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.

GROUP SIZE: To be announced

PRICING: $2,995 per person double occupancy / $995 single supplement

STUDY LEADER: To be announced

SCHEDULE BY DAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
DEPART U.S. FOR AMSTERDAM
Depart on independent flights from the U.S.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
ARRIVE AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
Arrive at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS) and travel independently to the five-star NH Collection Barbizon Palace hotel
Meet 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 commerce during the Golden Age.

Get to know your fellow travelers over a dinner of traditional Dutch dishes at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Barbizon Palace Hotel, Amsterdam (D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 31
AMSTERDAM

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).

Enjoy a light lunch before leaving for a specially arranged visit. 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.

Overnight: Barbizon Palace Hotel, Amsterdam (B, L)

MONDAY, APRIL 1
AMSTERDAM

Gather in one of the Barbizon Palace’s spacious meeting rooms for a lecture by your Harvard Study Leader.

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 Eighth 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 Jordaens. There is also a large collection of Empire-style furniture, specially crafted for the Royal Palace.

Enjoy a group lunch of local favorites overlooking 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.

Overnight: Barbizon Palace Hotel, Amsterdam (B, L)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2
THE HAGUE

This morning, drive an hour to The Hague, the seat of the Dutch government and home of the World Court. Also known as the “International City of Peace and Justice,” The Hague has played an integral role in diplomacy and international affairs since the late 19th century. 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. This 18th-century mansion houses works by Rembrandt,
Jan Steen, Van Neer, and more. 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 compromise the Dutch government and marvel at the Noordeinde Palace, the regal site of the Dutch king’s offices dating back to the 16th-century. Experience the centuries-old ambiance of this key diplomatic center.

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.

Overnight: *Barbizon Palace Hotel, Amsterdam* (B, D)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

**RETURN TO U.S.**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer independently to the Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for return flights to the United States.

(B)