

### **3 Hikes to add to your Dutch Holiday this Autumn**

While spring's tulip season and mid-to-late summer may be peak months for tourism in the Netherlands, let this blog serve as a case for an autumnal shoulder season itinerary.

September still holds the last of summer's heat, the bustling crowds have receded, and calendars fill with cultural event lineups like the art festival [Masterly The Hague](#).

The mild early fall weather (averaging around 19°C/65°F during the daytime) presents the perfect opportunity for outdoor activities. Follow along for three recommendations that allow you to see the Netherlands off the beaten track.

#### **See the flowering heather in Sallandse Heuvelrug**

National Park [Sallandse Heuvelrug](#), between the towns of Hellendoorn and Holten, covers a swath of 35 square kilometers of forests and heathland. The sandy, gravelly soil of the heathland—remnants of an ancient ice age—allows for the growth of juniper and heather. From midsummer through the end of September, the heather flowers bloom into a sea of deep purple and mauve.

#### **Walk across the dunes of Schoorl**

While you may know Alkmaar for its famous cheese market, it is also close to the tallest dunes in the Netherlands! The nearby Schoorl dunes in North Holland reach over 50 meters (165 feet) above sea level; the change in topography is a feast for the eyes, drawing them up to the skies. On an autumn day, enjoy one of the many hiking, biking, or walking routes that cut across the nature reserve, through the forests and fens and along the sea.

#### ***Wadlopen* in Ameland**

As the largest system of interconnected tidal flats in the world, the Wadden Sea is transformed when the tide goes out. This gives way for *Wadlopen*, the Dutch activity of walking across the mudflats. Ameland is a small island in the West Frisian chain, covered in dunes and dotted with small coastal villages. When the tide is low, it is possible to walk out to Ameland across the sea bed from the mainland or neighboring islands! Always be sure to go with a guide, and proper footwear is a must.

#### **Join a trip with Dutch Tours**

Combine the hikes above with nearby attractions for a week-long itinerary that spans the Netherlands. Email us at [travel@dutch-tours.com](mailto:travel@dutch-tours.com) to get planning!