



## Etten

Various periods of time between December 1875 and 1880

late April 1881 - 27 November 1881 / 22 - 23 December 1881

In October 1875, the Protestant Van Gogh family moved from Zundert to Etten, where father Van Gogh became a minister. Vincent was living abroad at the time and Etten was his home base when he reunited with family, for example during religious holidays such as Christmas and Easter. It was also his base when he was 'in between jobs', from which he

could rethink his future plans. By far the most important time in Etten for Vincent was the summer of 1881. By then a beginning artist, he drew local models and often went into the surrounding countryside to sketch. Vincent fell madly in love with his cousin Kee Vos who was staying with the family. His feelings for Kee were so strong that he asked her to marry him,

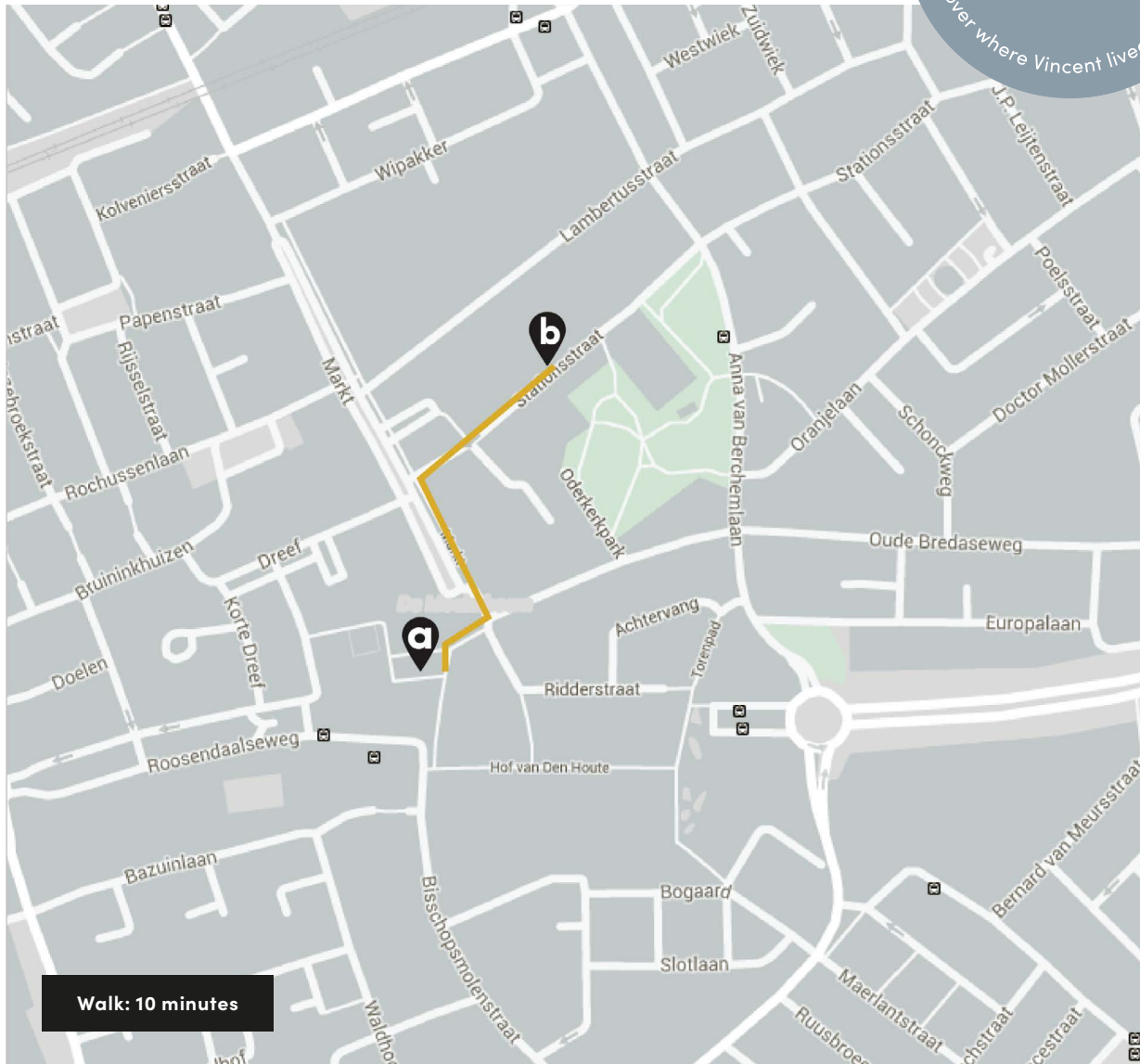
but she replied "No, nay, never". The family relations were disrupted by this incident – and many others – and, after a heated argument with his father around Christmastime, a furious Vincent left the village for The Hague. He would never return to Etten. His family moved to Nuenen in early August 1882.



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- a** Etten church  
Raadhuisplein
- b** Leurseweg  
Now the Stationsstraat



### Etten church

**Address** Raadhuisplein

Vincent's father worked as a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church of Etten and Vincent attended his father's sermons during the holidays. When he spent more than seven months with his parents in 1881, he went to church regularly. This was not so much because he felt the need to do so but rather out of courtesy. At the time, he had little affinity with his faith after long years of religious fanaticism. It had ultimately done him little good. The parsonage where the family lived was adjacent to the church but was demolished in 1903.



### Leurseweg

**Address** Stationsstraat

Vincent loved the Leurseweg (now the Stationsstraat) and regularly sketched there. In October of 1881, he wrote to his friend Anthon van Rappard: "You know what's absolutely beautiful these days, the road to the station and to Leur with the old pollard willows... I can't tell you how beautiful those trees are now. Made around 7 large studies of several of the trunks." [Letter 174] The street has changed completely over the years. The house of one of Vincent's models, Piet Kaufmann, once stood at what is now no. 61.

### Wish to complete the Van Gogh Route?

Take a trip to a nature reserve such as the Liesbos or Pagnevaart, or visit one of the villages such as St. Willibrord ('t Heike) or Bosschenhoofd (Seppe). Please see [www.vangoghroute.nl](http://www.vangoghroute.nl) for more information.