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AGE-OLD QUEST FOR INNOVATION

Innovation is in our blood, a city built on stream and stride. Throughout the centuries the city of Enschede has experienced a number of set-backs. Despite these misfortunes, the city has always shown resilience and managed to stay relevant.

Seventh Century - Enschede and the surrounding area were inhabited.

1325 - Enschede was granted city rights by the bishop of Utrecht.

1850 - Enschede now has 4.000 inhabitants. The textile industry blossomed.

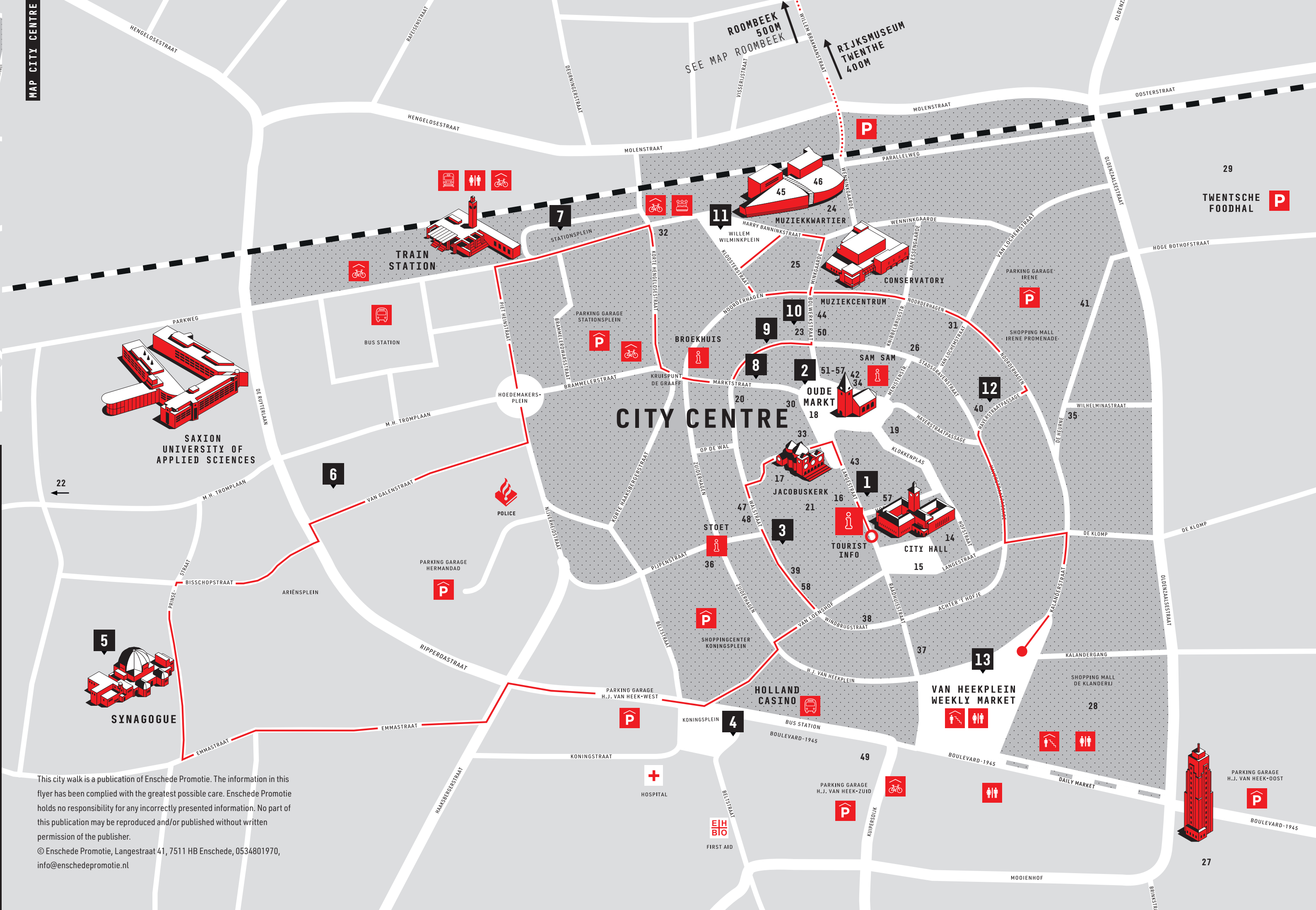
1862 - A large fire raged through Enschede and destroyed almost the entire city.

1940-1945 - During World War II Enschede was attacked by allied aerial bombings. Those air strikes destroyed most of the city centre and many historical buildings and claimed hundreds of lives. The bombings were meant to attack German cities just across the border.

1970 and onwards - After the demise of the textile industry, Enschede focused on expanding its knowledge-based industries.

May 13, 2000 - The Roombeek district was hit by a fireworks disaster. A fireworks storage exploded. Twentythree people were killed and over a thousand people were injured. The explosion destroyed 42,5 hectares of the city.

Now - The largest city in the Eastern Netherlands and the province of Overijssel, where it is bustling 365 days a year.



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INFO

OPENING HOURS CITY CENTRE

TOURIST INFO ENSCHEDE

Shops in Enschede are open 7 days a week. Well-known brand stores and smaller boutiques, Enschede has it all!

Monday: 11:00-18:00 uur
Tuesday: 09:30-18:00 uur
Wednesday: 09:30-18:00 uur
Thursday: 09:30-21:00 uur
Friday: 09:30-18:00 uur
Saturday: 09:30-18:00 uur
Sunday: 12:00-17:00 uur

The Tourist Info Office is your one-stop shop for city maps, brochures and city tours. Our team will gladly answer all your questions.

Langestraat 41
7511 HB Enschede

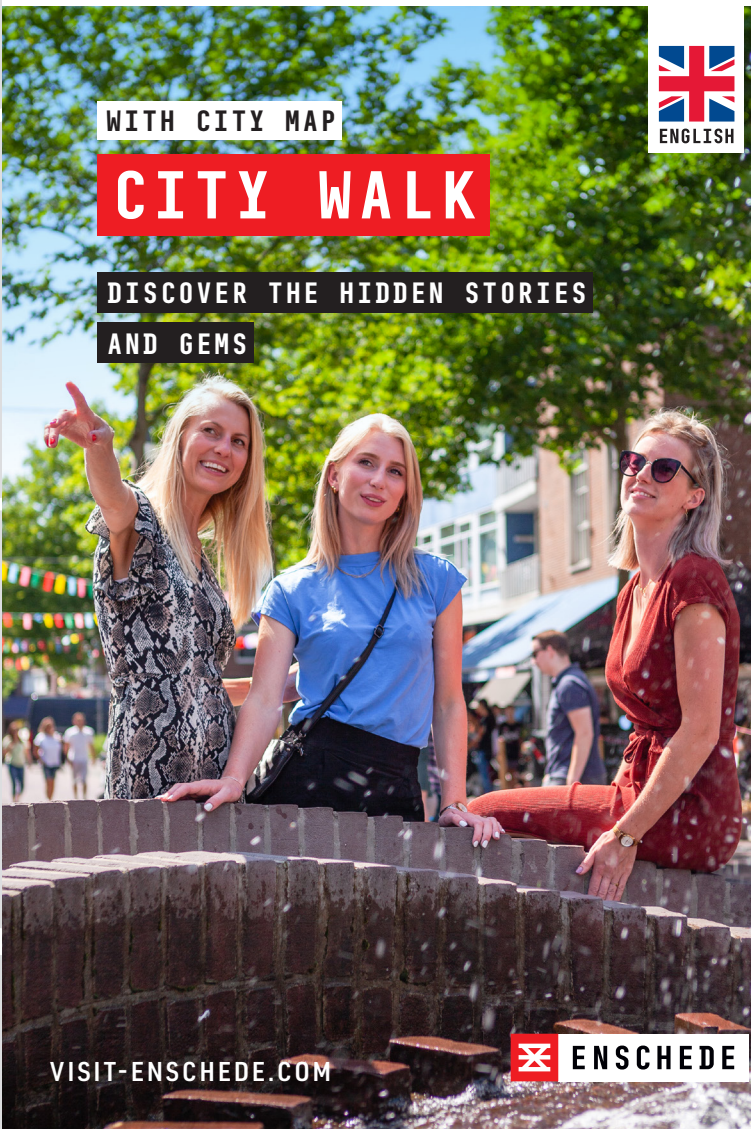
Open Monday to Friday from 09:00 am to 17:00 pm.
Saturday open.
See visitenschede.com for opening hours.

Check our website for other Tourist Info Points in the city.

SOCIAL

f Enschede i enschede p enschede

VISIT-ENSCHUDE.COM ENSCHUDE



IT STARTS HERE

WELCOME TO THE LARGEST CITY OF THE EASTERN NETHERLANDS: ENSCHEDE. TRUE BEAUTY COMES FROM WITHIN. THIS HISTORICAL CITY WAS BUILT ON STEAM AND STRIDE. RESILIENCE AS THE BREEDING GROUND FOR ANCIENT INNOVATION. TIME TO DISCOVER ENSCHEDE. STROLL ALONG BEAUTIFUL, HISTORICAL AND TRENDY HOTSPOTS. LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT ENSCHEDE. ENDLESS ENJOYMENT AWAITS. STARTING POINT: TOURIST INFO ENSCHEDE, LANGESTRAAT DURATION: 40-60 MINUTES, DISTANCE: 3,5 KM

1 LANGESTRAAT

Welcome at Langestraat! This street used to run from the former city gate of Enschede all the way to the other one. Today this street is slightly shorter, but still an important street in the city centre. The Langestraat takes you along remarkable and typical Enschede buildings.

'Het Ei van Ko' (Ko's egg), named after the former mayor Ko Wierenga.

HARTENBANKJE
The most popular bench in Enschede! This heart-adorned yellow bench designed by Guusje Beverdam can be found opposite to the Tourist Info.

DE KLEINE WILLEM
If you stand in front of the Tourist Info and look up to the right, you will find all kinds of blue figures on the roof. These 25 theatrical figures were made by Jawik Krudde and are attached to the old Twentse Schouwburg. Originally this was the 'Groote Sociëteit' dating from 1810 and for many years it was a meeting point for wealthy (textile) lords. This historic theatre with round balconies is now called De Kleine Willem and is a part of Wilmintheater and Muziekcentrum Enschede. A beautiful theatre for more intimate performances.

TOWN HALL

One of the oldest buildings downtown. This design by ir. G. Friedhoff, built between 1930-1933, is a monument in the area of town hall designs, inspired by Scandinavian architecture. The similarities to the town hall in Stockholm are clearly present. Particularly exceptional is the 50 meter tall tower and the balcony railing, depicting the history of Enschede. The city coat of arms (right next to the entrance) and the seven stained glass windows illustrate important events in the city's history and represent the four elements.

EI VAN KO

A quick picture with the dog or one of the other bronze statues. In front of the town hall you will find 'The Family', an artwork by Joop Hekman. Perhaps the most photographed family in Enschede. Have you noticed the entire artwork has an oval shape? The artist was inspired by the shape of the city centre of Enschede. Known in the local vernacular as

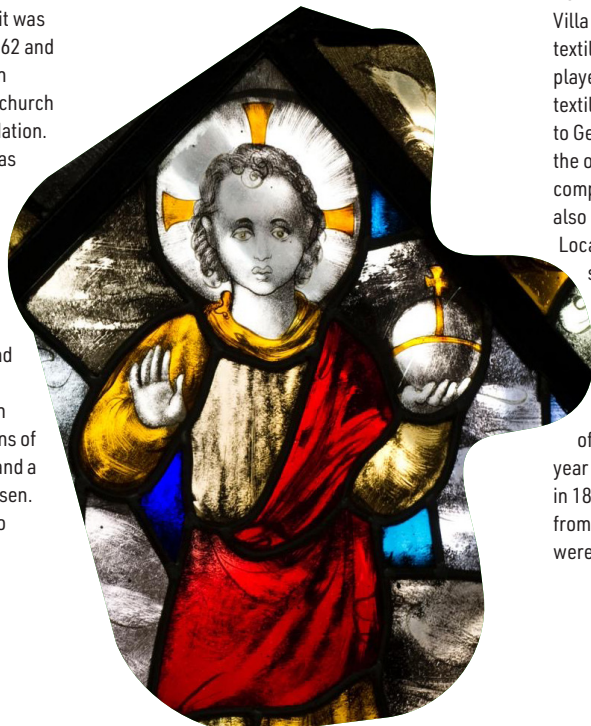
2 OUDE MARKT

From the Langestraat you will walk to the favourite place of many locals. The Oude Markt forms the heart of the city and is one of the most welcoming terraces in the east of the Netherlands. With a choice of over 25 restaurants, cafes and entertainment venues, you can entertain yourself all day long. Throughout the year, multiple events take place at the Oude Markt.



GROTE KERK

You can not miss the big church on the Oude Markt. The original church dates back to the Middle Ages. The tower of the church has a beautiful Roman entrance. The first four sections and the main entrance date from around 1200. The church itself is made of Bentheimer sandstone. Located on the south wall is a vertical sundial, designed in 1836 by Coenraad ter Kuile. It has hour lines



depicting the months. It is the oldest sundial with these kind of hour lines on a public building in the Netherlands. Currently the church is a location for concerts, exhibitions, congresses, receptions or weddings. During the summer the church is regularly open to the public.

BRANDMONUMENT

In front of the Grote Kerk you will find the 'Fire monument' created by Nick Ludwig and made out of red sandstone, in memory of a great fire on May 7, 1862. The fire broke out in a wooden house on Kalandersstraat in the city centre. It had not rained for weeks, there was a strong easterly wind and the city was still full of decorations for the visit of King William III earlier that week. The fire spread at warp speed and destroyed the entire historic centre within the canals. Enschede had approximately 4.000 residents at that time. Sixhundredandfifty families became homeless and two people were killed.



VILLA VAN HEEK

Behind the Grote Kerk you will find Villa van Heek: a former residence of textile producer Van Heek, who played a leading role in the city's textile industry. The house belonged to Gerrit Jan van Heek (1837-1915), the oldest partner of the textile company Van Heek & Co. The villa is also called 'The house with the steps'. Local folklore suggest that the high steps in front of the villa were built to look down upon the workers.

DE KLOKKENPLAS

This was originally the garden of Villa van Heek, home to a 120 year old Platanus. After the great fire in 1862, the church bells that fell from the tower of The Grote Kerk were temporarily stored here.

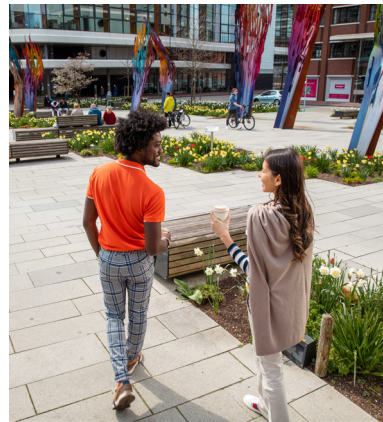
3 WALSTRAAT

Next to the Jacobuskerk you will find the Jacobus corridor. If you walk through this narrow alley, you will arrive at the Jacobusplein. A beautiful little square to admire the back of the church, but that's not all. You are now in one of the most historic streets in the city centre: the Walstraat. A long time ago, around 1600, a city wall ran through this street, between the inner and outer canals. Now this street is known as one of the most versatile streets in Enschede.

The Walstraat not only has a lot of history. It is also a very pleasant and surprising street with many restaurants, the nicest shops and a lot of art and culture. At the beginning of the Walstraat you will find a historic gate. The gate probably dates from the 17th century; one of the few remnants of the city before the fire in 1862. In 2019 the gate was restored and nowadays the gate is an official municipal monument.

4 KONINGSPLEIN

Walk past Holland Casino and you will find Koningsplein (King's square). Koningsplein lives up to its name. When you walk among the artworks of the Belgian artist Arne Quinze, the square looks regal. In the evening, the so-called 'Whispers' light up. The colourful flower beds are a reminder of our typical Dutch tulip fields. The square serves as a connection between the city centre and Medisch Spectrum Twente hospital.



Once you are inside, you will be completely in awe.

In the interior you will find numerous references to Judaism and Jewish culture. The building can be recognized by three striking copper domes. The central part of the building consists of the large shul, the day shul and the consistory chamber. The original banquet hall, the Jewish school and the visitor's room with gift shop are also worth a visit. Nowadays, the synagogue is used as a place of worship. Due to the special history of the synagogue and the Jewish community in Enschede, a tour is highly recommended! You can visit the synagogue on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The synagogue was designed by the well-known Amsterdam architect Karel de Bazel in order for textile manufacturer M.I. Menko. It was built in 1928. From the outside you can admire the decades-old stained glass, ancient windows and mosaics.

6 SAXION UNIVERSITY CITY CAMPUS

Since 1989, the University of Applied Sciences has been located in the centre of Enschede. The city campus is a breeding ground for talent, innovation and creativity, thanks to the various workspaces for start-ups, freelancers, flex workers and larger companies.

the oldest public park in the Netherlands. Stroll through the gorgeous green park, enjoy nature and relax by the water.

Tip: do you have some time left? From the Prinsestraat you can also turn left towards the Volkspark:



7 STATIONSPLEIN

Stationsplein is just around the corner from Saxion University of Applied Sciences. It has always been a gray part of the city center, but this area is about to undergo a major makeover! There will be new housing, the entrance to the station will be revamped, the square will become car-free, and above all, very green.

8 MARKTSTRAAT

Let's go back to the city centre via Korte Hengelosestraat. Imagine that you walk through gigantic entrance gates at the beginning of the Marktstraat. The gray shiny stones here indicate where the large city gates once were located.

Now the Marktstraat is the main road to the Oude Markt for many people.



9 STADSGRAVENSTRAAT

Take a left turn into the Stadsgravenstraat. A street named after the inner city canal that used to be here. A canal of even twenty meters wide! The street has now become a narrow street with all kinds of hotspots such as the city brewery Stanislaus Brewskovitch, restaurants with different cuisines and a karaoke bar. Fun fact: in the street there are many poems and stories written on walls and doors.

A little further down the street, a former Jewish School and synagogue were located. You will find this former school opposite restaurant Sorrentino (on the left). The building still has typical arched windows and a memorial tile. The synagogue was torn down and rebuilt in the Prinsestraat.

10 BOLWERKSTRAAT

An always buzzing intersection. Not only because of the passage to the Oude Markt, also because Café Het Bolwerk. Originally this was a military stronghold, now this brown café is the oldest café in Enschede (1904). The famous Dutch rock group Normaal was founded in this café. It was also the favourite café of the deceased well-known Dutch poet Willem Wilminck.

Walk past The Old Irish Pub towards Muziekkwartier. With a theatre and concert hall, an arts school, conservatory and pop stage, Muziekkwartier has been the home of culture in the city for many years. It houses six professional musical institutions. Working closely together, Metropool Enschede, ArtEZ conservatory, Nederlandse Reisopera, Phion Orkest of Gelderland & Overijssel and Wilmintheater & Muziekcentrum Enschede develop a special and innovating cultural offer for a wide audience.

11 WILLEM WILMINKPLEIN

Directly next to Muziekkwartier you enter the most green part of the city centre. This square, which was completed in 2014, is named after the famous writer and poet Willem Wilminck who lived in Enschede most of his life. It is a lovely square with a city garden in the heart of the city centre. Water cascades down from the rock formation and from the artwork 'Vortex' by artist Jeroen Doorenweerd.

The square is surrounded by pop stage Metropool Enschede, dozens of residences enjoying a panoramic view of the IntercityHotel Enschede and several catering establishments. In addition, Willem Wilminckplein connects the city centre with the station. There is also a free 24-hour guarded public bicycle shed.



12 HAVERSTRAATPASSAGE

Time to discover the shopping side of the city. Via Noorderhagen you will walk through the Haverstraatpassage. This is one of the oldest shopping streets in the Netherlands. It has been buzzing here for centuries. It used to be a more chic shopping street where the wealthy residents did their shopping.

Today it is one of the nicest shopping streets where you can find many local shops. If you are looking for unique Enschede hotspots and want to enjoy the local atmosphere, then you've come to the right place. Don't forget to look up, because the typical Dutch facades can be seen everywhere.

13 H.J. VAN HEEKPLEIN

Hello shopaholics! Turn left at the end of Haverstraatpassage and walk via Kalandersstraat towards H.J. van Heekplein. On this square you will find all kinds of shops. On Tuesdays and Saturdays there is a weekly market, which attracts many visitors from all over the Netherlands and Germany.

If you look around the square, you can see the impressive Alphatoren. With a height of 101 metres and 29 floors, this tower is the tallest building in Enschede and the east of the Netherlands. H.J. van Heekplein also houses shopping centre De Klanderij-Twentec, permanent street market stalls, and the largest underground parking garage in the Netherlands.

The square was created as part of the post-war urban renewal, after the centre of Enschede was heavily damaged during the Second World War. H.J. van Heekplein was then designated as the new market and shopping square. The square is named after Hendrik Jan van Heek, one of the founders of the Van Heek textile factory and founder of the Enschede textile industry.



Do you want to discover all the hidden stories of Enschede and learn all kinds of interesting facts about the city? Book a guided tour with one of these guides!

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ROOMBEEK

The most inspiring and resilient urban district. The Roombeek district is less than a 15-minute walk from the city centre. A neighbourhood where you can feel the vitality and inspiration in every corner.

On May 13, 2000, everything changed in this district. The neighbourhood was struck by a major fireworks disaster. What started with a fire in a bunker on the grounds of S.E. Fireworks, culminated in a huge explosion. Twentythree people were killed and more than thousand were injured. The explosion destroyed over 42,5 hectares of the city. For many people, the disaster had major personal consequences. Now Roombeek shines like never before. A beautiful modern, dynamic and surprisingly vibrant district that has everything to offer: living, working, shopping and culture and all of this amidst greenery.



Guided tours Roombeek
Book a guided tour with one of these guides and discover Roombeek.

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