


stichting
Kastelen
Buitenplaatsen
Landgoederen



The national platform
for castles, historic country
houses & rural estates

www.skbl.nl



The Netherlands is incredibly beautiful. Everywhere there are places where you will be impressed by rural beauty. These areas often contain castles or historic country houses, which appeal to the imagination and contribute significantly to the beauty and uniqueness of our landscape.

The Castles, historic Country Houses & Rural Estates Foundation (sKBL) aims to contribute to the preservation of this valuable landscape and monumental heritage.



EYCKENSTEIN, MAARTENSDIJK

Treasure

It is superfluous to say that nature is good for us. However, space for nature – and as such space for green cultural heritage – is under pressure due to urbanisation, expanding infrastructure, and intensive agriculture and horticulture. By working together we can make sure that this age-old and valuable source of recreation will continue to exist. This is what SKBL is committed to, because more support means a better chance for the preservation of our monumental heritage.

Easily accessible

Not everyone knows where to find the beautiful castles, historic country houses and rural estates of the Netherlands. SKBL has changed that. On our website www.skbl.nl you can find information on hundreds of castles and historic country houses, including address data, activities and accessibility information.



FRAEYLEMABORG, SLOCHTEREN



MIDDACHTEN



RUPELMONDE, NIEUWERSLUIS

Relaxation and recreation

At historic country houses, you can not only work but also relax. There are many ways to clear the mind and to enrich the spirit, such as cycling, walking, enjoying a cup of tea, volunteering, horse riding, spending the night, sailing, participating in meetings, having a party, or visiting exhibitions or concerts. Lovers of zoos and vegetable gardens will be in their element, too. You can find practical information on the SKBL website.

SKBL's network

In addition to organising promotional activities, SKBL also puts energy into strengthening the mutual bond between castles, country houses and rural estates, e.g. by organising study days and by stimulating the exchange of knowledge. Indeed, collaborating and sharing knowledge promotes the preservation of these wonderful places. SKBL has a growing group of donors who share our objectives and together form an active network.

Ithaka prize and scholarship

SKBL stimulates publications on castles, historic country houses and rural estates. Since 2015, the Ithaka prize and the Ithaka scholarship, each consisting of €5000, are

annually awarded to research or journalistic work that reveals mutual relationships between castles and historic country houses.



Ithaka



DUIVENVOORDE, VOORSCHOTEN

Usefulness and pleasure

Do you know the difference between a castle, an estate or an old country house?

During the late Middle Ages, many **castles** were defence structures that were in possession of the nobility.

From 1630 onwards, the **country house** emerged, at a time when many citizens benefited from the tremendous trade prosperity. Across the countryside, country houses were built to serve as a recreational summer residence for wealthy townspeople. During this period, many castles were transformed into country houses as well. The main building with its annexes, the garden and park would together form an artistically designed ensemble.



Certain regions show high concentrations of country houses, which make for beautiful walking areas. Where country houses used to serve as leisure areas for the rich during the summer, today many more people enjoy their cultural and recreative highlights.

When a castle or a country house contains a lot of land, it is called a **rural estate**. Traditionally, at a rural estate the land is used for both agriculture as well as forestry, and (rental) income is used for survival. There are also rural estates where the monumental house or castles has disappeared.



NIJENHUIS, DIEPENHEIM

Find out more

You can find all the castles and historic country houses of the Netherlands on www.skbl.nl. Here you can also find news and other interesting information on this heritage, including an agenda containing many events that can be visited throughout the year.

SKBL also actively uses Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. You can find us by the name of SKBL.

On our website you can sign up for our free digital quarterly newsletter.

If you want to make an active contribution to the important work of SKBL by becoming a volunteer, or if you want to support a country house or castle near you, please visit our website.

The Castles, historic Country Houses & Rural Estates Foundation
Veerpoortdijk 105

NL - 6981 LA DOESBURG

info@skbl.nl



www.skbl.nl



©SKBL-2018 | COVER: DEN AALSHORST, DALFSEN
IMAGES: HELENE'S BEELD | DESIGN: INPETTO-ONTWERP