



Drenthe

The Netherlands' primeval province

Unspoilt nature

All the space you need
to enjoy

The coolest playground

A new adventure
behind every tree

World heritage

Impressive and
unique stories

Drenthe

Drenthe

The Netherlands' primeval province



When life revolves around overcrowded schedules and being constantly available, it's sometimes good to take a break from the world around you. Back to the basics of what's really important. Spending time together and creating new memories. Waking up in silence. Breakfast overlooking purple, rugged heathlands. Cycling through pristine forest, or hiking across endless sandy plains. Amazing stories and challenging adventures. All this is possible in Drenthe, the Netherlands' primeval province.

A new adventure behind every tree

In Drenthe, you will experience the most exhilarating adventures. Not by looking at a screen, but by going outdoors into nature. Build huts. Defy nature's ruggedness on a mountain bike.

Dance in the rain. Meet shepherds. Get yourself dirty. Climb a tree. Conquer the roller coaster and go in search of pixies. In short, take your time, use the space and accomplish things you have never done before, or haven't done in a long time.

All the space you need to enjoy

Drenthe has no fewer than three National Parks and beautiful nature reserves. You can roam off the beaten track and wander for hours across the Drenthe wilderness without meeting anyone. But nature also offers plenty of opportunities for special encounters and unique experiences. You'll have all the space you need to enjoy yourself when walking or cycling in Drenthe.



Unique and impressive stories

As well as exciting adventures, you will also find some special stories in Drenthe. Take, for example, the story of the hunebeds. Exciting and mysterious. The story of Vincent van Gogh, who sought and found inspiration in Drenthe. The story of the paupers, who were offered the prospect of a better life in the Colonies of Benevolence. Or the gripping story of the hundreds of thousands of Jews, Sinti and Roma, as told in the Camp Westerbork Memorial Centre.

Exceptional overnight stays

When night falls, Drenthe offers the best places for you to count sheep before falling asleep. In a tree house, for example. Or in a lodge, far from civilization. A former jailhouse, a camper van rented from Tralaluna or, perhaps, a house in the grounds of the former colony. However, there are also many opportunities for a 'regular' overnight stay at a campsite or in a holiday park, hotel, or bed and breakfast.



visitdrenthe.com



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The content of this guide has been compiled with great care, however, it remains subject to Covid-19 developments. Please refer to visitdrenthe.com, the app and also the websites of events and companies to keep yourself informed of the most up-to-date information.



Legend

-  Colonies of Benevolence Veenhuizen
-  Drents Museum Assen
-  Hunebed Highway (N34)
-  TT Circuit Assen
-  Hunebed centre Borger
-  Colonies of Benevolence Frederiksoord
-  Memorial Centre Camp Westerbork
-  UNESCO Global Geopark De Hondsrug
-  WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo Emmen
-  Hunebed

In Drenthe you will discover

unspoiled nature



Drenthe offers you space. Space to marvel. Space for great adventures, and space to clear your head. In the heart of Drenthe's nature, you will find peace and quiet. Here you can put the world on hold, and take the time for what's really important: time for each other. Cycle through the woods. Wander over heathlands. Walk across endless sand drifts and swim in azure lakes. Natural in Drenthe. Close to home, yet with that far from home feeling.

"If you know where to look, you'll find beauty is a lot closer than you think."

Discover hidden treasures

Drenthe boasts a landscape brimming with stories. Stories that deserve to be discovered and told. Hit the road with a guide and explore all the hidden treasures the Drenthe countryside has to offer. Visit one of visitor information centres (page 26) for more information on guided tours, itineraries and excursions.

Hunebeds, stories of rituals

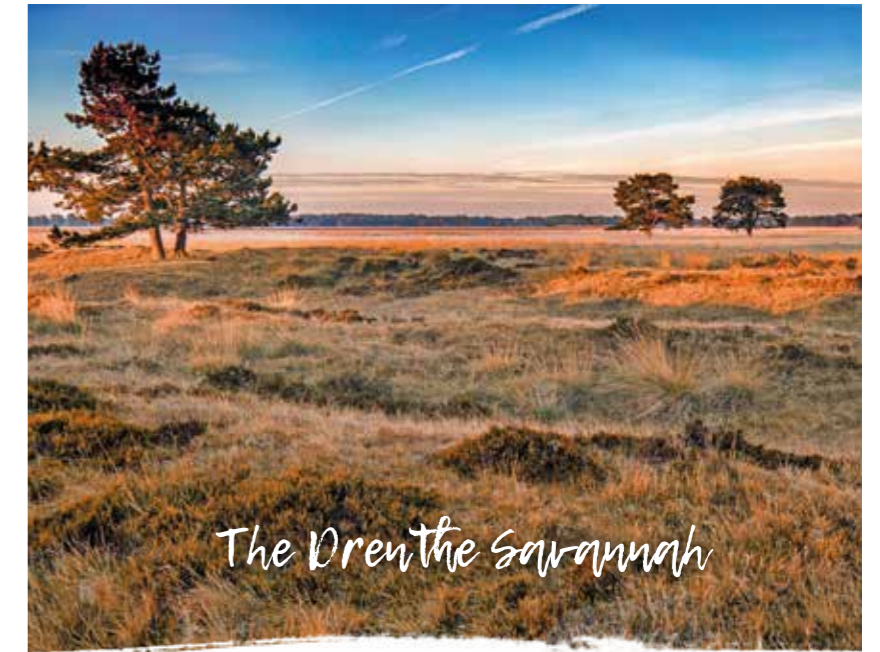
Hunebeds are the oldest monuments in the Netherlands. In Drenthe, there are no fewer than 52, 47 of which are on the Hondsrug. Right in the heart of nature, and accessible to everyone. Hunebeds are built from boulders that were transported to Drenthe during the Ice Age. Want to know more? See page 38 for more information.

Did you know that...

The Drents Heideschaap are the oldest breed of sheep on the mainland of Western Europe?

Counting sheep

Meet the shepherd and his flock, and visit a sheepfold. You'll find 11 sheepfolds in Drenthe. It's a wonderful sight when a few hundred ladies return here or depart for a long day on the heathlands. The grazing sheep make the heath less likely to revert to grassland. By 'pruning' the heather shrubs, the heather stays strong and healthy. The wandering flocks of sheep are a magnificent sight to behold. They are also of great value to both nature conservation and cultural history.



The Drenthe Savannah



Stonehenge in Drenthe



The Provence in Drenthe

National Park

The Dwingelderveld

The spacious, quiet, wet heathland



It's quiet on the Dwingelderveld. Very quiet. Put on your hiking boots and wander through the beautiful nature that surrounds you. The Drentse Heideschapen, the sheep native to the region, are grazing all around you. A pine marten is being given climbing lessons by its parents, and an adder slithers away through the heather. The quietest area in the Netherlands offers you all the space you need to clear your head and recharge your battery.

Silence, vastness, heathland stretching to the horizon, a diverse forest, drifting sand and numerous magnificent ponds. Here, time stands still. You can imagine yourself in another world when you're in the Dwingelderveld, the largest quiet wet heathland area in Western Europe. No wonder there are so many extraordinary plants and animals. This makes the area a paradise for butterflies and reptiles. If you keep very quiet, you'll discover a grass snake or adder slithering away, or hear the unique call of the crane.

Visitor information centre

The visitor information centre at the Benderse in Ruinen is the ideal starting point for exploring the real Drenthe countryside. Many activities are organised here: from early-bird excursions to a morning stroll, finishing the day's walking tour with a hot bowl of thick pea soup. In Ruinen, every morning during the summer months, you can watch as a shepherd takes his sheep from the sheepfold out onto the heath, to return at the end of the afternoon.

- **Dwingelderveld visitor information centre**
Benderse 22, Ruinen



Sheepfolds

To stand among the bleating heathland sheep is an unforgettable experience. There are two sheepfolds in the Dwingelderveld. One is at the Benderse, within walking distance of the Dwingelderveld visitor information centre. The other can be found on the opposite side of this area, at Achter 't Zaand near Lhee. Both flocks are herded by a shepherd. There are also areas of heathland and woodland in the Dwingelderveld where sheep - and cattle - graze without being tended by shepherds. They roam and graze in freedom.

- **Sheepfold: Schaapskooi Ruinen - Benderse 36, Ruinen**
- **Sheepfold: Schaapskooi Lhee - Achter 't Zaand 4, Lhee**

Hans the forester:

'Will you be joining us to spot the Drenthe Big Five in the Dwingelderveld national park?'

(adder, badger, roe deer, crane, Drents Heideschaap sheep)



Tips:

- **Spotting adders sunbathing.**
Your best opportunity for spotting adders is near the radio telescope at the edge of the heath.
- **Discovering the primeval world of OERRR.**
You'll find a nature playground at the Dwingelderveld visitor information centre in Ruinen.
- **Take a walk by the full moon.**
- **An early-bird excursion.**
- Enjoy the view from the **watchtower.**
- Experiencing the unique **Nature Game Drenthe.**
- **Take a walk with friends, family or relatives.**
Noordenveld family hiking trail

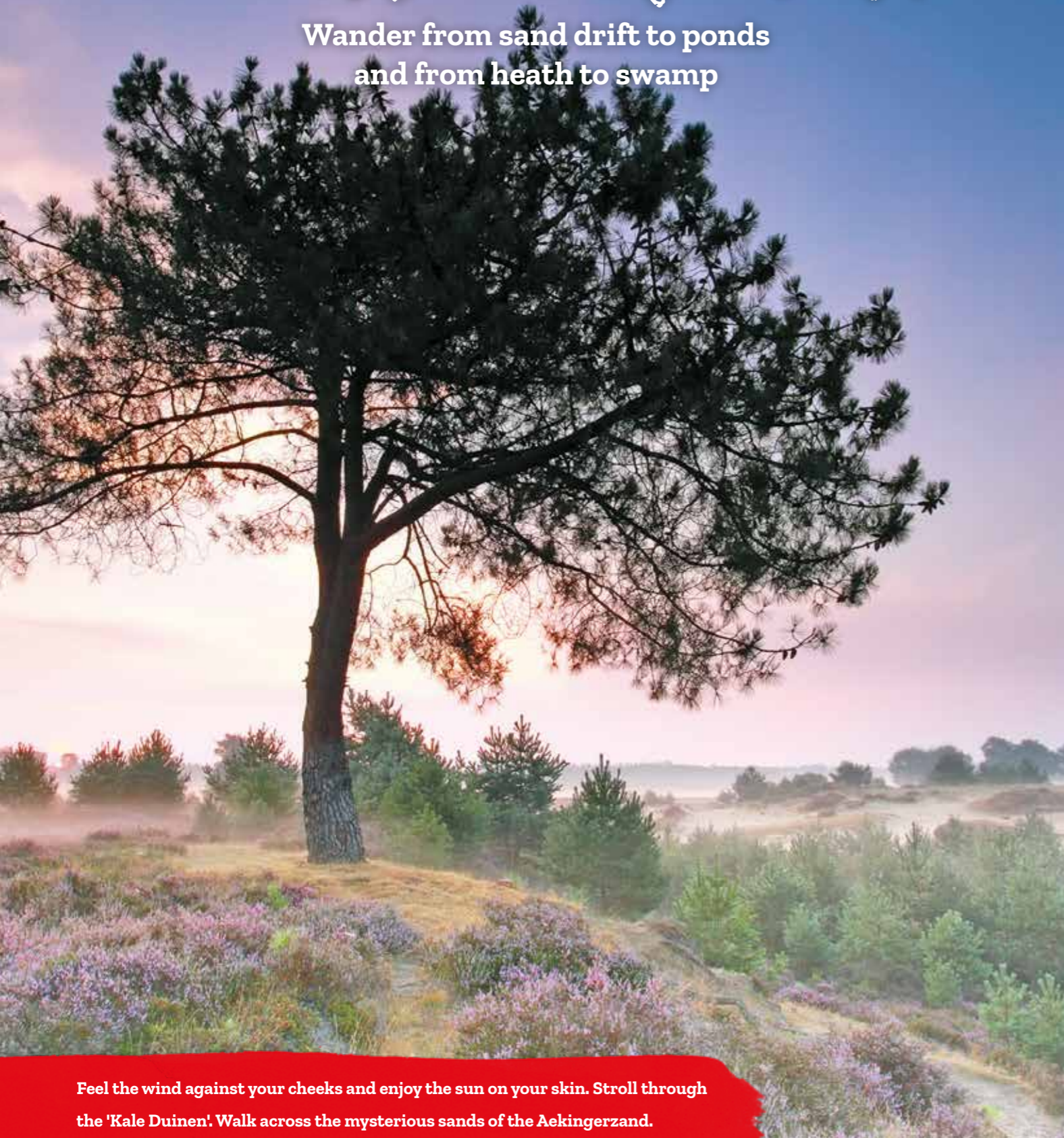
The day of the lambs

In April, Natuurmonumenten, the Dutch Society for Nature Conservation, organises an annual 'day of the lambs' at the sheepfolds in Ruinen and Lhee. Shepherds and volunteers explain all about the flocks, and there are fun wool activities for children, together with petting and cuddling the lambs.

National Park

Drents-Friese Wold

Wander from sand drift to ponds
and from heath to swamp



Feel the wind against your cheeks and enjoy the sun on your skin. Stroll through the 'Kale Duinen'. Walk across the mysterious sands of the Aekingerzand. Enjoy the wild heathlands, and marvel at the ever-changing scenery of one of the largest interconnected nature reserves in the Netherlands.

You can wander through ancient, dense, pine forests. And suddenly the forest gives way to heathland and, before you know it, you find yourself strolling through grasslands dotted with unique plant species. Here and there you'll come across a little hidden pond. Along the Oude Groningerweg you will find the Diever hunebed, near stream valleys shrouded in colourful flowers.

The area is vast. Ideal to explore on horseback, or on your mountain bike. The rugged paths are challenging, but the cool waters of the Canadameer lake awaits after all your exertions. But even by bike or on foot, the Drents-Friese Wold is an amazing experience. Magnificent in all its beauty and variety, truly a Wold without Borders. Visit the outdoor centre to learn about the different routes you can take. There you will find an exhibition and also organised activities for both young and old.

Did you know that the Drents-Friese Wold is one of the darkest places in the Netherlands? On a clear night, as many as 2,900 stars are visible here.

Tips:

- **Familiepad:** a trail for the entire family. Accessible to wheelchair users and people who are blind, partially sighted or deaf.
Starting point: Outdoor centre "Buitencentrum Drents-Friese Wold" in Appelscha.
- **Blotenvoetenpad:** the bare feet trail, shoes off, socks off and keep walking! Feel the sand between your toes, the cool water and the twigs gently snapping under your feet.
Starting point: Outdoor centre "Buitencentrum Drents-Friese Wold" in Appelscha.
- **Horse riding through the Wold:** truly a paradise for horse riding and driving with more than 175 riding and driving routes, various accommodation and facility options.
- **A walk by the full moon.**
- Climb one of the **three watchtowers.**

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An excellent base for various cycling and walking tours:

- **Outdoor Centre "Buitencentrum Drents-Friese Wold"**
Terwisscha 6a, Appelscha
- **Natuurpoort Hoogersmilde**
Bosweg 23a, Hoogersmilde
- **Tourist info Diever:** a short distance from the village of Diever, Bosweg 2a.



The Drents-Friese Wold. One big adrenalin rush!



nationaalpark-drents-friese-wold.nl

National Park Drentsche Aa

Thousands of years of culture
in a world of meandering streams

The streams in the Drentsche Aa National Park meander through an ancient landscape. They are considered to be the only Dutch streams that still largely follow their original meandering course. They take you past beautiful 'esdorpen' and 'brinkdorpen', villages which were built around or situated next to a naturally higher lying field that was, communally cultivated by the villagers, and past prehistoric monuments, and fields. Drentsche Aa National Park is an exceptional national park that has more to offer than nature alone.

Unique flora and fauna

If you want to spot extraordinary inhabitants, then the Drentsche Aa National Park is the right place to be. This is the habitat of, among other species, beavers, kingfishers and meadow brook damselflies. You'll also find beautiful flowers and plants, such as Black Rampions, Sundews, Primroses and Orchids.



"How did the area
become so special?
By keeping
intervention
to a minimum"



The Drentsche Aa National Park is a completely natural and culturally historic landscape that stretches from Groningen to just beyond Westerbork. Here villages, agriculture, stream valleys and nature converge. It is our shared mission to preserve the valuable character of the stream valley landscape, with its typical 'es' and 'brink' villages and sheep-grazing heathlands, for future generations.

"We must all work together", as André Brasse - Communication and Education Co-ordinator of the Drentsche Aa National Park - has so often said. Among other things, he offers comprehensive courses to residents and leisure and hospitality entrepreneurs. According to him, they are the real guardians of the National Park. "It is obvious how beautiful an area is, but when guests are also aware of the story behind it, they are then able to feel it, which makes the experience so much more amazing".

The layers of time are beautifully reflected in the present landscape. It transforms the Drentsche Aa National Park into an 'open history book' about hunebeds, cart ruts, grave mounds, gallows hills and 'markenstenen', boulders that mark the boundaries. Nowhere in the Netherlands will you find so many prehistoric and culturally historic artefacts in such close proximity as in the Drentsche Aa area. In these characteristic 'brink' villages, the old Saxon farms, mills and churches have been preserved.

And even the special flora, including many orchids, are a legacy from the past. Magnificent scenic viewpoints and vistas will ensure the countryside leaves a lasting impression.

André's tip:

Go for a walk or a bike ride around the village of Amen. There are various routes here that will all leave you with memories of an unforgettable National Park experience.

Tips:

- **The Strubben Kniphorstbosch.** Between Anloo and Schipborg. The only archaeological reserve in the Netherlands.
- **The Deurze family hiking trail.** Starting point Toegangspoort Deurze.
- **Balooërveld and sheepfold.** A beautiful expanse of heathland between Gasteren, Rolde and Balloo.
- **Kymmelsberg scenic viewpoint.**
- **Holmers-Halkenbroek watchtower.**



- **Wedbroeken - Tynaarlo**
Car park opposite Veenmeer campsite,
Zuidlaarderweg 37
- **Anloo**
Car park adjacent to De Homanshof, Lunsenhof 20
- **Deurze - Rolde**
Car park behind CR De Aanleg, Asserstraat 63



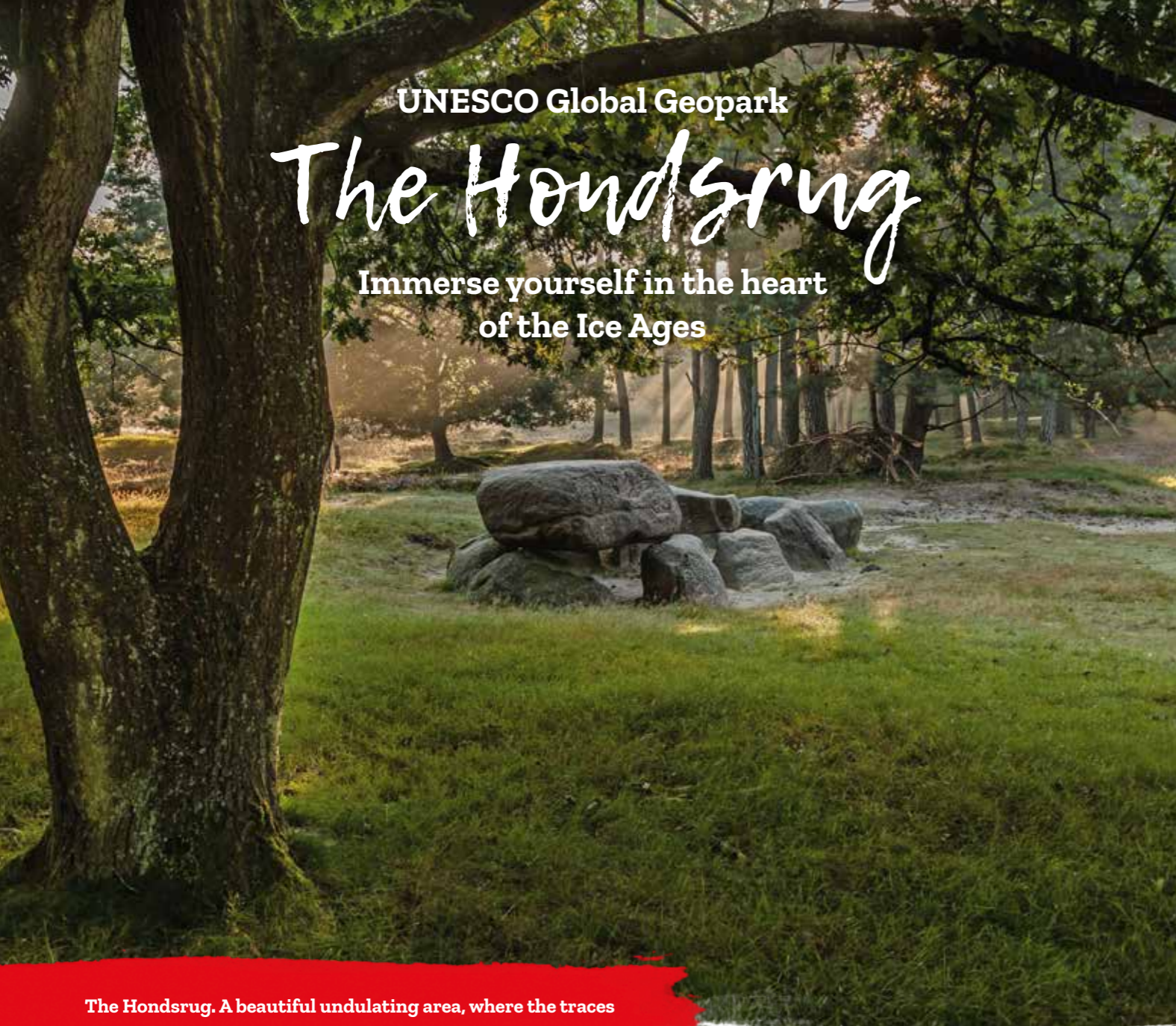
andre_brasse

Andre Brasse works at IVN Regio Noord as Communication and Education Co-ordinator of the Drentsche Aa National Park. He is also known for his stunning nature photography.

UNESCO Global Geopark

The Hondsrug

Immerse yourself in the heart
of the Ice Ages



The Hondsrug. A beautiful undulating area, where the traces of times long gone by, are still visible. The area has its origins in the Ice Age, and the glorious countryside is also home to many hunebeds and burial mounds. The Hondsrug stretches from the city of Groningen to the historic town of Coevorden.

Internationally, the countryside is recognized as being so special that it has been awarded the status of UNESCO Global Geopark. There are 147 Geoparks worldwide, of which the Hondsrug is the only one in the Netherlands. The Hondsrug is a collection of beautiful nature reserves, which include the Drentsche Aa National Park (see page 14), the Drouwenerzand, geological monument the Natura 2000 area of Bargerveen (see page 22) and the Geeserstroem.

Giant ice mass

150,000 years ago, a gigantic mass of ice flattened everything in its way. At the end of the penultimate ice age, the Hondsrug area was created by a fast-flowing ice river. Ice and slush kneaded

and sculpted the landscape into perpendicular ridges and lows. Stream valleys, such as the Hunze and the Drentsche Aa, were formed in the lower areas. This formation process is unique in the world.



Of the 52 hunebeds in Drenthe, no fewer than 47 can be found on the Hondsrug.

Hunebeds

The oldest monuments in the Netherlands are to be found in Drenthe - the hunebeds! These rugged, prehistoric tombs, ingeniously built from large boulders, originate from the Ice Age. No fewer than 52 of the 54 hunebeds in the country can be found in Drenthe, 47 of them on the Hondsrug along the N34. This is why the road between Groningen and Coevorden has been named the Hunebed Highway. Do you want to learn more about hunebeds? Visit the Hunebed information centre in Borger. This capital of hunebeds has no fewer than 11 hunebeds, including the largest, numbered D27. Did you know that each hunebed has a number, and only one has a proper name? That's De Papenloze Kerk hunebed near Schoonoord.



**70 kilometres long,
20 metres above sea level**

The Hondsrug area is 70 kilometres long. It runs from the centre of Groningen to Coevorden and the Bargerveen below Emmen. The Hondsrug has an average height of 20 metres above sea level. The Haantjeduin in the Emmerdennen, at a height of 26.5 metres, is the highest natural point in Drenthe. To the east, the Hondsrug borders the low-lying Hunzedal valley. Although the steep eastern slope can be seen from anywhere, the best vantage point is between Gieten and Annen.

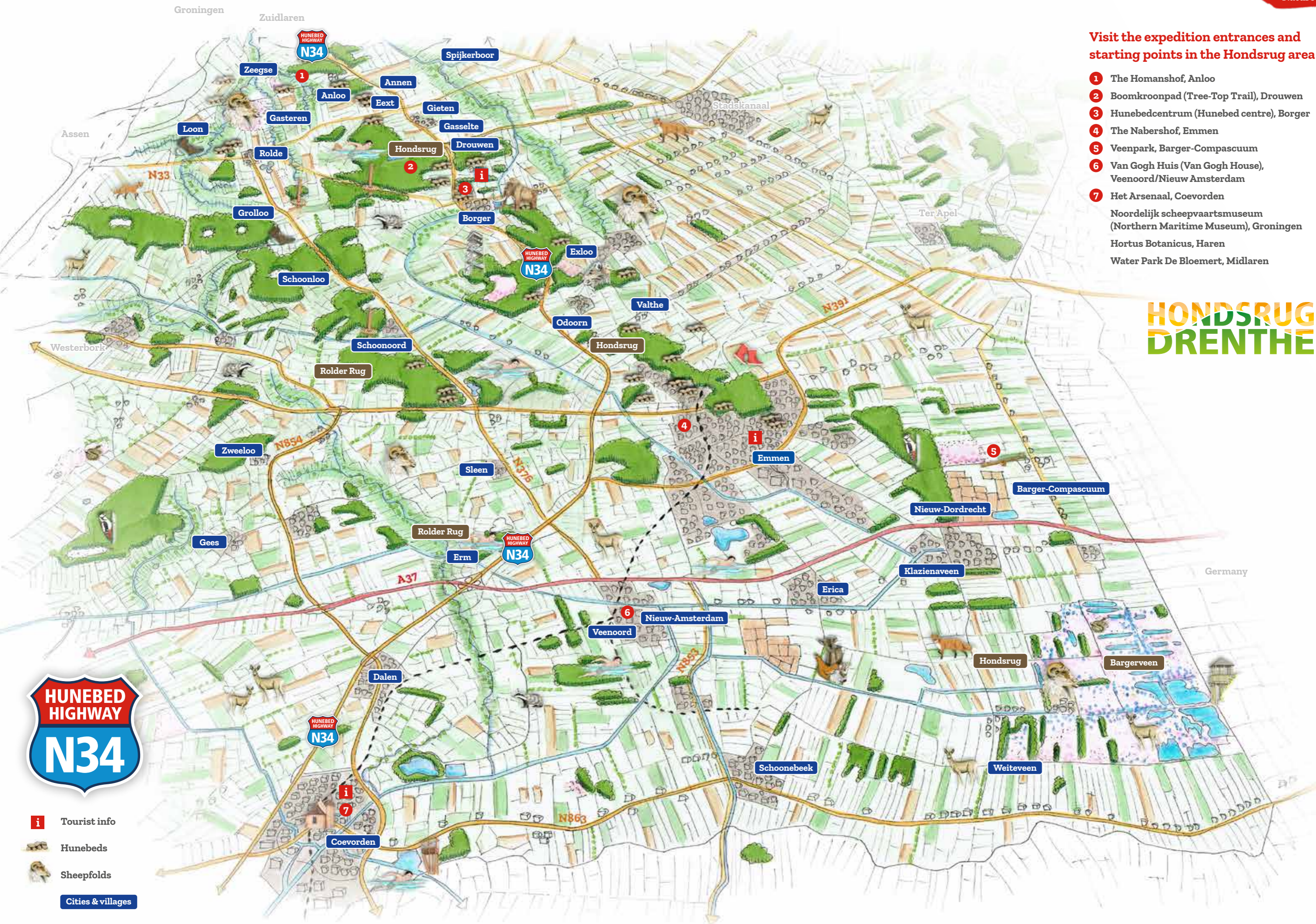


Sabeltandtigerspoor

Follow in the paw-prints of the sabre-toothed tiger, or travel 470,000 years back in time with VR glasses. These glasses can also be used for the Tijdreisroute Leewal. More information via the TIP offices.

Experience the stories!

- **Start your expedition from one of the expedition entrances or starting points.** See page 19
- **Hunebedcentrum Borger** See pages 33 & 61
- **Ellert & Brammert Open Air Museum** See pages 33 & 61
- **Stedelijk Museum Coevorden** See page 81.



Visit the expedition entrances and starting points in the Hondsrug area

- 1 The Homanshof, Anloo
 - 2 Boomkroonpad (Tree-Top Trail), Drouwen
 - 3 Hunebedcentrum (Hunebed centre), Borger
 - 4 The Nabershof, Emmen
 - 5 Veenpark, Barger-Compascuum
 - 6 Van Gogh Huis (Van Gogh House), Veenoord/Nieuw Amsterdam
 - 7 Het Arsenal, Coevorden
- Noordelijk scheepvaartsmuseum (Northern Maritime Museum), Groningen
 Hortus Botanicus, Haren
 Water Park De Bloemert, Midlaren

HONDSRUG DRENTHE



- i** Tourist info
- Hunebeds
- Sheepfolds
- Cities & villages**

Even more...

Space to enjoy!



Drenthe has space. So much space that, in addition to the three National Parks, there are also many other nature reserves. Each nature reserve has its own character and story. Go to one of the visitor information centres to find out more about the area.

Holtingerveld

The Holtingerveld near Havelte is a unique place, and is definitely worth a visit if you are staying in the neighbourhood. The most striking is the Havelterberg, with two large hunebeds at the foot of the hill.

This 19-metre-high hill was formed during the ice age. From the top of the hill you have a wonderfully panoramic view over the heathlands. If you look more closely, you will also see

unusual small ponds on the hill. These are bomb craters from the Second World War. In fact, the area was intensively bombed by the Allies, as the Germans were building an airfield nearby. The traces are still visible in the landscape. Tip: at the visitor information centre, ask for the special Ice & War hiking routes.



Toegangspoort Holtingerveld (Access Point)
Van Helomaweg 18, Havelte | holtingerveld.nl



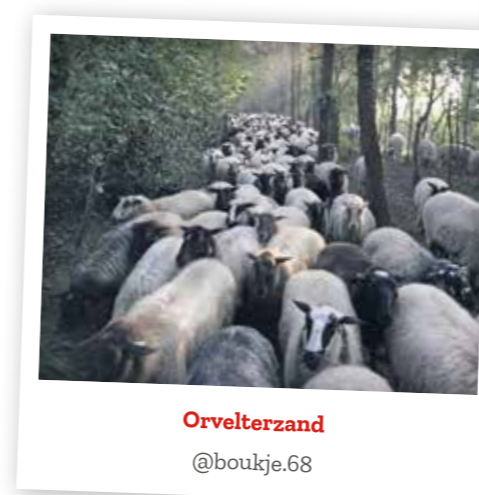
Gees Forestry
 @roel_puurnatuurfotografie



Doldersummerveld
 @ben_thomassen_fotografie



Fochteloërveen
 @noellezweers



Orvelterzand
 @boukje.68



Exloo Forestry
 @uit_drenthe



Noordsche Veld
 @jan_r_ubels

The Onlanden

Sandwiched between the sand of Drenthe and the clay of Groningen, there lies a particularly wet peat bog area, the 'Onland'. Hardy hayfields, waving reeds and a swamp forest are what characterises this area, which was originally a water storage site and has grown into a vast recreational nature reserve. Winding paths beside the streams, and lakes that invite you to take a brisk walk or a bike ride. The genuine experience is, of course, to be found on the water, in a canoe, boat or on a fashionable SUP. The Leekstermeer, a lake surrounded by reed-covered shores and wooded banks, is the perfect place for a glorious day on the water. In the Kop van Drenthe, in the North, there are many varied landscapes within only a few dozen kilometres.



De Onlanderij - Madijk 1, Eelderwolde
There are signs from the Borchsingel to De Onlanderij information point

Residents

Otters, snipe,
 'blue' moor frogs,
 sand martins,
 and corncrakes.

Reestdal

An ancient, unique, unspoiled and mysterious stream valley on the border of the provinces of Drenthe and Overijssel. The landscape is characterised by forest, heathland, hay meadows and old farmhouses. Here, some very special plants and animals are to be found, such as hollowroot, badgers, roe deer and, amazingly, many storks. You can hear them flapping their wings in De Lokkerij stork facility. Another enjoyable place to start your cycling and hiking routes is the Landgoederen De Wijk country estate, 10 km along the boundary between Drenthe and Overijssel. At the entrance to de Reest, near De Wijk, there is the country estate De Havixhorst, with its atmospheric restaurant and renowned sculpture garden. A wonderful place to start or end your adventure!



Information centre 't Ende - Stapelerweg 20, De Stapel



Share your photos!

Did you take a beautiful photo of Drenthe's scenery? Post it to Instagram using hashtag **#Oerdrenthe** and who knows, you might see your photograph on our Instagram account **@Oerdrenthe**



Watch out!

Drenthe has a total of 17 watchtowers. The De Onlanden watchtower is located at Noorddijk 1 in Peize.

Unspoilt nature

Extraordinary peat bog



At one time, half of the Netherlands was covered by impenetrable bog. From the seventeenth century onwards, peat was extracted on a large scale. It was dried into turf and many households used it as their main fuel. Gradually, peat disappeared across most of the Netherlands. Thanks to the efforts of various nature organisations, there are still a number of peat moors in Drenthe that can be enjoyed to this day.

International Nature Park Veenland - Bargerveen

The Bargerveen is a Natura 2000 area, and is part of the Veenland nature reserve. A vestige of the Boertangermoeras marsh, which at one time covered 300,000 hectares! It is now a small, but exceptional area with almost 300 species of birds, 40 species of dragonflies, 30 species of butterflies and almost 900 moths. You will also come across adders and carnivorous plants. Looking for a unique experience? Walk across the suspended bog path, or take the Veenland Express Huifkartocht horse and cart trip run by Staatsbosbeheer, the government organisation for Forestry.

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The core area of the Bargerveen - 180 hectares - is only accessible for excursions. Other than that, Bargerveen is accessible all year round by keeping to the roads and paths. From the Netherlands side, it can be accessed from 5 different car parks:

- Meerwijk Noordzijde & Hogeweg, Zwartemeer
- Ambachtsweg & Zusterweg, Weiteveen (Sheepfold / Veenloopcentrum)
- Zuidersloot, Weiteveen (Bargerveen Zuid)

Did you know that...

the largest sheepfold in the Netherlands is in Bargerveen? There is enough space for 1,000 sheep!
**Ambachtsweg 4,
 Weiteveen**

Back to the days of old: Veenpark

In the Barger-Compascuum Veenpark Open Air Museum, the history of Drenthe's peat is brought to life. You drive and sail through romantic villages and a natural peat bog area with real peat excavations. The baker, the grocer, the clogmaker and the peat cutter are at work every day. The museum park can be experienced on foot, or by peat train and/or peat barge. Super fun for a wonderful day out!



The Yde girl

Several bodies have been found buried in Drenthe's peat. The bodies had been preserved in the bog since the Bronze and Iron Ages. These prehistoric finds now feature as major exhibits in the archaeological collection of the Drents Museum. The most famous is the Yde girl, who died an unnatural death. This bog body and the reconstruction of her head can be seen in the Drents Museum. drentsmuseum.nl/en

Tip:

Hiking route 'De Oude bossen op het Hollandsche Veld' (6 km). Start at the Plan Schoonhoven car park.

Hoogeveen

This city's name clearly shows its links with the original peat landscape. The original peat landscape was desolate, rough, wet and unfit for habitation. When the demand for fuel from Dutch towns increased in the seventeenth century, Drenthe became the land of the brown gold, with the highly sought-after peat. Consequently, large parts of south-east Drenthe were drained and the peat extracted. Hoogeveen developed and, due to the Hoogeveen canal, it played an important part in the transport of peat to the west of the Netherlands (more information on page 78).

Tip:



Sailing on the Veenvaart

Why not spend a day sailing? The Veenvaart is a water route from Erica to Ter Apel. Rent a boat or book an organised sailing activity to enjoy the extraordinary peat landscape.

Fochteloërveen

The Kop van Drenthe in the north, near Veenhuizen, is the location of a special peat bog area: the Fochteloërveen. The unspoilt nature, solitude, space and views are truly un-Dutch. A walking and cycling path takes you through unspoilt nature, where rare peat plants and cotton grass grow, to De Zeven watchtower. The view here is stunning! You may even see the cranes that have chosen the Fochteloërveen as their breeding ground.

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Visitor information centre
 Fochteloërveen 8, Fochtelo

visitdrenthe.com/nature



Experience the space

Stargazing

Evening falls. It is night time in Drenthe. And very dark. Inside it's warm and cosy, but outside the sky is amazing. A sky full of beautiful stars that bring light in the darkness. The clean air and low level of pollution have made Drenthe a favourite with astronomers. There is a very good reason why ASTRON, the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy, is located on the edge of the Dwingelderveld.

Dwingelderveld night walk

Rustling. It feels very close. You sharpen your ears. Is that a roe deer, or maybe a badger? In most nature reserves, you are not allowed to visit between sunset and sunrise, however in the Dwingelderveld, the Dutch Society for Nature Conservation has laid out a special nighttime walking route.

When walking in the dark, you can hear the call of a tawny owl. Frogs are performing their concert, and as night draws to an end and day breaks, patches of fog drift over the heathland. Is that what they call the 'white wives'? Discover nature's nightlife, it's a unique experience. Starting point for this night walk is the car park of Beleefpark Dwingeloo, Anserpad 2 in Dwingeloo. Bring a torch, it's handy to have, but try to use it as little as possible.

Tip for children:

Explore the Open Science Hub at the Brink 4b in Dwingeloo. Or you immerse yourself in the Indoor Play Area - entirely decorated in the theme of stars and planets - from campsite RCN de Noordster.

Tip:

Take a walk in the dark by the canals of Meppel and admire the five illuminated bridges that contribute to the special atmosphere of this remarkable little town.

Did you know that...

from some places in Drenthe you can see as many as 2,900 stars? On a dark night in the city, you would see only about 50.

Radio telescope

The Dwingeloo Radio Telescope, opened in 1956, has been a national monument since 2009. It is one of the world's oldest and most internationally famous radio telescopes. The radio telescope, with an amazing diameter of 25 metres, is located in a radio interference-free zone in the middle of the Dwingelderveld National Park. You can't miss it - guaranteed! For passers-by, there are information signs near the telescope. The CAMRAS Foundation regularly organises public activities, and interested groups can request a guided tour.

Melkwegpad

If you want to have an idea of the vastness of our planetary system, take a walk along the Melkwegpad (Milky Way Trail). You will pass enormous telescopes and learn the secrets of the universe, and so much more. The Melkwegpad can be found in Hooghalen near the Memorial Center Camp Westerbork, and is accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs.

LOFAR Exloo

Lofar is a radio telescope comprising of hundreds of small antennae. Collectively, these antennae are known as LofarZone. The central point is located on an earth mound between Exloo and Buinen. There are guided tours available to view in this beautiful area.

Playing tough in nature

Are you coming to play outside?



Get off the couch! There is much more to experience outside than you can imagine. Put down those screens and go outside for an adventure. Balance on a tree trunk above the water. Jump from boulder to boulder. Crawl through a tunnel of blackberry bushes, and climb stairs made of tree trunks. In Drenthe, there's a new adventure hiding behind every tree.

Visitor information centres with natural playgrounds

A trip to a visitor information centre is always a good idea. For children there is plenty to discover, both indoors and outdoors. There is much that can be learned through play. The managing nature organisations also organise fun activities and excursions.



- Visitor information centre Dwingelderveld - Benderse 22, Ruinen
- Toegangspoort Holtingerveld - Van Helomaweg 18, Havelte
- Visitor information centre Drents Friese Wold - Terwisscha 6a, Appelscha
- Buitencentrum Boomkroonpad - Steenhopenweg 4, Drouwen
- Visitor information centre De Onlanderij - Madijk 1, Eelderwolde
- Visitor information centre Natuurplaats Noordsche Veld - Donderseweg 22, Norg



5x Natural playgrounds and woods for playing

- Natuurplaats Noordsche Veld - Norg
- Griendtsveenpark - Erica
- Boomkroonpad - Drouwen
- Wereld van Oerrr - Ruinen
- Beleefpark - Dwingeloo

5x Family hiking trails

Throughout Drenthe, you will find paved footpaths suitable for prams, walking frames and wheelchairs:

- Familiepad Drentsche Aa - Toegangspoort Deurze
- Familiepad en kabouterpad - Emmerdennen
- Melkwegpad - Hooghalen
- Familiepad Noordenveld - Lhee
- Familiepad Spier - Natuurpoort Spier

5x Adventure trails

Fun, short routes through nature, interspersed with fun for children:

- Houten Pad van Theodoor - Orvelte
- Tijdreisroute Leewal - Exloo
- Belevingspad - Hoogersmilde
- 't Roekpad - Echten
- Struin- en duinpad - Norg

Cool outdoor games map

Ask for this free map at a Tourist Info Centre or at your accommodation address.

The Drenthe Nature Game

It's a fairy tale, it's a fun game, and educational lesson in nature. But a really fun one! That's The Nature Game! You can play it in the Dwingelderveld National Park. In this game, you'll discover things that you would normally never be able to see. You'll be walking over a treasure map and the compass will show you the way. You'll discover what's usually hidden from an ordinary hiker, and learn all there is to know in the most fun way possible, through videos, riddles and interactive games. This unforgettable experience turns nature into an interactive voyage of discovery. The story is unique, and this is the only site where you can experience it. thenaturegame.nl/en
Starting point The Nature Game Drenthe, Postweg 12, Spier



Climbing Parks and the Tree-Top Trail

Up the tree!



Tip:

Spend the night in a top location! There are 9 locations in Drenthe where you can spend the night in a luxury tree house.

High up in the trees, with the world at your feet. Hectic everyday life seems miles away, and the adventurer in you is awakened. So go on, up the tree! And there are many ways you can do that in Drenthe. Just think of the climbing parks, climbing woods, tree houses to sleep in and even a treetop trail, the Boomkroonpad. These are all the height of adventure!

Climbing woods & climbing parks

In Drenthe, you can climb the tree! Experience the toughest tree-top walks, and swing through the air like Tarzan. Let the adrenaline rush through your body. This is all about playing outside! Make sure you don't miss out on a day of climbing and clambering during your holiday. There are several locations in Drenthe where you'll find challenging climbing parks, which are fun for the whole family.

5x Climbing Parks

- Klimbos & Beleefpark Joytime - Grolloo
- Klimbos & Klimpark - Appelscha
- Klimbos - Veenhuizen
- Klimpark Hesselingen - Meppel
- Kuierpad Outdoor Drenthe - Wezuperbrug

Boomkroonpad (Tree-top Trail)

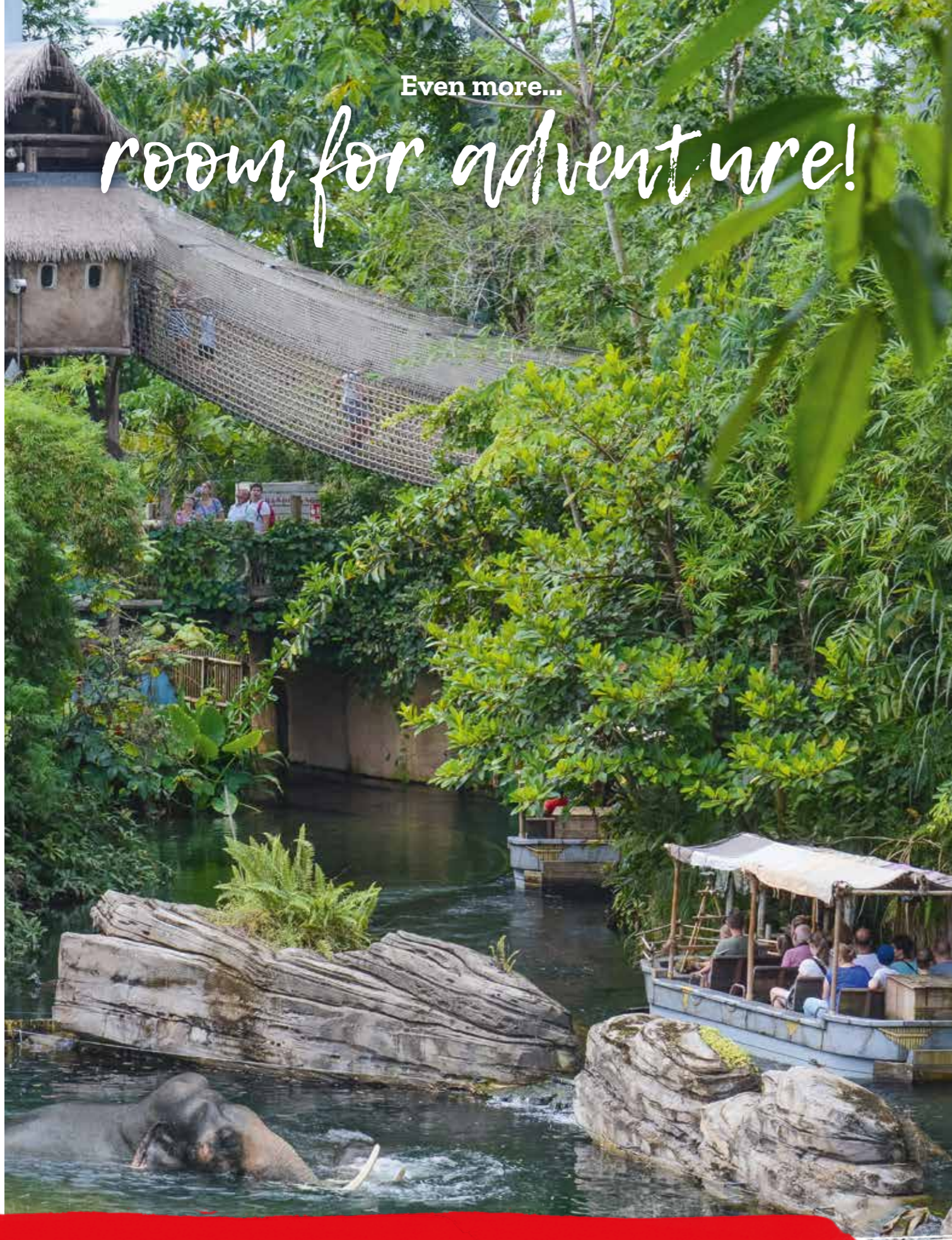
Is a climbing park a little too exciting, but you still want to see the woods over the trees? Then the tree-top trail in Drouwen is highly recommended. You'll find this attractive hiking trail, with its watchtower and fun adventure woods, in Lorken near the visitor information centre of the Gieten-Borger national forest. **Buitencentrum Boomkroonpad - Steenhopeweg 4 Drouwen**



Take a walk among the tree tops

Even more...

room for adventure!



Butterflies in your tummy. Buckling knees and a pounding heart. A ride on the roller coaster. Are you up for it? Rest assured. If you'd rather keep both feet on the ground, you'll find plenty of adventure there too. Go on a journey around the world. Dance with Bumba. Listen to the hunebed builders or visit the pixies.

Which adventure will you choose? Amusement park or zoo?

WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo Emmen 🐾

In WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo Emmen, you can go on a world trip in one single day. Come face to face with a polar bear. Climb the rope bridges in the jungle and say hello to the monkeys. Or take a wild ride on the roller coaster.

Drouwenezand Attractiepark 🎡

Do a loop, or spin, or do both at the same time. This park is a paradise for children who want to swing and sway all day long. Easy for parents to supervise, so they can enjoy a relaxing day out as well! Drouwenezand has an all inclusive package which includes food, drinks and ice creams.

Speelboerderij De Drentse Koe 🐄

Selected by the ANWB as the Best Drenthe Outing 2020. Playing inside and outside at De Drentse Koe will let you experience in a fun way what it's like to be a farmer. There are air trampolines, cool slides, a play centre and even a climbing frame adventure in the cowshed. From mid-July to the end of October, there is also an interactive corn labyrinth. drentsekoe.nl

Zoo Bizar 🐍

Freek Vonks... Attention! Animal lovers must visit Zoo Bizarre in Orvelte. You can pet a skunk or hold a real snake! A unique location in the Netherlands, where you will encounter the most 'tropical surprises' in the shape of animals. We dare you!

Plopsa Indoor Coevorden 🎪

Become enchanted by the magical world of Studio 100. Come face to face with your heroes! Bumba, Maya the Bee and Mega Mindy. You'll be able to meet them right here. Take an exciting ride on the Wickiebaan, defy the rough sea, climb the Plops Play Tree or glide through the air in a K3 glider. plopsaindoorcoevorden.nl/en



Fairy tales?



Rijk der Kabouters Eext

Stroll along winding paths among the pixies that live here. Along the way, you'll find many tales, poems and facts about pixies.

Sprookjeshof Zuidlaren

Do you remember them? Fairy tales and playground equipment of the past? Rain or shine: all day long children can play, climb and enjoy themselves in the fairytale forest, in the playground, the indoor play paradise and the petting zoo.



Kabouterland Exloo

Experience a day out with pixies, trolls and animals. There is an array of playgrounds, both indoors and outdoors.

Cowboys & Indianen Coevorden

Playing and romping in the most enjoyable and exciting indoor and outdoor playground in Drenthe.

Or real stories?



Openluchtmuseum Ellert & Brammert

This open-air museum employs different ways of showing how the inhabitants of Drenthe lived in the past. The common thread is the legend of the two giants that lived here: Ellert and Brammert. Rough guys, who made a subterranean hut under the vast heathland now known as Ellertsveld. ellertenbrammert.nl/en



Hunebedcentrum Borger

Go back 150,000 years in time to see how the funnel-beaker people lived. In the primeval Oertijdpark, a Prehistoric Park, you can walk through the Neanderthal camp, through a reindeer hunter's hut, burial mounds and peat roads, past a hunebed towards a prehistoric village. Primeval people demonstrate how to make fire, cook, work with wood, and much more. hunebedcentrum.eu/en

Veenpark, Barger-Compascuum

Discover the Veenpark peat bog park by steam train or peat barge, and experience how life was lived in the peat villages. You'll see everyone at work. The miller, the baker, the blacksmith and the wooden shoe maker. And in the grocery shop, you can taste the old-fashioned sweets. Enquire about the digital treasure hunt. Super fun!

Gevangenis museum Veenhuizen

There has always been crime and punishment. However, the way in which criminals are punished, has changed considerably over the centuries. In the Prison Museum you can explore everything about punishment in both the past and the present. gevangenis museum.nl

Orvelte

Yet another village that will take you back in time. The lively village of Orvelte with its historic buildings, is a car-free brink village where people still live and work. Fun for children and adults. Among other attractions, there is the special Crafts Garden for playtime entertainment, and a visit to Zoo Bizar should not be missed. The Houten pad van Theodoor starts just outside Orvelte. orvelte.net/english

Off the beaten track

Nature trips & safaris



Discover the Drenthe wilderness. This is the place to take a break from the world around you, far off the beaten track. Arrange a trip with a forester or a guide. Immerse yourself in nature. Learn, enjoy and let your senses do all the work. An experience never to be forgotten.



On the road with the Eko-Explorer

From the heart of De Hondsrug Eko-Tours offers adventurous trips with the Eko-Explorer. Under the leadership of an expert guide, you can drive through this beautiful area in a 100% electric off-road vehicle and learn all about nature and historical sights. You can go to locations you would not otherwise be allowed to visit! Would you prefer to be out on your own? Go for a ride with the Eko-Choppers from the same organisation. eko-tours.nl/english

Would you like to have the same kind of experience, only in the Drents Friese Wold? Take a look at the Outdoor Point Vledder activities.

Canoeing on the Hunze

Float and meander along the winding Hunze. A canoe will take you to the most beautiful locations. Look for the tracks of beavers, otters, roe deer, foxes and martens. Along the way, you'll come across such birds as harriers, hawks and egrets. With a bit of luck you may even spot a white-tailed eagle!

Go on a cow safari

BoerenBeef organises cow safaris from July to October. "This is a unique opportunity to take a closer look at cows in the nature reserve and to learn all about them".

The 'Big Five'

During this cycling trip, get to know Drenthe's living cultural heritage, and spot The Big Five of Drenthe: The Drents Heideschaap sheep, the Dutch Landgeit goat, the Groninger Blaarkop cow, the Drents Hoen fowl and the Bonte Bentheimer pig.



Outdoor group outings

Drenthe offers the ultimate outdoor experience for groups. From bushcraft and/or caving to survival adventures; from obstacle courses to mountain biking or old-fashioned scooters. There are a number of outdoor experts in Drenthe, ready to put together an amazing programme specially for you.

5x Outdoor outings

- Taribush
- 25° Noord
- Breeland Recreatie
- Joytime Vrijtijdsactiviteiten
- Sportlandgoed Zwartemeer

Tip:

Take a jeep safari around the Geeserstroom with Avontuurlijk Gees.



Go on a voyage of discovery around the nature in Drenthe

Which animals can you spot? Tick them off on this map. Good luck!



Squirrel



Butterfly



Drenthe Heath Sheep



Roe deer



Scottish Highlander



Badger



Sand lizard



Fox



Adder



Hare



Beaver



Green tiger beetle



Little Owl



Woodpecker



Buzzard

Drenthe icons

Hunebeds



When you think of Drenthe, you think of hunebeds. The oldest monuments in the Netherlands. You can't go home without taking pictures of the hunebeds. Fortunately, a hunebed is never far away. Drenthe has no fewer than 52 hunebeds, most of which can be found on the Hondsrug (see page 16).

Hunebeds are a legacy of the Ice Age. Large boulders were left behind after the ice melted, and used for ingeniously built burial chambers - the hunebeds -. Traces of rituals have been found near the hunebeds. Music and fire were part of these ceremonies. And there was most probably also food and drink.

Borger Hunebed capital

Do you want to know a lot more about the hunebeds? You are welcome in Borger. There you will find no fewer than 11 hunebeds, including the largest in the whole of the Netherlands. The largest is no less than 23 metres long, and is a stone's throw from the Hunebed centre.



Hunebed Highway

Most of the 52 hunebeds in the Netherlands can be found on the Hondsrug. Near the N34, from Coevorden to Groningen, you will find 47 of the 52 Drenthe hunebeds. This explains why the road was renamed the Hunebed Highway in 2018.

Unique in the Netherlands!

The long grave hunebed in Emmen. It consists of two small hunebeds, one behind the other, inside a wide circle of large boulders measuring 40 metres in length and 7 metres wide.

Discover the mystery of the hunebeds at the Hunebed centre

Imagine you have travelled back to prehistoric times and can interact with the hunebed builders. Apart from an interesting exhibition about 150,000 years of the Hondsrug history, outdoors you will come face to face with primeval man. Take a walk along the peat roads and burial mounds to reach the prehistoric village. During weekends and school holidays, this village comes to life. Strike a spark, and see how to work flint, and smell the aroma of prehistoric cooking.

hunebedcentrum.eu/en



More fun! Oermuseum Diever

Smaller in size, but also surprisingly fun, is the Oermuseum, the Prehistoric Museum in Diever. In this brink village and also in the nearby village of Havelte, you can find the three hunebeds of the South West Drenthe region. Combine a visit to this museum with an Ice Age walk over the Holtingerveld and the Havelterberg. At the foot of this hill, you'll find two more hunebeds. Starting point at the Toegangspoort Holtingerveld.



Hunebed facts

Hunebeds were used as burial chambers. The deceased were accompanied by grave goods, such as jewellery, axes, spearheads and earthenware pots containing food and drink.

Because it was almost impossible to imagine that hunebeds were created by human hands, people used to think that they were made by giants - huynen -. The name hunebed was derived from this word.

Hunebeds were built by the Funnel-Beaker people. Contrary to what you might think, they were not very tall, standing no taller than 1.65 metres. They could stand upright in the burial chamber of a hunebed.

visitdrenthe.com/hunebeds

Experience authentic Drenthe

Just like old times



As if time has stood still. The beautiful, authentic brink villages of Drenthe still exude a countryside atmosphere. The centres of these villages lie on a sand ridge. You will find cosy village squares of grassland with oak trees, surrounded by thatched farmhouses and a church. Stroll through the picturesque streets, visit the village shops and enjoy a good glass of wine on a terrace.

'Brink' villages

In all of Drenthe you will find many cosy 'brink' villages such as Dwingeloo, Ruinen, Havelte and Diever and on the Hondsrug there are even more than 30 (see pages 18-19). The 'Brink' was once where the shepherds returned with their sheep at the end of the day. Over time, inns were established on the farms, and these have since evolved into atmospheric catering establishments. The authentic 'brink' villages are still the place to go for a relaxing snack or drink on a cosy terrace.

Zuidlaren

Zuidlaren has most 'brinks' in Drenthe, the village has no fewer than seven! There used to be 13. Many markets are found on the main 'brink', including the famous Zuidlaardermarkt. Zuidlaren is also known for an old Dutch children's song 'Berend Botje', written as early as 1894. You can find the original statue of Berend Botje in Museum de Wachter, and a replica can be found in the centre.



Ot and Sien

Pay a visit to the Scheepstra Kabinet in Roden, where you can learn more about the old-fashioned school days of 'Ot and Sien'.



Orvelte the village of historic buildings

Would you like to experience farm life from days of old? If so, pay a visit to the village of Orvelte with its historic buildings, and where ordinary people live and work. The cosy and nostalgic village of Orvelte is where you can immerse yourself in history. Entering the village along old cobblestone roads, you are surrounded by the attractive historic farmhouses and houses, interspersed with stately trees. Orvelte resembles a living history book with a

contemporary interpretation. Among other things, there's a sheepfold, an old-Dutch sweet shop and a dairy. Why not pay a visit to Zoo Bizar, a small zoo where you can admire small - exotic - animal species in a special setting. Would you like to enjoy Orvelte for a little longer? Why not stay the night in one of the attractive lodgings in the village.

orvelte.net/english

Did you know that...

Orvelte is completely car free?



visitdrenthe.com/culture

Back in time

A rich history



Step into a different world and go back in time. "Everything here is still as it used to be". These words are often heard. The villages of Drenthe are charming, with their stately farmhouses, Gothic churches and stately homes that adorn the landscape like pearls.

Combined with its untouched nature, the landscape forms one huge fairytale backdrop, making it ideal for a wonderful cycling or walking tour. Would you like to know more about the stories and life behind the stately driveways and tall windows? Stop off, and submerge yourself in the era of carriages and noblewomen.

Havezathe Mensinge Museum

This stately home in Roden was a privately owned property until 1985. The house, its inventory and the surroundings reflect the long history of the stately home of Havezathe, 1381. Anyone visiting Mensinge will be immersed in the lives of its former occupants, and discover how life in a stately home in Drenthe used to be.



Country Estate Belt

In the north of Drenthe, there is a unique belt of country estates around Eelde-Paterswolde. This belt consists of seventeen different 18th and 19th century country estates, manors, mansions and villas. The houses were built by rich Groninger inhabitants, the 'stadgers'. They enjoyed Drenthe's countryside, while still being close to their beloved city. The special 'Eelde country estate' hiking route of 17 km takes you through this 'affluent' area.

Tip:

Hiking route country estates
"Landgoederen De Wijk".
Starting point at Château
De Havixhorst.



'Classy' accommodation

If you are looking for a classy overnight stay, then Drenthe offers plenty of opportunities. Stately buildings, an old castle, beautiful country estates. Everything arranged to perfection, hospitality at its best. And at night you'll be sleeping in the most comfortable bed. Indulge yourself, or surprise someone else with an overnight stay at De Jufferen Lunsingh, Chateauhotel De Havixhorst, among others, or the castle Kasteel Coevorden / Hotel De Vlijt.

'Doll's House' Drents Museum

The 'Poppenhuis' or 'Doll's House' will take you back to 18th century Drenthe. A time when wigs were in fashion and there was no electricity. Communication took place via carrier pigeons and etiquette prevailed. A visit to this house is an historic encounter with the world of 250 years ago. An experience for young and old that you won't easily forget!
drentsmuseum.nl/en

Overcingel Stately Residence - Assen

An oasis in the centre of Assen. The Overcingel stately residence is surrounded by five-hectares of English landscape garden. The park was built around 1820 with an elongated water feature, known as the Grand Canal. Adjacent to the shrub garden, whose paths lead out onto a central square like in a star-shaped forest, and where birdsong can be heard continuously, there is a richly flowering magical garden with two beautiful ponds. The woods are of the old Drenthe species: oak and holly. A hiking map is for sale during office hours from the Drents Landschap at Kloosterstraat 5 in Assen.

visitdrenthe.com/culture

Becoming a world heritage site

Welcome to the colonies



The Colonies of Benevolence. A story about 100,000 poor people, vagrants and paupers from the cities who were given a chance to achieve a better life in Drenthe. An extraordinary history, which has left its mark.

In the area around Veenhuizen, Willemsoord and Frederiksoord you are propelled back to the early nineteenth century, when General Johannes van den Bosch founded the vagrant colonies. 'Paupers' came to the Colonies of Benevolence to work on the land. In return, they received housing, education and care. This was how the General hoped to combat poverty. After a trial colony in Frederiksoord - with houses, schools, and churches - similar colonies followed in Willemsoord and Wilhelminaoord. A few years later, the idea of these colonies being voluntary was abandoned, and penal colonies were established in Veenhuizen and Ommerschans, among other places. The extraordinary history is still clearly visible in the landscape.



Museum De Proefkolonie - Frederiksoord

Go back in time 200 years and experience the unique story of Johannes van den Bosch. In the new Museum 'De Proefkolonie', the Trial Colony, in Frederiksoord, you can follow in the footsteps of the first settlers and experience their unforgettable story by means of a unique multimedia journey

through time! Step into the urban slums of yesteryear: smell the poverty and feel the misery. Watch the video that shows how the first settlers arrived in their new home after their arduous journey. Visit the exhibition area to find out what became of Van den Bosch's ambitions. It will become clear how his plans,

calculated down to the last penny, clashed with unruly every-day life. Finally, answer the question of how the agricultural colonies of the Society of Benevolence perished, and find out about the unique material legacy of this social experiment. proefkolonie.nl/en



Discover its history in the 'outdoor museum'

Both in Frederiksoord and Veenhuizen the historical legacy is reflected in the landscape. Go for a walk or a bicycle ride, to admire the many monuments and explore the surroundings. Both villages have a Tourist Info, and there are various hiking and cycling routes waiting for you to explore. You can cycle along the special pauper trail (Pauperpad) between the two colonies.

Gevangenisemuseum - Veenhuizen

From 1823 onwards, residents as well as vagrants and orphans who did not obey the rules, were 'sent down' to the penal colony of Veenhuizen, where they lost their liberty. In the 3rd colony its history as a prison village is still very evident. Centrally located is the Nationaal Gevangenisemuseum, the National Prison Museum, where you can find out all about crime and punishment over the years, and the history of the colony. gevangenisemuseum.nl



visitdrenthe.com/colonies

History that touches you



After a walk through the woods, you will see and feel the past as soon as you arrive at the campsite. There is a wagon on display. Reconstructed barracks, and the residence of the camp commander. In the Camp Westerbork museum, you can learn more about life in the camp. Traces of the former camp are still visible in the grounds of the site.



More information:
kampwesterbork.nl/en

The Herinneringscentrum Kamp Westerbork (Memorial Centre) tells the story of more than one hundred thousand people who were imprisoned in Camp Westerbork during the Second World War. The years from 1942 to 1945 are what most people know of in the history of camp Westerbork. However, the camp was built as a refugee camp as early as 1939. Until its demolition in 1971, the camp was used almost continuously as, among other purposes, an internment camp and a home for Moluccan KNIL soldiers of the Dutch colonial army.

For children

The personal stories in exhibitions and films make the story of camp Westerbork accessible to children. Apart from exhibitions, the museum also organises many activities. You can watch some impressive films about the history of camp Westerbork or the people who were imprisoned there.



Flardenroute Havelte

During the Second World War, the Germans built a large airport near Havelte. In the Holtिंगerveld nature reserve you can still see many ponds that were created by bomb craters. Take a hike along the special Flardenroute to learn more about the history. More information on page 11.

Museum De Duikelaar, People in Hiding

The village that remained silent has a lot to tell. Nieuwlande is one of two villages in the world that received the Israeli Yad Vashem award. The village is known for helping many - Jewish - people in hiding. There were a lot of hiding places both in the village and in the woods surrounding Nieuwlande. Several people were involved in falsifying personal identification documents and publishing the illegal newspaper 'De Duikelaar'. The paper went from hand to hand...

Hiding places

In addition to those in Nieuwlande, there were other hiding places. In the woods there was the Landgoed Berkenheuvel country estate near Diever, and the hiding place in Valthe and the Evertsbos near Anloo. Visitors allowed, and informative for all ages.

Dive deeper into the stories from Drenthe

A province brimming with history. With unique and impressive stories. About hunebeds, a mysterious Yde Girl and the Colonies of Benevolence.

Would you like to know more about these stories and discover others? You can find all stories on terugindrenthe.nl/en Join us on a voyage of discovery. Because the Netherlands' primeval province will really come to life if you know all the stories.



Take a look at the different timelines and immerse yourself in the history of the Netherlands' primeval province.



Prehistoric times:
antiquity on the surface



New worlds:
pioneers find new ways to form communities



Civilisation offensive:
artists and scientists find their inspiration in Drenthe



Boermarke:
self-sufficient villages with their own council



Borders of Drenthe:
from impassable swamps to goldmines



Modern Drenthe:
bridging the past and the future

With tyres full of air...

On the bike!



Tyres pumped up? Check! Route mapped out? Check! Nothing stands in the way of a relaxing day. With the sun on your face, the wind in your hair and your feet on the pedals, you can cycle through an ever-changing scenery in Drenthe.

Did you know that...

Drenthe has approximately 2,100 kilometres of well-maintained cycle paths?

Cycling routes

A new surprise awaits you around every corner, and every day is different. Cross the magnificent nature reserves, to then enjoy a snack and a drink on a cosy terrace in one of the villages you pass.

Tip:

Of course you can map out your own cycle route on the junction network, but why not choose one of the ready-made routes.



New!

Bicycle park & ride

For a wonderful carefree day of cycling in Drenthe, you can now start at a Bicycle park & ride location. This is where to rent e-bikes, e-choppers, e-cargo bikes and more. You will also receive - themed - route information, you can re/charge your battery, inflate the tyres, and a catering facility is available on site. The first locations have opened in Frederiksoord and Exloo, more locations will follow. Trail centre Noord-Sleen is also an ideal starting point for cyclists and mountain bikers.



[visitdrenthe.com/cycling](https://www.visitdrenthe.com/cycling)

Drentse Fiets4Daagse

Did you know that the Drentse 'Fiets4Daagse', a four-day bike tour, is the biggest cycling event in the Netherlands? There are various routes and starting locations.

Cycling routes

Looking for a scenic cycle route? Pay a visit to one of the Tourist Infos. You'll find all the bike routes here. See the locations on page 82.

5x Cycle route

- Boom en beekdal route - 56 km
- Bicycle route Orvelte - 41.5 km
- Bicycle route Dwingelderveld - 46 km
- Historical TT cycling route - 67 km
- Flint route - 41 km

The most scenic bicycle route

The 'Commissaris Cramerpad' over the Dwingelderveld is the most scenic bicycle path in Drenthe. This beautiful bicycle path starts in Smalbroek and passes the Boslounge kiosk in Spier on the way to Kraloo. Through woods, over moors, beside ponds and winding over hills.

From stream valleys to woods, from heathlands to meadows

Spend the day walking



Walking is relaxing. It improves your quality of sleep. It makes you happy, reduces stress and keeps you healthy. A brisk walk is always a good idea. Thanks to the many attractive footpaths and themed routes, hiking in Drenthe is an excellent idea.

City walks

Apart from all the miles you'll be walking when shopping in the cities of Drenthe, we would advise you to try a guided city tour. The exceptional historic past will come to life; behind each of the facades and canals lurks an impressive story.

Ambles

Not in the mood, or no time for a long walk? Then take an 'amble' through one of the villages in Drenthe. Surprising and fun routes, starting at approximately 30 minutes duration. They will be happy to give you more information at the Tourist Info points, (for locations see page 82).

Hiking junction network

Drenthe already has an amazing hiking network with the well-known junction system, and is continuously working hard to expand it. Walks are easy to map out via wandelnet.nl/knooppuntenplanner

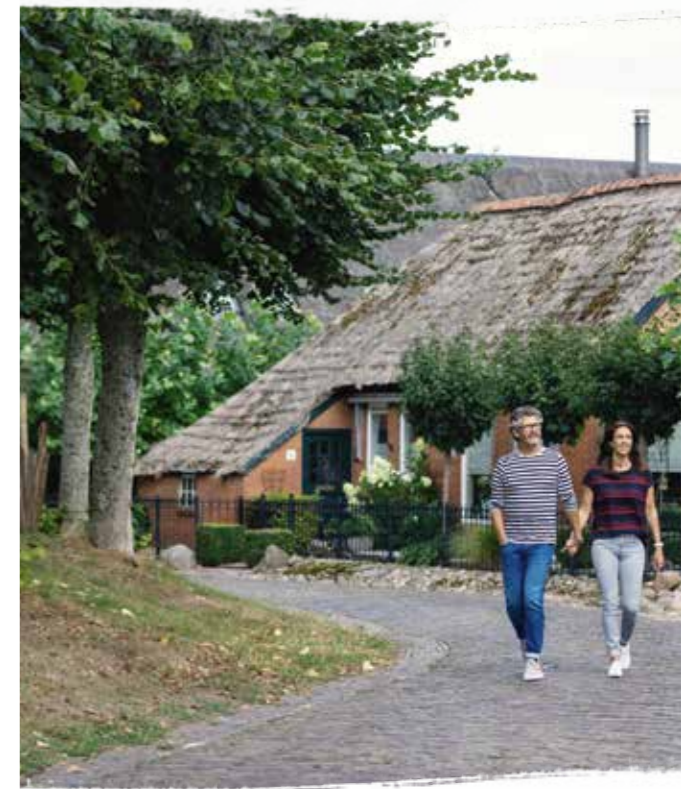
Request the special junction map from one of the Tourist Info Points.

Tip for children:



- Moeno de Mammoet - Havelte
- Laarzenpad - Norg
- Tijdreisroute Leewal - Exloo
- Houten Pad van Theodoor - Orvelte
- Wanderroute Ipewips Kabouterpad - Odoorn
- Sabeltandtijgerspoor - Exloo

Take a look at the interactive iPad walking tour The Nature Game! thenaturegame.nl/en



starting locations

Wherever you are in Drenthe, you're just a stone's throw from nature. Want to go for a hike in one of the National Parks or over the Hondsrug or another nature reserve? Go to one of the visitor information centres below, the starting point for the most amazing hiking trails.

Dwingelderveld National Park

- Dwingelderveld visitor information centre - Benderse 22, Ruinen

Drentsche Aa National Park

- Starting point - Lunsenhof 20, Anloo

Drents-Friese Wold National Park

- Natuurpoort Hoogsmilde - Bosweg 23a, Hoogersmilde
- Buitencentrum Drents-Friese Wold - Terwisscha 6a, Appelscha

Hondsrug

- Buitencentrum Boomkroonpad - Steenhopenweg 4, Drouwen
- Zwembad de Leewal - Zuideinde 36, Exloo

Long distance hiking

Can a hike never be long enough for you? You can complete a long-distance hike in stages. Choose a stage for an amazing hike, for example part of the Drenthepad.

Mud splashes on your face and adrenaline
rushing through your body

Mountain biking



Grab your mountain bike and ride through the rugged nature of Drenthe. Zigzag over the best single tracks, speed through the woods and struggle up the Col du Vam mountain. Mud splashes on your face and adrenaline rushing through your body. The mountain bike routes in and around the National Parks in Drenthe are well-signposted for both beginner and advanced cyclists. So conquer nature in Drenthe, and return home re-energized.

Gravel route

The first gravel route in the Netherlands is being developed in Noorderveld. The route will be 75 km long and starts in Roden. Gravel biking is a new, emerging sport, blown across from America. A gravel bike is a combination of a racing bike and a mountain bike. The routes are too fast for mountain bikes and too technical for racing bikes.

Tip:

The longest cobblestone strip in the Netherlands runs straight through the Gieten-Borger forestry.

Col du VAM

Drenthe has everything a cycling enthusiast could wish for. Even a real mountain. The highest point in Drenthe can be found near Wijster. The 'Col du VAM', originally a landfill site, is 56 metres above sea level, and opened to the public in the autumn of 2018. There is a spectacular mountain bike trail with many valleys and ascents. Among the trials en route are a 300 metre wooden platform and a 60 metre floating water bridge! Two connecting routes have been laid out for mountain bikers to reach the VAM mountain, one from the Boslounge in Spier and one from Sleen.



Tip for real bike enthusiasts:

The Drenthe 200 is an extreme marathon for mountain bikes, gravel bikes or cyclocrossers. Yes, you'll see 200 tough, but satisfying kilometres racing by under your wheels.



Bike Park Roden

The 'Op Fietse Bike Park' is located in Roden; a challenging MTB course for the advanced MTB rider! The course includes four rock gardens, bridges and considerable height variations.

New! A pump track

Landgoed Valkestijn, a country estate near Assen, is where you'll find a pump track. A super-amazing paved cross track with bumps and bends where you can complete endless laps on your cross bike, ATB, skateboard or scooter.

5x MTB route

- Giant Track Ruinen - Echten (approx. 21 km)
- Hondsrug Track Gieten - Gasselte (30 km)
- Drentsche Aa route - Anloo (39 km)
- Havelte Oost & West - Havelte (27 & 17 km)
- MTB Route Assen - Baggelhuizen (approx. 9 km)

Bike Park Smalbroek

Staying in control of your ATB! This bike park has various Northshore - wooden - elements, such as a seesaw, bridge, balance beam and skinny. Also, the route has a number of banked corners, hills and rock gardens. Ideal for anyone who wants to improve their balancing techniques.



Paradise for Horse lovers

Unique nature reserves and excellent routes



Ride over heathlands and through dense, dark woods. Sometimes walking, sometimes cantering or galloping. Or full speed through mud puddles and over winding paths. From the saddle or the carriage seat, you'll experience the ultimate feeling of freedom.

Riding and driving in Drenthe

This Primeval Province is a paradise for horse riders. The vast woods and heathlands are perfect for enjoying hours of outdoor riding. In full gallop over the sandy paths. What a sensational feeling! Feel free to bring your own horse, as there are plenty of accommodation locations that offer the necessary facilities. Don't have your own horse or pony? There are many locations where you can rent a horse or arrange for an organised outdoor ride.

Riding routes

Drenthe features various equestrian routes through the National Parks. A number of equestrian routes start from these locations with ample parking space for trailers.

- Visitor information centre Natuurmonumenten - Ruinen
- Visitor information centre Terwisscha - Appelscha
- Toegangspoort Holtingerveld - Havelte
- Car Park Kymmelsberg - Schipborg



Drenthe has several equestrian events with international appeal. For example, the Internationaal Concours CH De Wolden & CSI Exloo.

5x Outdoor rides

- Het Fjordenpaard - Amerika
- Les Chevaux - Buinen
- Manege Gasselte - Gasselte
- Manege de Otterberg - Wijster
- Holiday Park Zonnetij - Lhee

Covered wagon tours

- Huifkarverhuur Estelle - Oude Willem
- Manege De Drift - Dwingeloo
- Ludanchelo Hoeve - Wateren
- 't Hoefijzer - Zwiggelte
- Jan Dolfing - Vries
- Thor Heste - Gees

Tip for children and their ponies:

You'll find special pony holidays at Minicamping Hendriks Wijkje, Hippago guest farm in Elim, near De Reeënwissel campsite in Hoogersmilde and El Rancho de Verano in Een.



Tip:

The Hondsrug trail is a route across the Hondsrug, with over 140 kilometres of routes for riders and drivers. Moreover, the new water crossing for horses and riders in the Schipborgsche Diep was recently brought into use. There are also wonderful holiday packages with accommodation for owners and animals.

Events

- Zuidlaarder Markt - Zuidlaren
- Paard en Erfgoed - Frederiksoord
- Norgemarkt Concours - Norg

Fun water activities!



Azure lakes with white beaches. There's no need to board a plane. Drenthe has plenty to offer. OK, so the palm trees are missing. But who could miss palm trees when you're lying on your towel surrounded by endless woods?

Boating, canoeing, supping and more...

Apart from the natural lakes, pools and ponds, there are also larger water areas such as the Onlanden in the Kop van Drenthe and the Weerribben-Wieden near Giethoorn/Meppel. You can enjoy a whole day of fun in the water with your - sailing - boat, sloop, canoe, sup or water skis. Why not plan a canoe trip on one of the streams or watercourses, such as the Leekstermeer, the Zuidlaardermeer or De Hunze.



Butterflies in your tummy!

On the banks of the lake Zwemplas 't Gasselterveld, you'll find the DX Adventure Park. Just looking at the enormous ramps will give you butterflies in your tummy. We dare you! The water jumps, ranging from 7 to 11 metres, are suitable for children of 12 and older, and guarantee an unforgettable adrenaline rush. Combine this attraction with the nearby aquatic park, where you can climb, clamber and slide, - suitable for the whole family - . dxadventurepark.com

Water activities



This is where you have to be!

A small selection of the swimming lakes and ponds where you are guaranteed an amazing 'water experience', and you can build the most stunning sandcastles, and indulge your passion with your snorkel and scoop net.

5x Swimming lakes and ponds

- Plan Schoonhoven - Hollandscheveld
- Het Blauwe Meer - Hoogersmilde
- Zuidlaardermeer - Midlaren
- De Kibbelkoele - Noord Sleen
- Paterswoldsemeer - Paterswolde



Always a swimming pool in the vicinity!

A 'corkscrew' dive from the high diving board, at high speed down the slide, or simply chill out by the side of the water. Did you know that there are as many as 130 swimming pools - indoor and outdoor pools - in Drenthe?

Museums

brimming with stories



Looking for culture? Then Drenthe is the right place for you. With over 50 museums, there's plenty to choose from. From the Hunebed centre, the Van Gogh House and the Prison Museum to the Peat Park. There is so much to see in Drenthe.

10x Museums in Drenthe

Drents Museum

The Drents Museum in Assen inspires young and old with stories about archaeology - the peat bog Yde Girl -, art and history. The museum in Assen is famous for its large international exhibitions, such as the Mayas, The American Dream, and Iran - Cradle of Civilisation. Feel free to bring the children. The largest doll's house in the Netherlands and the energy lab 'Codename: Energy' offers hours of entertainment for young visitors. drentsmuseum.nl/en

Museum De Buitenplaats

Become inspired! De Buitenplaats museum in Eelde brings together contemporary figurative art, architecture and nature. Next to the museum's pavilion is the museum garden, with an Orangery and the seventeenth-century Nijsinghuis. This makes it the ultimate location for concerts and literary lectures. Check the programme on the website for exhibitions and events.

Herinneringscentrum Kamp Westerbork

The story of more than 100,000 people is told at the historic site of camp Westerbork in Hooghalen. It tells the story of the refugees from Germany, who were housed in the Westerbork refugee camp in the 1930s, and Jewish-Dutch people who were deported from Westerbork transit camp to extermination camps, during the Second World War. Original film footage, a large scale model of the camp, and a partially furnished barrack inspire impressive images and emotions. kampwesterbork.nl/en

Hunebedcentrum

The Hunebed centre in Borger brings you up close to primeval man. Imagine yourself in the prehistoric era, the time of your earliest ancestors. A permanent exhibition teaches you all about the hunebed builders. Outside, in the prehistoric Oertijdpark, you'll travel 150,000 years back in time and see, feel and smell the life of primeval man. The largest hunebed in the Netherlands is just a stone's throw away. hunebedcentrum.eu/en

Veenpark Open Air Museum

In Veenpark Open Air Museum in Barger-Compascuum you can see, discover, experience and learn in the full sense of the meaning. Explore the Aole Compas, a settlement of peat huts on a springy carpet of peat, or visit Bargermond 1920; a village in the peat bog with a church, inn and school. You can see everyone at work: the miller, the baker, the blacksmith and the wooden shoe maker. Special tip: experience Veenpark by steam train or peat barge.

Ellert & Brammert Open Air Museum

From peatcutter's huts and hirelings to Saxon farms. In this open-air museum in Schoonoord, you can travel through time and see the development of how people used to live in Drenthe. Stroll through the park and take in with wonderment the school, sawmill, kindergarten, tollhouse and even a prison. The legend of the giants Ellert and Brammert makes this visit even more exciting! ellertenbrammert.nl/en

Orvelte, the village of historic buildings

This village of historic buildings is one huge outdoor museum. Here you can experience the nostalgic Drenthe 'brink' village of yesteryears. Start your visit at Orvelte Poort. There are guided tours of both the Ottenshoes museum farm and the village. During the holiday periods there are demonstrations of, among other things, spinning and weaving, candle making, lace making and straw weaving. orvelte.net/en

Museum De Proefkolonie

This museum in Frederiksoord tells the multimedia story of the foundation of the Society of Benevolence by Johannes van den Bosch, as a response to poverty in our country at the beginning of the 19th century. Follow in the footsteps of the first settlers who found a new future in Drenthe in 1818. proefkolonie.nl/en

Gevangenis museum

This remarkable museum in Veenhuizen tells the story of the unfree colony of Veenhuizen, a colony that grew into a closed prison village. Today, in the interactive museum, you can learn all about 200 years of crime and punishment in the Netherlands. Take a tour in a real prison bus, act out your trial in front of a judge, and step inside a real cell in the Rode Pannen. gevangenis museum.nl

Van Gogh Huis

The only publicly accessible building in the Netherlands where one of the most famous painters in the world (Vincent van Gogh) lived and worked. Good to know: in 2023 Drenthe celebrates Van Gogh year. vangogh-drenthe.nl



visitdrenthe.com/culture

Amazingly artistic



The flora and fauna. The space and the solitude. Many artists found their way to Drenthe. They lived in solitude, were inspired by the landscape and carried away by colours, smells and sounds. Drenthe was and is a source of inspiration for beautiful works of art in every form.

Artists' village Zweeloo

1882. A farming village, where everything has remained the same. Centuries-old thatched farms and villagers, for whom the entire world consisted only of Zweeloo. Max Liebermann knew how to find this remote place. How he found it no one knows, as connections with the outside world were almost non-existent. Perhaps he rented a carriage in Assen, a city where, for the last ten years, the train had stopped on its way from Amsterdam to Groningen. Liebermann stayed in the village centre lodge and painted to his heart's content.

The Van Gogh House

In Veenoord / Nieuw Amsterdam you can visit the only publicly accessible house in the Netherlands where Vincent van Gogh lived and worked. In 1883, Vincent lived and worked in the inn for two months, and it served as the base for his journeys of discovery through the peatlands. The aim was to paint 'ordinary' people, especially agricultural workers. In the Van Gogh House, you'll be standing in the room where Vincent van Gogh once stayed. His bed remains where it always stood, the drawing box is open, the paint palette ready for use. Perhaps Van Gogh has gone for a long walk through the peat bog - it's as though he might return at any moment... vangogh-drenthe.nl

He used nature, the houses and its people as a source of inspiration. It was a year later that none other than Vincent van Gogh expressed the wish to visit him. In vain... Liebermann had already left. Van Gogh wrote one of his most beautiful letters about his trip to Zweeloo and painted the little church, among other things. Since then, more painters followed and the village developed into a true artists' village, with many exhibitions and activities where art and nature played the leading role.

" For a month I inhaled the heather-filled air.

I absolutely needed it.

**I sat down by a peasant peat fire
with a cradle next to it.**

I now speak calmly, think calmly.

*Vincent van Gogh
about Drenthe*

Drents Museum

The Drents Museum is located in Assen, on the site of the former Maria in Campis convent. Since 2011, the main entrance is in a former coach house of the Drostenhuis, which is connected to the other buildings via an underground corridor. The largest museum in Drenthe is known for its international exhibitions on archaeology, art from the period 1885-1935, and contemporary realism. There is also a permanent collection about Drenthe during the prehistoric age, and there are specially decorated period rooms where you can see how wealthy Drenthe families lived in previous centuries. The bronze statue of Bartje can be found in the garden near the museum entrance.

drentsmuseum.nl/en

Kunsthuis De Secretarie

Art house De Secretarie is located in the former town hall in the centre of the Hoofdstraat in Meppel. Throughout the year there are different exhibitions of all the various forms of visual arts to be enjoyed.

Museum de Buitenplaats

This exceptional location in Eelde is well worth a visit from all lovers of art, gardens, music, literature and architecture. In addition to the changing exhibitions in the architecturally interesting main building, the adjacent historic Nijsinghuis, 1654, exhibits paintings Pieter Pander, by Matthijs Röling, Wout Muller, Clary Mastenbroek and Olga Wiese. In the museum garden there are sculptures by Lotta Blokker, Eja Siepman van den Berg and Charlotte van Pallandt, among others.



Get your creative juices flowing

Cows, chickens or fat ladies. The Gallerie en atelier Femke Anne in Ruinen offers painting workshops for two people or more. Get your creative juices flowing. No experience required!



Events

Into Nature

After the fascinating inaugural events in North Drenthe and Frederiksoord, the biennial visual arts expedition Into Nature will take place in 2021 in Bargerveen and Emmen. Throughout the summer months this area is the perfect setting for long walks and bicycle rides, while you can enjoy the spectacular works of art by 20 artists from all over the world.

Montmartre Painters' Festival

Have you always wanted to watch painters at work? Or ask them how they create their paintings? During the Montmartre painters' festival in Oosterhesselen, some 60 painters will be at work around the Gothic church, which dates from 1400, and also on the adjacent 'Brink'. Amateurs and professionals will be painting outdoors for two days, demonstrating their work.

Tip:

**Klompemuseum
(Wooden Shoe museum)**

This museum in Eelde houses the world's largest collection, with 2,800 special pairs of footwear and other wooden-soled footwear from over 40 countries on show.

klompemuseum.nl/en

Gardens that grow and flower



Woods. Heathland and farmland. As far as you can see in Drenthe, you are surrounded by pure primeval nature, minimally affected by cultivation as possible. Driving through the 'brink' villages, you get a completely different picture. The front gardens in Drenthe are always to the side of the house. The grass has been mowed. The edges cut. The hedges trimmed and the flower beds blooming in full glory. Green is in Drenthe's DNA.

De Groene Hof

You will find this herb garden with its tearoom in the hamlet of Ansen. No less than 160 different herbs and medicinal plants bloom here all year round. All have their own colour and scent which, in the summer months, become a paradise for butterflies. Children are welcome, and can use their special insect identification card to spot butterflies and insects.

De Luie Tuinman

Walk through 25 gardens at 'De Luie Tuinman' near Ruinen. Open from April to October and in December.



Botanical Garden Mei Chu

This three-hectare botanical garden in Wilhelminaoord, grows over eighty species of bamboo, 130 species of wisteria, the snowball and the Cardinal's Hat. A beautiful garden, interspersed with a wide range of Asian trees, shrubs and perennials. Various water features and the unusual pile dwellings create an oriental experience.

De Tuinen van Frederiksoord

At the heart of the Colonies of Benevolence lie The Gardens of Frederiksoord. A household name for many years, both in the Netherlands and far beyond. The Gardens have recently reopened, and are accessible to everyone. Come for a stroll and discover the splendour of the past and the aspirations of today. In the Gardens of Frederiksoord, you will find De Fruithof, De Tuin zonder Dremfels and the Tuinbouwschooltuin.



Flower-picking gardens

- Pluktuin Zeldenrust - Wapse
- Bloem'n Lokaal - Wezup
- Miss Tuinboon - Gees

Tulip picking garden

When you drive past Beilen, there's a good chance you'll be surprised by a field full of tulips. The great thing is that in spring, you can pick your own bunch of tulips. A fun activity for young and old!

5x Sculpture Gardens

- Beeldentuin Wildevuur - Hooghalen
- Keramiectuin Harwi - Eeserveen
- Beelden in Gees - Gees
- Beeldenpark De Havixhorst - IJhorst
- Beeldentuin Het Aardscheveld - Assen

Enjoy your meal!



Take a seat in one of the restaurants and let your senses come to life. Smell the delicious aromas that greet you from the kitchen. Taste the delicious dishes that are served. Be surprised by unique locations and genuine Drenthe hospitality.

Pancakes

What tastes best after a long walk in the woods? Pancakes of course! In Drenthe, there are many cosy places where you can enjoy delicious pancakes.

5x Eating pancakes

- Pannenkoekenboerderij Brinkzicht - Gasteren
- Pannenkoekenschip Assen
- De Strohoed - Elp
- Inn De Wilde Hof - Vledder
- Hoes van Hol An - Aalden

Did you know that...

Puur Pannenkoek in Orvelte was the first pancake shop in the Netherlands?



Mmmmm

From the cosiest eateries, the tastiest pancake farms, the hippest beach bars to the highest quality culinary hotspots, you'll find them all in Drenthe!

Rising stars

Although the restaurants don't yet have a star, here you are guaranteed to experience an evening filled with culinary delights:

- De Keuken van Arragon - Fluitenberg
- De Havixhorst - De Schiphorst
- Sukade - Meppel
- De Gaffel - Valthe
- De Vlindertuin - Zuidlaren
- Gastrobar Bij Jaap - Assen
- Van Tarel - Taarlo
- De Loohoeve - Schoonloo

Taste the flavours of country life:

- Bitter en Zoet - Veenhuizen
- Landhuishotel Restaurant Rikus - Eext
- Op de Deel - Zuidwolde
- Rickkies Boer'n Bistro - Beilen

Hotspots near water - for some cooling down-

For sure! And more than one. Our fans already know where to find the best spots by an enchanting lake, and we are happy to share these tips with you:



Harbour Club Sandur



Plan Schoonhoven



Paviljoen Nijstad



Paviljoen De Bloemert



Ermerstrand



Cnossen Leekstermeer

Local delicacies



Holidays need good food and drink. Drenthe is the right place to enjoy good food. The most delicious regional produce is served here, straight from the land onto your plate.

Take any country road and you are guaranteed to find a roadside stall. The tastiest strawberries, crunchy blueberries, fresh heather honey and huge courgettes. Many stalls have expanded into farm shops, and supply the local catering industry with their produce. In addition to fruit and vegetables, the range of regional produce is constantly expanding. From eggs and dairy to meat, and yes... Even wine! Taste the flavours of the Drenthe countryside and be amazed.

Dubbel Drents

You are bound to come across it sooner or later. The Dubbel Drents label. There is, for example, Dubbel Drents bread, which is baked by dozens of bakers in Drenthe. Naturally, they use grains from the Drenthe farmlands. But there is also Dubbel Drents beer, cheese, asparagus and rapeseed oil. All these products come from farms and breweries in Drenthe and are not only delicious, but they also contribute to a more sustainable world. After all, the road from field to mouth is green!

DrentsGoed

Jam, juice, mustard, syrup... Today, DrentsGoed produces an extensive range of regional products which are characterised by quality, sustainability and craftsmanship. Do you long for all these flavours when you're back home? Simply order online. This way, you can enjoy your holiday for a lot longer!



Farm shops

Step inside one of the many farm shops. From a breakfast of fresh eggs, special thick yoghurt and a toasty biscuit with fresh farm cheese, to everything you need for a delicious local BBQ. We're offering you the following suggestions:

- Boerderijwinkel 't Vershuus - Ruinen
- Landwinkel Goense - Marwijksoord
- Boerderijwinkel Smilande - Smilde
- De Kruidenwei - Nooitgedacht
- Landwinkel De Venhoeve - Tweede Exloërmond

Pick-your-own nurseries

Boots on, bucket in hand and start picking! Bushes as far as you can see, full of vitamin bombs. Do something different and visit a pick-your-own nursery! For example, Bosjes Fruit in Gieterveen. At this farm, with its beautiful garden, young and old can pick their own. Take a punnet and fill it with the fruit you've picked. It's fun and not hard to do.



Do you like good food?

Do you want to experience a culinary speciality? Then don't miss a visit to Veenhuizen. Three entrepreneurs have restored the existing historic mill, dairy and grain storage. Located on a communal site, you will find Piepers & Paupers, Kaaslust and Bierbrouwerij Maallust. For a cup of coffee afterwards, walk a little further... to Koffielust!

Pears for your heirs!

Jump on your bike and ride to the Dr. Larijweg, between Ruinen and Ruinerwold. This beautiful avenue is almost 6 km long, and has more than 1,000 pear trees. Every year, the pear harvest is celebrated on the first weekend of October.



Did you know that...
The best Limoncello in the world comes from the Drentse Peize!

Vineyards

- Wijngaard Onder de Sterren - Donderen
- Wijngoed Havelte - Havelte
- Wijnboerderij Runa - Ruinen
- WIJ'ngaard op Tiendeveen - Tiendeveen

Foraging at In Het Wilde Weg

Discover nature's flavours at In Het Wilde Weg. They offer foraging excursions, cooking workshops, canoe trips and nature experiences, and are happy to take you on an unforgettable voyage of discovery.



Exceptional overnight stays

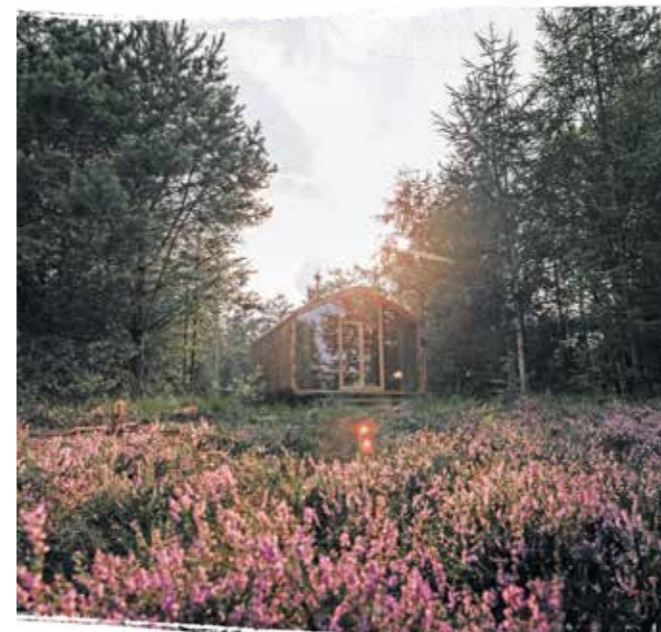


Evening falls. It is quiet. Only the campfire is crackling in the background. Tired but content, we talk about the highlights of our day. Boisterous stories and wonderful memories follow in rapid succession. And then it is time for bed. Even bedtime becomes a great adventure when you're spending the night in a tree house, a former 'jailhouse', a turf hut, or in a lodge somewhere in the middle of nature.

Tree house XXL

Far away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. In a tree house, the world lies at your feet. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature and its beautiful scenery together with someone special. Listen to the birds, the hoot of the owls, and from your terrace, look up at the infinite starry sky.

Drenthe has no fewer than 9 sturdy tree houses, complete homes for the whole family!



Road Trip Drenthe

Drenthe is not big, but big enough for a wide range of experiences. Leave the beaten track and go for a drive along country roads in a vintage campervan. Through woods, along farmland, and make a pit stop in one of the many 'brink' villages. A vintage campervan from Tralaluna is an original way of travelling.



Do you prefer luxury?

That can be arranged!



Stable accommodation

It doesn't get any cosier! Sleep in the stable of the alpacas' 'Stalkamer'. Spend the night sleeping under duvets made from the wool of the Zonneveld Alpacas in Tiendeveen.

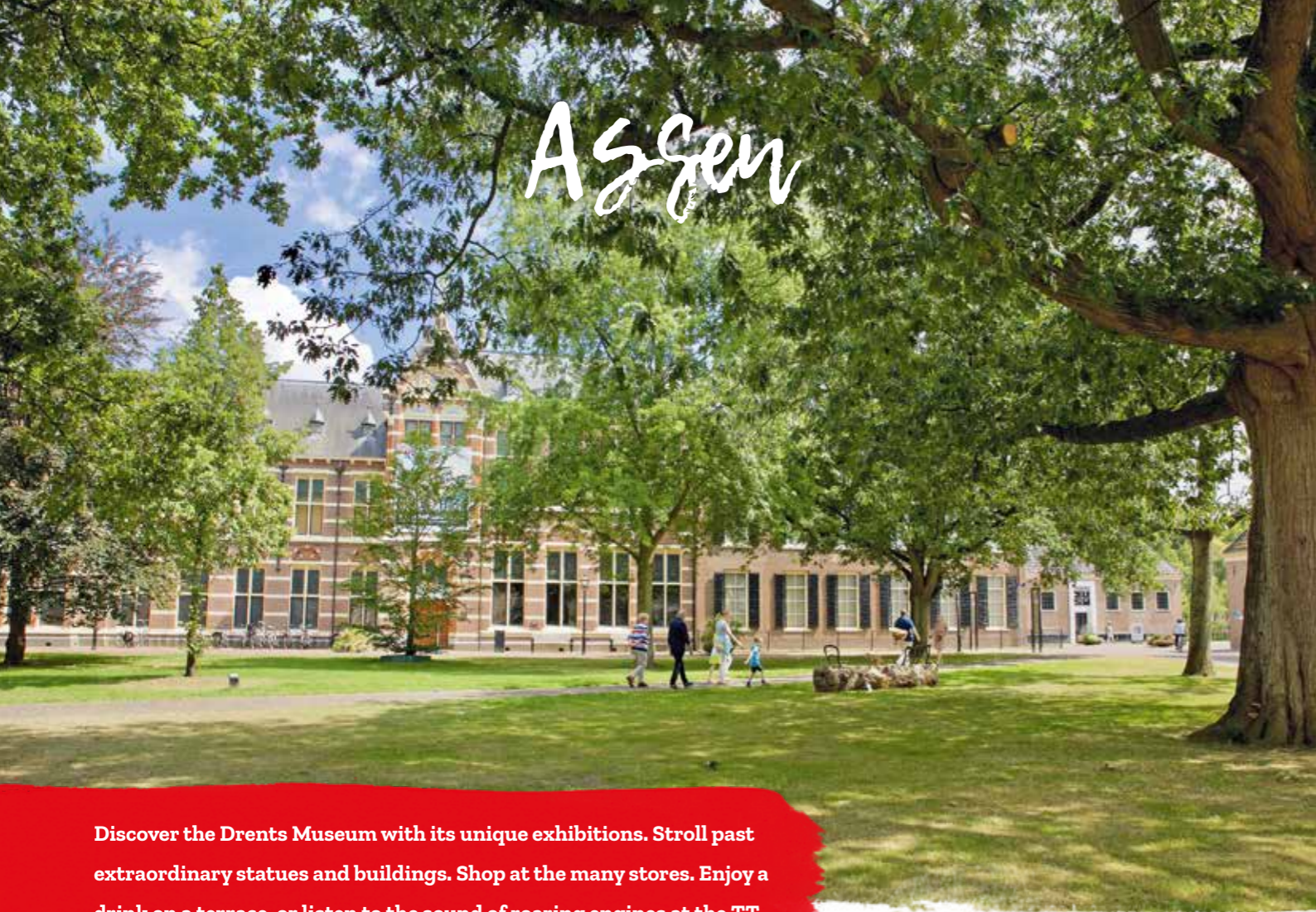
Tip:

Winter camping

That's cool! Camping in winter. Many campsites in Drenthe welcome you all year round. You can bring your own tent, caravan or motorhome, or choose a location with an all-season safari tent, ready and waiting.

Why not invite
your friends to join you...

Or family... or colleagues... The group accommodations in Drenthe offer not only a place to sleep, but also a range of various cool activities. Go on an adventure together and experience some fantastic days in nature. From climbing, archery, mountain biking to 'farmer's golf'.



Discover the Drents Museum with its unique exhibitions. Stroll past extraordinary statues and buildings. Shop at the many stores. Enjoy a drink on a terrace, or listen to the sound of roaring engines at the TT.

The city centre has large mansions, lots of greenery and, of course, the statue of Bartje. At the outskirts of the city centre, you can continue walking in the direction of the Asserbos, where you can visit the Duurzaamheidscentrum, a sustainability centre with a petting farm. Don't miss a visit to the TT Circuit on the outskirts of town.

History

In 1259, the nuns of the Maria in Campis convent came to Assen. They moved from their marshy surroundings near Coevorden to higher ground. The convent stood on the site of what is now the wonderful Drents Museum. In 1602, the convent was disbanded and the building was used as a meeting place. Assen was still not much more than the convent building situated between the canals. From the 17th century onwards, more houses were built, and not until the late 18th century did Assen become larger and, for the first time, expanded beyond the canals. Johannes van Lier came here to live in 1776, working as recipient general - tax collector - at the Overcingel Estate. After an evening's entertainment with the district official Petrus Hofstede, King Louis Napoleon granted Assen city status in 1809. In the centuries that followed, the city evolved to become what it is today, the capital of the province of Drenthe.



The Pups of Mannes Play Route

A large wooden dog stands outside Assen railway station. His name is Mannes. His puppies have run away to explore the city centre of Assen. Will you join the puppies on a journey of discovery around the city? All across the city centre you'll find yellow paw prints. Something must be going on there!

Drents Museum

In 1854, the Provincial Museum of Antiquities, which was the forerunner of the present Drents Museum, was established. It grew larger over time, and today it is an absolute must-see in Assen. There is plenty for lovers of culture to discover in Assen.

The Drents Museum combines wonderful international exhibitions with local exhibitions. There is also a structural exhibition on the archaeology of Drenthe. The largest doll's house in the Netherlands is housed in the museum and, for children there is a special adventure; codenamed Energy. In short, plenty to see and experience, and suitable for young and old. drentsmuseum.nl/en



TT Assen

The first Assen TT was held in 1925. At that time, the route was on unpaved roads between the villages of Rolde, Schoonloo and Grolloo. These days, the Assen circuit is well-known internationally, and several races are held, including one of the oldest races in the world, the MOTOGP. ttcircuit.com/en

Tip:
Take a look at the special 65km Historical TT route. The route takes you past the villages where the first TT was once driven.



"Ik bid nie veur brunne boon'n!"

The statue of Bartje, the famous character from the book by Anne de Vries, is situated opposite the entrance to the Drents Archief.

Asserbos

The Asserbos is located on the edge of the city centre. A centuries-old primeval wood that once belonged to the Maria Convent in Campis. Around 1760, Wolter Hofstede commissioned the development of the star-shaped woods, where you can still enjoy a peaceful walk. Once in the woods, you can pick up different routes from the Duurzaamheidscentrum. A visit to the nearby petting zoo completes the trip. Fun for the whole family!

City walk

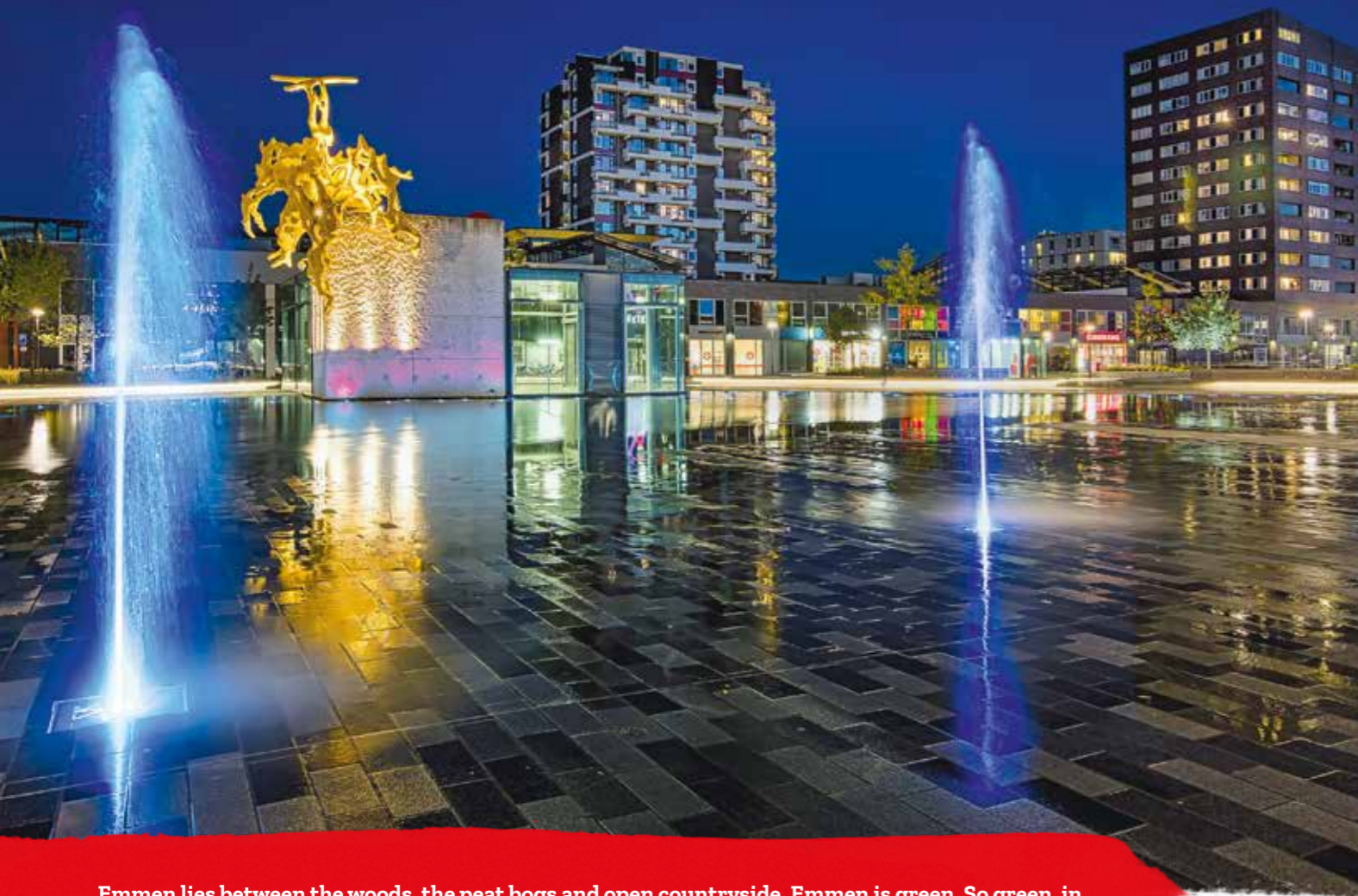
In the centre of Assen there are graceful old buildings, monuments and statues. Get out and about by taking a walk around the city and exploring what there is to see! During the 5 kilometre walk, you will pass the Drents Museum, the statue of Bartje, the Ontvangershuis, the Drosthuis, beautiful houses along the Vaart, a canal, and part of the Asserbos, the woods. Tip: in the summer months you can also be accompanied by a guide.



VVV/Tourist Info Assen
Marktstraat 8



Emmen



Emmen lies between the woods, the peat bogs and open countryside. Emmen is green. So green, in fact, that it is one of the greenest cities in the Netherlands. Not only is nature within reach. In Emmen, you will find everything you would expect from a city: top sports clubs, the largest indoor shopping centre in the north of the Netherlands and, of course, the Emmen WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo.

Emmen is originally an 'es' village on the edge of the Hondsrug. People have lived there for a very long time, at least since prehistoric times. There are 10 hunebeds that originate from this era, together with burial mounds. A number of 'essen' and 'brinken' have been preserved. The oldest building is the Grote Kerk church, with its Romanesque tower dating back to the 12th century.

Bustling centre

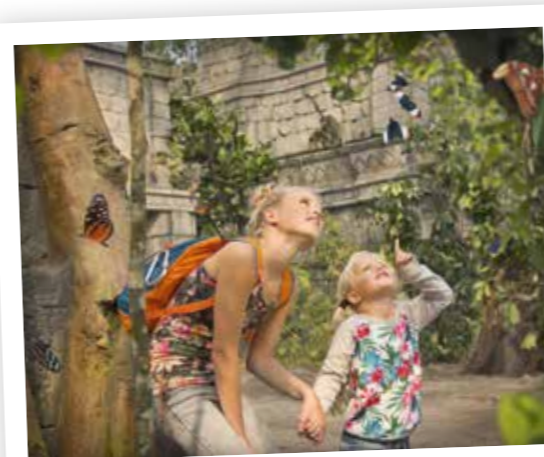
The beating heart of the city of Emmen is the large central square. Here you will find the entrance to the huge covered shopping mall, and also the entrance to WILDLANDS and the Atlas theatre. The shopping mall is the largest indoor shopping centre in the north of the Netherlands. It's a pleasurable experience to wander through its many walkways and inevitably you will come across almost all the national retail chains. The historic area of Emmen is situated around the Hoofdstraat, in the northern part of the centre. Here you can stroll past the many local shops and exceptional boutiques.

Tip:

Every last Sunday of the month the shops are open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Every Friday there is a market with over 100 stalls.

WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo

In WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo Emmen, you can take a trip around the world in a single day. Discover the jungle by boat or on foot, and meet the elephant family. Spot rhinos and giraffes up close on your truck safari across the savannah. Or go on a polar expedition, and come face to face with polar bears and penguins. WILDLANDS is divided into three different climate zones: jungle, savannah and the polar region. As well as the animals, you will find enjoyable playgrounds - including a 4500 m2 playground - in all areas, and a super exciting roller coaster and a 4D test flight in a research plane.



Rensenpark

A creative city park now stands on the site of the former Emmen Zoo. Creative entrepreneurs, cultural institutions, artists and galleries can now be found in the once empty buildings and lofts. For children, there is a petting zoo and a playground. Special events take place here throughout the year.

Events

Emmen is buzzing with large recurring events every year. From Alles Kids in Drenthe Festival, street theatre C'est la Vie, the Hello Festival and the big kite festival. Every Tuesday during July and August, there is the Vlindermarkt, a combined fair and flea market.



Tourist Info Emmen - Monetpassage 2

Did you know that...

in Emmen there are no fewer than 10 hunebeds?



Meppel



Meppel: lively and uniquely situated between three beautiful nature reserves. The combination of nature, greenery, space and history is what makes the city so attractive. In the old centre, the typical streets, canals and squares with terraces make it a cosy, pleasant shopping city.

The residents of Meppel are hospitable, and restaurants come in many varieties and flavours. Pubs, bars, a cinema and a discotheque provide a vibrant evening and night life. Meppel is the ultimate event city of the north. A visit to the Grachtenfestival or one of the Donderdag Meppeldag is highly recommended. Here you will find plenty of art, culture and amazing monuments.

Would you prefer to spend the night in the picturesque city centre, or surrounded by green? No problem. Choose from B&B's, campsites, camper pitches, hotels and holiday homes. Or, take a boat to Meppel and moor in the harbour, or at the quayside of the historic city centre.

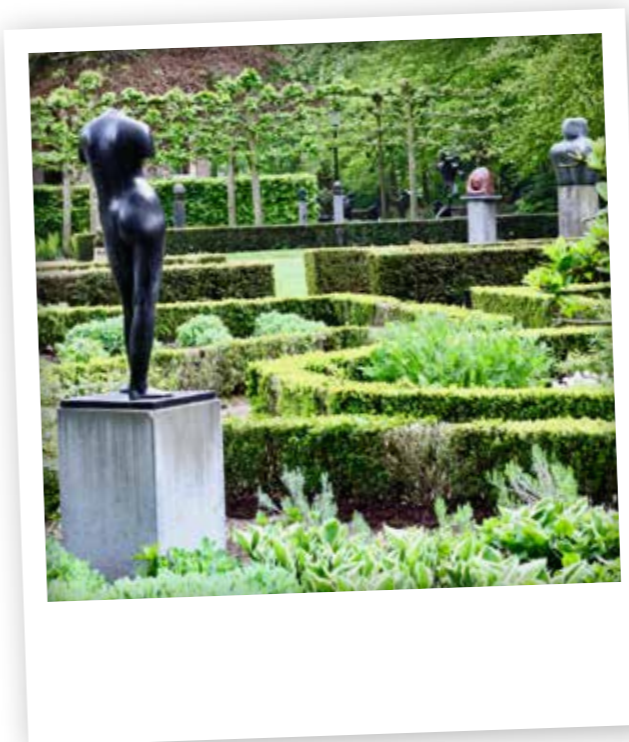
Mosquitoes?

Inhabitants of Meppel are also called 'Meppel mosquitoes' or 'mosquito sprayers'. These nicknames were given to them because of a folk tale. One night, some Meppel residents thought that the church tower was on fire, because there was a cloud of smoke around the steeple. It turned out to be a swarm of fireflies or mosquitoes. —



Meppel City Walk

Meppel is a city with a history, beautiful canals and magnificent nature. Several city walks have been laid out that pass all these sights. One of the walks passes some Jugendstil buildings. Not only Jugendstil, but also other architectural styles, such as Neoclassical and Eclectic, which can be admired along the way. The route also passes by historically interesting buildings, often with beautifully decorated facades. During the walk, you will make excursions to Meppel's Jewish past. The 4 km long walk starts and ends at Meppel train station. Naturally, you can start at any point along the walking frame and wheelchair-friendly route. Take a break at one of the cosy and hospitable catering establishments where you can enjoy a cup of coffee, a tasty lunch or delicious dinner.



Beeldenpark De Havixhorst

Since June 2008, a special collection of sculptures has been on display in the gardens of the De Havixhorst estate, situated in a leafy setting between De Wijk and Meppel in south-west Drenthe. In addition to the permanent collection of sculptures by artists such as Pieter d'Hont, Eric Claus, Jan Bronner, Charlotte van Pallandt, Eddy Roos and Piet Esser, and thanks to a close collaboration with, among others, the Museum Beelden aan Zee, there is a varied range of sculptures which together provide a fascinating overview of the development of 20th century Dutch figurative sculpture. The sculpture park is free of charge and open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The garden is open all year round, and exudes a different atmosphere according to the season. dehavixhorst.nl/en

Drukkerijmuseum Meppel

In the traditional printing town of Meppel, its graphical cultural heritage is preserved in this historic warehouse. This working museum is still fully operational. Experience for yourself the old traditional techniques, stand behind the printing press as a book printer and dip your own paper. An experience for young and old!

Amsterdam of the North

The waters that run through the centre of Meppel are called canals. Partly because of the names Heerengracht, Keizersgracht, Prinsengracht and the cosiness and hospitality experienced here, Meppel is also called the 'Mokum', i.e. the Amsterdam of the North.

Tip:

Cycling the Route of Happiness

The happiness that the residents of Meppel find here is remarkable and inviting. Life in Meppel is good, and the residents enjoy sharing their happiness with you. Hop on your bike and ride the 'Route van Geluk'. Along the way, you'll pass more than 53 distinctive, hospitable, green and extraordinary places.



Tourist Info Meppel - Woldstraat 5



Hoogeveen



Hoogeveen was founded in the 17th century, when peat diggers were allowed to settle on the peat lands. The city grew quickly and substantially, and has become a lively city hosting a number of well-known events.

Vibrant city

The centre of Hoogeveen is a vibrant place for young and old. From shopping, cinema and bowling, to a beautiful theatre and even a city beach where you can enjoy a relaxing end to a delightful day.

Pesse Canoe

Culture lovers should take a look inside the library. It functions as a Story Yard. The permanent exhibition includes a replica of the legendary Pesse Canoe - the original of which is located in the Drents Museum in Assen. The Pesse canoe is considered to be the oldest boat in the world. This three meter long canoe was found in 1955 near the village of Pesse, just north of Hoogeveen. The canoe was made some 8,000 years before Christ. drentsmuseum.nl/en



Cascade

The Cascade is remarkable, and is the longest piece of water art in Europe. Created by artist Karin Daan, it is a tribute to the water that was once the lifeline of Hoogeveen. It is 250 metres long and is located on the site of a drained canal in the middle of the Hoofdstraat. The water meanders slowly among the shops. Great fun, and a real crowd-puller! While shopping, stop off at the -illuminated- work of water art with fountains on the Kerkplein. Weather permitting, this is a wonderful place for children to play.

Shopping

Shopping is fun in Hoogeveen. You can park directly behind the main shopping street. The Hoofdstraat has been beautifully renovated and is reminiscent of a promenade. There was once a canal here, that was used to transport the peat to Amsterdam. The wide layout is now very useful, and gives shoppers plenty of space.



Events

Hoogeveen is a bustling town, and hosts a few big events, such as the Cascaderun, Pulledagen, Noorderlichtjesparade and U!tdagend Hoogeveen.

Fun for the children!

- Zippa Zebra's Fun Jungle
- The Discovery Corner (Ontdekhoe) in the Library
- Family quest 'Het raadsel van de verdwenen letters'
- Digital treasure hunt 'De geheimen van het Spaarbankbosch'
- Bicycle cross track Steenbergerpark



Tourist Info Hoogeveen - Hoofdstraat 17a



Tips:

Take a city walk with or without a guide, discover the history of shipping during the Vaarfietstocht DrentsePraam, a sailing or biking tour, or make a parachute jump from Hoogeveen airport.

Water fun

In 2019, a former sand quarry was transformed into an amazing sandy beach with a pavilion. While you enjoy a drink and a snack on the terrace, the children can play in the water and on the beach. Special tip: There are canoes and sups for rent! The Plan Schoonhoven leisure lake is located in the woods near Hollandscheveld. It's wonderful to have a swim here, and to relax and go for walks.



Coevorden



Coevorden is the oldest town in Drenthe. Thanks to its strategic location, it used to be one of the most important fortified towns in the Netherlands. The prosperity of yesteryear can still be observed. Here you will find the only castle in Drenthe.

Historic buildings in Coevorden

Dating back to the eleventh century, the only castle in Drenthe can be found in the heart of the city. It was comprehensively renovated and converted into a restaurant, and the accompanying warehouse "de Vlijt" was transformed into a hotel.

Het Arsenaal, a former warehouse at the harbour in Coevorden, houses the Municipal Museum, the Library and Tourist Info Coevorden.



City of Battles

For three days over the last weekend in August, Coevorden returns to 1672. Cannons roar and musket shots are fired near the city's canal. Hundreds of re-enactors from all over Europe camp in the Van Heutszpark on Friday 27 August to fight a battle on Saturday and Sunday near the canal. Afterwards, victory brings the combatants into the centre of Coevorden.

The bishop of Münster, Berend van Galen, invaded the east of the country in 1672 and captured Coevorden, one of the strongest fortresses. Thanks to a ruse by schoolmaster and verger Meindert van der Thijnen, and with the help of Lieutenant General Carl von Rabenhaupt's troops, the bishop of Münster and his troops were driven from Coevorden that same year.

In addition to the re-enactors, the 12th Infantry Battalion Air Mobile Regiment of Heutsz will be present to give demonstrations. It's spectacular to see the battle between the re-enactors and the 12th Infantry Battalion Air Mobile Regiment of Heutsz. In addition to all the clattering of weapons, various music groups provide entertainment. Imagine being here during the last weekend of August in yesteryear.



Plopsa Indoor Coevorden

A visit to this indoor amusement park must be high on most children's wish list. Children can immerse themselves in the world of Mega Mindy, Bumba, Wicky the Viking and K3, among others. plopsaindoorcoevorden.nl/en

Tip:

Exciting stories about the City of Battles? Would you like to know more about the glorious history of Coevorden? Why not take a city walk in the company of a guide.



Tourist Info Coevorden - Haven 4



Stedelijk Museum Coevorden

Coevorden has a fascinating, though brutal, history filled with war, destruction and an eternal battle for power. The Municipal Museum Coevorden, located in Het Arsenaal, takes visitors on a voyage of discovery through the story of Coevorden, from the first viscount to the present day. Its stunning permanent collection, changing exhibitions and the various children's activities, make a visit to the Stedelijk Museum a real pleasure for young and old.

Coevorden in Vancouver

Did you know that Vancouver is named after naval officer George Vancouver? He served under James Cook and explored the west coast of Canada. His ancestors Van Coeverden came from... That's right, Coevorden. City Café Vancouver is located in one of the most elaborately decorated buildings of Coevorden, a historic seventeenth century building. A miniature replica of this building can be found in Madurodam.



magischdrenthe.nl



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For more information,
tips and inspiration for
holidays or a day out, visit
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Will we see you again
in winter?

i For questions, a roadmap or personal advice, you are always welcome at the addresses below.

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Colophon

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