In 1495, the ownership of thirteen ‘rooms with yards’ was transferred to the governors of the Elisabeth’s Gasthuis hospital with the stipulation that only poor people or priests would be allowed to live here. The Hofje, or courtyard with almshouses, was originally surrounded by buildings on four sides, but because the alley known as Barrevoestergat had to be widened (now a pedestrian street), the hofje was divided along the road in 1872. When the street was widened, the hofje was divided and the houses, originally built in 1648, are now narrow. The building used to serve as the headquarters of the harquebusiers, the civic guard who used harquebuses i.e. long-barrelled guns, known as almen (or kloven) in Dutch. These harquebuses can be seen clearly in various places around Haarlem, along with the residents of Haarlem, invented printing. Situated in the buildings around Prinsenhof are the Stedelijk Gymnasium secondary school, sorts of old and new, and other things.

At the end of Barrevoestraat, turn left into Gasthuistraat. Here, a little bit further down the road to the left, you can see the Drakenbouw (11, former headquarters of the civic guard), where the municipal library is now situated. This building used to serve as the headquarters of the harquebusiers, the civic guard who used harquebuses i.e. long-barrelled guns, known as almen (or kloven) in Dutch. These harquebuses can be seen clearly in various places around the building. The civic guard, led by Ripperta, played a major role in 1572 when they joined the Prince of Orange in the fight against the Spaniards. Ripperta addressed his men at these headquarters in the run-up to the Siege of Haarlem, among other times.

Turn left further on, into Zuidstraat. At the end of this road lies Hortusplein square where, among other things, Jopenkerk (12) is situated. This is a former church where Haarlem’s Jopen beer is brewed according to an age-old recipe. In the 14th century, Haarlem was one of the major brewing cities in the Netherlands. The beer, which was transported in 112-litre barrels via the river Spaarne, was of high quality and was even drunk abroad. Jopenkerk is well worth a visit, not just to sample a real Haarlem beer, but also for its interior. With your back to Jopenkerk, cross Hortusplein and turn right into Drosselaan. At the end of the road, cross Gedempte Oude Gracht.

On the corner, you can see Boekhandel H. de Vries (13), a more than 100-year-old bookshop which has continued to expand in an unusual way over the years. Every time the bookshop outgrew its premises, a neighbouring building was bought and the dividing wall was knocked down. This created the present-day interior with its jumble of old rooms, filled with bookcases. A visit to this shop is not to be missed!

Continue your walk in the direction of Jacobijnenstraat. Turn left into Prinsenhof. Prinsenhof (14) is actually the old herb garden of a former convent, which now serves as city hall. In the back of the garden, you can see a small peace temple, built in 1648 on the occasion of the Peace of Münster. You will also find a statue here of Laurens Jansz. Coste, who, according to the residents, invented printing. Situated in the buildings around Prinsenhof are the Stedelijk Gymnasium secondary school, among other things.

Cary on via T Pand and turn right into Zijlstraat. This brings you out on Grote Markt square, with on the opposite side Grote of St. Bavokerk (St Bavo’s Church). The entrance of the church is on the side of the building in Grote Markt square.

Colophon
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**Grote of St. Bavokerk (1, St. Bav’s Church)** was built in Gothic style on the site of a smaller church, which had largely burnt down in the 14th century. Bavo is the patron saint of the Kennemerland region. In 1479, the building was renovated into a collegiate church. A special characteristic of this church is that it wasn’t built on piles. Haarlem was founded on a sandbar and because of the sandy soil, not a single pile was needed.

**Grote of St. Bavokerk (St. Bavo’s Cathedral)** began at Leidsevaart, also popularly called cathedral. So at the end of the 19th century, the construction of a cathedral was necessary. When the episcopal hierarchy was re-established in 1853, the construction of Grote of St. Bavokerk (St. Bavo’s Church) and Kathedrale Basiliek St. Bavo began at Leidsevaart, also popularly referred to as ‘Nieuwe’ Bavo (New Bavo).

In Grote Markt square, with your back to the church, you can see the city hall (2) of Haarlem in front of you. Originally, this is where the hunting seat of the Counts of Holland stood. Count William II used it as his residence whenever he was in Haarlem to collect taxes. After his son Floris V chose The Hague as his permanent residence, the remainder of the hunting seat was donated to the city. In the 14th century, the wooden buildings of the hunting seat were all but destroyed in a city fire. After its reconstruction, the complex served as city hall. The current building with its famous Groenvoet (Courts Hall), which is now mostly used as a wedding room, dates from this period. The Verschuur, from the former residence of Louis Bonaparte at the Royal Palace Amsterdam, among other places.

The cathedral has stained-glass windows and other works of art by artists such as Han Bijvoet, Johannes Maas, Gerard Brom, Marc Mulders and Jan Toorop, and the in 2016 completed stained-glass windows by Gerben Schipper. Construction of the cathedral began in 1885 to a design by architect T.H. J. Cuypers and was completed in 1930. The presbytery, sacristy and baptismal chapel were also designed by Cuypers and are part of the original cathedral design. The architectural style is a combination of Romanesque and early Gothic styles, with elements of Art Nouveau, Baroque, Jugendstil and Byzantine architectural styles.

- **ROUTE 1 – STARTING POINT: GROTE MARKT SQUARE**

**Grote Markt square** is a triangle and runs between the two towers at Bisschop Bottemanneplein. Continue straight on, past the car park, and already see Nieuwe Raamstraat. Turn right onto Emmabrug and at the end of the road, turn the corner towards Noorder Emmakade. In the distance, across the water, you can already see **Nieuwe Bavo (7, New Bavo)**. Turn right onto Emmabrug and at the traffic lights, cross Leidsevaart. Continue straight on, past the car park, towards the west side of the cathedral. The entrance to Nieuwe Bavo is situated between the two towers at Bisschop Bottemaneplein square.

**Nieuwe Bavo (New Bavo)**, also known by its official name of Kathedrale Basiliek St. Bavo (St Bavo’s Cathedral), is the biggest church in the Netherlands after St. John’s Cathedral in ‘s-Hertogenbosch. The cathedral also has several organs, including the Willibrordus organ, completed in 1900. The freestone shopfront frame is embellished with decorative Jugendstil sculpture work by G. Veldheer on either side of the frame. An image of a baker is depicted in the keystone above the shop window.

At the end of Koningstraat, cross Gedempte Oude Gracht and carry straight on into Gierstraat. Situated left on the corner of Gierstraat (nr. 3) is Chelmij’s A.J. van der Pigge (4), recognisable by the traditional sign displayed above the entrance. There is a sign in front of the building. When Vroon & Dreesmann wanted to build a huge modern department store on the corner of Gedempte Oude Gracht in 1933, the company bought no fewer than twenty buildings located there at the time and demolished them. Except for one. Van der Pigge refused to budge. As a result, the former V&D department store was built at the corner of the site. Vue’s new department store was later built in the 1970s. It is characterised by a striking Renaissance tower, which was built between 1613 and 1616 by the city’s Flemish master builder Liesven de Key. On the site of this church is where Sint Annaeskouter (St Anna’s Convent) along with Annaeskouter (St Anna’s Chapel) used to stand, against which the tower was built. In 1645, the chapel was replaced by a church building designed by Jacob van Campen. Church and tower form a special blend of two totally different architectural styles.

Walk along the church and turn right into Nieuwe Raamstraat. Continue straight on, past the little playground, all the way down to the traffic lights and cross the road. You are now standing diagonally across Stadschouwburg (6). This municipal theatre was donated to the city by a wealthy Maecenas in 1914 at the suggestion of the then mayor. The building is a design by architect J.A.G. van der Steur and was inaugurated in 1918 with the play ‘De heks van Haarlem’ (The Witch of Haarlem).

**ROUTE 2 – STARTING POINT LEIDSEVAART**

Standing in Boschraam Bottemaneplein square, with your back to entrance of Nieuwe Bavo (New Bavo), turn right. Then go straight on and turn right at the end of the road into Jos Coppersstraat. At the end, follow the bend around towards the Koningstraat. Cross Koningstraat and turn left into Westergracht. Situated at number 61, you will find Koerschool (8, Chorister School). This primary school was founded in 1951 by Dr. Vidkyn, the cathedral organist, with the aim of helping to revive the musical tradition in Haarlem’s Nieuwe Bavo (New Bavo). Boys, and these days also girls, from Year 5 are offered a high-quality music education alongside the standard curriculum. All children play an instrument and sing in the cathedral choir. These choirs take it in turns to provide the music during the weekly high mass. In addition, the choirs also regularly give concerts and broadcast on radio and TV recordings, CD productions and tours in the Netherlands and abroad.

Turn right into Voorzorgstraat. You are now walking through Leidsebuurt. This blue-collar neighbourhood was built around 1900, after a rise in employment in the second half of the 19th century had resulted in a rapid increase in the population of Haarlem and a lack of housing. When the development plans were being drawn up, the then mayor of Haarlem Mr. E.A. Iordens pushed hard for decent, pleasant and healthy living conditions with streets which were minimum 10 metres wide. He argued that if you gave the working man a decent home with a garden, he is less likely to go for the pub.