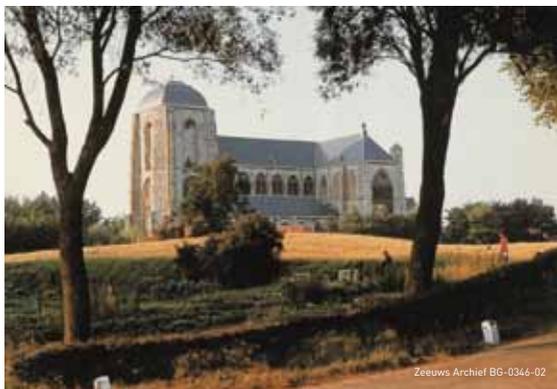




Walking Tours in Vlissingen,
Middelburg and Veere passing
American Points of Interest

published by Roosevelt Study Center



Zeeland rediscovers Amerika

In the Zeeland landscape there are many references to America to be found. These range from the Porgy and Bess theater and the chemical plant of Dow in Terneuzen to the McCain chips factory in Lewedorp, the golden M-arches in Goes and in Middelburg, and the fried food factory Lamb-Weston in Kruiningen. There are however also smaller connections, such as Bagels and Beans in Vlissingen and Brooklyn café in Middelburg. In the center of Middelburg there is even a research center for American history, the Roosevelt Study Center. In the nearby former Town Hall there is a College, the Roosevelt Academy, established in 2004. Most of these landmarks are of recent vintage, but the first contacts between Zeeland and America date back four centuries.

In 1609 Dutch merchants closely followed the activities of the English captain Henry Hudson who was acting on behalf of the East India Company and traveled through the Arctic Ocean to find a passage to Asia. In early September Hudson entered the river that would later bear his name. He discovered that this route did not lead to Asia, but also noticed the beautiful natural harbor near the island of Manhattan and the fertile land. This message reached individual shipowners and captains and they soon launched more expeditions to the New World to buy beaver skins and explore the land. Soon after their arrival, they built several forts.

With the founding of the West India Company in 1621 a permanent settlement was built on Manhattan: New Amsterdam (1625). Around these settlements new villages were built with familiar names such as Vlissingen (Flushing) and Middelburg. All of these settlements were part of the New Netherland colony until it was conquered by the English in 1664.

From 1609 on Province of Zeeland had links to America. Historical traces are still found today in the three cities on Walcheren. There are names of stores where merchants lived that traded American products, churches which sent pastors to the colony, birthplaces of poets who were inspired by the New World, immigrants who left house and property for a new beginning in America, shops and monuments. It is worthwhile to follow the traces of four centuries of American connections in Zeeland, by following the leads in these three walking tours in the scenic cities of Vlissingen, Middelburg, and Veere.



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Vlissingen

At the end of the Middle Ages, the Westerschelde became increasingly important. The inhabitants of the village of Vlissingen moved to the coast and received city rights in 1315. They built the St. Jacobskerk (St. James church) and increased trade with the areas around the North and Baltic Seas. The oldest port (now Bellamy Park) was too small and a new one was constructed (now the marina). In the sixteenth century the city had about eight thousand inhabitants and was an important port and a military stronghold. In 1809 the city was heavily bombed by British forces who wanted to rid the country of the French army. However, the French were not defeated and the British withdrew, leaving more than 300 houses badly damaged. The French turned the city into a strong fortress, but the residents were not pleased because the city could not expand. After the fortifications had become obsolete (in 1867) and employment increased because of the establishment of the De Schelde shipyard, the city could grow. In 1900 the city had 19,000 inhabitants, and thanks to tourism and the post-war industry in the area east of the city, this number quickly grew to 45,000. The old ports were filled in and new residential areas were built. In the twentieth century many historical treasures were lost because the bombing during the Second World War left only one house undamaged. With the removal of the impoverished parts of the city many monuments were demolished. However, parts of the illustrious past can still be found in carefully restored buildings and

houses and shops that were relocated. Thanks to the archives, we know where economic, cultural and political events in America have played a role in history.

The tour takes 30-45 minutes and takes the following route: Nieuwendijk, Sarazijnstraat, Nieuwstraat, Hendrikstraat, Palingstraat, Onderstraat, Koudenhoek, Steenen Beer, Groenewoud, Walstraat, Groenewoud, Plein Vierwinden, Lepelstraat, Oude Markt, Achter de Kerk, Branderijstraat, Schuitvlotstraat, Groenewoud, Bellamyplein, Beursstraat, Beursplein, Nieuwendijk



The city walk starts at the Zeeuws maritiem muZEEum at Nieuwendijk 11.

1 This is the site of the impressive Lampsinshuis, now the Maritime Zeeuws muZEEum. It is one of the best preserved city palaces in Vlissingen. The Lampsin family were among the richest Zeeuwen of the seventeenth century. Some of them owed their wealth to the trade with South America. Cornelis Lampsins had this house built in 1641. His parents were major shareholders in the VOC, which in



1609 sent out Henry Hudson to discover a passage to Asia via the Arctic but who instead discovered the island of Manhattan. The museum shows silver treasures from (South) America in addition to artefacts from the rich maritime history of Zeeland. America is often a subject in the exhibitions.

2 Walk from the muZEEum to the right and take the first street on your right. This is the Sarazijnstraat. Follow it to the first crossing, then turn right into the Nieuwstraat.

At number 40 you will find the home of the Evertsen family. Cornelis Evertsen the Youngest (1642-1706) was the son of an admiral who, at the age of ten, went to sea

and spent most of his life there. He was taken hostage by the British in 1665, but was treated kindly. After his release, he quickly made a name for himself. In 1672 he went with three Dutch ships out to hijack English ships. Against the direct interest of Zeeland he went out with a Dutch squadron and recaptured New York that he renamed to Nieuw Oranje (New Orange) in 1673. Fourteen months later, the Republic gave New York back to England in exchange for Suriname. When Evertsen came home, he was reprimanded



by the highest political bosses of Zeeland because he had given the interest of the Republic priority over the provincial interest.

3 Walk through the Nieuwstraat to the junction with the Hendrikstraat (this is the third street). Take a few steps to the right. Here you will find the Beeldenhuis at number 25, built in 1730 by Jan Westervijk. On the roof are four images that refer to the four points of the compass. The right-most image is a Native American and represents the trade with America. In the past the house was inhabited by mayors of the city. In 1930 the Beeldenhuis was demolished and in 1933 the façade was rebuilt on Hendrikstraat. Johan van Westervijk, who commissioned the build-



ing, became a director of the West Indian Company in 1733. Unfortunately, he did not enjoy the house for long because he committed suicide after the ship *'t Vliegende Hert* was shipwrecked in 1735 (although his despair may also have been caused by a disappointment in love). The original location of this house was opposite the house of Ewoud van Dishoeck (see 6/7), who copied the idea of a city palace.

Turn back to the Nieuwstraat, then cross the street. Here the Nieuwstraat continues as Palingstraat. Walk to the first intersection. This is the Korenstraat.

4 5 On the corner of the Palingstraat and Korenstraat stood an inn called **'De Americaansche vlag'** (The American flag) in the late eighteenth century.

The name probably dates back to 1782 when the Republic of the Seven United Provinces recognized the independence of the United States. This decision was encouraged by merchants of Vlissingen. Even when this inn became a family dwelling, the name was retained. Now there is little in this street that remains from that time, when this district was the busiest part of the port. The most notable house (across the street at No. 44) seems old, but is a complete 1965 reconstruction



In May 1963, a possible solution appeared near when Howard C. Van Arsdale, a prominent member of the Holland Society of New York, promised to collect money in America for the relocation of the house. But it turned out to be an empty promise. The money never came and the house was demolished in 1986.



of a house from 1651. Old photographs show images of the street from that period.

Turn left at the end of the Palingstraat. You are now in the Onderstraat. Turn left again to enter the Koudenhoek. Today this residential area betrays little sign of the former hustle and bustle of the days when the port was still active and where monumental city palaces could be found.

6 7 Here on the Houstkade stood the Van Dishoeck city palace, which from 1818 to 1965 was used as the town hall. This historical building, commissioned by Anthony van Dishoeck, was built in 1733 by architect J.P. van Bourscheit de Jonge. When expansion of the shipyard De Schelde after World War II became necessary, the building had to be moved or demolished.



8 On your right you will see the former site of the shipyard De Schelde. Here were the ports of Vlissingen. In 1869 Marin Henri Jansen (1817-1893), a former naval officer, tried to set up a regular service between Vlissingen and New York. He roused the enthusiasm of Middelburg and Vlissingen's

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businessmen and politicians for his plans, but he could not convince the government to subsidize the project. Without the government's support he could not implement the plan, even though the timing

was perfect: the ports were modernized in 1876 and the channel between Middelburg and Veere was extended to Vlissingen. Next to the canal a railroad was built, and in 1873 Vlissingen was connected to the Dutch railway network. Although the Zeeland-America Line was never established,

the discussions led to the creation of the Holland America Line (HAL), which began service from Rotterdam to New York in 1873.

The HAL also provided work for the harbor of Vlissingen. The headquarters of Royal Shipyard De Schelde in the **Glacisstraat** had American characteristics: a skeleton of reinforced concrete, 60 meters wide and 30 meters deep. The building (from this side hidden from view by the Machinefabriek) was constructed in 1913-1914 by architect J.P. Stok of Rotterdam. On this site the engines were built for the latest version of *De Rotterdam*, built in 1955, which sailed between Rotterdam and New York for the Holland America Line. Built also for the



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same company was the cargo freighter *De Kinderdijk* (5600 tonnes) in 1956.

Walk through the Koudenhoek along the parking lot (Steenen Beer). Go straight through to Het Groenewoud until you cross the Walstraat, then turn left.

American products were not available in Vlissingen until late in the twentieth century. On April 2, 1938 a shop named 'Amerikaan' opened its doors on Walstraat 109. This store sold menswear, industrial clothing, ladies jackets and fashion. Especially the steel furniture made a modern impression. In 1970, the Vlissingers could buy their jeans in the American Import House at No 32.

Return to the Groenewoud and go on to the Plein Vierwinden. Cross over and go into the Lepelstraat. Take the right side past the church through



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the Oude Markt to St. Jacobs church. Laidlie Archibald (1727-1779) was a Scottish clergyman of the English parish between 1759 and 1763. In that year he was installed by the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in New York as its first bilingual clergyman. He translated the summary of the Calvinist faith doctrine, the Heidelberg Catechism, into English and guided the church's transition from Dutch to English, a hundred years after New Amsterdam had become New York in 1664. In Vlissingen, his English-language parish came together in the northern part of this church.

Walk along the Kerkstraat to the Brandenijstraat. The playwright Arie Ruysch lived here at No. 4 from 1797 to 1871. He was the receiver of taxes of Vlissingen and built a thriving business as a wine and coal merchant. His warehouses were

located nearby the Grote Kerk (Great Church). He was a member of the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce. Meanwhile he wrote seventeen plays, including *Testament uit Amerika* (The Testa-

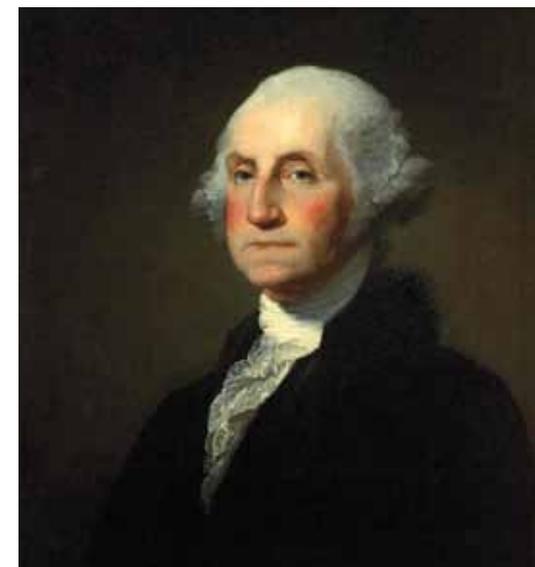


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ment from America) in 1845. A play about a poor orphan who almost lost his American inheritance to a shameless cousin. In the 1840s many plays were written about America, many of which warned about the illusion of getting rich quickly.

Walk straight on through the Schuitvlotstraat and take the first exit right. You are now in The Bellamy Park.

This park is named after the student-poet Jacobus Bellamy (1757-1786) who



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thought about signing up for the army of George Washington as a volunteer in 1777, but eventually reconsidered. Instead he wrote a tribute to this American hero.

This park was formerly the oldest port of Vlissingen, which was dug in 1304. In 1909, this port along with a number of other ports



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was filled-in and renamed Bellamy Park. Bellamy No. 30 (now Bistro Sinai Central) was Jacobus' house.

Cross the square to the other side and enter Hellebaardierstraat. The building at No. 2 was used as gentleman's lodging from 1650 to 1823 and later used as a guesthouse. In 1991 the archives of Vlissingen were established here. Return to the Bellamypark and right on into the Beursstraat, then walk straight until you reach the Beursplein.

14 Beursplein 5-7

This was the office of Peter F. Auer. At the age of 32, this ship broker was appointed



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as consular agent of the U.S. He held his office at Beursplein 7. Although this was not a very demanding job, he took his position very seriously for thirty years. The most important task was to provide proof of the value of duties for products that were exported to America. He also provided information on U.S. products to potential suppliers, but there was not much demand for this service. In this square the ship brokers lived and worked and there were a dozen consulates. The American consular post was here until about 1930, because it cost only \$ 200 per year. Also, Auer was a very helpful man. The building is now a restaurant.

Historical photos show the coats of arms and flag poles which adorned the consulates.

If you turn left you will reach the Nieuwendijk again.

15 If you would like to enjoy the sea view you can continue this tour to the Boulevard. Here are also some places with an American connection. At No. 66 (now an apartment building) stood the house of the American consular agent Peter Auer. The picture shows some of the houses on the Boulevard before World War II.



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16 Boulevard, Hotel Britannia

If you continue walking on the Boulevard to the north, you will reach the remains of what was formerly the Grand Hotel Britannia. On January 1, 1983 the American poet Allen Ginsberg visited Vlissingen, together with the Dutch poet Simon Vinkenoog. Ginsberg wrote a poem about what he found on the beach: "What the Sea Throws Up at Flushing"

such as plastic, milk cartons, shopping bags, mandarin peelings, paper bags, feathers and seaweed, stones and stick.

Middelburg

The origin of the city of Middelburg was indirectly related to America. The Vikings found it more convenient to relieve the Europeans of their possessions than the Native Americans. In the last quarter of the ninth century the inhabitants of the Atlantic coast established strongholds to defend against the Vikings' attacks. On Walcheren there were three such strongholds.

Middelburg was built in a bend of the river Arne and became a center for merchants, the government and the church. The shape of the old defense ring is still recognizable in the street pattern of the town.

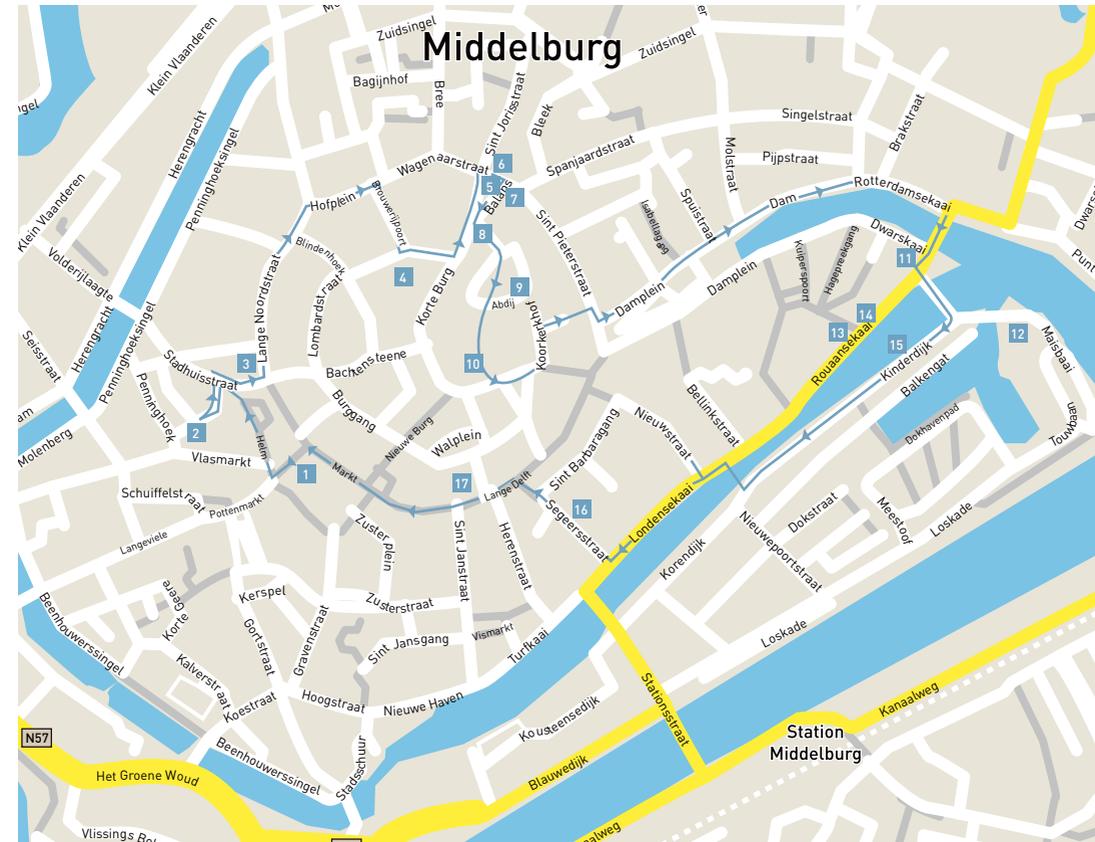
The monastery, founded in 1123 by Norbertine monks, developed into an abbey, which attracted other religious orders. The fact that the city was given city rights in 1217 (extended in 1254) and the special interest of Count Willem II of Holland gave Middelburg numerous benefits. The exclusive trade in wine, salt and wood made the city prosperous. In the late fifteenth century the City Hall and a hospital were built. In the Middle Ages Middelburg became a regional center for commerce, administration, and religion. The Dutch Revolt (1568-1648) against Spanish rule came ended this period of unprecedented prosperity. After a two-year siege by the armies of William of Orange. Middelburg surrendered and chose the side of the prince. The fall of Antwerp in 1585 attracted many refugees from the Catholic south to the Protestant Northern Netherlands, including Middelburg. Their knowledge, capital and networks revitalized the city.

At the end of the sixteenth century,

new fortifications were built. Merchants invested heavily in the VOC and WIC, large commercial companies built upon trade with Asia, Africa and the Americas. Many ships were built at the shipyards of the trading companies. Trade with South and North America consisted mainly of slaves, tobacco, gold and sugar. In the eighteenth century the trade dwindled. At the end of that century Middelburg merchants hoped that the trade would revive when America became independent. America eventually gained its independence from England (1775-1783), but this did not result in many benefits for the traders. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century millions of emigrants left Europe for the New World in the hope of a better life. In the twentieth century, U.S. companies settled in the city.

This tour takes you along places where some American connections can still be found, ranging from the houses of merchants and directors who were interested in the new state and emigrants who left the city to pastors who travelled with them. Some historical sites are well preserved, others were destroyed by German bombs on May 17, 1940, but some of these were rebuilt.

The walk through Middelburg takes about 75-90 minutes and starts in the middle of the market square with a view of the town hall, built between 1452 and 1520 by the Kelderman family of Antwerp. The route follows the Markt, Helm, Lange Noordstraat, Hofplein/Wagenaarstraat, Brouwerijstraat, Bogardstraat, Balans, Abdijplein, Korte Giststraat, Dam,



Rotterdamse Kaai, Dwarskaai, over the Spijkerbrug to the Kinderdijk, over the bridge to the Londensekaai, Nieuwstraat, Londensekaai, Segeerstraat, Markt.

1 In 1596 a ship captured a cargo of about 100 African slaves and brought them into the port of Middelburg. The province, city and the pastors felt these slaves should be freed because they were baptized Christians and they were quickly released from bondage. Some of the former slaves found work, but many of them died quickly in this strange

environment. In 1598 Adriaen Haeff, a distinguished merchant and mayor, financed an exploration voyage to America.

If you are facing town hall, on your left side you can see 'Restaurant De Vriendschap'



on the Vlasmarkt. This cafe was a well-known location for information meetings on emigration to America and Canada in the 1950s. Visitors listened to a speaker who told them about the life of an immigrant, how they could best prepare themselves, how they could find a sponsor and about employment opportunities. A total of 500 Zeelanders moved to America between 1953-1962. 1200 more moved to Canada.

Walk left of the town hall into the alley (De Helm). This is the courtyard of the Roosevelt Academy, a college that has been located here since 2004. Turn left at the end. From here you can see the English Church (corner Bodenplein).

2 Between 1629 and 1920 this was the chapel that was used by the English community of (wool) merchants. The building dates from the late fifteenth century when it was part of a small religious order, the city's grave-diggers. Between 1592 and 1629 the chapel was used as a weavers workshop. On Sunday, September 21, 1913 descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers revealed a plaque in the church. They did this to honor the English puritan group which sailed to Plymouth, Massachusetts via Leiden and Delfshaven in 1620. One of them, Robert Browne (1550-1633), stayed behind in Middelburg where he wrote books that called for the separation of church and state. This freedom of religion was very important for America. The authors linked this freedom to William of Orange, the defender of liberty in the Netherlands.



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Go back and turn left into the Lange Noordstraat. This street is one of the oldest streets in the city.

3 One of the emigrants who left after World War II was baker Liekele A. Vroon. He was a successful regional pastry cook who emigrated to Canada in May 1951 and informed the citizens of Middelburg about his life as an immigrant through articles in the local newspaper *De Faam*. His bakery in the Lange Noordstraat 23 (now Primrose Academy), located directly behind the Town Hall, was one of the few buildings in the center of Middelburg that was spared during the devastating German bombing in May 1940. From its top floor, he made this



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picture of the rebuilding of the city hall. In this street at No. 31 lived the famous poet Jacob Cats between 1603 and 1623. His books, with worldly wisdom in verse, were taken to America by Dutch emigrants well into the nineteenth century.



Follow the Lange Noordstraat until you reach the side street, Het Hofplein. The Hofplein Church on the left took the place of the Noorderkerk, which we will encounter later on. On the right side at number 16 stands the Van de Perre House, a city palace from 1775. Now the building houses the Zeeuws Archive, where you can find detailed information about Zeeland and its former inhabitants, much of it is digitally available. Turn right onto the alley in front of the house with the steps (the first house on the Wagenaar Staat) and follow the path along the new building of the Zeeland Archives on the right side of the park.

4 Look to the right, into the Bogardstraat when you leave the park. Here you can still see the arches of the Noorderkerk. On Sunday, April 15, 1951 this church was the scene of an emotional farewell service by the Reverend Aalbertus Herman Oussoren (1898-1968) who moved to Hoboken, New



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Jersey with his family. This pastor had already made a tour through America and Canada in 1950. Through articles in the local newspaper *De Faam*, he kept his fellow citizens informed about his adventures. In America, his parish was a meeting place for Zeelanders abroad. This church was demolished in the 1990s. Only the arches of the entrances remain.

Turn left into the Bogardstraat and turn left at the end, towards the Balans. At this intersection there are many places with an American connection.

5 **6** In the middle, just before the fountain, you can see the slavery monument, which was unveiled on July 2, 2005. On the left, behind the barred gate, were the warehouses of the Commercial Middelburg Company (MCC). This company made 113 trips carrying 180,000 slaves from West Africa to South and North America between



1723 and 1807. Behind the fountain you can see the rebuilt St. Joris Doelen. This militia was the most elitist of the three Middelburg militia. In 1872 the "emigrant father" Johan Samuel Frederiksen celebrated his

hundredth birthday here. The cup of the guild was sold to an American collector in 1880. The building was completely destroyed during the Second World War and later rebuilt. The 1970 date indicates how long the property lay dormant.

7 On the right in front of the Abbey there was a coffee-house before World War II. This building was also destroyed in the war and was not rebuilt. A couple named Huibertus (1806) and Ardina Frederiks (1820) lived here with five children. In 1849 the family moved to Utica, New York, where four more children were born. He was a son of Johan S. Frederiks (see descriptions 5 and 16). A total of 32,000 Zeeuwen left Zeeland or America between 1840 and 1920.

Walk underneath the archway to the Abbey square.



8 On your right is the entrance of the Zeeuws Museum. It manages the collection of Meinard J.L. Sprenger (1860-1951). This young man from Domburg travelled man to America and started a cattle farm in Alberta, Canada. He collected clothing and articles of the Black Foot Indians, which he brought back to Zeeland and donated to the Zeeuws Museum.

Diagonally opposite the museum, on the right is the Statenzaal, or the Chamber of the Provincial Board. Here the States of Zeeland recognized the independence of the U.S. in April 1782. At this meeting, counsel man Roosevelt was present. He was related to the Roosevelt family who had emigrated from the island of Tholen to New Amsterdam in 1649.

9 In memory of this family, the two Presidents (Theodore and Franklin) and the first lady (Eleanor), the Roosevelt Study Center was founded (at No 8). This center is dedicated to research about twentieth



century American history and four centuries of Dutch-American relations.

Walk through the cloister (entrance at Abdij 9) to the Abbey Church. On the left side behind the windows you can see the monumental chapter room, where the meetings of the monks were held until 1574. The hall was then used as a stable and later as a library. Now it is the Roosevelt Study Center's library. If you look through the window you see the names of the recipients of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal (which stands for freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom from fear and freedom from want). The prize is awarded every year to world citizens who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to these ideals. The ceremonies that mark the awarding of the Four Freedoms medals are held alternately in Hyde Park, New York and Middelburg, the Netherlands. (Between November and April the gateway to the Abbey Church is closed. Walk back and leave the Cloister after the second right

to the Abbey Square. Leave the square by passing underneath the archway on your right and turn left into the Korte Giststraat)



10 The Abbey Church consists of three churches. The original parish church, the Abbey Church (Koorkerk) on the left and in between is the so-called walking church. The most interesting monument here is the tomb of the Evertsen family, who were famous naval heroes. Cornelis Evertsen de Jongste recaptured New York from the English (who had taken New Amsterdam in 1664) with a fleet of about ten Dutch ships on August 24, 1673.

Leave the church under the tower and turn left until just before the Abbey entrance. Walk into the Korte Giststraat.

Walk to the Dam. This square was created in the 1960s during urban renewal programs when dilapidated houses were removed. In front of you, you can see the Korenbeurs (wheat market). On either side of the dam lived the wealthy merchants and shipowners of Middelburg.

Walk further to the left along the former docks. There were 330 vessels built for trade with India and America. Look around the corner of No 33 (tavern *De Zwarte Ruiter*, or The black Horseman) this building has the only wooden siding of the city. The house *De Vier Heemkinderen* on the Rotterdamse Kaai No. 1 was formerly called the Three Indians. The main occupant was known therefore as the Zeeland Indian. Whether that was a nickname or someone who really had something to do with America is unknown.

Cross the bridge to the Dwarskaai.

11 On the corner of the Rouaanse kaai and the Dwarskaai also stood a house that was called "The Three Indians". Most likely this is a reference to America, although it could refer to India. Some of the architecture of these rich merchant homes can still be seen in old photographs from around 1890.



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Cross the bridge to the Kinderdijk. On the pier on the left once stood an American factory.

12 Maisbaai

The American entrepreneur Theodore Mace moved here in 1897 from New York and founded a factory for lamp feet. This workshop grew into the Vitrite factory, which is now part of the Philips group.

Turn right onto the Kinderdijk, past the warehouses. Nr. 72 is named Delfshaven after the town near Rotterdam, which was the point of departure of the Pilgrim Fathers, the English puritans who, after living in Holland for eleven years, founded Plymouth in the state of Massachusetts in 1620. On the other side of the channel you can see the Rouaanse kaai. Halfway through the quay you can still see the transition from old to new buildings.

13 **14** **15** At this quay Middelburg dignitaries lived, such as Nicholas C.

Lambrechtsen, (1752-1823) author of the first historical work on New Netherland (from 1818). His neighbor on the right was M.E.C. Versluys, the first agent of the United States in Zeeland. These houses were all destroyed by the German bombing on May 17, 1940.

Cross the bridge to the Bierkaai and turn left. If you go into the Nieuwstraat you will find a house called 'De Engelse Kiste' at No 39. This name refers to the packaging in which the tobacco was shipped to Holland from America. This house may have been occupied by a merchant who traded with the American colonies.



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Go back to the quay.

Between 1771 and 1834 the building on Londense kaai No 19 was called 'Virginis'. This name referred to the oldest U.S. state, Virginia, where tobacco was grown. Much American tobacco that was imported into the Low Countries came through

the port of Middelburg.

16 Turn right into the Segeerstraat. This street was named St. Gertrude Street in the nineteenth century. This street was seriously damaged in the Second World War.



Right next to No. 11 was the home of Johan Samuel Frederiks (1772-1874). Between 1847 and 1853 three of his children and a granddaughter emigrated to America. They wrote him faithfully. He survived most of his children because he lived to the age of 102. In 1847 the first son Cornelis Jacobus left Middelburg with his wife Adriana and one child, Charles Marinus, who was not



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their own son but the son of Jacobus' half brother Marinus. They left the boy behind in Albany. Marinus went with them, along with his girlfriend Jane, who left a ten-year son behind, who they picked up two years later. Marinus had left his only daughter Johanna Geertruida behind with his father in his home at the Segeerstraat. She (Geertje) came to America on her own in 1848 and went to live in Indiana with her husband, Reinier van Oosterhout. After Jane died four years later (in 1851), Marinus moved in with his daughter Geertje.

Turn left at the end of Segeerstraat into the Lange Delft.

17 Number 35 (about the place where the HEMA is now situated) stood the home of baker Peter Lankester (1799-1870), who

emigrated with his wife and four children to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1849. He stayed in touch with his brother-in-law J.M. Kuiler in Veere and asked him in 1867 to send a potato peeler, 50 bottles of Haarlemmerolie (a patent medicine) and two dozen paint-brushes in three sizes (which at the time were very expensive in the U.S.). Between 1835 and 1880 357 emigrants left Middelburg for the United States.

At the end of the Lange Delft you will see the beginning of the tour: the Market square.



Veere

The origin of Veere lies in the thirteenth century, when fishermen settled near a creek that ran from Middelburg to the Scheldt River. When the lords of Borsele reclaimed the surrounding area, the importance of Veere grew. In the fourteenth century trade flourished. The Lords of Veere laid the basis for the Navy in the Low Countries and were held in high regard by the Burgundian Court. An advantageous marriage between Wolfert VI of Borsele and Princess Mary of Scotland in 1444 brought trade with Scotland that would continue for over 350 years. The monopoly on wool brought the city great prosperity, though the trade with France and the Baltic States also contributed to it. During this time, the city built the Great Church, which reached

its present height in 1520, but was never completely finished.

In 1550 the city had 3,500 inhabitants, including 350 Scots. A relationship with America was created through the activities of the merchant Balthasar Moucheron, who operated twenty ships and was interested in a passage to India through the northern Atlantic ocean.

In the seventeenth century, Veere lost most of its market share to Middelburg and Vlissingen. After 1800 the city was almost bankrupt. The construction of the canal through Walcheren (1830-1870) helped indirectly because the fishing fleet of Arnemuiden came to Veere. But the closure of the Veerse Meer (Lake) in 1961 also put an end to that prosperity. Now the economy of Veere depends as much on yachting and



tourism as on its 500 residents, thanks to a famous past that has been carefully preserved. Veere was the first city in Zeeland that made contact with the American continent.

This tour takes 45-60 minuten and follows the following route: starting point Town Hall on the the Markt, Vuilstraat, Oranjeplein, Campveerse toren, Havenhoofd, Kaai, Wijngaardstraat, Pieterstraat, Oliemolenstraat, Kerkstraat, Kapellestraat, Veerseweg't, Singeltje, Kanaalweg Westzijde, waterput, havendijk Oranjeplein.

1 2 The town hall was built in 1477 and decorated with portraits of the lords and ladies of Veere. The rightmost figure

depicts Adolf of Burgundy. He received the island of Cozumel on the Mexican coast of Yucatán as a gift from Emperor Charles V in 1520. He was the first Dutchman to own land on the American continent. In 1527 two galleons from Veere sailed to the island to explore the land, but Spain withdrew its support for the expedition and the ship turned back without reaching the American continent. 350 years later, the interest went



the other way. In 1880, the American banker Rothschild showed interest in the silver cup of Maximilian. The city council of Veere wanted to sell the cup but the government nixed these plans just in time.

Walk into the Markt on the left and turn left into the alley the Vuilstraat. Then walk until the end and turn left. Go through the gate to the pier. Here you will find the Campveerse tower.

3 This tower refers to the earliest days of Veere around 1300, when there was a ferry service between Veere and the village of Campen. Hence the name Camp Vere. This tower was built in 1500 and was used as the town inn. The name Camp Vere is also known in America. In South Carolina, there are two tobacco plantations named 'Camp Vere' and 'Middelburg'. The founder of the plantation Middelburg was Benjamin Simons, who was born in 1672 in the

vicinity of La Rochelle, France. He became an orphan at the age of thirteen and moved, with his uncle and aunt, to Middelburg and Veere, where his uncle Josias Dupre was pastor. In 1697 Simons' name appears for the first time in documents in America. Scottish merchants in Veere had interests in North American plantations between 1700-1750.

Between 1806-1809 the Netherlands was directly occupied by the French. The British blocked the trade of the European continent. This was a problem for American merchants. To circumvent this measure New York merchants registered as burghers in Veere. Ships under the U.S. flag used the port of Veere for their (smuggling) trade. Since 2005 there have been ships with Americans in the Veerse port again. River cruise ships with American tourists dock at a specially built pier in the canal through Walcheren to visit Veere.



Walk back along the port to the quay. At Nos. 25 and 27 a center for Scottish merchants was established in 1539, and at No 65 a white cannonball is cemented into the wall. This cannonball is from 1809 when the British wanted to drive the French out of Walcheren. It was probably a sign that the house had been damaged and someone had to pay for reconstruction costs.

4 At No. 77 we find another American place. This was the house "The Houtuin" (Wood Yard) of the Dutch-American writer-journalist Hendrik Willem van Loon. He lived here between 1928-1932. Van Loon (1882-1944) moved in 1902 from the Netherlands to the United States, where he broke through as a writer with the history book *The Story of Mankind* in 1921. He was a man of many talents and became famous in America as a historian, journalist, radio commentator and illustrator. Albert Einstein and Thomas Mann were among his friends, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor (see photo) regularly invited him to the White House. During the Second World War he developed a friendship with Princess Juliana, and gave courage to the occupied Netherlands through the shortwave transmitter WRUL as Uncle Hank. He published many bestsellers, over forty popular books on history and art, and reached an audience of millions. His books were translated in over twenty languages. Between the 1920s and 1940s Van Loon became one of the most famous Dutchmen in America. In 1928 Van Loon organized a race between traditional Dutch sailing vessels, including the Hoogaars. Since



1994, this sailing race has been revived and is held annually in July.

Turn left into the Wijngaardstraat.

On the corner of the Wijngaardstraat and the second left (the Pieterstraat after the school) stood the house of Balthasar de Moucheron (see figure 6). This entrepreneur organized and funded many voyages to America and Asia. He believed that a gateway to Asia through the Northern Ocean could be found. The Moucheron was representative of the VOC (1602), but about his role in the expedition by Henry Hudson there is uncertainty. Some historians claim that he did not support this trip because previous expeditions had been fruitless. Others say that he endorsed

a new expedition. His house was one of the largest in the city, but not large enough to be used as a warehouse. For this, part of the Great Church, at the end of the street, was used. The house was demolished around 1810.

Go left into the Pieterstraat and follow the route through the Oliemolenstraat. Enter the park at the statue. The surrounding buildings are fishing houses from the nineteenth century. In the center is a statue of Valerius.

5 1624 the famous Dutch poet Adriaan Valerius (1570? -1625) wrote the song "Wilt heden nu treden." On Thanksgiving day (the fourth Thursday in November) the Americans sing the English version of this song: "We gather together." Valerius was notary and tax collector in Veere.



Wilt heden nu treden
voor God den Heere,
Hem boven al loven
van herten seer,
End' maken groot zijns
lieven namens eere,
Die daar nu onsen
vijan slaat terneer.

We gather together
To ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens
His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
Now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His Name;
He forgets not His own.

6 Cross the street and walk over the cobblestones towards the church, turn at the end of the path right onto Oudestraat. From here you can see the oldest part of



6

the church that dates from 1332. Follow the route straight to the Veerseweg. Just after the bus stop take a right onto the Singeltje. This road follows the fortress moat (canal) which dates to the sixteenth century. Walk around to the first lantern for a view of the city outside the ramparts. Here were some tobacco fields.

There was some experimentation with the cultivation of tobacco in Veere around 1610. This is the first entry in records about the cultivation of tobacco in the Netherlands. Apparently this was done professionally. After New Amsterdam had been founded in 1625 and large private estates were cultivated, tobacco farmers from Veere were hired to grow these plants in the Dutch colony. In 1631 landowner Killiaen of Rensselaer hired Marijn Adriaensz of Veere to start a tobacco plantation on his estate on the Hudson River. This was not a successful venture for America, especially because Marijn attacked director Willem Kieft in New Amsterdam in 1643. Until the eighteenth century, Middelburg was the first port of entry for tobacco from Virginia.

7 Return to the Veerseweg and cross over towards the canal. Turn left and go to the Kanaaldijk. The large tract of land between church and canal was an industrial estate in the 1920s. The factories of Anthony Fokker (1890-1939) were located here. Between 1919 and 1926 Fokker F-3 aircraft and sea planes were put together in hangars previously used by the naval aviation base. In 1921 Fokker built two F.4 devices which were sold to America. The Fokker 4 was the first plane to fly nonstop from New York to San Diego in 26 hours. In 1923 Fokker renamed his company the Atlantic Aircraft Corporation of America, and he began to produce aircrafts in America.

At the end of the path you can choose to walk back to the center of Veere. Or you can choose the path between the fields that leads toward the well which was the main water supply of the city until 1938. You then turn right into the Oudestraat and left into the Market. In the late eighteenth century a captain of the Middelburg Commerce Company, which traded with America, lived at No 35.



Fokkerfabriek in Veere, 1925

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