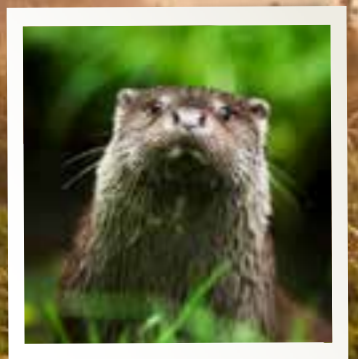
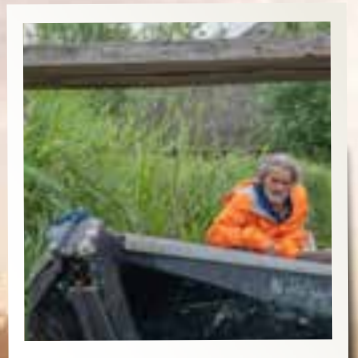
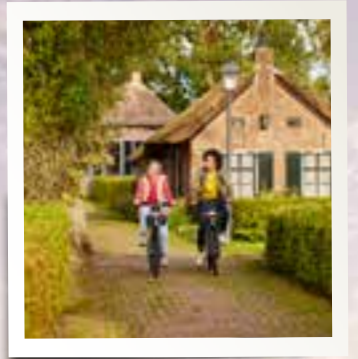




Nationaal Park
Weerribben-Wieden



LIVING LANDSCAPE TELLING TALES

FREE TO TAKE!
VALUE: € 7,95





STRUINEN

in de natuur
van ribben
en wieden
vind ik

steeds iets nieuws
of beter nog
iets vertrouwds dat ik
eerder nog niet zag

het is geen zoeken
maar vooral vinden
al struinend
met open armen

ik loop en omhels
nieuwe vondsten
nieuwe energie
op weg naar morgen

Eric Hoogeweg



**Nationaal Park
Weerribben-Wieden**

Weerribben-Wieden is a New-Style National Park. We work to create more green space, both inside and beyond the park, and to strengthen quality of life, local prosperity and sustainable tourism.

'Created by human hands and the force of nature'

Welcome to the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. The largest area of low-lying peatland in Northwest Europe and one of the 21 national parks in the Netherlands. Created by human hands and the force of nature. Home of the otter, the Large Copper butterfly and many kinds of dragonflies.

Here you will find a miniature version of the Netherlands. Enjoy the picturesque villages with their canals, the fortified city of Steenwijk, an abundance of (quaking) bogs, reedbeds and water, beautiful Zuider Zee towns with their rich history, valuable heritage, undulating romantic woodland scenery and, not to be forgotten, the distinctive borders of the surrounding four provinces.

You will love the nostalgia of the surroundings and the passion of the local inhabitants and entrepreneurs. A place of natural beauty, surprising historical stories and craftsmen who will take you back in time and back into the present. Many of them are descendants of the hard-working peat cutters who provided the fuel supplies hundreds of years ago. These hard workers could never have imagined that their labour would lead to the creation of the present-day beauty of the landscape. The Weerribben-Wieden National Park is an area where residents enjoy peace and quiet, entrepreneurs earn their living and visitors look around in wonder.

Our area is also facing enormous challenges. We need to make the transition from fossil to climate-neutral energy production and sustainable tourism. Our nature must become more robust to act as a buffer for climate change and to enhance prospects for biodiversity recovery. We want our young people to have a pleasant place to live and a healthy future. And all of that in the vicinity of almost 12,000 hectares of vulnerable Natura2000 land.

We very much hope that your visit to the Kop van Overijssel will strengthen your appreciation of the area, enabling a growing group of people to keep doing the right things for the rare and beautiful Weerribben-Wieden National Park.

It is a great pleasure to meet you in our park. Good that you're here!

Weerribben-Wieden National Park

A photograph of a pond with lily pads and tall grasses in the background. A green frog is perched on a lily pad stem in the foreground. The text "Tangible history gives character" is overlaid in white.

**Tangible
history gives
character**

An oasis of tranquillity and space; that is the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. Here you will discover unending reedbeds, meadowlands, bog woodlands and quaking bogs. The unspoiled horizon is exceptional. This area is the largest unbroken low-lying peatland in Northwest Europe, covering more than 12,000 hectares. It is certainly worth exploring the area yourself. There are some fantastic cycling routes and footpaths, or you can explore by boat.

HOW IT BEGAN?

Peat and reed cutters were responsible for the creation of this distinctive landscape during the course of many years. Our ancestors started extracting peat – a valuable fuel – from the fifteenth century. Over the years, the peatlands were slowly dug up, resulting in the creation of more and more space for water which even formed large lakes (wieden) such as the Belterwijde and Beulakerwijde.

COLOURFUL AND VARIED LANDSCAPE

Following the cutting of the peat, the area was used for growing reeds, and as meadow and grazing lands. Flat-bottomed boats sailed back and forth with cattle and reeds. Can you imagine seeing a farmer sail by with his flat-bottomed boat full of cows? If you're lucky, you will come across this spectacle. Areas that were too wet were allowed to revert to nature which led to the creation of valuable bogland – a colourful landscape offering endless enjoyment. Countless birds fly around here, and many things grow and flourish in this area of natural beauty. Otters play in the water and grass snakes swim. There are all kinds of transitions ranging from wet to dry, open to closed, small-scale to vastness. Quite remarkable.

THE NETHERLANDS IN MINIATURE

Around these beautiful nature reserves are many old towns, villages and centres in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. Attractive waterside villages, such as the iconic Giethoorn, the walled city of Steenwijk and small towns on the old Zuider Zee coast. The Netherlands in

miniature as it were. All of them have long and often remarkable histories. These are sometimes visible in the streets, others linger on through stories, such as the one about the drowned village of Beulake. Go on a boat excursion and imagine that you have gone back to the end of the 18th century when the village was engulfed by the huge waves of the Zuider Zee.

CHERISH THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS AROUND YOU

Stories that often began centuries ago contain evidence of the past left behind by earlier generations. This tangible history gives the area character. Observe the nature and the culture at close range and feel a sense of connection to it. Watch the movements of the water, smell the plants and flowers, admire the birds at eye level, visit a special place and for a moment go back hundreds of years in time. Enjoy all the beautiful things in and around the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. Discover it for yourself and cherish it!

Genuine interest in nature and culture

If you are genuinely interested in nature, you will notice that your connection to it will only grow. This is coupled with a sense of responsibility. By consciously engaging with nature and cultural history, we can happily continue to enjoy it together. Now and in the future.

Come and look inside first to see more outside



The best places to visit before you set off on your nature experience in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park are either the Natuurmonumenten visitors centre in Sint Jansklooster or the Staatsbosheer outdoor centre in Ossenzijl.

Forest rangers and members of staff will be happy to tell you all about this unique nature reserve. You will learn all about the peat cutters, reed cutters and the distinctive flora and fauna. Board an excursion boat, hike along the Laarzenpad (Welly Path) or get route maps for walking, hiking, cycling or canoe trips. Enjoy it to the full; there is a lot to see.



YOU CAN ALSO FIND TIPS
AT THE TOWN MUSEUMS OF
BLOKZIJL AND VOLLENHOVE,
AND AT PERRON 3
AT STEENWIJK RAILWAY
STATION.



DE WEERRIBBEN OUTDOOR CENTRE

De Weerribben Outdoor Centre is the perfect starting point for a trip on a pleasure boat, electric boat or canoe in the National Park. It is also the best place to start your cycling or hiking trip. There is plenty of information available here and they organise fun and educative activities. The shop stocks items to take with on your nature experience such as binoculars, but it also sells surprising souvenirs, nature books and regional products.

What you shouldn't miss

A cruise with the forest ranger through the waterways of the Weerribben. From the water, you will have a beautiful view of the natural surroundings.
An interesting excursion for people who want to know just that little bit more.

-

Go for a walk with the decoy man through the Kloosterkooi duck decoy where you can have a look behind the scenes. An oasis of peace, quiet and lush green vegetation.

-

Go paddleboarding (SUP) with the forest ranger in De Weerribben. Right now, the hottest water sport in one of the most beautiful nature reserves in the Netherlands. One advantage of standing on a board is that you can peer over the high reeds! Highly recommended!

-

Specially for the kids! Go on a discovery trail with Zompie, the reed dwarf. He helps the animals and goes out to free Glanspels (Glossy Coat), the Otter Prince, from Kromsnavel, the Kiekendief (Hookbeak the Harrier). But Zompie can't do it on his own.
Can you help him?

WHERE SHOULD YOU BE?

Hoogeweg 27 in Ossenzijl, (088) 284 34 70
www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/weerribben



DE WIEDEN VISITOR CENTRE

De Wieden Visitor Centre in Sint Jans klooster is the main entrance to De Wieden. Here you will discover and experience the striking natural surroundings, the landscape and the cultural history of this unique wetland area. There is a tourist information point, a shop with attractive gifts and local delicacies. Children can enjoy themselves in the OERRR nature playground and you can get something tasty to eat and drink in the Theeschenkerij. There is something to do for all ages and that all in one place.

Fun things to do

Walk over floating land, via the wheelchair-friendly Vlonderpad (duckboard), through the rustling reeds. You will see the Wieden in miniature: a landscape with lakes, pools, reed beds, ditches and bog woodlands.

-

Climb the Water Tower of Sint Jans klooster. You will be amazed by the spectacular 24-metre-high stairway – a fascinating sight. After 207 steps, you will finally reach the observation point where a magnificent view awaits you.

-

Go on a boat trip with the forest ranger to the oldest cormorant colony in the Netherlands. After a wonderful trip, you will go ashore to the observation cabin to take a look. Don't forget your binoculars!

-

Take the adventurous Laarzenpad (Welly Path) and walk through the reeds. It will also take you across an area of bog woodlands and through open meadows. Using hand-pull cable ferries you can cross the ditches that cut across the path on the way. It's handy to wear boots or sturdy walking shoes.

WHERE SHOULD YOU BE?

Beulakerpad 1 in Sint Jans klooster, (0527) 205 660
www.natuurmonumenten.nl/bcdewieden



The Otter

ICON OF THE
WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN NATIONAL PARK

In 1988, the last otter in the Netherlands died. It was run over in Joure. Decades of environmental pollution, hunting, increasing traffic and habitat loss proved to be fatally damaging to the otter. Until the tide turned and a second chance presented itself in 2002. Investments were made in the habitat and water quality. In that year, the first otters were reintroduced in De Weerribben-Wieden National Park in three groups. It is not without reason that the otter is now the icon of the National Park. There are now, more than 20 years later, more than 500 otters in the whole of the Netherlands.

THE OTTER

The otter (*Lutra lutra*) belongs to the Mustelid family. It lives in wetland locations with sufficient shelter and tranquillity. The otter has a gleaming, velvety, thick dark brown coat with a light, sandy coloured underside and sometimes a lightly coloured, spotted pattern on the chin and around the lips. It has a long outer coat that ensures that the thick undercoat retains an insulating layer of air and remains dry under water.

The otter is a shy creature, mainly active at night and is an excellent swimmer and diver. It usually dives for less than a minute under water but can remain there for up to four minutes. During swimming and diving the tail functions as a rudder. The ears and nostrils close under water; the eyes remain open. The otter has a strongly developed nose (1000 x stronger than that of a human being), extremely sensitive whiskers and thick eyebrows that, particularly in murky waters, work as antennae.

CAUSES OF DISAPPEARANCE

There were still many otters in large parts of Europe and the Netherlands in the middle of the last century (1950). Forty years later, around 1990, they had disappeared from many areas of Western Europe. This was due to damage to their habitat, through land reclamation, steep sheet pile walls in canals and rivers that were insurmountable for the otter, drowning in fishing nets and increasingly

*In 2002,
the first otters
were reintroduced.*

busy traffic. The level of PCBs (from oil, plastics and paint) in the water had a negative effect on the fertility of the otters. The otter is an 'indication-species'. Is the otter thriving? Then the water is clean and there is plenty of fish and enough crayfish.

REINTRODUCTION

In 1989, the government presented a 'Recovery Plan for Otter Habitats'. Within eight years, parts of this country were to be suitable for the otter to live in again. For this reason, banks were made otter-friendly, the water quality was improved, and fences and otter passageways were placed near busy roads. In 2002, the first otters were reintroduced. They came from Latvia, Belarus or from captivity. To be able to monitor how the otters moved around in the area, they were all fitted out with a transmitter. Unfortunately, there were only seven otters left in De Weerribben-Wieden National Park a year later. Two had been run over and one died of a liver disorder. The other otters had set off into the big wide world.

THE WEERRIBBEN

During the search for a suitable habitat for the new otter, Northwest-Overijssel was chosen. De Weerribben, now part of De Weerribben-Wieden National Park, were found to be suitable. The largest area of unbroken peatlands in Western Europe, with a protected status, was approved.



Shortly before they died out, otters had still been living there, the water quality was reasonable, the traffic was not yet too busy, and the fisheries were not extremely intensive.

The reintroduction area is varied in composition and consists of De Weerribben and De Wieden and three smaller areas: Rottige Meente, Lindevallei and Oldematen. With an unbroken surface area of around 35 km², De Weerribben, with its many areas of water suitable for the otter, will form the core area of the potential otter habitat and will in the long-term function as a sustainable source area. This means that more otters will be born in this area than will disappear through death. The remainder of the young otters will then try to find a place in the surrounding areas. Both De Wieden and the Rottige Meente may also have this function but are limited as regards size. The Lindevallei and Oldematen are too limited in size to be able to function as a source area. These areas will probably function as a sink.

From: De otter terug in Nederland (The Otter back in the Netherlands), Alterra, Wageningen, 2003

THE NEW OTTERS

It was no easy job to catch the new otters for De Weerribben. During the first attempt, only three otters were caught. One in Latvia and two in Belarus. To allow the reintroduction to go ahead, two orphaned otters from the Czech Republic and two males from Sweden were added to the group. On 7 July 2002, it was time for action. In the presence of Faber, the then State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries, one camera man and a photographer, seven otters were released. That evening, all the news programmes opened with this remarkable news. A second group of eight otters were reintroduced in October, followed by the last group in November.

'Seven otters from Belarus, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Sweden were reintroduced into De Weerribben National Park, in the vicinity of Giethoorn.'

NOS Journaal - 07-07-2002

FOLLOW THE OTTER

In 2003, researchers wrote about their experiences during that first year of the reintroduction. To monitor the otters and their behaviour, they were all fitted out with a transmitter. The transmitters were inserted in the abdomen and had a range of 500-



1500 metres. The otters were usually tracked by boat or by car. If no otters were found, the researchers even went in search by plane. During the first days in the new area, the otters remained close to the reintroduction spot. Each night, the otters travelled one to three kilometres, often less. With the arrival of the second group, their activity also increased. The habitat enlarged and the otters went off to explore in the direction of Rottige Meente, the Oldelamer, the Wester and Oosterschar and even the Kuinderbos.

Male otters are solitary animals and have their own territory. The dominant males in particular have large habitats. The cross-section of a male habitat is on average around 15 kms and that of a female 7 kms.

THE OTTER NOW

In 2022, it was estimated that there were more than 500 otters in the Netherlands, and the otter has now spread over a large part of the country. From the city of Groningen to the Biesbosch. The otters move around easily via ditches and canals and partly over land to extend their distribution ranges even further. It is important for the species (genetic variation) that nature reserves improve the connections between them. For instance, as they are doing in De Weerribben-Wieden and Rottige Meente. But preferably, the otter should be able to move freely in the direction of our eastern and southern neighbours.

Heavy traffic is still one of the greatest threats to the otter population. It is still necessary to take measures to protect the otter by erecting fences along roads and tunnels and by creating passageways to make life as easy possible for the otter. Employees and volunteers from Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten and the Zoogdierverseniging monitor the otter daily and are constantly doing research.

The otter disappeared from the Netherlands due to the actions of human beings, but owing to the dedication of human beings it's back again. It symbolises hope and rewards our efforts to keep protecting it and its habitat.



WATCH THE FILM 'THE OTTER, A LEGEND RETURNS' ON NPO START OP NPO START

A film by: Hilco Jansma

ABC of nature

There is a constant interchange between water and land in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park, providing a habitat for all kinds of plants and animals. Natuurmonumenten drew up a list of special and often very rare varieties. Some are on the red list of threatened species and others cannot be found anywhere else.



Cormorant

A cormorant is a large, dark water bird with a hooked beak. They do not have a waterproof fat layer on their feathers like other water birds, meaning that the feathers become wet and the birds heavier when they dive. This helps them to manoeuvre and hunt more easily underwater. Cormorants breed in colonies and make a lot of noise there.

HOTSPOT: BIRDWATCHING CABIN DE AUKEN



Devil's-bit Scabious

Devil's-bit scabious is a perennial plant from the honeysuckle family. The flowers are deep blue and look like a kind of (half) button. The plant flowers for a long period. This is important for the insects in the area because there are few flowering plants with nectar in the autumn.

HOTSPOT: DE BRAMEN (NOT ACCESSIBLE)



Green Hawker

This rare, native Dutch dragonfly is quite a choosy creature, and you will only find it in ditches and peat pits in peatland areas. This is because water-soldier grows here. The female is largely bright green, and the male also has beautiful blue eyes and blue patches on the rear of its body. The Green Hawker is on the red list of threatened species.

**HOTSPOT: KIERSCHE WIJDEPAD
WANNEPERVEEN AND GIETHOORN**



Fen Raft Spider

The Fen Raft Spider is one of our larger kinds of spider. This spider feels at home on riverbanks and catches food on or under the water. Water beetles, water bugs and spiders. Small fish and salamanders must also be careful.

**HOTSPOT: DITCHES WHERE
WATER-SOLDIER GROWS**



Grass snake

The grass snake is the largest snake in the Netherlands (up to 1.20 m) and is a very good swimmer. A grass snake spends most of its life in and around water, such as small streams, ponds and rivers. Any place where there is prey ... frogs. Grass snakes do not bite and are not poisonous.

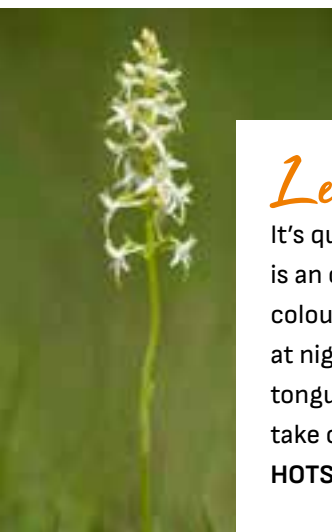
HOTSPOT: THE WHOLE OF THE WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN NATIONAL PARK



Bittern

The nickname of the bittern is reed heron and because of its perfect brown plumage you can hardly see it among the reeds. It is famous for being able to 'imitate' a reed by standing upright like a post. A perfect camouflage. The bittern likes to eat fish, frogs, mice and large insects.

**HOTSPOT: BIRDWATCHING HUT
BEULAKERPOLDER, WETERING WEST
AND MUGGENBEET**



Lesser Butterfly-orchid

It's quite special to see this tender little flower. It is an orchid that is striking because of its white-coloured flowers. The flowers usually emit a smell at night which attracts hawk moths. These long-tongued moths love the nectar in the calyx and take care of pollination.

HOTSPOT: DE BRAMEN (NOT ACCESSIBLE)



Lange Copper

The large copper lives up to its name: a big, beautiful butterfly. The top side of the males' wings are a bright orange-red. A real beauty! It is one of the rarest species of butterfly in the Netherlands and lives only in De Weerribben, De Wieden and de Rottige Meente.

HOTSPOT: DE WEERRIBBEN



Small pearl-bordered fritillary

A rare butterfly that mainly exists in the Kop van Overijssel, Friesland and on Terschelling. The top side of the wings is mainly orange with black markings and spots. The first butterflies appear in May. The butterflies are active all day and feed on nectar from plants such as Ragged-Robin and Marsh Thistle.

**HOTSPOT: HERE AND THERE
THROUGHOUT THE WIEDEN AND
ALONG THE KIERSCHE WIJDEPAD**



Black Tern

Black Terns like to breed on water-soldier plants. They live in shallow bogs rich in nutrients, areas with a lot of ditches, bog vegetation and mudbanks. They eat small fish, amphibians, insects and earthworms. The males are particularly easy to recognise with their largely black plumage. Unfortunately, numbers are dwindling.

HOTSPOT: GIETHOORNSE MEER AND DE WIEDEN VISITOR CENTRE

Your support brings good ideas to life



Perhaps you've been coming here for years, or perhaps you only discovered the uniqueness of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park today. Anyway, this area deserves attention and the means to continue in its development. This is now possible with the Weerribben-Wieden National Park Fund. The fund will enable people with good ideas for the area to actually carry them out.

NEW STYLE NATIONAL PARK

The fund is there to put good ideas into practice. Ideas from people who live or work here or just enjoy coming here. People with plans to make the area more beautiful, richer and more accessible. This could include volunteers who want to compile the most beautiful walking and cycling routes into a book to hand out to visitors. Or a film maker who wants to document the life of bog inhabitants. "The area fund responds to the trend that people want to be more involved with nature," says director Herald Nobel. "You can do that as a volunteer, but also by investing in great projects. A new jetty or observation tower then becomes a little bit yours as well. Moreover, donations to the area fund are tax-deductible because of the fund's ANBI status."

YOUR CONTRIBUTION DIRECTLY VISIBLE

If you donate to the fund, you will be investing directly in the area. In tangible projects that you can see and experience for yourself. For example, a new podcast-walk during which you can hear remarkable stories from the area. Or a reading-activity book to help children from the area find out more about their own environment. Your donation will go to projects that will really make a difference based on well thought out plans that will have a lasting effect. "Take, for example, the wooden bridges in Belt-Schutsloot. They are more than a hundred years old and define the character

of the waterside village. Technically, they're worn out, but allowing them to disappear is not an option, because they tell the story of the generations who have lived here. Village councils want to restore them and do what they can themselves. Residents with the necessary skills help out and costs are reduced wherever possible. This is the kind of initiative that the fund is meant for," continues Herald Nobel. "People who are committed to their surroundings, with a concrete plan and the will to carry it out themselves."

MORE THAN NATURE

The landscape of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park has partly been created by the hard work of the peat cutters and reed cutters. People live and have lived in this area from and with the water. This park has a unique history and that history deserves to be cherished and shared. The new fund will support projects in all aspects: nature conservation, cultural-historical heritage, perception and accessibility. "Because if visitors understand why the ditches are so straight, why the landscape is hilly, then a cycling trip through the area will suddenly have a deeper meaning. Then you will see the beautiful green surroundings and the story of generations. Contributions to the fund will make this possible. With stories along the routes, for example."



EVERY AMOUNT COUNTS

Of course, you decide what you are going to give. One-off or on a regular basis. A small amount or a larger donation. Whatever you choose, it will help. A small amount could provide for an information board. Fifty euros will contribute to the restoration of a historical path. And larger amounts can fund complete projects that continue to enrich the area. The nice thing is that you can follow what your contribution has made possible. You can see on the website what projects are being supported and what is happening to your donation. During your next visit to the Weerribben-Wieden you may well see the results of your support.

PLEASE DONATE

Your contribution will make a difference. Whether you cycle through this area regularly or just come now and again to enjoy the peace and quiet. You can help to protect and enrich it. Together, we can make sure that the Weerribben-Wieden remains beautiful and becomes even more beautiful.



You can make a donation via www.npweerribbenwieden.nl/gebiedsfonds/ the QR-code with this article, or later also at places in the park itself. Any contribution, large or small, will help to advance this area. Are you ready to donate?

The other view of Giethoorn

*Everything was
transported along the
village waterways.
Absolutely everything.*

WWW.MUSEUMGIETHOORN.NL

WHEN YOU MOOR, YOU'LL SEE MORE

Giethoorn is famous for its waterways, charming bridges and little boats. And quite right too: seen from the canal the village is at its most beautiful. But for those who moor and go for a stroll, they will discover something else. A village that doesn't just want to be observed but also read.

The other view begins with the landscape. Water, reed and light set the scene here. And that scene is constantly changing. Morning mist, a winter sun low over the reeds, long summer evenings with reflections in the canals. These are settings that for more than a century have made Giethoorn special for everyone who pays special attention to it.

A LANDSCAPE THAT ATTRACTS ARTISTS

Dutch artists have been depicting Giethoorn in their paintings for many years. The most well-known name is Willem Bastiaan Tholen (1860-1931), who captured the village and the wetland landscape in drawings and paintings at the end of the 19th century. He not only looked at the idyllic settings but also at everyday life: bridges, paths, thatched roofs and activities. His work portrays how light and sky bring about continual changes in the atmosphere of the village.

For those who would like to see the historical view, they can visit Museum Giethoorn 't Olde Maat Uus where a work of Tholen is on display. It is an invitation to look at Giethoorn through the eyes of someone who walked around here more than one hundred years ago.

SMALL AND SPREAD OUT

Also nowadays, art does not play a significant or visible role in Giethoorn. It's something you will come across now and again: in existing properties, in small places, sometimes unexpected. This is consistent with the scale of the village. Art is not an attraction in itself, but part of the landscape and everyday life.

WITH DIFFERENT EYES

For visitors, this view adds an extra layer to the already well-known image of Giethoorn. From the water, the village is impressive, but for those who moor and go for a stroll, they will see that there is more to Giethoorn than what you can see from the canal. Your pace will slow down by itself. You will pay closer attention. The water will remain as the backdrop, but on dry land you will discover how the village and the landscape tell a story together. If you're prepared to stand still for a moment, you will not only see Giethoorn, but you will feel it too.

ENJOY THE WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN NATIONAL PARK IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

The Weerribben-Wieden National Park is a unique, low-lying peatland area with vulnerable nature, a rich cultural-historical landscape and villages where people live and work. Tourism is important for the area, but caution is also required. Too much pressure on nature, the infrastructure or facilities may harm the quality of the park.

For this reason, sustainable tourism means that we not only look at what is enjoyable for visitors, but primarily at what contributes to the area. This is how we ensure that nature and culture remain protected, entrepreneurs can future-proof their businesses, and visitors can continue to enjoy the tranquillity, space and quality.

WHAT YOU CAN DO DURING YOUR VISIT

As a visitor, you are an important link in this story. The choices you make – how you travel, where you stay and how you behave in the park – collectively make a great difference. By making conscious choices, you can help to conserve this unique landscape and contribute to the sustainable mission of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park.



EUROPARC
Sustainable Tourism
in Protected Areas



Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden heeft
de Europese erkenning voor duurzaam toerisme.

10 TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE VISIT

1. Choose a sustainable means of transport to and through the park

Where possible, travel by train, bus or bike and leave the car behind. In and around the park you can also use electric share bikes. Or take a boat, canoe or paddle board.

2. Save water

Weerribben-Wieden is all about water. By making a conscious effort to save water during your stay, you will help to prevent waste. For example, by spending less time in the shower and turning off the tap.

3. Choose sustainable accommodation

Stay at accommodation where the focus lies on energy saving, waste separation and a nature-friendly stay.

4. Stay on the waymarked paths and boat routes

In this way, you prevent damage to vulnerable nature, and you give plants and wildlife the space they need.

5. Bear in mind the peace, quiet and darkness

Avoid excessive noise and light, especially in the evening and at night. In this way, you will help the wildlife and inhabitants and also help to conserve the vitality of the area.

6. Keep dogs on the lead where requested and clean up any dog waste

In this way, you prevent disturbance to wildlife, and you keep the area clean for everyone.

7. Buy local and regional products

Eat, drink and shop at local businesses. In this way, you will support the region and reduce your ecological footprint.

8. Take rubbish with you and use reusable products

Don't leave anything behind in nature areas and opt for reusable bottles, packaging and bags.

9. Try visiting the park during an off-season period

Each season has its own special charm. By spreading out your visits you can help reduce the pressure on nature and the facilities.

10. Be involved and eager to learn

Learn more about the area at the visitor centres, museums and local businesses. Ask questions and contribute your thoughts about how the Weerribben-Wieden can become even more sustainable.

Never-ending source of wonder

Watching birds from the birdwatching cabins

WHERE CAN YOU FIND THE BIRDWATCHING CABINS?

- De Auken to the north of Giethoorn
- De Wiedekiek in the Beulakerpolder
- De Twitterhut in Scheerwolde
- Wanneperveen birdwatching cabin
- Hamspad observation tower in Blankenham
- Lokkenpolder observation duckboard
- De Weerribben birdwatching cabin in Kalenberg
- Meenthebrug birdwatching cabin in Kalenberg

Meer info vind je op vogelkijkhut.nl.

Before you've even set foot out of the door, the earliest birds will be coming alive in an eruption of bird song in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. Everything that can chirp, twitter and warble will sing a serenade in the melodious symphony of Weerribben-Wiedenland.

MORE THAN 200 SPECIES OF BIRDS

There are around 200 species of birds in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. It is an eldorado for unusual marsh birds and, of course, for bird enthusiasts. And if you don't see them flying, you'll hear them. The nervous song of the sedge warbler, the rattling sound of the grasshopper warbler, the buzzing song of Savi's warbler. So many species, so many sounds. Some tear the morning tranquillity apart; others produce a more modest sound. Once you've seen it, you'll never forget it: the Kingfisher. Don't be misled by its tropical looks, it is one of the regular guests at the national park.

ADMIRE BEAUTIFUL BIRDS FROM A BIRDWATCHING CABIN

From various birdwatching cabins, you're sure to spot a rare species of bird. So don't forget to take your binoculars and camera with you. A visit is an experience that will bring you very close to nature. We recommend the birdwatching cabin in De Auken where you can see Purple Herons and Spoonbills. From the Twitterhut, near the village of Nederland, you can see the Bittern, and you will spot many birds of prey.

TAKE A LOOK IN THE COLONY

The boat trip to the oldest cormorant colony in the Netherlands in Wanneperveen is a very special experience. The brooding season of the cormorants begins as early as February/March and in April it's a hive of activity here. From the birdwatching cabin, you will have a wonderful view of hundreds of birds feeding their young. The monotone begging of the young birds, the penetrating smell of digested and regurgitated fish, and the sight of the parents flying back and forth, make this excursion an unforgettable experience. In the trees all around you will see the birds in their characteristic pose drying their feathers. A unique nature experience!



A glimpse behind the scenes

*Duck decoys tell
a unique story*

One of the best kept secrets in the Weerribben-Wieden National Park are the duck decoys in this area. Seven examples of this unique cultural heritage have been preserved. De Kloosterkooi, Kooi van Pen and de Grote Otterskooi are the most well known.

EEN VREEMDE EEND IN DE BIJT (There's a stranger in our midst)

At one time, duck decoys were used to catch ducks for consumption. Domestic ducks and a decoy dog were used to lure the wild ducks to the decoy where they were caught in a 'pipe'. Various Dutch sayings have their origins in the age-old duck-hunting practices, such as 'een kijkje achter de schermen' (a glimpse behind the screens). This is a reference to the duck decoy man who always hid away behind a screen of woven reeds.

SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL-HISTORICAL VALUE

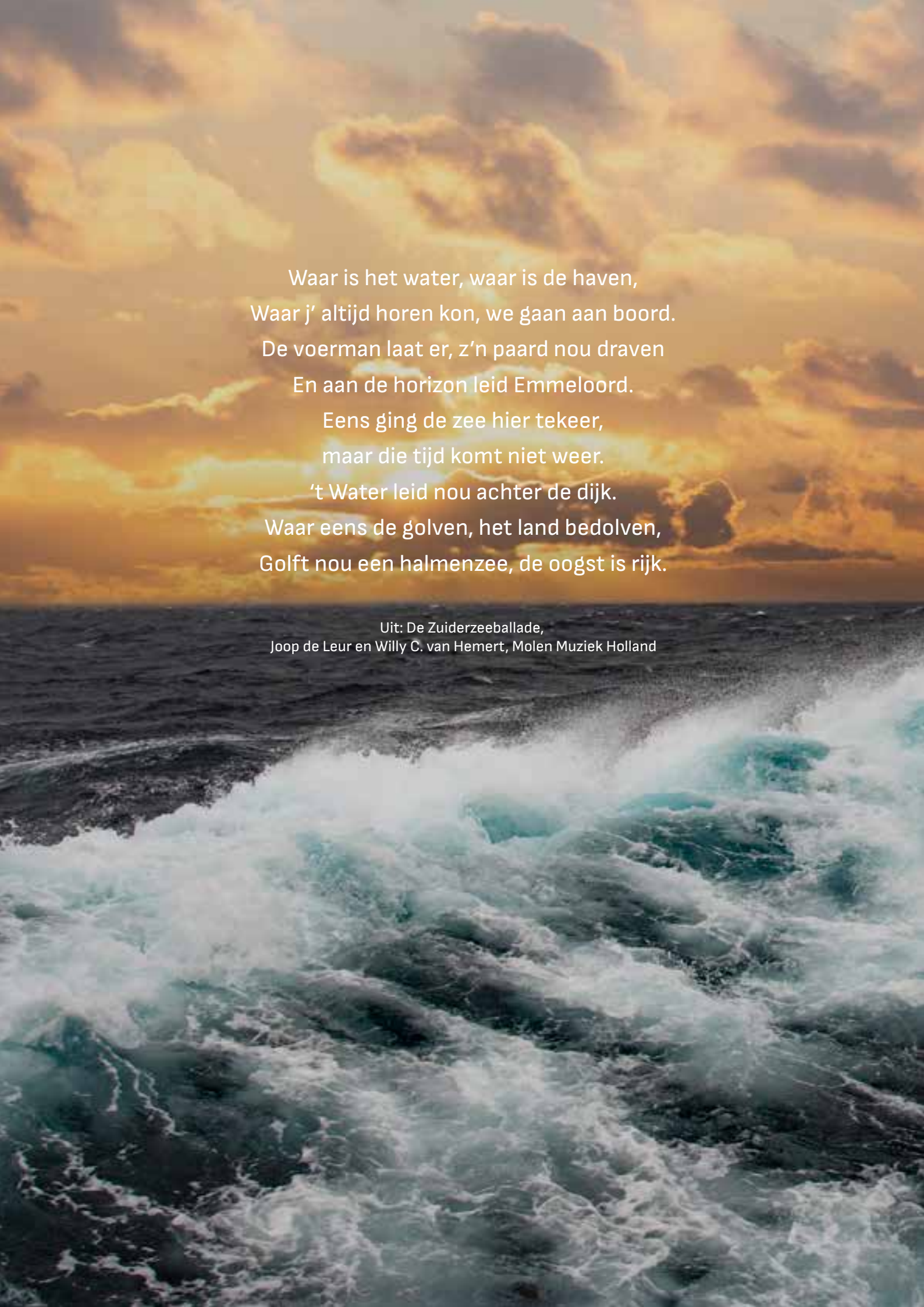
To catch as many ducks as possible, it had to be quiet around the decoy (the so-called demarcation right). A circle was drawn around the duck decoy. Within this circle, nobody, except the owner, was allowed to carry out any activities that would disturb or drive away the ducks. Nowadays, duck decoys are only used for excursions, research and bird ringing. The cultural-historical value is an important reason to maintain the duck decoys. The tranquillity in and around the decoy is beneficial for the natural surroundings. Decoy woodlands can grow and develop without being disturbed, resulting in a jungle of old trees and a profusion of honeysuckle and hops. Many volunteers take care of maintenance and renovation.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

The duck decoys are an enormous attraction for many species of birds and even the otter pays a visit now and then. It is an oasis of tranquillity and lush green vegetation. Would you like to take a glimpse behind the scenes yourself? Then go on a boat trip with the forest ranger from one of the visitor centres and see what it was like to be a decoy man all those years ago.



**WATCH THE YOUTUBE FILM
'TRACKING THE DUCK
DECOY MAN'.**



Waar is het water, waar is de haven,
Waar j' altijd horen kon, we gaan aan boord.
De voerman laat er, z'n paard nou draven
En aan de horizon leid Emmeloord.
Eens ging de zee hier tekeer,
maar die tijd komt niet weer.
't Water leid nou achter de dijk.
Waar eens de golven, het land bedolven,
Golft nou een halmenzee, de oogst is rijk.

Uit: De Zuiderzeeballade,
Joop de Leur en Willy C. van Hemert, Molen Muziek Holland

Grieving for the Zuider Zee





'Go and see the Zuider Zee before it's too late. Because it won't be long before green polders replace the babbling little waves ...' this was written by Jac. P. Thijsse (Maastricht, 5 juli 1865 – Overveen, 8 January 1945) in the foreword of his book *'Langs de Zuiderzee'* (Around the Zuiderzee) (one of the Verkade albums). It was a prophetic view. Only four years later, the Zuider Zee Act came into force. The construction of the Afsluitdijk and the land reclamation was a fact. The Kop van Overijssel had changed for good. Owing to the Afsluitdijk, the Zuider Zee, wild at times, changed into the IJsselmeer. Fertile agricultural land and space to live on was created. There was a great need for this. However, there was a downside to all of this. Trading cities Kuinre, Blokzijl and Vollenhove lost their direct access to the west, the landscape changed, and the fisheries ceased to exist.

CREATION OF THE ZUIDER ZEE

Under the influence of nature, the landscape was constantly changing. This also applied to the area around the Zuiderzee. Around 1100, the sea was a large inland lake, protected by higher areas of land to the north. The large amount of water from the rivers, bad drainage and the rising sea level made the narrow connection with what we now call the Waddenzee even larger. A great storm in around 1170 washed away large sections of peatland and the salt water forced its way in. The large inland lake first became brackish and then salty. The Zuider Zee was born. It offered fishermen and merchants along the coast new opportunities. In the 16th century, sturgeon fishing around Vollenhove was thriving. Blokzijl became an important transit port

for peat going to the west. Kuinre developed due to the butter trade, peat transport, shipbuilding and fisheries.

'It began to get dark, but the lights lured us to the brand-new port, and we stayed for a while to watch the harbour light of Blokzijl, the light from Schokland and a lonely fishing boat that came sailing into our harbour and moored quietly by others that were lying together in a dark heap.'

(From: Jac.P. Thijsse, *Langs de Zuiderzee*)

*'How would
it be to
conquer the sea?'*



TRADE, FISHERIES AND PROSPERITY

The Zuider Zee fishing industry was so promising that rich citizens from Vollenhove invested in new fishing boats. At the height of the fishing industry, there were more than 100 fishing boats in Vollenhove harbour. In Kuinre, the cargo trade with Amsterdam, the butter trade and the fisheries brought a lot of activity and prosperity. Around 1900, there were four shipyards and three fish smokers in the village. The shipyards were well known. Boats were even being built for the fishermen on Urk. Blokzijl developed into an important trading port. Peat and rush mats were shipped to Amsterdam and Holland. The harbour was also a place of refuge for the ships from Vollenhove when it was difficult to reach their own harbour in a strong easterly wind. The Zuider Zee brought prosperity owing to trade and the fisheries. But there was a downside. The sea was sometimes wild and indomitable. Spring tides and storms caused breaches in the dykes, disasters and other problems time and again. How would it be to conquer the sea?

BUILD-UP OF PLANS FOR LAND RECLAMATION

The invention of the steam engine and the reclamation of the Haarlemmermeer (started in 1840) set soap manufacturer Jacob Kloppenburg and engineer Pieter Faddegon thinking. Just imagine that you could connect the Waddeneilanden

(Frisian islands) to each other with dams to make a sea defence? You could then build a dam between Enkhuizen and Stavoren and make one big polder of the Zuider Zee. The plan met with a mixture of scepticism and enthusiasm. In 1849, a plan was presented which suggested that the whole of the Zuider Zee, including the Wadden Zee, should be reclaimed. This was followed by a plan to limit this to the southern part. Closing off the sea and draining and reclaiming the land was technically possible, but it met with a lot of resistance. People were worried about the groundwater levels and also predicted that this would mean the end of the shipping and fishing industries.

After the establishment of the Zuiderzeevereniging (Zuiderzee Association) in 1886, the plans developed rapidly. Representatives of trade, shipping, agriculture, water boards and municipalities addressed the issue of what was necessary and/or desirable. In addition to these official representatives, 18 private individuals were also involved, including a person of private means from Amsterdam who had become rich as an agent in grain and seeds. His name: Jan Lely, the father of Cornelis, the future founder of the Afsluitdijk and land reclamation. Cornelis Lely had graduated as an engineer and was appointed as an assistant. He studied the technical problems, read all the previous



plans and carried out research on the Zuider Zee. With a simple sounding rod, he looked to see where the fertile clay soil was and where the useless sand grounds were. That clay was mainly close to the coast of Overijssel. In September 1888, Lely presented his first detailed plan. A dyke from North Holland to Friesland and four sections of reclaimed land in the Zuider Zee with clay soil. However, it was not until 1918 before the plan was discussed as a law by politicians in the Tweede Kamer (Second Chamber). This was supported by the circumstances at that time: a scarcity of food and hunger due to the First World War and the great storm of 1916.

THE STORM OF 1916

In January 1916, an enormous storm struck. The country was stricken by very strong winds for weeks. Water from the North Sea was pushed into the Zuider Zee. The storm lasted for a long time. In Den Helder, force 8 winds lasting 18 hours were recorded. The water level rose to 3 metres above NAP (at high tide). At the same time, the rivers were carrying more water than usual. The pressure on the dykes was therefore enormous on both sides. There were breaches in the dykes in dozens of places. In North Holland alone, 21 people died, 16 on the island of Marken and another 32 at sea. This time Overijssel was spared. It was mainly Utrecht, North and South Holland that were affected. This, in combination with the scarcity of food and the need

for agricultural land to feed more mouths, meant that the time was ripe for Lely's plan and many others. The sea had to be conquered.

On 28 May 1932, the last hole in the Afsluitdijk was closed. The construction of the whole dyke took around 5 years. From that moment on, the Zuider Zee became the IJsselmeer. The first section of reclaimed land (the Noordoostpolder) was reclaimed in the middle of the Second World War (1942). Urk and Schokland were no longer islands but were now part of the mainland. The Flevopolder, to the north-east of the Knardijk, was reclaimed in 1957. The southern section followed in 1968.

BLOKZIJL, VOLLENHOVE AND KUINRE

After the construction of the Afsluitdijk and the reclamation of the Noordoostpolder, the trading cities along the former Zuider Zee coast lost their direct access to the sea. For the fishermen, the fishing grounds were too far away. Many fishermen foresaw what was going to happen and moved away.

'The reclamation was a farewell to a cultural pattern through the centuries, and the fishing community was undermined.'

From: R. Kamman, *Geschiedenis van Kuinre*
(History of Kuinre and surroundings)

*'The age-old
sea dyke still
winds through
the landscape.'*

For example, to the textile industry in Twente. Many ex-fishermen also found temporary work in the development of the new polder. Blokzijl and Vollenhove retained access to the lakes via narrow connecting canals. Kuinre is the only harbour that was completely reclaimed. Even to this day, the village is only accessible to the smallest pleasure boats.

VISIBLE HISTORY

Traces of the trading cities on the Zuider Zee are still visible today. The age-old sea dyke still winds through the landscape. From Kuinre, via Blankenham (with the high tide cannon), to Blokzijl and Vollenhove. The old pier of Kuinre now lies in the Kuinderbos, on the border with the Noordoostpolder. In the village, the inspector's house next to the lock and de Waag denote the illustrious past. In the church, there are still visible traces of the flood in 1825. The beautiful properties around the harbour of Blokzijl are an indication of a prosperous trading past. In 'Het Gildehuys' museum in one of the oldest streets, history is kept alive. In Vollenhove, you can see that the city's location on higher ground offered natural protection against the violence of the sea. The city museum has 10 centuries of history on display: from the time of the bishops, the nobles who created a 'city of palaces', to the growth (and decline) of the fishing industry.



LOOKING FOR ANTJE

The many breaches in the dyke left behind traces of the past in the landscape. Scattered around the dyke of Kuinre via Blankenham and Blokzijl to Vollenhove, you can see small lakes within the dyke, the so-called 'breach pools' or 'wielen'. These pools were often given the name of the person who owned the land. They originated after dykes were breached during big storms in 1701, 1775/1776 and 1825. Not only the dyke is hundreds of years old, but the oldest pools have also existed in the landscape for centuries. During the storm of 1776, the dykes burst in at least fifteen places and in 1825 one more.

During the night of 4/5 February 1825, there was a spring tide in combination with a north-westerly wind. The dykes burst in 22 locations and large parts of the Kop van Overijssel, Zuid-Friesland and Zuidwest Drenthe were flooded. In Kuinre alone, the Roman Catholic church and 27 houses were engulfed by the water and nine people drowned along with the cattle. In Steenwijk, people saw a thatched roof floating by with twenty people on it. 305 people from Overijssel died.

The Antjeskolk in Kuinre was also created at that time. Following research, it remains unclear why the pool got this particular name. In 1832, this area was the property of a builder from Lemmer. With another name and no 'resident'. There was a councillor in Kuinre with the name Antjes, but there is little information about him in the archives. This family name is familiar in the area but there is no relationship with Kuinre. Some mysteries will always remain a secret.



'It all happens where land and water meet'

ENJOY DE WIEDEN FROM THE
WATER ON THE WATERBUS

Probably the best way to appreciate the Weerribben–Wieden National Park, as the largest low-lying peatland in Western Europe, is from the water. In addition to excursion boats, walkers and cyclists can use the two electric 'waterbuses' that cruise backwards and forwards between the visitor centre in Sint Jansklooster and Blokzijl and Giethoorn. Every boat trip continues to be a special experience for even the most seasoned skippers.

The virtually silent Ecowaterbuses sail every day across the vast expanse of the 'Beulaker' to the waterside village of Giethoorn (one hour) or the Zuider Zee city of Blokzijl (one and a half hours). On the way, you will cruise through nature and along narrow waterways, surrounded by floating land and reed-fringed banks. The boat pauses by the artwork of the drowned village of Beulake. 'The trip is special every time', says skipper Koos (74), one of the more than 20 skippers who, as volunteers, make this special 'bus connection' possible. 'Every season and even every day is different, owing to the weather, the light and the eye-catching animals and plants we come across. I have a sense of freedom on the water. It doesn't matter how often I see the Beulaker, I continue to enjoy it. At the end of the trip, I often feel like going back again.'

SPECIAL SIGHTINGS

From the water, the land feels quite different from when you are on foot or on the bike, explains skipper Frans (77). 'Many people go on pleasure trips when the weather is good. On our boat, you can enjoy the water and the nature under all conditions: outside on deck or inside if it's raining. That means that it keeps changing. We don't set off if the wind is too strong.'



During the cruise, there are regular sightings of birds such as the osprey, purple heron and brooding black terns. People also spot deer or swimming grass snakes. The lucky ones may even spot an otter or a bittern. Koos: 'Such a bittern is really very special. You usually hear them, but you rarely see them. I haven't seen an otter yet myself, but other skippers have. And we're sure to get beavers as well, because their numbers are increasing too. I have seen cranes and a lost flamingo. As we cruise along the dividing line where land and water meet, you see a lot. That's because there is an awful lot going on there. Probably because a lot of animals find everything there: food and protection.' Current sightings are also recorded in a logbook at the visitor centre.

COLOURFUL COMPANY

Cyclists and walkers from all parts of the world use the boats a lot. 'Many Dutch, Germans and Belgians of course, but I've also had Brazilians, Japanese and Frisians on board,' jokes Frans. Whoever takes the boat to Blokzijl in the morning and takes the boat back in the afternoon, has all the time in the world to explore the city and enjoy a drink at an outdoor café. Cyclists also often come on board for a one-way trip from Giethoorn or Blokzijl. During the trip, the skippers will tell you about a few things in the area. 'But not too much, because some people know far more about nature than I do. And we're not an excursion boat. If you really want to know more, you should take one of those boats.'

*Coming
with us?*

The Ecowaterbuses from Natuurmonumenten depart twice a day from the visitor centre in Sint Jans klooster and go to Giethoorn and Blokzijl (there and back). You can buy tickets online or on the day itself at the visitor centre or on the boat. You can take bicycles on the outer deck. This is also accessible for wheelchairs. The boats do not depart during the winter period.

More information on www.natuurmonumenten.nl/bcdewieden

7 tips for an active day out

If you would you like to explore the Weerribben-Wieden National Park yourself, then why don't you go for an active day out. Look at the world from the other side from the water or go on a bike ride.



For even more active outings, visit

www.visitweerribbenwieden.com



TAKE THE BIKE AND RIDE THE 'RONDJE WEERRIBBEN'

Take the bike and ride along this 30 km route right through De Weerribben. On the way, you will see watermills, you'll go past the Birdwatching cabin, you'll ride through the 'polders' in Scheerwolde and you can admire the Tjasker and Peat-cutter's houses. The best place to start is at the Weerribben Visitor Centre in Ossenzijl. If you take a look inside first, you will be well prepared for your trip.

JUNCTIONS

10 – 14 – 42 – 50 – 06 – 07 – 23 – 21 – 20 – 13 – 11



A PARADISE FOR CANOES

The Weerribben-Wieden National Park is the perfect place for everyone to go canoeing in calm, shallow waters, without getting lost. A day out paddling on the water is pure bliss. Take your canoe on a voyage of discovery, come eye to eye with remarkable birds, dragon flies or perhaps even an otter. We're sure that after a day on the water a sense of satisfaction will wash over you. Unforgettable!

LOOK AT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ROUTES ON WWW.KANOPARADIJS.NL



PADDLEBOARDING WITH THE FOREST RANGER

Go paddleboarding with the forest ranger in De Weerribben. Try out the hottest watersport of the decade in one of the most beautiful nature reserves. One advantage of standing on the board is that you can peer over the high reeds and see even more beautiful things. You can book an excursion with Staatsbosbeheer. After a perfect work-out and a lesson on how to handle the board, you will go on the water. While you're paddling, the forest ranger will tell you everything about the area.

BOOK WITH STAATSBOSBEHEER > ACTIVITIES



WALKING IN THE NATIONAL PARK

The national park offers more than 30 starting points for walks, with over 550 km of marked trails in total. You can recognize these starting points by the information board with a map. Each location offers several walking routes, ranging from short strolls to longer, more challenging hikes.

Find all starting points and more at:

WWW.VISITWEERRIBBENWIEDEN.COM



KAYAKING IN THE WINTER

Just imagine cruising through the endless waterways in brilliant winter sunshine. You will have the water almost to yourself and the silence will be deafening. Nature will reveal itself in a different light. The trees will be bare, but the first buds will be cautiously appearing. Perhaps you'll spot a reed-cutter at work. And thanks to his hard work, you will have a perfect view over the seemingly endless fields. Allow yourself to be overcome by the tranquillity!

MORE INFO ON WWW.KANOPARADIJS.NL



CLIMBING TO A HIGH POINT

Literally and figuratively the high point of your holiday. At Klimbos Avontuurlijk Paaslo, you can climb and clamber around no less than nine metres above the ground. Adventurers without a fear of heights can choose between four courses with climbing ladders, nets, climbing walls, parrot beams and spectacular obstacles. Follow the Otterspoor, go on the Weerribben Expedition, take the Klauterpad or do the Roerdomp Vlucht. And make sure you don't miss that hundred-metre zipline.

YOU WILL FIND ACTIVE OUTINGS IN THE WEERRIBBEN WIEDEN APP



PUNTING IN GIETHOORN

Whereas the gondola is the traditional form of transport in Venice, in Giethoorn it is the punt. The water in the Dutch Venice is around 1 metre deep. A long wooden pole, the quant, can therefore be placed on the bottom of the canal to propel the boat forwards. You can rent a punt at various places in Giethoorn for a trip through the canals. Something a little less sporty? Take an electric boat or small motorboat. **RENT A BOAT OR PUNT?**

LOOK AT WWW.VISITWEERRIBBENWIEDEN.COM



Bike share, Just grab one

On the shared bike from hub to hub

If you'd like to explore the Weerribben-Wieden National Park in an active way, why not pick up a shared bike? There are hubs in fourteen locations in Steenwijkerland where you can easily rent an e-bike. In this way, the municipality is encouraging shared mobility. There are already a lot of scooter and bike sharing systems in the cities but in the country, this is something new. The Weerribben-Wieden National Park is now the first nature reserve where you can use a shared bike.

SUSTAINABLE TRIP

The bike-sharing hubs ensure that the National Park and surroundings – Drenthe, Weststellingwerf and the Noordoostpolder – are accessible for visitors and residents. This encourages everyone, with or without a car, to spread out in all directions in a sustainable way. This is important because the Weerribben-Wieden has many beautiful places that are not often visited.

EASY RESERVATION AND PAYMENT VIA APP

The first four hubs were placed in Giethoorn, Steenwijk, Oldemarkt and Blokzijl in 2022. Places that are easy to reach by car or public transport. Everyone can pick up an e-bike at these locations. You make a reservation for a bike just before you need it, using the DeelfietsNederland App and pay per 15 minutes. When you have finished using the bike you bring it back to one of the hubs. If you come by train to Steenwijk, for example,

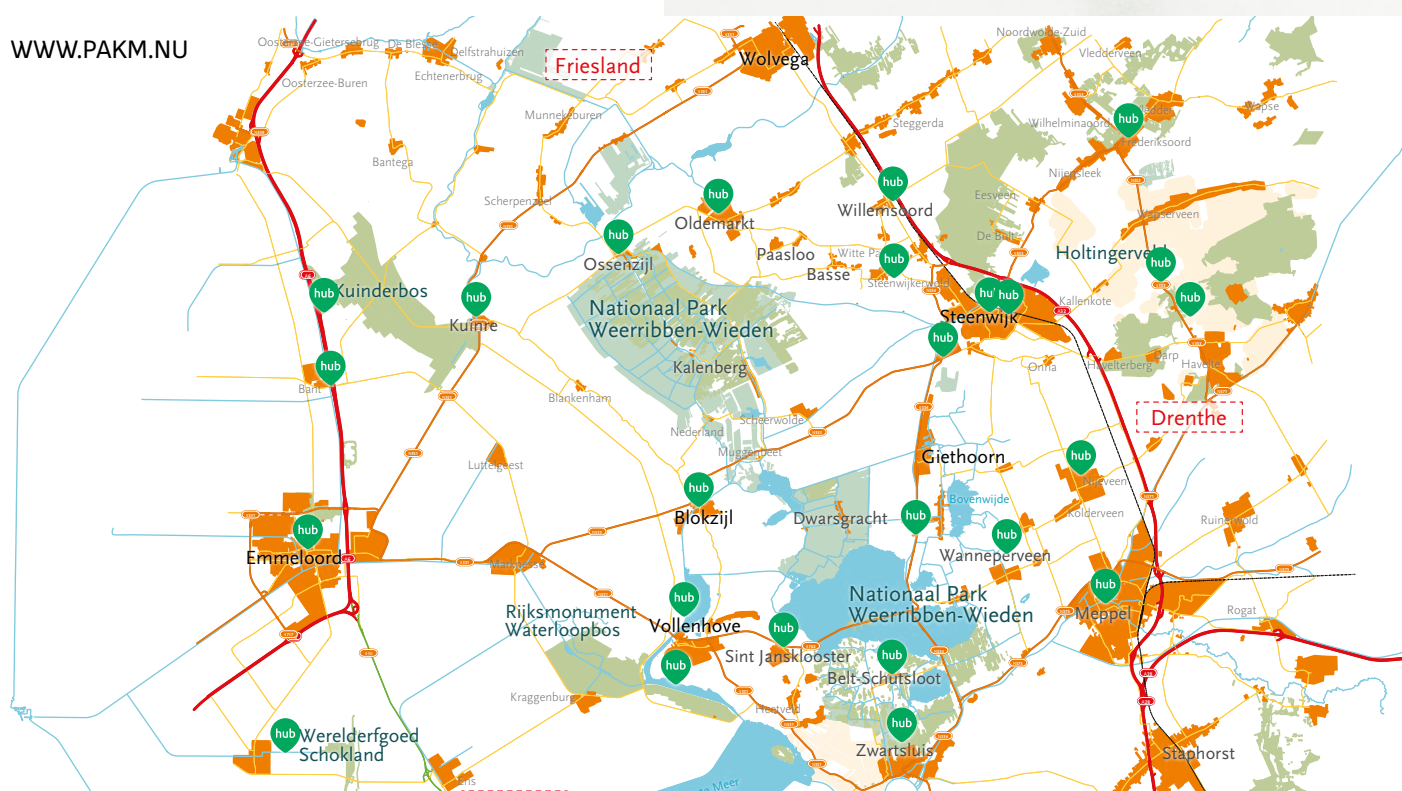
then you can cycle to Giethoorn or Oldemarkt on a shared bike. Here you can park the bike at the hub so you can explore the village.

CYCLE, TAKE A BOAT OR GO ON FOOT

A longer trip, using various types of transport, is also possible. Start your trip in Oldemarkt and cycle to Giethoorn, take the Ecowaterbus to Sint Jansklooster and then return the bike to the hub in Blokzijl. Go for a nice walk here and then ride back to Oldemarkt on the bike. A wonderful and sustainable experience.



WWW.PAKM.NU



Giethoorn - Blokzijl Scenic Loop

This route takes you past the waterside villages in the National Park. You will see a lot of water and ride through the Veenhart and the meadowlands.

Get off for a moment at the De Wieden visitor centre and climb the water tower in Sint Jansklooster. Discover the hamlet of Moespot and relax at one of the pavement cafes in Blokzijl. The route is waymarked, but you can also follow the junction signs. Highly recommended!

JUNCTIONS

61 – 52 – 51 – 44 – 74 – 75 – 81 – 82 – 84 –
94 – 63 – 66 – 61

Endless walking

Discover the National Park on foot



As you walk along, you will come across the most beautiful spots. There is such a lot to see in and around the National Park. Colourful meadows and swaying reedbeds, rolling landscapes, attractive villages and the walled city. Walk through areas where people toiled year after year cutting peat or go along to heritage sites full of hidden stories from the past. Follow the footpath network, take an interactive route or go out on an audio tour.

FOOTPATH NETWORK – WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN

The network of footpaths offers a wonderful means of discovering the area. With more than 550 kilometres of linked footpaths and 69 circular walking trails, you will have more than enough choice. There are information boards at all the 20 starting points, showing all the routes. These footpaths, between 1.5 and 20 kms, are waymarked with coloured arrows. Tip! Buy the footpath map at the main tourist attractions or from visitweerribbenwieden.com.

WEERRIBBEN-WIEDENPAD

The 150-kilometre Weerribben-Wiedenpad leads walkers past every facet of the National Park and the region. The path consists of 9 stages, and you will recognise it by the white-blue waymarking on the route information boards of the footpath network. You can follow the path per stage in both directions using the waymarks. Combine the longer walks with an overnight stay or look at the specially devised packages on visitweerribbenwieden.nl. You will also find the routes in the Weerribben Wieden APP.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

If you'd like to discover all the landscapes of De Wieden in just 2,5 kilometres, take the Laarzenpad (Welly Path) at the De Wieden visitor centre in Sint Jansklooster. Stroll through reedbeds, meadows and straight across the bog woodlands. On the way, you will come across four hand-pull cable ferries to take you to the other side. There is also a Laarzenpad (3 km) in Kalenberg. Bridges, duckboards and especially swampy bogland will lead you through the beautiful Weerribben landscape. It won't come as a surprise, but on these paths, you need to wear ... boots!

STORIES FROM THE KOP

Go back in time and follow the audio tour 'Verhalen uit de Kop' (Stories from the Kop). There are at least five stories at five different locations (Steenwijk, Giethoorn, Willemsoord, De Eese and Vollenhove). Well-known historical figures will take you to see some fascinating places. Follow café owner Geursen from the film Fanfare; Sloet, the mayor of Vollenhove; discover the remarkable story of Hans and Dirk in Colony III or experience exciting stories on the Eese. Please go to: verhalenuitdekop.nl, in Dutch



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Find the most beautiful routes through National Park Weerribben-Wieden at www.visitweerribbenwieden.com. Walk, for example, the Kiersche Wijde trail, the Weerribben Turf trail, explore the Hoge Land of Vollenhove, follow the Giethoornsche Meer route, or take a walk around the lookout tower on the Woldberg. Fancy a terrace along the way? Check it out at www.visitweerribbenwieden.com.

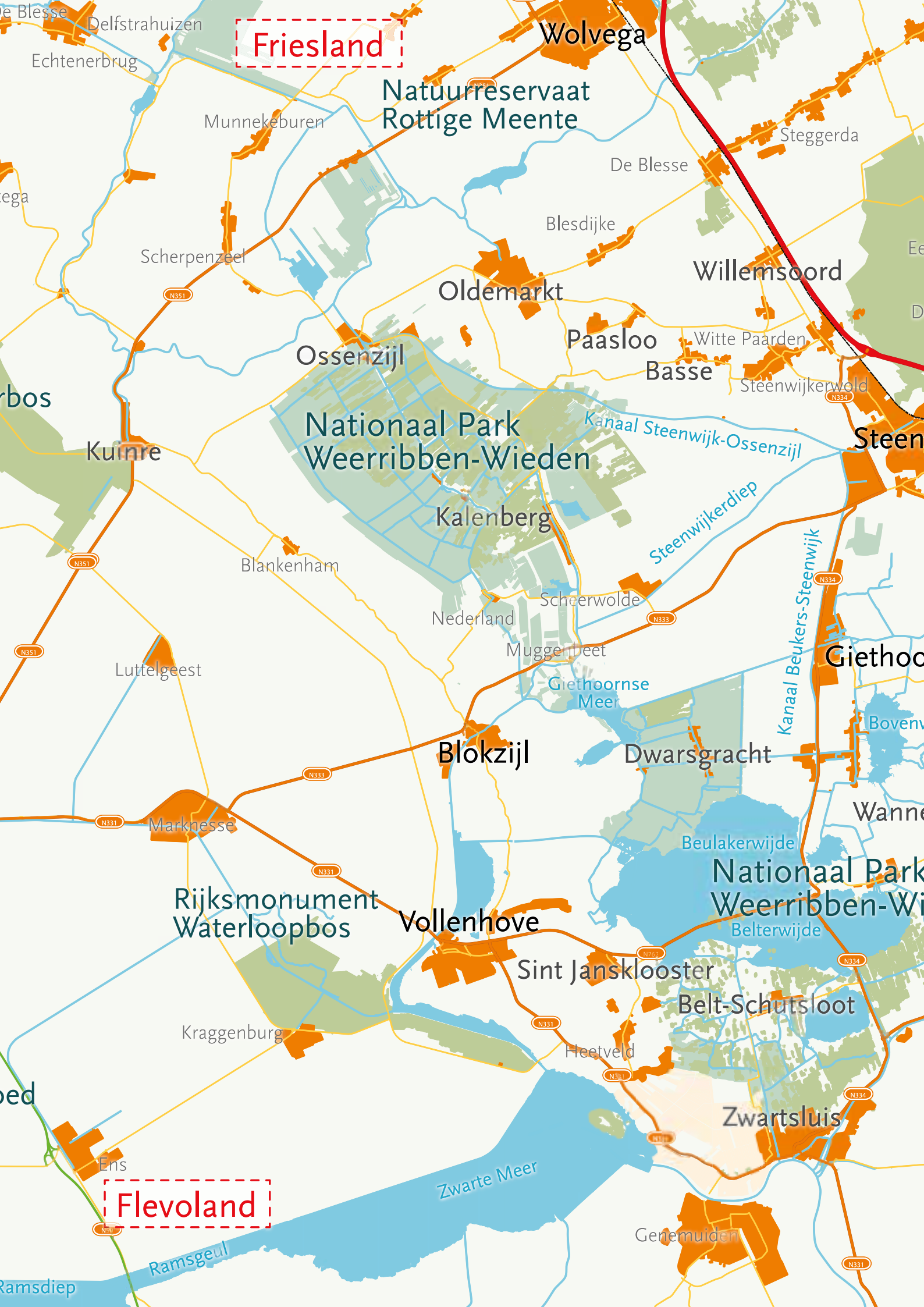
'DE VOORZIENIGHEID' (THE PROVIDENCE) HISTORIC WALK

In 1893, the headstrong pastor Christiaan Muiteleman decided to set up a shelter for old people and needy children in the village of Steenwijkerwold. The 'Arme Zusters van het Goddelijke Kind' (the Poor Sisters of the Holy Child) from Amsterdam helped him with this. At that time, no-one realised that his idea would grow into a centre for shelter, care and education in Noord-Nederland. The walking trail (5.5 km) reminds us of these times and will take you past 15 attractions. Via a QR-code you can get a lot of information on the way. Devoorzienigheidsteenwijkerwold.nl

INTERACTIVE WALLED CITY ROUTE

Welcome to the year 1581. Go along with Johan van den Kornput and do the interactive Walled City Route (2km) through the walled city of Steenwijk. There's no-one else who knows the city like him and how much it had to endure during the Eighty Years' War. Follow the route on your mobile phone (via the Weerribben Wieden APP) and answer the questions on the way so that you can follow the discovery trail. Great for all ages. One, two, three march!





Friesland

Wolvega

Natuurreservaat
Rottige Meente

Munnekeburen

De Blesse

Blesdijke

Willemsoord

Oldemarkt

Paasloo

Witte Paarden

Basse

Steenwijkerwold

Ossenziel

Nationaal Park
Weerribben-Wieden

Kanaal Steenwijk-Ossenziel

Kalenberg

Steenwijkerdiep

Blankenham

Nederland

Scheerwolde

Muggerbeet

Lutteleest

Giethoo

Blokzijl

Dwarsgracht

Marknesse

Rijksmonument
Waterloopbos

Vollenhove

Nationaal Park
Weerribben-Wi

Beulakerwijde

Belterwijde

Sint Jansklooster

Belt-Schutsloot

Kraggenburg

Heetveld

Zwartsluis

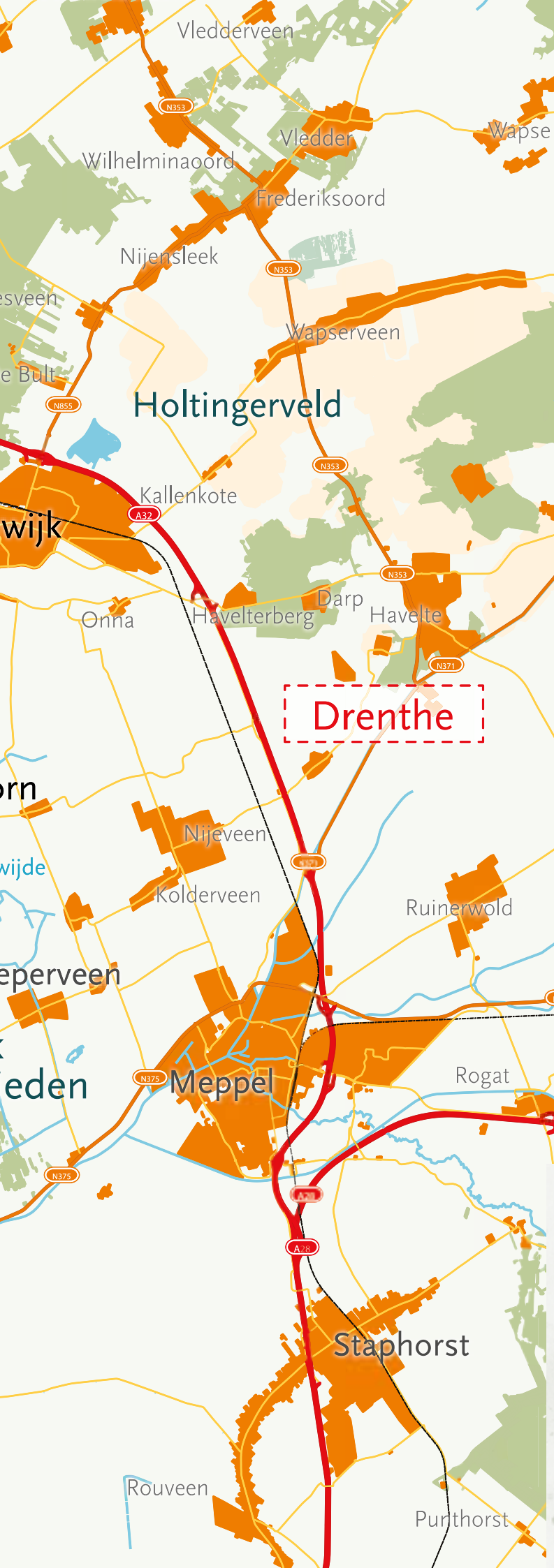
Flevoland

Zwarte Meer

Genemuiden

Ramsgeul

Ramsdiep



TOURIST INFO

There are Tourist Info Points at various locations. Telephone numbers and address details are available on www.visitweerribbenwieden.com or use the Weerribben Wieden APP.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Steenwijk Intercity station. There are various bus connections from the station, so it is possible to explore the area on public transport.



GIETHOORN EXPRESS

Line 270 runs, between Steenwijk station and the Blauwe Hand, straight to Giethoorn and back. You can buy tickets at Steenwijk station.



WATERBUS

During the season, the silent waterbuses shuttle twice a day from De Wieden visitor centre in Sint Jans klooster back and forth to Blokzijl and Giethoorn.



RENT A BIKE

You can rent bicycles, e-bikes, tandems and e-choppers at various locations. Or take a shared e-bike that is available at more than 9 places. Use the DeelfietsNederland App for this.



CYCLING AND HIKING MAP

For those who would like to explore the Weerribben-Wieden National Park by bike or on foot, they can use the cycling and walking map. These are for sale in various recreational shops, the visitor centres, Tourist Info Points and via visitweerribbenwieden.com.



Traces of the past in the authentic waterside villages

Nearly all the waters and waterside villages owe their existence to the peat cutters. During the Golden Age, peat was the engine of the economy and the Netherlands worked and depended on fuel that came from the Kop van Overijssel. Peat cutters dug the peat with all their might. They did this from the settlements that gradually grew into waterside villages. The peat diggers dug the peat out of the ground and threw it onto the land to dry. This is how the pattern of peat pits, ridges and ribs originated. Once the peat had been dug up in one area they moved on to another place, and some villages even went with them.

Belt-Schutsloot

VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY WATER

Until the middle of the 20th century, the typical waterside village of Belt-Schutsloot was completely inaccessible to cars. The village lay hidden in nature between lakes, canals, waterways and endless hectares of reedbeds. It was only in 1959 that a road to the village was built but it still retained its authentic character. In the same way as Giethoorn, wooden bridges, waterways and thatched farmhouses create the picturesque backdrop. Here too you can rent a boat to enjoy the area from the water. A unique spectacle in Belt-Schutsloot is the 'gondelvaart' (gondola procession). This fairy-tale spectacle attracts around ten thousand visitors each year on the second Friday of August. Highly recommended!

Dwarsgracht

GIETHOORN'S SISTER

Together with Belt-Schutsloot, Dwarsgracht is one of the sisters of the most famous village in the area: Giethoorn. You can recognise the characteristics of Giethoorn with its narrow waterways, duckboards and the countless small wooden bridges. Along the waterside, you can see the thatched houses with their distinctive camelback roofs which hint at the agricultural background of the earlier residents. Dwarsgracht is located on a waterway with the same name that runs from the Beulakerwijde to the Thijssengracht. The village is easily accessible by boat from several directions. Walkers and cyclists use the well-known Jonen ferry which is an attraction in itself. By car, Dwarsgracht is only accessible by one road. This ends at the parking area where you can continue exploring this beautiful village on foot.

Wanneperveen

THE WALKING VILLAGE

Moving villages exist! When peat cutters had finished digging up all the peat they gradually moved to another area. Villages went with them or grew into a linear village such as Wanneperveen. Traces of the past are still visible in this 'walking peat village'. The large lakes on which Wanneperveen is located originated because the peat extraction was carried to extremes and this caused flooding. Even before the First World War, tourists came in carriages to Wanneperveen and, over the years, the village became increasingly well known as a watersports location.

The large farmhouses on the Veneweg are impressive and the characteristic step-gabled Schultehuis, built in Renaissance style, has a striking appearance. At that time, it was the residence of the sheriff. The church (1502) and the belfry (1767) are also worth a visit. Nice to know! The 'little house in the gable' was built at the request of the pastor because he found it very difficult to cycle to the church twice on a Sunday in the wind and rain.

The drowned village

A TRAGIC EVENT

The little village of Beulake was engulfed by high waves from the Zuider Zee at the end of the 18th century. In 1776, the residents were caught unawares by the south-west storm so suddenly that it was too late to evacuate them. They fled into the church and climbed onto the pews. Only a few houses remained standing, and they were then washed away at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The village disappeared under water. There is now a metal artwork representing a steeple in the middle of the Beulakerwijde, in the place where the church once stood. You can go on a boat trip from the De Wieden visitor centre to 'the drowned village'.



Icons in the landscape

Water management in the National Park

The earlier inhabitants did not enjoy a carefree or easy existence, that's for sure. They created the area with their own hands and only by working extremely hard did they manage to keep their heads above water. Literally and figuratively, because it was very difficult to regulate the water level and to keep your feet dry. Mills and pumping stations ensured that this succeeded. Nowadays, these are the true treasures in the landscape that are still useful and even of great significance.

THE TJASKER

At one time, there were tjaskers all over the area to pump out the water. They were movable and they ensured that the peat that was lying in the peatland to dry remained dry. When peat extraction stopped at the beginning of the 20th century, the tjaskers disappeared from the landscape. From the 1960s, their usefulness in nature reserves led to a small revival. This time, it wasn't to keep the peatlands dry, but to prevent the nature reserves from drying out and to keep the lands wet. They can process about 25m³ of water per hour.

Where can you still see a tjasker? There is a paaltjasker at the visitor centre in Sint Jansklooster that has been built especially to demonstrate how it works. The walking route along the duckboard path will take you to the mill. Other treasures include those on the Hoogeweg between Kalenberg and Ossenzijl.

SPINNENKOPMOLEN (SPIDER MILL)

One of the most photogenic mills in Overijssel is the spinnenkopmolen De Wicher on the Hoogeweg in Kalenberg. The mill is of cultural-historical significance for the municipality of Steenwijkerland and the Weerribben-Wieden National Park and together with the peat-cutters house and the miller's house they form one of the icons of the park.

The mill is still a 'young one' and was 'born' in 1982. A similar kind of mill was situated on this spot until 1943. At the beginning of 2018, it lost a sail in stormy weather. After being out of action for a few years, it was completely restored and put into service again on 10 September 2022.

To this day, the mill still plays an important role in water management. De Wicher processes about 480 m³ of water per hour in the Boonspolder.

*Climate change
demands the necessary
measures for
future water management.*



A.F. STROINK PUMPING STATION

The A.F. Stroink pumping station has been situated on the dyke between Vollenhove and Blokzijl for more than a century. This important example of industrial heritage in the battle against the water has been a listed building since 1997. As a result of large-scale peat extraction, subsidence and soil compaction, water management problems in the Kop van Overijssel increased considerably. During heavy storms, large sections of peatland disappeared in the waves. Because of various flood disasters, there was a general desire to organise water management centrally and in 1825 people started to think about improvement of the drainage. In 1860, the first drainage sluice was built in Blokzijl and in 1893 a second one was built near Vollenhove. Eventually in 1918, the A.F. Stroink pumping station was built to pump and carry away excess water. It was a historic moment on 4 November 1919 when the first pumping installation was ready and started pumping. Not long after, a second pump was put into service and a third one followed in 1928.

At one time, the pumping station only carried water away from the area, but since 1996 water can also be let in if the water level is too low. Each day, around 300 million litres of water (of a lesser quality) flowed from outside the area to the ditches and lakes of Northwest Overijssel. The water blended quickly with the water already in the Weerribben, which had an adverse effect on the water quality. The nature went into decline. Resulting from a change in water level management, it's now possible to prevent unnecessary water being let in and pumped out in the summer. This has improved the water quality in nature reserves considerably.

The A.F. Stroink pumping station is situated on the Weg van Twee Nijenhuisen in Vollenhove. This is the old Zuider Zee dyke between Vollenhove and Blokzijl. You cannot miss the pumping station if you drive over the dyke. If you are interested in a guided tour, please take a look at www.wdodelta.nl

Heritage from a prosperous past



Vollenhove

Wealth in olden times

Vollenhove has a rich history. From 944, 'Fulnaho' was the hunting ground of the Bishop of Utrecht who built a castle there in 1165. From there the 'Oversticht' was run until a governor (stadhouder) came in 1528. The city was the administrative centre for Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe and Overijssel. In the 17th century, when Vollenhove was called the 'City of the Palaces', there were at least seventeen manors. Almost the whole city depended on the aristocratic families who lived there.

MUCH OF THE RICH HISTORY HAS BEEN PRESERVED.

Six of the aristocratic houses and estates are still in existence; the Raadhuis from 1621 is an eyecatcher and three medieval churches still grace the city. Vollenhove would like to invite you to go for a walk through the city. The special tiles in the pavements

(white tower symbol) will show you the way. You don't want to miss anything? Go on a city walk with a guide from the Stadsmuseum and learn all about the OldRuitenborgh city palace and the ruin of Toutenburg castle.

DE OLDENHOF ESTATE

De Oldenhof estate is situated on the beautiful Hoge Land van Vollenhove. This stately country estate was built in around 1635 by the aristocratic Sloet family. De Oldenhof offers a varied landscape with an attractive woodland park, a large garden, two farmsteads and various pieces of land. The focal point is the manor with a moat around it and a forecourt. This listed estate is of great cultural, historical and landscape value.

Blokzijl

Treasure of the Zuider Zee

The picturesque harbour of Blokzijl, the former Zuider Zee city, lies in the heart of the city. At one time, peat was transported from here to the west of the country, turning Blokzijl into a booming trading city. In 1672, Blokzijl received city rights from the governor, stadhouder Willem III. In this way, he wanted to thank the population for its successful uprising against Bommen Berend, the nickname of the Bishop of Munster. Blokzijl was the first place in Overijssel that succeeded in this.

IMAGINE YOURSELF IN THE GOLDEN AGE

Stately merchants' houses situated around the Havenkolk (the harbour) are an indication of the prosperous past. Many breweries, for thirsty rich folk, were located on the quayside; De Bierkade and the Brouwersgracht are evidence of this. The picturesque little streets are full of listed buildings from the Golden Age and are a beautiful sight to see. Even nowadays, there is a lively atmosphere in Blokzijl and during the season it is very busy. By the lock and in the harbour, there are plenty of pavement cafés where you can enjoy a drink.

TAKE A WALK BACK IN TIME

The city guides from 'Het Gildenhuis' museum will be happy to show you the most attractive spots. They open doors that would otherwise remain closed (such as those of the Grote Kerk) and tell the best stories. Get to know more about the 80 Years' War, the Golden Age, the peat extraction and the Zuider Zee. Find out who Kaatje bij de Sluis was and why the cannons regularly boomed in the direction of the hinterland. Parents and children from the age of 8 can go on a discovery trail starting from the museum. Discover the many facets of Blokzijl!



Blankenham

The main road in days gone by

In 1418, bishop Frederik van Blankenheim had a church built alongside the Zuider Zee dyke in the hamlet of 'In den Hamme'. This is how Blankenham originated. The dyke between Blokzijl and Kuinre was an important main road. It was here that the coaches from Lemmer passed slowly by on their way to Zwolle. At the foot of the Blokzijldijk, is a restored gunpowder house, the smallest museum in the Netherlands. On the dyke, there is a cannon that used to fire shots to warn the farmers and citizens in the hinterlands of a high tide. Two shots meant that it was serious and three: get out of there!

Kuinre

Baghdad of the North

In Kuinre too you will recognise the traces of an old fishing town on the Zuider Zee. Around 25 Zuider Zee punts went out to sea every day to catch eel, smelt and sprat. You can imagine that there was a lot of activity here. It is not surprising that Kuinre was called the 'Baghdad of the North'. The beautiful buildings and houses remind us of those times.



**Magnificent,
colourful and
unifying heritage**



People who see a corso or a gondola procession for the first time in their lives won't believe their eyes. A fantastic spectacle with gigantic creations and beautifully decorated gondolas. From the end of July, there are at least five colourful events to visit in the Kop van Overijssel. Each year, the villages of Sint Jansklooster and Vollenhove organise their corso and Belt-Schutsloot, Dwarsgracht and Giethoorn their gondola processions.

Hundreds of enthusiastic residents warmly invite you to experience these unique events with them. You will be amazed by the towering constructions they create. Enjoy some magical moments as you get swept away by the music and drama and the amazing array of colours.

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES DO THEIR FAIR SHARE

For months on end, people work with all their might on these works of art. The construction of a gondola or corso creation is a social and creative process which keeps the whole community busy all year round. It may look like an adult task, but young people are also enthusiastic helpers. Many primary and secondary school youngsters devote their free time to this. It's a lot of work, but young and old, big and small, everyone does their fair share. And the nice thing is that all kinds of talents and qualities become apparent during the construction. Even at a young age. Local businesses like to take advantage of all this practical knowledge and that's why they are happy to make a financial contribution in return. Building a gondola or a corso creation is a costly business, but at the same time it creates a sense of unity, contributing to the vitality of the village.

UNESCO'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

The corso virus and the gondola construction are now being passed down through the generations. It's not only about the event itself – enjoying a snack or a drink together after the building work is just as important as the construction itself. Being part of the group and being able to contribute to the community creates the most important motivation to join in. After all, this is why UNESCO registered the corso culture on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2021. A wonderful recognition of all the hard workers and countless volunteers who create a fascinating spectacle.

*Corsos and
gondola processions
produce magical
moments*

'CORSO ROND' DOCUMENTS THIS WHOLE PROCESS

The organisation of the corso in Sint Jansklooster has documented the whole process surrounding the construction of the corso creation in a virtual tour with the 'Corso Rond' project. You can take a look at this new technological development, made in collaboration with students from Hogeschool Saxion, at any time. It starts from the beginning, when the concept of the vehicle is formulated and follows through to the presentation of the scale models. It also shows the preparatory work carried out by the hundreds of volunteers who ensure that the thousands of dahlias can be efficiently fixed to the actual moment when the dahlia giants enter the village. A goosebump moment!



Check
www.visitweerribbenwieden.com
for current dates and information.

Experience the 'Corso Rond' on
corsorond.corsoklooster.nl



*The craziest place names in
the region Kop van Overijssel*

Nederland in Nederland

How cryptic that sounds! Nederland in Nederland. As you travel through the Weerribben-Wieden National Park, you will come through villages and hamlets that have the craziest names. Remarkable, sometimes comical and they always raise questions.

MUGGENBEET (MOSQUITO BITE)

This hamlet was known as Muggenbete as early as 1313, but where the name comes from? Does the place have this name because it is as small as a mosquito bite, or did it come from the mosquito bites you could get here? None of these. Muggenbeet is a corruption of the Old Saxon name 'mücken beecke', which means little stream. And even though the name isn't very attractive, you can really enjoy yourself here by the water.

NEDERLAND

The name refers to the low-lying land that used to be situated in the vicinity of this settlement. Literally: low land. Nederland is located a few kilometres to the north of Blokzijl; only one road runs through it and there are about 15 inhabitants. Unfortunately, the place name sign of Nederland is extremely popular and is the most stolen sign in this country! This means that it can be quite a challenge to take a nice photo.

RONDUITE

Ronduite is situated on the beautiful road from Wanneperveen to Sint Jansklooster. Around water. However, the name refers to the former 'redoute', a military reinforcement that was once situated on this spot – an entrenchment built up from soil. Now it is a kind of peninsular between the Beulaker and the Belterwilde.

BLAUWE HAND (BLUE HAND)

There are a lot of stories about the origin of the name Blauwe Hand. The most gruesome is the one about the fight between the innkeeper and a guest in 1578. The latter chopped off the hand of another customer with an axe. The innkeeper preserved the hand in spirits and after a while it turned blue. Another version is that the peat-laden ships had to be repacked on this dam. As the peat contained copper, the workmen got blue hands. 'De Blauwe Hand' can still be seen on the tile panel that hangs on the bridgmaster's house at the crossroads of the Beulakerweg and the Veneweg.

WITTE PAARDEN (WHITE HORSES)

In literature, white horses are a synonym for death. But Witte Paarden, formerly known as 'Achterbuurt', owes its name to the inn which used to be located here. Travellers used to stay here with their horses during the journey from Zwolle to Leeuwarden. It was only in 1953 that the municipality of Steenwijkerwold changed the name from 'Achterbuurt' to Witte Paarden.

POEPERSHOEK

Poepershoeck is located two kilometres to the southeast of Sint Jansklooster. The name is not a reference to a toilet unit but dates back to the 18th century and refers to the annual migration of German seasonal workers to this region. At that time, they used to call them 'poepen'. In all honesty, the name Poeperehoeck also appeared in the history books in 1346.



MOESPOT (STEW POT)

De Moespot, situated on the old Zuider Zee dyke between Vollenhove and Blokzijl, was named after the café of the same name. In the old days, it was a kind of forerunner of the McDrive: horse-drawn carriages drove in and after a break for the carriage driver and any passengers they left the establishment on the other side. They served one kind of meal each afternoon that was cooked above the fire in one pot: 'De Moespot'.

DOOSJE (LITTLE BOX)

The hamlet of Doosje, between Wanneperveen and Meppel, possibly owes its name to an old lock. Travellers used to deposit their lockage money in a cardboard box. Apart from a lock, there was also a bridge, an inn where you could get some refreshments and, in earlier times, there was a tollhouse with a barrier across the Meppel-Zwartsluis road. The 'Doosje' family name originates from this hamlet.

Traces of the Ice Age

A ROLLING LANDSCAPE

During the last but one Ice Age, the Saalian (238,000 to 116,000 years ago), extreme cold led to the movement of a large sheet of land ice from the North Pole to this area. This took a lot of stones with it that were pulverized on the way or deposited as boulder clay. This produced elevations and sharp crested ridges in the landscape.

De Woldberg

The Havelterberg and Woldberg came into being during the Saalian. The Woldberg is literally the highest point of the region and there is also an observation tower on top (131 steps). From here, you have a beautiful view of the rolling landscape and of the Walled City. Near the 26-metre high Woldberg, you can see the 143 boulders of the Wolterholten Geological Monument. The small exhibition by the Archaeology workgroup is also interesting. You will find this in Tuk's Theehuis. A lovely place to relax after a long walk or a nice cycling trip. Oldemarkt

Oldemarkt

A BEAUTIFUL DISCOVERY

Until about 1900, one of the most important butter and cattle markets in the province was held in Oldemarkt. In around 1840, 1200 pigs and 200,000 pounds of butter were sold at the market. A large amount was transported via the Mallegat that had an open connection to the Zuider Zee via the Linde. Evidence of this illustrious trading past is the striking ferry house dating from 1821, a listed building at the head of the Mallegat. The annual Lambertus market, which is still held every year on Ascension Day, is a reminder of the prosperous past.

Oldemarkt is now a staging post for pilgrims. They follow in the footsteps of the Jacobsschelp on their stage from Sint-Jacobiparochie to Hasselt. The neo-Gothic Sint Willibrordus church is in the heart of the village and has beautiful stained-glass windows. To find out all you need to know about Oldemarkt, follow the digital, cultural route from the Toppunt to the De Hare roundabout. Tip! Do visit the Water Buffalo Farm or the Horse Experience Centre.

Heerlijkheid De Eese Estate

You not only see a lot of boulders on the De Eese estate, but also fascinating burial mounds on the heath and in the woods. Just like the megalithic monument on the Havelterberg, these are traces of age-old habitation. In the 19th century, a hunebed (megalithic monument) was even demolished. Human remains weren't found, but they did find objects that the deceased took with them to their grave. Nowadays, the estate belongs to the Van Karnebeek family. The former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jhr. Mr. Dr. H.A. van Karnebeek bought it in 1923. The centre of the estate, with the manor house (1619) and the characteristic, wooden country house built in 1917 have been designated as a cultural-historical country estate.

Paasloo

VILLAGE ON A SHARP-CRESTED RIDGE (LATERAL MORAINES)

The elongated village of Paasloo is situated on a 7-metre high sharp-crested ridge which was formed in the Ice Age. Here you will find a rolling landscape with beautiful woodland scenery and fields divided by wooded banks instead of ditches. These wooded banks are earthen dykes with thickly wooded bushes to keep the cattle inside, a kind of living barbed wire. This makes Paasloo and its surroundings a fascinating area where you can go on fantastic hikes and cycling trips. It is a true pilgrim destination for poets and poetry lovers. And from here, you can be back in the Weerribben in no time. A lovely combination of Limburg-like scenery and the unique peat and wetlands.

'Paasloo's best kept secret' is hidden in the woods in Paasloo. Located here is the art bunker which was built by the Dutch government in record time in 1942 to store art treasures. Het Straatje by Vermeer was the first painting to be stored here during the Second World War.



Steenwijk, a city full of stories

DISCOVER THE RICH HISTORY OF
THIS WALLED CITY

Steenwijk is a city of contrasts. The thing is, it's hard to imagine, when you're out shopping in the attractive town centre or enjoying a tasty lunch, a nice drink or a delicious dinner in one of the 40 restaurants and cafes, that this walled city was once the scene of bloody battles. During the 80 Years' War, Steenwijk was in the middle of the firing line. Go up on to the city walls and imagine that you can see the enemy coming in the distance. Steenwijk stills celebrates its victory over the Spaniards every year; het Steenwijks Ontzet.

EIGHTY YEARS' WAR

What was the Eighty Years' War all about? It was a revolt against the Spanish oppressors that led to the Netherlands as we know it today. From 1568, many cities had had enough of the Spaniards. King Filips II didn't accept this and sent troops to the rebellious Netherlands. The dreaded army had to set things right. This led to an extremely bloody and long war.

JOHAN VAN DEN KORNPOT: DEFENDER OF STEENWIJK

The walled city of Steenwijk was the gateway to the north and of crucial importance to the warring parties. 'Defector' Graaf van Rennenberg besieged the city with seven thousand soldiers and was planning to starve the Steenwijkers. During this terrible period, Johan van den Kornput appeared at the scene of the battle. He managed to keep Steenwijk out of the hands of the Spaniards using his innovative battle techniques and only six hundred soldiers. He managed to get bread, cheese and munitions into the city in a crafty way. Rennenberg's soldiers became discouraged and finally withdrew on 23 February 1581. This day went on record as the Steenwijks Ontzet (the Relief of Steenwijk). Johan van den Kornput earned his honorary title as Defender of Steenwijk.



HOW DID STEENWIJK GET ITS NAME?

You could say that's an easy one. Stones and boulders lay all around this walled city at one time. Steenwijk owes this to the last but one Ice Age 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. During this 'Saalian', extreme cold led to the movement of a large ice sheet from the North Pole. The ice sheet pushed all the stones in this direction.

There were so many stones lying around that rogues, knife fighters and criminals were punished with 'stone gathering'. For a petty crime, you had to lug around thousands of heavy boulders. But this stone-gathering was not completely useless. 'Stone penalties' contributed to the local economy. People associated stones with Steenwijk for centuries. They are lying all over the Netherlands on the streets or reinforcing dykes and city walls.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WALLED CITY

If you would like to know more about the fascinating history of Steenwijk but don't have time for thick books or in-depth research in the archives, then pull on your walking shoes for the interactive route through the centre. Johan van den Kornput will take you with him and, after two kilometres, you will know practically everything about the history of Steenwijk. On top of that, there are various information boards along the route that will tell you some more interesting details. You can download the route on the Weerribben Wieden app.

CELEBRATE THE 'VESTINGFEESTEN'!

Every Wednesday in the summer there's a festival in the city. Steenwijk celebrates the Vestingfeesten and everyone is welcome. There is street theatre, a fair, music and entertainment. There is a different theme each week, ranging from the Steenwijks Ontzet and the Nacht van Steenwijk to the Pasar Malam (the largest in the north) and the Foodtruck Festival. You can find the up-to-date programme on www.steenwijkvestingstad.nl



VISIT THE STADSMUSEUM BY THE MARKET. HERE YOU CAN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT THE RICH HISTORY OF THE WALLED CITY AND ADMIRE ALL THE MANY OBJECTS OF INTEREST IT HAS TO OFFER. FOR EXAMPLE, ESKAF EARTHENWARE, WILDEBRAS DOLLS AND VARIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES. THERE IS A LITTLE SCHOOL, A SHOP AND KITCHEN FROM THE OLD DAYS. GREAT FOR ALL AGES!



Villa Rams Woerthe

Just imagine for a moment that you're the owner of the most beautiful Jugend-style villa in the Netherlands. From the comfort of an easy chair, enjoy the grandeur, open the drawers in the kitchen and admire the view of the park. Come and visit the 'museum house' Villa Rams Woerthe, also called the Downton Abbey of Overijssel.

This residence belongs to the hundred most remarkable heritage sites in the Netherlands.

A VISIT TO TROMP MEESTERS

As you walk around the Museum House, now in the possession of Hendrick de Keyser Monumenten, you will have the feeling that Jan Hendrik Tromp may walk in at any moment. This immensely rich Steenwijker built Villa Rams Woerthe around the end of the 19th century. He asked the famous architect A.D.N. van Gendt to design a luxury villa with no expense spared. Steenwijk acquired a villa of an unprecedented style. Nowadays, visitors come from all over to Rams Woerthe. They can't believe their eyes!

LOOKING INSIDE AND OUT

When you walk around Villa Rams Woerthe you have the feeling you're in a British stately home. The large stained-glass window in the stairwell is one of the Art Nouveau treasures, as are the elegant wrought iron details, the glazed tiles and marble wainscoting. In addition to Art Nouveau, van Gendt was inspired by the English country house style. For example, the village is built on a raised piece of land, meaning that you can look straight into the magnificent park, and it seems as if the house is in the middle of nature.

IMPOSING AND EXORBITANT

The unusual mushroom-shaped entrance and the characteristic entrance gate, designed by Karel Cramer, have been fashioned in great detail. Once inside, you won't believe your eyes. You will see how exorbitantly rich the Tromp Meesters family was. First, you enter an imposing, monumental hall where you can choose from the salon, the gentlemen's room or the dining room. The stylish oak stairway leading to the upper floor is an eyecatcher. From the ladies' sitting room you can walk straight into the greenhouse. The kitchen with its beautiful tiles and granite counters is the dream of many a chef and is definitely worth a visit.

A GUEST IN A MUSEUM HOUSE

You really will be treated as a guest in Villa Rams Woerthe and will be welcomed with a cup of tea and a 'kniepertie'. This is not a museum where you have to be terribly careful or whisper, but a Museum



WATCH ON YOUTUBE:
THUISMUSEUM #44

House. Go and sit on the chairs, have a look in the cupboard or bake cookies in the kitchen. In the basement, you will find the Hildo Krop Museum where you can find out all about the 'City Sculptor of Amsterdam' who was born in Steenwijk. A great combination.

GET SOME FRESH AIR IN THE PARK

A walk through the ten-hectare park will complete your visit to Villa Rams Woerthe. Landscape architect Hendrik Copijn was inspired by the English landscape style and designed a number of features, including a tea house and the great pond. Just take a stroll and relax.

MORE ART NOUVEAU IN STEENWIJK

Would you like to see some more Art Nouveau after your visit to Villa Rams Woerthe? Steenwijk has even more to offer. You must go into the optician's shop at the Market. This shop, in the former town house of the Spijkervet family, has many magnificent details. It is also quite a special experience to go shopping in the Stallen van Spijkervet. In the place where the horses once stood in the stalls, you can now find antiques and special products from local entrepreneurs. There are also some wonderful Art Nouveau properties in the Tromp Meestersstraat. This is the road leading from the NS Station to the centre and named after Jan Hendrik. Enjoy all these wonderful things!

Most beautiful spot.

Residents take you along to explore.



In "Most Beautiful Spot," local residents take you to their favourite place in the National Park. From the harbour basin in Blokzijl and a traditional duck decoy to a rolling heathland landscape, the sunken village in the Beulakerwijde, a historic tow canal or a water tower with stunning views over the area. They show you the location and share why this particular spot is, for them, the most beautiful of all.



De Auken
Wout van Doornik



The water tower in
Sint Jans klooster
Ruud de Jong en Jos Bodewes



A winding little waterway
in Ossenzijl
Ilse



The sunken village Beulake
Arco Lassche



De Sas, floatgate in Blokzijl
Dinie Boes-Kuijk



The old harbour in Kuinre
Herald Nobel



Het Eeserveld
Denny Kroeze

Tip

Ontdek de mooiste
plekken en lees de verhalen.
Scan hier de QR code





Regional products from the National Park

Delicious delicacies from 'De Kop'

Cheese, milk, butter, nuts, jam, meat, fish, beer, sausages, cakes and biscuits, and honey. All delicious delicacies from De Kop van Overijssel and supplied locally and directly by the farmer, baker, beekeeper or brewer. The entrepreneurs who produce or grow all these delicious products work together under the name Lekkers uit de Kop. They joined forces to make their products more well known and to ensure that the distance between 'earth and mouth' becomes shorter. Local production and consumption are particularly important in an area where nature is so nearby. In addition to this, regional products are very good storytellers about the area. Try out all that Lekkers uit de Kop and the rich history of Weerribben-Wieden!

MEAT FROM NATURE CONSERVATIONISTS:

In Oldemarkt, there are some very special nature conservationists wandering about! The water buffalo from the Water Buffalo farm enjoy the natural grass and water in and around De Weerribben all day long. The buffalo help Staatsbosbeheer by grazing in the nature reserve. Their milk can then be used to produce wonderful buffalo mozzarella and other kinds of cheese and dairy products. This is sold in the farm shop where there are also 38 different kinds of water buffalo meat for sale.

WIEDEN FISH

You can buy the most delicious fish from the Weerribben-Wieden fishermen. For generations – since 1917 – they have been fishing in the traditional way, responsibly and well managed. In the National Park, there are certain species of fish that are particularly popular owing to their delicious taste, such as eel, zander and crayfish. In the season, you can buy all the fish directly from the fishermen. You can't get any closer than that!



HISTORICAL BEERS

There is a local beer brewer right in the centre of Blokzijl: Klinkert Bier. In the 17th century, Bierbrouwerij De Zwaan was also located in this remarkable property. This was then one of no less than 5 breweries in the very prosperous port city of Blokzijl. Their own natural source of water combined with pure ingredients is still the basis of this special craft beer. Every beer tells its own story about the history of Blokzijl. For example, the cannon refers to the high tide cannon. This warned the hinterland of high tides and floods by firing shots.

CAKES AND BISCUITS WITH A STORY

One particular morning, Berend Prins from Blokzijl had to deliver a considerable amount of speculaas to the Regents in the Prins Maurits Weeshuis. While they were baking, the oven temperature appeared to be too low which resulted in a half-baked product. However, he still decided to put the cake in the shop. This is how Blokzijler Brok was born. The Prins family still bake this tasty treat in their small bakery freshly every week. Even the leftovers from the baking process — de Blokrandjes — are sold. Often sold out on the same day, they're so delicious!

In Vollenhove, there are similar stories about 'koeken' (cakes). The Houtsma bakery bakes the historical Amulettekoek here. Fishermen used to take them with them when they went fishing on the Zuider Zee. You

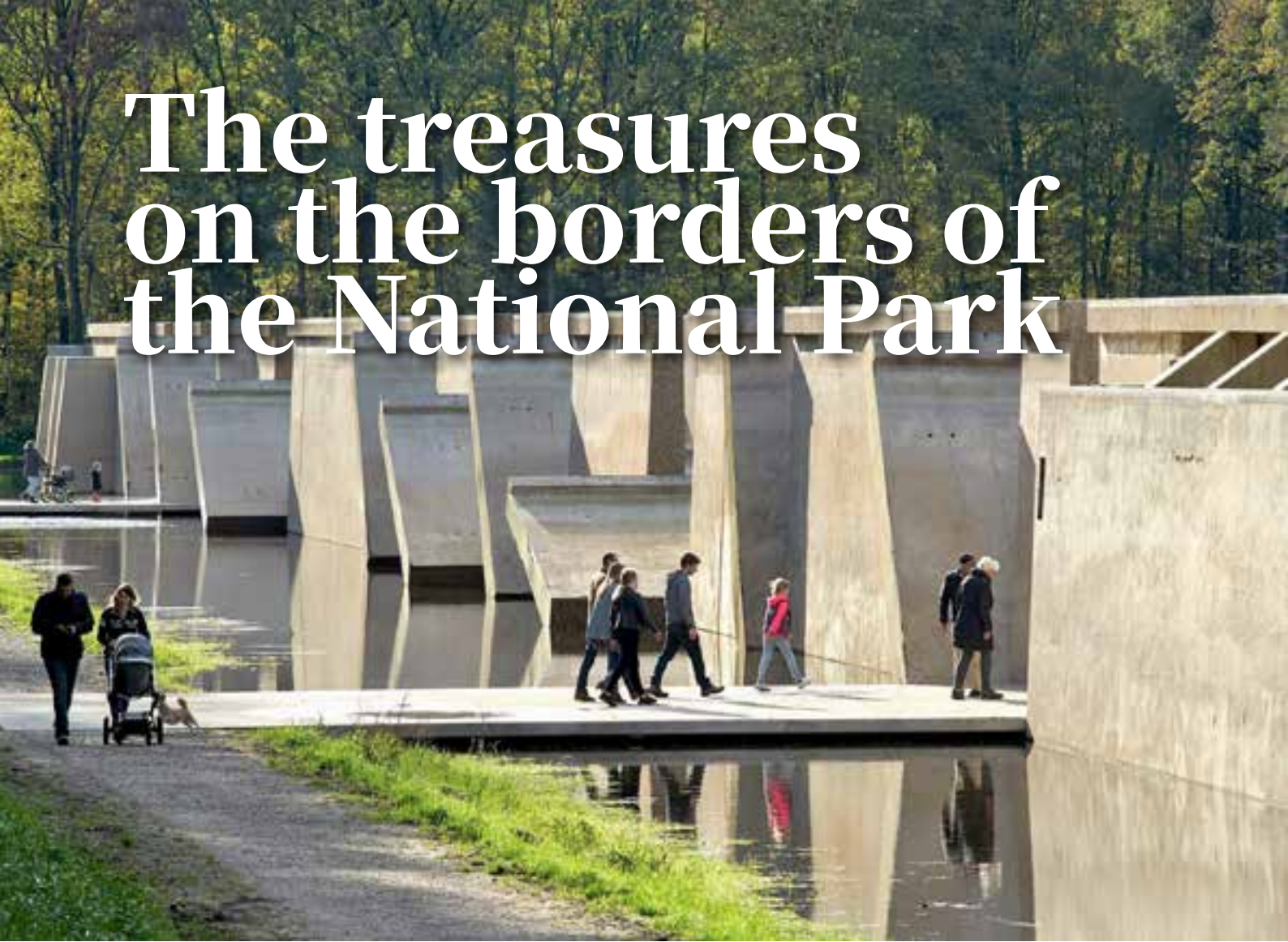


could keep them for a long time, and they were said to bring the fishermen luck. Apart from these, Houtsma also bakes other treats such as polder bread that is baked with flour from the mill in Sint Jansklooster.

MADE WITH CARE

At De Maargies Hoeve, the milk from their cows is processed with great dedication into a wide variety of delicious dairy products. Each week, fresh products such as yoghurt, vla(custard), curds, buttermilk, butter, kefir, chocolate milk and milk are produced using traditional methods. At De Maargies Hoeve, they focus their attention on animal welfare, biodiversity and sustainability. Tip! You really must pay a visit to the attractive farm shop on Kallenkote. You will now come across Lekkers uit de Kop more and more often. Obviously in farm shops, but even in the supermarkets more shelf space is becoming available for regional products. Another encouraging development is that an increasing number of chefs are preparing their dishes with regional products. What you buy nearby does not have to come from afar. Enjoy all this Lekkers uit de Kop! For more information and a simplified map please go to www.lekkersuitdekop.nl

The treasures on the borders of the National Park



Waterloopbos and Deltawerk

Coastal defences of the world in the polder woods

Fairy-tale greenery, flowing water, crumbling little walls and mysterious metal constructions. The Waterloopbos heritage site in the Noordoostpolder tells a remarkable story.

For decades, engineers from the Waterloopkundig Laboratorium (Hydrodynamic Laboratory) carried out research on the impact of tides, waves and currents on coastal defences both at home and abroad. The Netherlands partly owes its international reputation as an expert in hydraulic engineering to this research. Tests have not been carried out for many years and the models in many places have been overrun by nature. With all that flowing water, creatures such as the kingfisher and the dragonfly feel really quite at home.

Discover it for yourself and stroll along one of the

waymarked routes through the unique Waterloopbos. On the way, you will see the remains of the research on the Delta Works, but also of coastal defences in exotic places such as Lagos, Libya, Thyboren and Bangkok. And don't forget to visit the imposing Deltawerk artwork.

AN EXCURSION WITH A GUIDE

Wander past unique hydrodynamic models and listen to the remarkable stories about the coastal defences and the former Waterloopkundig Laboratorium. Look for dates and more information on www.natuurmonumenten.nl/agenda/waterloopbos

LISTED HERITAGE SITE – WATERLOOPBOS

VOORSTERWEG 34, MARKNESSE

WWW.NATUURMONUMENTEN.NL/WATERLOOPBOS

World Heritage Site Schokland

A timeless mystery

The former island of Schokland is located at the heart of the Noordoostpolder. In 1995, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. An archaeological heritage site full of special mineral resources. A place between land and water. Despite the continual threat of floods and poverty, people always lived here. From the prehistoric hunter-gatherers to the inhabitants of these times. You can still see that Schokland was once an island. You can see it in the landscape and the heritage buildings such as the historic church and the lighthouse keeper's house. A beacon in the new land that was once the Zuider Zee, full of busy shipping routes.

ON THE DISCOVERY TRAIL

Hidden away in the Schokkerbos, you will come across De Gesteentetuin visitor centre. From here there are adventurous backpacking routes, attractive walking and cycling routes and excursions that will show you the whole island. In the exhibition, you will learn all about the history of stones and the earth. And there is an activity loft for children which is highly recommended. Would you like to dive into the history straight away? Start at Museum Schokland on the Middelbuurt terp (mound). The wooden seawalls are visible from far away.

DE GESTEENTETUIN VISITOR CENTRE

KEILEEMWEG 1, SCHOKLAND

WWW.SCHOKLAND.NL | WWW.FLEVO-LANDSCHAP.NL



Rottige Meente and Brandemeer

Mosaic of land and water

The varied landscape of Rottige Meente also owes its origins to peat extraction in the 19th and 20th centuries, when large sections of land were dug into peat pits and ridges. The nature reserve owes its unusual shape to this. Nature has laid an abundance of plants and animal life over the peat excavations.

The area is now a mosaic of flowering grasslands, water and land, reeds and quaking bogs. Owing to the interchanges between water and dry land, special animals and plants such as the Large Copper, the otter and the marsh harrier live here.



TWO WALKS START FROM THE P ON DE STUYVESANTWEG IN NIJETRIJNE (ALONG THE N351).

WALK ALONG THE LAARZENPAD (2.9 KM) OR THE BOSWACHERSPAD (16.6 KM). IT CAN BE SWAMPY, SO STURDY, WATERPROOF SHOES ARE RECOMMENDED.

THERE IS ALSO A BICYCLE RIDE (45KM) THROUGH ROTTIGE MEENTE AND BRANDEMEER. YOU CYCLE OVER SHELL PATHS THROUGH WETLAND NATURE RESERVES WITH MANY REEDBEDS AND CHARACTERISTIC DITCHES (TREKGATEN) WITH THEIR RIBS (RIDGES), SWAMPS AND QUAKING BOGS.





UNESCO
World heritage

Colonies of Benevolence

DISCOVER A UNIQUE
HISTORY

ven the name makes you wonder. It is 1818. All is not well in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. A third of the population is dependent on the help of others, so it is not without reason that visionary and pioneer Johannes van den Bosch chooses to establish colonies in the remote heath and peatlands in Drenthe, Overijssel and Vlaanderen. A daring, pioneering experiment and the start of an influential history. The good thing about it is that everything from that time is still visible in a unique landscape with many heritage sites. The Colonies of Benevolence really only come to life if you discover the stories for yourself.

FREE COLONIES OF BENEVOLENCE

The first test colony to be set up was in Frederiksoord. There were 52 small farms here ready to receive poor people from the cities. They could rely on work and a roof over their heads in return for working on the land. Wilhelminaoord and Willemsoord quickly followed suit. Each colony was different but new, similar landscapes emerged everywhere with straight avenues, waterways and facilities such as schools, churches, retreats and soup kitchens. It was compulsory for children to go to school, and the people had their own health insurance fund — unique at that time.

DE PROEFKOLONIE MUSEUM

If you would like to get to know the area better, you should start your journey of discovery at the Proefkolonie museum in Frederiksoord. Here you will follow in the footsteps of the first five colonist families who, in 1818, started new lives in Drenthe and the Kop van Overijssel. You step into the city slums of those times, smell the poverty and feel the misery. In a multimedia journey through time, you will experience how the poor people from the city arrived in their new 'paradise' after a long journey. In the spacious exhibition room, you can see how the ambitions of Van



den Bosch ended up. Here you can clearly see how the plans, calculated down to the last penny, clashed with real-life situations.

DISCOVER THE HISTORY IN THE LANDSCAPE

From the museum, you can choose from many walking and cycling routes to explore this remarkable historical heritage. Walk along the Monumenten route and, on the way, look at the colony houses, the colony church, the basket-making factory and the forestry and horticultural school. Or cycle along the Weldadig Rondje. This 36 km waymarked route goes from Frederiksoord, via Landgoed De Eese, to Willemsoord which is also part of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park. A beautiful cycling trip that combines culture with nature.

WELCOME TO BENEVOLENT WILLEMSOORD

The Willemsoord colony has its own structure: a crossroads at the centre, straight avenues, open agricultural lands, ribbon development and large colony farmsteads. For Johannes van den Bosch, this was the ideal colony model with facilities in a central area. Willemsoord has a rich history that you can still experience in a modern way today. During an 8-minute Virtual Reality experience in Eethuys De Steen, you will arrive as a new colonist in Colony III. Here you will be received by Johannes van den Bosch who will

familiarise you with daily life in 'his' colony. On the audio tour 'Op Paupervisite' you will visit all kinds of people from the former colony together with colonists Hans and Dirk. Meet the director of the factory system, have a cup of coffee with a colonist or attend a hearing at the Raad van Tucht (disciplinary court). When you hear the remarkable stories and what it was like to be a pauper, you will be amazed.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The exceptional and universal significance of the agricultural colonies in the fight against poverty is so unique that the Colonies of Benevolence were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021. Furthermore, they also carry the European Heritage Label and since 2023 appear in the Canon van Nederland as a key element with Koning Willem I.

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE GO TO
WWW.KOLONIENVANWELDADIGHEID.NL

Craftsmanship and nature management

If there is one thing that characterises the Weerribben-Wieden National Park, then it is the cultural landscape which has emerged under the influence — or simply through the activities — of human beings. The origin of the National Park goes way back when the first inhabitants began peat cutting and cultivating reeds. The result? One of the most beautiful nature reserves in the Netherlands. Peat cutting disappeared long ago, but reed cultivation? This is still an important activity in this area.





WOUT VAN DE BELT
REED GROWER AND IN BELT SCHUTSLOOT

*"I did about
 500 bundle by hand.
 With the machine
 it's about 2,500."*

Wout van der Belt got involved by chance in reed cultivation in the 60s. 'My father was a reed grower but needed to make other choices due to health problems. He then started up a campsite.' Wout's brother – Wout is the youngest of 5 children – was to succeed his father in reed cultivation and cutting. And Wout, in turn, was the intended successor to the campsite. 'When I was 18, I started working as an independent contractor by mowing reeds and leasing part of the campsite, waiting until I could take it over. But my girlfriend – now my wife – didn't think much of the campsite. I then went into the building trade as a builder and handyman. I was skilled and I liked the building industry. And in the winter, I continued to mow reeds. Just as an extra. I liked it.'

A WEEK'S HOLIDAY IN MAY

Wout is now one of the few full-time reed growers in the area with his own land. He starts mowing around Christmas time until mid-April. If it is wet, mowing is pointless. Wet reeds then start rotting or go mouldy. He is therefore very much dependent on dry weather. After mowing, he has 14 days for the maintenance of the land before he starts binding. From the bundles made in the winter – around 180cm in circumference – he makes bundles with a circumference of 55 cm. A thatcher will use 10 of these bundles on one square metre. 'Nowadays, I do this with a machine. I used to make about 500 bundles a day by hand, but with the machine I can make 2,500.'

In mid-May he finishes binding. 'Then I usually go on holiday'.

Not all the land he manages or owns is used for reed cultivation. 'There are also other kinds of nature on this land. From June, Wout is occupied with the management and maintenance of this nature land. After that, in September, he does a few jobs in the building trade. And he is one of the three professional fishermen who are still active in the Kop van Overijssel. 'And after this, I get the machines ready for the next reed season.'

Wout van de Belt says that he can't live from reeds all year round. 'I can only manage if I have extra work. I haven't got a successor in a direct line. But, you know, we come from this area. My father did some research and it seems my family has been appearing in local history records since 1720. There is something in me that strongly connects me to this area. I belong here. And I want to leave something behind.'

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT REED CULTIVATION?

Find more information on
 Weerribben-Wieden at
hiergroeindaken.nl





Stichting National Park Weerribben-Wieden

In this magazine, we have taken you with us through our living landscape full of stories. The Weerribben-Wieden National Park, the largest unbroken area of low-lying peatland in Northwest Europe, is the source of many stories. About hard work, the force of nature, moving waterside villages, nobility and manor houses and, not to be forgotten, nature: peat, reedbeds, water, fields and woods of unprecedented beauty. Some stories will take you back in time, others will unfold before your eyes. Hopefully, we have inspired you to go out there. Walking, cycling, by canoe, paddle board or electric boat. Or perhaps you've just got back and you're sitting down, reading, and recovering from all the new impressions. Whatever, it's good you're here.

BASIS FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ECONOMY

This magazine is a publication from the Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden. Nine area partners working in close collaboration: Staatsbosbeheer, Natuurmonumenten, LTO Noord, Koninklijke Horeca Nederland, KopTop, Platform Duurzame Ambachten, reed-growers associations, the municipality of Steenwijkerland and residents. Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden is the guardian of the cultural landscape and the heritage

in the Kop van Overijssel. By working together with inhabitants and entrepreneurs in the area, we strive to improve the balance between nature, quality of life and the economy, so that residents can enjoy living here, companies can flourish, and nature can be conserved and strengthened. Owing to this, the Weerribben-Wieden National Park is and continues to be an unparalleled, beautiful destination for many visitors.

*The Dutch
National Parks are
the jewels of our natural
landscapes, today
and for generations
to come.*

OFFERING PERSPECTIVES FOR NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden is building on an environment that offers perspectives to present-day and future generations. It is important that nature and heritage, residents and companies, agriculture and tourism come together and strengthen each other. Our National Park encourages this and thinks and acts in terms of an ecosystem approach. The central focus is the care and balance of the life support system. Everything is connected to each other and only by working together can we build the future.

STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF THE AREA

Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden is committed to the strengthening of the quality of the natural environment by stimulating sustainable and circular entrepreneurship, the greening of the areas beyond the borders of the nature reserve and by reducing the impact of human activities on nature. Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden is making people aware of the importance of nature and the climate.

You love the area. You'd like to do something in return. Cherish it and take good care of it. So that not only we, but also the people after us, have something to enjoy. This is what Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden strives for every day.

YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF
STICHTING NATIONAAL PARK WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN
ON WWW.NPWEERRIBBENWIEDEN.NL



COLOFON

This magazine has been put together with the greatest possible care. Nevertheless, it may be that it contains errors and/or inadequacies. Stichting Nationaal Park Weerribben-Wieden does not accept liability for this.

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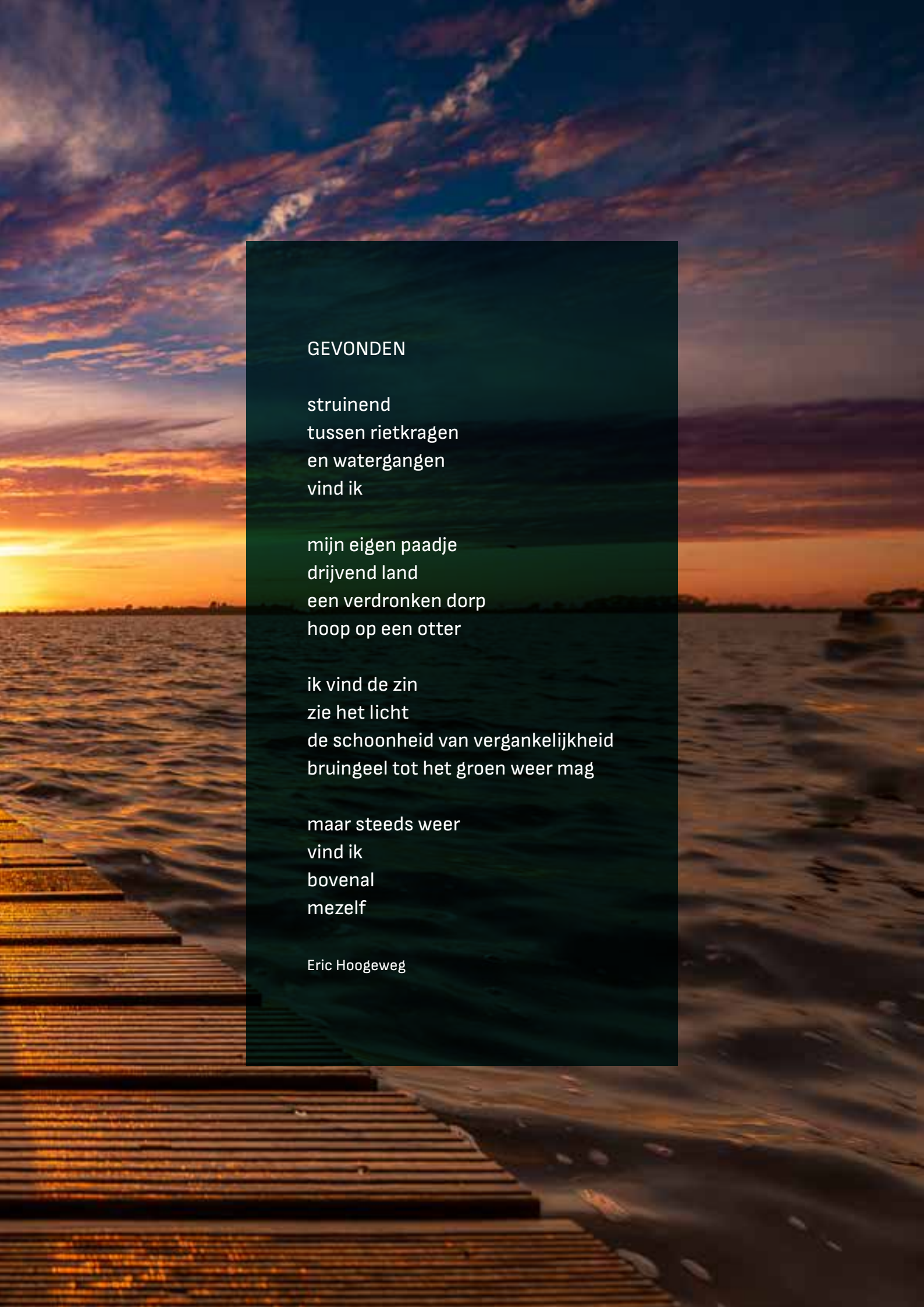
A big thank you to everyone who contributed!



**Nationaal Park
Weerribben-Wieden**







GEVONDEN

struinend
tussen rietkragen
en watergangen
vind ik

mijn eigen paadje
drijvend land
een verdronken dorp
hoop op een otter

ik vind de zin
zie het licht
de schoonheid van vergankelijkheid
bruingeel tot het groen weer mag

maar steeds weer
vind ik
bovenal
mezelf

Eric Hoogeweg

Ik

laat je ademen.
geef je schoon water.
vertel je verhalen.
geef ruimte.
nodig je uit om te wandelen,
fietsen, kanoën of suppen.
breng geluk.



iets terug doen? Doneer aan het
GEBIEDSFonds NP Weerribben-Wieden.
Daarmee investeer je in natuur, erfgoed,
verhalen en voorzieningen.

