

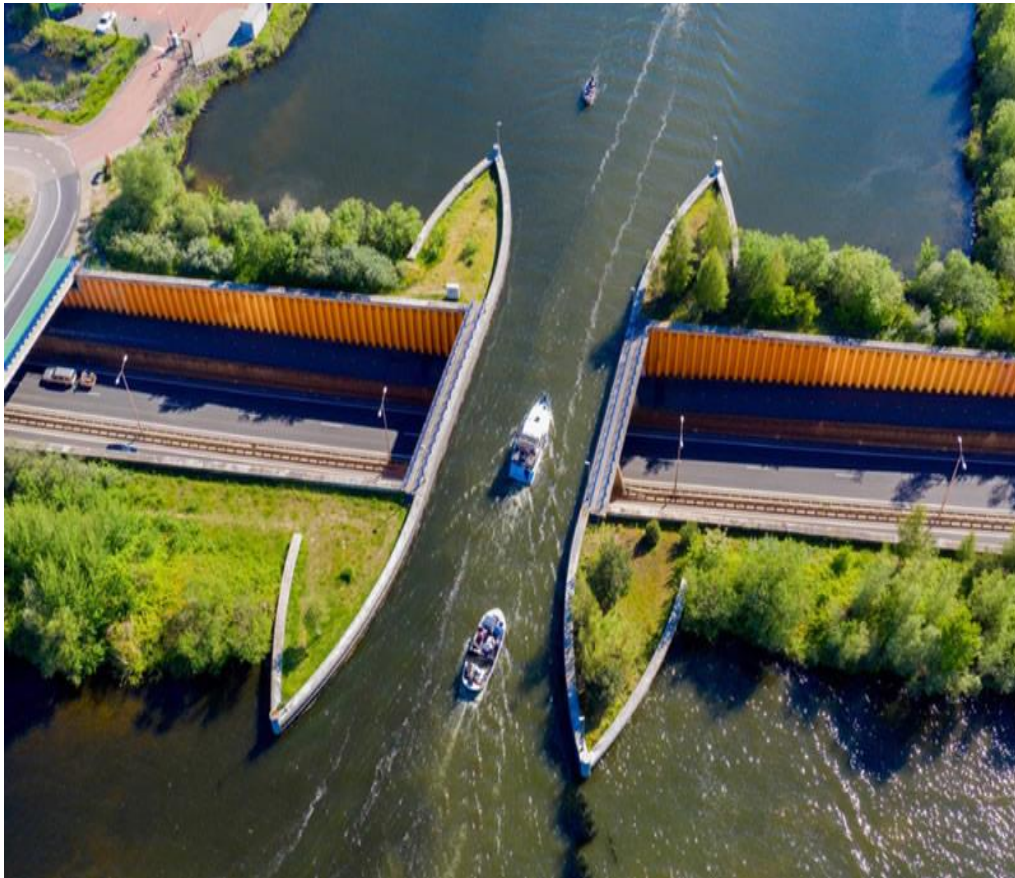
Cruising the Netherlands

with the Parkernosters

November 7, 2024

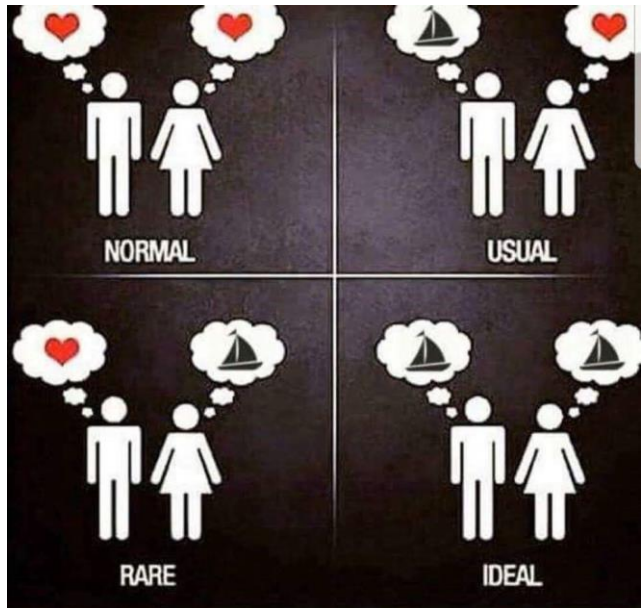
Richmond Yacht Club, Richmond CA

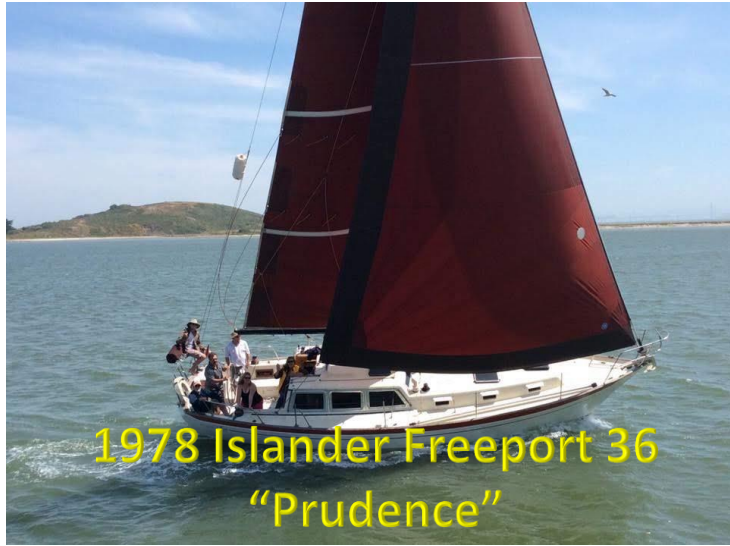
The Netherlands... where they build bridges so the canal goes over the road.



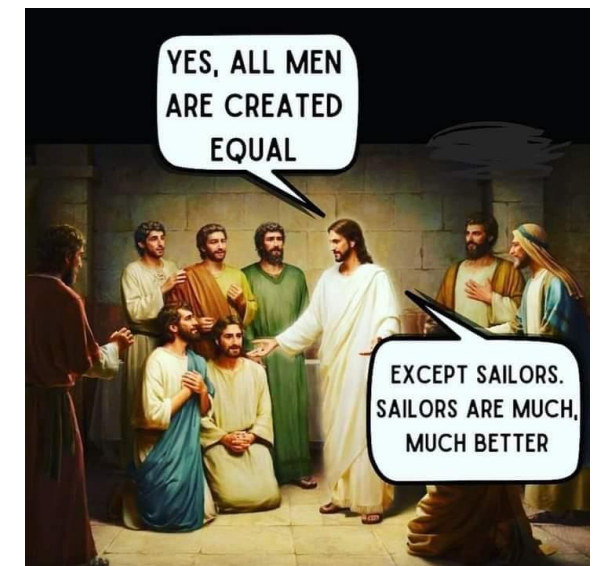


Meet David and Kim





Cruising is doing maintenance in exotic locations. 



We're not rich, we're irresponsible.

Let's Start at the Very Beginning...

- The Dutch invented the orange carrot. (Orange is the “official” color of the country).
- There are over 1,000 historic windmills there.
- They are super tall people.
- The Dutch eat the most liquorice in the world (yuck).
- The Dutch invented gin (it's called Genever there).
- Other inventions include the microscope and the stock market that the American stock exchange is based on.
- Did you know that Amsterdam is in North Holland, and it's not correct to refer to the Netherlands as “Holland”, because Holland is a region inside of the Netherlands? Now you know.



The Dutch Canal System



- Waterkaart app to navigate the canals.
- Canals are clean and less weedy than other countries.
- 6000km of canals in a country that is continually adding more land.
- Can access all of Europe using canals.
- Netherlands doesn't require the RYA International Competency Certificate (aka "ICC") but it probably will in the future. The rest of Europe does require the ICC.
- Dutch people are very helpful and friendly, but direct (they will tell you that you have something in your teeth when your best friend wouldn't have told you).
- Bridge heights and depths are in DECI meters (NOT meters). This means height of 36.5 is 3.65m. Power line heights are in meters.
- Friesland is boater's paradise (see light green area in the northwest, to the left).

Dutch Gongoozling



What the hell is a Skûtsje?



(Kim calls it a "scootchee".)



1974 Marak GSAK 10,6 "Compagnon"

10,6m LOA ♦ 3,3m @ the beam ♦ draws 1.1m

5,1m with the mast up ♦ 3,8m with the mast down

Weight ... about 16 tons



EISTA-WERF B.V.

NEDERHEMERT - HOLLAND

SERIENR.

BOUWJAAR



Thuis (Home)





- Needs new paint job
- Brightwork trashed
- Canvas coming apart
- Yard tells us to leave 2 days after we get there
- What did we do???
- But, the engine has 54 hours on it... hmmm...

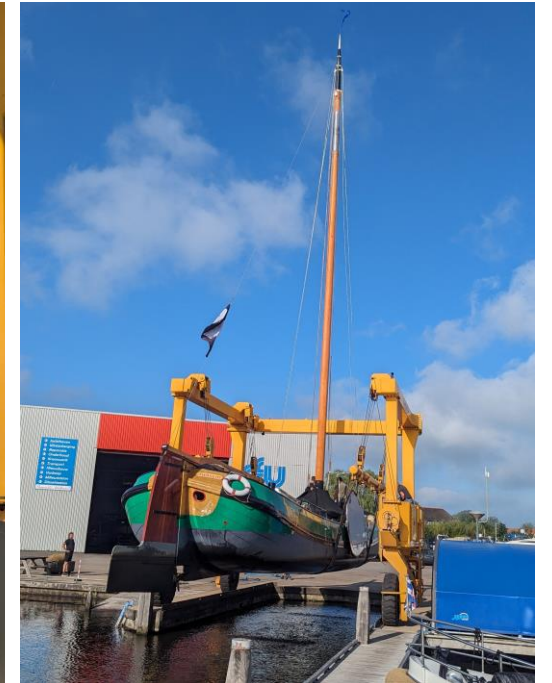


That Feeling of Being in Over Your Head

Jachthavens and Winterstalling



- Full Service Yards to store your boat in the off season.
- They work on our boat during the 9 months we are not there.
- We're on our 3rd yard in 2 years, and we found our perfect place.
 - Woman owned boatyard.
 - Incredibly clean and well run yard.
 - We can work on our own boat and stay in the B&B on the property if we can't stay on the boat.
 - We can pull into the yard during the season to fix things.
 - There is a horse ("Tender") and a dog ("Fender") to pet.
- Cost for storage is around \$1200/year (this is for the 9 months we are not in Europe).
- Be ready to be surprised by the hourly yard rate.

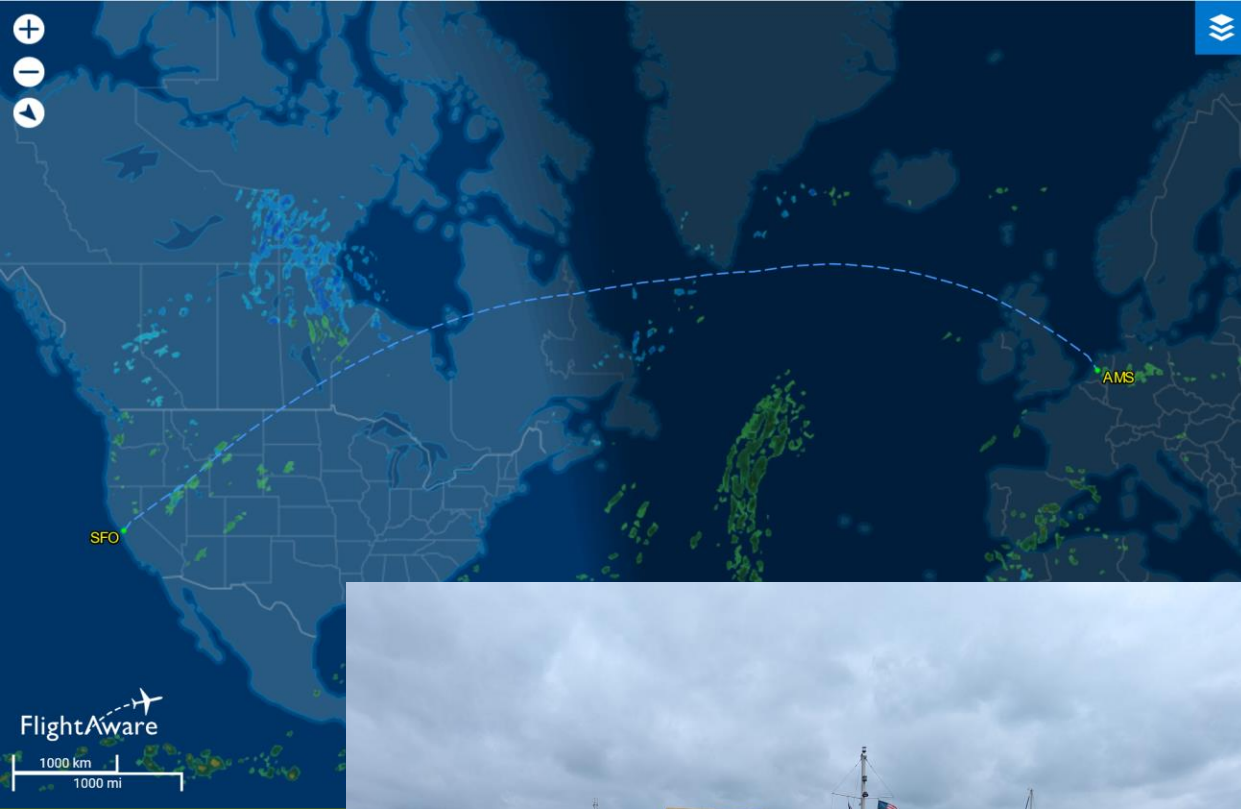




Rina Blue

Waypoint

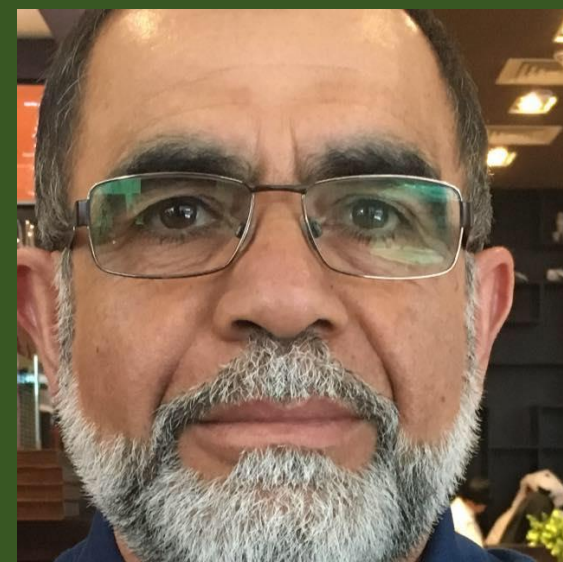
VIN Wijk 030



- ~12 hours to Amsterdam from SFO
- Dutch train system rocks. 2.5 hours to Grou with a switch in the middle
- NO UBER! WhatsApp the only taxi driver in Grou (Atiq) and he meets us at the station. (Hint: everyone in the rest of the world uses WhatsApp)
- Pick up boat at yard and motor 35 minutes to Grou marina
- Sleep off some jet lag, then provision the next day at the Jumbo grocery store (see left, it has a dock!)



This is Atiq 



Destination: Compagnon



How We Cruise

 Camera-
bewaking

- Plan to arrive when everyone else is leaving after breakfast to get a parking spot if going to a Passantenhaven
 - “Passantenhaven” means “marina”, and most marinas cost 16-20€ for the evening.
 - If you need to fill your water before you leave, start early. It takes us about an hour to fill our water tanks.
- Keep all your 1 and 2 Euro coins, because you will need them for showers, laundry and bruggeld or sluisgeld.
- We motor ~4 hours per day so we have time to wander around the next destination.
- Many bridges and locks have lunch hours and are not open between 12-1p.
- Camera bewaking bridges will not open if it's a button bridge. Bridgekeepers in small towns operate ALL the bridges in the town, and ride a bike alongside you to get to the next bridge.
- It's very important to understand that spring lines should be first on.
 - We've seen many people end up sideways because they tied their bow or stern on first.
- You need a VHF radio license to use it in the Netherlands. You don't really need a VHF.
- In the far north (above Leeuwarden), there are still a lot of places that don't take credit cards. That seems to coincide with more people who don't speak English.



De Turfroute

☞ We got a free gift bag

- It's advanced boat handling gone wild in the eastern part of the Netherlands.
- Limited length, width and height for boats due to bridges and very thin canals. Must be an "expert" boat handler, they say.
- Turf = peat, and peat was used in the 16th century to heat houses in Amsterdam.
- Most tourists (and even some residents) have never been there, and since the info is all in Frisian, most tourists have never heard of it.
- The town name "Donkerbroek" actually translated to "Dark Pants" (and they are proud of this).

Aldeboarn (population 1,550)



De Turfroute



David Tending a Self-Tending Bridge



Waiting in the Gorredijk Lock

Local Knowledge



Side Tied at Sneek Waterpoort



Side Tied to Jos & Anja



Local Lock Knowledge



Video in the Blokzijl lock
courtesy of Jos, partner
of Anja and dad of Kyra

This is Kyra 🐾



Friesland Favorites - IJlst

“De Rat” molen is a working windmill/sawmill
Built in the 17th century





Friesland Favorites - Fierljeppen



- Fier = “far”, ljeppen = “leaping”
- Pole is 26-43 feet long
- Originally just a way to get around the waterways and leap over small water channels
- First official match in 1771



FIERLJEPPEN!
in IJlst

Nederlandse Kampioenschappen Fierljeppen
2 sept. 2023
14:00 uur
IJlst

Bekijk de spectaculairste Friese sport in het echt!
Kijk voor meer informatie op www.fierljeppen.frl of www.fierljeppenijlst.nl

ZATERDAG 17 JUNI
09:30 uur jeugd
13:00 uur 3e klasse
15:30 uur 2e klasse
19:00 uur 1e klasse

DINSDAG 4 JULI
19:00 uur 2e klasse

WOENSDAG 5 JULI
19:00 uur 1e klasse

DONDERDAG 6 JULI
19:00 uur 3e klasse

WOENSDAG 9 AUG.
18:30 uur 1e klasse

Fryslân Cup

ZATERDAG 12 AUG.
10:00 uur FK jeugd
15:00 uur 3e klasse
18:30 uur 2e klasse

FLB

Rabobank FB Oranjewoud **Dijkstra Draisma**



Friesland Favorites - Stavoren

- Granted city rights in 1060
- Burial place of early kings of Friesland
- Declined in the Middle Ages when a sandbank formed in the harbor, keeping ships from entering
- One of the stops on the Elfstedentocht.
- Sits right on the IJsselmeer and would be where we would leave from to get to the other side of Netherlands.

The oldest city in Friesland
(since 1060)



Friesland Favorites - Dokkum



- Northernmost of the 11 cities and a fountain city
- Turnaround point for Elfstedentocht
- Fortified city, population 12000+
- Smallest hospital in the Netherlands
- On the Standing Mast Route to the North Sea
- Hondenweer – means “raining dogs”

The Future


- Netherlands Castles
- Sail Amsterdam 2025
- 2026 cruising to Maastricht with Jos and Anja
- We get our ICCs and leave the country into Belgium and then France



Lessons Learned



- Our total costs for living in Europe (not including food and beer) is less than \$1000/month
- Schengen Zone allows us to be there 90 out of 180 days
- Time zone is 9 hours ahead of California
- The Dutch are very direct. And tolerant. And super tall.
- We love our Dutch bikes.
- Boat handling skills are off the charts.
- We've learned "menu" and "grocery" Dutch.

Not what you think it is... 



Lessons Learned – Believe the Bridge Height



The sign on the side of this boat



Lessons Learned in Dutch



Your head is like a house
of Jan Steen



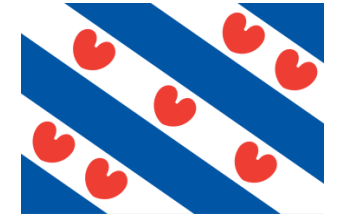
Charter!

There are charter companies all over Friesland. The ones we see a lot include *HW Yachtcharter* in Grou, *Yachtcharter* in Terherne, *Yachtcharter* in Sneek and *Aquanaut* in Sneek. (See the bridge height slide for *Le Boat* information...). A 9 meter boat will be comfortable for a couple for a week.



Cruise

If you charter, you are welcome to cruise along with us, or meet us in various places along the way. We can help you sort out a float plan after you have set up your charter, and other details in order to get you to your boat.



Buy

You could be irresponsible (like us) and just buy a boat. We recommend spending a week or two in the Netherlands, looking at various boats. Make sure you spend time looking at <https://botentekoop.com> (their version of Yacht World). (The URL literally means “boat for sale”).



Insure

The most difficult part of owning a boat in Europe is finding insurance. Most insurers do not want to insure people who do not have a European address. Or Americans. They have a thing about insuring Americans.

Fly

This is the most expensive part of the trip. Once you are there, everything costs less!



You Can Do This Too!