Maastricht Gulpen Cycle Route
Exploring the river valleys of South Limburg
53 km

Maastricht Gulpen Cycle Route
This route takes you through the river valleys of South Limburg where you will discover that not all of Holland is flat. A bike with gears is recommended! Highlights of the route are the beer brewing village of Gulpen and the historic centre of Maastricht.

You cycle via Maastricht’s City Park to the Jeker Valley which follows the limestone plateau Mount St Peter (Pietersberg) into Belgium. Via the Albert Canal and Fort Eben-Emael the route takes you to Eijsden where you cross the River Meuse by ferry. From Eijsden Castle you cycle through the picturesque villages of ’s-Gravenvoeren and Sint-Maartensvoeren and Gulpen back into Maastricht.

### Distance:
53 km (3h45)

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<th>Distance</th>
<th>53 km (3h45)</th>
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| Ferry | The ferry at Eijsden has a regular service from April to October. Sailing times, see: www.voetveren.nl |

| Route without ferry | Route at 413 if the ferry doesn’t run (adds 7 km to the route): 414 - 420 - 77. Here you can pick up the main route. For Eijsden Castle continue towards 76. |

<table>
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<th>Starting point</th>
<th>Maastricht train station</th>
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<th>Public transport to route</th>
<th>Train to Maastricht train station</th>
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The route follows the numbered cycle network:

**Start - 1 - 3 - 12 - 401 - 402 - 405 - 412 - 413 - 76 - 77**

- 78 - 100 - 431 - 422 - 423 - 424 - 429 - 84 - *** - 85
- 69 - 67 - 65 - 6 - 79 - Finish

**Start:** Leave the station on the west side (direction town centre). Head straight on towards the town centre (Stationsstraat). After

(Continued on page 4)
crossing the river you pick up the numbered cycle network at 1.

Finish: At 79 head towards 2. After the railway crossing turn right. This takes you back to the station.

***: follow the instructions given in the text below.

Vrijthof

The historic centre of Maastricht is well worth exploring. As much of the centre is a pedestrian zone, it is easiest to do so on foot. One of the most popular tourist attractions is the Vrijthof. This large square in the centre of the town is home to various historic buildings - including St John’s Cathedral and Basilica of St Servatius - and cafes. The Vrijthof is also host to a number of cultural events such as the Carnival of Maastricht and the annual open air concerts by the internationally renowned violinist and conductor André Rieu.

Maastricht

The name Maastricht is derived from the Latin Mosae Trajectum, meaning ‘crossing at the Meuse’. It refers to the bridge that was built by the Romans in the 1st century AD. The bridge was an important link in the Via Belgica, the main road that connected the French coast with the German Rhineland. The original bridge has long disappeared and been replaced by a newer bridge, the St Servatius Bridge, which is considered to be the oldest bridge in Holland.

Mount St Peter

As you leave Maastricht, you’ll see a hill ahead you. It is an 8-km long limestone plateau created by erosion that runs across the border into Belgium. The Dutch part of the plateau is commonly known as the Pietersberg (Mount St Peter). The area has been mined since...
Neolithic times, first for flint and then for limestone. By the 19th century the network of mining tunnels - usually referred to as caves - is said to have extended for as many as 200 km. During World War II the caves were used as a hiding place for Rembrandt’s famous painting the *Night Watch.*

Fort Eben-Emael is open to the public several days a year. For dates, opening hours and admission fees, go to the Fort Eben-Emael website: www.fort-eben-emael.be/en. There is also a short signposted walk that allows you to explore the outside of the fort. You also get a lovely view of the River Meuse (Maas).

*** At 84 head towards 28 until you reach Slenaken. Here you turn left (Dorpstraat). Continue straight on until the road splits. Take the right road to Beunaken (Beunaken, turns into Slenakenweg) and continue straight on to Billinghuizen. Here take the turn right towards Pesaken (Pesakenweg), where you pick up the numbered cycle network to 85.

**Fort Eben-Emael**

Due to its strategic location, several castles and forts have been built on Mount St Peter since medieval times. This route takes you to Fort Eben-Emael just over the Belgian border. Fort Eben-Emael was built in 1931-1935 to protect Belgium from a German invasion. The underground fort, which at the time was the largest in the world, was thought to be un conquerable. However, on 10 May 1940 the fort was taken over by a small team of German paratroopers in just 15 minutes.

**Gulpen**

Does the name Gulpen sound familiar? Then probably you like beer. The picturesque village Gulpen is where Gulpener beer is produced. The Gulpener Brewery was founded in 1825 and sources its ingredients such as barley and hops from local farmers. If you want, you can sample their beers at the Gulpener Bierhuys. Be warned though, from Gulpen you face quite a steep climb before you descend back into the Meuse Valley!

Before you set out, make sure you downloaded the most recent, up-to-date version of this route directly from our website: www.holland-cycling.com/where-to-go/day-trips.

To keep our routes accurate and up-to-date we need your help. If you find any inaccuracies in this route or find that things have changed, please let us know at info@holland-cycling.com.

*Enjoy your trip!*

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