



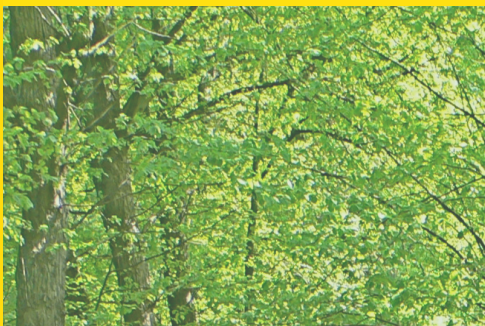
The Hague



# parken route



[parkenroutedenhaag.nl](https://parkenroutedenhaag.nl)



**Discover the  
public gardens,  
country estates,  
parks and  
recreation areas  
of The Hague**



## Colophon

The Parkenroute Den Haag is maintained by the **City of The Hague** in coöperation with the local chapter of the Dutch cyclists' union: the **Fietzersbond**.



**The Hague**

**Den Haag**  
Fietst!



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## Foreword

The Hague is a fantastic city to cycle in. Not only because cycling is often the fastest way of getting around the city but also because going for a bike ride is an easy way to get to know the city's greenspaces and its history. That is why I am so enthusiastic about the Parkenroute — or to be more exact: Parkenroutes, since there are actually three routes which you can follow separately or in combination. On these routes you cycle past the most beautiful estates and through diverse recreational areas and well and less well known parks. If you consult the guidebook you can discover more about these areas. For me the discoveries were Oosterbeek, a park that was laid out in the 17th century, Meer en Bos where archaeological discoveries from the time of the Batavi have been made, and the Stenen Kamer with its building foundations dating back to the 13th century. So hop on a bike and see the city in a new way.

Enjoy!

Robert van Asten

*Alderman of the city of The Hague with portfolio Mobility and Culture*

## Instructions

The route is signposted with rectangular yellow signs, 50 cm high and 15 cm wide. Each sign displays the logos of the city and the Fietzersbond, the name "Parkenroute" and an arrow showing the way to go.

For safety reasons or due to the fragility of the environment, on certain segments of the route it is not permitted to cycle. Within these segments the Parkenroute sign is accompanied by another small sign displaying the words "fietzers afstappen". In these sections you must walk with your bicycle.

In the directions given in this booklet we use the abbreviations **TL** for "turn left", **TR** for "turn right" and **SA** for "go straight ahead".

## Notes about the second English edition (2022)

The routes have been slightly altered. The terminology used in this booklet has also changed: we now speak of *Parkenroute 1, 2 and 3* instead of *part 1, 2 and 3*.



## Contents

The Parkenroute Den Haag comprises three adjacent routes which can be followed separately or in combination.

Parkenroute 1	shown in the <b>blue ellipse</b>	pp. 1- 7
Parkenroute 2	shown in the <b>red ellipse</b>	pp. 8-12
Parkenroute 3	shown in the <b>green ellipse</b>	pp. 12-17

Each route is approximately 20 km in length and makes a closed loop, so you can begin at any point, follow the route and return to that point.

Routes 1 and 2 are adjoined at the corner of Willem de Zwijgerlaan and Kranenburgweg. Routes 2 en 3 are adjoined at the entrance to the Ockenburgh estate on Monsterseweg. At these points you can continue on the current route or switch to the adjacent route.

On page 18 you will find more detailed maps of the three routes. In the route descriptions we have included descriptions of points of interest.

We wish you much pleasure cycling through The Hague's greenspaces!



## **Route description**

### **Parkenroute 1**

- From the cycle path along Bezuidenhoutseweg, with on your left the railway station Den Haag Centraal, TR onto Laan van Reagan en Gorbatsjov.
- At Malieveld Pavilion (a pancake house) TR onto Koekamplaan.

### **Malieveld**

The Haagse Bos forest belonged to the Counts of Holland in the time of their rule, and originally extended so far as Lange Voorhout. The Malieveld was then an open space in the forest. Starting in 1606, *malie*, a game akin to pall-mall, croquet and golf, was played there. The edge of the forest later became the scene of wild parties in which the residents of The Hague took part. The Malieveld is now used for concerts, fairs, circuses and political demonstrations.

### **Koekamp**

The Koekamp was a secluded field in the Haagse Bos where cattle were kept. The cattle were used for a form of bull fighting in which two animals were pitted against each other. Today the Koekamp is a deer park.

### **continuation of the route**

- At the end TR onto Boslaan.
- After 100 metres TL, cross over Boslaan and the (enclosed) Utrechtsebaan expressway and go SA into Haagse Bos forest.
- After the bridge keep to the left.

- After the next bridge TR at the cycle intersection and follow the unpaved cycle path.
- At the major divided road cross over carefully and continue SA.

### **Haagse Bos**

The history of The Hague is inseparable from the history of the Haagse Bos forest. At the beginning of the thirteenth century the Counts of Holland, who then resided in the town of 's-Gravenzande, hunted in this forest. This was before the first mention of the settlement later called "Die Haghe".

Wars and urbanisation have reduced the forest to its current size. During the Eighty Years' War the Spanish army cut down one sixth of the oak trees for use in the siege of Leiden. During the French Period, Napoleon ordered the forest to be cleared. The people of The Hague managed to delay the execution of this order until Napoleon was overthrown, saving the forest. During World War II the occupiers cut down 70% of the trees.

The artificial ponds were added in 1821.



In the 17th century stadtholder Frederik Hendrik commissioned the building of "Huis ten Bosch" in the forest as a country house. Huis ten Bosch is

currently the residence of the King of the Netherlands and his family.

### continuation of the route

- At the gate to the palace TL onto the driveway. At the gates TL onto Leidsestraatweg.
- After about 500 m TR onto an unpaved cycle path that ends at major divided road Benoordenhoutseweg. **Walk with your bicycle** past the gates to the pedestrian crossing and press the button to request a green signal.
- **Walk with your bicycle** across the divided road, then resume cycling and go SA onto Laan van Clingendael.
- At the entrance to the park Clingendael, TR onto the bidirectional cycle path running along the left side of Wassenaarseweg.

## Clingendael

In 1591 Philips Doublet I purchased this property and proceeded systematically to landscape it. He shared a keen interest in plants and trees with his friends Jacob Westerbaen (doctor), Constantijn Huygens (musician and diplomat) and Jacob Cats (politician).

His grandson Philips Doublet III was also keenly interested in landscape architecture and laid out the gardens in the classic French formal style.

The estate acquired its present form in the nineteenth century. Around 1850 the then owners the Van Brien family commissioned the landscape architect Theo Dinn to construct the "Japanese Garden". This beautiful garden is open

to the public for short periods in the spring and fall.



The Clingendael estate was acquired by the city of The Hague in 1954 and has been open to the public ever since.

The Clingendael mansion is now occupied by the Netherlands Institute of International Relations.

### continuation of the route

- Go SA onto van Brienelaan. *You are cycling between two parks: on the left Clingendael, on the right Oosterbeek.*

## Oosterbeek

Oosterbeek dates from 1640, when Jonathan van Luchtenburch built his country estate here. For a time it was in the hands of the Van der Dussen family, a prominent family in Delft. In 1839 Baron van Brien van de Grootte Lindt, the owner of Clingendael at the time, purchased Oosterbeek. Landscape architects J.D. Zocher Sr. and Jr. were engaged to redesign the park in a naturalistic landscape style with softer planting, gentle slopes and winding paths.

The city of The Hague bought the property in 1953 and opened the flower-rich grounds to the public a year later.

### continuation of the route

- At the end of the path after the bridge TL onto a concrete path.
- At the T-junction TR onto Ruychrockpad.
- TL onto Groenendaal.
- At the intersection go SA. Cycle over the viaduct and keep left onto Oude Waalsdorperweg. *On the right lies a campus of research institute TNO.*
- At the roundabout TL, remaining on Oude Waalsdorperweg.
- At the cycle path on the right TR onto Maurits Kiepad. *On the left lies the campus of the International Criminal Court.*
- Follow this cycle path for 1,5 km until you reach a cycle intersection. TL and proceed to the nearby road intersection with traffic lights.
- Cross Van Alkemadelaan at the lights; SA onto Pompstationsweg.
- Cycle alongside the forest and TR onto Badhuisweg.
- After about 50 metres TR onto the cycle path Tramwegpad which enters the Nieuwe Scheveningse Bosjes forest. *Near the end of this cycle path a WWII bunker can be seen on the right.*

### Nieuwe Scheveningse Bosjes

Nieuwe Scheveningse Bosjes ("New Scheveningen Forest") was once part of an extensive "wilderness" that surrounded The Hague (see p. 5). As part of a relief work project in the 1930s this dune area was planted with trees.



### continuation of the route

- At café De Boshut, TL and cross over Nieuwe Parklaan onto Cremerweg.
- Continue downhill on Cremerweg. *On the right side of the road lies Westbroekpark.*

### Westbroekpark

Westbroekpark was designed in the early 1920s by the then director of city parks and gardens P. Westbroek. With its flower beds, groves of trees and many picturesque views it is reminiscent of the grand parks of England.

The park grew in popularity when, starting in 1948, flower exhibitions were held there. The park's flower gardens are extensive, containing hundreds of plant species. The highlight is the Rosarium where the newest varieties of roses from growers around the world can be seen.

### continuation of the route

- After the bridge TR onto Haringkade and then immediately TL onto Duinweg.
- This road climbs. *Halfway up on the left is the "Belvédère" offering a view of De Waterpartij (see p. 5).*

- At the top of the slope TL onto Hogeweg. After 100 m TL again.
- This road is **not** a dead end... for cyclists. Continue downhill on cycle path Dwarsweg. *At the bottom on the left stands the national monument for victims of WW II in the Dutch East Indies.*
- Just before the major divided road Prof. B.M. Teldersweg, TR onto cycle path Ten Vijverpad.
- At the first road intersection with traffic lights, go SA.
- At the major intersection soon after this TR onto the cycle path parallel with Scheveningseweg.
- At the first road crossing TL, cross Scheveningseweg (mind the tram) and proceed SA onto Frankenslag.
- After about 100 metres, at the J. van Oldenbarneveltlaan, TR and then TL to remain on Frankenslag.



- After one kilometre, at the end of Frankenslag, cross Van Boetzelaerlaan and continue SA onto Willem de Zwijgerlaan.

**At the end of this road is the connection with Parkeroute 2.**

For the description of Parkeroute 2 turn to page 8.

**To continue on Parkeroute 1, cross to the other side of the divided road and cycle back.**

### **Continuation of Parkeroute 1**

- Cross over Van Boetzelaerlaan, cycle to the end of Willem de Zwijgerlaan, cross over Stadhouderslaan and head SA onto Eisenhowerlaan.
- After 50 m, TR onto Catsheuvel.
- Follow Catsheuvel which bends to the left. At the end TR onto the cycle path between the buildings.
- TL at major divided road Johan de Wittlaan and cycle to the intersection with traffic lights.
- TR, cross Johan de Wittlaan and go SA onto Adriaan Goekooplaan. *Immediately to the right is the rear entrance to the Catshuis — the official residence of the Prime Minister of the Netherlands — which lies in the park Zorgvliet.*



### **Zorgvliet**

Jacob Cats bought this property in 1643 but only in 1652 when he was 75 years old did he have the opportunity to develop his estate. This he embarked upon with great dedication.

To promote the growth of trees and plants he had the peat removed from the ground. As curator of Leiden University he had access to the wide variety of domestic and foreign plants cultivated at the botanical garden of Leiden (*Leidse Hortus*), some of which he brought to his property. Zorgvliet became a wonder of cultivation. Subsequent owners also devoted much attention to Zorgvliet. During the French Period the property was developed in the French style. Later on, the park was refashioned according to the naturalistic English landscape style of William Kent.

The forest acquired its present form after 1860. *De Waterpartij* had its origins in the excavation of sand for use in development elsewhere in the city. On the initiative of alderman H.C.A. Ver Huell the pond was enlarged into a lake.



### continuation of the route

- At the end cross Scheveningseweg and the tramway and continue past the gates into the forest on the cycle path Galgenpad. *You are now in Scheveningse Bosjes forest.*
- After 350 metres TR onto the broad cycle path Jonge Rijspad.

## Scheveningse Bosjes

In earlier times there lay between The Hague and the coastal settlement of Scheveningen an extensive undulating dune area that was called "The Counts' Wilderness". In 1798 Willem Heijtveldt acquired a property here where he farmed and planted trees. Willem was a returning emigrant at the time of the Batavian Republic and, accordingly, was nicknamed "de Bataaf". His wooden farm buildings stood near where the tennis courts lie today.

It took more than two centuries for this area to become forested. Storms frequently uprooted the trees whose roots had not penetrated deeply enough into the sandy ground.

Storms and sea salt were enemies of the forest, but humans were also a threat. In the French Period poor people from Scheveningen cut down trees for firewood. During World War II the same was done by the occupying forces and by city residents.

### continuation of the route

- When you reach Ver-Huëllweg TR onto cycle path Het Hooge Paadje.
- At the café TL onto Kerkhoflaan. *Opposite the entrance to the Roman Catholic cemetery stands the tollgate that once stood at the entrance to Scheveningseweg.*
- At the next intersection TL onto Dr. Aletta Jacobsweg.
- Carry on under the viaduct and at the roundabout go SA onto Plesmanweg which soon becomes Badhuisweg.
- At the first side street TR onto Kwekerijweg and **10 metres** further TR onto cycle path Kwekerijpad.



- At the end of the cycle path TR onto the road Kwekerijweg.
- When you reach St. Hubertusweg turn sharp left.
- The road climbs. *On your right lies Sint Hubertuspark.*

## Sint Hubertuspark

Sint Hubertuspark was in the past a hunting ground. Around 1930 the city park service decided to increase the height of one of the dunes as a relief work project. The idea was that the top of this dune would be sufficiently high to afford a view of the sea. So arduous was the labour of shifting the sand that the workers nicknamed it "Blood Mountain".

*Cycling is neither possible nor permitted in this park so the Parkeroute skirts around it.*

### continuation of the route

- At the T-junction at the end of the descent TR onto Kwekerijweg.
- Cross the little bridge. *On your left lies the municipal nursery.*



- 30 m after the bridge TR onto cycle path Duinroospad which ascends slightly.
- TR onto the road Klatteweg.

- At the entrance to "Klein Zwitserland" the road curves to the left and becomes Maurits de Brauwweg.
- At the end TR onto the cycle path alongside Van Alkemadelaan.

## Klein Zwitserland

The neighbourhood *Klein Zwitserland* (Little Switzerland) was built on land that remained after sand was mined out of the dune area for use elsewhere. In some locations the ground lies 9 metres lower than surrounding areas.

### continuation of the route

- After 500 m, TR at the major road intersection: Waalsdorperweg.
- At the next intersection TR onto Van der Burchlaan.
- Just before the entrance of the military barracks TL onto Van Voorschotenlaan.
- At end of this road cross Waalsdorperweg diagonally right onto Oostduinlaan.
- Follow Oostduinlaan for 500 m until you see Groenhovenstraat on the right. **Attending to the traffic on Oostduinlaan** TL here onto cycle path Goetlijfpad.
- Continue SA onto Goetlijfstraat.
- TR into the first street and cycle past the "Florence" building to the entrance of the park.
- **Walk** through the park with your bicycle.  
*You are on the Arendsorp Estate. On the right you pass the "Theekoepel". Behind it lies the Oostduin Estate.*



## Arendsdorp

In the sixteenth century an important way to demonstrate exceptional wealth was to own a country house. Accordingly, in 1586 Mr. Arend Van Dorp bought a farm on this site and developed it into a beautiful estate. With its vistas and spaciousness the grounds are reminiscent of English parks.

Through inheritance and purchases the estate became closely associated with the adjacent estate Oostduin which belonged to the Fagel family.

In 1939 Arendsdorp was purchased by the city and opened to the public.

## Oostduin

Around 1580 Baptist de Montevaldona had a country house built in what is now known as Oostduin. The estate had many different owners of whom the Fagel and Van Bylandt families are the best known. The last resident was Countess Maria A.O.C. Van Bylandt.

It was the custom of The Hague's upper classes to spend their summers in their country houses and their winters in their mansions on Lange Voorhout. The Countess did this as well. Only after World War I was the country house made suitable for permanent occupation. The countess lavished attention on her house and gardens which were appointed with the latest and best that international garden exhibitions had to offer.

The large country house was ruined in the war and demolished in 1946, but still standing is the "Theekoepel" a building with tall octagonal central part and two lower side-towers. The Countess took her tea there.



In 1958 the park was opened to the public.

At the entrance to the park stands the *Rietjes*, a pretty house with a thatched roof. On its side two large equestrian figures can be seen.

### continuation of the route

- Cycling out of the park on the driveway, cross Wassenaarseweg diagonally right onto Jozef Israëlsplein.
- The road bends to the right. At the second intersection TL onto Jozef Israëlslaan.
- At the traffic lights cross the major divided road Benoordenhoutseweg onto the cycle path on the left side of Boslaan.
- Cycle 500 metres, TR, cross Boslaan and the (enclosed) expressway and enter the wooded Koekamp (see p. 1).
- At the cycle junction go SA.
- The cycle path crosses a small bridge, then runs parallel to Bezuidenhoutseweg. *Den Haag Centraal train station stands on your left.*

**To continue on Parkenroute 1 turn to page 1.**

## **Route description**

### **Parkeroute 2**

- Cross the canal on the cycle path that passes in front of a water pumping station.
- Carefully cross Houtrustweg and TL onto the bidirectional cycle path on the far side.
- At the first intersection TR onto Laan van Poot.
- Cycle 200 metres. *On your right lies the park Bosjes van Poot.*

### **Bosjes van Poot**

The park gets its name from a gamekeeper named Willem Poot who supervised here on behalf of the Grand Duchess of Saxen-Weimar-Eisenach, the owner of the property in the second half of the nineteenth century. In earlier times the only vestige of forest was a strip of scrub oak along the road. Around 1920 pine and hardwood trees were planted.

Within the forest lies the one-hectare Van Schierbeek bird sanctuary.

### **continuation of the route**

- Minding the car and tram traffic, cross Nieboerweg and continue SA on Laan van Poot.
- 600 m further, TL at Kwartellaan.



- At the second intersection TR onto Kiplaan.
- At the Eiberplein roundabout take the 3rd exit (Vliegenvangerlaan) and then TL onto Wildhoeftlaan.
- At the roundabout-intersection with the Sportlaan go SA onto Daal en Bergselaan.
- After about 200 metres TR onto cycle path Evert Wijtemaweg to enter Bosjes van Pex.

### **Bosjes van Pex**

This forest, which once extended all the way to the Segmeer (see p. 9), derives its name from the family Pex which farmed here for many generations. Two other farms were located here: Berg en Dal, where a tennis club with the same name is located today, and De Wildhoeft, after which a riding school is named.

Before the opening of the Uithof sport complex (see p. 15) there was a large asphalt (roller)skating rink here.

### **continuation of the route**

- Cycle through the car park and continue SA onto the cycle path.
- TL onto the cycle path that passes by the riding school.
- At Daal en Bergselaan TR. *On the left lies Wapendal nature reserve.*
- At the intersection with divided road De Savornin Lohmanlaan go SA onto Godetiaweg.
- Godetiaweg descends and curves gently to the left. TR onto Aronskelkweg.
- At the end TR onto Muurbloemweg which ascends.

- After about 100 metres TL into the park Meer en Bos.
- **For the next 400 metres walk with your bicycle** and enjoy the natural surroundings. The walking route is shown on the map below.

## Meer en Bos

Archaeological digs have revealed that this area adjacent to the dunes was relatively heavily populated in the time of the Batavians. Traces were found of a Batavian-Roman road which ran along the sand ridge, probably in the direction of Katwijk.

Later excavations revealed that the district had been inhabited much earlier. This may in fact have been the earliest settled area in The Hague.

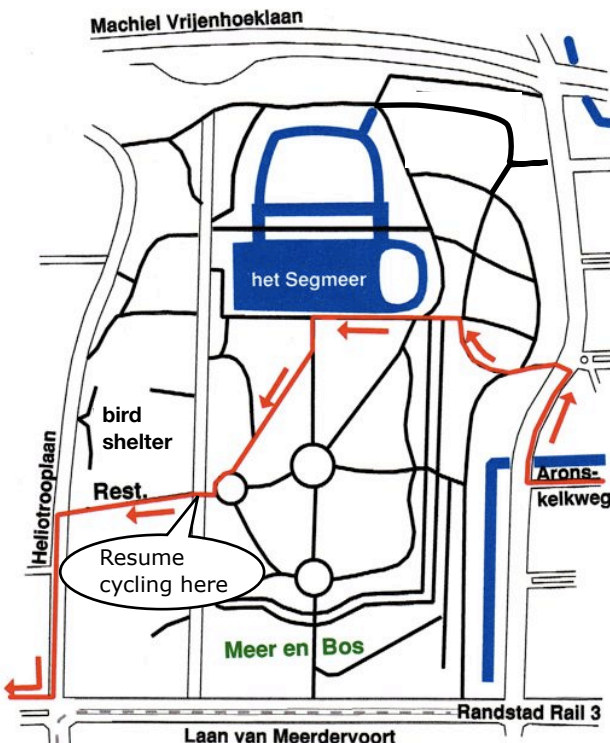
The wooded park is all that is left of an old dune forest. In the park lies a lake that in the 1280 register of Earl Floris V was called Winenaelermeer but is now known as Segmeer.

According to old records, Maarten Adriaanszoon van der Voort bought the lake in 1606, along with 50 acres of land, a house, a shed and some trees.

Later the property came into the possession of the Van der Mijle family

which developed it further. It then passed into the hands of the well known families Cats and Van Oldenbarnevelt. Meer en Bos never became a luxurious country estate like Clingendael or Zorgvliet, however.

The park is also home to bird shelter De Wulp where injured or sick birds are looked after by the volunteers of the Association for Bird Protection of The Hague (*Haagse Vogelbescherming*).



### continuation of the route

- After passing by the restaurant, as you emerge from the park, TL onto Heliotrooplaan.
- TR onto the cycle path alongside Laan van Meerdervoort.
- Cross the major divided road Ockenburghstraat and TL onto the cycle path on the far side.
- After 1 kilometre TR onto Loosduinse Hoofdstraat.
- 200 metres further you are at the entrance to the Ockenburgh estate.

### This is the connection with Parkeroute 3.

**To proceed to Parkeroute 3,** TL, carefully cross Monsterseweg and go SA on the cycle path. For the description of Parkeroute 3 turn to p. 12.

**To continue on Parkeroute 2** TR and cross the bridge onto the driveway leading into the Ockenburgh estate.

### Ockenburgh estate

Poet and doctor Jacob Westerbaen purchased this property outside the village of Loosduinen — now a borough of The Hague — consisting of marshy ground onto which dune sand had been spread. He laid out a park rich in trees, and had ditches dug to improve the drainage. In his greenhouses he grew melons and grapes.

In 1630 Westerbaen commissioned the building of a country house which he called “Kleyn Paleis” (Little Palace). This stood on the location of the present-day

building, which bears some resemblance to its predecessor.



Westerbaen was friends with Jacob Cats (owner of Zorgvliet) and Constantijn Huygens (Hofwijck). The men exchanged letters, often written in verse, discussing matters botanical and bucolic.

Later the estate changed hands several times before it was purchased by the city of The Hague in 1931 and opened to the public. The building serves today as a multifunctional facility with a restaurant.

In the spring Ockenburgh is ablaze with the blooms of its rhododendrons and azaleas. To the south lies the “hyacinth forest” which is rich in ornamental plants.

### Continuation of Parkeroute 2

- After cycling on the driveway TL in front of the villa onto cycle path Solleveldpad which soon bends to the right.
- Beyond the Ockenburgh estate the cycle path passes between golf courses in the Ockenburgh recreation area.
- At the T-junction TR onto cycle path Wijndaelerduin.

## Ockenburgh recreation area

Along the way are two artificial mounds, Blijrjstduin and Schapenatjesduin.

Four thousand years ago sandy ridges formed parallel to the coast. The depressions between the ridges retained water and became bogs.

In the 1960s this area consisted of pastures and sport fields, all fully exposed to the wind.

In 1970 the bog was filled and raised using 1,1 million cubic metres of rubble from demolished buildings. Sand which lay 2,5 metres under the peat was spread on top. The unnaturally shaped mounds thus formed were then planted with typical dune vegetation. The dune tops have also been colonized by plants whose seeds have blown over from the surrounding natural dunes.

### continuation of the route

- The cycle path Wijndaelerduin emerges onto an elongated roundabout in front of a sport complex. Go counterclockwise round and take the second exit onto the road named Schapenatjesduin. *On the left lie the fields used by the Storks baseball club.*
- Cycle 350 metres to the intersection with Machiel Vrijenhoeklaan. *On top of the hill to the left is the artistic installation Celestial Vault.*
- Cross Machiel Vrijenhoeklaan SA onto Hoek van Hollandlaan.
- After 40 metres TR onto Domburglaan. *On the right flows the Haagse Beek.*

## Haagse Beek

There is much to be said about this modest-looking brook. M. van Doorn and J. Mennema have written a book about it (in Dutch) which is recommended reading for anyone interested in the history of The Hague.

The brook's source lies near the present-day Schapenatjesduin where there was once a wetland. From here the brook flows north-east through the Segbroekpolder and Meer en Bos and along Sportlaan and President Kennedylaan. At Zorgvliet the brook arcs around the Catshuis and bends to the south toward the city centre. After flowing through the garden of the Peace Palace it disappears into a culvert and finally emerges in the Hofvijver pond beside the Binnenhof.

### continuation of the route

- At the intersection with divided road Kijkduinstraat go SA onto cycle path Duinlaan.
- After about 100 metres continue onto the road and then TL onto Katwijkselaan.
- At the T-junction TL onto Scheveningselaan.
- At the next intersection TL onto Zandvoortselaan.
- 100 metres further TR onto the cycle path on the near side of Kijkduinsestraat which climbs.
- TR onto Pieter Pauluspad. *You are entering Westduinpark.*
- At beach access 7 the cycle path's name becomes Cort van der Lindenpad.



## Westduinpark

In 1925 this dune area was attracting so many visitors that the fragile dune vegetation was being destroyed. Paths were laid out and it was forbidden to trespass outside them. Pines and broadleaf trees were planted, and on the slopes: creeping willow, sea buckthorn, privet and Chinese wolfberry.

In 2012 the area was given a protected status under European law. A nature restoration project was carried out with the aim of enhancing biodiversity and controlling invasive exotic species. In certain areas the vegetation was stripped away so that the dunes can evolve by natural processes. Cattle are kept in the park; their grazing keeps the vegetation in check.

### continuation of the route

- At beach access 10, TR onto cycle path Baden Powellweg which descends.
- At Duivelandsestraat TR. **Mind the tram rails.**
- At Nieboerweg TL. *On the right lies the park Bosjes van Poot (see p. 8).*
- Cross Houtrustweg and TL onto the cycle path on the far side.
- Cross the bridge over the canal and TR onto Kranenburgweg.

**At Willem de Zwijgerlaan is the connection with Parkeroute 1.**

**To proceed to Parkeroute 1,** TL onto Willem de Zwijgerlaan. For the description of Parkeroute 1 turn to page 4.

**To continue on Parkeroute 2** turn to page 8.

## Route description

### Parkeroute 3

- Coming from Monsterseweg proceed on the cycle path surrounded by trees. *You are in the Madestein recreation area.*

## Madestein

In contrast with the centuries-old greenspaces that we pass through on Parkeroutes 1 and 2, Madestein was recently created. In 1969 the farms and greenhouses of the Oostmadepolder and the former Zwarte polder made way for newly landscaped parks and “modern” recreation areas, including a lake for swimming, playing fields for various sports, a children’s farm, vegetable gardens and kilometres of walking, riding and cycling paths.

Also in Madestein lies the new housing development Vroondaal.

Of special interest is Heempark H.J. Bos which was created in 1977. In this wildlife garden the different landscape types of South Holland have been recreated. To walk the gardens, TL here onto Daan van Dijkpad; the entrance can be found 50 metres further on the right.



### continuation of the route

- At the Y-junction with cycle path Daan van Dijkpad, TR.
- At the intersection with a cycle path from the right go SA onto Mick Clavanpad.
- Follow the cycle path several hundred metres alongside the water. At a cycle intersection with a bridge on the left continue SA.



- At the next intersection TL and cycle past the clubhouse of an angling association.
- At the Y-junction TL onto Mien van Breepad.
- At the T-junction TR.
- After 100 metres TL onto Kraayensteinpad which climbs up to a viaduct.
- After crossing over Lozerlaan and descending on the other side TR onto the road Forellendaal.
- Just beyond the road Karperdaal TR onto cycle path Steurendaal which runs beside a ditch.
- Continue onto Brasemdaal. TL to stay on Brasemdaal.
- TR onto the right-hand carriageway of the residential divided road Forellendaal.

- Cross the divided road Margaretha van Hennebergweg and TL onto the cycle path.
- After two side streets TR onto Frits van Evertpad which lies between two housing blocks.
- This cycle path ends at G.J. van Marrewijklaan. Cross over and go SA onto B. Thoenplantsoen.
- Keep to the left as this street bends to the left and then to the right.
- At the Y-junction TL and cross the bridge (see photo). *You are in a neighbourhood park.*



- At the T-junction TR onto Jan Willem Kempffpad.
- At the T-junction after the skate park TL onto Vinkenlaantje.
- At the T-junction TR onto Lange Houtwegpad. *On the right is neighbourhood park Bokkefort.*

### Neighbourhood parks

Bokkefort — and further on, 't Kleine Hout and Florence Nightingalepark — are neighbourhood parks. These parks arose from the building philosophy of the 1970s, when this part of the city was developed, which was to build residential housing at low density in

green surroundings. The idea was that you could step outside your house and head to the playground or go for a stroll among trees and gardens, with or without your dog.

### continuation of the route

- After 500 metres you reach an intersection with traffic lights. Cross Houtwijklaan and TR onto the cycle path on the far side.
- After 50 metres TL onto Tulapad.
- Past the windpump (see photo) TL onto Rosa Parkspad. *This is neighbourhood park 't Kleine Hout.*



- At the T-junction with on the left a wooden bridge TR onto Munirpad.
- After 350 metres TR onto Albert Schweitzerlaan.
- TR onto the cycle path on the near side of Escamplaan.
- After 100 metres TL and cross Escamplaan onto cycle path Charlotte Jacobsaan. *On the right is Florence Nightingalepark.*
- Just after the cycle path bends to the left TR onto the narrow path.
- Continue onto Trude Mertenslaan which curves to the right.

- At the fourth side street TL.
- Cross the tramway. **From here walk with your bike.**
- Cross the street and enter Zuidwoldepad.
- When you reach Meppelweg you can cycle again. Cross and TL onto the cycle path on the far side.
- At the end of Meppelweg cross Loevesteinlaan and TL onto the cycle path on the far side.
- The road bends to the right and becomes Vreeswijkstraat.
- TR onto Anna Polakweg. *You are entering Zuiderpark.*
- TL onto the broad path Henriëtte Ronald Holstweg.

### Zuiderpark

In 1908 the architect H. P. Berlage designed, as part of a plan for the development of The Hague, a large public park in the polders to the south of the city. The introduction of a large number of new residents created a need for a large-scale recreation area. The idea was initially ridiculed; nevertheless, ten years later the city gave the order to draw up detailed plans.

After a further ten years work began on the park. Once it became a work relief project in the early 1930s, progress on the park was swiftly made.

The material excavated to form the lakes was used to fill and raise other areas of the park. The result was a fine park with not only sport and recreational facilities but also a wide variety of trees, shrubs and flowers.



The mounds alongside the Loevesteinlaan consist of the rubble from buildings destroyed during, or demolished soon after, World War II.

To give an idea of the scale of the park a few facts and figures. The park area is 110 hectares and has 18 kilometres of walking paths. The park is popular all year round with local residents. Every summer various festivals are held in the park, some of which attract many thousands of visitors.

### continuation of the route

- In the park, cycle on the broad path Henriëtte Ronald Holstweg which bends gently to the right.
- At the intersection in front of the large sport complex TR onto the path called Johanna Naberweg. *On the right you pass a rose garden.*
- Cross the broad path diagonally right onto Marie Heinenweg.
- At the intersection with traffic lights cross over Loevesteinlaan and go SA onto Hengelolaan.
- After cycling 1 kilometre, when you see playing fields on the left, TL and cross Hengelolaan.
- Cycle on the asphalt path between the fields. This path is also used

by pedestrians and service vehicles.

- At the end of this path cross the tramway and TR onto the cycle path alongside Melis Stokelaan.



- After 1½ kilometres cross the major divided road Lozerlaan at the lights and go SA onto Nicolas de Ferpad. *You are entering De Uithof recreation area.*

## De Uithof

De Uithof, Madestein and Ockenburgh together form a green corridor that separates The Hague from the large greenhouse district to the southwest. This corridor is an important component of the provincial ecological structure.

De Uithof was realized in the early 1970s with the idea of combining nature and sport. The most important attraction is the sport complex which includes an indoor ski hill, a hockey arena and a covered speed skating oval. But climbing, karting, in-line roller skating, canoeing and many other sports are practiced in De Uithof — all of this in an extensive green setting which is well suited for cycling and walking. There are also two allotment gardens here, and for added fun, a hedge maze! The route passes right by it.

### continuation of the route

- At the T-junction TL onto Blaeupad.
- After a bridge and just before reaching major divided road Erasmusweg, TR onto the cycle path.
- After 300 metres the cycle path comes to an end; just before this, TR onto Abraham Orteliuspad.
- Cycle on the path beside fields.



- The cycle path bends sharply to the left. *Here you can see the hedge maze on the right.*
- At the T-junction TR to stay on Abraham Orteliuspad.
- After 80 metres go up the incline and TL onto Gemma Frisiuspad.
- After 200 m, at the Y-junction, TR onto Van Berckenrodepad. *This cycle path runs beside the embankment of the Wennetjessloot waterway which is at certain points visible on the left.*
- At the second cycle intersection TR onto Gerard Mercatorpad. *On the left you pass an outdoor cycling circuit.*
- Cross Jaap Edenweg and TL onto

the cycle path on the far side.

- The cycle path bends sharply to the left and then skirts around a parking lot. *On the left you can see the sport complex.*
- At the cycle path T-junction, TR.
- At the traffic lights cross major road Nieuweweg onto Madesteinweg. *On the right lies the Madestein recreation area (see p. 12).*
- At Madepolderweg TL onto the cycle path that runs alongside it.
- After a couple of hundred metres TR onto cycle path Oostmadepad which passes through a wooded area. **Mind the posts.**



- When you reach Oostmadeweg continue SA onto Dirk van Wassenaarlaan. *You are in the new residential development Vroondaal.*
- When you reach Nederhoflaan go diagonally left onto the concrete cycle path that passes by an apartment building.
- Cross Vroonhoevelaan and go SA onto Gravin Petronillalaan.
- After 200 metres continue onto the cycle path which enters a wooded area. *50 metres further on the left lies De Stenen Kamer.*



## De Stenen Kamer

Here you see the foundations of buildings the oldest of which were constructed in the thirteenth century, in subsequent centuries repeatedly adapted, augmented, neglected and rebuilt and finally demolished in the early 1970s.



The foundations were subsequently excavated and in 2008 restored to their current state. On the site there are panels with more information about the history of the area and the buildings that stood here.

### continuation of the route

- Cycle on the broad cycle path until it bends to the right at an intersection. Do not follow the path to the right but go SA onto the narrow cycle path.
- At major road Monsterseweg, TR onto the cycle path alongside it.
- After 500 metres you are opposite the entrance to the Ockenburgh estate.

### This is the connection with Parkenroute 2.

**To proceed to Parkenroute 2**  
TL here, cross carefully over the Monsterseweg, cross over the bridge and enter the Ockenburgh estate. For the description of Parkenroute 2 turn to page 10.

**To continue on Parkenroute 3**  
TR onto the cycle path surrounded by trees. For the description of Parkenroute 3 turn to page 12.

## Afterword

In the early 1990s the municipal government of The Hague came up with the idea of establishing a recreational cycle route through the city's many greenspaces. The responsible alderman of the time, H.J. Meijer, contacted the local chapter of the Fietzersbond (which at that time was still called the "ENFB"). Volunteers from the Fietzersbond worked out this "park route". In May 1994 it was opened. The Parkenroute Den Haag consisted then of two parts. 500 copies were printed of the first version of the guidebook. Within a month a second printing was required.

Parkenroute 3 was added in 2008 and to accompany this a new guidebook was prepared in the current format. An English translation was also prepared, of which this is the second edition.

*Johan Bommelé, August 2020*

## Parkenroute 1



## Parkenroute 2



## Parkenroute 3







