

More about the Route

In the Hanseatic period, a sack carrier lived in Zaltbommel. In 1604, he lived in the Nonnenstraat, opposite the Stadskasteel. We do not know his name, but let us call him Zacharias. Walk past façades, ornaments and architectural styles that still recall the bustle of the medieval trading city.

Warehouses

Zacharias carried his loads to the warehouses.



At the end, you walk back to the Waterpoort via the Markt and the Waterstraat. Along the way you pass more beautiful buildings, pothuizen (raised semi-basement front rooms) and Renaissance façades that radiate the city's wealth. After two hours of walking, you will not only have seen the city but also experienced what it was like to live and work in Zaltbommel during the Hanseatic period.



Waterpoort

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

The route continues through characteristic streets such as the Gamerschestraat, Karstraat and Oliemolen, where monasteries, mills and old city walls bring the past to life. Along the way you find the traces of a Jewish burial mound, warehouses full of wool and grain, old cemeteries and, of course, the Stadskasteel of Maarten van Rossum. Here you feel how Zaltbommel grew into a bustling hub of trade and culture.

Stadskasteel

Home of Maarten van Rossum (1495 - 1555), military commander for the Duke of Guelders



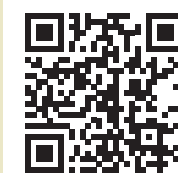
Who is Zacharias

The silent hero of the Hanseatic period

Zacharias the sack carrier was born in the last quarter of the sixteenth century. In 1604, he lived in the Nonnenstraat. He worked as a labourer in the busy trading city. His work was heavy but indispensable: he carried sacks of grain weighing ninety kilos, or bales of wool weighing a hundred kilos, on his back to warehouses, mills and workshops. He stood as a symbol of the strength and endurance of the sack carriers, the silent engine behind the city's trade.

He lived in a simple little house in the Nonnenstraat, opposite the house of Maarten van Rossum. For Zacharias, the city was his place of work: the broad streets, the Waalkade where ships moored, and the warehouses where the goods were stored. His trade gave him a place in city life, for sack carriers helped not only with trade but also with fires, funerals and other jobs.

He was dressed in simple woollen clothing, with a cloth for protection and a sack carrier's hook as his tool. In his life you see the hard labour, but also the pride of a guild that was indispensable to the prosperity of Zaltbommel. With Zacharias in mind, the Hanseatic period suddenly takes on a human face: that of a strong, anonymous carrier who helped make the city great.



Hanzestad
Zaltbommel

Walking route Zacharias


Zaltbommel
Hanseatic city
official
since 2022

Walk through the life of Zacharias

Sack carrier in 1617

Zacharias the sack carrier was a silent hero of the Hanseatic period. Day in, day out, he hauled sacks and bales through Zaltbommel and helped wherever he was needed in the city. With his strength and dedication, he stood as a symbol of the people who kept trade and city life going. Come and walk through the life of Zacharias!

Source: The impression of Zacharias is an artificially generated image



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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 Korte tolstraat 33** Golden ship on the roof
- 3 Korte tolstraat 17/19** Hanseatic period
- 4 Korte tolstraat 8** Sackendraegersgilthuys
- 5 Tolstraat** A water pump stood here
- 6 Gamerschestr. 16-24** Hanseatic period
- 7 Karstraat 32-36** Medieval urban structure
- 8 Oliemolen** Vanished oil mill
- 9 Oliemolen 2** Beautiful building
- 10 Heemtuin** Mispelhof and Kloosterhof
- 11 De tuinen** Old Jewish cemetery
- 12 Achter de muur** Old cemetery
- 13 Boschstraat** Bosschepoort
- 14 Stadskasteel** House of M. van Rossum
- 15 Nonnenstr 22-28** Where Zacharias lived
- 16 Ruitersstr. 8/14/16/18** Hanseatic period
- 17 Oenselsestr. 17/32** Hanseatic period
- 18 Heilige geeststraat 23** Town farmhouse
- 19 Gasthuisstraat** Hanseatic period buildings
- 20 Markt 1/2/3/6** Historic buildings
- 21 Waterstraat 26** Colourful building



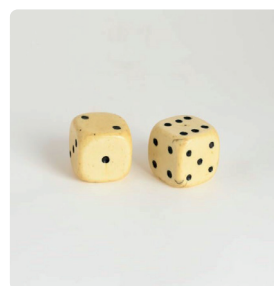
Sack carrier

Image by Gerard Terborch from 1652 of a sack carrier.



Sack carrier's hook

A sack carrier did not need much equipment. Strong muscles, good shoes, a cloth over the shoulders and neck, and a sack carrier's hook to hold the sack in the right place on his back. Image: Museum Rotterdam



Dice

The jobs the sack carriers had to share out were allotted by throwing dice. Image: Museum Rotterdam



Fulling wool

In Bommel, wool was worked into a cloth called kersey. Fulling wool was heavy work. So was transporting it. A sack of wool weighed about 100 kilos!



Sack carrier's house

Detail of the map by Joan Blaeu from around 1649. In the Nonnenstraat, opposite the Stadskasteel, a row of little houses once stood. A sack carrier lived in one of them.



Fixed harbour crane

The merchandise was hoisted out of the Hanseatic ships with a crane. The people who set the wheel in motion had to be healthy and strong. Once on the quay, the goods were transported or carried on the shoulders of a sack carrier.