

European
Historic
Houses
NextGen

8th Cultural Weekend

September 26-28, 2025
Utrecht Region



Programme



We are happy to
welcoming you to the
8th EHH NextGen
Cultural Weekend in the
Region of Utrecht.

With big thanks and in
collaboration with
Vereniging Particuliere
Historische
Buitenplaatsen
The Netherlands.



VPHB

Historische
Buitenplaatsen
Verenigd

Friday, 26-09

16:00 -
18:00h

Duitse Huis

The Bailiwick of Utrecht
welcomes us for a visit through
their Duitse Huis
Geertebolwerk 1
3511 XA Utrecht



18:00 -
22:00h

Reception and Dinner in Utrecht

Exact location tba



22:30 -
open

Drinks and Night out in Utrecht

optional



The Bailiwick of Utrecht; Utrecht City

Saturday, 27-09

09:00

Bus Departure

Meeting Point tba

Bus departs for Vredenhoff

Visit of Buitenplaats Vredenhoff

Visit and guided tour

Vredenhoff

Rijksstraatweg 53

3631 AB Nieuwersluis

Lunch

tbd

Bus Departure

to Gunterstein

Visit of Castle Gunterstein

Zandpad 48

3621 NE Breukelen

Bus Departure

for Castle Sterkenburg

A night at Castle Sterkenburg

with drinks and dinner

Sterkenburg

Langbroekerdijk 10

3972 ND Driebergen-Rijsenburg

23:00

Bus Departure

Bus will leave for Utrecht City Centre

Night out in Utrecht

optional



Picture: Castles Vredenhoff, Gunterstein and Sterkenburg

Visits

Buitenplaats Vreedenhoff

Vreedenhoff is a country house along the Vecht river in Nieuwersluis, Utrecht. The estate consists of the house, park and gardens, ponds, a monumental entrance gate, teacupola, as well as greenhouses, gardenershouse, orangery, barns and a garage.

The house was built around 1750 as a summer residence for the Amsterdam merchant Pieter Trip and boasts some high-quality Louis XV plasterwork.

The interior on the bel-etage has retained its 19th century appearance with wallhangings, fireplaces and furniture

In the 275 years of its existence the house has been lived in by 8 families. Initially it was intended only for habitation during the summer months by wealthy Amsterdam merchants. Since 1909 the house has been inhabited year-round.



Castle Gunterstein

Gunterstein Castle (Dutch: Gunterstein) is located in Breukelen on the river Vecht. The current building, completed in 1681 by architect Adriaan Dortsman, stands on the foundations of earlier castles—one from the 14th century destroyed in 1511, and a later version burned by the French during the Rampjaar (Disaster Year) of 1672.

In 1680, wealthy Amsterdam widow Magdalena Poulle (1626–1699) bought the estate and took the title Lady Gunterstein. She had her young nephew Pieter lay the first stone and appears with him in a portrait by David van der Plas, which still hangs above the fireplace at Gunterstein. Poulle was also a passionate gardener and amateur botanist, commissioning *Veues de Gunterstein*, a book of etchings depicting her estate, including one of the earliest images of a Dutch orangery.

Today, Gunterstein remains in the hands of Poulle's descendants. The castle, surrounding park, and historic buildings are protected as rijksmonumenten and the park is open to the public



Picture: Castles Vreedenhoff and Gunterstein

© John Wennips

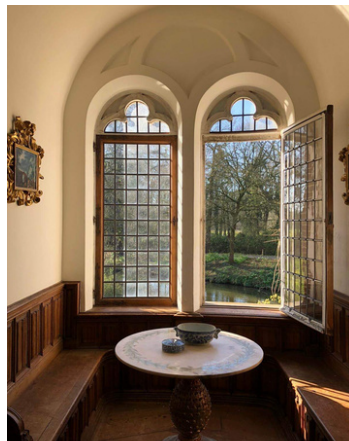
Visits

Ridderhofstad Sterkenburg

Sterkenburg is a castle within the Langbroekerweteringgebied with 12th century origins. Its name is derived from its original function as a military fortification and translates to "strong burg".

After losing its military function the house was adapted to a representative country residence during the following centuries. This romantic amalgamation of the centuries was done away with in the 1750's when the house got a rococo façade. When the estate was acquired by the Kneppelhout family in 1847 the rococo style was deemed unfitting next to the medieval round tower. The house underwent a form of "proto restoration" and was given a romanticised neo-gothic in- and exterior in which the family could exhibit their extensive collections.

After a period of neglect, use as a boarding school and a commune, the estate has seen a revitalisation and ongoing restoration in the past decades.



Castle Sterkenburg

Sunday, 28-09

10:30 - 11:00h **Bus Departure**
Meeting Point tbd

11:00 - 13:00h **Den Ham / Hamtoren Vleuten**
Visit of Hamtoren Vleuten
Kasteel den Ham
Hamlaan 3
3451 RG Utrecht

13:00 - 13:30h **Bus Departure**
back to Utrecht City Center
End of official program

Museum options or return home
individual, update will follow

Hamtoren Vleuten

The Hamtoren in Vleuten is the last remaining part of the former Castle Den Ham, originally built in phases starting in the 13th century by the knightly Uutenham family. The castle was named after a bend in the Vleutense Wetering, a man-made waterway dating back to the 10th century. It became a recognized ridderhofstad (knightly estate), similar to castles like De Haar and Neyenrode. The tower itself dates from the 14th century.

After centuries of ownership changes, the castle came into the hands of the Royaards family around 1800. Due to severe decay, Willem Jan Royaards had most of Den Ham and nearby Den Eng demolished in 1871, preserving only the tower and part of the basement. The tower stood abandoned for decades and became known as the ruin of Den Ham. In the 1950s, restoration efforts by a descendant of Royaards stabilized the structure. Over the years, it was briefly inhabited by Tibetan Buddhists, a family, and a communal living group, but often stood empty.

In the 1990s, Jan Willem van Andel and his wife Jacintha Batenburg moved in and cared for the tower. In 2017, they sold it to musician Bas Kennis, who fully restored it by 2020. Since 2024, the Hamtoren has served as the centerpiece of the Rapunzel Festival.



Hamtoren Vleuten



Information

Total Fee:
EUR 230

Friday includes:
Drinks, tour and dinner

Saturday includes:
Lunch, drinks, dinner, transportation

Sunday includes:
Visit and transportation
(possibly by train)

Excludes: Nightlife drinks, breakfast,
accommodation, travel to Utrecht Region

Hotel suggestions

Grand Hotel Karel V
Housed in a former 14th century monastery
www.lkarelv.nl

Eye Hotel Utrecht
Monastic building from the 17th century
www.eyehotel.nl

NH Centre Hotel
19th century building
www.nh-hotels.com

Hotel Beijers
Housed in a 17th-century city palace
www.hotelbeijers.com

Court Hotel
Located in a former courthouse
www.courthotel.nl

Hello Stay Utrecht
City hotel
www.booking.com/share-kao

Register here

*(First come - first served. The number of
participants is limited to 30 people.)*
www.ehh.eu/event/nextgen-cultural-weekend/

Contact

Nicoline Schaub
Nextgen President EHH
n.schaub@ehh.eu
+41 (0)79 587 03 54

Andreas Husby
EHH NextGen Board member
andreas@ggaard.com
+45 31 20 12 11

Ewelina Oksiuta
EHH Secretary General
e.oksiuta@ehh.eu

Rik Wagemans
*NextGen President Historische
Buitenplaatsen Verenigd*
+31 647 12 20 99

Thank you

Thanks to the big support of Historische
Buitenplaatsen Verenigd and it's sponsoring!



European
Historic
Houses
NextGen



Castle Sterkenburg