At Home in Haagse Hout

3 Walks
A large green zone divides the various neighbourhoods of Haagse Hout: the Haagse Bos with the adjoining Malieveld.

The part of the Haagse Bos nearest the City Centre is the Malieveld [1], a large green ‘common’ designated in 1606 for the game of ‘malie’ (croquet or golf). It is now used for events, demonstrations and circuses. The Malieveld also features the grande allee of Europe [2] lined with lime trees planted by the various nations of Europe. It starts from the Paviljoen Malieveld, a popular pancake house and extends to the Utrechtse Baan, the Motorway and the Haagse Bos proper.

The Haagse Bos (The Hague Forest) is the oldest protected green zone of the City. The Hague Woods is the remnant of an old dune- and swamp forest that formed the ‘strandwallen’ (succeeding beach dune ridges) of South-Holland on which The Hague was built. When the Counts of Holland settled in The Hague (1229) the forest was threatened, as the timber was needed to build the new town. In order to protect this oldest remainder of the forest wardens were appointed to supervise this reserve.

William of Orange (1533-1584), founder of the Dutch nation, ordained that this wood should never be sold. His descendant, Queen Beatrix, still lives at Huis ten Bosch [opposite page] at the corner of the Haagse Bos, which was also the site of the first World Peace Conference in 1899.

Throughout the ages the The Hague’s Forest reserve wood has been subject to more threats. In 1575 it was nearly sold to pay for the 80-Years War. At the start of the 19th century Napoleon ordered the forest to be cut down, but his reign ended before this could be realised. A tremendous storm in 1911 nearly decimated the wood for good.

There are a lot of opportunities for leisurely strolls in the Haagse Bos. There are also children’s play areas and romantic ponds and cycle paths and a horse riding trail. In early spring this wood is particularly beautiful because of the snowdrops and anemones. [3] In winter skating on the ponds presents a typically Dutch winter scene. [4]: Skating in the Hague Wood by W.B. Tholen, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag. On this painting quite a number of famous painters of the Hague school can be identified skating, like Israels, Neuhuys, De Zwart and Weissenbruch.

The Hague hosts numerous ‘expats’ from many different countries. As the city of The Hague wishes you to feel at home in the various areas of the City, here are some walks to discover your neighbourhood and perhaps the neighbouring neighbourhood…! The City of The Hague is divided in ‘stadsdeelen’, administrative units, of which the Haagse Hout (Woods of The Hague) is one.

Haagse Bos (Woods of The Hague)

Haagse Bos is the administrative unit that connects the neighbourhoods Haagse Bos, Bezuidenhout, Benoordenhout and Mariahoeve.

Haagse Bos dates largely from the beginning of the 20th century. It is a green post-war district now being renovated.

In this brochure you’ll find a suggested walk in each neighbour- hood encouraging you to go further into the adjoining district.

Welcome to The Hague, International Resident!

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The Bezuidenhout Walk

This walk leads you from the Hague Wood to the Schenkstrook through Bezuidenhout, a lively neighbourhood. While you walk through 19th or early 20th century streets, there are fascinating views of the modern architecture of office buildings and transport facilities.

Start: Bezuidenhoutseweg across from kpn -building [h.]
In Emmapark[1], green kiosk is an original transformer house bear to the right in Emmastraat [2]
Cross the Juliana van Stolberglaan [3] and under Randstadrail [l.]
Into the Prinses Beatrixlaan
Turn left at the Prinses Marijkestraat
Walk between office buildings, facing the Koningin Sophiapark [4]
Turn left into the Louise Henriëttestraat, on the left you see recently built houses
Walk through the Louise de Coligny-straat as far as the Van Imhoffplein [5]
Turn left into the Van Imhoffstraat
(English style residential buildings from the 1940's)
Walk as far as the Juliana van Stolberglaan, to cross this street you have to turn right and cross at the tram stop
And turn left again
Turn right into the Koningin Mariaalaan, in the beginning of this street the statue of Juliana van Stolberg, ancestor of William of Orange and Queen Beatrix
Continue through the Koningin Mariaalaan
Turn right into the Theresiastraat and at the intersection of the Laan van Nieuw Oost Indie, you can see the Sports Building [60] to the right
Turn left into the Laan van Nieuw Oost Indie
Left into the Benoordenhoutseweg. On the right you have the Haagse Bos, the walk ends back at the start.

History

The development of Bezuidenhout was handicapped by the barrier of the railway, which separated this part of the city from genteel areas like the Archipel and Duinoord, that were also developed between 1870-1900. Vincent Van Gogh lived near this railway as depicted in Behind Rijnspoor Station, 1882 (Gemeentemuseum Den Haag) [7].
Rijnspoor Station, later called Staatspoor, is now Central Station Den Haag. One of the oldest parts still to be seen is the Emmapark (1885), the main part of Bezuidenhout built in the first half of the 20th century [1].
Another relic from the start of this neighbourhood is the Sports Building [6] from 1896 at the corner of the Theresiastraat and the Laan van Nieuw Oost Indie. It was originally built as a sports facility but its use has changed many times during the years. Cyclists celebrated the inauguration of Queen Wilhelmina in 1898 [6 top image] near this building by riding flower decorated bicycles. In the background the original Sports Building at the Theresiastraat. Later a modern front was added.
Not much of the original town planning of Bezuidenhout can still be seen, as the English bombardment of 3 March 1945 destroyed a large part of the district. During 1944 and 1945 the Germans launched massive attacks of V1 rockets at London from platforms in the Hague Wood, and the English tried in vain to destroy those platforms. This is how the

Juliana van Stolberglaan looked after the bombardement on the Bezuidenhout. After the war Bezuidenhout was filled in with residential areas and offices and government buildings in a rather erratic way. Therefore the district offers fascinating views that combine old and new buildings, e.g. in the Emmastraat [2] houses dating from around 1910 with a view on Centre Court. And the Van Imhoffplein [5], houses dating from the 1920s with a view on Centre Court and the Monarch right. The design of Randstad Rail [3], connecting The Hague with Zottegem and Rotterdam adds to the futuristic impression of the neighbourhood. This overhead elevated platform soon was called the net stocking.

Streetnames
The Bezuidenhout is built on low land which was poldered dry in the 15th century. There were three lanes from Voorburg to the Leidse Straatweg, named after the former estates in this polder: Binkhorstlaan, Wervelaan (later Laan van Nieuw Oost Indie) and Loolaan. In the 19th century part of Bezuidenhout, or what is left of it, the streets are named after princes and princesses of the House of Orange. The part towards Mariahoeve, built in the 1930s and 1940s features historic naval figures. For the little neighbourhood on the other side of the Utrechtsebaan, built in the 1970s, more naval hero's streetnames are found.

Art
The largest work of art in the public space is 24 pages of 301 steps (Daylight/Tungsten), a light artwork along the Schenkstrook between Princes Beatrixlaan and Wilhelmina van Pruisensweg (Jan van Grunsven and Arno van der Mark) in the evening it exudes different colours of the light. International art is exhibited in Gallery Art Korner [8] on the Bezuidenhoutseweg, which only shows non-Dutch artists.

Education
Royal Conservatoire
The Royal Conservatoire hosts a large contingent of international students. Apart from classical music, jazz and sonology are taught. Regularly, there are free concerts by students.

InHolland Professional University
This university offers various English language courses in business, management and communication for Dutch and international students.

Shops
The shopping centre of Bezuidenhout clearly is the Theresiastraat, with small shops in the various side streets. Apart from the Theresiastraat there are specialist shops dotted throughout the neighbourhood, like a fish stall, open until the late hours, an unexpected car shop behind large office buildings, one of the few shops for Roman Catholic religious requisites left in The Hague, and a bakery, famous for its cream éclairs with chocolate frosting.

Nature
Apart from the adjoining large woods, Haagse Bos, Bezuidenhout does not have much public green such as parks. Nature consists mainly of the many private gardens in the neighbourhood, which offer a great variety of flowergardens, watergardens, sandgardens, stone gardens, etcetera. Therefore the neighbourhood has a rich fauna of birds, butterflies, mice, and even bats. New green spaces like the Koningsin Sophiapark [4] were created between old and new.
The Benoordenhout walk

The Benoordenhout walk leads through a lot of green areas that are characteristic for this neighbourhood, also through Clingendael, which in fact is not Hague Hout but Wassenaar.

- Start: Wassenaarweg opposite the ANWB-building [Dutch Automobile Association] [c];
- turn left at the Hart Nibbrigkade, turn right into the Breitnerlaan and proceed under the gate;
- cross over the busy Van Alkemade laan and continue into the Breitnerlaan;
- at the Van Hoytemaplein turn left into the Van Hoyt emaplein;
- right into the Weissenbruchstraat;
- turn right into the Jan van Nassaustraat [1]. At the end to the right is the City Rosarium, with a statue of Queen Emma ([1858–1934]) by Toon Dupuis;
- cross the Wassenaarweg through the Oostduin Park gate [a] and continue this lane, left you see the Shell World HQ complex [a];
- continue straight past the tall green office block on the right [with colourful plastic of Karel Appel], you see the first mosque of The Hague [a];
- turn right on the Gooftijpad turn right at the next bridge into the park again, take the left side of the pond, in front of you you see the former romantic tea house of Oostduin estate [a];
- take the bridge left;
- leave the park via the next bridge into the Floris Grijpstraat, turn left;
- take from the Hogenhousstraat the path adjoining the Van Montfoortlaan, on the left you see two German bunkers from World War II;
- cross the Van Alkemade laan and take the left bridge into Clingendael Park, left of the coal-anti-tank defence system of the Atlantic Wall;
- turn right over the bridge and turn right towards the Dutch Garden, walk along this garden towards the The Clingendael Mansion;
- take the lane to the left leading back to the Wassenaarweg.

History

Benoordenhout is situated on old dune soil. Apart from farms there were estates like Oostduin, Arensdiilory, and Clingendael. In the 19th century English-style parks were laid out on these estates that still contribute to the charm of this neighbourhood. The romantic octagonal two-story brick former tea pavilion [from a private architect’s office] in Oostd uin Park [a] is a remnant of a former Oostduin Mansion. The Clingendael Mansion [b] still exists and is now the seat of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations. The Clingendael Institute acts as a think-tank as well as a diplomatic academy in order to identify and analyze emerging political and social developments for the benefit of the Dutch government and the general public. The Institute is not all on any political party, denominational group or ideological movement.

Landmarks

Van Hoytemastraat
Weissenbruchstraat
Willem Roysplein
Breitnerlaan

Shopping Areas

A. Rode Olifant (Red Elephant), former Esso building
B. Nirwana Flat
C. ANWB Building (Dutch Automobile Association)
D. n.w., Shell World HQ Complex
E. Huys Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations
F. Provinciehuis (seat of the province of Zuid-Holland)
Residential development began at the turn of the 19th century. The stately Nassaumdomein [7] was built around 1910 and originally inhabited by a lot of famous people, such as ladies-in-waiting, secretaries to the royal family, ambassadors, important businessmen, etcetera. Another landmark is the Nirvana Flat apartment building [8], located at the busy corner of the Binnenhofdwarsstraat and the Van Alkemadestraat, designed by Jan Duiker and Jan Gerko Wiebenga during 1945-1950. This was a revolutionary luxury high-rise building after an American model, with central facilities like a kitchen in the basement where inhabitants could order meals that arrived in their flat by elevator. During the 1990s the main part of the neighbourhood was built. Luxurious houses were planned on the lanes of the former estates [6] like in Van Hogenhoucklaan, Van Stoutenlaan and Van Montfoortlaan. After World War II the areas towards Wassenaar were built, such as the area Duintjes around the Willem Roayaalplein where we find the American Church. This area used to be called the American Neighbourhood and was famous in the 1950s for the refuse that expats left after moving house, such as American radio’s etc., considered to be luxury goods in post-war Holland.

The first offices appeared in 1973 and 1975, when the national monument, the building of Standard Oil Company (B.P.M. - Batavia Petroleum Company) building, now the oldest part of the global headquarters complex of Shell International was constructed on at the Van Bylandlaan [6]. The former European building of IBM (Trade name of Standard S.E. now IBM-Nederland Mobiil) and birthplace of the Dutch Gas Union is the red brick monumental edifice, the red elephant [9], on the Zuidhollandselaan at the entrance to the Utrechtse Baan motorway. In front of Rijkswaterstaats office (part of the Dutch Ministry of Transportation and Water Management), next to the Provinciehuis [10] is a large abstract concrete water fountain sculpture of Joop Beljon [1]. In Cingeldreef you see the AMGO (Dutch Automobile Association) building [11], built in the beginning of the 1960s, with the famous Rotonde, the space for public information and essentials for travel and a giant glass world globe window facing the Clingendael estate.

Soon other office buildings followed along the Koninginnedijk, like the Kamer van Koophandel (Chamber of Commerce) and the extension of the Shell complex; the largest change to Binnenhofdant was the demolition of the Haagse Diergaarde and the building of the original South Holland Province Chancellery [6] on that spot. The Netherlands is governed by three administrative layers: the national province and the municipalities, each of which are directly elected. The original building has been recently replaced by the current wavy South Holland Province Building designed by the New York/London firm Kohn, Pederson, Fox. Future developments: by area the premises of the Alexanderskazerne [8] at the border of the Oostdijkbuurt (East Dune Park) and northern edge of Binnenhofdant will be transformed to house the new International Criminal Court Complex.

Pubs and restaurants

Binnenhofdant is a quiet residential area with not many pubs or restaurants. Restaurants are found in the Breitnerlaan, Oostdijkaan, Weissenbruchstraat, and at the Willem Roayaalplein.

Shopping

There is luxury food and fashion shopping in the Van Hoytemastraat, some interesting specialty shops in the Weissenbruchstraat and Breitnerlaan and large supermarkets at the Willem Roayaalplein (also called Place des Invalides as there are quite a number of luxury flats for the elderly around that square...).

Streetnames

Apart from the names that remind one of the old estates, a lot of streets are named after painters of 'The Hague School' of painting, like Weissenbruch, Van Hoytema, Mesdag, Joszef Israels, etcetera. In 1955 the latter had to be renamed "Thorn Prickker platz", as the Germans did not tolerate streets to be named after Jewish painters!
**The Mariahoeve Walk**

During this walk you can enjoy the beautiful and varied green spaces and trees between the buildings and sculptures (marked [s1] etc.)

- **Start**: At Granathorst behind the shopping centre Mariahoeve
- **Turn left at the Robijnhorst [s2]**
- **Turn right into Park De Horsten [s3]**
- **Straight through the park, turn left onto Onyxhorst [s4]**
- **Cross Diamanthorst**
- **Follow Saffierhorst behind the British School as it turns to the right**
- **Bear to the left on the Pactumhorst**
- **Bear to the right between two apartment blocks to the open green area near the Beuudenhoutseweg**
- **Cross Beuudenhoutseweg into Landgoed Marlot [park marked with brown sign] [s5]**
- **Turn to the right and follow the path**
- **Then continue on the path with water on both sides**
- **At the Hofzichtlaan turn left, you are now in Marlot [s6]**

**History**

The name Mariahoeve stems from the farm (hoeve) with that name situated in a typical Dutch polderlandscape [1]. The low polder was drained by the Veenmolen [a]. In 1957 an extra pumping station was needed to enable the development of the polder as a residential area [b]. Mariahoeve is an area with a clear and consistent pattern of modern town and social planning.

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**Landmarks**

- **A. Windmill**
- **B. Pumping station to keep the water out of this polder**
- **C. Van Nispenflat, originally built for single ladies like teachers and nurses**
- **D. Aegon, a big Dutch insurance company**
- **E. Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (boip)**
- **F. British School [s3]**
- **G. Schenketsoek with vegetable garden allotments**
- **H. Reigersbergen and Marlot estates**

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**Shopping areas**

- **Winkelcentrum Het kleine Loo**
- **Ursulaland**

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**Mariahoeve**

- **after 50 meters turn right into Robertslan [s7]**
- **Turn left at Ursulaland, here is a small shopping centre at the Gradalaan**
- **Turn right at Elveiland**
- **Turn left at Hofzichtlaan, you see a recently built housing area called Ir. F. van der Sluysplantsoen and maisonettes and single free-standing houses**
- **Cross Hofzichtlaan**
- **Turn right into Het Kleine Loo and you walk back towards Winkelcentrum Mariahoeve**
Restaurants and bars

At the centre of the neighbourhood is Winkelcentrum Mariahoeve, with various restaurants and snackbars. There are a few Indonesian and Surinam restaurants outside the shopping centre.

Shops

Originally more small shopping areas were designed, apart from the central mall. Nowadays a number of these shops have become fitness centres, physiotherapists, dental technicians, small offices or medical practices. However, there are some specialized shops outside of the main shopping centre, like a greengrocer and a dealer in vintage Citroëns.

Art and museum

Art has a special position in Mariahoeve. This neighbourhood counts as many as 47 sculptures in public space! From the start sculptures were commissioned to make works for the large public open spaces or to decorate buildings. Most of the artists were Dutch, but some international artists like Jean Arp [s1] are also represented.

On the walk you may view the following artworks:

- a wall-lintel in the former Roman Catholic Church Robijnhorst
- Christallina, a marble sculpture by A. Fontana in the little park ‘de Horst’
- Construction of railroad ties, Onyxhorst, J. Beljon
- The Curl, aluminium/plastic, H. Hierck
- Wall of stainless steel, plastic, school auditorium

The new National Automobile Museum [s2] is supposed to open its doors soon along the Koggenegracht. Highlights will be the complete collection of Spycars, the Aston Martin of James Bond from Goldfinger and the car of Winston Churchill including an extra large ashtray.

Green

Mariahoeve is a very green area. The areas between the apartment buildings were destined for collective use like children’s playgrounds and pleasure gardens.

There are quite a lot of sports fields, plus the park between the Vlaskamp and the Bezuidenhoutsweg, Park De Horsten and the Schenkstrook [s3], which is designated as a main Ecological Continuation Zone.

The Schenk canal connects the 17th century former polder into the city centre. The position of the Schenk has hardly changed since it was dug in 1403. Recently, a lot was done to improve it ecologically, like changing the banks so that typical bank vegetation like reed and reed-mace can grow. A pleasant walk is also the estates Marlot and Reigersbergen [s4]. Marlot has a beautiful canal with winding paths through the woods. Park Marlot is a wooded area that borders the green Reigersbergen, and features a butterfly garden.

Ir. F. van der Sluys designed the area in the 1950s. The ‘ideal city’ theory of the time was a neighbourhood with a lot of green space, ‘garden cities’, that were usually designed to house the labourers. The unique character of Mariahoeve is that it was built for a mixed population, of labourers, civil servants and office workers, which led to a quite varied architecture. Mariahoeve consisted from the start of privately owned houses and apartments, higher priced rental apartments and social rental apartments. The lay-out of the area and placement of the blocks in the green is not done in a typical rectilinear way, but in more varied shapes like z or fan-like shapes. [s4] After building the neighbourhood more space was needed to build offices, which led to higher buildings near the Schenkstrook such as the Aegon building [s5] and the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (boip) [s6]. Aegon is one of the few Dutch companies that got permission to attach their corporate name to the public square in front of the building. Recently buildings have been demolished [s7] as they were not anymore up to standard for the 21st century. New houses and flats [s8] are designed to replace the outdated buildings. The City of The Hague works together with the housing corporations to rejuvenate the neighbourhood architecturally, economically and socially in a consistent way.

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