



Welcome to the Dom Tower!

Please note: climbing the tower is at your own risk.

The guided tour of the Dom Tower will start in the Tourist Information Centre, where you have bought your entrance tickets, unless otherwise specified. You are only allowed to climb the Dom Tower under the supervision of a guide.

Introductory to the tour, we kindly ask you to consider our house rules:

- *Bags, selfie sticks and other luggage are to be left behind in our designated lockers. You are allowed to bring a camera. Please do not forget to take your entrance tickets out of your bags; you will need them to enter the tower!*
- *You are not allowed to smoke, eat or drink inside the tower.*
- *It is strictly forbidden to throw anything from the balconies.*
- *It is compulsory to remain with your group and to follow your guide's instructions.*
- *It is not possible to leave the tower before the end of the tour.*

Measuring 112 m and 32 cm (369 ft), the Dom Tower is the tallest church tower in the Netherlands. The highest viewpoint is at 95 m (312 ft) and from this gallery you have a magnificent panoramic view of the city of Utrecht and its surroundings. During the climb the guide will pause at five levels in the tower for a brief explanation of the tower's history. This text roughly corresponds with his/her explanations.

First (ground) level: the **Entrance building** gives access to the tower. It was completed in the year 1929. The tower and church were originally part of one complex of buildings and are dedicated to St. Martin, the city's patron saint. The Dom Tower is symbol of Utrecht. We will take you on a journey through time with important characters who have played or still play a significant role in the tower's history. Note the wooden staircase; you will be entering the Dom Tower when the steps are made of stone.

St. Michael's Chapel (11m / 36 ft). The chapel was originally built as the private chapel of the Bishop of Utrecht. This room is more than 700 years old and had walls covered with white paint and carpets on the floor. Nowadays the chapel is mainly used for wedding ceremonies, festivities, lectures and dinners. The floor has an internal heating system since 1929. In the arched roof you see a hatch, which can be opened and through which materials can be hoisted up. Similar hatches exist in every floor in the tower.

Egmond's Chapel (25 m / 82 ft). Until 1901 the tower guard took residence here with his family in a wooden house, built inside this room. The tower guard was responsible for maintenance of the bells and the clockwork and kept the tower clean. Also, part of his house was used as a café which the tower guard exploited to earn extra income. After the tower restoration in the years 1901-1931 the tower guards home disappeared and the guard did not return.

On 1 August 1674, a hurricane ravaged the city and besides destroying hundreds of buildings it also destroyed the main nave of the church. The tower remained practically undamaged. It was not until 1826 that the ruins of the main nave were cleared, and since then, the tower and church have been separated from one another by what we now know as

the Dom square. From the look-out at 70 metres the remaining part of the cathedral is visible in the pavement.

Please note: next stop will be in the belfry -- please mind your head while entering this room, and do not touch the bells or clappers or pull the ropes.

Belfry (49 m / 161 ft). This room is the domain of the bell-ringers. For centuries these bells were (and still are) the voice of the tower. The 14 bells, all of them together weigh over 31,000 kg, are the heaviest set of bells in the Netherlands and second heaviest of Europe, after the set of the Dom of Cologne in Germany. In the centre of the room you'll see the largest bell 'Salvator'. Weighing 8,227 kg, this bell is the heaviest one in the collection. The seven oldest bells (you can recognise them by their clappers shaped as apple cores) are the most remarkable. They are more than 500 years old. The other seven bells (with lollipop-shaped clappers) date from 1982. The bells are made of bronze. The ringing of the complete set of bells only occurs a few times a year and 26 people are needed to ring the complete set.

Bell-ringing is a trade which you can learn under supervision of a master bell-ringer. The bells are still rung for services in the Dom Church and special holidays like Christmas, New Year, Easter and King's Day.

The Lantern (70 m / 230 ft).

The carillon you see here has 50 bells and the oldest are more than 350 years old. This is the musical instrument of our city's carillonneur Malgosia Fiebig. She sits behind a keyboard with wooden keys in the cabin you see at a height of 80 m (262 ft), right above the largest bell. The wooden keys of the keyboard are connected to the clappers inside the bells. The carillonneur plays a wide range of music and you can hear her play every Saturday from 11-12 hours. The mechanical playing drum (1669) plays a melody every 15 minutes.

Spire (95 m / 312 ft). You have climbed 465 steps! On top of the spire you can see the weather-vane, which is shaped like St. Martin sharing his robe with a beggar. The spire and weather-vane of the Dom Tower are together 17, 32 m high.

The guide will indicate the time at which you should start descending.

Utrecht Marketing thanks you for visiting the Dom Tower and we wish you a pleasant stay in Utrecht.

NB. In the upcoming years the Dom Tower is undergoing a large restoration of its exterior (2017-2022). During the restoration the tower will be (partially) covered with scaffolding. The DomTower is open for visitors during the entire restoration period.

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