

Did you know ?

The Patron saint of Maastricht

Saint Servatius, (Dutch: *Sint Servaas*) born in Armenia, died in Maastricht, traditionally in 384, was bishop of Tongeren and is revered as a Roman Catholic saint. Servatius is patron saint of the city of Maastricht and the towns of Schijndel and Grimbergen. He is one of the Ice Saints. His feast day is May 13.

Servatius was a widely-travelled diplomat and a determined prosecutor of Arianism.

An important source about the life of Saint Servatius, is Gregory of Tours' *Glory of the Confessors* and *History of the Franks*. In his late 6th-century account, Gregory writes about *Aravatius* (identified by most scholars as Servatius), who lived at the time when the Huns threatened Tongeren.

It is not always clear how much of Gregory's account is history and how much is (pious) fiction. Gregory describes how Servatius, during a vigil at Saint Peter's tomb in Rome, had a vision in which the destruction of Tongeren was forecast (because of their sinfulness). Peter then handed the *Keys of Heaven* to Servatius, transferring to him the power to forgive sins. According to Gregory, Servatius returned to Tongeren, brought the relics of his predecessors to Maastricht, where he died and was buried alongside the Roman road, near the bridge.



Over the centuries legends accumulated around the historical figure of the bishop of Tongeren. Two early *vitae* (biographies) place Servatius' birth in Armenia and make him a cousin of John the Baptist, and thus a distant relative of Jesus (neither were mentioned by Gregory of Tours).

At the end of the 12th century the poet Henric van Veldeke wrote a new legend of Saint Servatius, based on the earlier accounts by Gregory of Tours and Jocundus, to which he added several more miracles, thus emphasizing Saint Servatius' saintliness.

As a bishop, Servatius may have been the founder of several early Christian churches in the diocese of Tongeren. Two likely candidates are the Basilica of Our Lady in Tongeren and the Basilica of Our Lady in Maastricht. In another Maastricht church, the Basilica of Saint Servatius, excavations in the 1990s have revealed the remains of a 6th-century church, with at its center a late Roman structure, possibly the tomb of Servatius.

His tomb has been a place of pilgrimage for many centuries. Famous visitors include Charlemagne, Charles V (Holy Roman Emperor), Philip II of Spain and Pope John Paul II.

Source: Freely based upon information found on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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November 8 & 9, 2013 - Maastricht



Did you know ?

Well-known natives of Maastricht

- ✧ **Mieke de Boer** (1980) - female darts player
- ✧ **Peter Debye** (1884-1966) - Nobel prize winning chemist
- ✧ **Tom Dumoulin** (1990) - cyclist
- ✧ **Hubert Hermans** (1937) - psychologist and creator of Dialogical Self Theory
- ✧ **Pieter van den Hoogenband** (1978) - swimmer and a triple Olympic champion
- ✧ **Bram Moszkowicz** (1960) - ex-barrister
- ✧ **Benny Neyman** (1951-2008) - singer of popular songs
- ✧ **Tom Nijssen** (1964) - tennis player
- ✧ **André Rieu** (1949) - violinist, conductor and composer
- ✧ **Fred Rompelberg** (1945) - cyclist, current holder of the World Speed Record Cycling
- ✧ **Maxime Verhagen** (1956) - politician
- ✧ **Danny Wintjens** (1983) - football goalkeeper
- ✧ **Boudewijn Zenden** (1976) - football player



André Léon Marie Nicolas Rieu (born 1 October 1949) is a Dutch violinist and conductor best known for creating the waltz-playing Johann Strauss Orchestra. André Rieu plays a 1667 Stradivarius violin.

He began studying violin at the age of five. His father was conductor of the Maastricht Symphony Orchestra. From a very young age he developed a fascination with orchestra.

In 1987, he created the Johann Strauss Orchestra. Since then, his melodramatic stage performances and rock-star demeanor have for some been associated with a revival of the waltz music category.

Rieu and his orchestra have performed throughout Europe, North and South America, and Japan. Winning a number of awards including two World Music Awards, their recordings have gone gold and platinum in many countries, including 8-times Platinum in the Netherlands.

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Well-known natives of Maastricht

Boudewijn "Bolo" Zenden (born 15 August 1976 in Maastricht) is a retired Dutch footballer who played as a left winger or as an attacking midfielder. He served as the interim assistant manager to Rafa Benitez at Chelsea during the 2012-13 season. He is currently Darije Kalezic's assistant at Jong PSV in the Eerste Divisie.

In 1985 Dutch club MVV Maastricht signed Zenden after watching him play for amateur club Leonidas. Two years later Zenden joined the youth academy of PSV Eindhoven.

Zenden made his debut for the Dutch national team in a 1998 World Cup qualification match against San Marino on 30 April 1997. He was then called up to represent the Netherlands at the 1998 World Cup in France, where Zenden started the tournament as a substitute. He was selected to play in the third placing playoff against Croatia, where he scored a goal after a solo run and a powerful long-range shot. After scoring, he attempted to celebrate with an acrobatic somersault, but failed, throwing himself head first to the ground.

It was during the run-up to Euro 2000 that he gained acclaim, with the tournament itself providing the platform some of his finest performances. His raw pace and acceleration down the flank, coupled with his ability to function both as a wing-forward and as a wing-back made him a versatile player to have in the squad. His man-of-the-match performance in a friendly against Germany at the turn of the millennium cemented his position in the national team.

Zenden played in all five Dutch matches at Euro 2000. Zenden was named in the UEFA Team of the Tournament, along with compatriots Patrick Kluivert (top goalscorer), Frank de Boer, and Edgar Davids.

Zenden featured again in Euro 2004, though he only played the first half of the first match against Germany. Following the tournament, Zenden, like other experienced players including Clarence Seedorf and Edgar Davids, found himself excluded from the national squad selection by the new Dutch national team coach Marco van Basten.



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Did you know ?

Bonnefantenmuseum

The **Bonnefanten Museum** is a museum of fine art in Maastricht, Netherlands.

The museum was founded in 1884 as the historical and archaeological museum of the Dutch province of Limburg. The name Bonnefanten Museum is derived from the French 'bons enfants' ('good children'), the popular name of a former convent that housed the museum from 1951 until 1978.

In 1995, the museum moved to its present location, a former industrial site named 'C eramique'. The new building was designed by the Italian architect Aldo Rossi. With its rocket-shaped cupola overlooking the river Maas, it is one of Maastricht's most prominent modern buildings.



Since 1999, the museum has become exclusively an art museum. The historical and archaeological collections were housed elsewhere.

Collection

The combination of old art and contemporary art under one roof gives the Bonnefanten Museum its distinctive character. The department of old masters displays highlights of early Italian, Flemish and Dutch painting. Also exhibited is an extensive collection of Medieval sculpture. The contemporary art collection focuses on American Minimalism, Italian Arte Povera and Concept Art.



Tryptich. Antwerp (?), 1518.



Long Pyramid (1994), Sol LeWitt



Census in Bethlehem ( 1605-1610), Pieter Brueghel the Younger



Portrait of Father Jan Neyen (1607), Peter Paul Rubens



Entombment ( 1505), Colijn de Coter

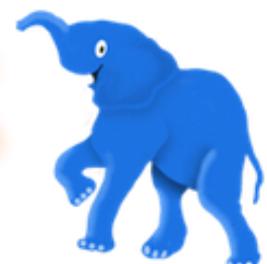


Saint Stephen (before 1399), Giovanni del Biondo

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Did you know ?

Mount Saint Peter

Mount Saint Peter (Sint-Pietersberg in Dutch, **Montagne Saint-Pierre** in French) is a ridge running north to south between the valleys of the Geer to the west, and the Meuse to the east. It runs from Maastricht in the Netherlands, through Riemst in Belgian Limburg almost to the city of Liège in Belgium, thus defining the topography of this border area between Flanders, Wallonia and the Netherlands. It has been cut through in modern times, in order to link the Belgian Albert Canal to the Meuse.



Mount Saint Peter's limestone composition, its deposits of flint nodules and its geographic position make it a remarkable place. The locale has been mined for flint from Neolithic times. The network of mining tunnels extended 200 kilometres (120 mi) by the 19th century. The mountain supports the richest environment for bats in Benelux, as well as the richest environment for orchids in Benelux. Some of the first recognised reptile fossils among which the famous *Mosasaurus* and turtles were found here in the 18th century; later dinosaur remains were discovered also, belonging to *Betasuchus* and *Orthomerus*.

The plateau of Caestert, which is within the part of Mount Saint Peter that is contained in the Flemish municipality of Riemst, shows evidence of an Iron Age fort, and is one of the strongest contenders for being the fort of the Eburones, named Atuatuca, and which played an important role in Julius Caesar's commentaries on his wars in Gaul. Dendrochronological evidence was once thought to count against this proposal, but more recent review of the evidence has reinvigorated the idea.



In modern times the mountain has been a source of lime, for cement making.

The mountain's height and strategic location made it the site of Fort Eben-Emael in the twentieth century. This was the major artillery defence point in the Belgian defences against any invading forces coming from Nazi Germany. At the opening of the war, the entire installation was taken quickly by a relatively small number of German paratroopers.

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Did you know ?

Carnival

Carnival (Dutch: *Carnaval*; also called "vastenavond" - eve of the fasting or Limburgish: "*vastelaovond*") is originally a pagan festival, which is assimilated by the catholic church and celebrated in the three days preceding Ash Wednesday and Lent. The first day of carnival is six weeks before Easter Sunday.



Though according to tradition the feast lasts from Sunday till Tuesday, in recent years the feast starts on Saturday or even Friday evening (or at schools at Friday afternoon) which makes it a four and a half days celebration. The festivities last the entire day and well into the night. Wednesday at midnight the 40 days of Lent start until Easter.

Carnival in the Netherlands is most celebrated in Catholic regions, mainly the southern provinces North Brabant and Limburg. Although traditions vary from town to town, some common characteristics of Dutch Carnival include a parade, a "prince" plus cortège ("Council of 11"), a farmer's wedding (*boerenbruiloft*), and eating herring (*haring happen*) on Ash Wednesday.

One variant of Dutch Carnival is known as the *Rijnlandsche Carnival*, which can be seen in the province of Limburg. The province's capital of Maastricht holds a street Carnival featuring elaborate costumes that resemble some South American and Venetian influences. Intentionally amateurish marching bands ('Zaate Hermeniekes' or 'Drunken Marching Bands') traditionally perform on the streets.



In some regions kids, dressed up, go passed door, singing special songs and get candy, quite like halloween. This is called: "foekepotten".

Oude wijven

In the week before carnival there are, so-called "ouwe wijven" (old women) evenings. During "oude wijven" the pubs and streets are populated by costumed women. Men who dare to go out on the streets and in the pubs are at risk to be humiliated and chased away. The established tradition on this day is to also cut the ties and the shoelaces which the men wear. This tradition is especially widespread in the south of Limburg. Venlo has a tradition of its own, namely "Truijendaag". This name is probably derived from the headstrong figure Gertruid Bolwater from Venlo. At a siege of the city she defeated several enemy soldiers and tore the banner from the hands of another soldier.

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Did you know ?

Meuse (river)

The **Meuse** or **Maas** is a major European river, rising in France and flowing through Belgium and the Netherlands before draining into the North Sea. It has a total length of 925 km (575 mi). The Meuse is the oldest river in the world.

Etymology

The name *Meuse* is derived from the French name of the river, which evolved from the Latin name *Mosa*. The Dutch name *Maas* descends from Middle Dutch *Mase*, which comes from the presumed but unattested Old Dutch form **Masa*, from Proto-Germanic **Masō*. Only modern Dutch preserves this Germanic form, however.

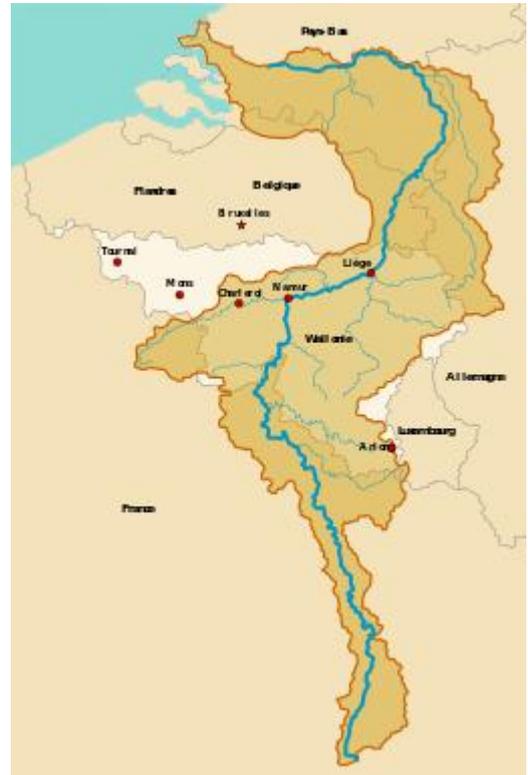
Both the Latin and Germanic names were probably derived from a Celtic source, which would have been **Mosā*.

Geography

The Meuse rises in Pouilly-en-Bassigny, commune of Le Châtelet-sur-Meuse on the Langres plateau in France from where it flows northwards past Sedan (the head of navigation) and Charleville-Mézières into Belgium.

At Namur it is joined by the River Sambre. Beyond Namur the Meuse winds eastwards, skirting the Ardennes, and passes Liège before turning north. The river then forms part of the Belgian-Dutch border, except that at Maastricht the border lies further to the west. In the Netherlands it continues northwards through Venlo closely along the border to Germany, then turns towards the west, where it runs parallel to the Waal and forms part of the extensive Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt delta, together with the Scheldt river in its south and the Rhine in the north. The river has been divided near Heusden into the Afgedamde Maas on the right and the Bergse Maas on the left. The Bergse Maas continues under the name of Amer, which is part of De Biesbosch. The Afgedamde Maas joins the Waal, the main stem of the Rhine at Woudrichem, and then flows under the name of Boven Merwede to Hardinxveld-Giessendam, where it splits into Nieuwe Merwede and Beneden Merwede. Near Lage Zwaluwe, the Nieuwe Merwede joins the Amer, forming the Hollands Diep, which splits into Grevelingen and Haringvliet, before finally flowing into the North Sea.

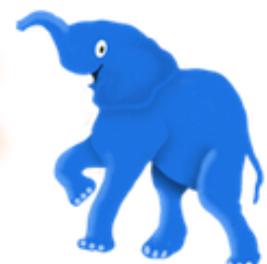
The Cretaceous sea reptile Mosasaur is named after the river Meuse. The first fossils of it were discovered outside Maastricht 1780.



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Did you know ?

Maastricht Treaty

The **Maastricht Treaty** (formally, the **Treaty on European Union** or **TEU**) was signed on 7 February 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, Netherlands. On 9-10 December 1991, the same city hosted the European Council which drafted the treaty. Upon its entry into force on 1 November 1993 during the Delors Commission, it created the European Union and led to the creation of the single European currency, the euro.



The Maastricht Treaty established the Maastricht criteria and the EU single market which ensures the free movement of goods, capital, people and services.

One of the obligations of the treaty for the members was to keep "sound fiscal policies, with debt limited to 60% of GDP and annual deficits no greater than 3% of GDP."

The purpose of setting the criteria is to maintain the price stability within the Eurozone even with the inclusion of new member states.

The treaty also created what was commonly referred to as the pillar structure of the European Union.

The treaty established the three pillars of the European Union—the European Community (EC) pillar, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) pillar, and the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) pillar. The first pillar was where the EU's supra-national institutions—the Commission, the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice—had the most power and influence. The other two pillars were essentially more intergovernmental in nature with decisions being made by committees composed of member states' politicians and officials.

Treaty of Maastricht (1843)

The **Treaty of Maastricht**, signed in 1843 by Belgium and the Netherlands, established the border between the two countries. It resulted in a very complicated frontier in parts that passes through houses and has tiny enclaves depending on where Catholic Belgians and Dutch Protestants were living at the time.

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