

HIKE 4

DISTANCE 19 KM

(not suitable for strollers and buggies)

Itinerary

1. From the campsite, cross the 'Beerzerweg' road and turn right on the cycle path
2. After about 50 m, enter the forest on the left
3. Follow the path right through and after about 60 m turn left onto a narrow forest trail
4. From here, follow the directions with the purple arrow ('Beerze path') during the climb over the 'Beerze Hills' (Dutch: Beerzerbulten)

You are now walking on sand blown heights. These hills are grown over with oaks and wildshoots of alder buckthorn. Oak coppice was cultivated here in earlier times to hold the sand down from the huge sand drifts that used to be at the right long time ago (caused by overgrazing by herds of sheep). Sand winds made the ash soil (at the left) infertile. By doing so, these hills grew larger and higher throughout the years and the ash soil was protected that way.

Nowadays the herbal vegetation here is rich, and you will come across plants such as Solomon's seal, bilberries (blueberries), lily-of-the-valley, May lily and various ferns.

5. The forest trail eventually (after about 1.5 km) reaches a somewhat larger forest trail at the bottom
6. Continue to the right (still on 'Beerzepad')
7. This trail ends at a pedestrian gate on a paved road ('Beerzerpoort')
8. Turn left here; you now have a view on the farmhouses of Beerze

Earlier, these timber-frame farmhouses in Beerze were built out of necessity from cheap, local materials. As wood was expensive, thatch or rye straw was used as wall cover with an attractive woven pattern. If the farmer did not thresh the rye properly, it would start sprouting again on the wall or roof in the spring of the following year.

9. 'Beerzerpoort' leads to 'Beerzerweg'
10. Cross 'Beerzerweg' and go straight up 'Boonakkerweg' (dirt road)
11. Turn right at the T-crossing ('Schapenweg')
12. The dirt road arrives at a paved road ('Marsdijk'); turn right and continue on the paved road
13. 'Marsdijk' takes you to 'Beerzerweg'
14. Cross here and turn left onto the cycle path
15. After 20 m, go diagonally to the right onto the dirt road ('Oude Beerzerweg')

16. Take the first forest trail on the left (yellow arrow)
17. At L25, continue straight ahead
18. At the T-junction (point H13) go left
You are now once again on 'Beerzerweg'
19. Cross 'Beerzerweg' and go straight onto the dirt road (follow the blue arrow)
20. Continue along this dirt road that follows a side arm of the Vecht
21. At the motorway embankment, continue to the left
22. Before the Vecht turn right and go under the viaduct
23. After the viaduct turn right and go along the bank of the canal

The Vecht flows for 167 km from Darfeld (Germany) to Zwarte Water at Zwolle. Places along the Vecht include Metelen, Wettringen, Schüttorf, Brandlecht, Nordhorn, Neuenhaus, Hoogstede and Emlichheim, and in the Netherlands, Gramsbergen, Hardenberg, Ommen, Dalfsen and Zwolle. In 1908, people started to cut off the many curves of the previously meandering river (so-called standardisation). This is how the many current side arms were formed. The Vecht was thus shortened by 30 km in the Netherlands (now 60 km long)

24. Cross the canal at the footbridge (point H12; then turn left and follow the canal)
25. The road curves off to the right. You will reach the cycle path along 'Stuwdijk'
26. Go left here onto the cycle path. You will reach a viewpoint (on the right across the road)
27. Continue on the cycle path and cross the Vecht bridge
28. In 'Diffelen', take the first road left (at point G41) ('Grote Esweg')
29. Go through the bicycle tunnel underneath the motorway; continue straight after the tunnel
30. Continue along this way for about 600 m until you see a row of letterboxes on the right (8b, c, etc.)
31. At this point turn left onto the dirt road ('Boswachterij Hardenberg')
32. After about 100 m (before the no-entry sign) turn right onto a forest trail
33. After about 300 m go over an embankment into a ditch. Turn left here onto the trail along the ditch
34. The path bends to the right; continue along the bend and follow the path

On the left you will see a side arm of the Vecht that is silting up fast. The arms of the Vecht stopped flowing after standardisation. When 'dead' arms of the Vecht are left alone, they gradually turn into land. The overgrowth develops in phases with different plant species taking over in turns. Parts of plants that die off turn the increasingly shallow water into a marsh

35. The trail eventually reaches a wider forest path
Turn left here and then immediately right onto a small forest trail
36. When you reach a fork, continue to the left along the old arm of the Vecht
37. You will soon see a fence on the left, with a crossover indicated by a signboard saying 'Opengesteld' (open)
38. Step over the gate and then turn right over the little bridge
39. After the bridge, go right again
40. Follow this path for about 300 m until you see an (inconspicuous) little lane with oak trees and beeches on the left. Take this lane
41. You will reach a beautiful heath with juniper. Walk straight through the heath
42. On the other side you will get to a gate with a crossover. Go across it and then turn right
43. This path will take you to a dirt road; continue to the right
44. Continue along the dirt road
45. At the end of the road you will see a farmhouse, 'n Overdinck', on the left
46. Follow the dirt road to the farmhouse; before the farmhouse, continue to the right
47. Then turn right onto the paved road. Follow this road for about 1 km
48. At the T-crossing, turn right on 'Stegerdijk'
49. Continue along 'Stegerdijk' as it curves to the left
50. Take the first road on the left ('Junnerweg')
51. You will first cross a side arm of the Vecht and then a barrage with a fish ladder in the Vecht
52. 250 m after the barrage, turn left on a dirt road between a forest crescent and a field; follow the blue arrow on this road
53. At point M11, follow the yellow arrow (to the left)
54. You will reach a wide dirt road; go left here
55. You will now pass by a derelict farmhouse. About 250 m after the farmhouse the dirt road makes a sharp bend to the right
56. Continue along the dirt road until it reaches a side arm of the Vecht. Follow the road along the side arm
57. You will reach a meadow; follow the narrow little path along the meadow. The road will take you back to the arm of the Vecht
58. Continue with the road along the arm of the Vecht
59. You will reach a drainage ditch with a barrage
Cross the barrage and continue along the road
60. At the bridge over the arm of the Vecht, continue on the road next to the water
61. You will reach a small bridge over a ditch
62. Cross the bridge which takes you back to Camping De Roos

After 600 m you will reach a memorial for the resistance group 'Salland' that was active here during World War II. The hamlet of Stegeren played an important role in the resistance of the region. A resistance group from Vroomshoop started using a dropping zone at Stegeren in August 1944. Dropped weapons and goods were transported to the northern provinces. Nine secret agents were also dropped by parachute above Stegerenseveld and were then taken to safety. The resistance fighters for their part stayed in an underground hide. Despite search operations by 'Wachgruppe Ommen' from Kamp Erika, they were never discovered. This was partly thanks to the cooperation and silence of the inhabitants of Stegeren

