



Flanders
State of the Art

Micro-adventures in the hills of the Westhoek

EXPERIENCE NATURE IN FLANDERS



Dear friends of Flanders,

Small adventures await you in **the hills of the Westhoek**.

In the farthest corner of Flanders, between the North Sea and French Flanders, lies the Westhoek. A green region full of hop fields, vineyards and rolling hills, criss-crossed with picturesque villages and historic towns.

Once the battleground of the Great War, it is now a place of remembrance, as well as one of relaxation. The hills with their tree-covered crests, the endless spectacular views and the flat northern expanse with the Yser and the polders invite journeys of discovery.

As well as its natural beauty, the region also offers a surprising asset: the rolling hills in the south produce excellent wines. Curious about what the Westhoek has to offer?

Read on, be inspired and experience **the most wonderful micro-adventures** there yourself.

Contents

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY 4

A WHOLE DAY ON MICRO-ADVENTURE IN THE HILLS OF THE WESTHOEK 6

- Climb to the highest point in Flanders
- Nieuwkerke obstacle trail
- Walk along the Silence Path
- Visit 'Little Switzerland'
- Picnic with local delicacies

SPEND THE NIGHT IN NATURE 10

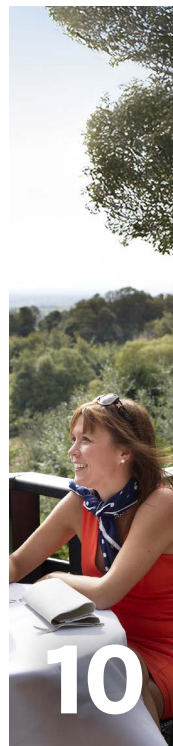
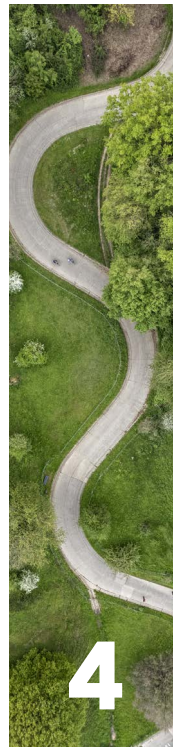
TASTE THE NATURE 11

TICKED OFF: 3 BUCKET LIST EXPERIENCES 12

- The most beautiful views of the Westhoek
- Take a ride on the Cordoba cable car
- Land art in the Heuvelland

FOR CYCLISTS AND WALKERS 14

- Cycle routes
- Walking routes



LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The **hilly country of the Westhoek** (also known as the hills of West Flanders) is a picturesque area in the province of West Flanders. Lying close to the French border, it is characterised by rolling hills and green meadows.

Jump on the train to **Ypres** or **Poperinge** and start your adventure in the Heuveland. From these places, there are many bus connections to nearby towns and dreamy villages.

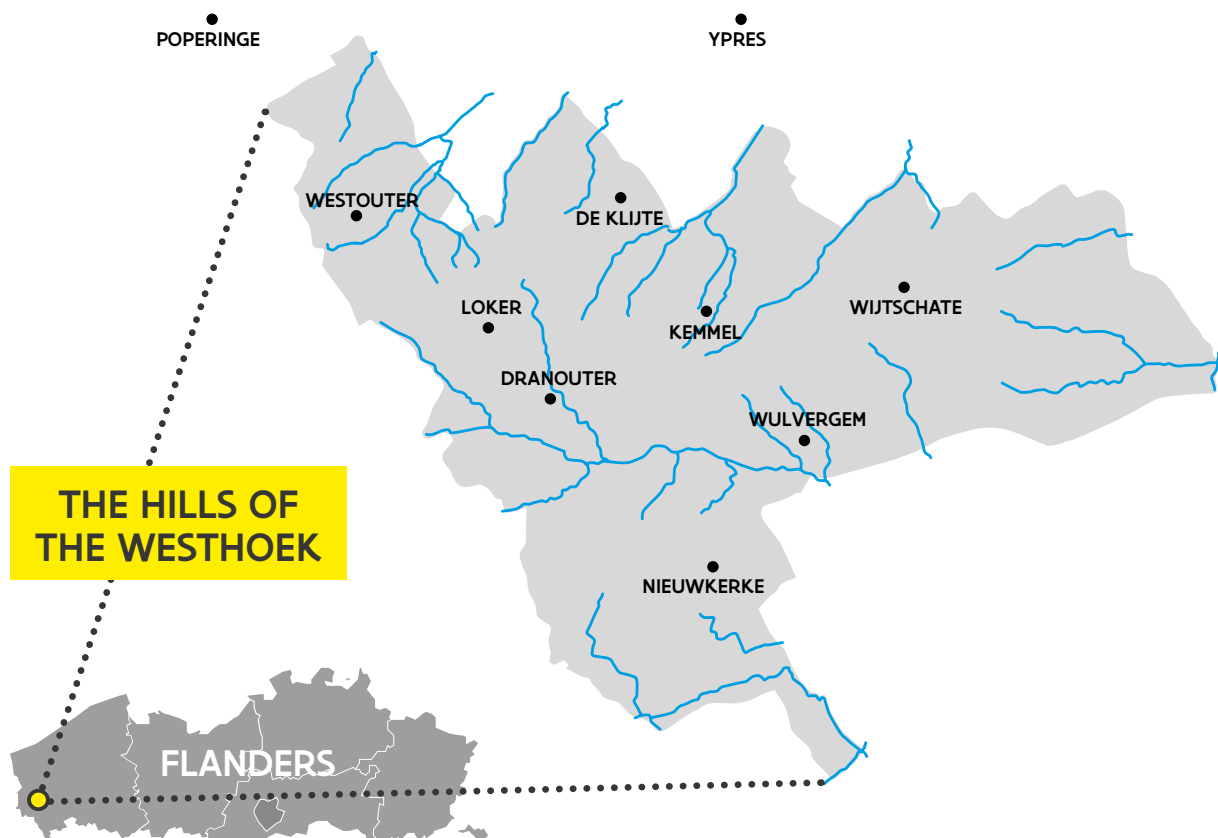
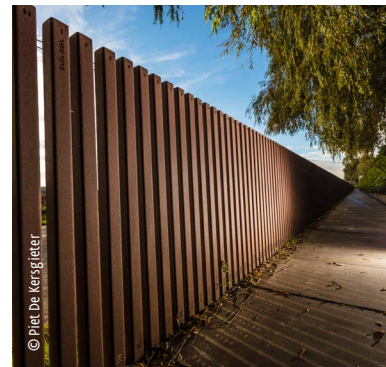
YPRES

One hundred years later, Ypres is much more than a war memorial. The Westhoek's largest city has grown into a lively place where history, culture and leisure go hand in hand. Whether you like museums, walking or cycling, there is something for everyone.



POPERINGE

Poperinge offers a diverse range of activities and attractions. Explore the city of hops and beer, or delve into its rich WWI past. With the vast hop fields, characterful regional beers, convivial local pubs and culinary treats, Poperinge is a place that you will want to return to again and again.



Heuvelland

The municipality of Heuvelland is made up of eight picturesque sub-municipalities: Dranouter, Kemmel, Loker, Nieuwkerke, Westouter, Wijtschate, Wulvergem and De Klijte. The area is best known for its hills, such as the Kemmelberg (154 m), the Rodeberg (129 m) and the Zwarteberg (138 m). From these peaks, you can enjoy stunning views. The 8 sub-municipalities of Heuvelland:

— De Klijte

Explore the “Little Switzerland” nature reserve: a hidden gem with a deep-sided river valley, ideal for a quiet walk.

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Nieuwkerke

A village with a rich history, from cloth-making to the Iconoclasm Fury, with sweeping panoramas over the Lys valley;

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Dranouter

Known internationally for its annual music festival and the central role that music plays in village life.

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Westouter

Travel by cable car between Rodeberg and Zwarteberg and enjoy breathtaking panoramas over the Westhoek and France.

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Kemmel

Enjoy the beautiful view from the Kemmelberg and explore the lively market square with its convivial cafés.

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Wijtschate

A picturesque village with lasting traces of World War I: visit the ‘Pool of Peace’ and the restored trenches of Bayernwald.

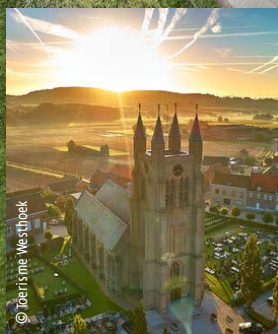
Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Loker

Known for its church with four pointed turrets: the most photographed in the Westhoek.

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



— Wulvergem

The smallest village in Heuvelland, with a rich history and rural charm

Discover all the walking and cycle routes



A whole day on micro-adventure in the hills of the Westhoek



From adventurous peaks to serene valleys, the hills of the Westhoek invite you for an unforgettable experience. Climb to the highest point in Flanders, get lost in 'Little Switzerland' or tackle a challenging obstacle course. And, in between, enjoy a well-earned break with a picnic basket full of local delicacies while you gaze out over the rolling countryside. Whether you are looking for adventure, relaxation or a touch of history, you can find it all here. Up for it?

— Kemmelberg walking route

Walk in the area around the **Kemmelberg**. The landscape there is very **hilly** and offers **endless views**. The walk begins in the village centre of Kemmel (Heuvelland), at the visitors' centre 'Het Heuvelland', and it takes you via the Willebeek towards Domain De Chalet and municipal domain De Warande. Past **field paths** and **vineyards**, you walk on to the Monteberg (131 m). The route then ascends steeply to the top of the Kemmelberg. And, at the top, a **unique panorama** awaits. On the way back, you walk along the forested flanks of the ridge.

Discover the route [here](#)





Climb to the highest — point in Flanders

Ready for a challenge? Climb the Kemmelberg, Flanders' highest peak. Put on your walking shoes and explore the hilly surroundings. Wander along historic paths, through forests and past vineyards. At the top of the Kemmelberg, you are rewarded with a stunning panoramic view.

Tiny Tip

Every spring, from April to May, the hills around Kemmelberg turn purple when the bluebells flower. Highly recommended!

Nieuwkerke — obstacle trail

The adventure trail in Nieuwkerke leads you along an old tram route, transformed into a playground for young and old. Climb, clamber and balance over the various obstacles. A climbing wall, step poles and even an obstacle with elephant feet await you!

All info can be found [here](#)

Walk along — the Silence Path

Looking for an active yet peaceful experience? Fasten your laces and discover the Silent Path in Westouter! Part of the Heuvelland walking network, this 13 km path takes you through surprising landscapes. From boardwalks to decking, the trail provides an adventurous touch, but at the same time it offers the tranquillity of the surrounding nature. Along the way, you pass the forested hills of the Zwarteberg, Rodeberg, Baneberg and Vidaigneberg, and enjoy beautiful views over five nature reserves.



POETRY ALONG THE WAY

Alongside the path, there are special resting places with hammocks, loungers and benches. Perfect to stop for a moment and to take in the view. While you rest, you can also read haikus by poet and regional expert Geert de Kockere.



Picnic with — local delicacies

Who doesn't love a delicious picnic basket in the sun? In the Westhoek, there are numerous opportunities to enjoy a bite to eat and a drink amid the greenery. From quiet places by the water to adventurous spots in the middle of nature ... holidays could not be more beautiful. That is why Tourism Westhoek has compiled a list of the most beautiful picnic spots.

Curious? Find everything about picnics in the Westhoek [here](#).

— Visit 'Little Switzerland'

'[Little Switzerland](#)' is a picturesque corrie, designated as a nature area. At the experience spot, there is a picnic table for about 20 people.



EXPERIENCE SPOT DE COCONS

On the flank of the Scherpenberg, next to the valley 'Little Switzerland' are the 'cocons'. This land art work symbolises the chrysalis from which butterflies emerge to then explore the wide world. The two-person lounge invites you to savour the views in the direction of France.



Spend the night in nature

From the first rays of the sun slipping through the leaves to the song of birds greeting the day: nothing is more relaxing than waking up in the midst of nature. In the hilly country of the Westhoek, you can find many original places to spend the night and blissfully dream away. Here are a few suggestions:

The Douvevallei (Westouter)

- Farm retreat
- Cedarwood PODs
- Enjoy the swimming pond and wood-fired barrel sauna
- Go on a wine tour through the ecological vineyard

De Nachtegaal (Westouter)

- Camping in vintage caravans
- Situated on the Rodeberg
- Go back in time to a slower, quieter way of life

Huis Octaaf (Heuvelland)

- Situated on the top of the Rodeberg
- Breathtaking views of this unique region
- No everyday holiday home, but with a nostalgic nod to the iconic 1950s

Ecochique (Westouter)

- Glamorous camping
- Seasonal swimming pool
- Atmospheric heated living room dome
- The freedom of camping with the comfort of a luxury hotel
- Ideal for families

B&B De Zavelaar (De Klijte)

- Peaceful lodgings
- Between the villages of De Klijte and Kemmel
- In the fields behind the Kemmelberg
- Venture into nature with an alpaca
- Nearby there are several wellness options

Kalut (Dranouter)

- Holiday home
- Stunning views of the hills of West Flanders

B&B In 't Stille Weg (Kemmel)

- View of the Kemmelberg
- Welcoming and cosy atmosphere

Akkernest (Westouter)

- Holiday home
- Spacious group accommodation in the middle of nature
- Accessibility label A



B&B Noordhoekstje (Nieuwkerke)

- Part of a rural dwelling
- Views of the hills in West Flanders and Northern France
- Green Key ecolabel



The Green Key

Baneberg (Westouter)

- Holiday home
- Located on the southern flank of the Baneberg (140 m.)
- An ideal base
- Savour the total peace

Fika Stuga (Kemmel)

- Holiday home
- Amid the greenery
- Scandinavian-inspired cabin
- Enjoy the peace and quiet

B&B 't Wolvennest (Nieuwkerke)

- Charming and peaceful farmhouse accommodation
- Vierkantshoeve

TASTE THE NATURE

Taste the different flavours that nature has to offer in the Westhoek. Here are a few suggestions:

Wine experience — in the Westhoek

Between the rolling hills of the Westhoek, you can find vineyards that seem to come straight out of the Provence. Stroll along wine terraces, sample the local wines and enjoy the stunning panoramas. Curious? Pay a visit (sometimes by appointment) to one of the following vineyards:

- [Koudekot | Dranouter](#)
- [Wine estate Monteberg | Dranouter](#)
- [Wine estate Entre-Deux-Monts | Westouter](#)
- [Wine estate d'Hellekapelle | Loker](#)
- [Wine estate Heerlyckheyt Roonen Berg | Westouter](#)
- [Wine estate Ravenstein | Wervik](#)
- [Wine estate Cense de l'Alouette | Nieuwkerke](#)

Or discover many more wine domains [here](#).

[OPEN WIJNGAARD- FEESTEN](#)

During the Open Wijngaardfeesten (Open Vineyard Festivities), in the first weekend of July, the winemakers invite you to explore their estates. The concept is simple: you buy a wine glass at the first estate you visit. After that, you only pay for the wine you taste; you take your glass with you!

More info [here](#)

[BREW AND TASTE!](#)

Visit [Sfeercafé De Moare](#) on the southern flank of the Kemmelberg. Enjoy a beautiful view from the terrace while tasting the home-brewed beers. Or brew your own beer with your friends at [brouwatelier De Keukenbrouwerij](#) in Loker.

Tiny Tip

Follow the [free EDM route](#) and explore the vineyards of Entre-Deux-Monts. Is there a more challenging route? Then sample the wine when following the [Heuvelland Entre Deux Monts Wine Trail](#).

TICKED OFF:

3 bucket list experiences

From breathtaking views to unique art objects in nature, the Westhoek has it all. Soar above the vineyards on the Cordoba cable car, wander along hidden paths or reach new heights.

Discover our bucket list experiences, tick them off one by one, and create your own unforgettable memories.

The most beautiful views — of the Westhoek

New viewpoints were created within the 'Horizon 2025' project. You can find them all over West Flanders, but most are in the Westhoek. The viewing points are scattered along the cycle network, are free to enter, and easily accessible.

Discover the Westhoek landscape from one of the many viewing points:



ST NICHOLAS TOWER (VEURNE)

At the top of the tower, enjoy a stunning 360° panoramic view. The sea, the hills of West Flanders, the Yser Tower in Diksmuide, the Europa Centre in Ostend, and so much more.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH (MESEN)

Once you are almost at the top of the tower, you pass the peace carillon with its 58 bells. When you finally get to the top, take the time to enjoy the stunning panoramic view.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY (ZONNEBEKE)

Savour the panoramic view from 40 m high. On the mezzanine floors, there is an exhibition with information about the history of Zonnebeke.

CHURCH TOWER (LAMPERNISSE)

Climb the 126 steps and enjoy the breathtaking views.

BELVEDERE (KEMMEL)

The view from the Belvedere Tower is breathtaking: you are 170 metres above sea level!

MOUTTOREN ST. JORIS (POPERINGE)

From the malt tower, you have a magnificent view of the village of Reningelst, the valley of the Grote Beek and the West Flanders hill ridge.

VREDESMOLEN (HOOTHULST)

The Peace Mill was an important observation point in World War I. The tower is freely accessible and offers a 360-degree panoramic view of the surrounding area.

SOUND PANORAMA DRANOUTER

A panoramic roof terrace with a 360° view, overlooking the Festival Dranouter meadow & the witness hills that characterise the beautiful Heuvelland.



— Take a ride on the Cordoba cable car

Discover the Heuvelland from a bird's perspective! The Cordoba cable car, an iconic attraction in the Westhoek, takes you on an unforgettable journey above the rolling hills and vineyards. Enjoy the breathtaking views and imagine yourself in the Alps for a while. In clear weather, you can even see the Flemish coast and the Yser Tower. A unique experience for all ages!

More information [here](#)

— Land art in the Heuvelland

Discover unique resting places in the Westhoek! Between the hills, there are plenty of rest areas where you can take a break and enjoy the nature.

'Het Nest' can be found near the Irish Peace Tower. 'Het Nest' stands high above the fields and offers beautiful views over the open countryside. You can enjoy a break here. There are large picnic benches and a double lounger.

HET NEST @ Mesen



On the flank of the Scherpenberg, next to the valley 'Little Switzerland' are the 'cocons'. This land art work symbolises the chrysalis from which butterflies emerge to then explore the wide world. The two-person lounger invites you to savour the views.

EXPERIENCE SPOT DE COCONS @ Loker



The lovely views of the landscape form the basis for this artwork. The horizon line is reinforced with this organic structure. The artwork is crafted entirely from living willow branches woven together to form a natural shape. Over the next few years, the artwork will grow and change form. The undulating movement represents the emotions and feelings during the turbulent period of warfare.

COURBES DES ÉMOTIONS @ Wijtschate



FOR CYCLISTS AND WALKERS: OUT AND ABOUT IN THE HILLS OF THE WESTHOEK



The best way to explore the Westhoek? By bike or on foot. Fill your lungs with the fresh air and enjoy the most beautiful spots and most spectacular views along the way. To get you started, we have some great cycle and walking routes ready for you.



Cycle routes

Gent-Wevelgem

Take on the most important passages of the 'Gent-Wevelgem' cycling classic. On the agenda: 3 legendary plug streets and 7 tough climbs. You end with a double climb of the Kemmelberg.

- **Distance:** 84 km
- **Departure point:** Mesen, Heuvelland or Ypres
- **View the route [here](#)**

Vintage Heuvelland cycle route

The Vintage Heuvelland cycle route takes you past a dozen wine estates and lets you enjoy the beautiful countryside.

- **Distance:** 37.7 km
- **Departure point:** Kemmel (Heuvelland)
- **View the route [here](#)**

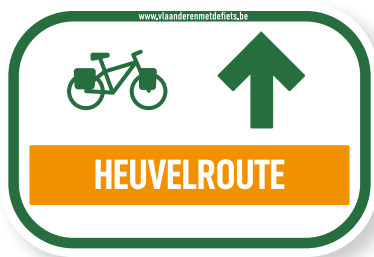
Heuvelland cycle route

Cycle over rolling hills, among vineyards and historic villages. Take in the breathtaking views and feel the traces of World War I.

- **Distance:** 52.4 km
- **Departure point:** Heuvelland
- **View the route [here](#)**

Bike pick-up point De Gaper 'Homeland of Cycling'

Start your sporting adventure at the bike reception point in Kemmel and get ready for some serious climbing. Here, you can make use of the lockers, showers and secure bike boxes.



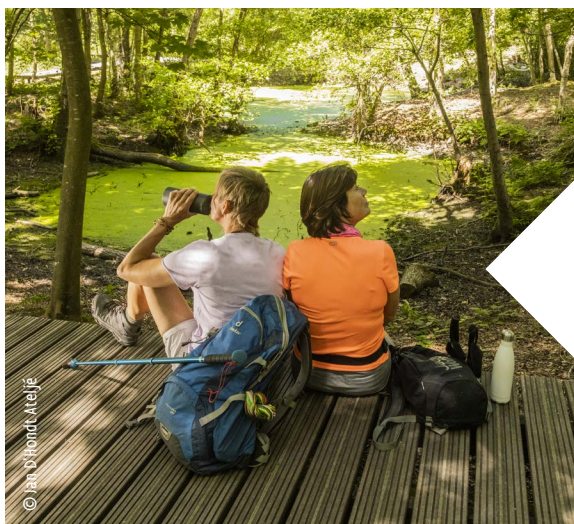
Iconic cycle routes

The iconic cycle routes are **long distance routes** that traverse Flanders and connect with other countries such as the Netherlands and France. Long distances, making them ideal for a multi-day cycling holiday. Each iconic cycle route connects some of the most picturesque parts of the Flemish landscape via attractive cycle paths and focusing on a central theme.

The toughest of those long distance routes is the **Hilly Route**. This route crosses Flanders from west to east. The route starts in Poperinge in West Flanders, crosses the Flemish Ardennes, and ends in Homburg.

De Flandrien Challenge

Take on the iconic Flemish slopes with the **Flandrien Challenge**. The challenge: cyclists must complete 59 STRAVA segments on the Flemish roads within a 72-hour time frame. It is a challenge that should be on every cycling fanatic's 'bucket list'!



Walking routes

Kemmelberg walking route

Explore the area around Kemmelberg on foot. The landscape there is very hilly and offers endless views. At the top, a unique panorama awaits.

- **Distance:** 9.1 km
- **Departure point:** Heuveland
- **View the route [here](#)**

Geuzen walking route

This walking route explores the rolling countryside to the west of Nieuwkerke. It offers wide panoramas of the Lys valley and the hills from the Katsberg to the Kemmelberg.

- **Distance:** 9.1 km
- **Departure point:** Heuveland
- **View the route [here](#)**

Craters and Mines walking route

On unpaved paths, you walk between meadows and fields to historic sites. Along the way, enjoy beautiful panoramas of the Kemmelberg and Ypres.

- **Distance:** 7.1 km
- **Departure point:** Heuveland
- **View the route [here](#)**

Two mountains walking route

Nothing is flat in the Heuveland so prepare for an adventure! The Two Mountains walking route leads you along the Sulferberg and the Rodeberg, with beautiful views and a descent through the forested Hellegat.

- **Distance:** 7.3 km
- **Departure point:** Heuveland
- **View the route [here](#)**

Tiny Tip

Discover the most beautiful landscapes and natural areas of the Westhoek using the 7 walk networks!



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