



Vlaanderen
is natuur



WELCOME TO THE BALOKKEN WERVIK

AGENTSCHAP
NATUUR & BOS

De Balokken is the perfect place to relax and get away from it all. This is a new park, under ongoing development where visitors can enjoy an abundance of natural wildlife. Grasslands, trees and stretches of reed, along with hiking trails and sitting areas, combine to make De Balokken a delightful place to visit. In the marsh area with a timber deck path you will soon think yourself in a large natural area, far from the city yet still nearby. In the dog zone, dogs can safely romp around off the leash, under the watchful eye of their owners.

Origin

The 36-hectare estate is located between the new and the old river Leie and came about when a bend in the Leie was being straightened in 1992. It made the river Leie navigable for ships up to 1350 tonnes. 20 hectares were raised and developed as a park between 1993 and 1995. Recently the Agency for Nature and Forests (ANF) was also able to purchase the remaining land on the island, which allowed the park to be expanded to well over 30 hectares. It now administers everything except the area around the cafeteria, with the marina, the hiker huts, the camper van site and the centrally located old 'Hof ter Walle' farmstead.



sleedoornpage

How to get to De Balokken

On foot or by bike

De Balokken island can be reached by crossing the eye-catching red cycle and pedestrian bridge across the river Leie (behind the National Tobacco Museum - Koestraat 63). Intersection 54 of the cycle network (Leiestreek-West - Westhoek-Zuid map) is nearby.

By car

Coming by car, simply enter the leisure park via De Balokken bridge at the new park cemetery (at the bottom of Hansbekestraat). You can either park your vehicle here or at the car park next to the cafeteria. The National Tobacco Museum (Koestraat 63) also has its own car park.



rietzanger

Fauna and flora

De Balokken was developed with native, ecologically valuable trees and shrubs. Reed beds, grasslands, deciduous trees and marsh areas alternate. Around the marshes are a number of older white willows.

Even though the park is still in its infancy in terms of wildlife, it has already attracted a lot of animals. Rare animal species such as the crested newt have already found shelter at De Balokken, positive proof that nature can do as it likes here.

The open pastures are home to quite a few butterfly species, such as the vulnerable brown argus or the brown hairstreak. The marshes in the Balokken are a great attraction to reedland birds such as the sedge warbler and the reed warbler. The woodcock too is another regular guest.



Administration and recreation

The Agency for Nature and Forests administers De Balokken giving full attention to the nature-oriented development of the park.

The uplands have been planted with trees and the creation of play hills has served to create the long-awaited play forest. In the dog meadow our four-legged friends are allowed off the leash. The low level grasslands have been redeveloped as 'Leiemeers' when a bend in the river Leie was excavated, simulating a medieval site with a moat. Due to rewetting, this area - along with the existing marshes - has been allowed to develop into a complex of valuable reed wetlands and grasslands. A new observation hut looking out onto the Leiemeers, picnic tables and parking spaces for the less mobile leisure seekers are all added benefits. The further development of the park was co-funded by the European Union as part of the Corrid'Or project.

We are also mindful of De Balokken's tourist assets. As such, pleasure cruising too has been given its own dedicated spot on the island with a small marina for passing boats, involving a quay wall that is 176 metres in length, with timber cross jetties and other moorings (including some for faster motor boats).

For those who, after a nice long walk, want to soak up the sun on a terrace, there is the 'De Balokken' cafeteria that has its own bike shed, parking facilities and sanitary facilities. In addition, De Balokken is home to two hiker huts and a small-scale camper van site where visitors can spend the night in perfect peace and quiet.



FURTHER DETAILS

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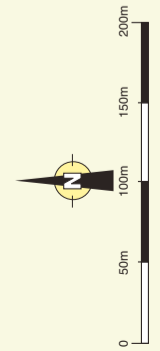
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Komen-Waasten

LEGENDE

	FOREST
	HAY MEADOW
	FREELY ACCESSIBLE GRASSLAND
	PLAYING AREA
	WATER
	SWAMP
	RESIDENTIAL AREA
	PUBLIC ROAD
	RAILROAD
	CYCLING AND WALKING PATH
	CYCLING AND WALKING PATH PLANNED
	WALKING PATH
	PATH BALOKKEN SKM
	AREA FOR DOGS
	CABIN
	PICNIC AREA
	INFORMATION BOARD
	PARKING AREA
	CAMPER AREA
	FOOD AND BEVERAGE FACILITIES
	SHELTER FOR ANIMALS
	MARINA
	CHARGING POINT FOR ELECTRIC BIKES
	STAGING POINT FOR RIDERS AND DRIVERS
	TOURIST OFFICE
	WINDMILL
	MUSEUM
	BIRD WATCHING SHED
	MEDIEVAL SITE WITH MOAT



Wervik

Wervicq-Sud

sint-Medarduskerk

Eglise de l'Immaculée-conception

Park-
begraafplaats

Hof Ter Walle
(privéterrein)

Leiemeander ("Oude Leie")
FRANKRIJK

MAGDALENA STRAAT
TEN BRIELENLAAN

KASTEELESTRAAT

BARRIERESTRAAT

HANSBEKESTRAAT

KOESTSTRAAT

Leie

DE BALOKKEN

DE BALOKKEN

BALOKKEN-
BRUG

JAAGPAD