

Farmers, Citizens & Countrymen

Upcoming Saturday, September 9th, Groningen will celebrate the 22nd edition of Open Monuments Day. The nationwide theme this year is Farmers, Citizens & Countrymen. The emphasis is thus on people, and their shared economic and cultural relations.

We have created an exciting programme in collaboration with all participating monuments, offering something to do or see for everyone. A special map of the region shows four historic routes to the city of Groningen. Each of these routes highlights 14 buildings, giving rise to a wonderfully varied perspective on building development in the outlying rural areas, the village-like neighbourhoods, and the urban centre of the city. Some parts of the routes lend themselves to exploration by bike; within the city most can be done on foot.

And there's more. Take a digital dive into the rich history of the city of Groningen at the Martinikerk; discover how monuments can serve as a source of inspiration for other art forms; or have a look around in a mansion house by Egbert Rietsma, a well-known architect in The Amsterdam school, and later for more expressionist works, active in the interwar period of the last century.

Of course, as every year, the most important historical buildings in and around the city are open to the public. The programme booklet lists opening hours for each location – please note that some buildings are not open all day. The Old Catholic 'Sint Martinuskerk' (Saint Martin's Church), the 'Goede Herderkerk' (Good Shepherd's Church), and the old building of the music school in the Sint Jansstraat are new this year. All activities and guided tours are free of charge.

Thematic walk: Farmers, Citizens, and Countrymen

This city walk commences in the city center with the earliest history of habitation in the Groningen settlement, and ends with the last city farmer's departure from the Moesstraat. By way of the Martinikerkhof (featuring i.a. traces of a stable from ancient times), the route leads to the Ossenmarkt (which is part of the 17th century city expansion, and where livestock was traded from the 17th up to the 19th century), then on to the Moesstraat and the surrounding area, which, until a city limit law was passed in 1874, was officially outside the city and home to many vegetable farmers (called 'Mouskers' in the Groningen dialect).

Time: 15:00 (approx. 2 hours)

Starting point: Martinikerk, check in at the Central Information desk

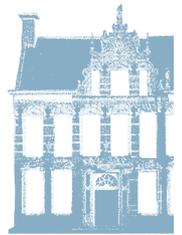
Registration required: T +31 (0)6 42 69 46 66
(max. 20 participants per group)

Saturday 9 September

O P E N

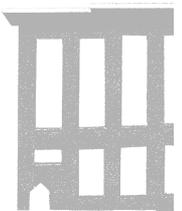
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D A G



Farmers,
Citizens &
Countrymen



1. Stadhuis (*Town Hall*)
Grote Markt 1

In 1775, a contest was drawn up for a new design of the Stadhuis, because its medieval style no longer fit the city image. Jacob Otten Husly submitted the winning design in Neoclassical style. Its construction started in 1793 but due to circumstances such as financial issues, political tensions and the French occupation, took a staggering thirty-six years. It took until 1872 before the west side of the building was completed, when expansion was necessary. In the end, the open courtyard was realized as Husly had imagined almost a century earlier.



2. Academiegebouw
(*University of Groningen*)
Broerstraat 5

The University of Groningen was founded in 1614 in the large monastic complex of the Franciscan Friars. The old buildings were demolished in 1846. Then, a stately and dignified second structure was opened in 1850. In 1906, it went up in flames, including its entire collection. From 1907-1909, the third and current Academiegebouw arose on the foundations of its predecessor. Chief

Government Architect J.A. Vrijman emphasized its representative function by choosing the style of the Northern Netherlands Renaissance of the early 17th century. The façade's decorations contain allegorical figures depicting the Arts and Sciences, inspired by illustrations of the original entrance, dating back to 1614.



3. Martinerkerk
(*Martini Church*)
Martinierkerkhof 3

The current Martinerkerk is the fourth church to be located at the Martini churchyard. Around 1220, the construction of this Romanesque-style church in honour of St. Martin was started. For Groningen, the 15th century was an economic golden age, causing the church to expand into the hall church it is today. Eventually, the iconic Martini Tower was built, still being one of the highest towers in the country. The 17th century south portal, including the Bread and Butter House, was rebuilt in a simplified form. The poor and homeless were welcomed there for a simple meal. Archaeologists will present the results of their excavation findings around the church.

4. Warehouses **Hoge der A**

This 14th century grand house used to be a rectory of the Martinerkerk. The estate housed several prominent regent families. In 1864, W.J. Quintus acquired the estate.



The distinct bend in 'het Hoge der A' refers to the origin of this medieval city port: the natural course of the river 'A'. From approximately the end of the 12th century, onward the river bank served as a docking place for maritime transport, developing into a sizable harbour over time. Its purpose is still evident from the impressive collection of tall wheat warehouses by the dock. A considerable number of these have 13th or 14th century cascos, meaning they are among the first brick houses of the city. The warehouses can be found at for instance nr. 5 (Libau), nr. 6 (Eem), nr. 21 (London), nr. 22 and nr. 23.



5. Provinciehuis
(*Provincial Government Building of Groningen*)
Martinierkerkhof 12

The Provinciehuis is made up of various buildings from different periods. Its main building on the Martini churchyard dates back to the early 1900s. The back building, housing the historical Council Chamber, used to be a grammar school and dates back to the late Middle Ages. The school also housed the Board of City and Land until 1871. That year, a new government building

was built in front of the old school building. Its extension, added in 1996, was of an unprecedented scale in this part of the city. The structure was built on a comb-like ground plan, designed by architect Mels Crowel. Since 1602, the Provincial Council gathers in the Council Chamber. This is completely unique in the Netherlands; no other province has the same long-standing tradition of gathering in the same conference room.



6. Korenbeurs
(*Corn Exchange*)
Akerkhof 1

Groningen used to be the regional and later national capital of corn trade. This originates from the medieval stack right, causing all the provincial corn to be sold at the city market. During the second half of the 19th century, the corn trade expanded enormously. The current Korenbeurs, constructed between 1862-1865, was designed by City Architect J.G. van Beusekom. It is the third structure built on the same spot. Whereas the front building was designed in a Classicist style, the trade hall was very modern for its time due to its cutting edge glass and cast iron structures. The high windows served to bring in as much light as possible, necessary for approving grain samples. After the corn dealers had left, the building was used for different purposes. Today, it houses a supermarket and is one of the 100 most important buildings in the country.



7. Der Aa-kerk
(*The Der Aa Church*)
Akerkhof 2

The Der Aa Church with its striking yellow tower and medieval arches is one of the most iconic buildings in Groningen. Its church function has changed over the centuries; first the Catholics built the church in medieval times and after the Reformation Protestants used the church for their services. In 1671, lightning struck the church, destroying the tower and church organ. During the Second World War, the vaults served as a hiding place for people in need. Thanks to its natural light and exceptional layout, the church is now regularly used for weddings and concerts.



8. Gotisch Huis
(*Gothic House*)
Brugstraat 24

The Gothic House was presumably built after a renovation of the large merchant houses in the 15th century. At the time, Groningen commerce was booming and the city reigned over its surrounding regions. From the early 1600s on, the house served as a beer brewery for almost two centuries. After that, the

Gothic House was used as a storehouse named 'New York'. In 1978, during a big restoration, the architect consolidated the original facade. It has recognizable Gothic elements, like the alcoves above the dormers. The building currently serves as the Northern Maritime Museum, together with the neighbouring 'Cantershuis'. During Open Monuments Day, children can participate in sword fighting.



9. The Central Station (*Stationsplein*)

It's probably the most visited monument in Groningen: the central train station. Amsterdam-native Isaac Gosschalk designed the building, which was built in 1895-96 in a masterful merging of Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance style. The demolition of the city's bulwarks from 1874 onwards enabled the station to be placed at this location. Its tall entrance hall and elongated side wings with open arcades made the station a new and appealing entryway to the city. The jewel in the station's crown is the central hall with its vibrant Jugendstil tile tableaus and its richly painted ceiling embellished with 'carton-pierre': a very unusual and labour-intensive technique. The former third class waiting room features a map of the Dutch railroads.

For a complete overview of all open monuments please grab the Dutch version of this flyer to see the map.