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Times: upon request
Duration: 90 mins
English | Dutch
€39,= p.p.

HISTORIC TOUR THROUGH THE OLD CENTER OF AMSTERDAM *The Roots of New Amsterdam (and America!)*



By architectural historian Heleen Y. Westerhuijs M.A., co-author of "Exploring Historic Dutch New York" The Museum of the City of New York | Dover Publications. ISBN 978-0-486-48637-6

"Nederlands New York: een Reisgids naar het Erfgoed van 'Nieuw Nederland'" Mension Uitgevers, Haarlem. ISBN 978-90773-22-90-1

Extremely passionate about understanding the origins of America when I lived in NYC (New Amsterdam until 1664) as a Dutch architectural historian, I co-authored two books about New Amsterdam shining a light on the becoming of New York, New Jersey, parts of Delaware and beyond: *Exploring Historic Dutch New York*.



Having introduced many people to historic NYC, I am super dedicated to now also share this story at the very roots of it: in 'Old' Amsterdam!

I will be waiting for you outside **the West India House** (*West Indisch Huis*, Herenmarkt 97, see next page for [route](#)) where the John Adams Institute is located. It is at this important site where we will make a start with what the 17th century exploration voyages would eventually lead to: the Dutch acknowledgment of the American Independence on July 4, 1776 being the first overseas nation doing so.

In its historic vicinity we will immerse ourselves in Amsterdam's 17th century charm, including step gable architecture along **the canals**, drafting a context of the flourishing era of European and worldly expansion and the subsequent shaping of America.

From here we'll be headed for **the IJ harbor**, walking along the water where Amsterdam was born in the year 1275 while I'll introduce you to the 17th century story lines and characters of the first Dutch exploration voyages, carrying French-, German-, Dutch- and English speaking crew alike, leading to the discovery of Manna Hatta in 1609 (Manhattan, NYC.)

Next, we'll make our way to **the 15th century Schreierstoren**, the first Amsterdam defense tower where the wives of the voyagers must have desperately been on the lookout for their return.

In the near distance you can see **the Maritime Museum** (*het Scheepvaartmuseum*), a monument built shortly before 'New Amsterdam in New Netherland' was handed over to the English in 1664 to forever become New York.

On a side note: the Dutch edition of our book "Exploring Historic Dutch New York" was launched at this Museum; Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of The Netherlands accepted the first copy in presence of the Dutch Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as the Mayor of Amsterdam and the American Ambassador and Consul to The Netherlands.

INTERACTIVE TOUR: ASK ALL YOU CAN PLEASE!

Also: if you wish, leave me a note on beforehand sharing where you are from and I'll do my best to include a story about the connection between your town and Amsterdam/17th c. EU.

The walk along the water shows you the very original Amsterdam birth grounds as well as the waters from where the exploration voyages left for what became America. All the while skipping the extremely crowded tourist areas. Do, however, ask me anything about other areas you're interested in – I'll speak about their histories where I can and advise on where to go and what to do.

Start: John Adams Institute, *the West-Indisch Huis*, Herenmarkt 97

Bus 18 or 21, stop: Buiten Brouwersstraat

Route from Central Station/P1 Parking: After leaving Central Station or the parking, turn right onto the Prins Hendrikkade. Before the first canal (Singel) turn left and directly right, crossing the water (Nieuwendijk). Walk straight forward into the Haarlemmerstraat. The third street on your left is the Herenmarkt, where you will find the entrance gate to the West-Indisch Huis.

Ask for all options:

- Private touring (or: less walking more history talking!)
- Well suited for corporate events and hosting international (business) guests.
- Schedule the counter tour when visiting NYC!