Walking routes
‘The Clover Leaf Trail’


The routes

Duration: 100 min
Length: 6,38 km
Steps: 7750

starting point
Budapestlaan 17
‘The Grand Tour through the Botanic Gardens’
During ‘the Grand Tour of the Botanic Gardens’ you will pass through all parts of the gardens with the exception of the Rock Garden and the Tropical Greenhouses. The walk takes 20 to 25 minutes, including several stops to look around, and is 1,13 km long.

‘The Grass Snake walk’
‘The Grass Snake walk’ is a route through the Grass Snake Forest next to the Botanic Gardens. This route takes 25 minutes and is 1,58 km long.

‘The Research Route’
‘The Research Route’ is the shortest route. You’ll pass several research buildings on the Utrecht Science Park, such as the Earth Simulation Lab, but also the Probe Rocket ‘Skylark’. The walk takes 15 minutes and is 1 km long.

‘The Long Leaf’
‘The Long Leaf’, the longest walk, is a route along several characteristic buildings of the Utrecht Science Park and a piece of nature. The route takes 40 min and is 2,67 km.
Botanic Gardens

Walking route ‘Grand Tour through the Botanic Gardens’

During the Grand Tour through the Botanic Gardens you will pass all parts of the gardens with the exception of the Rock Garden and the Tropical Greenhouses.

The route

1. The starting point is the main entrance of the Botanic Gardens, Budapestaan 17. Turn left immediately after entering the Botanic Gardens and follow the path along the water.

2. You walk through the Bamboo forest in the direction of the Tropical Greenhouses.

3. Before the Tropical Greenhouses turn right and walk under the Wisteria arch to the Discovery Garden.
4. Via the Discovery Garden you pass the Bee Hotel and the Birders Den. You can also follow some side paths in the Discovery Garden to see the different themes.

5. Follow the path past the Bee Hotel and cross the bridge to the Evolution Garden.

6. Via the Evolution Garden you walk back to the main entrance, the end point of the walk.
The route

1. You start at the main entrance (outside the gate) of the Botanic Gardens, Budapestlaan 17, Utrecht.

2. From here you walk in a northerly direction along Thermal Storage II, past the two large benches and the picnic table to the sign for the pedestrian path.

3. Follow this path past the vegetable gardens to the bridge.

4. Follow the yellow signs with black arrows and turn right at the first T-junction.
5. At the end of the forest path you walk over a bridge again.

6. After the bridge, you will see a bee hotel on your right.

7. A few meters further towards the Utrecht Science Park is a sign with an explanation about the Grass Snake forest.

8. Follow the path to the left back to the Botanic Gardens, the end point of this walk.
Botanic Gardens

Walking route
‘The Research Route’

‘The Research Route’ passes several research buildings on the Utrecht Science Park, such as the Earth Simulation Lab, but also the Probe Rocket ‘Skylark’.

Duration: 15 min  
Length: 1 km  
Steps: 1000

The route

1. You start at the main entrance (outside the gate) of the Botanic Gardens, Budapestlaan 17, Utrecht.

2. Walk in a northerly direction and follow the curve to the left into Princetonlaan. Walk past the Vening Meinesz building (on your right) to the Earth Simulation Lab (on your right).

3. Walk past the Earth Simulation lab to Sorbonnelaan. Here you will see the Probe Rocket ‘Skylark’.
4. Keep following the path along the Sorbonnelaan, where there are many benches to take a break to eat lunch, for example. Walk down this path and at the end of the Sorbonnelaan you follow the road to the left. From here you see the Minnaert building.

5. If you walk past the Minnaert Building, you will see the Botanic Gardens again.

6. The walk ends at the main entrance of the Botanic Gardens.
Walking route
‘The Long Leaf’

‘The Long Leaf’ is a walk along several characteristic buildings of the Utrecht Science Park and a piece of nature.

**The route**

1. You start at the main entrance (outside the gate) of the Botanic Gardens, Budapestlaan 17, Utrecht.

2. Start walking in southern direction via the Leuvenlaan and along the Hugo R. Kruyt building to the Padualaan.

3. Walk down the Padualaan towards the Administration Building and past the Langeveld Building.

4. After the Langeveld Building you take the first turn right and you will pass Spar supermarket and Primera.

5. Cross over to the Cambridgelaan student complex and walk left past the building on the bike path towards the Bolognelaan and Partou childcare.
6. At the end of the bicycle path, turn left at the intersection near the childcare center and walk along the Bolognelaan toward the intersection of the Heidelberglaan and Universiteitsweg. If you have a lot of time, you could walk down the Zandpad to Fort Rijnauwen. Note that this will make the walk at least half an hour longer. Walk the same way back to continue the route.

7. As you walk towards Heidelberglaan, there is a small park on your right with several picnic benches and seats where you can take a break.

8. On your way to the Universiteitsweg, you walk past the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine building (on your right) and the Johanna building with student housing (on your left).

9. Cross the Heidelberglaan and walk straight ahead between the Administration Building and the UMC Utrecht along the Universiteitsweg. You will pass the David de Wied building.

10. After the David de Wied building take the first path to the left (Hoofddijk).
11. You are now walking along the Hoofddijk. This path runs partly along the Botanic Gardens and partly along sports complex Olympos. Along the way you come across an inundation bench where you can take a break.

Inundation is another word for flooding. The inundation benches are placed along the New Dutch Waterline, of which Fort Hoofddijk is a part. This was once an important line of defense from Muiden to the Biesbosch, with water as the ultimate weapon. In times of war, the land was deliberately flooded to stop the enemy. At the same time, the large rivers were an impassable barrier, as long as shallow places and bridges were guarded by strong bastions. The bench represents the former water level of a flooded area. On the bench you can read more about the history and nature of this place.

12. Walk down the Hoofddijk until you reach the Leuvenlaan. Turn right and then take the first turn to the right (Budapestlaan).

13. You are now walking straight to the main entrance of the Botanic Gardens, the endpoint of this walk.