

SPECIAL (ENGLISH SPEAKING) PARTICIPANTS IN THE 103rd FOUR DAYS MARCHES

26 Perhaps the **most fanatic walking family** this year is the **FAMILY GRØN VEGGERBY** from Ringsted, Denmark. Mother Hanne participates with her husband, her two daughters (15 and 19), her two sons (18 and 12) and her father (77). This adds up to a total of 7(!). However, this doesn't mean they all walk the same distance; the Veggerby family members are represented on all distances. The Danish family considers this Four Days Marches their summer vacation.

30 LUCY DAVISON (53) is the only participant on behalf of the **Channel Island of Guernsey**. Guernsey is situated between France and England, but does not belong to Great Britain, France or the European Union. The island is, however, a British Crown Dependency. This year, Lucy walks with her brother, sister and brother-in-law. "We have been saying for years that we all want to do this together. The men will walk the fifty kilometres, we will do the forty kilometres. We will see how it goes, before we start venturing into the fifty."

31 People from **Kazakhstan** seem to know how to find Nijmegen every year, but only one participant is making the journey this year. **ORYANBASSAR TUMENBAYEVA** (50) is walking the forty kilometres for the first time on

her own. The Kazakh works as an assistant professor at a university, but sees the Four Days Marches as a great break. "I like to travel and I like meeting new people!"

32 Nepalese **SANJU SHAKYA** (37) comes to Nijmegen especially for the Four Days Marches, together with his Dutch wife. Sanju is a hiking guide and together with his wife he often participates in events in Nepal. Now it's time to switch roles and walk a walking tour in the Netherlands. Sanju is participating during the Four Days Marches for the **INSPIRENepal Foundation**.

33 The 12-year-old **NATTHAPHON SANGUANNARM** is the only participant hailing from **Thailand** this year. Natthaphon immediately takes on an extra big challenge, because he will walk the forty kilometres for his debut. The Thai student will be accompanied by his guardian Steven.

34 ENNIO ROMANINI DUPONT (28) and **PABLO MENCHACA** (35) come all the way from **Chile** to the



Netherlands for the Four Days Marches. Their friend and brother **Diego MENCHACA** (31) lives in Nijmegen since 2015. Two years ago, the Chilean brothers also walked the Four Days Marches. Now they are back again to face the fifty kilometres, with a fresh new team member and their classic motto: Always smiling.

35 KATERYNA GUSELNYKOVA (26) is the only participant in the 103rd Four Days Marches who lives in **Turkey**. The English teacher from Ukraine already was in Nijmegen four years ago during the Four Days Marches and then decided she really wanted participate. Kateryna walks the Four Days Marches together with her friend Frans, now that she finally has a break for the summer.

36 Malaysian **KAI YONG QUEK** has a special reason to participate in the Four Days Marches. The 62-year-old pensioner wants to test whether he is ready for the pilgrimage to the Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela, by walking the thirty kilometres in Nijmegen. He is also the only participant from Malaysia in the Four Days Marches.

37 World Citizen **VINCENT HO** (39) was born in Hong Kong, grew up in **Uruguay** and has been living in



Belgium for twelve years now. He is very happy to participate again this year. "I have seen a lot of the world and I can say that the Four Days Marches of Nijmegen is one of the most beautiful sporting events that you can find. I try to come back every year to enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere, together with international friends I met at the Four Days Marches in previous years."

45 The special thing about the "**WALKING STONES MEET KANDINSKY**" group is that it consists of both



German and **Dutch** students. For years, pupils from Nijmegen's **Kandinsky College** and the **Freiherr-vom-Stein-Gymnasium** from Kleve have been walking the Four Days Marches together. The schools want to offer young walkers the opportunity to experience the Four Days Marches at a young age. Together they organized a number of practice walks in the Netherlands and Germany during the run-up to the event. Most of the participants in this group are, by the way, debutant and no fewer than three-quarters are female, promoter Michael Thölking proudly says.

46 After a successful first year, "Verbinder van Nederland" **MO HERSI** also participates in the 103rd Four Days Marches with "his" **WORLD TEAM**. Mo was the initiator of a more colourful

Four Days Marches in 2018, so this year he is once again walking with walkers and wheelchair participants from all over the world. This year the comedian brought people from 14 different countries together in the World Team. For example, participants from Eritrea, Uganda and South Sudan are represented in Nijmegen.

47 Another notable group that has been reporting to the Wedren for years are the **MID KENT YOUNG WALKERS** groups from England. This year, they even participate with five groups, consisting of cadets (12 to 19 years old) of the "**Junior Royal Air Force**". The Mid Kent Young Walkers have been participating in Nijmegen for 30 years and since 2005 they have been trained and supervised by lieutenant **Chris Tate**.

"We train for seven months, during which we go for a weekend walk every month. We start with 10 kilometres and ensure that we can walk 40 kilometres a day in May. Since 2005 I have trained over 900 young people for the Four Days Marches and everyone has successfully completed the march!" The Mid Kent Young Walkers always walk for charities, such as a foundation for veterans or the British Heart Foundation.

48 Complete groups from outside Europe also go to Nijmegen to participate in the Four Days Marches. The **TAIWAN WALKING** group is taking part this year. The team consists of 22 hikers from, indeed, Taiwan. The youngest participant is sixty years old, the oldest, **Pan-Nan Huang**, is eighty years old. Pan-Nan says that his group consists of optimistic participants with self-confidence. "We have trained together twice a week in recent months. We enjoy walking together and sharing the fun and tough moments with each other."

Get in contact with a special participant?

Are you an accredited press representative and do you want to get in touch with one of these special participants? Send an email to communicatie@4daagse.nl.