

Greater Moerdijk

The Municipality of Moerdijk in the Netherlands consists of eleven distinctive towns and villages. The largest are Zevenbergen, Klundert, Standaarbuiten, Willemstad and Fijnaart. Moerdijk is surrounded by waterways: Hollands Diep to the north, Volkerak to the west and Mark and Dintel to the south. Consequently, Moerdijk is an excellent location to spend your time on and near the water.

Cultural history lovers should visit the fortified towns of Willemstad and Klundert and fortresses Sabina, Bovensluis and De Hel. All of these are part of the Zuiderwaterlinie: the oldest, longest and most used Dutch inundation zone – a defence line with fortresses and waterworks. The fortifications remind us of a turbulent past: from the battle against the Spanish oppressors and wars against Napoleon to the German oppressors.

Cyclists and hikers can enjoy the vast polder landscape with farm fields, areas of natural beauty and the streams. Also, visit one of the special events that are hosted throughout the year. For instance, the Light Parade in Standaarbuiten, the Oldtimer Festival in Moerdijk, Klundert by candlelight, or the Fendertse Feestweek (Festival Week) in Fijnaart: Moerdijk is surprisingly versatile!

Willemstad

Visitors of the fortified town of Willemstad travel back in time. The fortifications are nearly fully intact, and you will encounter unique listed buildings such as the Town hall (1587), Koepelkerk (domed church, 1607), Mauritshuis (1623) and quaint streets: they all radiate the fortified town's rich history.

Willemstad was named after Willem van Oranje and developed by his son Prince Maurits. The town's history started as 'Ruigenhil' around 1564 when the area was reclaimed from the sea on the commission of Jan IV van Glymes, the Marquis of Bergen op Zoom.

Nearly twenty years later, Willem van Oranje had it fortified into a fortress during the battle against the Spaniards. After his death, his son Prince Maurits granted privileges in 1585 and named the town Willemstad. In 1793, it withstood a siege by the French, although it had to surrender later on. A period of French influence followed, with visits by Dutch King Lodewijk Napoleon and his brother Emperor Napoleon in 1809 and 1811, respectively. The Emperor acknowledged Willemstad's strategic position and commissioned the construction of new powder storage and fortresses to the south of Willemstad.

In 1926, Willemstad ceased to be a fortress. After the fortifications and inner-city were designated as a conservation area in 1970, the number of visitors to Willemstad increased gradually. Thanks to the rivers Hollands Diep and Volkerak and its two marinas, Willemstad is very popular with water sports enthusiasts. Yet, Willemstad has more to offer, such as the Volkeraksluizen – the largest inland waterways lock system of Europe – its many attractive cafés, restaurants and specialist shops. In short, a visit to Willemstad is definitely worth your while!

Map legend



Defence of Willemstad

- 1 Fortified city of Willemstad
- 3 Fortress Sabina, Heijningen
- 4 Fortress de Hel
- 5 Fortress Bovensluis



Attractions

- 6 Visitor Centre Het Mauritshuis
- 7 Museum De Heemkundezolder
- 8 Dome church
- 9 Watch tower Volkeraksluizen



Place of interest

- 21 Historic Town hall
- 22 d'Orangemolen
- 23 Arsenal
- 24 Gun powder room Bastion Utrecht
- 25 Gun powder room Bastion Friesland
- 26 Belgian honour cemetery
- 27 Watchhouse De Landpoort
- 28 Rozemarijnstraat
- 29 De Wachter



Sport and activities

- 46 Playground Kindervreugd



Nature reserve

- 50 Tonnekreek



Boat rental

- 56 Tip Top Sailing
- 57 Dutch Yacht Rentals
- 59 Canoe rental De Prullenkast



Bike rental

- 60 Saarloos two-wheelers



Marina

- 64 City harbour Willemstad
- 65 Marina De Batterij



Ferry

- 71 Ferry Anna: Willemstad - Numansdorp (Buitensluis)
- 72 Expedition Haringvliet: Willemstad - Tiengemeten



Tourist information point

- 75 Tourist information point Willemstad

More information: visitmoerdijk.nl



26 Belgian honour cemetery

Military cemetery and resting place for 134 Belgian soldiers who died in the last May days of 1940 when their ship ran into a mine.
[Lantaardijk, Willemstad](#)



27 Watchhouse Landpoort

Built in 1760, destroyed in World War II, rebuilt in original style in 1953. The building serves as a fire station.
[Landpoortstraat 47, Willemstad](#)



28 Rozemarijnstraat

Surrounded on both sides by beautiful lime trees. The name refers to the 'ladies of the night', the Rosemaries. They liked to wander around the soldier's houses.
[Rozemarijnstraat, Willemstad](#)



6 Visitor Centre Het Mauritshuis

Built by Prince Maurits in 1623 as Prinsenhof. Today, it is the visitor centre and museum of the Defence of Willemstad. The attic houses the museum of the local history club.
[Hofstraat 1, Willemstad](#)



8 Dome church

After years of construction, it was completed in 1607. The stained glass windows show the coat of arms of the province of Noord-Brabant and the House of Oranje.
[Kerkring 19, Willemstad](#)



21 Historic Town hall

Building in Renaissance style. The bell in the city hall tower probably dates from the end of the 12th-century and is possibly the oldest surviving ringing bell in North Brabant.
[Raadhuisstraat 2, Willemstad](#)



22 d'Orangemolen

Stone corn mill built in 1734, which can be seen from miles away. Restored in 1999, five years later the sails turned again for the first time in 40 years.
[Bovenkade 11, Willemstad](#)



23 Arsenal

Built in commission for the Royals Van Oranje – to store weapons and ammunition. Close to the harbour, so they could easily be transported over water.
[Benedenkade 6, Willemstad](#)



24 Gun powder room Bastion Utrecht

Former storage place for gunpowder. Built in 1811 in commission for Napoleon. It was also used as a shelter during firing in the Second World War.
[Molenpad 28, Willemstad](#)