



# MONUMENTAL HAARLEM



## A SELF-GUIDED WALK EXPLORING HAARLEM'S MONUMENTS



**Waalse Kerk (12, Walloon Church)**, the oldest church in Haarlem, built in 1348. Before the Reformation, this used to be a Catholic church called Begijnhofkapel (Beguinage Chapel). The church is only open to the public during the annual Open Monumentendagen (Heritage Days).

Turn right before the church and continue via **Begijnhof** and **Kalversteeg** towards **Goudsmidspleintje**. In Begijnhof, you can also see the former Goudsmidskamer (Chamber of Goldsmiths) at **Goudsmidspleintje**. This building was rented by the guild of goldsmiths from 1612. The gold chalice on the plaque of the building hints at its historical purpose; it represents the chalice of St Eloy, the patron saint of the guild. After the Reformation, this building also housed a conventicle for a long time. Although Jewish people would already have been living in Haarlem before 18th century, only then do we find evidence of a permanent settlement in the archives. In 1765, the property at Goudsmidsplein 6 was purchased and turned into a synagogue. Today, it is a private residence.

Carry on across **Goudsmidspleintje**, via **Donkere Begijnhof** which leads onto **Jansstraat**. On your right, you will pass St. Josephkerk (St Joseph's Church). Situated straight ahead of you in **Jansstraat** is Janskerk (St John's Church) with adjacent convent, built in the period of 1310-1318. Up to 1625, the church and convent formed the Haarlem seat of the Commanderie van Sint Jan (Order of St John), founded in 1310. After the Reformation, Janskerk (St John's Church) came into the hands of the city and served as a place for the new Protestant worship. The church continued to be used for this purpose until 1930 when the Diaconie van de Hervormde Gemeente (Diaconate of the Reformed Church) wanted to demolish the church and build retirement homes in its stead. The municipality of Haarlem intervened. The church was purchased and renovated, after which it became home to the municipal archives. Following yet another renovation, the building has been used since 2007 as a public information centre of the **Noord-Holland Archief (13, North-Holland Municipal Archives)**.

You are now turning left into **Jansstraat**. On the left hand side of the road, you can see a division of the **court of North Holland (14)** at number 81. The building by architect W.C. Metzelaer was specially built for this purpose in 1889-1890.



Continue your walk in the direction of **Grote Markt** and turn right, heading towards the statue of Laurens Janszoon Coster. The people of Haarlem consider Laurens Janszoon Coster the inventor of printing. Situated to the right on the **Grote Markt/Smedestraat** corner is the **Hoofdwacht (15, Main Guardhouse)**. Traces in the brickwork in the side wall of the building suggest that this is one of the oldest buildings in Haarlem. The Hoofdwacht was built in the



13th century. Until ca. 1350, the building served as a city hall. The building owes its current name to the civic guard who used it after 1755 as Hoofdwacht (Main Guardhouse). Opposite the Hoofdwacht, at the top of Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church), you can see a little sentry box at the bottom of the tower. The civic guard would stand guard in this low attic. It is thought that, as a point of security, the Hoofdwacht (Main Guardhouse) was linked to this sentry box. In the event of a fire in the city, a red flag would be waved in the sentry box and the civic guard at the Hoofdwacht (Main Guardhouse) would spring into action. The sentry box in Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church) was used right up to 1914.

**Grote or St. Bavokerk (16, St Bavo's Church)** is Haarlem's biggest church. It was built in 1479 in the spot where a smaller church used to stand that had almost completely burnt down. What makes this church special is that it was built without piles in the ground. Haarlem was founded on a sandbar, so the soil consists of sand and not a single pile was needed to build the church.

Statues used to adorn the church but a lot of this splendour was lost during the Iconoclastic Fury (1566), after which the church came into the hands of the Reformed municipality. The Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church) is also called 'Jan met de hoge schouders' (high-shouldered John), because the tower is on the small side in relation to the rest of the building. Inside the church are the tombstones of Frans Hals and Pieter Teyler, as well as the famous Christian

Müller organ. This biggest organ in the world was once played by Mozart when he was ten. He was visiting Haarlem with his father, a famous violin teacher, who had come to collect his own violin method in book form from Johan Enschedé printing company. Back then, Johan Enschedé printing company was the only printing company capable of printing musical notation.



As you continue past the church, you will see the **Vleeshal (17, Meat Hall)**, Grote Markt 18, on the left, recognisable by the crow-stepped gable with striking embellishments. As the city's population grew so did the demand for meat, which meant the city needed to have a meat hall. The city council commissioned the city's master builder Lieven de Key in the 17th century to design an ornately decorated building, using the finest materials. He used natural stone in this building which had to be imported from abroad and decorated the whole building with sheep and ox heads. These decorations are a reference to the original purpose of the building. The Vleeshal (Meat Hall) was mostly used to trade meat.

You have reached the end of this walk.

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The historic city centre of Haarlem boasts a wealth of exceptional monuments. Discover the many interesting, beautiful and surprising monuments that characterise the city via this 'Monumental Haarlem' walk. This route starts in Grote Markt and takes about 1.5 hours.



**Grote Markt**, formerly called 't Sant, is the historic heart of the city of Haarlem. Many consider it to be the most beautiful square in the Netherlands. The look and character of this square are largely determined by the historic buildings surrounding it. In the 13th and 14th century, the square used to be even bigger because there weren't any buildings yet on the south side. Back then, there was a gallows in 't Sant and it was where jousting tournaments were held and goods were sold.

As you stand in **Grote Markt** with your back to Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church), you can see the current **city hall (1)** of Haarlem. Originally, this was where the hunting seat of the Counts of Holland stood. Count Floris V used this hunting seat as a residence whenever he came to Haarlem to collect taxes. His son Willem II (William II) chose The Hague as his permanent residence, after which he donated the remainder of the hunting seat to the city. The wooden building was largely destroyed in a city fire in the 14th century.

After it was rebuilt, the complex served as a city hall. The current building with the famous Gravenzaal (Counts' Hall), which is now mainly used as a wedding room, dates from this period. In the same period, the Vierschaar (Court of Justice) was built, recognisable by the four pillars on the right side of the front of the building. It has been home to the VVV tourist information office since 2013. In front of the Vierschaar (Court of Justice) used to be a scaffold where justice was administered. The building has undergone several further renovations over the centuries.



Carry on into **Koningstraat** to the left of the city hall. Halfway down this road, you can see shop premises on your left at number 37, which date from 1900 and used to house a **bakery (2)**. On the stone above the shop window, you will find a sculpture of a baker.



Cross **Gedempte Oude Gracht** and continue into **Gierstraat**. Left, on the corner of **Gierstraat** at number 3 is chemist's **A.J. van der Pigge (3)**, recognisable by the traditional wooden chemist's sign above the entrance. This chemist's sells the ancient cure that heals all ailments, Haarlemmerolie (Haarlem oil). Its interior alone (from 1849) makes Van der Pigge well worth a visit.

Continue down **Gierstraat** and take the first road right. **Breestraat** leads you to the place after which this quarter is called, the 'Vijfhoek' (the Pentagon), a little square where five roads converge. Continue left across the square into **Lange Raamstraat**. You are walking towards Nieuwe Kerkplein. Situated in this square is the first newly built Protestant church of Haarlem, **Nieuwe Kerk (4)**, (New Church). The church is characterised by its striking tower in Renaissance style, built between 1613 and 1616 by the city's Flemish master builder Lieven de Key.

Sint Annaklooster (St Anne's Convent) used to stand on the site of this church, along with Annakapel (St Anne's Chapel), against which the tower was built. The chapel was replaced in 1645 with the church designed by Jacob van Campen. The church and tower form a special fusion of two totally different architectural styles.

Walk alongside Nieuwe Kerk (New Church) and take the first road left, **Korte Houtstraat**. Thanks to its green-fingered residents, this is one of the greenest streets of Haarlem. At the end of the road, turn left. This takes you into **Grote Houtstraat**. Continue walking a little further along this most famous shopping street of Haarlem, until you can turn right into **Cornelissteeg**. At the end of **Cornelissteeg**, turn right again into **Klein Heiligland**. You are now walking along the back of the world famous Frans Hals Museum. In the past, this building served as an old men's home and later as an orphanage. The Frans Hals Museum is named after the most important Haarlem painter from the Golden Age, Frans Hals. Apart from his group portraits of the civic guard, this museum exhibits many more art treasures from the Golden Age.



Turn left into **Gasthuisvest** and take the first road left, **Groot Heiligland**. This leads you to number 62, the front of the **Frans Hals Museum (5)**. To the right, you can see a number of façades of the former *proveniershuisjes*, almshouses for elderly men, which were part of St. Elisabeth's or Grootte Gasthuis hospital.



As you leave **Groot Heiligland**, turn right into **Gedempte Oude Gracht**. Cross and take the first road left, **Kleine Houtstraat**. At the end of this shopping street, you will come to a place where four roads cross. On the **Lange Veerstraat/Korte Veerstraat** corner, to your right, you can see the **first department store (6)** to be built in Haarlem in 1899, commissioned by V&D. On the façade, you can read which products were sold at this first proper department store, including haberdashery, coats and children's clothing. As you walk straight on down **Lange Veerstraat**, you will reach a 'square' with a fabulous view through the trees of Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church). Continue the walk by turning right into **Damstraat**. At the end of this road, on the **Damstraat/ Spaarne** corner, you can see the Waag (Damstraat 29; Weighhouse) on the left.

**The Waag (7, Weighhouse)** was built around 1598, led by the city's master builder Lieven de Key, to a design of painters Cornelis Cornelisz and Willem Thybaut. Until 1915, it served as a weighhouse, a place where goods were weighed. The city council would levy taxed based on the nature and weight of the goods brought in for weighing. The Renaissance style building has two almost identical façades in Namur stone, limestone quarried in the Belgian province of Namur. Characteristic features of the building are the round arch and ogival arch windows. The building's administrative purpose was indicated by the coat of arms of Holland on the Damstraat side and coat of arms of Haarlem on Spaarne side.



Continue your walk by turning left into **Spaarne**. At Spaarne 16, you can see **Teylers Museum (8)**. All the buildings and collections of this oldest museum of the Netherlands, which was built in 1794, were bequeathed by merchant and banker Pieter Teyler van der Hulst. As a man of the Enlightenment, he left his money for the advancement of art and science. Before his former home was turned into a museum, it was a place where scientists would come to do research. Exhibited in atmospheric display cabinets, lit only by natural light, you can see objects such as minerals, fossils, paintings, scientific instruments, coins and farthings.

In front of you to the right (diagonally), you can see the white **Gravestenenbrug (9)**. As you look across this drawbridge to the other side of the river, you can see two monumental buildings with authentic crow-stepped gables, built around 1630.



Situated in the buildings behind these, as early as about 1550, was brewery '**De Olyphant (10, The Elephant)**'. For centuries, Haarlem was one of the major brewery cities of the Netherlands. Haarlem Jopen beer is a famous beer that is once again being brewed since 1994 to an old recipe that was found in the municipal archives. You can see a stone plaque depicting an elephant built into the side wall of De Olyphant building in **Wijdesteeg**.

Continue along **Spaarne**, past **Baknessergracht** and turn left into **Baknesserstraat**. Halfway down this road, you can see **Baknesserkerk (11, Baknesser Church)**, originally a count's chapel dedicated to Mary. Immediately past the church, turn left into **Vrouwestraat**. This takes you to the west side of the church. The in 1972 renovated church tower looks a lot like the current tower of Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church) in Grote Markt square. During the construction of the latter, the material turned out to be much too heavy, causing cracks to appear inside the church and one pillar to lean. On the advice of a Flemish expert, the tower was torn down and replaced with the new, lighter wooden tower covered in lead. The debris of the natural stone tower was used to raise the churchyard at Grote or St. Bavokerk (St Bavo's Church). The bigger pieces were used to build the old Baknesserkerk (Baknesser Church) tower around 1550.



Continue your route through **Vrouwestraat** and turn right at the end of the road, into **Baknessergracht**. Carry on towards **Begijnbrug**. As you cross this bridge, take a good look around you and enjoy the idyllic views. At the end of the bridge, turn immediately right, so you continue your walk on the other side of **Baknessergracht**. Turn left into the narrow **Groene Buurt** alley. Situated at the end of this alley in **Begijnhof** is the