

## ***A walk in Middelburg city***



Middelburg is a beautiful historical city with a wealth of monumental buildings. A walk through this city is therefore highly recommended.

The route begins at the monumental City Hall on the Market Square. This was built in part from 1452- 1458 under the direction of master builder Keldermans. It was expanded in 1506 -1520 expanded with the Vleeshal and tower in 1670 with a wing in classical style on the Noordstraat. On May 17, 1940 the entire inner city with City Hall and the Abbey complex was heavily destroyed by a bombing. After the war, restoration followed, which took over 20 years. In the beautiful facade are the statues of 25 counts and countesses, who have ruled over Zeeland. During the summer months the Town Hall can be visited.

Turn left into Lange Noordstraat. This street forms with Hofplein, Wagenaarsstraat, St. Pietersstraat and Lange Delft the boundary of the Old Town. **The building nr. 3` was occupied by Jacob Cats from 1603-1621. Jacob Roggeveen, the discoverer of Easter Island, lived at the end of the 17th century at nr. 37 "De Twee Pyramiden"; beautiful facade with richly decorated cornice, consoles, and front door from 1733.** No. 39 also has a beautiful facade.

Turn right into Hofplein. **Nr. 8 used to be the house of the Commandery of the Teutonic Order in Middelburg.** The present building (the Zeeuws Archief) dates from 1765. Opposite stood the imposing St. Pieterskerk which was demolished in 1834.

Continue to the **Wagenaarstraat. Nr.1. built as a residence ( 1730 -1740) and from 1887 -1972 used as a Museum of the Zeeland Society of Sciences.** In the beautifully landscaped baroque garden behind the building is a unique late "medieval" wooden facade. (Originating from the Lange Delft). De Gouden Poorte" (originally 17th century) was rebuilt in the 18th century by C. Kayser, master builder in Middelburg.

Continue to the Balans, a beautiful square with the St. George's Goals originally built in 1582. The building was destroyed in 1940 and only rebuilt some 30 years later. The façade is decorated with the arms of Middelburg, Zeeland and the St. Joris shooting club and crowned with a statue of the patron saint. **The fountain on the balance was erected in 1894 in honor of a visit by Queen Emma and Wilhelmina.**

After the St. Jorisdoolen turn left into the Spanjaardstraat. This old street has been completely restored to its former glory as part of the 1969 / 70 restoration plan for residential monuments. Then turn right into the Spuistraat. This street has several 17th and 18th century facades. In the past this street connected the harbor with an open waterway to the not yet filled in mill water.

At the dam, turn right. This was the "end point" of 1532-1535 dug harbor. In 1876 a dock was constructed here, which served until 1930. This harbor still has a wooden bottom. Along the dam are numerous fine patrician houses. Nr.31 " D'oude Meulen" has a beautiful pilaster gable. According to

tradition, it was built by Jacob van Campen. **Nr. 21 originally two houses dating from the 16th century "De grote en Kleine Christoffel" Cross the dam square.**

On the left is a statue of the Queen (1937) then turn left along the harbor and then right into the Kuiperspoort. **It is a characteristic street with picturesque warehouses, dating from the time of East India Company.** The Kuiperspoort 1506 itself stands at the end of the building complex; it was purchased by the Kuipersgilde in 1642.

After the gate turn right; you will arrive at the Rouaansekaai, one of the many quays in Middelburg, then turn right. This quay takes its name from the barges which used to moor here. Middelburg was for a time the seat of the East and West India Company. The many beautiful houses, many of which are adorned with names that recall this trading past, are reminders of this. On the other side of the water there are a number of old merchant houses.

Turn right into the Bellinkstraat. Here all but one of the buildings were bought by the Middelburg Housing Association. Just like the Spanjaardstraat this street was completely restored in 17th and 18th century style. Leaving the Bellinkstraat you come to the Dam Square again. This square was created in 1971 by the demolition of 50 buildings that formed two narrow unattractive streets. This also did better justice to the beautiful facade on the other side. The Grain Exchange, originally dating from 1767, was rebuilt in 1846 -1847. In 1973 the building was moved and reconstructed to its pre-1847 state.

Cross the Dam Square and walk left towards the Gistpoort. This gate dates from the 16th century and was also called Blue Gate (after the blue bluestone). The statue above the entrance is a replica and was made by Prof. Wenckebach (1910). After the Second World War it was placed in the niche. It scolds the Roman Catholic King William II, Count of Holland and Zeeland (1234-1256), who was buried by his son Count Floris V in the Koorkerk of the Abbey complex. Passing through the gate and turning right at the end of the street, one arrives at the Abbey Square.

#### **The Abbey complex is the oldest part of the city.**

The Abbey was founded in 1120-1130 by the Regular Canons from Vromezeelse and later became the seat of the Norbetines or Witheren of St. Michael's Abbey in Antwerp. They are the building owners of this unique complex crowned by the 85m high Abbey Tower, the Lange Jan. In 1254, the year in which Middelburg acquired its town rights, the Abbey already had its present form. However, since the capture of Middelburg by the troops of William of Orange in 1574, the canons and monks have completely disappeared from the Abbey complex. The Abbey complex was also destroyed in May 1940, but was then gloriously restored. The long right wing is entirely new.

#### **The right wing is the Province House, next to it is the coffee - restaurant " De Abdij".**

On the surrounding square one passes the Zeeuws Museum in the former Kanunikenwoningen. Next to it is the Gravenhof, an early 16th century building and former residence of the Queen's Commissioner in Zeeland. Next to it is the Statenzaal where the States of Zeeland meet. Then one arrives at **the North Wing Pandhof**. Behind this is the cloister with vaults in Schelde Gothic. This cloister lies around the **Muntplein**. This part dates from the foundation time. Next to the entrance of the cloister is the Munttoren with its vaulted gallery.

Then turn right through the gate. Above this gate the coat of arms of Zeeland is carved out with underneath **the motto "Luctor et Emergo" (I struggle and escape)**. The abbey complex on the outside walking around one first passes the Mint Gate on the right with on the left of the gate a facade stone with the text **"Nervus Belli Peevnia** (Money is the power of war). And on the right a stone with the text **" Avro Inservire Nephas"** ( It is wicked to be a slave of gold).

Then one walks past the three Abbey churches, namely the Koorkerk, the Trouwkerk, and the New Church. The Choir Church includes the oldest Dutch organ from the 15th century, which is on loan from the Rijksmuseum. The beautiful tower is a kind of middle choir, the Trouwkerk, with a floor of tombstones. Here **is the mausoleum of the Zeeland brothers Johan and Cornelis Evertsen**. In the Nieuwe Kerk is a 1692 manufactured. The Abbey churches can be visited on weekdays and the tower can be climbed in the summer months. During the summer months it is also possible to make a guided tour through the Abbey complex. After the Abbey walk straight ahead along the Burgpromenade; you will then arrive at the Markt again, the starting and finishing points of this route.