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Cruising guide: Hindeloopen to Vinkeveen

Villages along journey – Hindeloopen, Heeg, Woudsend, Sloten, Echtenerberg, Ossenzijl, Giethoorn, Zwartsluis, Kampen, Elburg, Harderwijk, Spakenburg, Muiden onto the Vecht - direction Utrecht.

If you check your maps, you will notice there are a few options for the route south. Take whatever route you wish but please,

DO NOT GO ONTO THE IJSSELMEER

*i*Hindeloopen

A lovely small town on the edge of Lake IJssel that is world famous for its national costume and typical paintings. People here speak their own language!

Narrow wooden bridges and cobbled streets and characteristic Dutch facades with anchors to denote their maritime history are typical of picturesque Hindeloopen.

Large marina and beach make this popular with tourists looking to make the most of the seaside atmosphere.



You leave Hindeloopen through the Yndyk and Jan Broerskanaal cruising to the Morra. Turn left around buoy number JF14-JB1 on the Morra, cruising along Galamadammen, cruising down the lake Fluessen and Heegermeer towards Heeg and Woudsend.



Galamadammen Aquaduct

Nije Krúspôle - island in lake Fluessen



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As you cruise down *Heegermeer* you may encounter numerous sailing boats, so please remember the simple rule “*give way to sail*”. If they pass across your cruising path please still watch out for them as they may have gone about and be on their way back, nearing your course again!

i - Heeg

Heeg makes an interesting stop due to its location beside *Heeger Meer*. This was originally an important fishing village, specialising in eel (palling), which was mostly exported. The wealth generated by this trade is evident in the attractive buildings on *De Syl* and *Harinxmastritte*. The visitor centre, namely ‘*De Helling*’, gives an overview of this industry as well as the traditional building that accompanied it. There are many waterside bars and restaurants here for your convenience.



On the *Heegermeer* you can choose to visit *Heeg*, or cruise directly to *Woudsend*. Going to *Woudsend* you will go into the *Wâldsteinster Rakken* at green boy number 7.

i - Woudsend

The location of *Woudsend* at the junction of several waterways and between two lakes makes it a lively centre for water recreation. The old village still has the charm of the days gone by and includes a monk’s flourmill, *De Lam*, with its visitor centre and mill shop in the old millers house next door. Within the town, there is a selection of shops, a small supermarket and restaurants (*see back for details of restaurants*).



Woudsend



In *Woudsend* village wait for the bridge to open and then cruise out of *Woudsend* over the new aqua duct, cross *Slotermeer* before entering *Sloten*.



Even at this early point in your holiday, please remember not to create a wash (wake) or simply put waves behind you as you cruise along. Adjust your speed so as not to cause a nuisance to moored craft.

Remember....

You are not in a hurry you are on holiday!



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Sloten

For mooring, the *JH Lemsterpoort* to the South of the town and has extensive onsite facilities. Canal side moorings are also available both sides of the *Nieuwe Langebrug*.

i - Sloten

Sloten is about 6km west of the city of *Amsterdam*. It is a small village but there are many picturesque sites to visit with its historic centre preserved almost as it was in the 18th century. The *Lemsterpoort gate* offers a delightful view of the village. One should take a walk along the canal '*Het Diep*' (see below). It divides the town of *Sloten* in two parts. Amongst the beautiful ornamental lime trees either side of the canal one will see several houses from the 17th and 18th century.



Sloten- 'Het Diep'

As mentioned above there are many picturesque sites to visit so please take some time here to explore. For example, the museum *Stedhus Sleat* located in the former town hall has a wonderful collection of magic lanterns and there is a beautifully reformed church dating from the 1600s. Apart from the very attractive cobbled streets in the centre, the two water towers and windmill all 18th Century are worth a stop here.



Windmill in Sloten

Sloten is one of the stops on the "*Elfstedentocht*" (literally, '*eleven city ride*'). This is the world's largest and longest speed skating competition conducted throughout the eleven Frisian cities when the Dutch winter permits sufficient natural ice along canals, rivers and lakes.

There are many restaurants in *Sloten* to suit every taste, see back for details.



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Houses along canal in Sloten



Church along the canal- Sloten



- Sloten

Sloten is the smallest of the 11 Frisian Cities and was founded in the 13th Century. The long history of the city is very much reflected in its centre with beautiful surroundings. It is interesting to note that in the 18th and 19th centuries, Frisian butter was the most important trading product of *Sloten* and the *UK* was the prime buyer.



After leaving *Sloten*, pass through the lifting bridge and head southwards for a short distance before taking the *Wald Sleat* cutting to your left –direction *Tjeukemeer*. Or you may wish to detour south to visit *Lemmer* via *Boomsvaart* and *Lange Sloot*.



Lemmer

There are moorings available just north of *Lemstersluis* and between the *Oudesluisbrug* and the *Flevobrug* on both sides of the canal. There are 3 lifting bridges in *Lemmer* which operate at the same hours as the lock.



Lemmer

i - Lemmer

Lemmer is situated on the south coast of *Friesland* and is a very popular place for boating and tourism due to its strategic position between the *IJsselmeer* and the *Friesland lakes*.

There is an Indian/ Motorcycle museum situated in *Lemmer*, which claims to be the only one of its kind in Europe. It hosts an impressive collection of historic motorbikes with an American Indian theme.

Several canal side restaurants here in *Lemmer* for your convenience, see back.



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- Lemmer

This town on the shores of the *IJsselmeer* lies at the boundary of *Flevo land Polder*, *Overijssel* and *Friesland*. The most notable landmark is the large chimney of the largest steam water pump (and last working) in the world. There is even evidence of centuries gone by when the *IJsselmeer* was the sea and the Spaniards came to town as there is still a canon ball embedded in one of the towns buildings.

Lemmer's steam pumping station, 'ir. D.F. Woudagemaal' (see right) lies just east of the *Prinses Margrietsluis*. It was built at the beginning of the last century can still be used for its original purpose and is called into service to protect *Friesland* from flooding in times of extreme rainfall with tours given during Summer months.



After visiting *Lemmer* you will need to head north (*Prinses Margriet kanaal*) until you reach *Follega sloot* (50mins cruising from *Lemmer*). You will then pass through a small lake (*Brandemar*) and exit to the northeast into the *Hjerring sleat*.

Exercise extreme care whilst crossing the *Prinses Margriet kanaal* (see special notes) to the *Follega sloot* on the other side which takes you to the *Tjeukemeer* via the lifting bridge at *Follega*. As you enter the *Tjeukemeer* you will see the A6 motorway straight in front.

You will exit the lake (*Tjeukemeer*) at the eastern corner at *Echtenerbrug*. There are several restaurants and shops so it makes a good stop over, while heading to *Overijssel*. There are pleasant moorings at *Pier Christiaansloot*.



- Echtenerbrug

From the direction of the *Tjeukemeer*, the first moorings you meet on the south side are *JH De Meerkoet*, where there are visitor places along the grassy bank.



- Echtenerbrug

Echtenerbrug is another small village. There are regular music events are held throughout the year and for a list of some of the restaurants see back.



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As you leave *Echtenerbrug* turn left and then go through a series of automatic bridges on the *Jonkers vaart*, in the direction of *Ossenzijl*.



Ossenzijl

There are various canal side moorings available here and also a popular destination is *JH De Kluft* for both boats and campers.

In *Ossenzijl* you are now in *Overijssel* and *De Weerribben National Park*. (There is an information board in the village which explains the areas wildlife importance and its former turf winning past). The waterway splits- straight ahead is south east to *Kalenberg* (route A) and left is north east to *Steenwijk* (route B).

Whilst more narrow and a slower cruise we recommend *Kalenberg* for the beauty of the numerous thatched farm houses along the bank. When passing through the bridge in *Kalenberg*, **remember to put the bridge money in the clog** which will be swung out to you on a string (take photos it's a novel experience)?!

If instead you choose to take route B to *Steenwijk* then the local history museum of *Steenwijk* is well worth a visit and there is also a large shopping centre near the harbour.



The 86 meter tower of *St Clements church*, dating from 1467 is open to visitors in July and August for a panoramic view of the town.

i - *Ossenzijl*

Once the turf digging activities had ceased, the old peat landscape changed into a magnificent nature reserve for which *Ossenzijl* is famous. While in the village, '*De Weerribben visitors centre*' is a recommended stop. One can find out all about natural environment of this former peat digging area which together with *De Wieden* nature reserve to the south, forms the largest marsh area in Northwest Europe.

(See back for list of restaurants)



Ossenzijl



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- Ossenzijl

The locals tell the tale that the village name originated from the Osse family that operated a lock (lock translates to 'Zijl' in Dutch).



After *Muggenbeet*, you will cross over the *Giethoornse meer*, after which you can take the right turn, direction *Blokzijl* (see below)



Blokzijl

The main visitors' harbour in *Blokzijl* lies in the old harbour pool. It is important to note that the lock at *Blokzijl* can be very busy during summer months and due to its slow operation you should allow plenty of time.



Blokzijl

Blokzijl, a former fishing port on the *Zuider Zee* (now *IJsselmeer*) but the sea is gone and the area is now highly productive agricultural land of the Nord East Polder. Its location is also perfect for all sorts of water sports. In the past the area was known for turf winning, sawmills, boat building and Lime kilns.



Blokzijl



Kaatje bij de Sluis, Blokzijl

In *Gildenhuys museum* on *Kerkstraat*, you can watch an informative film about the history and development of the town, which thrived as a result of its successful trading position. Bus services are available from *Blokzijl* to such places as *Steenwijk* and *Emmeloord*. See back for a list of restaurants in the town.



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- Blokzijl



The canon by the harbour, which is still there today, warned residents of *Blokzijl* of impending flood conditions.



After visiting *Blokzijl*, return the way you came until you go through the *Giethoornse meer* and then along the *Walen Gracht* onto the *Beulaker Wijde*. On this lake travel towards the bridge at *Blauwe hand*, before which you turn left along the *Beukers Steenwijk Kanaal* towards *Giethoorn*. Throughout this area be alert for tour boats that ply these waters at speed, with little regard for holiday makers in boats!!



Giethoorn

De Zuiderkluft, provides ample space for visitors or there are canal side moorings between *Blauwe Hand* and *Giethoorn-Zuid* bridge. Often, the best place to moor is in the two marinas on the *Steenwijk* canal on the opposite side to the main road(left side).

i Giethoorn

Giethoorn is located in the northernmost point of the province of *Overijssel*. The village is situated in the middle of *De Weiden* nature reserve and close to *De Weerribben national park*, hence giving reason for its natural beauty.

Don't leave *Giethoorn* without exploring the old village. It is a very picturesque place to visit and with approx 7.5km of canals running through the small village and about 50 little wooden bridges that span these canals you will soon realise why it is called '*Venice of Holland*'. The village and its network of canals is an internationally- known tourist destination attracting over 1 million visitors in a good year.



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Bridge in Giethoorn

Exploring the canals which criss-cross the village offers the best view of the thatched farm houses which line the banks, a paradise for photographers.

The museum farm *t'Olde Maat Uus* presents an image of the village around 1900 and the original rooms are furnished in the style of this period. Also on *Binnenpad* you can visit *The Gloria Maris* shell gallery.

(See back for list of restaurants)

Another museum, 'De Oude Aarde' holds a beautiful collection of stones and fossils from all over the world.



De Oude Aarde



- Giethoorn

The first inhabitants arrived around 1200s and came from *The Mediterranean*. They discovered many horns from wild goats, victims of the flood of St. Elizabeth in 1170 and they therefore called the settlement *Geytenhorn* (horn of goat), later it became *Geythorn* and now it is called *Giethoorn*.

The main industry was harvesting turf and this accounts for the large number of small canals that were used by the specially built *fluisterboten*. Many houses were built on islands and were only reachable by boat and all other transport was also done by water.

Giethoorn to Zwartsluis/Genemuiden



Leave *Giethoorn* heading south, towards the *Blauwe Hand* lifting bridge. Before bridge again turn right into the *Beulaker wijde*, follow marked channel until the junction just before entering the *Walengracht*. (you came this way from *Blokzijl*). Turn left for *De Wieden* and the lifting road bridge at *Ronduite*. After this continue along main channel through *BeltSchut* sloot in direction of *Zwartsluis*. This is an extremely picturesque route, very similar to *Kalenberg* where you have already been.

Go though the lock, then moor up for the night or continue to the public mooring s just south of the town of *Genemuiden*.



Zwartsluis

The best moorings are at the *Kraanerweerd marina*, a short walk to the town centre. There are all the usual facilities available including a bowling alley beside the marina.

The nearby alternative of *Genemuiden* is 20 minutes cruise further south.



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i - Zwartsluis

Zwartsluis is a town of some 5000 inhabitants and as such has numerous shops and restaurants for your convenience (see back for list of restaurants). The town is well known for pleasure boating (with some 1200 boats berthed in marinas) as it forms the gateway to the vast and unique nature reserves of *De Wieden and De Weerribben*.

A visit to the local museum, *the Schoonewelle Centre*, offers an insight into the traditional crafts of the region.



- Zwartsluis

As mentioned above the harbour at *Zwartsluis* offers prime access to the nature reserves for tourists but in the past this was a key location for other reasons. *Zwartsluis* used to be the second largest harbour in the province of *Overijssel*, this title given due to the large quantities of turf which were shipped here. The town acquired its name from the dark peaty or black water, which emanates from these fenland areas.



Zwaartsluis



Genemuiden

Moorings are available in the town or to the south, a short walk from the town centre. There are visitors' moorings available in the inner harbour along the east quay or on the west quay by the hotel.

i - Genemuiden



Genemuiden is well known for its mat-making industry, it has a museum dedicated to such, '*Tapijt Museum*' on *Klaas Benninkstraat*. *Genemuiden* accounts for 60% of the total Dutch production of fixed floor coverings.



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Stoomgemaal Mastenbroek (see picture), was built in 1850s. It is situated a little outside the town and was used to drain the surrounding land.



- Genemuiden

There are records for the town dating back to 1275.



Genemuiden

Zwartsluis/Genemuiden to Kampen



Leave *Zwartsluis / Genemuiden* and then turn left into the *Ganse diep*. Be careful at the first section since on your right the water is extremely shallow. Also cruise slowly as there can be numerous birds nesting in the reeds along the waterway to your left.

You will arrive at the *Gansenlock* which lets you enter onto the river *IJssel*.

Please exercise extreme caution as the *IJssel* is a commercial river used by barges – always steer from outside to ensure full all round vision and keep to the right.



- Kampen

Mooring places in *Kampen* include *WSV Bovenhaven*, *Kampen Municipal Harbour* and *The marina of the De Buitenhaven Water Sport Association*. Be careful as you cross the river, as the *IJssel* has a strong flow at times and it is also a commercial river used by barges.



- Kampen

Kampen is an old hanseatic town with a rich and varied history. It has a long association with boats commercially and more recently pleasure craft due to its location at the mouth of the *IJssel* river. Its location also means there are all sorts of water sports activities happening regularly and all sorts of water sports facilities available.



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For an aerial view of *Kampen*, you can climb the tower (see left). This beautiful characteristic of the town was completed in the 1600s.



Kampen has plenty to offer in the field of entertainment, art and culture, shops and restaurants (see back). There are several museums in *Kampen* including a *Tobacco Museum*. It is interesting to note that the manufacture of cigars took over as the major industry in the 19th and 20th centuries and a number of old factory premises can still be found in the town, one of which now houses a tobacco museum.



- *Kampen*

The town of *Kampen* can be traced back to the 16th and 17th centuries. As mentioned above, *Kampen* has a long history of boating and is famous for the ship, the '*Kamer Kogge*'. This mighty ship was invented in *Kampen* and facilitated international trade which prompted the towns' economic boom in the 14th Century. Due to its considerable economic importance to the town a replica has been built which lies in *the Kogge yard*.

Kampen to Elburg



As you leave *Kampen* head north west along the *IJssel*, After passing under the road suspension bridge, made especially high to cater for the *Bruin Vlotold* commercial sailing ships, keep straight along the "*Ketel diep*" At the end of the channel, you may experience some waves if the wind is blowing towards you, as the current and the wind meet. On a windy day be careful as you turn left heading for *Roggebotsluis*. If there is a lot of motion of the boat, head further towards *Ketelhaven* and then turn quickly to end up with waves directly behind you.

Continue along marked channel until you arrive at *Elburg*. There are also numerous country moorings available along the way, clearly marked on the map.



- *Elburg*

Plenty of moorings available alongside the canal or in the harbour located at the end of the *Havenkanaal*. Spaces are also available in *Elburg Yachting Centre*.



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- Elburg



Elburg

Elburg must be one of the prettiest fishing villages along the former *Zuider Zee* coast. Near the harbour you can still visit the old fish auction building which is laid out ready for use just as it was in the past. The old harbour is often filled with the old fishing fleet of wooden *Botters* and some smaller wooden vessels – You are seldom short of a photo opportunity.

For those with young children, the nearby *Walibi World Theme Park* offers a day you won't forget full of exciting experiences- ask at the tourist information office for bus connections etc. *Elburg* also hosts a weekly market and for restaurants in the town, please see back.



- Elburg

Elburg is a beautiful touristic historical Medieval town. It was completely rebuilt at the end of the 1200's. This rebuilding would have been extremely expensive at the time which suggests that *Elburg* was reasonably affluent in these medieval times.



Stadspoort Elburg

Elbrug to Harderwijk



Having looked around *Elburg*, return to main marked channel and continue southwest to *Harderwijk* which is a journey of approx 3 hours.



Harderwijk

Most central moorings in *Harderwijk* are those of *JH Haven van Harderwijk*, next to the *Dolfinarium* or it is also possible to moor at *De Knar (w.v. Flevo)*. If you prefer not to stay overnight in *Harderwijk* town, there is a large mooring on islands approx 10 minutes south.



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i - Harderwijk



Vismarkt- Harderwijk

Harderwijk is another former *Zuider Zee* coast town, with very ornate architecture in the old fish market area and is well known for its locally smoked eels. The town itself is very popular with tourists and has numerous restaurants (*see back*) to cater for every taste and budget. One of its most popular and long-lived attractions is the *Dolfinarium*. There are daily shows with not only dolphins but also sea lions, seals, walruses, rays and sharks. For some TLC while in *Harderwijk* there is an amazing spa; *The Zwaluwhoeve* and for retail therapy there is a great shopping centre and market.



Harderwijk

The town's history museum is housed in an 18th century mansion house, where special exhibits include reconstructions of an old-fashioned grocers store and a First World War internment camp. Train connections to *Utrecht* and *Zwolle*.



- *Harderwijk*

The picturesque town centre of *Harderwijk* was declared an urban conservation area in 1969. *The Vischpoort* (*see below*) and a few other fragments are remnants of the medieval town wall.



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The Vischpoort- Harderwijk

Harderwijk to Spakenburg (Bunschoten)



On leaving Harderwijk head South West for *Spakenburg*, passing *Strand Horst* , *Strand Nulde* before arriving at Nijkerker sluis.

Please exercise extreme caution when cruising along the *Nuldernaauw* and the *Nijkerkernaauw* as these routes are used by commercial barges.



Spakenburg (Bunschoten)

Popular mooring points in *Spakenburg* are *Jachthaven Nieuwboer* and *De Nieuwe Haven*.

i - Spakenburg



Spakenburg

Spakenburg was the largest fishing port on the *Zuider Zee* (now *IJsselmeer*) with a fleet of some 200 'Botters' (wooden fishing boats) based there. It reached a peak of prosperity in the 1900's but after the closure of the *Zuider Zee* this booming economy for *Spakenburg* disappeared. However, many of the old wooden fishing boats which led to this prosperity have been preserved so make sure and keep an eye out for them in the harbour.

Make sure to stop by the VVV office to get your copy of a detailed guided walk around *Spakenburg* to introduce you to the beautiful sights of the village.



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Another recommended stop is *Museum't Vurhuus* or at the *Klederdracht* and *Visserijmuseum* where you can learn more about the culture and history of this village.



After leaving *Spakenburg*, once again you are on the commercial shipping lane so obey the rules!!



Huizen

Mooring places available at *JH Huizerhoofd* and *Huizer Marina*.

i - Huizen

Huizen is Dutch for houses and there is a belief that the name of the town has been linked to the notion that the first stone houses in the region were built here.



Huizen

As mentioned above, *Huizen* is a former fishing village but with the damming of the *Zuider Zee* economic activities switched to industrial development.

A visit to *The Huizermuseum Het Schoutenhuis* offers an interesting collection depicting the traditional dress of the town. Here one can also view the interior of a fisherman's cottage. There is a weekly market in the town and also a good selection of restaurants (*see back*).

Huizen hosts an indoor karting and laser games centre which proves very popular with teenagers.



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Huizen



After passing under the A6 motorway bridge and then the railway bridge you will be entering the *IJmeer*. This is a large open expanse of water so do not attempt this journey in stormy unsettled weather. At the red buoy IJM 12 you can turn left and travel behind the series of small man-made islands until you reach the channel to your left for *Muiden*, the beautiful old village at the mouth of the *River Vecht*.



Muiden

Most popular mooring place is at the marina *JH Stichting Muiden*.

i - Muiden

Muiden is located at the mouth of the *river Vecht*. It is interesting to note that this town wasn't always called *Muiden*, it was first called *Amuda*, meaning "mouth of the (river) A", and "A" was the old name for the *Vecht River*.

Muiden is situated about 12km from *Amsterdam* and takes about an hour to cycle; this makes a good day trip.



Muiden

A recommended place to visit is that of *Muiderslot Castle* (*see history below*). The Castle was restored and is now a national museum which tells the story of life in the castle in medieval times and during the golden age.

It is open to visitors along with its extensive gardens (*see below*). There are also new sections of the castle opened and there are guided tours on offer which tell the story from the Middle Ages to the Golden Age.



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- Muiden

The river *Vecht* was the trading route to *Utrecht* and given the position of *Muiden*, the *Muiderslot* castle was constructed for two main reasons. The first of which was to defend this route and the second reason was to enforce a toll on traders.



Muiderslot Castle

Muiderslot Castle (see left) was built around 1280 by Count Floris V.



Muiderslot Castle- Gardens



After leaving *Muiden* cruise south to *Weesp*. Between *Muiden* and *Weesp* there are several out of town public mooring places for those looking for peace and quiet.



Weesp

Most popular mooring point in *Weesp* is that of *WSV de Vecht* or *De Zeemeermin Marina*. Note: Please be aware that in this area, particularly in high season, mooring places are in high demand. If you are struggling to find space, head towards the *Amsterdam Rijn* canal and the area known as *Small Weesp* where there are three marinas with visitor berths.



Weesp



Arial view of Weesp

Weesp is another old town with lots of waterways and a wealth of historic streets and attractions. It is small but a very popular choice for boating and other visitors.



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Stop by the tourist information office (VVV) where you can obtain a walking map setting out the most interesting sights of the town.

Many buildings in *Weesp* date back to the seventeenth and eighteenth century. A short cycling distance from *Weesp* is a nature reserve, *The Naardermeer Area*.

Weesp is famous for the having the first Dutch Porcelain produced in the town. It was produced in 1759 and was special as it varied from the Chinese coloured designs which flooded the market. A varied collection of pieces made by Gronsveld's porcelain factory are displayed in the municipal museum in the 16th century town hall.



The picture on left shows two of the three full-size windmills in *Weesp*.

The most famous product of *Weesp* is *Van Houten chocolate*. *The Van Houten chocolate factory* was based in *Weesp* until 1970, exhibits of which are also on show in the Town Hall museum.

Weesp has a train station and a small bus station serving many destinations.



Weesp



- *Weesp*

It is hard to believe now but Weesp was once an uninhabited peat bog and this was the case until around the Middle Ages. *Weesp* was granted city rights in 1355.

Weesp to Loenen



After leaving *Weesp* heading south, you will pass *Uitermeer* and when you are passing *Hinderdam*, you may wish to visit the small *Spiegel polder* which has numerous countryside



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mooring places. Please consider however that the *Zander sluis* (lock) only operates twice per day.

A short journey from *Hinderdam*, you pass *Nigtevecht*. Along the river from *Nigtevecht* again there are several mooring places in the country side. Also by *Overmeer* you may wish to visit the *Kaas Boederij* (Cheese farm).

i - *Vreeland*



Vreeland

Vreeland is a small town but a very popular destination for water recreation. There are also several bike routes around the town and two hiking routes '*Floris de Vijfde*' and '*Waterlinie*'.



After *Vreeland* the next town is *Loenen* where there are mooring places either side of the bridge.

i - *Loenen*

Loenen is a beautiful village and is a recommended stop off. It is also a popular destination for water sports.



Loenen aan de Vecht

This area is particularly well known for the beautiful stately houses, with their waterside gardens, built during the 17th Century by the wealthy traders from *Amsterdam*.



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- Loenen

It is interesting to note that it was here in *Loenen* that there are the first records of the game of golf. Steven van Hengel describes in his book how the game was played in 1297 near the castle of *Kronenburg*. The winner was the player standing at the court house who could hit a ball to the castle door in as few strikes as possible.

Loenen to Maarsse



This is the last part of the journey along the famous *River Vecht*. In *Maarsse* you have a choice of mooring. You can stay at the outside of the village or in the centre of the village.

i - Maarsse

There are many well-restored old houses, villas and manor houses around *Maarsse* so keep an eye out for them and the camera at the ready.



De Vecht- Maarsse



The Goudestein- Maarsse

The Goudestein, built around the 18th century is now in use as the town hall and open to visitors.

Maarsse to Utrecht



After you leave *Maarsse* there is a lock which allows you to enter the *Amsterdam Rijn Canal* – you will enter the *Amsterdam Rijn Canal* here, after you have visited *Utrecht*

The commercial traffic is very fast moving and due to their drafts, etc produce large waves within the canal. This does not offer relaxed cruising!



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Utrecht

The nearest mooring place to the city centre is *Nieuwe Kade*.

i - Utrecht

Utrecht is a beautiful old city and is well worth a stop off. It is one of Holland's largest cities and makes for very picturesque cruising through the many bridges.

Check the height of your boat and don't forget to duck your head!!



Aerial view of Utrecht



De Oudegracht

The Oudegracht is a curved canal which runs through the city centre of *Utrecht*. The canal was dug in the 10th century but flood risk meant that the street level had to be raised, giving the city its unique split level design.

The Dom Tower was completed in approx 1382. At that time it stood at 109 metres tall until there were further restorations in 1910 which increased its height to an amazing 112 metres. There are regular tours and after climbing the 465 steps to the top, one has a beautiful aerial view of the city of *Utrecht* and on a clear day it is possible to see both *Amsterdam* and *Rotterdam*.



The Dom Tower



le boat

There are several museums in *Utrecht*, for example; *Aboriginal Art Museum* which offers a small exhibit of Australian Aboriginal Art, *Centraal Museum* which offers a large collection of art, design, and historical artefacts, *Museum Catharijneconvent* which is a Museum of the Catholic Church showing the history of Christian culture and arts in the Netherlands.

Utrecht has a rich religious past. It has been the religious centre of the Netherlands since the 8th century and it is due to this past importance that several monumental churches have survived in *Utrecht*. The most prominent is the Dom Church. Also part of this rich religious past is due to the fact that a pope came from *Utrecht*, Pope Adrian VI (1459-1523).

Utrecht is home to *Utrecht University*, the largest university in the Netherlands. Due to the very central location of *Utrecht*, it is well located to the rest of the Netherlands.

For some retail therapy there is a large shopping centre in *Utrecht* called *Hoog Catharijne* and there are countless restaurants with great food to be enjoyed by all (see back for details).

View of The Oudegracht
from The Dom Tower.



Utrecht is also host to the Netherlands film festival.



- **Utrecht**

The first settlers inhabited *Utrecht* in AD50. *Utrecht* was granted city rights in 1122.

Utrecht to Vinkeveen



On leaving *Utrecht*, return in the direction you came from until (i.e. head north) and you will arrive at the lock at Maarsse. Here you will join the *Amsterdam Rijn Kanaal*, turning right (heading north) until you see Nieuwersluis on your right.

On the left bank opposite, you will see the rail bridge over the entrance to the Nieuwe Wetering. Please exercise extreme caution, when crossing over the canal. If in doubt, wait for another opportunity to cross. The barges you will see, can be moving a lot faster than you may appreciate.

Once on the Nieuwe Wetering follow the waterway north until you are able to turn left along the Geuzensloot which leads to Demmerikse lock. After leaving the lock, you will need to wait for the road bridge to be lifted, allowing you to enter the Vinkeveense plassen.

On entering the lake our marina is in the south east corner (immediately to your right). Enter the marina from the left side as you look to shore. You will see the designated Le Boat area.

