

***A walk in Veere***  
***Duration of the walk: 1 hour***



**The walk starts at the Town Hall.**

You can see from the beautiful facade with the statues of the Lords and Ladies of Veere in their niches, that it dates from the late Gothic period, so late 15th century. The architect was Evert Spoorwater. But the slender Renaissance-style tower was built 100 years later by Adriaen de Muer of Bruges. Still, it is beautiful as a whole. The gilded nave and also the other beautiful crowns were made by the coppersmith Hans Mulder.

Under the large pear we see the bells of the carillon. In 1972 the carillon was restored for the last time. Under the balustrade you can see the supporting female figures, the so-called caryatids, carved in wood. The many small dormer windows are also found on the Middelburg Town Hall and on many Flemish Gothic buildings. Proud lions carry their pennants on the top of the larger chapels.

The different arch forms and the two empty niches show that the entrance used to be an arch more to the right.

**The Lords and Ladies of Veere are from left to right:**

- 1 Hendrik IV van Borselen
- 2 Janna van Halewijn, his wife
- 3 Wolfert IV, their son
- 4 Charlotte de Bourbon, Wolfert's second wife
- 5 Philip of Burgundy and his wife
- 6 Anna of Borselen, daughter of Wolfert
- 7 Adolf of Burgundy, son of Anna and Philip

They lived at their castle Sandenburg close to Veere in the 15th century, when the town hall was built. It was an eventful life in a troubled time. The original statues can still be seen in the Scottish houses where we will soon visit. The new statues were made by the sculptor O. Wenkenbach in 1931. That's when the facade was restored.

Before entering the Town Hall, let's have a look at "De Kaak" (The Jaw), the small sidewalk with two steps to the left of the steps. As a punishment, one stood there to be seen if one had committed some crime or other. An iron bar was attached to the wall, the holes are still visible, and it was closed around the neck so that the person could not leave. One was spat at and pelted with street dirt by the bystanders, as was customary in earlier times. You can clearly see from the location of the holes in the wall for the brace that people used to be smaller than today.

Inside the town hall, the interesting vierschaar, the beautiful cup of Maximilian of Burgundy and more Veere antiquities can be seen, among other things.

We now go to the quay, turn right there and soon see the beautiful Scottish Houses. "The Lammeken" and the "Struijs" called. The name "Scottish Houses" arose because in the 16th and 17th centuries they were used by Scottish merchants as a residence, office and warehouse. Veere had in fact obtained the staple right of the Scottish Wool Trade. This contributed to the progress of the town. Then there were 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, now only 1,000. Today the Scottish houses house a museum.

We continue the walk along the quay and arrive at the Campveerse Toren. Passing through the gate, we come to the traffic circle where two old cannons stand from the heyday of Veere. The Campveerse tower recalls the original name of Veere, which was called Campveer in the Middle Ages, because a ferry to Campen, a place on North Beveland, was maintained from here. Around 1500 this tower was built. At the end of the harbor head opposite there was another tower, which was called the Kruydtoren. If you look at the coat of arms of Veere you will see such a harbor gate with a boat in between and two "Wildemannen" on it.

The Kruydt tower disappeared into the deep channel of the Veerse gat on a quiet night in the year 1630. Not a stone stuck out above water anymore, so deep had the ebb tide scoured a trench. Now there is no more ebb and flow, because in the distance you can see the dam from Walcheren to Noord Beveland, which closed the Veerse gat off from the sea in 1961. It was then Veersemeer and the fishing port became a marina.

Returning through the gate, we see a weathered piece of whale bone hanging against the wall, a reminder of whaling. We continue our walk along the tiled path along the Veersemeer. Where the parking lot is now, there were also houses in earlier centuries. When we round the corner we can see the mighty hulk of the Grote Kerk rising up from the ground.

We go along the tile path between the fields straight to the church. Here were formerly the moats and ramparts around the city. You can still see it in the undulation of the farmland. We first come to the Cistern or city fountain. It is a curious octagonal structure over the large well, which was dug to provide good water for the Scottish Wool traders. Before crossing the street we take a look at the carved arms of Veere in the outer wall of the Cisterne.

Now we are going to see the Great Church. This Church of Our Lady was built for more than a century, from 1405 to 1560. The well-known Flemish master builder Anthonius Keldermans and later his son Rombout, were in charge of the construction.

According to the design, the tower should have been as much as three times higher. According to the old historians, it was a beautiful building with beautiful altars and gothic windows. But much happened over the centuries. In 1686 the church and tower burned down. A few years later they were restored, but much more simply. Then the domed roof was built on the tower. Before that, there was a wooden bell floor with a carillon.

In 1809 the English landed on Walcheren. They used the church as a hospital. In 1811, the French rulers set up the church as a horse stable, barracks and hospital. After the French era the church was used as a workhouse for hundreds of beggars and vagrants, with their wives and children. Later the church was again a hospital until 1860. After that, the building remained unused. In 1975 a floor was put in and in season there is cultural exhibition where there is also much to see about the history of the Great Church.

Once we have left the Great Church we turn into Kapellestraat. On the right hand side we see the Kerkstraat which we enter for a while, to see the bronze statue of Valerius, which stands in the lawn opposite the Godshuis. It was made by the well-known sculptor Mari Andriessen. Valerius (died 1625) was a notary in Veere and is best known for his songs about the revolt against Spain, such as; Wilt heden nu treden..... and O Heer, die daar des hemels tente spreidt..... .

We turn back again, enter the gate in the wall around the church and come to the church square. Immediately on the left we can see in the distance the entrance to the Little Church in which Reformed church services are held on Sundays. This church building used to be the choir of the Great Church and also burned down in 1686, but was rebuilt.

We continued our walk across the grassy church square, passing the tower at the exit in the wall. There is a little house there that is now the office of the tourist information office. There used to be another such cottage on the other side at the entrance to the passageway. They were guard houses at the entrance to the barracks in the French era.

We now go a short distance up the road to Middelburg and then turn right to continue our walk along the picturesque lane that is still called the "Singeltje". In the past, the town canal was on the right-hand side of this lane, where the orchards are now. Behind the manor house "Stil Water" was the castle Sandenburgh where the Lords and Ladies of Borsele lived, whom we have already met on the facade of the town hall.

At the end of Het Singeltje we cross the road and enter the Warwijksestraat . On the left you can see the mill "De Koe" from 1736. In the Warwijksestraat we see the old smithy where horses were shoed.

When we have passed through the Warwijksestraat we come to the Kade again. Now we go along the opposite side of the marina to the "Stone Bear". This is part of the city defense from the French time. If you walk through the corridor you can see the loopholes and you come along a spiral staircase back up to the Veersemeer. If we have come via a staircase back on the city wall, we go back over the bridge to the quay.

Arriving at the Town Hall, we ended the walk and saw the main buildings of Veere, but you can still walk along picturesque streets such as, for example, the Town Hall Street or the Oom Street.

**Furthermore, a cruise through and past Veere is definitely recommended.**

