



CIRCUIT MECHELEN - HOMBEEKS PLATEAU

Along meadows and meandering Zenne

Hombeeks Plateau to the west of Mechelen spans the former independent municipalities of Hombeek, Leest and Heffen. The Zenne meanders through this verdant countryside, making it the perfect base for exploring the area around Mechelen. You will be out of the historic city centre in no time. Stretch your legs, relax and enjoy the peace that encompasses the Hombeeks Plateau.

HIGHLIGHTS

1 VRIJBOEK PARK

Hombeeks Plateau is just a few kilometres from Mechelen. This walk leads first to Vrijbroekpark, which is just outside the centre of Mechelen and so the ideal place to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. Here you can walk, practise sports, or relax at an outdoor café while the children let off steam in the recreational area. Or head for the park's well-known botanical garden and inhale its fragrant aromas.

2 HOMBEEK PIT

Continue on your way via Eglegem lake to Hombeeks Plateau. The lake was created when the E19 motorway was constructed, but over the years it has become a wildlife area and a well-known haunt of sailors, windsurfers and anglers. Locally the lake is known as 'de put van Hombeek' – Hombeek pit. If you choose to only circumnavigate the lake, you will shorten your walk by approximately 3 kilometres.

3 HOMBEEKS PLATEAU

You are now to the west of Mechelen at Hombeeks Plateau, which extends from the villages of Leest and Heffen to Hombeek. The beautiful Zenne flows through the landscape. Close your eyes, savour the peace and quiet of this lovely verdant valley and reconnect with yourself.



Vrijbroek Park



Hombeek pit



Eglegem pond



Hombeeks Plateau

Practical information

STARTING PLACE

Tourist information office Visit Mechelen, Schepenhuis: Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen.

FOLLOWING THE ROUTE ON FOOT

Your walk starts at the Alderman's house (Schepenhuis), there you follow the signpost to junction 258. Then you follow 258 - 51 - 50 - 49 - 185 - 52 - 37 - 280 - 32 - 33 - 814 - 815 - 816 - 184 - 817 - 185 - 49 - 50 - 51 - 258

SHORTENED VERSION: Round Eglegem lake. Junctions: 258 - 51 - 50 - 49 - 185 - 52 - 184 - 817 - 185 - 49 - 50 - 51 - 258

The walking intersections are managed by Wandelnetwerk Rivierenland, www.rlr.be.

LENGTH

Standard route: 13,1 km
Shortened version: 9,9 km

TERRAIN & ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible for prams and buggies.

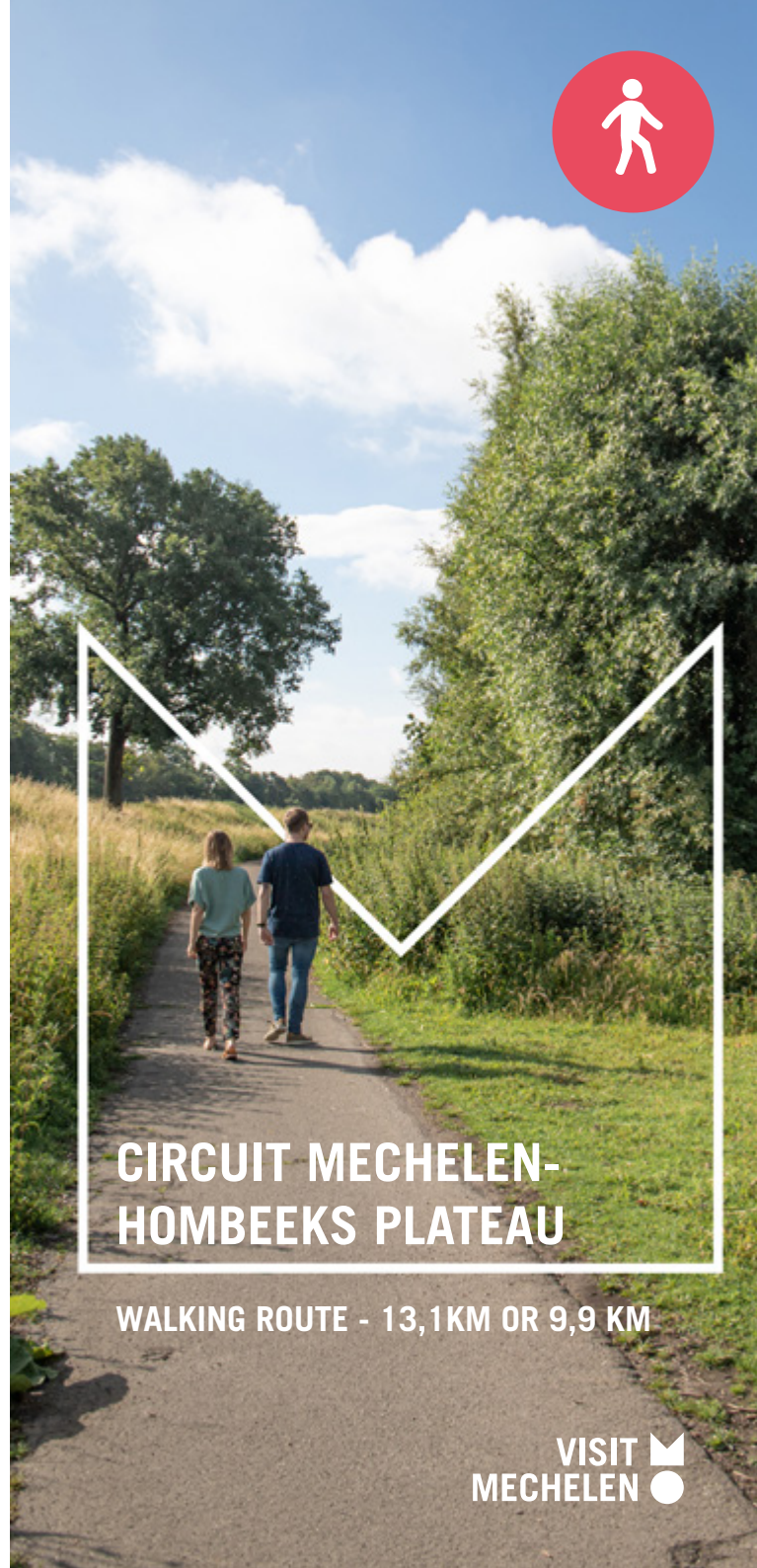
Go to visitmechelen.be for more brilliant walking and cycling ideas!

CONTACT

Visit Mechelen, Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen
visit@mechelen.be, +32 15 29 76 54
discovermechelen.be - visitmechelen.be

COLOPHON

Text: Visit Mechelen, **layout:** Visit Mechelen. **print:** Antilope De Bie Printing, **map:** Open Street Map Elke Feussels, **photo's:** Visit Mechelen, **pubilsher:** Björn Siffer, VVV Mechelen vzw, Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen - D/2022/10717/16



CIRCUIT MECHELEN-HOMBEEKS PLATEAU

WALKING ROUTE - 13,1KM OR 9,9 KM



④ MEADOW LAND

The Zenne villages owe their existence largely to the fact that the Zenne meanders through Hombeeks Plateau. If you look at the banks of the Zenne now, you still see cattle grazing. This is because the fertile layer of silt, which remained after the winter floods, was used as natural protection for the summer meadows and in the autumn as pastureland. Numerous enthusiastic volunteers have spent years working to preserve Hombeeks Plateau.

⑤ THE ZENNE

The Zenne is a freshwater river subject to the twice-daily ebb and flow of the tide. This process has created rare, freshwater mud flats and salt marshes. They in their turn provide a rich paradise for plants and animals, such as ducks and waders on the mud flats at low tide. Inhabiting the reed beds are bluethroats, reed buntings and reed warblers and in the tidal willow woodland are warblers and song thrushes.

⑥ RELEGEM CASTLE

Junction 814 takes you to Relegem Castle, a moated monument from the second half of the 18th century that arose from the amalgamation of two castle domains with gardens and monumental trees laid out with early landscape design.