

Den Helder, North Holland, Netherlands

Perched at the northernmost tip of North Holland, Den Helder is the Royal Netherlands Navy's home base — a windswept peninsula of Napoleonic forts, Cold War submarines, and a quick ferry hop to the UNESCO Wadden Sea island of Texel.

Pier (Willemsoord Naval Yard)

Typical call: 7-10 hrs

Currency: Euro (€)

Language: Dutch (English widely spoken)

Bike-friendly port

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Willemsoord historic naval yard — no tendering

Best For: Naval history, cycling, Texel day trip, North Sea beaches

Walk to center: 10-min flat walk to city center; museums on the dock

Don't Miss: Boarding the Cold War submarine at the Navy Museum

Getting around: Taxi €8–€15 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Navy Museum & Submarine Tour** — Explore three centuries of Dutch naval history at the Marinemuseum in Willemsoord.
- Texel Island Day Trip** — Catch the hourly TESO ferry (20 min crossing) to the largest Wadden island.
- Fort Kijkduin & North Sea Aquarium** — Cycle 3 km to this Napoleonic fort (built 1811-13) in Huisduinen.
- Huisduinen Beach & Dunes** — Ride 4 km to a wide, white-sand North Sea beach backed by rolling dunes.
- National Lifeboat Museum** — Also at Willemsoord, this interactive museum tells the stories of Dutch sea rescuers with storm simulators and historic rescue boats.

BEST WALKS

- Willemsoord to City Center** 1.2 km · 15 min · Flat — Walk east from the pier through the historic Willemsoord naval yard, past the dry docks and 19th-century brick workshops, then along Hoofdgracht into the city center.
- Dike Walk to TESO Ferry Terminal** 1.5 km · 20 min · Flat — Head north from Willemsoord along the sea dike for views of the Marsdiep and Texel.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		52°	44°	10d
Jun		65°	56°	10d
Aug		69°	61°	15d
Sep		65°	57°	11d
Oct		59°	52°	16d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:42AM–8:40PM · Jun 5:15AM–10:08PM · Aug 6:22AM–9:06PM · Sep 7:15AM–7:55PM · Oct 8:07AM–6:44PM

Currency: Euro (€)

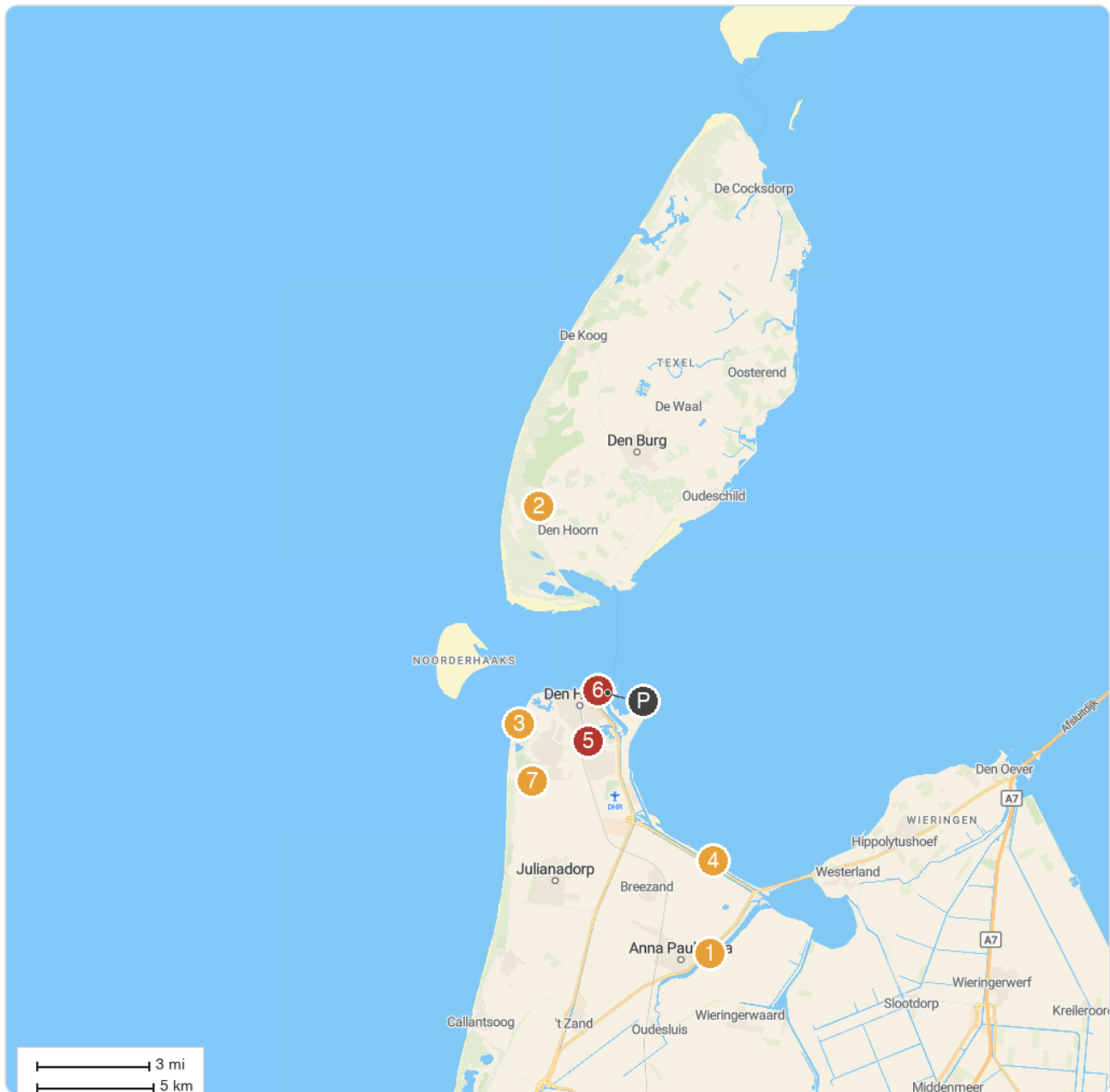
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress for the wind. Den Helder is statistically the windiest city in the Netherlands. A windbreaker is essential even on sunny summer days.
- Rent a bike. The port area is completely flat. A bicycle unlocks Fort Kijkduin, Huisduinen Beach, and the lighthouse in under 20 minutes each.
- Texel ferry timing. TESO ferries run roughly every 30-60 min from the terminal (15-20 min walk from pier). The crossing is 20 min each way; foot-passenger return is ~€3 — allow 4+ hours in port for a worthwhile Texel visit.
- Try kibbeling. Battered deep-fried North Sea cod served with garlic sauce from street stalls near Willemsoord — the definitive local snack.
- Cards widely accepted, but some smaller shops prefer Dutch debit (Maestro/iDEAL). Bring a few euros for fish stalls and ferry tickets.
- Museums are steps away. The Navy Museum and Lifeboat Museum are both inside the Willemsoord yard — you can squeeze in both in 3-4 hours without leaving the dock area.

Den Helder, North Holland, Netherlands — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 Hoenderdaell Zoo | Hoenderdaell Zoo is a wildlife park with diverse animals. | 2 Battery Den Hoorn WWII | Explore a preserved World War II German coastal defense battery. |
| 3 Fort Kijkduin | Fort Kijkduin is a historic Napoleonic fort with an aquarium. | 4 Balgzand | Balgzand is a vast tidal mudflat nature reserve for birds. |
| 5 Quelderduyn | Quelderduyn is a beautiful dune landscape perfect for walking and nature. | 6 Navy Museum | The Navy Museum showcases Dutch naval history and historic ships. |
| 7 Mariëndal | Mariëndal is a diverse nature and recreation area with walking paths. | P Cruise port / terminal | |