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Authors: Hans Wolkers, Daan Kloeg

Images: Mainly Daan Kloeg and Hans Wolkers

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Design: Daan Kloeg

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Introduction



Giethoorn - the Venice of the North

Without any doubt, Giethoorn is one of Holland's best-known secrets. A hidden gem with a rich tradition and history, close to Amsterdam. In Giethoorn's center time has come to a stop. Many traditional farm houses, with their characteristic reed-covered roofing, compete for the visitor's attention. Highlights are century-old canals, wooden bridges and workshops, where wooden boats are still being built using traditional techniques and craftsmanship. This guide will offer you a complete overview of Giethoorn, a romantic town that really earns its nickname 'Venice of the North'. There is plenty of attention for the historic old

farmhouses, the traditional crafts, but also for the excellent restaurants, for example the not to be missed famous, two-Michelin star restaurant. The guide also contains a clear, up-to-date map, with walking routes through the town center as well as marked highlights. This will efficiently help you find the most attractive places to visit. In addition to Giethoorn, the guide will also help you discover nearby highlights, like the historic town of Blokzijl, Zwartsluis, Vollenhove and the extensive nature areas, dominated by water, reed, and spectacular skies. These areas are home to a wide variety of bird species, big mammals, like foxes, deer and otters, and the best sunrises of the country.





How to get there by train and bus

Giethoorn is just 120 km from Amsterdam and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Getting there by public transportation takes a little over two hours from Amsterdam or the airport. For an updated schedule, check the site www.ns.nl for the train schedule or, even better, the public transport website www.9292.nl for the whole route. This site gives you detailed information regarding your trip using public transport with trains and buses. The website www.9292.nl is also in English.

For example, the schedule from Amsterdam to Giethoorn is as follows: From Amsterdam Central Station, take the train to Zwolle in the province of Overijssel. From Zwolle Central Station, it is a 7 minutes' walk to the bus station where you take bus number 71 to Zwartsluis. Here you take bus number 70 to Giethoorn, 'the Venice of the North'.





Museum 't Olde Maat Uus

Museum 't Olde Maat Uus, at Binnenpad 52, next to the Baptist Church, shows everything about the history of Giethoorn. It is well worth a visit! The museum is housed in an old farmhouse that used to be owned by the Maat family. In the museum there are several exhibits about daily life in the old days. For example, you will learn everything about peat extraction, or you can see what an authentic farm, or a small fisherman's house looked like from the inside.

An audio tour is available in Dutch, English, German and Chinese. For more details about this interesting museum, visit www.museumgiethoorn.nl.



Museum 't Olde Maat Uus









Top left: bending the wooden boards using heat and blunt force

Top right: two jacks are used to bend the boards, forming the boat hull



Bottom left: after much hard labor, the Punter is almost finished

Smoking eel using open fire



Smoked eel fillet: a Dutch delicacy





The Chef preparing one of his signature dishes using local ingredients eel and pikeperch



Panoramic view of the historic harbor of Blokzijl



Nederland, a very small but unique hamlet

Nederland

Nederland - A tiny hamlet

In the middle of the Weerribben-Wieden National Park lies a tiny Dutch village called 'Nederland', meaning 'low country'. A proper name, since this hamlet is located in the low-lying swampy land. It consists of only a few houses and a few farms. Also Nederland originally was a sailing village and accessible by boat only, but today there are numerous walking, cycling and sailing routes passing through. *Riettelersbedrijf De Dood*, a reed harvesting company run by Yfke de Dood, is one of the local enterprises. Yfke de Dood is the 7th generation of reed growers. In addition to harvesting reed, the company is also involved in nature management and covering roofs with reed.

B&B Mooi Giethoorn
Zuiderpad 9
8355 CB Giethoorn
www.mooigiethoorn.nl

B&B De Zuiderhof
Zuiderpad 13
8355 CB Giethoorn
Phone: +31(0) 644 347 517



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