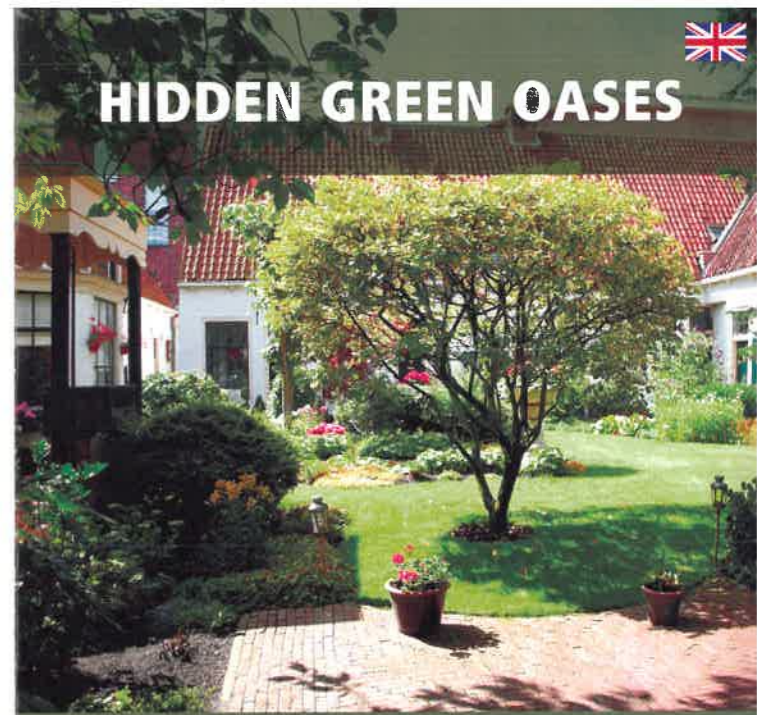
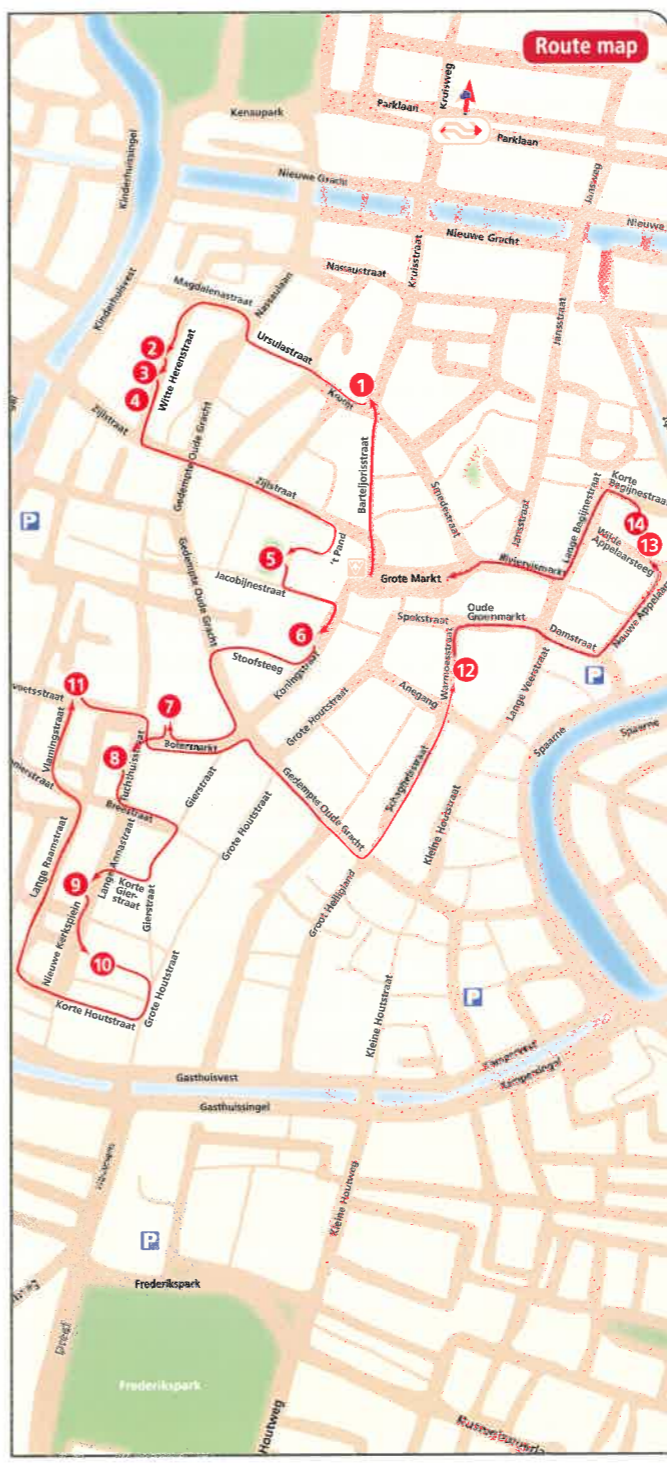




HIDDEN GREEN OASES



HAARLEM ALMSHOUSES WALK



Walk through the court along the garden to the neighbouring almshouse court. The newest in Haarlem, the **Johannes Enschedé almshouses (14)** were completed in 2007. This court of almshouses, named after the famous Haarlem printer, was designed by Haarlem cartoonist Joost Swarte and architect Henk Döhl. This duo collaborated previously on the design of Haarlem's Toneelschuur. Joost Swarte's signature is clearly recognisable from the large stained-glass window in the complex.



Leave the almshouse court via the large grey door and turn left onto **Korte Begijnestraat**. At the end of this street, turn left onto **Lange Begijnestraat**. You will now arrive at the Toneelschuur and De Philharmonie concert hall. Go right across **Riviervischmarkt** and continue straight in the direction of the statue of Laurens Jansz. Coster. You are back at the starting point of your walk: **Grote Markt**.

Colophon
Production and editing: Haarlem Marketing - visithaarlem.com
Graphic design: Studio Naskin, Haarlem - naskin.nl
Translation: Fundalingua - fundalingua.com
Tourist Information Haarlem is part of Haarlem Marketing (subject to change, November 2019)



In 1489, thirteen 'rooms with grounds' were bequeathed to the men of Elisabeth's Gasthuis, a hospital. It was stipulated that only priests or the impoverished were permitted to live here. The court originally consisted of a square of houses. However, since Barrevoetesteeg had to be widened, one row of houses was demolished so that you are now able to view this almshouse court through a gate. The house diagonally across from the entrance to the right is the regents' room. The room was never used because the regents had their own quarters in the Elisabeth's Gasthuis. With the almshouses behind you, turn left, back towards Botermarkt.

Walk to the other side of **Botermarkt** in the direction of **Verwulft** and turn right onto **Gedempte Oude Gracht**. Continue to the traffic lights at **Grote Houtstraat**. Now cross the street, turn right and continue onto **Gedempte Oude Gracht**. Then take the second left, **Schagchelstraat**.



Cross **Anegang** and enter **Warmoesstraat**. The **In den Groenen Tuyn almshouses (12)** (closed on Saturday!) are located at number 23 to your right (open between 10.00 and 12.00 hours, please ring the bell). At the end of **Warmoesstraat**, go right across **Oude Groenmarkt**. Walk straight onto **Damstraat**. Take your first left. Walk along **Nauwe Appelaarsteeg**, passing the back of Teylers Museum (right) and De Appelaar courts of justice and De Philharmonie (left). After De Philharmonie, turn left onto **Wijde Appelaarsteeg**.

On your right, you will find the **Van Bakenes almshouses (13)** at number 11. This is the oldest existing court of almshouses in the Netherlands, established in 1395. The official name of this court is 'De Bakenesserkamer', a reference to its residential rooms. Before you enter, take note of the inscription above the gate, which translates as: 'Dirck van Bakenes for women eight and twice six'. This refers to the number of women who could live here, 8 + (2x6), thus a total of twenty, and the minimum age they had to have: (8+2) x 6, thus sixty years. After you close the gate, walk along the narrow path to the actual almshouse court. The houses in their current state date back to the 17th century. In the garden, note the water pump with its wooden baldachin.

Follow us Visithaarlem Visithaarlem

The 'Hidden Green Oases' walk takes you along concealed retreats in the city. Behind thick doors and hidden entrances, you will find the almshouse communities of Haarlem (Haarlemse hofjes) with their quaint little houses and pretty gardens. Haarlem's wealth of beautiful almshouses serves as a reminder of bygone days. Wealthy citizens established almshouses as sheltered accommodation for aged women and for elderly women in need. They were housed in small homes arranged around an inner courtyard garden. To enter these residential communities, normally you had to pass through a gateway from the street. This tour starts at Grote Markt and takes about 1.5 hours.

Traditionally, there have been three types of almshouses: beguines, corporation almshouses and guild almshouses. The first type of almshouses (for beguines) date back to the 12th century. Later, church councils established almshouses, because they considered it their religious duty to provide a form of housing for the needy. In the 17th and 18th centuries, wealthy families established almshouses to ensure that their family name lived on in the name of the almshouses. These almshouses were often managed by a corporation set up for that purpose. Almshouses were also founded by guilds, a type of professional association. The Brouwers almshouses are an example of this. They were established for impoverished women who needed somewhere to live after years of service in the breweries.

Experience demonstrated that men were unable to cope with running a household on their own, so the almshouses were allocated especially for widows and destitute, unmarried women over sixty years old. The men were accommodated in 'old men's homes', such as the building that now houses the Frans Hals Museum. Even today, modern day regents still determine who may live in the former almshouses.

In principle, the almshouses are open from Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 17.00 hours; some almshouses are closed on Saturdays. You cannot visit the almshouses on Sundays and public holidays. Please respect the privacy of the residents while visiting the almshouses!

Grote Markt is the starting point for the walk. With the city hall behind you, turn left onto **Barteljorisstraat**. At the end of the street, you'll see the Van Oorschot almshouses on your left. (Unfortunately this almshouse is not open to the public. However, they are clearly visible through the large steel gate at the front.)



The **Van Oorschot almshouses (1)** were built in 1769 from the estate of Wouterus van Oorschot. The court consists of a main building with two wings. In the main building, there is a poem about the generosity of the founder, Wouterus van Oorschot, bringing comfort to the poor and setting an example for the rich. Wouterus van Oorschot also stipulated that the last ordained Reformed minister and the last appointed notary of Haarlem should act as regents.

After your visit to these almshouses, turn right once you leave the gate and then take an immediate right onto **Krocht**. Walk along the side of the Van Oorschot almshouses and continue straight onto **Ursulastraat**. The door at number 16 leads to the Remonstrance almshouses. The Ursuline convent was located here. This almshouse court is not freely accessible. Continue straight, cross **Nassaulaan** diagonally and enter **Magdalenastraat** on the other side. Take the first left, **Witte Herenstraat**.

Adjacent to the Lutheran church, you will see the **Lutheran almshouses (2)** on your right from numbers 16 a to i. The Lutheran almshouses were built by the Lutheran community around 1648 and have always been closely associated with the Lutheran church. The church and almshouses were built on the grounds of the former Norbertine monastery. The monks who lived there wore white scapulars and were referred to as 'Witte Heren' (White Canons), which explains the name of the street. The four houses adjoining the church are the oldest. The five houses to the right were built later. At the back of the complex, at the regents' room, there is an 'outdoor pulpit', from which the regents and minister would address the residents.



Leave the almshouse court and turn right, where you will see the **Frans Loenen almshouses (3)** at number 24. Frans Loenen was a merchant from Amsterdam who spent the final part of his life in Haarlem. He bequeathed his fortune to Haarlem's poor. Construction of eleven almshouses commenced in 1607. A few



years later, another five houses were added. The caretaker's house adjoins the church, while the regents' room is in the extension. The regents' room has gold leather wallpaper! During restoration, the number of houses was reduced to ten. To be eligible for a house, you had to be at least fifty years old and born in Haarlem, or have resided in Haarlem for at least six years. A meeting space was built in the garden a few years ago.

When you leave this almshouse court, go right again. A gateway next to number 30 is reminiscent of a third court of almshouses that used to be located in this street: the **Coomans almshouses (4)**, which were closed down in 1871 (these former almshouses are not open for viewing, please do not ring the bell). At the end of the street, turn left onto **Zijlstraat**. Cross **Gedempte Oude Gracht** and continue straight on. Take the second street on the right and enter 't **Pand** through the archway. You are now walking along the back of City Hall and will arrive at the **Prinsenhof**.

The **Prinsenhof (5)** is actually the old herb garden of a former monastery, which is now home to City Hall. One of Haarlem's most beautiful trees, a weeping beech, stands in the herb garden. At the back of the garden, there is a small temple of peace, built in 1648 following the Peace of Münster. Here you can also find a statue of Laurens Jansz. Coster who, according to the residents of Haarlem, was the inventor of the art of typography. The Stedelijk Gymnasium secondary school is housed in several buildings surrounding the Prinsenhof. The Gymnasium pupils refer to the garden as the 'hortus'.

Turn left onto **Jacobijnestraat** and at the T-junction, turn right onto **Koningstraat**. At number 20, take a quick look at the hall inside the **Huis van Schagen (6)**, a beautifully restored building. If the door is open, take a look at the (closed off) courtyard garden at the back.

Turn right onto **Stoofsteeg** and at the end, cross **Gedempte Oude Gracht**. Then turn left. You will soon see **Botermarkt** on your right. Stay on the right side of the square until you reach a well-concealed passage to the Bruinings almshouses at number 9.

Most almshouses were founded by wealthy, childless people. The founder of the **Bruiningshofje almshouses (7)** (closed on Saturday!), Jan Bruinink Gerritsz, had no less than seven children, though! During his lifetime, Bruinink purchased houses near his own home. Around 1610, they became almshouses. The Bruiningshofje has no regents' room, probably because it was a 'family affair' and people simply gathered at home. Currently, members of the Baptist community serve as regents. The courtyard is small, there are only four homes.



When you leave the almshouses, cross **Botermarkt** diagonally to the right and turn onto **Tuchthuisstraat**. The Brouwers almshouses are at number 8. The **Brouwers almshouses (8)** were established in 1472 by Jacob Huyge Roeperszn. and his sister. They bequeathed their possessions to the Haarlem Brouwersgilde (Brewers Guild). About a hundred breweries were located in Haarlem during this time. Impoverished women who could no longer work in the breweries were housed in these almshouses. In 1576, a large fire destroyed 449 houses in Haarlem, including the Brouwers almshouses. In 1586, the almshouses were rebuilt. This court of almshouses looks different than others in Haarlem; there is only a single row of houses, with the gate in the centre. It looks as if there are eight houses, but in reality, there are only four.

Leave the court and turn right, then take the first left. You are now on **Breestraat**. Take the first right, **Gierstraat**. Here you will find the exceptional Okhuysen wine shop. There is an old wine cellar beneath the shop. Take the first right, **Korte Gierstraat**. Turn left onto **Lange Annastraat**. At number 40, you will see the **Guurtje de Waal almshouses (9)**. (Closed on Saturday!).

Guurtje de Waal was a wealthy woman. During her life, she decided that part of her wealth should be used to build almshouses for widows, single or married women, with or without children. Before her death, this changed to 'widows or elderly spinsters who were members of the Reformed (now Protestant) community'. The almshouses were founded in 1616. The house to the left of the gate is the caretaker's residence.

Turn right as you leave the court and you will arrive at **Nieuwe Kerksplein**, where you open the green door at number 11 r. Walk along the passageway to the **Proveniers almshouses (10)**.

The St. Michael's nunnery used to be located here. After the Reformation, the building was given to the St. Joris Militia. The nunnery was demolished in 1591 and replaced by a new militia building. The former nunnery was used as a shooting range. After the departure of the militia, the building served briefly as an inn. In 1706, the building was converted into a kind of care home for the elderly. Unlike other almshouses, the Proveniershof was not for the needy. What is unusual about these almshouses is that people paid money to live in them, hence the name Proveniershof. A 'provenier' was someone who paid to live in a house. There are 67 homes in total, 38 of which are located around the garden. The remaining houses are situated in neighbouring streets. Married couples were also permitted to live here.



Walk through the court and leave through the large gate. You will now reach Haarlem's best-known shopping street, **Grote Houtstraat**. Turn right and take the second street on the right, **Korte Houtstraat**. This is one of Haarlem's greenest streets. Continue straight along the Nieuwe Kerk (1613, Lieven de Key), pass the church, turn right and then continue straight along **Lange Raamstraat**. You will reach the place from which this area derives its name: a little square where five streets meet, hence the name 'Vijfhoek' meaning pentagon.

Take your second left onto **Drapenierstraat**, and then turn immediately right onto **Vlamingstraat**. At the end of this street, you will find the **Van Loo almshouses (11)**. Unfortunately you cannot visit this court, but you do have a beautiful view of the garden.