

On a high

By Heather Tucker

As far as unusual hotels go, the Docksider Crane Hotel in Harlingen definitely receives top marks. If you have ever had the desire to stay in a property high up in the sky, then the Harlingen Harbour Crane, with its cabin at approximately 17 metres above the pier, is for you.

Built in 1967, the docksider level luffing crane was turned into a hotel in 2003. While the crane still features its traditional industrial atmosphere, it isn't without its modern comforts either. Guests can enjoy a living room/bedroom, kitchenette, double shower and, of course, great views from both inside and outside on the 'roof' terrace.

Touch screens provide entertainment for gadget fanat-

ics, letting guests control the lights, curtains and audio-visual equipment with a single touch. Getting to the top is also done in comfort as the original cage ladders have been replaced by two specially designed lifts. And just when you thought things couldn't get any better, they do: in the form of the crane's cabin where you are quite literally in the driving seat, getting to turn the crane round and round, controlling the 360 degree view.

The hotel accommodates two people at a time, and rates start at €319 per night, which includes a large breakfast. Tea, fruit and coffee are also provided during the stay.

For more information, visit: www.vuurtoren-harlingen.nl

Maximum height: 49m above average flood water



Windy weather?

Carla, who manages the hotel with her husband Willem, explained that with higher winds, it can get a bit noisy, but the crane is still perfectly safe. After all, the structure has been around since the 1960s.

