

VESTING DRIEHOEK

The Vestingdriehoek is a beautiful area of fortresses and water connections. Once a strategic water weapon in the Dutch Water Line, it is now UNESCO World Heritage with an abundance of history. Let yourself be taken on a journey over the water and through history.



FORT VUREN a robust structure

For decades, it has been proudly standing in the floodplains along the Waal. This fort was also part of the Dutch Water Line. The robust structure from 1844 was meant to protect Gorinchem from the enemy. The fort provided defense for dozens of troops, weapons, and provisions and can only be reached via a drawbridge. Now, there is a museum where film footage, documents, and photos depict the situation in this region during the Second World War. The provision rooms have been turned into cozy restaurants.



GORINCHEM

The most beautiful fortress city in the Netherlands

A city that still breathes the atmosphere of its past. It is the largest and most beautiful fortress in the Netherlands that is still completely intact. The dozens of monuments remind us of that time when Gorinchem also held an important place in the Dutch Water Line as a fortress. In the old town hall on the Grote Markt is the Gorcum Museum. Here, alongside various exhibitions, the stories are told about the history of Gorinchem. In the Hamel House, you'll find everything about the 17th-century explorer from the city: Hendrick Hamel.



ZALTBOMMEL

Fortress and Hanseatic city

In the fortified and Hanseatic city, you can count on a dose of history and culture. The city is surrounded by fortifications: a broad, tree-lined belt with moats for protection, along the northern side of the Waal. One of the highlights of this city is the Sint-Maartenskerk. Both the church and the tower were largely built in the 15th century. You'll also find the museum in the City Castle; a monumental building in the city center. In the museum, you'll get acquainted with the rich 16th-century history of the Bommelerwaard.



WOUDRICHEM

Flourishing old town

Woudrichem is a fortified town that originated around the year 1000. Its strategic location often shook Woudrichem to its foundations in the past. Together with Gorinchem, Woudrichem, armed with heavy artillery, closed off the Waal River to the enemy. Woudrichem was also long one of the most important fishing villages. The Fisheries and Cultural Historical Museum provides a nice overview of Dutch river fishing. It's a charming fortress where you wander along those historical highlights and authentic shops.

OPENING HOURS

(subject to change):
every day - 10am - 5pm

ACCESSIBILITY

The fortress is wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilets are available. Due to the medieval architecture, the castle's upper stories are not wheelchair accessible.

ROUTE

Access by ferry, watertaxi, car, bus or bike. A tour bus can drive up to the entrance of the castle. The bus can park at our free parking lot.

PARKING

Loevestein has a free parking for up to 230 cars. From the parking lot it is a ten minute walk to the fortress.

RESELLER PRICES

Entrance

Ticket Adult (>12) € 15,50
(regular price € 17,50)

Ticket Child (4 - 12) € 10,00
(regular price € 12,00)

PACKAGES

Warm Welcome € 6,50
1x coffee / tea, 1x Apple Pie

LUNCH

Lunch Package € 10,50
1x sandwich, 1x beverage (non-alcohol)

GUIDED TOURS (60 MINUTES)

CASTLE TOUR € 75,-
(REGULAR PRICE € 90,-)

As soon as you cross the drawbridge, you will feel the 18th century atmosphere. An experienced guide will take you on a journey through time. History happened here, and you are here to discover it!

HUGO GROTIUS TOUR € 75,-
(REGULAR PRICE € 90,-)

Hugo de Groot, also known as Hugo Grotius, can easily be called one of the greatest scholars in Dutch history. A philosopher and a thinker, he laid the foundations for international law. Who was he, and what was his ideology? Price excludes entrance. Max. 15 guests per guide.



CONTACT

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WELCOME TO LOEVESTEIN CASTLE



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



HOLLANDESE
WATERLINIES
UNESCO WERELDERFgoed





WELCOME

Embark on a journey through time at Slot Loevestein, a 14th-century fortress with tales of knights, strategic battles, an infamous prison, and extraordinary escapes. Nestled in the heart of the Netherlands, Loevestein Castle isn't just a testament to medieval architecture; it's a chapter in the story of Dutch identity and democracy. From its early days as a knight's stronghold to a state prison that witnessed one of the most ingenious escapes in history, every stone of Loevestein has a story to tell. Surround yourself with nature, history, and the legacy of one of the Netherlands' greatest scholars, Hugo de Groot.



FROM KNIGHT'S STRONGHOLD TO STATE PRISON

Slot Loevestein's journey began in 1358 by Knight Dirc Loef van Horne. This fortress, initially a single tower, expanded over time into the magnificent castle we see today. In the 16th century, during the tumultuous Eighty Years War, Loevestein's strategic location made it a coveted prize, changing hands between the Dutch and Spaniards. When finally secured by the Dutch, it transformed into an impenetrable state prison, setting the stage for one of the most daring escapes in Dutch history.



A BASTION IN THE HOLLANDSE WATERLINIE

Loevestein's significance was further solidified as part of the Oude & Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie, an ingenious defense system of the 17th century. This network of forts and inundations was designed to protect key Dutch cities. In 2021, its historical and strategic importance was recognized globally when it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Did You Know?

The Hollandse Waterlinie was a groundbreaking military innovation of its time, using water as a defense mechanism.



THE GREAT ESCAPE OF HUGO DE GROOT

The 17th century brought new fame to Loevestein as the prison of Hugo de Groot, a renowned lawyer and theologian. His escape in 1621 from a life sentence, ingeniously concealed in a book chest, has become legendary. Despite the tight security, his wife's plan led to one of the most talked-about prison breaks.

Did You Know?

Hugo de Groot, known globally as Hugo Grotius, is considered one of the founders of international law.



RICH HISTORY

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY

Today, Loevestein Castle stands as a vivid museum, inviting visitors to step back in time. From the drawbridge entrance to the soldier's street, every corner breathes history. Explore the fortress walls, discover the bomb-proof shelter, and marvel at the thickness of the walls. Each step is a walk through the lives of knights, soldiers, and prisoners who once called this castle home.

Did You Know?

The castle's current structure allows you to experience different historical periods, from the Middle Ages to the 18th century.

LOCATION

Loevestein is located in the Vestingdriehoek, nestled between the historic cities of Zaltbommel, Gorinchem and Woudrichem. It serves as a crossroads of culture and nature, situated at the meeting point of three provinces -Gelderland, Noord-Brabant, and Zuid-Holland. This unique region is rich in cultural heritage, fortifications, and centuries-old stories.

Let yourself be carried across the water and through time and uncover a treasure trove of stories!

Did You Know?

The Pact of Loevestein is a broad regional collaboration within the UNESCO World Heritage Hollandse Waterlinies, working together to protect, enhance, and sustainably preserve the southern part of the Hollandse Waterlinies.

SINDS 1358



COMBINE YOUR VISIT

5 KM: Gorinchem, the most beautiful fortified city of the Netherlands

20 KM: The Biesbosch National Park is a nature conservation area and the largest fresh water tidal zone in Europe.

45 KM: Kinderdijk, a world of windmills, water and willpower. The canals, mills and pumping stations of Kinderdijk have kept our feet dry for over 700 years.