

Holland Bike Tours

Odette and Jerry cycling tour Tailored Tour



Monday 17 April - Saturday 29 April 2023



Tour start meeting:
Monday 17 April, 09:00 hrs at Amsterdam - hotel West Cord Fashion

Welcome to the Netherlands!

Dear Odette and Jerry,

You're about to discover the Netherlands the Dutch way: by bicycle. We believe cycling is the way to fully experience our country. Feel the sun on your skin and hear the mooing cows and singing birds while you're cruising on one of the many flat and smooth bike paths!

We've put together your tour with great attention to detail. Our unique routes are handcrafted with care and mostly use bike paths or bike lanes. Sometimes we even avoid busier bike paths and use that small bike path even the Dutch don't know. Our bicycles are especially selected for the terrain and the distance of your tour and are of top quality. We use small scale accommodations which are centrally located in each town. After arriving you can simply park your bicycle at the hotel, freshen up and explore your destination by foot.

This booklet provides an overview of your routes, accommodation, and points of interest. Please don't see the latter as a checklist but rather as options for each day. Sometimes you just have to get on the bicycle and let yourself be surprised by all the Netherlands has to offer.

For over 20 years we've been working hard to create the ultimate cycling experience. We know our product is never finished so if there's anything we can do better, please let us know. For urgent matters, please give us a call right away since we can't change things for you after your tour.

Thank you for cycling with us this season. We hope you'll enjoy cycling in the Netherlands as much as we do and we wish you a great ride!

The Holland Bike Tours team,
Emiel, Meike, Gerrit Jan, Lilian, Rian and Hans

Tour arrangements

Tour orientation and equipment fitting:
Monday 17 April, 09:00 hrs
Amsterdam - hotel West Cord Fashion

Equipment return:
Saturday 29 April, 16:00 hrs
Amsterdam - hotel West Cord Fashion

Equipment **Your own bike(s)**

Luggage **Per courier service | one pannier or back pack per bicycle**

Accommodation **Comfort level: 3 star hotels / 12 nights**
1 x double room
Private bathroom facilities. Breakfast and all local taxes are included.

Transfers 9292 Dutch public transport planner: www.9292.nl/en
Dutch Railways (NS) planner: www.ns.nl/en
Transfers are not included unless stated otherwise.

Tips and advice

Please find below the most important tips and advice from the 'Travel information' document. In this document you can find more information about your tour (accommodation, luggage, clothing, navigation, traffic rules and safety), but also extensive general information about the Netherlands (getting around, practical matters, Dutch manners and habits).

Luggage | If you use our luggage transfer service, we'll equip your bike with one waterproof pannier for your daily bits and pieces. We'll label your other luggage at the tour start; this will be picked up from 10 AM and delivered at your destination before 4 PM. If you carry your own luggage, we'll provide two waterproof panniers of 48 liters / 12 gallons - comparable to one hand luggage trolley. We can store any excess luggage during your tour.

Clothing | Most tours do not require special clothing unless you're riding a hybrid or road bike. We advise to bring comfortable clothes and layers to adapt to the temperature with a water/wind resistant top layer.

Weather | Summers in the Netherlands are fairly dry. But the Netherlands doesn't have a roof, so occasionally it rains too. If it rains, it's almost never all day, so usually there will be enough 'dry time' to get from A to B. We advise you download the free 'Buienradar' app (Rain Radar) to be able to check the hour to hour precipitation forecast in the morning and plan your day.

Maps | We provide door to door GPS cycling navigation for your daily routes which also works for navigating off route. But sometimes your own maps app might come in handy too. To avoid expensive mobile data use, we advise to download a part of the map onto your device before your tour. For example, Google Maps has an 'offline maps' option.

Traffic rules | Our routes will mostly be on bike paths or bike lanes. Please be aware of these road signs:



Phone | For calls within the Netherlands use the country code +31 or 0031 and leave out first zero of the 10 digit number. So 0234 100 100 becomes +31 234 100 100.

Emergency services

112 - The emergency number for police, fire department and ambulance services.

+31-900-8844 - If you don't have an emergency, but you still need to contact the police.

+31-234-100100 - You can always call Holland Bike tours in case of any questions.

Money | Credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and supermarkets but are not commonly used for smaller transactions. In this case cash is advised. Sometimes your credit card PIN is needed to authorize your transaction rather than your signature. Make sure to check the PIN number before departure!

National Holidays | Banks, government offices and most shops will be closed on national holidays. Cafes, restaurants and some museums remain open, sometimes with limited opening hours. Also, events can take place on the streets. Please take in account the following days for 2023:

April 7 - Good Friday | April 9 & 10 - Easter | April 27 - King's Day | May 4 - Remembrance Day (8 PM) | May 5 - Liberation Day | May 18 - Ascension Day | May 28 & 29 - Pentecost.

Monday 17 April

Amsterdam > Leiden (51 km / 32 mi)



Points of Interest

Amsterdam > Leiden

Today your route brings you to Leiden, another famous Dutch town. Leiden is the home of some interesting museums and is famous for the Siege of Leiden that took place between 1573 and 1574 when the Spanish attempted to capture this rebellious city during the 'Eighty Years' War, but didn't succeed. The route takes you through an agricultural region with pleasant cycling along the little backroads. Each year during the month of April, the bulb fields around Hillegom and Lisse are in full bloom. The route provides you with a multicolored display of tulips, hyacinths and daffodils. This route also goes past the Keukenhof Spring Gardens.

A) Bennebroek

Formed in the 13th century and its development was closely linked to the peat harvesting industry. Before its merger, it was the smallest municipality in the Netherlands, covering an area of only 1.75 km².

Food & Drinks

> Buitenplaats Plantage B.V. | Organic, nice garden. In Vogelzang near Bennebroek. Mon-Thu 11-17, Fri-Sun 11-21 [Vogelzangseweg 49A, +31 641 903 986]

Points of Interest

> Very unique/strange exhibition and trade center. Next to restaurant Plantage. [Vogelzangseweg 49, +31 638 361 266]

B) Hillegom

After 1850 there was an increasing need for cultivation grounds for tulips. Until then, flower bulbs were mainly cultivated to the west and south of Haarlem; Hillegom and surroundings had still enough dune around to dig up.

Points of Interest

> Annemieke's Pluktuin | Your welcome in the Greenhouses to walk around or pick your own flowers. Until mid may for tulips daily. And after 5th July for other flowers Thu-Sat [Haarlemmerstraat 15a]

> Hof van Hillegom | Manor house dating back to 1420, now Hillegom's town hall [Hoofdstraat 115]

C) Lisse

Settlement since the 10th century. Mostly renewed. Located at the center of the "Dune and Bulb Region" Lisse exports flower bulbs in large quantities to over a hundred countries worldwide.

Food & Drinks

> De Heerekamer | Fine dining. Tue-Sun 12-01 [Heereweg 200, +31 252 745 105]

> De Vier Seizoenen | 4-5 or 6 courses Chef's choice menu. Wed-Sun 12-23 [Heereweg 224, +31 252 418 023]

Points of Interest

> Castle Keukenhof | Mansion build in 1641. In 1857 the gardens were transformed by J.D.Zocher and his son L.F. Zocher - who later also designed the Vondelpark in Amsterdam

> Huys Dever | A very unique small castle built in 1182. Great history. Open inside Wed-Sun 14-17 [Heereweg 349A]

Museums

> Keukenhof | One of the world's largest flower gardens. Approximately 7 million flower bulbs are planted annually in the park, which covers an area of 32 hectares. Mid March-mid May 8-19. €19 [Stationsweg 166A]

> Museum Black Tulip | Small museum that brings the importance of tulip history for this area to life. Tue-Sun 10-17. €8 [Grachtweg 2A]

Monday 17 April

Leiden (1 night)

hotel Golden Tulip Leiden Centre

Schipholweg 3, Leiden / +31 71 408 3500



Points of interest

Patterned by canals. Leiden is the birthplace of the painter Rembrandt and has the oldest University of the Netherlands. Leiden is still an attractive city for students today.

Food & Drinks

> Crabbetje | Quality seafood restaurant. A hidden pearl. Tue-Sat 18-22 [St. Aagtenstraat 5, +31 715 128 846]

> Just Meet | High quality meat. Great wine. Tue-Sun 17.30-22 [Breestraat 18, +31 717 504 570]

Points of Interest

> Burcht van Leiden | City park with the remains of a 11th-century castle fortification. Located at the spot where the Oude Rijn and the Nieuwe Rijn come together [Van der Sterrepad 5]

> Hortus Botanicus | One of the oldest botanical gardens in the world, founded in 1590, with a tropical glasshouse, Old Observatory and airy cafe. Mon-Sun 10-18 [Rapenburg 73]

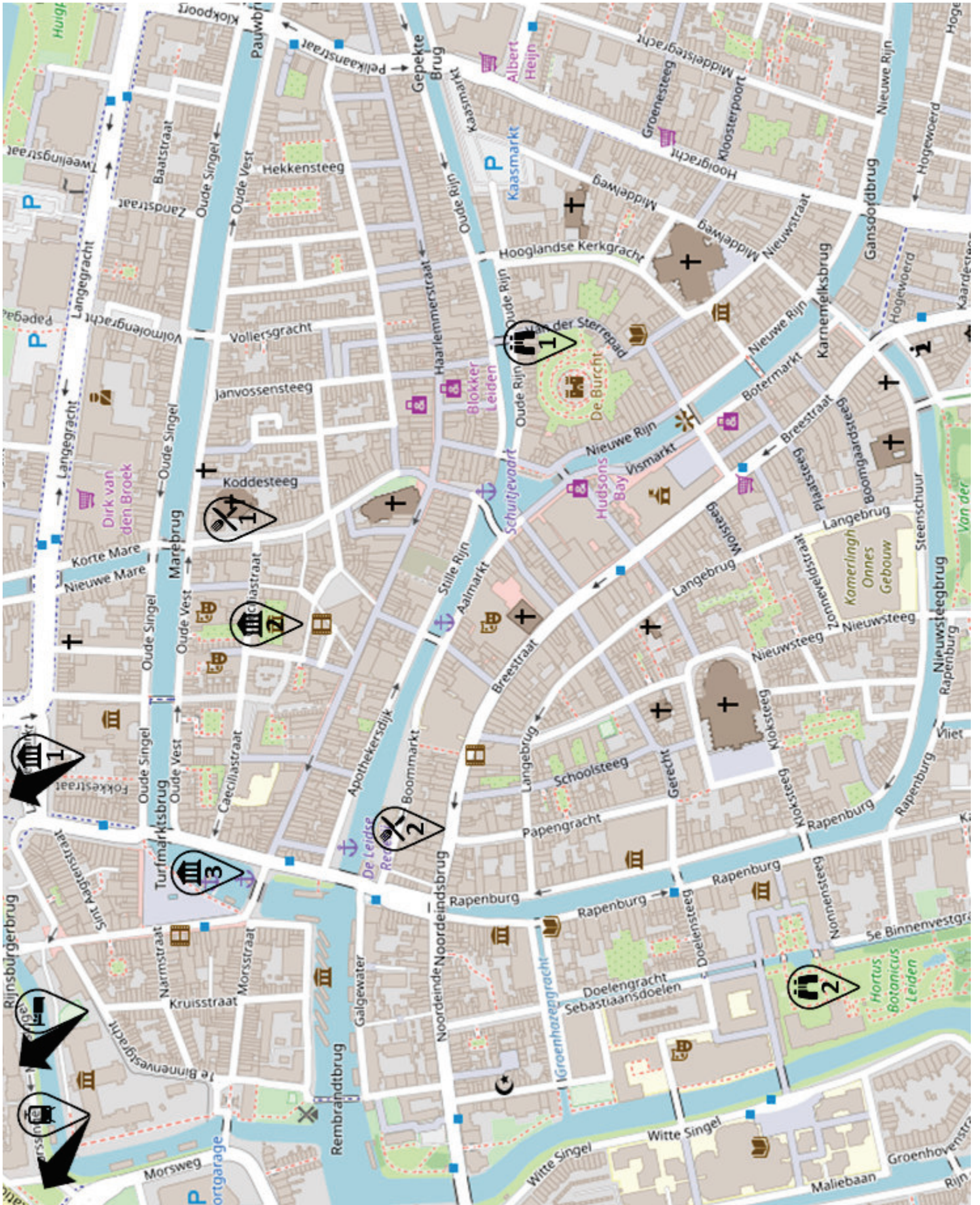
Museums

> Molen De Valk | Windmill with a working waterwheel and 1900s-style living spaces, plus a film and memorabilia exhibits. Tue-Sat 10-17, Sun 13-17. €5 [2e Binnenvestgracht 1]

> Museum Boerhaave | Former hospital displaying scientific & medical objects dating back to 16th century. Mon-Sun 10-17. €14 [Lange Sint Agnietenstraat 10]

> Bootjes en Broodjes | Guided open boat tour. Seeing all highlights from the water. Mon-Sun 10-18 or 19. €12 [Blauwpoortsbrug 1]

City map Leiden



Tuesday 18 April

Leiden > Delft (44 km / 27 mi)



Points of Interest

Leiden > Delft

The longer route initially takes you to the fishing village of Katwijk. You now turn southwards, and cycle along another part of the North Sea cycling path. Then you continue inland to chic residential area of Wassenaar before reaching Delft. The direct route is a shorter option (25 km) for this day leaving out Katwijk and Wassenaar.

A) Katwijk aan Zee

The differences with neighboring communities and the non-migratory nature of members of the old Katwijk families, Katwijk aan Zee continued its existence as a quiet, close-knit North Sea fishing village from the 16th century.

Food & Drinks

> Visrestaurant KW106 | At the beach. Best fish dishes and great service. Mon-Sat 12-23 [Zeezijde 41, +31 714 075 113]

> Het Strand "restaurant aan zee" | At the beach. Great food and drinks. Mon-Sun 10-23 [Boulevard Zeezijde, take beachroad at Andreaschurch +31 714 012 048]

Points of Interest

> Vuurbaak Katwijk | Lighthouse since 1605. Visit inside by making appointment at Katwijk Museum +31 714 013 047 [Vuurbaakplein]

> Andreas Church | Built in 1461. Named after the Apostle Andrew, the patron saint of fishermen. [Boulevard 109]

B) Wassenaar

Several ambassadorial residences are located here. In general, there is a large expatriate community of diplomats and business people. Despite being a relatively small town, Wassenaar is well known in the Netherlands as a result of its conspicuous wealth.

Food & Drinks

> Lien's Kitchen | Open for lunch or a drink. Tue-Sun 11-22 [Kerkstraat 2, +31 707 440 727]

> Lien's Kitchen | Open for lunch or a drink. Tue-Sun 11-22 [Kerkstraat 2, +31 707 440 727]

> Restaurant at Voorlinden Museum | Mon-Sun 10.30-18 [Buurtweg 90, +31 705 121 660]

Museums

> Tikipool/Duinrell | Theme park complex with thrill and family rides, plus indoor pool attraction with 16 extreme waterslides. Reservation advised. Reservation advised. Tue-Sun 10-16. €20 [Duinrell 1]

> Voorlinden museum | Collection of modern & contemporary art, and 90]

C) Nootdorp

Nootdorp has its roots in the 13th century, it was first mentioned in 1281 as a "safe road" located at what is now known as the Veenweg.

Food & Drinks

> Cafe M'n Broer | A contemporary café. Tue-Sat 16-01 [Dorpsstraat 27]

> Eetcafé 1837 | Located in a more than 300 year old farm. Tue-Sun 11-22 [Kerkweg 2, +31 153 108 383]

Points of Interest

> Mill Windlust | Open for visitors when mill is running. Since 1625. Free but small donation is appreciated [Oudeweg 70]

Tuesday 18 April

Delft (1 night)

hotel de Koophandel

Beestenmarkt 30, Delft / +31 15 214 2302



Points of interest

Canal-ringed city founded round 1100. Known as the manufacturing base for Delftware. Burial site of Dutch Master painter Johannes Vermeer. Once the seat of the royal House of Orange.

Food & Drinks

> Spijshuis De Dis | Great tarrace for a drink, lunch or for dinner. Tue-Sat 17.30-22 [Beestenmarkt 36, +31 152 131 782]

> De Kurk | Restaurant and pub. Bit noisy but great atmosphere. Mon-Sat 17-24 [Kromstraat 20, +31 152 141 474]

Points of Interest

> Old Church and New Church | Both with a very rich history. Within easy walking distance of each other and can be visited on the same ticket [Markt & Heilige Geestkerkhof 25]

> Courtyards | Hidden in Delft's inner city. Walk to the Hofje van Gratie (Van der Mastenstraat 26), Hofje van Pauw (Paardenmarkt 54) and Klauwshofje [Oranje plantage 58]

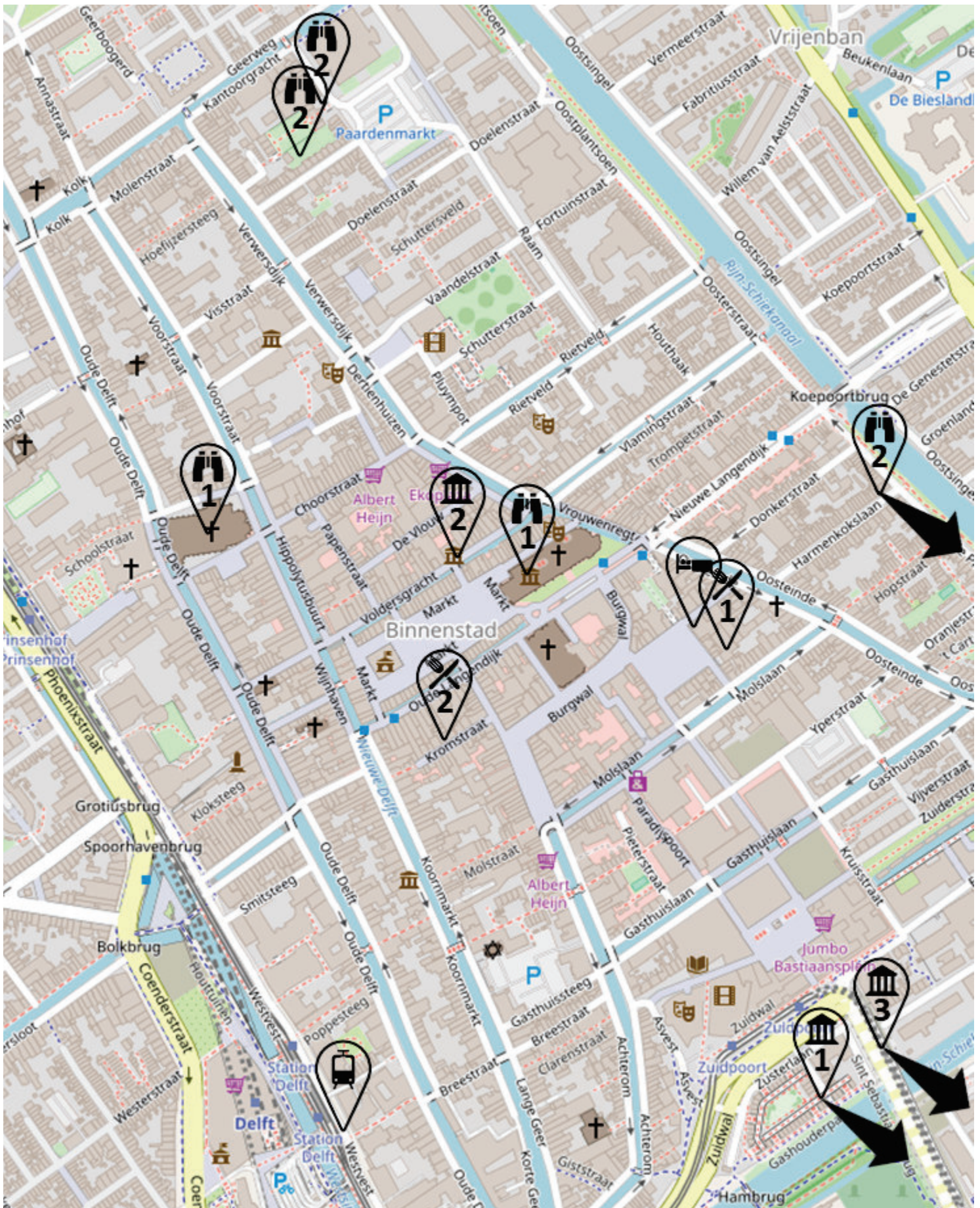
Museums

> De Koninklijke Porceleyne Fles | Royal Delft. Famous 17th-century earthenware factory (Still in operation) museum & guided tours. Mon-Tue, 11.30-17, Wed-Sun 9-17. €14 [Rotterdamseweg 196]

> Vermeer Center | Johannes Vermeer artwork of his contemporaries in Delft (including audio tour). Mon-Sun 10-17. €10 [Voldersgracht 21]

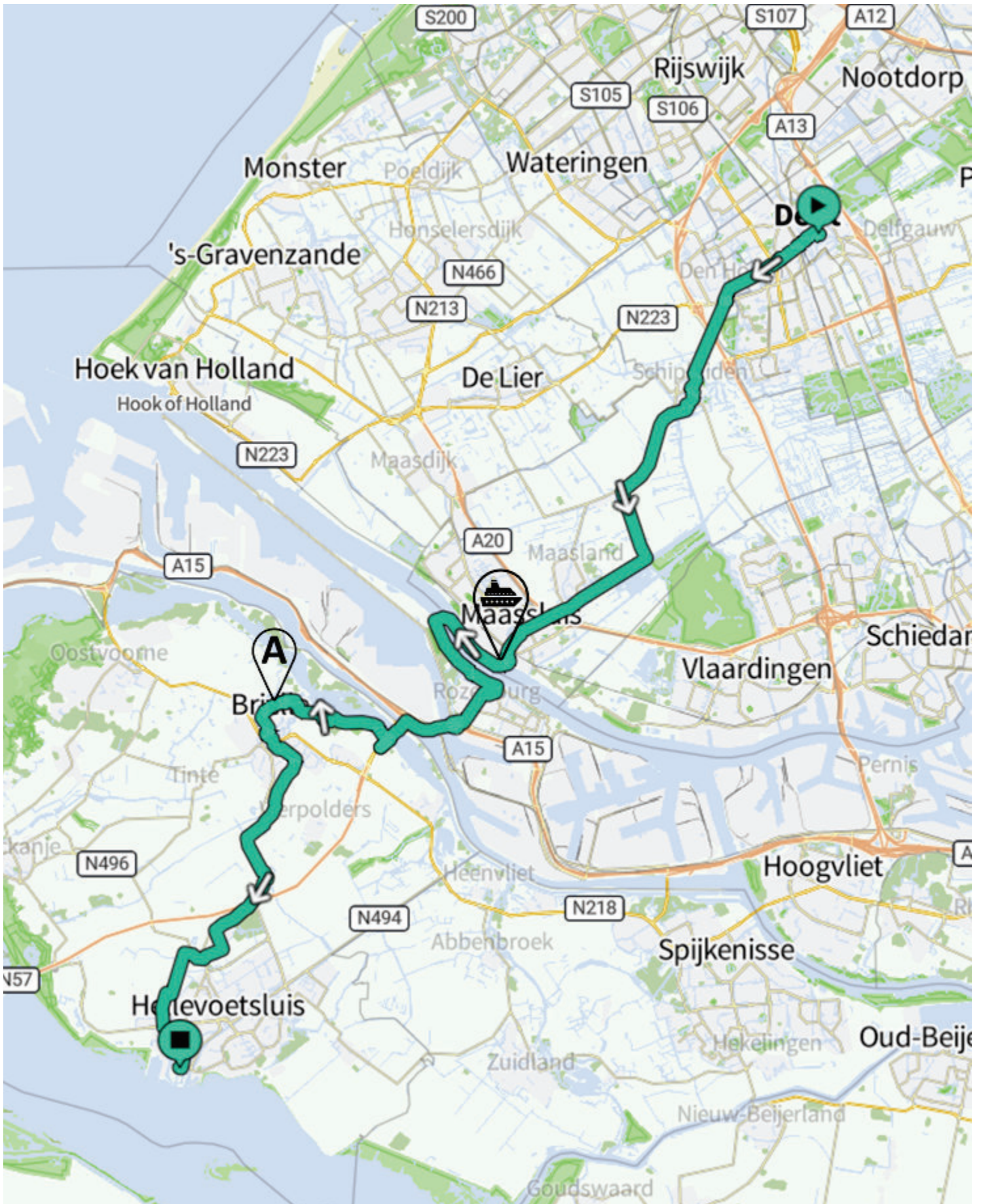
> Science Museum | Discover the world of science and technology. At the Delft University. Will re-open somewhere in 2023. Till then 2 exebitions, look online.

City map Delft



Wednesday 19 April

Delft > Hellevoetsluis (42 km / 26 mi)



Points of Interest

Delft > Hellevoetsluis

You will leave Dutch mainland behind as you cross the estuary of the River Rhine near the port of Rotterdam. Your GPS device will guide you to a ferry to the first island in Zeeland. After the 1953 flooding, the Dutch government decided to construct more effective coastal defenses in the Zeeland Delta. You will see more of these deltaworks on the following days. But today, enjoy the scenic fortified town of Brielle.

A) Brielle

An old, fortified city and the most famous pilgrimage place of South Holland. The fortress of Brielle, which largely dates back to the 17th century, is a national monument and one of the best-preserved fortifications in the Netherlands.

Food & Drinks

> Cafe Dixi | Cafe with terrace at the harbor. Cafe since 1886. Great for a drink. Mon-Sun 10-24 [Maarland Zuidzijde 1-3]

> De Smaeck van Brielle | At old town center. Near 1590 waterpomp. With terrace. Mon-Sun 12-21 [Wellerondom 6-7, +31 181 417 076]

Points of Interest

> Monuments | Part of Brielle is a protected cityscape. With its nearly 400 national monuments, the city has the most monuments per inhabitant.

> Fortress | The town is in a snowflake shaped fortress. The city still has its old city walls. Since 1713, little has changed in the fortress.

Museums

> Historisc Museum Den Briel | About 80-years war, See heroes and treasury. Tue-Sat 10-17, Sun 13-17 €7,50 [Markt 1]

Wednesday 19 April

Hellevoetsluis (1 night)

hotel Boutique De Oude Veste

Oostzanddijk 3a, Hellevoetsluis / +31 181 551 718



Points of interest

A small village, but with a lot of history. You can spend a lot of time here to visit all the different museums. A walk through the small old port, in the middle of the fortified center will not disappoint. In 2021 it will be 400 years ago that the harbor of Hellevoetsluis was built. The fortified town of Hellevoetsluis grew after 1621 into the most important war port of Holland. Michiel de Ruyter regularly visited Hellevoetsluis for inspections. In 1629 Piet Hein brought the Zilvervloot (captured from the Spaniards) to Amsterdam via the Hellevoetsluis roadstead.

Food & Drinks

- > De Buren | Restaurant and Cafe. In hotel. Tue-Sun 11-24 [Oostzanddijk 3, +31 181 550 808]
- > Aan de Kade | Quality food with Asian twist, modern restaurant 'urban chic'. Thu-Sun 12-24 [Oostkade 32, +31 181 859 033]

Museums

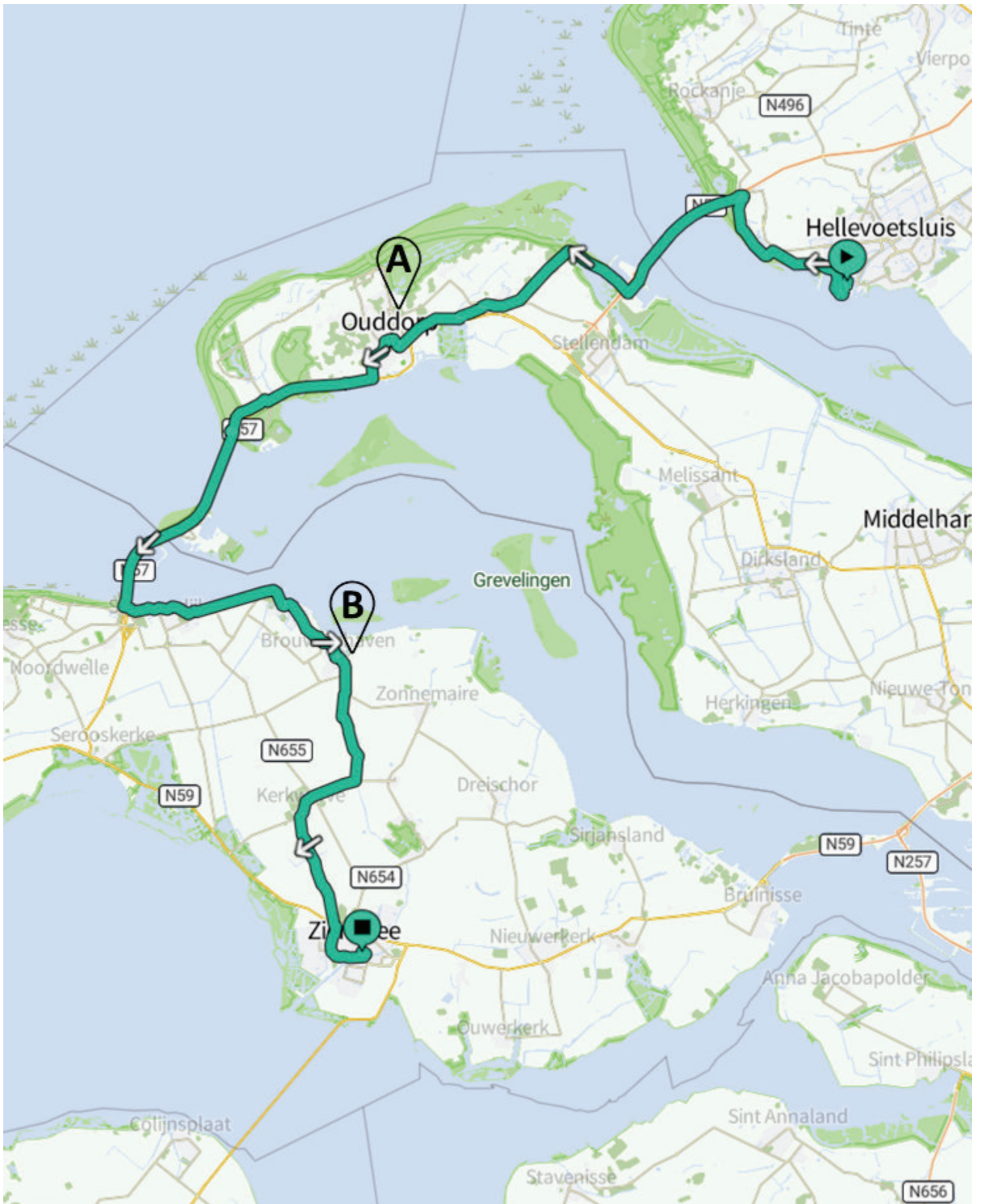
- > Ramtorenship Buffel | An exhibition to see the more than 150-year history of the ship. Wed, Sat, Sun & Holidays 11-16. Jul & Aug every day €8 [Koningskade 2]
- > National Fire Museum | Firefighting through the ages. Wed-Sun 10-16, €10 [Industriehaven 8]

City map Hellevoetsluis



Thursday 20 April

Hellevoetsluis > Zierikzee (51 km / 32 mi)



Points of Interest

Hellevoetsluis > Zierikzee

Today the route continues into Zeeland. This most southwestern region of the Netherlands is characterized by open spaces, salt water bays, the impressive Deltaworks (Deltawerken) waterworks and cycle paths running along the tops of the dikes. Your accommodation for the night is the historic town of Zierikzee, on one of the islands of Zeeland.

A) Ouddorp

Halfway through the 19th century, two mills were built, which still exist today. During the Second World War, Ouddorp became part of the Atlantic Wall. A total of 42 bombproof bunkers were built in the municipality of Goeree-Overflakkee. During the flood of 1 February 1953, a part of Ouddorp was also flooded because the dykes on the south side broke on several places. One such breakthrough was located west of the harbor.

Food & Drinks

> In De Keulse Pot | Nice easy going place, for drinks, lunch or dinner. Tue-Sat 10-20, Sun 12-20 [Boompjes 23, +31 187 684 515]

> In d' Groene Lanteern | Nice easy going place, for mussels and other. Thu-Thu 16-23, Fri-Sat 11-24 [Weststraat 16, +31 187 681 627]

B) Brouwershaven

In 1403 the city received city rights. Catching fish and shellfish was an important source of income. But the trade in wine and beer, wood and stone, wool and flax, turnips and beets also made the city grow. Brouwershaven had one flaw: the road from the actual harbor to the Grevelingen was long and narrow. The ships became larger and the narrow channel prevented these larger merchant ships from entering the harbor and Brouwershaven started to lag behind maritimately. Only after the flood of 1953 did the narrow city come back to life thanks to the improved connections thanks to the Delta Works, the construction of a marina and the promotion of tourism, which is now the economic pillar of Brouwershaven.

Food & Drinks

> 't Swarte Schaep | Lunch and dinner at the harbor. Fri-Tue 17-22 [Haven Zuidzijde 16 , +31 111 691 903]

> Moeders bij de markt | Lunchroom at harbor. Thu-Tue 9-21 [Markt 31, +31 111 852 404]

Museums

> Brouws Museum | Museum about harbor. Wed-Sun 10-17. €3,50 [Haven Zuidzijde 15]

Thursday 20 April

Zierikzee (1 night)

hotel Mondragon

Oude Haven 11, Zierikzee / +31 111 230 000



Points of interest

From a small settlement in the 10th century to an important city in 1248. This stagnated drastically in the 18th century. Zierikzee still has more than 569 monumental buildings.

Food & Drinks

- > Grand Café De Werf | Great location at the water. Tue-Sat 11-22 [Vissersdijk 2A, +31 111 414 244]
- > De Proeverij | At the harbor. Simple but good (sea)food. Mon-Sun 11.30-22 [Kraanplein 12, +31 111 412 931]

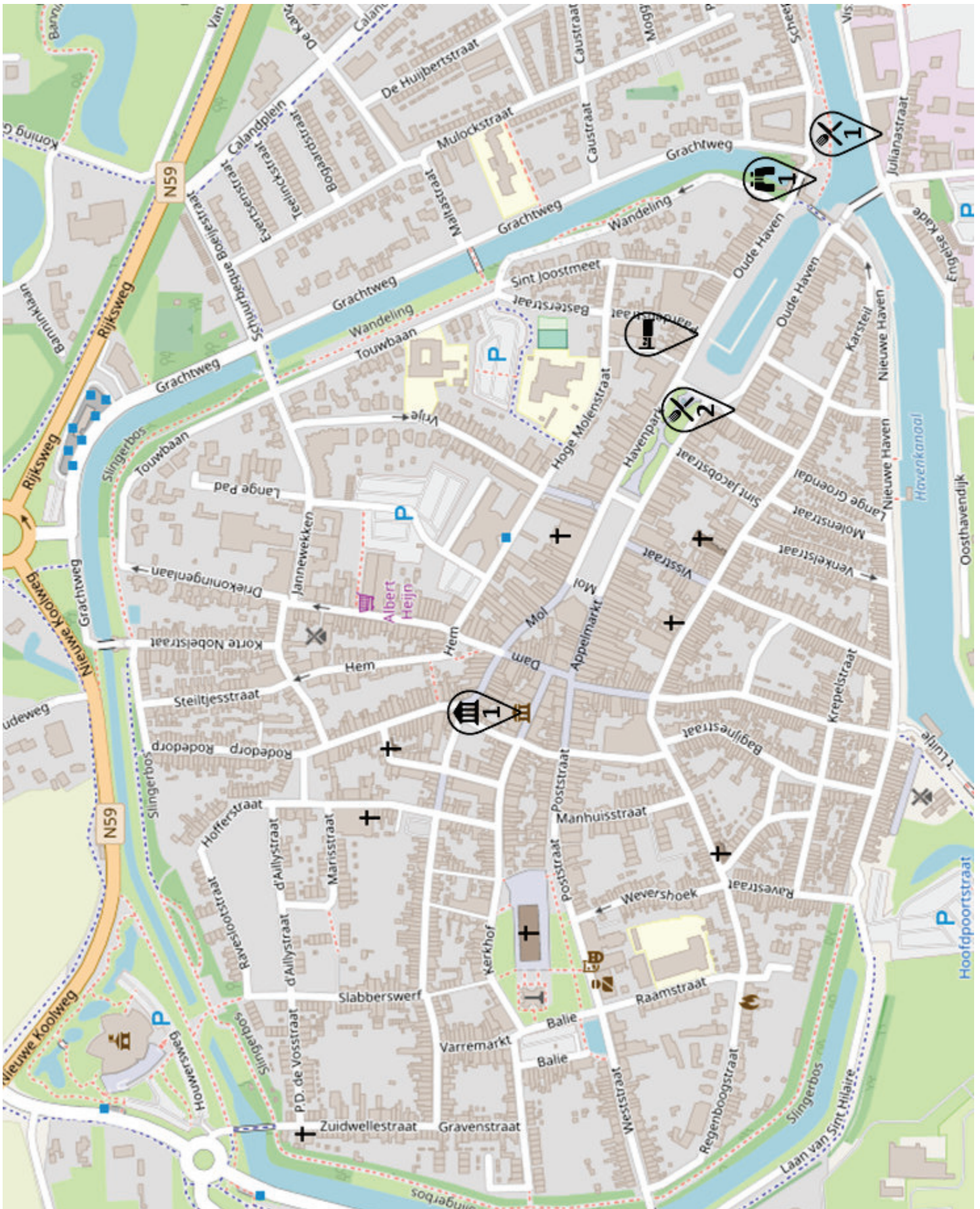
Points of Interest

- > Noord- en Zuidhavenpoort | Tough city gates protected and impressed. Access to the port in medieval times [Oude Haven 54]

Museums

- > Stadhuismuseum | Small museum. Tells the story of the town, country, and water. Tue-Sat 11-17, Sun 13-17. €9,50 [Meelstraat 6-8]

City map Zierikzee



Friday 21 April

Zierikzee > Middelburg (48 km / 30 mi)



Points of Interest

Zierikzee > Middelburg

The first part of the route passes the Oosterscheldekering, which is Holland's longest sea barrier with the most fantastic sluice system. Today's route also takes you through the beautiful harbor town of Veere, one of the most important trading towns in the Netherlands during medieval times. Continuing southwards, you reach Middelburg, the historic capital of Zeeland. Your overnight accommodation is located close to the historic central square and harbor district.

A) Neeltje Jans Island

Artificial island. More than half of the Netherlands lies below sea level. This Island is at the foot of the largest storm surge barrier in the world. The Delta Works were built to keep everyone safe and to prevent a recurrence of the 1953 flood disaster.

Food & Drinks

> Proef Zeeland | Try some Dutch Kibbeling, Haring or other Typical Dutch (sea)food. Tue-Sat 10-17 [Faelweg 1, +31 111 653 451]

Museums

> Deltapark | From the flood disaster to the construction of the Delta Works. The Delta Experience explains the history of the Dutch struggle against water in a way that is innovative, accessible, and lively. Mon-Sun 10-17 [Faelweg 5, +31 111 655 655]

B) Veere

Veere started as a port in the 13th century. Because it became the depot of Scottish wool in the Netherlands in 1541, the place flourished. Few will be able to imagine that Veere was an important port city and that by the end of the 17th century there had been some 750 houses within the city walls, compared to now just under 300.

Food & Drinks

> In den Struyskelder | terrace at harbor. Wed-Sun 10.30-22 [Kaai 25, +31 118 501 392]

> 't Waepen van Veere | terrace at center square. Mon-Sun 10-17 (till July 1st) after July 1 Mon-Sun 10-22 [Markt 23-27, +31 118 501 231]

Points of Interest

> City Hall | From the fifteenth century with the beautiful facade; the tower with the chimes dates from the end of the 16th century [Markt 5]

> De Campveerse Tower | Built as a part of the city defense around 1500; from the 16th century the tower served as a tavern and coastal light. It is now one of the oldest existing inns in the Netherlands [Havenhoofd]

> De Koe | A flour mill from 1909 and whitewashed in the Zeeland tradition. The mill is covered with zinc. The mill was built on a site where a ground sailor from 1736 was previously located. However, this mill was burned down. Not open [Warwijksestraat 16]

Museums

> De Schotse Huizen | Scottish houses. A historical museum with visual art, regional dress and interior connected with the history of the city of Veere ent. Tue-Sun 13-17. €8 [Kaai 25-27]

Friday 21 April

Middelburg (1 night)

hotel Loskade 45

Loskade 45, Middelburg / +31 118 700 295

check in before 17.00 hrs or contact accommodation beforehand for self check in procedure



Points of interest

A friendly low-key settlement. The historic center was almost completely ruined by bombings in 1940 though has been re-build so you still get the feel. The fortification built in 1595 can still be traced by the patterns of the canals.

Food & Drinks

> Restaurant Scherp | French with regional products. High-end. Tue-Sat 18-22 [Wijngaardstraat 1-5, +31 118 634 633]

> Zeeuwse Streken | Locally sourced ingredients, specialized in fish from the Zeeland province. Daily 12-23 [Gravenstraat 6, +31 118 855 582]

> Brasserie Eiggenwijzz | Initiative with mentally challenged young people. Coffee and Lunch only. Mon-Sat 11-17 [Langeviele 20-22, +31 118 625 670]

Points of Interest

> Town hall | The late-gothic town hall is considered one of the finest gothic buildings in NL. Construction began in 1452 [Lange Noordstraat 1]

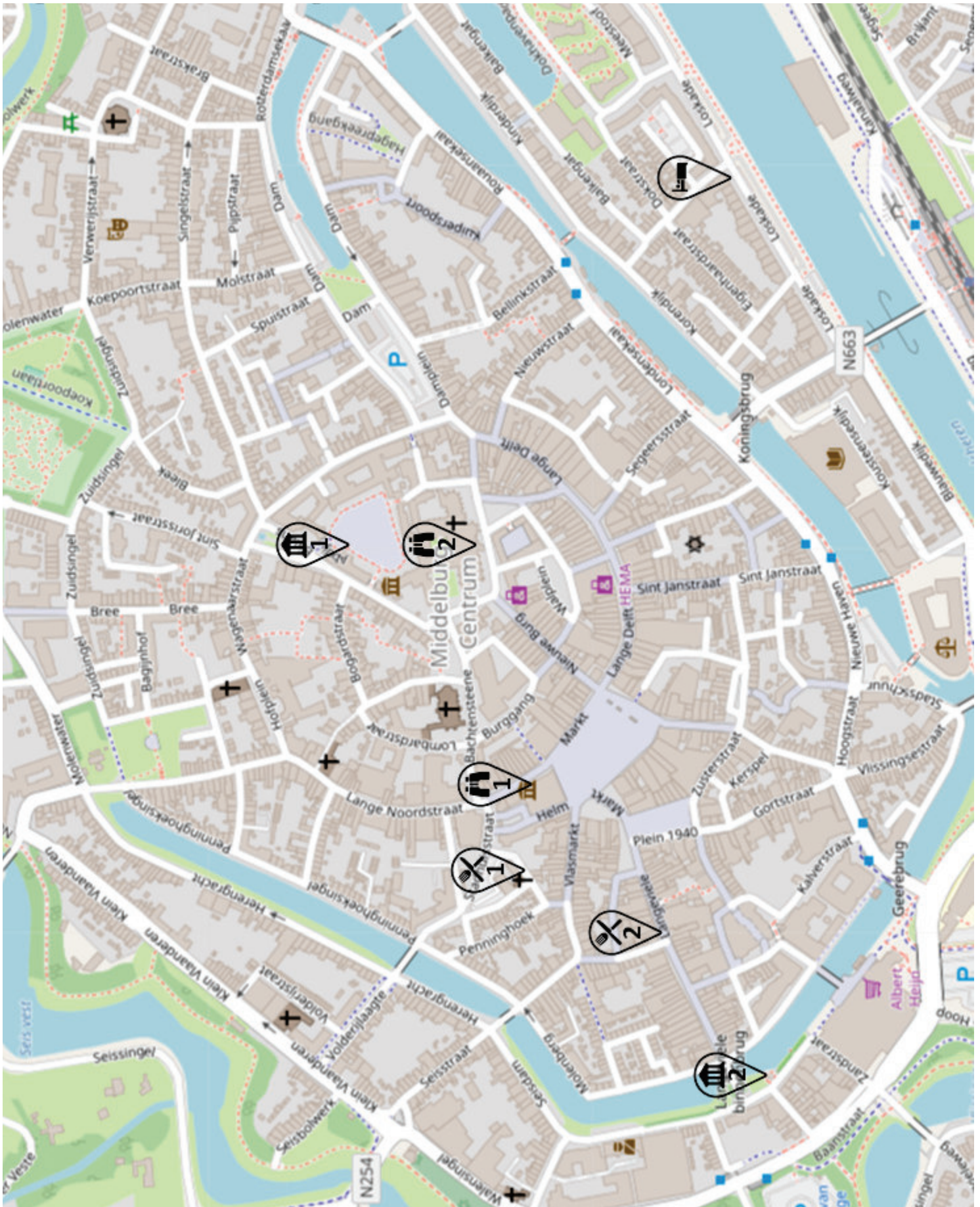
> Lange Jan | Abbey tower build in the 14th century. Abby since 800. [Onder de toren 1]

Museums

> Zeeuws Museum | 16th-century tapestries, traditional Zeeland costumes & contemporary artworks in abbey. Wed-Sun 11-17. €9,50 [Abdij 3-4]

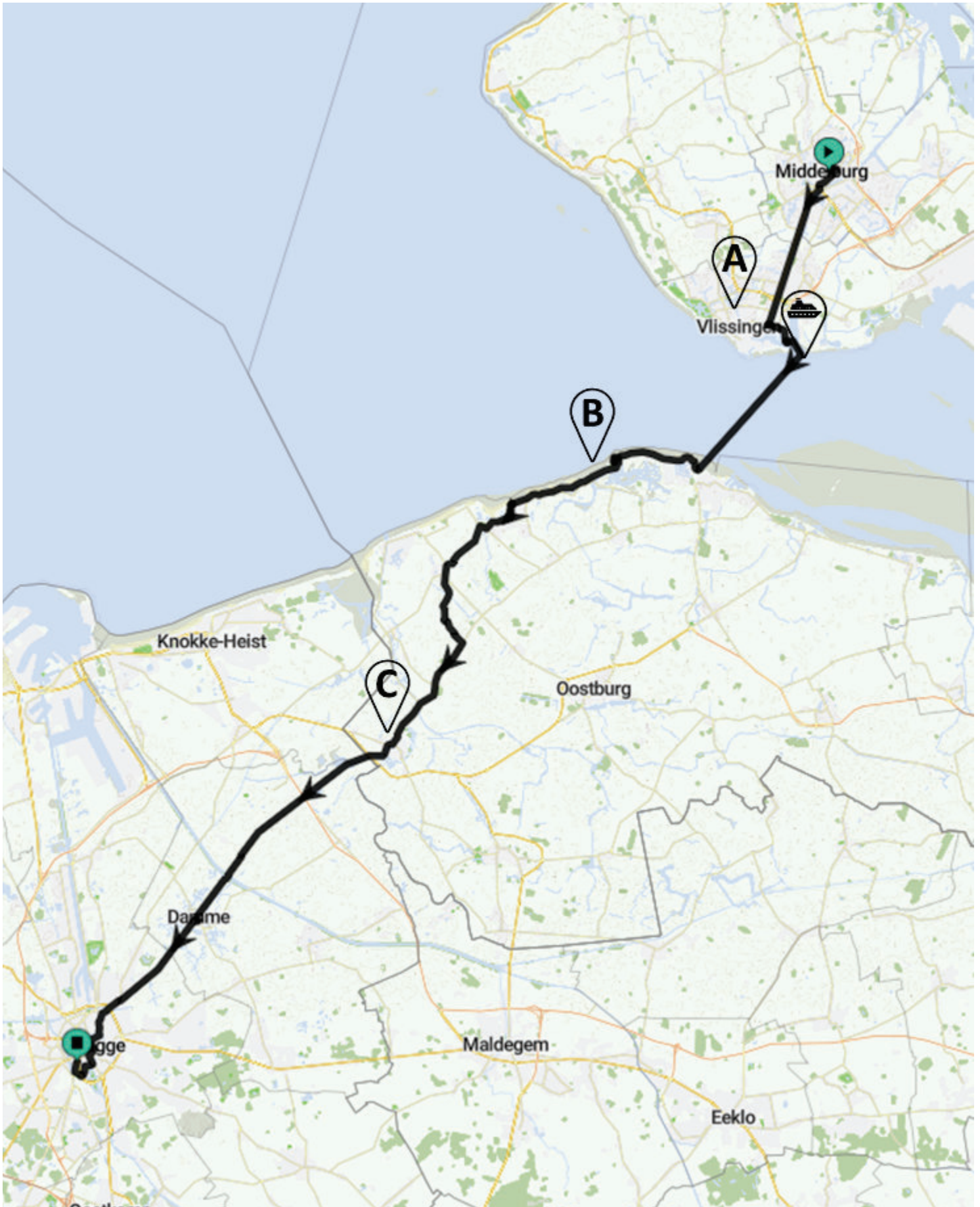
> Boat excursion | Fun way to explore Middelburg with unique views from the water. Guided. Mon-Sun 10.30-17. €8 [Achter de Houttuinen 39]

City map Middelburg



Saturday 22 April

Middelburg > Brugge (46 km / 29 mi)



Points of Interest

Middelburg > Brugge

The last day of cycling brings you to Bruges, the pearl of Flanders. But before you can reward yourself with a delicious Belgian beer, you have to cross the wide salt water Westerschelde channel by ferry. The last part of the route involves a tranquil cycle ride along the banks of a canal. This runs from the Netherlands-Belgium border village of Sluis to Bruges. Your hotel is located in a quiet part of the historic town center of Bruges.

A) Ferry Vlissingen - Breskens

Daily: 7:45 - 20:45 every hour, extra departures on week days: 16:15, 17:15

8 June - 30 August: 7:45 - 21:45 every half hour

B) Nieuwesluis-Kruishoofd coast

In the past, the area had shops, and its own school. Nowadays there are not many permanent residents, but many holiday homes.

Food & Drinks

> Beach House 25 | On the beach. Mon-Sun 11-21 [Walendijk 9 in Breskens, +31 653 863 232]

> Strandpaviljoen De Boekanier | On the beach. Mon-Sun 10-23 [Zeedijk 1-C in Nieuwvliet, +31 117 372 175]

C) Sluis

The town received city rights in 1290. Its strategic location on the shore of the Zwin inlet led it to become a fortified town in 1382. The golden age of Sluis lasted until 1450, when the silting up of the Zwin made shipping impossible.

Food & Drinks

> De Molen van Sluis | Mill transformed in brasserie. Mon-Sun 10-18 [Nieuwstraat 26, +31 117 461 250]

> Hart van Sluis | At center square. Mon-Sun 10-22 [Groote Markt 9, +31 117 462 714]

Points of Interest

> Belfort Sluis | About history and view out of Belfort tower. Tue-Sun 13-16.30. €5,50 [Groote Markt 1]

Museums

> BIZARIUM | Museum of bizarre inventions. Opens again in May '23. hours unknown €15 [Hoogstraat 35]

Saturday 22 April - Sunday 23 April

Brugge (2 nights)

hotel Blabla

Dweersstraat 24, Brugge / +32 5033 9014



Points of interest

Capital of West Flanders in northwest Belgium. Is distinguished by its canals, cobbled streets and medieval buildings. Its port, Zeebrugge, is an important center for fishing and European trade.

Food & Drinks

> Réлива | Organic and biologic food. Very cosy and frendly, great food. Mon,Thu 18-21.45, Fri-Sun 12-13.45 & 18-21.45 [Goezeputstraat 6, +32 503 313 07]

> Gran Kaffee de Passage | Art deco bistro, always busy for a reason: excellent food at fair prices. Tue-Sun 17-24 [Dweersstraat 26, +32 503 402 32]

Points of Interest

> Basilica of the Holy Blood | Basilica most famous for housing a phial claimed to contain a cloth with Christ's blood [Burg 13]

> Church of Our Lady, Bruges | Gothic church, founded in the 13th-century, known for its soaring tower & statue by Michelangelo [Mariastraat]

> Begijnhof | Founded in 1245. In this piece of world heritage, formerly-and now still, lived emancipated women [Begijnhof]

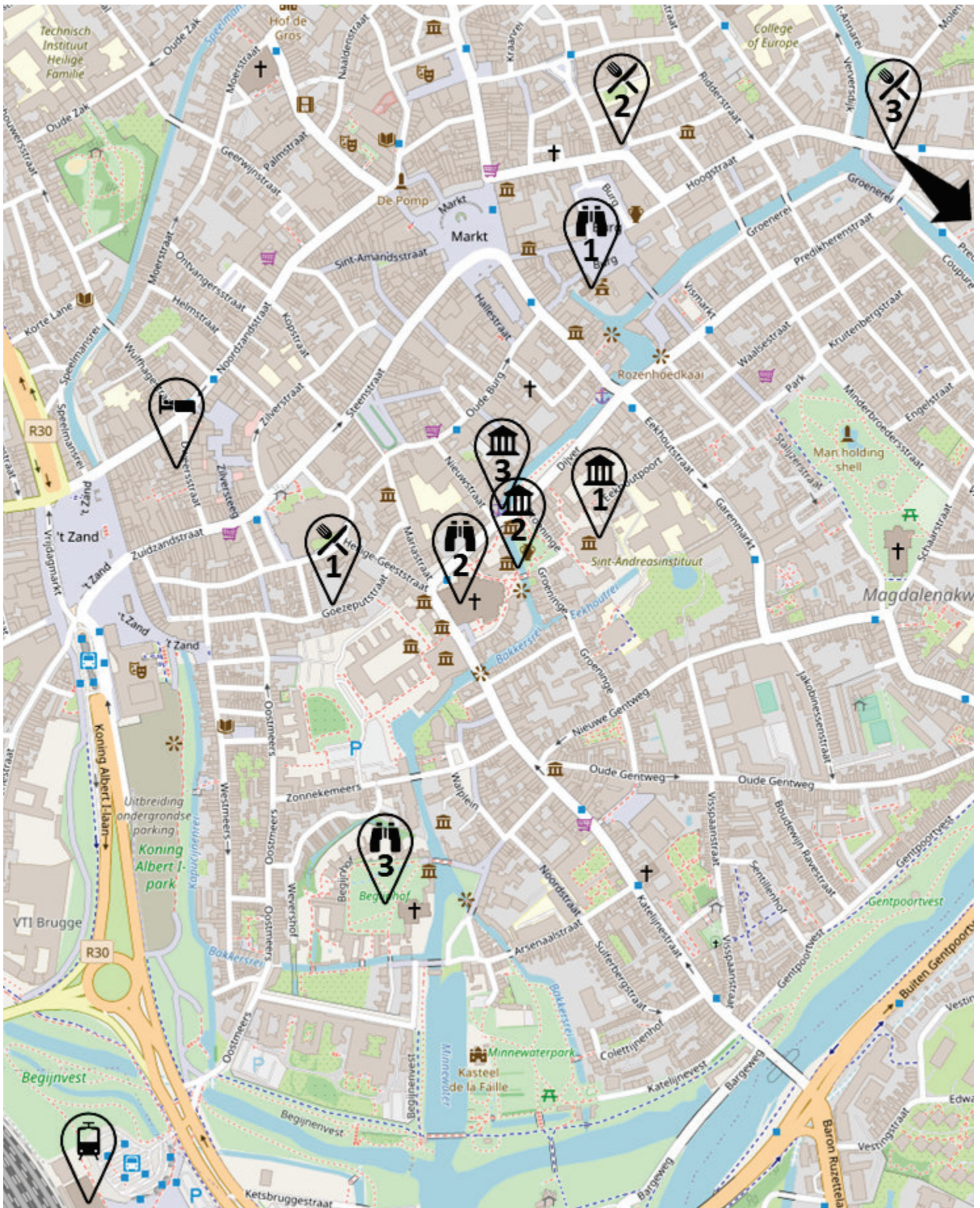
Museums

> Groeningemuseum | Extensive collections of Flemish primitive artworks, 18th & 19th-century works & modern pieces. Tue-Sun 9.30-17 €14 [Dijver 12]

> Gruuthusemuseum | Applied arts, located in the medieval Gruuthuse, the house of Louis de Gruuthuse. Tue-Sun 9.30-17 €14

> Boat tour | Take a 45 min. boat tour. Sit back and hear from your guide about Bruges history. Mon-Sun 10-18. €12 [Huidenvettersplein 13, Wollestraat 32, Nieuwstraat 11, Katelijnestraat 4]

City map Brugge



Sunday 23 April

Brugge loop tour (45 km / 28 mi)



Points of Interest

Brugge loop tour

A loop to the coast for today. You leave Bruges along the port of Bruges for this counter clockwise loop. Half way lies Wenduine, a typical Flemish seaside destination, perfect for a lunch break. You'll return to Bruges through an agricultural area and along the canal between Oostende and Bruges.

Points of Interest

Brugge > Goes

The route involves a tranquil cycle ride along the banks of a canal. After you have to cross the wide salt water Westerschelde channel by ferry. This runs from the Netherlands-Belgium border village of Bruges to Sluis.

A) Damme

Damme is a medieval town with its peak in the 13th century. You can still spot many authentic buildings and houses there. This is what makes Damme so picturesque and unique. Walk through the village and feast your eyes. Start at Church Street. This is also the main street of Damme. Here you can also find many local shops and cozy eateries. At the beginning of the Kerkstraat you can immediately admire the 15th-century Gothic town hall. In addition to authentic elements, you can also find something very special. The smallest bookshop in the world is housed in the facade of this beautiful building. This is only open on weekends.

There are many cute restaurants and cafes in Damme.

B) Sluis

The town received city rights in 1290. Its strategic location on the shore of the Zwin inlet led it to become a fortified town in 1382. The golden age of Sluis lasted until 1450, when the silting up of the Zwin made shipping impossible.

Food & Drinks

> De Molen van Sluis | Mill transformed in brasserie. Mon-Sun 10-18 [Nieuwstraat 26, +31 117 461 250]

> Hart van Sluis | At center square. Mon-Sun 10-22 [Groote Markt 9, +31 117 462 714]

Points of Interest

> Belfort Sluis | About history and view out of Belfort tower. Tue-Sun 13-16.30. €5,50 [Groote Markt 1]

Museums

> BIZARIUM | Museum of bizarre inventions. Opens again in May '23. hours unknown €15 [Hoogstraat 35]

C) Ferry Breskens - Vlissingen

Daily: 8:18 - 21:18 every hour, extra departures on week days (6:18, 7:18 & 22:18)

D) 's-Heer Arendskerke

The first mention was in 1275. At a place just south of the village, the Heren Van Schenge built a castle that later decayed and of which the stones were used as dike reinforcement.

Food & Drinks

> Brasserie de Panhoeve | Rustic with large terrace. Wed-Sun 11-21 [Arendstraat 2B, +31 113 308 252]

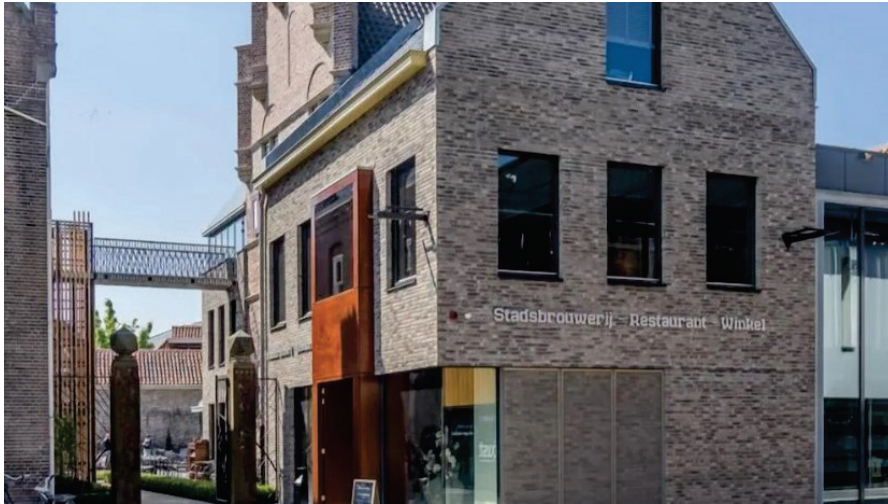
> Klok'uus | Restaurant with big terrace and Children's playpark. hours vary [Wissekerkseweg 6, +31 113 561 306]

Monday 24 April

Goes (1 night)

hotel Slot Oostende

Singelstraat 5, Goes / +31 614 562 981



Points of interest

Goes is a town on the South Beveland peninsula, centrally located in the Dutch province of Zeeland. The municipality borders the Oosterschelde National Park. It is the largest national park in the Netherlands. The park is broadly bounded by the dikes and the Veerse Meer. Because of this relatively large number of shops, Goes, together with Middelburg and Sluis, is one of the three most important shopping cities in Zeeland for locals. Shopping can easily be alternated with a visit to the cozy cafes with terraces.

Food & Drinks

> Slot Ostende | A drink or dinner in the beautiful castle and brewery. Tue-Sat 10-22 [singelstraat 5, +31 614 562 981]

> De Brass | Cozy restaurant something for everyone. Tue-Sat 12-22 [Magdalenastraat 7, +31 113 251 365]

Points of interest

> The old city harbor | Where many ships with merchandise moored in the past, pleasure craft are now moored at the quay.

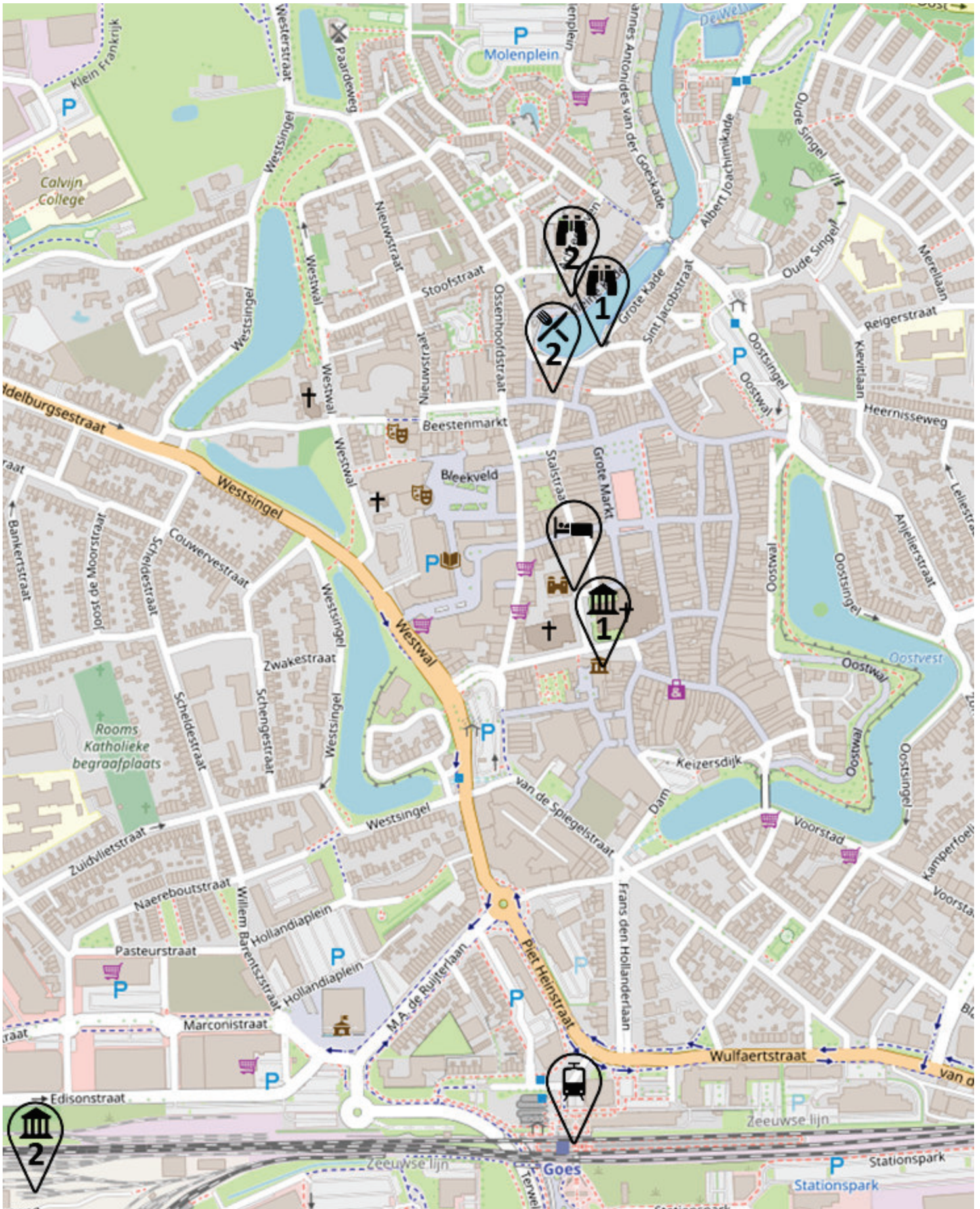
> 't Soepuus & the Koornbloem | Former tidal water flour mill and corn mill from 1801

Museums

> Historical Museum Bevelanden | In former monastery. €11 Mon-Sat 11-17 [Singelstraat 13]

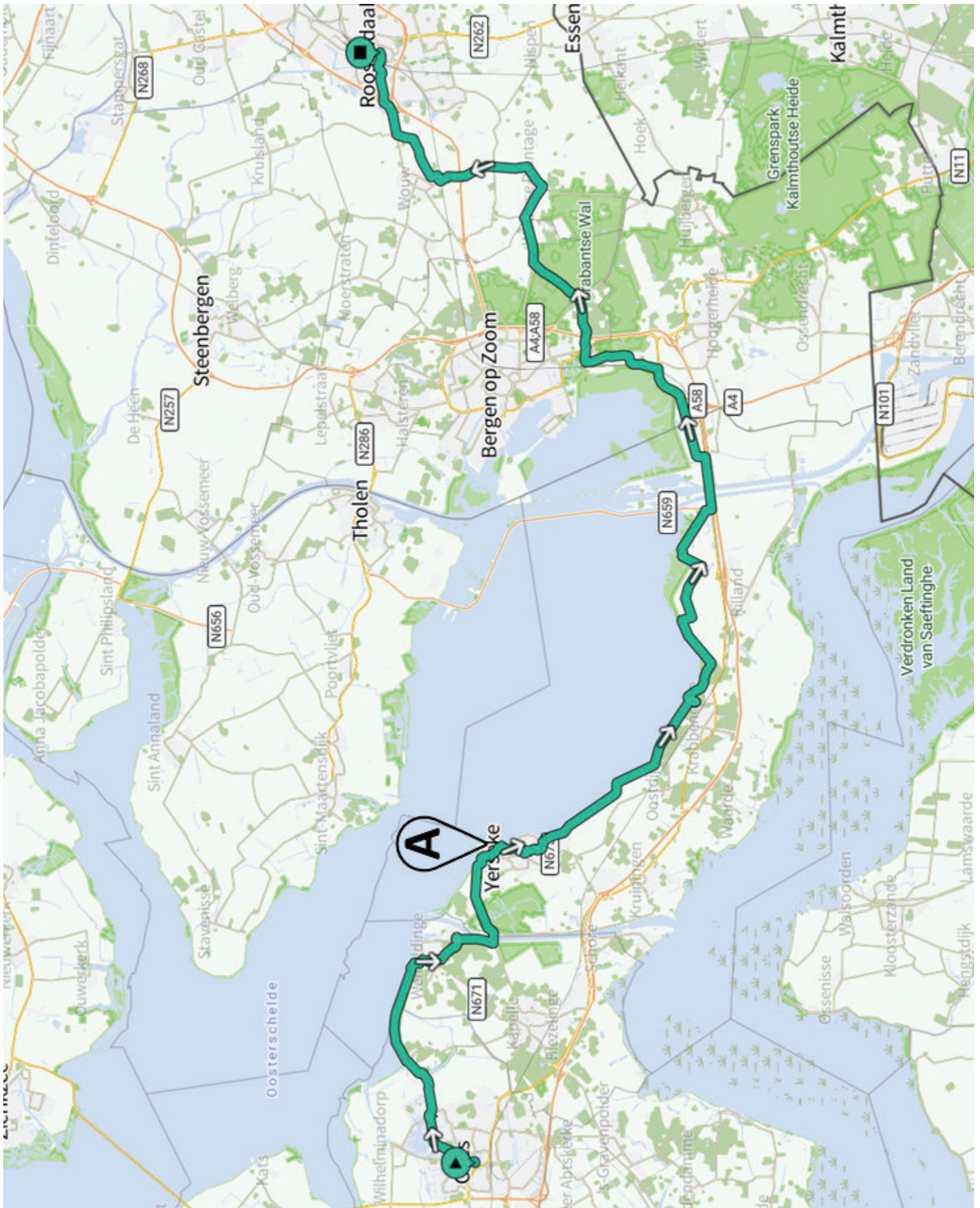
> Steam Train Goes-Borsele | A heritage railway, trains and depot. €0,- Openinghours vary

City map Goes



Tuesday 25 April

Goes > Roosendaal (62 km / 39 mi)



Points of Interest

Goes > Roosendaal

The coastal line of this days route is all about Oysters and Mussels. You won't be able to eat them any more fresh than at for example (A) Yerseke. Our advise? Go to Havendijk in Yerseke and have some oysters and Bubbels no matter what time of the day. These are the best in the world. The rest of the day you will continue into the province of Brabant and leave the Zeeland Islands behind. There will be several Dutch small towns along the way, but none that are worth mentioning specifically. But enough spots for lunch and drinks

Tuesday 25 April

Roosendaal (1 night)

hotel Tongerlo

Bloemenmarkt 2, Roosendaal / +31 165 584 888



Points of interest

Dating back to the thirteenth century. Peat extraction in the surrounding area of Roosendaal necessitated the digging of a network of peat cruises. The peat was transported via the Roosendaal harbor to Holland, Zeeland, Flanders and Antwerp. When the railway connection with Breda, Antwerp and Lage Zwaluwe was established in 1854, Roosendaal was again given an international transport function.

Food & Drinks

> Lunchcafé Lente | Great for coffee, pastry, and lunch. Mon-Sat 9.30-17, Fri 9:30-20:30 [Markt 8, +31 165 857 253]

> Captain Cook's | Terrace at market square. Pub and restaurant Thu-Mon 11-21 [Markt 17, +31 165 599 669]

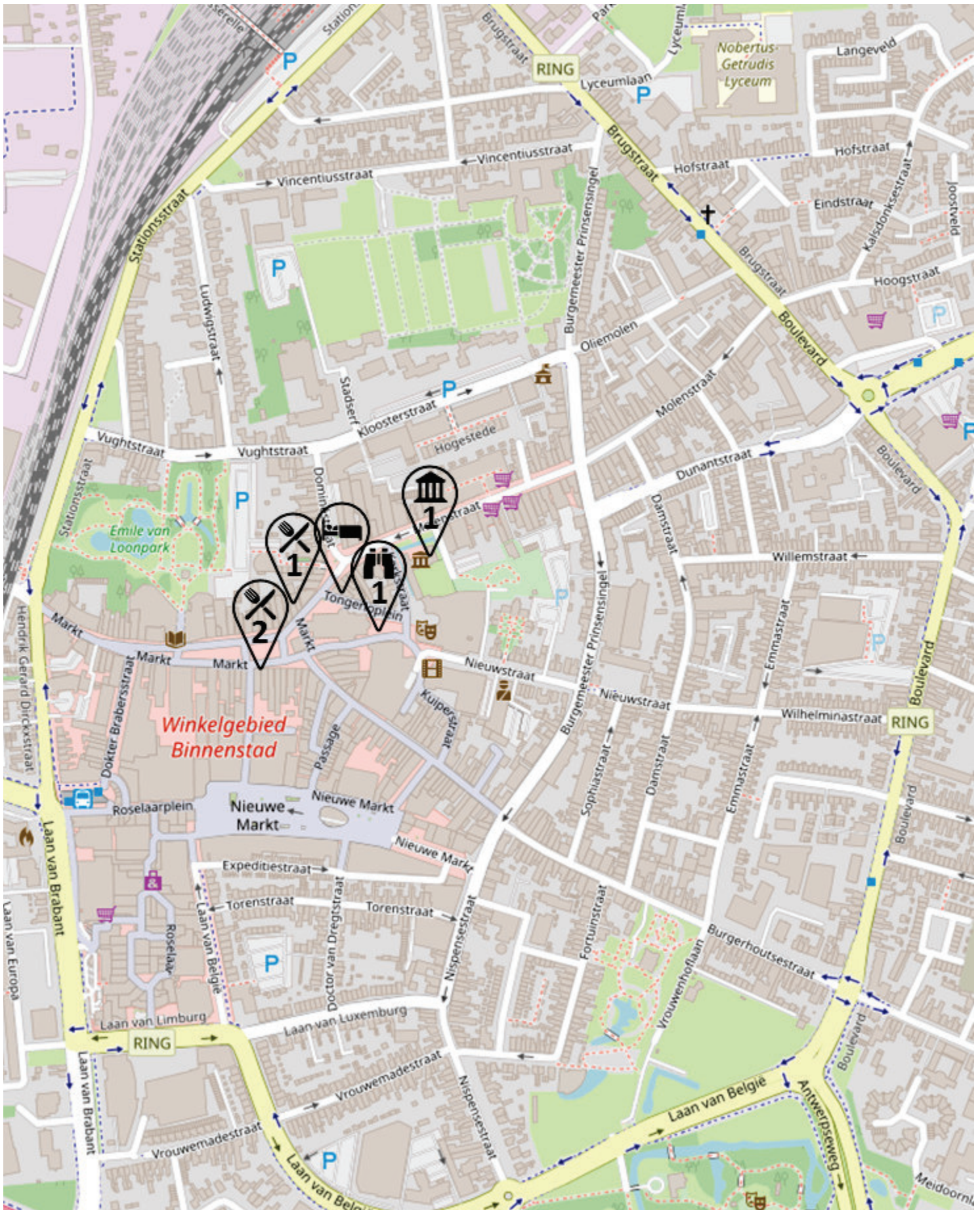
Points of Interest

> De Sint-Janskerk | A water state church from 1839 with an originally 15th-century tower. Retired from worship in 2005. Nowadays a cultural center [Markt 2]

Museums

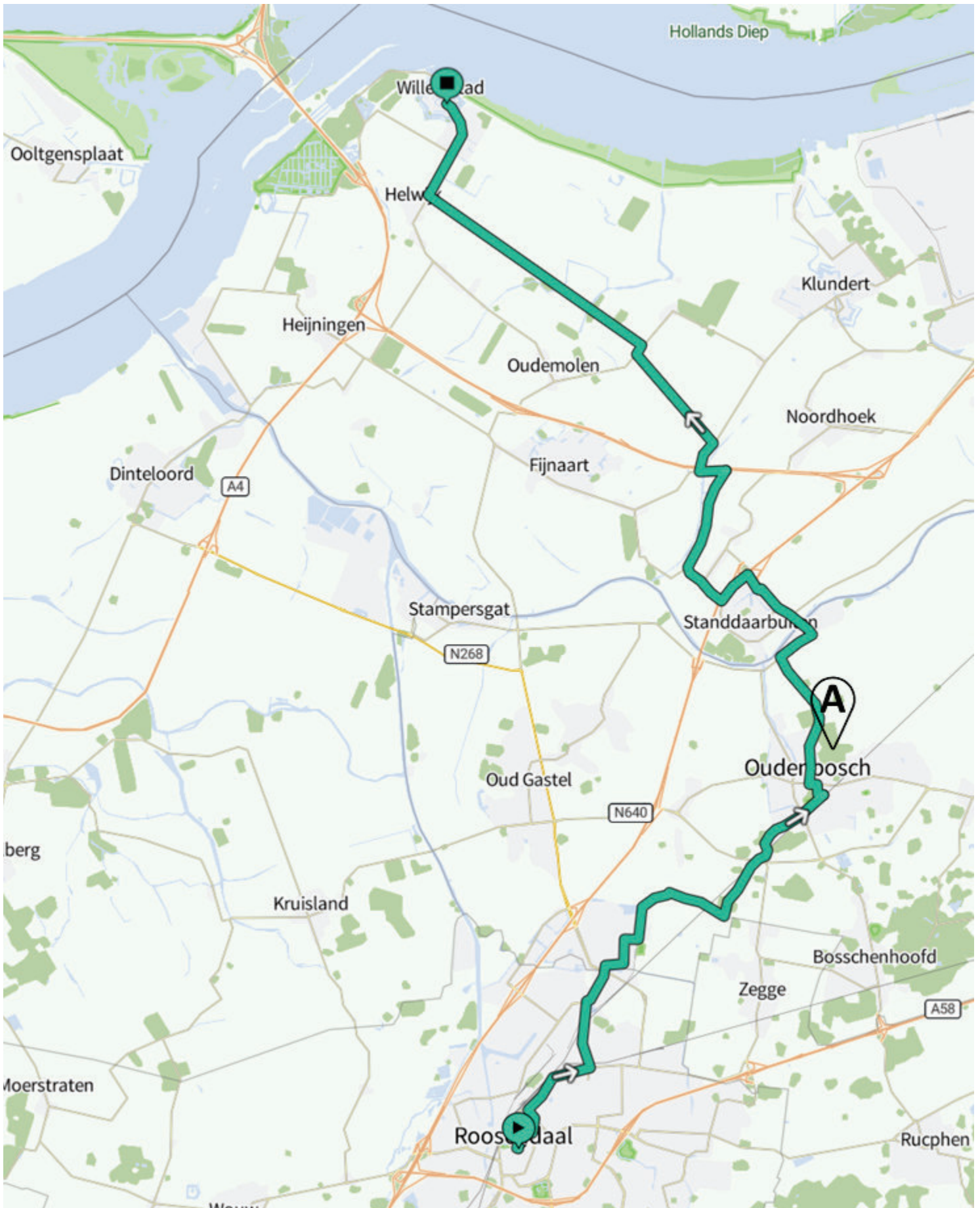
> Het Tongerlohuys | Five icons take you through the history of the city and region. Building built in 1762 as a presbyter. Tue-Sun 13.30-17. €7.50 [Kerkstraat 1]

City map Roosendaal



Wednesday 26 April

Roosendaal > Willemstad (28 km / 17 mi)



Points of Interest

Roosendaal > Willemstad

You deserve a short ride today. Have a nice drink and a Dutch Bitterbal at the harbour cafe in the small and scenic fortified town of Willemstad.

A) Oudenbosch

The name Bosschenhoofd comes from a transshipment site for peat belonging to Oudenbosch, founded in the beginning of the 14th century. Oudenbosch is well known for its 'Basiliek', a smaller copy of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Food & Drinks

> Eeterij Stroop | Cafe & restaurant. Relaxed atmosphere, pub food. Wed-Sun 11.30-24 [Pastoor van Breugelstraat 23, Bosschenhoofd. +31 165 316 793]

> 't Zusje Oudenbosch | Unlimited small 'tapas' mixed dishes. Mon-Sun 17.30-22.30 [Markt 68, +31 900 987 53 Oudenbosch]

Points of Interest

> Basilic | Chappel of Saint Luis. Heritage. Sun-Wed 13.30 -15:30 [Saint Luisplein 50, Oudenbosch]

Museums

> Museum Seppe | Exhibiting and keeping historical aircraft in the air. Thu-Sun 13-17 €6 [Pastoor van Breugelstraat 93e, Bosschenhoofd]

> Dutch Zouaven museum | Small about fighters for the Pope. Tue-Wo, Sat,Sun. 13.30-16.30 €4 [Markt 31, Oudenbosch]

Wednesday 26 April

Willemstad (1 night)

hotel Mauritz

Landpoortstraat 24, Willemstad / +31 168 472 177



Points of interest

Willemstad is a fortified starshaped town. On June 17, 1583, after the Battle of Steenberg, the Spaniards took Steenberg. William of Orange therefore had Ruigenhil fortified as a fortress. After his death in 1584, his son, Prince Maurits, granted the place city rights in 1585. Ruigenhil was given the official name Willemstad. In 1970, the entire former fortress, including the city center and the field of fire, was declared a protected cityscape.

Food & Drinks

> Anno 1610 | At harbor. A robust burger or classic spare ribs, the menu is full of hunger-satisfying dishes. Big beer assortment. Thu-Sun 10-20 [Benedenkade 11, +31 168 471 810]

> Mauritz Per Casa | Freshly made Italian food. Antipasti, pizzas, pastas and dolci... Closed? Then the Grand Cafe next door (7d/w) is also very nice! Fri-Sun 17-22 [Landpoortstraat 39, +31 168 472 177]

Points of Interest

> The fortress | The town itself is completely fortified. Walk around and imagine living here, being protected by the city walls against the Spanish.

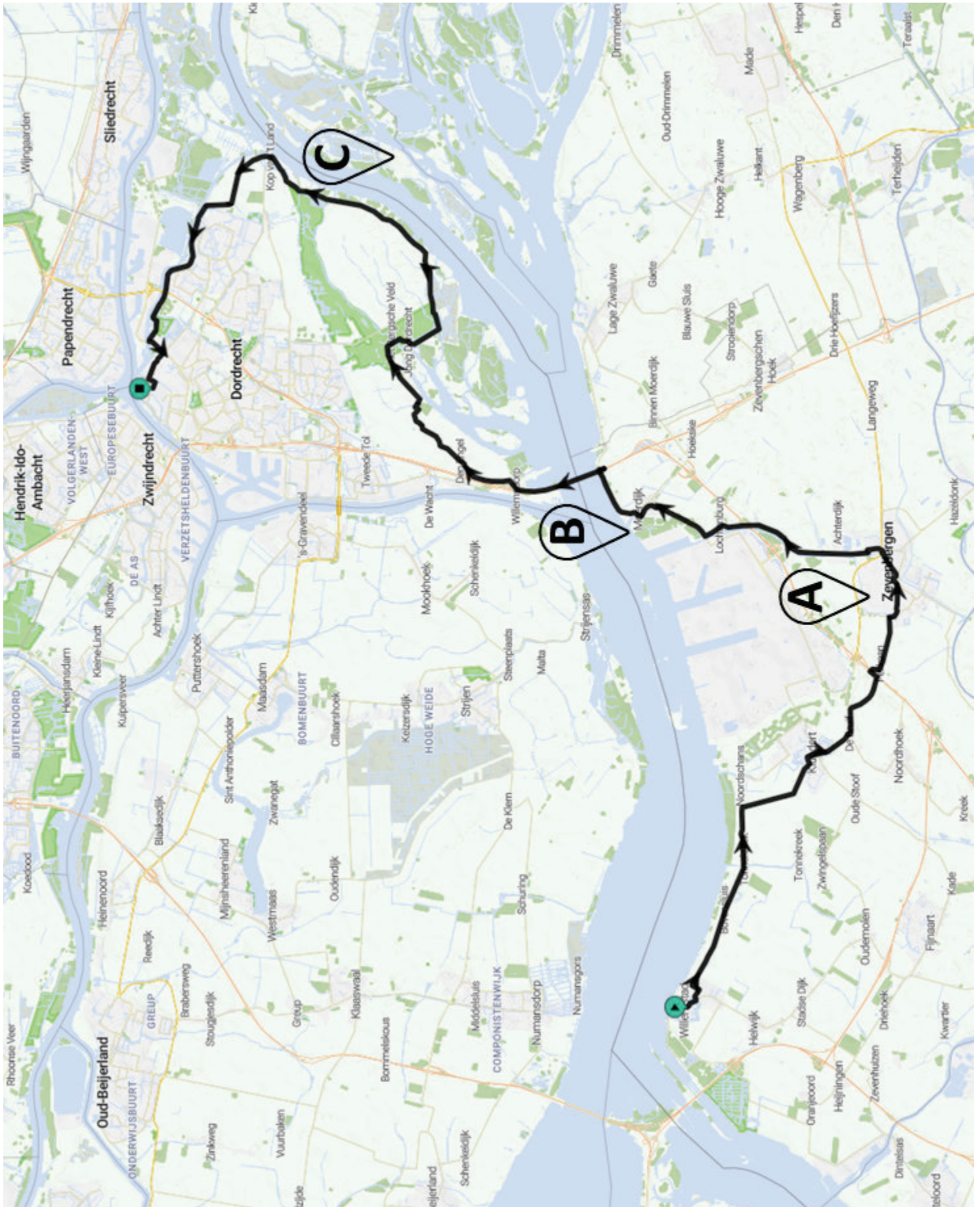
> Mauritshuis | From hunting lodge, military hospital and military police barracks to an informative visitor center. Here you can visit an exhibition about the town [Hofstraat 1, +31 168 755 211]

City map Willemstad



Thursday 27 April

Willemstad > Dordrecht (51 km / 32 mi)



Points of Interest

Willemstad > Dordrecht

Leaving the more wooded southern province of Brabant you will cross the most southern river bridge on the Rhine and Maas delta. From here you cycle to the Biesbosch nature reserve. The silence found in this labyrinth of creeks and rivers is only disturbed by a variety of birds and the whispering wetland reeds. This is cycling at its best!

A) Zevenbergen

Literal translation: Seven Mountains, is presumably named after the hills that formed a natural barrier of protection during the time of the Roman Empire. The actual number of hills is debatable however and was most likely not seven. From the mid-19th century until the end of the 20th century, Zevenbergen was most famous for its sugar production comprising three sugar factories. As a result of the sugar transport requirement, Zevenbergen got its railways, as well as the harbor located at the end of the "Mark" canal.

Food & Drinks

> Mart 9 | Grand Café & Restaurant at center square. Wed-Sun 12-21 [Markt 9, +31 168 799 800]
> Gasterij De Engel | Terrace on center square. Mon, Wed 10-17 Thu-Sun 10-22 [Markt 13, +31 168 852 687]

B) Moerdijk

With only a population of 1,205 Moerdijk is a well-known name in the Netherlands, because of the well-known Moerdijk bridges (highway and railway bridges) across the Hollands Diep. This was the last bridge available for the retreat from the vital Scheldt Estuary of the rapidly collapsing German defenses near Antwerp in World War II. Noteworthy as well; the Moerdijk bridges were one of the first targets of "smart bombs" by American heavy bombers in late 1944.

C) Biesbosch

The Biesbosch National Park is one of the largest national parks of the Netherlands and one of the last extensive areas of freshwater tidal wetlands in Northwestern Europe. The Biesbosch ('forest of sedges' or 'rushwoods') consists of a large network of rivers and smaller and larger creeks with islands. The vegetation is mostly willow forests, although wet grasslands and fields of reed are common as well. The Biesbosch is an important wetland area for waterfowl and has a rich flora and fauna. It is especially important for migrating goose.

Thursday 27 April

Dordrecht (1 night)

hotel Steegoversloot

steegoversloot 56, Dordrecht / +31 783 690 152 or +31 783 690 155 / info@stadshotelsteegoversloot.n
check in before 18.00 hrs or contact accommodation beforehand for self check in procedure



Points of interest

City since 1220. The strategic position ensured one of the most powerful regions until the mid-16th century. It was here that town leaders met to declare independence from Spain. The beautiful architecture is still intact.

Food & Drinks

> Magazijn | Great food and service. Also a recordshop. Mon-Sun 10-24 [Voorstraat 180, +31 788 902 780]

> Bistro Twee33 | The feeling of France. Culinary enjoyment is paramount. Tue-Wed 16-24, Shu-Sun 12-24. [Wijnstraat 233, +31 787 400 004]

Points of Interest

> De Grote Kerk | A medieval Protestant church [Lange Geldersekaade 2]

> Groothoofdspoort | 1618 Former city gate that is located at the point where three rivers meet; the Merwede, the Oude Maas, and the Noord [Groothoofdspoort]

Museums

> Huis van Gijn | Take a look in a well preserved historical family house. Tue-Sun 11-17. €12,5 [Nieuwe Haven 29]

> Dordrecht's Museum | Art gallery displaying 16th century to contemporary paintings. Tue-Sun 11-17. €15 [Museumstraat 40]

City map Dordrecht



Friday 28 April

Dordrecht > Gouda (48 km / 30 mi)



Points of Interest

Dordrecht > Gouda

Today you will cycle through the polders of the River Rhine delta towards the River Lek. Before crossing the river by ferry you will pass along the windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here there are nineteen windmills in a row, which are best viewed from the bicycle path running past them. To cycle through this site, you do not need to buy entrance tickets, but if interested you can apply for a guided tour at the entrance and see a windmill from the inside. You continue the road towards the well known and beautiful city Gouda. There aren't many lunch options along the way, so you might want to pack a pick-nick lunch and enjoy it at one of the pick-nick tables along the Kinderdijk bicycle path.

A) Alblasserwaard

Is a polder area mainly known for the windmills of Kinderdijk. During the Middle Ages several canals and dikes were created to reclaim the land. The last part was endiked in the second half of the 14th century, following the permanent flooding of Woude and Donkersloot. Yet numerous floods continued to happen throughout the history of the area, as it is bound by rivers on all sides. Today the area can still be used as a flooding area.

B) Kinderdijk

You won't find a windmill complex like in Kinderdijk anywhere else in the world. The ingenious system of windmills and pumping stations has been keeping the soil dry here for nearly a thousand years now, in a constant struggle between human inventiveness and the power of the water.

Food & Drinks

> Kinderdijk Café | Small Cafe for drinks and sandwiches. With great view. Can get bussy. Mon-Sun 10.30-16 [Molenstraat 230, +31 786 912 485]

> Bakery Stam | Bakery and small tearoom. Mon-Sat 08-17 [Molenstraat 14a]

Points of Interest

> Kinderdijk Windmills | Iconic heritage site with 19 windmills from the 1700s and museum about water management. Mon-Sun [Nederwaard 1a]

Friday 28 April

Gouda (1 night)

hotel Best Western

Hoge Gouwe 201, Gouda / +31 182 860 086



Points of interest

Beside the cheese (cheese market on Thu), Gouda as also gained by the Dutch largest candle factory. The city center is within canals and got city rights in 1272 and gained wealth from the 16th century. Gouda's array of historic churches and other buildings makes it a popular day trip destination. In 2022 Gouda celebrates 750 years of city rights.

Food & Drinks

> Koeien en Kaas | Great place for an easy-going experience with steak and cheese. Mon-Sun 17-23 [Achter de Waag 20, +31 182 686 689]

> Viejee's | An adventurous choice of ingredients. Option for Shared dining. Tue-Sat 17.30-23 [Wijdstraat 13, +31 182 769 050]

Points of Interest

> Stadhuis | Seat of local government since the 15th century. Good to see from the outside and inside [Markt]

> Waag | 17th-century weighing house with displays on cheese making and local crafts, plus a tasting room [Markt 35]

> The Sint Janskerk | A large Gothic church, known especially for its stained-glass windows, for which it has been placed on the UNESCO list of Dutch monuments. Mon-Sat 9-17 [Achter de Kerk 2]

Museums

> Museum Gouda | 16th-century religious art, works by the Hague School & 20th-century pottery. Tue-Sun 11-17. €13 [Achter de Kerk 14]

> Syrup Waffle Factory | See for yourself how the tasty syrup waffles are made. Tue-Sat 10-18. €9,95 [Markt 69]

City map Gouda



Saturday 29 April

Gouda > Amsterdam (63 km / 39 mi)



Points of Interest

Gouda > Amsterdam

Today you head back to Amsterdam through typical Dutch lowlands and small towns. Closer to Amsterdam you follow the Amstel river to the city center.

A) Reeuwijkse plassen (lakes)

An exuberant bird world in a typically Dutch peat landscape. From the Prinsendijk you can admire the typical Dutch polder land with its plant and animal richness. Between the lakes you can experience the old polder land with its wood quays, reeds, dikes and farm roads. It can't get more Dutch than this!

B) Nieuwkoop/Noorden

Beautiful with its Nieuwkoopse Ponds, many of which are completely surrounded by water and accessible over individual bridges to the main road.

Food & Drinks

> Café Restaurant "De Watergeus" | Great food with a great view. Brought a bathing suit? Then feel free to take a dip in the water! Tue-Sat 10-22 [Simon van Capelweg 10, Noorden, +31 172 408 398]

> Bistrobar 't Leeuwkje | Reservations advised during the weekends. Mon-Sun 10-23 [Simon van Capelweg 109 B, Noorden +31 172 763 788]

Points of Interest

> The Nieuwkoop Lakes are shallow lakes that were dug for peat harvesting in the 16th century and are now designated as a natural monument.

> 't Regthuys | Build in 1618 as town hall, courthouse and prison with tower [Regthuysplein 1, Nieuwkoop]

C) Oudekerk aan de Amstel

The land along the Amstel was reclaimed around the 11th century. The oldest settlement dates from that time. The old part of Ouderkerk is located on the right bank of the Amstel. That part of the village is an old core with a rich cultural heritage. In the old part of Ouderkerk is the town hall of Ouder-Amstel and there are restaurants and shops. The new part consists of a residential area and a small harbor. There is a pedestrian ferry across the Amstel in the village.

Food & Drinks

> de Voetangel | Good food and wine in the polder next to Amsterdam. Tue-Sat 12-24 [Rondehoep Oost 3, +31 204 961 373]

> Loetje | Great steak restaurant. Mon-Sun 10-22 [Amstelzijde 37, +31 204 721 090]