Thousands of years of culture in a fan of meandering streams.

Drentsche Aa

WORTH SAVING

Lend a hand by making a donation

Thousands of years of culture in a fan of meandering streams. Have the Drentsche Aa area stolen your heart too? You can help keep the area beautiful by making a donation to the Drentsche Aa Area Fund (Gebiedsfonds Drentsche Aa). Your contribution will be used to maintain and restore this beautiful landscape. You can transfer your donation to the Stichting Gebiedsfonds Drentsche Aa in NL73 RABO 0129.0784.84. More information on the website: www.gebiedsfondsdrentscheaa.nl.
Rich cultural history
There are vestiges of at least five thousand years of habitation in the Drentsche Aa National Landscape. No other area in the Netherlands is so rich in prehistoric remains; it includes as many as twenty dolmens. The prehistoric burial mounds are even more numerous: dozens can be found in the Strubben-Kniphorstbosch alone, the first archaeological reserve in the Netherlands, just north of Anloo. Recognisable cart tracks, marker stones, the oldest Saxon farms and the Anloo and Rolde Churches date from the Middle Ages. The four large forest complexes in the south of the National Landscape tell a fascinating story of more recent history.

Walking and bicycling
Hikers and bicycle riders come into their own in the Drentsche Aa National Landscape. It has a dense network of footpaths, bicycle paths and quiet, partly unpaved roads. The area is also very suitable for horseback riding, mountain biking and Nordic walking. Dozens of walking and bicycle routes have been plotted, a great number of them marked. Free walking and bicycling routes can be downloaded by smartphone via www.drentscheaa.nl.

Live visitor network
There is no central visiting centre in the Drentsche Aa area, but instead a so-called live visitor network. It consists of small unmanaged information centres, information posts at car parks and information points at Drentsche Aa hosts. These are local entrepreneurs such as farmers, shopkeepers and hotel, restaurant and bar owners, recognisable by the sign at the front entrance. They will also be happy to give you the Oo Stip krant, a free information newspaper for visitors, with map and agenda.

Website www.drentscheaa.nl
The most complete and current summary of all activities in the Drentsche Aa area. The site also offers a great deal of background information on the area, its history, distinctive features, management and recent developments.

For further information on Staatsbosbeheer go to www.staatsbosbeheer.nl.

Balloërveld information centre
The information centre near the sheep pen in Balloo offers a presentation on the history, the environment and the sheep flock at Balloërveld. You can see the sheep flock yourself daily at the sheep pen or at the Balloërveld.

Address Crabbeweg 2, Balloo.
Opening hours: 1 March - 1 Nov: daily from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; 1 Nov - 1 March: only on Saturdays and Sundays and during the Christmas holiday and spring half-term.

Homanshof information centre in Anloo
The Staatsbosbeheer information centre is one of the access gates to the Drentsche Aa National Park. It is housed at a characteristic farm in the historic centre of Anloo. There is an exhibition and a film on the Drentsche Aa landscape. Various marked walking routes also start here.

Address Lusenhoef 20, Anloo, T. +31 (0)592 273061.
Opening hours: 1 April - 31 Oct: from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM; 1 Nov - 31 March: from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, closed on Mondays.

Boomkroonpad outdoor centre
The Staatsbosbeheer outdoor centre at the Boomkroonpad in the Gieten-Borger forestry station has information on everything that is happening in nature in the forests and the rest of the surroundings. Various marked walking routes start here.

Address Steenhopenweg 4, Drouwen, T. +31 (0)592 377053.
Opening hours: 1 April - 31 Oct: daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; 1 Nov - 31 March Sundays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, during school holidays daily from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Closed on 25 and 31 Dec and 1 Jan.