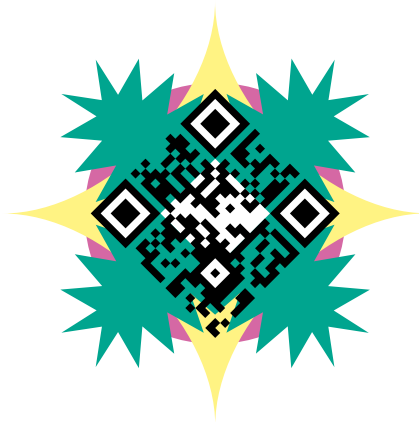


Traces of migration in Leiden

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Leiden saw a large influx of refugees. Among these migrants were French protestants (Huguenots) who left their places of origin as well as inhabitants of the Southern Low Countries (Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges) who had fled the violence of the Eighty Years' War (also called the Dutch Revolt).

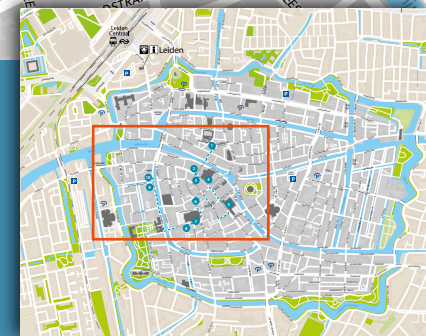
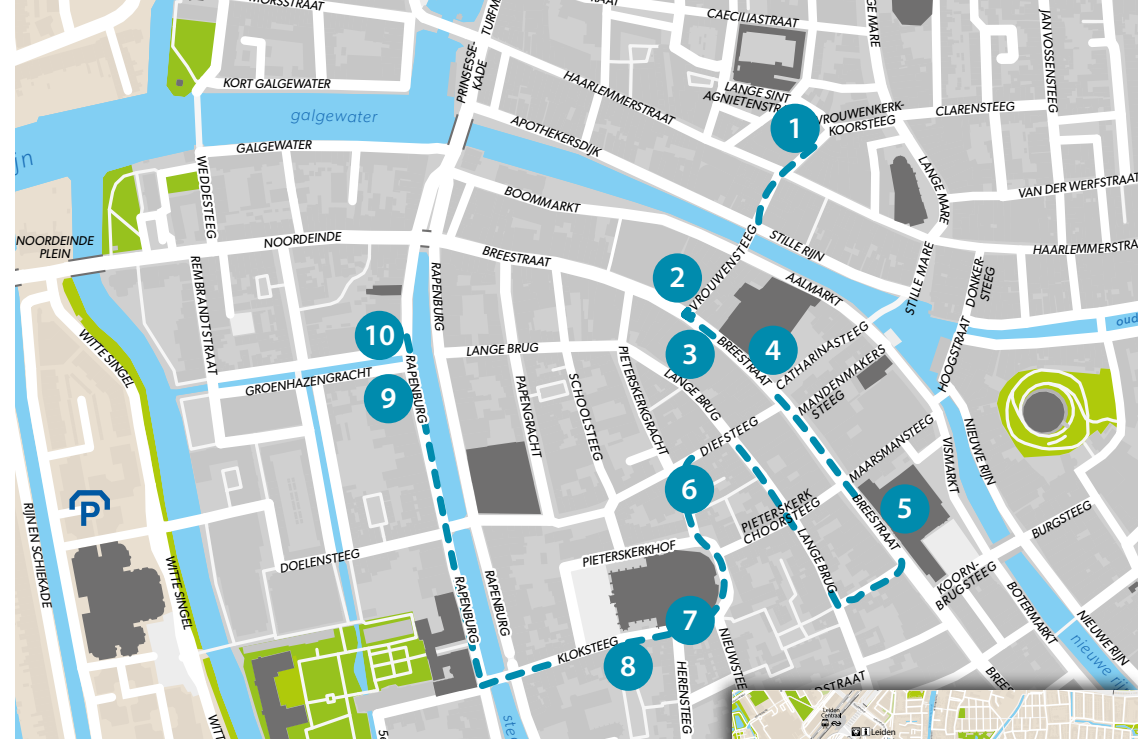
This tour takes you along various places in Leiden that are related to migrants who were of importance to the city.



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Photos: Pim Rusch

This Leiden City World Walk is offered to you by



1. Remnants Vrouwekerk, Vrouwenkerkhof
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3. Former residence Lipsius, Breestraat 55
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1 Remnants Vrouwekerk, Vrouwenkerkhof

At the Vrouwenkerkhof, we can still see the remnants of the Vrouwekerk (Church of our Lady), a church built in the fourteenth century. After its partial destruction by Spanish cannonballs during the Siege of Leiden in the 1570s, the building was purchased by a wealthy woman who supported the Protestant migrants from France and Southern Netherlands. From 1584 onward, the building was used as a Walloon church, and French was spoken during services. In the nineteenth century, the church was demolished, as it had fallen into demise. The Vrouwekerk was also the site where Carolus Clusius (1526-1609) was buried. Clusius was a Francophone Protestant humanist from the Southern Low Countries. He played a key role in the circulation and popularization of the potato from South America and the Turkish tulip. In 1819, his grave was relocated to the Pieterskerk.



EEN KAPEL AAN DE MAAGD MARIA GEWID, DE VROUWEKERK, IS HIER OMSTREKS 1330 GEBOUWD. TOEN DIT GEBIED BIJ DE STAD WERD INGEHELD, WERD DE VROUWEKERK DE DIERDE PAROCHIEKERK VAN LEIDEN GEWORDEN. NA DE REFORMATIE WERD DE KERK IN 1584 AAN DE NIEUWE FRANSE VLUCHTELINGEGEMEENTE, DE WAAELSE KERK, TOEGEWEEZEN. DEZE TELDE ROND DE 6000 LEDEN IN DE 17^{de} EEUW, EN KREEG IN 1638 OOK HET GEBRUIK VAN EEN KAPEL OP DE BREESTRAAT. ONDER HUN DOMINERS WAREN DE THEOLOGEN GOMARUS EN TRELCAIUS. TUSSEN DE LEDEN VAN DE WAAELSE KERK, BEVONDEN ZICH OOK DE LATERE 'MAYFLOWER' PASSAGIER ERANCOIS COUCHE, ALS MEDE ZIJN VROUW ESTHER MAHIEU EN HUN NEFF PHILIPPE DE LANOV. HIER IN 1603 GEDOORT, ZIJ EN ENKELE ANDERE WALEN EMIGREERDEN NAAR DE NIEUW-KOLONIE PLAMOUTH IN NIEUW-ENGELAND. ZIJ WERDEN DE VOORLOPERS VAN DE AMERIKANSE PRESIDENTEN GRANT BUSH, EN FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT. JESSE DE FOREST, LEIDER VAN DE EERSTE KOLONISTEN VAN GUYANA EN NIEUW-AMSTERDAM (TEGENWOORDIG NEW YORK), WAS OOK LID VAN DEZE WAAELSE GEMEENTE. WEGENS TERUGLOPENDE LEDENMANTALLEN EN

A CHAPEL DEDICATED TO THE VIRGIN MARY WAS BUILT AROUND 1330, CALLED THE VROUWEKERK (CHURCH OF OUR LADY). THE VROUWEKERK BECAME THE THIRD PARISH AFTER THE ABOLITION OF THE ABBEY AS PART OF THE CITY OF LEIPE. AFTER THE REFORMATION, IN 1584 THE CHURCH WAS ASSIGNED TO THE NEW FRENCH REFORMED CONGREGATION (THE WALLOON CHURCH). THEY NUMBERED AS MANY AS 6000 MEMBERS IN THE 17th CENTURY AND WERE GRANTED AN ADDITIONAL CHAPEL ON THE BREESTRAAT IN 1638. PASTORS INCLUDED THE THEOLOGIANS GOMARUS AND TRELCAIUS. AMONG MEMBERS OF THE WALLOON CHURCH WERE 'MAYFLOWER' PASSENGER ERANCOIS COUCHE AND HIS WIFE ESTHER MAHIEU, AS WELL AS THEIR NEPHEW PHILIPPE DE LANOV, BAPTIZED HERE IN 1603. THEY WERE AMONG WALLOONS WHO JOINED THE PILGRIMS OF PLIMMOUTH COLONY IN NEW ENGLAND. THEIR DESCENDANTS INCLUDE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS GRANT BUSH, AND FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT. JESSE DE FOREST, LEADER OF THE COLONISTS WHO FIRST SETTLED GUYANA AND NEW AMSTERDAM (NOW CALLED NEW YORK CITY), WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH. BECAUSE OF DIMINISHING NUMBERS AND THE DEDICATION OF THE VROUWEKERK, THE WALLOONS WITHDREW IN 1819 TO THEIR OTHER CHAPEL AT THE BREESTRAAT WHERE SERVICES IN FRENCH CONTINUE.

2 Former print shop Plantijn, Breestraat 50

The building situated at Breestraat nr. 50 is now the property of a student fraternity, Minerva. However, in the early modern period, the print shop of the Frenchman Christophe Plantin (1520-1589) was located here. Plantin had established himself in Antwerp in 1555, where he became one of the most important printers of the Low Countries. In 1576 he moved to Leiden, most likely for reasons related to the Eighty Years' War. In Leiden, Plantin became the university printer, as well as the official printer of the States General. One of his most famous publications is the King's Bible which he printed between 1568 and 1572 with support from the Spanish king Philip II. This Bible was printed in multiple languages, including Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Syrian, and Hebrew, allowing its readers to compare the different versions. This polyglot Bible earned Plantin the title of royal printer.



3 Former residence Lipsius, Breestraat 55

Breestraat nr. 55 is the site of the former residence of Justus Lipsius, an important sixteenth-century humanist, philologist and historiographer from the Southern Low Countries. He studied at the university of Leuven

but left the war-torn South and became a professor in Leiden. In 1575, one year after the Siege of Leiden, the city received its university and tried to attract prestigious scholars to fill its various chairs. Lipsius was one of them. One of his students was Maurice, the son of William of Orange. Lipsius published various books with Plantin (see point 2), and was appointed rector magnificus (president) of the university no less than four times.



4 Walloon church, Breestraat 60

In 1638, the Église wallonne de Leyde, or Walloon church of Leiden, was given to Protestants who had fled from the Southern Netherlands and France. Since the thirteenth century, the building belonged to the St. Catharine's guesthouse that provided shelter to the poor, the homeless, and the sick of the city. It had originally been a Catholic church, but mass was officially abolished by the States of Holland in 1573. Eleven years later, the building officially became a Walloon (i.e. Francophone) church. When the Vrouwekerk (point 1) had become too small because of the large influx of migrants, services were held here. The Walloon Church in the Breestraat is still in use today and, honoring its tradition, its services are held in French.



5 City Hall, Breestraat 102

Leiden's city hall in the Breestraat is built in the style of the Northern Renaissance. After the Siege of Leiden in 1574, a new monumental façade was commissioned. It was designed by Lieven de Key, a famous stonemason from Ghent, who had fled north during the troubles of the Eighty Years' War. He settled in Haarlem, where he quickly built a reputation as an architect. His fame spread to other cities in Holland, which explains why Leiden's city hall now features the longest Renaissance façade in the Netherlands.



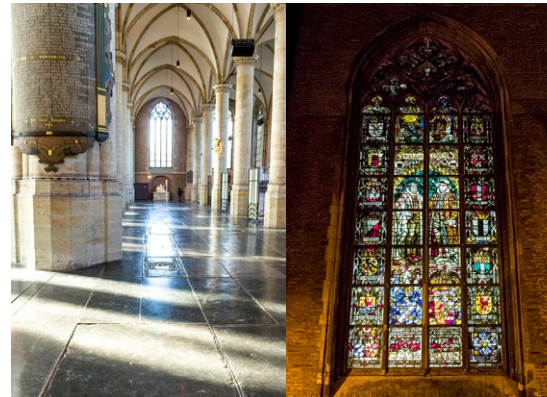
6 Jean Michelhof, Pieterskerkstraat 10

The Jean Michelhof is one of Leiden's 35 'hofjes', small courtyard gardens surrounded by almshouses. This courtyard was founded in 1687 by Catharina Geschier, widow of Jan Michielsz, both of whom were Protestant Walloon refugees. The spouses had promised each other that whoever would outlive the other would establish an almshouse. After Jan Michielsz's death, his widow Catharina kept her promise but added the condition that only members of the Walloon (Francophone) community would be allowed to live here. The Jean Michel Court knows various traditions: it is customary that new residents offer a feast to the other inhabitants. This custom was abolished in 1757, but in 2018, the student residents restored it. Another tradition was the delivery of free beer to the residents. This custom was abolished after complaints about the poor quality of the brews that were provided.



7 Pieterskerk, Kloksteeg 16

The Pieterskerk (St. Peter's Church) in Leiden was first used for a Protestant service in 1572, after the city had chosen the side of William of Orange and embraced Protestantism. Because of this confessional shift, Leiden became a destination of French and Southern Netherlandish Protestant migrants. The choir of the church contains the so-called Marnix Window, a memorial stained glass window honoring Philips of Marnix, lord of Saint Aldegonde (c. 1538-1598), who was William of Orange's right-hand man. Marnix had been a student of Calvin's, whose lessons and religious convictions he applied in his work as an advisor of the leader of the Dutch Revolt. After the Iconoclastic Fury of 1566, which triggered strong repressive measures by king Philip II, Marnix fled to Bremen before entering Orange's service in 1571. Many streets in the Netherlands carry Marnix's name and he was long thought to be the author of the Dutch national anthem. However, his authorship is now questioned.



8 Jan Pesijnhof, Kloksteeg 21

This 'hofje' was formerly known as the court behind the 'English gate', since in 1611 a group of English puritans practiced their faith here. The current Jan Pesijnhof was founded in 1683 by a Huguenot couple, Jan Pesijn and Marie de Lannoy. They intended the court for 'des vieilles gens mariés de la nation wallonne', that is, 'old married people from the Walloon (i.e. French) nation'. The couple wished to provide shelter and comfort to French protestants who had been driven



from their homeland. In this sense, this almshouse was not only the home of a religious but also a linguistic community. Many of the courtyard almshouses founded throughout Leiden in the seventeenth century welcomed religious refugees from the Southern Low Countries and France.

9 Bibliotheca Thysiana, Rapenburg 25

The library at Rapenburg 25 was founded in the seventeenth century by Johannes Thysius (1622-1653). It is considered one of the oldest libraries where books can be consulted in the room in which they are stored. Johannes Thysius was a rich Protestant whose grandparents had fled from Antwerp in the sixteenth century. Thysius came to Leiden to study arts and



law in 1635. The wealth he inherited from his parents enabled him to dedicate his life to collecting books. Thysius's contribution to the local academic community is considerable: the library currently holds around 2500 books and pamphlets, which are now part of the collection of the Leiden University Library and can still be consulted by students and researchers.

10 Former residence Descartes, Rapenburg 21

The stately townhouse at Rapenburg 21 was once the home of René Descartes (1596-1650). This French philosopher, known for his famous words "I think, therefore I am", lived in Leiden for some time in the 1630s. An important motive for his stay in the Dutch Republic was believed to be the absence of distractions from his Parisian life.

Moreover, Descartes appreciated the relatively tolerant environment in which he could express his philosophical ideas without risking persecution. A plaque on the building now commemorates Descartes's stay at the Rapenburg.



This Leiden City World Walk was created by Leiden University – Faculty of Humanities in collaboration with LeidenGlobal