



Guidebook

20 / 03
09 / 05

2021

www.keukenhof.nl

The most beautiful spring park in the world

Keukenhof allows you to enjoy millions of blooming tulips and other flowers. The grand estate is 32 hectares in size and has 15 km of footpaths that lead you to wonderful water features, fountains and sculptures. The world famous tulips are central to everything; there are over 800 varieties on show, in all manner of colours and shapes. A great day outdoors for young and old. For the youngest there is the Miffy playground, they can cross the water using the stepping stones or take part in the fun treasure hunt. Keukenhof is situated in the heart of the colourful Bollenstreek [bulb growing region]. The views from the park are of colourful fields of tulips, daffodils and sweet-scented hyacinths as far as the eye can see.

Keukenhof provides the most colourful, flowery day out. A day full of memories!

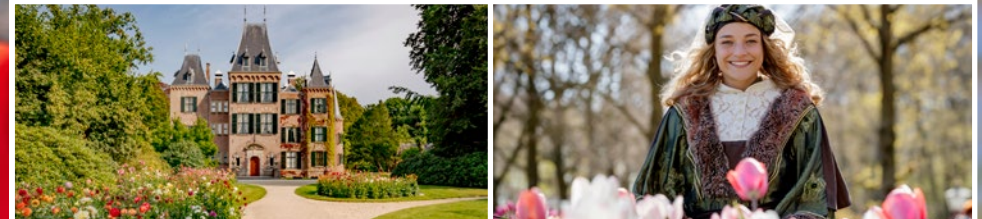


Keukenhof's development

Keukenhof's history starts in the 15th century. The area belonged to Countess Jacoba van Beieren (1401 – 1436) who lived at Slot [castle] Teylingen and was entitled to the proceeds of the surrounding woodlands. Hunting, vegetables and fruit from what was the 'Keukenduyn' [kitchen dun] were destined for the castle's household. Over time, this became known as the Keukenhof or kitchen gardens.

After Countess Jacoba van Beieren passed away, the extensive estates became owned by wealthy merchant families. In 1641, Adriaan Maartenzoon Block had a house built in the 'Keukenduyn'. During the 19th century, Baroness Van Pallandt had six towers added, turning her stately home into a castle known as Kasteel Keukenhof. The gardens were redesigned by the famous landscape architects J.D. Zocher and L.P. Zocher who were also responsible for the Vondelpark in Amsterdam and the gardens of the royal palace Paleis Soestdijk. Their English landscape garden from 1857 still constitutes the foundations for today's Keukenhof park.

Keukenhof is a bulb growers and exporters' initiative. They wished to create a showcase for the bulb trade. In 1949 an ideal location was selected: the gardens surrounding Keukenhof castle. The first visitors were welcomed in 1950. 60 growers participated that first year.



Tulip History

Around the world tulips constitute icons of the Netherlands. Keukenhof naturally centres on the flowers. The tulip's story is impressive. Originally from the mountain ranges between Turkey and China. Tulips became much loved flowers in Turkish culture. Carolus Clusius brought bulbs back to Leiden (NL) in 1593, where he was a professor at the university. Tulips were very popular in the Netherlands during the 17th century, where the flamed varieties were the most sought after. At the time, people were unaware that a virus caused the flaming. The tulip trade became a hype and the out of control speculation this caused became known as Tulip Mania.

Tulips flower in many different colours thanks to breeding. Tulips also occur in many different shapes. Keukenhof can display a wide variety of double, single or serrated petalled tulips. Tulip bulbs are planted in autumn as they need the winter's cold to develop. The warmth of spring lends them the energy to emerge from the soil and develop into beautiful tulips.

Creating the flower exhibition

Keukenhof has developed into the Netherlands' independent, international floriculture showcase with an emphasis on bulb flowers. Keukenhof provides a wonderful platform for over 100 breeders and their bulbs, flowers and plants. The park is re-designed annually. Keukenhof's designer is inspired by trends and incorporates breeders' wishes into the design.

Keukenhof's 40 gardeners start planting in mid-September. The bulbs are all planted by hand and this takes around three months. All the bulbs are harvested again after the season is over. Only for the cycle to begin again in autumn.

New designs are created every year. This is done to keep the park healthy. Annual crop rotation benefits the soil. Various varieties are combined and bulbs are planted in layers to create eight weeks of blooms. For example, every season three different colours can be admired in the same spot. This type of planting is also known as lasagne planting.



Art at Keukenhof

Keukenhof is not only the backdrop for seven million spring flowers, but also provides a magnificent home to sculptures and other artworks. These provide the park with another dimension. Keukenhof cooperates with Museum Kröller-Müller and 25 artists. The flowering park and art make for a surprising combination.



Theme – A World of Colours

Keukenhof's 2021 theme is: A World of Colours. In recent years, millions of people from all manner of countries and cultures have met at Keukenhof to enjoy the beautiful Dutch flowers. Everyone loves flowers, spring, tulips and the colourful bulb fields. Flowers and colours are part of every festivity and ritual around the globe. In 2021, discover the power of colour at Keukenhof – the world's most colourful spring park!

Adjacent to the Oranje Nassau paviljoen [pavilion] lies a magnificent, tulip-shaped flower mosaic designed in line with this year's theme. It consists of approximately 15,000 bulbs: tulips, hyacinths and crocuses planted in two layers to prolong flowering and with a total surface area of 13 x 20 metres.



Tips for 2021

- A** Authentic 16th and 17th-century tulips flower in the historical gardens. These exceptional varieties reveal 400 years of tulip breeding and selection and the tulip's long journey before its introduction to the Netherlands.
- B** At the end of the dunes near Keukenhof lies a vantage point that provides a wonderful view of the surrounding bulb fields.
- C** The pumping windmill from Groningen dates back to 1892 and was gifted to Keukenhof by the Holland Amerika Lijn [cruise line] in 1957 and rebuilt on site. It also marks the boarding jetty for the electrically powered boats as well as providing – at the right time of year – a great view of the bulb fields.
- D** One of the blue rivers should be on your list: these are 60 metres long and consist of 55,000 grape hyacinth bulbs.
- E** The romantic, English landscape garden-style bridge was built in 2019 and suits the park's style wonderfully. It replaces the older, narrower bridge. You will find the new stepping stones in the shadow of the white horse. An iconic artwork for Keukenhof.
- F** The natural garden combines shrubs and perennials with bulb crops left to go wild. This area of the park is an oasis of calm. verwilderde bolgewassen. Dit deel van het park biedt een oase van rust.



Entrance extra
Entree extra



Beatrix



Wilhelmina

E

D

Willem-Alexander

Mill

C

F

Oranje Nassau

Juliana/Tulpomania

A

B

Irene

Main entrance
Hoofdentree



Wilhelmina



Juliana/Tulpomania

Exhibition Tulpomania | Bulb information



Beatrix

Flower shows



Irene



Willem-Alexander

Flower shows



Oranje Nassau

Flower shows | Flower mosaic
Walk of Fame



Mill

Whisper boat | Picnic area



Main entrance

Bus 858 (Schiphol), Bus 854 (Leiden),
Bus 852 (Amsterdam Europaplein/RAI),
Bus 850 (Haarlem) | Touringcars Lockers
Bicycle rent | First aid



Flower bulb shop

FREE Wi-Fi INSIDE
Free Internet access

Facts & Figures

- The park is open 8 weeks a year
- Keukenhof first welcomed visitors in 1950
- Keukenhof received 1.5 million visitors in 2019. In 2020, the park opened online due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- 80% of visitors originate abroad. The main countries of origin are: Germany, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and China
- The park measures 32 hectares
- Keukenhof has 15 km of footpaths
- Annually, some 7 million flower bulbs representing over 1,600 varieties are planted
- Every year some 7,000 kg of grass seed is sown
- 2,500 trees, representing 87 species are dotted around the park
- The park's original design was made by father and son Zocher in 1865
- Our activities throughout the year can be followed on Keukenhof's social media

Electrically powered boats

You can take an approx. 45-minute cruise through the bulb fields on board the electrically powered boats that depart from the windmill. Tickets should be reserved in advance via www.bit.ly/WhisperboatKeukenhof

Cycling

Various cycling routes between 5 and 35 km in length have been set out in the area surrounding Keukenhof. Bicycles can be rented near to the main entrance. Bicycles can be reserved here via www.bit.ly/CyclingKeukenhof

Bloementoonstelling Keukenhof

Want to stay abreast of developments at Keukenhof? Follow our social media channels.



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