



CITY WALK

HIGHLIGHTS MAASTRICHT



5,4

KILOMETRES

90

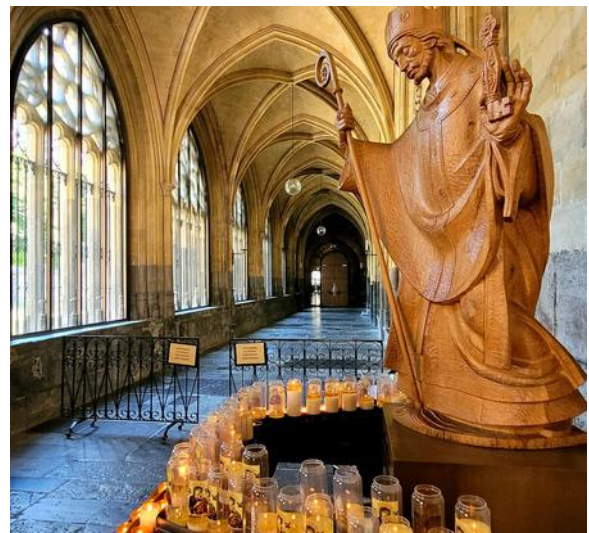
MINUTES

24

LOCATIONS

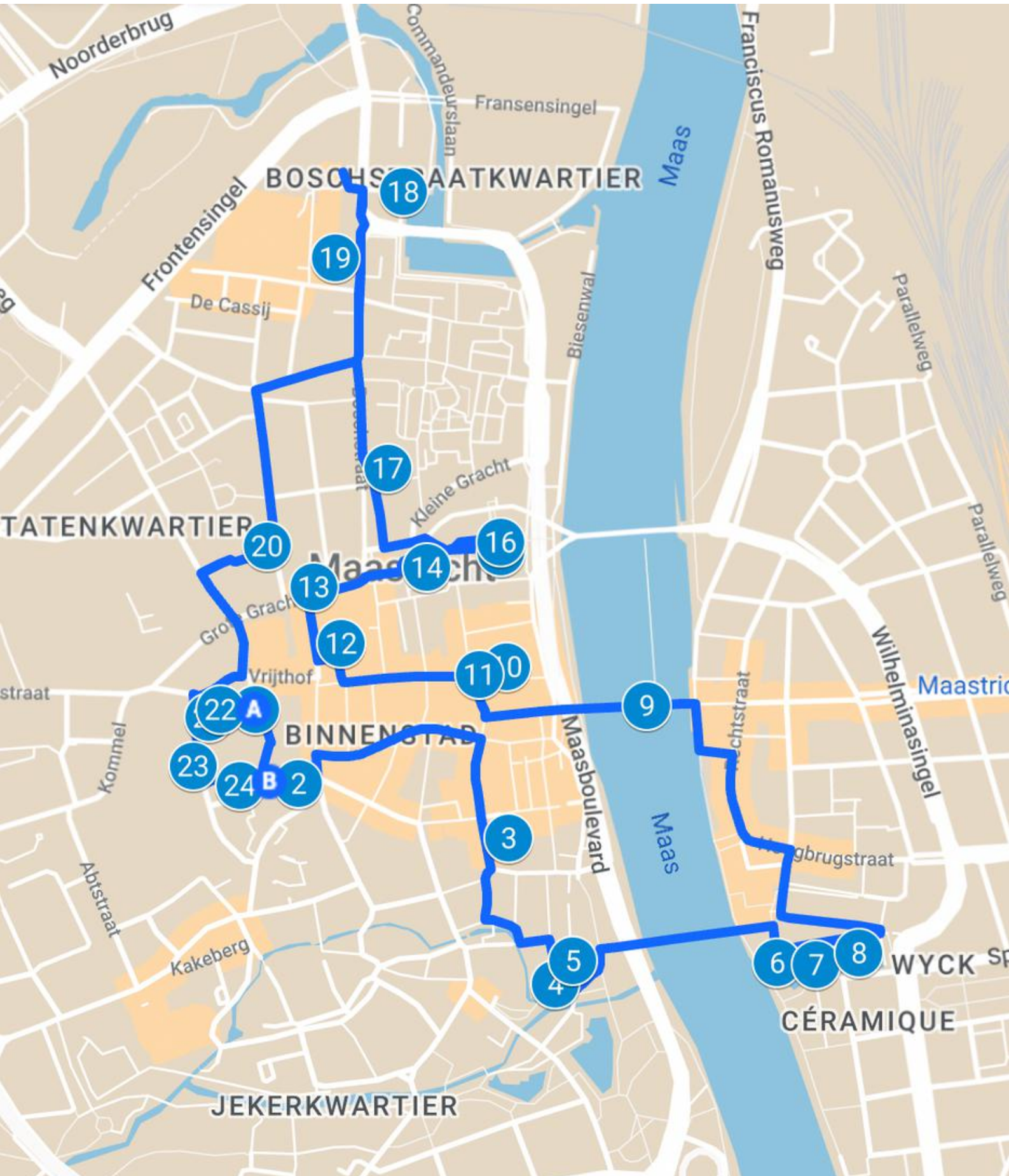
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CITY WALK



This city walk starts on the Vrijthof in Maastricht. Here you will also find the museum at the Vrijthof.

In the heart of the city you will find the nicest square in the Netherlands: the Vrijthof. This special square is known as the backdrop for André Rieu's summer concerts, the Preuvenemint and Magical Maastricht on the Vrijthof. Around the Vrijthof are numerous historic buildings from the time when Maastricht was a religious center and a military fortress. For example: the Sint Servaaskerk, Sint Janskerk, the Spanish Government, the Hoofdwacht and the General House.



Fotomuseum aan het Vrijthof, formerly Museum aan het Vrijthof and Museum Spanish Gouvernement, is a private photography museum in the center of the Dutch city of Maastricht. The museum is partly located in the Spanish Government on the Vrijthof, one of the oldest non-church buildings in the city.



Leave the Vrijthof via the Platielstraat. Walk out and continue your way via Achter Het Vleeshuis. At the end, turn right into Wolfstraat. You will pass the Basilica of Our Lady on your left.

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The Basilica of Our Lady is located in the old center of the city, which you can see from afar through two pointed towers that rise meters high above the roofs. The church was built in the ninth century on the ruins of a fifth century church. It is probably the oldest church in the Netherlands. The 15th century Merode Chapel was initially used as a baptistery and later as a devotion chapel for Maria Sterre van der Zee.



Walk further through the Wolfstraat and walk via the Onze Lieve Vrouweplein to the Koestraat. Walk through this and at the end turn left to the Ridderstraat. At the end of Ridderstraat, turn left to Achter de Oude Minderbroeders and you will arrive at Sint Bernardusstraat. Here you go right. You walk towards the Helpoort.

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The Helgate is the last remaining piece of the first fortress wall of Maastricht. The gate dates from the thirteenth century and is the oldest surviving city gate in the Netherlands. The building looks very medieval because of the red wooden fences and the walls of coal sandstone. The building is also called the Two Towers, because of the two towers on either side of the gate.



From the Helpoort, take the footpath towards the Maasboulevard. You pass the Onze Lieve Vrouwewal here. Follow the path and then cross the bridge to cross the Meuse. On the other side of the bridge you will find the Maaspunttoren, the sign hall and Center Céramique.

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The Onze Lieve Vrouwewal (Maastrichts: Slevrouwewal) was part of the first and second medieval city wall of Maastricht. The original rampart dates from the 12th or 13th century, but has been renovated several times over the centuries.

The Maaspunt tower and quay wall along the Maas are remnants of the city wall of Wijck (1318). The tower was demolished in 1869 and rebuilt in 1913.



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The Bordenhal is the home base of Toneelgroep Maastricht. Toneelgroep Maastricht is one of the major national theater companies and the city company of Maastricht.

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In Center Céramique you will find a very current and valuable cultural offer. There is a large library and you can discover the history of Maastricht through permanent and changing presentations. Center Céramique is also an important and large stage for photography and visual culture with changing exhibitions.



Leave Plein 1992 via the Ruitertij. Take the stairs. Walk out of the Ruitertij and turn left into the Hoogbrugstraat. Turn right onto Rechtstraat. Turn left to Wycker Smedenstraat and at the end turn right to Cörversplein. Walk to the end and cross the Maas again via the Sint Servaasbrug.



The Sint-Servaasbridge is one of the most characteristic buildings in Maastricht and dates from the thirteenth century. Anyone who walks into Maastricht in a straight line from the station will cross this age-old bridge over the Maas.

When you come off the bridge, go straight through the Maastrichter Brugstraat. At the end you turn right to the Kleine Staat. Here you will find the Dinghuis and a short distance behind it the Drukkunstmuseum.

Discover the Drukkunstmuseum at a surprising location in the heart of Maastricht. The museum was founded by graphic artist René Glaser. Get to know artistry, industrial heritage and the many secrets of the 'multiplication of the imagination'.



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The Dinghuis was built in the fifteenth century as a Supreme Court. The name 'Dinghuis' is derived from the legal function that the building had for a long time. A 'thing' used to be a place of law. For a long time the building was a prison and nowadays you will find the tourist information office there.



Go left to Grote Staat and turn right at Dominicanerkerkstraat. You will arrive at the Dominicanerplein, where you will find the Dominican Church.

The Dominican Church was consecrated in 1294, exactly 50 years after the first Dominicans had settled in Maastricht. The church is built entirely of marl on a base of coal sandstone. The church has not been used as a place of worship for two centuries. In 2006 a bookshop opened in the church: the Dominicanen bookshop. In addition to the bookstore, you will also find a coffee bar in the church and lectures, debates and exhibitions are regularly organized.



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Turn right into Helmstraat and walk all the way out. Go right to the Grote Gracht. Here you pass Wijnhuis Thiessen.

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Thiessen is one of the oldest wineries in the Netherlands. It is located in a centuries-old unique building with wine cellars and vineyard in a center of Maastricht. If you are a wine lover, we highly recommend a visit.

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Walk out of the Grote Gracht. Follow the slight bend to the right to the Markt. After about 60 meters turn left to stay on the Markt. You arrive here at the city hall of Maastricht.

The Maastricht Town Hall is located on the market square in the center of the old town. The seventeenth-century building took 25 years to complete. Especially the tower in the middle of the building attracts attention.



Walk straight to Musae Forum to visit the Museum of Illusions and Mosae Forum. Take the same way back and on your return continue your way to the right on the Markt.

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The first Museum of Illusions in the Benelux can be found in Mosae Forum Maastricht. This museum introduces visitors of all ages to the world of optical illusions. While this is fun and challenging, this is just a means. The aim is to learn more from science and from each other. This museum is the place where you experience all aspects of an optical illusion.

Mosae Forum is an attractive shopping area with special architecture in the heart of Maastricht. Here you will find a varied range of shops between Markt & Maas. Shop in one of the many fashion & lifestyle stores, enjoy the best range of food & drinks and meet each other on the square or in one of our hotspots.



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Keep left to stay on the Markt. Turn right into Boschstraat. After about 100 meters you will find the Sint Matthias Church on your right.

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The Sint Matthiaskerk was the only folk church in Maastricht. The first stone was laid on February 24, 1351. The only remaining part of this old church is the tower. The church was renovated in the Gothic style in the 15th century. Over the centuries the church has been Roman Catholic, Calvinist and Protestant. From 1802 the church was again for Catholic worship.



Walk all the way down Boschstraat until you reach Jachthaven het Bassin. Then walk back through the Sphinxpassage. On the way back, turn right to Achter de Barakken.

The inner harbor Het Bassin is located in the middle of the Sphinxkwartier. The harbor is surrounded by monumental pottery factories of Sphinx. The warehouses have been converted into homes and in the refurbished wharf cellars you will find nice and tasty restaurants, galleries and lovely terraces.



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Sphinx, a sanitary manufacturer, used to be a very important company for Maastricht. It provided much of the city's income and employment. Sphinx disappeared from Maastricht in 2010, but the Sphinx passage remained and you can still visit it. Here you will find a beautiful tile gallery that tells the history of the city.



At the end of Achter de Barakken, turn left into Bogaardenstraat. Go right to the Capucijnengang. Here you will find the synagogue.

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The design of the synagogue is by the city architect Matthijs Hermans. Construction was completed on June 26, 1840. The building is built in neoclassical style. A decorative arch has been made on the street side, in which the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written in Hebrew and a representation of the two stone tablets with the ten Commandments. The side wings were intended for a classroom, sexton's house, meeting room and a ritual bath.



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Walk out of the Capucijnengang and go left to the Capucijnenstraat. Continue your way through the Statenstraat. Turn right to Keizer Karelplein and left to Sint Servaas Klooster. Here you will find the St Servaas Basilica, The ruin of the Merciful, the Westwerk of the Basilica St Servaas and the St Janskerk. This city walk through Maastricht ends at the St Janskerk.

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The Basilica of Saint Servatius was named after the most famous holy inhabitant of Maastricht: Saint Servatius. His name was probably Servatius, he came from Armenia and lived in the fourteenth century. He was the first bishop of the Netherlands and has always been the patron saint of Maastricht.

The Garden of Mercy is located at the Basilica of St Servaas. The garden is accessible to everyone.



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The westwork is a high closed structure between two western towers. It is a Romanesque westwork from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, which is part of the Basilica of Saint Servatus. The structure is considered one of the most influential western works of the Romanesque period, with several imitations. Striking elements are the massive substructure and the arches over the Sint Servaas monastery.

The Gothic St. Jans Church is especially notable for its red tower. It is a Protestant church, which was built in the fifteenth century with marl from the marl quarries around the city. You can climb the famous red tower to a height of more than 40 meters. As a reward you have a fantastic view of the entire city.

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