

More about the Route

This walking route takes you through Zaltbommel in the age of the Hanseatic League, when the city was governed by bailiffs, aldermen and influential families. On the website you can discover how the feudal system was put together and how it worked, what role the Duke of Guelders played, and how merchants gained ever more influence through their trading interests. The day-to-day running of the city lay in the hands of leading families, who saw to order, trade and upkeep.

Market

The central hub of trade and the inn.



Everhardus van Balveren, alderman and toll collector in the 15th century, is your guide on the walk. He tells you about his influential family, his role in the city council and the building of the Van Balverenskapel in the Sint-Maartenskerk. Along the route you see traces of this history, such as the oldest stone houses, and you experience how closely the city council, trade and the Hanseatic League were interwoven.



Waterpoort

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

Along the way you pass places connected with how the city was governed in those days. You see where the bailiff probably lived, you hear about the meetings in the inn on the Markt, and you learn how the aldermen were responsible for the city wall, the streets and the Waalkade. You also discover how important toll collection and the waterways were for the prosperity of Bommel, and what tensions sometimes arose between the duke and the merchants.

Sint-Maartenskerk

An imposing, late-Gothic town church.



Who is Everhardus

A man of power and influence

Everhardus van Balveren Wilhelmi was a scion of a prominent Bommel family and held the office of alderman from 1394 until his death in 1436. In addition, he worked as a toll collector in the service of the Duke of Guelders, which gave him both administrative and economic influence.

His position underlines the role of distinguished families in the city council and their close ties with trade and the Hanseatic League.

In his will, Everhardus stipulated that the Van Balverenskapel was to be built after his death. This chapel can still be found in the Sint Maartenskerk. Everhardus had it built and dedicated the altar to Saint Ursula. After his death he was buried in the church. His son Jan carried out his final wish by founding two benefices in the chapel, an ecclesiastical legal entity that held both spiritual and secular influence. The chapel later became popularly known as the Van Balverenskoortje.

Everhardus came from a prominent family and lived in a stately house, of which a few can still be found in Bommel. Through this, and through the Van Balverenskoortje too, he forms a tangible link with the Hanseatic period: a man who lived at the crossroads of trade, government and religion, and who helped shape the city in a time of growth and prosperity.



Hanzestad
Zaltbommel

Walking route Everhardus


Zaltbommel
Hanseatic city
official
since 2022

Walk through the life of Everhardus

Alderman in 1394

Everhardus van Balveren was an alderman and toll collector in Bommel and the builder of the Van Balverenskapel in the Sint-Maartenskerk. As a member of an influential family, he left his mark on the city. His story shows how trade, power and faith came together in the Hanseatic period.

Source: The impression of Everhardus is an artificially generated image



Looking for inspiration? Check out our social media!



www.hanzestadzaltbommel.nl



Walking route



Factual historical information
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 Waalkade** Lovely view
- 3 Gasthuistoren** A striking landmark
- 4 Gasthuis 34** Old gasthuiskapel
- 5 Bloemendaal 5-9** Saved and restored
- 6 Bloemendaal** 14th-century city wall
- 7 Oenselsestraat 50&32** Hanseatic period
- 8 Kerkplein** Sint-Maartenskerk
- 9 van Balverenkapel** Inside Sint-Maartenskerk
- 10 Kerkplein 15-17** Storage for merchandise
- 11 Kerkplein 16** Governor's residence
- 12 Nonnenstraat** City Castle Zaltbommel
- 13 Oliestraat 41** Fine arches
- 14 Boschstraat 10/11/12** Built in Hanseatic Period
- 15 Markt 2** Pothuis
- 16 Markt 4-8** Fine façades
- 17 Markt 3** Workshop and home
- 18 Markt 12** The old town hall
- 19 Waterstraat 26** Renaissance façade



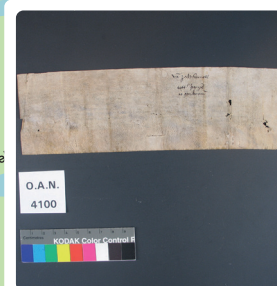
Coat of arms

The coat of arms of the Van Balveren family, found in the archives of the Regionaal Archief Rivierland.



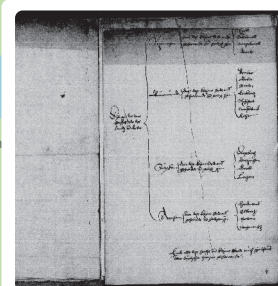
Van Balverenkapel

Everhardus van Balveren had this chapel built. To this very day, the chapel still stands in the Sint-Maartenskerk.
Source: Digital Library dbnl.nl



Contribution

A very old document in which, almost illegibly, it states that Zaltbommel will pay a contribution to the Hanseatic League headquarters in Lübeck.
Source: Archief Nijmegen



Under Nijmegen

Within the Hanseatic organisation, Zaltbommel was assigned to the Nijmegen quarter. Zaltbommel appears second from the top.
Source: Archief Nijmegen



City wall

The aldermen were responsible, among other things, for the upkeep of the city wall.



Water supply

The water supply was also one of the aldermen's responsibilities. Bommel had a good water supply early in the Hanseatic period, by means of wells of pure drinking water. This well stood in the Gamerschestraat. Today there is still a pump to be found in that street.