

Westerhever – A two-day field trip to the Wadden Sea

Right at the beginning of our *Profiloberstufe* the bilingual branch went on an interdisciplinary field trip to Westerhever in Schleswig-Holstein. Mrs Nagel, our geography teacher, and Mrs Senger-Tomiak, our biology teacher, both focus on marine ecosystems in our first semester. The *International Wadden Sea School* (IWSS) which cooperates with Gymnasium Eppendorf offered a lot of support in introducing us to the unique Wadden Sea ecology.

We stayed in a nice little residence next to the famous Westerhever lighthouse. All around us were salt marshes, mudflats, water, water and water. Although those are not the conditions we are used to as people from a metropolis like Hamburg – it was a wonderful experience.



We did a lot of working on several topics and learned loads about the Wadden Sea, not only theoretically like in class, but also practically. We were split up in groups, were provided with a lot of helpful material and various interesting questions. We had to carry out some experiments, search for certain animals or plants and document our results in order to present them to the others later on.

We made two mudflat hiking tours, one even by night! We experienced a really interesting and beautiful natural phenomenon – marine phosphorescence. Certain bacteria, algae and jellyfish are bioluminescent. They exhibit a chemical reaction when they are touched which makes them glow, so it seemed just as if the water was shining every time you set foot into it. Mrs Nagel was inspired to say that she felt like walking on diamonds!



I suppose we all had a great time, lots of fun and we learned a lot – it was definitely worth it. The trip can only be recommended!

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