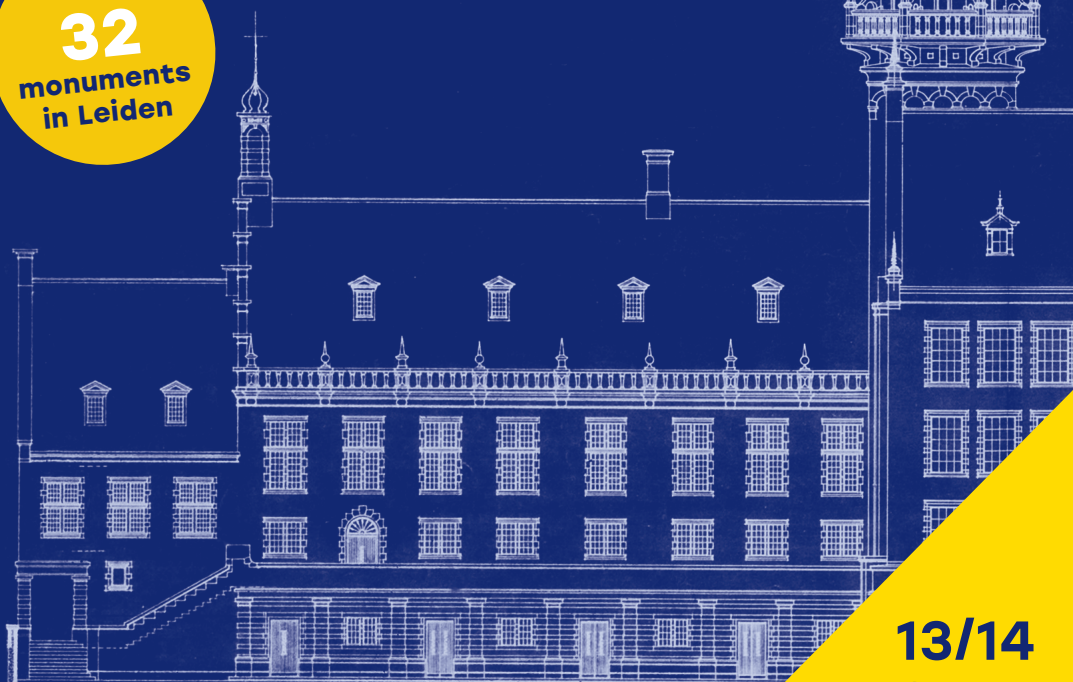


Heritage & BUILT TO LAST architecture

Heritage Open Days Leiden

Visit
32
monuments
in Leiden



English Guide

13/14
SEPT
2025

Heritage & BUILT TO LAST architecture

VISIT THIRTY-TWO MONUMENTS IN LEIDEN /

During the weekend of 12 and 13 September 2025 thirty-two monuments in Leiden open their doors to the public. This is a unique opportunity to visit old sites rich in history, ancient homes and university buildings. Many monuments host small exhibitions as well as performances by choirs and music societies from Leiden. This year's theme is Built to Last. Take a look behind the scenes of the restoration of buildings - discover how Leiden's heritage is alive and kicking.

In this brochure you will find a survey of all the monuments that are open to the public, tips for your visit and a city plan indicating their locations.

Enjoy monumental Leiden!



Photo's: OMD and Sjoerd de Jong

OPENING HOURS /

The opening hours are Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless stated otherwise in the list of monuments.

INFORMATION /

On these days the central information point is in the City Hall (main entrance Stadhuisplein 1). www.omdleiden.nl offers a survey of all monuments and their locations in Dutch.

VISITING HISTORICAL BUILDINGS /

Not all buildings that are open to the public are equipped to accommodate large numbers of visitors. In some cases you may have to wait. The organization requests your understanding and cooperation. Please, follow the instructions of the staff. Visits are at your own risk.

ACCESSIBILITY /

Unfortunately not all premises are accessible to wheelchair users. Buildings that are accessible are indicated by this icon . When in doubt, please contact the information desk in the City Hall.

PARKING IN LEIDEN /

If you come to Leiden by car you can use one of several car parks. See www.leiden.nl/en/plan-your-visit-to-leiden/accessibility.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT /

Up-to-date information via www.9292.nl or telephone 0900 9292. Bicycle parking lots are available.



Photo: Claudia Claas

SAT Open on Saturday from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

SUN Open on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Different opening hours

Toilets accessible by wheelchair

Partially wheelchair accessible

Not wheelchair accessible

Please take waiting time into account

Music in heritage building

Kids activities

Additional activity

Refreshments available

Toilets

Wheelchair accessible toilet

Reservation through www.omdleiden.nl

01 TOWN HALL

OPEN / SAT SUN 10 am-5 pm

Stadhuisplein 1, main entrance

The medieval building harboured a law court, trade centre, archives and assay office. Left of the stairway in front of the renaissance façade is the town crier's platform, with the measurements of local feet and rod behind it.

02 FORMER DEPARTMENT STORE

OPEN / SUN

Aalmarkt 22

Of the interior from 1936 the main staircase with stained glass windows remains. Former "De Vergulde Turk" (The Gilded Turk) restaurant, annexed in the 1960s, still contains eighteenth-century elements such as the glass ceiling.

03 POLDER BOARD OFFICE

OPEN / SAT SUN

Breestraat 59

Since 1598 this renaissance building has housed the Rijnland polder board, which has surveyed all regional waterworks from the seventeenth century onwards. The interior, with its gold leather wall covering and wooden barrel vault in the Great Hall, is mid-seventeenth century. The dike reeve's room deserves special attention.

04 MINERVA STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING

OPEN / SAT SUN

Breestraat 50

A neo-renaissance building was constructed here in 1857. After the 1959 fire, from which only the chandeliers remain, it was replaced by the present brutalist premises. The municipal monument contains a library, a cinema, a lounge and a dining-hall.

05 NAUTICAL COLLEGE

OPEN / SAT

Noordeinde 2a

On the site of Rembrandt's father's windmill this neo-renaissance institute was founded in 1879 to educate orphans and poor boys in navigational skills. Over the entrance there is a relief with naval attributes. The roof is inspired by the keel of a ship.

06 COMMUNICATION BUNKER

OPEN / SAT

Morsweg 18

Due to the thickness of the walls the inner space is limited. Part of the German Atlantikwall it was built in 1943 as a telephone exchange and control room. The walls are camouflaged with brickwork and fake windows and doors.

07 ARS AEMULA NATURAE

OPEN / SAT SUN

Pieterskerkgracht 9-9a

Copies of the mid-sixteenth-century stained glass windows can be found in the boardroom. The present situation with a painted ceiling and wall units dates from the first half of the seventeenth century.

08 GYMNASIUM

OPEN / SAT SUN

Pieterskerkgracht 7

The Gymnasium for schoolchildren was built in an eclectic style in 1861. Its gable carries four zinc obelisks. The main part of the interior is still intact and the premises are still used as a gymnasium.

09 SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

OPEN / SAT SUN

Kloksteeg 16

What has been missing since its collapse in 1512 is the 300-foot-high tower. Half a century later the almost millennium-old church reached its final dimensions.

10 MONUMENTAL DWELLING-HOUSE

OPEN / SUN

Pieterskerkhof 40

Roman brickwork, medieval floor tiles and thick walls date this building ca 1275, determining it as one of the oldest houses in town. After its status of first university, hospital, orphanage and old men's home, library and museum it was split up in six private houses fifty years ago.

11 DWELLING UNDER RECONSTRUCTION

OPEN / SAT SUN

Nieuwsteeg 2

Unlike its appearance this building dates back to 1260. Its original barrel-vaulted basement is extant. In 1780 several premises were joined into one. Recently fragments of rare painted linen wall-hangings were discovered.

12 GRAVENSTEEN

OPEN / SAT SUN

Ingang Pieterskerkhof 6

The Count of Holland's keep from before 1200 became the town prison in the fifteenth century. The square in front of the judges' gallery is the scene of executions. On the left is the seventeenth-century rasp and spinning house, for men and women respectively.

13 ACADEMY BUILDING

OPEN / SAT SUN

Rapenburg 73

Originally a nunnery chapel, in 1581 it became the heart of the university. Then it was divided horizontally. The Senate room was equipped with a richly decorated marble mantelpiece and professors' portraits. The "sweatbox" contains famous signatures, among which King Willem-Alexander's, Churchill's, Nelson Mandela's.

14 BOTANICAL GARDENS

OPEN / SAT SUN 10 am-18 pm

Rapenburg 73

Since 1744 (sub-)tropical plants have hibernated here. It was designed by the famous architect Daniel Marot. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries growing tropical plants was a sign of status and scientific curiosity and an important source for botanical studies.

15 FORMER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

OPEN / SAT SUN

Rapenburg 70





































Shortly after its foundation the university took possession of the chapel of a beguinage here. An extra floor was added to house the anatomical theatre. These days the administration of the university resides here. Note the plastering, wainscoting and original butresses.

16 THE OLD OBSERVATORY

OPEN / SAT SUN

Sterrenwachtlaan 11

The neo-classical observatory from 1860 is the oldest surviving in the world. There used to be two observation domes, one of which contains Einstein's chair. Since the 1910s it is the residence of the Leiden Law Academy.

- 17 EHRENFEST'S HOUSE** **OPEN / SUN**   
Witte Rozenstraat 57
In the 1910s, advocated by Einstein, Ehrenfest succeeded the scientist and Nobel laureate Lorentz. Ehrenfest's wife designed this house, with reminiscences of her native town Saint Petersburg. It contains classical and Art Nouveau elements.
- 18 KAMERLINGH ONNES BUILDING** **OPEN / SAT SUN**     
Steenshuur 25
Built in 1859 as scientific, chemical and anatomical laboratory it became "the coldest place on earth" in 1913 when Nobel laureate Kamerlingh Onnes liquidized helium at -269 degrees centigrade. Since the 1990s it has been the Law School. Noteworthy are the domed library and lecture room.
- 19 CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH** **OPEN / SAT SUN** 1-5 pm     
Steenshuur 9
This building, the Resurrection Church, dates from 1926 and is now a gymnasium. On the recently added first floor traces of its original function such as stained glass windows remain.
- 20 BETHLEHEMESHOF** **OPEN / SAT**  
Levendaal 109
Access to the courtyard only; not to the houses. The original name, The Corner Stone, can be seen over the entrance; the memorial stone "Bethlehem anno 1631" was moved from its former location elsewhere. The courtyard is mostly still intact. The premises have national monument status.
- 21 GROENESTEEG CEMETERY** **OPEN / SUN**    
Groenesteeg 126
Its name (green alley) refers to its location: at the end of one of Leiden's oldest and longest alleys, facing the meadows. In 1659 it replaced a bastion. It was given its present form in English country style and enriched with the morgue in 1828.
- 22 THE FLOUR FACTORY** **OPEN / SAT SUN**    
Meelfabriekplein 1
After its construction in 1884 the ultramodern factory catered for bread for one fifth of the Dutch population in its post-World War II heyday. Its location is that of an old bastion. Now this ten-fold national monument, with a newly developed garden, has become a place to live, work, shop, meet, relax and roam.
- 23 HOOGLANDSE KERK** **OPEN / SAT**    
Nieuwstraat 26c
The existing church became a cruciform basilica in 1377. Plans to make it a cathedral were thwarted by the rise of the Reformation. The 65,7-metre Gothic transept is the world's widest. The 1566 iconoclasm and protestant take-over in 1572 left an austere interior.
- 24 BOERHAAVE MUSEUM** **OPEN / SAT SUN** 10 am-5 pm      
Lange St-Agnietenstraat 10
In 1636 the university took over the plague- and madhouse. Boerhaave introduced medical instruction at the sickbed. In 1991 it opened as medical science museum. It contains a replica of the anatomical theatre.
- 25 MAREKERK** **OPEN / SAT SUN** sat noon-3 pm sun noon-4 pm   
Lange Mare 48
This octagonal domed church, the Republic's first of its kind, was designed especially for the reformed religion. It has remained mainly unchanged since 1649. The gilded wind vane represents Fame standing on the city's (St Peter's) keys.

- 26 FORMER STADSBOUWHUIS** **OPEN / SAT SUN**   
Langegracht 72
In 1997 this structuralist office building accommodated the municipal urban development department. Now it houses students' dens and studios. Structuralism aims at human dimensions, encounter and environmental integration.
- 27 FORMER WASTE INCINERATOR** **OPEN / SAT SUN**     
Langegracht 70c
Typical of an early twentieth-century factory building (architecture, materials) this used to provide the adjacent power plant with its heat. Decorative details can be seen in the masonry under the ridge-piece and glazed brickwork around the windows. This municipal industrial heritage monument now houses BamBam Masonry and Pronck Brewery.
- 28 REGULATOR BUILDING** **OPEN / SAT SUN**   
Papegaaibolwerk 18
In 1902 it was built to check the output of a coal gas power plant and to transport it to neighbouring municipalities. Its nostalgic chalet style reminisces pre-Industrial Revolution country life. It now houses the volunteers of De Leidse Deken (blanket) Foundation.
- 29 WATER GAS PLANT** **OPEN / SAT SUN** noon-5 pm    
Papegaaibolwerk 20
Once the most polluted part of Leiden it is now the Singelpark's cultural hotspot, with the Est Art Foundation, that organizes exhibitions and seminars. What remains is the boiler house of the municipal light plants, that produced gas for lighting.
- 30 DE VALK WINDMILL MUSEUM** **OPEN / SAT SUN** 10 am-5 pm  
Molenwerf 1
Most tower mills used to grind corn. 29 metres high this one is one of the country's highest. It dates from 1743. It had four sets of millstones and two dwellings for its owners, joined into one in 1869. A century later it was turned into a municipal museum.
- 31 FORMER DWELLING HOUSE** **OPEN / SAT SUN**  
Boerhaavelaan 2
Built in 1918 as a general practitioner's house it has a characteristic corner. Its size made it perfect for a social destination: before World War II it was a home for diseased and convalescent persons. Now it houses an automation company.
- 32 DWELLING HOUSE** **OPEN / SAT SUN** 
Boerhaavelaan 6
This house is typical of a lot of the premises in its vicinity. Its many windows and metal ornaments like the balcony railing and door window frame deserve special attention.

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BURGY
KLASSIEK BOUWEN



