

Cities full of STREET ART

7 HEERLEN STREET ART

Heerlen

Limburg

+31 (0)6 29 20 98 91

heerlenmurals.nl

The undisputed street art capital of the Netherlands is Heerlen. At one time, this city, in a former mining region, was the most prosperous city in the South. Once the mines closed, people's fortunes changed and the city suffered from vacancy and dilapidation. And that is exactly the kind of backdrop that graffiti artists love. In 2013, the first works popped up and since then Heerlen has been transformed into a large open-air street art gallery with works by internationally renowned artists. The local tourist office organises tours, but you can also buy the *Street Art Heerlen* guide or map your own route on the website listed above.

8 MERWE-VIERHAVEN ROTTERDAM

Keilewerf 1 and 2

[West]

Rotterdam

South Holland

rewriters10.nl

In the old days, this area between the port and the railway tracks was a no man's land, a dodgy place where you would mainly run into sex workers and drug dealers. Nowadays, Keilewerf is home to hip companies and internationally renowned artists such as Joep van Lieshout and Daan Roosegaarde. In the long term, the city also hopes to build housing here. For the time being, however, you can admire the works of several street artists on the large industrial buildings. A lush community garden (a design by LOLA Landscape Architects) makes this area all the more special.

9 KEITH HARING IN AMSTERDAM

Willem de

Zwijgerlaan/

Jan van

Galenstraat

[West]

Amsterdam

North Holland

When world-famous pop art artist Keith Haring had his first solo exhibition in Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum in 1986, he made a site-specific work for everyone to enjoy. His canvas: a 40-foot wall outside the museum's storage facility. The building became an indoor market and for 30-odd years, this huge mural of a dog with a fish tail was concealed under a thick steel plate. Following the redevelopment of this neighbourhood, 'the Haring' reappeared. You can see the top of the mural when you turn onto Willem de Zwijgerlaan from Jan van Galenstraat. You'll have to enter the Food Center site if you want to see the entire mural.



7 HEERLEN STREET ART

BRUTALIST

gems

118 **FORMER HEADQUARTERS OF SC JOHNSON**

Groot
Mijdrechtstraat 81
Mijdrecht
Utrecht

From the N201 in Mijdrecht, between Amsterdam and Utrecht, you might be forgiven for thinking that you are looking at a boomerang that floats above the water. Rotterdam architect H.A. (Hugh) Maaskant designed this building in the sixties for the American cleaning product company SC Johnson, which wanted a stylish building for its Dutch headquarters. Maaskant was known as the 'designer of the grand gesture', and a champion of the Nieuwe Bouwen style. Meaning: no bricks, just cement, steel and glass. He contributed to the reconstruction of Rotterdam, with his designs for the monumental Groot Handelsgebouw and the Euromast.

119 **THE PROVINCIE-HUIS OF NORTH BRABANT**

Brabantlaan 1
Den Bosch
North Brabant
+31 (0)73 681 28 12
brabant.nl

The building of the Province of North Brabant was architect Hugh Maaskant's last big commission. The 100-metre-tall, cement colossus was inaugurated by the queen in 1971 and has become somewhat of an icon along the A2 motorway. Maaskant was not interested in excessive interior ornamentation. Instead he preferred art that integrated with the building. Part of the collection – Karel Appel was in charge of the design of the cafeteria – is on permanent display. Following a radical renovation a few years ago, the building is now permanently open to the public.



118 FORMER HEADQUARTERS OF SC JOHNSON

Former ISLANDS

181 SCHOKLAND

Flevoland
schokland.nl

Schokland battled the water for centuries but was defeated by the poldering of the Zuiderzee. Nowadays it is listed as UNESCO World Heritage. Here you can see remnants of graves, the church and a museum about the struggle against the water, as well as fossils and archaeological finds (including a bear skeleton) from the surrounding area. It is not difficult to imagine that this place was once surrounded by water, when you look down from the village walls and see the large expanse of the Noordoostpolder at your feet.

182 WIERINGEN

North Holland
wonderlijk
wieringen.nl

Wieringen is like a Wadden Island, albeit without the tourists and the crossing. The narrow and sometimes overgrown roads wind their way around the former island, which was appended to the mainland in 1924. The hilly landscape is the result of encroaching land ice during the penultimate Ice Age. At the viewing point near Stroe you will suddenly realise that you are no longer looking at the IJsselmeer. Here you can really smell the sea. At the end of summer, you can spot black terns as they fly over. In the south of Wieringen, you can find the last Dutch dike built from seaweed.

183 MARKEN

North Holland

Due to its historic port, quaint wooden houses and the clog factory, tourists easily find their way to Marken. But you can get away from the crowds, by following the path around the former island. The 15-kilometre-long trail will take you through hamlets, with their characteristic, coloured wooden houses and Het Paard van Marken, the island's lighthouse. To the north, Bukdijk stretches into the water, like a 2-kilometre-long dead-end road. You can get to Volendam from Marken by ferry.

184 URK

Flevoland
touristinfourk.nl

Urk was an island in the IJsselmeer, until the dike to Lemmer in Friesland was completed in 1939. While this fishing village is more geared to tourists and pleasure boats nowadays, the fishing industry still has a prominent presence. The boats are maintained in the bustling port, where you can see nets drying in the sun and of course, you can eat good fish here. You can take a plunge in the IJsselmeer from the small sandy beach.



226 BOOMKROONPAD

228 **MUSEUM
DE HEKSENWAAG**

**Leeuweringer-
straat 2**

**Oudewater
Utrecht**

**+31 (0)348 56 34 00
heksenwaag.nl**

For several centuries, witches were weighed here in the Oudewater Witches Weighhouse. If you were too light, you were considered a witch. If the weighing test showed that you were not a witch, you received a certificate to prove your innocence. In 1545, Emperor Charles V granted Oudewater the privilege to organise these witch-weighing tests, as the only European weighhouse. This tiny museum in the historic village of Oudewater tells the history of the witches' trials in early modern Europe. Once you have visited the museum, you can ask to be weighed on the original scales. If you are innocent, you will get a certificate to take home with you.

229 **ZEEHONDEN-
CENTRUM
PIETERBUREN /
SEAL REFUGE**

**Hoofdstraat 94-A
Pieterburen
Groningen**

**+31 (0)595 52 65 26
zeehondencentrum.nl**

This seal refuge, which was founded in 1971, used to be called the seal nursery because it mainly cared for 'wailers' that had been left behind by their mums on the mudflat, where they were usually found crying inconsolably. Now that the seal population has flourished, the centre has revised its policy of care for these creatures. Get up close and personal with the seals, before they are released into the wild again. You can even assist with their release. The refuge is set to move to the new Waddencentrum in Lauwersoog in the near future.



233 ABSEILING OR ZIP-LINING FROM THE EUROMAST

233 **ABSEILING OR ZIP-LINING FROM THE EUROMAST**

Parkhaven 20
[West]
Rotterdam
South Holland
+31 (0)10 436 48 11
euromast.nl

The Euromast is the tallest publicly accessible tower in the Netherlands and an icon of Rotterdam's impressive skyline. The tower, which was built in 1960, is open to the public. It has a restaurant on the 100-metre level and a viewing platform at 185 metres. Real daredevils can take a more unorthodox way down (only in the summer months). Use the zip line to get to ground level in just 15 seconds at a speed of 100 km/hour. Abseiling takes a little longer.

234 **BUNGEE JUMPING FROM THE PIER**

Strandweg 150
Scheveningen
South Holland
+31 (0)70 221 11 38
bungy.nl

The North Sea's waves come closer at a daunting speed. And then, just in time, the elastic retracts and you are propelled back into the air. The Pier of Scheveningen is the only permanent location for a bungee jump in the Netherlands. You jump 60 metres down, with a view of the beach and the boulevard.

235 **CAVE BIKING**

Oud Valkenburg 2-A
Schin op Geul
Limburg
+31 (0)43 604 06 75
aspadventure.nl

Let's hope your lamps won't die during your cave biking tour in Valkenburg because Limburg's marl caves are pitch-dark. The 10K tour lasts about 1,5 hours and you'll even ride past some cave paintings here and there. The longer (and more expensive) tour tells you more about the caves' history. You'll even have the opportunity to visit an underground chapel from the French era.

Inspiring BOOKSHOPS

280 DOMINICANEN

**Dominicaner-
kerkstraat 1**
Maastricht
Limburg
+31 (0)43 410 00 10
boekhandel
dominicanen.nl

This bookshop is one of the most impressive shops in its genre, and is located in a 700-year-old Gothic Dominican church. There are 17th-century frescos on the ceilings of the church's vaults and the mural of St. Thomas Aquinas from 1337 is said to be one of the oldest portrayals of this saint in Europe. During the restoration in 2006, a huge walk-in book cabinet, with several floors, was added, increasing the shop's floor area and offering amazing views of the church interior.



280 DOMINICANEN

281 DONNER

Coolsingel 129
[Centre]
Rotterdam
South Holland
+31 (0)10 413 20 70
donner.nl

Rotterdam's largest bookshop has experienced a few turbulent years. The shop was established in 1912 by the alderman J.H. Donner, only to be completely destroyed on 14 May 1940 when the Germans bombed the city. It was rebuilt and relocated several times. In 2006, a large chain acquired Donner, selling it to another chain, that went bankrupt in 2014, threatening to take several reputable bookshops down with it. Donner was saved by 2000 book lovers, who contributed to the crowdfunding campaign and formed a cooperative. Donner is housed in a former bank in Coolsingel, the first large construction project after the destruction of May 1940. The stained-glass window in the stairwell by glass artist Andries Copier has been restored to its former glory after a major renovation.

282 WATERSTONES

Kalverstraat 152
Amsterdam
[Centre]
North Holland
+31 (0)20 638 38 21
waterstones.com

Stepping into Waterstones is like setting foot in a nice old library, albeit one with personal tips from the shop's employees on notes among the books. The shop is located in a monumental building by the Dutch architect H.P. Berlage, which gives out onto the Spui. The city's book square is also famous for its weekly book market on Fridays.

REGIONAL PRODUCTS

you must taste

323 OYSTERS

OESTERIJ

Havendijk 12

Yerseke

Zeeland

+31 (0)113 760 400

oesterij.nl

Given that you're in the epicentre of the Dutch oyster trade, we can see how you'd be interested in sampling the goods. Dhooge, a family business, has a shop and a tasting room where you can sample this Zeeland delicacy. Zeeland oysters are mainly sourced from the Oosterschelde and Grevelingenmeer. Before being sold and consumed, the oysters spend some time 'relaxing' in the 19th-century oyster pits. Don't like oysters? Yerseke is also the centre of the Dutch mussel trade!

324 LIMBURG PIE

DE BISSCHOPSMOLEN

Stenenbrug 3

Maastricht

Limburg

+31 (0)43 327 06 13

bisschopsmolen.nl

Wherever you go in Limburg, you can order coffee and pie. The Bisschopsmolen in Maastricht claims it's the first baker in the Netherlands to only use spelt flour for its pies. Whether this is the secret to their lovely pies, who knows, but we have sampled their gooseberry and cherry pies and they are worth the detour. Next to the bakery, which is housed in a monumental water mill, you can also eat at the restaurant, which serves pies, sandwiches and other cereal products, from their own oven.

325 FRISIAN SUGAR BREAD

BAKKERIJ KEUNING

Merk 15

Workum

Friesland

+31 (0)515 54 12 08

bakkerijkeuning.nl

Frisian sugar bread: it's sticky, not too dry and full of crunchy bits of sugar. Most bakers in Friesland sell this regional speciality. This small bakery in Workum was established about 100 years ago and is now run by the third generation of family bakers.

326 SAUSAGE ROLLS

DIKKE MIK

Halstraat 3

Breda

North Brabant

+31 (0)76 521 63 09

dikkemik.com

A *worstenbroodje* (sausage roll) is not the same as a *saucijzenbroodje*. The latter is made with greasy flaky pastry, whereas the Brabant sausage roll consists of a spicy sausage, made from minced meat, which is wrapped in normal dough. They taste even better when they've just come out of the oven and the soft dough is light brown and crispy on the outside. You can find them in any bakery throughout Brabant. Dikke Mik, on lively Halstraat, in the centre of Breda, is just one baker we recommend.

327 ZEEUWSE BOLUSSEN

BLIEK

MEESTERBAKKERS

Damplein 14-16

Middelburg

Zeeland

+31 (0)118 62 84 69

blikmeester

bakkers.nl

Another sticky delicacy, made from white sugar, cinnamon and syrup and rolled into what essentially resembles a poo, the nickname of this Zeeland coffee roll. The bolus was invented in the 16th century, when Sephardic Jews fled Spain and Portugal, settling in Zeeland where they introduced the bola. The bakers of Blik have been tweaking their recipe for several decades already.

UNUSUAL

places to spend the night

377 DE KLEINE ANTONIUS

Borgweg 32
Zeerijp
Groningen
+31 (0)6 24 64 82 25
dekleineantonius.nl

Lay your head down to rest on the church organ in this beautiful Baptist church from 1904. The church can also be rented for performances or events, but you'll have it all to yourself if you decide to spend the night here. So play a little ditty on the piano or cosy up to the wood stove. The owner Dick Stukkien has plenty of stories to share about this special place.

378 HORTUS HERMITAGE

Kerklaan 34
Haren
Groningen
+31 (0)50 537 00 53
hortusharen.nl/
hortus-hermitage

Spending the night in an old food silo is always a unique experience, but this one is made even more special because of its location in a botanic garden. The silo's interior is decorated with furniture, made from materials that were gathered in the Hortus and include a desktop made of plant cards. The Hermitage is a retreat. You can stay here for two nights or more, from May till October. According to a romantic, 18th-century custom, hermits were given permission to sleep in the botanic garden, as they were regarded as symbols of the reflective man who is close to nature. And now you can follow in their footsteps.

379 ALIBI HOSTEL LEEUWARDEN

Blokhuisplein 40
Leeuwarden
Friesland
+31 (0)6 12 07 74 49
alibihostel.nl

Many prisons have often been likened to hotels, because of the luxurious conditions in which the prisoners were held. Now that more and more jails are closing their doors, some are being converted into hotels. You can spend the night in the Blokhuispoort, in a sparsely furnished dormitory, or share a bunk bed in one of the cells. For more luxurious accommodation, book a double room with an ensuite bathroom. If your cell feels too claustrophobic, then head to one of the common rooms where you can cook, read a book or have a beer.



378 - HORTUS HERMITAGE