

DUTCH DELTA DESIGN THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

The Wadden: birthplace of Dutch Delta Design. Journey through the fascinating history; from the terps to the new Afsluitdijk and the Fish Migration River.

The Dutch have a very unique relationship with water. You can find our water managers pretty much everywhere in the world. Our core ideas of *eco-engineering* and *building with nature*, mean deltas along all the seas and oceans in the world are looking at our solutions to the rising sea levels.

The Delta Works and the Afsluitdijk attract thousands of visitors each year. The terps and mounds in the Wadden are the birthplace of this story that continues to fascinate to the very last chapter and whets your appetite for what the future holds.



A well-earned high point. The terp in Hegebeintum. The beginning of the terpenland story.

Zoutkamp: go back in time to the fishing of yesteryear in this colourful village.



DAY 1 LIVING AND LOSING

Let's start at the beginning. At Wierdenland Museum in Ezinge, archaeologist and professor Van Giffen did his first major exploration into the terps and mounds in this village. It yielded a treasure trove of information about the earliest inhabitants of the Wadden coast.

After lunch we will continue learning about the Groningen water heritage during a boat tour on the Reitdiepdal. This water once brought the ebb and flow all the way to the city of Groningen. We will pass by Aduarderzijl, which played a key role in the battle against 'Bommen Berend' (Bombing Bernard) in the Rampjaar (Disaster Year) of 1672. Rub A Dub Dub Three Men In A Tub.

Via Vliedorp we head to Zoutkamp. The Wadden Sea plays a main role in the history of both cities. The mound village of Vliedorp was virtually wiped off the map in the infamous Christmas flood of 1717. Only a small wall and a few headstones survive as evidence of its existence. Zoutkamp lost its function as a fishing village when the Lauwerszee was closed off. Visit the Visserijmuseum to learn more about the history and development of the Zoutkamp fisheries.

DAY 2 PIONEERS

From Zoutkamp we travel to Paesens-Moddergat. These twin villages were struck by disaster on 5 March 1883. 17 of the 22 fishing vessels were lost in a northwestern storm. 83 men never returned. Despite the disaster fund, the catastrophe cast the women and children of Paesens-Moddergat into poverty. And the government provided no support. Get a glimpse of the trials and tribulations of coastal life in 't Fiskershúske Museum.

Our next stop is Holwerd. The last village before reaching the pier to Ameland was given the nickname 'the most passed village'. It fell prey to abandonment. The shops and school closed. Houses stood empty. Until four residents decided to turn the tides. With a hole in the dike, they brought the sea and life back to their village. Holwerd aan Zee is an epic, intriguing story about bravery and daring to take chances.

Hegebeintum is probably the most photographed and painted terp. At 8.80 above NAP (normal Amsterdam water level), it is the highest terp in the Wadden area. Just like its sister city Oosterbeintum - only visible from the air - Hegebeintum risked being excavated around 1900. Chunks out of its flank are a testimony to that time and now provide us with a good image of the history of the terpenland.

We leave Hegebeintum to spend the night in Strandhotel Vigilante in Makkum.



DAY 3 BATTLING THE WATER

After breakfast on the beach, we will visit the new Afsluitdijk Wadden Center where stories about the water works in the Wadden area and the Wadden Sea have been brought together. Climb up to the rooftop and take in the amazing views of the World Heritage Site and the IJsselmeer. The Afsluitdijk will be climate proofed in the coming years and a Fish Migration River is being created that runs straight through the dike. The Northerners are no longer fighting against the water, but working with it to create a safe living environment with a rich biodiversity.



WADDEN
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Highlights

- 1 Museum Wierdenland
- 2 Zoutkamp
- 3 Holwerd aan Zee
- 4 Terp in Hegebeintum

