



The story of nature in the Netherlands



National Park Zuid-Kennemerland



Nationaal Park
Zuid-Kennemerland



What is a National Park?

National Parks have been set up worldwide to protect large areas that are important to nature or wildlife. In the Netherlands there are 20 of these areas that have been designated as National Parks. Each one of these represents a unique feature of the country, where special flora and fauna of (inter)national interest can be found. In total these parks cover an area of approximately 130 000 acres, more than 3% of the Netherlands. The main concern is the management of natural resources; however the National Parks also focus on recreation, communication, education and research.



National Park Zuid-Kennemerland

National Park Zuid-Kennemerland is located in the heart of the metropolitan area, between IJmuiden, Haarlem and Zandvoort. The location and beauty of this 3800 acres large reserve attracts many people every year who enjoy hiking, cycling, horse riding and swimming.

The National Park Zuid-Kennemerland is composed of young calcareous dunes, wide beaches and lush coastal forests as well as remnants of cultural history like farms, seaside villages and bunkers. Differences in soil, elevation, climate and groundwater levels in dunes provide diverse living conditions for both flora and fauna alike. While the elements, sand, rain and wind only serve to reinforce the biological dynamics of the area.

Dynamic Management

The management of natural resources in the National Park Zuid-Kennemerland focuses on the preservation of natural values and initiating natural processes. This intervention is essential in providing a diverse landscape and the flourishing of flora and fauna.

The Kennemer-beach is just one of the remarkable spots in the north-west area of the National Park; where fresh water from under the dunes surfaces.

Here you will find rare plants unique to dunes such as parnassus, yellow wort and orchids. On the dryer, more open areas you



will find shore bindweed and sea holly; plants that prefer the salty sea wind.

Giving space to nature

Along the first row of dunes five trenches have been dug to give the wind access to the dunes behind it again. Furthermore five parabolic dunes (dunes facing the direction of the

wind), located in the extension of the trenches, have been stripped of their vegetation and roots. This has recreated a unique feature of traditional dune landscapes. The most southern trench has been opened for public and can be reached from the Parnassia parking area. There are also special excursions for this project, called "The Northwest natural core".

Shifting Dunes

Densely vegetated, stagnant dunes acidify and age which leads to the disappearance of

many species of flora and fauna. To counter this some dunes have been cleared to enable them to shift again. This brings nutrient-rich calcareous sand to the surface and the process creates new dunes where typical species of plants and wildlife can re-establish themselves. The removal of the top-layer of old dunes by park-managers thus sets in motion a natural process which enriches the park and increases bio-diversity while shaping the dunes themselves, this process is of course closely monitored.



Grassland Encroachment

Industry, intensive agriculture and traffic cause acid rain. This precipitation dissolves the calcium contained in the soil which accelerates decalcification and increases acidity of the dunes. Due to this characteristic dune plants such as the burnet rose are under threat of disappearing, whereas the various grass species seemingly flourish. The drying out of the soil as well as a low rabbit population, caused by diseases, has further exacerbated this situation and has led to an ever increasing amount of grassland.

The encroachment of grasslands is threatening the (bio-) diversity of the landscape so to counter this a number of large grazers have been introduced: cattle, horses and ponies graze in large areas of the National Park. In 2007 wisents (a relative of the cow) were introduced to Kraansvlak, a

closed part of the National Park. These grazers eat grasses and hard dune reeds as well as the vegetation on shrubs and trees and they trample vegetation, the combined effect of this frees the dunes to shift. The large grazers are aided by small herbivores such as rabbits, roe deer and fallow deer in keeping the dune landscape clear. This provides much-needed space for characteristic flora such as dune pansies, thyme and blueweed.

Wisents in Kraansvlak

More information about wisents can be found at www.wisenten.nl.



Humid Dune Slacks

Dune sand naturally contains a large amount of fresh water. This water has made for excellent drinking water and over the centuries large amounts have been won for consumption. This has led to the drying out of dune grassland and the disappearance of dune slacks. However in 2003 these activities were ceased allowing the groundwater-bubble to grow again. In turn the soil in various areas has become increasingly humid and areas like the 'Zuidervlak' are once again submerged during wet winters. This effect, combined with other measures like the removal of vegetation and the introduction of grazers has resulted in a variety of special fauna, such as centaury, parnassus and felwort flourishing in the humid dune slacks.



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Since 2013 ecoduct Zandpoort connects National Park Zuid-Kennemerland with the Amsterdam Water Supply Dunes.

Thanks to this ecoduct animals and plants, like dune rose, roe, weasel, sand lizard, natter jack and several butterfly species, have a larger habitat and increased possibilities to reproduce and distribute. The ecoduct also connects different types of landscapes. An important goal is enlarging the areas of this type of dunes and to improve its quality. Ecoduct Zandpoort is also accessible for cyclists, horse riders, walkers and wheelchairs so that everyone can enjoy this beautiful, unique piece of nature.

At this moment preparations are being made for two additional ecoducts across the



Zeeweg in Bloemendaal and across the railway between Zandvoort and Haarlem. With these three bridges a continuous dune will emerge of more than 7000 acres. Space aplenty for plant and animal alike!

Ecoduct Zandpoort has been made possible by:

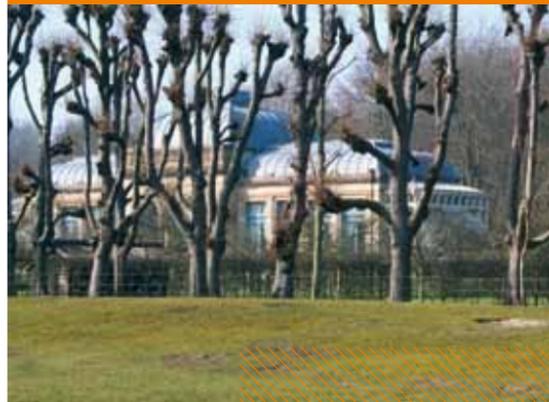


Gemeente Zandvoort



Man in the landscape: cultural history

National Park Zuid-Kennemerland is an extremely interesting and valuable area from a cultural-historical point of view. People have been living in the dunes for centuries and have used nature to their benefit in a variety of ways. Valuable discoveries have been made during archaeological digs, such as the remains of a Frisian farm dating back more than 2000 years. A number of centuries-old estates - Caprera, Elswout and Koningshof - are also established there; each with their own unique history.

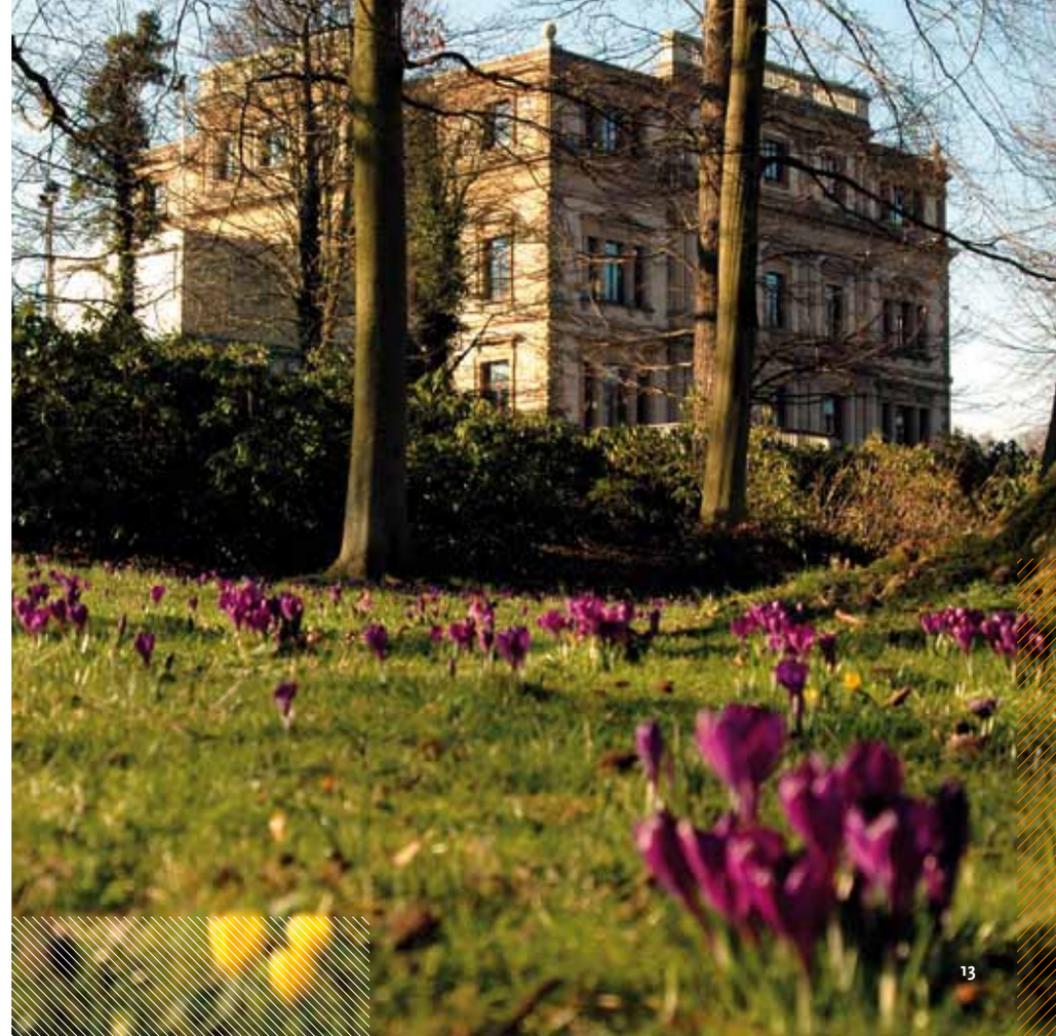


Inner Dune Belt and Estates

In the 17th century many wealthy merchants wanted a place outside of the city for the hot summer months. A number of them established estates on the inner dune belt. The characteristic buildings and style of the gardens and horticulture are part of a precious cultural-historic heritage. One of the most beautiful and best preserved estates is Elswout. The old majestic trees provide a home to the many tree dwelling birds and the old ice cellar houses a number of bats. In the spring many stinsen plants can be found growing in the fields and in autumn a large number of mushrooms can be found beneath the trees.

TIP:

The Elswout Orangery is open from 10:30 until 15:30 every Sunday.



Seaside Villages and the landscape

Between 1500 and 1900 the landscape in the dunes was dramatically changed by man. Around the many seaside villages the land was used for agricultural purposes among which the holding of cattle and vegetable-cultivation were most common. The result of agricultural exploitation was the degradation of the dunes which were already low in nutrients and it exacerbated the stagnation and erosion of the dunes. The lack of nutrients also led to an increase of herbal vegetation however and this unique vegetation is now considered one of the most valuable aspects of the Dutch dunes. After 1900 this old tradition changed, the dunes were no longer used for agricultural purposes as villagers started maintaining vegetable gardens on concentrated strips of

land. These strips were dug out to ground-water level, while the rest of the dunes lost their agricultural nature. Many of these small allotments can still be seen along the 'Duinpieperpad', on the eastern side of Zandvoort. Some of these are still in use; for traditional potato-growing.

TIP:
Arrangements can be made in the Visitor Centre for a GPS cultural history walk; 'Traces of Mankind in the Dunes'.



Traces of the Second World War

A number of bunkers can be found in the National Park Zuid-Kennemerland which was part of the 2,685 kilometre long Atlantikwall. This was a line of defences built by the Germans designed to prevent an allied invasion of Europe, it ran from Norway through Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium on to France and up to the Spanish border. This defensive-line, which was never fully completed, consisted of bunkers, cannons and minefields.

Remembrance Cemetery

It was already common knowledge during the war that the Nazis were executing members of the resistance in the dunes without any form of trial. During the summer of 1945 the full extent of this practice was

revealed. The human remains of 422 people were found in 45 mass graves at six different locations. 347 of the victims were reburied at the Bloemendaal Remembrance Cemetery including the famous resistance fighter Hannie Schaft.

TIP:
For more information:
www.eerebegraafplaatsbloemendaal.eu.



National Park Zuid-Kennemerland: the organisation

The provincial water authorities, the Society for Conservation of Natural Monuments, the Forestry Commission, the municipalities of Velsen, Bloemendaal, Haarlem and Zandvoort, the Society for Nature and Environment Education - IVN, the Province of North Holland and various private land owners are all working closely with the National Park Zuid-Kennemerland. This cooperation allows the park to be managed as one single area.



The Consultation Group is the executive organ of the National Park. The group comprises the various representatives of landowners and of organisations involved in the National Park. The Consultation Group has an independent chairman while the secretariat of the Consultation Group is housed at the Province of Noord-Holland. Any meetings of the Consultation Group are prepared and supported by an Advisory Committee.

All meetings of the Consultation Group are open to the public. See www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl for data and location.



Visitors are welcome!



Attractive hiking, cycling and horse riding paths are available throughout the entire national park. Remote spots can be reached by a number of narrower pathways. Some areas of the park are reserved for animals to rest. This finely tuned 'zoning' enables visitors to enjoy the pleasures of nature without disturbing the natural habitat of the plants and animals.

Visitors Centre "De Kennemerduinen"

For information about the area you can visit Visitors Centre "De Kennemerduinen". The shop has much to offer including hiking- and cycling maps. Entrance is free. You can find visitors centre "De Kennemerduinen" at Zee- weg 12 in Overveen, nearby the 'Koevlak' parking area.

Opening hours Visitors Centre:

Tuesday – Sunday 10.00 - 17.00.
Closed on Monday (except for fall-, Christmas- and spring-holidays in February).
T: 023 5411123
E: info@np-zuidkennemerland.nl

Duincafé

After a long walk you can enjoy a cup of coffee, a pastry or a fine lunch at the Duincafé.

You're welcome from Tuesday till Sunday from 10.00 o'clock. T: 023-5256822

Meetings

The visitor centre contains two rooms that can be reserved for meetings, company parties or regular parties. The location is beautiful, nearby dune-lake 't Wed, and invites to extend your stay.
Tip: expand your stay with a walk or cycling

tour with a guide and finish the day with a complete buffet.

Access to the National Park

The National Park is open for public between sunrise and sunset. Entrance is free except the entrance 'Caprera'.

Excursions and activities

You can find all excursions and activities in the National Park at www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl. Here you can also book an excursion.

Parking

Koevlak, Parnassia and Bleek & Berg are paid parking areas. All the other parking areas are free.

Dogs

At some places dogs are not allowed. You can find an overview at www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl.



Secretariat

Provincie Noord-Holland, Ceylonpoort 5, 2037 AA Haarlem. T: 023 514 31 43.

Communication and Education

IVN; Institute for Nature-education and Sustainability is responsible for all the communication and education of South Kennemerland National Park.

You can reach us via consulentschap.noordholland@ivn.nl or through the Visiting Centre.

Come visit us at National Park Zuid-Kennemerland

A variety of catering and recreation companies in and around the park are official National Park Zuid-Kennemerland hosts. These can provide information about any activities and special arrangements in this area.

Official hosts are:

- Duincafé De Karmeliet (Overveen)
- Droompark Buitenhuizen (Velsen-Zuid)
- Fa Ekogron (Santpoort-Zuid)
- Hoeve Duin & Kruidberg (Santpoort-Noord)
- Kraantje Lek (Overveen)
- Kuuna uitjes (Zandvoort)
- Landgoed Duin & Kruidberg (Santpoort-Noord)
- Manege Kennemergaarde (Santpoort-Noord)
- Manege Rückert (Zandvoort)
- Recreatieschap Spaarnwoude
- Restaurant De Uitkijk (Bloemendaal)
- VVV Zandvoort
- Camping de Duindoorn (IJmuiden aan Zee)
- Strandpaviljoen Beach Inn (IJmuiden aan Zee)
- Goesting Events BV (Heemskerk)
- Plattelandscafé de Doofpot (De Zilk)
- Camping de Branding (Zandvoort)
- Go Sport & Play (Zandvoort)



Certified hosts can be recognised by the sign on the gable.

View and reserve excursions at www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl.
Follow us on Twitter: @npzk
Become our friend on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nationaalparkzuidkennemerland

National Parks in the Netherlands
Information about all twenty Dutch National Parks can be found at www.nationaalpark.nl



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