

### *Walking and looking in Zaandijk*

Welcome to Zaandijk! The walk we are inviting you to will give you an impression of this beautiful village. The starting point for your tour is the **Zaandijker Sluis (Zaandijk Lock)**, which was built in 1727 and restored in 1996. The lock is manned by some twenty volunteers, in shifts of course.

Having crossed the bridge, you walk straight on, in which case the road (called Lagedijk) takes you to Zaandijk's train station or back to the Zaanse Schans.

During your walk along the Lagedijk, a street boasting quite a few listed buildings, various architectural details will be pointed out:

- **Number 214**, Anno 1626. The oldest wooden cottage of Zaandijk. A former bakery and now in use as a Studio. The history of the property is listed in the info box.
- **Number 146**, built in 1832, with an imposing flight of steps (or stoop, as the Americans have it) and doors with so-called diamond head panels. Here begins a part of Zaandijk called **Gortershoek (Hulling or Pearling Mill Corner)**, after a hulling or pearling mill that was situated here in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Number 134**, a former cocoa and chocolate factory, now a block of flats.
- **Number 132**, a large house painted green, built in 1855 and one of the first wooden houses boasting a second floor or storey.
- **Number 122**, dating back to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Note the top of the façade in the shape of a vase in Louis XVI style. Remarkable too, is the portico with its two Ionic pillars, embellished with scrolls and flowers.
- **Number 114**, also built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and also featuring a richly decorated flower vase ornament.
- **Number 112**, in former days the house where Zaandijk's mayor (burgomaster) lived, its façade crowned with a triangular tympanum.
- **Number 104**, Zaandijk's former town hall, built in 1752, with a richly decorated council chamber. Unfortunately, it is not open to visitors. However, the outside is worth more than a glance, too, as is evidenced for instance by the doors with their Ionic pilasters. Guess what they are made of and feel the texture. If you think it is sandstone, you are wrong. When painting the wood, silver sand or argentiferous sand was added. In the transom windows you can see creatures symbolizing watchfulness and vigilance: a cock for instance and a common crane clutching a stone, surrounded by attributes referring to the Roman deities of trade (Mercury) and the sea (Neptune).
- Across the street are the **Beeldentuin (Statue Garden)** with sculptures representing Morning, Afternoon, Evening and Night (made in 1804) and the **Weefhuis (Weavers' House)**. Built as a workshop in 1650, this was converted into a private house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is now used as an exhibition centre.
- **Number 96**, featuring a window with carved work over the door. Note how a generous Dame Fortune scatters coins, and discover Neptune's trident and Mercury's caduceus (wand with serpents twined round it). In the course of your walk, you will often come across these attributes of trade and shipping in the windows over the doors.
- **Number 92**, in the side wall you can see a hatch. When one of the occupants of the house had died, this was probably used as an exit through which the corpse was moved out of the house. Elsewhere in this part of the country (the **Zaanstreek**) a special door used to serve the same purpose.
- **Number 90**, featuring a bee hive in the transom window. This refers to the former residents, members of the Honig (literally: Honey) family. Honig is still a well-known brand of soup and other types of food.
- **Number 80**, the **Honig Breethuis**, built in 1706, also features Ionic pilasters. It is now a small museum, fitted up as a merchant's house. Here you can meet the Breet-de Jager family (paper manufacturers). The tablets in the façade originate from houses in the neighbourhood that were demolished.
- In between **numbers 70 and 64** there used to be a jetty of the **Alkmaar Packet**, a ferry linking the town of Alkmaar and the Zaan area. Number 64 is the narrowest building on the Lagedijk. 3.20 metres wide, where in the old days a shop belonging to the Verkade company was situated. Next to the large brick building, formerly the village's notary's house, there is a tiny structure where Zaandijk kept its three old-fashioned fire engines (operated manually).
- Across the road you can see a fine house, also characteristic of this area.

DID YOU MAKE A NICE PICTURE ON OUR FERRY? PLEASE SEND IT TO: [info@voetveerzaandijk.nl](mailto:info@voetveerzaandijk.nl) or Facebook: [voetveerzaandijk](https://www.facebook.com/voetveerzaandijk)