

Safety on Katwijk's beach



Katwijk

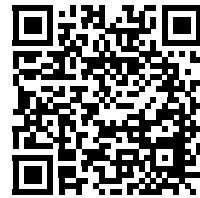
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Katwijk's beach has a lot to offer. Sunbathing, swimming, playing: a day at the beach is fun! But be careful: the sea can be tricky. For the inexperienced swimmer the sea can even be dangerous. Don't enter the water alone, look out for each other and don't lose sight of your children.

Low and high tide

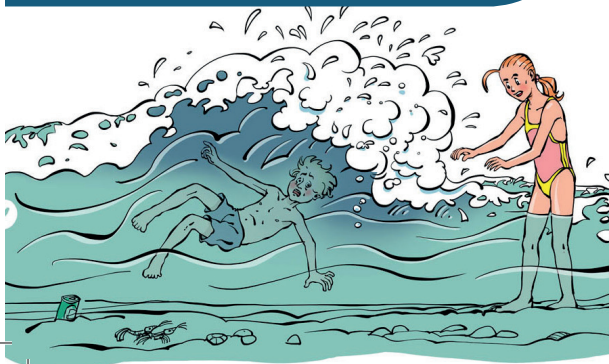
Low and high tide cause strong currents. The low and high tide times are always shown at the lifeguard stations in Katwijk. They can also be found on www.krb.nl.



download the PDF with tidings here.

Yellow flag: dangerous! Red flag: prohibited!

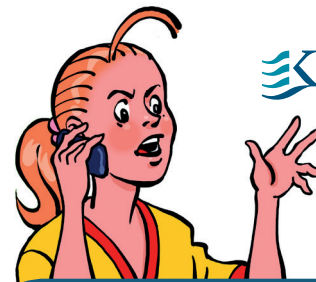
During strong current or dangerous rip currents, a yellow flag is raised at the lifeguard stations and beach pavilions: it's even more dangerous to swim in the sea. When the current is too strong, when there are high waves or when there is a thunderstorm (or coming up), the red flag is raised: it's prohibited to enter the water.



Rip currents and wind

There are many sandbanks in front of Katwijk's coast. During low tide they are sometimes visible above water. Straight to the coast lie the openings between the sandbanks, the so-called rip currents. Through these rip currents water can flow strongly. If you run into a rip current, let yourself flow back to sea. You will get into deeper water where the current reduces. Swim parallel to the beach and out of the rip current to get back to shore. Don't try to fight it, conserve your energy!

There's almost always wind at the coast. If the wind comes from the sea, there will be high waves. If the wind comes from the land, you will hardly see any waves. This wind makes swimming back to shore harder. Don't go deeper into the water than your waist.



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What if someone is in danger?

- Maintain eye contact with the drowning person.
- Let somebody else call 112. Shout that help is on the way.
- Alarm other beach visitors and ask them for help.
- Only go into the water if there's no other way and only if you are an experienced swimmer. Let someone at the beach know that you will go into the water.
- See if you can throw a floating device such as an inflatable bed or lifebuoy.
- Make sure that you are safe at all times.

Children: don't lose sight of them

To help children orient themselves, blue signs with images of a sailing boat, beach ball, ice cream etc. can be found all over. Each part of the beach has its own image. Point out to your child at which part of the beach you are sitting. Children who get lost are taken care of at the lifeguard stations. A flag with a question mark is raised if there is a lost child found. You can get free wristbands at the lifeguard stations. Write down your mobile phone number so that they can call you.

More information

- **Katwijkse Reddingsbrigade (Lifeguard Squad Katwijk): www.krb.nl.** For more information about the beach, sea or currents, please stop by at one of the lifeguard stations, call the South station at +31(0)71 401 26 09 or the North station at +31(0)71 402 79 99. During summer time the stations are opened between 09.30 and 18.00 (9:30 am and 6:00 pm) and they patrol at sea and at the beach.
- **Koninklijke Nederlandse Redding Maatschappij (Royal Netherlands Sea Rescue Institution): www.knrm.nl.** They can be reached 24 hours a day for rescue operations.