

## Brief description of Schokland through time

### 4900 BC First inhabitants

From 4900 BC, the first people appeared on Schokland on a regular basis. With the elevated river dunes, a boulder clay hill, two rivers and an abundance of wild life, this was an attractive location for people in those times. In around 1500 BC the landscape changed. From this moment until around 1000 AD, hardly any traces of human life have been found.

### 1000 A new group of inhabitants

In the Middle Ages, a new group of inhabitants came to live on Schokland and started on the reclamation of the peatland. Farmers constructed dykes and ditches to drain the area. This was followed by the arrival of farmers who kept cattle and grew cereals. However, the soil surface began to subside because of the drainage; the peat settled and consolidated and the soil surface subsided for good.

### 1450 The birth of an island

Over the centuries, the ground surface subsided and the various storm tides caused the sea to encroach even further upon the land. In the twelfth century, the Zuiderzee came into being. With each storm tide the sea took a piece of the peninsula. At first, only a small strip of peatland connected Schokland to the mainland, but this last strip was probably also engulfed by the sea in around 1450. Schokland became a swampy island and the inhabitants settled on the four man-made mounds (terpen) situated on the east side of the island.

### 1660 The division of Schokland

In 1660, Amsterdam bought the fishing villages of Urk and Emmeloord. As a world port city, Amsterdam attached great importance to investment in strategic locations. The island consisted of two parts: North Schokland belonged to Amsterdam, while South Schokland fell under Overijssel. There was also a religious divide: the north was Catholic, the south was Protestant and they both had their own churches.

### 1859 Schokland was evacuated

In the nineteenth century, Schokland continued to decline. The island became smaller and less safe, with the continual threat of floods. The fishery was also in decline. Schokland became the poorest municipality in the Netherlands. In 1859, government authorities saw no future for the island; the government decided that Schokland had to be evacuated. Apart from a few public servants (such as the lighthouse keeper), all 635 inhabitants left the island. They received an allowance and their houses were moved to Schokker neighbourhoods in the surrounding villages (on the mainland, the Zuiderzee coast).

### 1942 An island on dry land

In 1942, the Noordoostpolder was reclaimed. From this moment, Schokland became part of the mainland, although the contours remain clearly visible in the landscape. Schokland is slightly elevated and thus forms an island on dry land. Little remains of the most recent human occupation. However, all kinds of remains relating to earlier human occupation in prehistoric times and the Middle Ages have been discovered. This small piece of land appears to hold an excellent overall view of Dutch history in its soil.



## Visiting addresses and opening hours World Heritage Schokland



**Museum Schokland**  
Middelbuurt 3  
8319 AB Schokland  
0527 - 251396  
www.museumshokland.nl  
@MuseumSchokland  
Museum-Schokland

**November to March:**  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11.00 - 17.00 hrs  
(except 01-01 and 25-12)  
**April - October:**  
Tuesday - Sunday 11.00 - 17.00 hrs  
**July and August:**  
Daily from 10.00 - 17.00 hrs

**Flevo-landschap**  
**Visitor Centre De Gesteentetuin**  
Keileemweg 1  
8319 AC Schokland  
0527 - 652 210 / 0320 - 286 111  
www.flevo-landschap.nl  
@flevo-landschap  
flevo-landschap

**November to February:**  
Saturday and Sunday from 12.00 to 16.00 hrs  
**March to October:**  
Saturday and Sunday from 12.00 to 17.00 hrs  
**Open every day from 12.00 to 17.00 hrs**  
during all the school holidays and in the  
months of July, August and September.



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## Schokland - The First World Heritage Site in the Netherlands

Schokland is a unique combination of cultural history and nature. Evidence of human habitation going back more than 10,000 years can be found there. It is a place between land and water, in the middle of the Noordoostpolder, with a wealth of archaeological treasures.

It is not surprising that UNESCO decided to award Schokland the status of World Heritage Site in 1995. The World Heritage Site status constitutes proof that people lived on Schokland from prehistoric times until the reclamation of the Noordoostpolder.

### Hidden treasures

It is still possible to see that Schokland was once an island. You see it in the landscape and the monumental buildings such as the historic church and the lighthouse keeper's house. And, of course, the rich, archaeological seabed archive. What is particularly special about these treasures is that some of them are completely intact and, therefore, undamaged.



### Battle against the water

Schokland symbolises the life of the Dutch people in their battle with and against the water. And, in spite of the threat of floods and the poverty, people always lived there. From the prehistoric hunter-gatherers to modern-day inhabitants. Thousands of years of history relating to human habitation in the Netherlands is lying concealed in the ground under Schokland. A little more than 160 archaeological sites are evidence of the development and culture of the inhabitants of Schokland; ranging from hunter-gatherer and farmer to islander and polder inhabitant. Prehistoric earthenware and tools have been found in the ground, but also complete graves, remains of houses, man-made mounds, church remains and dyke systems.

— Cycling route approx 10 km  
— Walking route approx 11 km

500 metres



### Visiting opportunities

The Schokland World Heritage Site encompasses not only the former island, but also the surrounding agricultural areas and the Schokkerbos. Agricultural crops such as rye, rapeseed and poppy seed are grown on the island and animals graze there too. The island is surrounded by wet grasslands, full of flowers, where ground-nesting birds brood. It is a beautiful area for walks and cycling tours. Walk along the unique Listening Route or the Schokland Path – a "kuierlattenroute". Walking and cycling routes are available at Museum Schokland and the Flevo-Landschap Visitor Centre De Gesteentetuin. Toerisme Schokland has a number of packages to choose from.



### Activities

Activities, events and theme weekends are regularly organised on Schokland. For example, guided walks relating to the cultural history or natural surroundings of Schokland, children's activities, and also classical concerts in the Museum church. The Lantern Walk and the Scandinavian Market are two unique highlights. You should also visit Schokland in October during the Nacht van de Nacht.



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### Rich natural environment

As an area of natural beauty, Schokland also has a great deal to offer. The Schokkerbos, extending along the west side, is more than 50 years old and consists mainly of ash, oak and coniferous trees, but wild honeysuckle grows there too. The growth of the forest is uneven and slow due to the presence of boulder clay and peat. An abundance of rare toadstools, ferns and mosses can be found there. It is home to birds of prey such as the goshawk, buzzard, sparrow hawk and the long-eared owl, but also many songbirds and deer. Special boxes for the pine martens have been hung up near the Gesteentetuin.