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Waterleiding Duinen - A natural habitat close to Zandvoort

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Every city or town in Netherlands is well-planned with plenty of recreational places for long walks. During the Covid times, we are exploring for more quiet places with varied landscape and not very far from Hoofddorp. One such quest brought to us to this interesting destination "**Waterleiding duinen**". It is located between Zandvoort and Noordwijk. This beautiful natural reserve provides ample options with walking trails and several activities. We are surprised to know that two-thirds of the tap water for Amsterdam comes from this dune area since 1853, which adapts natural filtration method. Dutch are quite famous for their water engineering, and this place gave us an opportunity to experience it firsthand, how natural purification works using the sand to filter the water. Netherlands is well known worldwide for excellent drinking quality and adapting these natural methods amazed us.



There is another fascinating feature of this place is, you get to spot wildlife in their natural habitat. We are lucky to spot several deer (atleast 40-50 of them. Yes, you read that right) in our two-hour walk, and even a red fox. There are several walking trails for different fitness levels and easy to follow with colored posts. It is a paradise for hikers and wildlife photographers. I would recommend this trip with kids, as it gives a chance to see fallow deer, Roe deer, Bison, several birds in natural habitat. More sustainable way to experience the nature than exploring the wildlife in zoos.



Zandvoort beach is also accessible through one of the longest trails, a must try for seasoned walkers. Cycling and dogs are not allowed inside the reserve area. Entrance fee for one time is 1.50 Euro (for adults) and kids below 18 is free. Huge Parking space available which costs 2 euro per day. There are also options to take annual subscription as well. There are four different entrances to this place, and we prefer Vogelenzang entrance, ingang Oranjekom. If you do like to make it a prolonged trip with a nice lunch or cup of coffee, there are couple of nice Pancake restaurants at the premises. Also, a nice playground to engage small kids within the restaurant.

You can explore various activities offered at their website below.

<https://awd.waternet.nl/bezoek/>

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