INTRODUCTION

Water is incontrovertibly linked to life in the Netherlands. On the one hand because we have to continually protect ourselves from it due to the fact that over half of the Netherlands lies below sea level. On the other hand, in economic terms the water has been of considerable benefit to us over the centuries. It made us tremendous shipbuilders and we found ways of using the water to drive machines, mills and pumping stations. Unsurprisingly, much of our industrial heritage is to be found on river banks, often fully restored, sometimes in the form of a museum, sometimes as a place of residence, studio or workshop. Industrial heritage is, in fact, everything produced by the industrial revolution for the purposes of day-to-day work, i.e. bridges, sluices/locks and machines as well as factory buildings. Driving by car, you will pass from huge shipbuilding hangars to such things as a chocolate factory and gasworks as well as the hustle and bustle of world trade in the large sluice complex. Feel like deviating from the route? Go for it! On the way you will encounter plenty more interesting places.
STARTING POINT OF THE ROUTE:

1. NDSM shipyard Amsterdam Noord
   - Tt. Neveritaweg 15, Amsterdam
   - GPS: 52.40108, 4.89558

   The industrial charm of this area in Amsterdam Noord has already attracted a variety of trendy TV producers. But it still retains its raw edge, with its huge shipbuilding hangars, cranes and undeveloped ground full of potential. The Nederlandse Dok en Scheepsbouw Maatschappij (Dutch Dock and Shipbuilding Company) built substantial ships. Shipbuilding found itself with competition from air traffic, however, and due to trade with Indonesia declining the last ship was launched in 1979. Now it is a site for festivals, jumble sales and 250 artists, as well as for companies, two restaurants and 380 container flats for students. Here you have a great view of the Kraanspoor (’Crane Track’), a 21st-century office on industrial heritage.

   - Go to the following address:
     Max Euweplein 1, Haarlem.
     - GPS: 52.38680, 4.65042

2. Droste Haarlem
   - Say the name Droste and every Dutch person will lick their lips as they tell you about the wonderful chocolate they make. The Droste factory on the River Spaarne still bears the image of the world-famous nurse who also features on the Droste cocoa tins. The chocolate fragrance has since disappeared from Haarlem, as it is produced elsewhere, but luckily the factory is still there.

   - Go to the following address:
     Spaarne 16, Haarlem.
     - GPS: 52.38035, 4.64034

3. Teylers Museum
   - The rich banker Pieter Teyler left all his money to the promotion of art and science. He thought that there should be a place where people could discover the world for themselves. And so it came to be that the Teylers Museum opened in 1748, the Netherlands’ first museum. In addition to the fossils (which are millions of years old), scientific instruments and coins, prints and paintings, the museum’s interior is also worth the effort.

   - Go to the following address:
     Noordersluisweg 20, IJmuiden.
     - GPS: 52.46856, 4.60613.

   Tip: Select the shortest route on your navigation device.

4. Sluizencomplex IJmuiden
   - IJmuiden is the only gateway to Amsterdam’s harbour for large sea-going vessels and cruise boats. An important starting point for Dutch world trade. Four locks operate here round the clock. The Zuiderdijk from 1876 is the oldest of the complex and is in fact only suitable for smaller boats. There is an information centre at the Noordersluis, where you can get an explanation of how the sluice gates and locks work.

   - Go to the following address:
     Spaarne 16, Haarlem.
     - GPS: 52.38035, 4.64034
**Forteiland**

The sluice gates naturally had to be defended and for that reason Fort IJmuiden was built at the end of the 19th century, part of the defensive works that make up the Stelling van Amsterdam. Later on the fort became an island - hence the name, which literally means ‘fort island’. Architects have restored the fort from 1885 to the state it was once left in: completely empty and with an extensive system of corridors over three floors. This labyrinth is what makes a visit to the fort (which has limited opening times) so exciting.

**Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek**

Architect Isaac Gosschalk had an elaborate architectural style that could be called Dutch Neo-Renaissance. He built the Westergasfabriek (Wester gasworks) in 1883, which at the time was the largest gasworks in Amsterdam. The gas was primarily used for street lighting. The eye-catcher is still the round gas tank on the grounds, where festivals and dance parties are now held. With its restaurants, galleries, theatre and cinema, the grounds of the Westergasfabriek are great fun for young and old.

The Amsterdam - Haarlem line was opened on 20 September 1839 and was the first Dutch railway line.