





More information:

Tourist Information Brabantse Wal
Steenbergsestraat 6, Bergen op Zoom
(in City Palace the Markiezenhof)
T 0031 (0)164 - 277 482
info@vvvbrabantsewal.nl
www.vvvbrabantsewal.nl

Tourist Information Steenbergse
Gummaruskerk
Westdam 83, Steenbergse

Tourist Information Woensdrecht
De Volksabdij
O.L.V. ter Duinenlaan 199, Ossendrecht

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Colophon:
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MONUMENTS | NATURE | EVENTS | WATER & LEISURE



Brabantse Wal
Bergen op Zoom | Steenbergse | Woensdrecht

... where Brabant kisses Zeeland...



Discover Bergen op Zoom

Along the city, water and lands



Be surprised by
this varied
cycling tour
along natural beauty,
water and historic
monuments.



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... where Brabant kisses Zeeland...

Discover Bergen op Zoom (38 km)

The cycling tour Discover Bergen op Zoom takes you along various highlights of Bergen op Zoom and its surroundings. You depart from the old inner city with its many monuments and remains of former fortifications. The tour continues along stately country estates, such as Lievensberg and Mattemburgh. You can experience the Brabantse Wal at visitor centres Natuurpodium and Kraaijenberg. One of the largest wetlands of the Netherlands, Markiezaatsmeer (Lake Marquissate), provides splendid panoramic views. Along the tour, you will pass various enterprises that sell local products, as well as cosy catering businesses that offer food and drinks. Check www.vvvbrabantsewal.nl for opening hours of various experience sites. As of junction 79 of the cycling network, you follow Discover Bergen op Zoom partly along a cycling path executed in sandy asphalt. The Route van de Turf (Peat Route) takes you from Bergen op Zoom to Natuurpoort Visdonk in Roosendaal.

Start: Grote Markt (Market Square), Bergen op Zoom

This cycling tour was laid out based on the cycling junction network. As of Grote Markt please follow from Fortuinstraat on to **junctions 76 – 79 – 72 – 82 – 88 – 14 – 75 – 15 – 18 – 31 – 78 – 32 – 71 – 79 – 76.**

Tips along the way

Grote Markt (Starting point 1) has been at the heart of the city since the Middle Ages. On the square, Hotel de Draak is located, the oldest inn of the Netherlands, alongside the Old City Hall. Across the square, you will see Sint Gertrudiskerk (Saint-Gertrude's Church) with its bell tower. On the other side of the square you will see De Maagd, a church that has now been converted into a theatre. In Steenbergsestraat you will ride past the Markiezenhof (Marquess' Court), the city's most precious gem. A visit to this former residential palace of the Lords and Marquesses is well worth your while! About 100 m from junction 75 you will see the **Canadian and British war cemeteries (2)**. Military victims from WWII are buried here.



Natuurpoort (Nature Gateway) Lievensberg (3). The area features typical natural altitude differences due to which you will be surprised by a new vista behind every tree. One of the farms you can visit on the Brabantse Wal is **Kaasboerderij (dairy farm) De Zuidgeest (4)**. Many dairy products are manufactured here in a traditional manner. In order to visit the farm, please divert from the tour at junction 31. Briefly cycle in the direction of junction 30 and next follow the signs to Kaasboerderij de Zuidgeest.

Bezoekerscentrum (visitor centre) De Kraaijenberg (5) offers alternating exhibitions on flora and fauna in and around the Markiezaat (Marquissate). Climb its 20-metre watch tower and walk to the observation cabin and enjoy the view across the area with beautiful panoramas and many bird species.

On your way to Landgoed (Estate) Mattemburgh, you ride past farmer Boerke Bogers. This is where you can buy local products, such as asparagus and strawberries (May/June), vegetables and fruit.

Landgoed (Estate) Mattemburgh (6) is regarded to be one of the five most well-preserved formal gardens of our country. Here, you can walk and dine in style. If you want to visit Mattemburgh, cycle down Beukendreef.

On top of the dike, you will see **De Scheldevanger (7)**, which was once built as an observation station for military exercises with bomber planes over what is presently called Markiezaatsmeer. This building in the Hogerwaardpolder comprises a triangle together with another Scheldevanger near Hildernisse, and a tower on the isle of Steenvliet in Markiezaatsmeer.

Before you enter Markiezaatskade (Dam Marquissate), you will pass the Kreekraksluizen (locks) with a view on the Oesterdam. When you climb the watch tower you will be rewarded with a splendid view of the canal, the locks and Markiezaatsmeer.

Markiezaatskade (Dam Marquissate) (8) is a four-kilometre auxiliary dam that surrounds Markiezaatsmeer. The quay is not totally straight, but has a remarkable bend. This was caused when it was breached by a fierce storm during its construction.



Markiezaatsmeer (9) was disconnected from the Oosterschelde (Eastern Scheldt) when the Schelde-Rijn kanaal (Scheldt-Rhine Canal) was built.

Markiezaatsmeer is second runner up of the largest Dutch wetland areas after the Waddenzee and IJsselmeer. Every year, hundreds of thousands of migrant birds rest here.

When you arrive at **Binnenschelde (10)** you can turn right and continue around the Binnenschelde (about 7 km).

The leisure lake was developed in the eighties of the last century as the adjacent residential area Bergse Plaat was reclaimed. **The Waterschans (11)** was recently reconstructed based on drawings of at around 1880 and is part of the West Brabantse Waterlinie (a defence line of fortifications with floodable areas in between - Zuiderwaterlinie).

The tour ends in Bergen op Zoom's **historic inner city (1)**. This is the place to enjoy the historic atmosphere of the city centre or to visit one of the many listed buildings in the city.

Food & drinks along the tour

De Berk

Bemmelenberg 21

Brasserie Bozlust

Boslustweg 1

't Appeltje

Balsedreef 5

Villa Heidetuin

Balsedreef 4

Camping Uit & Thuis

Heimolen 56

Orangerie Mattemburgh

Antwerpsestraatweg 181, Hoogerheide

Catering on Boulevard and city centre

Bergen op Zoom

