



Central Netherlands

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bouwkunde (p222)
- ➔ Poppe (p225)
- ➔ Restaurant de
Bottermarck (p227)
- ➔ Café de Plak (p232)
- ➔ Sugar Hill (p234)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel de Leeuw (p222)
- ➔ De Librije (p224)
- ➔ Hotel Courage (p231)
- ➔ Hotel Modez (p234)

Why Go?

The 'forgotten' provinces of the Central Netherlands, Overijssel and Gelderland, combine historic trade centres of abundant cultural wealth with natural beauty. Hoge Veluwe National Park, containing the Kröller-Müller Museum (with the world's finest Van Gogh collection), should star in any Dutch itinerary.

Deventer, Zwolle and Kampen are centuries-old towns, filled with atmospheric buildings that recall their heritage as members of the Hanseatic League. Nijmegen has a waterfront vibe, masses of students and an annual march that now takes the form of a week-long party. On the other side of history, there are many WWII memorials and locations to contemplate around Arnhem.

Cut through by the Rhine and IJssel rivers and their tributaries, this region also offers splendid cycling routes, particularly along the marshy banks of the Waal east of Nijmegen and the IJssel delta north of Kampen, a remote protected area filigreed with silvery channels.

When to Go

- ➔ Rural Netherlands is at its best in summer when the fields are verdant, the waters are swimmable and the nights are long. Meandering the myriad bike lanes and hiking trails this time of year is a joy – you'll wish it was an endless summer. Activities are at their peak and you can canoe and kayak for hours on end.
- ➔ The towns and cities, however, have longer seasons. Wandering the narrow streets of Deventer is an atmospheric pleasure almost any time of year.



Central Netherlands Highlights

1 Grabbing a free bike and cycling the verdant surrounds of **Hoge Veluwe National Park** (p234).

2 Finding your masterpiece at the **Kröller-Müller Museum** (p235).

3 Prowling the backstreets of Hanseatic **Deventer** (p221) for hidden gems.

4 Exploring **Weerribben-Wieden National Park** (p228), encompassing Overijssel's mysterious wetlands.

5 Unravelling the Netherlands' war-torn past at **Oosterbeek** (p234).

6 Experiencing the ancient walled precinct of **Zwolle** (p224).

7 Surveying medieval monuments amongst the 500 in **Kampen** (p227).