



## Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

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### 99 | Regional information | The Wadden Sea

The Wadden Sea, where the North Sea meets the German coast, is one of the landscapes Harry gets to know, thanks to Julia. Harry, though, finds it exceedingly annoying to have to chase the waves. That's not unusual: at low tide, the beach appears to go on forever, while six hours later, the entire area is submerged. With the entire event occurring twice per day, living conditions there are challenging for all living beings – not just the Traponian who is not fond of walking.

The only ones with a chance here are survivalists – and there are several of these around. One square meter of surface is home to up to 100,000 mud crabs, 50,000 mudflat snails, and a good number of lugworms, not to mention the algae. One square centimeter can be successfully shared by about a million of them. An extraordinary concentration of living things in the smallest possible area can only be found here. For this reason, in 2009, UNESCO designated the Wadden Sea a World Heritage Site. The Wadden Sea is the world's largest contiguous tidal wetland, making it a specially protected area, just like the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia or the Galápagos Islands. Every year, 10 million to 12 million migratory birds stop here. Harry might give it another go – who knows, maybe he'll learn to like it.