

Volendam



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1 Photo studio Fotograaf Volendam

Every year, thousands of tourists come to Volendam to take a photo in traditional costume at 'Fotograaf Volendam'. The traditional Volendam costume is famous all over the world, because many painters captured the former Volendammers on their paintings. The main feature of the Volendam costume is the 'hul', a lace cap that serves as a headgear. Another typical part of the Volendam costume is the necklace of blood coral. The golden piece in the middle of the necklace was passed on from mother to daughter. Yet, the recognizable 'hul' and the necklace were only worn on Sundays and holidays! Some Volendam women still wear the traditional costume every day. Of course you can also experience what it is like to wear this beautiful traditional costume. Who would not like to have this photo at home? It is a very nice memory of the unique village of Volendam.

2 Praathuis

In the middle of 'de Dijk' you will find 'Het Praathuis': a small wooden square house with a beautiful view of the harbour. Volendam men have been gathering here for years to discuss the latest news updates. A kind of local pub, without beer. And without women, because they are not welcome in "Het Praathuis".



Next to 'Het Praathuis' you will see a bench with a bronze statue, also known as "De Bap". Feel free to sit next to him on the couch and take a nice photo!

On the other side of 'Het Praathuis' you see a bell. When a couple was getting married, they were greeted by friends and family at the 'Klokkenspaal'. They came there by boat from Edam, where the official papers were signed in the town hall. Volendam did not have a town hall. The bell was therefore also called the wedding clock.

3 Statue 'Holy Mary'

The Holy Virgin Mary is very important for the Catholic 'Volendammers'. Since 1953 there is a statue of the Holy Virgin Mary from Banneux at the Volendam pier. They decided that the place where the Volendam fishermen left and entered the Volendam harbour, was the best place for the statue.

4 The shell beach

Next to the statue 'Holy Mary' you see a fog horn that howled when there was fog or poor visibility. This side of the harbour pier had also a very important social function! The shell was used as a recreational swimming and relaxing place before it was possible to swim at the 'Slobbeland' which you see on the right in the distance.

5 The Bukdijk

There are different stories about the dike in the distance. One story tells that the intention was to have a passage on the other side of Marken. This made it possible to charge toll. A more plausible story is that the intention was to drain the water behind it and thus enlarge the polder. The dike does not have an official name, but is locally called "De Bukdijk". During the war, food was mainly smuggled out of the polders, which was then collected from the dike in small boats. Because silhouettes were clearly visible with a clear sky, the overloading had to be done bent down. This is how the name "De Bukdijk" was born.

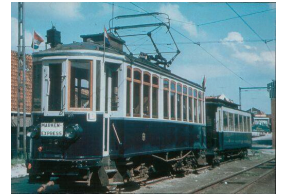
6 Gouwzee

In the distance you can see Marken, an ancient (peninsula) island surrounded by the Gouwzee and the Markermeer. The water between Marken and Monnickendam was previously part of the Zuiderzee and later, after the construction of the Afsluitdijk, it was part of the IJsselmeer. Only when the dike between Enkhuizen and Lelystad was built in 1976, all the water on the south of that dike became the Markermeer. That is why the dike is, besides its official name De Houtribdijk, also called the Markermeerdijk by most people. What many of them do not remember is the whole idea behind that 26-kilometer-long dike. It was intended to be able to reclaim the southern part of the IJsselmeer. That idea was dropped in 2003.

7 Volendam Marken Express



You walk past the Volendam Marken Express, these boats have been connecting Volendam to Marken for more than 80 years. The name Volendam Marken Express originates from a tram that went from Amsterdam North, via Broek in Waterland Monnickendam to Edam and Volendam and back! This tram ran until 1956.



This tour with the tram was extended in 1905 with a crossing by steamboat.

8 Cheese Factory



All over the world, the Dutch are famous for their cheese. In Volendam they make delicious cheese. In the Cheese Factory Volendam – a three-in-one cheese museum, factory and shop – you can experience that cheese making is an art. Find out how milk becomes that flavourful slice of cheese on your bread. And do you know how the holes appear in the cheese and what makes the cheese taste different? And do you have any idea how long it takes before the cheese is ready to eat? You will find this all out during your tour in the Cheese Factory Volendam. And of course you get to taste everything yourself and get the opportunity to buy real Volendam cheese, so you can enjoy it several days after your visit to Volendam.

You are now walking through 'the double neighbourhood'. This name is only known by the Volendammers. This is the only part of the dike with buildings on both sides, hence the name.

9 Art hotel Spaander

Many painters discovered Volendam early on. In 1881 Leendert Spaander and his wife Aaltje Kout bought a small café on the dike and later turned it into a hotel. This gave painters the opportunity to work in the village, but at the same time it was a meeting place for artists from all over the world. Leendert hung everything on the wall: the works he received out of gratitude and the paintings of poor artists who thereby paid their hotel bills. The 'painting period' is still tangibly present in the hotel. Unfortunately, the hotel is currently closed,



but you can take beautiful photos at the beach next to Art hotel Spaander with the IJsselmeer in the background.

10 Gouwzee

After you have passed art hotel Spaander, walk down to the beach. From here you have a clear view over: Edam, Hoorn, Enkhuizen, Lelystad and Almere! Wonderful to see exactly where you are and how well Volendam can be reached from the water.

11 Sint-Vincentiuskerk



Opposite of art hotel Spaander you can walk down the small stairs and see a beautiful church. The St. Vincentius Church has been built in 1860 and is the oldest catholic church in Volendam. For centuries the Volendammers had to walk to the church in Edam. After a massive protest the bishop gave permission for building their own church. During the holiday season the St. Vincentius Church can be visited by tourists on the weekends.



12 Het Doolhof

'Het Doolhof' (the labyrinth) is the oldest part of the Volendam centre. This unique piece of Volendam gets its name from the fact that the houses seem to be placed randomly. With its small streets and authentic houses, het Doolhof has been a big inspiration for artists. This is perhaps the most beautiful photo spot, because it still seems as if time stood still. So do not hesitate to walk around 'Het Doolhof' and be amazed by the little cute houses. On the wall you see a memorial stone, which is placed for a boy who has been shot. At the time, the youth were ignoring the evening clock, then challenging German soldiers to get them. The soldiers hardly caught the youth as they knew all narrow alleys of Het Doolhof by heart, so escaping was child's play! One day a soldier was so fed up with it that he opened fire and shot a boy.

13 Yellow bridge

Which Volendammer did not have their wedding photo taken here? It is still a tradition of take your wedding photo in front of the yellow bridge. Their walking route of the newly married couple went from St. Vincent's Church through the narrow alleys and over the yellow bridge, which is certainly iconic!



14 Brijkje

Het Brijkje' used to be an important place. This is where the youth learned ice skating, Sint Nicolaas was welcomed and it was also the place to transport fish and good to Edam. The water was therefore an important transport route to Edam. You would not think that nowadays, due to the narrow space, but this used to be a very wide space and a fast journey.

15 Nicknames

Vernoemen in Volendam all families have a nickname. Naming was important, so it was common in large families (an average of 9 children per family, with outliers for 14 to 15 children) that children were given the same first name. For

example, in a family you had big Jan and little Jan, and big Piet and little Piet. All Catholic names, of course, because Volendam was a strong Catholic stronghold in the Protestant Netherlands. In addition to the same given first names, there were also many families with the same surnames. Well-known examples are: Painter, Smit, de Boer, Veerman & Molenaar. So a nickname was needed to know who it was. There were 100 of a "Jan Smit". A playful example of how a nickname came about is the story of "Jammesebaaie". Jan was skating and stayed a bit too long in Edam. It was already dark when Jan decided to skate back to Volendam in the moonlight. Jan suddenly saw that someone was chasing him and he decided to skate a bit harder to shake off this person. The faster he went, the figure briefly followed. In a panic, Jan skated to the first farm and banged on the door for help. It turned out that Jan was being chased by his own shadow. Since then he was called "Jammesebaaie", or Jan with both of them. All generations after Jan still have this nickname.

16 Green bridge

This bridge shows how high the water was during the flood of 1916. The green bridge was important because a lot of transport had to go through it. The canal on the right leads to Edam. Draft boats used to be pulled here by horses for goods and passenger transport. Previously, there were folding gates along the canal, and when you passed the seventh folding gate, you reached the "coats" (that is what all people are called in Volendam who were not born in Volendam), some of these "coats" come from the neighboring village of Edam. Edam had city rights and associated privileges and facilities. Edammers walked "in citizen clothes", and poor Volendam fishermen with their families in traditional costumes. The folding gates served as a partition to keep the cattle together and separate from the various farms.

17 Fish auction

'De Klokkenpaal' has been mentioned before, but had a completely different function in the past. The regulations of the 17th century stipulated that one could only sell fish if the bell of the gatehouse in the harbour was ringing. The bell was therefore originally placed here at the time, next to the fish auction.



All fish that was brought in Volendam, was first looked at in their own village. 'Bone tax' had to be paid, 5 pennies per tub of fish that was caught. In 1905, the fish auction got its own bell tower on the roof. In the past, the eel went live in the so-called "karen" which lay in the harbour. These were kept there. At the time, the young people enjoyed running over these 'karen'. But you had to be careful! The Karen sank slowly down and were slippery. Before you knew it you were too slow and got a wet suit!

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Woltje's Backerij



The story of Woltje's Backerij starts on October 11, 1799. The story goes that she got acquainted with the Dutch 'stroopwafel' from Gouda and decided that she could do this much better. This is how the Volendam syrup waffle was created, which is really different from all other syrup waffles. If you are in Volendam, you should, of course, taste it yourself! The tasting is therefore highly recommended. You can also participate in the demonstration at Woltje's Backerij and see how a 'stroopwafel' is made. In this special bakery you will also find many other types of waffles, for example with chocolate and covered with large pieces of caramel. All unique treats!

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Restaurant 'de Lunch'



During a visit to Volendam you also want to enjoy the fresh fish for which Volendam is known. In this cozy family restaurant you can choose from a special assortment of local and regional specialties. How about hot freshly baked bread with smoked eel? Of course there is also a nice choice of all kinds of dishes for guests who prefer not to eat fish. Homemade fries cut from Beenster Binten are served with all dishes. Can't choose from all these delicious dishes? Then choose for a tasting. You will taste a little bit of everything.