TRAVELS

AMSTERDAM
From Golden Age Canals to Dutch Masterpieces

March 29 – April 3, 2019

with Sara Schechner, David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE RICHNESS OF AMSTERDAM, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. Uncover countless layers of the city through visits to world-class museums, in-depth lectures, and walking tours of this historically significant city. Founded as a fishing village along the Amstel River in the 13th century, Amsterdam may be most notably remembered for its Golden Age of trade, science, and art. An influx of skilled workers and wealthy seafarers helped transform Amsterdam from a small port into one of the most powerful commercial centers in 17th-century Europe. Today, there is a modern and progressive world that lies along the city’s medieval canals and narrow, intricate streets. There is more to Amsterdam than just its artistic heritage, from the city’s unique approach to social issues and politics to its world-renowned diversity and incomparable architecture. Engage with Amsterdam through its colorful residents and unending traditions.

(above) Wheatfield with Crows (detail, 1890, Van Gogh Museum) is one of Vincent van Gogh’s final paintings through which he wanted to express ‘sadness, extreme loneliness’ in the stormy skies, yet show what he considered ‘healthy and fortifying about the countryside.’
Friday, March 29, 2019

Departures
Take independent flights from the U.S. to Amsterdam.

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Amsterdam’s Canals & Neighborhoods
Arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS) and travel independently to the five-star NH Collection Barbizon Palace hotel. Meet your fellow travelers in the hotel lobby before departing on a walking tour of Amsterdam’s Centrum neighborhood, which was once the historic city center. Lining Centrum is the Canal Ring, where the group will meander through narrow streets and enjoy views of Amsterdam’s most famous trademarks. Walk along beautiful canals and gain a better understanding of their importance to Amsterdam’s commerce during the Golden Age. Enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Dutch dishes and celebrate the group’s arrival in Amsterdam.

NH Collection Barbizon Palace (D)

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Rembrandt, Van Gogh & Dutch Gouda
The day begins with an in-depth visit to the Rembrandt House Museum. For twenty years, Rembrandt van Rijn lived and worked in this canal-front home, creating masterpieces like The Night Watch. He purchased the impressive merchant’s house just eight years after his entry into the Amsterdam art market; it was in this house that he celebrated his glory years, primarily as a portrait painter, until bankruptcy forced him to leave. Step into the world of Dutch Post-Impressionism as you explore the world’s largest collection of Vincent van Gogh’s works at the Van Gogh Museum. Notable highlights of the museum’s collection include Sunflowers (1889), Almond Blossom (1890) and The Potato Eaters (1885).

Following the visit, gather for a light lunch in the city center. Then, arrive at the Wijngaard family’s Reypenaer Tasting Room for a Dutch cheese and wine pairing. Reypenaer, a semi-hard artisan cheese in the Gouda family, has a 100-year-old history in the Netherlands. The Wijngaard Cheese family has been making this iconic product since 1936 and continues to produce award-winning Gouda to this day. Tonight, attend an optional performance, schedule permitting. Dinner this evening is independent.

NH Collection Barbizon Palace (B, L)

Monday, April 1, 2019

Royal Palace & Museum Van Loon
This morning, join the Harvard Faculty Leader in one of the Barbizon Palace’s spacious meeting rooms for a lecture. Begin today’s touring with a visit to the Royal Palace, the official reception hall of King Willem-Alexander. Designed by Jacob van Campen as the Amsterdam Town Hall, this mid-17th-century structure symbolized the power and might of the Dutch Republic. It was once celebrated by the Dutch as the...
Eight Wonder of the World and remains just as spectacular to this day. The palace’s collection of works includes imposing sculptures and paintings by Ferdinand Bol, Govert Flinck, and Jacob Jordaeus. Enjoy a group lunch of local favorites with views of the Canal Ring. Afterwards, visit the Museum Van Loon, a private canal residence built in 1672 for painter Ferdinand Bol, a pupil of Rembrandt. The house has belonged to the Van Loon family since 1884 and its interior has remained largely intact during the last centuries. Behind the house lies a magnificent garden, an oasis of quiet in the bustling city. After touring this beautiful residence, remain in the Museum District for an optional visit to the world-class Rijksmuseum, or pursue independent interests. Dinner this evening is at leisure.

**NH Collection Barbizon Palace (B, L)**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

**The Hague**

This morning, drive an hour to The Hague, the seat of the Dutch government and home of the World Court. Begin with a brief visit to the *Panorama Mesdag*, the oldest panorama in the world to remain in its original location. This cylindrical painting, nearly 50 feet high, was completed by Hendrik Willem Mesdag in 1881. Continue this exploration of The Hague at the Museum Bredius, a private collection situated along the famous Hofvijve, the “Court Pond” that lies at the center of town. The museum boasts an array of beautiful Dutch masterpieces, from Golden Age paintings and drawings to other 17th-century silverworks and porcelain pieces. Enjoy free time for lunch in the center of town before an easy walking tour of The Hague’s most important public buildings. Pass through the Binnenhof, a cluster of historic buildings that comprise the Dutch government and marvel at the Noordeinde Palace, the regal site of the Dutch king’s offices dating back to the 16th century. Stop at the nearby Mauritshuis Royal Picture Gallery for a special opportunity to experience some of the most iconic Dutch masterpieces from the Golden Age. Notable works include Vermeer’s *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Fabritius’ *The Goldfinch*, and Rembrandt’s *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*. Return to Amsterdam for some free time at the hotel before a lively farewell dinner celebrating the end of an exciting long weekend in the Netherlands!

**NH Collection Barbizon Palace (B, D)**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

**Return to the U.S.**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer independently to the Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for return flights to the United States. (B)
Sara Schechner, Ph.D. is the David P. Wheatland Curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard University. She is a historian of science, specializing in material culture and the history of astronomy. She is also a lecturer on the history of science and has been on the faculty of the Museum Studies program. She brings nearly forty years of museum and academic experience to the Harvard community. Schechner earned degrees in physics and the history and philosophy of science from Harvard and Cambridge Universities. Before returning to Harvard’s History of Science Department, Schechner was chief curator at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago and she curated exhibits for the Smithsonian Institution, the American Astronomical Society, and the American Physical Society. Her books include Comets, Popular Culture, and the Birth of Modern Cosmology (1997), Time and Time Again: How Science and Culture Shape the Past, Present, and Future (2014) and Tangible Things: Making History through Objects (2015, with Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Ivan Gaskell, and Sarah Carter). After years of research into sundials, science, and social change, Sundials and Time Finding Instruments: Hour Angle Dials (2018) will be the first of two interpretive volumes to appear in the series Historic Scientific Instruments of the Adler Planetarium. Other projects concern scientific instruments of glass, especially telescopes and optical glass produced or sold in America; colonial astronomy; instrument-making workshop practices in America; and the representation and iconography of astronomers and their instruments in works of art. In her spare time, Schechner is an award-winning quilt artist and enjoys Scottish country dancing. She lives in a historic house in West Newton, Massachusetts, which is on the National Register and has an archaeological site in her back yard.
TERMS & CONDITIONS

PRICING: $2,695 per person double occupancy
$895 single supplement

Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 20 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of March 2018 and are subject to change.

Final balance must be paid by check to ISDI. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS: Four (4) nights at the five-star NH Collection Barbizon Palace Hotel, Amsterdam; breakfast daily; two (2) lunches; two (2) dinners; one (1) glass of wine or beer with each included dinner; coffee, tea, and mineral water included with meals; bottled water for the excursion by private motor coach to The Hague; land transportation by private motor coach as outlined; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert, local English-speaking guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers; taxes, services and portage fees; one (1) 72-hour “I amsterdam City Card” to cover unlimited public transportation (by tram, bus, or metro); and free admission to several museums in and around Amsterdam.

PROGRAM COST EXCLUSIONS: Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport portage; transfers to/from the Amsterdam airport; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping.


Chief of Staff: Mike Harvey, 617-496-0806, or email us at haatravels@harvard.edu.

QUESTIONS: Please call the Travel Program at the Harvard Alumni Association at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, or email us at haatravels@harvard.edu.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL & EVACUATION INSURANCE:
As a service to travelers, the HAA automatically provides emergency medical evacuation insurance. At the time of publication, this policy has the following schedule of benefits: $5,000 Accident/Sickness Medical Expense; $200,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation & Return of Remains; $3,000 Emergency Reunification; $5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment; Included Emergency Medical Assistance Service; Included Bedside Visitation. This insurance covers travelers for the HAA-sponsored program dates, but not for any extensions or independent travel plans. You will receive detailed information on this coverage approximately 30 days prior to your departure. Should you also purchase the Travel Insurance Select offered to you at confirmation, it will provide you with benefits, which are additional to those stated above. This insurance is secondary to any insurance the traveler may already have.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Association and the tour operator. We reserve the right to change a program’s dates, staff (including study leader*), itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. *In the event of a cancellation by the Harvard study leader, we will attempt to notify all travelers as soon as possible. We will make every reasonable effort to find a replacement study leader, but our ability to do so will depend on the availability of appropriate lecturers and proximity to the departure date. If we are not able to provide an appropriate substitute, we will make every reasonable effort to provide other educational opportunities or program enhancements to ensure a viable travel study experience. Please note that all participants are bound to the cancellation fee schedule and other terms and conditions of the program regardless of whether or not a replacement study leader is found.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of the HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/amsterdam-2019

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication.