

## Welcome to the tower of the Dutch Reformed Church of Den Burg

### **The first flight of stairs leads to the church organ balcony.**

On the western wall hangs the old church cross. This cross, which was placed on the church steeple in 1604, was replaced during a renovation in 1998.

You are now at the same level as the church organ, which is best viewed from the ground floor.

The organ was built by Johan Michael Garstenhouwer between 1814 and 1818 in Monnickendam, and cost the equivalent of 650 euro. The organ builder died of a seizure in 1818, while the organ was still being finished on Texel. He was buried in the church nave, directly in front of the organ.



### **The second flight of stairs leads to the lower attic level.**

Here you will find the historic hand forged tower clock, which was restored in 2015.

Although the exact age of this wrought iron clock is not known, its gothic characteristics and the position of the corner posts suggest that it was built somewhere between 1530 and 1570.

Our church archive shows that in 1607, major repairs were carried out on this clock. The clock is almost entirely authentic, and it is one of only very few comparable tower clocks that can still be found in the Netherlands. The dial plates that were once connected to this clock were originally placed in the center of each tower wall, and they only had an hour hand. When this clock was replaced by the current tower clock, in 1933, the new dial plates were moved slightly towards the corners of the tower. On the wall behind the restored clock, you can see a replica of the dial plates that were used before 1933.

### **The third flight of stairs leads to the bell ringer's attic.**

Placed against the northern wall you will find the old clock of the Dutch Reformed Church of Oosterend.

This clock, which was built in 1931 in Midwolda (province of Groningen), was originally wound by hand and was replaced with an electric clock some years ago. The clock placed against the eastern wall was made in 1932 in Aarle Rixtel. It still works and weights are lifted on time using an electric motor.

### **The fourth flight of stairs leads to the church bell attic.**

The church bell you will find here was made at a gun-foundry in Enkhuizen during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

During the Second World War, the occupying forces removed bells from church towers throughout the Netherlands to be melted into ammunition and weaponry.

In January 1945 the vessel "Hoop op Zegen" was ordered to transport this church bell along with 250 other bells, in convoy to Germany. Together with two other vessels and, probably, by action of a lighthouse keeper on the island of Urk the "Hoop op Zegen" ran aground near Urk. Sabotage by salvors from Urk made it impossible to raise the vessel and the bells. After the war the "Hoop op Zegen" appeared to be total loss, the church bells however were recovered. To cover the costs of this operation and to compensate the shipowner, the churchbell owners paid 35 euro for each of their clocks. As this church bell was cracked, it was re-cast in 1952.

### **After a 25 meter climb (117 steps) you have reached the top of the tower.**

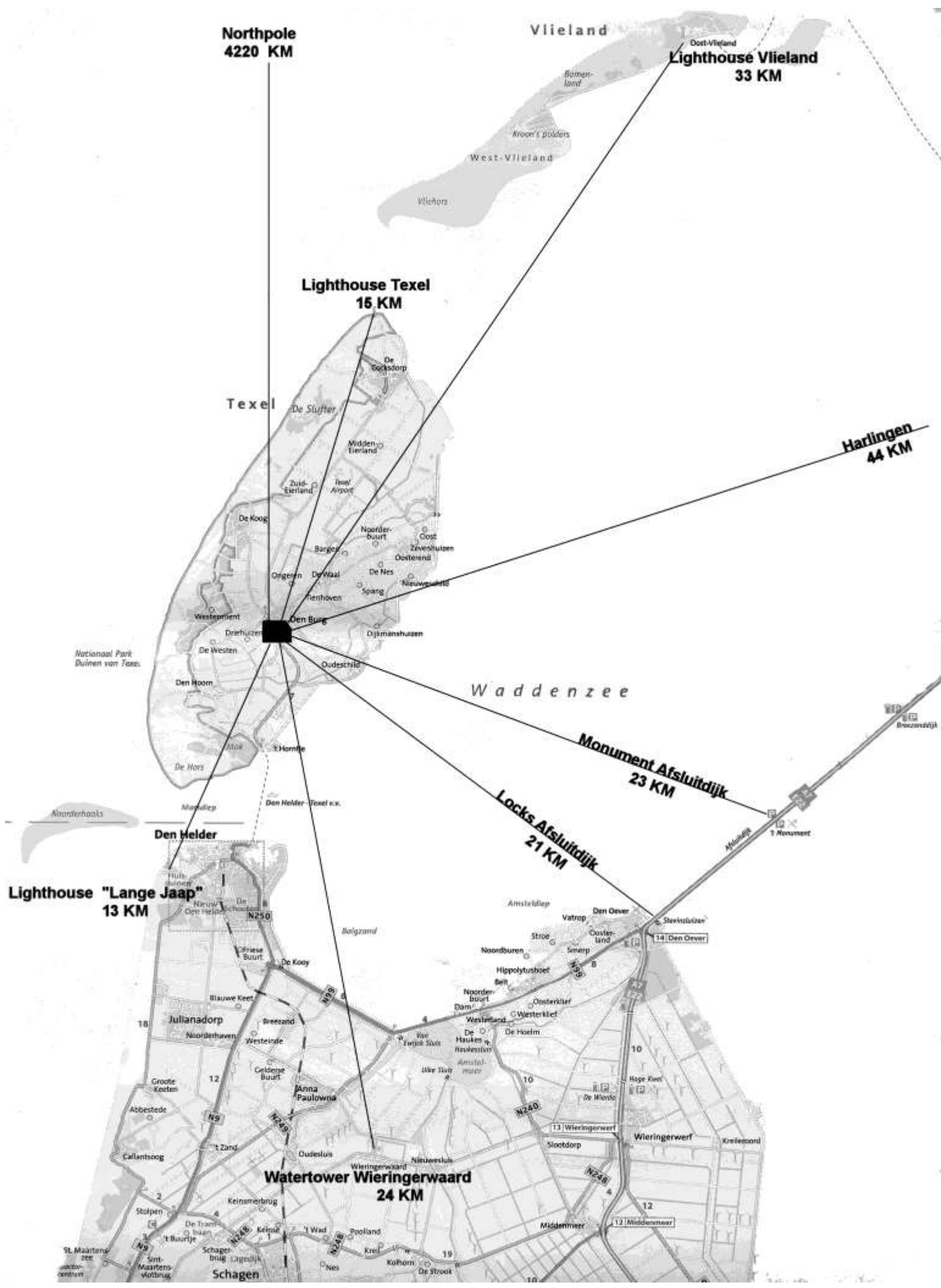
You will notice that the church steeple is made out of stone, which is not common for the Netherlands.

Although the church was finished in the year 1450, the church steeple shows the year 1604. This is because in 1527, the original wooden steeple caved in during extremely bad weather.

It took until 1604 to be replaced by the steeple you see now. This "new" steeple is a few meters taller than the original one. Its construction was financed by raising taxes on beer, hard liquor and wine. You can find more information about the church in a separate leaflet, which is available for purchase from the church tower guides for 0.50 euro.

On the back of this page you will find a map that will help point out some of Texel's landmarks. We hope you enjoy the view, and we wish you a pleasant stay on Texel.

Please mind your step on your way back!



**Northpole**  
4220 KM

Vlieland

Oost-Vlieland  
**Lighthouse Vlieland**  
33 KM

**Lighthouse Texel**  
15 KM

Texel

**Harlingen**  
44 KM

Waddenzee

**Monument Afsluitdijk**  
23 KM

**Locks Afsluitdijk**  
21 KM

Den Helder

**Lighthouse "Lange Jaap"**  
13 KM

**Watertower Wieringerwaard**  
24 KM

St. Maartens  
zee  
accor-  
centrum