

Welcome on board (Liège)

We are sailing on the **River Maas**, which rises at the plateau des Langres in France and flows into the sea in the province of South-Holland. The total length of the river is about 1000 km. During wintertime the water level of the river Maas rises some meters due to heavy rain and snowfalls.

Maastricht is one of the oldest cities of the Netherlands and has survived more than 20 sieges. Today it has a population of 122.000 people. The name Maastricht derives from Trajectum ad Mosam, which means passage through the Maas. Close to a fordable point of the Maas the Romans built a fortification along the "Heirbaan" which went from Cologne to the channel in early A.D. Later on they constructed a bridge of which the rest were discovered by deepening the Maas not so long ago. The bridge collapsed in the year 1275, so that a new one became necessary and that was the St.Servaasbridge. Its construction lasted from the year 1280 to the year 1298 and it completely consists of stones, which were obtained from the rocks near the Belgian city Namur. By the way, this is the oldest bridge in the Netherlands. The bridge was named after St. Servaas, the first bishop of Maastricht, who lived here during the years 350 to 384 A.D. On the south side of the bridge you can see his statue made by the artist Charles Vos.

Brewery 'De Ridder' founded in the year 1857.

At 1900 Maastricht had 26 breweries and brewery 'De Ridder' was the last one in operation before it was closed in 2003.

The 4 towers of the '**Onze Lieve Vrouwe Basiliek**' of Maastricht. The basilica dates back to the 12th century and was built in the Roman style. On the right side of the church is it so-called 'Stokstraatkwartier'. Reduced to poverty the quarter was completely restored by the city of Maastricht in the period from 1957 to 1973. Approximately 160 old premises, most of them dating back to the 17th and the 18th century, make it a unique shopping area.

A part of the old fortification of the city ward called "**Wijck**". You can see a tower and the Watergate, where the Maas was fordable in former times.

The **city-park**, which was laid out in the year 1850 in the style and trend of English parks and gardens. A part of the park had to make room for the construction of the Maasboulevard. On the right side of the park you can still see a part of the first city-walls of Maastricht.

The Bonnefanten Museum is the museum for archaeology and visual arts in Limburg. It consists of 2 buildings: an E-shaped structure fronted by a tower (designed by architect Aldo Rossi), behind this is the restored Wiebengahal. The museum building, commissioned by the provincial authorities, has a surface area of 16.000 m² and was built between 1992 and 1994. It is open for public.

The John F. Kennedy Bridge. The opening of this bridge, by Prince Claus, took place on the 6th of May in 1968.

The new provincial **government** building. The construction of this building lasted from March 1983 until October 1985. The official opening by Queen Beatrix took place on the 22nd of April in 1986. The cost of this gigantic building was 147.5 million guilders. Some new offices are established at the back of the government building. The University of Limburg, the academic hospital and the MECC, an exchange and congress centre are also located here.

The St. Pietersberg formed sixty to eighty million years ago and consists almost completely of marl. Already the Romans used this stone for construction purposes. The marl was got from subterranean pits and this is how a real labyrinth was created through centuries, with a total length of about 250 km. In World War 2 the 'Zonneberg-Labyrinth' was specially equipped to evacuate a large number of the Maastricht population. Electricity and a pumping-device for drink water were installed for that purpose. There was also a bakery, a chapel and a first aid post. You can visit a part of that labyrinth with a guide.

The church of St. Pieter.

The church was built in the neogothic style in the year 1875. A small beautiful castle called 'De Torentjes'. It was built in the year 1526, by order of the friars' canon of St. Servaas, Nicolaas van Beyssel. This renaissance country-seat is a pure marl construction.

The village Heugem.

In former times the village suffered a lot from the high water levels of the river Maas, but preventive measures were taken by canalizing the river. By the way, the church of Heugem owns the oldest bell in Maastricht, dating back to the year 1272.

The ruins Lichtenberg.

The castle Lichtenberg was destroyed by the French in the year 1748. It said that in former days the Romans used this high point for their light-signals. In the year 1568 the Spanish duke Alva made the Lichtenberg castle his headquarters. The farmstead on the left was added in the year 1816.

The building called "**Huize Hoogenweerth**" dates back to the 15th century. It underwent several rebuildings of which the last one in the 19th century was a radical one. The house was bought by the family of the industrialist Petrus Regout in the year 1904. It is now a restaurant.

The factory of the **First Dutch cement industry** called **ENCI**.

The **ENCI** was founded in 1926 and went into production in the year 1928. The main raw material for the production of cement consists of limestone quarried out of St. Pietersberg. The hill is covered by a 16 meter thick coat of gravel and loess. The loess is partly used in the production of cement. The residue is used to restore the landscape of the cleared part of the St. Pietersberg.

With its 120 meters above the Maas level the hill called '**D'n Observant**' is the highest point of the St. Pietersberg. It completely consists of waste products and covers an area of 25 hectares. The ENCI planted tens of thousands of trees and bushes. On the hill are splendidly signposted walks and you having a magnificent view of the valleys of the Maas from its top. When excavating is finished, the ENCI will restore the landscape of the pit at their expense. St. Pietersberg will then have a lake covering 60 hectares, surrounded by 250.000 trees and bushes.

The gravel basin of **East-Maarland**. This is a result of the gravel excavations and it has been turned into a attractive water sport area, particularly for windsurfers.

The entrance to the **locks of "Klein Ternaaien"** accommodating the former Dutch and Belgian customs. The locks have been rebuilt in the year 1932 and consist of three separate locks. The left one is the largest. It is 135 meters long and 16 meters wide. The two smaller ones on the right measure 55 by 7.5 meters. The fall of the locks is 15 meters. This means that every ship or vessel passing Maastricht on its way to Liege or Antwerp has to rise 15 meters in the locks in order to reach the higher water level of the Albert channel. If you would like to experience the sensation of passing through the locks, you can book a day-trip to Liege or the 4-Locks trip. The cement factories get their raw material, the marl, from St. Pietersberg, just as the ENCI does.

The rolling mills of the steel factory of **Chertal**. The red-hot iron from the iron foundry at Ougree in the South of Liege is transported to this factory for the further steel process, in special wagons. Toxins liberated by the processing are partly neutralised in the green ball you can see above the factory.

The small park created commemorates the construction of **the Albert Channel**. On the same side, on the wall, you can see how the Albert Channel connects Liege with Antwerp. Liege is represented by an industrial worker and Antwerp by a dock-labourer.

The statue of **King Albert**. He gave the channel its name. This is also the end of the channel and we are returning to the Maas again.

The modern weir of **Jupille** which keeps the water of the Maas at a constant level. It also generates electricity.

The red building was constructed for the occasion of the world exhibition, which has held in Liege in the year 1939. Today it is still in use as a skating-rink. Next to the red building are the other exhibition halls.

The bridge **Pont d'Atlas**. The bridge is named after the tug-boat Atlas, which smuggled members of the resistance across the border during World War 1.

Liege. With its population of a half a million people Liege is one of the most important industrial cities in Belgium. On the hill you can see a memorial needle, which stands on a fortification named Citadel. You may go up there by climbing up a street of stairs with a total of 407 steps. A magnificent view over the city and the valley makes it worthwhile.

The Quai of Maastricht, a lumber-fair takes place every Sunday. The fair called *BATTE* is compared with the lumber-fair of Paris.

Our landing-stage the **QUAI DE GAULLE**. In order to get to the city, we advise you to walk over the bridge for pedestrians and follow the connecting street. Due to heavy traffic you are advised to go under the bridge and use the zebra-crossing to get on the bridge.

We would like to point out, that the boat will leave here at 15.00 hours and we wish you a good time in Liege!