

Visitor centres

The Biesbosch National Park has three visitor centres:

Biesbosch Visitor Centre Dordrecht, Biesbosch Visitor Centre Drimmelen and Biesbosch MuseumEiland Werkendam.

In addition there are more than 70 businesses that act as information points across the Biesbosch. They are all located in the region and can provide you with information about the Biesbosch.



1. Biesboschcentrum Dordrecht

Baanhoekweg 53 | 3313 LP Dordrecht | +31(0) 78 770 53 53
www.biesboschcentrumdordrecht.nl

2. Biesbosch MuseumEiland Werkendam

Hilweg 2 | 4251 MT Werkendam | +31(0) 183 50 40 09
www.biesboschmuseumeiland.nl

3. Biesboschcentrum Drimmelen

Biesboschweg 4 | 4924 BB Drimmelen | +31(0) 162 682 233
www.np-debiesbosch.nl



Nationaal Park
De Biesbosch



The Biesbosch National Park

Welcome to the largest freshwater tidal zone in Europe! Discover all the outstanding places and find out about the many ways to get the best out of the region. Go by boat along willow-clad river banks, canoe through jungle-like creeks, walk on unpaved paths or cycle through polders full of birds.

In some parts of the Biesbosch, the tidal range can reach up to 80 cm. Together with the Haringvliet, the Biesbosch forms a dynamic, consecutive ecosystem. The tides come about because the waters of the Rijn (Rhine) and the Maas (Meuse) rivers flow seawards via the Biesbosch and Haringvliet. At high water, this process is reversed as the waters are pushed back upstream. This constant ebb and flood creates an ever changing landscape with its own unique range of fauna and flora.

No day is like any other in the Biesbosch. The Biesbosch is always in motion!

Flora and Fauna

The landscape of the Biesbosch is very diverse. The Biesbosch is home to a rich variety of animal and plant species, both on land and in wet areas.

The beaver, the largest rodent in Europe, is the icon of the national park. The Biesbosch is home to more than 300 beavers. It's also possible to see deer and foxes here. Thanks to its lush woodland and the presence of many prey animals, there are plenty of nesting sites for birds such as the goshawk, sparrowhawk, buzzard and marsh harrier. The wetland region also offers favourable breeding conditions for less common birds of prey, such as the white-tailed eagle and the osprey. The reed beds provide an ideal habitat for songbirds, such as the reed warbler, sedge warbler, reed bunting and Cetti's warbler. The kingfisher and bluethroat are also resident bird species here.

The characteristic flora of the Biesbosch is a result of the moist conditions here. The withy-beds are home to plant species such as enchanter's nightshade, loosestrife, orange jewelweed and touch-me-not balsam. The huge Himalayan balsam generates a real jungle of pink flowers. The araneosa, a subspecies of the marsh marigold, comes from mid-April to mid-May into flower. This plant is rare and specific to fresh water tidal zones.



Cultural history

In the wake of the devastating Saint Elizabeth Flood of 1421, a wetland region of small islands emerged. Rushes, called 'bies' in Dutch, were the first plant species to take hold, hence the name given to the area, the Biesbosch. Slowly but surely, the land was reclaimed by humans and used for the cultivation of rushes, reeds and willow. For centuries, wood from the willows was the biggest source of income in the Biesbosch. Life in this remote wetland region was tough for the men and boys who harvested the willow branches. They stayed overnight in reed huts and slept on reed matting. During a walk or an excursion through the Biesbosch, you can still see and visit a number of these authentic huts.

What to do

Walking

Hiking through the Biesbosch is quite an experience! The trails take in a diversity of landscapes from verdant riverbanks, to wetlands and polders rich in birdlife. Take your camera: there's always something around the corner that will take you by surprise.

Cycling

There are many fantastic cycle routes that criss-cross the region. At the information centres you can pick up a map (Waar naar toe in en om de Biesbosch) showing all the marked bike points. Choose your route and go exploring!

Sailing

The Biesbosch is best experienced from the water! Navigate your way alongside willow woods and lush riverbanks, through narrow creeks or across larger expanses of water in a canoe, rowing- or electric boat. The Biesbosch is an expansive region where the tides hold sway. So beware of shallow waters, currents and the long distances. As well as taking a boat out yourself, you can also choose to go on a boat trip.

Excursions

Would you rather be accompanied by a guide? Then why not book an excursion and join a voyage of discovery? A Biesbosch guide or park ranger can tell you about everything you see and hear. In this way, a guided tour on foot or by boat can bring about the authentic Biesbosch experience.

NLDelta National Park

Biesbosch and Haringvliet cooperate in founding one large national park. Check out and visit one of the other icons of NLDelta National Park: www.visitnldelta.com.



Practical information

Dogs

Dogs on a lead are welcome in most places in the Biesbosch. In certain areas they are not allowed and there are signs to warn you of this. These measures are necessary to protect the countryside and so as not to disturb the birdlife, other animals and the enjoyment of other visitors.

Accommodation

The Biesbosch National Park is a delightful area in which to spend a weekend or short break and get to know the surroundings. There are options aplenty: you can stay in a cosy B&B with distant views, in a tent in 'the wilderness', or on your own boat close to the beavers.

Disabled visitors

If you are less mobile or get around in a wheelchair, you can still see many of the attractions in the Biesbosch. You can find information about disabled access at visitor centres. The 'Ohsostill' tour boat from the Biesbosch MuseumEiland in Werkendam is accessible for disabled persons and has a lift and space for four wheelchairs.

Rules and regulations

To protect its natural beauty and to make sure that everyone can enjoy the Biesbosch, the national park applies a number of rules. For example, you can only moor boats at designated jetties, mooring posts and play areas. Thinking of camping? You can only do so in designated areas. Wild camping is not allowed. Campfires are not permitted and barbecues must be at least 40 cm above the ground. Take waste with you or leave it in one of the waste bins throughout the park. The Biesbosch is officially designated as a 'quiet area' and we would ask you to respect this at all times. In this way, all visitors can get the best enjoyment from the Biesbosch.

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np-debiesbosch.nl

