

AN UNPRECEDENTED STORM

As the wind reaches force ten on the evening of 13 January 1916, nobody on Marken appears worried. The people of Marken are accustomed to wind and water. The island is often flooded. But soon, this storm proves to be unprecedented. Marken is wrecked and sixteen people perish. Join the walk and relive the devastating force of the water.



1 Kerkbuurt

The biggest 'terp' on Marken, Kerkbuurt, was a ruin after the flood. At the westside of the

hillock all houses were damaged. There was one victim: Grietje Zeeman, who used to live where the Marker Museum is now. A cowshed was also destroyed, and eleven animals were killed. A widow left her house seeking shelter in the evening. When she returned the next day, all that was left was a heap of rubble.

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Walk from the Marker Museum past the church, turn left before the Wilhelmina-bridge and cross the road towards Grotewerf.

2 Grotewerf

At 12 Grotewerf the sisters Pietertje, Jannetje and Wolmet Stooker, aged 24, 22 and 14, were lying in their 'bedstee'. Did they think they were safe, or were they waiting for help? The story goes they were found there the next day, lying in bed, hand in hand. Another version has them panicking and trying to reach the upper floor by ladder, like their brother Klaas. Klaas survived the disaster. The three sisters were seized by the water.

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Keep to the right and walk towards Rozewerf.

3 Rozewerf

For ages Rozewerf had been protected against drifting ice by 'the twelve apostles' in the Markermeer. But the little terp was no match for the water in 1916. There were no deadly victims, but the material damage was enormous. A new, big bakery was totally destroyed. Like elsewhere in Marken, a mark on the wall of number 14, the former bakery, shows how high the water came.

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Walk back towards Grotewerf and turn right towards Moeniswerf.

4 Moeniswerf

The most remote terp on Marken, Moeniswerf, was the worst affected. Only four of the fourteen houses were left standing after the flood. Seven inhabitants died, among whom Cornelis and Maritje Zeeman and their children Cornelis, Aaltje and Geertje. The couple had two more children, who survived the disastrous night because they were staying with their grandparents. On Moeniswerf Geertje Jansen and Maritje Visser also lost their lives.

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Walk back along Grotewerf and turn left at Wittewerf.



be washed away altogether. Most inhabitants safely reached the small house next door. A baby was hoisted to the attic window with a rope through the water. Eighteen people were said to have found refuge in that little attic. For five people rescue came too late: father Klaas de Waart and mother Elisabeth van Riel and their children Simon and Lobberig drowned, just like Jannetje de Groot.

5 Wittewerf

A row of houses, inhabited by several families, was knocked off kilter and threatened to

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Walk straight on along the garages, across the car park and the Beatrix-bridge and keep to the left, following the Kets towards the Buurten.



6 Kets/Buurten

The Kets and the Buurten withstood the flood relatively well. Many houses were severely

damaged and became uninhabitable. Some small livestock drowned, but there were no victims among the inhabitants. At the facade of Buurt IV number 1 a mark shows the highest water level.

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At the intersection turn right and continue for 50 metres to information sign number 6. Walk back and follow the road to the port.



7 Havenbuurt

At Havenbuurt there were no victims either. But the inhabitants feared for their lives

as they saw boats drifting towards their wooden homes. The ships didn't crash into the houses because skippers chopped holes in their ships, sinking them and making them less prone to the wind. To the left of the harbor entrance there is a monument in memory of the inundation, created by artist Linda Verkaaik. It was inaugurated on 14 January 2016, exactly one hundred years after the disaster.

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Walk to the other side of the port, cross the bridge to the right and follow the road. Turn left just before the Juliana-bridge, cross the Maxima-bridge and follow the road to the Marker Museum, the beginning and end of the walk.

- M Marker Museum
- i Infopoint
- T Toilets
- P Car park
- 3 Information signs
- * Monument



FLOOD WALK MARKEN 1916



Composition: Stichting Herdenking Watersnood Marken 1916
 Text: Johan Moes
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This map was composed from two historical maps from the beginning of the last century, hence the visible seam and twice the text Marken.