

Hoge Veluwe National Park in the Netherlands

Gelderland is the largest province in the Netherlands and has not a kilometer of beaches. Nevertheless, Gelderland offers plenty of leisure attractions. Perhaps the greatest attraction of this region is its accessibility. Unlike the sandy beaches of Zeeland, it is no more than 100 kilometers to the Hoge Veluwe National Park, for example when arriving from the Ruhr area in North Rhine-Westphalia. Ideal for short trips and weekend trips that can be filled with culture, nature and cuisine as you wish.



Exploring the Hoge Veluwe National Park by bike is possible all year round / © Photo: Georg Berg

In the small town of Otterlo there is one of three entrances to the Hoge Veluwe National Park. The park is part of the cultural heritage of the Netherlands. The landscape is varied. Forest, moorland, heath and shifting dunes stretch over 5,000 hectares. All year round, visitors can ride through the extensive grounds on white bicycles, which are located at all three park entrances. The bikes are included in the park entrance fee. Those who prefer to drive through the park pay a higher entrance fee and are not allowed to leave the few main routes. The network of paths is larger by bike. Hiking is also possible. There are three restaurants spread across the Hoge Veluwe site, so you can plan stops while exploring the national park.



The famous white bicycles of the Hoge Veluwe. Its use is included in the entrance fee / © Photo: Georg Berg



Sculptures in the park in front of the Kröller-Müller Museum / © Photo: Georg Berg

The Hoge Veluwe National Park not only has a lot of nature to offer, but also world-class art. The internationally renowned Kröller-Müller Museum is located in the Hoge Veluwe. The museum houses the world's second largest collection of works by Vincent van Gogh. The collection also includes top exhibits by modern masters such as Claude Monet, Georges Seurat, Pablo Picasso and Piet Mondriaan. The extensive park shows one of the largest collections of sculptures in Europe.



Angela Berg discovers real sunflowers in the room with works by Vincent van Gogh / © Photo: Georg Berg



The hunting lodge Sankt Hubertus of the Kröller-Müller family is located in the middle of the Hoge Veluwe. Game has always been a big topic here. Today the surrounding restaurants are supplied with wild animals / © Photo: Georg Berg

The Kröller-Müller Museum is the life's work of Helene Kröller-Müller. Between 1907 and 1922, the patron bought over 11,000 works of art. The museum, designed by Henry van de Velde, was opened in 1938. To enter the museum, visitors always need a ticket for the national park. In Otterlo, nature and art can be combined very quickly. For accommodation, the 4-star Hotel de Sterrenberg is an ideal starting point.



Hotel de Sterrenberg in Otterlo is just 600 meters from the entrance to the Hoge Veluwe National Park / © Photo: Georg Berg

Hotel de Sterrenberg is only 600 meters from the entrance to the Hoge Veluwe National Park. The Cèpes restaurant belongs to the hotel. It has been awarded a Michelin Guide Bib Gourmand since 2018. Chef Robert Hartelmann's kitchen uses local and regional products wherever possible. This also applies to the game dishes. The animals mostly come from the extensive grounds of the Hoge Veluwe.



Deer antlers dominate the interior design in the Cèpes restaurant. Game is also a culinary guide on the menu / © Photo: Georg Berg

The first course is a light starter that puts you in a good mood both in terms of color and taste. Arctic grayling infused with buttermilk-dill oil contrasts with the freshness of apple, radish and cucumber. Karolien Som, sommelier at the Cèpes restaurant, recommends a wine from the Alentejo. An exciting blend of fresh and herbaceous with a slight bitter note on the finish from the Arinto, Viohsino and Torentes vines.



Arctic trout with dill, apple and cucumber / © Photo: Georg Berg

Wild duck, shot in the Hoge Veluwe National Park. Served with a port wine sauce with polenta. The corn ball is filled with duck leg confit. In addition, a puree of fresh corn, which harmonises wonderfully with the rich sauce.



Wild duck from the Hoge Veluwe with fresh corn puree / © Photo: Georg Berg

Sommelier Karolien Som combines a Bordeaux from the winegrowing community Nous les Vignerons de Buzet with the wild course. Le Petit Baron is an organic wine south of Bordeaux with berry notes. A portion of the sales proceeds will go to an owl conservation project. In a way, this makes the Petit Baron doubly organic and is a beautifully advertised wine story as part of the multi-course menu in the Cèpes restaurant.



Goat's milk yoghurt dessert with basil oil, blackberry ice cream and blackcurrant gel / © Photo: Georg Berg

The Cèpes restaurant in the Hotel de Sterrenberg in Otterlo offers a four-course surprise menu for both house guests and those just visiting the restaurant. On request with a worthwhile and informative wine accompaniment.

More about the province of Gelderland in the [report Between Forest, Hanseatic League and Manor House](#) with impressions from the Hoge Veluwe National Park, the Kröller-Müller Museum, Ruurlo Castle, the Hanseatic cities of Zutphen and Doisburg.

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