Leeuwarden International Student Map 2017

Welcome in Leeuwarden. A city with an old historic city centre with canals, bridges and houses from the 17th century (the Dutch golden age). It won’t be long before you fall in love with this cute little town. It’s the birthplace of graphic artist M.C. Escher and erotic dancer / alleged double spy Mata Hari! Together with 96.000 other people you can now call this your (temporary) home! It’s big enough to call itself a city, but it feels like a village. And that’s not a bad thing in our opinion. It’s easy to get to know people and get things done. Everything here is at a walking distance and we’ve never heard of the word over-crowded. Still, there is enough happening in this city and there is always something to do!

Street Art

When it comes to Street Art, Leeuwarden may not be as renowned as Berlin or London, but it does have a couple of interesting spots. Most of them are outside the city centre. But inside you can make a selfie with the coat of arms of Leeuwarden (6). At the Heer Ivoraatgade you can find a mural of Maria Louise von Hessen Kassel (7). Do check her family tree! House (8) is not really street art, but this iconic statue is a good meeting point and it is good fun trying to climb it whilst drunk - I dare you! In the Oude Lombardsteeg you can see a skeleton of a whale (9). It gets even better when it’s dark. On your way to the Saint Boniface Church you will spot a mural of Japanese Ronin Miyamoto Musashi (10). Join our Street Art Tours to discover more about the local street art!

Leeuwarden Free Tours

A walking tour through Leeuwarden is the best way to discover the city and our local guides love to share its beauty and stories. Every Saturday at 12:00 (noon) we offer two walking tours, one in English and one in Dutch. On Fridays we have a Dutch walking tour, and throughout the summer we offer a German tour on Sundays. From time to time we also offer themed tours like a Street Art Tour, a Beer Tour or our new Mata Hari Tour. Check our website to see when we offer these and in which language. It is also possible to book an English tour throughout the year on any preferred day by contacting us via our website: www.aguidetoleeuwarden.nl

Drink a Beer

After a hard day of studying, nothing beats a cold beer in the city! At the Nieuwestad (36) you can find many pubs who have one big terrace along the canal. Perfect for a summer’s day! If you are looking for craft beer, head to Café de Markies (37), they have more than 250 beers on their menu! Do try their own beer called Grutte Pier. At Café de Stee (38) you should try Oldehovebeer (ask for a Skeve). The Irish pub Paradyse O’Ryan (39) has several beers on draught and good food! And don’t forget to visit Café de Strohoed (40). You should also pay a visit to the (infamous) pubs of Leeuwarden like De Ossekop, Het Lampje, Het Hoekje, Het Rooster or Het Lieverdje. It’s where you will meet the real local Leeuwarders. It makes for a fun pub crawl as well! If you plan to mingle in with the Dutch students, it’s probably a good way to join a student society. The student societies Wolwèze (61), Semipternus (62), Osiris (63), Navigators (64), Dionysus (65) & Jo Vivat (66) will all welcome you to drink a beer with them!

Coffee, Tea & Lunch

What’s better than to meet-up for a coffee or tea in the city? Head to Broodje Bewust (1) for a fair and mindful breakfast. It’s also highly recommended to try the famous long loaf of German bread (you can also buy whole loaves of bread here). At the Blokhuispoort you can get lunch at Proefverloof (2), they’ve got a beautiful terrace along the water. Visit Fruitbar Sis (3) for delicious fresh Smoothies. Laura & De Chef (4) has the most beautiful interior and a relaxed atmosphere. Douwe Egberts Café (5) has everything for people of all ages: delicious coffee! The Neushoorn Café (49) is also recommended if you like to be surrounded by creative students and vintage furniture. If you are asked for your ID while ordering your coffee, you probably find yourself in a coffeeeshop. This is a place where you can also order a coffee, but people normally tend to go here to buy soft drinks and buy weed.

Local Food

For your booze you gotta head to Drinkenspeciaalzaak Jelle (18). They sell over 500 different craft beers! Among them you will find the local Skeef, Redbad, Cambrer and Grutte Pier Prieuw (19) sells all the Frisian food you need to taste, like Sûkerbòlle (sugarbread). At De Zuivelhoeve (20) they sell the finest Dutch cheese and at Banketbakkerij Salverda (21) they sell Frisian treats like Dunkes and Oranjekoek. When you’re done shopping, treat yourself on the best icecream in town at La Venezia (22). If the queue is too long you can also treat yourself to some fish. Dutch people love raw herring. They cover it with onions and eat it ‘from the tail’. If that’s a bit too brutal for you, you should try Lekkerbek of Kibbeling! There are multiple fish stalls in the city and there is also always one on the market on Friday.

Entertainment & Party!

Keuken (48) is the music temple of Leeuwarden and has concerts throughout the week. Alternative Rockcafé Mukkes (49) has Jam sessions every Wednesday. On Thursday it’s time for karaoke in Café Scooter’s (50) and every Friday there are concerts in Podium Astersik (51), with 3 bands for only 5 euros! If you just want to play some pool, darts or watch live sports, head to the international Poolsfeest (52).

A lot of International students live at Kanaalstraat (53), home to many notorious parties! They meet up every Monday night at Shooters (54) International Night. Or they enjoy a cocktail next doors at Mango (55) (special student rates). If you’re looking for a Jazz/Funk/Soul/Afro/hiphop/Bossanova kinda night, head to the basement of the Peperstraat but they already close at 23:00. If you are feeling full, hit rock bottom, we’ve also got a FEBO (60). If you rather watch big blockbuster films, check Tivoli (47) or Cinema (46). Films in the Netherlands are always shown in their original language with Dutch subtitles. The Blokhuispoort (31) is a former prison that’s turned into the cultural heart of Leeuwarden. It’s the home base of Cultural Capital 2018, a few shops, Alibi Hostel and in the future the library! Learn about the Frisian culture at the Fries Museum (32). The library Tresoar (33) (Frisian for treasure) offers an excellent place to study! Next door you can climb the Oldehove (A), our leaning tower! It’s open every day between 13:00-17:00 from April-October. At the Boomsma Beerenburger Museum (35) you can taste some of the local bitter Beerenburger and learn about its history.

Late night snacks

After a long night of partying you probably long for a late night snack before you hit your bed. There is a big chance you’ll end up at FEBO at the Ruiterskwartier. Here you can get your food ‘uit de muur’ (out of the wall). You throw some money in the wall and then you can open a window to grab your Frikandel or Kroket. It’s delicious at 5AM, but never ask what it’s made of! Around the corner in the Doelestraat you can find Do Nord (59) a.k.a. Pub Street. If you’ve hit rock bottom, we’ve also got a red light district (60).

More Information?

We know you want more information than this. So we made a second page full of tips! You can download the second page on our website: www.aguidetoleeuwarden.nl/map