

## What a beauty

Includes  
8 free  
cycle  
routes

Visit the most beautiful castles  
and country estates of Holland

*Best  
Castles &  
Country Houses*



### Smallest country house in Holland

Huygens' Hofwijck is one of Holland's most important monuments from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and today it is home to a museum. It is also the smallest country house in Holland: the house itself is square and measures 10 x 10 metres. The house was commissioned by Constantijn Huygens.

| [www.hofwijck.nl](http://www.hofwijck.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Experience the Golden Age at Muiderslot

Rijksmuseum Muiderslot is one of Holland's most picturesque medieval castles. One of its highlights is the stunning art collection from the Golden Age. Muiderslot was built around 1280 as a fortress in the Vecht estuary by Count Floris V. There is a lot to do for children. Take the bike ferry service from the castle to Amsterdam (and back).

| [www.muiderslot.nl](http://www.muiderslot.nl)



### Three centuries of aristocratic residents

Slot Zuylan was built around 1520 on top of medieval ruins in the small town of Oud Zuilen near Utrecht. Its visitors will feel as if they have landed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The castle now houses the Zuylen collection. The collection is about the life of the Van Tuyll van Serooskerken family, who have lived here for three centuries. Don't forget to try the soup of the day at museum café Koetshuis, which is freshly made with herbs and vegetables from the castle gardens.

| [www.slotzuylan.nl](http://www.slotzuylan.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Unique covered wall walk at Hernen

Hernen is a good example of a castle that expanded slowly. Over time, comfort took over the original purpose of defence. Inside the tower (14<sup>th</sup> century) you can even touch the original, more than 500 year-old, roof structure. Walk through the covered wall walk, which is unique for Holland.

| [www.glk.nl/hernen](http://www.glk.nl/hernen)



### Centuries of garden history

Middachten is one of Holland's largest and best preserved estates. The castle (access is limited) and the estate have been in the hands of the same family for over 800 years. The magnificent gardens are a pleasure to behold and showcase centuries of garden history. Make sure to visit and stay in the B&B on the castle grounds.

| [www.middachten.nl](http://www.middachten.nl)



## A wealth of castles, country retreats and estates

There are about 700 castles, country retreats and estates in Holland. To this day, these are a well-kept secret. These typical Dutch historic houses with their splendid gardens were mostly inhabited by 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century merchants and aristocrats. They flourished from the same wealth as the world famous paintings that are showcased at the Rijks-museum in Amsterdam and the Mauritshuis in The Hague. What could be better than exploring these magnificent monuments on bike? Feel the wind in your hair and enjoy an enchanting day in the countryside. The castles are often located in areas of outstanding natural beauty. Discover the most splendid castles museums, gardens, country house hotels, country estate restaurants and download free cycle routes at [www.holland.com/castles](http://www.holland.com/castles) and [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



### Voorlinden: conceptual modern art

Museum Voorlinden is a private museum showing impressive conceptual and modern art at Voorlinden Estate. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century various estates, among which Voorlinden, were established in the surrounding area of The Hague. There are some great walks across the estate and fantastic lunches to enjoy at the 20<sup>th</sup> century country house.

| [www.voorlinden.nl](http://www.voorlinden.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### World-famous Loosdrecht-tableware

Kasteel Sypsteyn, which is located in Loosdrecht in North-Holland, shows the history of Dutch porcelain and has recently acquired a very special piece of Loosdrecht porcelain. It concerns a donation of a rare set of dinnerware porcelain adorned with roses from Loosdrecht showing the white gold from the porcelain factory of Joannes de Mol, who went bankrupt in 1782.

| [www.sypsteyn.nl](http://www.sypsteyn.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### The luxury of a castle loved by the jet-set

De Haar is the largest and most luxurious castle of Holland. It is one of the most significant historic houses in Europe. De Haar has welcomed many famous guests, mostly movie and music stars such as Brigitte Bardot, Roger Moore and Joan Collins. The castle boasts impressive gardens and a prestigious collection. From here, take the cycle route to Slot Zuylan and back, admiring various stunning estates on the way along the river de Vecht.

| [www.kasteeldehaar.nl](http://www.kasteeldehaar.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Willem van Oranje's daughter's castle

Serene Tranquility and a varied collection of archaeological finds – that is Kasteel Wijchen in a nutshell. This grand castle was home to Emilia van Nassau, the daughter of Willem van Oranje. Don't forget to visit the museum gardens de Tuun, where home-grown herbs are harvested.

| [www.kasteelwijchen.nl](http://www.kasteelwijchen.nl)



### Hunting lodge at National Park

Jachthuis Sint Hubertus was designed as a country estate for the wealthy couple Kröller-Müller. It is an impressive lodge located right in the middle of the De Hoge Veluwe National Park. It is seen as a 'Gesamtkunstwerk' by 20<sup>th</sup> century master architect Berlage. Book your place at one of the guided group tours.

| [www.hogeweluwe.nl](http://www.hogeweluwe.nl)



### Well-preserved moated castle

The museum of Kasteel Ammersoyen showcases one of the best preserved collections of moat finds in the country. This sturdy medieval castle is based within a dual moat. Tip: Combine a visit with the cycle route Slot Loevestein-Kasteel Ammersoyen, which calls at this very special place.

| [www.glk.nl/ammersoyen](http://www.glk.nl/ammersoyen)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Duivenvoorde, proud stately home

Duivenvoorde is one of the oldest castles located in the province of South-Holland boasting a unique collection of family portraits, objects from real silver, Delft Blue pottery and porcelain. Don't forget to try the sublime goats' cheese croquettes at restaurant Hof van Duivenvoorde.

| [www.kasteelduivenvoorde.nl](http://www.kasteelduivenvoorde.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Groeneveld: country house as an ensemble

Kasteel Groeneveld dates back to a typical 17<sup>th</sup> century tradition that started in Amsterdam. Back then, many fortunate merchants built their own country retreats to escape the busy city during the summer months and truly enjoy country life. Groeneveld counts to the most beautiful estates in Holland, where country house and estate form a pleasing ensemble. Make sure to take one of the signposted walks around the estate.

| [www.kasteelgroeneveld.nl](http://www.kasteelgroeneveld.nl)



### Exile for the last German emperor

In 1918, Emperor Wilhelm II went into exile in Holland and took with him some 59 containers with art, furniture and interiors. Huis Doorn on the Heuvelrug became his residence after he spent the first 1.5 years at Kasteel Amerongen. The museum authentically displays the precious interiors of the former emperor as if he could return to his home at any moment.

| [www.huisdoorn.nl](http://www.huisdoorn.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Imposingly located Doorwerth

Kasteel Doorwerth is one of the oldest castles of Holland with a history stretching back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is truly worth a visit, not only for the three small museums that are based here. The stunning building, the century-old oak trees and its unique surroundings are unrivalled. Discover the attractive wooden shoe trail that starts and ends here. Book the Poortgebouw for an unique night at the castle.

| [www.glk.nl/doorwerth](http://www.glk.nl/doorwerth)



### Art in the gardens of Paleis Het Loo

Paleis Het Loo is often called the Versailles of Holland. The many furnished rooms and chambers inside and around the palace tell illustrious tales about the royal family, the family of Orange. The palace itself is currently closed for a substantial renovation, but its stunning gardens are still open. Admire the sculptures by Daniel Libeskind.

| [www.paleisheetloo.nl](http://www.paleisheetloo.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Famous escape in a chest

Slot Loevestein is the most well-known castle in Holland. Here, in 1621, scholar Hugo de Groot escaped prison in a chest of books. It's the most famous escape in Dutch history. Today, the castle houses a child-friendly museum. Stay overnight in the quaint B&B on the castle grounds.

| [www.slotloevestein.nl](http://www.slotloevestein.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Castle gardens and art museum

Kasteel Keukenhof is a county house with luxurious interiors from the Golden Age. It was built by Adriaen Maertenszoon Block, a former commander of the East India Company (VOC) in 1641. Access to the castle is limited, but its gardens are open to visitors year round. Don't forget to pay a visit to its neighbour: the brand new Lisser Art Museum (LAM).

| [www.kasteelkeukenhof.nl](http://www.kasteelkeukenhof.nl) | [www.lamisse.nl](http://www.lamisse.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### On a royal visit to Prince Bernhard and Princess Juliana

Soestdijk is the royal palace where Prince Bernard and Princess Juliana lived from 1937 until their death. The original ambience was kept and can be experienced by visitors. The palace boasts stunning gardens. It is open Friday to Sunday. Book a place on the guided tour and listen to enchanting royal anecdotes.

| [www.paleissoestdijk.nl](http://www.paleissoestdijk.nl)



### Abdication from the emperor's throne

Kasteel Amerongen is one of Holland's best preserved residences from the Golden Age. After WWI Count van Aldenburg Bentinck offers sanctuary to the refugee emperor Wilhelm II. He signed his abdication here in 1918. The surrounding gardens are magnificent and boast a large rose garden, children's playhouse and a 300 year-old oak tree. Restaurant Bentick is a wonderful place for lunch or dinner offering stunning views of the castle.

| [www.kasteelamerongen.nl](http://www.kasteelamerongen.nl)



Also try the  
cycle tour



### Residence of the Earls of Gelre

Rosendaal in its origins is a late medieval castle that was built by the Count van Gelre. The characteristic donjon (residence tower) is the largest of its type in Holland. As a historic landscape garden, Rosendaal has been attracting visitors from far beyond the borders for centuries. The fountains (de Bedriegertjes), which spurt and spray water unexpectedly, have been delighting generations of visitors.

| [www.glk.nl/rosendaal](http://www.glk.nl/rosendaal)



### Authentic 18<sup>th</sup>-century Cannenburch

The originally medieval Kasteel Cannenburch lies amidst woodlands with streams that feed the fish ponds and make the windmills turn. It was built by the illustrious field marshal Marten van Rossem. Cannenburch is widely furnished in an authentic 18<sup>th</sup>-century style. Tip: Take the cycle route Kasteel Cannenburch-Het Loo Palace and enjoy the scented woods of the Veluwe.

| [www.glk.nl/cannenburch](http://www.glk.nl/cannenburch)



Also try the  
cycle tour





Nijenhuis: international art collection

Kasteel het Nijenhuis is one of the best preserved manor estates in the province of Overijssel. The castle and the building houses, which date back to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, are home to a varied, international art collection. The sculpture gardens house temporary exhibitions year round.

| [www.museumdefundatie.nl](http://www.museumdefundatie.nl)



Early medieval collection at Kasteel Huis Bergh

On the outskirts of the medieval castle town's Heerenberg you find the imposing Kasteel Huis Bergh. It counts as one of the largest and most significant castles of Holland. The castle houses a particular art collection complete with a portrait gallery, Northern European 16<sup>th</sup>-century paintings and early Italian masterpieces. Book the tower room for an unforgettable night at the castle.

| [www.huisbergh.nl](http://www.huisbergh.nl)



Nobleman's house set in beautiful gardens

Huis Verwolde in the Achterhoek area is a paradise for nature and culture lovers alike. This classicist noble house from 1776 is beautiful located on a large private estate. Visit the farm shop and purchase some of the delicious regional produce. Book the Koetshuis for a historic overnight stay.

| [www.gtk.nl/verwolde](http://www.gtk.nl/verwolde)



Monumental home for Carel Willink

Kasteel Ruurlo is one of the most beautiful castles located in the Achterhoek area and offers a monumental collection in a monumental building. You can visit the world's largest collection of paintings by Carel Willink. Combine a museum visit with the nearby historic maze or enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner at the Orangery.

| [www.museummore-kasteelruurlo.nl](http://www.museummore-kasteelruurlo.nl)



About gardens and sandcastles

Kasteel Warmelo, located in the historic town of Diepenheim, surprises with imposing gardens. Explore centuries of garden history or visit the sandcastles that are on show between April and September. Don't miss out on trying the apple cake at café Koetshuis, which is famous all over the region.

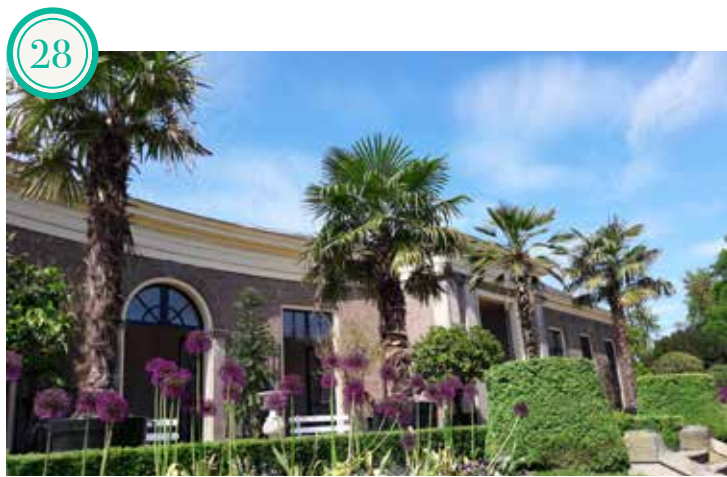
| [www.kasteelwarmelo.nl](http://www.kasteelwarmelo.nl)



Twickel, Twents Hof van Eden

Landgoed Twickel with some 4,000 hectares is the largest private country estate of Holland. To the locals, Twickel is also referred to as Twente's Garden of Eden. North of the castle, there are the formal gardens and the orangery. Behind the castle, there are expansive gardens in English landscape style with mirror ponds and many rhododendrons. Generations have designed and built these gardens.

| [www.twickel.nl](http://www.twickel.nl)



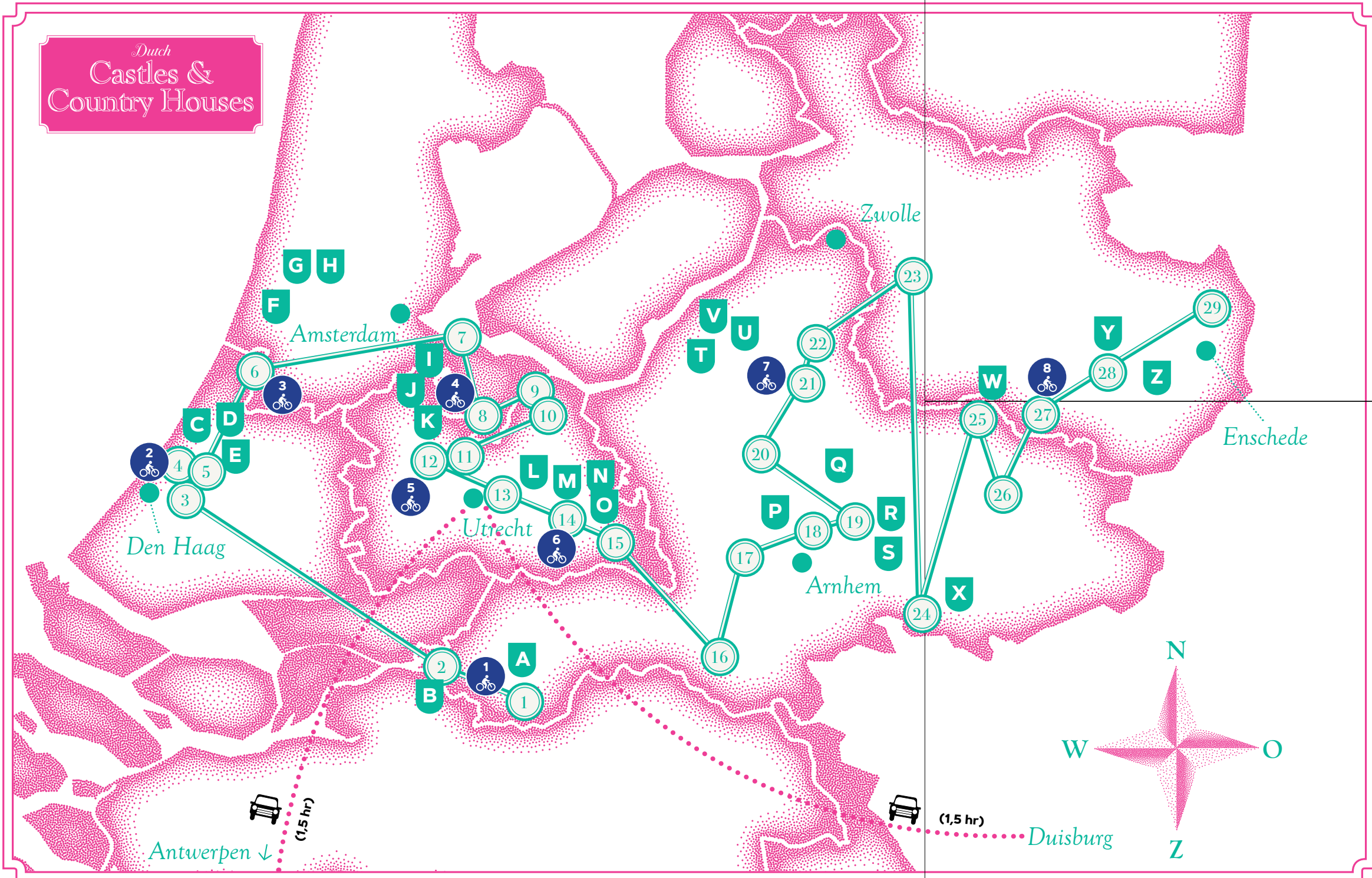
Country estate with old watermills

Landgoed Singraven is beautifully located on the river Dinkel near the German border. The estate boasts many special monumental buildings such as the stately Huis Singraven and the century-old working water mill with three wheels. Access to the house is limited. Tip: Stay overnight in one of the forester's huts near restaurant De Watermolen.

| [www.singraven.nl](http://www.singraven.nl)



Castles and country estates that are more than worth a visit



Recommendations for romantic dinners and overnight stays at stunning castles, country retreats and estates

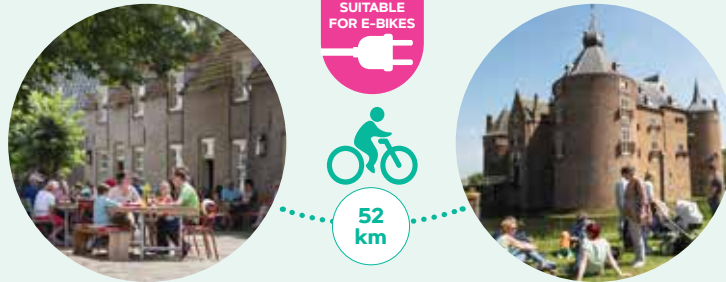
- A Landgoed Mariënwaerd:** lunch and dinner
- B Suite & Breakfast Slot Loevestein:** overnight stays
- C Kasteel De Wittenburg:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- D Kasteel Oud-Poelgeest:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- E Central Park:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- F Landgoed Duin- & Kruidberg:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- G Chateau Marquette:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- H Slot Assumburg:** overnight stays
- I Buitenplaats Slangevegt:** lunchen, dineren
- J Logement aan de Vecht:** overnight
- K Buitenplaats Geesberge:** lunch, dinner and overnight
- L Kasteel Kerckebosch:** lunch, dinner and overnight
- M Kasteel Sterkenburg:** overnight stays
- N Parc Broekhuizen:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- O Bentinck:** lunchen en dineren
- P Slot Doddendaal:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- Q Landgoed Groot Warnsborn:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- R Landgoed Rhederoord:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- S Bed- en Breakfast Landgoed Middachten:** overnight stays
- T Landgoed De Vanenburg:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- U Kasteel De Essenburgh:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- V Landgoed Het Roode Koper:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- W Kasteel Engelenburg:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- X Kasteel Huis Bergh:** overnight stays
- Y Landgoed Hotel Carelshaven:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays
- Z Landgoed Wilmersberg:** lunch, dinner and overnight stays

Colophon  
This brochure is an initiative of NBTC Holland Marketing and was made possible with deployment of content and/or funding by Stichting Kastelen, Buitenplaatsen en Landgoederen (SKBL), Erfgoedhuis Zuid-Holland, Provincie Zuid-Holland, Toerisme Gooi en Vecht, Provincie Noord-Holland, RBT Heuvelrug & Vallei, Provincie Utrecht, Toerisme Veluwe Arnhem Nijmegen, RBT Achterhoek, Provincie Gelderland, Marketing Oost and Provincie Overijssel.

and estates and/or taken from the image databank of NBTC Holland Marketing, Rijksdienst voor Cultureel Erfgoed, the participating regional tourist boards and Erfgoedhuis Zuid-Holland.  
This brochure was compiled with the greatest care. If the information appears to contain inaccuracies or if adjustments are needed, the organisation cannot accept any liability.



Read more about castles and country estates? Visit [www.holland.com/castles](http://www.holland.com/castles)



Cycle Route 1 Slot Loevestein - Kasteel Ammersoyen | (2hr45min/52 km)

**Medieval castles in lush river landscapes**  
At the Slot Loevestein museum there is much to discover about the middle ages and the historic Hollandic Water Line. Kasteel Ammersoyen offers one of the best preserved medieval moated castles of the country. Start and finish of this cycle route is the car park at Slot Loevestein. The route leads through Rivierenland, a region ideal for cycling. You pass century-old dikes and picturesque villages while enjoying views of the typically Dutch landscape.

| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 3 Kasteel Keukenhof - LAM | (2hr45min/36 km)

**Art collection at Keukenhof**  
Kasteel Keukenhof with the nearby located and newly opened Lissers Art Museum (LAM) forms the highlight of this cycle route. Start and finish is the car park at Kasteel Keukenhof, from which the gardens can be accessed. The cycle route also brings you past freely accessible castles and estates such as 't Huys Dever' and Oud-Poelgeest Castle and through National Park de Kagerplassen.

| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 5 Kasteel De Haar - Slot Zuylen | (3hr/40 km)

**The splendour of de Haar and other estates along the river Vecht**  
De Haar is the biggest castle in Holland and it still exudes splendour and wealth. Slot Zuylen is a cosy, noble home with a well preserved 18<sup>th</sup>-century collection, which makes a visit more than worthwhile. This cycle route covers both museums. Start and finish of this route is the village of Haarzuilens, close to de Haar. The cycle route leads along the river Vecht, where many historic castles and country estates of the noble and wealthy can be found.

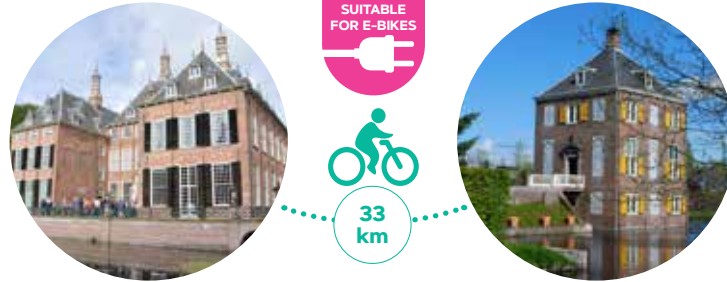
| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 7 Kasteel Cannenburch - Paleis Het Loo | (3hr/38 km)

**Discover the royal Veluwe**  
Kasteel Cannenburch and the gardens of Paleis Het Loo are the highlight of this route. They form part of the National Castle Line that bundles the most beautiful castle- and estate museums for interested visitors. The cycle route starts and ends at Kasteel Cannenburch car park. Along the route, you can acquaint yourself with the royal landscape of the Veluwe, rich in woodlands, forests and sweeping moorlands. Part of it is located in the royal estate that has been in possession of the Dutch Royal Family for centuries.

| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 2 Kasteel Duivenvoorde | (2hr30min/33 km)

**Three outstanding museums in South-Holland in one afternoon**  
For centuries the Wassenaar area is very popular with the aristocrats and wealthy merchants due to its close proximity to the coast. Duivenvoorde Castle, Museum Voorlinden and Huygens' Hofwijck are the highlights of this cycle route. Start and finish is the car park at Duivenvoorde Castle, where you can enjoy lovely lunches at the pavilion. On this cycle route you get to admire many freely accessible castles and country estates in Wassenaar, Voorschoten and Voorburg.

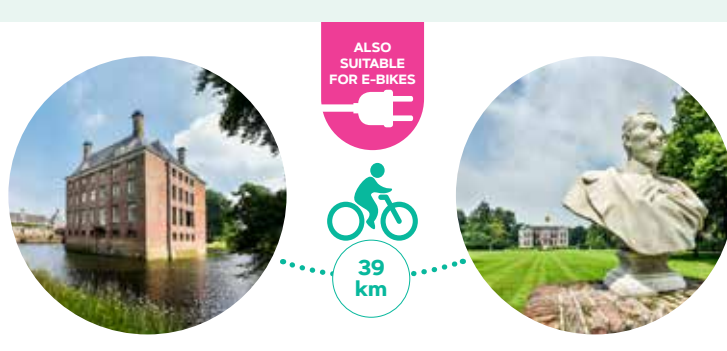
| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 4 Kasteel Sypdesteyn | (2hr30min/35 km)

**From Loosdrecht porcelain to 's Gravelandse country retreats**  
Hop on your bike and cycle past various historic country estates and admire their magnificent country houses (no public access). The cycle route starts and ends at visitor centre Gooi en Vechtstreek. The main destination is Kasteel Sypdesteyn museum in Loosdrecht, which offers one of the most extensive porcelain collections of the country.

| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 6 Kasteel Amerongen - Huis Doorn | (3hr/39 km)

**The life of Emperor Wilhelm II in exile**  
The last emperor of Germany, Emperor Wilhelm II, stayed at Kasteel Amerongen for 15 years and this is where he signed his abdication, which marked the end of WWI. Afterwards, Wilhelm II lived in exile at nearby Huis Doorn until his death. The cycle route brings you past various castles and estates on and near the Utrechtse Heuvelrug. The route starts and ends in Amerongen.

| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)



Cycle route 8 Kasteel Warmelo | (1hr45m/23 km)

**Past castles and 'havezaten' in Diepenheim**  
The most famous resident of Warmelo Castle was Princess Armgard, mother of Prince Bernhard. The castle gardens in various styles are pleasing to the eye and open to the public. The cycle route starts and ends at Warmelo Castle. The artist town of Diepenheim and its surroundings are well-known for their varied, picturesque landscapes with many country estates and 'havezaten'.

| [www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles](http://www.fietsnetwerk.nl/castles)