Plan your visit

How to get there by car and public transport

From the train stations Overveen and Santpoort-Noord it is easy to get to the entrances on the eastside. It is a 15 minute walk to the visitors centre from the train station Overveen. From the train station Haarlem you can take the Connexxion bus service 83 (direction Zandvoort) to the visitors centre. Get off at bus stop De Kennemerduinen on Zeeweg.

Route navigation to the visitors centre: enter Zeeweg 14, Overveen and follow the signs ‘Bezoekerscentrum De Kennemerduinen’.

Parking

There is availability for paid parking at the Bezoekerscentrum De Kennemerduinen, Passamia, and Bleek en Berg. At the other entrances parking is free.

Our hosts welcome you

In and around the park you will find numerous hotel & catering and recreation proprietors who can call themselves official hosts of the National Park. They can tell you everything about what there is to do and you can purchase your route maps there. You can recognize certified hosts by the vignette ‘Gastheer’ on their store front.

Bicycle rentals

• Rent a Bike Haarlem, tel. 023-5421995 www.rentabikehaarlem.nl
• Go sport and play in Zandvoort, tel. 06-35047727 www.gosportandplay.nl
• Visitors centre De Kennemerduinen, tel. 023-5411123

Dogs

To preserve vulnerable nature, dogs are only allowed at several locations. For example in the Brouwerskolkpark, at Caprera, and on the beach north of Beach exit Parnassia (unleashed), and in Elswout (leashed).

Horseback riding

Would you like to go for a ride? Please contact Manege Ruckert in Zandvoort: www.manegeruckert.nl

Swimming

Swimming is allowed throughout the year in dune lake ‘t Wed (entrance Koevlak, near the visitors centre). There is no supervision.

Accessibility for the disabled

Practically all the cycling tracks in the National park are easily accessible for wheelchairs and scoot mobiles. There are provisions available at the visitors centre and there are beach wheelchairs for rent for € 5/day.

From luxuriant country estates to desolate dunes

Welcome to the National Park!

Open from sunrise to sunset • Free admission except at the Caprera entrance • Hiking and biking only on the tracks

www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl • @NPZK • nationaalparkzuidkennemerland
Discover the riches of the park

Between the North Sea shore and Haarlem, from Zandvoort to IJmuiden, the National Park Zuid-Kennemerland extends over 3800 hectares. An oasis of tranquillity between the bustling city and the wide beach. The continuously changing dune landscapes and forests form the habitat of numerous extraordinary plants and animals. The park hosts 40% of all plants and animals in the Netherlands! Signs of early inhabitation and a girdle of country estates bear testimony of a long and extraordinary history.

The flowery dune pastures are of such high nature value that the park is part of the European nature network Natura 2000. In order to allow future generations to also enjoy this special area, the national Park Zuid-Kennemerland is working hard on sustainable management and development. For example with the construction of three nature bridges that connect parts of the park. They make sure that large but in particular smaller animals have a larger closed habitat to breed and to spread. With the introduction of the Wisent, the last wild bison of Europe, the area is made rougher in a practical manner.

What is there to see?

The different landscapes tell the genesis of the park. On the east side, on the border with the urban area of the Randstad, you will find nine beautiful country estates. Towards the west you will traverse the dunes with a varied mosaic of mossy parts, brushwood, grasslands and forest to the youngest dunes alongside the North Sea shore.

Country estates and parks
In the 17th century the economy reached a high point and rich businessmen from Amsterdam invested in country estates to flee the stinking city during the summer months. As such Kennemerland became the cradle of country estates, each with a unique style and parklike surroundings. Here you can find special trees and plants, such as the ‘stinsen plants’ that bloom lavishly in the spring. Birds such as the Eurasian Nuthatch have their habitat here, same as several bat colonies. Well-known country estates are Elswout, Duin en Kruidberg, and Koningshof.

Dune valleys and dune pastures
Rare plants and animals live in this astonishing dune landscape. The Parnassia is blooming, the Niobe Fritillary is fluttering, Burgundy snails are hiding and nightingales and woodlarks are singing. Spread over the park, are large grazers such as Scottish Highlanders, Polish primitive horses, fallow-deer and herds of Wisent. The network of biking and hiking routes take you to different dune lakes, wide views and several war monuments.

Sea strip and beach
Along the sea strip the park is practically born again every day. Continuously new dunes arise that are blown against the sea strip by the wind and at some places ‘walk’ land inwards through a groove. The beach is inviting to stroll barefoot or take a refreshing dip.

What is there to do?

Out for the day, or for an hour? In the National Park you can do a lot of things; ride a horse, read a book, paddle, take pictures, or you can go exploring with a park ranger.

Excursions
There are many excursion possibilities for the young and the old year-round; from a Wisent hike to a bat excursion, from a quest to a quiet walk. All these activities can be found on the calendar on our website.

Hiking
You can head out on your own or follow a marked route. The park has 25 marked routes varying from 1 to 16 kilometres. Along the way there are plenty possibilities for a time-out at one of our country estates, in the Duincafé of the visitors centre or at one of our picnic tables. The visitors centre has various walking maps and walking guides for sale.

Biking
The altitude of the dunes is a challenge for cyclists, with magnificent views as a reward. There are for example two bike routes past country estates in the National Park. You can rent bikes at the visitors centre and other bicycle rentals (see the back of this flyer for details).

For all routes and the biking and hiking guide, visit our visitors centre or go to our website www.np-zuidkennemerland.nl