

HIGHLIGHTS NAARDEN



6

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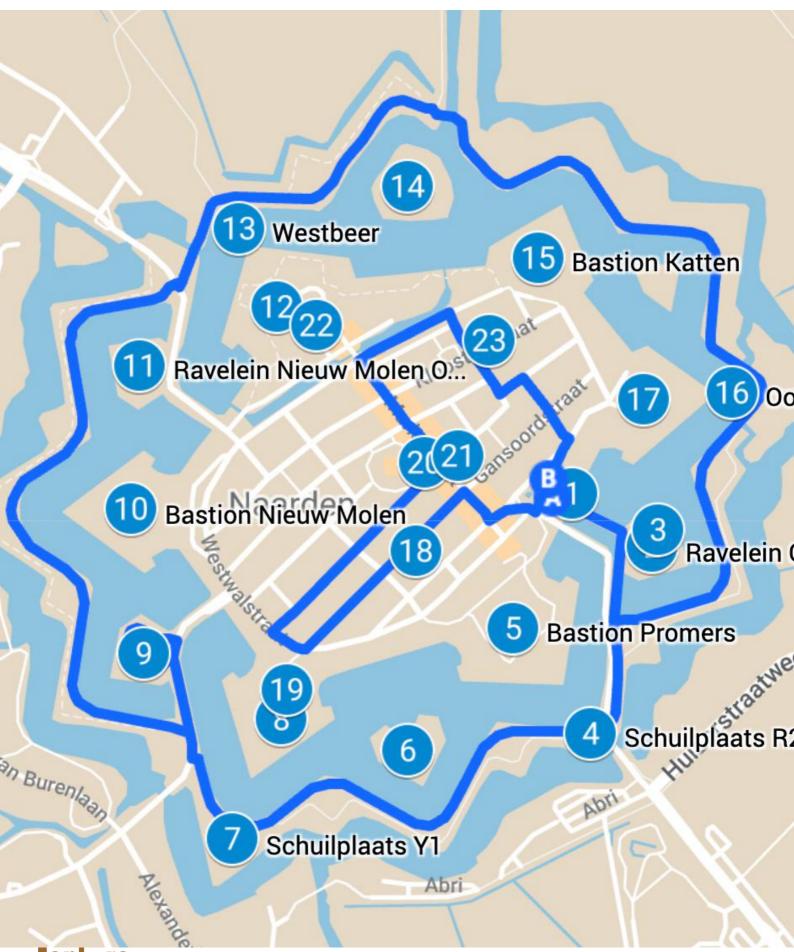
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The walk through Naarden starts at the Utrechtse Poort at Ruijsdaelplein 6 in Naarden. Walk through the Gate to Ravelin Oranje Promers. You will find the guardhouses P & Q here.

Naarden has a strategic location and used to be often the scene of fights, arson, looting and murder. Walk through the fortress to experience the stories of the past. The Utrechtse Poort is a city gate from 1877. Traces of soot from the tram that used to pass under this gate can still be seen against the ceiling. This tram was popularly called De Gooische Moordenaar, because of the many accidents that cost the lives of a total of 117 people. Of the two original entrance gates, only this gate has been preserved. The gatekeepers sat in the guardrooms on either side.



After crossing the bridge over the canal, you will be the first to enter the ravelijn Oranje Promers. A ravelin is an outwork of a fortress. It is a pentagonal or redan-shaped fortified island surrounded by an extra ravelin moat in the moat. The forward defenses are located halfway between the bastions, often in front of a fortress entrance gate. Sometimes also for the curtain, the wall between two bastions.





Light guns were stored in these guardhouses that could be placed on the ravelin in case of war. They protect the main rampart and make it difficult to cross the moat.

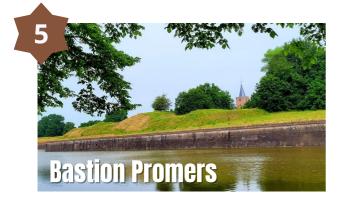


From Ravelin Oranje Promers, walk straight on down the path, de Korte Bedekte weg. You will then pass shelter R2 and see it opposite Bastion Promers. Bedekt means covered, which means that soldiers used to be able to move here without being hit by enemy fire: covered.



Walk further down the path and eventually come to the residence of the military bridge keeper who had to operate the bridge over the outer canal. Continue on the fortress route by turning right before the bridge. This road runs the entire fortress between the inner and outer moat. If you stand on top of the rampart, you can see the outer moat. Right next to the bridge keeper's house, you will find shelter R2. This shelter was built in 1906 and made of unreinforced concrete. It was a place for housing 4 to 5 soldiers, possibly with machine guns.





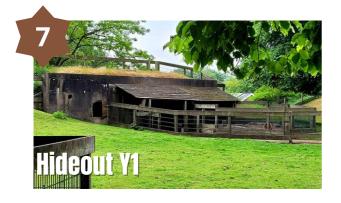
On the other side of the canal you can see bastion Promers. In the side wall of the bastion you see five loopholes, behind which cannons could be placed. On top of the side wall (called 'face') you see a series of small chimneys. Behind it are listening corridors, where soldiers could hear through the chimneys whether an enemy was trying to cross the canal. The bastion has curved sides and a low floor on which artillery could be placed. This allowed the moat and the adjacent bastions to be covered.



Follow the path further and you will see Ravelin Promers Turfpoort on the other side. Continue to shelter Y1. Opposite shelter Y1 you see Bastion Turfpoort.

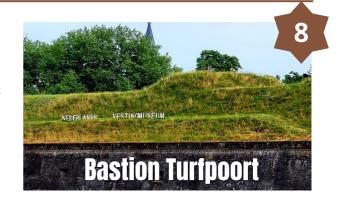
Ravelin Promers Turfpoort has been restored and on the city side has earthen walls and ramps along which artillery could be driven up. The enemy could not just walk on this Ravelijn, through the stone wall of the Ravelijn.





At the petting zoo you will find shelter Y1. The shelter has a 60 cm thick concrete roof resting on steel rails. On top of the roof lay a 20 cm layer of sand or earth. The area in front of the shelter was a place where soldiers and equipment gathered.

Bastion Turfpoort is a filled bastion, which means that the central area has been raised. The parapet on the moat side is provided with a pelting wall. Like the other bastions on the landward side of the fortress, this bastion has curved flanks that are retracted behind the shoulder corners of the bastion. It has two-level flanks, called high and low flanks.





Follow the path again. You will pass Ravelin Turfpoort Nieuw Molen that you can walk on. Follow the route along the Lange bedekte weg and a little further on you will find yourself opposite Bastion Nieuw Molen.



This Ravelin used to lie in the canal without a connection. On this Ravelin, the earth cover was left out during the restoration in order to place the Monument to the Fallen of the Second World War.

At Bastion Nieuw Molen it is striking that this is the only bastion without trees. During the restoration it was decided to return this bastion to the state of the 17th century, while the statue from the 19th century was chosen for the rest of the fortress.







Again you follow the path and after this you are opposite Ravelijn Nieuw Molen Oud Molen. A little further on, after crossing the Amsterdamsestraatweg, you will find yourself opposite Bastion Oud Molen.



Ravelin Nieuw Molen-Oud Molen is located in the moat on the northwest side of the fortress, in front of the former Amsterdamse Poort (demolished in 1915), halfway along the straight part of the rampart between the bastions Nieuw Molen and Oud Molen. The ravelin has an earthen parapet along the front and sides. The back facing the fortress has no parapet.

Bastion Oud Molen is one of the largest bastions of the fortress. It is located on the separation of the area inside and outside the dykes. That is why a stone wall runs from the point of the bastion through the moat, the Westbeer, which connects to the Westzeedijk and used to be part of the seawall.





After Bastion Oud Molen you pass the Westbeer. A little further on is Ravelin Oud Molen Katten. And a little bit further is Bastion Katten.



A wall, the Westbeer, runs between the road and the tip of the bastion Oud Molen. A bear is a dam in the canal and was intended to separate the salty water of the Zuiderzee from the fresh inland water. The two turrets on the wall (the Monks) and the pointed top made it difficult for enemies to cross.

The next Ravelin Oud Molen Katten has not been restored and has no stone walls. It has become a bird paradise and every year a children's play camp is held in the summer: "Vestingeiland".





Bastion Katten is built with straight walls on the flanks and no emplacements for guns low on the flank. On top of the bastion you see the Kat, a high earthen ridge on which heavy artillery was placed that had such a long range.



Follow the path and you will walk along the Oostbeer. Opposite you see Bastion Orange. Continue on the path and turn right at the fork. You will now arrive at the Utrechtse Poort. We then take this walk through the center of Nagrden.

In the moat is the Oostbeer, a dam similar to the one on the west side of the fortress. This also served to separate the fresh water and the salt water.





Bastion Oranje is located on the east side of the fortress between the bastions Katten and Oranje. It lies on the separation of the inner and outer dyke area. From the tip of the bastion, a stone wall therefore runs through the fortification moat, the Oostbeer, which connects to the Oostdijk and used to be part of the seawall. Its location opposite the Oostdijk made Orange an important bastion. The dike offered an attacker a passable access road that would protrude above the water even when the Waterline was flooded.



Turn left from Utrechtse Poort to Oostwalstraat. Then turn right to Ruijsdaelplein and turn right into Marktstraat. At the end of Marktstraat, turn left to Turfpoortstraat. Here you will find the Scale Museum (Weegschaalmuseum) on your left.

In everyday life we do not dwell on the origin of the kilo or the meter. What exactly is calibration and what does Napoleon have to do with it? Why is it that a kilogram is the same all over the world? Is a kilogram still a kilogram on the moon? With a visit to the Libra Museum you will discover the origins of measuring and weighing and you can experience how measures and weights used to be calibrated, calibrated and adjusted. The museum is housed in a fourteenth-century building with a rich history and is a former weighing house of the city of Naarden.





Exit Turfpoortstraat. If you walk straight ahead at the end, you can visit the Dutch Fortress Museum.



The Dutch Fortress Museum is located on the Turfpoort bastion in Naarden, one of the six bastions from which the fortified city derives its typical star shape. This heritage site from the 17th century is still largely in its original state and gives a good insight into how the fortress functioned as a defensive structure. On the outside area you can walk around in a park-like environment and enjoy the beautiful view over the fortifications. The museum's exhibits are located in the casemates.



From the fortress museum, go left to Westwalstraat. Then immediately turn right again to Sint Annastraat. Walk all the way to the end, until you reach the Grote Kerk of Naarden at the end and the Town Hall opposite it.

The Grote or Sint-Vituskerk is a late Gothic cruciform basilica. The oldest part of the church is the tower. This is a remnant of a predecessor of the current church, which was built between 1380 and 1440. The current cruciform basilica with choir aisle and strikingly low transepts was the result of an extension between 1455 and 1518, a period in which the church was destroyed by fire twice (1468 and 1481).





The Old Town Hall of Naarden was built in 1601 and is a beautiful example of Dutch Renaissance style. The interior of the ground floor is exactly as it was at the beginning of the 17th century.



Turn left at the Town Hall to the Markstraat. Walk out to the Oude Haven. At the Oude Haven you have a view of Het Arsenaal. Turn right here to the Oude Haven.

The Arsenaal is a former arsenal dating from 1688. In 1728, the Arsenaal was expanded with an extra floor and a new wing on the northeast side, the Klein Arsenaal. It was used as a storage facility for military equipment, especially weapons and ammunition.





Walk across the Oude Haven and turn right to Jan Massenstraat. If you take the first street on the left, you will find yourself in front of the Comenius Museum. This is the last sight of this walk.



The Comenius Museum is dedicated to the life, work and significance of the Czech philosopher, theologian and educator Jan Amos Comenius (1592–1670). The museum also gives access to the tomb of Comenius in the adjacent Mausoleum, the chapel of a former monastery. In the past, this building was an orphanage, which was founded ten the monasteries in and around the city were abolished during the Reformation.



To return to the starting point, continue walking through Jan Massenstraat. At the Huizerpoortstraat you turn left and immediately right again to the Pijlstraat. Walk all the way to the end and turn right at the end to get back to the Utrechtse Poort.



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