

Welcome

Enjoy Old Holland

Old Holland is a unique touch of real 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 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, 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 region.

Go for a typically Dutch adventure and use the mapped trails that criss cross the area. Pass by windmills, cross dykes and catch a ferry across canals and rivers. Of

course there are plenty of places to stop along the way; a delicious cup of coffee, a nice lunch or interesting museum is always close by.

Prefer to stay close to nature? Choose a trail off the beaten path, like the sections of the Noord-Hollandpad (North Holland Path), the Trekvogelpad (Migrant Bird Path), or one of the farmland trails.

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, fortunately there are a lot of places stay. Like a countryside B&B, centrally located hotel or at one of the green campsites. Moor your boat in a bustling marina or park your camper at a site in the middle of the city! Welcome, enjoy yourself...



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. Due to the preserving effect of this beautiful peatland, the landscape also tells a lot about

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 remains.

The far-reaching peat meadows, the infinite amount of water and the abundance of flora and fauna mean Old Holland is a paradise for nature lovers. Here you can enjoy an abundance of activities in peace and quiet. Go and look for some of the many birds that Old Holland is so proud of. In the field, from a birdwatching hut or from Fort Kijk. At various places in the countryside you can spot birds to your 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 the Oostzanerveld, accompanied by a boating farmer, or sail with the skipper and North Holland Landscape guide through the IJperveld. You can discover the Wormer and IJsperveld from the Poel farm, or during one of the special sailing excursions. Enjoy the



Tip:
Take a look at the event calendar for all events during your stay.



Living below sea level

If there's one thing that defines the landscape 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 and high tides. With all their determination, our ancestors built miles of dykes and dozens 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, pumping stations and locks can still be found in many places in the landscape.

In addition, numerous dykes make sure your feet stay dry, and that there are delightful vistas for you to enjoy. You can also find traces 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 waterways and differences in height are still clearly visible.

Unfortunately, the dykes were not always able to withstand the power of the water. Dykes, buildings and even entire villages were swallowed up by the Waterwolf. To this day, all the traces are still found in the soil. In

Archaeological Mini museum De Waterwolf in Etersheim you come across all kinds of archaeological finds, from everyday things to unusual objects. Here you can also 'go to the bottom' yourself, and go about 1000 years back in time.

Our ancestors not only knew how to protect the land from the water, but also managed to turn water into land. This created thousands of hectares of new land. Climb the Keyserkerk in the middle of the former Beemstermeer and admire the panoramic view of the UNESCO World Heritage De Beemster. You might spot one of the seven Old Holland fortresses of the Defense Line of Amsterdam, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Dutch Waterlines. This network of forts was built in 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 biggest weapon of the Defense Line: the water.

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 relax in Het Twiske recreation area. Float across the Alkmaarder and Uitgeester lakes

or glide silently through the water of nature reserves such as Waterland-Oost and the Eilandspolder. There are plenty of catering establishments along the way, where you can moor. So much fun!

Many boat owners find their way to Old Holland. Various beautiful facilities have been developed for them. The junction system of the sloop network shows the accessible routes by means of a handy map and an app.

Along the way you will find mooring posts for an easy stop. Of course, you can spend the night at one of the many marinas on both the Markermeer and the inland waterways. From here you can easily visit Pummerend, Monnickendam, Volendam or De Rijk or the rest of Old Holland.

🚲 Under Sea Level Trail | 33 km

Cycle below sea level through the vast polders of Old Holland. This route takes you from the historic city center of Edam, through the Zeevang polder and the mysterious Etersheimerbraak.

95 94 13 28 04 09 11 10 33
83 64 97 95

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



🚲 Bathtub Trail | 8 km

The Bathtub Trail is a walk along the grassy dyke of the reclaimed Noordoermeer, a deep-lying polder that is strongly reminiscent of an empty bathtub. Go out and discover this beautiful area for yourself!

27 27 79 78 77 76 75 74 74
75 76 77 79 27

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



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 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 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-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 supermarkets.

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 Beemstermeer was drained. You can buy all

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, for a truly unique experience!

All sorts of delicacies are produced, harvested and smoked along the Markermeer coast, in the Land of Leeghwater and in Waterland. Local dairy products are 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 Volendam or Monnickendam. In the summer months many culinary events are organised in Old Holland. From the Monnickendammer Fishing Days to the traditional cheese markets in Edam. These centuries-long traditions leave you wanting more!

For years, Pummerend 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 Pummerend was the only place in the region to be given market rights. Each square had its own type

🚲 World Heritage Trail | 50 km

Get a taste of the region with the World 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
28 30 31 32 08 07 06 05 04
49 25

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



🚲 Herring & Hemp Trail | 13 km

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 lovely 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



A Taste of the Region



Tip:
Laag Holland is full of great spots for a bite and a drink.



Old Holland tourist map
full of the best tips for
activities, sightseeing,
cycling, walking
and more.

One with nature



🚲 Rural Amsterdam Trail | 45 km

Hop on your bike and discover the open peatland of Waterland-Oost. Here, the old channels of the peat rivers Ae and Die meander through the landscape. Enjoy the picturesque 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
46 52 05 05

For the full trail go to
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🚲 Bird Watching: Oostzanerveld, Stootersplas and Het Twiske | 12 km

This walking trail takes you through the beautiful Oostzanerveld and recreation area Het Twiske. Because of all the water and the open landscape, the area attracts many special meadow and water birds, such as the black-tailed godwit, the lapwing and the redshank. Perfect for bird lovers!

18 3 20 21 22 23 14 7 96
8 14 7 11 15 18

For the full trail go to
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Tip:
Fancy a day of shopping? Check out the best shopping streets and boutiques here



Town & Country



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

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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

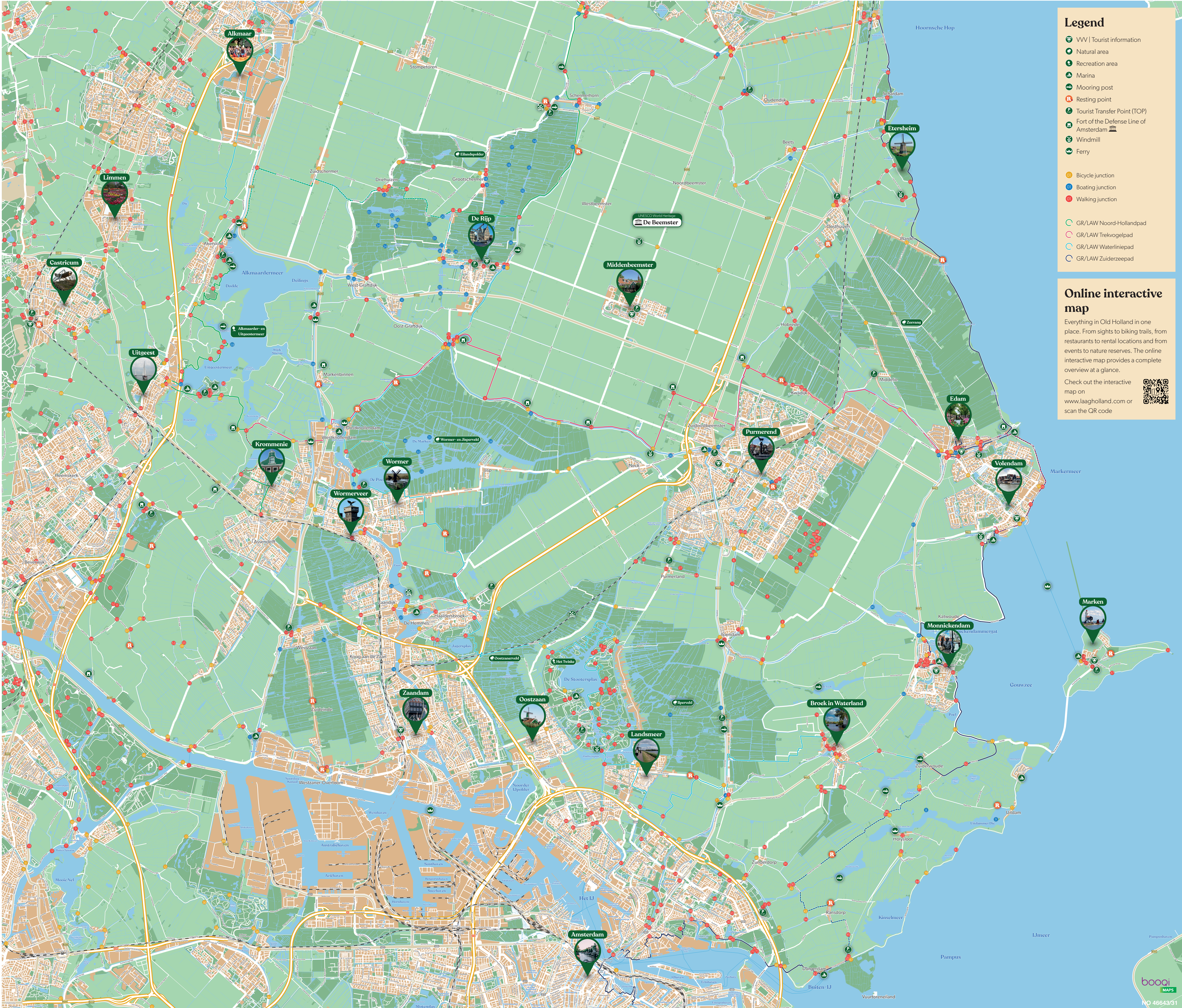
A resting point is a place to have a break during your bicycling or walking route. They are usually located on a farm or other private property in rural areas. Here you are welcome to rest, eat your lunch, charge your electric bike or use the restroom. You can make yourself a cup of coffee or tea for 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 for a walking route, the yellow junction points for 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.



Legend

- WV | Tourist information
- Natural area
- Recreation area
- Marina
- Mooring post
- Resting point
- Tourist Transfer Point (TOP)
- Fort of the Defense Line of Amsterdam
- Windmill
- Ferry

- Bicycle junction
- Boating junction
- Walking junction

- GR/LAW Noord-Hollandpad
- GR/LAW Trekvogelpad
- GR/LAW Waterliniep pad
- GR/LAW Zuiderzeepad

Online interactive map

Everything in Old Holland in one place. From sights to biking trails, from restaurants to rental locations and from events to nature reserves. The online interactive map provides a complete overview at a glance.

Check out the interactive map on www.laagholland.com or scan the QR code

