

10 Offem Country Estate

This country estate is situated near the heart of the old village of Noordwijk-Binnen. The vast country house was demolished in the Second World War and replaced by a large villa. In addition to old lanes of beech and oak trees, the property also boasts coppice woods, lawns and water features. In spring the forest floor is carpeted with snowdrops, bluebells, Siberian squills, bear's garlic and spring snowflakes. A few unusual daffodils are also dotted around the area. These were planted by Florapark (1932), Noordwijk's predecessor to the famous Keukenhof flower gardens. The forest also serves as a nesting ground for grey heron, buzzard, sparrow hawk and kingfisher.

Offem is a privately owned estate and not accessible to the public. The grounds around the property, especially from Nachtegaalslaan on the eastern side, do however offer a good view.



Greater stitchwort

11 Hoogeweg Polder

This grassland is an important area to meadow birds. This is where the black-tailed godwit, redshank, lapwing and oystercatcher come to nest in spring. In winter it is visited by small numbers of whooper swans and many golden plovers, teals and wigeons. A new nature reserve is under development in the south corner near the Klei-Oost industrial terrain.



Black-tailed godwit

The cycle path along the Maandagse Watering offers good vantage points across Hoogeweg Polder. You can also get a good view of this polder from the cycle trail near the Noordwijkerhoekbrug



Hoogeweg Polder

NATURALLY NOORDWIJK



Langevelderslag region

Noordwijk

Noordwijk aan Zee is a renowned seaside resort with excellent congress facilities, places of entertainment and a variety of shops. Noordwijk-Binnen has a beautiful historical city centre. Thanks to the abundance of flowering bulb fields in spring, Noordwijk can truly call itself a town of flowers and beachfronts.

But there is more! Noordwijk is also surrounded by magnificent nature reserves. The Noordwijk dunes are of significance on a European level (designated as so-called Natura 2000 areas). Almost all of these areas remain open year-round and offer endless opportunities for cycling and hiking. This is a true paradise for hiking aficionados, offering the largest nature and hiking area in the Randstad conurbation in the form of the Amsterdam Waterworks Dunes. The hinterland also offers pleasant hiking and cycling trails through a beautiful landscape. Bulb fields alternate with country estates and open grasslands.

Bulb Fields

The flower bulb fields attract more than just tourists. Because the bulbs are not harvested until June, a number of bird species enjoy nesting between the plants. This includes endangered birds such as the partridge, yellow wagtail and skylark. These "bulb birds" can often be spotted in the bulb fields of Vinkeveld and Langeveld and also along Achterweg, Bronsgeesterweg and Leeweg.



Grey partridges

Nature in Town

The month of June sees many orchids in bloom on the roadside of Northgodreef and Grashoek in Noordwijk-Binnen. The roadside of De Zuid forms the ideal habitat for species such as yellowrattle and yarrow broomrape. In spring many bulbous plants can be found along Koepelweg and Prins Hendrikweg. In summer, hundreds of sea hollies bloom in the dunes along the boulevard.



Yellow-rattle along Dennenweg

Watch out for ticks!

Many parts of the dunes are simply crawling with ticks. A tick is a small insect that attaches itself to warm-blooded passers-by such as dogs, rabbits and also humans. A tick bite could transfer the bacteria that cause the dangerous Lyme disease. Further information is available at www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk.

Further information about the Nature Reserves around Noordwijk can be found in the Nature Policy Plan of the municipality of Noordwijk (see www.noordwijk.nl). Extensive information on the dune regions is also available at www.kustgids.nl. For the latest information on the nature in and around Noordwijk, go to www.strandloper.nl.

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1 Beach and sea

The strip of beach in front of the boulevard is usually bustling with hikers and seaside visitors (in summer). It is far more peaceful beyond these areas and birds such as gulls and sandpipers can stay for longer while searching for food. The municipality of Noordwijk is collaborating on the development of a beach reserve near the provincial border. This will provide a nesting site for plovers, and a peaceful and secluded resting place for gulls, terns, sandpipers and seals.

The entire expanse of beach is open to hikers. Dogs and horses are not allowed on the parts of beach in front of the boulevards in summer. Mountain biking on the beach is allowed.



Herring gulls



Hyacinths

2 Coepelduynen

These dunes have been serving a multitude of purposes for centuries, as grazing land, for example, and for potato cultivation and turf cutting. So that it gradually developed into a characteristic, open dune landscape known as the "sea village landscape". It has become the habitat of many rare plant species, such as Nottingham catchfly, kidney vetch and a host of wild orchids. Rare species of moss and mushrooms can also be found here. Fox and roe deer are often sighted here, especially at dawn and dusk.

The area is administrated by the Dutch Forestry Commission. The area is open to hikers. The central part is however closed during the breeding season (1 March - 1 August). The cycle path and footpath between Noordwijk aan Zee and Katwijk aan Zee offer good vantage points across the Coepelduynen.



5 De Blink

In this region, which is jointly owned by the Dutch Forestry Commission, Zuid-Hollands Landschap and Waternet, nature is left to develop at its own pace. Deep blowouts alternate with impenetrable sea-buckthorn thickets. Many nightingales, white-throats and willow warblers have made this their breeding ground,



while roe deer and fallow deer are also spotted here on a regular basis.

The area is not open to the public. But you can get a good view of this rugged dune region from the cycling trails along the borders.

6 Luchter Coastal Dunes

This region, property of the Dutch Forestry Commission, consists of a coastal strip of dunes and adjoining coastal dunes. In addition to dense thicket, this region also boasts many open areas with unique vegetation. Summer birds visiting this region include the stonechat, nightingale, cuckoo and linnet.

Roads and paths are open to hikers year-round. The cycle path to Zandvoort also offers good vantage points.



8 Langeveld



With the exception of a few meadows, this entire region was planted with broad-leaved trees (oak, beech, elm and maple) around 1960. Since 2002 this landscape has undergone dramatic changes. The meadows were cut and part of the forest was cleared. In doing so,

the administrator, the Zuid-Hollands Landschap, managed to create a variegated landscape with beautiful little vistas. The seepage from the dunes was collected in newly dug frog ponds and a dune brook. Within a few years this area became home to a wonderful variety of flora, including brookweed, common centaury and slender parsley



piert. The natterjack toad and several types of dragonflies have also found their way to this region. Rare mushrooms and mosses grow in the damp areas. The section to the east of the entrance to the glider field is dotted with small patches of field where heather grows,

a variety that is found almost nowhere else in South Holland. The surrounding thicket offers ideal nesting places for buzzards, woodcocks and nightingales.

Hikers are allowed on the roads and paths. Cyclists can get a good view of the area from the cycle path along the toe of the dune.

3 Noordwijk Northern Edge

What used to be a golf-course until 1970 has now been partially transformed into a shifting dune region. The area is covered in dense thicket, low deciduous shrubs and expanses of open dune with unique vegetation. The coastal strip of dunes still contains bunkers from the Second World War; a favourite spot for bats to spend the winter.

The area is administrated by the municipality of Noordwijk. A network of shell paths makes this area accessible to hikers.



4 Northern Dunes

The inner edge of the dunes is lined with a vast pine forest, dotted with patches of deciduous trees. The dunes on the coastal side contain dense thicket, as well as grassland and blowouts. The whole area attracts a multitude of summer birds such as the stonechat, nightingale, white-throat, woodlark, goshawk and green woodpecker. Fox, roe deer and fallow deer can also be seen here, especially at dawn and dusk. In some valleys the southern marsh-orchid is abundant.

The administration by the Dutch Forestry Commission is aimed at nature conservation and recreation. The area is freely accessible with the exception of the terrain of the Noordwijk Golf Club. Hikers may make use of an extensive system of pathways. Dogs must be kept on a leash during the breeding season (1 March - 1 August). Special routes have been created for mountain biking and horseback riding. Cyclists can experience the area from the cycling trails that run through and around the area.

7 Amsterdam Waterworks Dunes

This exceptionally vast dune region has varied vegetation that ranges from deciduous woods and pine forests to thicket and grassland. It also boasts many canals (especially in part situated in the province of North Holland) which play a key role in the water collection process. The area is rich in bird life, plants and insects. Fox, roe deer and fallow deer share the area with sheep and cattle. These grazers have the important task of preventing the dunes from becoming completely overgrown by bushes.



This unique area is open to hikers exclusively (no dogs allowed). Hikers are free to make use of the many footpaths, but are also allowed to venture off these trails. Day tickets (EUR 1) are available from the VVV tourist information offices of Holland-Rijnland in Noordwijk and Noordwijkerhout. A ticket machine is also located at the car park at the entrance of De Zilk.

9 Leeuwenhorst Country Estate

This woodland area, situated within the municipality of Noordwijkerhout and largely administered by Zuid-Hollands Landschap, consists of ancient beech lanes, oak wood forests and variegated foresting. A unique feature is the large lake in Nieuw-Leeuwenhorst where hundreds of aquatic birds (including gadwall, teal, and kingfisher) spend the winter.



In this area, hikers are allowed on the roads and paths. Dogs must always be kept on a leash. A birdwatching screen allows unobtrusive observation of the aquatic birds. A car park is located at the entrance on Goeweg.

