

# Pride-worthy fortified monuments

Hellevoetsluis cherishes its history and the many museums within this fortified town tell its story as a proud homeport for the Dutch war fleet. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century up until today the history of Hellevoetsluis has been connected with water, and its fortified harbour became the home base and departure harbour of the heroic Admirals Maarten Tromp, Michiel de Ruyter and Piet Heyn.

## Citywalk

If you visit the fortification, you can use a **walking map** for the town\* to show you where to find the fortified walls and monuments. Along the route, you will find poems by the well-known author Frank Herzen, engraved in brass steles by the artist Hans Lemmen. Various **monuments** have information boards which tell you all about their history. From the square, Het Baantje, in the centre of the fortification, a bronze statue of the first Inspector General of Public Works and Water Management, the pioneering hydraulic engineer Jan Blanken Jansz, looks out over the fortified harbour, Het Groote Dok.

\*available from the VVV tourist information office in Hellevoetsluis

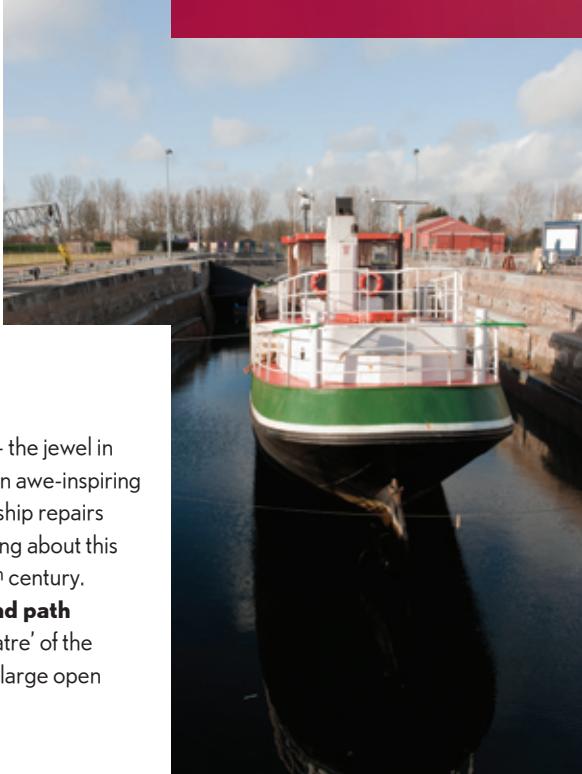
In the heart of this historic fortification, you will find a beautiful working state monument: the first and only **double walled dry dock** in the Netherlands. The dry dock was built by the first Inspector General of Public Works and Water Management, the pioneering hydraulic engineer Jan Blanken Jansz. Proud-worthy fortified monuments such as the Prinsehuis, **the lighthouse**, the former School of Engineering, the Groot Magazijn large warehouse and the Kuiperij coopers still serve to reflect a past intertwined with the sea. However, old and new go hand in hand in this fortified town, with a brand new harbour front built in the western bastions destroyed by war. A modern quay with attractive, coloured wooden fronts along the fortified harbour Het Groote Dok was designed by fortification architect Gunnar Daan. The **corn mill De Hoop** turns its vanes in the western wind. The fortifications, including the 'Kazerne Haerlem', were renovated in 2012. This whole area has been restored to a 'state of defence'. Savour the atmosphere as you take a wander along the gunpowder storage buildings and casemates.



# Museum attractions in the fortification's cultural centre

## Historic dry dock

The historic dry dock Jan Blanken Hellevoetsluis – the jewel in the crown of the fortification of Hellevoetsluis - is an awe-inspiring **state monument**, complete with workplaces for ship repairs and a visitors' centre. Here you can learn everything about this immense building project dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. You can also visit the especially built **underground path network**. Now and again, the gigantic 'amphitheatre' of the historic dry dock forms an atmospheric venue for large open air performances.



## National Firefighting Museum

The National Firefighting Museum shows the colourful history of firefighting in the Netherlands, from simple leather hand-buckets to a varied collection of **classic fire engines** in excellent condition. This museum remains one of the top attractions for young visitors to Hellevoetsluis. Videos, large **historical photos** and numerous authentic objects give you an exciting image of the courageous lives of men and women in the fire brigade.





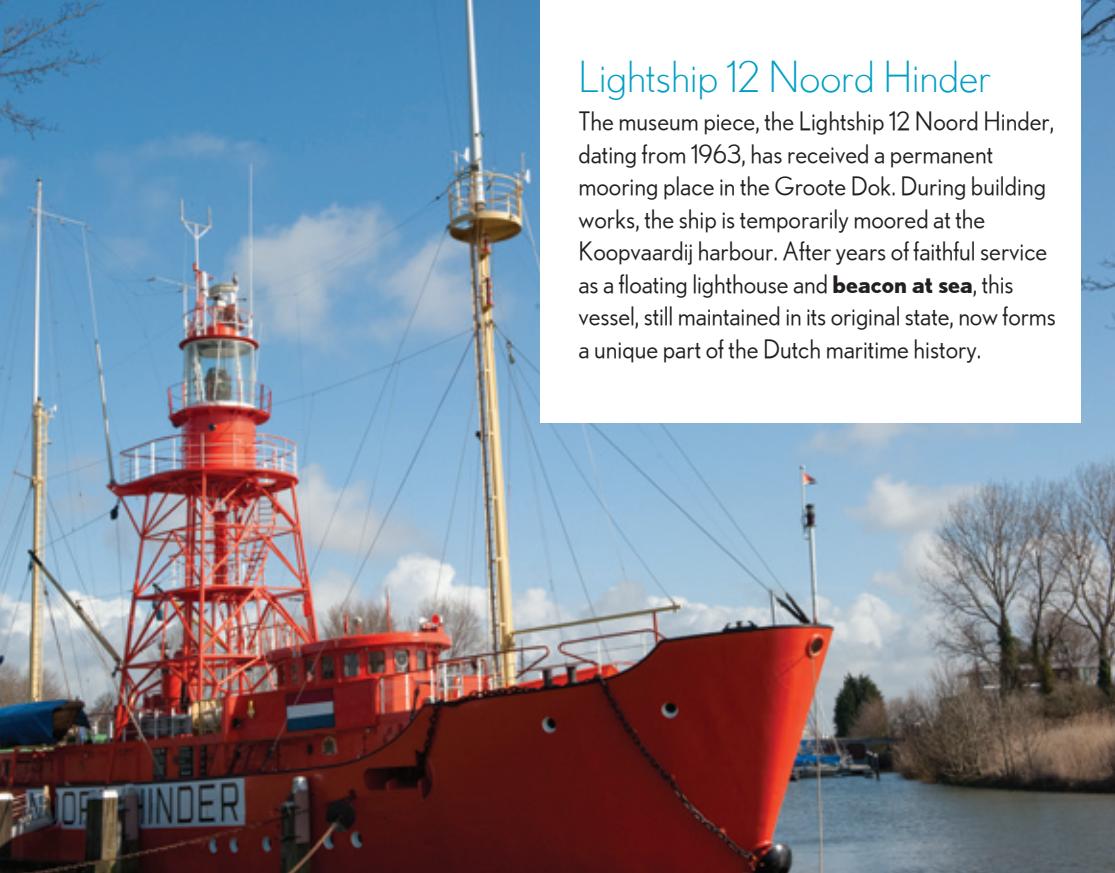
## De Veste

De Veste, the former School of Engineering, is now the Hellevoetsluis **visitors' centre**. Short presentations show you the historic past of our fortified town, with its museums and rich culture. The centre also houses the VVV/ANWB tourist board and has a restaurant.

## Antiquities Room

The Oudheidkamer Hellevoetsluis antiquities' room, with its entrance on the quay displaying an authentic collection of resting **ships' cannons**, houses a colourful collection of historical objects, which reflect the maritime history of Hellevoetsluis, among other things. Have a good look round items from daily life in times gone by. During the opening times, there is always a guide present who can tell you more about the history.





## Lightship 12 Noord Hinder

The museum piece, the Lightship 12 Noord Hinder, dating from 1963, has received a permanent mooring place in the Groote Dok. During building works, the ship is temporarily moored at the Koopvaardij harbour. After years of faithful service as a floating lighthouse and **beacon at sea**, this vessel, still maintained in its original state, now forms a unique part of the Dutch maritime history.



### Corn Mill De Hoop

Corn mill De Hoop, a **tower mill** dating back to about 200 years ago, is run by a hospitable couple who still mill high-quality flour. The second floor has been turned into an atmospheric visitors' centre. The third floor is also accessible to the public, leading you to the wooden tower from which you can look all round, with a panoramic view of the fortress and Haringvliet.

For more information about the museums and their opening times, visit: [www.museumplatform.nl](http://www.museumplatform.nl) or call: +31 (0)181 - 39 84 42.



# Provisions to ensure you a pleasant stay

From near and afar, people from the South-Holland and Zeeland islands come to visit the modern, indoor **shopping centre** De Struytse Hoeck, a regional top-class shopping experience in the very centre of the town, where you can park for free. A modern library, a cinema, a large **indoor pool with water attractions** and a multitude of sports facilities ensure everyone a pleasant stay in Hellevoetsluis. There are two **hotels** to choose from, one with a view of the Haringvliet, or there are the **holiday parks**, Citta Romana and Cape Helius, with modernly furnished, comfortable bungalows near the water. In addition, there are two spacious **campsites**, De Quack and 't Weergors, which receive many hundreds of camping guests every year.



You will also find many **restaurants** and catering establishments, in particular in the historic fortification itself. Whether you are looking for Turkish, Italian, Chinese, Indian or Argentinean food, simply solid Dutch fare or French haut-cuisine, Hellevoetsluis can offer you every gastronomic delight.

# Watersports and nature

Hellevoetsluis is a modern town with a lively past. The fortified town on the panoramic Haringvliet has a population of approximately 40,000 and is one of the largest water sports harbours in the Netherlands.



## Summer pleasure cruising

With three **yacht harbours**, including the hypermodern and tastefully built Cape Helius, Hellevoetsluis is the attraction for summer pleasure cruising in the waters of South Holland. On a sunny summer's day, you will see numerous brightly coloured sails taking to the waves of the Haringvliet. Energetic sea sailors pass through the locks of the **sluices** of Stellendam and visit the final piece of the Delta project: the monumental Haringvliet Dam. From Hellevoetsluis, you can also sail to the horizon of the Dordse Kil river, past the **natural island** of Tiengemeten, towards the wetlands of the Biesbosch or the little harbours of Goeree-Overflakkee.



## Refreshing sea air

On the lush green **South Holland island** of Voorne-Putten, you can enjoy the refreshing sea air on the beaches and dunes by the Haringvliet Dam, Rockanje, Oostvoorne and the Maasvlakte. Hellevoetsluis offers you vast views of **Zeeland landscapes** and waters at a stone's throw, a surprising amount of space and excellent provisions.





The annual **Cultural Festival**, held in the large events square of the arts centre, De Nieuwe Veste, continually draws a large number of visitors to Hellevoetsluis. This arts centre is home to **Twee Hondjes theatre** with two theatres, the Kunstuitleen Hellevoetsluis art lending library with its own gallery, Muziekschool Voorne school of music, cultural café-restaurant ApplauzzZ and Omroep Voorne radio station, as well as other local multi-cultural institutions, which will all surprise you during the Cultural Festival with a sample of the **events** for the new season.

# Events and culture

This historic fortified town hosts popular annual events.

The 'Vestingdagen', a historic maritime festival held in August has grown to become the largest event in Hellevoetsluis, transporting you back to the times of the heroic Admirals Michiel Adriaanszn, Michiel de Ruyter, Piet Heyn and Maarten Tromp.



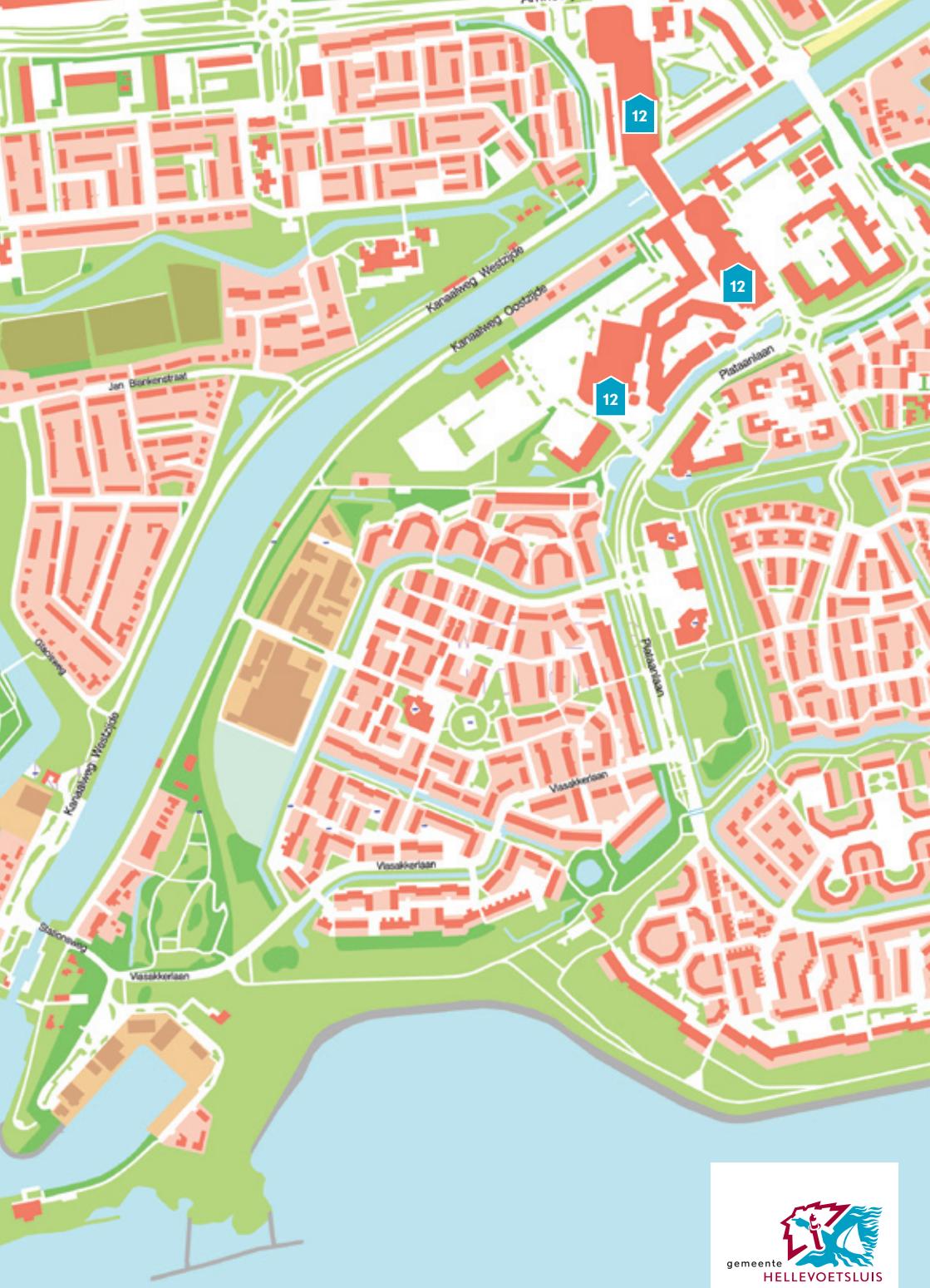
Every year there is the official opening of the water sports season. In addition, there is the international biennial **sailing event**, the Classic Yacht Regatta, in which classic sharp yachts clove from the departure harbour of Hellevoetsluis through the waters of the Haringvliet.

Hellevoetsluis has everything to offer music lovers, with large-scale annual **music events** such as the Wallenpop music festival, the Blues Night and Sixties Night, as well as Saturday night concerts with orchestras and big bands. This is an excellent opportunity for water sports enthusiasts to moor at Hellevoetsluis and take advantage of the musical culture.

# Legenda

- 1 Dry dock Jan Blanken
- 2 Arts centre
- 3 National Firefighting Museum
- 4 Antiquities room
- 5 Visitors' centre De Veste
- 6 Prinsenhuis
- 7 Lightship 12 Noord Hinder
- 8 Lighthouse
- 9 Kazerne Haerlem
- 10 Corn Mill de Hoop
- 11 Coloured wooden houses
- 12 Shopping mall De Struytse Hoeck
- 13 Shopping mall Evertsenplein
- 14 Koopvaardij harbour







*" Come to Hellevoetsluis on the Haringvliet and discover for yourself why the heart and soul of the great hydraulic engineer and first Inspector General of Public Works and Water Management, Jan Blanken Jansz, will for ever be associated with this fortified town."*

JAN BLANKEN JANSZ 1753