

**FREE
TAKEAWAY**

**PACKED
WITH TOURIST
INFORMATION
AND ROUTES**



ON THE BORDER OF

ADVENTUROUS DRENTHE AND OVERIJSEL

LAND AND WATER

EXPERIENCE NATURE



They each have their own story, characteristic scenery and unique atmosphere. Yet they are only a stone's throw away from each other: the National Parks Drents-Friese Wold, Dwingelderveld and Weerribben-Wieden. Explore the heathland, forests and water by foot, horseback riding, mountain bike or while paddling in a kayak or canoe.

Excursions and activities are organised in and around these parks throughout the year. The information centre will inform you

about the current offer. This centre is the perfect starting point for a journey through nature.

In addition to the national parks, you will find many forestries, lakes and other nature reserves in the region that are very much worth a visit, such as Reestdal. On the border of Overijssel and Drenthe, the Reest winds its way through estates and flowery meadows. Grab your bike or put on your walking shoes. You will definitely see storks along the way.

Another wonderful thing to do is to sail part of the great turf route. Combine this route, for example, with a visit to Meppel or Giethoorn or the beautiful Weerribben. Just a few of the many possibilities. Carry on browsing, get inspired and come experience nature yourself!



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The Drenthe Heath Sheep graze on the left and the right. A young pine marten is getting climbing lessons from his parents. You can observe it all, while leaning your back against an old tree. Get on your knees – don't mind getting wet and dirty - and be amazed by an adder or an orchid hidden in the heathland. From the bird hide at the Davidsplassen you're able to see the rarest breeding birds of the Netherlands. And maybe you'll even hear the unique cry of an overflying crane.

Silence, vastness, heathland to the horizon, varied woods, drifting sands and dozens of beautiful lakes. Time seems to have stood still here. Step into another world in the Dwingelderveld, the largest silent wet heathland in Western Europe. No wonder you will find many rare plants and animals; it is a haven for butterflies and reptiles. If you're very quiet, you can see a grass snake or adder quickly get away or hear the unique cry of the crane.

FORESTER OLGA: "WILL YOU JOIN US TO SPOT THE DRENTHÉ BIG FIVE IN THE DWINGELDERVELD NATIONAL PARK?"

(ADDER, BADGER, DEER, CRANE, DRENTHÉ HEATH SHEEP)

The Visitor Centre at the Benderse in Ruinen is the ideal starting point for discovering the authentic landscape of Drenthe. There are many activities: from early bird tours to a walk with a pea soup lunch. During the summer you can see a shepherd bring sheep to the heathlands every morning at the sheepfold in Ruinen.

Visitor Centre Dwingelderveld: Benderse 22, Ruinen,
www.natuurmonumenten.nl/bezoekerscentrum-dwingelderveld



SEE SUNBATHING ADDERS: YOU HAVE THE GREATEST CHANCE OF SPOTTING ADDERS AT THE TELESCOPE - NATIONAL MONUMENT SINCE 2009 - AT THE EDGE OF THE HEATHLAND.

SHEEPFOLD IN RUIN: STANDING AMONG HUNDREDS OF BLEATING HEATH SHEEP IS AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

TO DO TIPS

THE WORLD OF OERRR (TREASURE TRAIL FOR CHILDREN): YOU WILL FIND A NATURE PLAYGROUND AT THE DWINGELDERVELD VISITOR CENTRE.

NATURE

NATIONAL PARK

THE GREAT SILENT WET HEATHLAND

DWINGELDERVELD



BOAT TRIP IN THE WEERRIBBEN
OR WIEDEN:
DISCOVER BEAUTIFUL LITTLE
PARADISES IN A CANOE, WHISPER
OR EXCURSION BOAT.

TRIP TO GIETHOORN:
RENT A WHISPER BOAT,
VISIT ART GALLERIES AND
HAVE A DRINK ON ONE OF THE
COSY TERRACES.

THE WATER TOWER IN SINT JANSKLOOSTER:
CLIMB THE WATER TOWER AND ENJOY A
FANTASTIC VIEW AT 45 METRES HIGH.

TO DO
TIPS

WANDER THROUGH A MAZE
WEERRIBBEN – WIEDEN NATIONAL
OF VAST REED BEDS



The Beulakerwijde glistens in the sunlight. In the distance you can see - in the middle of the lake - something that looks like an iron structure. It is the top of a church tower with an iron bell, which recalls the story of the drowned village Beulake, a remarkable story. A dyke breakthrough became fatal for the village and its residents in the eighteenth century. Tie your boat or canoe to one of the metal posts and drift off with your thoughts. Suddenly something startles you: a grass snake winds through the waves alongside your boat.

The story of Beulake symbolizes the history of this National Park, which is - with its 10,000 hectares - the largest continuous peat bog in North-West Europe. You will immerse yourself in an oasis of calm. Ponds, lakes, ditches, mysterious-looking swamp forests, vast reed beds and small corners of hayfields; the buzzing dynamics of nature. It is a paradise for humans and animals, and a breeding ground for special plant and animal species.

FORESTER EGBERT: "MY FAVOURITE SPOT IS PEN'S DUCK DECOY. REED, PEACE, SPACE AND SILENCE."

The reed ensures varying landscapes throughout the year. If the reed is harvested in the winter, the views are endless. In the spring the fresh green stems slowly sprout out of the ground, and in the summer the waterfront is walled in with tall dark green reeds. Pure paradise: for otters, fire butterflies, dragonflies and for you as nature lover!

Visitor Centre De Wieden:

Beulakerpad 1, Sint Jans klooster, www.np-weerribbenwieden.nl

Outdoor Centre De Weerribben:

Hoogeweg 27, Ossenzijl, www.np-weerribbenwieden.nl

PARK

You feel the wind against your face. There, at the “Bare Dunes”, a sand lizard shoots off. The mysterious Aekingerzand gives you the feeling you’re in the desert. But the Drents-Friese Wold offers more than dusty sand and lizards. Raptors fly over. An adder warms up in the still watery spring sunshine. With a little luck you catch a flash of a fox, a polecat or a couple of deer.

You wander through the old, large pine forests. Suddenly the forest turns into heathland and before you know it you’re strolling through meadows with unique plant species. You’ll discover hidden fens here and there. At the Oude Groningerweg you will find the dolmen of Diever and colourful flowers in the stream valleys.

The area is vast: ideal to explore on horseback or by mountain bike. The rough trails are challenging and after some exercise the water of the Canadameer will be very refreshing. But also by regular bike or by foot, the Drents-Friese Wold is a wonderful experience. Magnificent in its beauty and variety, truly a Wold without borders.

FORESTER CORNÉ: “ROLLING DUNES IN THE DRENTS-FRIESE WOLD. THE DRIFTING DUNES!”

You can find various routes at the outdoor centre. There is also an exhibition and there are activities for all ages.

Outdoor centre Drents-Friese Wold: Terwisscha 6A, Appelscha, www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/drentsfriesewold

THE FAMILY TRAIL: LITERALLY A TRAIL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. IT IS ALSO ACCESSIBLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS AND BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND DEAF PEOPLE. STARTING POINT: OUTDOOR CENTRE DRENTS FRIESE WOLD.

BAREFOOT TRAIL: TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES AND SOCKS AND START WALKING! FEEL THE SAND BETWEEN YOUR TOES, THE COOL WATER AND THE TWIGS POKING GENTLY AT YOUR FEET. STARTING POINT: OUTDOOR CENTRE DRENTS FRIESE WOLD.

TO DO TIPS

HORSEBACK THROUGH THE WOLD: TRULY A PARADISE IF YOU ARE A RIDER OR DRIVER. THE WOLD HAS OVER 175 HORSE RIDING AND DRIVING ROUTES, VARIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS AND FACILITIES.

A photograph of two riders on horses in a forest at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and casting long shadows. The riders are wearing helmets and casual riding attire. The foreground is a dirt path, and the background is filled with trees.

NATIONAL PARK

A FOREST WITHOUT BORDERS

DRENTS - FRIESE WOLD

The region challenges you to go outside. On a galloping horse or racing on a mountain bike. There are also a few climbing trails.

And those who really want to experience the sandy paths, wetlands and peat lands can take off their shoes. You actually feel the variations of nature when you're barefoot.

OUTDOOR FUN

You can explore the Weerribben-Wieden and lakes around Giethoorn in a kayak.

Or in a whisper boat, if you want to take it easy for a day. If there is ice, you can obviously use your ice skates.





ON WATER

TIP GET ON A BOAT, SAIL AWAY AND MAKE YOUR OWN DISCOVERIES ON WATER. AT THE WHEEL, BINOCULARS IN YOUR HAND AND THE SUN BLAZING DOWN ON YOUR ARMS. FOR BOAT RENTALS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.VISITWEERRIBBENWIEDEN.COM

DISCOVERY TOUR ON WATER

Legs overboard, toes in the water and soak up the calm, the space. From here, the world seems to be very different. You can discover the most beautiful and hidden places in the National Park Weerribben-Wieden by boat. In a dinghy or whisper boat the water slowly flows past you. For a more active experience, you can choose a kayak or canoe.

Behind every bend a new world emerges. Each hectare has its own charm and beauty. Along the way you can stop at an outdoor cafe on the waterfront.

And then: “Venice of the North” arises on the horizon. Giethoorn is a buzzing place! The characteristic wooden bridges, the smell of sun lotion, the sound of tinkling glass, it’s as if you’re in Italy.

FUN FACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A BEAUTIFUL TURF ROUTE? THIS ROUTE TAKES YOU THROUGH, OR CLOSE TO ALL THREE NATIONAL PARKS.

WWW.VAARTIPS.NL/ROUTE15.HTM

EQUESTRIAN SHOW

You'll ride through heathlands and dense, dark forests. Sometimes in step, at a trotting pace or gallop. Going full speed through mud puddles and winding paths gives a carefree feeling. From the saddle you can see raptors, deer and the most beautiful landscapes. Yes, as a rider you can truly indulge yourself in the region.

Also as a non-horse rider, you can make nice horse rides through the countryside. Step into a wagon or horse-drawn tram. This will be a trip to remember, for all ages. You can rent a wagon for one or more days.

The summer is one great horse festival in this region. At the driving competition in Zuidwolde you'll experience a grand spectacle at the Steenberg water basin. During the 4-day horseback riding event in Dwingeloo you ride through woods, heathlands and meadows for four days.

FUN
FACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CONCOURS HIPPIQUE IN VEENINGEN IS CALLED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OUTDOOR COMPETITION OF THE NORTHERN NETHERLANDS? MANY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOP RIDERS AND HORSES PARTICIPATE. WWW.HIPPISCHDEWOLDEN.NL



OUTDOOR FUN

HORSEBACK RIDING

TIP ↗

EACH YEAR IN SEPTEMBER, BOSCHOORD IS DOMINATED BY THE RURAL FAIR HORSE AND HERITAGE. EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND HORSES, THE OUTDOORS AND RECREATION. WWW.PAARDENERFGOED.NL

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Height differences, technical parts, sand, mud, and, not unimportant: good signage. In and around the three National Parks you will find challenging and varied mountain bike trails. There is something for everyone:

Appelscha (ca. 17 km)

A route through the woods: wider paths and winding single tracks alternate. Are you a trained mountain biker? Then a combination with the route in Diever is recommended. The connection route is indicated.

Diever- Hoogersmilde (ca. 23 km)

Long technical parts on single tracks. And although it is a flat area, you'll still encounter some steep climbs and descents. This makes this route a challenge.

Zuidwolde (West) (ca. 18 km)

This route near nature area Klein Zwitserland is extremely diverse with several single tracks through the woods, dirt roads and a few climbs at the end of the route. Hairpin turns, tree trunks, wooden bridge and jump bumps give you plenty to do!

More routes and information:
www.mtbroutes.nl

TIP

EACH YEAR HOOGERSMILDE ORGANISES AN ADVENTUROUS ATB FOUR-DAY EVENT IN THE SUMMER. THIS MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL IS PART OF THE DRENTHÉ FOUR-DAY CYCLE EVENT.
WWW.ATB4DAAGSE.NU

FUN
FACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 1700 KILOMETRES OF BIKE PATHS AT YOUR DISPOSAL? YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE YOU WANT!

OUTDOOR FUN

MOUNTAIN BIKING



Ancient oaks, heathland and picturesque vistas. But also: cosy green villages with nice shops, terraces and good eateries.

Villages such as Dwingeloo, Ruinen and Westerbork have an authentic atmosphere. It's like going back in time. But the region offers urban scenes as well: visit Steenwijk, Meppel and Hoogeveen to experience cities with a rich history.

TO THE CITY

You'll find museums and galleries, peculiar shops, cinemas and theatres, cafés and restaurants, cultural heritage and the largest fountain of the Netherlands.



LIVELY AND SPORTY

Taste locally brewed specialty beers while sitting by a fire in a pub and get ready to brave the winter cold to attend the special Northern Lights Parade.

It is one of the most spectacular events of Hoogeveen. But the city offers many more events: a number of sports events, such as the Ronde (round) of Drenthe and Cascaderun, a run for all ages. If you're a real daredevil you can make a parachute jump in Hoogeveen. Although you can also opt for a scenic flight over the beautiful region.

Hoogeveen is characterised by the combination of nature, space and history. In the Hoofdstraat, these elements come together. Surrounded by shops, you'll find the largest fountain of the Netherlands: the Cascade. The Hoofdstraat also offers restaurants and a vibrant nightlife.

THE HOOGEVEEN PANCAKE

AT THE END OF 1600, PIECES OF PEAT LAND NEAR HOOGEVEEN WERE BURNED IN THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE TO SOW BUCKWHEAT. BUCKWHEAT GRAINS - THAT LOOK LIKE BEECHNUTS - WERE GRINDED TO A KIND OF FLOUR THAT COULD NOT BE USED TO BAKE BREAD. BUT BAKING PANCAKES WAS POSSIBLE. THEY BECAME PART OF THE DAILY FOOD OF MANY SETTLERS, GIVING THEM THE NICKNAME 'PANCAKES'.

FUN
FACT



VISIT AN EVENT



CASCADE RUN HOOGEVEEN • PULLEDAGEN (FAIR) • LAKE OF GALILEA • NORTHERN LIGHTS PARADE • CULINARY HOOGEVEEN



MEPPEL

FUN
FACT

MOSQUITOS OF MEPPEL

RESIDENTS OF MEPPEL ARE ALSO CALLED "MOSQUITOS OF MEPPEL OR MOSQUITO SPRAYERS". THEY OWE THESE NICKNAMES TO A FOLK TALE. ONE NIGHT SOME MEPPEL RESIDENTS SUPPOSEDLY THOUGHT THE CHURCH WAS ON FIRE, BECAUSE A CLOUD OF SMOKE HUNG OVER THE TOWER. IT TURNED OUT TO BE A SWARM OF FIREFLIES OR MOSQUITOES.

LIVELY AND UNIQUE

Meppel is lively and unique. The combination of nature, greenery, space and history makes Meppel attractive. Meppel is uniquely situated between three nature reserves.

The old city centre of Meppel with its characteristic streets, canals and squares with terraces is the setting for a pleasant shopping city. The people are hospitable and restaurants come in many shapes and flavours. Cafés, bars and a disco ensure a lively evening and nightlife.

Meppel is also a city of events. A visit to the Canal Festival or Thursday Meppel Days is a must.

But you can also visit Meppel for arts, culture and monuments.

Wish to spend the night in Meppel or in the area? You can. Choose from B&Bs, campsites, a camper place, hotels and holiday homes. Or, sail to Meppel and dock your boat in the harbour or in the middle of the historic centre.

 VISIT AN EVENT

FORTIFIED CITY

A city full of extraordinary stories, hidden behind the stepped and bell gables at the Markt: the place downtown where the shopping areas come together.

After an afternoon stroll, the market square is the place to be. Enjoy a drink or a meal on one of the terraces.

You relive the past in Steenwijk. The 87-metre high Sint Clemens tower towers over the city and you will see one of the best-preserved examples of Art Nouveau: Rams Woerthe, a majestic Jugendstill villa. This cultural heritage is in the top 100 of Dutch monuments. You can still feel the buzz of the stories of battles and marching troops. They come to life during the summer Fortress Celebrations and the Dickens Christmas market.

VISIT AN EVENT 

STEENWIJK WAS ORIGINALLY AN OLD FORTRESS CITY. THE RAMPARTS AND CANALS DATE FROM THE TIME OF THE EIGHTY YEARS WAR. AT THAT TIME, STEENWIJK WAS A STRATEGIC PLACE IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE DUTCH REPUBLIC AND SPAIN.

FUN FACT

TO THE CITY



STEENWIJK

FORTRESS SUMMER FESTIVALS • FOUR-DAY CYCLE EVENT • SPECTACLE OF STEENWIJK • FESTIVAL CUP OF CULTURE • DICKENS CHRISTMAS



A TRIP WITH THE KIDS

Strolling through the woods, building huts on the heathlands, crawling through a blackberry tunnel and getting lost in a corn maze. For kids, this region is paradise. A paradise where they have fun, but also playfully learn about animals and nature. For example, spending an afternoon at the play and ice cream farm Drentse Koe is absolutely worthwhile. Kids ride on a step tractor and milk a cow. For a moment, they are farmers. A visit to one of the sheepfolds is a must.

ADVENTURE IN NATURE

LET'S GET DIRTY

Crisscrossing the swamp forests with your canoe. Swinging on vines, on the road with the forester and - this is actually true - tasting trees! Kids who love to play outside, love to explore and are not afraid of getting dirty, will be in for an adventure in the National Parks.

The so-called Boot Trails are a fun and adventurous way for them to explore nature. They balance on wooden platforms, jump over water and sink in soggy soil with their boots. The trails are surrounded by tall reed palms, shrubs and trees. The trail offers a surprise every few metres.

SECRET

WALKING ON QUACKING FENS IS AN EXCITING ATTRACTION IN THE WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN. IT FEELS LIKE WALKING ON WATER. THE THIN LAYER OF FLOATING GROUND MAKES CREEPY WAVY MOVEMENTS. WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY? GO TO THE VISITOR CENTRES IN OSSENZIJL OR SINT JANSKLOOSTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BOOT TRAIL WIEDEN (2,3 KM)

STARTING POINT: VISITOR CENTRE DE WIEDEN, BEULAKERPAD 1, SINT JANSKLOOSTER.

TO DO TIPS

BOOT TRAIL WEERRIBBEN (3 KM)

STARTING POINT: TOWNHOUSE KALEMBERG, KALEMBERGERPAD 15, KALEMBERG.

ROEKPAD ADVENTURE TRAIL (2 KM)

STARTING POINT: HUIS MET DE BELLE, ZUIDWOLDERWEG 2A, ECHTEN.

LITTLE PIGLET THEODOOR

“Longingly, between the planks of his cage, Theodore looks at the narrow wooden trail.” This is how the story of little piglet Theodoor begins. When one day a girl comes along and opens his cage, Theodoor is free and sets off into the wide world.

If you are in Orvelte with kids, do not miss this. The story of Theodoor is not just a story about a piglet’s adventure: in fact, the wooden trail is real and also passable in some places.

In some places, the kids have to climb and scramble, like Theodoor. They hide in the tabernacle or in the foxhole and let Theodoor grunt, the birds whistle and the sheep bleat. Besides the wooden trail, there is a also trail for adults.

PRACTICAL

START LOCATION:
FROM THE BRINK IN ORVELTE, THE HOUTEN PAD VAN THEODOOR (THEODOOR’S WOODEN PATH) IS WELL SIGN-POSTED. THE STARTING POINT IS APPROXIMATELY 1 KM AWAY IN THE FOREST. THE ROUTE IS MARKED WITH PINK PICKETS.



KIDS

THE WOODEN TRAIL OF THEODOOR

SECRET



THE ROUTE IS AVAILABLE FOR FREE AT THE TOURIST INFO ORVELTE.

PLAY FORESTS



Play forest Kerkenveld:

Jan Haarstraat 28, 7926 Kerkenveld – Park at OBS de Bosrand. The adventure forest is located in the forest behind the school and the playground.

Roekpad in the Kraaienbosch of Echten:

Start Information Centre Huus met de Belle, Zuidwolderweg 2a, 7932 PP Echten

iPadWEG in Het Groene Hart of Veeningen:

Start Information Board at townhouse 't Markehuus, Dorpshuisstraat 43, 7924 PP Veeningen

Struunpad Koekangerveld:

Start Information Sign at townhouse 'De Veldhoek', Ruinerweg 24a, 7958 RC Koekangerveld

Dwingelderveld:

- Family trail Lhee: from the sheepfold behind 't Zaand: paved trail (3 km) leads through the open heathland, with beautiful views and decks over the water.
- Family trail Spier: paved trail (2,5 km) leads mainly through the shelter of the forest.

- Bird hide Davidsplassen (lakes): bird watching and in March also the blue males of the moor frog!
- World of OERRR: Play nature visitor centre Dwingelderveld Benderse 22, 7963 RA Ruinen

Play forest Drents-Friese Wold:

Terwisscha 6A, 8426 SJ Appelscha. You'll find the play forest Drent-Friese Wold at the Outdoor Centre of the Dutch Forestry Commission.

Climb Forest Adventurous Paasloo

Paasloërweg 16, 8378 JB Paasloo
The climb forest features 4 tracks up to 9 metres.

Play Forest Green Edge:

Bultinge 2, 7933 TZ Pesse

Adventure Trail Hoogersmilde:

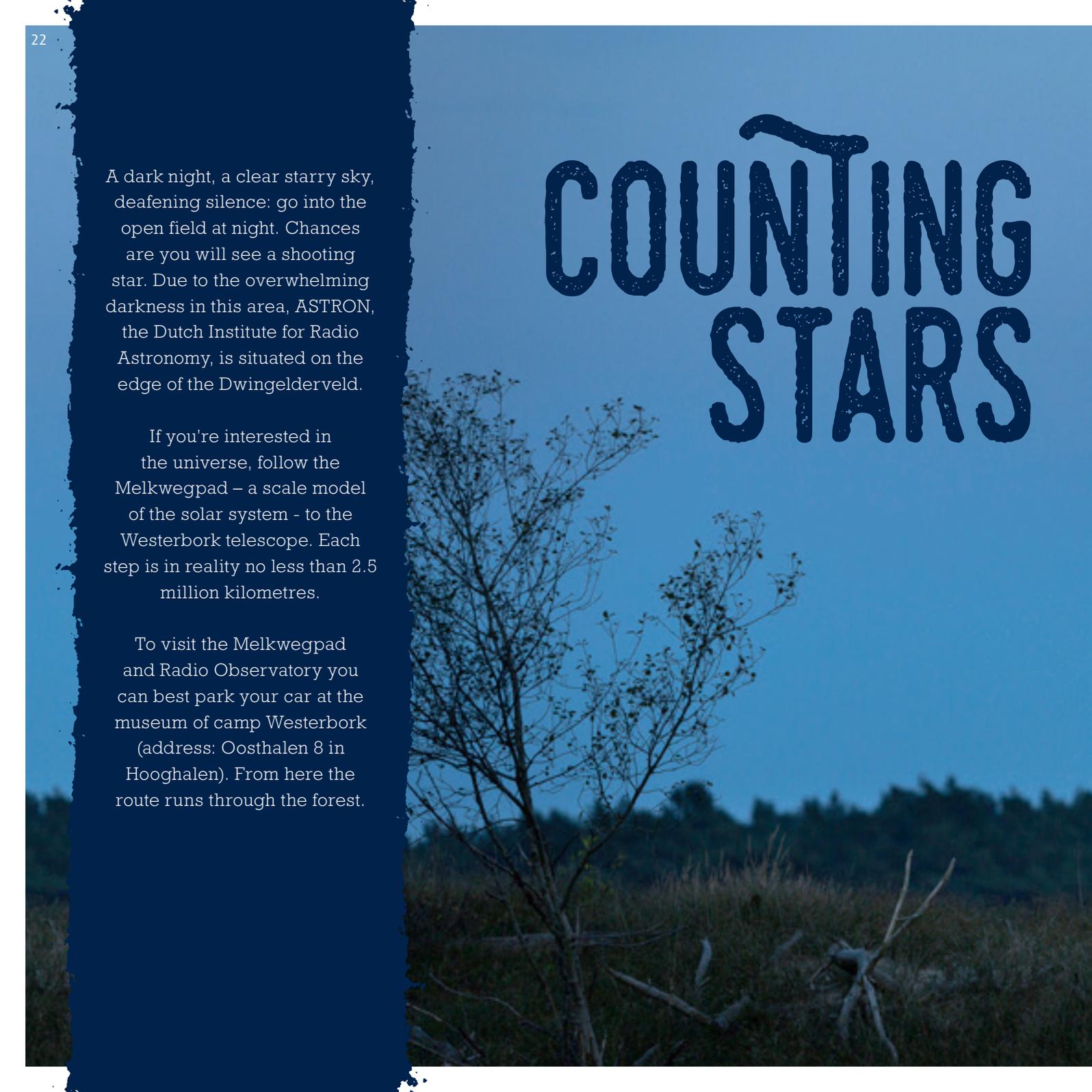
Camping Reeënwissel P2, Bosweg 23, 9423 TA Hoogersmilde

A dark night, a clear starry sky, deafening silence: go into the open field at night. Chances are you will see a shooting star. Due to the overwhelming darkness in this area, ASTRON, the Dutch Institute for Radio Astronomy, is situated on the edge of the Dwingelderveld.

If you're interested in the universe, follow the Melkwegpad – a scale model of the solar system - to the Westerbork telescope. Each step is in reality no less than 2.5 million kilometres.

To visit the Melkwegpad and Radio Observatory you can best park your car at the museum of camp Westerbork (address: Oosthalen 8 in Hooghalen). From here the route runs through the forest.

COUNTING STARS



A GHOST IS BORN

BONNIE VEENDORP

UP IN THE OLD TOWER
A GHOST WAS BORN LAST NIGHT!
ONLY THE MOON SAW IT,
AND FIRST THOUGHT: 'IT'S A CURTAIN!'

THEN THE MOON SAW IT WAS FLOATING
AND IT STARTED PAYING ATTENTION
AND THE STARS ALSO CRIED:
'SIR MOON, IT'S A GHOST!'

SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 100 YEARS,
A GHOST WAS BORN ONCE AGAIN!

GONDOLA CRUISES ARE HELD ANNUALLY IN THE DE WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN NATIONAL PARK AREA, WITH DOZENS OF ILLUMINATED AND DECORATED BOATS.

TO DO TIPS

DURING THE NORTHERN LIGHTS PARADE ILLUMINATED FLOATS PARADE THROUGH THE CENTRE OF HOOGEVEEN.

TAKE A WALK IN THE DARK THROUGH THE CANAL AREA OF MEPEL AND ADMIRE THE FIVE ILLUMINATED BRIDGES THAT ADD TO THE SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THIS REMARKABLE TOWN. EACH BRIDGE HAS A QR CODE THAT LEADS TO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BRIDGE AND THE CITY OF MEPEL.



NIGHT WALK

DWINGELDERVELD

We hear rustling. It seems near. You sharpen your ears; is it a deer or maybe a badger? You're not allowed to visit preserved areas between sunrise and sunset, but in Dwingelderveld, the Dutch Society for Nature Conservation has plotted a special night walk.

You can hear the call of an owl when you walk around at night. Frogs give concerts and then, when the night ends and the day dawns, you can see the mist over the lake. Could this be the "witte wieven" (spirits of wise women)? Explore nightlife in nature; it is a unique experience.

The starting point of this night walk is the car park of swimming pool De Paasbergen, Anserpad 2 in Dwingeloo. Bring a flashlight, which comes in handy, but try to use it as little as possible.

FUN FACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY YEAR THE 'NIGHT OF THE NIGHT' IS HELD? NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES ARE ORGANISED THROUGHOUT THE NETHERLANDS DURING THIS LONG DARK NIGHT, ALSO IN THE DWINGELDERVELD.

A SPECTACLE OF COLOURS

The sun sets. The sky turns orange, landscapes colour along. The moon comes out. The waterfront, where you just saw deer, fades as a silhouette in the dark.

The Dutch Society for Nature Conservation and the National Forest Service make it possible to enjoy this spectacle from the water in National Park Weerribben-Wieden. From May to October, they provide boat trips in the evening light and by the light of the full moon. The boats sail both on the Beulakerwijde and through narrow ditches. You can sign up for a boat trip at the visitor centre in Sint Jansklooster and the outdoor centre in Ossenzijl.

Visitor Centre De Wieden
Beulakerpad 1, Sint Jansklooster
www.visitweerribbenwieden.com

Outdoor Centre De Weerribben
Hoogeweg 27, Ossenzijl
www.visitweerribbenwieden.com

NIGHTLY BOAT TRIPS

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ROMANTIC WATER VILLAGES GIETHOORN, BELT-SCHUTSLOOT AND DWARSGRACHT FORM THE DECOR FOR BEAUTIFULLY ILLUMINATED GONDOLA CRUISES IN JULY AND AUGUST? GONDOLAS GLIDE SLOWLY THROUGH THE CANALS AND CHANNELS OF THE VILLAGES: A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE.

FUN FACT

STARS





LIVING PAST

The impressive, monumental buildings in Frederiksoord and Willemsoord are very fascinating. And you can't stop photographing villages such as Ruinen, Orvelte and Dwingeloo. The Saxon farmhouses are picturesque, and this historic country estates and manors such as De Havixhorst, Huize Dickninge and Huize Voorwijk are true pearls in the landscape. The aristocratic history and richness of the past comes to life here. In Giethoorn you can stroll along the canals and cross the characteristic arched bridges. And in the vicinity of the Havelterberg and the Memorial Centre of camp Westerbork you can see and feel the tragic war history.

MEMORIAL CENTRE

You can see and feel the history when you arrive on the former campgrounds after a walk through the forest.

CAMP WESTERBORK

You'll find a train set, original barracks and the residence of the camp commander. Memorial Centre Camp Westerbork is a place with a history that must never be forgotten. The museum tells the story of the Dutch Jews who were imprisoned here between 1939 and 1945.

www.kampwesterbork.nl

SECRET

IN THE MUSEUM, YOU'LL READ AND HEAR PERSONAL STORIES AND SEE ITEMS AND LETTERS FROM THAT TIME. IT IS A MOVING EXPERIENCE AND GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF LIFE IN THE CAMP AT THE TIME.

MUSEUM VILLAGE

In the museum village Orvelte –where people also work and live- you go back in time.

Walking on ancient bricks you encounter a clog maker, a cheese maker, an old Dutch candy store and many thatched Saxon farmhouses.

You can visit a couple of these farms. You'll see a zoo full of bizarre animals, a pancake shop and yes, an Apple museum. Do wish to enjoy Orvelte a little longer? Then stay overnight in one of the lovely accommodations in the village.

www.orvelte.net

 **SECRET**

THE VILLAGE CENTRE OF ORVELTE REGULARLY FORMS THE DECOR FOR EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, FOLK GROUPS, SPECIAL MARKETS AND THEATRE SHOWS.

**FUN
FACT**

DID YOU KNOW THAT ORVELTE IS ENTIRELY CAR-FREE?

ORVELTE



PAST



COLONIES OF CHARITY

SECRET

IN AND AROUND THE
KOLONIEHOF MUSEUM, THE
ANNUAL BOSCH WINTER
FESTIVAL IS HELD IN THE
NEARBY FOREST, A GETAWAY
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
WWW.DEKOLONIEHOF.NL

VAGRANTS COLONIES

In the area around Veenhuizen Willemsoord and Frederiksoord you go back to the early nineteenth century when General Johannes van den Bosch founded the vagrants colonies. In the Society of Charity, 'paupers' came here to work on the land. In return they received housing, education and care. This is how the general hoped to reduce poverty.

FUN
FACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT
A PLAY WAS MADE ABOUT
"THE PAUPERS"?
(THE PAUPER PARADISE)

After a trial colony in Frederiksoord - with homes, schools, factories and churches - similar colonies in Willemsoord and Wilhelminaoord followed. A few years later, the idea of voluntariness was discontinued and coercion colonies were established in Veenhuizen and Ommerschans. You'll still find traces of the Colonies of Charity in these places. The cultural heritage is on the Provisional List of UNESCO World Heritage.

Did you know that there is an app with a story trail about the colonies? This is how the olden days are portrayed in a modern way. You can also walk of number of Pauper trails via a route app.

The app shows you the way and provides interesting information on the go.

www.pauperpad.nl

DOLMENS

ICONS OF DRENTHE

There are still three icons of Drenthe in this area, or: dolmens, the oldest monuments in Netherlands.

If you stand in front of them and look at these big and heavy boulders, you'll wonder how they could have built them in prehistoric times. People even thought the dolmens were built by giants. It remains a mystery. Two dolmens lie close together at the foot of the Havelterberg (address: Hunebeddenweg in Darp).

The third dolmen is located in Diever (address: Groningerstraatweg 3 in Diever).

**FUN
FACT**

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE
ALSO IS A MUSEUM FARMHOUSE
IN GIETHOORN?
WWW.OLDEMAATUS.NL

**TO DO
TIPS**

1

CUP OF CULTURE IN STEENWIJK: ENJOY THIS THREE-DAY FESTIVAL, WHICH CONSISTS OF A MONUMENT DAY, STREET THEATRE, CONCERTS AND WORKSHOPS FOR REGIONAL VISUAL ART. WWW.KOPJECULTUUR.NL

2
RUINERWOLD MUSEUM FARMHOUSE DE KARSTENHOEVE: DURING THE TOUR YOU GET TO KNOW THE HISTORY OF THIS FARMHOUSE DATING FROM THE GOLDEN AGE. YOU'LL DISCOVER THE ORIGIN OF MANY PROVERBS AND SAYINGS HERE. WWW.KARSTENHOEVE.NL

3

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE IN DIEVER: IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE STORIES OF THE FAMOUS PLAYWRIGHT IN THIS OPEN-AIR THEATRE, WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE THOUSANDS OF VISITORS. WWW.SHAKESPEARETHEATERDIEVER.NL

4
CUTTING COLLECTION MUSEUM WESTERBORK: IN THIS MUSEUM YOU'LL FIND BOTH HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PAPER CUTTING ART OF KNOWN AND LESSER KNOWN ARTISTS. YOU'RE FREE TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO CUT A PIECE OF ART. FUN FOR ALL AGES! WWW.MUSEUMVANPAPIERKNIPKUNST.NL

5

PRINTING MUSEUM MEPEL: A LIVING MUSEUM THAT TELLS THE DYNAMIC STORY ABOUT COMMUNICATION. EMBARK ON A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME, FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY. WWW.DRUKKERIJMUSEUM-MEPEL.NL

ROUTES



MTB Route Havelte



**Cycling adventure with
Huug de Hooglander**



**Butterfly trail
Zuidwolde-De Wolden**

Boat trips Weerribben-Wieden



City walk Meppel



City walk Hoogeveen



Location

Havelte-Oost (Holtingerveld)

Length of the route

Green ATB route 19 km. Expandable with an extra loop of 8 km.

Marking

The route is marked with wooden posts and highlighted in green you'll see the international MTB sign (triangle with 2 circles below).

Start location

Access point Holtingerveld at the Van Helomaweg just outside of Havelte.

Website

www.mtbhavelte.nl

Extra

This MTB route was constructed by the MTB club Havelte. Pay attention to the notes on the notice board and the website.

Start coordinates

N52 47.062 E6 13.379

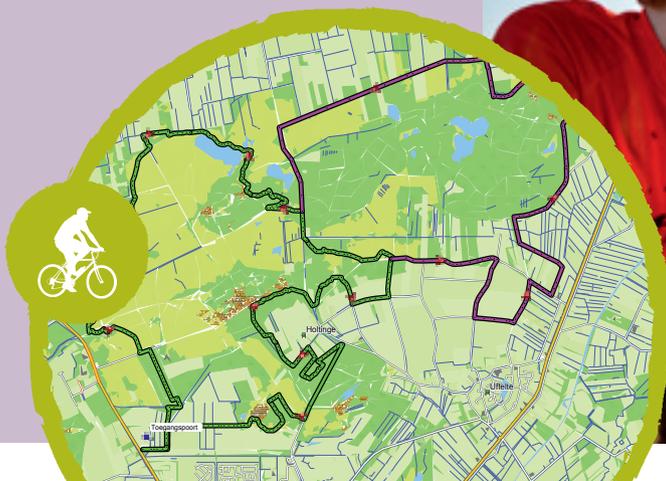
The route is near Havelte and leads you through the grounds of for instance Defence, the Society for Nature Conservation and the Forestry Commission. Havelte is surrounded by vast forests, heathlands, sand dunes and pastures. You can still see many remains from World War 2 in this area.

MTB ROUTE HAVELTE

The Green ATB route starts with a bike path, which soon turns into a grassy path. This path then challenges you with a mixture of sometimes narrow twisty single tracks where control skills are needed and sometimes wider paths where "clumsy people" will feel more at home. After a short cobbled road, you go back into the woods and experience some fun climbs and descents (do pay attention to the "wet circumstances diversion" that runs along the bike path). You'll end up at a junction where you have to choose between 19 and 27 km. For now, let's assume you take the 19 km route. Through broader wavy trails and two bridges you go back into the forest and cross a bike path. The surroundings change from forest to heathland and the route takes you along a fen. After a short bike path you come to the "Genius Well" where you can put your steering skills to the test. You then bike on towards the Hunebedden (dolmens) and via some asphalt you reach the last climb of this route, which ends at the butterfly garden.

TWO CHALLENGING ROUTES
ARE ALSO WAITING FOR
YOU IN HAVELTE WEST

TIP



ROUTE

ROUTE



LEGEND:

-  Kids Bike Route
(follow the junctions)
-  Shortened Kids Bike Route
-  1 Locations (see also references in the text)



BIKING ADVENTURE WITH HUUG DE HOOGLANDER

Huug Hooglander lives on the Drenthe Highlands, in the middle of Drenthe. Huug is a gentle mascot in the form of a Scottish Highlander. Together with his friends he experiences fun and exciting adventures every day.

The Huug de Hooglander kids bike route is a bike tour for kids from 3 to 12 years old who are curious about the adventurous habitat of Huug and his friends. Huug's habitat is large and is also known as the adventurous heart of Drenthe. You can also rent tandems and bicycle trailers so that even the very young can join the adventure. Have fun biking!

There are more routes through the Drenthe Highlands, interested? Contact the Tourist Info Midden-Drenthe for more information. More information on the Drenthe Highlands?

Visit www.drentsehooglanden.nl

-  **Het Oranjekanaal:** can you catch a fish?
-  **Restaurant de Klipper:** just relax with a drink
-  **Westerborkerstroam:** fun picnic along the water
-  **Westerbork Catering:** time for something tasty!
-  **Holtherzand:** did you spot Huug's friends?
-  **Mill of Makkum:** Make your own cookies from the flour produced by this mill!



BUTTERFLY TRAIL ZUIDWOLDE-DE WOLDEN

The Butterfly Trail Zuidwolde is a hiking trail of about 8 km around the village of Zuidwolde, municipality of De Wolden. The trail runs through natural areas and very varied landscapes. Discover the many different butterflies and insects in this flowered area. How many species did you spot?

Discover the hiking junction network in De Wolden. Determine your route and let yourself be seduced by the beauty of the area with guaranteed rural hospitality and cosiness. Relax in this authentic landscape of Drenthe.

Forest, nature and wide meadows alternate. From wildlife in nature areas to dairy cows in the more spacious low moor meadows: the area is completely yours to discover.



Parking

Cultural-historic regional and hand cart museum De Wempe, Burgemeester Tonckensstraat 45, Zuidwolde

Length

ca. 8 km

Marking

Posts with
Butterfly Trail logo



More trails?

Visit www.zuidwestdrenthe.nl

More boat routes

- 1 Route Giethoorn (10 km)
- 2 Route Giethoorn (9 km)
- 3 Route Dwarsgracht (9 km)
- 4 Route Belt-Schutsloot (8,5 km)
- 5 Weerribben route (14 km)
- 6 Kalenberg route (8 km)
- 7 Ossenzijl route (7 km)

BOAT TRIPS WEERRIBBEN-WIEDEN

The Weerribben-Wieden National Park offers seven trips for canoes, whisper boats or sloops. This route starts in Ossenzijl, has a length of 7 km, and runs through the most beautiful little waters and blowholes of De Weerribben. Follow the red arrows on the square brown canoe signs.

Starting point: Outdoor Centre De Weerribben, Hoogeweg 27, Ossenzijl



Check out all routes at
www.np-weerribbenwieden.nl

Start and end of the walk

The walk starts at the train station of Meppel and ends there too. Obviously the walk can start at any point along the route. The route is approximately 4 kilometres long and is walker and wheelchair-friendly.



Legend

 Walk



Catering establishments

You'll see various catering establishments along the way to take a break and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

STROLL ALONG SIGHTS IN THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF MEPPEL

Meppel is a historic city with beautiful canals and wonderful nature. Several city walks have been planned along these sights. One of these walks runs along Judentstil properties in Meppel. Besides the Judentstil properties the walk also runs along houses with different architectural styles, such as Neo-Classical and Eclectic. The route also takes you along buildings of historical interest, often with beautiful facade decorations from the Jugendstil period. You will also experience little side trips into the Jewish past of Meppel during this walk.



ROUTE

TO DO TIP

HAPPEN EN STAPPEN ARRANGEMENT (DINE AND NIGHT ON THE TOWN – PACKAGE) A CULINARY WALK THROUGH THE HISTORIC TOWN OF MEPPEL IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED DURING A WEEKEND AWAY WITH YOUR FAMILY. DISCOVER, LED BY A GUIDE, THE BEAUTIFUL AND SPECIAL SPOTS IN THE CITY AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS THREE-COURSE DINNER, SERVED IN THREE DIFFERENT RESTAURANTS. THE “DINE AND NIGHT ON THE TOWN – PACKAGE” IS AVAILABLE FROM 10 PEOPLE. MORE INFORMATION ON BOOKING AND COST OF THIS CULINARY WALK IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOURIST INFORMATION POINT/RIEMER BARTH BOOKSTORE.

Information

More tourist information, hiking, cycling and boating maps/routes in and around Meppel are available at Tourist Information Point Meppel / Riemer Barth Bookshop, Woldstraat 5, Meppel

www.boekhandelriemer.nl



CITY WALK WELCOME TO HOOGEVEEN

This city walk leads you through the friendly, well-organized centre of Hoogeveen. Hospitality and attention for each other are paramount: you are truly welcome in Hoogeveen! In many places along the route, the ANWB signs on the facades show additional information.

Duration: ca. 1,5 hours

Starting point: PUNT H/TOURIST INFO Hoogeveen, Hoofdstraat 17A, 7902 EA Hoogeveen

This city walk starts at the entrance of the Tourist Info, the highlights of the route follow soon. You can go to the Tourist Info for a brochure that describes the entire route.

The volunteers also like to inform you about other routes, tourist information and authentic local products such as flour for the tastiest Hoogeveen pancakes ground by the mill De Zwaluw.

There are various historic buildings in the Hoofdstraat. These buildings have signs that explain the history of the property. Some properties were designed by city architect Jan Carmiggelt of early last century.

Along the way, you will also pass the beautiful Jugendstil building 22 of liquor store Dikkers, Grain Mill De Zwaluw and the Schippershuus: buildings that all tell part of the history of Hoogeveen.

In front of the Grote Kerk, you'll see a statue called Trommelslager (drummer), made by Johan Sterenberg. History tells us that a drummer would urge the peat labourers to attend church on Sunday.

You'll find several establishments on the way where you will be warmly welcomed and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and sweets.





ROUTE

TO DO TIP

DO YOU WISH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HOOGEVEEN? THEN VISIT, AMONG OTHERS, THE STORIES YARD IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AT THE WILLEMSKADE 27. HERE, YOU'LL FIND THE MUSEUM COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL HOOGEVEEN. AN ALTERNATING SETUP TELLS THE STORY OF HOOGEVEEN ON THE BASIS OF A NUMBER OF MASTERPIECES FROM THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION. ENTRANCE IS FREE.

The Cascade, biggest fountain of our country

When after the Second World War the current Hoofdstraat was nicely drained and paved, everyone was relieved that the mud hole was finally transformed into a modern street and Hoogeveen had become a normal place. Later on many realised that Hoogeveen had lost some of its uniqueness. During one of the many reconstructions of the Hoofdstraat, it was therefore decided to make a great work of art. The Cascade. This artwork by Karin Daan recalls the water that once flowed through the Hoofdstraat. Hoogeveen as a peat colony, with a channel in the middle.



We like to welcome you!
For more information and
routes please visit:

www.drenthe.nl

www.visitweerrribbenwieden.com

www.hetnationaleparkvandrenthe.nl

www.drentsehooglanden.nl

www.zuidwestdrenthe.nl

www.dehoofdletterh.nl

www.meppelstadmetstijl.nl

