INTRODUCTION

Whether it is about fashion, interior design or architecture, Dutch Architecture is striking at home and abroad. This was the case as early as the Golden Age, when the Dutch constructed the ring of canals bordered by enormous town houses. And Dutch buildings are still cited as examples at universities worldwide. How come? It’s all down to our Dutch inclination for experimentation and the trendsetting designs that stem from this, say some. Others point to our limited space and struggle against water as sources of inspiration for creative and practical designs. From the finest mediaeval castle in the Netherlands to houses from the 17th and 18th centuries, the Amsterdam School of architecture and modern designs from architects such as Rem Koolhaas and René van Zuuk. ‘Het nieuwe land’ (the new land), which contains cities less than 35 years old, will certainly appeal to fans of modern architecture. It is also called ‘the playground of Dutch architecture’, where designers sought the limits, then used new construction techniques and predominantly had a sizeable number of prominent designs implemented. In short, a varied route with plenty of opportunity for a coffee or lunch break, visit to a museum or shopping break.
STARTING POINT OF THE ROUTE:

1. **Museum Het Schip**
   At the start of the twentieth century, architect Michel de Klerk managed to construct a lavish and richly adorned residential block. De Klerk was part of the revolutionary Amsterdam School of architecture, which arose out of a club of friends full of ideals in relation to a better society. A workers’ house furnished in the style of the 1920s is part of the museum.

   ![Museum Het Schip](image1)

   **Go to the following address:**
   Dorpsstraat, Broek in Waterland.
   GPS: 52.43433, 4.99620

2. **Broek in Waterland**
   Walking through Broek in Waterland is like walking through a picture postcard. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the picturesque village was one of the most prosperous villages in the region and it attracted rich merchants, shipowners and captains who wanted to live outside of Amsterdam. They had grand houses built with magnificent interiors. The monumental wooden properties are recognizable by their pastel colours. Don’t forget to take a peek inside the restored church.

   ![Broek in Waterland](image2)

   **Go to the following address:**
   Herengracht 1, Muiden.
   GPS: 52.33337, 5.07139

3. **Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot**
   A square castle with a drawbridge, five towers, battlements and embrasures, the Muiderslot is the finest and best-preserved mediaeval castle in the Netherlands. The imposing (Knights’ Hall), gleaming suits of armour, and an interactive quest for children will take you 700 years back in time. The brick fortress is part of the Stelling van Amsterdam (Defence Line of Amsterdam) and was built in accordance with the military requirements of the time.

   ![Amsterdam Castle Muiderslot](image3)

   **Go to the following address:**
   Wagenmakersbaan 1, Almere.
   GPS: 52.37135, 5.22212
   Park your car in the Krakelinggarage carpark.

   **From here walk to the Openbare Bibliotheek (public library), which is point 4.**

   **Almere city centre**
   Not your everyday city centre and a feast for anyone into modern architecture. Almere has only been around since 1976, when it was built on artificially elevated land. The renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas prepared the master plan for the new city centre. Take (for example the Openbare bibliotheek (public library), which opened in 2010 and, due to its rising terrace floors is actually a 400-metre-long walking route. On the inside it is just a department store, but one for books and reading. **The Wave** is an apartment complex with an undulating, silver-coloured façade designed by René van Zuuk. An architect who is known for his quest to create buildings that are as interesting as possible at costs that are as low as possible. In this regard, his inspiration was drawn from the technique of tunnel formwork, i.e. pouring floor and walls at the same time.

   ![Almere city centre](image4)

   **Go back to your car and go to the following address:**
   Pelikaanweg 50, Lelystad.
   GPS: 52.45724, 5.52949.

**Touristic routes Amsterdam Metropolitan Area**

**Architecture route**
Touristic routes Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

Architecture route
6 **Aviodrome**
The grounds of aviation theme park Aviodrome feature an exact replica of Schiphol Airport's station building from 1928. It is the largest replica of a building in the Netherlands and was built entirely in the style of the Amsterdam School of architecture. Always wanted to sit in the cockpit? The interiors and exteriors of historical planes as well as a Boeing 747 from KLM can be viewed here.

- Go to the following address: Schoonzicht, Lelystad. GPS: 52.51816, 5.44068

7 **Zilverparkkade**
Office and residential site Zilverparkkade is in fact a clear nod to Amsterdam's ring of canals. Offices and apartments stand side by side on modest plots, varying in height and all designed by a different architect, including René van Zuuk and Bjarne Mastenbroek. This gives rise to a kind of mini skyline, which lends Lelystad allure and grandeur.

- Go to the following address: Zilverparkkade, Lelystad. GPS: 52.50565, 5.47586

8 **Agora Theater**
A real eye-catcher, this bright orange diamond-shaped building in Lelystad's shopping centre. Architect Ben van Berkel, who was also the designer of the Erasmusbrug in Rotterdam, has already won a number of prizes with it. If you get the chance, do take a look inside because, in contrast to the exterior, the foyers are round and lavish.

- Go to the following address: Agorabaan 12, Lelystad. GPS: 52.51263, 5.47707

9 **Bataviahaven**
If you lived here, would you always have the feeling of being on holiday? It seems like you might, with the lively harbour, a sunny promenade with shops and terraces and the houses exuding the character of Amsterdam's ring of canals. Here too the varied, playful buildings provide that city feeling. Want a break? Park the car in the VOC multistorey car park. A stone's throw away is Batavia Stad Fashion Outlet, the largest fashion outlet in the Netherlands with in excess of 100 shops and 250 major fashion brands who offer 30–70% discount on their collections as standard. Open every day from 10 am to 6 pm.

- Take the ‘N701’ road over Oostvaarderdijk back towards Almere. On the way you will pass Bloeq van Kuffeler, GPS: 52.41708, 5.22364, a sluice where you can see the difference in height between the Markermeer and the Province of Flevoland. A little further on along the road is Polderland Garden of Love and Fire, on the left-hand side, GPS: 52.38482, 5.14399, landscape art by Daniel Libeskind.

You are now at the finishing point of the route.

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**This route is part of the project 'Visit Amsterdam, See Holland' and is financed by: City Region of Amsterdam, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Noord-Holland, Flevoland, Aalsmeer, Almere, Amstelveen, Amsterdam, Haarlem, Haarlemmermeer, Lelystad, Ouder-Amstel, Velsen, Zaandam, Zandvoort, Councils of the ISW (Intermunicipal Cooperative Body).**

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