

Experience De Wijers

Discover, slow down, reconnect



DE WIJERS



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Experience De Wijers: discover, slow down, reconnect

De Wijers invites you to reconnect and recharge in a soothing waterscape. Where narrow paths, quiet ponds and centuries-old heritage slowly reveal themselves. Where around every bend, a new encounter with nature awaits. Where the landscape invites you to feel, to connect, and to reconnect at the rhythm of the water.

Discover the beautiful land of 1001 ponds in this magazine and be inspired to set out and explore the region yourself.

*Laura Olaerts,
deputy and president of De Wijers*





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Let yourself be
immersed in
a waterscape
that continues
to tell stories.

Where water sets the pace

Here, in the heart of Limburg, time almost slows down by itself. In the land of 1001 ponds, water sets the pace: ripples in the shimmering morning light, reeds gently swaying, and a landscape shaped by human hands over centuries.

Amid heathlands, forests and pools of water, you can feel how nature takes the lead.

Frogs accompany you with their musical sounds, the bittern hides among the reeds, and elegant herons stand patiently in the shallow water.

Yet De Wijers is just as much a place where people and nature have met for generations.

Abbeys, windmills, old farmsteads, former mining sites ... everywhere, traces emerge of those who lived and worked here, in harmony with the water.

This landscape invites you to slow down. To pause and marvel at the beauty of nature,

the living water, and the heritage as silent witnesses of a distant past.

Here, everyone finds their own way to catch their breath.

People and nature are inextricably linked in this landscape. Meet the people who bring the landscape to life.

Stories from the landscape



Kelly and Luc of B&B Balthazar

"De Teut, just a short distance from our B&B, still surprises us with every visit. De Wijers has made me, coming from Antwerp, pause and appreciate the beauty of nature, the peace, and the friendliness of the people. That same hospitality is what we like to share, together with our donkeys. A hidden gem? The viewing platform overlooking the Ballewijer in Zonhoven."

Baron de Villenfagne de Vogelsanck

"People should realise they don't have to travel far to experience beauty. It's right here, close by. Learn to look and listen, learn to pause, and rediscover just how beautiful it is here."





Greet and Diane, hiking the Wijerstrail, from Hoogstraten

"As friends, we escape the hustle of everyday life on the trail. We're pleasantly surprised by the variety along the Wijerstrail. And we've already come across so many beautiful spots, like the boardwalk near Hoeve Mieneke in Kelchterhoef. We'll definitely return again, for example to take our time visiting ZLDR Luchtfabriek."

Sophie Philtjens of the Bokrijk bird ringing group

"In De Wijers, I can pursue both of my passions: birdwatching and bird ringing. At Domain Bovy, thanks to the Wijers Fund, we were able to install live bird cameras in nest boxes, allowing visitors to follow everything in real time."



Discover more

Explore the stories of the people who shape De Wijers.





Fish farmer Wouter Vandeput

Role: Fish farmer at Vandeput Fish Farm

Address: Boomsteeg 46, Zonhoven

Favourite walk: Platwijers–Wijvenheide. I'm there every day, and each time there's something new to discover. It remains a beautiful walk among the reeds and ponds.

Fish farming in harmony with nature

Wouter Vandeput runs Vandeput Fish Farm in Zonhoven together with his brother Bartel and his two cousins, Brecht and Carlo. His family has been raising fish in a traditional, artisanal way since 1865.

With their network of ponds, the family helped lay the foundations of De Wijers, acting as architects of the landscape.

Wouter Vandeput: "We are a true family business. Together with my brother and cousins, I took over the farm from my father and uncles. We are now the fourth generation, and our fish farm has been around for more than 160 years. Today, we still use the same techniques to raise fish as my great-grandparents did. Harvesting the ponds is still done with seine nets, some of which are over 40 years old. In the past, my great-grandparents raised fish for consumption; today, we

only breed fish for fishing: that's the main difference."

How is your fish farm connected to the landscape of De Wijers?

Wouter: "We live in tune with the seasons and nature. Our ponds are part of the landscape. We work with what nature offers us. We consciously choose not to intensify production in tanks or to automate. After all, we are located in a nature reserve – everything here is natural. The ponds

we use today were already created in the early days of the fish farm, so they are very old. Over time, we've become part of the nature reserve, and we have a very good relationship with the ranger from the Agency for Nature and Forests (Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos).

Our ponds, rich in fish, naturally attract many fish-eating birds such as herons, bitterns and little bitterns. Of course, they occasionally catch a fish, but that is simply part of working in nature."

How does fish farming work?

Wouter: "It all starts in spring: the ponds are filled with water and fry or small fish are released so they can grow. We let them grow for about a year, but if there are too many fish in a pond, we sometimes move them to one with more space. They stay there until they are ready to be 'harvested', usually after two or three years. Harvesting takes place in winter. The ponds are drained one by one. Each pond has a plug you can pull out, just like a bathtub. The water flows away through the stream, leaving only a small pool. The four of us then catch the fish in that pool using a seine net. The fish are brought to the holding ponds at the farm and sorted by species and size. That way, based on a customer's order, we can gather the right fish for transport within five minutes.

At the fish farm, we each have our own role: my cousin Brecht handles administration, Carlo takes care of deliveries, and my brother Bartel manages the ponds. I step in wherever needed."

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For me, it's the most natural thing in the world to see herons all day long, and regularly little bitterns and bitterns.

Which fish do you raise?

Wouter: "Mostly carp, crucian carp hybrids (F1), crucian carp, roach, ide and tench. But we also have some predatory fish like pike and perch. Today, we only breed fish for angling. Our main customers are fishing clubs and municipalities that want to restock their ponds. For carp anglers, appearance matters – fish need to



be as large and visually appealing as possible. That's why we breed for particular shapes and scale patterns. Each year, we select which fish to keep as broodstock. In spring, they are first kept separately. When weather conditions are optimal, we bring males and females together again in the pond so they can spawn. It's always exciting to see the outcome."

What are the biggest challenges for your business in the future?

Wouter: "Without a doubt, climate change. Summers can be extremely hot, but the biggest problem by far is drought. Our ponds are fed by water from the stream. On one side, water

flows from the stream into the pond; on the other, it flows back from the pond into the stream. But if it doesn't rain, the stream runs dry and the water level in our ponds drops. That's a major challenge we have little control over. Unfortunately, we can't create water ..."

Which animals or birds do you often see while working around the ponds?

Wouter: "Our ponds attract a lot of birds that feed on the fish. For me, it's completely normal to see herons all day long, and regularly little bitterns and bitterns. The little bitterns are especially fond of the small fish we release into the ponds. In spring, I see them all the time. Sometimes photographers sit here for hours without spotting one (laughs). We also have wild boar and beavers here, but they're mainly active at night."



“Today, we still use the same techniques to raise fish as my grandparents did.”



Little bittern

What does De Wijers mean to you?

Wouter: "For me, De Wijers is, quite simply, my life – I've never known anything else. This region has largely shaped my life, even before it was called 'De Wijers'. I grew up here; both my parental home and my own house are located at the fish farm. I did go on to study, but I soon started working here at the farm. As a child, I often played among the ponds behind our house. We would swim, catch frogs, and build huts. It was a wonderful time."

What is the most special moment of the year for you? When does it make you pause?

Wouter: "Without a doubt, the most beautiful moment is the beginning of winter, when we start harvesting the ponds. That's when we finally see the results of our hard work. All summer long, you care for and feed the fish, but in the dark water you can't really see how they're growing or what they will look like. Only when we harvest do we know the quality of the fish and how many there are. It's always an exciting – and special – moment."



What would you like to share with visitors to De Wijers?

Wouter: "Definitely take a walk near our fish farm, in the Platwijers–Wijvenheide walking area. I still do that regularly myself with my wife. I used to go with my children too, but they don't want to come along anymore (laughs). I often see walkers enjoying life by the ponds. It remains a beautiful area, with a different encounter with nature every time."



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We spotted a rare Black-crowned night heron, which has been breeding here for about five years.

Out and about with forest ranger Jan Ruymen

As I wait for ranger Jan on a bench by the water, I take a moment to soak in the spring. In the distance, a cuckoo calls. Behind me, a wood mouse rustles through the dry leaves. On the pond, a long line of ducklings glides across the water behind their mother. From behind a nature photographer with a giant lens, Jan Ruymen appears.

Jan manages some 1,200 hectares of nature in Hasselt, Zonhoven and Heusden-Zolder.

“Pond management is a different kind of work than forest management. In a forest, you work with a time horizon of 25 years; with ponds, it’s more about the short term. Here in Wijvenheide, the higher-lying ‘New’ Roosterbeek feeds the ponds, which are all interconnected. The old Roosterbeek serves as the outflow. Water levels are regulated by sluices. I often have to act quickly: during drought, I need to make sure fishponds stay filled. Or if a pipe gets blocked by an enthusiastic beaver, I pull on

my waders and go into the pond to clear it.”

Different types of ponds

Not every pond we see is used for fish farming. “We have three types of ponds: fish-rich ponds for reed and





Black-crowned night heron

marsh birds – because fish are their food. These ponds obviously need to retain water during drought. Then there are two types of ponds that we do allow to dry out: amphibian ponds and vegetation ponds. In these ponds it's important that they're fish-free, so the eggs of frogs and salamanders don't get eaten."

We continue walking along the dikes, accompanied by the chatter of wild ducks and tufted ducks. We stop at one of the bird hides and scan the water surface and the banks. In the distance, Jan quickly spots a black-crowned night heron, which he immediately logs on to waarnemingen.be. "That's important for scientific research. The night heron is a rare, nocturnal species that has been breeding here for about five years now. Observation helps us track development."

Climate as a challenge

Suddenly, behind us, the loud, piercing call of a Cetti's warbler rings out.

"In the past, you would hardly ever hear this bird, but since 2013 you hear it at almost every pond, due to our increasingly mild climate. That climate is a major challenge for me. More extreme wet and dry periods make management difficult. Drought, especially, is a problem in a pond landscape, because every owner wants water in their ponds. On a sunny spring day like today, water levels can drop by a centimetre per pond each day. You don't need much imagination to understand what longer dry periods mean."

Jan doesn't just manage the ponds here; he has many other tasks as well.

"Every day is different. Sometimes I oversee major works or respond to reports from walkers, such as a fallen tree. We also monitor vegetation: every six years, each plot must be surveyed so we can adjust management if needed. There are also many visitors, and

sometimes enforcement is necessary – reminding people to keep their dogs on a leash, for example, as loose dogs disturb breeding animals.”

Along the way, we encounter many nature photographers. “There’s a whole community of birdwatchers here who alert each other when something special is spotted, like the (escaped) Dalmatian pelican currently roaming the area. Interestingly, pelicans used to live here in the Middle Ages. Most photographers come on spring mornings, when water birds are most active. The bittern is high on everyone’s wish list, but it’s not easy to spot. You’re more likely to hear it – so loud that in the past people spoke of ‘the monster of the marsh’...”

Interview: An Bloemen



Lookout tower Wijkenheide

Wijerstips van Jan

Favourite spot in De Wijers

De ‘Kuringsdel’. Once pits in the sandy soil, now a pond with gently sloping banks. In this periodically dry pond, you’ll find remarkable plants such as shoreweed and chaffweed. And I expect even more to appear in the future.

Most remarkable encounter

The glasswort weevil. This tiny beetle, only a few millimetres in size, lives exclusively on the plant glasswort. So far, it has only been found in three places in Belgium, including here.

Favourite walking route

As long as possible, to see as much as you can (laughs). Or the new, slightly hidden, narrow discovery boardwalk in De Platwijers.

Orange route

Platwijers–Wijkenheide

- 5,2 km
- Start: Car park opposite Camping Heidestrand, Zwanenstraat 105, Zonhoven
- Tip: bring your binoculars for birdwatching

Scan the QR code for the route.





Dries Feys

Dries is an avid cyclist. During his rides, he enjoys stopping to spot birds.

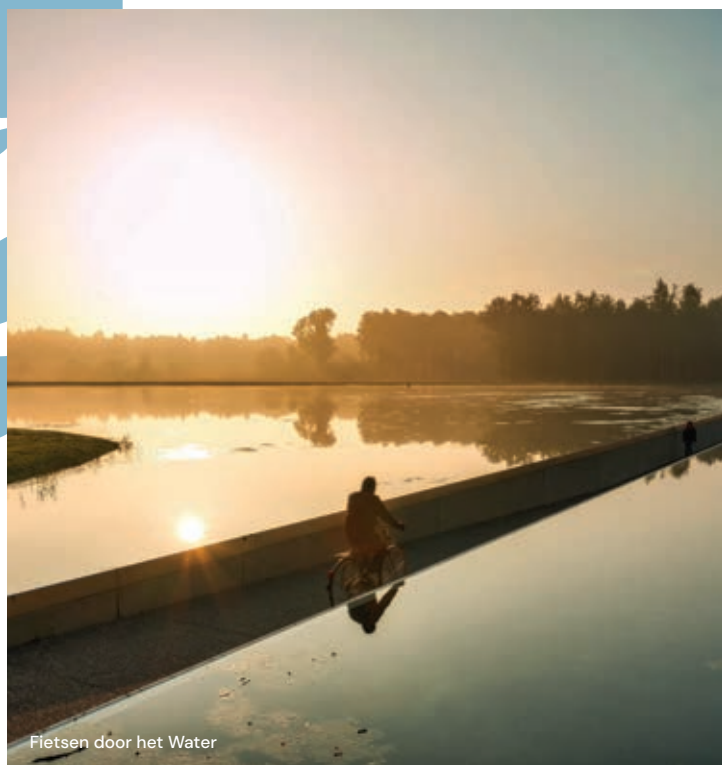
The many faces of De Wijers

On this cycling route of nearly 60 km, De Wijers reveals its many faces: from heathlands to ponds, from historic parks to mining stories. I hop on my bike and let myself be carried along by a landscape that keeps changing character along the way.

Life on the heath

I set off from Bokrijk station and cycle past the ponds of the Wik nature reserve. Through quiet, centuries-old forests, I reach the Hengelhoeve estate. Time for a short coffee break on the terrace of the visitor centre, where volunteers from Limburgs Landschap enthusiastically share stories about the heath.

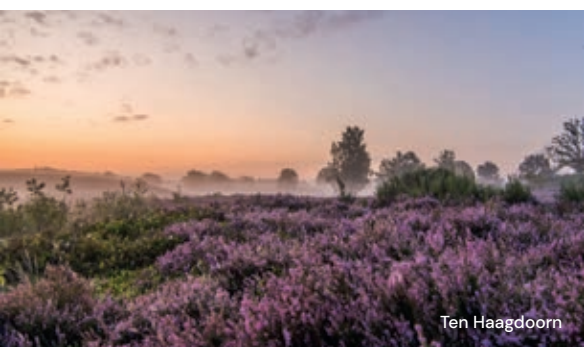
Not long after, I find myself right in the middle of it. In Ten Haagdoorn, the purple landscape stretches all the way to the horizon. A stonechat makes itself heard, quite literally bringing the heath to life.



Fietsen door het Water



Herkenrode Abbey



Ten Haagdoorn

Cycling through the past

The old farmsteads of the Kelchterhoef estate and the alternating scenery of forest and water give this historic park its own rhythm. Via the centre of Houthalen and the former mining site, I reach the old coal railway line. Passing the mysterious pumping station, standing with its feet in the water, the mining past becomes tangible.

Further on, I cycle through the forests of Vogelsanck Castle, along the elongated Hamel pond towards Domain Bovy. I hop off for a short walk across the estate and even over (!) the water of the ponds. The Albert Canal then leads me straight to the cradle of De Wijers: the monumental Herkenrode Abbey. In the distance, the Clausura artwork already appears. Here too, I let time slow down for a while, enjoying an abbey beer on the terrace of the Paardenstallen.

Face to face with white swans

The final part of the route follows the dykes of the Platwijers ponds. I cycle past the petting farm and the Monsterberg in Domain Kiewit, heading towards the highlight of this loop: Cycling through Water. Quite literally face to face with swans and water birds, it's a memorable finale to a rewarding ride through De Wijers.



Stonechat

Route information

- **Distance:** 57,1 km
- **Starting point:**
Station Bokrijk, Bokrijklaan, Genk
- **Bike rental?**
Available at fietsparadijslimburg.be
- **Junctions:**



Route

Scan the QR code and discover the many faces of De Wijers for yourself.

Face to face with... The bittern



Scientific name:
Botaurus Stellaris

Family: Herons

Size: 70–80 cm

Weight: $\pm$ 1300 g

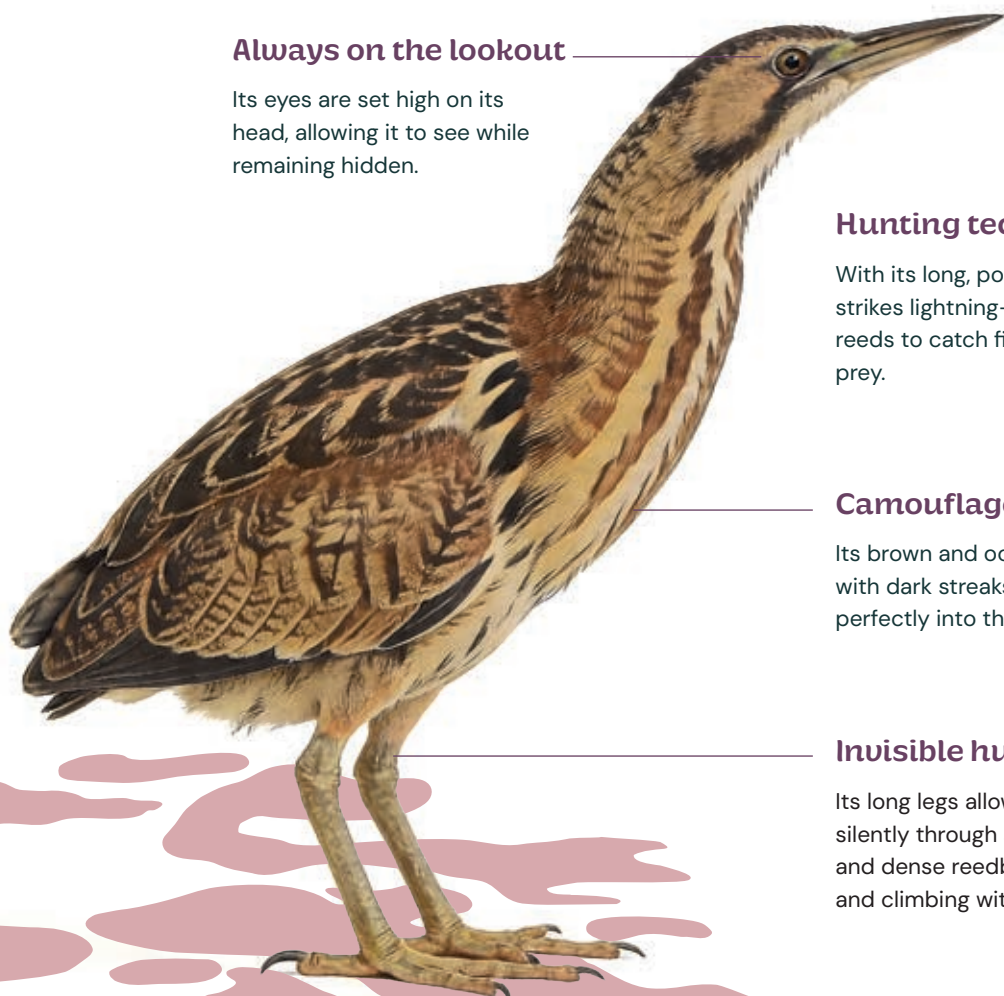
Lifespan: up to 10 years

Status: critically
endangered

Habitat: wet, nutrient-rich
reedbeds

Always on the lookout

Its eyes are set high on its head, allowing it to see while remaining hidden.



Hunting technique

With its long, pointed beak, it strikes lightning-fast from the reeds to catch fish and other prey.

Camouflage

Its brown and ochre plumage with dark streaks blends perfectly into the reeds.

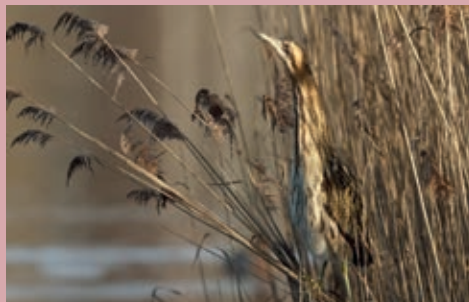
Invisible hunter

Its long legs allow it to move silently through shallow water and dense reedbeds, stepping and climbing with ease.



Did you know?

- Like all herons, the bittern mainly feeds on fish, amphibians and insects, but also eats small birds and mammals.
- When threatened, the bittern stretches itself into a “reed posture”. This upright stance helps its brown and black plumage blend even more with the reed stems.
- Its call sounds like a foghorn – a deep “whoomp” that carries for kilometres across the water, a bit like someone blowing across the top of an empty bottle. If you walk among the ponds of Wijvenheide or De Maten in spring, early in the morning or at dusk, you stand the best chance of hearing it.
- In De Wijers, you’ll find many “breeding islands” filled with reeds in the middle of ponds. These offer bitterns and other water birds a safe place to raise their young, out of reach of predators.
- The bittern is listed as a threatened species due to the loss of suitable marsh and reed habitats. That’s why efforts are being made in De Wijers to maintain and develop pond and wetland landscapes, giving the bittern a better chance to thrive.



De Wijers: where heritage, nature and water are intertwined.

Here unfolds one of Europe's most remarkable waterscapes, with stream valleys, chains of ponds and rolling heathlands – carefully shaped by human hands.

Since the Middle Ages, water has been carefully managed and guided here:

first by the abbeys of Herkenrode, Floreffe and Averbode, but also

by local farmers. Later, fish farming grew into an economic activity that still shapes the region today. Many ponds have since been transformed into nature reserves and now form the beating heart of life in De Wijers.

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A mosaic of ponds, stream valleys and 6,000 hectares of nature.

The ponds are no coincidence. From the dry heathlands of the Campine Plateau, the land gently slopes down towards the Demer Valley. Eight stream valleys flow downhill along these soft slopes, ensuring a steady water supply for the ponds. Sand, loam and gravel retain the water, while an iron-rich layer pushes rainwater back up to the surface in certain places. The ideal foundation for





creating fishponds – or wijers, as they are called here.

Today, De Wijers is a mosaic of water, nature and heritage, and a refuge for rare plants and birds. Numerous water birds, amphibians and dragonflies benefit from this diverse landscape, which offers more than 6,000 hectares of top European nature, hidden behind houses and interwoven with human life.

The gateway sites are the perfect starting points to explore the region, layer by layer, pond by pond, landscape by landscape.

**Set out and explore
De Wijers for
yourself**





Wijvenheide

A patchwork of ponds teeming with life

Zwanenstraat 105, Zonhoven



The viewing tower rises like a carp from one of the hundreds of ponds that together form a colourful mosaic of water, reeds and dykes. Here, you are in the heart of De Wijers, where artisanal fish farmers have shaped the landscape for centuries. This man-made waterscape is home to mysterious water birds such as the bittern and the little bittern. Small tree frogs perform their evening concert among the brambles. Each season brings its own colours and sounds here.

Tip

Take a moment to pause along the banks. Between April and September, tree frogs use the bramble bushes to warm up in the sun.

Highlights at Wijvenheide

- Walk or cycle directly along the dykes of the ponds, surrounded by water and reeds.
- Spot dozens of water, reed and marsh birds from the observation huts. In spring, you can hear the bittern calling from the reeds.
- Climb the viewing tower for a unique panorama over the patchwork of ponds.
- Camp by the water at Camping Heidestrand.
- Visit the authentic fish farm and discover how freshwater fish have been bred here for centuries.

Tip

Bring your binoculars and come early in the morning. That's when the area is teeming with life on and around the water. The bird hides allow you to observe the birds without disturbing them.

Demerstrand

Where sport and nature meet
Stationsstraat 27, Diepenbeek



Fun, sport and nature come together playfully here. At Demerstrand, movement comes naturally. Its central location at cycling junction 100 opens up a wide range of nearby outings. From here, you can easily walk or cycle to the Dauteweyers, Caetsweyers and far beyond. The ponds here were created through iron ore extraction in the last century. Today, they form a connected chain of water where tree frogs and water birds feel right at home.

Tip

From June onwards, the great yellow rattle brightens the grasslands along the blue and green routes with its yellow flowers. The plant owes its name to the rattling sound its seeds make when stirred by the wind.

Tip

Travelling by camper? At Demerstrand, you can stay overnight close to nature.

Highlights at Demerstrand

- Children rule here: a large playground, a tree frog safari and an adventurous play forest promise hours of fun. Or set out on a mysterious adventure with the Dautenmannetje...
- In spring, you can hear the tree frogs at the Dauteweyers – “krek-krek-krek” – their chorus carrying up to a kilometre.
- At the meeting point of the Caetsbeek, the Stiemerbeek and the Demer lies the quiet nature area De Dijken (follow the red and orange routes).
- Sport takes centre stage at Demerstrand: BMX, mountain biking, skating, running and much more.





Herkenrode Abbey

A reflection of a glorious past

Herkenrodeabdij 4, Hasselt



Step through the stately gateway and you immediately feel how the past is still tangible here. The abbey site is a tranquil world of its own – a place where centuries-old stories merge with the surrounding waterscape. The Clausura artwork and the abbey grounds bring the 800-year-old women's abbey back to life. The abbey played a key role in shaping the pond landscape: among ponds and historic buildings, the connection between nature and heritage is still palpable today.

Highlights at Herkenrode Abbey

- Enjoy the pond and agricultural landscape around the monumental abbey and discover why this women's abbey lay at the cradle of De Wijers.
- Clausura, the monumental artwork by Gijs Van Vaerenbergh, revives the lost abbey heart, balancing between memory and imagination.
- Every third Sunday of the month, the waterwheel of the abbey mill turns again, guided by millers.
- Taste local abbey products at the Paardenstallen or purchase them in the shop.
- Follow the Key Route through the iconic abbey buildings.

Tip

The farmland around the abbey is managed ecologically by the Boer van Herkenrode, with grazing sheep, cattle and donkeys. You're sure to encounter them during your walk.

Domain Bouy

De Wijers in miniature

Galgeneinde 22, Heusden-Zolder



The impressive arrival in Bolderberg – between two expansive ponds and via Terlaemen Castle – immediately sets the tone: this is where water, nature and heritage come together in a compelling story. Domain Bouy offers an inviting introduction to everything that makes De Wijers so special. Along striking boardwalks, you can walk right over the water, with views of old timber-framed farmhouses. In the distance, the top of the Bolderberg beckons, offering a breathtaking panorama at the tranquil Hermitage.

Tip

Combine the blue walking route with a loop through Domain Bouy to experience all the highlights.

Tip

The “Kluis” (Hermitage) has existed since 1673 and is a well-known place of pilgrimage. Pilgrims bring a small stone from home or along their journey to place at the cross. The chapel is open for a moment of reflection.

Highlights at Domain Bouy

- Children can enjoy the large playground and meet farm animals in the grazing meadows.
- Adventurous children’s trails take the youngest explorers on a journey through the nature of De Wijers.
- After a steep climb to the top of the Bolderberg, you are rewarded with an impressive view over the ponds and Terlaemen Castle.
- At the top of the Bolderberg, the Hermitage of Our Lady of Loreto offers a peaceful retreat.
- Taste nature itself on a wild foraging walk at Domain Bouy.





De Maten

Top nature in a historic pond landscape

Slagmolenweg 76, Genk



The string of ponds in De Maten has hardly been altered for modern fish farming, giving the area an authentic, almost untouched atmosphere. Quiet ponds with so-called “heads” and “tails”, fringed with reeds, create a landscape that immediately slows you down. The historic Slagmolen provides a charming starting point for your walk through this unspoilt nature reserve. An ideal gateway for those seeking the pure, original spirit of De Wijers.

Tip

The eerie shriek of the water rail and drifting veils of mist once sparked the imagination of our ancestors, making them believe in “white ladies” (ghostly apparitions) that sent shivers down their spines. Wait for a misty spring morning and experience it for yourself ...

Highlights of De Maten

- The bird hide at the Augustijnen pond invites you to pause and enjoy water birds gliding across the surface.
- Every month, a Natuurpunt guide takes you on a discovery walk through this special area.
- In a pond landscape, open space is essential. Galloway cattle help maintain it through grazing.
- De Maten is fed by the Stiemerbeek, which winds its way through the Stiemer Valley – another beautiful area for walking.
- The pond landscape of De Maten inspired the painters of the “Station d’artistes de Genck” (1840–1940). You can admire their work in the Emile Van Doren Museum.
- At the lively visitor centre, you can enjoy local drinks and learn more about the area.

Kelchterhoef

Adventure on the water

Kelchterhoefstraat, Houthalen-Helchteren



Via centuries-old timber-framed farmhouses hidden in the forest, you arrive at the atmospheric ponds of Kelchterhoef, where small adventures await you. Boardwalks lead you straight across the water, while playful bridges send splashes flying. There is plenty of space to play, climb and explore – through the forest, in the nature playground, or simply along the paths. And at De Plas, a bigger adventure is waiting, with water sports, swimming fun and climbing excitement in the heart of nature.

Tip

At the abbey pond, you'll find a large picnic island – a perfect spot to settle in for a romantic lunch among reeds and water.

Tip

At Hoeve Mieneke, Mieneke still seems to watch over her garden among her chickens. The 'Erfgoedapp' takes you back to the time when she lived on the farm.

Highlights of Kelchterhoef

- The animal-themed multi-move trail, adventurous playground and large play forest offer children a day full of movement.
- Adventure on the water truly begins at De Plas, where you can go kayaking, surfing, sailing and paddleboarding. Thrill-seekers can take on a challenging climbing course.
- The Nature Run brings runners closer to nature, allowing them to enjoy its beauty along the way.
- On the Wild Foraging Trail, you can taste edible wild trees, shrubs and herbs.
- Longer walking routes lead you to the heathlands of Ten Haagdoorn, which turn beautifully purple in August.





Let De Wijers grow

Enjoyed your visit to De Wijers?

Give something back to nature and make a donation to the Wijers Fund. With your support, we bring to life ideas from local residents and associations to enhance the waterscape. Support us today and see how the landscape of De Wijers continues to grow and flourish tomorrow.

Make a donation at www.dewijers.be/wijersfonds or scan the QR code.



This map guides you to
the gateways of De Wijers.

De Wijers at a Glance

Known as the Land of 1,001
Ponds, De Wijers offers a
unique blend of water, nature,
heritage and recreation.

On this map, you will discover
the six gateways to De Wijers.
These gateways are the
perfect starting points for
exploring the vast heathlands,
distinctive pond landscapes
and historic sites that make
this region so special.

Whether you choose to walk
or cycle, let the landscape
inspire you along the way.
With a bit of luck, you may
even spot some of its
remarkable inhabitants, such
as the European tree frog or
the Eurasian bittern...



Shaped by the Landscape

Located in the heart of Limburg, De
Wijers is the largest continuous pond
region in Belgium. Its location on the
edge of the Campine Plateau, combined
with the presence of eight stream valleys,
created the ideal conditions for the
development of its many ponds.

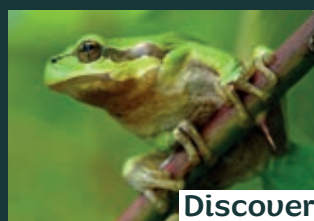


Spot the Kingfisher

The kingfisher is one of the most striking inhabitants of De Wijers. Thanks to the area's rich network of ponds and streams, it finds everything it needs here: clear water, peace and quiet, and plenty of fish.

Where does the name come from?

The word wijer is an old term for a fishpond. Today, the name still lives on in various family names and street names throughout the region.



Discover the European tree frog

Despite its small size, the European tree frog makes itself heard. On warm spring and summer evenings, its distinctive call echoes through the reeds and shrubs surrounding the ponds of De Wijers.



Slow down & reconnect

The stillness of the water invites you to pause. To lower your pace and tune in to the rhythm of nature. The nature of De Wijers gives you the space to catch your breath and find new energy.

Misty mornings

On early autumn or spring mornings, mist drifts in mysterious veils over the ponds, while water birds glide gracefully across the surface. In late summer, the purple heath of De Teut and Ten Haagdoorn takes on a dreamlike feel, when a roe deer quietly emerges from the morning haze.

Summer pond concerts

On a warm evening, settle down with a drink on the boardwalk at the Dauteweyers, the picnic island in Kelchterhoef, or by one of the other ponds. Close your eyes and let the chorus of tree frogs, green frogs and perhaps even a garlic toad gently bring you to rest.



Discover more

Find your moment of calm in De Wijers on one of these walking routes



The Sound of De Wijers

translates the beauty of the landscape into a magical musical experience. The music, played on piano and harp by Jo Nicolai and Sielke Ramakers, carries you along the rhythm of the landscape through the four seasons. From the serene winter to the vibrant summer, each season is given its own unique musical voice.

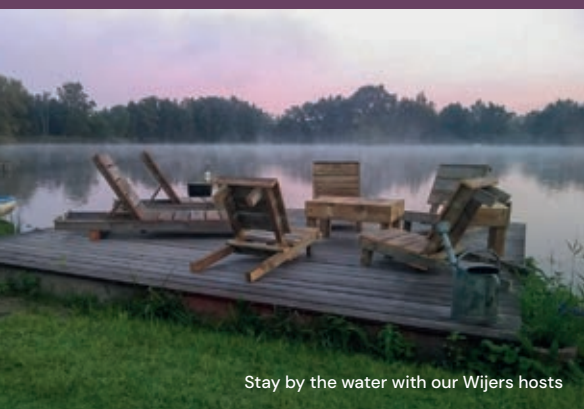
Scan the QR code and let yourself be carried away by the rhythm of De Wijers.



Bolderberg



Kingfisher



Stay by the water with our Wijers hosts

Drift away with our Wijers hosts

With the Wijers hosts, you can stay overnight close to the water. Comfortable accommodation, a warm welcome and a quiet green setting make it easy to slow down and leave refreshed.

“

Here, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy the breathtaking view over the ponds.

Moments of reflection in silence

High on the Bolderberg, you'll find the Hermitage of Our Lady of Loreto. For centuries, hermits came here for silence – away from the bustle, closer to themselves. Even today, this place feels like a pause. There's nothing you need to do here, just unwind in nature and enjoy the breathtaking view over the ponds and Terlaemen Castle.

Birdwatching

De Wijers is a true paradise for bird lovers. Pause during your walk through forests, heathland or along the ponds, and listen to the sounds around you. Birds are often easier to hear than to see – especially shy reed and marsh birds. In spring, you can continue the experience at home by watching barn owls, kingfishers and tits via the live birdcams at Domain Bovy. You'll find them at www.dewijers.be/webcams.



De Teut – Ten Haagdoorn

Practical

Find the most beautiful picnic spots, viewpoints, walking routes and birdwatching locations at dewijers.be/en-natuurbeleving



Dive into the history of De Wijers

De Wijers invites you to slow down and reflect on how this landscape weaves together nature and history. Past and present travel side by side here. Step in and discover the rich history of De Wijers ...

From prehistory to mining heritage

From prehistoric reindeer hunters to the Herkenrode Abbey, which helped shape the pond landscape: in De Wijers, nature and heritage are inseparably intertwined. These remarkable places invite you to pause and let time stand still:

- Discover prehistoric life on De Teut along an interactive route.
- Visit the monumental former women's abbey of Herkenrode, with the Clausura artwork, and explore its buildings and surroundings.
- Walk through historic abbey parks such as Kelchterhoef, Hengelhoef or Bovy.
- At Domain Bokrijk, discover how the past inspires our future.
- At the Emile Van Doren Museum, learn how the Genk landscape (1840–1940) inspired generations of artists.
- C-mine, ZLDR Luchtfabriek

and Greenville take you closer to the people behind the mines: their work, their resilience and their hard labour.

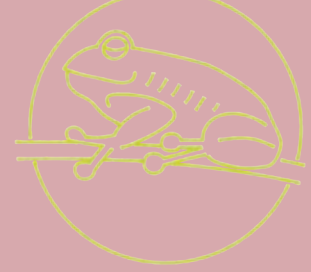
Discover these and many more unique heritage sites in De Wijers at dewijers.be

Scan

Discover these and many more unique heritage sites in De Wijers at dewijers.be







10x De Wijers for children

Looking for adventure for the whole family?
These child-friendly routes combines playing
and discovering nature..



Domain Kiewit

1. Multi-move trail for little daredevils

Not afraid of climbing, scrambling and a bit of mud? Head straight to the multi-move trail in Kelchterhoef! The first test: an impressive hanging net. And that's just the beginning: climb and roll over balance beams, climbing frames or a wobbly wet bridge ...

- 2,5 km
- Kelchterhoef (Hoeve Jan), Houthalen-Helchteren

2. The fairytale hare trail

This short route takes you on a magical journey full of enchanting creatures. Hares, gnomes and even a mysterious cosmogolem await you in the forests of Domain Bovy.

- 0,9 km
- Domain Bovy, Heusden-Zolder



3. Unravel the mystery of Kiewit

Are you good at climbing, counting and exploring? Then you're just the detective Domain Kiewit is looking for to solve the mystery of its former residents!

- 2,5 km
- Domain Kiewit (red mailbox at the shelter near the playground), Hasselt

4. The 'Plezante potenpad'

Not long, not boring – just straight through the forest. That's the fun paw trail at Domain Kiewit! Run, climb, jump and make new friends, because lots of animals live here!

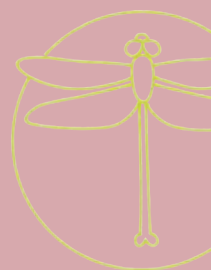
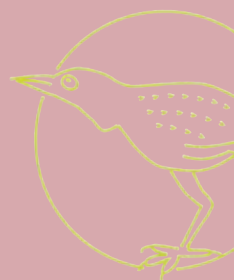
- 500 m
- Domain Kiewit (car park or oak tree near the manor house), Hasselt

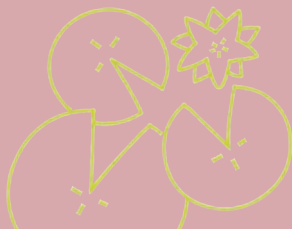


5. Kiewit safari

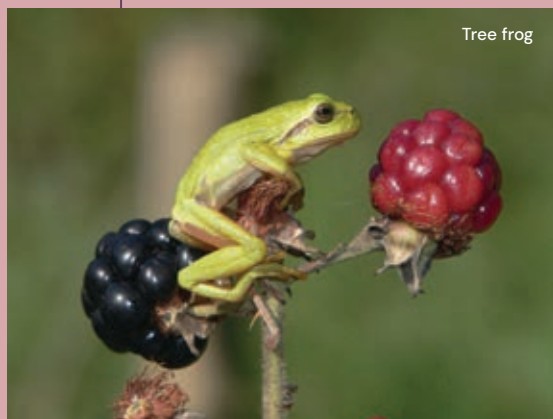
Find 8 animals hidden across the domain. At each sign, you'll discover a fun fact and complete a playful challenge.

- 1,5 km
- Domain Kiewit (shelter near the playground), Hasselt





Dune park
Molenheide



Tree frog

6. Tree frog safari

Go in search of our small, bright green tree frog. Along the way, you can let off steam in a large play forest, a huge playground and on climbing logs by the water.

- 1,5 km
- Demerstrand, Diepenbeek

7. 'Snuit' trail De Maten

Discover the snout trail with the free leaflet and Snout Bag, available at the visitor centre. Enjoy the "cloud cinema", search for the most beautiful stone, and roll down a hill.

- Approx. 1 km
- Visitor Centre De Maten–De Slagmolen, Genk

8. Roll through the dunes

At 'Duinenpark Molenheide', sand takes centre stage. Near forest café "Ter Duinen", roll down a real play dune and enjoy endless fun in the sand. With the free discovery map, you'll learn about the special animals living in the dunes.

- 2,9 km
- Duinenpark Molenheide, Houthalen–Helchteren



Kelchtherhoef

9. Wild tasting

Discover, pick, taste and enjoy! What could be more fun than foraging and eating from nature? Follow the Wild Foraging Trails at Kelchterhoef and Domain Bovy and learn all about edible wild trees, shrubs and herbs.

- www.parkenmetsmaak.be (Dutch)

10. Out and about with Robbie the bittern

Meet the quirky bird Robbie the bittern! Robbie leads you on an exciting journey along the ponds to meet his friends.

- 4 km
- Domain Kiewit (shelter at the playground) Hasselt



Children friendly routes

Scan and discover all the children friendly routes in De Wijers



Walking routes

A walk in De Wijers guarantees special encounters with both people and wildlife. The landscape unfolds slowly, inviting you to pause and enjoy the quiet waterscape.

At wandeleninlimburg.be, you'll find walking routes throughout De Wijers. You can filter by accessibility, distance and many other useful criteria. Found your route? Print it, download it as a GPX file, or follow it in real time on your smartphone during your walk.

On the regional map De Wijers (available for € 8), you'll find all routes and the walking junction network clearly mapped. Most routes start from one of the gateway locations.



Dauteweyers

See nature through the eyes of a Wijers guide

Walking with a Wijers guide is like exploring with more than just your own eyes. Between water and reeds, the landscape unfolds slowly, full of hidden stories. You learn to look, to listen, and to return home filled with a sense of wonder.

Book your guide at dewijers.be/groepen

'Groene Halte' walks

These walking routes start at a public transport stop. You walk to another stop, where you can hop back on the train or bus, passing through some of the most beautiful landscapes of De Wijers along the way.

groenehalte.be



Wijerstrail

Walk for five days and 110 km at the rhythm of the water, along reflective water surfaces, rolling heathlands and mysterious forests. Meet water birds, impressive heritage and breathtaking views. Discover historic domains such as Bokrijk, Domain Kiewit and Kelchterhoef, and dive into the region's mining past. With every turn, a new encounter with nature awaits – yet never far from the inhabited world. Stay overnight with our trail partners and prepare for a unique walking adventure.

www.wijerstrail.be



Walking network De Wijers

Looking for even more walking? Create your own route using the walking junction network. With 450 km of paths, each day offers a new discovery. On the clear regional map (€ 8), you'll find the entire network as well as the coloured loops.

www.wandeleninlimburg.be/en/hiking-nodes

Regional GR Limburg Mines

Follow the Regional GR Limburg Mines and enjoy 179 km of walking (with 1,100 metres of elevation gain) through a landscape rich in history and character. This long-distance trail connects five former mining sites and immerses you in the industrial heritage of the Limburg mining region. Along the way, you'll enjoy impressive panoramas, surprising nature and fascinating stories from the past.

groteroutepaden.be



Cycling through Water



Cycling in De Wijers

By bike, you experience the vast waterscape of De Wijers in a truly unique way. Here, you cycle along the dykes of the ponds and right beside the water. A highlight is Cycling through Water, where you literally ride between the ponds, with swans and other water birds at eye level.

With the handy cycling junction system, you can map out your own route across Limburg's cycling network – either online or with the junction map. Along the routes, you'll find QR codes guiding you to nearby sights and places to eat and drink.

Route planner: visitlimburg.be/en/cycle-route-planner

Bike rental: fietsparadijslimburg.be
or www.visitlimburg.be/nl/fietsverhuurpunten

Special cycling experiences and routes in De Wijers

Cycling through Water

- 📍 Junction 91, Genk
- 🌐 visitlimburg.be/en/what-to-do/cycling-through-water-bokrijk

Evening Cycling at Circuit Zolder

- 📍 Terlaemen 30, Heusden-Zolder
- 🌐 circuit-zolder.be/en/evening-cycling-2/

Cycling routes in Heusden-Zolder & Bolt street art

- 🌐 visitheusden-zolder.be/nl/collecties/in-beweging

'Happen en trappen'

Cycle through De Wijers for a full day and enjoy delicious stops at five different restaurants along the way.

- 🌐 happenentrappen.nl

Cycling routes in Hasselt

- 🌐 visit.hasselt.be/en/cycling

Cycling routes in Houthalen-Helchteren

- 🌐 visit.houthalenhelchteren.be/fietsen

Cycling routes in Genk

- 🌐 visitgenk.be

Cycling routes in Zonhoven

- 🌐 zonhoven.be/toerisme

Cycling routes in Diepenbeek

- 🌐 diepenbeek.be/fietsknooppunt

Mountain bike network Midden-Limburg

This network offers 135 km of signposted routes and connects in Heusden-Zolder to the West Limburg network and in Genk to the Euregio network.

Topographic maps are available from local sports services and tourist information points.

- 🌐 sport.vlaanderen/ik-wil-mountainbiken
routeyou.com (GPS tracks and elevation profiles available)

Urban gravel route Genk

These unique gravel routes combine beautiful natural landscapes, urban hotspots, iconic heritage sites and varied gravel terrain.

- 🌐 sport.vlaanderen/sporten-in-mijn-omgeving/vind-een-route/vind-een-offroadfiets-route/route/18363026

Inline skating

Several skating routes take you through De Wijers, between Hasselt and Genk.

- 🌐 hasselt.be/nl/skeeler-inline-skaten

Equestrian routes

Riding in De Wijers means moving at the gentle rhythm of the landscape. In De Teut and Ten Haagdoorn, the equestrian network winds through heathland, forests and open spaces where silence prevails. With every hoofbeat, you discover a piece of De Wijers.

- 🌐 visitlimburg.be/nl/paardrijden



Accessibility

De Wijers is a vast area spread across six municipalities in Central Limburg. The different gateway locations are easily accessible by public transport.

Travelling by train?

Get off at one of the following stations. For more information and route planning, visit www.nmbs.be or www.delijn.be:

- Hasselt
- Kiewit
- Genk
- Bokrijk
- Heusden
- Zolder
- Zonhoven
- Diepenbeek

Tourist offices

Visit Genk

📍 C-mine 10 bus 2,
3600 Genk
🌐 visitgenk.be

Visit Hasselt

📍 Maastrichterstraat 59,
3500 Hasselt
🌐 visithasselt.be

Visit Houthalen-Helchteren

📍 Pastorijsstraat 30,
Houthalen-Helchteren
🌐 visit.houthalen-helchteren.be

Visit Heusden-Zolder

📍 Vrunstraat 6,
3550 Heusden-Zolder
🌐 visitheusden-zolder.be

Toerisme Zonhoven

📍 Kerkplein 1,
3520 Zonhoven
🌐 zonhoven.be

Dienst Toerisme Diepenbeek

📍 Servaasplein 13,
3590 Diepenbeek
🌐 diepenbeek.be

Domains and nature areas

The gateway sites are the perfect starting point for a visit to De Wijers. But in the land of 1001 ponds, there is so much more to discover. Historic estates, parks and nature reserves each reveal a different side of De Wijers.

Heempark

Environmental and nature centre Heempark brings together ponds, woodland and carefully designed garden areas with vegetables and herbs. Children can enjoy the playground or admire the farm animals.

📍 Hoogzij 7, Genk
🌐 heempark.be

🌐 hasselt.be/nl/prinsbeemden

Bokrijk

Curious about the origins of our customs and traditions? At the Bokrijk Open-Air Museum, discover how the past continues to inspire the future.

📍 Bokrijklaan 1, Genk
🌐 www.bokrijk.be

Prinsbeemden

This 25-hectare park is shaped by the Demer, winding its way through deciduous forests and willow wetlands.

📍 Prinsenhofweg 21,
Hasselt

Hengelhoef

In and around the welcoming visitor centre of Limburgs Landschap, you can experience life on the heath as it once was. This



Valley of the Mangelbeek

domain of forests and ponds is also the ideal starting point for exploring the Ten Haagdoorn heathland.

- 📍 Hengelhoefdreef 6, Houthalen-Helchteren
- 🌐 limburgs-landschap.be

Park Rooierheide and Patersbos

Once part of the monastery grounds of Rooierheide, this park was developed by the Passionist fathers as a monastery garden. Today, you can walk through hay meadows, ponds, woodland and historic avenues.

- 📍 Patersplein, Diepenbeek
- 🌐 diepenbeek.be

Domherenpark and the Mangelbeek Valley

Domherenpark features a wide variety of trees, some up to 200 years

old. It lies within the Mangelbeek Valley, where diverse landscapes blend nature and history.

- 📍 Dekenstraat 39, Heusden-Zolder
- 🌐 limburgs-landschap.be

Stiemer Valley

The Stiemerbeek is one of the streams that feed the ponds of De Wijers. Its valley forms a blue-green lifeline through the city of Genk, leading all the way to De Maten along boardwalks and winding paths.

- 📍 Slagmolenweg 76, Genk
- 🌐 genk.be/stiemervallei

Dune park Molenheide

Here, you walk across ancient inland dunes dotted with gnarled oak coppices. Near the forest café,

a large dune playground and even wild boar await.

- 📍 Molenheidestraat 5, Houthalen-Helchteren
- 🌐 visithouthalen-helchteren.be

De Teut - Ten Haagdoorn

Rolling purple heath, large pools and expansive forests reveal yet another face of De Wijers. Along the reindeer hunters' trail, you journey back to the prehistoric past of the region.

- 📍 Hengelhoefseweg 9, Zonhoven
- 🌐 natuurenbos.be/natuurgebieden/teut-ten-haagdoorn

Schemmersberg

After sand extraction ceased, nature reclaimed the area, turning it into a dynamic landscape of drifting sand, bent grass and heath.

- 📍 Wetzandstraat, Genk
- 🌐 visitgenk.be

Cultural heritage



Vandeput Fish Farm

This fish farm in Zonhoven was founded in 1865, and to this day fish are still raised using traditional methods within the landscape of De Wijers.

- 📍 Boomsteeg 46, Zonhoven
- 🌐 www.zonhoven.be/viskweek

Meylandt Castle

In its current form, Meylandt Castle dates back to 1907. The park is freely accessible and forms the starting point of the Mangelbeek Valley.

- 📍 Meylandtlaan 20, Heusden-Zolder
- 🌐 visitheusden-zolder.be

Motte Ruins

This 14th-century tower, now in ruins, once served as a prestige project for the lord of Stalen, his family and the local community. The estate of Stalen was a lordship within the lordship of Genck.

- 📍 Emile Van Dorenlaan 144, Genk
- 🌐 visitgenk.be

Hermitage and Chapel of Our Lady of Loreto

As early as 1673, pilgrim Lambert Hoelen had this pilgrimage site built on top of the Bolderberg. Experience a moment of reflection in the chapel and enjoy panoramic views over Terlaemen Castle and its ponds.

- 📍 Kluisstraat, Heusden-Zolder
- 🌐 visitheusden-zolder.be

The Holsteen and the Reindeer Hunters Trail

The Holsteen was used thousands of years ago by prehistoric people to polish axes. The Reindeer Hunters Trail leads you past this stone and takes you on an interactive journey back to a time when reindeer hunters roamed De Teut.

- 📍 Hengelhoefseweg, Zonhoven
- 🌐 rendierjagerspad.be

Ter Dolen Castle Brewery

This castle brewery crafts its beers with passion and traditional techniques. Enjoy a locally brewed beer and a piece of Ter Dolen cheese on the terrace or in the authentic brewery café. Dare to unravel the mystery in their escape room?

- 📍 Eikendreef 21, Houthalen-Helchteren
- 🌐 www.terdolen.be

Emile van Doren Museum

Housed in the villa Le Coin Perdu, this museum of landscape and art looks back on the past and the landscape painting tradition of the "station d'artistes Genck" (1840–1940), while also hosting contemporary exhibitions.

- 📍 Henri Declleenestraat 21, Genk
- 🌐 emilevandorenmuseum.be



Experience the mining past

Greenville Visitor Centre

At the visitor centre, housed in the former main building of the Campine coal mines, you take a journey through time. You start with the mining past and end with the future of energy and materials.

📍 Centrum Zuid 1111,
Houthalen-Helchteren
🌐 www.greenville.be

ZLDR Luchtfabriek

Today, you can relive the mining past at the 'ZLDR Luchtfabriek'. Discover how miners could breathe and work at a depth of 800 metres, or what it feels like to stand in an endless shaft. Or go on a treasure hunt with archaeologist Arthur. Combine your visit every 2nd and 4th Wednesday with the lively Mine Market.

📍 Marktpllein,
Heusden-Zolder
🌐 visitheusden-zolder.be

C-MINE

C-mine is a gem of industrial heritage, bringing the story of mining to life in a contemporary, creative and immersive way. Go on a C-mine expedition and experience a lifelike virtual visit to the Winterslag mine.

📍 C-mine 10, Genk
🌐 c-mine.be
visitgenk.be

Thor Park

At the former Waterschei mine, you walk through a unique landscape of mine heaps, ponds and sand. You can enjoy a picnic in a beautiful setting, climb to the top of the slag heap via the Steenmannetjespad, or step into the remarkable light installation by artist Daan Roosegaarde.

📍 André Dumontlaan 67,
Genk
🌐 www.thorpark.be
www.visitgenk.be

Pumping station and Laambroek ponds

The former pumping station of the Houthalen mine dates back to 1939. From here, cooling water was pumped from an existing pond to the coal mine. After the closure of the mine, the pumping station fell into disrepair. Today, a short green walk guides you through the valuable surrounding Laambroek ponds.

📍 Stationstraat 120,
Houthalen-Helchteren.
🌐 limburgs-landschap.be
– visit.houthalen-helchteren.be

Adventures in De Wijers

Action Park Kiewit

The place to be for sporty and adventurous activities in Hasselt, featuring an obstacle course, climbing routes, BMX track and much more.

- 📍 Tulpinstraat 42, Hasselt
- 🌐 hasselt.be/nl/actionpark

Boat trip on the Albert Canal

A boat trip along the Albert Canal lets you experience De Wijers from the calm water, where boats glide by at a gentle pace. Rederij Limburgia offers various cruise options.

- 📍 Scheepvaartkaai 5D, Hasselt
- 🌐 rederijlimburgia.be

Kayaking on the Demer

In complete tranquillity, you paddle your kayak along the flowing waters of the Demer, experiencing nature along the banks in a unique way. To protect nesting wildlife, this route is only accessible outside the breeding season

- 📍 Herkenrode Abbey, Herkenrodeabdij 4, Hasselt
(rental point behind the Infirmary)
- 🌐 paddleshare.be/en-locaties/paddle-share-hasselt

Outdoor swimming

Fancy a refreshing dip? You can take one at the Terlaemen outdoor

pool or in the natural swimming lake De Plas in Kelchterhoef.

Terlaemen outdoor pool

- 📍 Kerkstraat 110, Heusden-Zolder
- 🌐 visitheusden-zolder.be

De Plas, Kelchterhoef

- 📍 Binnenvaartstraat, Houthalen-Helchteren
- 🌐 visit.houthalen-helchteren.be (July–August, with green flag)

Water Sports and Adventure Centre Limburg (Kelchterhoef)

The waters of De Plas in Kelchterhoef, set in the heart of nature, invite you to go paddleboarding, kayaking or sailing. You can also



De Plas, Kelchterhoef

Fishing

The waterscape of ponds invites you to try your luck at fishing. However, since many ponds are privately owned by fish farmers – who raise their fish here – or protected as nature reserves, fishing isn't allowed everywhere.

You can fish via one of the local fishing clubs or at the ponds below (a fishing permit is required):

enjoy adventurous activities such as a rope course, tree climbing, survival and ziplining.
📍 Binnenvaartstraat, Houthalen-Helchteren
🌐 wac limburg.be

Circuit Zolder and the Velodrome

Circuit Zolder isn't just a racetrack for cars. Cyclists, BMX riders and adaptive sports athletes are also warmly welcomed on designated days, both on the circuit and indoors at the Velodrome.

📍 Terlaemen 30, Heusden-Zolder
🌐 [circuit-zolder.be - sport.vlaanderen/onzecentra/heusden-zolder/](http://circuit-zolder.be-sport.vlaanderen/onzecentra/heusden-zolder/)

De Goei Wei

A creative experience space where connecting with nature helps you recharge your inner energy. Laughter, sensing and experiencing are at the heart of it all.

📍 Weidestraat 9, Houthalen-Helchteren

Molenvijver Park

In the heart of Genk lies Molenvijver Park, named after the pond by the old watermill. Fishing is allowed on the pond.

📍 Molenstraat, Genk
🌐 genk.be/molenvijverpark

De Plas, Kelchterhoef

Fishing is allowed from the jetties on the northern side of De Plas, with reservation via the Belgian Carp Anglers.

📍 Binnenvaartstraat, Houthalen-Helchteren
🌐 kelchterhoef.vbk.be

'De Grote Moffert' (Bokrijk)

At this pond on the edge of Bokrijk Park, you can catch pike, tench and roach. A fishing permit is available from the park authorities at the ponds.

📍 Bokrijklaan 1, Genk
🌐 bokrijk.be/en/our-offer/park-experience/fish/

Hengelhoef Fishing Ponds

A 12-hectare pond complex where you can fish for carp, coarse fish and predatory fish. Fishing is allowed from March 1 to November 30 with a subscription from Limburgs Landschap.

📍 Hengelhoefdreef / Essenlaan, Houthalen-Helchteren
🌐 limburgs-landschap.be/hengelen

Kiewit Fishing Pond

Between Domain Kiewit and Action Park, fishing is allowed on the city pond.

📍 Putvennestraat, Hasselt
🌐 hasselt.be/nl/vissen-in-hasselt-vislocaties-en-vergunningen

Initiation Pond – Park Den Dijk

This beautiful walking park in the centre of Zonhoven features a pond where fishing is permitted with a valid fishing licence.

📍 Moenshof, Zonhove

Stay overnight in De Wijers

Our official Wijers hosts have a true heart for De Wijers. These local hosts welcome you with warm Limburg hospitality and are happy to guide you through the land of 1001 ponds. They know the region like the back of their hand.

Whether you're looking for a luxurious B&B with sauna, a spacious holiday home by the water, or a cosy caravan, our Wijers hosts offer unique and memorable ways to stay in the region.

Alongside these official hosts, you'll also find many hotels, holiday homes, campsites and bed & breakfasts throughout the area.

Discover the full range of accommodation at visitlimburg.be

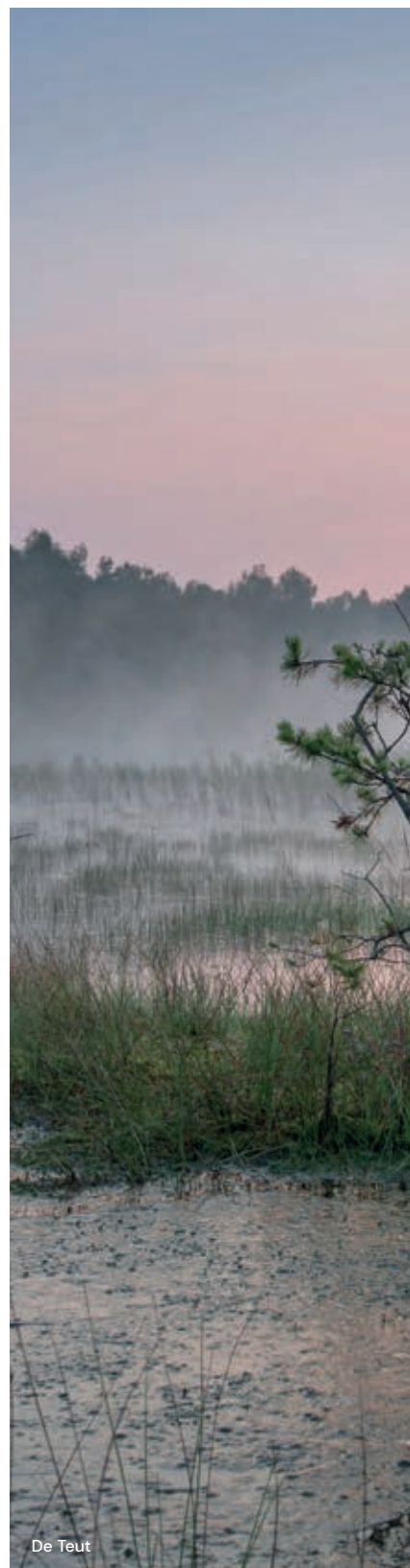
Sleeping in nature?
Prefer a more basic, close-to-nature experience? Stay overnight in the bivouac zone at Domain Kiewit.

Book your stay at dewijers.be/Wijershosts_en



Travelling with your camper? You can stay overnight at the following camper sites:

- Camper terrain Kapermolen, Koning Boudewijnlaan 50, Hasselt
- Demerstrand, Stationsstraat 27, Diepenbeek
- Domain Bovy, Galgeneinde 22, Heusden-Zolder
- Park Molenheide, Molenheidestraat, Houthalen-Helchteren
- Kelchterhoef (Abdijhoeve, zonder voorzieningen), Kelchterhoefstraat, Houthalen-Helchteren
- Camping De Binnenvaart, Binnenvaartstraat 49, Houthalen-Helchteren
- Camping Holsteenbron, Hengelhoefteweg 9, Zonhoven
- Camping Heidestrand, Zwanenstraat 105, Zonhoven



De Teut



Taste our Wijers cookies

At Wijers host Het IJsmagazijn, you'll find delicious Wijers cookies: artisan biscuits made with the local herb meadowsweet, known for its subtle almond flavour. Taste them for yourself!



Working together for De Wijers

This beautiful land of 1001 ponds does not exist by chance. Every day, dedicated efforts are made to improve nature, for both people and wildlife.

De Wijers brings together more than 20 public and private partners who are committed to working hand in hand to care for and strengthen the landscape and nature of De Wijers.

- Provincie Limburg ~ www.limburg.be
- Regionaal Landschap Lage Kempen ~ www.rllk.be
- Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland ~ www.rlkm.be
- Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw en Voeren ~ www.rlhv.be
- Visit Limburg ~ www.visitlimburg.be
- Bokrijk ~ www.bokrijk.be
- Vlaamse Landmaatschappij ~ www.vlm.be
- Departement Omgeving ~ www.omgevingvlaanderen.be
- Vlaamse milieumaatschappij ~ www.vmm.be
- Toerisme Vlaanderen ~ www.toerismevlaanderen.be
- Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed ~ www.onroenderfgoed.be
- Agentschap voor Landbouw en Visserij ~ www.lv.vlaanderen.be
- Herita ~ www.herita.be
- Boerenbond ~ www.boerenbond.be
- European Landowners' Organization ~ www.europeanlandowners.org



Municipalities in De Wijers

- Stad Hasselt ~ www.visit Hasselt.be
- Stad Genk ~ www.visitgenk.be
- Gemeente Diepenbeek ~ www.diepenbeek.be
- Gemeente Zonhoven ~ www.zonhoven.be
- Gemeente Houthalen-Helchteren ~ visit.houthalen-helchteren.be
- Gemeente Heusden-Zolder ~ www.visitheusden-zolder.be



Nature managers

- **Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos** manages nature areas Kelchterhoef, Ten Haagdoorn, de Teut, Wijvenheide, Platwijers, Galgenberg, Geelberg, Mangelbeekvallei en Herkenrode ~ www.natuurenbos.be
- **Limburgs Landschap vzw** manages nature areas Ballewijers, Bolderberg, Breelaarheide, Caetsweyers, Hengelhof, Kolveren, Laambroeken, Terlaemen en Zwarte Berg ~ www.limburgs-landschap.be
- **Natuurpunt vzw** manages nature areas Doolbos, Wijvenheide, Kiewit, De Maten, Het Wik, Dauteweyers, Dorpsbemden, Het Klotbroek, Stiemerbeekvallei ~ www.natuurpunt.be

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