

## **The Hague**

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The Hague in 1939, already the third largest city in The Netherlands after Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the seat of government, place of residence of the Queen, and seat of the International Court of Justice. A city of pre-eminently international orientation.

### **Binnenhof**

All of its residents contributed something characteristic to the Binnenhof. The buildings, often a reflection of their ideas or administrative approach, life style or courtly style, made the Binnenhof what it is now : a picturebook of the national history.

### **Mauritshuis**

The Mauritshuis was built by Peter Post between 1633 and 1640 on the basis of plans prepared by Jacob van Campen. Prince Johan Maurits of Nassau-Siegen, nicknamed the Brazilian because he was the governor of Brazil from 1636 to 1644, had commissioned it. As a result, a variety of extraordinary types of wood originating from that country was used for the decoration of his palace. However, these together with many art treasures got lost when the palace was completely burnt out during the night from 23rd to 24th December, 1704. But the splendid building itself built from sandstone and brick with its characteristic pattern of pilasters could be completely restored to the original state. In 1821 the Mauritshuis became the Koninklijk Kabinet van Schilderijen (Royal Picture Gallery) and now it is one of the finest museums in Europe, particularly if it concerns the art of painting in Holland's Golden Age.

### **Hofvijver**

The origins of the Hofvijver are not entirely clear. However, it is believed that there was a small dune lake here, originally. Lost in thoughts, Johan van Oldebarnevelt surveys the Hofvijver and the Binnenhof, the place where he was so triumphant but also lost his head. Together with Prince Maurits he laid the foundation for the Republic of the United Netherlands. However, when he, Van Oldebarnevelt, persisted in a truce with Spain, Maurits preferred to fight on above all things.

### **Gevangenpoort**

The Gevangenpoort was originally called Voorpoort van den Hove (Outer Gate to the Court Yard) and formed, at the time, the first gate one had to pass in order to reach the Binnenhof via the belt of moats and the Main Gate and Middle Gate. It was built in the fourteenth century and in the fifteenth century a prison was added to it. When the buildings on side of the alley under archway were demolished to improve the flow of traffic, it seemed that the gate did not serve any purpose. The gevangenpoort now accommodates a museum.

### **Oude Stadhuis**

The striking and for The Netherlands uniquely hexagonal tower of the Grote Kerk (1420-1423) affords this view of the Old Townhall that dates from 1565. Higher up we have even a better view of the extension of the Townhall dating from 1733, and further down the glass roof of the Passage (Arcade).

### **Passage**

After a century the Passage has lost nothing of its charm and shopping pleasure. On the other side of the Gravenstraat we see Maison de Bonneterie dating from 1913.

### **Paleis Lange Voorhout**

The ownership in the last Queen's working palace was recently transferred to the municipality and will now be arranged as an annexe, with special exhibitions, for the municipal museum.

### **Koninklijke Schouwburg**

The Nassau-Weilburg palace has been used as Royal Theatre since 1804. A theatre that may be rightly called Royal. It is the oldest and undoubtedly the most attractive theatre in The Netherlands.

### **Hoge Raad**

At Lange Voorhout 34 the building that was erected in 1735 according to a design by Daniel Marot and that now accommodates the Supreme Court, rises imposingly. At the time it was built for Margu rite de Hugu tan, daughter of a French banker of Louis XIV.

### **Paleis Noordeinde**

Queen Beatrix who actually lives in Huis ten Bosch uses Paleis Noordeinde for representational purposes. The palace that dates from 1533 was arranged and furnished by the States in 1590 for Louise de Coligny, the widow of William the Silent. In 1640 the complex got its present form.

The Paleis Noordeinde was uninterruptedly used as the residence of the ruling monarchs of the House of Orange until the second world war. A severe fire on 18th May, 1948 caused extensive damage. The whole complex was recently thoroughly restored and the front fa ade was restored to the original style of Jacob van Kampen in 1640. When Queen Beatrix succeeded her mother in 1980 the palace again got a Royal purpose to the joy of all residents of The Hague.

### **Panorama Mesdag**

The Panorama Mesdag is one of the most remarkable paintings. It is a circular painting with a surface area of 1700 m<sup>2</sup> and affords a magnificent picture of 19th century Scheveningen. The seascape painter, H.W. Mesdag, a prominent painter from the The Hague School, made the painting in 1881.

### **Plein 1813**

One of the most beautiful squares of the city, indeed in The Netherlands. The monument in the square was unveiled by Prince Hendrik in 1869, the then only living son of King William 1. It is a splendid picture book carved in stone representing the liberation from the French in 1813.

### **Vredespaleis**

The reason why Andrew Carnegie, an American millionaire of Scottish descent, chose The Hague to build a temple of peace there, was the international climate that had already been created here. In 1893 the conference on international private law was held in the Tr veszaal at the Binnenhof, and in 1899 the First Peace Conference took place in Huis ten Bosch whereby a permanent Court of Arbitration was founded. It was not until 1905 when the Carnegie Foundation had finally decided on the place where the Peace Palace was to be built. In 1913 the building was put to use.