

An Amazing Discovery: A Walking Tour of Albany

Welcome To Albany, the Capital of New York State. As you embark on this walking tour, 400 years of Albany heritage will unfold. You will learn about people and events of historical importance, and will capture the beauty of Albany's architecture. Henry Hudson, an English explorer working for the Dutch, set sail on his ship *The Half Moon* in 1609. His destination? Asia. He was hired by the Dutch to find a shorter route from Europe to the silks and spices of Asia. The voyage ended here, however, near what later developed into the city of Albany. It was here that Henry was greeted by Native Americans, the Mohicans, and it was here that he found an abundant supply of beaver. Beaver fur was in great demand in Europe, but no longer widely available. Albany's location on the Hudson River has served it well over time, beginning with its development as a fur trading settlement to its development in industry, transportation and as the Capital of New York State.

This walking tour begins at the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center, where an exhibit that briefly highlights the city's history can be explored. The tour returns to the Visitors Center. Plan time to shop for Albany gift items and locally made products in the gift shop upon your return.

1623-Establishment of New Netherland (including areas of present day New York, Connecticut & New Jersey)

1624-Fort Orange (located in what is now Albany) is built

1626-Dutch Settlement on Manhattan

1629-Rensselaerwyck, a large tract of land, is granted to a rich Dutch Diamond Merchant by the Dutch West India Company to encourage colonization

1652-Establishment of Beverwyck (Albany) by Pieter Stuyvesant, Governor of New Netherland

1664-Fort Orange, Beverwyck and Rensselaerwyck renamed Albany after James, Duke of York and Albany

1686-Dongan Charter: Albany becomes a city

1689-Albany Convention, an emergency government, is established as the means to prepare the city against the French

1754-Albany Plan of Union is drafted

1776-Declaration of Independence

1781-End of the American Revolution

1797-Albany named capital of NYS

1825-New York State Erie Canal opens

1831-First railroad in New York State opens to connect Albany to Schenectady

1863-A convention to celebrate the Emancipation Proclamation was held at Israel Methodist Episcopal Church in Albany

1883-Present Albany City Hall, designed by H. H. Richardson, is completed

1899-Present New York State Capitol completed after nearly three decades of construction

1909-Hudson-Fulton Celebration commemorating the voyages of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton

1928-The Albany Airport, the first municipal airport in the country, opens



1973-The monumental Empire State Plaza is dedicated by Governor Rockefeller

2004-The University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering opens as the first college in the world devoted exclusively to the research, development and deployment of innovative nanoscience, nanoengineering, nanobioscience and nanoeconomic concepts.

2009-Hudson 400 Celebration: Albany and the Hudson Valley Region celebrate their 400th anniversary.

(Timeline courtesy of the Albany Institute of History & Art)

Albany ~ Capital City Historic Timeline



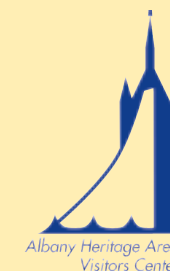
1609-Henry Hudson sails his ship the Half Moon as far north as present day Albany

1613-Jamestown is settled

1614-Fort Nassau is built by Dutch merchants as a trading post near present day Albany

1620-Plymouth Colony is established by the "Pilgrims"

1621-Dutch West India Company is created to administer trade in the western hemisphere



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