Visitors coming by rail. The Binnenhof can be reached on foot from The Hague’s Central Station (CS) by way of Herengracht, Korte Poten and Het Plein (a walk of approx. 15 minutes).

Visitors coming by car. From the Prins Clausplein motorway junction motorists should take Mechteltsebaan, followed by Zuid-Hollandlaan, Koningskade, Korte Voorhout and Lange Houtstraat. There is a car park under Het Plein, the square adjoining the Binnenhof.

For further information please contact the Senate’s Communication and Protocol office.

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Partially obscured from view by the galleries, installed in the hall in 1870, are two fine chimney pieces with seventeenth-century paintings by Adriaan Hanneman and Jan Lievens, representing ‘Peace’ and ‘War’ respectively. Among the walls are also portraits (in the form of medallions) of famous Grand Pensionaries of the former States of Holland such as Johan van Oldenbarnevelt and Johan de Witt.

The costly tapestries that once adorned the walls disappeared during the French era and have never been found. During the last refurbishment every effort was made to ensure that the colours and patterns of the newly designed tapestries were as much in keeping with those of the ceiling as possible, thereby recreating the former unity between ceiling and walls.

Today the building is still used for meetings of the Senate. The Senate consists of 75 members, who usually hold their plenary sessions on Tuesdays. The main function of the Senate is to scrutinise legislative bills, but it also monitors the actions of the Government. The Senate may not amend bills; it may only pass or reject them. The debates mostly focus on the quality and legitimacy of the proposed legislation, in particular in relation to the Constitution and other statutory regulations. Other factors taken into account are the consequences of the bill in practice and its sustainability.

The plenary sessions are prepared in sessions of the standing and special committees. The plenary meetings are open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend a plenary meeting can sit in the public gallery (Binnenhof 23).