

CYCLING ROUTE GUISVELD 8 KM

- 1 THE CYCLING ROUTE STARTS AT THE POLICE STATION. TURN INTO THE FREEK ENGELPAD.
 - 2 CROSS THE BRIDGE AND FOLLOW THE WATER IN THE DIRECTION OF WORMERVEER.
 - 3 TURN RIGHT THROUGH THE HAMLET OF DE MIDDEL.
 - 4 AFTER THE LAST HOUSE, PROCEED OVER A WHITE BRIDGE AND FOLLOW THE TRACK WHICH RUNS PARALLEL TO THE MOTORWAY.
 - 5 GO UNDER THE RAILWAY AND TURN RIGHT IMMEDIATELY. CONTINUE ON THE BICYCLE PATH UNTIL YOU REACH WORMERVEER RAILWAY STATION.
 - 6 CONTINUE ON THE WANDELWEG IN THE DIRECTION OF ZAANDIJK.
 - 7 AS YOU REACH ZAANDIJK, THE ROAD ASCENDS SLIGHTLY BECAUSE OF A DITCH THAT RUNS UNDER THE ROAD. THERE'S A BICYCLE PATH ALONG
 - 8 THIS DITCH. TAKE THE STEEP STAIRS (CAUTION!) TO THE BICYCLE TUNNEL AND TURN RIGHT UNDER THE RAILWAY TRACKS.
 - 9 TURN LEFT INTO THE BENNY GOODMANSTRAAT AND GO LEFT OVER THE BRIDGE.
 - 10 KEEP GOING UNTIL YOU REACH THE OUD HEINSTRAT.
 - 11 TURN RIGHT AT THE END OF THIS STREET AND CONTINUE UNTIL YOU REACH THE POLICE STATION.
- HERE YOU CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO STOP OR CONTINUE IN THE DIRECTION OF ZAANDAM.
- TO CONTINUE, TURN LEFT ONTO THE BICYCLE PATH.
- TURN RIGHT AFTER THE ROUNDABOUT. CYCLE ALONG THE WESTERWINDPAD PAST TWO RESIDENTIAL AREAS, WESTERKOOG AND WESTERWATERING. BECAUSE OF THE WATER, YOU WILL HAVE TO CROSS SEVERAL STEEP BRIDGES.
- NOW TURN AROUND YOUR CYCLE MAP.



THIS BICYCLE ROUTE FALLS INTO TWO MAIN LOOPS SO IT CAN BE CYCLED AS TWO SEPARATE ROUTES OR AS ONE CONTINUOUS ROUTE. THE YELLOW TRAIL GOES PAST WESTERZIJDERVELD AND DE REEF. A GOOD PLACE TO START IS FROM ZAANDAM RAILWAY STATION OR KOOG BLOEMDIJK RAILWAY STATION. THE RED TRAIL GOES PAST NATURE RESERVE HET GUISVELD. THE EASIEST STARTING POINT FOR THIS TRAIL IS KOOG-ZAANDIJK RAILWAY STATION OR WORMERVEER RAILWAY STATION. TOGETHER THE TRAILS FORM AN EIGHT.

TIP: MAKE SURE TO BRING BINOCULARS OR A TELESCOPE WITH YOU SO THAT YOU CAN STUDY THE BIRDLIFE IN DETAIL.

DE REEF is a nature reserve just west of Westzaan, named after the fen of the same name. The fen is the result of reclamation activities during the Middle Ages.

WESTZIJDERVELD is the undeveloped part of the Westzaan polder, between Westzaan in the west and Zaandam and Koog a/d Zaan in the east. Until the construction of the A8 motorway, the area to the north was also called Westzijderveld. The name originated in the 17th century, more or less simultaneously with that of Oostzijderveld at the east side of the Zaan. Westzijderveld was characterised by mills, in particular sawmills and later steam sawmills that set up operations in the Zaandam area.

Nature reserve HET GUISVELD, which until the 1960s was called Westzijderveld, lies roughly between the railway line to the north and east, Rooswijk residential area to the south, the hamlet of De Middel and the Nauernasche Vaart to the west. It's an area of peat bogs, a landscape that has become quite rare in the Netherlands. As one of the last areas in the country, Het Guisveld is home to nearly extinct plant species such as adder's tongue, southern marsh orchid, round-leaf sundew and royal fern. Here you can also find rare bird species such as the bittern, Savi's warbler, bearded reedling and the western marsh harrier.

The main structure of all three areas is formed by the striking landscape of grass-land patches separated by a historical pattern of ditches, an 'archipelago' of grass polders surrounded by water.



BIRD WATCHING
AS SOON AS YOU REACH THE SITE OF THE FORBO FACTORY ON YOUR LEFT, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE A BIRD HIDE ON AN ISLAND ON YOUR RIGHT. THE BIRD HIDE IS MADE OF STEEL, SO PLEASE APPROACH CAREFULLY TO AVOID NOISE. FROM HERE YOU CAN SPOT A VARIETY OF MEADOW BIRDS AND WATER BIRDS.



DE MIDDEL
DE MIDDEL BOASTS AN INTERESTING COLLECTION OF OLD AND NEW BUILDINGS.

GUISVELD
THIS TYPICAL FEN AREA IS HOME TO THE LAPWING, BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, BUZZARD AND THE WESTERN MARSH HARRIER. IF YOU ARE LUCKY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPOT A BITTERN IN THE REED. GROWING ON THE WATERFRONT YOU CAN SEE THE FLOWERING RUSH, AND ON THE BANKS IN THE GRASS, THE PRUNELLA VULGARIS.

SKYLINE
IN THE DISTANCE THE SKYLINE IS DOMINATED BY THE LASSIE FACTORY RICE SILO AND THE 144-METRE TALL NOZEMA TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER.

FRANS MARS
FRANS MARS (1903-1973) WAS A DUTCH PAINTER AND TEACHER WHO LIVED AND WORKED IN WORMERVEER. HE WAS ALSO CO-FOUNDER OF THE ZAAAN WINDMILL SOCIETY. IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON HIS PAINTING WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS, HE BOUGHT A CABIN IN 1923 WHICH HE HAD INSTALLED IN A REMOTE PART OF HET GUISVELD. THIS IS WHERE MANY OF HIS PAINTINGS WERE CREATED. AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HE JOINED AN ARTISTS' SOCIETY CALLED ZAENDEN. IN 1946, HE TOOK A TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM HIS TEACHING DUTIES TO DEVOTE HIMSELF FULL-TIME TO HIS FAMOUS MOLENPANORAMA (WINDMILL PANORAMA). THIS PAINTING IS ON DISPLAY AT THE MOLENMUSEUM IN KOOG A/D ZAAAN.

HERDESKINDPAD
AS YOU LEAVE THE RESIDENTIAL WORMERVEER AREA, RIGHT AFTER A ROW OF WHITE HOUSES, YOU'LL SEE THE HERDESKINDPAD, A SHORT WALKING TRAIL THAT IS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT TO FIND. IT'S A POPULAR PLACE FOR DOG OWNERS TO WALK THEIR DOGS.

FREEK ENGEL
LOCAL PAINTER AND DRAWING ARTIST FREEK ENGEL (1872-1958) WAS ONE OF THE BEST COW PAINTERS THE NETHERLANDS HAS KNOWN.



**WALKING ROUTE
FRANS MARSPAD
2 KM**

A HIGHLY RECOMMENDED WALK ALONG HET GUISVELD FROM WORMERVEER RAILWAY STATION TO ZAANDIJK

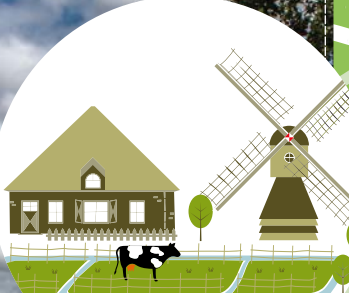
Please note this walk is not circular. It ends in Rooswijk residential area where you can ask for directions to the police station. From there, follow the Dr. J. Mulderstraat until you reach the Wezelstraat pedestrian crossing. The railway station of Koog-Zaandijk is on this road.

The trail, which is covered in white clover, is mowed several times a year to keep it open. You may not be able to see the water and the water birds because of the tall reed, but you will be able to hear the reed warbler and the sedge warbler and enjoy the dragonflies and damselflies as they playfully fly around you.

THIS WALKING ROUTE IS CLOSED DURING THE BREEDING SEASON (15 MARCH TO 1 JULY).

WESTZIJDERVELD - REEF 12,5 KM
GUISVELD 8 KM

REGION ZAAAN IN THE GREEN CYCLING ROUTES



CYCLING ROUTES IN THE GREEN ZAAAN REGION

MADE AVAILABLE BY COURTESY OF



gemeente Zaanstad
ZNSTD

WESTZIJDERVELD & REEF

12,5 KM

- 1 FOLLOW THE WESTERWINDPAD SOUTHWARDS, SO GO LEFT.
 - 2 TURN RIGHT ON THE DIKE.
 - 3 GO LEFT AFTER THE SLUICE AND PUMPING STATION, THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO THE VELDWEG.
 - 4 IN NAUVERNA, CROSS THE STREET. BEFORE YOU REACH THE BRIDGE TURN RIGHT ONTO THE CYCLE PATH. THIS DIKE RUNS PARALLEL TO THE NAUERNASCHÉ VAART.
 - 5 ONCE YOU GET TO WESTZAAN, CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE NAUERNASCHÉ VAART AND TURN RIGHT INTO BLANKENBURG.
 - 6 CROSS THE ROUNDABOUT AND TURN RIGHT.
 - 7 TURN LEFT INTO WEIVER TO AVOID THE MUCH BUSIER PROVINCIALEWEG.
 - 8 AT THE END OF THE ROAD, TURN RIGHT AND THEN LEFT. FOLLOW THE CYCLE PATH ALONGSIDE PROVINCIALEWEG. CONTINUE UNTIL THE ROAD BENDS TO THE RIGHT IN THE DIRECTION OF KOOG A/D ZAAAN WEST.
 - 9 WHEN YOU REACH THE ROUNDABOUT, DECIDE WHETHER TO HEAD BACK TO ZAANDAM OR CONTINUE TO WORMERVEER.
- FOR ZAANDAM:** CROSS THE ROUNDABOUT AND CONTINUE ALONG THE CYCLE PATH (WESTERWINDPAD) ON YOUR RIGHT.
- FOR WORMERVEER:** GO LEFT AND RIDE UNDER THE MOTORWAY VIADUCT. NOW TURN AROUND YOUR CYCLE MAP.

RIETTOPPAD

2,5 KM

THIS TRAIL ALLOWS YOU TO BREATHE IN HISTORY AND ENJOY A LANDSCAPE THAT HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE THE 10TH CENTURY.

The route starts at the roundabout and ends at De Middel in Westzaan. It takes you through the marshland of Het Guisveld, over bridges and platforms of planks. This area is known for its unique flora and fauna: you will see the creeping thistle, hogweed, star moss and rosebay growing in abundance. Of course, walking on a quaking bog is an experience in itself. You can do a round walk by going through De Middel and turning right into the Weiver.

NO DOGS ALLOWED

LEGENDA

CYCLING ROUTE

WALKING ROUTE

ROUTE SIGNS

RAILWAY STATION

PARKING

CATERING FACILITIES



ROUTE FROM THE RAILWAY STATIONS

ZAANDAM

- A TAKE EXIT HOUTVELD. IN FRONT OF YOU IS EBBEHOUT SQUARE.
- B GO NORTH, PAST THE SUPERMARKET AND THE HOTEL ON YOUR RIGHT.
- C AFTER VUREHOUT, TURN LEFT. CROSS THE HOUTVELDWEG AND TURN LEFT ONTO THE CYCLE PATH.
- D TURN RIGHT AT AUBADE. CONTINUE ON PAST THE SERENADE, UNTIL YOUR REACH THE WESTERWINDPAD.

THE ROUTE STARTS AT 1 (SEE YELLOW ROUTE).

KOOG BLOEMWIJK

- E TAKE THE EXIT WITH THE KIOSKS. FOLLOW LOCOMOTIEF, AND TURN LEFT AT GLAZENMAKER.
- F DIRECTLY AFTER DOKTERSLAND, TURN LEFT ONTO THE CYCLE PATH. CROSS TWO BRIDGES. IN THE VEENBUURTJE, GO RIGHT, LEFT AND LEFT AGAIN, THEN RIGHT AND CONTINUE UNTIL YOU REACH THE HOUTVELDWEG.
- G STAY ON THE CYCLE PATH, GO PAST THE PLAYGROUND AND YOU WILL FIND THE WESTERWINDPAD.

THE ROUTE STARTS AT 1 (SEE YELLOW ROUTE).

KOOG-ZAANDIJK

- H EXIT THE STATION AT THE PARKING LOT SIDE. TURN RIGHT INTO THE WEZELSTRAAT AND CROSS THE GUISWEG AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS.
- I TURN LEFT INTO THE DR. J. MULDERSTRAAT. CONTINUE UNTIL YOU REACH THE POLICE STATION.

THE ROUTE STARTS AT 1 (SEE RED ROUTE).

WORMERVEER

- J EXIT THE STATION AT THE STATIONSSTRAAT SIDE.

THE ROUTE STARTS AT 6 (SEE RED ROUTE).

DE REEF
DE REEF IS A UNIQUE PEAT MEADOW AREA WITH ABUNDANT BIRDLIFE. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP FOR A BREAK. PARK YOUR BICYCLE AND GET YOUR BINOCULARS OR TELESCOPE OUT TO WATCH BIRDS, SUCH AS THE BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, BARN SWALLOW, GREYLAG GOOSE AND THE COMMON TERN HOVERING OVER ONE OF THE MANY DITCHES.

WESTERWINDPAD
THIS BICYCLE TRAIL GOES ALL THE WAY ALONG THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE EAST AND THE STAATSBOSSBEHEER NATURE RESERVE IN THE WEST. THE BANKS OF THE DITCHES ARE DOTTED WITH PLANTS LIKE MARSH WOUNDWORT, AND THE FIELDS ARE INHABITED BY MEADOW BIRDS SUCH AS THE BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, LAPWING AND THE COMMON REDSHANK. YOU CAN ALSO SEE DAIRY COWS GRAZING ON PASTURE LAND.

FRONIK FARM
FRONIK FARM, A COMMUNITY FARM RUN BY VOLUNTEERS, HAS A MUSEUM SHOP WHERE YOU CAN BUY A BEVERAGE FOR A SMALL DONATION. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND ANIMALS LOVERS THERE ARE MANY FARMYARD ANIMALS TO ENJOY SUCH AS RABBITS, PEACOCKS, CHICKENS, DONKEYS AND POT-BELLIED PIGS. GOOD TO KNOW: THEY ALSO HAVE A BICYCLE PUMP AND SIMPLE TOILET THAT YOU CAN USE.

ZEEDIJK
THE OLD NOORDERIJ EN ZEEDIJK ONCE PROTECTED THE LAND AND INHABITANTS OF THE PROVINCE OF NOORD-HOLLAND FROM THE IJ. ON YOUR LEFT, ABOUT A KILOMETRE IN THE DISTANCE, IS THE NORTH SEA CANAL. PERHAPS YOU CAN SPOT A CRUISE OR CARGO SHIP? THE HOUSES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DIKE ARE AN ATTRACTIVE MIX OF OLD AND NEW ARCHITECTURE. THERE ARE EVEN NEW HOUSES THAT MIMIC THE ICONIC STYLE OF TRADITIONAL WOODEN HOUSES OF THE ZAAAN REGION. AT THE WESTZANERDIJK GARDEN ASSOCIATION YOU CAN STILL SEE AN OLD LANDMARK POST IN THE GRASS.

JCZ
THE HUGE BUILDING TO THE LEFT IS THE BRAND-NEW JC ZAAANSTAD, A MEGACOMPLEX THAT HOLDS BOTH A PRISON AND A DEPARTMENT FOR PSYCHIATRIC DELINQUENTS.

NAUERNASCHÉ VAART
THIS CANAL WAS DUG IN 1633 TO IMPROVE DRAINAGE WHEN THE SCHERMER WAS RECLAIMED. THE 8.5-KM CANAL RUNS FROM WESTKNOLLANDAM TO ZIJKANAAL D OF THE NORTH SEA CANAL.

PUBLICATION DETAILS
COMMISSIONING PARTY: HOTSPOT WORMERVEER
CONCEPT & DESIGN: COUNTER CREATIVES (TIJS KOELEMENIER)
PHOTOGRAPHY: KEES HULSTEIN
ROUTES: KEES HULSTEIN / MARENE KOK
TEXT: KEES HULSTEIN / MARENE KOK
TRANSLATED BY: COUNTER CONTENT