

DISCOVER THE NETHERLANDS' UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES



STICHTING WERELDERFGOED NEDERLAND



OUR GOAL

The goal of the World Heritage Convention is to assure the exceptional heritage on the World Heritage List as an international community, since they are important to the whole world. These World Heritage sites need to be saved for the next generation.

The Netherlands has ten World Heritage sites recognised by UNESCO. They are unique in the world. They tell the extraordinary story of the Netherlands and the Dutch in the spheres of water management, civil society and (land) design. They did so then, they do it now, and they will always continue to do so.

The current World Heritage sites in the Netherlands are: Schokland and Surroundings, the Defence Line of Amsterdam, Mill Network at Kinderdijk-Elshout, the D.F. Wouda Steam Pumping Station, Willemstad Curaçao, the Beemster Polder, the Rietveld Schröder House, the Wadden Sea, the Amsterdam Canal District and the Van Nelle factory.

The World Heritage sites would like to share their exceptional stories with you as a visitor. They are proud of the special place they occupy within the exceptional heritage of this world.

WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE NETHERLANDS



- 1 SCHOKLAND AND SURROUNDINGS
- 2 DEFENCE LINE OF AMSTERDAM
- 3 MILL NETWORK AT KINDERDIJK-ELSHOUT
- 4 D.F. WOUDA STEAM PUMPING STATION
- 5 WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO
- 6 THE BEEMSTER POLDER
- 7 RIETVELD SCHRÖDER HOUSE
- 8 THE WADDEN SEA
- 9 THE AMSTERDAM CANAL DISTRICT
- 10 VAN NELLE FACTORY



1 SCHOKLAND AND SURROUNDINGS

Schokland is an island on dry land, rich in archaeological treasures. Schokland is the Netherlands' oldest continuously inhabited settlement and symbolises the centuries-old relationship of the Dutch with the water. On Schokland there are traces of human habitation dating back far into prehistoric times. It is an archaeological monument that covers over 8000 years of habitation history. For centuries, Schokland lay as a vulnerable island in the Zuiderzee. The devastating seas devoured chunks of the island. There was a constant risk of flooding, coupled with extreme poverty among the population. For this reason, the government decided to permanently evacuate the entire island in 1859. Some 635 'Schokkers' moved to the mainland for good. Since the reclamation of the Noordoostpolder, Schokland has again been part of the mainland, an island on dry land with a rich, archaeological soil archive. Schokland and Surroundings have been a World Heritage site since 1995.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Middelbuurt 3 • 8319 AB Schokland • +31 (0)527-251396
www.schokland.nl

2 DEFENCE LINE OF AMSTERDAM

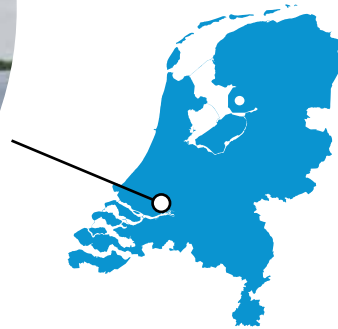
The Defence Line of Amsterdam is a circular series of fortifications around Amsterdam. The line is 135 km long and consists of 42 forts and 4 batteries. The defence line was built between 1880 and 1914 at a distance of between 15 and 20 kilometres from Amsterdam. This kept the capital out of range of any enemy canons. The area outside the line could be flooded in times of emergency, thanks to a sophisticated system of locks. The line served as the 'National Reduit', the final refuge for government and army. It is a unique monument of defensive and hydraulic engineering technology, but was never put into full use. The Defence Line of Amsterdam was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1996.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Pampus Fort Island Visitor Centre

The ferry departs from the Herengracht in the fortified town of Muiden opposite to house number 33 • +31 (0)294-262326 • info@pampus.nl
www.stellingvanamsterdam.nl • www.stelling-amsterdam.nl
Opening hours: www.pampus.nl/bezoekers-info/veerdienst/





3 MILL NETWORK AT KINDERDIJK-ELSHOUT

The 19 windmills of Kinderdijk are an internationally known Dutch symbol. The 17 basin-mills were built between 1738 and 1740. Two polder-mills remain from even before then. The windmills operated in a polder-drainage system of the two ancient Water Boards of the Alblasserwaard. Later on modern pumping stations took over the role of the windmills. The diesel-powered JU Smit and the electrical ir. G.J. Kok pumping stations still operate in the drainage system. In Kinderdijk, almost a thousand years of the 'struggle against the water' are visible in the polder landscape, with its waterways, dykes, pumping stations, sluices and windmills. The Mill Network at Kinderdijk-Elshout has been a World Heritage site since 1997.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Nederwaard 1 • 2961 AS Kinderdijk • +31 (0)78-6912830
info@kinderdijk.nl • www.kinderdijk.nl
Opening hours: www.kinderdijk.nl/openingstijden

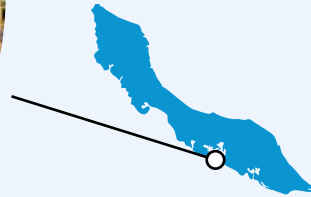
4 D.F. WOUDA STEAM PUMPING STATION

A majestic experience of steam, architecture and water, the D.F. Steam Pumping Station in Lemmer is the largest steam pumping station still operational anywhere in the world. The pumping station was opened by Queen Wilhelmina in 1920 and its purpose was to pump excess water from Friesland into the Zuiderzee, later the IJsselmeer. This remarkable brick building features clean lines and an austere appearance and has characteristics of Berlage's rationalism, such as the steel rafters, the use of stone, oak, sophisticated colours and decorative edges. The monumental steam pumping station is owned by Wetterskip Fryslân. At times of high water levels, it is still used to drain the Friese Boezem. The D.F. Wouda Steam Pumping Station was put on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1998. The D.F. Wouda Steam Pumping Station and visitor centre are open to visitors 6 days a week all year round (all week in July and August).

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

D.F. Wouda Steam Pumping Station visitor centre
Gemaalweg 1A • 8531 PS Lemmer • +31 (0)514-561814
info@woudagemaal.nl • www.woudagemaal.nl
Opening hours: www.woudagemaal.nl/openingstijden





5 WILLEMSTAD CURAÇAO

In 1634, the Dutch West India Company (W.I.C.) founded a trading post at St. Anna's Bay on the island of Curacao. This sheltered bay formed a natural harbour. From about 1660, the slave trade took off. Willemstad was a centre of the slave trade for the whole of the Americas. The town developed continuously over the following three centuries on both sides of the Saint Anna Bay to become a Caribbean harbour city. Willemstad is characterised by a mix of architectural styles and Caribbean colours. There are many Dutch influences, but also Spanish and Portuguese. The historic town centre of Willemstad has been a World Heritage site since 1997.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

www.curacaomonuments.org

6 THE BEEMSTER POLDER

The Beemster Polder, dating from the early 17th century, is an exceptional example of reclaimed land in the Netherlands. This 17th century polder was created to tame the dangerous inland waters of De Beemster and turn them into fertile and profitable agricultural land. Around this wild lake was built a solid dyke 42 kilometres long, and a canal dug was around it. Subsequently, 43 windmills started pumping the water from the lake. By 1612, De Beemster was dry and the creation of the polder could begin. Roads were constructed, ditches dug beside roads and between plots, and farms built. All of this took place in accordance with an orderly and rigid geometric template. De Beemster owes its fame to this rational subdivision and configuration. The Beemster Polder has been a World Heritage site since 1999.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Middenweg 185 • 1462 HN Middenbeemster
+31 (0)299-621826 • www.bezoekerscentrumbeemster.nl
Opening hours: www.bezoekerscentrumbeemster.nl
J.v.Dijk@Purmerend.nl





7 RIETVELD SCHRÖDER HOUSE

This architectural masterpiece breathes the ideals of De Stijl. The unique building is unrivalled both within and outside the oeuvre of the Utrecht architect and designer Gerrit Rietveld (1888-1964). Rietveld was commissioned to design the house in 1924 by the free-thinking Truus Schröder. It was his first complete house and an exuberant experiment. Elaborating on his own furniture designs and the ideas of De Stijl, he built a house on the edge of the city as a three-dimensional, asymmetrical composition. The Rietveld Schröder House was put on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Prins Hendriklaan 50 • 3583 EP Utrecht • +31 (0)30-2362310
rshuis@centraalmuseum.nl • www.rietveldschroederhuis.nl
Opening hours: www.centraalmuseum.nl/bezoeken/locaties/rietveld-schroederhuis/bezoekinformatie-rietveld-schroederhuis/

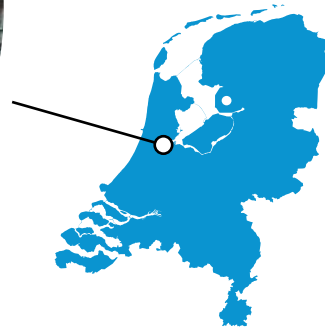
8 THE WADDEN SEA

The Wadden Sea – unique in the world! The Wadden Sea stretches along the coasts of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark and is an unequalled dynamic landscape. Nowhere in the world will you find such an expansive and varied area created under the influence of ebb and flood, where changes are noticeable daily. An extensive system of large and small channels alternates with sand flats which are exposed at low tide. It consists of mussel beds, sandbars, mudflats, salt marshes, estuaries, beaches and dunes and the occasional sea-grass meadows. This variety of landscapes makes the Wadden Sea a unique habitat, enjoyed by numerous visitors all year round. The Wadden Sea is an indispensable stopover for millions of birds per annum. It is also home to more than 10.000 often rare plant and animal species. The Dutch and German Wadden Sea has been a World Heritage site since 2009. In 2014, the Danish part was added, which means the Wadden Sea is now a World Heritage site in its entirety.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

The Wadden Sea area has nearly 50 visitor centres, each with its own activities. You can find a list here: www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/nl/beleef-de-waddensee/bezoekerscentra/ • www.waddensea-worldheritage.org





9 THE AMSTERDAM CANAL DISTRICT

During the 17th century, Amsterdam was growing so fast it was practically bursting at the seams. The city experienced her economic, political and cultural Golden Age. An expansion was essential. The city council therefore designed a plan that would make the city five times as large. The canals area, with its 14 km of canals and 80 bridges, is a masterpiece of town planning, hydraulic engineering and architecture. Thanks to the systematic planting of trees along the canals and the establishment of beautiful gardens, a very green city quickly arose. This planned urban expansion served as an example around the world until well into the 19th century. The Amsterdam Canal District has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2010.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Vijzelstraat 32 • 1017 HL Amsterdam • +31 (0)20-2514900
werelderfgoed@amsterdam.nl • www.amsterdam.nl/werelderfgoed
Opening hours: www.amsterdam.nl/stadsarchief

10 VAN NELLE FACTORY

The Van Nelle factory in Rotterdam is our most recent World Heritage site; in June 2014. The former Van Nelle coffee, tea and tobacco factory built between 1925 and 1931 is one of the world's outstanding icons of industrial architecture from the early twentieth century, the period of Het Nieuwe Bouwen. With its characteristic glass and steel facades and concrete framework, it represents the expression of the 'ideal factory', with daylight providing pleasant working conditions in the factory and exuding openness to the outside world. It marks the Netherlands' contribution to the design of industrial production processes. The Van Nelle factory also bears witness to the long history of importation, processing and trading of tropical products in the Netherlands, and in the port of Rotterdam in particular. The restoration and reuse of the factory since 2000 has been carried out with great care, with its authenticity being fully preserved.

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Van Nelleweg 1 • 3044 BC Rotterdam
www.facebook.com/WerelderfgoedVanNellefabriek/
Opening hours: www.vannellewerelderfgoed.nl



WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Sustainable tourism means doing everything possible to prevent the negative impact of tourism on the world heritage sites, involving the local community where possible and relevant, and ensuring that you as a visitor have a worthwhile visit. As a responsible tourist, you will have prepared for your visit, be aware of the local community and respect the heritage site. This means following the indicated routes, not damaging the monuments (for example, by climbing on them, breaking pieces off or covering them with graffiti) or damaging the landscape (for example, by destroying plants, by walking through protected areas or bothering animals), and not causing a nuisance to the local population. It also includes respect for the environment, so be mindful where you leave your waste behind so that you don't cause pollution and degrade the site.

It is also important that as a visitor you have a good experience and discover more about the world heritage site. A good preparation for your visit can help. This publication helps you to prepare by providing more information about the world heritage sites in the

Netherlands. Logistics is an important element in the preparation. You will find relevant web links for this information here (routes, opening hours, websites, etc.).

We are proud of our World Heritage and so we want to share it with as many people as possible. That's why we would also like you to share your photos, for example through social media or blogs. You can also send them to the Dutch Foundation for World Heritage sites to be posted on the foundation's Facebook page (info@werelderfgoed.nl).

The Dutch World Heritage sites are constantly working to make your visit as informative, interesting and memorable as possible. It is important to us that you have a worthwhile visit and become acquainted with this exceptional heritage.

Your informed opinion is therefore important to us. As such, you will find a link to a questionnaire for your feedback on the page of each World Heritage site on the website of the Dutch Foundation for World Heritage sites (www.werelderfgoed.nl). You can also contact the World Heritage site direct.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information on the ten Dutch World Heritage sites at www.werelderfgoed.nl. You can also find the latest news about the sites and a summary of the activities here.

In addition, there is the Dutch World Heritage app. You can download it for free from the App Store and Google Play. The app is available in seven languages: Dutch, English, German, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. This app provides practical information about each World Heritage site, e.g. how to find it plus three recommended routes and the opportunity to create your own routes.



STICHTING WERELDERFGOED NEDERLAND

COLOPHON

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