



Outdoor Art The Hague: City Center Stroll

Start: Diagonally opposite of the Prison Gate

End: Lange Voorhout

🕒 1,5 hour walk

INTRODUCTION

With more than 550 works of art, the city of The Hague is actually one large open-air museum. All statues are right there on the street. Day and night accessible to everyone free of charge. Background information about each of these sculptures can be found on the Outdoor Art The Hague website (bkdh.nl). Did you ever notice that so much art can be seen in the public space in the royal city? This walk will let you get acquainted with some 18 works of art. Together, they give you an impression of the wealth of the collection Outdoor Art The Hague. In approximately 1.5 hours you can see the most diverse works of art in the center of the city. Some you probably know, time to get to know the others!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

We have mapped out the entire route for you, marked the artworks and added a very short explanation for each work. If you want to know more about a work of art in the route, visit bkdh.nl and search by title, street or artist.

The start of the walking route is to the left of the Lange Vijverberg, diagonally opposite the Gevangenpoort. You can pick up the route at any time, but for the best view of the artworks it is useful to follow the numbers.

The walk takes you past 18 works of art. However you will pass many more. Please note: there are more than 170 statues in the city center alone. Do you want to know more about those others? Check out the website bkdh.nl.

www.bkdh.nl



Stroom
Den Haag

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18 Flaneur

15 Dutch Jurists

13 International Homonomment

12 Gerry the Crow

11 Echo

17 Empossed stones

16 Thorbecke monument

14 Wall Painting no 294

13 SUPREME COURT

12 Per Adriano

11 CLOI PLEIN

10 MUSEUMPLEIN

9 Dutch Mechanisms

8 Jewish Monument

7 Girifriends

6 Haegse Harry

5 Architectural sculptures de Bijenkorf

4 Statue Johan de Witt

3 Wilhelmijnmonument

2 Equestrian statue of Willem van Oranje

1 Et in Arcadia Ego

PLAATS

PRISON GATE

HOFFUIJVER

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Palace NOORDEINDE

PALEISTUIN

GROTE MARKT

START

END

DE BIJENKORF

FABRIJN MAARSEN PLEIN

TOWN HALL

COENTRUM

CENTRAL STATION

BOOMSLUITERS

Amaliastraat

Oranjestraat

Spuistraat

Grote Marktstraat

Korte Voorhout

Koningskaai

Zwarteweg

A v Buurenstr

Prinsesstr

Parkstr

Hoogstr

Hofplaats

Lange Houtstr

Bleijenburg

Herengracht

Oranjevlied

Willemstr

Hoofstr

Gedempte Gracht

Kalvermarkt

Tournoiveld

Casuariestr

Muzenplein

Schedeldoekshaven

Amalialaan

Hoofstade

Nieuwstr

Spui plein

Houtmarkt

Amunitehaven

Nieuwe Haven

Uilebomen

Amalialaan

Hoofstade

Nieuwstr

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Spui plein

Houtmarkt

Amunitehaven

Nieuwe Haven

Uilebomen

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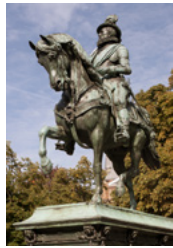
Start: Lange Vijverberg diagonally opposite of Prison Gate.

1.5 hours walk.



1. *Et in Arcadia Ego* Ian Hamilton Finlay, 1998

To discover this hidden work of art in the heart of the city, you have to look at the quay wall of the Hofvijver at the height of the Prison Gate. With a water threshold and a poetic text chiseled in bluestone, artist Finlay marks the mouth of the age-old Haagse Beek. In this way, in the middle of the city, he recalls the paradisiacal landscape of that time.



2. *Equestrian statue of William of Orange* Emile de Nieuwerkercke, 1845

In the center of the government city of The Hague, you almost stumble over the tributes to important men. This is the oldest work of art in the city. Moreover, it is the first equestrian statue in the Netherlands. The French sculptor De Nieuwerkercke depicts William of Orange as a military ruler high on horseback. This is how absolute power was portrayed in classical antiquity. How different it is at the Wilhelminamonument just down the road.



3. *Wilhelminamonument* Charlotte van Pallandt, 1987

A century after the first equestrian statue in the Netherlands, a tribute to a head of state is no longer a powerful ruler elevated above the common people, but a monarch with both feet on the ground. Van Pallandt portrays Queen Wilhelmina purely with attitude and volume. Just like a comedian typifies a person with a glance or gesture. The end result is very sketchy and yet unmistakably Wilhelmina.



4. *Statue Johan de Witt* Fre Jeltsema, 1918

Nothing about this neat man suggests that he and his brother Cornelis were gruesomely lynched by an angry mob of Orange supporters. Reason: the brothers raised their voices when Willem III, as an Orange descendent, became stadtholder of the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands in 1672 against all agreements. The fact that Johan de Witt has meant a lot to the Netherlands was only recognized at the beginning of the 20th century. That's why this statue was made back then.

➤ Walk past the Buitenhof and after café Dudok turn right into the Passage. Go through this beautiful covered 'department store' from 1885 to the Bijenkorf on the Grote Marktstraat.



5. *Architectural sculptures de Bijenkorf* various artists, 1924-1926

High above the teeming crowds and screaming advertisements you see an exceptional facade. The undulating frontage of the Bijenkorf seems to have been sculpted itself. Architect Piet Kramer liked to work with artists. Together with his brick facade, he fused reliefs in natural stone by famous sculptors such as Hildo Krop and John Raedecker into a total work of art. The motif of the beehive can of course also be found in it. Do you see where?



6. *Harry from The Hague (Haagse Harry)* Marnix Rueb, 2016

In a camping tuxedo and with a mat stands the genuine Haagse Harry. The pure-bred guy, once created by Marnix Rueb for a comic strip: coarse-mouthed, but dead good. After the untimely death of the cartoonist, this larger-than-life ceramic version of Harry was produced. As a tribute. Funny detail: Harry is on top of the roof of the tram tunnel he fiercely acted against in his comics.

➤ Turn around and walk back into Grote Marktstraat via number 7. Turn right at the HEMA.



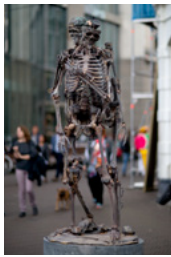
7. *Girlfriends* Tony van der Vorst, 2017

Enjoying the city together. This is what these two young Muslim women look like. Dozens of girls walk around the center of The Hague every day. However, you rarely see them in a sculpture. With these girlfriends sculptor Tony van der Vorst puts all women on a pedestal. The work is part of Peter Struycken's The Sculpture Gallery: a coordinate system of forty pedestals with forty statues. One every 25 meters.



8. *Jewish Monument* Anat Ratzabi e.a., 2018

Before the Second World War, this square was the beating heart of the Jewish neighbourhood in The Hague. In memory of the more than 12,000 murdered Jews in this city, no fewer than four memorials have been brought together here in 2018: the *Amalek monument* by Dick Stins, which, together with the plaque *Rachel weeps* by Theo van der Nahmer, is included in the *Jewish Monument* by Anat Ratzabi and the *Jewish Children's Monument* by Sara Behamou and Eric de Vries behind you.



9. Dutch Mechanisms
Folkert de Jong, 2016

These two beautiful bronze skeletons refer to the De Witt brothers, who were lynched in 1672. Elsewhere in the walk you will come across a statue of Johan de Witt. All that has survived of the brothers is a tongue and an index finger. Folkert de Jong incorporated a 3D scan of this into these skeletons (look closely and you will see them). He sees the same mechanisms then and now. Power and populism cloud objective understanding of time.

➤ Cross the Spui and walk straight on until you reach the Muzentoren. Walk around that building for number 10.



10. Per Adriano
Igor Mitoraj, 1993

Muses and masks. There is a huge mask on Muzenplein in the middle of De Resident. It is an attribute of Thalia, the goddess of comedy and one of the nine Greek muses of art and science. Like the surrounding homes and offices in this neighbourhood, this image is based on classical antiquity. Artwork and architecture reinforce each other. For that reason, this work of art was purchased and has been given a place here.

➤ Take the stairs behind the statue. Keep right on Clioplein and then descend to Turfmarkt. At the bottom, turn left towards Central Station. No stairs preferred? Walk back to the Muzentoren and then turn left towards the station.



11. Echo
Zoro Feigl, 2017

High in the white building you are walking to are four silver rings with a huge golden dish in the middle. With a bit of luck, the motor of this work of art will be on and the parts will move independently of each other. Zoro Feigl makes you feel the laws of nature. *Echo* is always looking for a new balance. With the sun on it, it shows as pure poetry. Looking up in the underpass towards Central Station also produces a magnificent spectacle.



12. Gerry the Crow
Henk Rijzinga, 1989

He comes flying at you big and jet black: Gerry the Crow. Sculptor Henk Rijzinga put it together from wooden slats and sticks and a can of black paint. Originally a protest against the abolition of a regulation for art, since 1989 as a striking appearance high on a pole.



13. International Gay Monument
Theo ten Have, 1993

If you profile yourself as the International City of Peace and Justice, a gay monument should of course not be missed. That is why this Hague sculptor Theo ten Have was commissioned by the city council for a memorial. In memory of the victims of discrimination, but above all to make homosexuality visible in public space. That works out nicely with this dynamic curl in light pink and blue.



15. Wall Painting no.294
Jan van der Ploeg, 2010

The entrance to the Ministry of Finance is marked in a very special way. Van der Ploeg chose the colors for the abstract pattern intuitively. You really have to stand under or close to it to experience its overwhelming spatial effect. There is no greater difference imaginable than with the stately bronze statues across the street.



15. Dutch jurists,
six sculptors, 1938

Here, in a straight line, six influential Dutch jurists sit in front of the Supreme Court building. And although these wise men lived in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, you can't always tell by the way they were depicted by six leading Dutch sculptors in 1938. Look at those heads and how the gentlemen are sitting there. When you compare them, those bronze individuals come to life.



16. Thorbecke Monument
Thom Puckey, 2017

That was a conscious choice to let statesman Thorbecke look out on the 'little tower' at the Binnenhof. The founder of our parliamentary democracy watches us daily from his marble, 19th-century office on the high plinth. To this scene the sculptor has added a contemporary consultation situation in stainless steel. Your own mirror image in the shiny pedestal suddenly turns you into a participant.

➤ Walk straight ahead into Hoge Nieuwstraat. Take the first alley on the right.



17. Embossed Stones
Matt Mullican, 2008

It looks like code language. In this alley there are four bluestone tiles – you hardly see them – in which wondrous signs have been carved. Sometimes they are reminiscent of logos, sometimes icons or mathematical figures. Based on visual language as we use it in (semi) public space, the American artist Mullican has developed a unique drawing system. When deciphering his cosmology, you get stuck every time. That may make the work even more intriguing.

➤ At the end of the alley, cross the Lange Voorhout diagonally to the right. In front of number 42 is the last sculpture of the walk.



19. Flaneur
Theo van der Nahmer, 1968

"Good morning, madam, sir." You hear this gentleman say so during his daily walk. He takes off his hat very courteously. Newspaper under his arm, stick in hand, he strolls across the stately Lange Voorhout. The bronze statue is a tribute to Eduard Elias who wrote about affairs in The Hague under the pseudonym *Flaneur* in the newspaper *Het Vaderland*. How different is this neat resident from The Hague than *Haagse Harry* earlier during this walk!