



AT LEAST
90% OVER
UNPAVED
PATHS

HOLLAND STORY-ROUTE

Walking around Verwolde House



WALKING TOUR
OF **2H 45M**
(11 KM)



The castles and country estates storyline

The Netherlands has more than 600 castles, country estates and manor houses and many of these gems remain well-kept secrets. These typical historic Dutch houses and beautiful gardens were mainly inhabited by 17th and 18th-century merchants and nobility. They stem from the same wealth and extravagance that produced the world-famous paintings in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague. It is about time to shine the spotlight on these gorgeous castles and country estates. Together they tell the story of impressive gardens, historic interiors with valuable collections and famous residents. They're an ode to the rich country life of the Netherlands through the centuries. For more information about Dutch castles and country estates:

www.holland.com/castles



Verwolde Estate

The castle-like Verwolde House was built in 1776 in the neoclassical style and was commissioned by Frederik Willem, Baron van der Borch. It was designed by Philip Willem Schonck, the architect of Stadholder Willem V and it also has an attractive formal garden that is well worth a visit. The walk takes you through the scenic small-scale, bocage Achterhoek landscape around Verwolde House, where wide sandy trails, tree avenues and narrow winding paths alternate through woods and past hedgerows, streams, fields and meadows. The route takes you past several old traditional farms with coloured shutters, all built in the same style at the end of the 19th century. Old-fashioned haystacks and a tea garden inside a walled kitchen garden complete the idyllic atmosphere. Don't forget about the famous wide, old tree. This huge English oak is estimated to be between 450 and 500 years old and has a circumference of 7.75 metres. It is possibly the oldest of its type in the Netherlands. The tree is part of the Special Tree Trail laid out by the Geldersche Kasteelen en Landschap Foundation (duration 30 minutes).

Nature and culture hand in hand

Verwolde House in Laren is a must-see for lovers of natural and cultural beauty. Verwolde House was inhabited by several generations of the same family for 200 years. In 1977, the house and the surrounding garden was handed over to the Vrienden der Geldersche Kasteelen Foundation. The foundation completely restored the house and garden, laid out in 1926 by the landscape architect Hugo Poortman, to its original glory. Verwolde House already had a turbulent history before it was built in its current form in 1776. A castle previously stood at this location as far back as 1179 but was stormed and demolished in the 16th century. Years later, Verwolde House was rebuilt into the monument that it is now.



Practical information

The Verwolde House collection tells the story of the former, noble inhabitants. A guide takes you through all the rooms in the house, including the children's and the dining room. The castle shop sells a map for a treasure hunt through the beautiful garden, and there are regular events for young and old alike. The house is open for sightseeing or guided tours between April and October or during public holidays. Visit the garden free of charge during opening hours. It is best to book a ticket for a visit at <https://verwolde.glk.nl>. Check the website for the current opening hours and the activity calendar.

Huis Verwolde, Jonker Emilelaan 4, Laren (Gelderland)

Duration of walk

At an average walking pace, the route takes about 2 hours and 45 minutes (11 km) to complete. Please note that the route is signposted with walking option points and can easily be walked with the accompanying text description and map.

Start and end point

Car park of *Verwolde House, Jonker Emilelaan 4, Laren (Gelderland)*. You can safely park your car here free of charge.





Enjoyable overnight stay

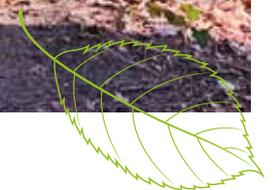
Top off your visit to the Achterhoek by combining the walk with an overnight stay in a cosy country estate atmosphere. There are two special places to stay within a 20-minute drive:

- *Landgoedhotel Woodbrooke* in Barchem (www.woodbrookebarchem.nl): a beautifully situated hotel-brasserie-restaurant in the countryside. A great place to go for coffee, lunch, drinks, high tea or dinner and a comfortable place to stay with friendly staff. You can rent bicycles to explore the Achterhoek.
- *Boutiekhotel BonAparte* in Barchem (www.hotelbonaparte.nl): an authentic and welcoming boutique hotel with brasserie-restaurant. It has been a household name in the Achterhoek for years. The hotel also has wellness facilities.

Achterhoek castles and country estates region

When you think of the Achterhoek, you think of castles and country estates. Dozens of country houses and estates of the old Gelderland nobility are scattered throughout the landscape here. Some were originally built as defensive fortifications, while others were built as stylish residences for the wealthy in the 17th and 18th centuries. The castles are often still inhabited by descendants of barons, counts or lords. Over the years, the management of these properties has often been transferred to an external party, such as Gelders Landschap or Natuurmonumenten (Dutch nature conservation organisation) because the costs of maintaining such grand estates have become increasingly difficult for the landowners to bear. Since many castles are still inhabited, the number of houses that allow visitors inside is limited. It is sometimes possible to view the outside of a house from its beautiful garden but usually there is a nice (signposted) cycling or walking route that travels across the estate.

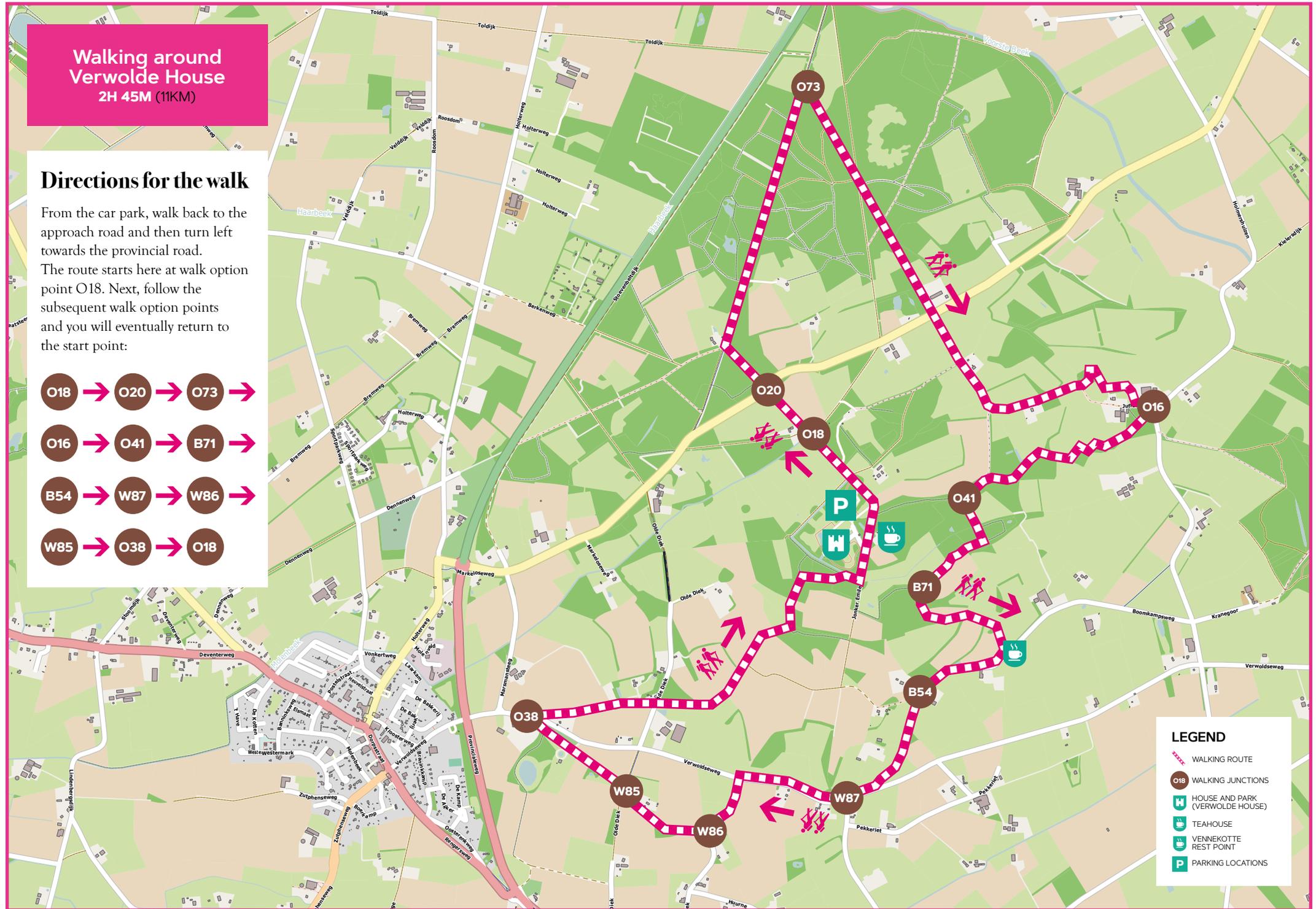
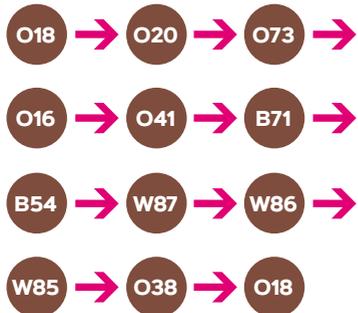
For more information: <https://achterhoek.nl/kastelen-en-landgoederen>



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Directions for the walk

From the car park, walk back to the approach road and then turn left towards the provincial road. The route starts here at walk option point O18. Next, follow the subsequent walk option points and you will eventually return to the start point:



LEGEND

- WALKING ROUTE
- O18 WALKING JUNCTIONS
- HOUSE AND PARK (VERWOLDE HOUSE)
- TEAHOUSE
- VENNEKOTTE REST POINT
- PARKING LOCATIONS



The most beautiful castles and country estates in the Netherlands

Verwolde House is part of the castles and country estates storyline, a selection of the most beautiful castles, estates and manor houses in the Netherlands. Try one of the other castle walks or castle bike tours: go to www.holland.com/castles



Colophon

An initiative of NBTC in collaboration with Achterhoek Toerisme:



Made possible (finance and/or content) by:



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The route has been compiled with the utmost care. Should the information contain inaccuracies or if adjustments are necessary, the organisation cannot accept any liability for this.