

Groenlo Fortified site



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Groenlo as experience

- In 2019, an International congress was organized by the municipality of Oost Gelre (Groenlo) during the re-enactment event "The Battle of Grolle". During this congress the idea arose to develop a European cultural route; The Spanish Route; Via Hispania
- The first and local part is opened in April 2021 and is called 1627 through my eyes, stories from the city
- The second and rural section opened in July 2021 and is called The Spanish Route
- The third and European section is planned for the following years

Groenlo Fortified site:

Groenlo is a Fortress City.

The city has played an important role in national history. During the Eighty Years' War there was a lot of fighting around Groenlo. You can still find traces of it. The street pattern in the inner city, the moats and the cannons on the ramparts; they all breathe the atmosphere of yesteryear. Every two years, Groenlo is the setting for the Battle of Grolle. The largest 17th century re-enactment event in Europe! Groenlo has so much to offer! It's great to be in and around Groenlo in the Achterhoek. There are several special attractions such as the old defenses, city walls and the historic dungeons. Groenlo is also a great starting point for various cycling and walking routes. Groenlo originated at the beginning of the seventh century, around 610, when the Saxons settled in the Achterhoek. The name Groenlo probably refers to a green loo, green forest, which lay nearby on higher ground. This is also an explanation for the old coat of arms of Groenlo: a green tree.



The battle of Grolle; storytelling and experience





The Battle of Grolle

On 21, 22 and 23 October 2022, the 8th edition of the historic-cultural event "The Battle of Grolle" will take place. For three days and nights, all of Groenlo will travel back to the year 1627 and visitors can expect a packed program. During the day, the entire downtown area is free of cars and streets are filled with historic crafts, music, theater and market stalls. There are also various children's activities, you can eat in style and witness the battle that took place here 4 centuries ago.

1627 Door mijn ogen. Verhalen uit de stad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aQE8_JKTcY

1627 Door mijn ogen

1627 Through my eyes

A route along the most beautiful places in Groenlo. At various locations throughout Groenlo and surroundings there are 8 silhouettes with a QR code. By scanning these QR codes, visitors are taken through an interactive story about 1627 by the fictitious residents. During the story they have to make choices. Choices about situations the fictional inhabitants have to deal with. In this way they can create their own experience.

In October 2019 the municipality of Oost Gelre organized the International Congress: "how do I tell the story of 1627?". During this congress the intention was signed to keep the story of the 80 years war alive and make it experienceable with the international attendees. Thus, with the Spanish Route, a European route is being developed around the theme of the 80 Years' War. In order to roll out the route on a European level, a pilot project has been developed. An interactive route where visitors scan a QR code and arrive at an innovative Progressive Webapp. A Progressive Webapp is a website that behaves like an app.



Spaanse weg waaier landelijke E-bike route

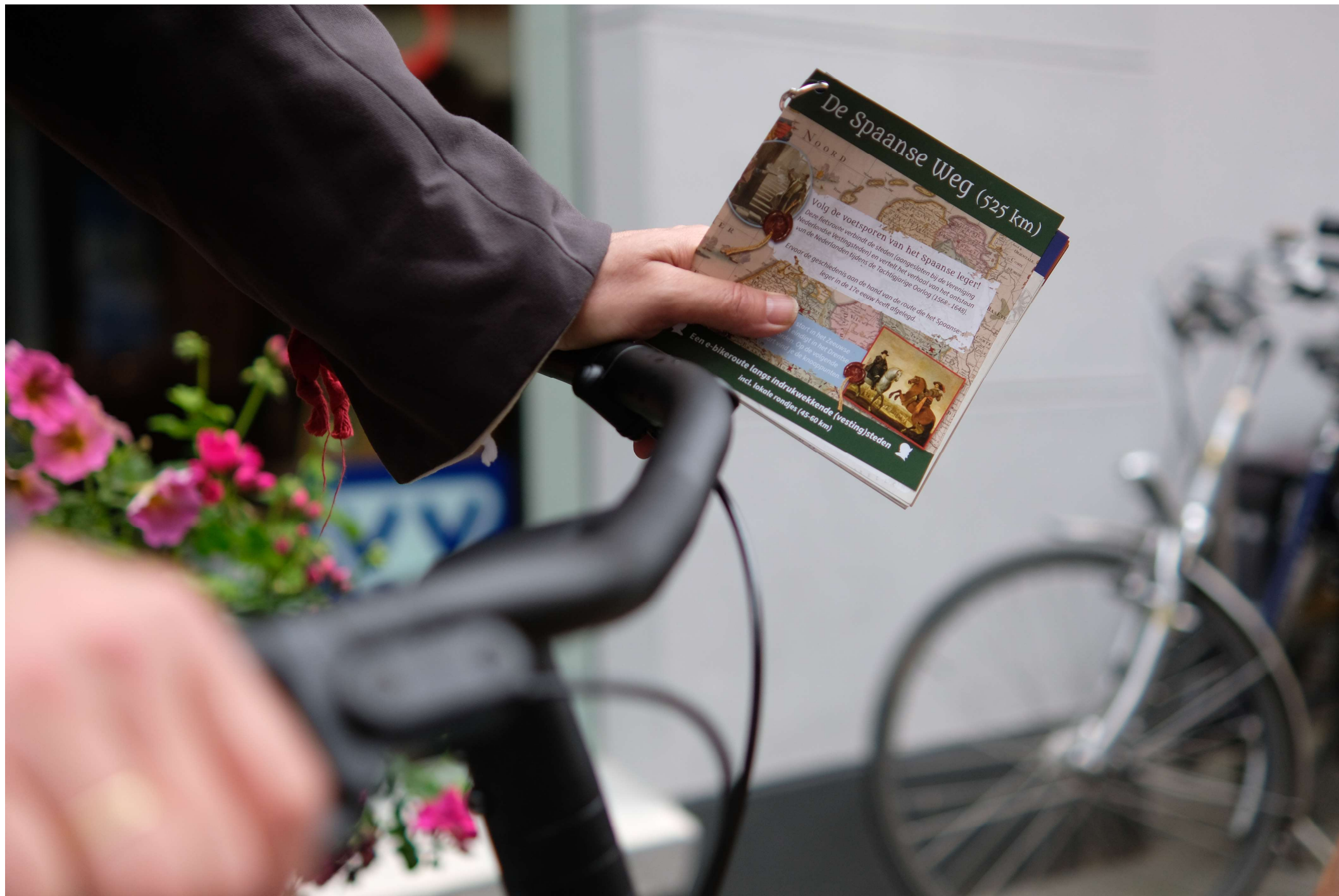
Spanish route rural E-bike route

Making the 80 Years' War experienceable

At the international congress of the Battle of Grolle in 2019, the idea arose to make the 80-year war experienceable. Together with the Association of Dutch Fortress Cities, the municipality of Oost Gelre has developed an adventurous bicycle route right across the Netherlands. The bicycle route passes no fewer than 20 beautiful fortified towns and has a distance of 525 kilometers. During the route you follow in the footsteps of the Spanish army and cyclists are taken into the story of the creation of the Netherlands.

The Spanish Way

The route is connected by the well-known cycling junctions. There are also so-called local detours for each fortified town. This allows cyclists to cycle shorter distances. This also applies to the local detour around Bredevoort and Groenlo. That route has a distance of 54 kilometers.



- Ambition
- Developing a European 'Cultural Route'.

Heritage plays a role in the development of identities. It enables people to associate with persons and events from the past and gives them direction for further development. The value creation that results from this contributes to the 'awareness' of our existence (sense of identity!). And this will give specific locations a meaning: the 'sense of place'. These meaningful places contribute to a cultural tourist experience, cultural cooperation, distribution of tourism, pride and regional identity and European citizenship.

- Developing a new European route.
- The identity of today's Europe is anchored in the history of the Eighty Years' War.
- By developing a European cultural route, European history and the story of the creation of the Netherlands can be experienced and told in a new way. The Spanish Route gives the opportunity to discover and experience 'the route of the Spanish army through 17th century Europe'. In this way, European identity is also experienced in a new way. European citizenship, distribution of tourism, regional identity and pride will be important spearheads in the development of the new International Route.
- The development of a European knowledge network about the Eighty Years' War.
- The aim of the network is to raise awareness of remembrance tourism in Europe about the Eighty Years' War. The network will also focus on education for as many different target groups as possible, with youth as a major focus. Cultural cooperation is an important pillar of European cooperation.

- The binding history of the various European countries on the theme of the Eighty Years' War will be propagated (if desired, the link to the Thirty Years' War can also be made).
- A European network can be created through this unifying past. The relationships that can be established will focus primarily on the 'sense of place' and a common European cultural identity.
- The shared European history is also that of an internationally shared past, colored by elements that also created the European identity and that were introduced by the Spanish and other European armies on all continents: imperialism and colonization. These identity elements must also be included in the European and international narrative of the Spanish Way.

Questions? Thank you.

