



Guidebook

24 / 03
15 / 05

2022

www.keukenhof.nl

The most beautiful spring garden in the world

In Keukenhof you can enjoy millions of blooming tulips and other flowers. The monumental walking park is 32 hectares and has 15 km of footpaths that take you past gorgeous water features, fountains and sculptures. With over 800 varieties in all types of colours and shapes on show, the world-famous tulips are central to everything.

Young and old can enjoy a wonderful day out in the open air. There is a Miffy playground for children where they can take the stepping stones across the water or take part in the fun scavenger hunt.

Keukenhof is situated in the middle of the colourful Bollenstreek [bulb growing area]. From the park you have a beautiful view over the vast colourful fields with tulips, daffodils and fragrant hyacinths.

In Keukenhof you will experience the most colourful day out for the whole family. A day full of memories!



Keukenhof's development

The history of Keukenhof goes back to the 15th century. Countess Jacqueline of Bavaria gathered fruit and vegetables out of the "Keukenduyn" for the kitchen of Teylingen Castle. Over time, this became known as the Keukenhof gardens.

After Countess Jacoba van Beieren passed away, the extensive estates were owned by wealthy merchant families. In 1641 Adriaen Maertensz 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 for today's Keukenhof Park.

Keukenhof is a bulb growers and exporters' initiative who wanted 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

The tulip is the Netherlands' global icon. That's why Keukenhof naturally centres on tulips. The tulip's story is impressive. Originally from the mountain range in Asia, Carolus Clusius brought bulbs back to Leiden (NL) in 1593, where he was a professor at the university. In the 17th century the tulip became very popular in the Netherlands, where the flamed varieties were the most loved. 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, which allows Keukenhof to 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 provides 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 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. The Keukenhof's designer is inspired by the trends and incorporates breeders' wishes into the design.

Keukenhof's 40 gardeners start planting in October. 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. It is beneficial for the soil to alternate with crops every year. Various varieties are combined and bulbs are planted in layers to create eight weeks of blooms. This planting is also called lasagna planting.



Art at Keukenhof

Keukenhof not only provides a superb backdrop for its 7 million spring-flowering bulbs, it is also a beautiful location for sculptures and other works of art that add an extra dimension to the park. Keukenhof is collaborating with museum Kröller-Müller and 25 artists. The combination of a flowering park and sculptures is amazing.



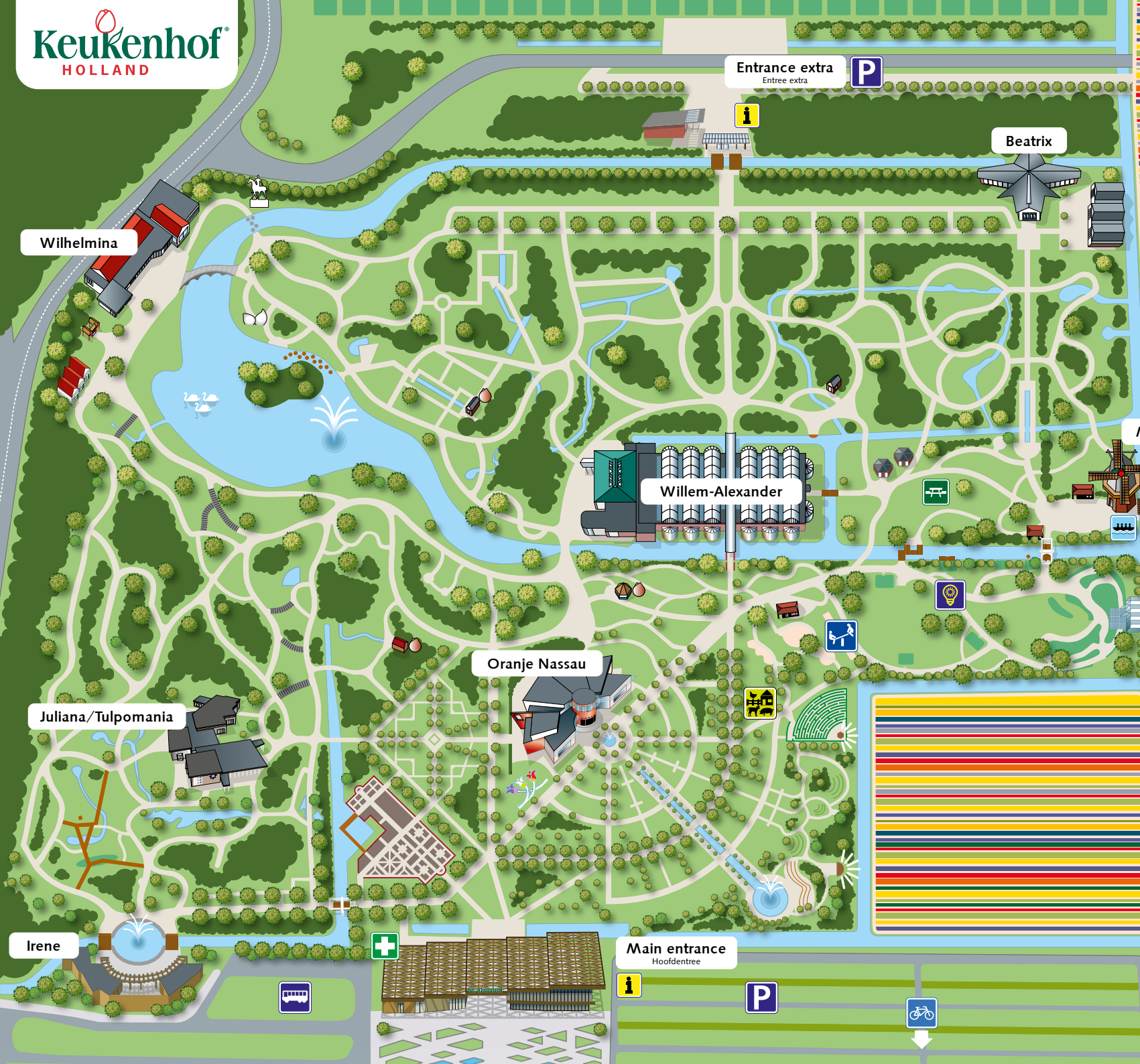
Thema – Flower Classics

'Flower Classics' is the theme of Keukenhof. Flowers are important to people: they have been part of our lives for centuries. As classic symbols we encounter flowers in art, architecture and design. The rose for love and the tulip for the new spring! In Keukenhof we bring these classics together; with the tulip as the shining centerpiece!



Tips for 2022

- 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 wind mill from Groningen dates back to 1892 and was gifted to Keukenhof by the Holland America 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 the year - a great view of the bulb fields.
- D** The blue river should be on your list: this river is 60 meters long and consists 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.



Wilhelmina



Juliana/Tulpomania

Exhibition Tulpomania | Bulb information



Beatrix

Flower shows



Irene



Willem-Alexander

Flower shows



Oranje Nassau

Flower shows | Flower mosaic



Mill

Whisper boat | Picnic area



Main entrance

Bus 858 (Schiphol), Bus 854 (Leiden),
Bus 850 (Haarlem), Bus 852 (Amsterdam
RAI) | 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 & 2021, the park opened online due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 80% of the visitors originate abroad. The main countries of origin are: Germany, United States, France, the United Kingdom and China
- The park measures 32 hectares
- Keukenhof has 15 km of footpaths
- 7 million flower bulbs are planted annually in more than 1600 varieties
- More than 7000 kilograms of grass seed is sown every year
- 2,500 trees, representing 87 species are spread over 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 flower bulb fields on board the electrically powered boats that depart from the windmill. Tickets need to be booked in advance via our website:
www.keukenhof.nl

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 the main entrance. Bicycles can be booked via:
www.rentabikevandam-keukenhof.com

Flower exhibition Keukenhof

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