

REMS Visit to Zundert
30 August 2017 to 4 September 2017

This visit is organised by David and Gillian Pick

This flier describes a visit to Breda to attend the Zundert Corso and explore some of the sights of SW Netherlands. Please email on david.pick@physics.org if you want further information or to come on this visit. Based on initial expression of interest a 14 /16 mini bus has been booked. Thus this trip is limited to a total of 16.

The plan is

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| Wed 30 Aug | Travel to Breda |
| Thurs 31 Aug | Visit Rotterdam and old steam tramway |
| Fri 1 Sept | Explore Breda and visit textile museum at Tilburg |
| Sat 2 Sept | Visit Antwerp |
| Sun 3 Sept | Attend Zundert Corso |
| Mon 4 Sept | Return to UK |



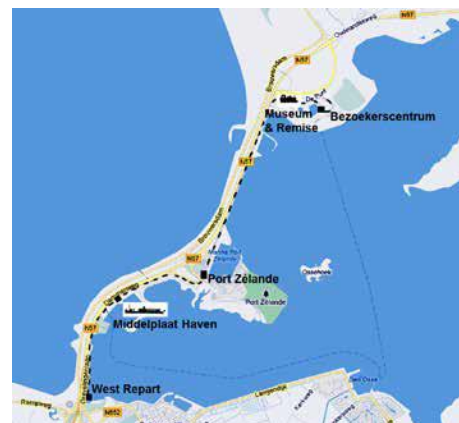
Breda

According to the VVV Breda is “A sparkling and historical city in North Brabant with a cheerful personality, that’s Breda! The combination of its rich history and numerous present-day activities makes Breda an inspiring city! During the course of years Breda has grown into a city with around 170.000 inhabitants. Her cosy city centre makes it well-organized and pleasant to be in.”

The name Breda derived from brede Aa ('wide Aa' or 'broad Aa') and refers to the confluence of the rivers Mark and Aa.[7] As a fortified city, the city was of strategic military and political significance. Although a direct Fiefdom of the Holy Roman Emperor, the city obtained a municipal charter; the acquisition of Breda, through marriage, by the house of Nassau ensured that Breda would be at the centre of political and social life in the Low Countries.

A detailed guide to Breda can be found at <http://www.vvvbreda.nl/en/tourist-office-breda/160> where you should see a panel showing a picture of the Breda brochure, click on it to get the online view.

Rotterdam and old steam tramway



Between 1898 and 1966 the RTM connected Rotterdam with the islands south of the city using trams and ferry-boats. Now the original, beautifully restored steam and diesel trams will take you on a 'sentimental journey' through the dunes of Goeree, along the Brouwersdam offering a splendid view on Lake Grevelingen to the harbour of Middelpmaat and further to the village Scharendijke. The museum is located at the "Punt van Goeree" near Ouddorp. Here you can see the collection of steam and diesel engines, railcars, coaches and vans. In the museum shop you can buy books and souvenirs. Also photographs, models and memorabilia are exhibited here. The museum is open on operating days. 31 August is a steam day. Their web site is <http://www.rtm-ouddorp.nl/>. This visit will need to be arranged by mini bus or coach, which could then go on to Rotterdam.

Rotterdam is a city in the Netherlands, located in South Holland, within the Rhine–Meuse–Scheldt river delta at the North Sea. Its history goes back to 1270 when a dam was constructed in the Rotte river by people settled around it for safety. In 1340 Rotterdam was granted city rights by the Count of Holland and slowly grew into a major logistic and economic centre. Nowadays it is home to Europe's largest port and has a population of 633,471 (2014, city proper), ranking second in the Netherlands.



The city of Rotterdam is known for the Erasmus University, riverside setting, lively cultural life and its maritime heritage. The near-complete destruction of Rotterdam's city centre during World War II (known as the Rotterdam Blitz) has resulted in a varied architectural landscape including sky-scrapers which are an uncommon sight in other Dutch cities. Rotterdam is home to some world-famous architecture from renowned architects like Rem Koolhaas, Piet Blom, Ben van Berkel and others.

The port of Rotterdam is the largest cargo port in Europe and the 10th largest in the world. Rotterdam's logistic success is based on its strategic location on the North Sea, directly at the mouth of the Nieuwe Maas (New Meuse) channel leading into the Rhine–Meuse–Scheldt delta. The rivers Rhine, Meuse, and Scheldt give waterway access into the heart of Western Europe, including the highly industrialized Ruhr region. The extensive distribution system including rail, roads and waterways have earned Rotterdam the nickname "Gateway to Europe", and, conversely; "Gateway to the World" in Europe.

<https://en.rotterdam.info/see-do/> is a good web site for exploring the many sights of the city. Rotterdam is a 40min train journey from Breda. Trains run every 30min.

TextielLab and museum at Tilburg

The TextielMuseum is a working museum. Besides inspiring exhibitions, the TextielMuseum features a highly innovative TextielLab. In the TextielLab, visitors are welcome to watch designers, artists and architects at work, getting a unique peek into a world that is normally out of sight by experiencing first-hand how tests are conducted and products are made.



Guided tours with an English speaking guide can be arranged. Tilburg is about 15 min by the frequent trains from Breda.

Antwerp

The name "Antwerp" is most likely derived from "aan de werpe", which is Dutch for "at the throw", referring to a place where the bending river throws its sand. Locals might tell you of an ancient urban legend, saying it comes from "Hand werpen", which translated is "throwing (a) hand(s)". In the official flag, the castle "het Steen" and the hand of Antwerp are shown.



In the 16th century, Antwerp was one of the most important financial centres of the world, where traders from all over Europe and Asia sold and bought their goods. After the siege of Antwerp in 1585 by the Spanish, this role as a financial centre was taken over by Amsterdam. Nevertheless, since the 19th century and especially the 20th century, Antwerp has made a serious economic comeback. At a population of 506,225 (2012), it is the second largest city in Belgium, after Brussels, and it has a major European port. Buy your diamonds here!

Due to its long and culturally rich history, the city of Antwerp houses many interesting historical buildings from different historical periods, as well as a lot of interesting museums. Recently it has become a trendy city, attracting a lot of Flemish and foreign artists, writers, intellectuals, and actors. This is reflected in the city's many trendy bars and shops. See <http://www.visitantwerpen.be/en>

Antwerp is about 1 hour by a half hourly train service from Breda

Zundert

Zundert's flower parade is an annual explosion of dahlias. Zundert's village districts and surrounding church villages are engaged in a severe competition every year to build the finest float to be judged by a professional and independent jury. The entire village joins in, young as well as old, man and woman, worker and manager. The tradition of the parade joins generations, sexes and social classes.



Zundert's flower parade came into being in 1936 as a celebration of Queen Wilhelmina's birthday at that time. The first parades were modest as far as size is concerned and mostly consisted of decorated bicycles and a single farmer's cart. Yet the idea of a flower parade touched a string in the inhabitants.

Now the floats are built in huge tents. These appear from early May and June, then the actual building of the floats starts. All summer long the building continues. By the end of August the floats are ready except for one important detail: the flowers. Of course, the dahlias can only be fixed on the floats at the very last moments, since they would wither if applied earlier. This is a challenging job that has to be performed within just a few days and for which hundreds of volunteers are drummed up in every village quarter. On the Saturday preceding the parade a lot of the locals work through the night to get the float finished.

The most important hours of the year in Zundert are those on every first Sunday afternoon of September. Then the flower parade goes through the streets of the village.

Zundert's flower parade has always had a quite strong artistic aspect. Since the fifties good contacts have existed with the Art Academy in neighbouring Breda. Professional artists are part of the jury of the floats and advise the designers. Just like the builders of the floats, these designers are all volunteers from Zundert. Inhabitants of Zundert educated at the Art Academy, often become designers of floats, inspired

by this artistic aspect. Or the other way round: Young float designers are following an education at the Art Academy, because their artistic interest was inspired by the parade. Since the sixties the growing of dahlias has become a major job. In the old days dahlias were picked on farmers' yards in the wider surroundings of Zundert, but later on the village districts started creating their own dahlia fields. At this moment the dahlia fields put together take up an area of 33 hectares (81 acres) with 600,000 dahlia tubers of fifty different species. All dahlias are grown especially for the flower parade, there is no commercial growing of dahlias in Zundert.

Besides the floats, local marching (and cycling) bands take part in the parade (corso). There are also several standing bands, food stalls and bric-a-brac sellers. See <http://www.corsozundert.nl/home-EN/>, where tickets for the stands can be bought from 24 May, entry tickets can be bought on the day. A mini bus has been arranged to take us to and from Zundert.



Logistics

Breda can be reached by Eurostar to Brussels and then by connecting train. The travel time is about 4-5 hrs and fares range from 60 to 100 euros see <https://www.nsinternational.nl/en>.

The Apollo hotel next to Breda Station has 88 rooms. It is within a 10-minute walk from the Grote Markt. The hospitality of Brabant is in walking distance. "You will sleep tight in Breda's former post office and, after a good breakfast, you can start your day in Breda feeling nice and relaxed".

I will arrange group visits and minibus to the steam train station and then on to the central Rotterdam station on Aug. 31st and minibus for the visit to the Zundert parade on Sept. 3rd

Travel to and from Breda and locally by public transport and arranging hotel accommodation will be the responsibility of attendees.

| Expected costs are: | Euros pp |
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| Eurostar to Breda (www.nsinternational.nl/en) | 60 to 100 one-way |
| Rotterdam to Breda | 9.30 one-way |
| Antwerp to Breda | 14 one-way |
| Breda to Tilburg | 4.5 one-way |
| Minibus | ~60 dependant on final numbers |
| RTM tram | 12 |
| Tilburg Textiles | 12 |
| Corso | 10, stand optional 10,20,30 programme 3 |
| Hotel Apollo | 133 to 143 per double BB |