

Interconnected Worlds at National Park Hoge Veluwe

People always ask “Why did the chicken cross the road?” but never “*HOW* did the chicken cross the road?” If you asked the latter in the Netherlands, the answer may very well be: by using wildlife crossings, that’s how!

Wildlife crossings are structures that allow for animals to follow their regular movement patterns across a landscape, despite added man-made hurdles like roadways. These structures may take the shape of vegetation-covered overpasses, underpasses, tunnels, or culverts. Across the world, countries have implemented wildlife crossings in an effort to encourage healthy ecosystems and decrease the number of animal-vehicle collisions.

Although it’s a small country, the Netherlands is teeming with wildlife. Roe deer, red deer, wild boar, and red foxes are just some animals that you may see in the wild Dutch outdoors.

Over recent centuries, however, the Dutch population has increased; the human impact on the landscape deepened. This urban growth has shrunk wildlife habitat, leaving many areas that were once whole woodlands fragmented. Animal-vehicle collisions increased.

Over the past 35 years or so, the Dutch have added many wildlife crossings across the country.¹ National Park Hoge Veluwe has two such crossings, allowing the resident deer and other critters to safely traverse the land that they, too, call home.² Immerse yourself in the landscape and try to spy some wildlife for yourself on our [National Park Tour](#) to Hoge Veluwe.

As we celebrate Earth Month this April and Earth Day on the 22nd, we are reminded that a sustainable planet is an interconnected one, where people and animals can thrive together.

Sustainability on Tour

With a host of UNESCO World Heritage sites, national parks, and nature reserves, the Netherlands is a gem for history, natural beauty, and wildlife. At Dutch Tours, we are focused on [sustainable tourism](#) to ensure that these places can be conserved and well-managed for generations to come.

We hope you take a moment today to think about one way you are inspired by the interconnectedness of our world. Happy exploring!

Resources

1. <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/wildlife-crossings-can-mend-landscape#:~:text=For%20more%20than%20three%20decades,and%20railways%20and%20at%20waterways.>
2. <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/y-dot-liefting/snapshot-hoge-veluwe/about/research>