The connections between New Orleans and the Netherlands date to the late seventeenth century. It was in Ryswick, a town in the western Netherlands, that Louisiana officially became a French territory in 1697, at the signing of the treaty that ended the Nine Years’ War. In 1803, when the United States sought to finance the purchase of Louisiana from France, two banks—Hope of Amsterdam and Baring of London—were key players. According to the Baring Archive’s website, the Louisiana Purchase involved “for the first time on a significant scale the cooperation of the major European capital markets in financing the requirements of the New World. This was to become the hallmark of international finance in the nineteenth century.”

In addition to being historically linked through politics and finance, Louisiana and the Netherlands share the benefits and challenges of being geographically surrounded by water, with large swaths of land located beneath sea level. The major port cities of New Orleans and Amsterdam play significant roles in the economies of Louisiana and the Netherlands, but both communities have struggled to deal with flooding. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Boudewijn van Eenennaam, the Dutch ambassador to the United States, and Dale Morris, a senior economist at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in the US, offered their insights on water management garnered from the experiences of the Netherlands during the devastating North Sea flood of 1953.

Join The Collection this coming spring for a special tour of the Netherlands, featuring visits to carefully selected museums, archives, and cultural institutions.
ITINERARY

Sunday, April 30
• Arrive in Amsterdam independently
• Check in to Conservatorium Hotel
• Afternoon boat tour of Amsterdam, featuring champagne and hors d’oeuvres, guided by Koen Kleijn, a specialist on the historic center of Amsterdam and its unique gardens
• Dinner on your own
• Overnight accommodations: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam

Monday, May 1
• Breakfast (included)
• Visit the Amsterdam City Archives for a presentation of historic documents, including those relating to the Louisiana Purchase
• Enjoy a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum, the greatest treasure house of the Dutch Golden Age, brimming with paintings by masters like Rembrandt, Vermeer, Jan Steen, and Frans Hals
• Lunch (included) at Rijks, the museum’s restaurant
• Afternoon presentation on the post-Katrina advice provided by the Netherlands to New Orleans
• Dinner on your own
• Overnight accommodations: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam

Tuesday, May 2
• Breakfast (included)
• Depart for day trip to Haarlem
• Enjoy special before-hours tour of the Frans Hals Museum, home to the largest collection of Hals’s work in the world, as well as to works by other Golden Age masters from Haarlem
• Lunch (included) at Restaurant ML
• Embark on walking tour of Haarlem guided by Pieter Biesboer, an art historian and a prolific writer on seventeenth-century Dutch art
• Visit the Church of St. Bavo, which was erected and furnished between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, and enjoy a private concert, given by Anton Pauw, featuring the church’s famous organ, which was constructed between 1735 and 1738 by Amsterdam organ builder Christian Müller and was played by both Handel and Mozart
• Enjoy a tour of the Teylers Museum, the oldest museum in the Netherlands, including a special behind-the-scenes visit to the museum’s exquisite library for a private presentation of an impressive compendium of drawings by seventeenth-century Dutch masters, including Goltzius, Avercamp, Ostade, and Rembrandt
• Return to Amsterdam
• Dinner (included) at De Kas Restaurant, housed in a greenhouse formerly belonging to the Amsterdam Municipal Nursery
• Overnight accommodations: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam

Wednesday, May 3
• Breakfast (included)
• Depart for day trip to Leiden and the Hague
May 3 (continued) • Visit Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, a museum dedicated to the history of the New England pilgrims and their time in the Netherlands, and enjoy a walking tour of the city led by Jeremy Bangs, a historian and authority on the pilgrims who founded the museum in 1997
• Travel to the Hague
• Lunch (included)
• Visit the National Archives of the Netherlands for a special viewing of historic documents, including the Treaty of Ryswick
• Visit the Needle of Ryswick, an obelisk built between 1792 and 1794 on the site of the former palace of Huis ter Nieuwburg, where the Treaty of Ryswick was signed
• Return to Amsterdam
• Dinner on your own
• Overnight accommodations: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam

Thursday, May 4 • Breakfast (included)
• Visit Keukenhof, the showplace of the tulip growers of the Netherlands
• Lunch (included)
• Dinner on your own
• Tour participants encouraged to visit the Dam Square in the evening for the memorial service honoring victims of World War II, which culminates in a two-minute moment of silence observed throughout the country at 8 p.m.
• Overnight accommodations: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam

Friday, May 5 • Breakfast (included)
• Check out of Conservatorium Hotel
• Depart Amsterdam and travel to De Hoge Veluwe National Park for a visit to the Kröller-Müller Museum, home to the second-largest collection of works by Van Gogh in the world, as well as works by other modern masters, including Monet, Picasso, and Seurat
• Travel to De Steeg for a visit to the beautiful Middachten estate and castle, owned by the same family since the twelfth century
• Lunch (included) at the castle
• Travel to Houtem, just outside the city of Maastricht
• Check in to Hotel Château St. Gerlach, the former farmstead of the estate, which boasts extensive parks, a vineyard, herb and rose gardens, an orchard, and a church with splendid eighteenth-century frescoes
• Dinner (included) at Restaurant Château St. Gerlach
• Overnight accommodations: Hotel Château St. Gerlach, Houtem

Saturday, May 6 • Breakfast (included)
• Visit Castle Wijlre, where we’ll be hosted by the estate’s owners, Jo and Marlies Eyck, and enjoy a tour of the garden, coach house, and Hedge Huis, a private exhibition space for the couple’s contemporary art collection designed by Wiel Arets Architects
(May 6, continued) • Enjoy a coffee reception at Castle Wijlre
• Lunch (included) in Maastricht
• Embark on a walking tour of Maastricht, a perfectly preserved riverside city that dates back to era of the Roman Empire, with an original Roman bridge, cobblestone streets, medieval churches, stately homes, and more
• Dinner (included)
• Overnight accommodations: Hotel Château St. Gerlach, Houtem

Sunday, May 7 • Breakfast (included)
• Check out of Château St. Gerlach Hotel
• Depart Maastricht and travel to Amsterdam on the Intercity train (luggage transferred separately)
• Check in to Conservatorium Hotel
• Lunch and afternoon on your own
• Enjoy a private concert by members of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and dinner (included) at the Museum Van Loon, a house museum named after the Van Loon family, who resided there from 1884 to 1945
• Overnight accommodations: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam

Monday, May 8 • Breakfast (included)
• Independent departure

TOUR INFORMATION

Hotels: Conservatorium Hotel, Amsterdam; Hotel Château St. Gerlach, Maastricht

Price per person, double occupancy: $6,900 (includes $300 tax-deductible donation to The Collection); single supplement: $1,700.

Land arrangements: 8 nights in hotels; all breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners, and 1 reception; all travel outlined in the tour schedule; entrance fees for outlined activities; professional tour escorts; and gratuities

Not included: airfare, taxis, extra beverages, alcohol, laundry, phone calls, and personal costs not specified in the tour package

Deposits and refunds: $3,450 is due upon registration (by December 19, 2016). Final payment is due by February 22, 2017. Reservations may be made by credit card or by check, payable to The Historic New Orleans Collection. A full refund, minus a $200 processing fee, will be made for cancellations received on or before January 3, 2017. Cancellations made from January 4 to February 2, 2017, will forfeit full deposit and 50 percent of remaining fees; from February 3 to March 2, 2017, full deposit and 85 percent of remaining fees; from March 3 to May 1, 2017, full deposit and 100 percent of remaining fees. All cancellations must be made in writing and addressed to Netherlands Study Tour, 410 Chartres St., New Orleans, LA, 70130, or faxed to (504) 598-7168. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.
REGISTRATION
April 30–May 8, 2017, Netherlands Study Tour

Name________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________
Phone_______________________________________________________
E-mail_________________________________________________________

Room preference: ___ smoking; ___ non-smoking
Hotel floor preference: ___ low floor; ___ doesn’t matter
(All efforts will be made to fulfill requests, but they cannot be guaranteed.)

Please enclose a deposit of $3,450 per person. Balance of $3,450 (per person) and single supplement (if applicable) is due by February 22, 2017.

If you wish to charge your reservation to a credit card, please complete:
Select one: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___AmEx
Number______________________________________________________
Expiration date________________________________________________
Signature_______________________________________________________

Health information (due by March 1, 2017):
Dietary restrictions: _____________________________________________
Food allergies: _________________________________________________
Walking difficulties: _____________________________________________

Mail to:
Netherlands Study Tour
The Historic New Orleans Collection
410 Chartres St., New Orleans, LA 70130

Fax to: (504) 598-7168

For further information, please call (504) 523-4662.

Valid passport required for travel to the Netherlands. Passports must be valid for the intended period of stay in the Netherlands. For additional information concerning passports, please consult: http://www.the-netherlands.org/.
LIABILITY CLAUSE

The Historic New Orleans Collection and Pro-Tours, their officers, directors, and staff do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for this tour, including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, taxi, or other transportation companies, local ground, visa processing services, providers, or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, The Historic New Orleans Collection and Pro-Tours are not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, or of any third party. Without limitation, The Historic New Orleans Collection and Pro-Tours are not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property, death, delay, or inconvenience in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal, terrorist, or threatened terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or other defective conditions in lodging facilities (or in any heating, plumbing, electrical, or structural problem therein), mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely, dangers associated with animals, sanitary problems, food poisoning, epidemics, or the threat of disease thereof, disease, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, or for any other cause beyond the direct control of The Historic New Orleans Collection and Pro-Tours. Participant assumes all risk. Pro-Tours reserves the right to decline to accept any traveler on the tour if that person’s presence is likely to be detrimental to the enjoyment of the tour by others or for failure to abide by THNOC regulations and/or the directions of the Tour Director. Travelers who have been removed from the tour waive the right to a refund of any part of the fee. Pro-Tours may send the traveler home at the traveler’s own expense. Your payment of your deposit shall constitute agreement to the above. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 paying participants and on the exchange rate as of July 5, 2016.