

# More about the Route

This walking route with Marycken the miller takes you through the rich history of Zaltbommel during the Hanseatic period. The story begins at the Waterpoort, the only city gate still standing, and takes you through streets, bastions and places where mills once turned.



## Waterpoort

The only surviving city gate, the starting point of the walk.

Along the way you discover how important mills were for trade, food and craft, and how they shaped the cityscape for centuries.

The walk passes the Molenwal and the De Kat bastion, where several mills once stood, and runs past the site of the vanished Gamerschepoort. Here, in 1584, Marycken received permission to build her new mill, after her old mill had been lost to the violence of war. You walk through streets whose names still recall this milling history, past medieval city walls, the sites of old monasteries, the site of a Jewish bath house, oil mills and monumental buildings that breathe the atmosphere of the Hanseatic League.

## Mill in the Hanseatic period

Post mill from  
the sixteenth century  
(by A. Sadler, 1580)



The walk brings to life the world of the Hanseatic merchants, millers and townspeople. With Marycken as your guide, you experience Zaltbommel as it looked in the sixteenth century: a bustling city, full of trade and activity, with the turning mill sails that kept everything in motion.



# Who is Marycken

## A remarkable historical woman

Marycken Hanrick Machielsen, better known as Marycken the miller, is a remarkable historical woman from Zaltbommel's Hanseatic period. Where most millers have vanished namelessly into history, she is one of the few who has remained known by name. Her story gives a unique insight into life in a city where mills were indispensable for trade, food and survival.

In 1584, in a period of war and unrest, Marycken asked the city council for permission to build a new mill by the Gamerschepoort. Her earlier mill had been lost in the fighting, probably through fire and destruction during the battles between the Geuzen and the Spanish. Yet she would not be broken: Marycken stood up, reclaimed her right to work and to a secure livelihood, and was granted permission to have a mill built once again.

As the owner of the mill, Marycken fulfilled an important economic role in the city. Her name and story make her a striking figure in the history of Zaltbommel: an independent working woman who practised her trade as a miller.



Hanzestad  
Zaltbommel

# Walking route Marycken

Zaltbommel  
Hanseatic city  
official  
since 2022

## Walk through the life of Marycken

### Miller in 1584

Marycken Hanrick Machielsen, better known as Marycken the miller, made history in the Zaltbommel of the Hanseatic period. Where others faded into oblivion, her name lived on. As a woman who kept the mill turning, made trade possible and kept life in the city moving.

Source: The impression of Marycken is an artificially generated image



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# Walking route



## Factual historical informatio

Scan the QR code. On this page you will find detailed information about all the beautiful things you will encounter along the entire route.

- 1 Waterpoort** Start of the walk
- 2 Korte Tolstraat 31** Golden ship
- 3 Molenwal 33** Site of former mills
- 4 Molenwal 7a** Townscape of roofs
- 5 Bolwerk de Kat** Where De Kat mill stood
- 6 Molenwal 20** Striking barn
- 7 Junction** Former Gamerschepoort
- 8 Junction** Site of Marycken's mill
- 9 Gamerschestraat 60-64 & 73** Hanseatic!
- 10 Zandstraat** 14th-century city wall
- 11 Nonnenstraat** One of the oldest streets
- 12 Oliemolen 2** Site of an old oil mill
- 13 Mikveh** Former Jewish bath house
- 14 Oliestraat** Refers to a mill in 14th century
- 15 Markt** Pothuis
- 16 Markt 3** From the Hanseatic period
- 17 Markt 9** Building with a mezzanine
- 18 Markt 2** 13th-century trading house
- 19 Markt 6** Medieval building
- 20 Waterstraat 26** Renaissance façade



### Map from 1557

Detail of the map by Jacob van Deventer from 1557, showing mills near the Gamerschepoort.



### Post mill

The kind of mill Marycken used, the post mills, still exist. Almost fifty of them have been preserved in the Netherlands. The example shown here stands near Arnhem. Source: collection of the Openluchtmuseum



### Siege of Bommel

Image from 1574 of the siege of Zaltbommel by the Spanish. The painting can be seen in the city museum.



### Stone mill

Various mills stood here and there in the city. This tower mill is drawn on a map by J. Blaeu (detail), 1649.



### Old convent

Remains of the old convent. But on this spot an oil mill once stood, where pips and seeds were pressed into oil.



### Merchant's mark

A medieval mark found in the Maartenskerk of Zaltbommel. Such marks were often used, on gravestones but also to mark goods, such as grain brought in sacks.