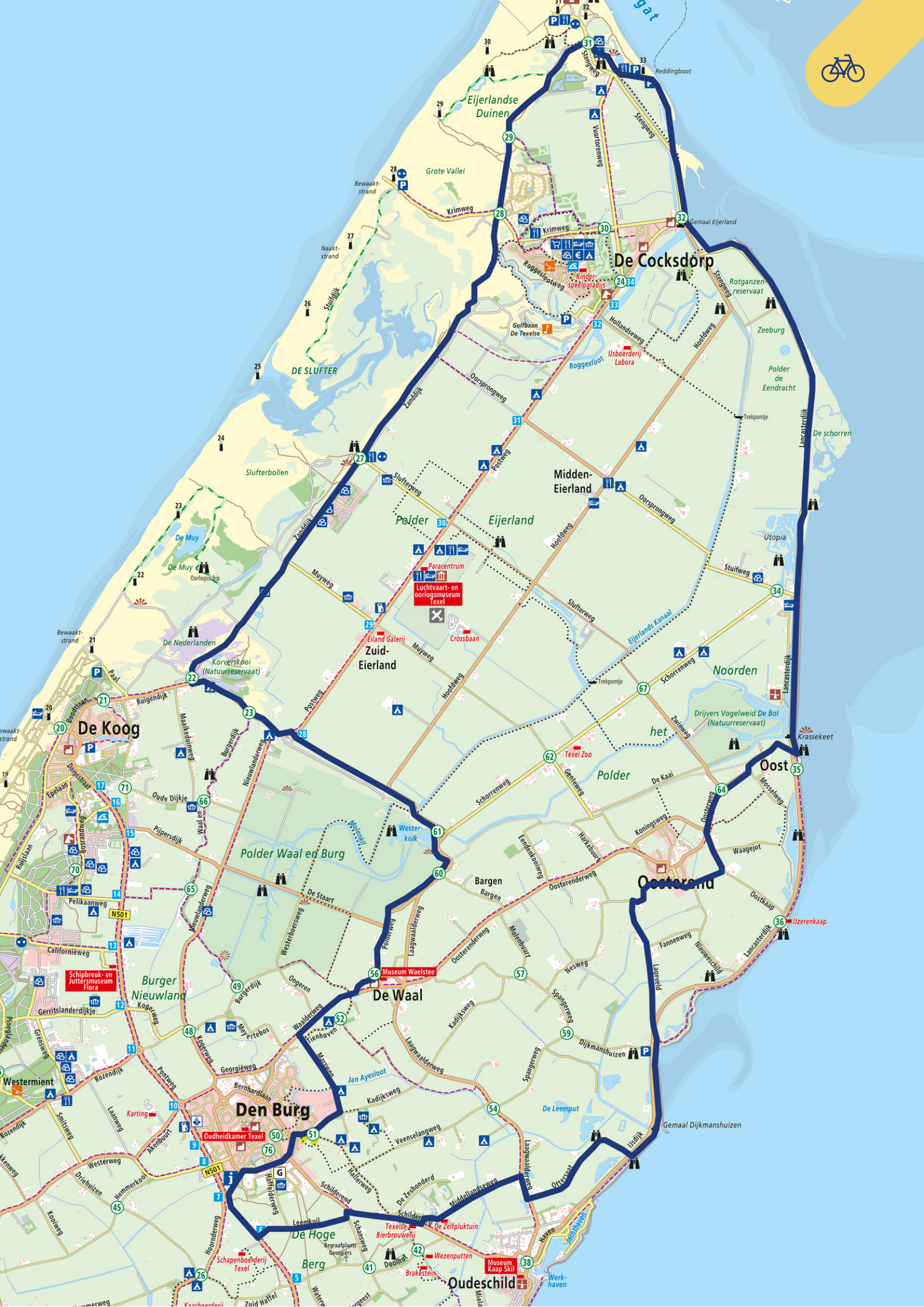






Cyclingroute: Texels past

Cycle into the island's past

Did you know that Texel is the largest town in the Netherlands? No? At least it is the municipality with the largest surface area. The area of the municipality of Texel is a whopping 585.96 km². That includes internal and external water. In addition, the municipality of Amsterdam, with an area of 219.3 km², is just a small place! Texel was not always such a big island. There used to be Eierland and Texel. How did they come together and what history does the Hoge Berg have? Find out and cycle this route full of interesting information!

Length approx. 46 km

Route: Start car park VVV Texel, Emmalaan 66 (or any other bike-junction)

(vvv) > (64) > (32) > (31) > (29) > (28) > (27) > (22) > (23) > (61) > (60) > (56) > (51)

Note this cycle route does not only consist of nodes, for the whole route read the information below.



i The Hoge Berg - Oude land

Cycle at the roundabout from the VVV towards the ferry port. Turn left into the Leemkuil. Continue straight ahead along Schilderweg. You are now cycling through the Hoge Berg area. The Hoge Berg is an Ice Age boulder clay impoundment 15.3 metres above sea level. During the Ice Age, glaciers from the north brought with them a solid mixture of boulders, gravel and loam. This was pushed up by the ice. As a result, the old villages of Den Hoorn, Den Burg, De Waal and Oosterend also lie on higher ground. This entire area is also known as the 'Old Land' of Texel. You can still see the typical Texel garden walls and sheep stabels. Especially in the Hoge Berg area, between Den Burg and Oudeschild, many have been preserved.

Keep going straight ahead along Middellandsweg and Ottersaat. Turn right onto the dike. As the dike turns off, cycle straight ahead via Lageveld, towards Oosterend. Turn right at the end and keep right. You cycle through to junction 64. Cycle straight ahead and turn right on the dike. Follow junctions 32-31-29-28-27-22-23-61-60-56.

i De Schorren

When you cycle on Lancasterdijk, you pass the vast salt marshes of De Schorren. It is an important nature reserve on the east side of the island and covers about 6,680 hectares.

The salt marsh area was created by embanking the Eendracht polder in 1846.

Spoonbills, eider ducks and oystercatchers, among others, now nest here; it is also often called the Bird Boulevard.



i Eierland

Now you are cycling in the north of Texel. Until the 17th century, Eierland (formerly Eijerland) was a dune island north of Texel. Gradually, the sea channel between Texel and Eierland silted up, creating an area of sandbanks and salt marshes. Eventually, Eijerland was connected to Texel via a shifting dike. This sea wall had to protect the Texel coast from the sometimes rough waters. In 1835, the reclamation of the plain started under the leadership of Nicolas De Cock. The new Eierland polder was used for agriculture.

31 De Eierlandsche Duinen

The former island of Eijerland probably gets its name from the large seagull colony that has been breeding there in spring for centuries. Gull eggs were plentifully collected in the 17th and 18th centuries. The administrator of Eijerland sent some 30,000 a year to Amsterdam, where they were used in bakeries. The Eierlandsche Duinen are now especially popular with birdwatchers, as many migratory birds stop there to forage. Photo: Nature reserve Dorpzicht in De Cocksdorp.





27



De Slufter

If you pass cycle junction 27, be sure to take a look on the other side of the stairs. Here you are at the edge of De Slufter nature reserve. Around 1850, a closed row of dunes formed along the current coastline. During a very heavy storm in 1851, the row of dunes broke through in three places. Two of the three holes were closed, but at De Slufter this did not succeed. As a result, De Slufter is now a unique nature area that is still open to the sea. You can take lovely walks between the creeks and in summer the salt marsh area turns purple with blooming sea lavender. Salty plants such as glasswort and sea aster also grow here. At the top of the Sluftertrap is a viewpoint over the area.



23

Limietweg

Here you cycle along the edge of the old island of Texel. The row of dunes on the right was the water barrier until the impoldering of Eierland. The Eierland polder came into being in 1835, when, with the efforts of some 1,500 workers, an 11-kilometre dyke was built in just 20 weeks to encircle the salt marsh area between Texel and the island of Eierland.

61

Waalenburgerdijkje

You cycle along the old dike around polder Waalenburg. The area was dyked in as early as the 15th century, but breaches in the dykes left it open to the sea for decades. It was not until the early 17th century that the sea was finally contained. Waalenburg is now a flowery meadow bird reserve. The cycle path over the Waalenburgerdijkje is a beautiful connection from east to west. In spring, the path is lined with flowering whitethroat. If you deviate slightly from the route, you can visit the de Marel nature centre.





56 The centre of Texel

To the right in the polder area, you will find another particularly interesting point of Texel if you deviate slightly from the route. Texel's highest point has long been known and can be found on the Hoge Berg. But what exactly is the centre of Texel? Texel resident Fred Wiering wondered and took the initiative to find the midpoint. The centre point was determined by Arthur Oosterbaan, curator at Ecomare. On 21 June 2021, Texel's centre point was unveiled by the mayor. Curious about the location? Latitude 53.073525, Longitude 4.802137. From here you have a beautiful wide view over the Waalenburg nature reserve.

From junction 56, continue cycling straight on Waalderweg towards Den Burg, then turn left onto Marsweg. Turn right at the end and cycle to node 51. Cycle right, to the end of the street and turn left twice. Keep following the street straight ahead and turn left at the second roundabout, going straight will bring you back to the starting point.



i Texel in the future

Now you cycle back to the start. But how will it continue? A lot of nature has been lost over the past few centuries, not only on Texel but across the country. In recent decades, however, much of the land has been reclaimed. Now the onus is on animal and plant species that have disappeared or been greatly reduced in number to return to healthy populations. It is up to conservationists to create the conditions for the return of these and other species.

Tip

- Bring your binoculars! Along the east coast of the island, Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer manage a series of nature reserves. This series is also called the Bird Boulevard. In and around De Slufter, you can spot many birds. From the viewpoint at the northern entrance, you can see them well.
- Taking a trip to neighbouring island Vlieland? From the jetty in De Cocksdorp, ferry De Vriendschap sails back and forth three times a week.
- Need a well-earned break? You'll come across great spots while cycling that are perfect for enjoying a delicious picnic. Would you rather sit on a terrace? There are several catering establishments to sit down.

Want to know more about what you saw along the way? Then take a look at **texel.net**