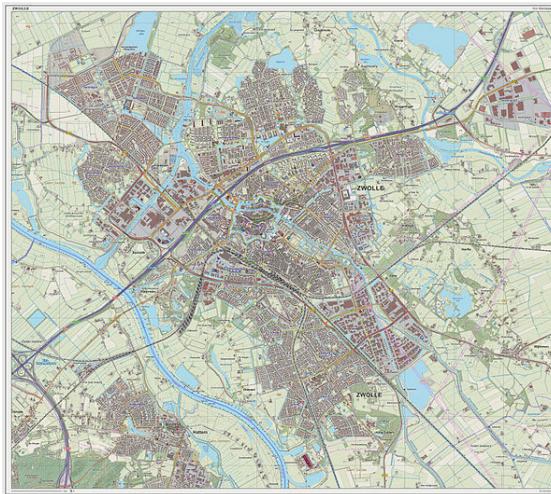


Zwolle

For other places with the same name, see [Zwolle \(disambiguation\)](#).

Zwolle (Dutch: ['zuolə]) is a [municipality](#) and the capital



Dutch Topographic map of Zwolle (city), Sept. 2014

city of the province of [Overijssel](#), Netherlands. It has a population around 125,000.

1 History

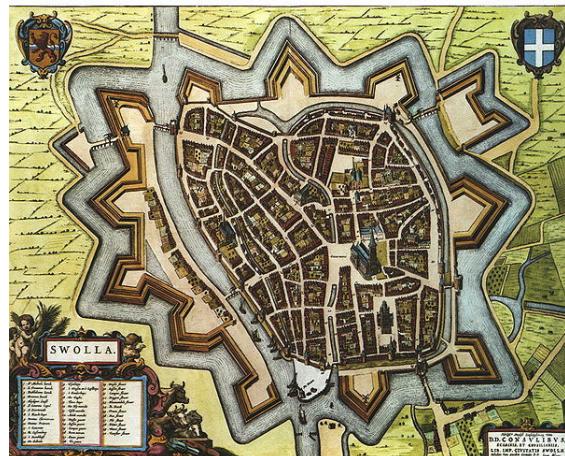
Archaeological findings indicate that the area surrounding Zwolle has been inhabited for a long time. A [woodhenge](#) that was found in the [Zwolle-Zuid](#) suburb in 1993 was dated to the [Bronze Age](#) period.^{[6][7]} During the Roman era, the area was inhabited by [Salian Franks](#).

The modern city was founded around 800 A.D. by [Frisian](#) merchants and troops of [Charlemagne](#).^[8] The name [Zwolle](#) is derived from the word *Suolle*, which means “hill” (cf. the English cognate verb “to swell”). This refers to an incline in the landscape between the four rivers surrounding the city, [IJssel](#), [Vecht](#), [Aa](#) and [Zwarte Water](#). The hill was the only piece of land that would remain dry during the frequent [floodings](#) of the rivers. Zwolle was established on that incline.

A document mentions the existence of a [parish church](#) dedicated to [St Michael](#). That church, the *Grote* or *Sint Michaëlskerk* (*big* or *Saint Michael Church*), was renovated in the first half of the 15th century and exists to this day. The church contains a richly carved [pulpit](#), the work of [Adam Straes van Weilborch](#) (about 1620), some good carving and an exquisite [organ](#) (1721).

On August 31, 1230, the [bishop of Utrecht](#) granted Zwolle city rights. Zwolle became a member of the [Hanseatic league](#) in 1294, and in 1361 joined the war between the Hanseatic League and [Valdemar IV of Denmark](#). In the 1370 [Treaty of Stralsund](#) that ended the war, Zwolle was awarded a *ville*, a trade colony, in [Scania](#), then part of [Denmark](#). Zwolle’s golden age came in the 15th century. Between 1402 and 1450, the city’s [Gross Regional Product](#) multiplied by about six.^[9]

In July 1324 and October 1361, regional noblemen set fire to Zwolle. In the 1324 fire, only nine buildings escaped the flames.^[10]



Map of Zwolle by [Joan Blaeu](#) in Blaeu's "Toonneel der Steden", 1652

Zwolle was also, with Deventer, one of the centers of the [Brethren of the Common Life](#), a monastic movement. Three miles from Zwolle, on a slight eminence called the Agnietenberg, (hill of St Agnes), once stood the Augustinian convent in which [Thomas à Kempis](#) spent the greatest part of his life and died (in 1471).^[11]

At least as early as 1911, Zwolle had a considerable trade by river, a large fish market, and the most important cattle market in the Netherlands after Rotterdam. The more important industries comprised cotton manufactures, iron works, boat-building, dyeing and bleaching, tanning, rope-making, and salt-making.^[11]

In [World War II](#), Zwolle was single-handedly liberated from the Germans by Canadian soldier [Léo Major](#). He was made an honorary citizen of Zwolle in 2005 and a street is named for him.

In 2004, Zwolle’s [De Librije](#) restaurant was honored with 3 stars by [Michelin Guide](#); as of 2007, with the demo-



Librije

tion of Parkheuvel from 3 to 1 star, it is one of only two restaurants so honored in the entire country.

1.1 Blauwvingers

Citizens of Zwolle are colloquially known as *Blauwvingers* (Bluefingers). This dates back to 1682, when the St Michael's church tower collapsed. The authorities were strapped for cash and saw no option but to sell the church bells to neighbouring city Kampen. To make sure that Kampen would not make too much profit from the deal, the local authorities asked a high price for the church bells. Kampen accepted, yet after the arrival of the bells it became clear, they were too damaged to be played. In revenge, Kampen paid in copper coins of four *duiten* (the equivalent of two-and-a-half cents). Zwolle distrusted Kampen and wanted to be sure they truly paid the entire price. After the rigorous counting of this vast amount of money, their fingers had turned blue from the copper.^{[12][13]}

2 Climate

3 Buildings

Besides the *Grote* or *Sint Michaëlskerk* (the latter which houses a majestic Baroque organ built by Arp Schnitger), there are several other historic monuments in Zwolle. The Roman Catholic *Onze Lieve Vrouwe ten Hemelopneming*-basilica (Our Lady Ascension) dates back to 1399. The church tower, called *Peperbus* (pepperbox), is one of the tallest and most famous church towers in the Netherlands. The modernized town hall was originally built in 1448.^[11]

Mention should also be made of the *Sassenpoort* (one of the old city gates), the city walls, the *Mosterdmakerstoren* (mustard makers' tower)(the complex where local mustard used to be made), a guild-house (1571), the former

provincial government offices, a Dominican monastery, and on the Melkmarkt, two museums; the *Stedelijk Museum Zwolle* of antiquities and natural history, and the *Vrouwenhuis*. *Museum de Fundatie*, the fine art museum of the province of Overijssel, is hosted in the former Justice Hall on Blijmarkt Square.

In the western part of the city, west of the railway station, there is a quarter of *Art Nouveau* buildings, concentrated mostly on Koningin Wilhelminastraat, Prinses Julianasstraat, and Prins Hendrikstraat. These three-storey living houses were built in 1900s by various Dutch architects. Eleven of the buildings are protected by the Dutch government (*rijksmonumenten*).

The *Broerenkerk* church was part of the Dominican *monastery* founded in 1465. The monastery was closed in 1580 and the monks were expelled. From 1640 until 1982 the church was used for Protestant services. After a restoration in 1983-1988 it has been used for cultural events and it is now a bookstore.^{[15][16]}

- Thorbeckegracht
- Peperbus from the Eekwal. The house in front really is that crooked.
- Praubstraat, inner city
- Sassenpoort
- The *Rich Friar House* a center of the *Devotio Moderna* and later the home of *Willem Bartjens*
- The organ in Broerenkerk
- The Art Nouveau gate at Prins Hendrikstraat 1-3-5. 1902, architect *Geurt Gijsbertus Post*.

4 Notable residents

See also People from Zwolle

Arts, culture, entertainment and the media

- *Hein Boele* (born November 24, 1939), actor, Dutch voice of *Elmo*
- *Jonnie Boer* (born 1965), *chef* with three Michelin stars
- *Gerard ter Borch* (1617–1681), painter
- *Tooske Breugem* (born 1974), television host actress
- *Herman Brood* (November 5, 1946–July 11, 2001), painter/rock star
- *Eef Brouwers* (born 1939), journalist and former head of the Netherlands Government Information Service

- A. den Doolaard (February 7, 1901–June 26, 1994), author
- Rhijnvis Feith (1753–1824), author
- Bennie den Haan (born February 3, 1970), actor
- Eli Heimans (1861–1914), author
- Marnix Kappers (born 1943), actor
- Master I. A. M. of Zwolle (c. 1440-1490), engraver
- Ton Koopman (born 1944), a conductor, organist, and harpsichordist
- Yuri Landman (born 1973), experimental musical instrument builder, comic book artist
- Leonard van Munster (born 1972), artist
- Robbie Muntz (born 1963), television and radio maker
- Opgezwolle, rap crew
- Everhardus Johannes Potgieter (1808–1875), author
- Joan Remmelts (August 12, 1905–December 19, 1987), actor
- Danny Rook (born October 6, 1971), television host
- Emmy van Swoll (August 6, 1897–May 27, 1990), actor
- Bert Tigchelaar (1946–2004), journalist, news correspondent in Berlin
- Jan Vayne (Jan Veenje) (born 1966), pianist
- Charlotte Wessels, singer of Delain
- Michael Minsky (1918–1988), singer and conductor

Religion

- Johannes Busch (1399–c. 1480), church reformer and provost of the Augustinian monastic order
- Andreas Ignatius Schaepman (1815–1882), Archbishop of Utrecht
- Alanus de Rupe (1428–1475), Roman Catholic theologian and Dominican promotor of the rosary

Politics

- Laurens Jan Brinkhorst (born 1937), former Minister of Economic Affairs
- Joan van der Capellen tot den Pol (1741–1784)
- Willem Johan Lucas Grobbée (1822–1907), Minister of Finance from 1883 to 1885

- Johannes ter Pelkwick (August 26, 1769–November 18, 1834)
- Johan Rudolf Thorbecke (1798–1872), Prime Minister of the Netherlands (1849–1853, 1862–1866, 1871–1872)

Sports

- Jeroen Dubbeldam (born 1973), 2000 Olympic Equestrian champion
- Harry Duiven Jr. (born 1987), heavyweight boxer
- Marten Eikelboom (born 1973), hockey player
- Martin Haar (born 1952), former football defender
- Ron Jans (born September 29, 1958), soccer trainer
- Jo van Marle (1925–1995) president of the Royal Dutch Football Association from 1980 to 1993, treasurer of UEFA from 1984 to 1995
- Eric Pierik (born 1959), field hockey player
- Johannes Smeekens (born 1987), Olympic speedskater
- Peter Wessels (born 1978), tennis player.

Science

- Thomas Joannes Stieltjes (1856–1894), mathematician/civil engineer/politician

5 Educational institutions

Zwolle is home to several universities and colleges:

- Artez
- Christelijke Hogeschool Windesheim
- Deltion College Zwolle
- Hogeschool Zwolle
- Landstede Zwolle
- Cibap Zwolle
- Groene Welle Zwolle



Zwolle railway station with *ICMm* train

6 Transport

6.1 Road transport

Zwolle is a hub in the national highway network, and gateway to northern Netherlands. This is reflected in the high traffic volumes in and around the city. The A28 serves Zwolle with 4 exits, and runs from Utrecht to Groningen. It is being widened to 8 lanes across the **IJssel River** and 6 lanes from Zwolle to Meppel in 2010 and 2011. The motorway initially opened between 1964 and 1970.^[17] Another motorway, the A50, interchanges with A28 just west of the city, offering a route for southbound traffic to Apeldoorn and Eindhoven.

The N35 highway starts in Zwolle, where it forms the eastern section of the ring road of Zwolle, it runs as a non-motorway to Almelo and continues to Enschede as A35 motorway. The ringroad is mainly a 4-lane road, with numerous traffic lights. It forms a full ring, and also exists out of the N337 highway that runs to Deventer. Other sections of the ring road are not numbered. Parts of the ring road were widened to six lanes in 2010. Other numbered highways running from Zwolle are N331 to Hasselt, N758 to Nieuwleusen, N340 to Ommen and N764 to Kampen.

6.2 Bridges

Due to nearby rivers, there are several major bridges in and around Zwolle. The most important bridge is the IJssel Bridge where the A28 motorway runs across. It was completed in 1970 and carries over 115,000 vehicles per day. Adjacent to this bridge is the older IJssel Bridge, which opened in 1930 and was destroyed twice during World War II. A third IJssel Bridge is the railway bridge (called Hanze boog) which carries the railway line from Zwolle to Amersfoort, and from 2012, to Lelystad. There are several bridges across the **Zwarte Water** River, including two 4-lane bridges, a 2-lane bridge, and a bus/bicycle bridge. There is also a bridge across the **Vecht**, which

carries A28 motorway. Another local bridge is adjacent to this bridge. A third bridge carries rail traffic to Leeuwarden and Groningen. Numerous local bridges exist around the historic city center.

6.3 Rail transport

- Zwolle railway station

The first train in Zwolle arrived on June 6, 1864. Today the city has rail connections in eight directions (viz. Kampen, Leeuwarden, Groningen, Emmen, Enschede, Arnhem/Nijmegen, Lelystad/Amsterdam, and Amersfoort).

The rail connection with Amsterdam via Lelystad – the Hanzelijn – is operational since December 2012.

6.4 Water transport

Zwolle is located on or near three **rivers** (Zwarte Water, Vecht, and IJssel), several **canals** (the now disused Willemvaart, Nieuwe Vecht and Overijssels Kanaal and the modern Zwolle-IJssel Kanaal). There are some water-related industries in Zwolle, mainly in the Voorst industrial area.

7 International relations

Main article: List of twin towns and sister cities in the Netherlands

7.1 Twin towns — Sister cities

Zwolle is currently twinned with:

- Lünen, Germany

In the past, Zwolle had partnerships with:

- Érsekhalma, Hungary
- Rutobwe, Rwanda
- Vologda, Russia
- Kaliningrad, Russia

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9 External links

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