

Verversingskanaal



The central drainage canal in The Hague, popularly called Verversingskanaal ('Refreshing Canal'), is known as the 'green-blue vein' of the city. It was constructed in 1888 and was used to drain polluted water from the canals to the North Sea. This desired result was not achieved instantly, instead locals often had to endure its odour due to the build up of sewerage and waste.

Today, the canal is comparatively clean and is used as a water cooling circuit for a local power station. The result of this process is that the water in the canal is now slightly warmer than those surrounding it. This has meant that Birds (and bird lovers) find enjoyment here, but not so much ice skaters in the winter. Further underneath its surface it is like any other canal in the city, a murky green home for many discarded and lost objects.

Den Haag ondergronds



Despite having many iconic sites above the ground, there is an abundance of activity beneath The Hague. Underground, there is numerous parking spaces, tram tunnels, garbage storage, water pipes, an old prison, secret royal corridors, Cold War bunkers and most intriguing, a missing elephant named Jenny.

Jenny was a circus elephant, who died in The Hague while on tour in the 1930s. Her body was bought by the local museum, and placed in a pond and later underground in an effort to clean her skeleton for display. When WWII broke out, she was forgotten until the 1980s, when a search began. There was momentarily hope as bones were found, but these turned out to be from a mammoth. And so, amongst much history and current activity, Jenny remains somewhere underground.

De Atlantikwall



A food icon of The Hague is the herring, a beach favourite for locals and tourists. Upon buying this delight however, one must battle for eating rights, with seagulls invade the eating areas hoping to snatch the fish of unassuming customers.

It is not the first time the beach at Scheveningen has been a site of battle. During WWII, under German occupation, an evacuation of the beach front was ordered. Fearing an Allied invasion, a series of bunkers were set up as part of the Atlantic Wall - a 5,200 km long defence line stretching from Norway to France. While only remnants of this remain today, Germans are now one of the key tourists at the site, recognised by locals for their puzzling enjoyment in digging holes in the sand.

De ooievaar



Since 1541, the stork has sat proudly on The Hague's city coat of arms. Despite plans in 2006 for a design without the stork, community criticism meant it stayed put. The bird has long been a city favourite, it's history as a mascot going back to the Middle Ages. They were looked after through the government ensuring they had places to nest and even their own personal keeper, stocking them with food at the city's expense.

But why such care? Not only was the stork considered lucky, they were brilliant cleaners. At the busy fish markets, the storks were transported in and tasked with cleaning up fish waste and small pests, a task which helped stop the spread of disease.

De Weimar



The Weimarstraat has been a busy business area since the industrial revolution. Today, it remains a lively and diverse area, but with two distinct faces. One end of the street contains cosy cafes, fruit stores, florists and a theatre. The other is characterised by 'coffee shops', apartments for sale, closed curtains and various indefinable businesses. It is here that problems have arisen.

A history of fighting, litter, loud music, street racing and drug use was the background for a fatal stabbing in January 2019. It needed a solution. The Hague City Council decided upon surveillance, with a large camera pole installed in March 2019. Amongst this busy street is now an extra eye, with its effectiveness yet unknown.