DUTCH LANDSCAPES

APRIL 6 – 19, 2018

Hosted by
Henk Aay and Robert Hoeksema
Few countries exist where human activities have exerted a greater influence in the shaping of the land than the Netherlands.

This educational tour helps participants learn about the Netherlands’ richly varied and historically layered cultural landscapes. A wide range of topics are included, from the historical development of the City of Amsterdam, to the distinctive drained peat landscapes of the low western Netherlands, and to early and modern flood protection programs and structures.

Led by Henk Aay and Robert Hoeksema.
Together, they have led Calvin student groups to the Netherlands for more than 20 years.

Bob is a civil engineer and Professor of Engineering at Calvin. He recently worked for one of the Dutch regional water management authorities. He also wrote Designed for Dry Feet: Flood Protection and Land Reclamation in the Netherlands (ASCE Press, 2006).

Henk is Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Emeritus at Calvin. Since retiring from Calvin in 2012, he was appointed Senior Research Fellow at the Van Raalte Institute at Hope College, where he focusses on Dutch American history and culture. He grew up in the Netherlands, is fluent in Dutch and has spent a number of semesters on research and teaching leaves in the country. He is currently working on an Atlas of Dutch American History and Culture.

Location and format:
Our home base is a hotel near the old heart of the city of Amstelveen, today a suburb of Amsterdam. Because we will return to this hotel each day, everyone will get to know old Amstelveen well. This location also provides excellent public and private transportation links with Amsterdam and the rest of the country. For our daily excursions, we will use both public transportation (tram, metro, bus and train) and a mini-coach. Excursions will include some walking (up to several miles at a time), especially on those excursions using public transportation (see Randstad by Train and Amsterdam by Tram in itinerary).

Cover: View of “old” and “new” land along the former Lake Schermer.
9, Monday
Peat Dewatering: Polders, Dikes, and Drained Lakes
Up until the early Medieval period, the Western Netherlands was largely covered by thick blankets of peat and fen bogs that had grown higher and higher over thousands of years. Except in areas of river and sea dunes, there was little to no permanent human settlement. With simple drainage ditches and dikes, people dewatered these peat bogs and converted them into a distinctive agricultural landscape in about 500 years. Drainage brought subsidence and the formation of lakes which, in turn, were drained and kept dry. We will explore these polders, dikes, windmills, and drained lakes in an area north of Amsterdam between the Ijssel Lake and the North Sea. The excursion will end at the Hondsbossche Zeewering, a state-of-the-art sea dike, which has recently been further reinforced with massive sand suppletion. (B)

10, Tuesday
Amsterdam by Tram
During this excursion, we will see many development rings that are part of the growth of Amsterdam: quite recently built areas in Amstelveen, including a modern upscale shopping center; post-WWII areas in Buitenveldert; Oud Zuid from the early 20th century; the Pijp from the 19th century; the three-canal plan of the 17th century; and the old city of the 13th to 16th century. We will start the day at the Amsterdam Museum and take in the Amsterdam DNA permanent exhibit. (B)

11, Wednesday
Region of Rivers: Dikes, Canals, Floods, Settlement Towns and Castles
The area along the rivers makes it possible to combine many topics of interest: rivers, castles, and recreation. The delta of the rivers is a distinctive region in which multiple channels of the Rhine and Maas flow in a westerly direction. Human modification of this river system has been ongoing since the early Middle Ages. We will explore a section along the north bank of the Lek, the principal northern branch of the Rhine. At the end of our route, we will visit Kasteel Amerongen, one of the more than a thousand castles in the country. Castles were fortified private residences of the nobility and were part of a feudal social order.

In the distant past, glaciers pushed parts of the sandy Netherlands into a number of north-south ridges; one of these is the Utrecht hill ridge, today an important and highly accessible recreation area for people in the western Netherlands. We will traverse this region on our return trip, making one stop for a short hike. (B)
12, Thursday
The Veluwe: Hoge Veluwe National Park & Kröller-Müller Museum

The Veluwe is a forest-rich ridge of hills in the province of Gelderland. It is the largest lateral moraine (land pushed to the side into hills by glaciers) in the Netherlands, stretching 60 km from north to south, and reaching heights of over 100 m. In the center of the Veluwe lies the Netherlands’ biggest national park, “De Hoge Veluwe,” best translated as “High Veluwe” because of its elevation. The Veluwe features many different landscapes including woodland, heath, lakes and sand dunes and drifts as well as many different kinds of animals and plants.

We will drive through representative sections of the Veluwe and end at the National Park where we will have an opportunity to bike and visit the Kröller-Müller Museum which, among other works of art, exhibits the second largest collection of van Gogh paintings in the world. (B)

13, Friday
Friesland by way of the Wieringermeer Polder and Enclosing Dike

Frisians once occupied much of the North Sea coastal zone in what is today the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark. The focus of this excursion will be in the Province of Friesland, in particular, its occupation mounds (terpen) and its land won from the sea. All settlements in the marine clay coastal zone of the northern Netherlands began as occupation mounds, some as early as 500 BC. We will visit several of these occupation mound villages as well as the landscapes won from draining the Middle Sea, dating from the 10th to the 17th century. On the way to Friesland, we will drive through the Wieringermeer Polder, the first of today’s IJssel Lake polders, and visit the monument marking the construction of the Afsluitdijk (Closure Dike) built across the mouth of the Zuider Sea; this dike made possible the construction of the IJssel Lake polders in the 20th century. (B, D)

14, Saturday
Randstad by Train

Unlike many other countries, the Netherlands does not have a single metropolis with several million people on the order of a London, Paris or Chicago. Instead, the western Netherlands has a few smaller cities near each other and with high connectivity around an agricultural heart. Together, these are called Randstad, which means “edge city.” We will travel by train around part of the circumference of Randstad with the purpose of introducing you to the Dutch train system and some of its spectacular stations as well as briefly visit the historic centers of several cities that now make up this edge city (Leiden, Delft, Rotterdam and Utrecht). From Rotterdam to Utrecht we will traverse the agricultural heart of this urban region. (B)

15, Sunday
Free Day

Today, you are on your own. With your public transit card the Netherlands is your oyster. Further explore places that we have only visited in passing; visit places that are part of your ancestry; take in Zuiderzee:

- Church on the former island of Schokland
- Urk harbor
- Veluwe: Inland Dunes, Kootwijkerzand
- Enclosing dike
sites that travel guides call must-sees. Ride the rails to more distant places and their attractions or head back into Amsterdam for museums and interesting neighborhoods. (B)

16, Monday
The Zuiderzee Reclamation

Over many centuries, the Zuiderzee grew from a Roman-era lake to a large sea arm threatening Dutch cities including Amsterdam. By the early 20th century, the Dutch government realized that something had to be done. Over a 50-year period, the Zuiderzee was cut off from the North Sea and 640 square miles of sea bottom land was reclaimed for new cities, farms and recreation areas. This reclamation incorporates several islands into the mainland. In today’s excursion, we explore various parts of the Zuiderzee reclamation. We start in the city of Almere – the best example of a fully planned city anywhere. We then travel to the Oostvaarderplassen – a nature/wildlife reserve. After that, we travel to the former islands of Schokland and Urk. Along the way, we drive along the smaller roads to see the villages and farmland created from the sea bottom. (B)

17, Tuesday
Deltaworks

In 1953 the southwest delta experienced the worst flood in centuries. This extensive flood destroyed many miles of dikes and killed 1835 persons. To ensure that such flooding would never occur again, the government initiated the construction of at least a dozen dams and barriers, many of a scale never seen before. Our first stop is the Maeslant barrier along the Nieuw Waterway – the canal connecting Rotterdam to the North Sea. This barrier consists of two 700-foot-long floating dams, which close when a storm threatens. Our visit includes a stop at the visitors’ center and a tour. After lunch nearby, we continue south to the Eastern Schelde storm barrier. This is the largest Delta barrier designed to protect the Eastern Schelde estuary without damaging its fragile environment. Our visit includes the Delta Expo museum and a guided tour of the barrier itself. We finish our day with dinner and stroll in downtown Middelburg. (B)

18, Wednesday
Flower Gardens, Bulb Fields, Dunes & Lake Haarlem

Today we explore the Dutch coast between Lisse and Haarlem. Along this route we see flowers, dunes, the North Sea, and the pumping station used to drain Lake Haarlem. We start with a visit to Keukenhof – touted as the most beautiful spring garden in the world. Keukenhof boasts 80 acres of flowers including more than 800 variety of tulips. After Keukenhof, we travel through the bulb-growing area to the dunes on the North Sea coast. These dunes are an essential flood protection barrier for low-lying parts of North and South Holland. The city of Amsterdam also uses the dunes to process drinking water. Our trip to the dunes includes a stop for lunch at one of the beach pavilions. Finally, we visit Museum de Cruquius. This is one of the three original pumps used to drain Lake Haarlem back in the 19th century. This was the largest steam-driven pump ever built. The drained lake-bed now includes Schiphol Airport. After the day’s events, gather for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

19, Thursday
Return

Today we’ll transfer to the airport for the flight back to the U.S. (B)
The cost of your tour includes:

Air transportation round trip from Grand Rapids to Amsterdam with any regularly scheduled air carrier, based on a nonrefundable/nonchangeable fare, which requires a minimum of 10 passengers traveling round trip together. The identity of the carrier, which may include the carrier’s code-share partner, will be assigned and disclosed in your final documents. Tickets are issued 45 days prior to departure. All current airlines taxes, security fees and fuel surcharges are included. Note that these items cannot be guaranteed until tickets are issued.

Secure flight information. The requirement to collect date of birth, gender, and full name are federally mandated by the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight Program. While disclosure of this information is voluntary, if it is not provided, participants may be denied boarding. For TSA’s policy and more information, visit http://www.tsa.gov and search on Secure Flight. Witte Travel & Tours (Witte) takes all reasonable steps to safeguard the privacy of all information collected from its clients.

Frequent flyer points are not guaranteed in connection with group airfares. Some airlines may limit group airfare credits to 25% to 50% of the frequent flyer points that apply to individuals while others do not offer any credits for group airfares.

Hazardous Materials. Federal law forbids the carriage of hazardous materials aboard aircraft in your luggage or on your person. A violation can result in five years’ imprisonment and penalties of $250,000 or more (49 U.S.C. 5124). Hazardous materials include explosives, compressed gases, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizers, poisons, corrosives and radioactive materials. For more information, examples and special exceptions, visit: http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items.

Land transportation will be on both public transportation (tram, metro, bus and train) and a mini-coach.

Accommodations based on two persons sharing a room with private facilities. Most hotels we use range from moderate first-class to standard first-class. When hotels in these categories are not available, top-quality superior tourist-class properties are selected. The supplement for single accommodations is $640. If you register alone but want a roommate, we will do our best to assign one. If a single room must be assigned to any member of the group for any reason, even if it is at the last minute or while on tour, we will need to charge the single supplement. Changes in rooming arrangements requested by the participant 45 or fewer days prior to departure may result in additional charges.

Meals. Breakfast daily, lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary. Dinners do not include beverages.

Tour personnel. Henk Aay and Robert Hoeksema will be your tour managers and accompany the group. Local guides may assist as needed.

Sightseeing and admission fees in accordance with the itinerary.

Tipping and taxes are included for all services, including the tip for the motorcoach driver.

The tour cost does not include passports, airline luggage fees if charged, porterage of luggage, optional travel protection plan including luggage and trip cancellation coverage, optional excursions, independent meals, and any other items not mentioned as included.

Luggage allowance. You may take one suitcase with a maximum size of 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) and weight of 50 lbs. You may also carry a purse, a camera and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum size of 45 linear inches and weight of 15 lbs. These size and weight restrictions conform to most airlines’ requirements. Hand luggage does not fit in the overhead bins on the motorcoach. There may be room for it in the storage compartment under the coach or by an empty seat on board. If not, it will need to be placed on the floor in front of your feet. Porterage of luggage is not provided. Participants will be responsible for carrying their own luggage throughout the
Before passing on an increase, Witte will use its best efforts to minimize the amount. If it is necessary to increase the tour cost, participants will be advised at final billing and provided with a summary of the contributing factors. Your signature below indicates consent to any post-purchase price increases.

Reservations and payments. To make reservations on this tour, complete the Registration Form and return it as indicated. Reservations cannot be accepted over the telephone. Payments are due as follows:

Deposit of $1,000 per person with Registration Form.
Payment of $1,000 per person by September 15
Payment of $1,000 per person by November 15

Balance due on receipt of final invoice sent approximately 30 to 45 days prior to departure.

If you are registering for the tour after one of the above payment dates, increase your deposit amount accordingly so your account will be up to date. Please note that checks returned due to insufficient funds are subject to a $30 service fee.

Credit card payments. Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit cards are accepted for the deposit and scheduled payments. The deposit charge is processed shortly after receipt of your registration form. Subsequent payments are charged per the payment schedule.

Cancellations and refunds. Witte must receive notice of cancellation in writing. Penalties are per person and will be based on the date of receipt, as follows:

More than 90 days before departure......$200
Between 90 and 46 days before departure......$400
Between 45 and 31 days before departure......$1,600
30 or fewer days before departure......No refund

The service fee noted under “Special Flight Arrangements,” the nonrefundable portion of any special arrangements made on behalf of the participant, and their protection cost are also to be added to the above penalties. Cancellation insurance is available. Allow two to four weeks for processing of refunds. Note that payments made by check are refunded by check to the person or organization that made the payments, and payments charged to a credit card are credited back to the same credit card.

Membership. Witte reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a member of the tour and to expel from the tour any participant whose conduct or condition is incompatible with the interest of the group.

Land-only participants. If you wish to make your own flight arrangements, contact Witte for the land-only cost at least 60 days prior to departure. Participants who make their own flight arrangements are strongly encouraged to coordinate their flight schedules with the group’s flight schedule and to use the same airports. The group’s airport transfers on the arrival and return days will be timed to the group’s flight schedule. Land-only participants may need to arrange for their own airport transfers. Contact Witte for information and costs on options for private transfers. Witte cannot be responsible for any inconveniences to land-only participants resulting from changes in the group’s flight schedule. Participants who change their status to land-only less than 90 days prior to departure may be subject to penalties imposed by the airlines.

Domestic flight connections. Note on your registration form if you would like to fly to and from the international departure city. You will be contacted with schedule options and costs. Witte must receive requests for connecting flights at least 45 days prior to departure.

Special flight arrangements. Note on your registration form if you would like to extend your stay and/or depart from and/or return to another city. The number of passengers who can deviate from the group’s flight schedule is restricted. You will be contacted to let you know if the arrangements you requested are possible and to advise you of schedule options and costs. Upon confirmation of your special arrangements, a nonrefundable service fee of $75 per person will be added to your account along with any additional air or land costs that may apply. In the event of cancellation, the service fee and any nonrefundable portion of special air or land arrangements made for you will be added to the penalties noted under “Cancellations and Refunds.” Witte must receive requests for special flight arrangements at least 45 days prior to departure.

Special meal requests and food allergies. Note special meal requests and food allergies on your registration form. Witte cannot be responsible if special requests are not met but we will pass them on to the airlines, hotels and restaurants. If you have dietary restrictions or food allergies, be sure to carry your medications with you at all times. Also, discuss your special needs with your tour personnel and ask the wait staff about the foods you are served.

Mobility Concerns. Sightseeing on Witte tours almost always includes walking. Visits to historical places often involve climbing stairs and walking on uneven surfaces or cobblestones. Handicapped accessibility is not always available. Witte tour personnel are not able to provide attendant services. Tour participants with special needs are strongly encouraged to travel with someone who can assist them. Consult your physician if you have any concerns about your ability to participate.

Time away from the tour. Advise Witte in writing at least 45 days before departure if you plan to spend some time away from the tour. Wherever possible, you will be credited for missed hotel nights.

Final tour documents—including itinerary, hotel list, passenger list, flight schedules with departure instructions, as well as check-in and luggage tags—are sent about 10 days prior to departure. Flight tickets are usually made available at the airport at check-in time.

Responsibility. As the tour operator, Witte Travel & Tours will be responsible for supplying the services and accommodations outlined in the brochure as constituting the tour, except to the extent that such services cannot be supplied, wholly or partially, owing to circumstances beyond its control. In such cases, Witte Travel & Tours will use its best efforts to supply alternative services and accommodations, and no refunds will be granted provided that the alternatives are comparable to the original services and accommodations included in the tour cost. Witte Travel & Tours, its agents, sponsors, organizers and employees shall not be responsible for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity or expense arising from strikes, weather, sickness, acts of war or terrorism, governmental restrictions or regulations, any act or omission on the part of any individual or company furnishing transportation, accommodations or any other services to the tour participants; nor shall Witte Travel & Tours be responsible for any injuries, death, damages, loss or delay in any means of transportation or by reason of any event beyond its actual control. Witte Travel & Tours reserves the right to make changes in the tour dates or itinerary routing should circumstances make such necessary. In case of insufficient participation, Witte Travel & Tours may cancel the tour. In the event of cancellation of the tour by Witte Travel & Tours, its liability will be limited to a refund in full of all monies paid by the participants. If available, Witte Travel & Tours will offer an alternative trip, which the participants may accept or reject. California Passengers: Witte Travel & Tours is licensed under the California Seller of Travel Act—registration number 201-3304-40. Witte Travel & Tours is a member of the National Tour Association, the mark of excellence in the group tour industry.

Copyright policy. By signing the registration form for this tour, I give Witte permission to publish in print, electronic, or video format the likeness or image of me, any family members or legal wards, for any lawful purposes such as advertising Witte’s services. I release all claims against Witte with respect to copyright ownership, privacy, and publicity rights including any claim for compensation related to use of the materials for commercial purposes, including any images submitted by me to Witte or their vendors related to this tour.
REGISTRATION FORM

DUTCH LANDSCAPES
April 6 – 19, 2018
$4,234 per person from Grand Rapids based on double occupancy

Passenger #1 PRINT CLEARLY

First name Middle Last Preferred First Name

Male Female
Birthday mm / dd / yyyy Citizenship: U.S. Other

Home Work Cell

E-mail

Known Traveler Number (if you have one)

Passport Status:

Current I do not have a passport My passport has expired. I am renewing.
NAME EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT

First Middle Last

Passport Number Expiration Date (MM / DD / YY)

Dietary Needs:

Vegan Low Sodium
Vegetarian Diabetic
Gluten free Other

Food allergies:

Mobility concerns: (walker, wheelchair, etc)

Medical

Your passport name must be an exact match to the name on your airline ticket. Incorrect information could result in airline penalties or denied boarding.

Passenger #2 PRINT CLEARLY

First name Middle Last Preferred First Name

Male Female
Birthday mm / dd / yyyy Citizenship: U.S. Other

Home Work Cell

E-mail

Known Traveler Number (if you have one)

Passport Status:

Current I do not have a passport My passport has expired. I am renewing.
NAME EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT

First Middle Last

Passport Number Expiration Date (MM / DD / YY)

Dietary Needs:

Vegan Low Sodium
Vegetarian Diabetic
Gluten free Other

Food allergies:

Mobility concerns: (walker, wheelchair, etc)

Medical

Your passport name must be an exact match to the name on your airline ticket. Incorrect information could result in airline penalties or denied boarding.

Mailing Address

Street Address

City State Zip

CONTINUED ON REVERSE
Emergency Contact
NOT TRAVELING WITH YOU Phone (_______) 

Accommodations
☐ Double occupancy. Roommate's name: ____________________________
  ☐ Roommate not yet known  ☐ Assistance needed finding a roommate

I understand that if a roommate is not available, I will be responsible for the cost of single occupancy.

☐ Single occupancy (+ $640 per person = $4,874)

Optional Travel Protection
Witte Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your trip investment.

The per person premium for this travel protection is $322.55* for double and for single occupancy.

☐ I/we wish to purchase the travel protection at this time. Full payment of the plan cost is included with my deposit.

☐ I/we wish to decline the travel protection at this time. I/we understand that travel protection can be purchased later, as long as it is done prior to making final payment on the tour.

*It may be necessary to increase the trip cost insured on the travel protection plan for participants who purchase additional services and/or upgrade their arrangements. This could increase the plan cost.

For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1355565

Travel Protection Information:
• You can enroll in this plan when you register for the tour or at any time prior to making final payment on the tour.
• The policy exclusion for pre-existing conditions is waived if you enroll within 14 days of registering for the tour, provided you are not disabled from travel at the time you enroll.
• The travel protection premium is nonrefundable after the 10-day review period, provided you have not departed on your trip or filed a claim.
• For more information and an outline of the included benefits, see “Optional travel protection” in the Terms and Conditions of your tour brochure.

Special Arrangements
Upon confirmation of your special arrangements, a nonrefundable service fee of $75 per person will be added to your account along with any additional air or land costs that may apply.

Domestic Flight Connections from ____________________________ to ____________________________.

Special Air Arrangements: To spend additional time in Europe, I/we would like to depart on ____________________ and return on ____________________.
To request special land arrangements (car rentals, hotels, rail, etc.), include a note and we’ll contact you.

Signature
I/we have read, understand and accept the terms and conditions as outlined in the tour brochure. I/we acknowledge receipt of information about Witte’s Travel Protection Plan as well as the Price Increase Rules.

1. _______________________________________________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Note – Payment reminders will be e-mailed to Passenger #1. If no e-mail is provided, payment reminders will be sent by U.S. mail.

Return this form to Witte Travel & Tours
3250 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Enclose your deposit of $1,000 per person. If you are purchasing Optional Travel Protection add the full plan cost to your deposit.
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM
DUTCH LANDSCAPES
April 6 – 19, 2018
$4,234 per person from Grand Rapids
based on double occupancy

Name of Passenger(s):
1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________

Type of card: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express

Credit card number ________________________________ Expiration date ____________ Security code _______________

Name as it appears on card ________________________________________
(Please Print)

Billing address of credit card (if other than on application):
Street Address ______________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _____________ Zip ______________

Billing phone _______________ / ____________________________

I hereby authorize Witte Travel & Tours to charge this credit card for the deposit and full travel-protection premium
(if selected). Remaining payments may be made by going to bookings.wittetravel.com/login, by sending a check,
or by calling 1/800-469-4883. For security reasons, we are unable to store your credit card information.

Cardholder’s signature ____________________________________________ Date ______________________

NOTE: If a payment is due on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, it will be billed to your credit card on the next business day.

For office use only

Reservation ID _________________________________________________

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:
Deposit of $1,000 per person with Registration Form
Payment of $1,000 per person by September 15
Payment of $1,000 per person by November 15
Balance due approximately 30 to 45 days prior to departure