



Experience

THE MOTHER OF THE WATERLINES

The ancient Old Dutch Waterline is an icon in the Dutch landscape and was of enormous importance for the preservation of Holland in the 17th and 18th centuries.



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In association with:

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Plattelandstoerisme dwars door het Groene Hart



erfgoedtafelpartners
OUDE HOLLANDSE WATERLINIE



PROVINCIE UTRECHT



provincie Zuid-Holland



mondriaan fonds

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For more activities: www.oudehollandsewaterlinie.nl
www.struinenenvorsen.nl/oude-hollandse-waterlinie



OUDE HOLLANDSE WATERLINIE

Foto: Anne Hamers



Introduction

Waterline Experience

The Mother of the Water Lines was much loved, but not by everyone.

DISASTER YEAR
1672

Experience the Mother of the Waterlines

The Old Dutch Waterline flows like a blue ribbon through the Groene Hart. It Bringing peace and offering space to unwind and recharge. It is hard to imagine that some 350 years ago this vast expanse of reclaimed land was the scene of fierce battles. In 1672 the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands, commonly referred to as the Dutch Republic, was attacked in the 'heart of 'Holland'. Warriors from Germany, France and England took to battle invading from both sea and across land. The once so rich in gold Holland seemed lost and the people felt hopeless, the government distraught and the whole country helpless. Despite this force majeure, the

enemy troops were unable to advance to the west. This all because we had the Mother of Waterlines. Dikes were pierced to give room to expand. Reclaimed lands became an inundation sea too deep to wade through and too shallow to sail through. De Mother of Waterlines not only defended us, it united us. The Netherlands, as we know it today, was born in 1672 after the Disaster Year. Look at it and watch it meandering through the reclaimed land(scape). It gives us peace, and space to breath. The Old Dutch Waterline, Mother of the Waterlines, go out and enjoy it with all your senses and take the Waterline Experience.

Curious?

Get acquainted with the Mother of the Waterlines.

Click here for its story





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Inundation area Old Dutch Waterline during the Disaster Year 1672 (June)

Through the present, the past and the future

LEGEND

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- Fort / Lock / Rampart
- Castle
- City / Town / Village

Click here for more

www.struinenenvorsen.nl/oude-hollandse-waterlinie



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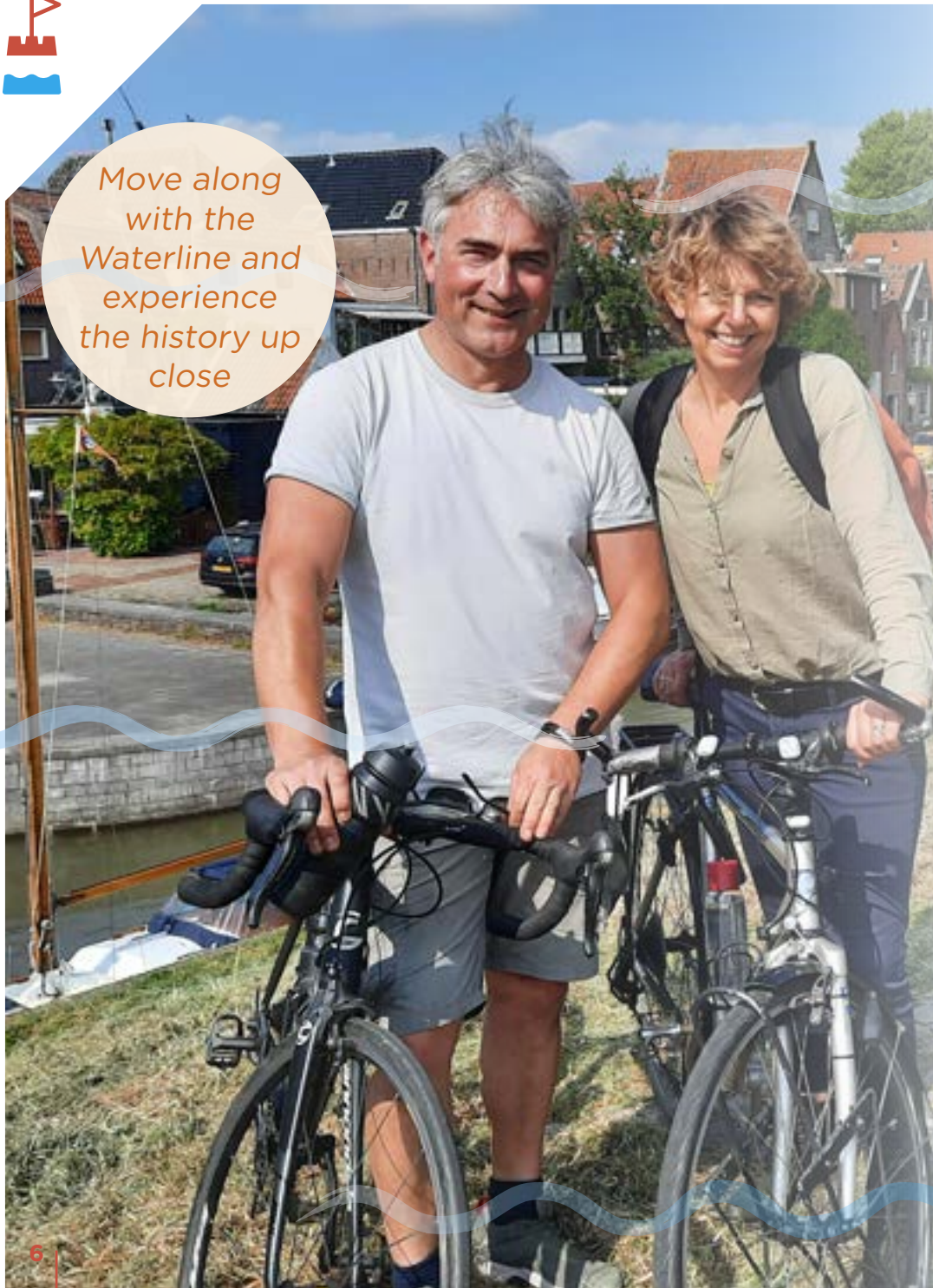
Even more activities.



Move

Routes

Move along with the Waterline and experience the history up close



Bike the Waterline Experience Tour

More than 280 km of cycling pleasure along the Old Dutch Waterline from Gorinchem to Muiden and back. The tour has been divided over 8 days (approximately 40 km a day), all mapped out making use of official bicycle paths & junctions. Routes are well-signed

and car free (where possible). Suggestions/recommendations for accommodation and other amenities/attractions en route are included. Take a break from your tour and enjoy the many terraces or combine your break with a visit to one of the local museums.

Curious?

Admire the tour from the air first by watching the drone video 'A bird's eye view of The Old Dutch Waterline'. Would you like to further explore the surrounding areas, choose one of the many routes along the Waterline.

Click here for more



Foto: Anne Hamers



Foto: Hunk mvb



Move

Routes

Stroll through the fortified towns and inundation area



Foto Anne Hamers

Walk through the alleyways and over the dikes

Do you want to get a closer look at the Old Dutch Waterline defence system? Then put your walking boots on and experience it at your own pace. Dikes and rural paths will take you past

pumping stations, locks, ramparts and fortified cities, towns and/or villages. There are many walking routes available, lengths vary from 4 km to 220 km.

Curious?

Hollandse IJsselpad - 37 km

An almost all unpaved and well signed walk through nature, taking you from IJsselstein to Gouda
<https://www.routesinutrecht.nl/hollandse-ijsselpad>

Recommendations for walks - 6 tot 20 km

Choose from 7 routes through the Waterline.
www.struinenenvorsen.nl/routes/?categorie=wandelen#body

Short walks - 3 tot 6 km

Through fortified towns.
oudehollandsewaterlinie.nl/de-routes/



Foto: Paula Bouwman



Foto: Anne Hamers



Click here for more



Move

Routes

Let yourself be carried away by the current and discover the remains of our rich water history.



Take to the water

You are surrounded by water in the form of rivers, lakes, canals and ditches. You can become so accustomed to the sight of water that you might almost forget just how special water is. Take to the water and disco-

ver the Waterline from another vantage point. Beautiful sailing- and sup-routes have been mapped out. Some have been named after our famous Dutch ancestors: Michiel de Ruyter and Prince William III of Orange.

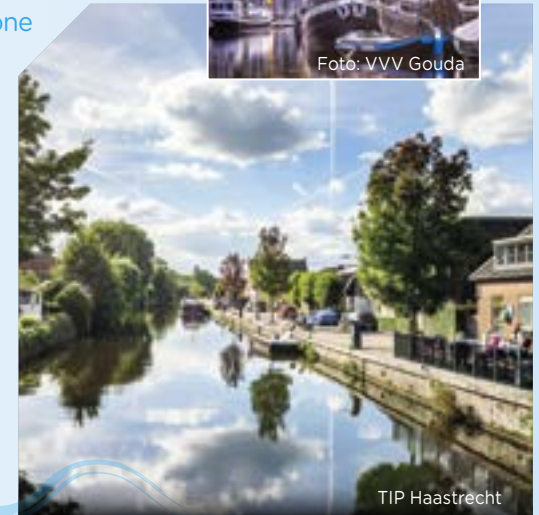
Curious?

Surprise your friends with a sup- or canoe-tour. Grab your paddle and start your adventure. Are you more interested in a longer journey, choose for a multi-day sail arrangement or combine one with a walking arrangement.



Foto: VVV Gouda

Click here for more



TIP Haastrecht



Look

Drone
Video

Fly with 'A bird's eye view of The Old Dutch Waterline' and follow the blueprint from the sky.



Soar and marvel

Float like a bird above the Waterline and marvel at the most imposing of water defence systems the world has ever known. Watch the drone video 'A bird's eye view of The Old Dutch Waterline' and see the following picturesque Dutch cities, towns and villages from above: Woudrichem, Gorinchem, Ameide, Nieuwpoort, Schoonhoven, Willige Langerak, Vlist, Haastrecht, Hekendorp,

Oudewater, Montfoort, Abcoude, Nieuwersluis, Naarden en Muiden. Discover hidden ramparts, forts, quays, dikes: Zouwendijk, Prinsendijk, Franse Kade, Koeneschans, Schans Altelaat, Woerdense Verlaat, Fort Wierickerschans, Fort bij Vechten (Waterline Museum), Fort Nieuwersluis, Linie van Linschoten, Linie van Pleyt and more

Curious?

More than 30 locations have been filmed. Animations have been made of those defence systems no longer visible. The film is narrated by Bob van der Houven.

Click here for more





Feel

Movie

'Deluge', experience the tension

Place yourself in the shoes of our ancestors and feel the emotion of the farm family whose land was placed under water. The Farmer's son Sijmen discovers that the creation of the Waterline is actually happening. This realisation and the French-Dutch war force him, in the space of one day, to become

his own man as he attempts to save his family. Watch the short film 'Deluge', it will immerse you in the story of farmers and citizens as they fight the emotions of their conflicting interests during the Disaster year 1672. A watershed period in the history our country.

Feel the emotion of the ambiguous conflict between citizens and farmers during the Disaster Year 1672.

Click here for more

Curious?

The film 'Deluge' is shown in many of the museums along the route of the Waterline, the Nieuw Oude Stadhuis in Nieuwpoort is one such museum. It can also be watched via the [Struinen en Vorsen website.](https://museumnieuwpoort.nl/)





Listen

Audio
Tours

Feel the emotion of the ambiguous conflict between citizens and farmers during the Disaster Year 1672.

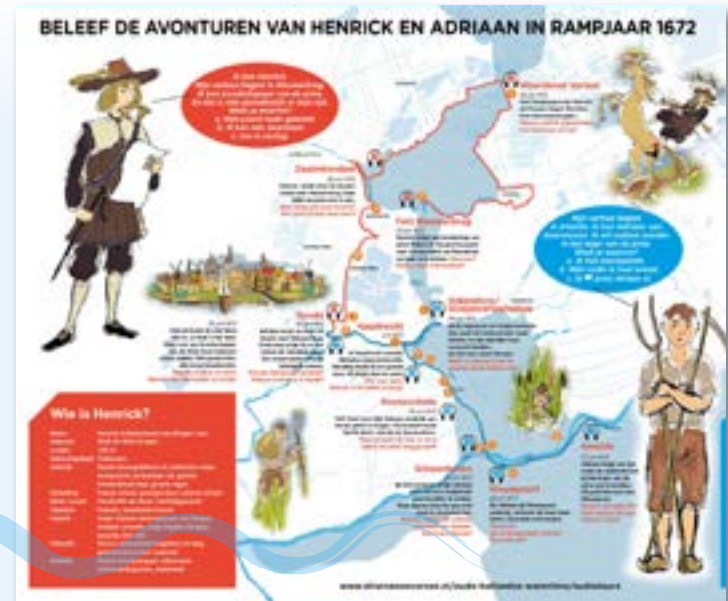
Follow in the footsteps of...

During the Disaster Year 1672 both Adriaan Claasz (farmer's son) and Henrick van Wegen (messenger) journey across the Old Dutch Waterline. The French have overrun almost the entire Republic.

Now is 'Hollands' turn. You can listen to their adventures via 11 audio stories narrated by more than 30 voice actors. These recordings bring the events of 1672 to life and make them feel real.

Click here for more

Curious?





Pass them on

Stories



Visit and discover your roots

Immerse yourself in the Waterline and visit a fascinating museum in one of the fortified towns or let

yourself be amazed by captivating local stories during a storytelling tour.

Curious?

- The Waterline history lives! More than 280 stories have been collected and posted on our blog.
- Are you interested in writing your own story? Take a look at our inspiring vlog about storytelling with tips and tricks.
- Would you like to visit a museum or another Waterline drop-off point? We have put them all in a list for you.



Click here for more

When you retell stories you make others conscious of where you come from.



Taste

Local

Bike your own Waterline picnic. Try Waterzooi (a creamy soup with vegetables, potato chunks and fish) in a restaurant or shop the ingredients or one of the numerous other local delicacies in a farm or country shop.



Spoil your tastebuds

Honest local products from Waterline Land! Take a break on a terrace on the waterfront. Go and feast in a restaurant. Drop in at a local store or

farm shop and be surprised by everything the region has to offer. Enjoy all the goodies on your way!

Curious?

Come for the nature and stay for the connoisseurs. They will tell you with a passion only they convey all about their local products and what they do for insects, the natural farmer's helpers. Is your preference more for biking and feasting? Go for the Delightful Tour or a Butterfly Flutter Bike Route.

Click here for more





Enjoy

Stay a while

Wake up to birdsong and howling cows and enjoy an extra snooze.

Treat yourself

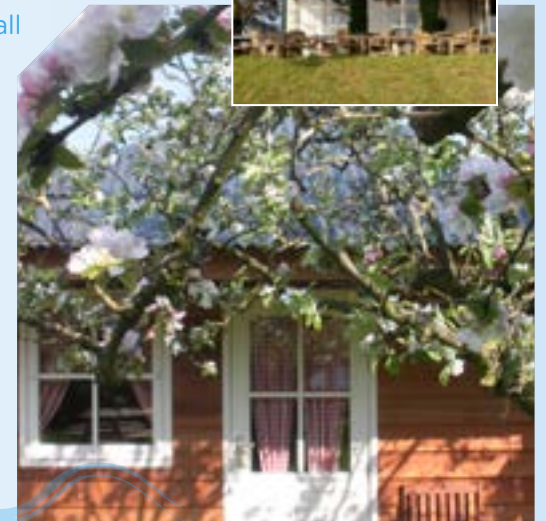
Stay overnight in the Waterline! Choose a fortified city/town/village or a more rural location in the countryside that was once flooded with water. There are numerous options: hotels, group

accommodations, holiday homes, bed & breakfasts and campings. You can also choose to stay together on one of the farms or to trek over the old dikes & quays with your own tent.

Curious?

Take a look at all the accommodation options along the Waterline. Van hotel, bed & breakfast and farms to camping's and hay lofts. It's all there.

Click here for more





Everything

At a glance

Make acquaintance with the Mother of the Waterlines and all its qualities.

Old Dutch WaterLine drop-off points

- 1 Slot (Castle) Loevestein, Poederrijen
- 2 Gorcums Museum, Gorinchem
- 3 Maria Johanna Hoeve, Noordeloos
- 4 Symbiose, Noordeloos
- 5 Forelvisvijvers (Trout Fish Ponds) Zederik, Meerkerk
- 6 Museum het Stadhuis, Nieuwpoort
- 7 Bed & Breakfast De Uitspanning, Nieuwpoort
- 8 Veerdienst (Ferry Service) Schoonhoven
- 9 Boomgaard (Orchard) de Lekbongerd, Schoonhoven
- 10 Hotel Restaurant Belvedere, Schoonhoven
- 11 Nederlands Zilvermuseum/ Stadswandeling (City Tour), Schoonhoven
- 12 Café de Vlist, Vlist
- 13 De Vlisterstee, Vlist
- 14 Boezemmolen no. 6, Haastrecht
- 15 Arjan van der Eijk De Echte Bakker, Haastrecht
- 16 Het Witte Hof, Haastrecht
- 17 Museum Paulina Bisdom van Vliet, Haastrecht
- 18 IJsselhuis Museumhavencafé, Gouda
- 19 Museum Gouda
- 20 Hoeve Stein, Reeuwijk
- 21 Streekmuseum Reeuwijk
- 22 Theetuin de Koffietuin, Nieuwerbrug a/d Rijn
- 23 Evertshuis, Bodegraven
- 24 IJssalon De Zoete Inval & De Munt, Bodegraven
- 25 Brouwcafé de Molen, Bodegraven
- 26 TaarTenTuin, Aarlanderveen
- 27 Waterlinie Hoeve, Woerdense Verlaat
- 28 Groene Hart Camping, De Hoef
- 29 Melktap De Hoef, De Hoef
- 30 De Strooppot Pannenkoekenrestaurant, De Hoef (Pancakes)
- 31 Blick op de Wei, Mijdrecht
- 32 Landwinkel de Lindenhorst, De Hoef
- 33 Museum Weesp
- 34 Muiderslot, Muiden
- 35 De Willigen Logies, Vreeland
- 36 Paviljoen Toren De Grote Sniep, Wilnis
- 37 Stadsmuseum Woerden
- 38 Bed & Breakfast De Lage Polder, Linschoten
- 39 Natuurcamping De Boerderij, Snelrewaard
- 40 De Kleine Stal, Snelrewaard
- 41 Touwmuseum De Baanschuur (Rope Museum), Oudewater
- 42 't Kaasmeisje, Oudewater
- 43 Museum De Heksenwaag, Oudewater
- 44 Brood- & Bannetbakkerij Stijnman, Oudewater
- 45 Stadhuis, Oudewater
- 46 De Broedkorf, Oudewater
- 47 Camping Wilgenwei, Lopik
- 48 Natuurmuseum de Wielewaal, Willige Langerak
- 49 Huize Binnendijks, Schoonhoven
- 50 Kaasboerderij van Eijk, Vlist

Click here for more drop-off points

LEGEND

- Water Linie Experience Tour
- Inundation area ODWL Disaster Year 1672 (June)
- Waterline drop-off points
- Fortified City
- Fort / Lock / Rampart
- Castle
- City / Town / Village



Enjoy strolling along the Water Line

Everything

At a glance

Click here for more EXPERIENCE

Leaflets



Waterlinie Experience Tour



Niets zo mooi als Water



Audiotours



Vlinder Fladder Fiets

Movie en audio



Introductiefilmpje Waterlinie Experience



Dronevideo 'Oude Hollandse Waterlinie in Vogelvlucht'



Trailer 'Zondvloed'



Film 'Zondvloed'



Audiotours



Online Storytelling workshop



Niets zo Mooi als Water



Struinen en Vorsen

- struinenenvorsen.nl
- struinenenvorsen.nl/downloads
- groenehartexperience.nl
- facebook.com/Struinenenvorsen
- struinenenvorsen.nl/oude-hollandse-waterlinie/

Meer activiteiten

- oudehollandsewaterlinie.nl
- forten.nl
- ohwvr.nl
- waterliniemuseum.nl
- landschapergoed.nl
- erfgoedhuis-zh.nl
- routesinutrecht.nl
- Inijsselstein.nl