



*Ropemuseum
'De Baanshuur'*

The history of a rope

Rope- History

Once life in Oudewater turned on hemp and rope. The farmers in the area around the city grew hemp on the small fields that were covered in manure and mud. And inside Oudewater the ropemakers walked their rope-walks along the ramparts. To spin the first thread for rope they bound a bundle of hempthreads in front of their bellies. That is why the people of Oudewater are called 'yellow-bellies'.

Ships brought the thread from Oudewater to the big ports, where other ropemakers worked it up into cables, hawsers, fishing-nets and sails. The great ships of the East-India Company, the man-of-war of the Admiralty and the fishing-boats of the herring-fleet, they all went to sea with rope and sails from Oudewater. The ropemakers of Oudewater prided themselves on making only the very best quality.

Small wonder there is a Rope-museum in Oudewater!

Rope-museum



Rope-museum 'de Baanshuur' is set up in an old shed of a rope-walk for large-thread. From about 1675 till the early twentieth-century ropemakers stored their hemp, thread and utensils in this shed.

In the annex, right in front of the door opening to the Wijngaardstreet, stood the great wheel. The rope-walk stretched out over about 220 meter in the street. Nowadays there is a small rope-walk in the museum. Assisted by a museumworker you can make your own piece of rope.

By that time you have learned the first rudiments of the trade from the film. And do you know how much rope is needed for one of those ships of the East-India Company? The collection of the museum varies from old utensils to the chest that once contained the papers of the social security of the ropemakersguild. There are some special activities for the kids and for those who want more information about ropemaking and Oudewater we have documentation. And have you already smelled the bundle of hackled rope? Be easy, we won't 'hackle' you...

A Rope-day in and around Oudewater

Thanks to the rope-industry Oudewater was in the seventeenth century an extremely rich city. The many beautiful gables in the city still show that wealth. But the farmers around the city also got rich and they built quite imposing farmhouses. Whether you go on foot or by bike, there is lots to see here:

Visit the ropemuseum

Walk through the city with a guide

Lunch on one of the many terraces in Oudewater

Make a trip by bicycle through the nearby farmer-neighbourhoods like Hoenkoop, the Vlist and Polsbroek to see the old hempfields that survived the centuries.



Openinghours

From April 1 till November 1:

Tuesday – Saturday: 11.00 till 17.00 o'clock

Sundays and holidays: 12.00 till 17.00 o'clock

Outside the season the museum is open for groups by appointment at the VVV Oudewater or by e-mail: info@touwmuseum.nl

The museum has wheelchair access.

Entree fees:

Adults : € 2,50

Children till 4 years old : free

Children 4-12 years old : € 1,50

Skipping rope : € 1,00

Route

By car: : Oudewater is located along the Gouda - Utrecht road. From the A12 take the exit Nieuwerbrug-Driebruggen and follow the signs to Oudewater. Oudewater is located near Gouda, Woerden en Montfoort. The museum is in the centre of Oudewater.

By bus: Line 180 (Gouda – Utrecht). Follow the signs: “Touwmuseum”.



Contact

Address of the museum:

Reijersteeg 4, Oudewater

Postadress: Postbus 39, 3420 DA Oudewater

Telephone: 0031-348-567832

e-mail: info@touwmuseum.nl

website: www.touwmuseum.nl

