



#### PIETERPAD SPRING & AUTUMN

type :	Caminos Self-Guided
level :	
duration :	9 days
period:	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
code:	NL49001

## Pieterpad: Stage 4, Vierlingsbeek to Maastricht - Netherlands

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9 days, PRICE FROM € 999



Perhaps **the most spectacular section of the Pieterpad**, this journey through Limburg is a true feast for the senses. **Walk over rolling limestone hills, past lush vineyards, and through charming villages** that feel untouched by time.

Follow the Maas River, explore the serene beauty of the Maasduinen, and **immerse yourself in the rich history of Maastricht**. The route culminates atop the **Pietersberg**, where a breathtaking panorama of the marlstone landscape awaits—a **perfect finale to an unforgettable adventure**.

## Route

### Day 1 Arrival Vierlingsbeek

The Vierlingsbeek station is located a bit outside the center but is within walking distance. The starting point of the Pieterpad is about 1.3 km from the station.

### Day 2 From Vierlingsbeek to Broekhuizen, 28 km

Shortly after leaving the village of Vierlingsbeek, you will reach the ruins of the 15th-century castle 'Makken'. Continue to Smakt, the pilgrimage site of Saint Joseph, and reach the beautiful shifting sand area of the 'Boschhuizer Bergen'. On the Geysteren estate, reach the Oostrum brook and the watermill of Rosmolen. Another sight is the former castle farm from 1619, the 'Kasteelke'. Continue your way through Tienray to the North Limburg church village of Swolgen. Just outside Swolgen, enter the Schuitwater nature reserve, located on an old Maas meander. The wet forests here are accessible via wooden boardwalks. You then continue towards Broekhuizen.

*NOTE: This long stage can be shortened to two stages with an overnight stay in Meerlo in between. The daily distances then become 20 km and 11km, from accommodation to accommodation. You can specify when booking that you want to stay overnight in Meerlo in between.*

### Day 3 From Broekhuizen to Venlo, 18 km

After a wonderful overnight in Broekhuizen you continue with the 'Pieterpad'. During the walk today you will pass by the Houthuizer chapel and 'Huys Kaldenbroek', a 15th-century castle farm. Just before the village of Grubbenvorst, pass the Ursuline Convent, and take the ferry across the Maas. On the other side of the water, enjoy a pleasant walk through the beautiful floodplains of the 'Océ- Weerd'. Finally, arrive in Venlo, where you should visit the monument-rich St. Martinus street and the 16th-century town hall.

#### Day 4 From Venlo to Swalmen, 23 km

Leave Venlo behind and set off on the heathlands of Jammerdaal, with its former clay and sand quarries. Then follows the Wambachgroeve, also formed by clay extraction. This transitions into the beautiful 'Holzmühle' nature reserve, right on the German border. Walk along or over the Prinsendijk, where various small bunkers, so-called 'tobruks', from World War II can be seen. Reach the 'Meerlebroek' nature reserve, following the fast-flowing and meandering Swalm to the lively village of Swalmen.

#### Day 5 From Swalmen to Montfort, 23 km

The first cultural highlight today is Hillenraedt, a beautiful 14th-century water castle. Walk through the surrounding count's forests to reach the aristocratic castle farm Zuidewijk Spick via an old Roman road. Continue your way to Melick, a church village in the Roer valley. Cross the river and reach the charming village St. Odiliënberg. Walk further through the shifting sands of the 'Sweeltje' and arrive in Montfort. If you have some energy left, visit the ruins of the ancient castle with its information centre, cellar complex, and castle garden.

#### Day 6 Montfort - Sittard, 24 km

Near Montfort lies a valuable cultural landscape. Stand at the 'Duvelskei' and enjoy the view over the fields of the 'Grootbroek', once a large swamp. If you deviate from the route slightly, you can visit the Cistercian abbey of Lilbosch. Back on the Pieterpad, pass the recent find site of the treasure of Pey, dating from Roman times. Walk a bit into Germany through the Iron Forest, and re-enter the Netherlands at Isenbruch, the country's narrowest point. In Sittard, visit the St. Peter's Church and the Cloister Quarter before relaxing at one of the cozy terraces on the old market.

#### Day 7 From Sittard to Strabeek, 22 km

On the way, the Kollenberg appears, a beautiful piece of urban nature, with the chapel of St. Rosa at its highest point. It is not the only one, as there are seven chapels along the rising path. Walk from the high church village of Puth along the Geleen brook to Terborgh castle. Then through a so-called 'grubbe' along the Diependal geological monument to Terstraten, with its typical Limburg farms. Look up at the 'Giant of Schimmert', an old water tower, and reach the highest point of the Pieterpad at 427 ft. Through the beautiful Raven forest, arrive in the hamlet of Strabeek.

#### Day 8 From Strabeek (Valkenburg) to Maastricht (Sint-Pietersberg), 17 km

Walk through Ingendaal and the heathland of Bergen, two beautiful, adjoining nature reserves along the river Geul. Reach the marl quarry Blom, a deep, abandoned shaft, where marl was extracted until 1999, now a true nature paradise. Descend into the 'Bemelergrubbe' and pass small marl caves. Soon after, walk through the outskirts of Maastricht on your way to the historic centre, from where you head towards Fort St. Pieter, located atop the St. Pietersberg, blessed with great viewpoints. Here, you have reached the end of the Pieterpad!

#### Day 9 Departure Maastricht

After breakfast, this last part of the Pieterpad ends here for you.

## Practical info

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## Included

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### What is included

- 8 Nights in double room in \*\* hotels with breakfast
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance
- luggage transfer
- city tax

### What is not included

#### Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour

- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.
- Optional Services

#### These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- Packed lunch
- luggage transfer
- cancellation insurance
- Parking
- Ferry fees
- extra meals