

English translation

Experience & Taste Sint-Annaland

The 'Experience & Taste Sint-Annaland' card is located at various points in Sint-Annaland. The outline of this card is in four languages (Dutch/German/English/French). You can print the text or keep it on your smartphone so that you can read the explanations of the various sights during your walking route through the village.

Sint-Annaland

A pearl at the Oosterschelde

Anyone, who is visiting Sint-Annaland cannot ignore the large marina. This tidal harbor is located at the Krabbenkreek and is directly connected to the Oosterschelde, the largest National Park in the Netherlands. The marina and its facilities are very popular and gives the village a dynamic atmosphere.

Besides the marina, Sint-Annaland has so much more to offer. It is one of the liveliest and most active places on the island Tholen. Due to their many associations and clubs in the village, social life is enhanced and the solidarity among the inhabitants is great.

Sint-Annaland was founded in 1475. The old center is characterized as a "Ring-Voorstraat" village which is typical for the 15th century which you often can encounter in this region. The church is always placed in the middle surrounded by a ring of living-houses, shops and former farms. From here the representative "Voorstraat" (mainstreet) with larger houses leads to the old trading port at the other end, where you find now a big new square. The merchant vessel were later replaced by pleasure boating. Sint-Annaland has an agricultural character and is proud of it's last remaining and only potato auction in the Netherlands. Recreation and tourism plays an increasingly important role in the local economy and enterprising Sint-Annaland is reacting to this. We are happy to introduce you to our village. Please recommend us to further visitors!

The sights during the walking route

1. STARTING POINT: REGIONAL MUSEUM "DE MEESTOOF"

We will start our walking route from the Streekmuseum "De Meestooft", located at Bierensstraat 6. This building was created in 1940 and served first as town hall until the municipal reorganization in 1971. Afterwards, the building was given a different purpose and since 1973 it is the home of the regional museum features several outbuildings, including a craft shed and one old classroom. The Norwegian house next to to the main building was donated in 1953 after the big storm flood as emergency accomodation for homeless families is also worth to see. Visiting the museum is more than worth it since you will learn everything about this region and it's history. We will follow now the walking direction as indicated on the road map. This tour also ends here. Afterwards you can look around in the museum.

2. THE ORPHANAGE

From the museum the route goes in the right direction of the Bierensstraat. The mansion with the No. 24 built in 1897 served as orphanage until 1957. Afterwards, a sailing school was established here. The trust of orphans and poor built the house served as notary's office (No. 26) and the house No. 28 next to it, which was rented out for private use first. Later, this building was used as a bank. Today, all these properties are in private ownership.

3. MILL 'DE VIER WINDEN'

This round tower mill called 'The four winds' in popular speech also known as "De Meule van Breäs", dates from 1847. Continuing the walk, you will pass the retirement and nursing home named "De Schutse". It was created in 1968 and renovated completely in 2005.

4. MILL ON THE MOLENDIJK

In earlier times, it used to be very busy on the Molendijk being the shopping street of Sint-Annaland. In the last century, this elevated dike street had not less than 20 shops. Everything was for sale, e.g. bread, meat, vegetables, sweets, household goods, and so on. If you pay attention to certain facades and the shapes of former shop windows it is clearly visible that they were shops before. The last one was in house No. 24 existing from 1860 to 1987.

There was also a lot of activity in the flour mill. It dates from 1684, making it the oldest mill in the province of Zeeland.

This is the only closed standard mill in the province and has never been inhabited. To protect against the weather and to create additional storage space, the trestle was provided with a housing, which is referred to as "closed". When the miller is present on Saturdays you can also look around inside. It is a unique piece of heritage.

5. PORT

From the top of the stairs you have a wide nice view of the marina in one direction and on the big new square in the opposite direction, where the old harbor used to be, which was built in 1476 at the end of a long trench. A lively trade developed here with Holland, Flanders and the rest of Zeeland. The harbor basin was constructed together with the embankment of the Suzanna polder in 1670. After the big flood of 1953, the dike was raised, while the old harbor was filled up, and so this square called 'Havenplein' was created. A new harbor/marina outside was then built outside of the dikes. In 1963, the founding year of the water sports association, sport and leisure boaters were given space in the commercial harbor. The trading port existed until 2006. Now the marina has 320 berths and more than 200 meters of jetty for passers-by.

6. MAINSTREET (VOORSTRAAT) AND NUN'S HOUSE (NONNETJESHUIS)

Before you enter the 'Voorstraat' you will see the old courthouse (1728) at the corner of the former harbor and Molendijk. Later, from 1854 on it served as city hall (nowadays bistro). This building was largely destroyed during the big flood of 1953. Several monumental buildings with beautiful facades can be found in Voorstraat. For example, No. 38, also called 'Nonnetjeshuis' with its stepped gable deriving from the first half of the 17th century. On May 23, 1692, a big fire raged in the village, destroying almost all homes. The Nonnetjeshuis was spared. Nowadays, most of the shops are located in the Voorstraat.

7. REFORMED CHURCH

The first parochial church was consecrated in 1486 in the center of the 'Ring'. The founding of a Crosier monastery followed in 1492. Two years later (1494), a new Gothic Cross Church was built and dedicated to Saint Anna. It was also used as a monastery church from 1505 onwards. The monastery was closed around 1550. In 1586, the church was taken over by the Protestants. The church was spared during the village fire of 1692. In 1898, the church was demolished and replaced by a new church building completed in 1899. A canal was running around the church and the cemetery until 1936. A transept was added in 1957, which gave the building the shape of a Cross Church again. The church has approximately 950 seats.

8. SCHERMERSPAD

The Schermerspad is a small cross connection between the Ring and the Bierensstraat and was mentioned first in 1881. The name may be related to the military barracks and weapons depot that

used to be behind the church. In the early 17th century, soldiers were housed here to protect Sint-Annaland during the 80 year war with Spain.

9. OLD CEMETRY AND WAR GRAVES

Next to old family burial places, also the graves of three British soldiers, fallen shortly before the end of the Second World War on January 17, 1945, can be found. Their story is told in the current exhibiton '75 years of freedom' in the adjacent museum.