



Keukenhof Holland.



Keukenhof is open just 8 weeks of the year in the Spring and is *the* showcase for the best of the Dutch floriculture sector, with **over 7 million hand-planted** bulbs (we saw them all!)- tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and much more, provided by 100 companies showing their best in a living catalogue covering 32 hectares. To top it all, the whole area is surrounded by kilometer- long fields, row upon row, of flowering bulbs of every colour in every direction you look. The word breath-taking was invented here! It started in the 15th century as a kitchen-garden for the castle and grew to be a permanent exhibition in 1949-the idea of a group of bulb-growers. One day a year they stage a “Flower Parade” and we made it along with many thousand others but we got a front row place!





One little wierd aside, it seemed that every Oriental in the park had to be photographed kissing and hugging Tucker. We should have charged royalties it was so extreme. He's a star in Beijing by now.....

This year is the 66th edition of the the now world-famous attraction. The highlight of 2015 is the 250 sq.m. flower bulb mosaic made up of thousands of flowering tulip and hyacinth bulbs to honour Vincent Van goch (125 years since his death). One of the things I enjoyed most was the pavilion displaying flower arrangements to fit his paintings – it was fantastically done.



Other pavilions had stunning arrangements of freesias, amaryllis, and a whole pavilion of orchids in every colour imaginable, potted plants and weird tulips- new experimental varieties not yet on the market. So many colours, combinations and scents. By the end of the day we (not to mention Tuck) we were experiencing sensory overload! The pictures cannot do it justice. I took over 300- you just can't help yourself. You

