

Institute of Physics – L & S E Branch – Retired Members Section

REMS Visit to Den Haag

30 July to 3 August 2015

This trip is being organised by David Pick

This flyer describes the visits and arrangements for a REMS visit to Den Haag in Holland. The plan is to arrive in Den Haag on the 30th July. On Friday the 31st July a coach will take us to the Stoomtram and bring us back to our hotel. On Saturday we stay in the Den Haag area and go to see the canal floral display in the afternoon. On Sunday another coach trip will take us to the magnificent steam engine at Cruquius and then on to the town of Gouda. Return to Den Haag is by direct train at your leisure. From Monday onwards you can do your own thing.

Visit to the Museumstoomtram

Stoomtram is a heritage steam railway which runs the 20km from Hoorn to Medemblick. After meandering from village to village across the Westfrisian countryside the train connects with an old-fashioned steamer with a fantastic saloon-deck, which sails along the coast of lake IJsselmeer to Enkhuizen. IJsselmeer is a shallow artificial lake of 1100 km² in the central Netherlands bordering the provinces of Flevoland, North Holland and Friesland.



Den Haag <http://www.holland.com/uk/tourism/cities-in-holland/visit-the-hague.htm>

The Hague is one of the most extraordinary cities in Holland. Not just because it is the government city, but also because of its many monuments, historic districts and its location near the beautiful North Sea coastline. The Hague is also known as the 'Royal City by the Sea' and is called 'the residence city' because of the many members of the Dutch Royal Family who reside in its chic neighbourhoods.

The Plein and Grote Markt squares abound with great restaurants, eateries, coffee houses and night clubs and are lively and welcoming places every day of the week. The Hague's shopping is as varied as the city itself, ranging from luxury department stores and international top brands to cosy little streets filled with boutiques and speciality shops. It also has a lot of internationally renowned art and culture to offer.

It also hosts several international organisations including the International Court of Justice. Background information on den Haag and its history can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hague.

Besides wandering around the old part of Den Haag we can also take a boat trip. Several self-guided walks can be downloaded at <http://www.denhaag.nl/en/residents/international-the-hague/the-hague-bridge/to/Walking-tours-of-The-Hague.htm>.

For the canal I'll investigate a group trip in the morning.



Madurodam <http://www.madurodam.nl/en/>

Madurodam consists of three themed areas: City Centre, Water World and Innovation Island. The City Centre area shows how the Netherlands has grown from the old cities to the country seen today: characteristic, free and eccentric. You can still see the traces of these developments in the buildings, squares and streets, each with their own story.

In Water World, you discover how the Netherlands deals with water as a friend and as a foe. You can experience for yourself the hustle and bustle of the port of Rotterdam, view the workings of a watermill and operate the locks of the Oosterschelde barrier.

Innovation Island demonstrates the international success of entrepreneurial spirit and innovative strength. The country excels in architecture, logistics, entertainment, sports and design. Here you see modern expressions with which the Netherlands inspires the world.

Madurodam is a short 16 min. tram ride from Den Haag central Station. The tram number 9 runs every 10 mins.



Westland floating flower parade <http://www.varendcorso.nl/27/History>

The first Floating Flower Parade was organised in the Westland in 1998. To mark the 800th anniversary of Poeldijk, the decision was made to combine the municipality of Naaldwijk's flower parade with the Lierse Gondelvaart boat parade into one Westland event.

In the early years, the participants in the Westland Floating Flower Parade were mainly businesses; nowadays the parade also includes a large number of non-commercial boats, crewed by clubs and community groups, for example.

Although the structure and goal have not changed since 1998, the status of the Westland Floating Flower parade has grown tremendously over the years. Visitors at the first stagings were virtually entirely drawn from the Westland itself. In recent years the number of visitors has grown to around 300,000 from all over the Netherlands and even beyond. The increased popularity is undoubtedly due to the professionalisation of the organisation. Whilst the first flower parade was staged by a committee of five people, the event now involves various working groups and hundreds of volunteers.



When we went the display had about 50 boats and lasted about an hour. The locals bring blankets to sit on and a packed lunch.

On the 1 August between 16.00 and 17.00 the parade is close to Den Haag and can be reached by a local bus with stops on the road running beside the canal.



The Cruquius machine <http://www.cruquiusmuseum.nl/englishsite/english.html>

Draining the Haarlemmermeer was an immense undertaking. For three years great clouds of smoke hung from the chimneys of the three steam pumping stations built for this gigantic task, Leegwater, Lynden and Cruquius. Many years ago Cruquius was finally retired. The work was taken over by more modern pumps. After a period on stand-by Cruquius finally became redundant in 1932. An initiative was taken by the Koninklijk Instituut van Ingenieurs to preserve it. And the Cruquius steam pumping station became an industrial monument, one of the first in the world. In 1991 the American Society of Mechanical Engineers designated the Cruquius steam drainage pumping station the 33rd International Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

The Cruquius pumping station is a beautiful neo Gothic building. The building, the engine and pumps of Cruquius were never modernized or modified. The drainage station is just as it was built in 1846-1849. The Cruquius gives an impression of the Dutch struggle against the water. Without enclosure and drainage, more than half of the area of the present-day Netherlands would be flooded with every high tide, every wet season, or permanently.

The main attraction is the large Cruquius engine, the steam engine with the largest cylinder diameter in the world, almost 3.5 m or 144"! The steam cycle of the Cruquius engine is virtually the same as that of a regular Cornish engine. The Cornish mine-pumping engine is characterized by a beam, pivoted on a massive wall, with the vertical steam cylinder under one end of the beam and the pump rod suspended from the other. Robert Gisolf created a flash animation to demonstrate the working of the large Cruquius engine (See video on web site above).



Gouda <http://www.holland.com/global/tourism/article/gouda.htm>

Gouda nearby is an attractive town. Besides its cheese market Gouda has one of the older gothic town halls in Holland and Saint John Church with its sixteenth century stained glass. Old times are brought back to life as you stroll along the canals, alleyways and medieval mansions.



The visit

Day 1, 30th July; Arrive at Den Haag. You can get to Den Haag (HS Station) by Eurostar via Brussels. This takes about 6hrs and costs about 150 -250€ return (see <https://www.b-europe.com>). By air to Rotterdam or Schiphol and then train direct from the airport to Den Haag Central Station. By car, den Haag is about 350km from Calais and is a 3-4 hour drive depending on traffic around Antwerp. Plenty of car parking is available in den Haag and costs about 30€ per day. Please book your own travel to and from Den Haag and your accommodation. I'll book the coach trips and group bookings as described below. I suggest we stay at the Mercure Hotel Den Haag Central. It is located in the heart of The Hague and is easily accessible by car and public transport. The hotel is within walking distance of a large shopping centre, theatres , restaurants and about 900m from both the Central station and the HS station. They have 159 stylish rooms, a cosy bar where you can grab a bite to eat, and a public parking garage close by. When I booked my double room (22/1/15) they charged 516€ for a double room arriving on 30 July and leaving on 3 August. This includes breakfast.

Day 2, 31st July; Day trip to the Stoomtram and boatrip. I have arranged for a coach to leave the Mercure Hotel at 9.30. This gives us plenty of time to catch the 11.40 Stoomtram and an opportunity to look at their train museum. This train then connects with the 13.20 boat, which gets to Enkhuizen at 14.40. The coach back leaves at 16.00 to arrive back at the hotel around 17.30 The group rate for the train and ship is 18.5€ the coach costs 715€ /n about 28€ pp and a Dutch lunch about 15€.

Day 3, 1st August; Self guided tour of Den Haag, canal boat cruise, visit Madurodam and watch the canal flower parade . Boat trips about 11€, local travel about 10€

Day 4, 2nd August; Visit The Cruquius machine and Gouda by coach and return to Den Haag by train. The coach leaves the hotel at 10.00 and drops us at the Museum for an 11.00 guided visit (in English!). The coach then leaves at 12.30 to take us to Gouda. Coach cost is 380€ / n about 14€ pp and train back from Gouda is 5.5€. The museum costs t 5€pp plus a group (16) guide cost of 40€ and a Gouda guide is about 14€.

Day 5, 3rd August; Group visit finishes.

You can plan your travel in Holland using <http://9292.nl/en>.

