

WALKING TRAILS IN THE ZAAN REGION

10 THE ZAAN PORT AREA

7 km

Starting point: Zaantheater (Zaan theatre) at the Wilhelminabrug Bridge

Shipbuilding has played a key role in the history of Zaandam where many locals earned their living. Thanks to its favourable location on the North Sea Canal, Zaandam became an important port for timber. Some street names you will encounter along the way are a reminder of the places where the ships collected their goods.



The mysterious Hembrug site is a former military complex where weapons and ammunition were produced. With its 43-hectare park-like grounds it was literally and symbolically the heart of the Defence Line of Amsterdam, the nineteenth century ring of fortifications around the Dutch capital. After World War I, around 8,500 people worked in this industrial site which was unique in the Netherlands. The distinctive buildings are now home to creative and innovative companies and there are regular events and festivals.

TIP See the expanse of water on the corner of the North Sea Canal on the Hemkade.



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