

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." Together with 10 other fortified towns, Grave is part of the important Dutch defences known as the Southern Waterline: the oldest, longest and most utilised waterline in the Netherlands.



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
[f/beleefhistorischgrave](https://www.facebook.com/beleefhistorischgrave)
landvancuijk.nl



Tourist Information

Don't forget to visit Tourist Information Grave Southern Water line visitor's centre in the historical townhall. Here, you'll find an extensive selection of brochures and guides, and the team will be happy to help you. Other tourist meeting points can be found at Catharinahof (on Koninginnedijk), Motel Koolen (in Velp) and in other venues across the Land van Cuijk region: 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.

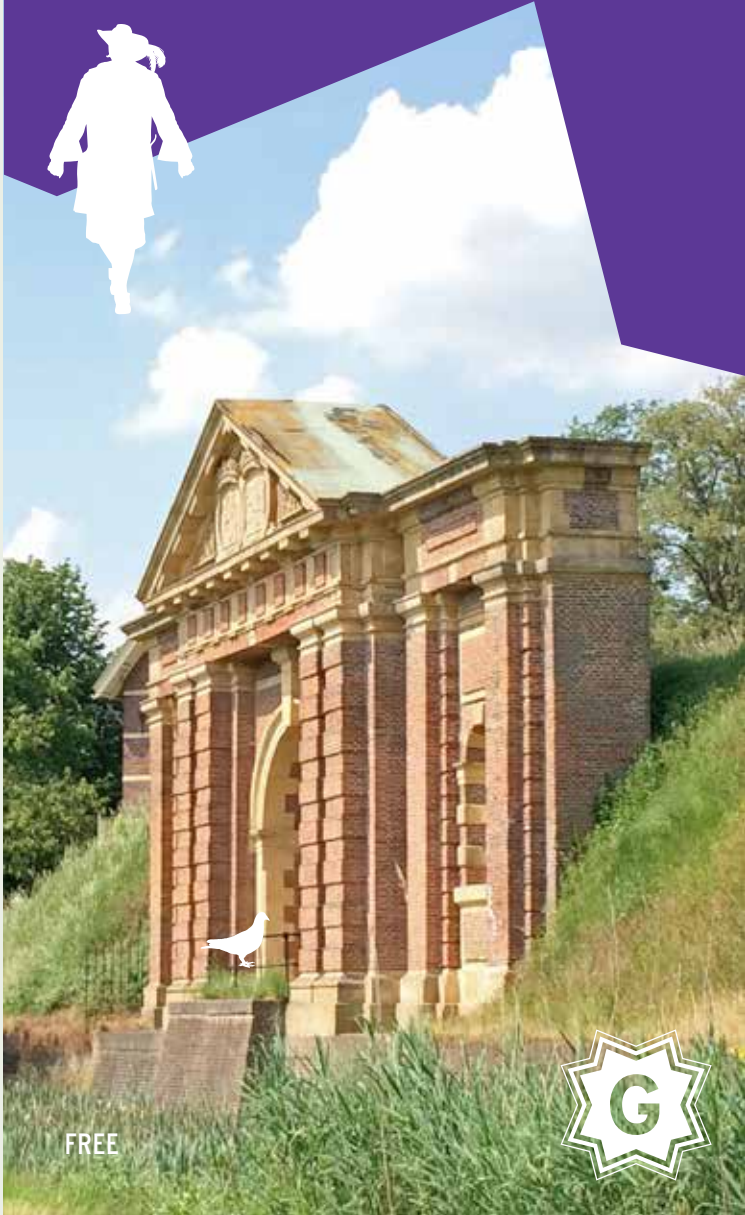
Location



This flyer has been produced thanks to the cooperation of the municipality of Grave, Platform for Tourism & Recreation, Grave Promotie, 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: info@gravepromotie.nl | © 2019 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

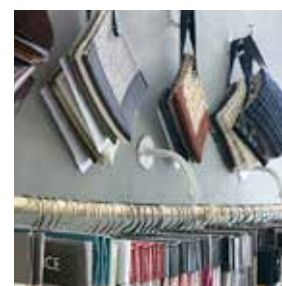
Centuries-old buildings with decorated gables are home to a surprising range of specialist local retailers: art & antiques, delicatessen, shoes & clothes, flowers & gifts, homeopathic products, home interiors, and many more, stand alongside well-known Dutch high-street stores. On Friday mornings, the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



Events

Throughout the year, events in Grave attract people of all ages, from far and wide. When can we welcome you?

In 2019

- 7 April** Historic Spectacle
- 7 - 10 June** Whitsun Festivities
- 28-30 June** Equestrian Festival
- 4 July** Outdoor concert (bring your own chair)
- 7 July** 'Tearjerkers' Song Festival
- 19 July** Nijmegen Four-Day Walk passing through
- 9 + 10 August** Hot-air balloon Festival
- 1 September** Speciality Beer Festival
- 7 September** Civil Guard's King Marksman Festival
- 13-22 September** Market Garden Remembrance Event
- 14 + 15 September** Monument Weekend
- 17 September** Liberation of Grave Remembrance Day
- 17 November** Saint Nicholas Procession
- 23 + 24 November** Winter Fair



More information

You'll find details of all the events, (in Dutch), as well as photos on:
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



Belfort (Bell tower) 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 Kazematten 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



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. This is also where you'll find Tourist Information Grave and the Southern Water Line visitor's centre. For more information, see zuiderwaterlinie.nl



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. The permanent exhibition 'A Window onto the Graafs Heritage' takes you back in time through the history of Grave: from the stone age to present day. There are also changing exhibits. You'll find more information on graafsmuseum.nl and cloveniersgildegrave.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



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.

