

## Mudflats.....

Why-o-why do great things always start before sunrise??????

Kyle, our motor tour guide, did convince us (me) to go by minivan. It took him at least an hour during the BBQ last night. We wanted to drive our motorbikes to the coast. But he knows, he is sure we are more dead than alive after our walk. We will show him he's wrong. So wrong. Thinking of it: why isn't he joining us?

Arriving at the sea dike at 7.00 AM. I really enjoyed the ride. The bright yellow fields of colza. The fields with corn, oats, potatoes, cauliflower. The centuries old churches in the middle of know where. I even saw kangaroos!! Or am I still dreaming.

After a cup of coffee and a short explanation of the guides (one in front and two at the back) Martin, Gale, Sue and I and 30 other crazy people start walking. I really couldn't understand the man. His English is like mine after a heavy night. What I did understand: stay with the group and never stay behind. The guide is always the last one.

Dike up. Dike down. Sheep are running away. I see something sparkling far away. The grass is getting soft. I see water rising around my boots. Stupid boots. Tied down all the way up to my ankles. (also a "Kyle idea"). Now I see mud. A lot off it. Oops I see people struggling. The mud is soaking. I see a boot and someone without it..... In 10 minutes we do only about 500 meters. Thank you Kyle for our stupid boots. At least we don't lose them.

Finally the ground is getting better, harder and in the end it is good to walk. This is the bottom of the sea. Low tide. Dry sand. Far away seals are sun bathing. Seagulls are circling above my head waiting for our lunch. After the heavy mud this is an easy stroll. Wow: water. I see people going down up to the waste. I put my bag at my head and cross one of the natural fairways. Damn cold.

We walk and talk. We talk to the Dutch, it seems they all speak English. We share food and they want to know what we are doing here. Why American people come to their little 'under the sea level' country. We tell them we are joining a motor tour through the Netherlands. Kyle told us about the possibility to walk from the mainland to an island. About crossing the sea during low tide. About the narrow corridor: passing is only possible before the water is rising again. We like to be physically challenged. We like too.....

Water again. People submerge totally. Over their heads!!!!



After hours of walking, talking, enjoying, eating and drinking we see it. Land. An island is appearing at the horizon. To be honest: I feel every muscle in my legs. I hate it but Kyle was right: it is a great challenge to do this walk across the mudflats. I even see the ProHolland coach. I know Kyle has dry clothes, food and hot drinks for us. ProHolland motor vacations promised: you have fun, we do the worry. Actually they even do what they promised. I like the way they organize there trips: lots of options and nothing is obligated.

Today I didn't ride my motorbike. I walked the bottom of the sea. It was a good choice.

Want to know more about ProHolland motor vacations? Know more about what they have to offer? Look at their site [www.proholland.com](http://www.proholland.com) It offers great info.

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