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A Bridge Too Far?

Thursday, June 29, 2017



That was the title of a WWII movie about "Operation Market Garden," an unsuccessful attempt to secure a distant bridge over the Rhine before the retreating Nazis could destroy them.

I took this photo on my morning run.



Although this isn't the bridge of the movie title, it is memorable because each evening at darkness the bridge lights come on gradually in a slow sequence starting at one end and following the exact pace of the American tanks as they proceeded across the bridge in 1945 to liberate the Dutch towns on the other side.

Along with daily tours, our cruise includes presentations onboard by local historians and "home visits" with local families so we can experience the culture "up close and personal"



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Our afternoon here was especially meaningful since the husband was a child during WWII. His generation suffered severe malnutrition during Nazi occupation to the extent of eating tulip bulbs. The visible result is that they as a group are much shorter than previous or later generations. Currently the Dutch are the tallest people in the world.

They are also among the most innovative because of the constant battle against the sea and rivers. Dikes are everywhere and Holland is now twice the size that it was 300 years ago

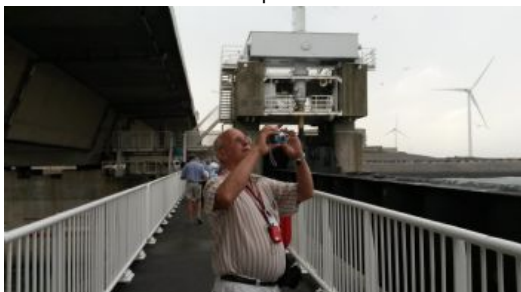
After a flood in 1953 that claimed 1800 lives, the Delta Project created a series of dikes to control the danger of North Sea storms



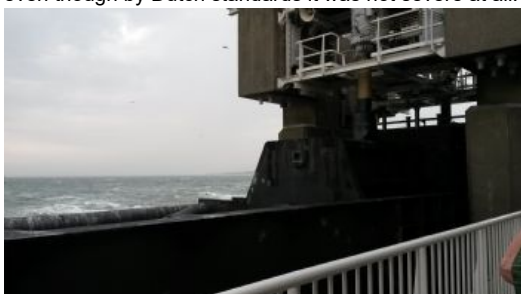
The gates can be opened and closed as needed.

We viewed a "sensaround" presentation of the deadly flood that was so realistic some were moved to tears.

Then we walked over the impressive structure.



As we were crossing, a sudden storm arose with enough wind that I felt the need to hang onto the railing, even though by Dutch standards it was not severe at all.



The rivers need technology as well with "locks" to aid navigation.

This was the most interesting one since it was built OVER a highway that was being constructed at the same time



Imagine driving along a highway and seeing a ship sailing by overhead! I assume the Dutch are used to it.

For our captain who navigates this river four weeks at a time (followed by 4 weeks off), it's all in a days work.



River cruising is very different than ocean cruising. Here we are docked next to a Holland America ship.



Kind of like "David and Goliath"

With only 120 passengers even the captain came by to wish me a happy 70th birthday



If you have read this far, thank you very much. Keeping this minimal connection with Spark is helping me make good decisions. I found a scale this morning hidden away in a corner of the fitness room. So far, so good.

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TOMATOCAFEGAL
 WOW. THANKS FOR SHARING
 1426 days ago



BEESHELL8
 wow how interesting and yes I remember that movie. You look GREAT! Happy 70th! thanks for stopping by and hope to get caught up with your blogs soon.
 1428 days ago



_LINDA
 Very interesting information and photos! Thank you so much for sharing.
 Love to see people's photos of places they visit!
 1429 days ago



DONNALEE-53

 1430 days ago



SYLBA61
 I've never been very far from home and never outside the USA. I would love seeing the places you wrote about. Thanks for sharing.
 1432 days ago



LOSEDAPOUNDS
 Oh wow. Happy 70th! You look fabulous! I am really enjoying following along your cruise.
 1434 days ago







MARGIEB221




 1435 days ago



YMWONG22




 1436 days ago



CD12068097
 Happy Birthday. Loved your blog.
 We were always going to do the river cruise, but it keeps getting shoved to the back burner.
 Think I will put on the front till we finally get there.
 HAPPY 4th of JULY !!!
 1436 days ago



NUMD97
 I always learn something new from your travelogs, B_B. Thanks for sharing.



And the happiest of birthdays to you! You make 70 something to look forward to.

Great fortune in finding a scale. Even greater fortune to see that you are on point without having that reminder. You have truly incorporated weight maintenance in a way that it has become second nature to you. That's what we all strive for.

Thank you for being such a great example!



1437 days ago



MJZHERE
 Happy, happy Birthday! Sounds like you are enjoying your vacation. What a nice place to celebrate.
 1438 days ago



JENARUL
 Thank you for sharing!
 1439 days ago



SWEDE_SU
 happy birthday! 70 must be the new... well, whatever it is you make it look younger than ever!
 love reading about your trip, fascinating!
 1439 days ago






MRDAUGH

Happy Birthday!! Congratulations on this memorable trip and appreciate the pics and



information, 
1439 days ago




SPEDED2

Happy Birthday! You look awesome!
1439 days ago



SHAWFAN

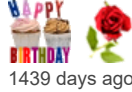
 Hope you had a wonderful birthday!
1439 days ago



YELLOW09RED

This is a wonderful blog. Love all of the pictures. I would love to see the bridge at night. Blessings to Joe as he remembers.

Thank you for sharing this time in your life.
Hugs,
Debbie



1439 days ago



Comment edited on: 6/30/2017 5:33:50 PM



MISSDORKNESS

I love the historic perspective...
1440 days ago



GRACED77

Love your keeping us apprised of your trip and all the weight management victories you're having!
1440 days ago



SUNNYBEACHGIRL

We loved Amsterdam. So glad you are having a great trip
1440 days ago



DSJB9999



A wonderful trip, thanks for sharing the photos, continue to enjoy!
1440 days ago



KRISZTA11

Happy Birthday!
I wish you a wonderful trip in Europe, it is so nice you stay connected.



1440 days ago



RAZZOZLE



1440 days ago



CD17713391

When we were living in Europe we rented a small boat and cruised the canals of the Netherlands. Thanks for the trip down memory lane!!
I'm glad you are able to stay on track with your goals. It is nice to not feel guilty while having such an awesome trip!
Enjoy every minute and keep sparking!
1440 days ago



NANASUEH



1440 days ago



PATRICIAANN46



BIRTHDAY to a VERY YOUNG 70 year old. I can't imagine a better way to celebrate than by taking a River Cruise. I have absolutely NO desire to take an ocean cruise, but I would love to take the same cruise you are on. It sounds like a wonderful way to get the real feel of the country you are visiting.....great information and meeting the families who actually live there and can give you the real scoop.

I hope that you continue to enjoy every minute left of your trip.
1440 days ago



BJAEGER307



BIRTHDAY Looks like a wonderful time. I really have to look in to river cruising. This looks like so much fun.
1440 days ago



DOVESEYES



BIRTHDAY it is so wonderful to read your blogs of the journey. You always have such interesting photos and info I even get Hubby to look at them and he is 'willing' to once he knows its you :)
1440 days ago



REDROBIN47

I love the pictures. Thank you for sharing your trip and the history with us.
1440 days ago



HOLLYM48

Happy happy 70th birthday. You look more like you are turning 60 than 70! Here is to a life well lived and an awesome journey to continued great health. Thanks for the virtual tour and I hope you

had the best day celebrating you!!
1440 days ago



1CRAZYDOG

Beautiful! Thanks and I am sure you had a good birthday!!!
1440 days ago



PATRICIA-CR



Here's to you!! What an awesome journey!
1440 days ago



14JESUSGIRL

You're keeping up the good work! Even on vacation!

1440 days ago



GLORIAZ

Thanks for taking us on your trip! I love reading blogs where I learn something. You are making wonderful memories! Enjoy! Did you see the bridge at night? That's amazing!
1440 days ago



LIVEDAILY



BIRTHDAY There was a fascinating article in the NYT about the progress the Dutch have made with their water reclamation efforts. Yes, they have created a series of dikes and levies,, but they have also consciously reestablished areas of land that they allow water to go to during high water events. People all over the world go to Holland to learn about these efforts, including folks from New York (after Hurricane Sandy, they need to come up with a plan!) and New Orleans, which like

parts of Holland, is below sea level. So glad you are continuing to have a wonderful time!!
1440 days ago



JEANNETTE59



Thanks for sharing your adventure with us!
1440 days ago



HEALTHYANDFIT27



on all your good decision making! Cheers to you!

A great blog. Love the info and pictures.

Happy Birthday! You look marvelous, the epitome of health and happiness!
1440 days ago



PENOWOK

Happy birthday! Thank you for the fascinating information. I was not strong in history as a student but do enjoy reading historical novels and studying now. Strange, I guess. The great wars certainly taught us many things!
1440 days ago



WATERMELLEN

Happy birthday to you!! You make 70 look terrific! And I love the idea of the gradual lighting of the bridge every evening . . .
1440 days ago



MCJULIEO

Happy Birthday to you! (You must be the YOUNGEST LOOKING 70 year old anywhere!!!! (It's probably all those wise and healthy decisions you've been making since finding Spark!)
1440 days ago



52BINCE

I'll bet that bridge in the first picture is a beautiful sight to see at night. You are doing a great job capturing great shots so you can relive the journey and thanks for sharing with us. Happy belated birthday ... what a nice way to spend it! Making memories ...
1440 days ago



TZAPP22

What an amazing experience. thank you so much for sharing!

1440 days ago



FRAN0426

Sounds like your doing great with staying on track during your vacation, Happy Birthday; and thank you for sharing your vacation with us with all the wonderful pictures.
1440 days ago



CHAYOR73

Looks like your having a blast, thanks for sharing your experience.

1441 days ago



DAWNDMOORE40



What beautiful photos and a trip you will remember for a life time! Enjoy the adventure!



1441 days ago



PACEKA1

Beautiful photos - what a wonderful trip. I love how they are having you connect with some of the locals, makes it so much more interesting!
1441 days ago



VISUALLYRICS

Happy 70th birthday!!

1441 days ago





SLENDERELLA61

Congrats on your great weight management so far! And what a very, very interesting blog. Thanks for sharing. Don't know that I'll ever go there, but I sure would like to. What amazing resilient people!!

1441 days ago



THOMS1

Thank you for taking us along on your river cruise celebration! It has been a wonderful adventure. Happy Birthday to you and Happy Anniversary to you and your DH. I cannot believe that you actually stepped on a scale that you were unfamiliar with. Glad that it worked out for you



Have a wonderful day!

1441 days ago



TEQPEACH

THANK YOU!

Ever think about becoming a travel guide writer? Great read.

1441 days ago

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