



Beach fun and safety

On summer days, sun worshippers flock to our beaches. Sunbathing, swimming, playing, searching for shells... There's always something to do. But you must always remain vigilant! The sea changes with the tide and children can lose their way on the beach. The dangers are often underestimated, so make sure you don't go too far out to sea, and stay alert.

COASTGUARD RESCUE BRIGADES

From 1 June to 1 September, the rescue brigades are open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Rescue brigades are located in Groote Keeten, Callantsoog, Sint Maartenszee and Petten. Together, they guard 5.5 kilometres of beach. In total, the coastline of the municipality of Schagen is 17.5 kilometres long, so there are large areas of beach that are not covered by the coastguard. Yellow signs in four different languages (Dutch, German, English and Polish) are in place to indicate which areas are unguarded. Visitors use these beaches at their own risk and therefore must remain especially alert.

The following areas are guarded per rescue station:

- *Groote Keeten*: between beach markers 9.75 and 10.25
- *Callantsoog*: between beach markers 11.10 and 11.60, and 12.50 and 14.00
- *Sint Maartenszee*: between beach markers 17.15 and 18.25
- *Petten*: between beach markers 20.30 and 21.70

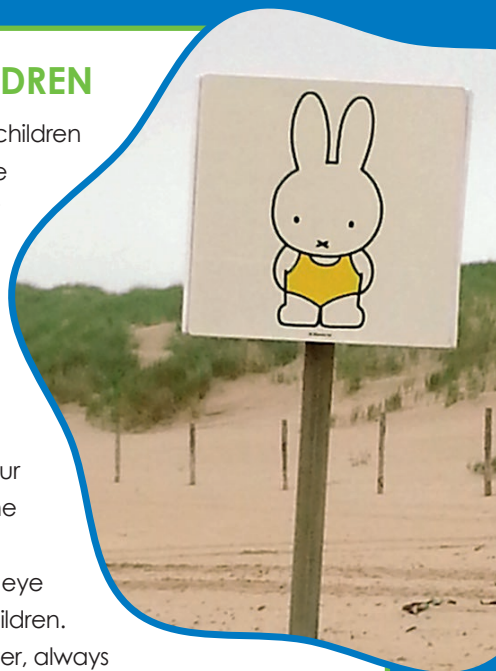
This information is also provided on all blue swimming area signs at every entrance to the beach.



SMALL CHILDREN

Every year, many children become lost at the beach. When that happens, both children and parents can severely panic. The following safety tips will help make your and your children's visit to the beach a success:

- Always keep an eye on your child/children. When in the water, always stay at arm's length from your child/children.
- Give your child/children a wristband to wear stating their name(s) and your telephone number.
- Be sure that your mobile phone is on.
- Agree on a recognisable landmark, such as a beach café or the designated child meeting-point poles (which carry unique markers), where they should go if they are lost.
- If your child is lost, immediately inform the rescue brigade and report your missing child to a beach café. Children usually walk with the sun in their back. Girls with long hair usually walk into the wind.



SWIMMING TIPS

- Never swim alone! Even the best swimmer can get into trouble, for example if he or she gets a cramp.
- If you cannot swim, or are not a confident swimmer, do not go further into the water than knee-deep.
- Do not swim near gullies.
- If you have been drinking alcohol, do not swim! Ignoring this warning may cost you your life.
- Visiting and swimming at the beach is at your own risk.
- The sea can suddenly become deep. Stay alert!
- Take note of the warning signs and flags. Do not go into the sea if the current is strong.
- Follow all instructions and advice from the rescue brigade.



YELLOW FLAG: DANGEROUS RED FLAG: PROHIBITED!

Always follow directions; they are for your safety

If you see the rescue stations and beach cafés flying a yellow flag, that means that either the current is strong or that there are dangerous gullies in the water. When you see yellow flags flying, it is dangerous to swim in the sea. If you see red flags flying, that means that either the current is extremely dangerous, the waves are high or that a storm is on its way. At these times, it is prohibited to enter the water!

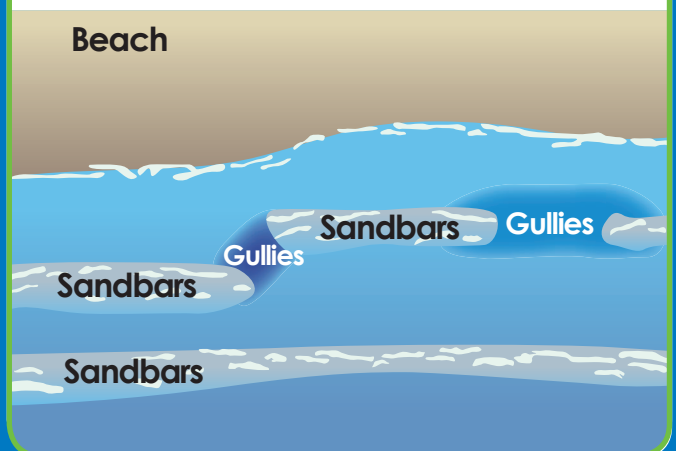
THE WIND

It is almost always windy on the coast. If the wind is blowing from land out to sea, then swimmers must stay alert and be aware that the wind can and will make it very difficult to swim back to shore. Do not go further into the water than hip-deep. Also, do not use floatation devices, such as airbeds, water wings, etc., as the wind will carry you out to sea on them.

Onbewaakt strand
Unbewachter Strand
No lifeguard on duty
Plaža niestrzeżona

SANDBARS AND GULLIES

Sandbars, an accumulation of sand at the bottom of the sea, form at low tide. Between two sandbars, a gully forms. In gullies, the current is very strong and it always heads out to sea. This can spell trouble for swimmers.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU END UP IN A GULLY?

- Do not try to resist the current.
- Swim with the current until you reach a sand bar.
- Try to attract attention by shouting for help and waving your arms.
- Do not panic.

The municipality of Schagen wishes you a great summer
and we hope you enjoy our beautiful beaches!