

= Winschoten railway station =

Winschoten (Dutch pronunciation : [ʋɪnsxotən] ; abbreviation : Ws) is an unstaffed railway station in Winschoten in the Netherlands . It is located on the Harlingen ? Nieuweschans railway between Scheemda and Bad Nieuweschans in the province of Groningen .

The station building , designed by Karel Hendrik van Brederode , was completed in 1865 and expanded in 1904 . Train services started on 1 May 1868 and have since been provided by Maatschappij tot Exploitatie van Staatsspoorwegen (1868 ? 1937) , Nederlandse Spoorwegen (1938 ? 2000) , NoordNed (2000 ? 2005) , and Arriva (2005 ? present) . During World War II , 500 Jews were transported from the station via the Westerbork transit camp to Nazi concentration camps , where most of them were killed .

The station has three tracks and two platforms . As of 2016 there are two local train services with trains every half an hour to and from Groningen , and trains every hour to and from Bad Nieuweschans and Leer (Germany) . The station handles 2 @, @ 500 rail passengers on an average weekday . There is a park and ride area for cars and bicycles , and a bus station with eleven regional services provided by Qbuzz .

= = Location = =

The railway station is located at the Stationsweg in the city of Winschoten , part of the municipality of Oldambt , in the east of the province of Groningen in the northeast of the Netherlands . It is situated on the Harlingen ? Nieuweschans railway , also called Staatslijn B , between the railway stations of Scheemda in the west and Bad Nieuweschans in the east , both also in the municipality of Oldambt . The Heiligerlee railway stop was between Scheemda and Winschoten from 1908 to 1934 , and the Ulsda railway stop was between Winschoten and Nieuweschans from 1887 to 1938 . The railway connects via Zuidbroek and Groningen to the rest of the Dutch railway network in the west ; and via Bad Nieuweschans to the German railway network in the east . The distance from Winschoten westward to railway terminus Harlingen Haven is 115 km (71 mi) , to Groningen 34 km (21 mi) , to Zuidbroek 12 km (7 @. @ 5 mi) , and to Scheemda 5 km (3 @. @ 1 mi) , and eastward to Bad Nieuweschans is 12 km (7 @. @ 5 mi) .

= = History = =

In 1860 , the Dutch government passed a law for the construction of ten state railways (Dutch : staatslijnen) . The Harlingen ? Nieuweschans railway or Staatslijn B was opened between 1863 and 1868 . The first part between Harlingen Haven and Leeuwarden was opened in 1863 and the second part between Leeuwarden and Groningen in 1865 .

The station building in Winschoten was completed in 1865 . The third part of Staatslijn B between Groningen and Winschoten was opened on 1 May 1868 . Trains were initially operated by the Maatschappij tot Exploitatie van Staatsspoorwegen (Company for the Exploitation of the State Railways) . Services between Winschoten and Nieuweschans started in November 1868 , and between Nieuweschans and Leer in Germany in December 1876 , when the Harlingen ? Nieuweschans railway was connected to the Ihrhove ? Nieuweschans railway .

In 1904 , the station building was expanded with a porch and additional waiting room . From 1938 to 2000 , train services were provided by the Nederlandse Spoorwegen (Netherlands Railways) , when the Maatschappij tot Exploitatie van Staatsspoorwegen merged with the Hollandsche IJzeren Spoorweg @-@ Maatschappij (Hollandic Iron Railroad Company) . In 1942 , during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II , approximately 500 Jews from Winschoten were transported by train to the Westerbork transit camp and from there to Nazi concentration camps in Germany and Poland , where 446 of them were killed . As a result of the war , the German border at the railway was closed for passenger transport from 1944 to 1954 . In 1967 , the roofed bus station was built next to the station building . In the last quarter of the 20th century , the station building 's porch was replaced .

From 1999 onwards , other railway companies received concessions for the northern railway lines of the Netherlands . NoordNed , a joint venture of the Nederlandse Spoorwegen and Arriva , provided the railway services to and from Winschoten between 2000 and 2005 . The IJrhove ? Nieuweschans railway was closed for major renovations in the years 2000 ? 2002 . Arriva bought all shares of NoordNed in 2003 , and rebranded the services as Arriva in 2005 . In 2013 ? 2015 , the station building was restored to its state of 1904 as part of a larger project to improve the quality and functionality of the station area . The IJrhove ? Nieuweschans railway has been closed since December 2015 because a railway bridge near Weener was destroyed in a collision with the ship Emsmoon . Until the bridge is replaced , Arriva is providing a rail replacement bus service between Bad Nieuweschans and Leer .

= = Building and layout = =

The 19th @-@ century station building is owned by NS Stations . It is of the type SS 3rd class , which was designed by Karel Hendrik van Brederode . SS 3rd class was chosen instead of the smaller SS 4th class because of the importance of Winschoten as a commercial center . Eight buildings of SS 3rd class were completed in the Netherlands between 1862 and 1865 , of which four remain today . This building of 1865 has a median risalit and wings on both sides parallel to the railway . The facade on the city side and railway side are identical , except for a half round decoration on the city side . The doors and windows of the building have arched frames . In the 1904 expansion , an enclosed porch was added and the east wing was extended with an extra waiting room .

The railway through Winschoten is unelectrified and oriented west to east . At the station , the single @-@ track railway splits into three tracks , with the station building on the north side . Platform 1 is on the northern side of the northern track , serving trains towards Groningen , and is partly covered by a roof attached to the station building . Platform 2 , serving trains towards Bad Nieuweschans and Leer is on the northern side of the central track , and is accessed via a level crossing from platform 1 . The platforms have shelters , wheelchair ramps , tactile paving and dynamic passenger information . The southern track has no platform and serves as a passing loop . Beyond the station the tracks merge back into a single track .

West of the station building is a free park and ride (Dutch : parkeer en reis) area with 120 car parking spaces and 320 bicycle stands at the station . There are also subscription @-@ only bicycle lockers and a subscription @-@ only bicycle rental service . There is a tunnel for cyclists and pedestrians underneath the tracks and platforms to the south side of the city . East of the station building is a roofed bus station which is owned by Arriva . There is also a taxicab stand at the station .

= = Services = =

= = = Trains = = =

The company Arriva , a subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn , has the concession for rail transport in the provinces of Friesland and Groningen until 2020 . There are two all @-@ stop local train services (Dutch : stoptreinen ; German : Regionalbahn) using diesel @-@ powered Stadler GTW railcars , which are branded as Spurt , that call at Winschoten :

Stoptrein 20100 / Regionalbahn 57 : Groningen ? Groningen Europapark ? Kropswolde ? Martenshoek ? Hoogezand @-@ Sappemeer ? Sappemeer Oost ? Zuidbroek ? Scheemda ? Winschoten ? Bad Nieuweschans ? Weener ? Leer

Stoptrein 37500 : Groningen ? Groningen Europapark ? Kropswolde ? Martenshoek ? Hoogezand @-@ Sappemeer ? Sappemeer Oost ? Zuidbroek ? Scheemda ? Winschoten (? Bad Nieuweschans)

On weekdays , there is one train every half an hour between Groningen and Winschoten in both

directions and one train every hour between Winschoten and Bad Nieuweschans in both directions . In the late evening , the 20100 service does not run . During the morning rush hours and in the late evening , the 37500 service continues to Bad Nieuweschans . On an average weekday , 2 @, @ 500 passengers travel to and from Winschoten by train .

A limited @-@ stop regional train service (Dutch : sneltrein) between Groningen , Winschoten , and Leer is planned for 2018 .

= = = Buses = = =

The company Qbuzz , a subsidiary of Nederlandse Spoorwegen , has the concession for bus transport in the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe until 2019 . There are eleven regional bus connections at the station in Winschoten with the following destinations :