

Efteling Walking Route



Discover even more of Efteling with this scenic walking route

Be surprised by the many amazing and exciting attractions!

Name:



Introduction



Introduction

This Efteling Walking Route leads you around Efteling's most beautiful spots, attractions and various food and drink outlets. It also provides interesting facts and figures, as well as some history.

It takes roughly three hours to complete the route but you can also take your time and spread it over a whole day. Naturally, you will also have plenty of opportunities to pause for a cup of coffee, lunch or dinner during your walk.

The route begins at Efteling's main entrance, the House of the Five Senses. It then describes the best walking route to take to gain maximum enjoyment from the park.

Enjoy your walk!

Entrance

The House of the Five Senses (main entrance building) opened in 1996. Eight hundred trees were grown to create its thatched roof. The roof has a height of 43 metres and a surface area of 4,500 m². Various bird species nest under the roof, including the tawny owl. This impressive building houses the cashiers' kiosks and the Visitors' Service Centre.

Having passed through the entrance gate, the square on which you find yourself is called *Dwarrel Plein*. Before you leave the square and cross the railway track you will pass the Aquanura water show. This is Europe's biggest water show and a tribute to one of the first fairytale depictions to grace Efteling: The Frog Prince. This sensational water show was designed by WET design to celebrate Efteling's 60th anniversary. WET is a pioneer in the field of water show design and technology, and has an impressive list of project references, including the Bellagio Fountain in Las Vegas (USA) and the Dubai Fountain in the United Arab Emirates. WET employed the same working methods on Aquanura as for these two large fountains.

When you cross the railway track you arrive on the *Pardoes Promenade*. Take a good look around as you walk along the promenade and you will see water features with grass carp and lots of greenery with different flowers in bloom in each season. Naturally, you will also come across Pardoes, Efteling's host, who appears on an attractive sundial.

At the end of Pardoes Promenade is a square called *Efteling Brink*. From this point the park is split into four realms: the enchanting *Marerijk*, the adventurous *Reizenrijk*, the exciting *Ruigrijk* and the mystical *Anderrijk*.





On the left side of Efteling Brink you will see the restaurant *Polles Keuken*, where you can enjoy any traditional Dutch pancakes. Just past *Polles Keuken*, follow the path to the left. At the end of this path and to your left you will see the Witches' Gate, which is the entrance to the Fairytale Forest.

The Fairytale Forest was Efteling's very first attraction. Anton Pieck designed the attraction in its early years. A wide range of birds live in the forest, including the nuthatch, the goldcrest, the pied woodpecker, the song thrush and even a kingfisher! You may also come across green and brown frogs, small newts and common toads. The fairytales are told in Dutch but the books alongside the fairytales contain English translations.

As you walk along the brick path you will see Sleeping Beauty's castle. This castle was built in 1952. You can walk 'through' the castle (by taking the left gateway) but if you would prefer not to climb the steps, you may walk around the castle via the gateway to the right. You will then arrive in the Gnome Village (1952), where the toadstools are inhabited by the world's oldest gnomes. After the Gnome Village, continue along the path to Long Neck (1952), who tells the story of The Six Servants. This small square also contains one of several Paper Gobblers *Holle Bolle Gijs*, the first of which appeared on the *Anton Pieck plein* in 1959. There are eleven different Paper Gobblers in Efteling for waste disposal.

Walk straight ahead along the path and up the hill, where Little Red Riding Hood (1960) is waiting for her grandmother to open the door. If you follow the path back down you will arrive at The Red Shoes, which have been dancing in the Fairytale Forest since 1953. Follow the brick path past The Troll King (1988), who can predict the future, and on your left you will see the Talking Parrot from the fairytale of The Naughty Princess (1952). This is followed successively by the fairytales of Rapunzel (2001), The Little Mermaid (1970), The Dragon (1979) and The Wolf and the Seven Kids (1973). Notice the outside of the roof above the wolf's head... Afterwards, continue your walk via Hansel and Gretel (1955) to the well of Mother Holle (1952) and her house. Since 2006 she has made it snow from her house, even in summer, by shaking the bed sheets.

You will then arrive on the *Herauten Plein*, which a very special Donkey has made its home since 1956. Insert € 0.50 and you will receive a gold coin. In 1999, as part of the annual theme 'Treasure Trove of Fairytales', several new fairytales appeared on the square, such as the completion of the 'Donkey lift your tail, Table be laid, Club to the ready' fairytale and Snow White's castle. In the first section of the castle you can see Snow White's stepmother admiring herself in the mirror. Then you reach the original part of the fairytale. This grotto for Snow White and the Seven Dwarves was built in 1952. Cinderella also arrived on the square in 2009. You can now see where she lived with her mean stepmother and stepsisters. In 1961 *Herauten plein* was paved with pebbles from the River Maas. The fountain from the fairytale of The Frog Prince was built on the square in 1952 and The Magic Clock appeared in the same year. The story of The Magic Clock and Bright Tony is told here. Grandpa Gijs, whose hunger could never be satisfied, is also buried beneath this square.

Continue through the gateway to The Indian Water Lilies on your left. This fairytale depiction was built in 1966, to celebrate Efteling's 15th anniversary. Queen Fabiola of Belgium wrote the fairytale and came to see it at Efteling in 1967. The music you can hear inside is called African Beat by Bert Kaempfert, which is included on the Efteling CD 'Wonderful Efteling Music'. As you leave The Indian Water Lilies, walk straight ahead to the fairytale of Tom Thumb, following which you will see Rumpelstiltskin, who is unaware that he is being listened to. Both of these fairytales were built in 1988.

If you walk a little farther you will find the fairytale of The Little Match Girl (2004) to your left. After watching her story you will come to the palace from the fairytale of The Emperor's New Clothes (2011). This emperor is so vain that he spends more time trying on clothes than he does ruling the land. Continue along the path to the Fairytale Forest's largest resident: the Fairytale Tree (2010). He is no less than 13 metres tall from his gnarled roots to the top of his branches. If you continue straight ahead you will witness a small miracle, as you reach the only place in the world where tulips bloom all year round. Actually, they bloom several times each day, when they hear the sound of the Fakir's flute from the fairytale of The Gardener and the Fakir. The Fakir flew into Efteling on his magic carpet in 1958 and has never left.

After this, follow the path to The Chinese Nightingale (2000). If you look in the pond next to The Chinese Nightingale you will see golden orfe and goldfish. The pond on the other side contains coy carp. Opposite this fairytale, on the other side of the redbrick path, you will see an ornamental garden. This garden was reduced in size in 1992 and consists mainly of clusters of perennial plants and a stream that ends in a pond. The stairway is decorated with terracotta pots containing creeping plants and box. Two statues are situated here: a statue representing Ten Years of Joy for Children and a statue erected to commemorate Efteling's 40th anniversary. The latter features the names of Efteling's founders: Anton Pieck, Mr R. J. T. H. van der Heijden and Peter Reijnders.

You are now leaving the Fairytale Forest. To your right you will see the *Marskramer* souvenir shop. Cross the railway track and if you keep to the left you will pass the restaurant *Het Witte Paard*, where you can enjoy a delicious lunch. On the other side you will see the *Sint Nicolaes Plaets* (1974) and the *Ton van de Ven Plein*. Pass through the gateway to reach this square, which also contains one of the two Steam Train stations.

You can ride a full circuit of Efteling on the Steam Train. The original track was laid in 1968. It is 1,000 metres long and has two stations. Three authentic steam locomotives are in service at Efteling: Moortje (1907), Aagje (1911) and Trijntje (1991). The trains have a capacity of 400 passengers per hour. The steam locomotive Neefje (1914) is no longer in service and is enjoying a well-earned retirement on the lawn in front of the train station. If you like, you may climb on board a train here and take a ride around the whole park. You may then continue to follow your walking route from the same place. Cross the square and head towards *Droomvlucht* (1993). In this attraction for young and old you float through a world of dreams and fairytales, filled with elves and trolls. The music you hear in *Droomvlucht* is by Ruud Bos and is available to purchase in the souvenir shop. You may also wish to pause for a cup of coffee in *Den Gulden Gaarde*. The pond next to *Droomvlucht* contains golden orfe and gold carp.

As you walk away from *Droomvlucht* you will see the crumbling gate to the magical city of *Raveleijn* (2011). Ask a member of staff for earphones to translate this spectacular park show into your own language. Five children are transformed into riders on horseback and head into battle against the city's wicked ruler and even more terrifying adversaries.

The *Raveleijn* complex consists of three parts: a large, themed restaurant, an office building and an open-air arena with 1,000 seats. In 1996 *Villa Volta* was built on the same square as *Droomvlucht* and *Raveleijn*. The owner of this house is Hugo van den Loonsche Duynen, leader of the fabled Goat Riders gang. He plundered valuable items from churches, as punishment for which a mysterious woman, who can be seen at the top of the house, placed a curse on his home. This curse ensures that Hugo shall never again find peace.

After leaving *Villa Volta*, walk straight ahead via the path to the left and past the small children's playground, in the direction of the *Volk van Laaf* village. The entrance to this village is on the left side. This now famous race of Laaf People has lived in the park since 1990. Walk under the arch and enter Laafland. You are entering a land in which water and plants dominate the scenery. The Laaf People admire the shape and colour of leaves. The shrubbery here is made up of lots of ferns and lilies, alongside solitary ornamental shrubs. In addition, terracotta pots are dotted around, containing flowers with soothing colours.

Turn left immediately after entering. If you follow the path you will arrive at the Nursery, where Old Mother Lot is feeding her children. Follow the path towards the gate in front of you but don't be surprised by what you see to your right... Afterwards, take the path to the left to the Brewery, where brewer Lal is brewing delicious Lurk beer. After visiting the Laaf Brewery, follow the path alongside the water and through the gateway, until you reach the Lurk and Lime House. After this, walk straight ahead, either through or around the Floating House, and turn left towards the Slide House. Straight ahead you will see the School House and the Bakery, where Laaf cookies are made. Take a look in the Laughter House and don't forget to use the stairs on your way out of Laafland.

In front of you now is the *Loetiek* souvenir shop, where you can look at and purchase Efteling pins and badges. The collection of Efteling pins and badges started in 2003 and has become very popular. Since that time, pin collectors' clubs and exchange networks have built up.

The *Loetiek* souvenir shop is on the *Anton Pieck Plein*, which was designed by Anton Pieck himself in 1954. The first features to be built were the water pump, the puppet show and the front gates. In 1955 The Stone Hen and The Little Goose Girl were added. The Little Goose Girl's water is safe to drink. The square was paved in 1956. In 1958 Anton Pieck added the clock from the fairytale Follow the Swan and 1960 saw the arrival of The Duck Prince, from whom you can still get a surprise duck egg. In 2003 the square underwent a renovation, entirely in the tradition of its namesake. The square with its old-fashioned buildings looks like an authentic Anton Pieck print that has come to life. Four nostalgic merry-go-rounds and swing carousels with lights and traditional music reinforce the square's unique atmosphere.

On 1 April 2004 Efteling officially opened the Efteling Museum, which details Efteling's long history and displays beautiful design sketches by Anton Pieck, Ton van de Ven and other designers. The Efteling Museum also regularly stages exhibitions.

Leave the Efteling Museum and the *Anton Pieck Plein* via the front gates. The *Carrousel Paleis* is now directly in front of you.

The *Carrousel Paleis* was built in 1956. The *Stoomcarrousel* steam carousel it houses is fitted with an original Gavioli organ from 1895. This is one of only five remaining Gavioli organs in the world. The carvings are by the Flemish artist De Vos. The floor is authentic and constructed in the Victorian style. This complex also contains the *Diorama*: a three-dimensional, miniature world based on drawings by Anton Pieck, complete with Fleissmann trains. This miniature world was completely renovated in 2008 and a number of fairytale scenes were added. Walk outside again onto the square in front of the *Carrousel Paleis*. If you stand with your back to the building, follow the path to your right, over the railway track and in the direction of 't *Poffertje* restaurant. The restaurant makes fresh and delicious 'poffertjes' (mini pancakes), which are a Dutch speciality, to a traditional recipe. To the right of 't *Poffertje* you will see *De Soete Inval*, a sweetshop with 85 different types of tasty treat and a wide assortment of traditional sweets.

Follow the path straight ahead and you will arrive at the *Speelweide* playing field, where you can enjoy a nice picnic in the summer. Walk along the lane bordered by sycamore trees until you reach *Carnaval Festival* on a large square. You have arrived in the adventurous *Reizenrijk* realm.

Carnival is a celebration of togetherness and craziness. In *Carnaval Festival*, which was built in 1984, Jokie and his friend Jet travel around the world through fifteen different countries. Alongside this attraction on *Carnaval Festival Plein* is another large attraction built in 1998: *Vogel Rok*. This spectacular, indoor rollercoaster ride in the dark has no loops but is still a ride for true daredevils. The square is also home to a cannibal called *Monsieur Cannibale* (1988), who places his victims in spinning cauldrons. Behind this French-singing cannibal, the *Doolhof* adventure maze was built especially for children in 1995.

If all of the excitement has given you an appetite, you might like to take advantage of the waiter service at restaurant *Panorama à la carte*, where you can order a delicious lunch or simply relax and enjoy a drink. If you walk past the *Doolhof* maze and over the bridge, you will see the *Gondoletta* boarding jetty to your left and the entrance to the *Pagode* to your right. On the other side of the 'Siervijver' ornamental pond you can see pedal trains, which were once part of Laafland, travelling through the Brabant countryside. If you would like to enjoy the scenery in peace, take a boat trip around the *Siervijver* ornamental pond on the *Gondoletta* (1981). The trip lasts around 20 minutes and takes you past Efteling's most beautiful, natural spots. The music playing during the trip is the *Allegro Brillante* harp concerto by François Boieldieu (which is also included on the Efteling CD 'Wonderful Efteling Music'). Various species of wildlife can be seen in and around the water, including the Carolina duck (or wood duck), the mandarin duck, the black swan and the Egyptian goose. And if you look into the water, you might catch a glimpse of a pike, a grass carp or a bass.

If you would like a bird's eye view of Efteling, take a trip on the *Pagode* (1987). This flying Thai temple revolves during its ascent and provides wonderful views of not only Efteling but also of Kaatsheuvel, Loon op Zand, Waalwijk and Tilburg.

You can also see Holiday Village Efteling Bosrijk holiday village from the *Pagode*, as it raises you to a height of 45 metres. The *Pagode*'s arm weighs 225 tons and is hydraulically driven. Its counterweight consists of 340 tons of concrete, sunk into a 10 metre deep pit.

Follow the path but turn left before arriving back at *Efteling Brink* and continue walking past the *Siervijver* ornamental pond. Then turn left and walk over the bridge.



To your left you will see the *Wensbron* wishing well. This wishing well was opened by Princess Juliana, the former queen of the Netherlands, in 1985. If you throw a coin and it lands on the tray, you can make a wish. The wishing well is emptied of coins at the end of each season and the proceeds are donated to the Save the Children organisation in the Netherlands.

When you step onto the following bridge you will see the *Kinderspoor* (2000) pedal trains to your left. Children large and small embark on a trip through a traditional Dutch landscape on the *Kinderspoor's* pedal trains.

Continue across the bridge and immediately turn right. This brings you to *Baron 1898*. The *Baron 1898* dive coaster opened on 1 July 2015 and features a 37.5-metre freefall. Mining baron Gustave Hoogmoed has found a vein of gold on the *Baron 1898* site. He wants to mine as much gold as possible but the ground is protected by the White Women. The mining baron is asking for your help, but beware of the White Women which will do everything in their power to sabotage the mining operation. If you turn to the right at *Baron 1898* you will find a sand path that leads to 'De Vliegende Hollander'.

This sensational attraction tells the story of Captain Willem van der Decken. On Easter Sunday 1678 he broke all the rules to sail out from the harbour and, in doing so, sealed his own fate. His beautiful sailing ship became cursed and was transformed into a mysterious ghost ship. Step aboard and sail in one of the eleven tenders, which reach a speed of more than 70 kilometres per hour over the 420-metre water coaster course. The ride has a maximum G-force of 2G (two times body weight) and a minimum of 0.2G (almost weightless).

On the other side of the water is the dual-tracked roller coaster *Joris en de Draak* (George and the Dragon – 2010). This wooden rollercoaster splits visitors between two competing trains, water and fire, which race against each other on separate tracks while trying to defeat the swamp dragon.

As you leave *Joris en de Draak* you will see the *Python* (1981) in front of you. When it opened, this attraction was the longest rollercoaster ride on continental Europe. The *Python's* track is 750 metres long and has a maximum height of 29 metres. The ride includes two loops and two corkscrew turns. *Ruigrijk Plein* lies just beyond the *Python* and is where *Station de Oost* is situated. This is not only a steam train boarding station but also houses various catering outlets. The square is also home to the *Polka Marina* pirates' carousel and the Model-T Fords of *De Oude Tuffer* (1984).

Another attraction on the square is the *Halve Maen* swinging ship. The ship is a copy of a Dutch East India Company vessel and has been docked at Efteling since 1982. At a speed of 54 kilometres per hour you 'sail' to a maximum height of 25 metres. Walk back via the *Game Gallery*. If you turn left before the bridge you will again pass *Baron 1898*, before entering the next realm.

If you follow the path you will reach the *Piraña*. This river rapids ride opened in 1983 and 35,000 m³ of water flows along its 350-metre course. It features four pumps, four sections of rapids and four waterfalls. A carp pond is situated to the rear of the *Piraña*. As you walk alongside the *Piraña*, follow the path as it bears right until you reach the *Bob* bobsleigh run. It has been possible to take a bobsleigh ride at Efteling since 1985. The track is 524 metres long, has a maximum height of 20 metres and a top speed of 60 kilometres per hour.

After visiting the *Bob*, cross the railway track in the direction of *Fata Morgana*. This 'reflection of the sky' (the literal meaning of *Fata Morgana*, another term for a mirage) has been part of Efteling since 1986. This beautiful attraction takes you on a boat trip through various scenes from the Tales of 1,001 Nights. The attraction has a surface area of 4,000 m² and contains 2,500 m³ of water. The water's depth is 1.20 metres. Its 14 boats complete the ride's 285-metre circuit in eight minutes and its Eastern scenes feature no fewer than 104 residents. You leave *Fata Morgana* via the *Bazaar* souvenir shop.

Leave the square and cross the railway track again. Walk straight ahead past the *Bob* and the *Piraña*, then follow the path as it bears left and passes the *Seylend Fregat* snack kiosk, where you could enjoy another cup of coffee before visiting the *Spookslot* haunted house. If you walk underneath the archway you will find the entrance to *Spookslot* with its ghouls and apparitions.

The *Spookslot* was built in 1978 to celebrate Efteling's 25th anniversary. A show takes place every 15 minutes, which you can enjoy while standing behind a glass screen. The show's music is an abridged version of *Dance Macabre* by Camille Saint Saëns. Once the show has ended you exit onto a small square. If you do not wish to see the show, you may wait for your companions at the *Spookslot* exit, on the other side of the archway tunnel. Or you could relax and grab a tasty treat at *De Witte Walvis* kiosk, while the others shudder inside.

Next, follow the first path to the left. This fragrant path takes you through an old section of Efteling forest where you can take advantage of the shade and get a good view of the rear of the *Spookslot* castle. At the end of the path you will find the *PandaDroom* 3-D film attraction. *PandaDroom* was developed in partnership with the WWF in 2002. This adventurous voyage of discovery transports you through Mother Earth's breathtaking nature. Before you enter the attraction, you walk through a wonderful garden with bamboo, mysterious plants, streams and waterfalls. Having visited *PandaDroom*, you might like to purchase a nice memento in the *Panda* souvenir shop, after which you can order a drink and tuck into pasta and panini at the *Octopus* restaurant.

The exit takes you back out onto *Pardoes Promenade*. This was the final section of your Efteling Walking Route. We hope you have enjoyed your tour and that you've learnt lots of nice things about Efteling.

But... Efteling is much more than just a theme park. Efteling also offers numerous other possibilities, which are detailed below. If you would like more information, ask a member of staff at the Visitors' Service Centre at the main entrance.

Efteling Theatre

The Efteling Theatre is one of the five largest theatres in the Netherlands and its main auditorium has a capacity of more than 1,000 people. It stages the loveliest Dutch-language musicals for young and old, such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Little Mermaid*, *My Dad the Magician (the musical)*, *Annie*, *Cinderella*, *The Sound of Music*, *Fairytale Tree*, *Kruimeltje* and *Pinocchio*. The theatre building also contains a spacious foyer and a theatre restaurant.

Efteling Hotel

The Efteling Hotel, with its 102 Comfort rooms, 20 luxurious themed suites and five spacious function rooms, is within walking distance of Efteling Park. The hotel also contains a spacious lobby, the cosy *De Gelagkamer* bar and the atmospheric restaurant *De Hoffelijke Heraut*. The Efteling Hotel is a true family hotel. It has a children's check-in desk, a play castle and a playground. Children can enjoy Efteling TV series in the *Pardoes Theatre* and listen to stories told by the Inhabitants of the Fairytale Forest.

Holiday Village Efteling Bosrijk

This holiday village is right next door to Efteling Park and surrounded by scenic woodland nature. It consists of atmospheric Woodland Houses, Village Houses and apartments. The accommodations are designed to suit groups of different types and sizes. The houses are all fully equipped and situated around the central *Poorthuys* and the secluded *Landhuys*. The *Poorthuys* contains the reception, the *Eethuys* restaurant, the *Kleyn Waerenhuys* shop, a pizza takeaway service and the *Badhuys* swimming complex. The village also has natural play areas for the children.

Efteling Golf Park

Efteling Golf Park offers an 18-hole, competition-standard golf course surrounded by 95 hectares of natural beauty. In addition, the Efteling Golf College offers golf clinics and lessons. The golf college offers all-inclusive packages for groups large and small. The atmospheric clubhouse offers all kind of possibilities, such as a delicious lunch or dinner, or a unique celebration in the Grand Café Fore! Seasons. Its beautiful function rooms with panoramic views are also perfect for meetings.



We wish you even further enjoyment in the World of Wonders!

