



# CITYWALK

## HIGHLIGHTS ALKMAAR



**3,5**

KILOMETERS

**60**

MINUTES

**25**

LOCATIONS

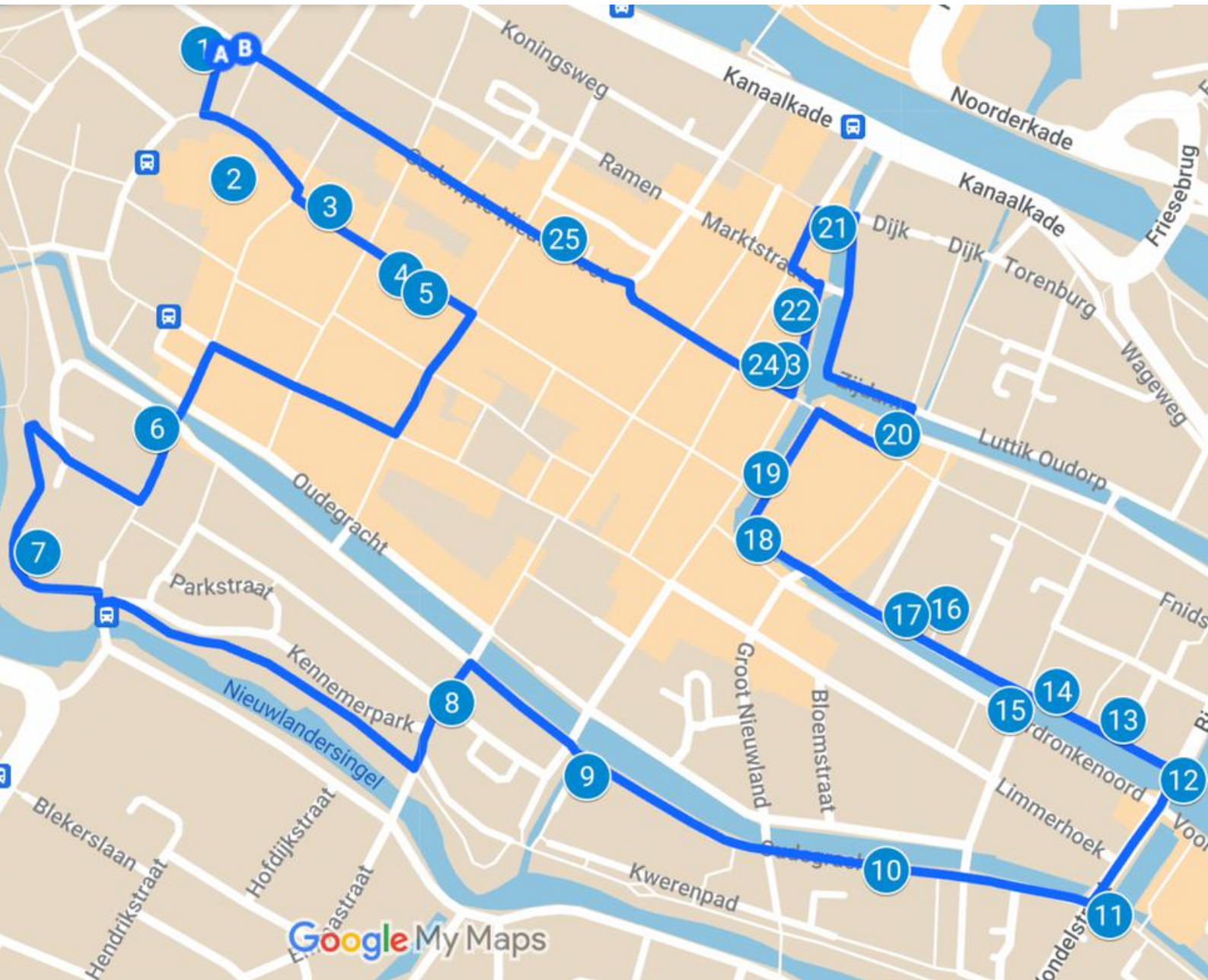
- 1 Stedelijk Museum | Canadaplein 1
- 2 Big Sint Laurenschurch | Koorstraat 2
- 3 Huize Egmont | Langestraat 114
- 4 Town hall | Langestraat 97
- 5 't Moriaanshoofd | Langestraat 93
- 6 Hofje van Splinter | Ritsevoort 2
- 7 Windmill of Groot (Piet) | Clarissenbuurt 4
- 8 The little castle | Gedempte Baansloot 12
- 9 Lutherse church | Oudegracht 187
- 10 Wildemanshofje | Oudegracht 45
- 11 Salt shack de Eendracht | Schelphoek
- 12 "Accijns" tower | Bierkade 26
- 13 Former orphanage | Verdrongenoord 12

- 14 Former Retirement home | Verdrongenoord 28
- 15 De vigilantie | Verdrongenoord 45
- 16 Sint Laurentiuschurch | Verdrongenoord 68
- 17 Former Presbytery | Verdrongenoord 78
- 18 Visbanken | Vismarkt
- 19 Statue Truus Wijsmuller | Gewelfde stenenbrug
- 20 The house with the bullet | Appelsteeg 2
- 21 National Beer Museum | Houttil 1
- 22 Waagplein (kaasmarkt)
- 23 Waagbuilding en waagtower | Waagplein
- 24 Cheesemuseum | Waagplein 2
- 25 Hof van Sonoy



# CITYWALK

HIGHLIGHTS ALKMAAR



# CITYWALK



Our city walk starts at the Stedelijk Museum in Alkmaar at Canadaplein 1.

The Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar is the municipal museum of Alkmaar that aims to preserve and present the history and cultural heritage of the North Holland city of Alkmaar. The museum opened in 1875, making it one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands.



Walk south on Canadaplein and turn left to continue to Kerkplein. Continue on the Kerkplein.

On Kerkplein you will find the Big Sint-Laurenschurch. This is a stone-clad cross basilica with a seven-sided choir closure. Construction took place from 1470 to 1518. The church has four stair towers and contains the oldest church organ in the Netherlands that can still be played. The originally Catholic church became Protestant in 1573 and has had no religious function since 1996. There is a museum about the history of the building.



Turn left into Sint Laurensstraat and immediately left again into Langestraat.

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You will pass Huize Egmont on your left.

Huize Egmont is also called Huize De Dieu, because it was built in 1742-1745 for Carel de Dieu (1700-1789). Architect Jean Coulon designed a house in the so-called Louis XIV style for De Dieu. That was a certain movement in baroque architecture that, as the name suggests, harked back to the buildings from the time of the Sun King Louis XIV.

# CITYWALK

- Continue walking through the Langestraat and after about 70 meters you will find the old town hall and Het Moriaanshoofd on your right.

Alkmaar's Town Hall was built between 1509 and 1520 in the Gothic style. The corner tower has an openwork pear-shaped spire and the building itself is eleven bays wide. Eight years after completion, a large part of the building went up in flames, including the archive, which was completely destroyed. The complex was listed as a national monument on December 10, 1969. The town hall still functions as a town hall; since the construction of the municipal office, it mainly functions as a wedding location.



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The Moriaanshoofd was built around 1730 by order of the Alkmaar mayor Simon Schagen. The house takes its name from the inn that used to be here. The initials of the client and his wife Cornelia Craft adorn the door panels.

- After the Moriaanshoofd turn right to the Kreebesteege. Take the second right onto the Laat. Walk through this street until you reach the Koorstraat. Turn left here. Cross the water and on your left you will find the Hofje van Splinter.

In 1646, in accordance with the will of Margareth van Splinter, this almshouse was built for eight residents. The original stepped gable on Ritsevoort was changed into a cornice in the 18th century. The front door gives access to a series of eight houses along a partially open gallery with five wooden Tuscan columns and a barrel ceiling.



# CITYWALK

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➤ Continue on Koorstraat and turn right into Vrouwenstraat. Walk all the way to the end and continue your way across the Clarissenbolwerk. Here you pass the windmill of Groot (Piet)

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The windmill De Groot or the windmill of Piet is a round stone tower mill corn mill and was built as a shore mill on the Clarissenbolwerk near the former Kennemerpoort. The mill still dominates the cityscape there. In 1884 the mill was bought by Cornelis Piet, who had a house built at the bottom of the mill. The family name of this mill remained popularly associated with this mill, and the old name De Groot is hardly used anymore. Today the mill is owned by the municipality, but is still inhabited and drained by a member of the Piet family.

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➤ Walk across the Clarissenbolwerk and cross the Ritsevoort. Continue on the other side via the Kennemerbolwerk. Take the first left - the Zilverstraat - and here you will find "the little castle"

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This colorful little castle is located in the historic center and is the most photographed monumental Jugendstil building in Alkmaar.



➤ Turn right before the water onto the Oudegracht. Cross the bridge and on your right you will see the Lutheran church.

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# STADSWANDELING

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This is a simple rectangular brick building from 1692. It is a good example of a so-called hidden church. The building was not allowed to be recognized as a church in connection with the applicable regulations and has never had a tower. The high pointed arch windows have a 19th century wooden tracing. It has an interesting interior with a beautiful oak entrance portal and an organ from 1754.



Walk over the Oudegracht for more than 200 meters and you will pass the Wildemanshofje on the right.

This almshouse was founded in accordance with the will of Gerrit Florisz Wildeman for 24 elderly widows or daughters. It was built in 1714 in a typical courtyard style. The monumental gatehouse gives access to a rectangular courtyard where all the houses are situated. The huge Wildeman above the Gate is flanked by female figures representing need and old age.



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Exit the Oudegracht and turn left into the Korte Vondelstraat. Before you turn left, you will find the salt shack de Eendracht on the other side of the street.

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At the end of the 18th century, the southeastern part of the city center was given an industrial purpose. Various salt chains arose in the area, among other things. Raw salt brought in from the Mediterranean region was dissolved in seawater along the chain and evaporated into usable salt in open iron pans. De Eendracht was built in 1782. Trade in sea salt took place here until 1970.

# CITYWALK



Walk out of the Oudegracht and at the end turn left onto the Korte Vondelstraat. Continue through the Limmerhoek and the Bierkade. At the beginning of the Bierkade you will find the Accijnstower.

The Accijnstower was built in 1622. This is where city taxes were levied. The building, built in Dutch Renaissance style, is decorated with natural stone bands, corner blocks and arch fillings. The graceful wooden tower with pear-shaped crown carries a gilded ship as a wind vane. In 1924, the building was rolled 4 meters to allow for the widening of the Bierkade.



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Turn left after the water and walk across Verdronkenoord. Walk straight ahead and in this street you will successively find the former R.k. orphanage and a former retirement home. On the other side you see the old monumental building de Vigilantie. Further on you pass the St Laurentius church and the former presbytery of the Laurentius parish. At the end of Verdronkenoord you will come to the Visbanken or Vismarkt.

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This orphanage was built in 1818 in neoclassical style after a design by the Alkmaar master carpenter Willem Hamer. Hamer was born in Amsterdam and held the position of city architect for many years. He borrowed numerous elements in his work from his older Amsterdam colleague Abraham van der Hart. This influence is recognizable in the orphanage's five bays wide cornice.

This is a monumental neo-Renaissance building from 1889. It was originally used as a retirement home by the Roman Catholic Church Plus foundation. The band in the facade shows the motto: 'Break bread to the hungry and lead the poor and abandoned into your house'. The portico was originally accessed by a single flight of stairs. Amsterdam's double entrance stoop was installed in the 1970s.



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# CITYWALK

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This is a 17th century warehouse with a so-called pilaster facade. It is exceptional that the Pilasterstiers do not rest on a frame, but on four separate consoles. The facade is built slightly forward to facilitate lifting and to prevent the ingress of rainwater. The sculpted claw pieces in the top are decorated with tropical fruits. The decoration probably refers to the product that was originally stored here.

The Sint Laurentius Church from 1861 was designed and executed in a neo-Gothic architectural style. Originally the church was designed with a 60 meter high tower at the front of the church. Due to a number of problems, however, this tower was only partially erected, namely the main entrance, the choir and the bell tower. There is no longer a tower. The top is now flush with the roof of the church.



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Right next to the church you will find the former presbytery of the St Laurentius parish. It is a listed building.

This is a 16th century market place with buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. The two galleries are supported by cast iron columns and shelter the fishmongers. The doors on the canal side used to give access to a jetty. The roof of the gallery on the canal side is decorated with a stone fisherman and a wooden fisherman's wife. The market has a double pump for the water supply. Due to the aggressive fish waste water, the well grids in the pavement are made of copper.





# CITYWALK



Walk across the Visbanken and at the bridge you will find the statue of Trees Wijsmuller.

Thanks to her courageous actions in the years leading up to the Second World War, Truus Wijsmuller saved the lives of thousands of fleeing children from various European countries, especially of Jewish descent, with the famous Kindertransporten. 'Auntie Truus', that's what the fleeing children called her. And decades later, from these same children, she received her second nickname 'mother of 1001 children' as a token of gratitude. In honor of this Alkmaar heroine, this statue was placed in 2020.



Do not cross the bridge and continue on the Mient. At the end turn right to the Fnidsen. Continue to the Appelsteeg and turn left here. In the Appelsteeg you can see the house with the bullet.



This is a 16th century house with a wooden facade along the Zijdam. Each floor of the wooden facade overhangs the floor below. In this way, optimum protection against rainwater was achieved. During the siege of 1573, the house was hit by a Spanish bullet. In connection with the fire risk, building wooden facades in Alkmaar was prohibited in 1639.



Cross the water and turn left. You are now walking on Zijdam. At the end, follow the road to the right, to the Voordam. Walk all the way to the end and after more than 100 meters turn left to the Peperstraat. Turn left to Houutil and walk past the National Beer Museum Alkmaar.

This building belongs to the former beer brewery 'de Boom'. As part of a much larger complex, it was built in 1647. It has a typical 17th century industrial design with numerous round-arched windows and niches. On the facade on the Pieterstraat, a sandstone beer barrel reminds of the original destination. The building was thoroughly renovated in the 19th century and equipped with a number of large windows and an entrance.



# CITYWALK



Continue along Houutil and take the first left. You are now on the Waagplein, where you will find the Cheese Market, the Waag building and tower and the Dutch cheese museum.

The Waagplein is the most famous square in Alkmaar. In the summer, the world-famous cheese market is held on the Waagplein. There are also many cozy cafes and restaurants around the Waagplein. The Waagplein has of course been inextricably linked to cheese for centuries. Alkmaar already had a cheese scale in 1365, but the cheese carrier guild was only founded in 1622. This was the first cheese market year in Alkmaar. In the 17th century, the cheese was traded every year from May to All Saints' Day on Fridays and Saturdays. In the 18th century, a cheese market was held 4 days a week. The cheese market was still a serious trade for a long time: in 1916 an average of 300 tons of cheese was sold per market day.



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The Waag in Alkmaar is a building on the Waagplein that has been used as a chapel and weighing house. The Dutch Cheese Museum and the Tourist office are now housed in the building. The building has a tower with famous horsemen and a beautiful carillon. The building was designated as a national monument in 1969. On the facade of the Waag is the following saying: "SPOA (Senatus Populusque Alcmariensis) RESTITVIT VIRTVS ABLATAE JVRA BILANCIS". This roughly means: "Courage and strength gave back the lost weighing right to the government and bourgeoisie of Alkmaar". Due to the heroic actions of the people of Alkmaar during the relief of October 8, 1573, the clergy gave the Waag back to the citizens of Alkmaar.

The Dutch Cheese Museum is located in the Waag on the Waagplein. The museum opened in 1983 and attracts 35,000 visitors annually. The museum shows, among other things, the preparation of dairy products on the farm and in the factory, as well as trade and life in the countryside.



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# CITYWALK



Leave Waagplein via Magdalenastraat. Exit this and turn left onto the Gedempte Nieuwesloot. After 50 meters you pass the Hof van Sonoy, the last point of this walk. Then walk straight ahead if you want to get back to the starting point of the walk.

This is an extensive complex that was built on the foundations of the Witte Hof or Sint Maria Magdalena Kloosten, founded around 1400. After the battle with the Spaniards, the governor of the Noorderkwartier Diederik van Sonoy acquired the old monastery in 1574 and converted it into his home. After many changes and owners, it was converted in 1744 into an old men's and women's house or diaconie house. Its current destination has been court since 1983.

