“ONE OF THE MOST CHARMING AND UNDERRATED CITIES”
The Observer, UK | 28 – 06 – 15
Tourism Utrecht Press Office
Whether you are interested in art and culture, tourist attractions, history, design, business, entertainment or nightlife, Tourism Utrecht Press Office is happy to arrange a press visit or to assist you in finding the best exhibitions or images of our city.

OUR SERVICES
• We supply the latest information, press releases and news.
• We develop tailor-made programmes for your visit (including overnight stay, dinners, personal guided tours etc.)
• Suggestions and inspiration for surprising stories and interesting reports.
• We provide copyright-free images via an online database.
• We can bring you in contact with relevant parties for interviews.

COPYRIGHT-FREE IMAGES
Are you looking for attractive photos of Utrecht to illustrate your article about Utrecht? Simply request access to our database at Utrecht Press Office. The Utrecht Mediabank contains various photos which can be used copyright-free and free of charge. The photos are divided in categories, so it will be easy to find the photo you require. The Utrecht Mediabank contains both day and night-time images and is updated multiple times throughout the year.

Welcome to Utrecht!
It’s a place where the ideals of a healthy and durable community are fulfilled. Where citizens, entrepreneurs, scientists and local authorities work together on solutions for improving the quality of life, both at a regional and international level.

The European Commission (EC) has proclaimed the region of Utrecht the most competitive region in Europe twice in a row. It has research and educational institutes known the world over, an exceptionally high level of education, the central location in the heart of the Netherlands and excellent business locations. This unique combination ensures Utrecht’s competitive power. The New Economy wrote that “the city is developing into a regional capital of European importance”.

The city and region of Utrecht have some of the best economic prospects in Western Europe. The Utrecht Science Park (USP) plays an important role in this. The USP combines the expertise of the business sector, the manufacturing industry and the university to develop healthier, safer and more durable cities for the future. The rapidly expanding population has caused Utrecht to prosper economically, but this has gone hand in hand with increasing pressure on the existing infrastructure. To accommodate such a large population in such a compact area requires careful planning and innovative solutions, which is why the local authorities form public-private partnerships intended to overcome these obstacles.

Utrecht has cultivated a smart, green and above all healthy living city and region which inspires regions around the world. The promotion of healthy urban living has been copied by cities all over the globe. In 2014, London chose to invest over £107m. (€150m.) in cycle tracks and electric transport, while Chicago invested in an online platform for smart mobility. Both projects relied on the support of companies in the Utrecht region, namely PROOV and RoyalHaskoningDHV for London and CleverFranke for Chicago.

Utrecht has been a creative hub for new developments and learning since Roman times. Utrecht offers a lively, creative, inspiring environment for trend setting innovations which ensure a green, smart, healthy and happy life.

**INSPIRING UTRECHT**

**Utrecht has**
- **crafted an identity** as a city that is at the forefront of innovation and technological advancement.
- **been named** a ‘global city’ by the New Economy, USA.
- **is home to** one of the world’s leading universities, Utrecht University, which has produced 12 Nobel Prize winners.
- **is a leader** in 3D printing technologies, having transplanted the world’s first complete 3D printed skull here.
- **has a workforce** that is among the youngest and best educated in the Netherlands.
- **is a hub** for research and development in the Netherlands and beyond.

**AND UTRECHT HAS SO MUCH MORE TO OFFER:**

- **Utrecht has** the youngest and best educated workforce in the Netherlands: 44% have completed a university (or applied sciences) programme and 85% of the residents speak three languages.
- **It is** the fastest growing city in the Netherlands.
- **WIFI was invented** in Utrecht.
- **Utrecht University**, which has produced 12 Nobel Prize winners, was voted the best research university in the Netherlands.
- **Utrecht** is a successful pioneer in 3D printing technologies: the world’s first complete 3D printed skull was created and transplanted here in 2015.

"UTRECHT HAS CULTIVATED A SMART, GREEN AND ABOVE ALL HEALTHY CITY" The New Economy, USA 22 – 09 – 15
The use of bicycles in the city is in Utrecht’s DNA. Utrecht’s residents are young, highly educated and sport-loving. Every day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., 100,000 cyclists commute to and from downtown Utrecht. A special bicycle manager has even been appointed to further optimize the routing through the city. According to CNN, Utrecht is the best city in the world for cycling, where more people cycle than in any other large city in the Netherlands and where every resident has an average of two or more bicycles. A world-class bicycle city. A city which has the right to call itself “Bike Capital of the World”.

A bicycle is a nice and relaxed way to discover Utrecht. Utrecht’s residents love bicycles. When you look around you in the city, you will see them everywhere. Firmly anchored to posts and bridges, parked in bicycle parking facilities and speeding by on the many cycle tracks. The beautiful green surroundings, full of country estates, museums and monuments, also lend themselves well for a bicycle tour.

In less than 30 minutes you will see impressive citadels, forts and castles, such as De Haar Castle, the largest castle in the Netherlands, and the country estates of Amelisweerd and Rhijnauwen, peaceful nature areas bordering the Kromme Rijn (Crooked Rhine).

The city will continue to invest in improving cycle routes and bicycle parking facilities in the years ahead. For instance, the largest bicycle parking facility in the world, which will be able to accommodate 12,500 bicycles, is currently under construction. A total of five bicycle parking facilities will be built in the Station Area, which will be able to accommodate a total of 33,000 bicycles.

Not entirely by chance, the Dutch Cyclists’ Union nominated Utrecht for the title of “2016 Bike City” at the Bikemomics Symposium in Utrecht, and internationally renowned media have proclaimed Utrecht (the best) Bike City more than once.

Utrecht has been innovating since 1885, when it lay the first cycle track in the Netherlands on the Maliebaan. Cycling is still an important issue for Utrecht today, tying in perfectly with its key (policy) objectives of green, healthy and smart. The city is an inspiring locus of cycling activity in the Netherlands, providing many opportunities for cycling developments, such as the unique Dynamics parking system with real-time availability information and the Living Lab, where cycling innovations are tested. There is also a lot of know-how in the area of cycling: four large bike shows are held in Utrecht and Beijing’s policy on bicycles was developed by a Utrecht-based company. The authorities have made healthy living a priority, entering into alliances with the corporate sector and research and educational institutes. There have also been unique citizens’ initiatives. All of these add value.
CATHEDRAL
Monumental, gothic church with a rich history. The cathedral used to be much larger and used to be connected with the Dom Tower. However, the nave fell down during a violent tornado in 1674, separating the tower from the church, giving rise to today’s Dom Square.
domkerk.nl

DOM UNDER
Below the age-old Dom Square you can take a route which allows you to witness 2000 years of history: from the Roman Castellum Trajectum, the Romanesque cathedral and churches to the ruins of the gothic cathedral which was destroyed by a tornado in 1674. You can go back in time as you thread your way through the immense columns of the gothic cathedral. In its short existence, DOMunder has already received several international heritage awards, such as the prestigious Museums + Heritage Awards for Excellence.
domunder.nl

DOM TOWER
More than 600 years old, the Domtoren (Dom Tower) is the highest church tower in the country. At 112 metres, it soars above the Cathedral Square, and high above the city. When the 465 steps are climbed accompanied by a tour guide, the effort is rewarded by a fantastic view over the city.
domtoren.nl

DOM SQUARE
If you are visiting Utrecht for the first time, you should start in the more than two thousand year old Dom Square, the place where the Romans laid the foundation for Utrecht with the Castellum Trajectum, the place where Utrecht was founded.

DOM SQUARE
If you are visiting Utrecht for the first time, you should start in the more than two thousand year old Dom Square, the place where the Romans laid the foundation for Utrecht with the Castellum Trajectum, the place where Utrecht was founded.

MIFFY MUSEUM
There is only one Utrecht creation more famous than the Rietveld chair: Miffy, the rabbit which Dick Bruna created in 1955. Within the space of 60 years, Miffy has grown into an international celebrity, not only as a children’s book character, but also as a design icon. In the new Miffy Museum, toddlers and pre-schoolers can discover their world in a playful manner. There are various rooms which each have their own theme based on Dick Bruna’s picture books.
nijntjemuseum.nl

CENTRAAL MUSEUM
The museum has an extensive collection of old, modern and applied art and fashion and city history collections. Besides it’s collection of old masters, which includes paintings by Jan van Scorel and Abraham Bloemaert, the museum also has contemporary fashion and design and visual art on display. The largest Rietveld collection in the world including the famous Rietveld chair, is owned by the Centraal Museum. The original studio of Dick Bruna now has a permanent place in the Centraal Museum. centraalmuseum.nl

TIVOLIVREDENBURG
In the centre of the medieval city of Utrecht, TivoliVredenburg is situated: a unique venue built for all kinds of music and entertainment. The large modern music palace harbors halls with perfect acoustics for symphonic music, pop music, jazz, chamber music and dance, as well as cafes, bars, lounges and a restaurant. TivoliVredenburg is a substantial building, but its five concert halls are intimate and inviting. You never have to sit or stand farther than 20 meters from a stage.
tivolivredenburg.nl

UTRECHT HIGHLIGHTS
MUSEUM SPEELKLOK
Holland’s most musical museum will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year. Various activities will be organized in connection with this anniversary. This museum has been collecting and repairing instruments that play automatically and which have provided fun for both young and old for over 600 years.
museumspeelklok.nl

UTRECHT BOTANIC GARDENS
The gardens, one of the oldest university gardens in the Netherlands, have been laid out on and around the 19th century Fort Hoofddijk. You will also find one of Europe’s largest rock gardens here. In the summer, the gardens form the dreamlike backdrop to festivals, such as the deBeschaving music festival, the Tropical Butterfly Festival and the Hortus Festival.

RIETVELD SCHRÖDERHUIS
The Rietveld Schröder House (also known as the Schröder House) in Utrecht was built in 1924 by Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld for Mrs. Truus Schröder and her three children. “De Stijl” is an icon of the city of Utrecht and has featured on UNESCO’s World Heritage List since 2000.
rietveldschroderhuis.nl

MUSEUM CATHARIJNECONVENT
Located in a beautiful convent which dates back to the Middle Ages, this is the museum of religious art in Utrecht. The museum tells the fascinating story of Christianity’s past and present in the Netherlands. With a collection of Protestant and Catholic works of art and cultural objects, the museum is one of its kind.
catharijneconvent.nl

UTRECHT SCIENCE PARK & MODERN ARCHITECTURE
With Utrecht University as best university of the Netherlands, University Medical Centre Utrecht as one of the biggest public health facilities in the country and many innovative companies and research facilities, Utrecht Science park is the heart of the knowledge-based economy. A visit to Utrecht Science Park can be an enriching experience; it offers many hidden treasures. Internationally celebrated architects like Rem Koolhaas, NL Architects, Wiel Arets and Eric Egeraat designed award-winning buildings. Utrecht Science Park has its own Central Park: centrally located are the beautiful Botanic Gardens. Utrecht University celebrates its 380th anniversary in 2016. Various other prominent institutes will also be celebrating important anniversaries, such as the Uithof (55th anniversary) and the Hubrecht Institute (100th anniversary).

UTRECHT BOTANIC GARDENS
UTRECHT SCIENCE PARK & MODERN ARCHITECTURE
RIETVELD SCHRÖDERHUIS
MUSEUM CATHARIJNECONVENT
MUSEUM SPEELKLOK
SPOORWEGMUSEUM

SPOORWEGMUSEUM
The Spoorwegmuseum is the largest museum of Utrecht and tells the story of 175 years of railways in the Netherlands. The museum is located in the Maliebaanstation and next to the beautiful train wagons you can see and go down an old mine and visit the Orient Express and theatre.
spoorwegmuseum.nl

utrechtsciencepark.nl

uu.nl/botanischetuinen

12 13
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL ART

The Museum of contemporary Aboriginal Art is the only museum in Europe which focuses on Aboriginal art from Australia. This unique museum has an impressive collection of amazing artefacts. For instance, you can see paintings on canvas and bark, but also thought-provoking installations and multimedia works of a younger generation of artists of Aboriginal descent.

CANALS AND WHARVES

Because of the importance of Utrecht the city developed into a busy centre of trade. No other city in the world has comparable pedestrian quays along the water. They were constructed centuries ago to allow access to the cellars under the buildings lining the canals. Nowadays, many wharf cellars house restaurants, boutiques, bohemian cafes and bars.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Residents 334,295
Students 70,000
Number of nationalities 260
Surface area 99 km²
Districts 10
Universities & Colleges 7
Museums 11
Wharves 4 k
Trainstations 7

TRAJEKTUM LUMEN

An exploratory expedition in the dark which takes in artistically highlighted locations in the magnificent Utrecht city centre. From the centrally located Vredenburg, a light trail leads to works of art by renowned light artists who bring the present and past of the city to life.

CANALS AND WHARVES

Because of the importance of Utrecht the city developed into a busy centre of trade. No other city in the world has comparable pedestrian quays along the water. They were constructed centuries ago to allow access to the cellars under the buildings lining the canals. Nowadays, many wharf cellars house restaurants, boutiques, bohemian cafes and bars.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Residents 334,295
Students 70,000
Number of nationalities 260
Surface area 99 km²
Districts 10
Universities & Colleges 7
Museums 11
Wharves 4 k
Trainstations 7

FACTS AND FIGURES

Icons
• The Dom Tower, the highest church tower in the Netherlands, 112 metres high with 465 steps.
• Medieval canals, wharves and wharf cellars, nominated as UNESCO World Heritage site.
• Rietveld Schröder house, UNESCO World Heritage site.
• Miffy, Dick Bruna’s famous creation.
• Fauwhuize, historic city palace in the centre, intended as the residence for the only Dutch Pope ever: Adriaan Floriszoon Boeijens. (1459 – 1523).
• Stelling van Utrecht, part of the New Dutch Water Defence Line.

IT’S IN THE NAME

In Roman times, the name of the Utrecht fortress was simply Traiectum, denoting its location at a possible Rhine crossing. Traiectum became Dutch Trecht. With the U from Old Dutch “uut” (downriver) added to distinguish U-trecht from Maas-tricht the name Utrecht was born.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Residents 334,295
Students 70,000
Number of nationalities 260
Surface area 99 km²
Districts 10
Universities & Colleges 7
Museums 11
Wharves 4 k
Trainstations 7

FACTS AND FIGURES

1495 – 1562 Jan van Scorel (artist)
1459 – 1523 Adriaan Floriszoon Boeijens (the only Dutch Pope ever)
1927 – Today Dick Bruna
(graphic designer, artist, writer. Most famous creation: Miffy)
1934 – 2010 Anton Geesink
(1964 Olympic judo champion in Tokyo)
1992 – Today Dafne Schippers
(world champion 200 metre sprint 2015)

FACTS AND FIGURES

1476951122
476951122
Around 47 A.D. the Romans built the castellum, the Traiectum, as part of reinforcements along the Rhine. The start of Utrecht on the current the Cathedral square, Domplein.
In the 7th century, the English missionary Willibrord set himself up in the old fort and Christianised the Netherlands.
The city was de- 
signated Dutch 
city to obtain city 
rights in 1122 and 
remained the largest 
and main city of the 
Netherlands until the 16th century.
The Union of Utrecht (1579) was signed in the city which was the foundation for the Dutch Republic.
Peace Treaty of Utrecht was signed in 1713 in the city.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Residents 334,295
Students 70,000
Number of nationalities 260
Surface area 99 km²
Districts 10
Universities & Colleges 7
Museums 11
Wharves 4 k
Trainstations 7

FACTS AND FIGURES

1495 – 1562 Jan van Scorel (artist)
1459 – 1523 Adriaan Floriszoon Boeijens (the only Dutch Pope ever)
1927 – Today Dick Bruna
(graphic designer, artist, writer. Most famous creation: Miffy)
1934 – 2010 Anton Geesink
(1964 Olympic judo champion in Tokyo)
1992 – Today Dafne Schippers
(world champion 200 metre sprint 2015)

FACTS AND FIGURES

1476951122
476951122
Around 47 A.D. the Romans built the castellum, the Traiectum, as part of reinforcements along the Rhine. The start of Utrecht on the current the Cathedral square, Domplein.
In the 7th century, the English missionary Willibrord set himself up in the old fort and Christianised the Netherlands.
The city was de- 
signated Dutch 
city to obtain city 
rights in 1122 and 
remained the largest 
and main city of the 
Netherlands until the 16th century.
The Union of Utrecht (1579) was signed in the city which was the foundation for the Dutch Republic.
Peace Treaty of Utrecht was signed in 1713 in the city.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Residents 334,295
Students 70,000
Number of nationalities 260
Surface area 99 km²
Districts 10
Universities & Colleges 7
Museums 11
Wharves 4 k
Trainstations 7

FACTS AND FIGURES

1495 – 1562 Jan van Scorel (artist)
1459 – 1523 Adriaan Floriszoon Boeijens (the only Dutch Pope ever)
1927 – Today Dick Bruna
(graphic designer, artist, writer. Most famous creation: Miffy)
1934 – 2010 Anton Geesink
(1964 Olympic judo champion in Tokyo)
1992 – Today Dafne Schippers
(world champion 200 metre sprint 2015)
For instance, a visit to the soon to be reopened Mondriaanhuis in Amersfoort is actually a visit to the house where Piet Mondrian was born. Utrecht has the largest Rietveld collection in the world. The original red and blue Rietveld chair is on permanent display in the Central Museum. Furthermore, with the Rietveld Schröder House, Utrecht has the only UNESCO World Heritage site that fits in with the Mondriaan to Dutch Design theme. Rietveld and Mondrian never met. But this is about to change in Utrecht and Amersfoort in 2017!

UTRECHT

The world-famous architect Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964) was born and raised in this modern university town, with its rich medieval past. He was one of the most important and influential architects/artists of the last century. His groundbreaking designs can be admired in the Centraal Museum and in Utrecht-Oost, where he built the Rietveld Schröderhuis (near the Wilhelmina Park) in 1924. This masterpiece has been included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List and is regarded as a high point of the modern De Stijl movement. In 1931, Rietveld also designed four town houses on the Erasmuslaan according to the aesthetic ideals of the Modern Movement in architecture. Utrecht has a compact city centre. Because all the places of interest are nearby, a bicycle is the perfect means to discover them.

CENTRAAL MUSEUM

The Centraal Museum strives to broaden the horizons of its visitors with art and culture from Utrecht. Utrecht is an internationally-oriented, historical and modern city, and the museum tells stories from Utrecht’s world, from Roman times until now (and the future). The collections of works by the Caravaggisti and Modern Realists, famous fashion designers (e.g. Viktor&Rolf), De Stijl masters (e.g. Gerrit Rietveld, Bart van der Leck and Theo van Doesburg) and history (from Roman limes to the Peace of Utrecht) help to make these stories accessible for a wide audience.

Rietveld’s masterpiece: Rietveld Schröderhuis

Find out who and what inspired Rietveld in his search for freedom, which resulted in the Rietveld Schröderhuis, De Stijl’s international masterpiece in Utrecht.

Runs from 4 March 2017 - 11 June 2017
Location Centraal Museum, Utrecht
centraalmuseum.nl

The Rietveld Schröderhuis

The Rietveld Schröderhuis is the architectural high point of the De Stijl movement. The house was designed in 1924 by the Utrecht-born architect and designer Gerrit Rietveld. The Rietveld Schröderhuis features on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, along with, amongst others, the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben. An icon of the Netherlands! The house was designed and furnished by Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964).

Runs from permanent
Location Rietveld Schröderhuis, Utrecht
centraalmuseum.nl

Bicycle tour in Stijl (style)

Gerrit Rietveld left his mark on modern-day Utrecht. With a city guide from the VVV tourist information office, go on a bicycle tour of the relics of this great master of modern art. Rietveld’s architectural masterpieces can be seen throughout the city. The absolute high point of this bicycle tour is a visit to the Rietveld Schröderhuis, Rietveld’s masterpiece and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Runs from 2017
Location Utrecht
utrechtvoorgroepen.nl

UTRECHT-Amersfoort is the place where four great De Stijl artists were born: Piet Mondrian, Gerrit Rietveld, Theo van Doesburg and Bart van der Leck. Utrecht-Amersfoort is therefore the creative hotbed where De Stijl saw the light of day. There is still much in Utrecht and Amersfoort today that reminds us of Mondriaan and Rietveld.

100 years of shaping the world
In the middle of the Netherlands lies Amersfoort, a pleasant town with a medieval past and no fewer than 650 monuments. Amersfoort is the birthplace of one of the pioneers of abstract and non-figurative art: Piet Mondrian (1872-1944). Mondrian was one of the main contributors to the magazine De Stijl. In the Mondriaanhuis, the house on the Kortegracht in Amersfoort where he was born, you can marvel at the artist’s journey through life. In the modern Kunsthall KadE, you can see the colours of De Stijl and their artistic legacy reflected in a selection of works of art. Both locations are within walking distance from the city centre. The title “Best Hotel City of the Netherlands in 2015” and its central location make Amersfoort an ideal starting point for visiting the Mondrian to Dutch Design year throughout the Netherlands.

KUNSTHAL KADE
Kunsthall KadE organizes exhibitions in the areas of modern art, architecture, design and contemporary visual culture. The Kunsthall is located in the Eindhuis, which was designed by the Rotterdam-based architectural firm Neutelings Riedijk Architects.

Exhibition: The colours of De Stijl
The three primary colours (red, yellow and blue) are archetypal and synonymous with De Stijl. Kunsthall KadE has highlighted the use of colour by the De Stijl artists in a special exhibition held in connection with the centenary of De Stijl. What the De Stijl artists had in common is that they strived for colour as an independent element ‘from art’ and not ‘from nature’, driven by the idea that the interrelationship between colours would lead to ‘harmony’.

Kunsthall KadE projects works by the De Stijl artists onto the present and uses these works to show how artists continued to study the autonomous power of colour in the decades following De Stijl via abstract expressionism and postwar concrete art to contemporary artists who use the studied colour as an independent element. Think here of such artists as Josef Albers, Yves Klein, Angela Bulloch, Gerhard Richter and Olafur Eliasson.

Runs from May to September 2017
Location Kunsthall KadE, Amersfoort kunsthallkade.nl
MONDRIAANHUIS
“One must not adapt, but create.”

The Mondriaanhaus in Amersfoort is the house where the great artist Pieter Cornelis Mondrian, the son of a Dutch Reformed headmaster, was born in 1872. The Mondriaanhaus tells the story of the life, work and ideas of Mondrian, whose influence on art and design is still felt today.

The Mondriaanhaus will undergo a metamorphosis in 2016/2017 and will be reopened in 2017, the centennial of De Stijl. This museum of concrete art, which was founded in 1994, is being transformed into an international museological experience which will take visitors on a journey to the numerous inspirations for Mondrian’s ideas and work. A visit to the Mondriaanhaus is a reintroduction to the wilful artist who still inspires artists, designers and architects today. His iconic work, his search, his artistic and spiritual development, his friends and his famous ateliers are examined during a 1-hour multimedia experience.

Runs from planned reopening in the spring of 2017
permanent Location Mondriaanhaus, Amersfoort mondriaanhaus.nl
ZONNEHOF PAVILJOEN
Gerrit Rietveld
The exhibition pavilion De Zonnehof in Amersfoort is one of the most important late works of the architect Gerrit Rietveld and is a respected example of postwar functional architecture. The building is one of a kind in the Netherlands: the only original exhibition pavilion by Rietveld is in Venice. The pavilion, which was opened in 1949, served as a Centre for Modern Art until 2007. It was then used for a variety of functions. It also housed the Armando Museum for a time. With a view to the centenary of De Stijl, the municipality of Amersfoort is looking into the possibility of a new cultural function together with Amersfoort in C. The feasibility of a restoration will also be explored. In 2017, the pavilion and the architecture of Rietveld will be the main focus of an exhibition and ancillary programme of lectures.

Runs from 2017
Location Zonnehof paviljoen, Gerrit Rietveld, Amersfoort

Visit Utrecht - Amersfoort - the breeding ground of Rietveld & Mondrian

Kunsthal KadE
"One must not adapt, but create.” (permanent)

Zonnehof Paviljoen
"Gerrit Rietveld" (permanent)

Gerrit Rietveld 'Tours and Special Events' (2017)
Museum "Collection Bart van Doesburg" (permanent)
Museum "Collection "Bart van der Leck" (permanent)

bike tour de stijl De Stijl Architecture (2017)

Central Museum "Mondriaan: A Retrospective" (May - Aug) "Piet Mondriaan: A Retrospective" (May - Aug)

Gerrit Rietveld "The Colours of De Stijl" (May - Sep)
Gerrit Rietveld "Two and Special Events" (2017)
Kunsthall KadE
"The Colours of De Stijl" (May - Sep)
Kunsthal KadE
"One must not adapt, but create.” (permanent)
The province of Utrecht has a wealth of country estates, museums, monuments and visitor centres. The Vechtstreek and the Utrechtse Heuvelrug are abundant with castles, forts and other monuments. The Roman lines, the New Dutch Water Defence Line, the former Soesterberg air base and the Grebbe Line remind us of a military past.

Slot Zuylen Castle
Located on the east bank of the river Vecht, near the historical village church of Oud-Zuilen, just outside Utrecht, lies the water-ringed Slot Zuylen Castle. The castle has a long history and has an exceptionally well-preserved interior. The rich collection consists of, amongst other things, antique furniture, paintings and articles of everyday use. In the 18th century the medieval castle was converted into a country house, whose most famous resident was the writer Belle van Zuylen. The complex was opened to the public in 1950. Concerts, events and guided tours bring the past to life.

Huis Doorn
Huis Doorn is a castle, knight’s stronghold and country estate on the Utrechtse Heuvelrug in Doorn. The house is largely known for its famous exile, the last German ex-emperor Wilhelm II. He lived in Huis Doorn from 1920 to 1941. After Germany’s capitulation in 1918, he obtained political asylum in the neutral Netherlands. The house gives an authentic picture of royal domestic lifestyle, which marks the transition from the 19th to the 20th century.

Amerongen Castle
From its foundation in 1286, Amerongen Castle, situated in magnificent rural surroundings bordering the river and near the city, has been the stage for the turbulent lives of the nobility. In the 19th century, the house was thoroughly renovated by the architect Pierre Cuypers. It was the home of the German Emperor Wilhelm II for a time, before he took up permanent residence in Huis Doorn.

Soestdijk Palace
Soestdijk Palace is a unique experience. You can visit the representative period rooms and a few private rooms of the last occupants. Soestdijk Palace also shows you how Prince Bernhard and Princess Juliana lived for many years. The original atmosphere has been preserved as much as possible. The park surrounding the palace is also open to the public.

De Haar Castle
De Haar Castle is the largest and most opulent castle in the Netherlands and ranks among the international top of historical country houses. Visit the castle with an expert guide and learn all there is to know about the world of luxury in which the baronial family lives. Like a real fairy-tale castle, it looms up from a park with massive trees, surrounded by old gardens and ponds. A large number of extra activities are organized throughout the year, such as concerts, large fairs, children’s activities and theatre performances.

Soestdijk Palace is a unique experience. You can visit the representative period rooms and a few private rooms of the last occupants. Soestdijk Palace also shows you how Prince Bernhard and Princess Juliana lived for many years. The original atmosphere has been preserved as much as possible. The park surrounding the palace is also open to the public.

CULTURAL HERITAGE
Great stories of the past and the present are associated with these locations. Tourism Utrecht has been actively involved in the promotion of the cultural heritage of the province of Utrecht since 2015. This project forms part of the “Utrecht Verhaal” agenda, an initiative of the province of Utrecht to promote heritage tourism.

To raise awareness of the great stories behind the cultural heritage and, thus, give a boost to heritage tourism, the Press Office and the Travel Trade Department of Tourism Utrecht work closely with ten selected locations:

AMERONGEN CASTLE
Huis Doorn is a castle, knight’s stronghold and country estate on the Utrechtse Heuvelrug in Doorn. The house is largely known for its famous exile, the last German ex-emperor Wilhelm II. He lived in Huis Doorn from 1920 to 1941. After Germany’s capitulation in 1918, he obtained political asylum in the neutral Netherlands. The house gives an authentic picture of royal domestic lifestyle, which marks the transition from the 19th to the 20th century.

HUIS DOORN
Huis Doorn is a castle, knight’s stronghold and country estate on the Utrechtse Heuvelrug in Doorn.

SOESTDIJK PALACE
Soestdijk Palace is a unique experience. You can visit the representative period rooms and a few private rooms of the last occupants. Soestdijk Palace also shows you how Prince Bernhard and Princess Juliana lived for many years. The original atmosphere has been preserved as much as possible. The park surrounding the palace is also open to the public.

Paleissoestdijk.nl

20 21
OUD AMELISWEERD MUSEUM
A stone’s throw from downtown Utrecht, in the middle of the age-old woods of the country estates of Amelisweerd, lies the Oud Amelisweerd Museum. It is housed in the renovated 18th century country house of the historical country estate of Oud-Amelisweerd. The Oud Amelisweerd Museum is an art house set in nature with three collections: the Armando Collection, the historical country estate and the Chinese wallpaper collection. These collections are connected by the central theme of the Oud Amelisweerd Museum: how do man and nature relate to each other? nmm.nl

DE GREEBEBERG
The German army invaded the Netherlands in the early morning of May 10, 1940. On the following morning, the army launched an attack on the Grebbe Line. For three days, the Grebbeberg and the surrounding area were the scene of heavy fighting. Over 400 Dutch soldiers lost their lives. The battle for the Grebbeberg was the largest and best-known battle on Dutch soil in May 1940. In remembrance, the De Greb Foundation organizes guided tours and lectures. grebbeberg.nl

PYRAMIDE VAN AUSTERLITZ
The only pyramid on European soil can be found in the municipality of Woudenberg. The Pyramid of Austerlitz is a relic of a time when the Netherlands, under French rule, underwent major changes. These changes still make themselves felt today: surnames, the tax system and the register of births, deaths and marriages. All of these changes were introduced by Napoleon Bonaparte. defransetijd.nl

WATERLINE MUSEUM FORT BIJ VECHTEN
Fort bij Vechten is one of the largest and most splendid forts of the New Dutch Water Defence Line. The strategic location, at the crossroads of the Roman limes and the New Dutch Water Defence Line, and its unspoiled beauty qualify the fort as the icon of the Water Defence Line. The new Waterline Museum was opened on the fort in 2015. The museum tells the unique story of the defence of the Netherlands by means of water. During an interactive journey of discovery, visitors learn about the power of water and what a water defence line is. waterliniemuseum.nl

NATIONAL MILITARY MUSEUM
The past, present and future of the Dutch army come to life in the National Military Museum (NMM), on the site of the former Soesterberg air base. The NMM has the most extraordinary collection of tanks, planes, armoured vehicles and helicopters in the Netherlands. This interactive museum displays the history of the Netherlands and its armed forces in a way which is bound to impress. Not only the museum is worth a visit; the surrounding area also has much to offer. You will not find such an interplay between military heritage, art and nature anywhere else. nmm.nl
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Festival fever

Utrecht’s jam-packed cultural agenda has something for everyone throughout the city. As small-scale festivals in special locations, such as the Dutch Film Festival, as well as the renowned Utrecht Festival in Utrecht, the city is regularly caught up in festival fever. Prominent festivals, such as the Dutch Film Festival, will guarantee a vibrant, informative, and inspiring and creative festival.

FESTIVALS EN EVENEMENTEN

HACKING HABITAT
25 June – 7 July 2016
The former prison on the Wolvenplein will open its doors for this international art manifestation. Over sixty artists and thirty scientists, speakers and authors will shine their light on the rule which technology plays in our lives.

EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL
6 August – 4 September 2016
The festival – the largest of its kind in the world – is an annual 10-day event. More than 130 concerts and other artistic events will take place. Body hair in incorporated in jewellery; is used for works of art and forms the starting point for installation.

GAUDEAMUS MUSIC WEEK
29 June – 11 September 2016
From classical cross-over and minimal avantgarde to modern composition, full of (live) electronics, Gaudeamus Music Week presents the latest music of young musical pioneers during the eponymous international renowned festival in Utrecht.

HERITAGE DAY – ICONS AND SYMBOLS
10 – 11 September 2016
This year, icons and symbols with additional, special meaning will be highlighted. You can see them everywhere: in monuments; on the inside and outside, in ornaments, in reliefs or painting. The monuments can also have iconic value in the city’s landscape.

LE GUSS WHO?
10 – 13 November 2016
A 4-day festival with today’s budding talent, combined with rare, unique performative performances. All of this comes together in various locations in downtown Utrecht.

RIETVELD AND VAN BAAREN COLLECTION
7 – 11 November 2016
A selection of the best works from the Van Baaren collection and 13 designs by the Utrecht-born architect and furniture-maker Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964).

RIETVELD AND VAN BAAREN COLLECTION
5 March – 5 June 2016
A selection of the best works from the Van Baaren collection and 13 designs by the Utrecht-born architect and furniture-maker Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964).

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL ART
samo.nl

EXHIBITIONS

CENTRAAL MUSEUM
centralmuseum.nl

FRANCISCUS
5 March – 12 June 2016
Who was Francis of Assisi really? What were his ideals and what has posteriority done with his ideas? The exhibition answers all these questions by means of beautiful works of art.

HOLY SCRIPTURE
7 October 2016 – 24 January 2017
An exhibition on the Tanakh, the Bible and the Koran. By means of rare and unique manuscripts, the museum shows the veneration and use of the holy scriptures of the three monotheistic world religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

REMEMBER ME. STORIES IN PRINT
up to and including 19 June 2016
In this exhibition, the museum presents heart-wrenching stories in bold, expressive graphic works of art. Sixty such works were brought over especially from Australia for this
SHOPPING

Utrecht’s attractive old city centre has all the perfect ingredients for a day of shopping.

There are popular retail chains as well as original shops of the smaller retailers. In snug alleys, such as the Seven Streets, you will discover real treasures, such as beautiful antiques, Utrecht design and trendy vintage clothes. Pop-up stores and concept stores, where innovative products are often combined with art and gastronomic delights, are the latest trend in shopping. You will find them in, amongst others, Hoog Catharijne, the largest shopping centre in the Netherlands.

The Twijnstraat is a special shopping street. The oldest shopping street in Utrecht, it is set apart by interesting shops and eateries. Whatever you do, don’t forget to pop out to the Janskerkhof Square, where a busy and delightful flower market is held every Saturday.

CULINARY UTRECHT

The centre of Utrecht and its suburbs are teeming with restaurants, cafés, lunchrooms, coffee houses and deli’s.

Utrecht’s residents love a wide range of catering establishments where you can enjoy modern and traditional cuisine or local specialities.

Nice places for a quick bite to eat or for a leisurely meal can be found in the atmospheric alley-ways, pleasant squares and age-old waterside yards.

ACCESSIBILITY

Utrecht is conveniently located in the heart of the Netherlands on a crossroad of rails, roads and waterways. Utrecht is the ideal operating base for a visit to the Netherlands.

TO UTRECHT

By train
Utrecht Central Station is the national hub, with trains arriving from and departing to every corner of the country almost every minute. It also is an European train junction. International trains from all over Europe arrive daily, such as the high-speed Thalys (Paris) and ICE International (Frankfurt). Daily international trains from and to Brussels (2 hours), Cologne (2.5 hours) and Paris (3.5 hours).

Amsterdam and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol are only a 30-minute train ride away, and Rotterdam and The Hague are only a 45-minute train ride away.

ns.nl

By car
Utrecht is located 40 km southeast of Amsterdam, 125 km from Antwerp and 175 km from Brussels. Surrounded by three of Hollands largest highways, the city is within easy reach from all directions.

GETTING THERE/AROUND

You can travel around Utrecht by public transport or, since everything is so close at hand, discover the city on foot. Bicycles are by far the easiest way to get around. They can be rented in various locations, such as the VVV (tourist information office) and hotels.

CU2030.nl

Accessibility

Utrecht is conveniently located in the heart of the Netherlands on a crossroad of rails, roads and waterways. Utrecht is the ideal operating base for a visit to the Netherlands.