



CITY WALK

HIGHLIGHTS NIJMEGEN



4,6

KILOMETRES

80

MINUTES

24

LOCATIONS

- 11 Boterwaag | Grote Markt 26-28
- 2 Lakenhal | Grote Markt 1
- 3 Mariken van Nieumeghen | Grote Markt 1
- 4 Latin school | St Stevenskerkhof 2
- 5 St Stevenschurch | St Stevenskerkhof 62
- 6 Lange Hezelstraat
- 7 St Jacobschapel | Glashuis 4
- 8 Bird yard | Glashuis 13A
- 9 Kronenburgerpark/Kronenburgertoren
- 10 City theater | Keizer Karelplein 32H
- 11 Tourist office | Keizer Karelplein 32H
- 12 Keizer Karelplein
- 13 Canisuskchurch | Molenstraat 37

- 14 MuZIEum | Ziekerstraat 6B
- 15 Marienbergchapel | Marienburg 26
- 16 Old town hall | Burchtstraat 20A
- 17 Belvedere | Kelfkensbos
- 18 Barbarossaruïne | Kelfkensbos
- 19 St Nicolaaschapel | Kelfkensbos
- 20 Museum de Bastei | Lange Baan 4
- 21 Waalkade
- 22 Besiendershouse | Steenstraat 26-28
- 23 Synagogue | Nonnenstraat 19-21
- 24 Commanderie St Jan | Franse Plaats 1



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The city walk through Nijmegen starts at the Boterwaag on the Grote Markt in Nijmegen. On the Grote Markt you will also find the Lakenhal and the statue of Mariken van Nieuwegehen.

The Boterwaag was built at the beginning of the seventeenth century. As the name suggests, butter was weighed and traded. The design of this building came from Master Cornelis Janssen van Delft. The left part of the Waad was used as a meat hall. Today it is a catering establishment. It has also served as a police station.



In the 14th century, the cloth trade in Nijmegen was booming. Bed sheet is a thin textile with a shiny surface, made of wool. Trading took place in the Lakenhal, which was also known as the Gewandhuis. The English wool was imported from London. The Cloth Hall dates from the 14th century.



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Mariken and Moenen are characters from the medieval book 'Mariken van Nieuwegehen'. Nijmegen plays an important role in the book. You can still see the story of Moenen and Mariken everywhere in Nijmegen. For example, there is a statue of Mariken on the Grote Markt and one of Moenen at the foot of Sint Stevenskerk.



Leave the Grote Markt by walking under the Lakenhal. Here you will find the Latin school and the St Stevens church.

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The Latin school was built by Herman van Herengrave, who also built the Town Hall. It is the oldest existing school building in Nijmegen. It dates from 1544-1545. The statues of the twelve apostles on the facade have given the school the nickname Apostolic School. Since 1842, the successor to the Latin school has been the Municipal Gymnasium Nijmegen.



The medieval St Stevenskerk (or Grote Kerk) is the oldest church in Nijmegen. Because it was built on the slightly higher Hundisberg hill, it appears slightly higher than the 71 meters it actually is. During the Second World War, the church was severely damaged, but after several restorations, the church has been restored to its full glory. The exterior alone is impressive, but be sure to step inside through the heavy church doors. There you can see the 14 beautiful chandeliers from 1640 and the famous König organ. The church is still used for various religious services.

Walk past the St Stevenskerk and turn left via the Zuiderkerk stairs. Turn left to Ganzenheuvel and right to Lange Hezelstraat. Walk through this until you reach an alley called Glashuis. Enter this one. You will find the St Jacob's Chapel here.

The Lange Hezelstraat is the oldest shopping street in the Netherlands. It originated in 1334 and you can find everything there. Various shops, hotels, entertainment venues and numerous catering establishments. Everything in one street.



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St Jacobschapel

In the Old Lower Town of Nijmegen, a small chapel from the 15th century has been preserved as a historical monument. As in the past, the chapel fulfills a role as a meeting place for pilgrims (especially the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela). Pilgrims come together in the monthly ecumenical celebration (2nd Sunday of the month), departing pilgrims receive the blessing here before departure and can get a stamp in their pilgrim pass.



Turn left just before St Jacob's Chapel to continue the route. Then turn left again to get back to the Lange Hezelstraat. You will pass a nice bird yard along the way. Continue your way by walking down the Lange Hezelstraat. Turn left at the end to end up in Kronenburgerpark.

Behind the St Jacob's Chapel on the Glashuis is a hidden bird courtyard. It is very nice to have a look here. Behind the chapel is an alley that you turn left to return to the Lange Hezelstraat. On the right you will find the bird courtyard. Initiators of the Vogelhofje are Tonnie van den Ing senior and Toon van Beek. Over forty years ago, local resident Tonnie already hung the first houses. The Nijmegen resident has since passed away. In memory of him and Toon, there is a sign in the alley. Local residents now maintain the bird garden. For example, they hung new birdhouses in 2019.

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Bird courtyard

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Kronenburgerpark

You can consider the Kronenburgerpark as the city park of Nijmegen. The nineteenth century historic city park Kronenburgerpark used to be part of a stronghold. The old defense tower from the fifteenth century is a clear reference to this. The Kronenburgerpark see a sloping landscape, in which English styles have been applied. Winding paths lead you past ponds, fountains, a playground and even a waterfall. Over the years, some adjustments have been made to the Kronenburgerpark. The Powder Tower is a stable factor within the park. This wall tower has been here since 1426 and is also called Kronenburger tower.

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Walk past the Kruittower to the other side of the Kronenburgerpark. Leave the park along Kronenburgersingel and walk to Keizer Karelplein. On the way you pass the city theater and the tourist office.

The city theater in Nijmegen dates from 1955–1961. The design dates back to 1955 and construction took six years. The building was renovated in 2003 and a municipal monument in that year. In 2013 it was subsequently designated as a national monument from the reconstruction period.



City theater

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Tourist office

You will find the Tourist office of Nijmegen at the Keizer Karelplein. Here you can get all the extra information about Nijmegen.

The square was built in 1879. In 1880 it was renamed Keizer Karelplein. On 17 and 18 September 1944, during the Battle of Nijmegen, heavy fighting took place on Keizer Karelplein between American paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division and German soldiers of the Kampfgruppe Frundsberg. The American defeat in the square marked a major delay in the Allied advance during Operation Market Garden. Only on 20 September, thanks to the Waal crossing, a breakthrough was forced on Keizer Lodewijkplein, but this was too late to relieve Arnhem. On July 18, 1962, an equestrian statue of Charlemagne was unveiled in the small park in the middle of the square.



Keizer Karelplein



Turn left at Keizer Karelplein and leave the square via Bisschop Hamerstraat. At the end of this street, continue straight ahead via Molenstraat. At the end of the Molenstraat you will come to the Canisuschurch and if you turn right to the Ziekerstraat you will pass MuZIEum.

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Canisiuschurch

As early as 1301, a church with a monastery was established in the Molenstraat. Until 1808, the monastery and church had different owners. In 1897 the old church was replaced by a large, neo-Gothic church, designed by Nicolaas Molenaar. During the bombardment of February 22, 1944, the church building is largely destroyed. The church is provisionally restored from March 1944 to Easter 1946. The church was considerably reduced to 40x40m and lowered (approx. 5 m). The reason was that the government had determined that the church could only be restored using material from the bombed-out church. In the years 1958 to 1960 the rear part of the church was built.

The MuZIEum experience museum is different from other museums. This museum has a mission. Through various exhibitions and activities, they try to introduce you to the life of visually impaired people. Here you can experience for yourself what it means to move without or with very poor visibility. But also matters such as optical illusions, the function of the brain in cooperation with the eye and the usefulness of your other senses are discussed. How do certain dishes taste, for example, without seeing what you eat?



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After the MuZIEum, take the first street on the left: the Koningstraat. Keep right to stay on Koningstraat. Then turn right to Mariënborg. You will find the Marienburg Chapel here.

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Mariënborg chapel

The Marienburg Chapel is located in the center of Nijmegen. The medieval monument is accessible to the public as 'House of Nijmegen History'. There are regular exhibitions and lectures. The Mariënborg Chapel dates from the late Middle Ages, a time when ecclesiastical architecture was dominated by the Gothic. This architectural style emphasized the vertical line. This is clearly visible on the outside of the chapel in the buttresses, the characteristic pointed arch windows and the high-rising slate roof. Inside, the rib vaults are characteristic.

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Turn left before the Mariënborg Chapel into Marikenstraat. Turn left at Raadhuishof and immediately right again to Emaushof. Follow this road until you reach the Burchtstraat via the Korte Nieuwstraat. Turn right here. On the left you pass the Old Town Hall.

The historic part of the Town Hall actually consists of the amalgamation of a number of residential houses from the fourteenth century. In 1554-1555 city architect Herman van Herengrave designed a new front building for these houses. Over the years, the town hall has been damaged and restored several times. Between the windows in the facade you can see statues of emperors and monarchs who have been important to Nijmegen. In the parapet under the roof are seven medallions, representing the seven virtues that the city rulers should live up to: Hope, Love, Faith, Courage, Prudence, Unity and Justice. They are all replicas.



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Walk about 150 meters through the Burchtstraat and turn left via Hoogstraat and Voerweg to Belvedere. Then go to the park. Here you will find the Barbarossa ruins and the Valkhof chapel. Exit the park via the stairs on the side of the Valkhof chapel.

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The Belvedere is a former watch or watchtower on the east side of the Valkhof in the Hunnerpark.

The Barbarossa Ruins, also known as Saint Martin's Chapel, is a remnant of the Valkhof, a palace that was rebuilt in 1155 by Emperor Frederik Barbarossa. The ruin is a tuff apse and contains spolia of various architectural styles from Roman and Carolingian times.



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The Sint Nicolaaskapel is a chapel on the Valkhof, which was already in use at the beginning of the era by the Batavians. Charlemagne had a palace built on this hill in the eighth century, which was expanded in the following centuries. The current chapel dates from around 1000. The remains of Charlemagne's palace chapel were used in its construction. The chapel is the only remaining Romanesque central building in the Netherlands.



Go down the stairs. About halfway you will pass the Bastei museum. Then continue down and turn left to the Waalkade.

Museum de Bastei tells the story of the river. Dive into the museum and embark on a journey through the past, present and future. On the Waal and in the oldest city in the Netherlands, you touch the past and discover the history of the Gelderland river area. Experience how the river connects city and nature here.

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The Waalkade is an oasis of peace and a nice place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. The Waalkade is located between the Waal Bridge and the Railway Bridge. The current name has been used since about 1900. The quay has long been used for industry and shipping. Nowadays it is a nice recreational area that has been partly made car-free.



Just behind the Waalkade you will find the Besiendershuis on your left. Turn left at the roundabout and walk via Lage Markt to Priemstraat. Walk down this street and turn left into the Nonnenstraat. Here is the Synagogue.

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The Besiendershouse on Steenstraat was built around 1525 and is named after the besieder whose task it was to collect the tolls that passing ships had to pay on the Waal. The building is late Gothic in Lower Rhine style.



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The synagogue on Nonnenstraat was inaugurated on September 5, 1756. The Jewish community established a Jewish school and bath in adjacent properties. In 1913 the synagogue moved to Gerard Noodtstraat to return to Nonnenstraat in 2000. The building was severely damaged during the bombing in 1944 and was not restored until the 1970s. On November 26, 2000, the building was rededicated as a synagogue.

From the Nonnenstraat, take the stairs up to the Johannieterhof. Here is the Commanderie of St Jan. This city walk ends here.

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The commandery of St Jan was one of the first stone buildings in Nijmegen. It was built in 1196 and was originally used as a hospital. In 1214 the property came into the hands of the knights of the Johanniter Order who turned the property into a monastery. The building was used during wars to house soldiers. During the bombing of Nijmegen in 1944, the building was heavily damaged. In 1969, the building came under the Monumentenzorg foundation and was largely rebuilt. The building is now a national monument.



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