

SKÛTSJES

Almost all transportation in Friesland was done by boat. 'Skûtsjes' were small inland barges, designed to navigate the narrow and shallow Frisian waterways. The skipper and his family often lived on board in a tiny deckhouse.

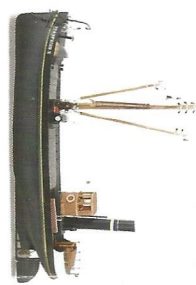
COASTAL TRADE

With koffs and smacks Frisian skippers sailed to Scandinavia, the Baltic sea, France and Spain. This coastal trade flourished in the 17th and 18th century.



VISSER AND TROMP

Two Frisian families that sailed the seas. The Visser family exported live eel to London. Members of the Tromp family owned a fleet of ships and were active traders in the Baltic area.



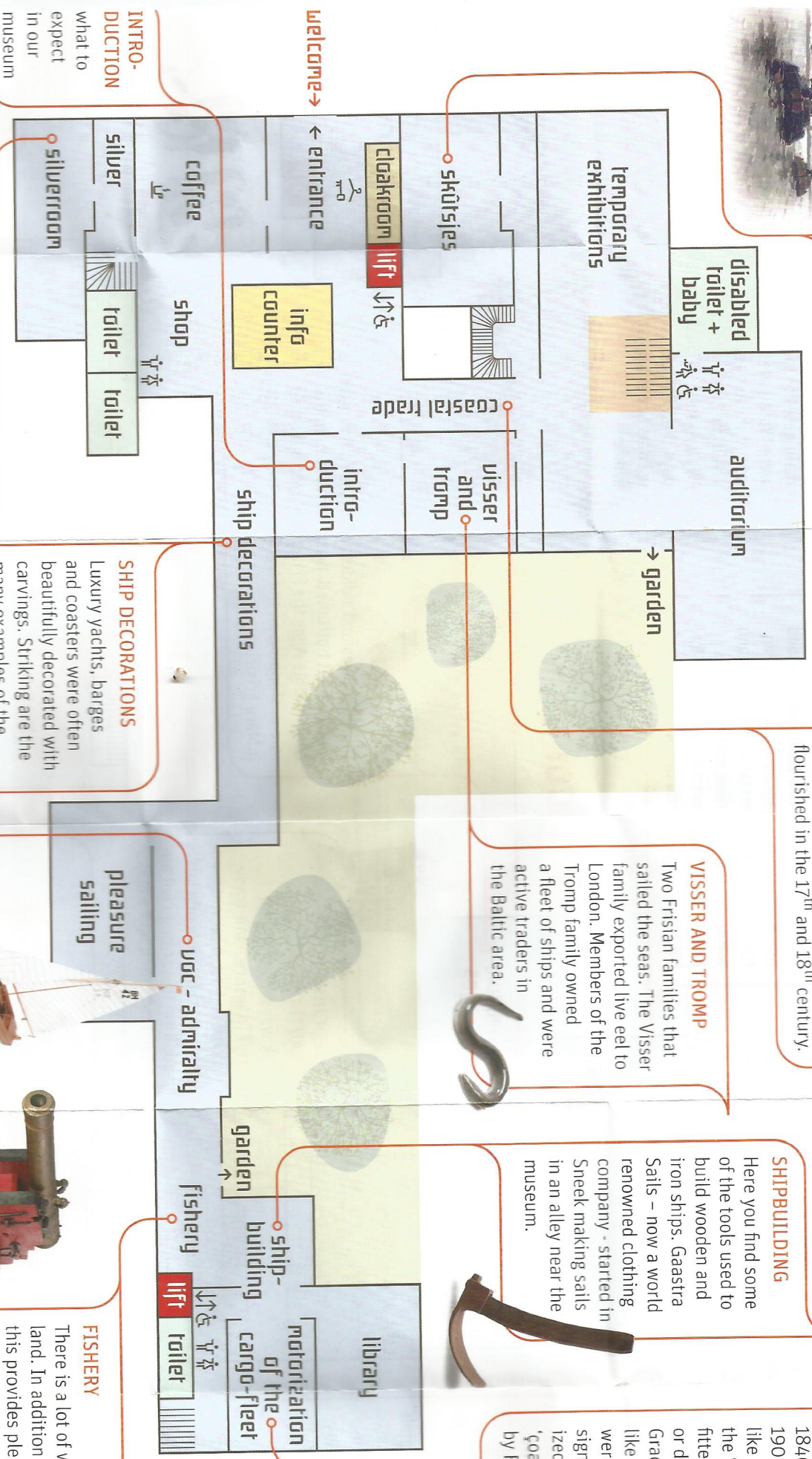
SHIPBUILDING

Here you find some of the tools used to build wooden and iron ships. Gaasstra Sails – now a world renowned clothing company - started in Sneek making sails in an alley near the museum.



MOTORIZATION OF THE CARGO-FLEET

Steam power made its entry in Frisian inland and coastal shipping in the 1840's. From ca. 1900 sailing barges like the 'fjalk' and the 'kipper' were fitted with petrol or diesel engines. Gradually new types like the 'luxe-mot' were specifically designed to be motorized. Many so-called 'goasters' were built by Frisian shipyard



welcome →

INTRO-INDUCTION
what to expect in our museum

SILVERROOM

By virtue of the flourishing trade and shipping in Sneek, the town and its inhabitants prospered. This led to a lively local silver-industry, centered in Sneek. In this room we proudly present the ornate works of many of the town's silversmiths.



SHIP DECORATIONS

Luxury yachts, barges and coasters were often beautifully decorated with carvings. Striking are the many examples of the colorful 'klik' which was originally placed on the helm of skûtsjes and talks. The very ornately carved 'hakkebord' was a decoration adorning the taffrail.



VOC - ADMIRALTY

In the VOC (Dutch East-India Company), which dominated the world's trade in the 17th century, Frisland had a modest role. The Frisian Admiralty however, was at that time a significant contributor to the Dutch navy.



FISHERY

There is a lot of water in Frisland. In addition to shipping this provides plenty of opportunity for commercial fishing. On inland canals, lakes, the Zuiderzee, Waddenzee, North Sea and even in Arctic waters Frisian fishermen could be found.



upstairs children's museum

SKATING

When waterways were frozen, Frisian skippers put on their skates. They organized competitions on both short and very long tracks. The famous eleven cities tour is a skating marathon, 200 kilometers in length. Transport of goods and/or people was also done on ice by sleigh or by ice-yacht.



CITY AND COUNTY

In our period rooms, we highlight the history of Sneek and its surrounding area. Local products, C.&A. Brenninkmeijer (founders of C&A, a well-known retail clothing store), interiors of mansions, farms town-houses and a 19th century office illustrate the rich local heritage.



PACKET TRADE

Most inland transportation was done by boat. Very popular were the tow-boats. They were towed along a tow path and provided quick and regular transportation between the country's commercial centers. On open water like the Zuiderzee, sailing vessels like a 'Kaag' or a 'Beurtman' were used for transporting goods and people.



WATERPOORT

Sneek was a centre of Frisian waterways. The main gates to the city were Watergates. Only one of these has survived the centuries: the 'Waterpoort'. In these days the Waterpoort is used as Sneek's town-symbol.

1st Floor

1st Floor

Middle-ages



TRADE, CHURCH AND AUTHORITY

Sneek was a commercial centre. To insure a fair trade, most goods had to be weighed or measured by town officials. In addition to a strong civil authority, the church had a major role in day to day life.

MIDDLE AGES

In 2005, Friesland's oldest ship was found near Sneek: a flat bottomed pram from 1190. In the early Middle Ages the Frisians played a leading role in shipping on the North Sea, they even called it Mare Frisicum.

SAILORS-SOUVENIRS

Frisian sailors took souvenirs home from far and wide. Many came from the Baltic area and England, but some were brought home from more exotic regions.

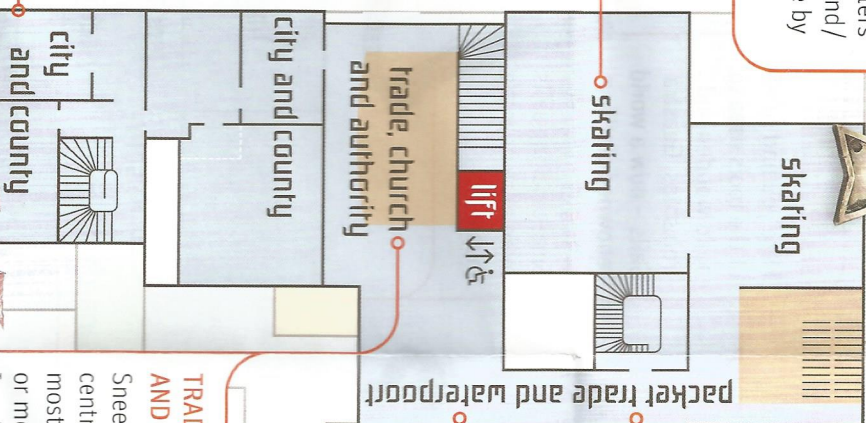
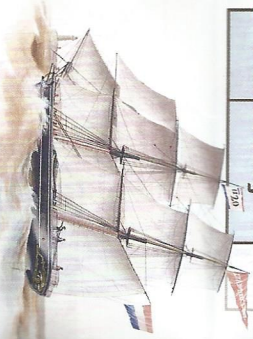


PERIOD ROOMS AND ARCHEOLOGY

One room is dressed in the Biedemeier style and another represents the 19th century dining room of the Oppedijk family from Jlle Exhibits show the care for the poor and the orphaned. Archaeological finds date back to Roman times and include finds from

19TH CENTURY SHIPPING

In the 19th century Frisian shipping only flourished in the seaport of Harlingen. With barques, brigs, schooners and clippers Frisians sailed on all seas. Frisian skippers were also popular for Groninger and other Dutch shipowners.



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