

Many people are unfamiliar with the numerous tourist and recreational attractions Flevoland has to offer.

And what people don't know they certainly have little curiosity about... Pity really, as Flevoland is a province harbouring quite a remarkable story; the story of the world's largest polder. So why not travel the tourist trail across Flevoland? This is a truly exceptional route through the polder, where you can enjoy some astonishing vistas that remain hidden if you just stick to the A6 motorway to cross Flevoland.

Take exit 11 (Lelystad Noord) on the A6 motorway and turn right onto the Houtribweg (N302). After 980 meters take the 2nd exit at the roundabout (Houtribweg/N302). After about 3 kilometres, turn left into the Veldweg and follow the signs for 'Belevenissenbos'.

### STOP 1: BELEVENISSENBOS

Belevenissenbos is an area of 40 hectares where children can 'experience' and play to their hearts' content in a completely natural environment. The woods and the play structures are suitable for children from 6 years of age. There are numerous playgrounds, dozens of play facilities, water areas and many kilometres of trails. The area is run by volunteers. Please take care however, as supervision is not provided and playing here is entirely at your own risk. **Veldweg 98**, 8231SB Lelystad

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

On the Veldweg, turn left onto the Houtribweg/N302 in the direction of Lelystad. After 630 meters turn right into the Flevo Marina.

### STOP 2: FLEVO MARINA

Flevo Marina is located directly on the IJsselmeer lake. As well as a water sports shop with an excellent range of products you will find a restaurant here offering refreshments.

#### Restaurant Aanutwater

IJsselmeerdijk 17, 8221 RC Lelystad, 0320-263663

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

Return to the Houtribweg and turn right. After 830 meters, take the first exit at the roundabout onto the Houtribslag. You are now at the Houtribhoekstrand beach.

### STOP 3: HOUTRIBHOEKSTRAND

The Houtribhoekstrand beach is Lelystad's largest beach. Sand was deposited to create the beach and is a safe spot to swim in the IJsselmeer lake. A secure section is set aside for children. Eetcafé @theBeach boasts an excellent view out over the IJsselmeer lake. Parking is free.

#### Eetcafé @thebeach

Strand Houtribhoek 1, 8221 RH Lelystad, 0320-795238

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

From the Houtribhoek beach, drive to the roundabout. Turn right here onto the Houtribweg/3202 in the direction of Lelystad. After approximately 900 meters turn right onto the Markerwaard dike. You will pass the Houtribsluizen locks.

The Houtribsluizen locks form part of a waterway lock complex linking Amsterdam and Lemmer near Lelystad. The complex was opened in 1975. The Houtribdijk dike divides the IJsselmeer and Markermeer lakes. The Houtribsluizen complex consists of two locks and a drainage sluice, through which in excess of 80,000 vessels pass every year. The locks are operated 24 hours per day from a central operations tower. The drainage sluice has six openings which can be sealed off with steel flashboards. The total drainage capacity is maximum 630 m3 water per second.

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

A little way beyond the Houtribsluizen locks, at the Markerwaard dike, you will see the breakwater dam. After the long gentle curve to the right, take the 1st right hand turn towards the breakwater dam. You can park here (for free) and have a look at Exposure, the famous landscape sculpture.

### STOP 4: LANDSCHAPSKUNSTWERK EXPOSURE

Balancing on the edge between land and water, a 26 meter high squatting man looks out over the Markermeer lake. Artist Antony Gormley (b.1950 in London, UK) was fascinated both by the 'makeability' of the new polder and the landscape's power pylons.

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

From the car park at the breakwater dam, return to the Markerwaard dike (N302 in the direction of Lelystad). From the Markerwaard dike, at the roundabout take the 3rd exit towards Emmeloord. You are once again on the Houtribweg (N302). You will come to a roundabout after approximately 2.5 kilometres. Take the 2nd exit towards Houtribweg/N302. After 650 meters you will come to a roundabout, take the 1st exit to the right onto the Museumweg. After 170 meters, take the 2nd exit on the roundabout onto the VOC-weg.

### STOP 5: NIEUW LAND, BATAVIA STAD, BATAVIA PORT, BATAVIA SHIPYARD, BATAVIA PORT WITH CATERING Nieuw Land Heritage Centre

You can find out here all about the story of Flevoland - the world's largest polder - in a number of permanent and temporary exhibitions. The centre boasts a study facility, as well as organises a range of events and educational programmes.

#### Nieuw Land Heritage Centre

Oostvaardersdijk 113, 8242 PA Lelystad, 0320-225900

#### Batavia Stad Fashion Outlet

The first fashion outlet centre in the Netherlands. The outlet is named after the Batavia, the Dutch East India Company's vessel from 1628, a replica of which is moored at the Batavia shipyard.

The shopping centre is a simulation of a fortified city, complete with substantial city walls, three city gates, car-free cobbled streets and a series of individual timber clad shop buildings featuring mock-traditional architecture. The total retail space is 31,000 square meters.

#### **Batavia Stad Fashion Outlet**

Bataviaplein 60, 8242 PN Lelystad. 0320-292900

#### **Batavia Shipyard**

The Batavia Shipyard specialises in traditional ship building. The yard was set up in 1985 partially as a training and work experience project for young people. From the very start the building of historic timber ships here, such as the reconstruction of the Batavia and the De Zeven Provinciën, attracted a great deal of attention from visitors. The yard has become a recognised tourist attraction. Visitors can enjoy a tour of the Batavia and get to know the extraordinary story at the heart of this icon of the Dutch East India Company (VOC).

#### **Batavia Shipyard**

Bataviaplein 2, 8242 PA Lelystad, 0320-261409

#### **Batavia Port with catering**

Batavia Port is a modern bay shaped harbour.

There are numerous restaurants and cafés to explore and enjoy in Schoonzicht and in Batavia Port.

#### **ROUTE CONTINUED:**

From the parking garage, take the 2nd exit at the roundabout onto the Museumweg. After 160 meters, take the first exit at the roundabout towards the Houtribweg. After 1.9 kilometres turn right onto the Houtribweg. After approximately one kilometre, take the 1st exit at the roundabout to stay on the Houtribweg. About 100 meters after leaving the Lelystad built-up area, you can turn right onto the Oostvaardersdijk.

#### **STOP 6: LELYSTAD HAVEN**

This is the oldest part of Lelystad. Constructed in 1951, it was at one time the independent centre. It consists of the first houses built for the construction workers who worked on the Eastern Flevoland land reclamation project, the so called 'Perceel P', later named 'Lelystad-Haven Work Island'.

#### **Lelystad Haven Work Island:**

The 'island' is a small settlement with a wheel house and a canteen which doubled as village hall, along with timber barracks for the workers. The engineers fared a little better; they had brick houses. A number of small houses were later added for the workers.

**Lelystad Haven Marina** is beautifully located on the Markermeer and IJsselmeer lakes. As well as permanent berths there are a number of places reserved for visitors. **Lelystad Haven Yacht Club** located at the main landing stage will welcome you with their usual warm hospitality. This is the perfect place for a drink, lunch or dinner in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

You will find the lock with the **Wortman pumping station** at Oostvaardersdijk 32/34: one of the three pumping stations used in the Eastern Flevoland land reclamation project. The pumping station was named after dr.ir. Hendrik Wortman (1859-1939). The Wortman pumping station continued to work after the polder was drained and continues even today to keep the Eastern and Southern Flevoland polders dry.

#### **ROUTE CONTINUED:**

From this point, drive back to the Houtribweg. After 760 meters you will come to a roundabout, take the 1st exit onto the Oostvaardersdijk (in the direction of Almere). After approximately 500 meters you will come to another roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto the Knardijk. After a few hundred meters you will see the Oostvaardersplassen outdoor centre on your right. You can park your car here.

#### **STOP 7: OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN OUTDOOR CENTRE, OOSTVAARDERSPLASSEN**

This is the Netherlands' largest marshland area in which nature is given free rein. The Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve has an astonishing history. When the Flevopolder was drained in 1968, this wet part remained unused. Nature, ever the opportunist, quickly colonised the space to create a marshland with lakes, reed banks and willow woods. Countless birds, hundreds of Heck cattle, Konik horses and red deer impart a distinctly un-Dutch feel to this entire area.

#### **ROUTE CONTINUED:**

After your visit, drive back to the Knardijk from the Oostvaardersplassen outdoor centre car park.

*The Knardijk is an inner dike and forms a border between Eastern and Southern Flevoland. The dike was originally constructed as the southern outer dike of the Eastern Flevoland polder when it was drained in the first phase (1957) of the construction of the greater Flevoland polder. Southern Flevoland however was drained much later (1968) and the Knardijk therefore remained a full outer dike for a considerable period forming as it did, the barrier between the new land and the water in the southern part of the IJsselmeer lake. The Knardijk was named after the former shallow area in the Zuiderzee*

At the end of the Knardijk, take the 2nd exit onto the Oostvaardersdijk in the direction of Almere. To the left of you lies the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve. After about 14 kilometres, take the 1st exit on the Oostvaardersdijk roundabout. Keep to the right and after approximately 1 km you will reach Oostvaardersdiep 16.

#### **STOP 8: TREKVOGEL VISITORS' CENTRE, LEPELAARPLASSEN, ZUIDERSLUIS, DE BLOCQ VAN KUFFELER PUMPING STATION.**

You can park here and visit the following attractions.

#### **Trekvogel visitors' centre, Oostvaardersdiep 16.**

You will discover all about the unique Lepelaarsplassen nature reserve here. There are a number of stuffed bird examples of the wild ones you will see. You can also watch a video on how this wonderful area was brought into existence.

#### **De Lepelaarsplassen**

This is certainly one of Flevoland's most beautiful spots. Nature is extremely varied and abundant here with a wealth of birdlife. A great area to walk through and catch a glimpse of the birds in their natural habitat from the numerous bird hides. This nature reserve was established when Southern Flevoland was drained in 1968 and is made up from three sand extraction wells silted up with clay. This area has now a well developed clay marsh providing fertile grounds for marsh birds and a thriving cormorant colony.

## ZuiderSluis

Modern bridge and lock attendant's house on the N701.

## De Blocq van Kuffeler pumping station

This is the pumping station that keeps Southern Flevoland dry. It is the largest pumping station in Europe when considering delivery head and capacity. The pumping station is named after engineer De Blocq van Kuffeler (1878-1963). Originally the pumping station had four pumps driven by diesel engines, however these were replaced in 2008 with electric engines, remotely controlled from the Wortman pumping station in Lelystad.

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

From Oostvaardersdiep 16 turn right onto the Oostvaardersdijk. After 7 kilometres, turn left onto the Pampushavenweg. After a few hundred meters on your left you will find the car park for the Polderland Garden of Love and Fire landscape artwork.

## STOP 9: POLDERLAND GARDEN OF LOVE AND FIRE LANDSCAPE ART

This artwork by architect Daniël Libeskind (b.1946 in Lodz, Poland) consists of five crossing lines which lie as a sort of extraordinary writing on the landscape: three small channels, a band of black gravel on which rests a sculpture consisting of aluminium walls and a footpath. Libeskind expresses the course of life and history as well as the location's inherent narrative in his inimitably distinct visual language.

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

From the Pampushavenweg, drive back towards the Oostvaardersdijk. Turn left when you reach the Oostvaardersdijk. The Oostvaardersdijk becomes the IJmeerdijk where the dike curves to the left.

## STOP 10: IJMEERDIJK

This is a great place to stop and be rewarded with some beautiful views out over the Markermeer lake. You will see Amsterdam in the distance.

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

From the IJmeerdijk drive onto the Poortdreef. Go straight at the next three roundabouts. 300 meters after leaving the built-up area of Almere, turn right onto the Duinvalleiweg. Turn right on this road after approximately 200 meters in the direction of the Marinaweg.

## STOP 11: MARINA MUIDERZAND:

Delicious ice cream and other refreshments are available at the Sail Today beach pavilion. The Poortdok beach restaurant is the ideal venue for a lazy lounging session; have a snack or enjoy something to drink, whilst keeping your eye on the children playing. Another gourmet delight is the Harbor House restaurant at the marina.

## Sail Today beach pavilion

IJmeerdijk 2, 1309 BA Almere, 036-5369147

## Poortdok beach restaurant

IJmeerdijk 1, 1309 BA Almere, 036-5369959

## Harbor House restaurant

Marinaweg 4, 1361 AC Almere. 036-5369061

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

You will reach the Almeerderzand beach following the IJmeerboulevard.

## STOP 12: ALMEERDERZAND

A great spot for families. This is a wide beach on the IJmeer lake. There is ample space and you can choose from sand or grass areas.

### ROUTE CONTINUED:

Drive back to the Poortdreef From the IJmeerdijk via the Muiderzandweg. At junction Almere Poort (2), turn left onto the Elementendreef and continue on the A6 in the direction of Muiderberg/Amsterdam.

