

HIKE 2

DISTANCE 5 KM

(not suitable for pushchairs and prams/buggies)

Itinerary

1. Starting at the campsite, cross the 'Beerzerweg' road
Turn right onto the cycle path
2. After about 50 m, turn left and enter the forest
3. Follow the path straight ahead and after about 60 m, turn left onto a small woodland path
4. From here, follow the directions with the purple arrow ('Beerze path'), while climbing the 'Beerze Hills' (Dutch: Beerzerbulten)

You are now walking on sand blown heights. These hills are grown over with oaks and wildshoots of alder buckthorn. Oak coppice was cultivated here in earlier times to hold the sand down from the huge sand drifts that used to be at the right long time ago (caused by overgrazing by herds of sheep). Sand winds made the ash soil (at the left) infertile. By doing so, these hills grew larger and higher throughout the years and the ash soil was protected that way. Nowadays the herbal vegetation here is rich, and you will come across plants such as Solomon's seal, bilberries (blueberries), lily-of-the-valley, May lily and various ferns.

5. The narrow woodland path leads (after about 1,5 km) down to a somewhat wider path
6. Hold your right (this is still the purple-posted 'Beerze Path')
7. Continue straight ahead on the woodland path until you reach a paved road ('Beerzerpoort')
8. Turn right at the 'Beerzerpoort' road
9. Turn right at the first road (you will walk past a white gate from 'Landschap Overijssel')
10. Keep to this paved road until you reach a pair of sculpted lions with coats of arms

These pictures are locally believed to be the coats of arms of the Bentinck family (the cross) and the Röell family (the bear). Both were formerly owners of the manor and the Beerze Estate. Baron Bentinck tot Buckhorst from 1923 - 1961, and until 2002, Jonkheer Röell. The Beerze estate is now the property of Nature Trust Overijssel (Landschap Overijssel) and the manor is privately owned.

11. In front of the lions, turn left onto a wide dirt road
12. Continue to walk straight ahead until you reach a level crossing

The Beerze estate once had its own railway station here (at your right)

13. Walk past the fence and cross the rails
Be careful!
14. After the level crossing, go straight ahead
15. Follow the path straight ahead until you reach a broad dirt path ('Vennedijk')
16. Turn right onto the dirt path
17. Follow the dirt path straight ahead, ignoring side paths

Seeing roe deer while on a walk is quite an experience. As these animals tend to withdraw into the thickets in the daytime, you stand the best chance of seeing them in the early hours of the morning and at dusk. They prefer to stay around the fringes of woods. The roe is a gourmet, whose diet consists mainly of herbs, young shoots, leaves and buds. When there is snow on the ground, these roe deer feed on bark off small trees and withered bramble leaves.

18. After about 1 km, turn right at the crossing onto a broad dirt road ('Gemoelaksweg')
- How did this dirt road get its strange name? A section of forest in the area used to be called 'Gemoelak' (about a century ago). The name was given by the owner because his ancestors long ago had an estate in Java with this name. When the Ommen municipality got street names in 1959, this became Gemoelaksweg.*
19. Follow this road until you reach a level crossing
Cross the rails. Be careful!
 20. Shortly after the crossing, turn right into a narrow woodland path
 21. At the fork, keep left. You are now walking through an old Scots pine wood
 22. Having arrived at the lane with the American oaks, go straight across it
 23. Turn left at the T-junction
 24. You are now back to the point where you started your hike. Walk along the cycle path back to the campsite

