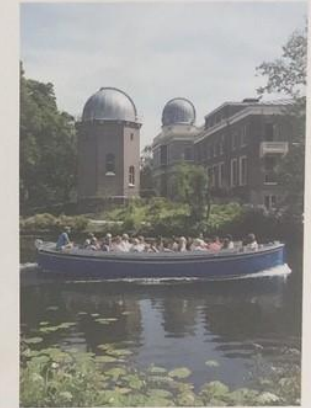


Ten good reasons to visit lovely Leiden

1. History, history, history... Situated at what has traditionally been an important junction where waterways and roads cross stands a city that will enchant you: Leiden. The city is famous for its heritage. The spirit of the Golden Age lives on here, a place where Rembrandt was born and inspired so many other influential painters. But even after this era Leiden continued to attract scientists, artists and industry: the treasures of knowledge, culture and science. Leiden is definitely worth seeing.
2. After Amsterdam, Leiden is the city with the most canals; the city's historic centre has more than 28 kilometres of canals and waterways. To cross all these waterways you obviously need bridges, and Leiden has no less than 88!
3. The Burcht van Leiden (Fort of Leiden) is one of the oldest remaining forts in Holland, located in the city centre.
4. The historic harbour at Kort Galgewater is reserved for older commercial vessels predating 1940. Nine such ships are currently moored in the harbour, and together they create a gorgeous scene.
5. Leiden has 13 fantastic museums all within walking distance of each other.
6. Rapenburg canal was dug to ensure that Leiden could be well defended. In the 17th century it developed into the most important and fashionable canal in the entire city, home to rich merchants and famous professors. Princess Beatrix, King Willem-Alexander and other members of the Royal Family lived on Rapenburg canal during their studies, and Leiden University's Academy Building, the National Museum of Antiquities, the Hortus botanicus Leiden, Japan Museum SieboldHuis and many student houses are located there today.
7. The Old Observatory of Leiden is the oldest still existing university observatory in the world.
8. There are 35 groups of almshouses in the city centre of Leiden. They are all idyllic places, where the noise of the town is shut out and where it feels like time has stood still. The courtyards known by the names of St Annahofje or Almoeshuis (built in 1492) are among the oldest in Leiden.
9. The Pilgrim Fathers lived in Leiden for 12 years (1609-1620) and left their mark. Read more on this below.
10. Leiden is close to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. Some famous Dutch yards are also close by, including the Feadship yard at Kaag (five miles from Leiden and also accessible from Leiden by water) and Mulder Shipyards (also just five miles).



Rembrandtspiegel Leiden



The international reputation of Leiden as a leading city of knowledge was established over centuries. As the City of Discoveries, Leiden has produced many Nobel Prize winners and to this day, new discoveries are being made within its borders: at Leiden University, at the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) and at the Bio Science Park. In addition to first-class knowledge, Leiden has much to offer as an attractive city as well: from an eminent cultural heritage and an impressive history in art and science to a lively historic city centre with points of interest within walking distance.

Walking through Leiden's well-preserved historic centre, with many canals, myriad small streets, alleys and courtyards as well as over 3,000 monumental buildings. It is also a city of museums. Featuring Naturalis, the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, National Museum of Ethnology, Museum De Lakenhal, Japanmuseum SieboldHuis, the Pilgrim Museum, Boerhaave Museum and CORPUS 'journey through the human body', it boasts the highest density of any city in the Netherlands. Add in Leiden's performance arts, literature, film and heritage, and you will see why it is the fourth city of culture in Holland.



THE YEAR 2020: CELEBRATING 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAYFLOWER SAILING TO AMERICA

The Pilgrims were English Protestants who fled England to escape the oppressive regime of James I and the Anglican established church. They lived and worked in Leiden from 1609 to 1620 when groups of Pilgrims started travelling on to North America: the 'New World'. There, people still celebrate Thanksgiving Day in memory of the Pilgrims' ordeals and eventual deliverance. Their influence on the future United States has been great and no fewer than seven American Presidents are direct descendants of the Leiden Pilgrims. A Pilgrim Tour tells the story of the Pilgrims themselves and the 17th century Leiden that was their home.

In 2020, the United Kingdom, United States of America and Holland will jointly commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to America, the ship that carried the Pilgrim Fathers: settlers of the first permanent colony at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

leiden.nl

PLANNING A VISIT?

- 2017 Theme Year Mondrian to Dutch Design
- 2018 Theme Year Leiden, City of Water
- 2019 Theme Year Rembrandt
- 2020 Theme Year Leiden & Pilgrims, 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to America