

More information about Old Holland?

Pay a visit to one of the tourist information centres (VVV)

Beemster Visitor Centre

Middenweg 185, 1462 HJ Middenbeemster

Opening hours:

April to October:
Tuesday – Sunday 10:00 - 16:00 uur

October to April:
Friday – Sunday 13:00 - 16:00

For information about Purmerend and surroundings go to www.vvvpurmerend.nl or scan the QR code



Remarkable tree walk

2.5 kilometres



1 Double-flowered Horse Chestnuts

In the middle of the Beatrixplein, two double-flowered horse chestnuts are real eye-catchers. The white 'candles' that adorn the trees in May/June are especially remarkable.

2 Ash

On the Wilhelminalaan you pass right by one of the largest ash trees in Purmerend. This is no less than 17 metres tall and it has lots of 'water shoots', which are a sign of age.

3 Beech

To the right of the former school building is a massive beech with a trunk circumference of no less than 3.5 metres.

4 Wingnut

There is a monumental wingnut left of the building. The tree is originally from the Caucasus area.

5 Plane

There is a beautiful plane tree at the beginning of the park. Plane trees are capable of withstanding the urban climate and can easily reach a height of 25 to 35 metres.

6 Oak-leaved Beech

Don't be fooled! This is not an oak, it's a beech with leaves that closely resemble those of an oak tree. Hence the name.

7 Black Birch

This really is a birch, but it doesn't have a white bark.

8 Dutch Lime

The Dutch lime is the result of an ancient cross between the small-leaved lime and the summer lime. There's an impressive row of them in front of you here.

9 Juliana Lime

This lime tree, on the corner of the Julianapleintje (Juliana Square), is of special significance. It was named in honour of the birth of Princess Juliana.

10 Single-leaf Ash

This group of ash trees is quite unusual. The name says it: they are single-leaved and were once called 'Monophylla', literally, one-leaf.

11 Common Oak

This common oak or pedunculate oak, is very robust and monumental.

12 Mountain Maple

The red leaves of the mountain maple immediately catch the eye. And who isn't familiar with the helicopters?

13 Irish Yew

Is it a tree or a shrub? This wonderful yew has an ascending shape and the young needles have a yellow edge. Truly amazing!

14 Hungarian Oak

Unfortunately, the Hungarian oak that was planted here in honour of the 50,000th inhabitant of Purmerend, did not survive a major renovation of the square. But this younger specimen is just as beautiful.

15 Chinese Varnish tree

In the autumn, the yellow flowers of this tree are followed by typical 'swollen' fruits that look a lot like lanterns.

16 Amur Cork tree

The older this tree gets, the more cork-like the bark becomes. Amur refers to the catchment area of the Amur River in Asia where it was discovered.

17 Bee trees

In a few years, these two young bee trees will form a beautiful green archway. They bloom late, in July and August, and have beautiful plumes with white flowers.

18 Field Maple

Make sure you bend down on time for this beautiful field maple.

20 Holly

This holly is more than 100 years old and has three trunks. In winter it is filled with red berries.

21 Black Tupelo tree

This tree is standing where it needs to, in somewhat soggy soil. It is a real eye-catcher, especially in the autumn, with its brightly coloured leaves.

22 Hanging Silver Lime

The deep-hanging branches of this lime do justice to its name.

23 Ash-leaved Maple

This very wide tree with strong trunks is now quite elderly.

24 Christine Buisman Elm

These seven, very rare elms are named after Christine Buisman, who carried out ground-breaking research into elm disease. There are three varieties. Can you see the difference?

25 Robinia

The Robinia can be found right behind the ... Robiniastate and flowers from May right through to July.

26 Japanese Walnut tree

In line with the bridge are two groups of Japanese walnut trees: Ginkgo. These trees already existed in prehistoric times and even survived the dinosaurs!

27 Brown Beech

A striking feature of this beech is the red-leaved foliage that draws attention for a large part of the year.

28 Grey Poplar

The leaf of this poplar has a greyish underside, which creates pretty colour effects in the wind.

29 Japanese Ornamental Cherry

In the spring, this tree is one massive cloud of pink blossom, and has a slightly almond-like aroma.

30 Katsura tree

The leaves of this group of Katsura trees turn a beautiful yellow-orange in autumn.

31 King's Lime

The tree in the middle of the lawn is a King's lime. It was planted in April 2013 in honour of the inauguration of King Willem-Alexander.

32 Hornbeam

To the left of the hill you see a rather extraordinary hornbeam. It can live up to 200 years. If you don't prune it to shape, it can reach a width of up to 10 metres.

33 Caucasian Lime

The last tree on the trail is the Caucasian lime. When in bloom, this tree seems to buzz. Its late blooming and strongly fragrant flowers are brimming with nectar and make it a real magnet for insects.

Scan the QR code to view the online route with more information



3 kilometres



1 Vismarkt (Fish market)

Think of Purmerend, and the Koemarkt and the cattle trade quickly come to mind. But in the early 13th century, Purmerend was best known for fishing and the sale of Purmer eel. At that time, Purmerend was in the middle of the Beemster, Purmer and Wijde Wormer lakes that had not yet been drained. This delicious eel was in high demand, so the eel trade flourished. The pamphlets of the 'Purmer Ale' even hung on walls as far away as London. Before the Where was filled-in, the fish was freshly brought ashore here every (Tues)day.

2 Peperstraat

Look into the Peperstraat, notice how the street literally slopes upwards. The heart of the centre is higher than the rest of the city. Fortunately, for that reason, this part of Purmerend stayed dry during the flood disaster of 1916.

3 Kerkstraat

Notice that there is no church here. Many historic buildings have been replaced or have been given a different purpose. This also applies to the building of the former Catholic church. The stone section was used as the basis for Theater de Purmaryn.

4 Koemarkt (Cattle market)

Large hordes of cows filled the Koemarkt every week, ready to be sold. But there was much more than just the cattle trade. Let's not forget the cheese, fish, sheep and pigs. There was a special square for each product group. This made for a lively city. Tuesday is still market day in Purmerend. The cattle markets are now a thing of the past and as a result the 'square with the story' has been given a new purpose. The Koemarkt has become a great square for going out, with cosy cafes and nice restaurants. Lots of events also take place here. All of this means the Koemarkt is really the 'living room' of the region!

5 Information panel Purmer-Poort | Looiersplein

Purmerend is centrally located in North Holland. So, traders and consumers from all over the province came to Purmerend on Tuesday (market day). Of course, the locals were more than happy to benefit from this. On Monday evening, the best furniture from the living room was taken upstairs, sand was sprinkled on the floors and the houses on the Koemarkt were transformed into real Tuesday cafes. Traders used the cafes as their office where they completed their business transactions, and enjoyed a drink, of course. On this side of the Koemarkt, in particular, you find the nostalgic (beer) cafes of the past.

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7 Information panel Postbrug | Herengracht

8 Information panel Amsterdamsche-Poort | Tramplein

If you expect to find a tram on the Tramplein, you will be disappointed. The name comes from the time when the steam tram from Amsterdam to Alkmaar ran past Purmerend. Back then you could get to the city centre quickly from the Tramplein through one of the

City walk

3 kilometres



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laag holland

Take a walk through history

More than 400 years ago, the Purmer and the Beemster were drained and Purmerend grew from a fishing village into a real market town. Since 2022, the Beemster World Heritage Site is also part of the municipality. Discover the rich history of the city with its monuments, (filled-in) canals and public gardens. Or step straight over the bridge into the World Heritage Site with its forts, farmhouses, panoramic views and delicious local products. Just follow the signposts with coloured arrows along the way.

laag holland

Welcome in Old Holland

This is where you can find a unique piece of real Holland, in an area that is full of versatility. A beautiful landscape of peat meadows, rivers, lakes and dykes stretches north of Amsterdam. Interspersed here and there with impressive windmills, historic towns and picturesque villages. There are places that give you the idea that time has stood still. A wonderful lowland where young and old can enjoy themselves all year round.

For more information about Laag Holland on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Art on the map

3 kilometres

In the public space in Purmerend you will find no fewer than 60 works by renowned artists. This walk (blue trail) takes you through Purmerend city centre and past 17 beautiful works of art. The trail starts at the Purmerends Museum and is not (yet) signposted.

1 Loving Couple – Hans Bayens (1980)

The bronze statue, ‘Vriend paartje’ (Loving Couple), stands on the Kaasmarkt, in front of the Purmerends Museum.

2 Architects’ Plaques – Jeroen Spijker (2017, 2018 & 2019)

Jeroen Spijker immortalized famous Purmerend architects Ko Oud, Jan Stuyt and Mart Stam on these bronze plaques.

3 Good Governance – Marijke Visser and J. van Rooyen (1965)

The sandstone relief above the doors on the platform of the Purmerends Museum shows a family relaxing under the sun. Underneath it you see two governors. One looks thoughtful, the other serious.

4 The Actor – Frank Rosen (1998)

This coloured glass appliqué is on the facade of Theater De Purmaryn.

5 Earth and Water – Nic Jonk (1976)

This bronze statue depicts a stylized female figure (the Earth), reclining on the back of a dolphin, wrestling with the swell of the water.

6 Cow – Jans van Baarsen (2001)

The bronze cow’s head was placed on the facade of the building on the corner in 2001. Behind it there’s a time capsule, with ideas of what people thought Purmerend might look like in 35 years. In 2036, the municipality will receive the key.

7 Cows – Hans Kuyper (2009)

This group of bronze statues evokes memories of the former cattle market. It has since become an icon of the city.

8 Mart Stam bench – Mart Stam (1926) and Hans van Houwelingen (2010)

The Purmerend architect created this monumental concrete bench in 1926 in memory of local GP Dr. Maats.

9 Pride – Modern Murals (2022)

This rainbow has been put on the wall using a print-technique and contains the text of Article 1 of the

Constitution. It is Purmerend’s way of showing that it is against the exclusion of any group.

10 Harbour and Fish – Han van Wetering (1990)

This group of bronze sculptures was originally located somewhere else on the Waterlandlaan and symbolizes the connection between the two city offices of Purmerend. The artwork lost its symbolic value when the offices were merged and has therefore been moved to this spot.

11 Telephone call – Cephass Stauthamer (1950)

This stone relief on the facade of the former telephone exchange shows a man calling his wife. Or is it the other way around?

12 Daffodil – Denise Holtkamp and Gert Engels (2000)

The metal, stylized daffodil on a graceful stem refers to the nearby flower district.

13 Wolhuis bridge – IBA and Henk Meijer of Kerste-Meijer Architects (2008)

The bridge was the first in the Netherlands to be constructed with Very High Strength Concrete. Connection to winding cycle and pedestrian paths inspired the graceful character of the bridge. This is also seen in the railings, which have ‘lianas’ that wrap around the balusters. A design that harks back to the Jugendstil. The ‘lianas’ are made of matt stainless steel, in which ‘leaves’ of glass fragments have been incorporated.

14 Little Dancer – George van der Wagt (1971)

This bronze statue on a white pedestal depicts a

dancer. The wavy lines of the work are an expression of movement.

15 Barrel Organ Claxonate – Hans Muller (1997)

A music pattern has been etched into the exclusive ceramic facade of the parking garage: a barrel organ music score. The etchings in the facade depict the holes in the organ book. The piece of music is a sonata for honking cars in a traffic jam.

16 Milk – Wall advertisement (1907/2011)

This wall advertisement was placed on behalf of milk seller Klaas de Boer. In 1907, he opened a milk parlour in this building. The ad was reapplied in 2011.

17 Batters Tea, Coffee & Cocoa – Wall advertisement (1900)

This wall advertisement was placed by the then owner, P. Battem, around 1900.



14 Vismarkt (Fish market)

Early in the 13th century Purmerend was best known for fishing and the sale of Purmer eel. At that time, Purmerend was in the middle of the Beemster, Purmer and Wijde Wormer lakes that had not yet been drained. This delicious eel was in high demand, so the eel trade flourished. The pamphlets of the ‘Purmer Ale’ even hung on walls as far away as London. Before the Where was filled-in, the fish was freshly brought ashore here every (Tues)day.

15 Information panel Beemster-Poort | Beemsterburgwal



World Heritage Squared

10, 14 or 17 kilometres

Dykes, forts, panoramic views of land reclaimed from water, farmhouses and stalls with the most delicious regional products. You find it all in this walk (green trail). The walk takes you through no fewer than two world heritage sites: the Beemster Reclamation and the Dutch Waterlines (the Defense Line of Amsterdam). The connecting routes (dotted lines) make it possible to shorten this hiking trail to a distance of 10 or 14 kilometres. The trail can be lengthened to 20 km by combining the trail with the Canal Walk (yellow) or City Walk (red). This route starts at either Purmerend Central Station or the TOP Purmerend.

- 1 Information Panel Castle Purmersteijn | Slotplein
Go to point 1. of the ‘City Walk’ for more information.
- 2 Information panel Necker-Poort | Neckerdijk
- 3 Panels
Go to point 5 of the ‘City Walk’ for more information.
- 4 Information panel Postbrug | Herengracht
- 5 Information panel | Wolthuissingel

- 6 Koemarkt (Cattle market)
Go to point 11 of the ‘City Walk’ for more information.
- 7 Information panel Kaasmarkt (Cheese market)
Go to point 9 of the ‘Canal Walk’ for more information.

- 8 Oostdijk / Beemsterringvaart | World Heritage Site the Beemster Reclamation
The Beemster is a textbook example of how the Dutch drained large parts of their country. This 17th-century reclamation was set up to turn the threatening backwaters of the Bamestrameer into fertile and profitable farmland. A sturdy, 42 kilometre-long, dyke was built around the turbulent lake and a ring canal was dug around that. Then 43

windmills began pumping out the lake. In 1612, De Beemster dried up and the layout of the polder could begin. Roads were built, road ditches and plot ditches were dug and farms were built. All this was done according to an orderly and strict geometric pattern. De Beemster owes its fame and UNESCO World Heritage status to this rational division and layout.

Trail description Turn down to the left here to follow the 10-kilometre trail. Continue on the trail to point 21.

9 Information panel Butter family

- 10 Fort Benoorden
The fort on the Middenweg is part of the Defense Line of Amsterdam and falls under the ‘Dutch Water Defence Lines’ of the UNESCO World Heritage. This defense line of forts was constructed between 1880 and 1914, 15 to 20 kilometres around Amsterdam. Inside this ring, the army, the government and the king could withdraw from (possible) attacks on the Netherlands. Through an ingenious system, the land around the defense line could be flooded. Too shallow for boats and too deep for man and horse. Five forts and one inundation lock of this defense line are located in De Beemster.

This fort was built to defend the vulnerable points formed by the Beemsterringdijk, Purmerenderweg and Rijperweg. The defensible earthwork was completed in 1895. The 1912 bombproof main building is connected to two retractable turrets by covered corridors. Today wine is stored between the thick walls of this fort, after a wine importer set up here in 1981.

Trail description Turn left here to follow the 14 kilometre trail. Continue on the trail to point 21. To take the 17-kilometre trail, turn right.

- 11 Information panel 21 ‘Put on the map’
- 12 Fort on the Nekkerweg
The fort on the Nekkerweg is also part of the Defense Line of Amsterdam. This fort created a kink in the main defense line. To prevent Zuidoostbeemster from

being flooded in the event of inundation of the Beemsterpolder, both the Nekkerweg and the Volgerweg were raised up. The purpose of this fort was to prevent the enemy from being able to move easily via these two elevated roads.

The fort that once housed soldiers has now been transformed into a luxury eco-chic wellness resort, with two restaurants and 16 luxurious rooms and suites.

Trail description Continue straight here to follow the 10/14 kilometre trail. Continue on the trail to point 22. Turn right to follow the 17-kilometre trail.

- 13 Information panel 33 ‘Put on the map’
- 14 Intersection Volgerweg / Middenweg
This intersection is also known as the ‘crossroads of four centuries of architecture’. Eenhoorn farm which dates back to 1682, is on the Middenweg; on the Volgerweg, a house built in the 20th century stands next to Rustenhoven, which was built in 1768. Across from this mansion is a 19th century farmhouse; it is home to the collection garden of the POMological Society of North Holland. More than 250 fruit varieties have been newly planted here.

- 15 Information panel 19 ‘Put on the map’
- 16 Fort on the Middenweg
The fort on the Middenweg is also part of the Defense Line of Amsterdam. A special feature of this fort was the soldiers’ washroom. Rainwater is cleaned by an ingenious system before it ends up in the washbasins. The washbasins themselves can be tipped over, so that the dirty water can flow away.

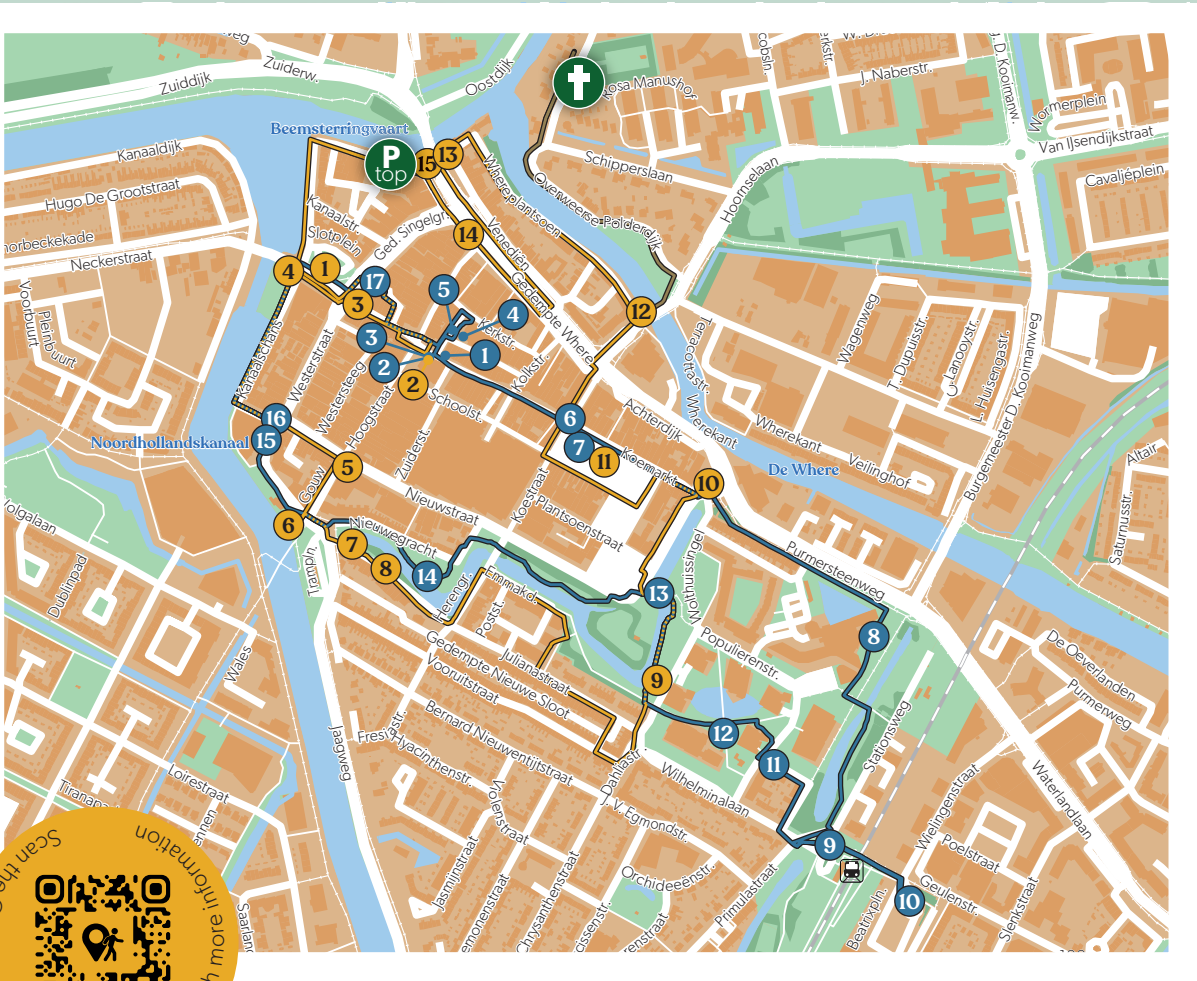
- 17 Inundation lock
This lock is also an important part of the Defense Line of Amsterdam and was constructed between 1890 and 1891. The lock was the main point in the water management of the Beemster Reclamation and was constructed for the purpose of ‘flooding the Beemster polder’. The lock was never used for defence. Both the lock and the drainage basin (receptacle) are still there.

- 18 Information panel ‘Water against the enemy’
- 19 Information panel 14 ‘Beemster War Memories’

20 Information panel Beemster-Poort | Beemsterburgwal

- 21 Information panel 24 ‘Put on the map’
- 22 Information panel 34 ‘Put on the map’
- 23 Information panel 22 ‘Put on the map’

- 24 Beemster Arboretum | Tree museum
The Beemster Arboretum is a unique collection of woody plants that can continue to grow forever in a park-like environment in the Beemster. The Beemster Arboretum has the third largest collection of trees and shrubs in the Netherlands. The collection consists of 2600 species and varieties, and the total number of trees and shrubs is around 6000 specimens.



Canal walk

4 kilometer

During the Canal Walk (yellow trail) you walk past existing and filled-in canals. The information panels give you a lot of information about the history of this once so water-rich city. The beautiful architectural styles and idyllic streets are reminiscent of the prosperity of the past.

1 Information panel Castle Purmersteijn | Slotplein

Het Slotplein is een belangrijke, historische plek voor Purmerend. Hier sta je bij de voormalige ingang van Slot Purmersteijn.

2 Information panel Kaasmarkt (Cheese market)

- 3 Padjedijk
Until the end of the 19th century, Purmerend consisted almost exclusively of canals. If you look at the nameplates in Purmerend you see many references to the time when all that ran through the centre were just a few dykes and the boat was the most important means of transport. Padjedijk

is an example of this.

4 Information panel Necker-Poort | Neckerdijk

5 Panels

Look at the panels on the building on the corner of the Nieuwstraat and the Gouw. These panels show a piece of Purmerend’s history.

6 Information panel Amsterdamsche-Poort | Tramplein

If you expect to find a tram on the Tramplein, you will be disappointed. The name comes from the time when the steam tram from Amsterdam to Alkmaar ran past Purmerend. Back then you could get to the city centre quickly from the Tramplein through one of the city gates. It is amazing to think that about 100 years ago the city was actually locked in the evening! The Tramplein is now a bus station and still provides a fast connection to the neighbouring cities.

After 1900, building was also carried out outside the city canal. It started with a post office, it wasn’t long

before completely new neighbourhoods followed. The city’s newest extension is found across the street from the legendary ‘Melkweg bridge’. This cycling and foot bridge connects old Purmerend with ‘Weidevenne’, the largest residential area of the city.

7 Watermark 1916

When you live below sea level, it’s bound to go wrong at some point. In 1916, a major dyke breach south of Volendam put Purmerend under water for more than six weeks. Do you want to know how high the water was in the winter of 1916? The mark on the building on the corner of Tramplein and Herengracht shows the water level at the time of the flood.

8 Historical streets

The townhouses built on the Herengracht, Emmakade en the Julianastraat, and others, ooze class and prosperity and were very special in the early 20th century. This part of Purmerend was the ‘first new housing estate’ outside the city canal.

9 Information panel Bastion | Wolthuissingel

10 Information panel Purmer-Poort | Looiersplein

11 Koemarkt (Cattle market)

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transformed into real Tuesday cafes. Traders used the cafes as offices where they completed their business transactions, and enjoyed a drink, of course. On this side of the Koemarkt, in particular, you will find the nostalgic (beer) cafes of the past.

12 Information panel Hoornsche-Poort | Hoornselaan

Here, you can walk past the Where and you can see Purmerend’s wonderful harbour. *Optional: walk via the Overveersepolderdijk to the historic cemetery and chapel (no. 24). The gate is open every day between 10:00 and 17:00 hours.*

13 Double street name

Walk through the Houttuinen to reach the street with two street names. One half of the street is called the Bierkade, the other half Venediën. Beer traders from Haarlem owned various buildings on the Bierkade and they brought the beer ashore here from the boat. The beer was stored in the beautiful buildings and from here was distributed further. At the time, beer was more hygienic than water and therefore very popular, but beer was also expensive. It was therefore a lucrative trade. These properties were later bought by dignitaries, resulting in the beautifully characteristic and elegant houses that we can still admire. Halfway up the Bierkade, the street name changes to Venediën. In the past, this part, which, at the time, was still on the water, looked a lot like the Italian Venice. Beer never left Purmerend. Nowadays you can enjoy delicious beers in special beer cafés on the Koemarkt and the city still has its own beer brewery!