

# Origins and growth, sieges and glory days

In the old heart of the town, you're taken back hundreds of years.



The cobbled streets lined with 17th and 18th century houses, narrow alleyways and impressive monuments recreate a bygone era. Each tells a part of the Grave's rich and turbulent history.

## Castle on the river

In the 12th century, the lords of Cuijk built a castle at the mouth of the river Raam, the only spot on the banks of the Maas in the Land of Cuijk offering suitable moorings. A settlement grew around the castle, and Grave was born.



## Seven sieges

In the 13th century, Grave was granted city rights. In the centuries that followed, the town experienced no fewer than seven heavy sieges, including occupation and destruction by the Spanish and the French. But as the Grave anthem proudly declares: "Time after time, our brave little town re-emerged in freedom."



## Ideal trade route

From the middle ages, Grave grew into a prosperous trading town. This is reflected in many of the town's historic monuments. The Maas is still an important trade route, as well as a beautiful tourist spot.



# Discover Grave and Land van Cuijk

[beleefhistorischgrave.nl](http://beleefhistorischgrave.nl)  
[landvancuijk.nl](http://landvancuijk.nl)



## Tourist Information

Be sure to visit Tourist Information Grave in the Old Town Hall. There's a wide selection of leaflets and guides, and our team will be happy to help and advise you. You'll also find other tourist information points in the Graafs Museum, Motel Koolen in Velp and in other towns in Land van Cuijk: Boxmeer, Cuijk, Sint Anthonis and Mill & Sint Hubert.

## Guided walks

Learn all about our rich and often turbulent history, and discover the hidden gems of historic Grave with the help of an expert guide. You can book a guided tour at the tourist information office. The team can also arrange refreshments and other activities. For further details, contact: T +31 (0)486 87 00 67 or email [toerismegrave@outlook.com](mailto:toerismegrave@outlook.com).

## Location



This flyer has been produced thanks to the cooperation of the municipality of Grave, Historic Grave Platform for Tourism & Recreation, ja Natuurlijk, Centrummanagement Grave, Weijsters & Kooij vormgevers, CumLingua Language & Communication and Graeft Voort • Photography: Ed van Alem, Marco van den Broek, Photography Club De Soos Grave, Anneke Gambon, Graafs Museum, Bas Jansen, W&K • Tips or suggestions: mail to [info@centrumgrave.nl](mailto:info@centrumgrave.nl) | © 2018 Subject to change

# EXPERIENCE HISTORIC GRAVE

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This picturesque fortified town on the Maas has surprised and fascinated friend and foe for centuries. Today, its historic monuments; famous festivals and events; characteristic shops, terraces and restaurants await you.

**Come and Experience Historic Grave!**



## Enjoy Grave past and present

### Characteristic shops

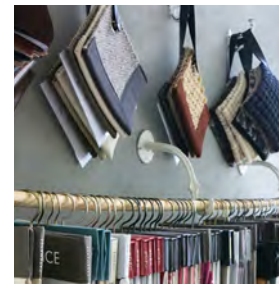
Centuries-old buildings with decorated gables are home to a surprising range of specialist local retailers: art & antiques, delicatessen, shoes & clothes, flowers & gifts, homeopathic products, home interiors, and many more, stand alongside well-known Dutch high-street stores. On Friday mornings, the bustling market adds to the unique atmosphere in the old town.

### Picturesque terraces & culinary delights

Unwind on a terrace as the boats go by. Or people watch in the heart of the town. Relax in one of the cosy bars. Or enjoy local and international culinary delights in the excellent restaurants. Come and experience the famous Brabant hospitality for yourself in this unique historic setting!

### Accommodation

Whether it's a characteristic farmhouse or town centre B&B you're looking for, or a motel setting, a warm and friendly welcome awaits you. For details of the range of places to stay in Grave, check out [beleefhistorischgrave.nl](http://beleefhistorischgrave.nl)



## Events

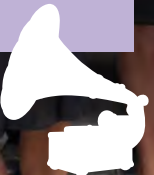
Throughout the year, Grave offers all kinds of events that attract visitors young and old, from far and wide. Which one will you choose?

### In 2018

**7 + 8 April** Historic Festival  
**18-21 May** Whitsun Festival  
**22-24 June** Concours Hippique  
**23 June** The Night of the Good Life  
**1 July** 'Tear-jerkers' Choirs Festival  
**10 + 11 August** Balloon Festival  
**2 September** Specialist Beers Festival  
**8 + 9 September** Open Monument Days  
**15-17 September** Market Garden Commemorations  
**18 November** Arrival of Saint Nicholas  
**24 +25 November** Winterfair

### More information

You'll find details of all the events, (in Dutch), as well as photos on:  
[beleefhistorischgrave.nl/evenementen](http://beleefhistorischgrave.nl/evenementen)





# Monuments in Grave 9 top tips

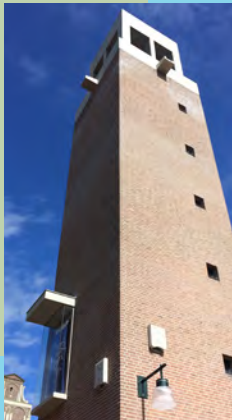
## Saint Elisabeth's Church 1

Saint Elisabeth's Catholic church dates back to 1250. Much has changed of the original construction. Nevertheless, 'the Elisabeth', as she is fondly referred to by locals, is still an important feature of the picturesque fortified town. The lofty nave and beautifully carved pulpit are stunning. And be sure to look up at the impressive Smits organ. For more information (in Dutch), see [st-elisabethkerk.nl](http://st-elisabethkerk.nl)



## Belfort 4

The Belfort in the heart of the town was built in the functional, post-war Bossche School style. This old bell tower will take on a new role as a watch tower, giving visitors stunning views over the historic rooftops of Grave, the river Maas and its floodplains.



## Arsenaal 7

This impressive complex was once partly used as a coach house for the castle. When this was destroyed during the siege of Grave in 1674, the ground was raised to create artillery positions. From the top of the mound, 'the Kat', take in the fabulous views over the town and surrounding countryside to the spires of Old Velp.



## Old Velp: monasteries & small church 8

Cycle or walk past the Kazemat-ten and Sasse pumping station along the dyke to Old Velp. The three church towers are prominent on the horizon, inviting visitors to the former monasteries of the Redemptoristine nuns, and Franciscan monks. The small Vincentius church is now an arts centre. For the latest exhibitions and concerts, see [kunstinhetkerkje.nl](http://kunstinhetkerkje.nl)



## Old Town Hall 5

The first Grave town hall was built on this spot in the 13th century. The historic building has been restored to its 1730 state, and is, not-surprisingly, a popular venue for marriage ceremonies. It is also home to Tourist Information Grave, where a warm welcome awaits you.



## Maaspoort (Maas Gate) 2

For centuries, many a captain would moor his vessel here, to trade grain, salt, coal, cheese, wine, herring, slate and other valuable cargo. The Maaspoort was their gateway to the fortified town. Today, it provides the backdrop for various water-front events, including the arrival of Sint Nicolas by steamboat in mid-November each year.



## Hampoort (Ham Gate) 6

This Unesco monument from 1688 is part of the original fortifications. It is now home to the guild of the town guard musket bearers as well as the Graafs Museum. 'A Window on the Graafs Heritage' tells the town's story, from the stone age to present day. Check out the website for details of temporary exhibitions and opening times [graafsmuseum.nl](http://graafsmuseum.nl)



## Casemate bunkers 9

Constructed in 1936 to protect the Grave bridge, these military bunkers still have the same extensive view as then. The importance of the simple yet highly effective structures during Operation Market Garden and the liberation of Grave is undisputed. They are now a museum well-worth visiting. For opening times, see [graafskazemattenmuseum.nl](http://graafskazemattenmuseum.nl)



## Bagijnen Church 3

Now home to the Protestant church and a multifunctional community centre, this former chapel dates back to 1526. It lies in a historic spot in the heart of Grave, next to the old beguinage (Beguine courtyard) that originates from the end of the 13th century.

