

Sunday, August 19, 2007

Hi everybody!

When we first moved here several people told us to go to the Wadden Islands on the Northern edge of the Netherlands. Well, if you remember our [first attempt](#) at this you'll know that so far we hadn't made it. So, 4 years later we decided to try again.

The closest, largest and easiest to reach island is Texel. It is just over 1 hour drive from Amsterdam to Den Helder and then a 20 minute ferry ride from Den Helder to the island.

When arriving on Texel you drive through farmland. There is little sea view and lots of polders (fields) with sheep and cows (mostly sheep). It is easy to see why some people would find nothing attractive or interesting at first sight.



The beauty of Texel lays in its windblown beaches and dunes. The whole western side of the island is one long beach running miles! Unlike in the U.S. there is no real development right up on the beach. Instead the dunes have been permitted to form and grow. We found a campsite in the dunes and pitched our tent just over the crest from the beach. We fell asleep Saturday night to the serenade of crickets and other critters and woke the next morning with the birds.



Many of the dunes are protected bird habitat with 300 species nesting and breeding on there. There are many walking and biking paths through the dunes and along the paths there are often vantage points with benches for sitting and birdwatching. We spent most of our time on Texel beachwalking and dune hiking and saw several birds (which we still need to look up) that we hadn't seen before.

Don't forget to click on the photo album for more details on the pictures!

Happy travels!  
Melanie and Chris