

Utrecht 900 & Vuelta

EN

Utrecht celebrates!



Welcome to Utrecht

In the coming months, the city will be bursting with events and activities. Not only is Utrecht celebrating its 900th birthday with spectacular festivities organised for and by residents, but we will also welcome the Spanish classic cycle race La Vuelta, with team time trials taking place in the city.

You can read all about it in this brochure.



It's Utrecht's birthday!



On 2 June 1122, Utrecht acquired city rights, which means this year marks the city's 900th anniversary. At Dom Square, in Lofen Palace, Emperor Henry V granted the people of Utrecht their own government and court along with permission to build a rampart. By the 15th century, the rampart had grown into a complete city defence with ten-metre-high brick walls, dozens of towers and five large city gates.

The city walls were torn down in the 19th century. All that remains is the Singel defensive canal and remnants of the walls scattered throughout the city to remind us of the fortification. Today, Utrecht is the city without walls, both literally and figuratively. The city where our doors are always open to new ideas, organisations and entrepreneurs and where we give each other space and reach out to connect. Utrecht's 900th anniversary celebrations are about bringing people together. Because together, we make our city.

The celebrations have been developed by residents. People joined forces to organise activities around not only the Utrecht of today but also the Utrecht of the past and future. Activities will take place at different locations in all districts to



showcase the city's diversity. The neighbourhood parties, festivals, exhibitions, dance, drama and circus performances, music events, pub quizzes and much more will run until November.

The grand finale of Utrecht 900 will be the Parade Without Walls on 11 November, a magnificent procession through the city centre with light sculptures, orchestras, choirs, dancers and street theatre.

**Visit utrecht900.nl
to view the full
programme**



Leading Voices

As a genuine city of choirs, Utrecht has many top-class ensembles. It therefore stands to reason that the city is the ideal place for hosting the first edition of Leading Voices, an international music event for both professional and amateur singers. The main programme is for music teachers, conductors, vocal leaders, composers and choral managers and includes meetups as well as concerts. Packed with music performances and **open singing** at various locations throughout the city, the side programme will appeal to anyone who enjoys singing

and choral music. Festival headquarters will be based in the hall of Neude Library.

27 to 30 July, TivoliVredenburg and Neude Library

Catching Cultures

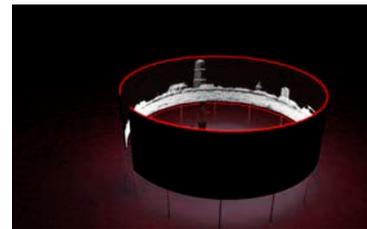
The nine-part Catching Cultures festival will be held in every district in Utrecht, showcasing the past, present and future of the city. Local musicians and storytellers will take the stage, including young talent from the BOKS youth culture house and, of course, the Catching Cultures Orchestra.

11, 18 and 25 September, various locations



Panorama Utrecht

An audio-visual phenomenon, Panorama Utrecht at Stationsplein highlights the city from a new perspective – watch walls fade and witness the city's true shape. Experience the city in an almost futuristic way in a round space with tens of thousands of holes displaying satellite data of Utrecht. The sound composition used in this panoramic light sculpture by Jaco Schilp uses real sounds of the city.



Visit utrecht900.nl to view the full programme



Gardening

This interactive exhibition contextualises the relationship between man and nature through art and design. Artworks and sensory experiences are hidden between the trees, ponds and flowers at Amelisweerd Estate. What is the meaning of nature when we view it through the eyes of an artificially intelligent system?

**Until 30 July,
Oud Amelisweerd Estate**

Circling the Singel

For 900 years, Utrecht's canals have embraced the city centre's historic streets. This September, Utrecht will return the love with theatre and dance, visual arts, stand-up comedy, literature,

walks, architecture, music performances, pop-up clubs and a children's festival. Today, Utrecht's Singel canal once again completely encircles the city and we will celebrate this during Circling the Singel.

**10 and 11 September,
various locations**

Freedom City

Hip-hop culture will be celebrated with dance and music as prime connectors, overcoming boundaries, during the fifth edition of the annual **Freedom City Utrecht** festival. Love, joy and passion are at the heart of this festival, which kicks off in Leidsche Rijn at Berlijnplein and then continues at various squares throughout the city centre. Expect battles, masterclasses, performances, parties and an education programme. The grand finale takes place in TivoliVredenburg.

**22 to 25 September,
various locations**



Utrecht in 900 Minutes

Two Utrecht music venues are joining forces to organise Utrecht in 900 Minutes, an ode to the city with 15 hours of non-stop dancing to past, present and future DJs from Utrecht. A 900-minute-long party at De Helling, EKKO and aboard a ship sailing between the two venues.

1 October, De Helling and EKKO



**Visit utrecht900.nl
to view the full
programme**

Museums

Utrecht Photo Challenge

Explore Utrecht armed with two ideal urban explorer tools: a city map and a polaroid camera. That is what you work with during the Utrecht Photo Challenge. The map brings you from the start at Dom Square to beautiful sites and hidden gems throughout the city. An example photo is provided for each location, which you replicate using the polaroid. Put away your phone and go for a completely analogue Utrecht experience.

Railway Museum

Naturally, the Railway Museum has a beautiful collection of historic trains. Why not enjoy an exciting rollercoaster ride alongside life-size locomotives or the Trial by Fire, where you can embark on a spectacular virtual train ride through railway history? The **Expedition Rail Mail** exhibition is currently on display – to celebrate 900 years of Utrecht, special attention is given to the part the city played in mail transportation.

Centraal Museum

How healthy do you think Utrecht was 900 years ago? Were people really that unhygienic? What was the plumbing and waste management like? How did people think about health and how was this reflected



in the city? Answers to these questions and many more can be found by visiting **The Healthy City**, an exhibition at Centraal Museum celebrating 900 years of Utrecht.

Volksbuurtmuseum

The **Women Breaking Down Walls** exhibition is inspired by the story of Trijn van Leemput. Ten portraits of modern-day Utrecht women are on display, each in their own way figuratively tearing down society's walls. The historical story of Trijn is also part of the exhibition.

Museum Speelklok

Museum Speelklok is a fun and musical museum. Step into the wonderful world of self-playing musical instruments, from the smallest music box to the largest barrel organ. Join a musical tour to hear and see how the instruments work.

Museum Catharijneconvent

Did you know there once was a Dutch pope from Utrecht? Museum Catherijneconvent showcases a great and far too unknown Utrecht citizen: Pope Adrianus. In 2022, it is exactly 500 years since he was unexpectedly elected as





Sonnenborgh

Scale the walls! Some 470 years ago, Sonnenborgh was built as a bastion – part of the city walls – after which it became a place for scientific innovation. To celebrate Utrecht's birthday, everyone is invited to scale the walls and encounter the rich history of Sonnenborgh during the special theme months of botany, chemistry, meteorology and astronomy. Exhibitions include a solar eclipse, summer night in the new museum garden, lectures, children's programmes and the alchemy/chemistry weekend.



University Museum

Just download the app and you will soon find yourself hunting for fossils in Utrecht with an audio tour. Discover different fossils readily found in the city centre. The free scavenger hunt is perfect for families with children aged 8-14 years. The roughly 2.5-kilometre tour starts and ends at the University Museum and takes an hour to complete.

The Utrecht Archives

How can we keep our feet dry, facilitate agriculture and stay connected? These questions were relevant in 1122 and are no less relevant today. The **Water! Friend or Foe?** exhibition shows how

Utrecht's water management has developed over the past 900 years. A history of ingenious waterworks, catastrophic floods, new forms of governance and ambitious plans for the future. Wander through the magical underwater world, listen to the stories and see ancient artefacts from collections originating from across the Netherlands.



the new pope and departed for Rome. What was his experience like? Journey back to the years 1522 and 1523 and follow in the footsteps of Adrianus, the idealist.

The Dom Tower

For centuries, the iconic Dom Tower has been the centre and symbol of Utrecht. Standing at a height of 112 metres, it is the tallest church spire in the Netherlands. Climb the 495 steps to the top, or go up the tower in three minutes using the lift. Once there, discover how Utrecht has grown into the city it is today.



Visit utrecht900.nl to view the full programme

La Vuelta Holanda

A great festive occasion for Utrecht this summer – La Vuelta will start with a team time trial through the city! Utrecht has been the backdrop of classic cycle races before: a stage of the Giro d'Italia finished here in 2010 and the Tour de France started in the city in 2015. By adding La Vuelta to its CV, Utrecht will soon be the only city in the world to have hosted all the major cycle races.

#VAMOS
UTRECHT

LA VUELTA 22
HOLANDA

A city for and of cyclists

Over a 15-year period, I cycled more than a thousand races at the highest level, across 22 countries spread over four continents. Sometimes as part of a pack of 200 cyclists, going 60 kilometres per hour in a final bend before the finish line. After competing six times in the Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and Vuelta a España, I thought I had seen it all. So, I hung up my hat in Utrecht.

I will never forget my first ride from the Schouwburg to Central Station, cycling along the Neude. Bikes in all shapes and sizes, similar to the cyclists themselves, moving at their own speed, heading in their own direction. A scattered peloton, destination unknown.

An equal number of waiting bikes made for a beautiful backdrop. A city for the cyclist and of the cyclist. Enjoy everything Utrecht has to offer when it comes to cycling, especially with La Vuelta arriving on 19 and 20 August – the crowning touch.



Former cycling pro Stéf Clement lives in Utrecht and is an ambassador for La Vuelta Holanda.

On 19, 20 and 21 August, La Vuelta is coming to the Netherlands. Two of the three Dutch stages of this Spanish cycling classic will include Utrecht. Stage 1 is a time trial going straight through the city. Stage 2 traverses Utrechtse Heuvelrug and finishes at Utrecht Science Park.

Programme

18 August

Team presentation at Vredenburg

19 August

Time trial Utrecht – Utrecht

20 August

's Hertogenbosch – Utrecht Science Park
(traversing Utrechtse Heuvelrug)

Visit vamosutrecht.com
for the full programme



Stage 1: Utrecht-Utrecht

Friday, 19 Aug \ 23.7 km \ Team time trial



Stage 2: 's-Hertogenbosch-Utrecht

Saturday, 20 Aug \ 183 km \ Flat stage

Follow the Vuelta by bike

Choose the following routes in the region

La Vuelta Holanda

Tour of Leusden 43 km



Tour of Rhenen 48 km



Tour of Zeist 47 km



E-bike tour of Zeist 61 km



Or explore Utrecht city

Discover Utrecht 15 km



Visit
rouresinutrecht.com



Pre-fun? Vamos!



La Vuelta is happening! But the festivities leading up to it are at least as exciting. Expect 100 days crammed with activities, from the sportive and cultural to the educational and culinary. Whatever it involves, it is all about Spain and/or cycling. You can follow in the tracks of La Vuelta with the Vuelta cycling tour on 14 August. Or join the spinning-to-classical-music meetups. Looking for something more cultural? Why not visit Institutes Cervantes for a lecture or a film?

Visit vamosutrecht.com
for the full programme

Book a package deal



This summer, why not book one of the many hotels in the city and region with a Utrecht900/Vuelta package deal, including bike rental and Vuelta cycling routes. Receive fun offers from various museums such as Centraal Museum and the Dom Tower. Check out the special deals at vamosutrecht.com.

**Check out
vamosutrecht.com**

Authentic Utrecht cuisine

There are many delicious dining options in Utrecht, often at surprising locations throughout the city. Many restaurants serve local products. Some even grow their own produce, bake their own bread or brew their own beer.

Restaurant Goesting

Artisanal Franco-Belgian cuisine with a style ranging from seemingly simple dishes to superb classics. The chefs love cooking with local products, organic whenever possible. An oasis in the city at a unique location: the



former dog kennel of the veterinary school at the Veeartsenijpad.



The Green House

The Green House is a circular restaurant on Croeselaan, near Utrecht Central Station. The chefs use regional and own-grown produce and herbs in their dishes. At this special venue, built from recycled materials, you will be inspired by stories about how to do things differently and more sustainably.



RoodNoot City Brewery

You can find RoodNoot City Brewery in a historic farmhouse on Oude Vleutenseweg, at the border of Utrecht and Leidsche Rijn. Chickens roam the property, horses relax in the fields and the brew kettles are in the hay barn. The restaurant uses regional products and fresh ingredients from its own garden, while the beer comes from its own brewery – naturally!

Le Jardin

Wholesome vegetables and herbs are where it begins at Le Jardin – seasonal and locally sourced whenever possible. Also a florist, Le Jardin at Mariaplaats offers dry flower bouquets, gifts, garden plants and houseplants.



Broei

A vegetarian restaurant at Oosterkade, Broei prefers to work with small-scale, local farmers, breweries, roasters and growers. The restaurant also has its own bakery.



Meneer Peer

With an easy-going, homely ambience, Meneer Peer offers freshly made sandwiches, homemade pies, juices and delectable snack plates. Open during the day, this cosy lounge at Bemurde Weerd Overzijde affords a view of the little canal lock.

De Rechtbank

Once a place for judges and the judged, now Utrecht's best pavement café. De Rechtbank (The Courthouse) on Korte Nieuwstraat has been a jury favourite for decades. Enjoy the extensive breakfast buffet, a relaxed lunch or a delicious dinner.



De Utrechtse Boekenbar

De Utrechtse Boekenbar bookshop specialises in literature, books on art and photography and cook-books. The shop also sells coffee, which can be enjoyed on the outdoor terrace on Westerkade.

Roberto Gelato ice cream parlour

Roberto Gelato believes that everyone deserves to have a favourite ice cream. No surprise then that you can order a multitude of flavours from Roberto, with or without specific dietary requirements. The ice cream is made from the best ingredients, such as organic milk, hazelnuts from Piemonte, pistachios from Bronte and strawberries from Zeist. Roberto is on Poortstraat in the Wittevrouwen district.



Shopping Utrecht style

Utrecht is the ultimate destination for shopping! Wander through local markets, discover the prettiest boutiques and concept stores or browse for brilliant deals at Hoog Catharijne indoor shopping mall.



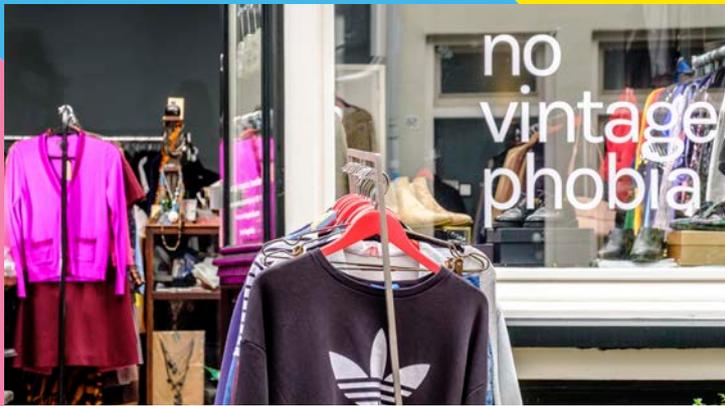
Rood&Bloem

This little shop on Springweg is packed with houseplants, special cuttings and pretty pots. Call in for dried flowers, botanic prints or for interesting workshops and styling advice.



Pracht

Pracht is a jewellery store located in the tiniest house on the Oudegracht. A little gem for jewels, clothes, bags, watches and scarves – lovely items for both men and women. Why not go downstairs at the back of the shop and admire the beautiful wharf cellar?



No Vintage Phobia

Love vintage clothes? In that case, you simply must visit No Vintage Phobia on Willemstraat in Wijk C. The racks are filled with beautiful clothes ranging from famous designers to the obscure. Discover vintage accessories, shoes, bags and art. New items arrive every day.

De Koekfabriek

Eating cookies has never been more special or social. At De Koekfabriek on Schoutenstraat, delicious biscuits are hand baked

by people with a labour market disadvantage. Let's be honest, who doesn't love chocolate chip or almond/orange cookies?

ZiZo

Visit ZiZo on the Oudegracht to find sustainable, colourful gifts like hand-decorated piggy banks. Here, people with disabilities are given the opportunity to develop their diverse talents. Everything in the store is made by the staff in ZiZo's own studio.



Flower market

Janskerkhof transforms into an endless sea of flowers every Saturday. Marvel at the many stalls with keenly priced gerberas, roses, sunflowers, houseplants and garden trees. You can also find flower bulbs, seeds and planters here.

Hoog Catharijne

Hoog Catharijne is Utrecht's main modern shopping mall, next to Central Station. Come by seven days a week to visit 90 stores ranging from well-known fashion chains to small boutiques and more than 30 restaurants.



In the region

If you have more time, why not take a bike ride or board a train and discover the beautiful Urrecht region. Doornburgh Estate, Soestdijk Palace and Fort bij Vechten Waterline Museum are just a stone's throw from the city.



Waterline Museum

Visit Waterline Museum in Bunnik and discover Fort bij Vechten, the second largest fortress of the New Dutch Waterline. After spending a day wandering around here, the Waterline will no longer hold any secrets. An interactive discovery tour lets you

experience the unique story of how the Netherlands used water to defend itself.

Soestdijk Palace

The **Voorlopers** exhibition is currently on display in the park of Soestdijk Palace in Baarn. Fifteen artists, all partial to the experimental, are sharing their take on current themes such as biotechnology and design and sustainability and recycling. Many artworks have been specially made or adjusted for the park.



Come and see a 'Living Couch', a transparent sculpture filled with green and red algae from the park pond, or the diorama in the princess playhouse and the reimagined forgotten tennis court.

Voorlopers will run until 5 August

Doornburgh Estate

From centuries-old paintings and modern photography to religious objects and contemporary fashion, the **Vorm aan de Vecht** exhibition at the Doornburgh Estate convent in Maarssen is an explosion of design. The last nuns left here five years ago and the building now serves as a space for art and science. Relax at DeZusters restaurant and enjoy lunch, a drink or dinner.

Vorm aan de Vecht is on display until 25 September



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Discover Utrecht is the online guide for getting the best out of Utrecht.

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