the church was largely purged of its Gothic attire, which explains its rather sober interior today. ▶ Admission: free. 

Sint Willibrordkerk B-2, Minrebroederstraat 21, tel. (+31) 302 31 32 17, www.sintwillibrorduskerk.nl Most Dutch churches didn't have to take their surroundings into consideration when they were built. St. Willibrord's Church is a remarkable exception. When it was constructed in 1875 the builders had to take its limited space into account. The result is a church which is much shorter than similar buildings, but also much taller. As far as we're concerned this house of worshipping is the best neo-Gothic church in the Netherlands), which is a city of churches and locals often call it the Big Heavenly Secret. The bountiful inventory of its medieval décor includes three magnificent carved altars and refined woodwork. The light that enters the space via the beautiful stained-glass windows gives the church a mystical quality and the Gregorian chanting at Sunday services bolsters this effect. The acoustics are otherworldly given that the walls are 27m high. ▶ Open Fri 13:30 - 16:00, Sat 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun. Open Fri 13:30 - 16:00, Sat 11:00 - 16:00. Guided tours at 11:30 and 14:00: €5/person. 

Royal changes

On April 30, 2013, the Netherlands will once again have a king on the throne: King Willem-Alexander. For the first time in 123 years a man will be the head of the Dutch monarchy. This also means an end to 33 years of Queen Beatrix's reign. The popular 75-year-old head of state will step down, which makes her only the third monarch ever to abdicate in Holland. Usually the accession to the throne is usually regarded as a divine process, which doesn't occur until the previous king or queen has died. But Prince Willem-Alexander has already chosen the title of King Willem-Alexander. He is married to his Argentinian spouse Maxima and they have three children: Amalia, Alexia and Ariane.





In contrast to his famous forefathers who were the face of royalty in Holland until 1890, the eighth Dutch monarch didn't choose the expected title of King William IV. This is perhaps a symbolic break with the past as his three male predecessors had dubious reputations. King William I (1815 - 1840) is still mainly remembered as the man who enriched himself at the expense of the treasury, while King William II (1840 - 1849) was a notorious party animal. Unfortunately, he never dared to publicly admit his homosexuality. William III (1849 - 1890) really took the cake. His rather inelegant nickname was 'King Gorilla', a not very flattering pet name he earned with his outlandish public tantrums. He was a stranger to democratic manners and he regularly suggested that government ministers should be executed.

The four women (Emma 1890 - 1898), Wilhelmina (1890 - 1948), Juliana (1948 - 1980) and Beatrix (1980 - 2013) who took the throne after them, were much more popular with the common people. Beatrix was perhaps the most beloved monarch as she was fully dedicated to the people and Dutch society on the whole. Thankfully, Willem-Alexander has managed to swap his former image as a posh student for that of a much respected head of state and the scars his adolescent antics left on the Royal Family have faded with time. And although Willem-Alexander knows that a large segment of Holland's House of Commons would like to revise his job description, he has reconciled himself to his new role. While his mother was averse to all types of modern modes of communication famously shunning mobile phones, the new king has embraced technology. While in Antarctica, for example, Willem-Alexander blogged about the 'impressive landscape'.

Queen Beatrix has already made sacrifices after signing the Abdication Act. As head of state she earned €5.2 million a year, but as princess she will only receive €470,000. She will, however, have access to a €1 million expense account in case she needs to go shopping. Willem-Alexander, once known as the Prince of Lager in his youth, is more fortunate. He has finally become king, but no less than nine other European heirs to the throne from Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Norway, the United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco and Belgium trail behind him in the royal waiting room awaiting their chance to snatch his throne!

Museums

Aboriginal Art Museum B-3, Oudegracht 176, tel. (+31) 302 38 01 00, www.aamu.nl. The Aboriginal Art Museum focuses on the contemporary visual art of the descendants of the original inhabitants of Australia. It's the only place in Europe where you can view modern Aboriginal art and this private museum is rightfully proud of this. The exhibition halls are spread across three floors of a former bank building along the picturesque Dutch canal Oudegracht. Just like the art on display, the museum shop is quite varied with T-shirts with original prints and a wide range of books not to mention boomerangs! ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: adults €9, children (4 - 17) €5. 

Centraal Museum B-4, Nicolaaskerkhof 10, tel. (+31) 302 36 23 62, www.centraalmuseum.nl. The Central Museum isn't meant for a hasty visit. Your ticket is also good for free admission to the Dick Bruna House and the Rietveld Schröder House, and there's just so much to see in this former medieval monastery. View works by old Dutch and Utrecht masters such as Jan van Scorel (1495-1562) and his contemporaries. Moreover, there are impressive collections from the fields of history, modern fashion, design and visual art. The city of Utrecht is the museum's starting point. If you need a moment to let all the impressions sink in, check out the large courtyard. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: €11 which is also valid for the Dick Bruna House and the Rietveld Schröderhuis (reservation required). 

Dick Bruna Huis C-5, Agnietenstraat 2, tel. (+31) 302 36 23 53, www.dickbrunahuis.com. The Dutch cartoon icon Miffy (Nijntje in Dutch) is a 'sweet, little rabbit', and she lives in style at the Dick Bruna House, straight across from the Central Museum. This place is well worth a visit for both young and old. Upon entering, visitors are dazzled by the greatness of Dick Bruna's creations when they behold walls lined with Miffy books in all conceivable languages. Those who only know this Utrecht local as the artist of a cheerful little cartoon rabbit are in for a surprise in this modern museum, which opened in 2006. Dick Bruna (1927) also designed many famous book covers for Havank and Jules Maigret as well as posters. The Bruna collection in the museum consists of over 1,200 works and is still growing. Step into another world while the children are having a blast in the Miffy playroom with films, a playhouse and games of all kinds. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: €11 which is also valid (on the same day) for the Central Museum and the Rietveld Schröderhuis (reservation required!). 



Discover the world of *Nintje* at the Dick Bruna House

Geldmuseum D-9, Leidseweg 90, tel. (+31) 302 91 04 92, www.geldmuseum.nl. If you think that the Money Museum is nothing more than boring halls full of coins and bank notes, guess again. At the entrance each visitor is given a credit card of sorts with a small budget for use in the museum. Inside you can gamble, make trades at the stock exchange or place bids at the flower auction. Both children and adults can learn everything about the value of money and how quickly it can be gained or, more importantly, lost. One of the museum's best exhibits is the Road of Florins, a path which has been created with over 5,000 pre-euro Dutch coins known as guilders. Naturally, all of the coins on the floor are tails up, so people don't walk on the Queen's head! Other exhibits offer an overview of all the different ways that money has manifested itself over the centuries, a number of very old currencies and the rarest and most intriguing coins from the Money Museum's safe. And while you walk through the museum you can watch coins being made on the other side of the walls at the mint. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: adults €9, children 4 - 17 years €3.50. 

Museum Speelklok B-2, Steenweg 6, tel. (+31) 302 31 27 89, www.museumspeelklok.nl. This could be the most cheerful museum in the Netherlands! Enjoy a stroll past carillon clocks, music boxes, mechanical clocks, pianolas, the 'singing nightingale' and street organs. Complete your visit to museum with an hour-long guided tour, as this is when the automatic instruments are set to play. The repertoire varies from the Viennese waltz and tango to old crooner songs and the latest hits. Not only worth it for music fans, but also for those with technical interests, especially if you consider that some instruments are almost 600 years old! You can also make an appointment to view the restoration workshop. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: €9.50, children (4-12 years) €5.50. 

Sonnenborgh A-3, Zonnenburg 2, tel. (+31) 302 30 28 18, www.sonnenborgh.nl. In Sonnenborgh several worlds come together: a museum, an observatory and a medieval bastion. This small museum focuses on meteorology and the sun. You can experience first-hand how wind is created and why it's so difficult to accurately predict the weather. A look into the bastion will teach you that this 16th-century fortress has been enormously significant for the development of the city of Utrecht and many enemies were kept at bay from here. Sonnenborgh has five large telescopes directed at the skies and special stargazing nights are organised for a peek into the universe. An extraordinarily impressive library containing books on astronomy, meteorology and space research is also available. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00, Sun 13:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sat. Admission: €6, children (4-17 years) €3. 

Spoorweg Museum C-3, Johan van Oldenbarneveltlaan 1, tel. (+31) 302 30 62 06, www.spoorwegmuseum.nl. Don't let the bland name scare you off. The Railway Museum is much more than a collection of everything about trains. It's a wonderland with trains at its focal point. The Railway Museum will make you long for the old days when travelling was still an adventure; with old-fashioned suitcases, well-dressed travellers and whistling steam engines. The museum is divided into 'worlds' or large studios and the first world is The Great Discovery. With an audio tour, visitors are led through a mine gallery, along English cottages, a workshop and steam engines. Everything that has anything to do with trains can be found at this location from models to real trains; travellers' attributes and posters to the liveliest interiors. Children can do a treasure hunt or take a trip on the popular Jumbo Express. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: €14.50. 

Universiteitsmuseum Utrecht B-4, Lange Nieuwstraat 106, tel. (+31) 302 53 80 08, www.uu.nl/universiteitsmuseum. This is a family museum, where everything revolves around science. In other words, you don't have to be a nerd to appreciate this place! Between workbenches, test tubes and tool chests in the knowledge-lab, you'll learn that science doesn't always provide ready-made answers. It's a matter of coming up with ideas and performing experiments. In the youth-lab, young people can experiment for themselves with their senses, light and sound. Visitors will discover that science is fun and also very commonplace. Sometimes it can even be scary, as is the case with the private collection of Jan Bleuland (1756-1838), a professor of medicine. His extensive exhibit includes sets of skeletons, preserved foetuses and wax impressions of body parts. Don't miss the collection of curiosities from the 16th to the 18th centuries either when it was many a rich man's hobby to collect remarkable, gruesome, mysterious, rare and exotic objects like the penis of a sperm whale! ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Admission: adults €7, children (4-17 years) €3.50.

Out of town

Fort Rhijnauwen J-16, Vossengatsedijk 3, Bunnik, tel. (+31) 355 41 65 12, www.staatsbosbeheer.nl. Fort by Rhijnauwen was built between 1868 and 1875 as part of the New Dutch Water Defence Line. Because of its architectural style and good state of preservation, the fort is historically unique. But it's also of great value as a nature reserve. It was closed to the general public for years and became a paradise for many endangered plants and animals. There are also weasels, foxes, roe, grass snakes and many varieties of butterflies. In winter, hundreds of bats hibernate in the fort. The fort consists of bombproof shelters, powder magazines, barracks, flank defences, group shelters and a large practice and parade square. Surrounding the complex is a double moat. Today, the fort can be visited on a guided tour. ▶

Groeneveld Castle K-14, Groeneveld 2, Baarn, tel. (+31) 355 42 04 46, www.kasteelgroeneveld.nl. Many Dutch castles and country estates were built in the 17th-century, the so-called Golden Age, but Castle Groeneveld was completed in 1710 and its many owners have each left their mark here. Perhaps the best is the long, narrow English garden, a maze of paths and greenery. In the 1980s and 1990s Castle Groeneveld became a lively centre specialising in art exhibitions, education programmes and treasure hunts for children as well as adults. Thanks to its charming park and Grand Café, people of all ages can enjoy it. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission: adults €5, children 4-12 years €2.50.

Kasteel De Haar I-16, Kasteellaan 1, Haarzuilens, tel. (+31) 306 77 85 15, www.kasteeldehaar.nl. De Haar Castle is the biggest and most fairytale-like castle in the Netherlands. With its towers, turrets, moats, gates and suspension bridges, De Haar Castle resembles a true medieval stronghold. A visit to De Haar is a journey of discovery to a marvellous world, yet this enchanting oasis is only a short distance from the daily bustle of Utrecht. The unique complex has something for everyone including both knowledgeable art lovers and casual tourists. Unfortunately, the castle can only be visited on guided tours which are available in Dutch only, with the exception of Sundays when English tours are on offer. Information sheets in English are however available. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Opening times vary a lot. See website for exact times. Guided tours at 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00 and 16:00. Admission: adults €12.50, children (4-12 years) €9.



Rare finds at the University Museum

Militaire Luchtvaart Museum K-15, Kampweg 120, Soesterberg, tel. (+31) 346 35 60 00, www.militaireluchtvaartmuseum.nl. What young man hasn't dreamed of becoming a pilot at some stage in his life? The Military Aviation Museum makes old dreams come true. The museum shows a clear history of military aviation in the Netherlands from 1913 to the present. The many airplanes, helicopters and historical artefacts on display illustrate the historical heritage of Dutch military aviation. With the recommended audio tour you can choose between listening to stories about technique, memory and history. The Snijdershal offers photographs, films and uniforms, while the Vreeburghal shows fighter planes and helicopters. The flashy interactive presentation 'Technique in and around the Aeroplane' is also well-worth seeing. Kids go wild at the interactive Flying Centre, where they learn everything to get ready before take-off. Part of the museum will be closed between May 2013 and Autumn 2014, this due to the building of a new museum complex. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:30, Sun 12:00 - 16:30. Closed Mon, Sat. Admission: free.


Museum Spakenburg K-14, Oude Schans 47-63, Bunschoten-Spakenburg, tel. (+31) 332 98 33 19, www.museumspakenburg.nl. Even in the 21st century traditional regional costumes are still an important part of daily life in the fishing villages surrounding the former Zuiderzee, currently called the IJsselmeer. The Spakenburg Museum is housed across several historical premises in the heart of a region bursting with traditions. Utensils and tools from local traditional trades form the majority of the collection of 7,000 exhibited items, but regional clothing and paintings are also on offer. Even the rivalry between the two local football teams is covered by the museum. There's plenty to do outside as well, as the museum harbour accommodates Holland's largest historical fleet of *botters* (a type of fishing boat) not to mention a museum fish market. ▶ Open 13:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun. Admission: adults €5, children 4 - 18 years €2.50.

Slot Zeist K-16, Zinzendorfflaan 1, Zeist, tel. (+31) 306 92 75 50, www.slotzeist.com. The fairytale-like Slot Zeist has drawn hordes of people to its monumental buildings since 1677 and today it hosts almost half a million visitors each year. The stately driveway would be perfect for a documentary on the wealth of the Dutch Golden Age. Today, even 'ordinary' people can partake in grand feasts here, which is what this beautifully renovated building is now known for. When the sun is out, the classical English garden and the Slotpark (mansion park) are also worth a visit. On (some) weekends there are guided tours through the Baroc designed rooms. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Fri 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Tours on Saturday and Sunday start at 13.30 and 14.45, tickets cost €5.50.


Parks, gardens & Cemeteries

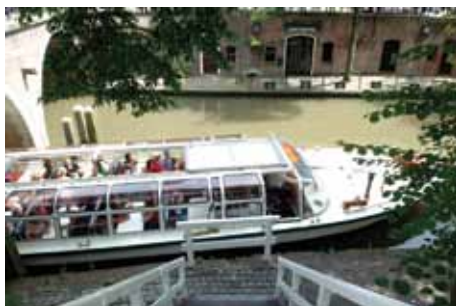
De Oude Hortus B/C-4, Lange Nieuwstraat / Nieuwgracht, www.uu.nl/NL/universiteitsmuseum/oudehortus. Although many of its beautiful florae were moved to the modern botanical gardens of the Uithof on the premises of the university on the edge of the city, the so-called Old Hortus right in the middle of the historic city centre is still a green oasis of plants, flowers and trees. Initially founded in 1723, the garden was later re-designed in 19th-century landscape style. Don't miss the pride and joy of this special place which happens to be Europe's oldest Japanese nut tree. Admission is free during the day. ▶ Open 11:00 - 17:00.   

Julianapark D-7, Amsterdamsstraatweg / Julianaparkweg. In 1928, the wealthy Kol family donated their huge landscaped private gardens to the city of Utrecht on the condition that they remain a public park for at least a century. The city fathers were true to their word and the Julianapark is now one of the oldest parks in the city. Comprising nearly 10 hectares this green oasis is also home to free range chickens and a small animal farm, which is open on Wednesday afternoons and at the weekend. The playground is popular with parents and their children, but bear in mind that the park, which is surrounded by a fence, is closed in the evenings. Dogs and bikes are prohibited. ▶ Open October - March 08:00 - 17:00, April - May 07:00 - 21:00, June - August 07:00 - 22:00 and September 07:00 - 21:00.   

Kovelswade G-10 & G-11, Koningsweg 47, tel. (+31) 302 86 39 92. Anyone who goes through the trouble of finding Kovelswade is actually taking a trip back in time. This cemetery originates from the beginning of 1900s, a time when the Netherlands went through radical political changes, which had far-reaching effects on architecture, culture and social issues. This spacious national monument is unique because it's a microcosm of all these developments. This is already obvious right from the start at the atypically wide entrance to this burial ground. It was designed to accommodate the horses and stately funeral coaches that used to bring the dearly departed to their final resting place. The architect divided the graveyard using light and darkness, which symbolise life and death. A stroll around the cemetery will provide any visitor a history of this era and its people via the epitaphs on its burial monuments. The Islamic section, where all graves face Mecca, is also worth a visit and the private children's cemetery, which was added in 2008, is so peaceful that you can almost hear the trees grow. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. 

Pandhof van de Domkerk B-2,





Domplein. Partly hidden behind the most attractive building in town, the Dom Cathedral, you'll find the most beautiful courtyard square in Utrecht. The Dom's Pandhof, or inner courtyard, is the ultimate oasis of peace in the city centre. Originally this was a medieval monastery garden dating from the 15th century, but today it's a pleasant green zone boasting more than 140 different plants and herbs. The covered cloisters which connect the church to the Chapter House are also impressive and the neo-Gothic entrance gate added in 1857 is an architectural gem, which includes a relief of the university coat of arms. A fountain with a bronze statue of a 14th-century Dom cannon is located in the middle of the garden. If you'd like to take your time and enjoy the Pandhof with a snack or a drink, you can find a seat in the Dom Cathedral's tearoom. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:30, Sun 12:00 - 16:30. 





Take a boat ride on Utrecht's canals Theo Leerintveld

Park Lepelenburg C-3, Lepelenburg. Despite its small area, this park is incredibly popular with locals. When the sun is out the park, surrounded by old trees, is filled by a diverse group of people from students lying in the grass and mothers taking their children for a stroll to tramps hanging out on benches drinking big bottles of cheap beer. In the evening the park serves as a back garden for local residents who congregate here with picnic baskets and bottles of rosé. Occasionally you'll also stumble across a free mini-festival or concert in the park. ▶   

Wilhelminapark G-9, Koningslaan, www.utrecht.nl.

Wilhelmina Park, named after the former queen, is located at the centre of the poshest part of the city. However, this doesn't mean you'll only find wealthy ladies and gentlemen here. It's a popular place for amateur football players, people who want to practice their *capoeira* moves or anyone who just wants to throw a ball around. There's plenty of room for all this on the large lawn, although in summer you'll find a lot of people who just want to lie in the sun. Somehow the active and the lazy people manage to coexist here. The big disadvantage is a lack of public toilets, so those who really need to go will have to seek refuge at the nearby pub Buiten for a small fee. ▶    

Zocherpark/Singelgebied A-4/5 & B-/C-4, Pelmolwenweg.

Like every other ancient city in Europe, Utrecht once had impressive city walls, but in the 19th century they lost their purpose so the city council tore them down and created public parks in their place. The result is a 5km-long strip of green space known as Zocherpark / Singelarea that is especially pretty at the southwestern and eastern ends of the historic city centre. The long, narrow strip is not only a National Heritage site, but also provides the city's residents with a place to escape the hectic heart of the centre. The Zocherpark is one of the oldest public parks in the Netherlands and includes more than 400 trees dating back to the mid-1800s. ▶  


Places of interest

De Utrechtse Bazaar I-16, Taatsendijk 1, tel. (+31)



306 77 98 99, www.utrechtsebaazar.nl. The Netherlands has had a multicultural society for decades, despite the fact that some of the current political leaders have a problem with this tolerant tradition. However, people from all backgrounds have been visiting the Utrecht Bazaar each weekend for more than 30 years. Each Saturday and Sunday the 'most cheerful market in the Netherlands' is filled with over 500 market vendors from all corners of the globe. ▶ Open, Sat 08:00 - 16:30, Sun 08:30 - 16:30. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri. Admission: adults €3, children under 12 years free.    

Sightseeing tours

Canoeing By Night Weg naar Rijnnauwen 2, tel. (+31) 302 52 13 11, info@rijnstroom.nl, www.rijnstroom.nl. Between the end of March and the end of October you can discover a nighttime Utrecht that doesn't involve a pub crawl. One day each month, when the moon is full, you can participate in a tour of the Utrecht city centre from the water. A professional guide takes you on a 3.5 hour canoe tour of the most incredible water spots in the city. Along the way you can also stop for a break in a pub with a well-deserved Trappist beer. ▶ Prices: €15.   

Storytrail B-2, Wed 3-A, tel. (+31) 302 46 79 11, www.storytrail.nl. The Storytrail through Utrecht is a guided tour with a storyteller as your guide. He takes you on a journey through narrow lanes and captivating streets in the heart of Utrecht. His tales reach out to the past, set against the beautiful backdrop of this ancient city. Stories of a hidden past are conjured up by the renowned storytelling abilities of each guide. ▶ Open , Sun 13:30. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. Prices: €15. 

Trajectum Lumen B-2, Domplein, tel. (+31) 302 86 00 00, www.trajectumlumen.nl. Every Saturday night at 20:30 a guide takes people from VVV Domplein on a special night tour. Along the way you'll encounter artistically illuminated bridges, churches and canals. Tours are arranged by VVV office: infovvv@toerisme-utrecht.nl or (+31) 302 36 00 00. ▶ Open , Sat 20:30. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun. Prices: €10/person.   

Utrecht Free Tours Domplein, www.utrechtreetours.nl. Every Saturday at noon you can meet guide Jasper (or one of his team members) at the foot of the Dom Church for a free guided tour of the city. For the next three hours this enthusiastic local will show you all the hidden delights of this beautiful city. At the end of the tour you can donate as much or as little as you like. ▶ Every Saturday from 12:00 to 15:00 hours.  

Utrecht Guild Walking Tour B-2, Lange Smeestraat 7, tel. (+31) 302 34 32 52, www.gildeutrecht.nl. On Sunday afternoons at 14:00 anyone can join the free walks led by Het Gilde Utrecht (Utrecht Guild). No reservation is required; just show up. Het Gilde is a volunteer group of mostly elderly Utrecht residents who enjoy sharing their love of the city with its guests. During the 90-minute walk the city is seen from a variety of perspectives. Experience Art Nouveau, Jewish life, the markets, the bridges and a glimpse of old working-class neighbourhoods. Other tours by the guild take you through the Leidsche Rijn, along the city hall, the many fortresses and the city's surrounding areas. Bicycle tours are also available. ▶ Open , Sun 14:00 - 15:30. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. Adults: €5, children (4-12 years) €2.50.  




Utrecht has its own Anne Frank statue

Ilse Ouwens

Statues

Anne Frank standbeeld B-2, Janskerkhof. Since 1960 a brass statue of Anne Frank has stood in front of the Janskerkhof in memory of all those persecuted during World War II in the Netherlands. For anyone who hasn't heard of this famous holocaust victim and diarist, Anne Frank hid in a family friend's Amsterdam attic with her family until they were discovered and sent to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The statue by Pieter H. 'd Hont has been adopted by a local primary school who take care of it. ▶

De Schrijvende Monnik B-2, Pandhof.

The rich history of the oldest part of Utrecht which surrounds the Dom Cathedral really deserves an In Your Pocket guide of its own. The ancient walls of this fascinating part of Utrecht bear the scars of swords and bayonets that were used in battle here ages ago. However, these days the Pandhof is an oasis of tranquility. At its centre is a beautiful fountain consisting of four dragons spewing water and eight lion heads on a column. Legal expert Hugo Wstinc sits on a three-legged Gothic chair in a fur coat at the highest point of this statue that was erected in 1916. His ancient book in which he described the rules and habits of society at the Dom Cathedral of the time, became a guideline for different religious institutions throughout the Middle Ages. Later his picture was used to personify medieval science. His trusty pen and pen holder were nicked several times by vandals over the years, but at the moment the statue is complete. ▶ 



Verzetsmonument (Resistance Monument) B-2, Domplein. The people of Utrecht have given this robust statue by Corinne Franzén-Heslenfeld the somewhat disrespectful nickname 'Mien with her ice-cream cone'. The 10m-high statue was unveiled by the late Prince Bernhard and commemorates the victims of World War II in general and the victims of the Utrecht Resistance in particular. A conscious decision was made to have a statue of a lady bearing a torch, as women played an important role in the Resistance during the five-year war. The grotesque shapes are also deliberate, as the statue would otherwise be minimised by the Dom Cathedral's majestic appearance in the background. The pedestal is inscribed with a poem by Jan Engelman and Utrechters observe National Remembrance Day here every year.

Theme parks

Efteling Europalaan 1, Kaatsheuvel, tel. 0900-0161, www.efteling.com. Although the majority of its visitors are Dutch, anyone can enjoy one of the best theme parks in Europe. The park is divided into four sections: the Adventure Realm, the Fairy Realm, the Alternative Realm and the Travel Realm. Start with a map that can be bought at the main entrance souvenir shop for €1.50 as the park is large and can be a little confusing. So give your map a quick look and head right through the middle of the park to the the flying Thai temple where you can get a clear view of what the park has to offer. Another great way to get the lay of the land is to take the train that traverses the park. Like most parks this one can get insanely busy so if you want to beat at least some of the crowds go as early as possible and on a weekday. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. April - December 10:00 - 18:00, July - September 10:00 - 21:00. One-day ticket: €32, children under 4 free.         

As little as only half an hour away from the capital, getting to Utrecht by train, bus or car is a relatively painless experience. Utrecht is the main transport hub for all of the Netherlands, and as such is well-connected by public transport to the rest of the country. There are always taxis waiting outside if you don't feel like dragging your luggage through an unfamiliar city.

Bicycles

Getting around Utrecht is pretty simple, the Old Town of Utrecht is in fact so small, that you can easily walk everywhere. In case if you have to go a bit farther, renting a bike is a good option.

Bah Tel. (+31) 302 34 33 01, www.b-a-h.nl. This handy man on the move will go anywhere within Utrecht's city limits to fix flat tires and perform small bicycle repairs.

Het Fietspad B-2, Weerdsingel WZ 18, tel. (+31) 302 33 43 73, joep@fietspad.net, www.fietspad.net. Rent a bike here for only €7/day! ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun. ☹

Laag Caterijne Bicycle Shed A-2, Catharijnesingel 34, tel. (+31) 302 31 67 80, www.laagcatharijne.nl. Store or repair your bicycle, rent a bicycle or buy a used bike. Beneath shopping-centre Hoog Catharijne. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:15. Closed Sun. ☹☹

Buses

In Utrecht there are various buses that can take you throughout the city and to surrounding towns such as Maarsse, Nieuwegein, Vianen, Vleuten, Wijk bij Duurstede and Zeist. Almost all buses depart from the Central Station. The main bus station is either an architectural icon or eyesore depending on one's taste, but either way, it's centrally located and has a range of facilities from information and lockers to restaurants and a casino. The buses depart from three bus stations around the train station: Bus station Noord, Zuid and Jaarbeurszijde. Follow the signs or look at the map.

Bus station

At the bus station, each bus number has its own fixed departure point. With the local buses you should take care, because many numbers have two destinations. Above the buses there are signs with the bus number and its destination. When in doubt, feel free to ask the driver. There's an information desk at the city bus station at the bottom of the escalator from the train station. You can buy tickets here (open 06:30 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:30, Sun 10:00 - 17:00). You can also check www.gvu.nl (city buses) and www.connexion.nl (regional buses) or www.vooru.nl (all buses in the region Utrecht) for schedules.



The best way to get around the city

Toerisme Utrecht

Treaty of Utrecht

Treaty of Utrecht 2013 (Vrede van Utrecht 2013) B-2, Kromme Nieuwegracht 70, tel. (+31) 302 39 38 90, www.vredevanutrecht2013.nl. In 2013, the 300th anniversary of the Peace Treaty of Utrecht will be celebrated in a grand way. The real festivities will only begin on April, 11 2013, but many events will lead up to the celebrations. Utrecht is looking to top its efforts in 1713 with an incredible and unforgettable calendar of events. In case you're not an historian, the Peace Treaty of Utrecht was signed on April 11, 1713: a treaty that ended almost two centuries of war in Europe. Prior to this historic event, Utrecht functioned as host, partner and stage for an international group of dignitaries that determined Europe's future. This was the first peace treaty ever to be realised solely by diplomacy and Utrecht played a large role with its incredible hospitality that lasted 18 months! ▶

How to buy a ticket?

If you only want to take a bus within Utrecht, you can also buy an uurskaartje (hour card) from the driver. These cost, for the largest part of the city €1.60. If you wish to go to the north of the city or to the university campus (Uithof), a ticket costs €2.40. Try to pay with exact change. Strip cards are useful if you wish to travel by bus more frequently or if you wish to travel longer distances. A strip card with 15 strips costs €7.70, a card with 45 strips €22.80. They are available at the information desk at the bus station, in the train station, at supermarkets, bookshops and tobacconists. In Utrecht and surroundings it is also possible to travel with an OV-chipkaart. This card is an option if you stay longer in Holland. The card costs € 7.50, you have to put saldo on the card to travel with it. There are several pick up-points in Utrecht and surroundings where you can top up your balance. These points are located in supermarkets, tobacconists, etc. (www.ov-chipkaart.nl/adresvinder) You can also top up your balance at NS vending machines and at the vending machines in the Information Kiosk at Bus station Noord in Utrecht Central Station. You can also find a yellow top-up machine on the green Connexion buses, on which you can use your bank card to top up your OV chip card. Most machines only accept Dutch bank cards. You can also pay in cash at some of the NS vending machines and at the Information Kiosk by Bus station Noord in Utrecht Centraal.

Taxis

Utrecht taxis are safe, clean and generally reliable. Ordering a taxi by phone will get you better service and lower rates for longer distances.

Utrechtse Taxi Centrale J-15, Californiedreef 35, tel. (+31) 302 30 04 00, www.utc.nl. 150 cabs are members of this taxi organisation. Members pay a maximum of €12.50 for a ride within the city.

Trams

There are two tram lines in Utrecht. One goes to IJsselstein and the other to Nieuwegein. The first part of the line is the same route: south through the Utrecht Kanaleneiland district. On this route the tram is much faster than buses. You can buy a ticket in the tram. For more information about timetables check www.connexion.nl. By 2025 the local government plans to expand the system to five tramlines.

Utrecht is one of the largest cities in Holland, but few coffeeshops are worth a detour. Despite the many pleasant scenic spots such as its wharfs and parks, none of them feature a nearby coffeeshop. In fact, only one of takes advantage of the scenery, a real gem on a sunny day. Some coffeeshops are light and airy, some dark and cosy and some are just counters that supply locals for consumption at home.

Although the much hated Weed Pass has been revoked throughout Holland, foreigners are still technically prohibited from buying herb in Utrecht. It seems, however, that some establishments have simply ignored the new law and serve non-residents anyway.

Coffeeshops

Culture Boat C-1, Wittevrouwensingel 206. As the name suggests this coffeeshop is actually a boat - and quite a large boat at that. It's light in colour, has wooden tables and chairs, Moroccan lamps on its walls and many plants around the windows. In short, it's a perfect environment for smoking and reading an *In Your Pocket* guide (although other literature is also permitted). With its friendly staff and pleasant surroundings on the canal, Culture Boat is one of the best in Utrecht, despite being on the outskirts of the city centre. ▶ Open 13:00 - 23:00. Closed Tue. ☒

De Vipshop B-3, Daalsedijk 294. The best thing about this coffeeshop, which is very small and caters mainly to locals, is its cosy atmosphere. De Vipshop has a slightly Hawaiian or maybe Caribbean décor, as the counter is located beneath a kind of straw mini-roof, which might be the kind of thing you're looking for if you like to rub elbows with others and hopefully spark up an interesting conversation - as well as your joint. The selection of weed and hash is reasonable, but nothing special. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Freak Shop B-1, Breedstraat 55. If you're looking for a dark, cosy, somewhat romantic spot, then the Freak Shop is the place to go. Despite the fact that the smoking room is separated from the bar, we like it's stylish interior. Trippy murals, colours, chandeliers and candles as well as good music all contribute to the complete smoking experience. For those looking to spend some time here, it also offers board games, a TV and free papers on the tables. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Koffiedik B-1, Breedstraat 2. This coffeeshop is more of a drop-in smoke bar. The staff is friendly and efficient and you can stay and smoke what you buy in one of the two smoking rooms, but you have to help yourself to drinks from the automatic vending machines. The positive side to this is the fact that there doesn't seem to be obligatory consumption from the bar to chill here, but it does have a one hour time limit. The seating/smoking area is set up with stylish wooden stools at high tables surrounded by plants and an old style British phone box. The high traffic indicates that it's a local favourite. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 23:00.

't Grasje C-1, Obrechtstraat 1. A large selection of hash and weed, all presented under a glass counter so you can see exactly what you get, is administered by a particularly friendly blond dread-locked (sha)man. A sunny window full of green plants and walls completely decorated with trippy painted imagery will ensure that your time in this establishment will certainly be well spent. It's more of a quiet coffeeshop where the Utrecht local might stop by for a cheeky joint (or a vaporizer toke - it has a very good one) with his or her after-work coffee. Not on a main street or close to the station, it may be a small trek to reach this coffeeshop, but it's definitely worth it. ▶ Open 13:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

Smart foods

Since 1995, the State of Mind smart shop, located at Oudegracht 226, has been a heaven on earth for anyone with a tolerant lifestyle. If you were to send even the greatest pessimist to this colourful shopping space for a few hours, their world-weary cynicism would melt away within minutes. Whether you're looking for a trendy shisha (a Middle Eastern water pipe), unusual kinds of incense or a unique Buddha sculpture, State of Mind is bound to sell it.

This is also the place to buy so-called magic truffles, herbs that supposedly stimulate sexual desire, as well as everything remotely related to cannabis. However, you'll have to go somewhere else to actually smoke a joint. You can also try the latest addition to its wide selection of items: super foods. These products do justice to their name because they're chock full of minerals, vitamins, anti-oxidants, proteins, enzymes and essential oils. If this all sounds like a bunch of New Age hocus-pocus, take a moment to consider where you get your daily energy from. That's right, from food. Most of the food that the vast majority of people eat only have one or two healthy characteristics and often times, even less. Many foods at supermarkets are low in vitamins and full of artificial and unhealthy additives. That's where super foods truly shine as they contain at least 12 of these essential, healthy ingredients. After all, as members of modern society, we're often under immense pressure and rarely have time to eat properly. That's where smart foods can help you regain energy, focus and resistance to illnesses.

Not convinced yet? Try one of the many healthy drinks at the funky smoothie bar. Products like wheat-grass powder, Tibetan goji berries and bee pollen may not sound very appetising at first, but remember that these products retard the ageing process, help you lose weight and - last but not least - increase your sexual appetite! For more information visit www.stateofmind.nl.

Smart & Head shops

State of Mind B-3, Oudegracht 226, tel. (+31) 302 31 90 71, www.stateofmind.nl. Since 1995, this smart shop has been pure paradise to anyone with a tolerant lifestyle. Whether you're looking for a hip *shisha* (water pipe), an unusual type of incense or a special Buddha statue, State of Mind has it covered. This is also the place for magic truffles, herbal sexual stimulants and cannabis utensils, although no weed is sold here! Sound a little overwhelming? Just have a chat with the experienced staff and they'll sort you out. Also check out the upper floor where different artists are showing their work. Also a good place for a herbal tea and a freshly made smoothie. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. Also open every first Sunday of the month. ☒



Drop by a coffeeshop for a taste of some forbidden fruit

Whatever your shopping needs, Utrecht has it covered. One of the great things about Utrecht is the fact that you can shop the old-fashioned way: strolling the city centre's street, ducking in and out of any number of high street stores and cute little boutiques. True shopaholics should head over to the Oudegracht, the Neude and Vredenburg. If you arrive by train you can already start at Hoog Catharijne, the biggest shopping centre in the city with more than 160 venues. Please note that it's the Netherlands most visited shopping area. It's bursting with exclusive gift shops, art galleries, trendy boutiques and delicatessens. In Utrecht every Thursday night is a 'shopping evening' which means that most shops stay open until 21:00. Every first Sunday of the month Utrecht also hosts a 'shopping Sunday' when most of the stores are open 12:00 - 17:00.

Beer & Wine shops

Bert's Bierhuis B-4, Twijnstraat 41, tel. (+31) 302 34 13 39, www.bertsbierhuis.nl. Bert's Beerhouse is heaven-on-earth for brew lovers. All the usual Dutch beers are on sale here, as well as another 800 beers from Thai Shinga to American IPAs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Closed Sun. ☎

Gall & Gall Burg Reigerstraat 35/37, tel. (+31) 302 51 43 00, www.gall.nl. Famous Dutch liquor shop selling good whiskey and affordable wines. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Mon 11:00 - 19:00, Thu 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00, Closed Sun.

Bookshops & Media

Boekhandel Libris B-2, Servetstraat 3, tel. (+31) 302 34 05 80, info@boekhandellibrisutrecht.nl, www.boekhandellibrisutrecht.nl. Books, novels, literature, travel books and guides can all be found in this well-equipped shop. English, French and German speakers will also find books to suit their needs and it's the right place to go if you're looking for discounts. Only bookshop in town open on Sunday. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00, Sun 13:00 - 17:00. ☎ 📖 📍

Bruna B-2, Choorstraat 13, tel. (+31) 302 40 05 91, fax (+31) 302 31 65 62, www.bruna.nl. Whatever your literature needs, Bruna has it including lots of English books and novels. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Mon 12:00 - 18:00, Thu 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00, Closed Sun. ☎ 📖 📍

Interglobe A-2, Vinkenburgstraat 7, tel. (+31) 302 34 04 01, interglobe@planet.nl, www.interglobetravel.nl. This book shop filled with maps, guides and atlases is without a doubt Utrecht's most complete shop in the field of travel resources. Buy guides for exotic destinations and detailed route maps for Utrecht as well as the obligatory 'read about the incredible things that happened to me' travel literature. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00, Closed Sun. ☎ 📖 📍

Piet Snot B-2, Vismarkt 3, tel. (+31) 302 31 84 72, info@pietsnot.nl, www.pietsnot.nl. Are comic books only for kids? Forget it. Piet Snot offers a whole new world to discover for all ages. Cool printed T-shirts also available. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00, Closed Sun. 📖 📍 📞

Selexyz Broese B-2, Stadhuisbrug 5, tel. (+31) 302 33 52 00, info.broese@selexyz.nl, www.selexyz.nl. This chain of large bookshops, (large by Dutch standards anyway) has a decent selection of foreign reading material. Literature is sorted by language with lots of titles available in English and some in German, French and Spanish. There are also plenty of foreign newspapers and magazines. ▶ Open 09:30 - 18:00, Mon 11:00 - 18:00, Thu 09:30 - 21:00, Closed Sun. 📖 📍 📞 📧 📧 📧



Don't forget to buy a souvenir

Theo Leerintveld

Cheese

Kazerij Stalenhoef B-4, Twijnstraat 67, tel. (+31) 302 88 27 06, winkel@kazerij.nl, www.kazerij.nl. Hidden behind an historic facade, Kazerij Stalenhoef sells cheese and other treats for genuine cheese heads. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Mon 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 08:00 - 17:00, Closed Sun. 📖 📍 📞

Department stores

De Bijenkorf A-1, Sint Jacobsstraat 1A, tel. (+31) 900 09 19, www.debijenkorf.nl/utrecht. Whatever you're looking for, from books to toys, from fashionable items to sexy lingerie, it's here in this three-storey building. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Mon 11:00 - 19:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:30 - 18:00, Closed Sun.

Tiger DK A-2, Oudegracht 118, tel. (+31) 302 31 02 01, info@tigerdk.nl, www.tiger-stores.nl. Forget Xenos or Ikea. This Danish retail chain sells original designs of pretty much everything. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:30 - 17:30, Closed Sun. 📖 📍

Ethnic food & Delicatessens

Gastmaal en de Tafel (The Feast and the Table) F-8, Griffstraat 1, tel. (+31) 302 65 80 20, info@gastmaalandetafel.nl, www.gastmaalandetafel.nl. A brother and sister share a common passion and love for food by making traditional organic dishes in this wonderful delicatessen. ▶ Open 15:30 - 20:30, Sat 14:00 - 20:00, Closed Sun. 📖

Fair Trade

Fair Trade Shop B-3, Lijnmarkt 21, tel. (+31) 302 31 77 31, www.fairtrade.nl. Since 1959 this organisation has helped people in Third World countries earn fair wages. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Mon 13:00 - 17:00, Closed Sun.

Fashion

Fashion Lab B-2, Korte Jansstraat 18, tel. (+31) 302 14 55 31, www.fashionlab.eu. Both men and women can try on Scandinavian fashion brands in this trendy venue. It's a bit more expensive than other shops in Utrecht, but Stockholm and Oslo aren't exactly renowned for their affordability. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:30, Closed Sun. 📖 📍



Freling & Freling Zadelstraat 35, tel. (+31) 302 36 90 66, www.frelingenfreling.nl. Astonishing from the outside, inside an overwhelming oasis of woman's stuff. At Zadelstraat 30 you'll find the men's department.

Giensch B-1, Voorstraat 31, tel. (+31) 302 31 32 09, www.giensch.nl. The owner of this colourful clothing shop personally scours European clothing markets to find the best items from collections that have not been bought before or that are second hand. Apart from racks full of vintage clothes and accessories from the 1950s to the 1980s, you can also find new clothes from Nümpf, Motel, Ato and many other designers. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00, Mon 13:00 - 19:00, Thu 11:00 - 21:00, Sat 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.  

Nukuhiva B-2, Zadelstraat 36, tel. (+31) 302 31 67 38. Floortje Dessing is a famous Dutch television presenter who has travelled all over the world. During one of her trips she became familiar with the Fair Trade principle in Uganda. Since then, she has opened two Fair Trade shops that have introduced a large audience to the idea of Fair Trade clothes. There are also souvenirs from around the world and prints from pictures of her travels for sale. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 12:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

For children

Batsboem Utrecht Twijnstraat 49, tel. (+31) 30 2 40 00 10, www.batsboem.nl/utrecht. Whether your child likes to be a fairytale princess or a tough knight, both outfits can be found in this colourful shop. And much more... ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

Prinses en Erwtje B-3, Oudegracht 220, tel. (+31) 302 30 46 05, www.prinsesopdeerwt.nl. The Princess and the Pea has been selling Hungarian vintage children's furniture clothing, and hip shoes for over a decade. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun.  


Gifts & Souvenirs

Holland Souvenir Giftshop B-2, Lichte Gaard 1, tel. (+31) 302 23 18 31, www.hollandsouvenirgiftshop.nl/. The name may not be that original, but once inside the Holland Souvenir Giftshop you'll find lots of great souvenirs to take home. Ideally situated, almost underneath the Dom Tower, the shop is housed in a beautiful historic building. Fans of Delfts blue, clogs, textile, key chains and chocolates can *shop till they drop* in this charming intimate place. ▶  

Home & Garden

Betsies Kitchen Shop (Betsies Kookwinkel) B-2, Vismarkt 6, tel. (+31) 302 32 19 33, www.betsieskookwinkel.nl. Thousands of products for both professional chefs and amateur cooks are sold here. Items can be as cheap as €0.15, whereas the most expensive oven can cost more than €5000! Fun gadgets like a cook book for dogs and a baking tin in the shape of the male anatomy are also on sale. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.  

Lingerie

Divia Davita Lingerieboutique B-2, Schoutenstraat 3, tel. (+31) 622 74 36 26, www.diviavita.nl. Tasteful lingerie, jewellery and pumps. ▶ Open 12:00 - 18:00, Thu 14:00 - 21:00, Sat 12:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Sun. 

Marlies Dekkers Lichtegaard 6, shop.marliesdekkers.com. We've never counted, but we estimate that at least one in every two middle aged woman in the Netherlands wears a Marlies Dekkers bra. This is the place to buy them. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 13:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:30. Closed Sun.    


Markets

Bloemenmarkt Oudegracht. The Dutch love flowers, especially in Utrecht where every Saturday no less than two flower markets take place. But buying flowers in Utrecht isn't as straightforward as it might seem. You have to know exactly what you want, otherwise you'll be overwhelmed by all the scents and colours in no less than 50 stalls. The real flower market, where exclusively cut flowers are sold, is at the Oudegracht. The stalls are by the water and on two sides of the Bakkerbrug. The combination of the many colours, the fun terraces on the wharfs by the water and the various flower scents is marvellous. Oudegracht (between the Zakkendragerssteeg and the Bakkerstraat): Open Sat 08:00 - 17:00. ▶

Lapjesmarkt B-1, Breedstraat. The fabric market at the Breedstraat has been held here for more than 400 years and is thereby the oldest and biggest fabric market in the Netherlands. On 9 May 1597, the Utrecht city council gave the linen-weaving guild permission to hold a linen market two times each year, but today you can shop for fabric every Saturday from 8:00 - 13:00. More than 100 stalls are available. ▶ Open Sat 08:00 - 13:00.  

Warenmarkt (Goods market) A-1, Vredenburg. The goods market on the Vredenburg is temporarily scaled-down because of the renovations surrounding the central station. Nevertheless, vendors are stationed here three times per week and they sell anything from fruit, vegetables, fish and flowers to nuts and other dried goods. There are also stalls with various cheeses, bread and biscuits as well as Greek and Turkish products. On Sunday shopping days there's also a market from 11:00 - 17:00. ▶ Open Wed, Fri 10:00 - 17:00, Sat 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Thu, Sun.   

Sex shops

Miranda's Seksshop A-2, Amsterdamsestraatweg 427, tel. (+31) 302 42 12 22, info@miranda.nl, www.miranda.nl. The biggest erotic warehouse in Utrecht, with the latest toys from the Silver Heron and the Geisha Box. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. 

Sweets

Josephine Twijnstraat 7, tel. (+31) 302 33 14 59. This elegant bakery is filled to the rafters with delicious homemade stuff. Try the macarons! ▶ Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon.

Trick 'n Treats B-2, Steenweg 9, tel. (+31) 307 52 34 05, www.trickntreats.nl. This charming old town shop sells all kinds of sweets, cookies, cupcakes, truffles, fudge, macaroons and much more. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Mon 12:30 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:30 - 17:30, Sun 12:00 - 17:30.   



Fresh fish at a local seafood shop

Toerisme Utrecht

You'll find everything here from dentists and spas to golf courses and real estate agents.

Boat rental & Boat trips

De Rijnstroom Kano- en Roeibootverhuur J-16, Weg naar Rhijnauwen 2, tel. (+31) 302 52 13 11, www.rijnstroom.nl. Want to paddle through the canals with a canoe? In the summertime (April - October) you can even paddle by the light of a full moon. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:30 - 20:00.

Schuttevaer A-1, Weerdsingel 4, tel. (+31) 302 72 01 11, www.schuttevaer.com/contact.php. Schuttevaer is the oldest canal boat company in town and has been ferrying tourists and locals around for 50 years. ▶


Utrecht Sloep Rondvaarten J-16, Abraham Keerstraat 12, tel. (+31) 610 40 30 16, www.utrechtsloep rondvaarten.nl. Take a ride on sloop through the canals enjoying your own music with a sip of Prosecco. ▶

Bowling

Bison Bowling A-3, Mariaplaats 13, tel. (+31) 302 31 18 55, www.bisonbowling.nl. Bowling and/or dining is possible in this friendly place.

Mitland Bowling H-8, Arienslaan 1, tel. (+31) 302 71 20 13, www.mitland.nl. The oldest bowling alley in Utrecht has been renovated and now includes the coolest, most modern gadgets. ▶ Open 17:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri 17:00 - 24:00, Sat 17:00 - 01:00, Sun 12:00 - 23:00.

Currency exchange

GWK Travelex A-2, Stationshal 11, tel. (+31) 900 05 66, www.travelex.com. If you plan on exchanging money, banks offer the best exchange rates and a smaller commission, but the GWK is the most convenient if you're heading to the train station. The exchange rate is reasonable but the commission is 0.75% with a minimum charge of €3.25 and a maximum of €7.50. Buy or sell foreign currency, cash travellers checks, debit your credit or bank card or send and receive money with Western Union. International calling cards, credit for cell phones and travel insurance also available. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 19:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. 

Dentists

Oelp Hoogh Bollandt Tandartspraktijk A-4, Catharijnesingel 77, tel. (+31) 302 31 96 25, www.oelp.nl. This multilingual dentist can fix your cavities or whiten your teeth. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Verstand Tandartspraktijk E-10, Groenmarktstraat 1, tel. (+31) 302 99 11 20, www.tandartspraktijk.nu. Since 2005 a good place to go to, even if your scared... ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



Classical music in the Pandhof

Toerisme Utrecht

Football: FC Utrecht

Two of Utrecht's most well-known football players, Marco van Basten and Wesley Sneijder, never actually defended FC Utrecht's beautiful red-and-white. For years, however, both star players did wear the 'cursed' red-and-white of Utrecht's arch-enemy, Amsterdam's Ajax. With its 25,000 seat capacity FC Utrecht's stadium may be half the size of the Ajax Arena, but fanatical supporters still manage to make a lot more noise at their home games at the cosy Galgenwaard.

FC Utrecht was founded in 1970 after a fusion of three professional football clubs in Utrecht: DOS (founded in 1901 and national champion in 1958), Velox (founded in 1902) and Elinkwijk (founded in 1919). Home games are usually held on Sunday afternoons at 14:30.



The Galgenwaard Stadium is located at the edge of the city at Herculesplein 24 and is easily accessible by motorway. Tickets are sold at 400 TicketBox sales points across the Netherlands or at one of 28 official football club websites. For a reservation call the ticket office: tel. (+31) 308 88 55 55 or send an email to: ticketing@fcutrecht.nl. Tickets range in price from €20 - 33.

Doctors

Weerdsingel Huisartsenpraktijk A-1, Weerdsingel 40, tel. (+31) 302 31 34 77, www.hapweerdsingel.nl. A group of doctors run this medical practice.

Golf


Golfclub Amelisweerd J-16, Mereveldseweg 7, tel. (+31) 302 54 66 48, www.amelisweerd.nl. This 18-hole golf course has been a local favourite since 1997.

Hairdressers & Barbers

De Kappers K-16, Nobelstraat 153, Zeist, tel. (+31) 302 31 70 14, www.dekappers.nl. Students get a discount and the queues are never long. Specialises in trendy haircuts.

▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Mon 12:30 - 18:00, Tue 09:00 - 18:00, Wed 09:00 - 19:30, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Kurz bij Jaco B-2, Schoutenstraat 13, tel. (+31) 302 31 13 26, www.kurzhaar.nl. You can get a fashionable haircut from Jaco or one of his qualified team members in Utrecht's oldest shop. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Mon 10:00 - 18:15, Sat 10:00 - 16:30. Closed Sun. 

Tabou Haar en Jazz B-3, Oudegracht 211, tel. (+31) 302 30 45 01, www.tabouhaarenjazz.nl. While you receive a haircut in the back you can listen to the newest jazz from the shop in the front. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:15, Sat 10:00 - 18:15. Closed Sun. 



Halo on top of Willibrordus Church

Toerisme Utrecht

Karting

Kartfabriek J-15, Westkanaaldijk 7, tel. (+31) 302 40 40 40, www.kartfabriek.nl. Speeds of up to 60km/hour will keep the F1 driver in you satisfied! After the race, drinks can be had on the old benches of a Fokker aircraft. ▶ Open , Tue, Thu, Fri 16:00 - 24:00, Wed 13:30 - 24:00, Sat 13:00 - 24:00, Sun 13:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon. ☎

Laundrettes

Cyberwash Selfservice wassalon A-3, Amsterdamsestraatweg 237, tel. (+31) 302 45 90 77, www.cyberwash.nl. The cosiest and cheapest launderette in Utrecht. Apart from doing your laundry, you can also work on your tan and check your email. ▶ Open 06:00 - 22:00. Also at Rijnlaan 44. ☎ ☎ ☎

Massage

Monique Kolfshoten C-3, Van Brakelstraat 18/BIS, tel. (+31) 302 71 83 98, www.moniquekolfshoten.nl. Besides giving massages, Monique Kolfshoten is also a speech therapist, voice coach for professional speakers and actors and a body-oriented therapist.

Pharmacies

Kring-Apotheek Wilhelmina G-9, Burg Reigerstraat 47, tel. (+31) 302 51 37 12, www.wilhelminaapotheek.nl. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun. **Liefde's Centraal Apotheek A-2, Voorstraat 6, tel. (+31) 302 31 01 13.** The so-called Love Pharmacy is located in Utrecht's most famous Art Nouveau building.

Spas & Beauty

Delete G-9, Burgemeester Reigerstraat 21-23, tel. (+31) 882 24 22 22, www.delete-waxing.com. If you'd like to keep up with the latest trends in beauty and personal grooming, one simply cannot escape waxing, otherwise known as the removal of undesirable body hair. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. ☎

Sauna Descansa C-1, Biltstraat 6-8, tel. (+31) 302 71 18 08, www.descansa.nl. A completely different world is hidden behind a gate on the Biltstraat: a dreamy place that smells of eucalyptus and incense. The stylish, attractively furnished rooms each have their own design so you can imagine that you're in Greece, Morocco or even India. ▶ Open 13:00 - 23:00. Closed Mon. (€19.50). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Sauna Lamar J-16, Jutfaseweg 223, tel. (+31) 302 89 83 59, www.saunalamar.nl. Lamar's three saunas, Turkish bath and infrared cabin will keep you warm and relaxed to say the least. Its somewhat kitsch murals won't win any design contests, but it does offer friendly service. Ladies only on Wednesday. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 11:00 - 22:00. Entrance: €22. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Water parks

De Kwakel Zwembad J-15, Paranadreef 10, tel. (+31) 302 86 27 00. A suburban swimming pool.

Den Hommel Aquacenter J-16, Kennedylaan 5, tel. (+31) 302 86 24 00. The Bumblebee swimming pool in Kanalenleiland is ideal for children. ▶ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Down Under J-16, Ravenswetering 1, Nieuwegein, tel. (+31) 302 87 77 77, www.downunderrecreatie.nl. You'll find all kinds of water activities at this self-proclaimed fun park. ▶ Admission: adults €4, children 3 - 11 years €3.

Maarsseveense plassen J-15, Herenweg 53, Maarsse, tel. (+31) 302 61 01 86, www.recreatiemiddennederland.nl. On sunny days most Utrechters head out to the Maarsseveense Plassen, which is about half an hour's bicycle ride from the city centre (or take bus Nr. 35 to Maarssen). Here you'll find everything you'd find by the sea: loud teenagers, beer-chugging construction workers and flirtatious students on the prowl. There's a beach with real sand, showers and a playground for which you'll have to pay a small fee, but most people choose the free grassy patches along the lake. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission: €4. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Utrecht for kids

Ballorig Houten J-16, Tuibrug 3, Houten, tel. (+31) 306 36 56 20, www.ballorig.nl/houten. This playground is an indoor paradise for kids. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Children 13 and under €7, parents free. ☎

KidzCity J-15, Vlampijpstraat 79, tel. (+31) 302 42 00 42, www.kidzcity.nl. For many parents KidzCity is a godsend. Dozens of gigantic, colourful playground structures scattered across 5,000m² of a large factory hall on the edge of the city are at your kid's disposal all day long. Young children can retreat to their own corner away from somewhat older, less careful children. The little ones can enjoy slides, bumper cars, a mega ball pool with 18,000 balls and the most modern laser games. This futuristic playground fulfills all of the wishes of today's youth and the layout of the hall is designed so parents can keep an eye on their offspring from comfortable sitting corners where they can make use of the wireless internet. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Tue, Thu 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission: €10.50 from 4 years, €9.50 for seniors over 65. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Speeltuín De Kleine Dom B-3, Lange Nieuwstraat 79, tel. (+31) 302 31 37 53. This playground has an outdoor area with a climbing fort, football cage, swings, a sandpit and a climbing wall. The playground is also bursting with tricycles and go-karts. Children can also pet rabbits, Aagje and Gismo, in their pen. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 13:00 - 17:00. ☎ ☎ ☎

Torteltuín Utrecht F-8, Kwartelstraat 68, tel. (+31) 302 73 58 47, www.torteltuín.nl. De Torteltuín has been an incredibly fun place for city kids since 1993. This green oasis is located in a picturesque setting and is equipped with only the highest quality attractions. This set-up has regularly earned this child friendly play paradise the title of 'Best Play Area in Central Holland.' Evidently not every parent is as responsible with their kids as one might expect as the signs on the gated area remind parents that smoking and drinking is prohibited. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:30, Sat 11:30 - 16:30. Closed Sun. Admission: €0.50/person. ☎ ☎



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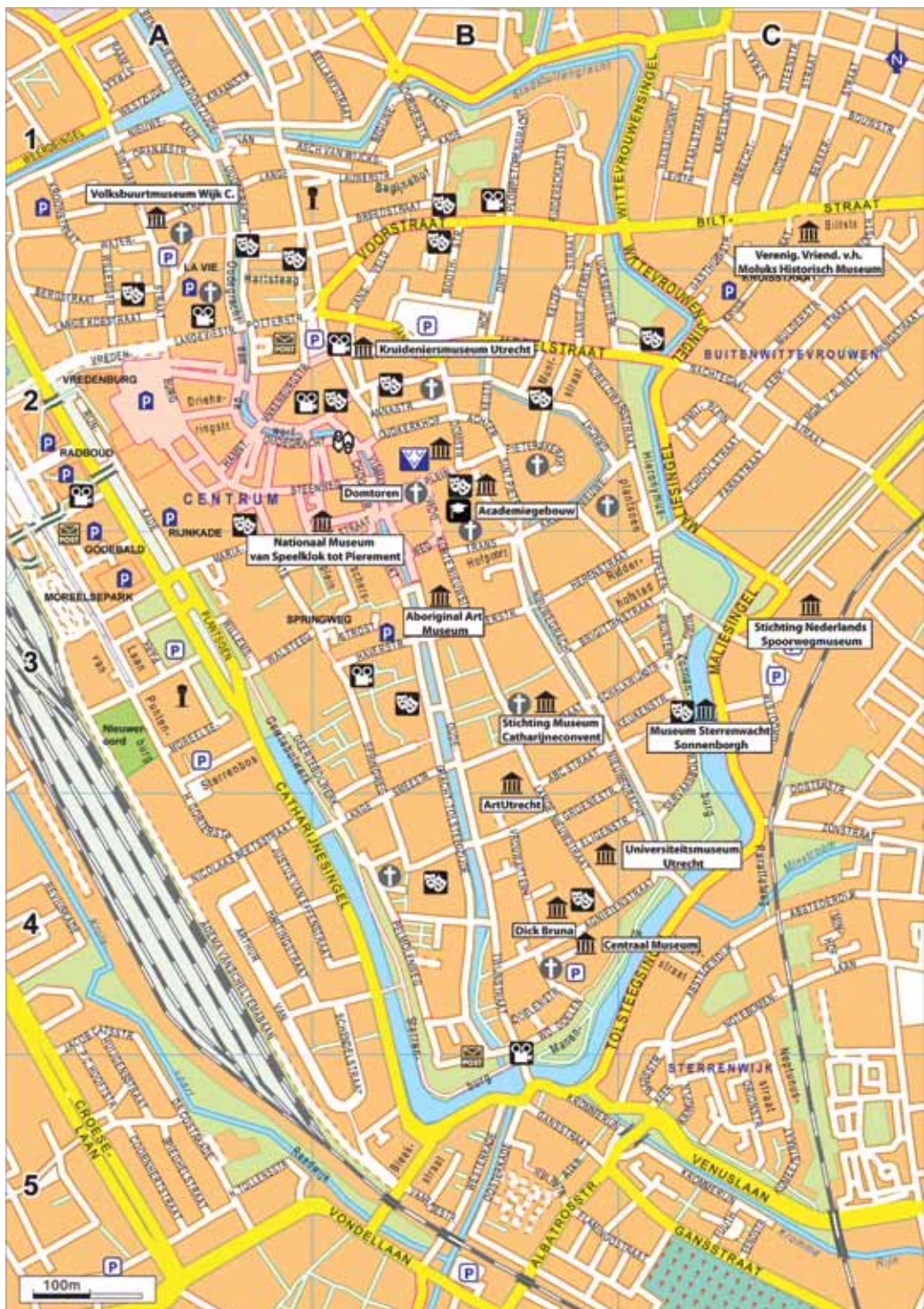
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NETHERLANDS
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