Welcome

Enjoy Old Holland

Holland just a stone's throw from Amsterdam. A delightful lowland with infinite vistas, where young and old can enjoy themselves all year round. Leave the Prefer to stay close to nature? Choose a capital city behind and you'll be surprised how seamlessly the city flows into the countryside. Here, lush meadows directly surround centuries' old towns and villages, Path), or one of the farmland trails. where tall stories of bygone days echo in the historic streets. It's as if time cannot get a grip on this area, but appearances are deceiving. A lot has certainly changed

here over the centuries! For example, Old Holland's wonderful, rural character is mainly thanks to the centuries' long battle between water and land. Large pieces of land, that were washed away during violent storms and floods, changed to inland seas and peninsulas. Centuries later these inland seas were transformed into fertile agricultural land and slowly but surely Old Holland grew into an extremely versatile fortunately there are a lot of places stay.

Go for a typically Dutch adventure and use the mapped trails that criss cross the area. Pass by windmills, cross dykes and park your camper at a site in the middle of catch a ferry across canals and rivers. Of the city! Welcome, enjoy yourself...

trail off the beaten path, like the sections of the Noord-Hollandpad (North Holland Path), the Trekvogelpad (Migrant Bird Clamber and climb over fences, walk across the meadows and along the waterside. Spot birds from one of the many birdwatching points or stop at a Resting Point. It's sure to be fun! If you prefer something less active you're at the right place in one of the picturesque towns or villages. Stroll through the historic streets, shop at the special boutiques or have a wonderful meal at one of the local restaurants. It takes more than one day to see

everything in Old Holland. If you can't get enough of this extraordinary area, Like a countryside B&B, centrally located hotel or at one of the green campsites. Moor your boat in a bustling marina or



along the way; a delicious cup of coffee, a nice lunch or interesting museum is always

and high tides. With all their determination, of pumping stations, locks and meadow and water mills to hold the water back. A great example of water management! These characteristic meadow and water mills, in many places in the landscape. feet stay dry, and that there are delightful of a centuries-long life with water along the former banks of the Oer-IJ, a tributary of the Rhine that flowed at the beginning of the era. The familiar creek structure, meandering

able to withstand the power of the water. Dykes, buildings and even entire villages were swallowed up by the Waterwolf. To this relax in Het Twiske recreation area. Float day, all the traces are still found in the soil. In across the Alkmaarder and Uitgeester lakes





Living below sea level

in Old Holland, it is the presence of water. For the inhabitants of this area, so much water has been a challenge for centuries. Thanks to resourceful ancestors, Old Holland remains dry these days, even during storms our ancestors built miles of dykes and dozens pumping stations and locks can still be found UNESCO World Heritage De Beemster. You In addition, numerous dykes make sure your fortresses of the Defense Line of Amsterdam, vistas for you to enjoy. You can also find traces Waterlines. This network of forts was built in

Infortunately, the dykes were not always

clearly visible.

in Etersheim you come across all kinds of archaeological finds, from everyday things to Eilandspolder. There are plenty of catering unusual objects. Here you can also 'go to the establishments along the way, where you can the Markermeer and the inland waterways. bottom' yourself, and go about 1000 years

Our ancestors not only knew how to protect Holland. Various beautiful facilities have been rest of Old Holland. the land from the water, but also managed to turn water into land. This created thousands of hectares of new land. Climb the Keyserkerk routes by means of a handy map and an app. in the middle of the former Beemstermeer and admire the panoramic view of the

might spot one of the seven Old Holland part of the UNESCO World Heritage Dutch the 20th century as a defense line to protect the capital. A wet defense line, because as soon as the enemy appeared, they were denied access to the capital by perhaps the waterways and differences in height are still biggest weapon of the Defense Line: the

> Of course, living with water also means having a lot of other fun! On a hot (summer) day, cool down in or by the Markermeer or

If there's one thing that defines the landscape Archaeological Mini museum De Waterwolf or glide silently through the water of nature reserves such as Waterland-Oost and the

Many boat owners find their way to Old developed for them. The junction system of the sloop network shows the accessible for an easy stop. Of course, you can spend the night at one of the many marinas on both From here you can easily visit Purmerend, Monnickendam, Volendam or De Rijp or the

bathtub. Go out and discover this

beautiful area for yourself!

75 (76) (77) (79) (27)

🗫 Under Sea Level Trail | 🥏 Bathtub Trail | 8 km

Cycle below sea level through the vast The Bathtub Trail is a walk along akes you from the historic city center of Noordmeer, a deep-lying polder that dam, through the Zeevang polder and is strongly reminiscent of an empty

95 94 13 28 04 09 11 10 33 27 27 79 78 77 76 75 74 74 **83 64 97 95**



The region is often called the pantry of Amsterdam. Traditionally, Old Holland has been a major supplier to the ever-growing Amsterdam. Milk, cheese, fish, eggs, biscuits and other delicacies were often transported to the capital by boat. A lot of food processing took place, especially in the for a truly unique experience! Zaan region. The beautiful warehouses and old factories on the banks of the Zaan are still a reminder of this time. Many of these warehouses and factories have been restored and in Waterland. Local dairy products are and given a new purpose. For example in the Zaanbocht in Wormerveer. There's a great shopping street here with trendy shops, boutiques and great restaurants. In addition to this industrial heritage, many well- Volendam or Monnickendam. In the summe known products still come from the Zaan region today. Verkade, Zaanse mayonnaise or Duyvis for example. You may have spotted some of these brands in the Dutch

The reclaimed land of the Beemster is known for its wide range of local products. Like the world famous Beemster cheese. But the succulent fruit, tasty potatoes and garlic are also top quality. And this is all thanks to the fertile clay soil that remained after the

these locally grown products yourself directly from the farmer. Make an outing of it and cycle your own regional product trail. Don't forget to visit De Nachtegaal flour mill or one of the flower stalls along the way. Don't feel like pedalling? Then rent a sustainable Twizy, All sorts of delicacies are produced

harvested and smoked along the Markermeer coast, in the Land of Leeghwate used to make delicious products, such as yoghurt, ice cream and cheese. You can even pour fresh milk from the milk tap! If you want a traditional smoked fish, head for months many culinary events are organised in Old Holland. From the Monnickendamme Fishing Days to the traditional cheese markets in Edam. These centuries-long traditions leave you wanting more!

For years, Purmerend has been known as the 'Market city' of the region. Due to its central location and lovely atmosphere, the city is nowadays also called the 'living room' of the region. In 1484 Purmerend was the only place in the region to be given market rights. Each square had its own type

Norld Heritage Trail

et a taste of the region with the Norld Heritage Trail. This trail takes you through the unique landscape of World Heritage the Beemster. A vast area where numerous (farmhouse) shops complete the landscape.

25 49 46 43 60 61 62 82 27

or the full trail go to ww.laagholland.com or scan the QR code

of market, like the Cheese Market, Sheep Market, Fish Market and Cattle Market. Until the early 21st century, the cattle market was the most famous market in the Netherlands. Even now, you still find a bustling market in this centuries-old market town every Tuesday. These days, cattle are no longer traded here, Purmerend Museum on the Kaasmarkt. instead there are lots of specialities and

A Taste of the Region

♥ Herring & Hemp Trail

Travel back in time to the days of herring fishermen and hemp farming in the Land of Leeghwater. Along the way you can enjoy the landscape of the beautiful Eilandspolder. Don't forget to make a stop in one of the ovely villages along the trail for some tasty regional treats.

12 66 42 43 1 32 60 59 58 69 53 41 20

For the full trail go to www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code

beautiful regional items. The market winds through the picturesque streets in the city centre, so you are guaranteed to end up on one of the former market squares. For on the Koemarkt square, or the impressive

conviviality. Take a break on one of the

terraces before continuing on your way.

own transport? Then park at a TOP (Tourist

Transfer Point) and use the extensive biking

and hiking network. The app or map points

you in the right direction and makes it easy

for you to discover the gems of the region.

straight through no fewer than two

UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Admire the unique nature of the

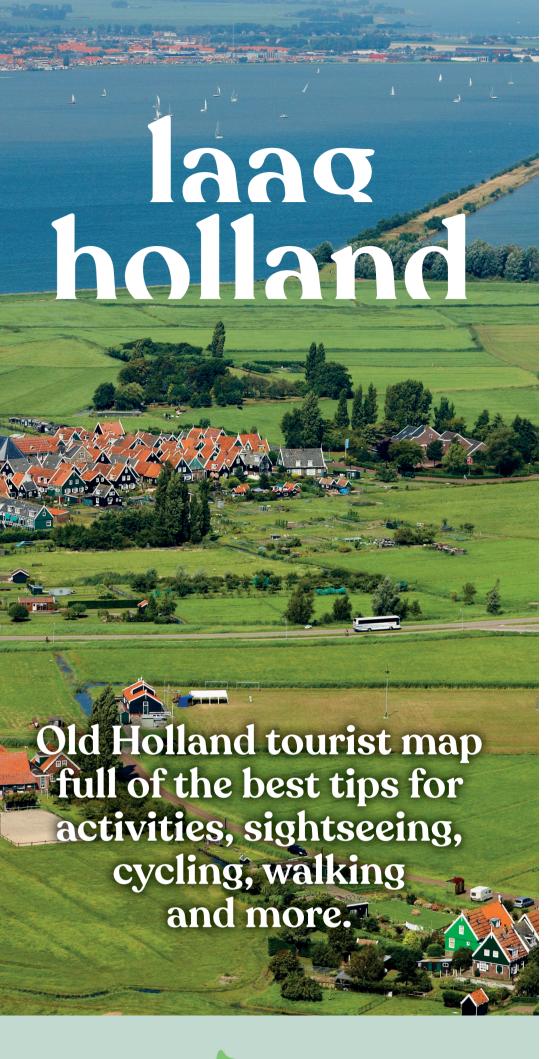
Beemsterpolder and visit three fort

of the Defense Line of Amsterdam

Because of the connecting routes

ou can adjust this trail to 10, 14, 1°

Discover Town and Country with your





A unique piece of real Holland

Welcome to Old Holland, a unique region directly north of Amsterdam. Old Holland is characterised by its openness and rural character, interspersed with many historic villages and towns. You will find an extensive range of recreational-tourist activities in the region. So Old Holland is a great region to live and stay. This tourist map gives you an overview of these activities and facilities.

This tourist map was developed by Bureau Toerisme Laag Holland on behalf of the Province of North Holland. When compiling the information for this map, we did our best to include as much information about the region as possible.

Additional information can be found on the website www.laagholland.com. Additions and/or corrections for possible reprints can be sent to info@laagholland.com

Photo credits: Alyona Osadchuk, Eric van Poppel, Saskia Koning, Femke Pluijm HoneyGuide, Ritske Velstra, Sjoerd Bracke, Cuno de Bruin, Mike Bink, Nander de Wijk, Floor van der Vlist.



laaq holland

The Old Hollanders are not the only inhabitants of the region. They share the area with numerous (meadow) birds that stay here temporarily or for a longer period of time. If you're very lucky you might even spot flamingos in the summer. And let's not forget the meadows full of typical black and white cows, dykes full of sheep and enthusiastic pheasants that have chosen Old Holland as their home since time

immemorial. It is never taken for granted that all these residents live in harmony. Looking after this special but complex ecosystem takes hard work. The special peat meadow areas, which are so important for the flora and fauna, are protected by preserving peace and space. To protect the balance between people and nature, for example, many (unpaved) paths are closed to hikers during bird breeding season (15 March-15 June). This gives the meadow birds the chance to breed peacefully. Also, at various locations, a lot of work is being done to find solutions for sustainable nature conservation. Sometimes visible in the landscape, but sometimes also behind the scenes. peatland, the landscape also tells a lot about of the special sailing excursions. Enjoy the

the history of the area. Unique objects are regularly found in the region. Many of these finds are kept and exhibited in the House of Hilde in Castricum. The museum tells the history of North Holland on the basis of various archaeological finds, such as pot shards, metal finds, wood and human

amount of water and the abundance of flora and fauna mean Old Holland is a and quiet. Go and look for some of the of. In the field, from a birdwatching hut countryside you can spot birds to your the Oostzanerveld, accompanied by a

The far-reaching peat meadows, the infinite

paradise for nature lovers. Here you can enjoy an abundance of activities in peace many birds that Old Holland is so proud or from Fort K'ijk. At various places in the heart's content. The maze of farm ditches, hundreds of meadows, islands of peat and reed collars are best discovered from the water, by boat or canoe, with or without a guide. Sail on a flat bottom boat through boating farmer, or sail with the skipper and North Holland Landscape guide through the by nosy cows, whistling godwits and bubbly Ilperveld. You can discover the Wormer and lapwings.



landscape. Even to this day, these 'meadow mills' are important for managing the water level in the peat meadow area. Guisveld peat polder. Once a year, during Whitsun, the various islands are connected to each other with raft bridges and you can enjoy

Canoes and (whisper) boats are rented



small mill as you sail through the peat meadow you can discover the peat meadow areas Discover the magic of walking on water in the turn off towards Waterland, where the many the beautiful reedlands, flowery meadows and
Then go on one of the dozens of beautiful ditches. With a bit of luck, you will be greeted biking or hiking trails and become one with

and Jisperveld you can float on the water ditches and winding waterways are regularly interspersed with a pretty village or a nice tea garden. Would you rather stay on dry land?

yourself. In the Eilandspolder or the Wormer and discover the area at the same time. Or nature. (Electric) bicycles can be hired at various places in the region. There are also places that rent out other types of (electric)

transport such as e-choppers, e-scooters and

Twizys for a sustainable way to go out and

of hiking, biking and bridle paths take you through the forest and over open stretches of dunes. You may come across Scottish Highland cattle or wild horses along the way. Tip: in the month of August you are allowed to pick blackberries in some places. Not all nature in Old Holland is "ancient". There are also nature and recreation areas that are not even a lifetime old. Compared to the peat meadow areas and the North

young. But their age doesn't take away from On the North Sea coast near Castricum you the beauty of these areas. There are plenty of discover a totally different type of landscape, adventures to be had among the young trees the North Holland Dune Reserve. Kilometres of the Purmerbos (forest). Children can have fun in the adventurous forest playground, but the Purmerbos is also great for hikers, cyclists, runners, equestrians and dogs. In the recreation area Het Twiske there is also plenty for young and old to do. Children can entertain themselves here for hours on and near the water, in the Adventure Playground or in the Speelsloot (pond) while nature lovers can bike, hike, boat, horse ride and rollerblade to their heart's content in the versatile landscape.

Holland Dune Reserve, these areas are still very

peninsula. Just some of the unique towns and villages in Old Holland. All have the same welcoming atmosphere and beautiful scenery: historical streets and squares, all surrounded by endless natural beauty. Many of the towns and villages flourished in the Golden Age. The time of whalers, herring fishing and the Dutch East India Company. The streets echoed with the sound of shipbuilders hammering and bargaining market vendors. A little further up, thousands of chickens, ducks and geese were kept for egg production and milk was churned into delicious cheese.

unnoticed at that time. The French cultural historian Henry Havard, for example, visited several villages along the Zuiderzee in 1873 picturesque places because of its pretty wooden houses and traditional costumes. His recommendation created a veritable stream of brilliant painters, including Paul Signac. All obsessed with capturing the special fishing village, the environment and its traditions. Someone who saw a unique opportunity in the growing stream of artists objects from these masterpieces.

City and countryside blend seamlessly in Old was Leendert Spaander. At the end of the Holland. A new adventure is therefore never 19th century he became the owner of the far away. Broek in Waterland, Edam, De Rijp, only hotel in Volendam. In order to attract Monnickendam, Purmerend and the Marken more foreign tourists to his hotel, he went abroad every winter with self-produced postcards to persuade artists to visit his village and paint there. The hotel soon grew halls, canals, gable stones and cosy squares into a meeting place for artistic talent from all are now the setting for contemporary over the world and Volendam became one of the most important artists' colonies in the The Zaan region was also popular among artists. The French impressionist Claude

Monet was so impressed by the picturesque region during his visit in 1871 that he produced no less than 25 paintings and 9 The fact that the region is special did not go remarkable and there is enough to paint for great place for us to stay. The Dutch seem can be admired in museums all over the world. There is even one in the Zaans like the Zaanse Schans, you can still find the

sketches here. Monet wrote to his friend and painter Camille Pissarro: 'Zaandam is quite a lifetime. I believe that this is going to be a to be a very friendly and hospitable people. and described Volendam as one of the most He was fascinated by the reflection of the sky in the water, turbulent cloudy skies, coloured houses, spinning mills, the numerous boats and fluttering summer dresses. His paintings Museum. In many places in the Zaan region,

or the full trail go to or scan the QR code

The prosperity of that time can be seen

village centres. Anyone cycling or walking

through many of these places can imagine

themselves in a real life postcard. Historic

buildings and warehouses, harbours, town

uring this trail you will come across

d peat meadow areas where at

25) 48) 32) (14) (21) (15) (13) (12) (74)

(50) (73) (73) (73) (94) (92) (93) (45) (47)

today in the well-preserved town and

onumental windmills, warehouses, Town & country at its best: From the

rms, mansions and plenty of natural market town of Purmerend, walk

Town & Country





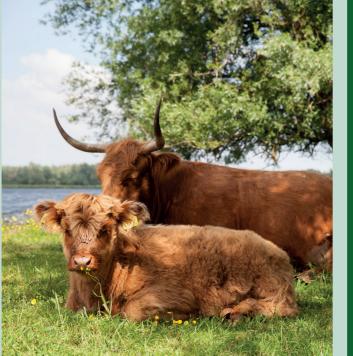












Rural Amsterdam Trail | St Bird Watching: Oostzanerveld, Stootersplas

and Het Twiske | 12 km Hop on your bike and discover the This walking trail takes you through the pen peatland of Waterland-Oost. Here, the old channels of the peat ivers Ae and Die meander through water and the open landscape, the he landscape. Enjoy the picturesque area attracts many special meadow and Waterland-style ribbon villages and the beautiful nature that surrounds them. 52 46 45 43 42 40 41 76 75 57 54 53 52 77 79 78 44 47 18 3 20 21 22 23 14 7 96 46 (52 (05) (05)

or the full trail go to

or scan the QR code

For the full trail go to or scan the QR code

beautiful Oostzanerveld and recreation

area Het Twiske. Because of all the

water birds, such as the black-tailed

Perfect for bird lovers!

8 14 7 11 15 18

godwit, the lapwing and the redshank.

Sightseeing

Beautiful windmills, churches, forts and unique landmarks, Old Holland has them all! They all tell their own story about the history of the area. Keep your camera handy and discover all these beautiful places. With a bit of luck, at most locations the door will be wide open for you, so you can go inside and learn more about these cultural highlights.

Check all the sights to see on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Activities

From excitement to relaxation, Old Holland is bursting with activities. Outdoors in the fresh air or indoors on lesser days. When the weather is fine, enjoy yourself in and by the water or take the children to one of the many playgrounds or swimming pools. Treat yourself to a sauna when the weather is not as good or visit one of the great museums.

Check all the activities on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Culture & heritage

Old Holland is full of reminders of the age-old battle between water and land, flourishing trading cities and other cultural heritage. Get to know the culture and heritage of the area in the forts of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Dutch Waterlines or the reclaimed land of the Beemster. Visit one of the museums and dive into Old Holland's history.

Check all culture & heritage on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Nature

Curious about what there is to see in the Old Holland countryside this month?

Check out the online nature calendar on the website. Besides the nature calendar, you will find a lot of information about the different nature reserves and tips on how and where you can experience the nature of Old Holland, with or without children.

See everything about nature in Old Holland on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



In & on the water

From small ditches to large ponds and lakes, Old Holland has an abundance of water. Life in Old Holland therefore mainly takes place on and around the water. Fine marinas offer visitors a berth, sailing routes take you past the most beautiful places and a list of catering and rental companies on the water help you further on your (water)way.

Check in & on the water on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Biking & hiking

A resting point is a place to have a break during your bicycling or walking route. They are usually located on a farm or other private property in rural areas. From long distance hikes to a brisk walk in the fresh air. Cycling past forts or shops with local produce. You can do it all. The facilities along the way are fantastic. Didn't bring your own bike? No problem. There are many places where you can simply rent one.

See everything about biking & hiking on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Tourist Transfer Points (TOPs)

TOPs are Tourist Transfer Points. You can park your car at every TOP, after which you can enjoy cycling, walking or sailing in the rural surroundings. The TOPs can be recognized by the green information columns. At each TOP you will find parking spaces and an information panel with signposted routes that introduce you to the most beautiful places in Old Holland

See all TOPs in Laag Holland at www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Resting points

A resting point is a place to have a break during your bicycling or walking route. They are usually located on a farm or other private property in rural areas. Here you are welcome to rest, eat your lunch, charge your electric bike or use the restroom. You can make yourself a cup of coffee or tea for a small fee. The resting points can be recognized by a 'Rustpunten' sign along the road.

See all resting points in Old Holland at www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code



Junction points

Following the junction points of the cycling, walking or sloop network, you can map out a nice route for yourself in no time. Use the red junction points of for a walking route, the yellow junction points of a cycling route and the blue junction points for a boating route. The junctions are signposted along the route so you will never get lost.

