



Take a journey through  
time in De Hondsrug  
UNESCO Global Geopark



Coevorden Castle



### What will YOU do?

We invite you to take a journey through time. How will you choose to spend your time in De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark? You could wander through a museum and lose yourself in the past. Or spend a day cycling with the children and stop to take a swim in a woodland pool, followed by pancakes and ice cream. Visit the many geological and archaeological hotspots with friends. If you're fond of sport you can choose from horse-riding, mountain biking or rowing. And why not turn your visit into an unforgettable experience by staying a few nights at a hotel, a bed & breakfast or a campsite?

[www.dehondsrug.nl](http://www.dehondsrug.nl)

### 85 hotspots

The Hondsrug region is full of special places. We have selected 85 to give you the best experience – our hotspots. Discover dolmens, medieval churches, archaeological finds and monuments, the mysterious Leewal, picturesque farming villages, a castle, beautiful nature reserves, medieval cart tracks, the girl from Yde, pingoes and much more ...

Find out more at [www.dehondsrug.nl/hotspots](http://www.dehondsrug.nl/hotspots).

### De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark

Geologically, archaeologically and culturally, the Hondsrug region is a rich and fascinating area. It is so exceptional that UNESCO has recognised it as a Global Geopark – an international brand that guarantees quality and allure. De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark is part of a network of almost 150 geoparks in more than 40 countries.



Welcome to  
De Hondsrug UNESCO  
Global Geopark



### Routes

Do you enjoy walking, cycling, horse-riding or sailing? De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark offers an almost endless choice of walking routes, cycle paths and places where you can discover the countryside on horseback. Around the Zuidlaardermeer lake and the Hunzedal you can explore the region on the water by canoe.



### Drentsche Aa

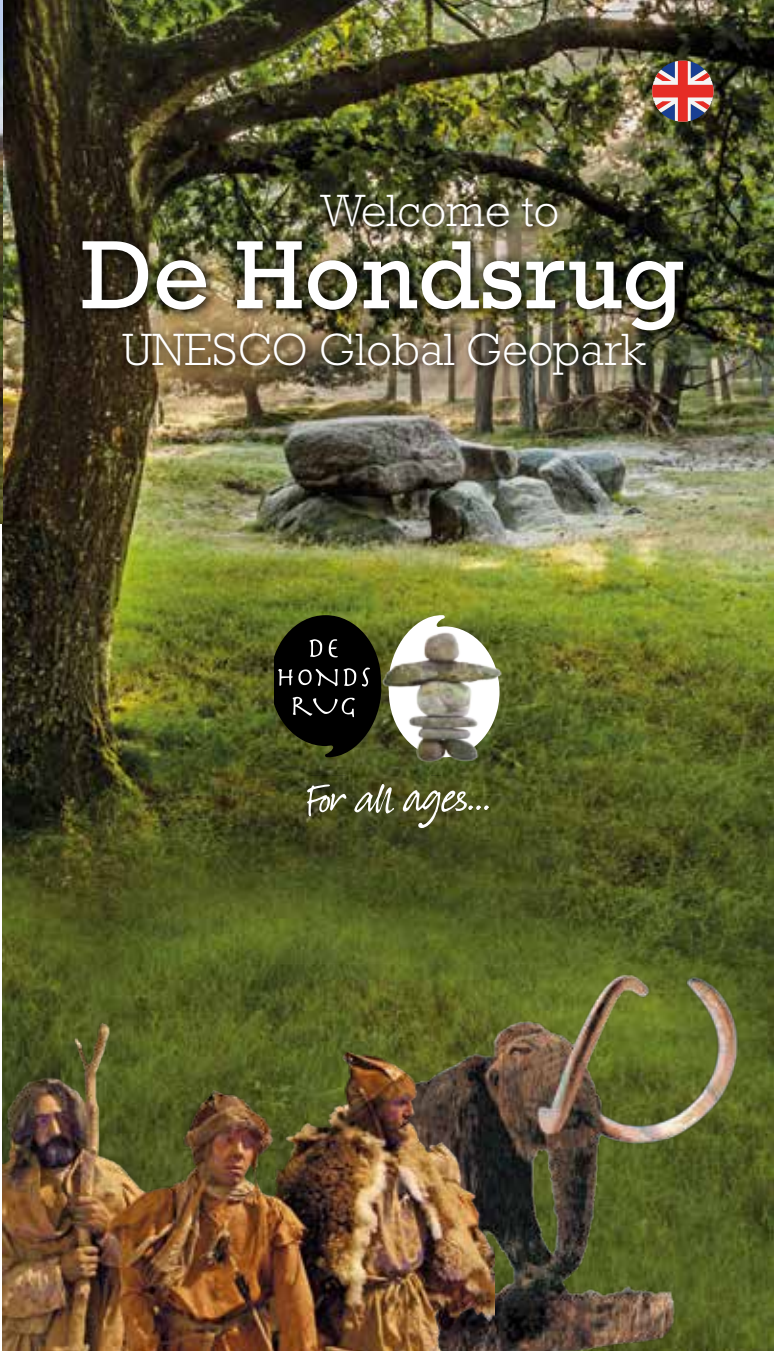
The Hondsrug region has withstood the ravages of time. The extensive stream system of the Drentsche Aa has preserved its original state and successfully resisted unsuitable redevelopment. Modernisation and a growing population have not been allowed to destroy the historic character of villages and old farmhouses.

The Drentsche Aa National Park, covering an area of 34,000 hectares, overlaps with the Hondsrug region in many places. The wonderful scenery attracts visitors from home and abroad.

### Safaris and excursions

De Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark organises thrilling days out visiting exciting places. Geopark safaris are active and exhilarating ... Discover where all the enormous boulders came from. Find out about wildlife in the Hunzedal and the Bargerveen. Meet remarkable local people. Learn how to survive in the wild. Geopark safaris prove that adventures are nearer than you think. They guarantee an exciting day out for the whole family.

Look and be amazed in  
De Hondsrug UNESCO Global  
Geopark



Welcome to  
**De Hondsrug**  
UNESCO Global Geopark



For all ages...



[www.dehondsrug.nl](http://www.dehondsrug.nl)





### Ridges and valleys formed by the ice

The Hondsrug region is unique. Nowhere else in Europe can you find an area where so many traces of the Ice Ages are so well preserved. The landscape of high and lower-lying ground was created during the Saalian Ice Age (150,000 years ago) by the pressure of ice and the force of meltwater. The sheet of ice which expanded southwards from Scandinavia also brought with it many stones and enormous boulders.

### Treasures of our ancestors

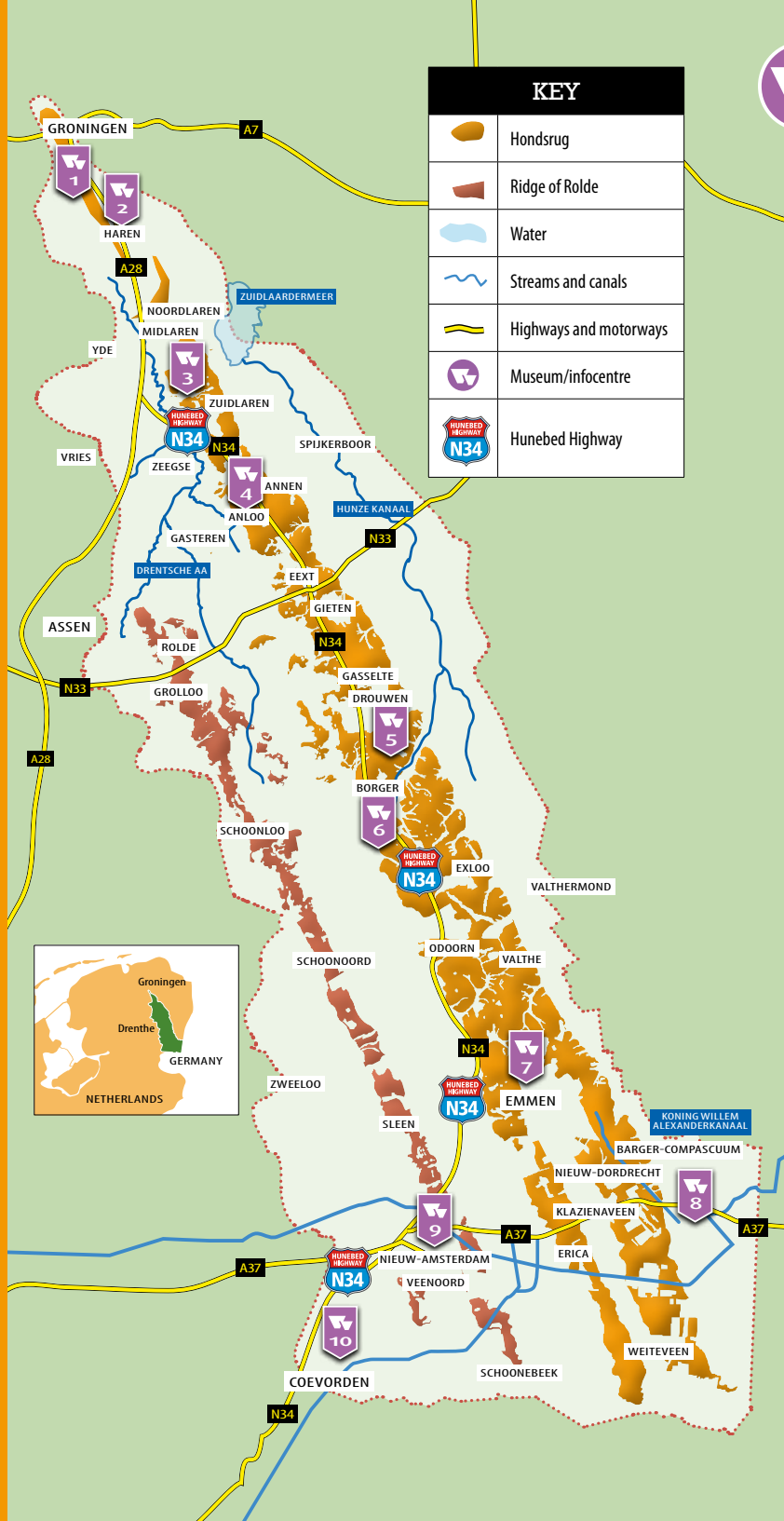
The varied character of these ridges and valleys offered an attractive place for our prehistoric ancestors to settle. These early inhabitants hunted wild animals and fish or gathered edible plants for food. Farming first began here around 3000 BC on the higher-lying sandy hills. The 48 hunebeds or dolmens still to be found within the Geopark are burial monuments from that time. There are also well-preserved remains left by later inhabitants, such as burial mounds, field systems (celtic fields) and cart tracks on the route between Coevorden and Groningen.

### A landscape made by man

The early Middle Ages saw the creation of farming villages known as 'es-dorpen'. These combined fertile soil on the higher-lying sandy ground (the 'es') with streams of clear-flowing water in the valleys. From the beginning of the 17th century – the days of turf extraction – people built the settlements known as 'peat colonies' to the east of the Hondsrug. For thousands of years the landscape of the Hondsrug region has been shaped by human activity and this will no doubt continue in the future.



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FROM DE HONDSRUG  
UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK.  
[WWW.DEHONDSRUG.NL](http://WWW.DEHONDSRUG.NL)



### Museums and info centres

The best way to find out more about the Hondsrug region is to visit one of the museums or information centres in the area.

#### 1 Noordelijk Scheepvaartmuseum

The Noordelijk Scheepvaartmuseum (Maritime Museum) is housed in two of the finest medieval buildings in the city of Groningen. Here you can learn all about the history of sea-faring in the north of the Netherlands. [www.noordelijkscheepvaartmuseum.nl/en/](http://www.noordelijkscheepvaartmuseum.nl/en/)

#### 2 Hortus Botanicus

The Hortus Botanicus in Haren is one of the oldest and largest botanical gardens in the Netherlands. Here you will find the Hondsrug Garden and a variety of other gardens, each with its own character and atmosphere. [www.hortusharen.nl](http://www.hortusharen.nl)

#### 3 Waterpark De Bloemert

Waterpark De Bloemert, on the edge of the Zuid-laardermeer lake, is home to an informative exhibition on the theme of water. [www.debloemert.nl](http://www.debloemert.nl)

#### 4 De Homanshof

The information centre of De Homanshof in the village of Anloo, run by the Forestry Service, contains information about nature and landscape in the Hondsrug region. [www.staatsbosbeheer.nl](http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl)

#### 5 Boomkroonpad (Treetop Trail)

A walk through the treetops high above the ground is a great start to an expedition visiting woodlands in the Hondsrug region. [www.boomkroonpad.nl](http://www.boomkroonpad.nl)

#### 6 Hunebed Centre



Discover what effect ice, water and wind had on this area thousands of years ago. Learn about the first people who lived in the Hondsrug region. [www.hunebedcentrum.eu/en/](http://www.hunebedcentrum.eu/en/)

#### 7 De Nabershof - Emmen



In this authentic Saxon farmhouse from 1681 you will learn how farmers lived and worked on the Hondsrug from prehistory to the present day. Visit the new exhibition, the farming museum and the tearoom. [www.denabershof.nl](http://www.denabershof.nl)

#### 8 Veenpark



The Veenpark (Peat Museum) in Barger-Compasuum is the best place to experience what life was like for the turf diggers along the Hondsrug. [www.veenpark.nl](http://www.veenpark.nl)

#### 9 The Van Gogh House

The Hondsrug region inspired artists from home and abroad. The best place to learn about them is in the Van Gogh House in Nieuw-Amsterdam where the artist lived for a short time in 1883. [www.vangogh-drenthe.nl](http://www.vangogh-drenthe.nl)

#### 10 The City Museum Coevorden

The Arsenaal city museum in Coevorden tells the story of war and conflict along the Hondsrug and shows where traces can still be found today. [www.museumcoevorden.nl](http://www.museumcoevorden.nl)

THERE IS PLENTY TO EXPERIENCE HERE.  
CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE.

[WWW.DEHONDSRUG.NL/OERTOER](http://WWW.DEHONDSRUG.NL/OERTOER)

DE HONDSRUG  
OER  
TOER

TAKE A WALK



FIND THIS PLACE



VISIT A MUSEUM



GET ON YOUR BIKE



GO HORSE-RIDING



VISIT A CITY



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