

Weekend Trip to Maastricht Friday October 14th to Sunday October 16th 2022

Extra Information

Important information.

- This is one of a series of documents relating to the RPS/Viewfinders weekend trip to Maastricht planned for October 2022. These documents are as follows:
 - o Notes.
 - General notes concerning the trip.
 - o Accommodation information.
 - Details of a (small) number of hotels in the city centre of Maastricht. There is no personal link to any of these hotels. Participants are free to choose any accommodation they wish.
 - o Itinerary.
 - The proposed itinerary for the weekend. Times shown in this document are approximate and are likely to change.
 - o Extra information (this document).
 - Extra information about the city and some of the sights and places of interest we may see or visit on our trip.
 - o Participants.
 - Names and contact details of participants, as well as any special notes or requests.

Extra Information

Maastricht: a brief history

The city of Maastricht can trace its origins back to the Roman times, approximately 2,000 years ago. It was at this location that Romans journeying along the Via Belgica, a 400km long route that ran from Boulogne-sur-Mer in modern-day France to Cologne in Germany, would be able to cross the Maas River. In Latin - the language of the Romans - this point was known as Trajectum ad Mosam, literally translated as Crossing point of the Maas. Over time the name changed into that which we know today, Maastricht.

Before the city began developing, the region was well known for its mineral wealth. The local geology is mainly a semi-hard, calcium-rich Limestone known as Marlstone. This stone is the result of the area once being under a shallow, tropical sea during the Late Cretaceous period between 70 and 66 million years ago. The importance of these rocks has led to this moment in the Earth's history, the last period in the Cretaceous period, becoming known as the Maastrichtian. The marlstone contains many flint stones that, in the Stone and Iron Ages, were highly sought after due to their particular hardness. Many flints from the surrounding area have been found in faraway places such as Germany, France and even Scandinavia. Marlstone is very easy to work, and is easily fashioned into blocks suitable for building. This has led to the whole area being peppered with mines and quarries, some of which can be visited with a guide. It has also given a particular look and feel to the city as many of its buildings are constructed using the distinct stone.

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, Maastricht became an important Christian religious centre which in consequence, led to it becoming an important centre for trade and manufacturing, mainly in wool and leather. Many buildings still exist from this early history, most notably the remnants of the city wall, the churches of Saint Servaas and Saint Jan, as well as the deconsecrated Dominican church that is now a bookstore.

Due to its strategic importance, Maastricht has had a rich, embattled history, and control of the city changed hands many times between the 16th and 20th centuries. In the 16th century, the city came under the control of the Spanish and remained so for over fifty years before returning to the control of the Dutch in the early 17th century. However, this was not to last and only forty years later, during the Siege of Maastricht in 1673, the city fell into the hands of the French. It was at this moment that Charles de Batz de Castelmoré, the Count of Artagnan, was killed by a musket shot. Today, he is better known simply as "d'Artagnan" after being immortalised in the works of French novelist Alexander Dumas. A statue of "d'Artagnan" stands in the city park, close to where he was killed. Another change of hands followed soon after with control of the city returning to the Dutch before once again, in 1748 during the Second French Siege of Maastricht, falling into the hands of the French under the control of Napoleon Bonaparte.

After the downfall of Napoleon in 1815, the city finally became a Dutch city and has remained so ever since with only a short period of German occupation during World War II. Maastricht was the first Dutch city to be liberated, by allied forces in September 1944.

Maastricht has also had a rich industrial past especially in the pottery and ceramic industries. Most of these industries have long gone although a few still remain. Their legacy is more than apparent in the number of industrial buildings that still stand in the city, although nowadays most have been transformed into cultural uses and upmarket accommodation.

In 1992, the heads of the European countries met in Maastricht to sign what would become known as the Maastricht Treaty, which led to the creation of the European Union and the Euro.

Today, Maastricht retains its international atmosphere due to the importance of its tourism and its university.

Maastricht centre has a large variety of architectural styles, from mediaeval churches to modern-day offices and housing. The city has the second most protected monuments (more than 1,600) in the Netherlands (unsurprisingly, Amsterdam has more).

Extra Information

Appendix #	Description
01	<p>Maastricht main train station. The station was built in the 1850s and opened to passengers in 1853. Initially it served only local trains, although due to the location of Maastricht these were international lines (Liège in Belgium and Aachen in Germany). Only in 1865, and the opening of the line to the Dutch city of Venlo, was Maastricht connected to the Dutch national rail network.</p>
02	<p>Maria statue. Also known as the Vier Bishoppen (Four Bishops), this statue stands at the centre of a busy crossroads (and so is rather difficult to see up close). The nearly 3m tall statue of Maria stands atop a central column some 9m high. It is surrounded by statues of four bishops of Maastricht: Servatius, Lambertus, Monulphus and Hubertus. The city of Maastricht has not been a bishopric since the year 727, when it was moved to the nearby city of Liège (Belgium). The statue was built and erected on this spot in 1952.</p>
03	<p>Palace Cinema. This building, located in the street Lage Barakken, is all that remains of the cinema that once stood here. It was built in the mid-1920s in a typical Art-Deco style and opened its doors in 1926. The cinema closed in 2005 and was partly demolished. The façade of the building is a protected monument.</p>
04	<p>Private William Greentree. An often-overlooked plaque commemorating the life of Private William Greentree, an American soldier who, on September 14th 1944, was killed here by a boobytrap left behind in a piano by fleeing German soldiers. For this act, Pvt. Greentree was awarded the Purple Heart.</p>
05	<p>Former Maussen department store. This building once housed the Maussen Department store, and is built in the New Objectivity style that arose in Germany after the end of the First World War (De.: Neue Sachlichkeit). The store closed in 1981 and now the building contains offices.</p>
06	<p>Sint Martinus Church. A church has stood on this spot since the 12th century, possibly even earlier. The church that now stands here was built in 1857 in a neogothic style. Inside the church hangs a 13th century Christ statue made from walnut wood.</p>

07	<p>Rechtstraat. In the Middle Ages, this area of Maastricht, Wyck, consisted of two main streets. The Rechtstraat was one of them. It contains eighty protected monumental buildings – the highest number of any street in Maastricht. The facades of the buildings, many from the 17th and 18th centuries, are usually more recent than the buildings behind.</p>
08	<p>Hoogbrugstraat. This street, running perpendicular to the Rechtstraat, is also rather particular in Maastricht. It also contains a large number, fifty-nine to be precise, of the city’s protected monuments. Lots of them have very interesting facades and stones above the doorways.</p>
09	<p>Saint Gillis Hospitaal. This small guesthouse, in old Dutch called a “hospitaal”, was a place where pilgrims to the city of Maastricht could get a bed for a night. The guesthouse had 12 rooms and a small chapel which, unfortunately, was destroyed by French revolutionaries in the 18th century. On the façade, Saint Gillis is depicted with an arrow piercing his chest a scene relating to an event where hunters shot the holy man as he tried to protect a deer near Nîmes, France.</p>
10	<p>Plein 1992. On this site, and continuing for several hundred metres along the banks of the river, once stood the factory of Société Céramique. It existed on this spot for well over 100 years, between 1863 and 1980, producing a variety of ceramics and pottery. The factory was largely demolished in the 1980s and the area redeveloped. Remnants of the factory do remain however, most notably the Bordenhal. The square also houses the city’s impressive library, the Centre Céramique. The name of the square is, of course, in honour of the treaty that was signed in the city in 1992.</p>
11	<p>Bordenhal. This small white building, located near the river on Plein 1992 now houses the Derlon Theatre, permanent home to the local Theatre Group (Toneelgroep) Maastricht. It is a former factory building where once plates were made, hence the name (“borden” is Dutch for plates).</p>
12	<p>Centre Céramique. This is the city’s main library. It also hosts exhibitions and events. Designed by the local architect Jo Coenen, it is said to symbolise a book lying on its side.</p>
13	<p>Siza Towers. Located at the far end of Plein 1992 are the Siza Towers – 16 storeys high and, at 54m, is Maastricht’s second tallest building. They were designed by the Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza. One of the two towers is clad in zinc whilst the other is clad in white marble.</p>

14	<p>La Fortezza. Across the street from the Siza Towers is the La Fortezza building. Built by the Swiss architect Mario Botta, the building is inspired by the Colosseum in Rome and, with its open structure, resembles a hinge between the old and new parts of the city.</p>
15	<p>Hoge brug. This impressive pedestrian and cycle bridge was built to link the redeveloped Céramique area of the city with the historic centre. It is 261 metres long, 26 metres high and 7,20 metres wide. It was opened in 2003.</p>
16	<p>River Jeker. This small river runs through the city of Maastricht and has been used through the ages to power many waterwheels, a few of which still exist. It has its source in Belgium near to the village of Geer and is 54km long. It flows out into the river Maas near to the Hoge Brug in the city park .</p>
17	<p>Stadspark (City park). A park has existed on this spot, in one form or another, since 1706. The park we see today however, is more recent and dates from the 1860s. Many of the trees in the park date from this period although a number of them have succumb in recent times to old age and climate change.</p>
18	<p>Stadswal (City wall). In the city park are traces of the original city wall dating back as far as the 13th century. There are other remnants to be found throughout the city.</p>
19	<p>Pesthuis. This house, lying just outside the old city walls, gets its name from the Dutch word for the plague: Pest. It was to here that those afflicted by the disease were banished from the city, never to return. It now houses apartments and a theatre.</p>
20	<p>Helpoort. Translated, the name Helpoort literally means ‘the gate to Hell’ and is the oldest city gate still in existence in the Netherlands. It dates from 1299 and forms part of the medieval city wall of the town built during that time. This formed part of the first fortifications of the town. Its name arises from the fact that plague and leprosy sufferers were ejected from within the city walls to live in the large white house opposite, known as the Pesthuis (Plague house). Located to the left of the Helpoort when looking at the tower from outside the city is the Pater Vinck tower.</p>

21	<p>D'n Hiemel. This building dates from the 18th century and was a former warehouse for goods being transported into, and out of, the city. It is now a café and nightclub.</p>
22	<p>Vijf Koppen. The Vijf Koppen (Five Heads) tower was originally called the Three Doves Tower and was built as part of the extensions to the city wall in 1516. It formed part of the second fortification of the city. Its name was changed in 1638 when the heads of 5 executed prisoners were displayed there. One of the prisoners whose guilt of the offence was in question was Pater Vinck, after whom the nearby tower is named.</p>
23	<p>Pater Vink tower. The original tower was built in the late 14th century to defend the water entrance to the city via the Jeker river. It fell into disuse during the 16th century when the city limits were expanded and by the 20th century was in complete ruins. It was fully rebuilt in 1906.</p>
24	<p>Leeuwenmolen. This watermill dates partly from the 16th and partly from the 18th centuries. The mill is named after the stone lions that once stood on top of the building's façade but they have long since disappeared.</p>
25	<p>Charles de Batz de Castelmor. These days this name does not ring a bell with many people: this historical figure has become better known by his title, the Comte d'Artagnan, or simply "d'Artagnan". A French nobleman, he served as Captain of the Musketeers of the Guard under King Louis XIV. He died in Maastricht on June 25th 1673 during the First Siege of Maastricht. His life was romanticised by the French novelist Alexander Dumas in his work, amongst others, The Three Musketeers (1844).</p>
26	<p>Ezelmarkt (Donkey Market). Although the name of this location appears obvious, there has apparently never been a market for trading donkeys in Maastricht. Two possibilities for the name exist. First might be due to the nearby location of the former tanneries of the city, where leather was worked and often beaten. In old Dutch this was called "eselen". A second possibility is that non-Catholics were not allowed to be buried within the city walls and this point, just outside the city, was once an open field and there is evidence of graves at this point. Non-Catholics were sometimes referred to as "ezelen" (donkeys).</p>

27	<p>Sint Servaasklooster 41. This remarkable building was built in 1770 and once served as a barracks for the guards of the military leaders of Maastricht. The headquarters of the leaders has long since disappeared. It is also known as the “Dragonderwacht” (Guards of the Dragoon – a type of military unit that used horses for mobility but dismounted to fight on foot).</p>
28	<p>Sint Janskerk. The present-day church on this location dates from the 14th and 15th centuries, although a church has stood here since probably the 13th century. It is the town’s main protestant church and its tower is 79m high. Those feeling brave, and fit, enough can pay to climb the stairs for a stunning view over the city.</p>
29	<p>Sint Servaas basilica. A church has stood here on the grave of Servaas, the former bishop of the nearby town of Tongeren since he died here in 384AD. The present-day church was built probably in the 10th century and is noted for its impressive Roman-style architecture. It is constructed mainly from sandstone and limestone, both of which are still quarried nearby today. This is Maastricht’s main Roman catholic church and was visited by pope Jean-Paul II in 1985.</p>
30	<p>'t Vrijthof. The city’s main square. A square has existed on this spot since Roman times and so, as such, is unique in The Netherlands. It contains a large number of monumental buildings and today is surrounded by cafés and restaurants.</p>
31	<p>Spanish government. A 16th century building that now houses the Maastricht Photo Museum. It owes its name to the fact that the King of Spain, Karel V, regularly stayed here between 1520 and 1550 whilst the town was under Spanish rule.</p>
32	<p>Hoofdwacht. This building dates from 1738 and used to be the nerve centre for the military garrisons that were located in the city. It was also the location where the city guards were housed along with the keys to the city gates. It now houses a large exhibition room.</p>
33	<p>De Perroen. Erected in 1955, this monument is a replica of the original that stood here since 1292. The original was destroyed by the French in 1795 because of its symbolism of the “ancien regime” (old rulers). The Perroen was a spot where judgements were made and official news was announced.</p>

34	<p>Dominican church – bookstore. The original building dates back to the 14th century and was in use up until 1795 when it was ransacked by French revolutionaries. It then became a storeroom and since 2006 houses a bookstore. Inside the building a large number of the original 14th century frescoes can still be seen. It regularly features in lists of the world’s most beautiful bookstores.</p>
35	<p>Markt (Market). This is the city’s main market square and still hosts the market on Wednesdays and Fridays. On Saturday there is a large antiques and second-hand market here.</p>
36	<p>Stadhuis (City Hall). Built in the 17th century by Pieter Post, a famous Dutch architect, the town hall lies in the centre of the large market square symbolising its central role in governing the city. Impressive features to note are the building’s symmetry with a double flight staircase that represents the fact that the town was once ruled over by two lords – the Prince Bishop of Liège and the duke of Brabant. Also note the impressive octagonal clock tower – it houses a wonderful clock and belfry.</p>
37	<p>Minckeleers statue. The statue is in honour of Jan-Pieter Minckeleers who was born in Maastricht in 1748, a famous Dutch scientist who discovered that, when heating coal in the absence of oxygen, coal gas was produced and this could be used for lighting. The first gas pipe for street lighting use was laid in Maastricht.</p>
38	<p>Mooswief statue. This statue was made by the local sculptor, Charles Vos, and was unveiled in 1953. It has a very symbolic relationship with the people of Maastricht. Each year, on the Saturday before the start of carnival, a garland made of vegetables is hung around the statue’s neck in honour of the market-stand holders who sell their wares here at the weekly market and have done so for hundreds of years. The name is local dialect and literally translates to “Woman who sells cabbage”.</p>
39	<p>Mosae Forum. The ancient Roman name for the Maas river that flows through the city was Mosae. The name Maastricht is derived from the Latin term Trajectum ad Mosam – literally meaning the Maas crossing point. The Mosae Forum development comprises offices, shops, hotels, cafés, housing and an underground car park, it was completed in 2007. It is also the location of the city’s administrative offices and council house.</p>

40	<p>Sint Servaas bridge. A bridge has stood at this site from Roman times although the bridge we see today dates from the ever-so-slightly more recent past, having been built in the late 13th century. The Roman bridge, a wooden one, stood until only five years before the new one and its collapse during a religious procession caused the deaths of over 400 people. A plaque on the bridge commemorates the crossing here by American forces in 1944. A part of the bridge can be raised to allow larger ships to pass under.</p>
41	<p>Boschstraatkwartier. The name of this area dates back to mediaeval times when the city was still enclosed by a wall and here, at the north of the city centre, was a gate with a road leading to the city of 's Hertogenbosch (Den Bosch). It once served as the main road between the market and the industrial hub of the city. The industry has by-and-large disappeared and the remaining buildings renovated and converted to shops, cinemas, offices and housing. Along this street there are a large number of impressive 19th century buildings.</p>
42	<p>De Bassin (City Harbour). This small inner-city harbour was built in the 19th century and allowed the transport of goods to and from the city via the Zuid-Willemsvaart canal and the river Maas. Its location was ideal for the city's ceramics industries located in this neighbourhood. Today it serves the boating community and is a tourism hotspot.</p>
43	<p>Landbouw Belang building. This set of buildings once served as a grain storage and packing facility. Today, the 11,500m² complex is used by squatters and artists.</p>
44	<p>Lumière. These buildings, the Timmerfabriek (timber factory) and Centrale (power station), served the mighty ceramics industry that once operated at this location. The Timmerfabriek was used to build the wooden crates used for shipping. The Centrale was used to generate power for the industry. Inside this building, which today is Lumière - the city's arthouse cinema - are many artefacts of this industrial heritage.</p>
45	<p>Sphinx building. The ceramic industry that once operated here was originally known as Petrus Regout & Co., later becoming Koninklijke Sphinx (Royal Sphinx), and was started in 1834 by the eponymous Petrus Regout. At its height at the end of the 19th century, the industry employed more than 3,000 workers. The large white building, known as the Eiffel building – although the origins of this name are uncertain – was built in 1929.</p>

The following are also worthy of note; however, they do not fall on our planned route.

	<p>Stars structure. This sculpture is unofficially called “The Stars of Europe” and was designed by the Italian artist, Maura Biava. In total there are 35 aluminium stars, 12 large and 23 small, mounted on poles of varying heights, that rotate in the wind. It was officially unveiled on the 7th of February 2002, 10 years after the signing of the treaty that bears the city’s name.</p>
	<p>Bonnefanten Museum. The museum presently housed in this striking building, was originally founded in 1884. The name derives from a convent, Bons Enfants, that housed the museum from 1951 until 1978. The museum is home to an impressive collection of old and contemporary art.</p>
	<p>City wall (Tafelstraat – Lang Grachtje). The narrow Lang Grachtje street contains remnants of the original city wall dating back to the 15th century.</p>
	<p>Minderbroederskapelle. This was the first Franciscan church in Maastricht and dates back to the 17th century. It now contains the city archives.</p>
	<p>Bischopsmolen. This still-operational water mill dates from the 15th century and is powered by the Jeker river. Today it makes a variety of breads using an ancient grain sort called ‘spelt’ – a grain many consider a healthier alternative to modern wheat.</p>
	<p>Onze Lieve Vrouwe Basilica. The Onze Lieve Vrouwe Basiliek (Basilica of the Virgin Mary) dominates the small square on which it is located. Looking very austere and almost like a fortification, this church dates originally from the 11th century. Entrance to the church (where unfortunately no photography is allowed) is through the photogenic, and tripod necessary but unfriendly, Sterre van de Zee (Star of the Sea) chapel. Here the statue of the Virgin Mary is lit only by the many candles lit by passers-by.</p>
	<p>Roman foundations under the Hotel Derlon. Contained in the basement of the hotel are remains of the original city dating back to the 2nd century AD.</p>
	<p>Pelican and Elephant. This Art-nouveau style building was built at the start of the 20th century to house a bank. Sitting on top of the building is a stone Pelican and somewhere on the façade there is an elephant. See if you can spot it!</p>
	<p>Stokstraat. This narrow street is home to many fine old buildings that house some of the biggest names in designer fashions. But it wasn’t always</p>

	<p>so. Up until the middle of the 20th century the street was home to many of the city's poorest, often with whole families living in a single room, and many of the houses contained brothels and other houses off ill-repute.</p>
	<p>In De Moriaan café With a footprint of only 23m square, this is the smallest café in the Netherlands. It serves a good selection of local dishes and excellent wines and beers.</p>