



Exploring Zeeland

June 26th – July 3rd 2014
Essex Section Rally and Cruise in Company



Objective - To explore (in convivial company) a part of the Southern Delta region of the Netherlands within Zeeland province.

Timing - To avoid any of the school holidays (which are staggered by province in Holland), end of June is best. Harbours and the Veerse Meer can get worryingly crowded in the holiday periods.

Rough outline -

Thur 26th Meet at Royal Belgian YC Zeebrugge after passages either direct from Harwich (83nm) or via Ramsgate/Dunkirk (38 & 36 nm). There is the Sealife exhibition Centre and a 1960s Russian sub which are both fascinating but those wanting to visit Bruges (easy by tram) should do so on the way back or get to Zeebrugge earlier. Those wishing to cruise in company to Zeebrugge will be able to do so.

Welcome Pontoon Party and briefing.

Fri 27th Leave Zeebrugge to enter Kanaal door Walcharen at Vlissingen and catch the bridge opening sequence to arrive in Middelburg in the early afternoon. There is plenty to see in Middelburg including the Town Hall, Abbey and Lang Jan Tower, as well as decent shops. A provisioning point.

Sat 28th Cruising the Veerse Meer and overnighting on an island or at De Omloop. A lovely sheltered and non-tidal cruising ground.

Sun 29th Into the tidal Oosterschelde and then the Sas Van Goes lock and Havenkanaal to overnight in Goes town harbour. A second provisioning point.

Rally dinner at Restaurant De Landbouw.

Mon 30th Cruising the Oosterschelde and overnight at anchor in Krabbenkreek or moored up in Sint Annaland Marina or wherever the mood takes you .

Tues 1st Cruise via the Zeelandbrug and Zierekzee (for provisions) to the Beton Haven on the E side of the Roompot barrier on Neeltje Jans Island. One or two nights on pontoon or at anchor.

Wed 2nd Tour of the Delta Expo at Neeltje Jans - If you have not been there it is a brilliant demonstration and account of how the Dutch prevent a repeat of the 1953 floods (which destroyed 36,000 houses), by damming the entire Delta Region at a cost (1958) of £6Bn. Large scale hydraulic models show how the ecology of the Delta is preserved by maintaining salinity levels and how storm surges are handled. A full day will be enough for most people but even a couple of hours is an eye opener. You can then go inside the barrier and see the sluices close up.

Thurs 3rd Depart the Southern Delta via Roompotsluis to return to UK.(or maybe continue to explore the Netherlands?)

NOTES

Given where we will be mooring a limit of ten boats will be necessary.

A deposit of £10 per head is required. A full account and any refunds will be given at Roompot.

There is just one rally dinner planned but doubtless there will be on-board parties and perhaps adhoc suppers aboard or ashore once friendships have been renewed or forged

For the benefit of those who have not been before guidance will be given in advance on such matters as buying charts etc and on Schengen forms, ATIS/ VHF use, mooring box techniques and locking procedures.

Expressions of interest are asked for by 17th April following which additional detail, registration forms and guidance notes will be issued. Final registration and deposits will be required by May 22nd on a first come first served basis.

Please register your interest now with Bill Miller at
bill@strattonlodge.plus.com
or call 01371 820052