WORLD BIKE DAY

ROUTE & LIST OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS TO SPOT ALONG THE WAY
**Biodiversity Route**

**Open the map [Here](#)**

**Duration:** 2 hours, 50 minutes (without breaks)

**Distance:** 53.3 km

**Tips:** bring lunch, snacks, water, your mobile phone for this map and the obIdentify app.

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**Part One**

*Hortus Botanicus Leiden*

Start your journey [Here](#)

*Leidseweg*

A trip down memory lane with century old oak trees

*Rosenburgherlaan, Voorschoten*

Make a small stop at the farm, look at the list of plants!

*Wassenaarseslag*

Hold your binoculars ready to spot some birds!

*Meijendel*

Enjoy the dunes and all that it has to offer.

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**Part Two**

*Vogelplas Starrevaart*

Discover the wide variety of birds in the area, how much species do you spot?

*Heemtuin, Leiderdorp*

Focus on mammal spotting in this area!

*Het Joppe, Warmond*

You don’t see a stork (ooievaar) everyday, right?

*Landgoed Kasteel Oud-Poelgeest*

Use the obIdentify app to gain knowledge about local plants.

*Leiden Bio Science Park*
'En route' to spot along the way

Keep your eyes open! We present our list of (rare) plants and animals to spot on this route. In addition to this list, download the Obsidentify app to spot all plant and animal species.

Hortus Botanicus Leiden
We symbolically at Hortus Botanicus. The oldest botanical garden of the Netherlands and home to a wide variety of plants. To start before your biking adventure: spot rare wall ferns (muurvarens) on the walls of the Academie building.

Leidseweg
Along the Leidseweg you will find old oak trees (eiken) that are centuries old. Open the app 'Obisidentify' to discover what lives on the side of the road and which mosses live on the barks of the trees.

RosenburgHERLAAN, VOORSCHOTEN
In front of the children’s farm, you will find a bush of elderberries (vlier). The flowers should be blooming in June, and in many cases the bush is accompanied by a parasite fungus: the wood ear (Judas oor). From spring until autumn the fungi should be visible. Can you spot them? In the same area, you can spot the giant hogweed (reuzeberenklauw). The species has a spotted stem and can reach a height of four metres.

WassenAARSESLAG
While you are on your way to Wassenaarseslag, try to spot the following birds: lapwings (kievit), oystercatcher (scholekster), black-tailed godwit (grutto), redshank (tureluur) and curlew (wulp). In addition, enjoy the landscapes and look on the sideroad for dune primroses (duinteunisbloem), snakeweek (slangenkruid) and mullein (koningskaars).

MeijENDel
The Netherlands have a long coastline with beautiful dunes. These dunes have been formed around the 1600's and are part of the Quality Coast, which is an initiative to preserve all flora and fauna on the dunes. The name Meijendel originates from 'Hawthorn valley'. Near the farm 'Meyendel' you can catch a (coffee)break while you can spot horse chestnut (witte paardenkastanje). On the dunes itself you can spot sandhorn flower (zandhoornbloem) and the dune star (duinsterretje). The tiniest creatures are vital for the flora in the windy dunes. Look with your Obsidentify app for asparagus plants (aspergeplanten). Chances are that you will find the blue asparagus beetle (blauwe aspergekever) nearby, as well as the red asparagus beetle (rode aspergekever). The white asparagus we eat are actually the young stems underground. The green asparagus are the young stems above ground.
VOGELPLAS STARREVAART
For one week in February, the Vogelplas in the Vlietlanden was the most famous place in Leiden and the surrounding area. People would be present on the ice at sunrise. These days (June) there is more to see in the Vlietlanden. Spot the **black-tailed godwit** (grutto), **spooner** (lepelaar) and numerous **heron** (reiger) species. If you are truly lucky during your search, you can spot the **root vole** (noordse woelmuis).

HEEMTUIN, LEIDERDORP
After the break in the Vlietlanden, the journey continues to the Heemtuin in Leiderdorp. A heemtuin is a botanical garden in which the natural plants from the area are displayed. The gardens are opened and offer not only a beautiful garden, but Heemtuin are also home to animals such as the **sparrowhawk** (sperwer), **woodpecker** (specht) and **hedgehog** (egel). In addition, there are plenty of frogs and fish in the area.

HET JOPPE, WARMOND
The journey is almost finished, and before you head back to the city centre of Leiden, we touch upon the Kagerplassen of Warmond. This area is famous for it’s breeding birds, such as **oystercatchers** (scholekster), **lapwings** (kievits), **storks** (ooievaar), **marsh harriers** (blauwe kiekendieven) and numerous species of **geese** (ganzen). It’s your lucky day if you manage to spot a **hare** (haas) of an **ermine** (hermelijn).

LANDGOED KASTEEL OUD-POELGEEST
Imagine yourself in England when you enter the gardens of kasteel Oud-Poelgeest. The park/forest of the castle are constructed in English style. You will find **oak trees** (eiken), **beech trees** (beuken) and **lime trees** (lindenbomen). Don’t forget to spot the small plant species with the Obsidentify app. You will probably find numerous ‘**stinzenplants**’ (exotic) wild plant species that have been planted centuries ago and literally live a life according to their will.

LEIDEN BIO SCIENCE PARK
We are at the end of our cycling route! Although the BioScience Park may not be on top of mind when you think about biodiversity, there is more to spot than you might think! Find evening **primroses** (teunisbloemen) on the side of the road. They have been in the Netherands since the 17th century after the first exchange of flora, fauna, people and diseases with North-America. Due to evolution, they adapted to European grounds. Another rare species, is the **bee orchid** (bijenorchis). Normally this flower would only occur in the south of Europe. Accompanying animal species you may find, are the **brown damselfly** (bruine winterjuffer) and a variety of butterflies.
We hope you enjoyed the cycling route and that you were able to spot plenty of plants and animals along the way. Feel free to share your pictures with outreach@lugo.leidenuniv.nl. Leiden University Green Office (LUGO) and Healthy University (HU) would be happy to learn about your experience. If you are interested in more of these 'Biodiversity cycling routes', please let us know as well.

Interested in an e-bike trial? Subscribe here for a free e-bike trial from Leiden University in collaboration with Bereikbare Haaglanden.

Happy cycling!

@leidenuniversitygreenoffice
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We would like to thank to Naturalis, Centre of Biodiversity, for providing detailed information about the local biodiversity.