

AE2015 Technical Tour OCT 20B – Delta water works, Watersnoodmuseum and Building with Nature – oyster reef site in the Zeeland Province

Date: Tuesday, October 20th

Time: 08:30 to 17:30

Cost: 80 € per person, including bus transportation and lunch

Limit: Maximum 50 persons – book early to ensure your place!

Register [online](#) for the tour with your AE2015 registration

This tour will visit the Oosterschelde Storm Surge Barrier, a mussel company, an artificial oyster reef site and the Watersnoodmuseum, in the Province of Zeeland.

Time	Activity
08:30	Travel by bus from De Doelen to Zeeland.
09:30 – 11:30	Visit Storm Surge Barrier and Delta Park Neetje Jans; coffee, tea. http://www.neeltjans.nl/en/delta-works/
11:30 – 13:00	Visit mussel processing plant <i>Neeltje Jans</i> and lunch <i>Proef Zeeland</i> http://www.proefzeeland.nl/index.html
13:30 – 14:30	Visit artificial oyster reef in the intertidal Oosterschelde http://documents.plant.wur.nl/imares/oesterriffen_flyer_uk.pdf
14:30 - 16.00	Visit Watersnoodmuseum, English guided tour; coffee, tea. http://www.watersnoodmuseum.nl/UK/exhibitions/
16:00 – 17:30	Return by bus to De Doelen, Rotterdam



Storm Surge Barrier Oosterschelde



Lunch at Proef Zeeland, Neeltje Jans Mussels



Oyster reef construction Oosterschelde



Caissons of the Watersnoodmuseum

Detailed description of the Tour:

First we will travel by bus to the Storm Surge Barrier in the mouth of the Oosterschelde, and the Delta Park Neeltje Jans exhibition. Most of Zeeland is at or under sea level. In 1953 the dikes were in poor condition and too low. In those days the chance of flooding was once in eighty years. Thanks to the storm surge barrier, this risk has now been reduced to less than once in 4000 years. Take the opportunity to visit this construction inside and outside. You will be surrounded by concrete with a 200-year guarantee, and where 45 meter wide steel doors are raised to let the tides rush through below them.

Next to the Deltapark the Neeltje Jans mussel company has its facilities for suspended mussel culture and now also a new processing plant. After a visit to these facilities lunch will be enjoyed at the company's restaurant at the border s of the Oosterschelde.

As low tide is on 14.30 H the artificial oyster reef will be visited next, located in the intertidal area of the Oosterschelde. It was constructed in 2010 as part of the Building with Nature program that aims at developing new methods for coastal defense, making use of natural forces. Oysters as eco-engineers form their own structures that facilitate sediment accretion and associated flora and fauna. The artificial reefs form substrate for oyster recruitment and act as a basis for reef formation. The nearby Watersnoodmuseum tries to portray the circumstances of the flood which occurred on 1 February 1953. It is situated in one of the four caissons that were used to close the last breach in the dike. The closure took place on 6 November 1953. The caissons that were used came from England and were originally intended for an Allied landing near Ostend in Belgium that never happened. Caissons are actually concrete boats. They are 60 metres long, 20 metres wide and 20 metres high. After they were put in position they were filled with sand, and so now in the museum you walk over 13 metres of sand. The focus of this museum has been on commemoration, remembrance and knowledge.

After this visit the bus will return to Rotterdam to arrive in time for the welcome reception at the Doelen conference centre.

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