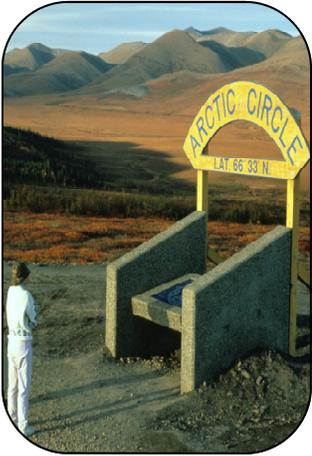


# BEST OF CANADA'S ARCTIC

With 7 day cruise from Seward to Vancouver on Oosterdam  
August 1, 2015 - 30 days



## a world to experience



**Fares Per Person:** based on double/twin

**\$7960** Inside Category K

**\$8365** Outside Category E

**\$8685** Verandah Category VD

Please add 2% reduced GST.

Other categories available along with single and triple fares.

>**Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 12 seats; \$150 on next 8

>**TIC Travel Insurance:** Comprehensive \$771 K, \$811 E, \$842 VD



**Redeem Experience Points:** Book by **May 6** and redeem up to **166 e-points**

### Includes

- Coach transportation for 23 days
- 22 nights hotel accommodation and taxes
- 7-day Holland America cruise from Seward to Vancouver on board Oosterdam
- Cruise gratuities
- Cruise taxes and port charges
- Northern Life Museum
- Wood Buffalo National Park with naturalist tour
- Deh Cho Bridge toll
- Mackenzie River and Liard River ferries
- Prince of Wales Museum
- Great Slave Lake boat trip
- Scenic flight to Nahanni Park, Virginia Falls, Mackenzie Mountains and Ram Plateau
- Nahanni National Park
- Nahanni Museum
- Naturalist walk at Muncho Lake
- Swim at Liard Hot Springs
- SS Klondike National Historic Site
- Yukon Beringia Centre
- Frantic Follies
- Flight from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk and return
- Locally-guided tour of Tuktoyaktuk
- Visit to an Inuit home in Tuktoyaktuk with traditional lunch and Inuit fashion show
- Transfer from hotel to Inuvik Airport
- Flight on Air North from Inuvik to Dawson City
- Diamond Tooth Gerties with show
- Locally-guided tour of Dawson City
- Dredge #4 National Historic Site
- Goldpanning on Bonanza Creek
- Reservation in Oosterdam's Pinnacle Grill
- Transportation from Vancouver cruise terminal to Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling
- **48 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 24 lunches, 11 dinners

**Experience Points:** Earn **166 e-points**

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
Kelowna > 250-762-3435  
[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255  
Vernon > 250-545-9197  
Toll Free > 800-667-9552



## ***MS Oosterdam***

The **MS Oosterdam** (pronounced OH-ster-dam) made its inaugural cruise in 2003. She was the second of four Vista-class ships launched, preceded by the **Zuiderdam** in 2002 and followed by the **Westerdam** in 2004 and the **Noordam** in 2006. Carrying 1848 passengers, these ships are Holland America's second largest, but they are still more intimate than some mammoth cruise ships nowadays. The **Oosterdam's** gross tonnage is 82,000 and it is 936 feet long. Its 11 decks feature a 900-seat live entertainment theatre, seven lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie lounge, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). The **Oosterdam** has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views.

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise. The elegant two-floor **Vista Dining Room** serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with full choice of menu. The **Lido Restaurant** offers six buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner and the 11 pm buffet. The **Pinnacle Grill** and **Canaletto Restaurant** offer extraordinary service, reserved seating and gourmet menus for an extra charge. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the complimentary room service menu 24 hours a day.

Staterooms have twin lower beds (some convert to queen-size double), television, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of over 800 ensures top-quality service and entertainment. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games and fitness activities. The movie theatre presents recent films several times a day and there is an entertaining live stage show in the Vista Lounge every evening.

## **Notes about your Arctic tour**

- Accommodation in the North is the best available, but it may not be up to the standard you expect in the rest of Canada. In towns such as Fort Smith, Fort Providence and Fort Simpson, there is only one hotel. Since hotels in the North have a limited season and enormous operating expenses, room rates are very high, so that is why this tour costs more per day than most Wells Gray tours.
- This tour is scheduled for August, so you can enjoy colourful fall foliage, pleasantly warm days and cool nights. Another advantage of August is that there is a minimum of mosquitoes or other insects. Some customers ask for a June tour to the North, but that is the height of bug season and some people have difficulty sleeping with nearly 24 hours of daylight.
- **Please book early!** Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 75 days before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship fills and this has happened on several recent cruises. We had to waitlist disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the motorcoach part of the tour.
- You can select your stateroom on Oosterdam when you book this tour. Early bookers get the best choice of stateroom locations as well as choice of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> dinner sitting time (unless you prefer the open dining plan).

## **Itinerary**

**Saturday, August 1:** *Meals: L,D*  
We travel north along the Cariboo Highway to **Quesnel** and overnight at Best Western Tower Inn. Dinner is included, a chance to meet your fellow travellers as we embark on our Arctic Tour.

**Sunday, August 2:** *Meals: L*  
We continue to Prince George and follow the Hart Highway across the Continental Divide at Pine Pass. Beyond the Rockies, our route is over the rolling farmlands of "Peace River Country". We see the Mile 0 post for the Alaska Highway at **Dawson Creek** and overnight at the George Dawson Inn.

**Monday, August 3:** *Meals: B,L*  
Entering Alberta, we follow the Peace River and

see the Twelve-Foot Davis Historical Site. This afternoon, we start the drive along the **Mackenzie Highway** to the Northwest Territories. Beyond Manning, we leave behind the grainfields and oil rigs of the Peace River and enter the vast forests of northern Alberta. We overnight in High Level at the Best Western Mirage Hotel.

**Tuesday, August 4:** *Meals: B,L*  
We cross the **60<sup>th</sup> parallel** into the Northwest Territories and stop for lunch in Hay River on the south shore of Great Slave Lake. The afternoon drive goes east to **Fort Smith** where the fur traders of the 18<sup>th</sup> century portaged around the wild rapids of the Slave River. We stay two nights at Pelican Rapids Inn.

**Wednesday, August 5:***Meals: L*

Today's highlight is **Wood Buffalo National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At 17,300 square miles, it is the world's second largest national park (almost the size of Nova Scotia) and protects a large bison herd and the nesting grounds of the whooping crane. With the benefit of a local guide, there are short interpretive walks at Salt Plains and Karstland. We also visit the Northern Life Museum which has an outstanding collection of northern artifacts.

**Thursday, August 6:***Meals: L*

Travelling west on the Mackenzie Highway, we view three spectacular waterfalls: **Louise Falls** and **Alexandra Falls** on the Hay River, and **Lady Evelyn Falls** on the Kakisa River. We cross the mighty Mackenzie River on the Deh Cho Bridge which opened in 2012 at a cost of \$200 million. The Mackenzie starts just upstream in Great Slave Lake and flows 1,080 miles to the Arctic Ocean, making it Canada's longest river. On the north side of the bridge is **Fort Providence** and we stay overnight at the Snowshoe Inn.

**Friday, August 7:**

The Mackenzie Highway winds around the north arm of Great Slave Lake and ends at **Yellowknife**, the capital and largest community of the Northwest Territories. We stay two nights at the Explorer Hotel. Our early afternoon arrival gives time for a visit to the outstanding Prince of Wales Museum.

**Saturday, August 8:***Meals: L*

In late morning, there is a boat trip on **Great Slave Lake** with lunch served on an island. This is the deepest lake in North America, reaching 2,014 feet, and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest lake in the world, covering 10,500 square miles. The rest of the day is free time for you to explore Yellowknife.

**Sunday, August 9:***Meals: L*

We return to Fort Providence, cross the **Mackenzie River** again, and continue west with a stop at Whittaker Falls. A ferry takes us over the broad Liard River to **Fort Simpson** where we stay two nights at Nahanni Inn.

**Monday, August 10:***Meals: L*

Today is one of the most memorable of our Arctic tour. We board charter planes for a thrilling air excursion into the wilderness of **Nahanni National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The highlight is 320-foot high **Virginia Falls**, one of Canada's greatest cataracts and also one of the least-visited. The planes land near the falls and you have 1½ hours to visit the awesome viewpoints.

Downstream from the falls, the Nahanni River boils through miles of rapids below 3,000-foot cliffs. These canyonlands were made famous by prospectors' tales in the last century of lost gold and the Headless Valley. A recommended book is Raymond Patterson's *The Dangerous River*, a gripping account of his 1927 journey into the Nahanni. Our flight route follows the Nahanni River from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Canyon past Pulpit Rock, then goes to Little Doctor Lake, the rugged **Mackenzie Mountains** and the cliffs of Ram Plateau. During free time in Fort Simpson, you can visit Nahanni Museum.

**Tuesday, August 11:***Meals: L,D*

We follow the Liard Highway south into B.C. and join the **Alaska Highway**. This world-famous road was built in 1942 in just eight months and has been continually upgraded. This scenic part of the Alaska Highway winds through the barren Rocky Mountains to Muncho Lake. We stay two nights at **Northern Rockies Lodge**, one of Canada's largest log structures.

**Wednesday, August 12:***Meals: B*

Enjoy a leisurely day! Activities include a nature walk along the lakeshore and a drive to nearby **Liard Hot Springs** for a relaxing swim.

**Thursday, August 13:***Meals: B,L*

We continue on the Alaska Highway along the broad Liard River and enter the Yukon at an elaborate monument. In **Watson Lake**, we see the famous Sign Forest, started by a homesick road-builder 70 years ago and now numbering several thousand city signs. We drive along the east shore of immense Teslin Lake and cross the long bridge over Nisutlin Bay. We stay two nights in **Whitehorse** at the downtown Best Western Gold Rush Inn.

**Friday, August 14:**

We visit the **Yukon Beringia Centre** which tells the story of native people and animals that lived in a prehistoric land between Alaska and Siberia known as Bering Land Bridge. Then we go aboard a restored sternwheeler **SS Klondike** which used to ply the Yukon River downstream to Dawson City and is now a National Historic Site. Tonight, we see the **Frantic Follies**, a hilarious vaudeville show.

**Saturday, August 15:***Meals: L*

We leave Whitehorse via the **Klondike Highway** and follow the Yukon River past Lake Laberge and Five Finger Rapids. Our destination is **Dawson City**, the partly-restored town where the fabulous Klondike Gold Rush started in 1898. Once Dawson had a population of 30,000 but now it is home to a mere 800 persons. We stay at Downtown Hotel.

**Sunday, August 16:***Meals: L,D*

Canada's renowned wilderness road, **Dempster Highway**, heads north from Dawson City across the Arctic Circle to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. During our first day on the Dempster, we follow the Klondike and Ogilvie Rivers through the barren Ogilvie Mountains. We overnight at Eagle Plains Hotel which perches on a lofty ridge with views in every direction of Arctic wilderness.

**Monday, August 17:***Meals: B,L*

We soon cross the **Arctic Circle** and the highway winds over miles of tundra and mountain ridges without a tree in sight. The Peel and Mackenzie Rivers are crossed on board small ferries. At **Fort McPherson**, we see a traditional northern Hudson's Bay store and the grave of the Lost Patrol. **Inuvik** is a modern town of 3,500 people on the Mackenzie River where it widens into its huge delta. It is also Canada's most northerly town that can be reached by a road. We stay two nights at the Mackenzie Hotel.

**Tuesday, August 18:***Meals: L*

We board a chartered plane to fly to **Tuktoyaktuk** on the Arctic Ocean. On the way, we sightsee over the vast Mackenzie Delta and view the extraordinary ice pingos which are huge upheavals of permafrost. After landing in Tuktoyaktuk, there is a locally-guided tour of the town including a chance to dip a toe or finger in the frigid **Arctic Ocean**. We also enjoy a traditional lunch at an Inuit home and a presentation on Inuit fashions and lifestyles.

**Wednesday, August 19:**

The morning is free time in Inuvik. A flight of less than an hour on Air North whisks us from Inuvik back to Dawson City. Accommodation for two nights is at Downtown Hotel.

**Thursday, August 20:**

A local guide accompanies us on a drive around **Dawson City** and up Bonanza Creek to the gold diggings. The gigantic Dredge #4, now a National Historic Site, is included and you can even try panning for gold yourself (you keep what you find, even at over \$1,400 an ounce). Back in Dawson, there's lots of optional activities to enjoy during a free afternoon: the visitor centre, a presentation by the "Ghost of Robert Service", a cruise on the Yukon River or the SS Keno stern-wheeler. This evening, don't miss casino gambling at **Diamond Tooth Gerties** and a vaudeville show.

**Friday, August 21:***Meals: L*

Today's drive is another highlight: the magnificent **Top of the World Highway**, so named because it winds for miles across the tops of high ridges above treeline. A surprise is the solitary log cabin which is U.S. Customs, for this is "Welcome to Alaska". Just past the border is the unique village of **Chicken** where you can mail your postcards with a very unusual postmark. Back on the Alaska Highway, we stay overnight in Tok at Golden Bear Lodge.

**Saturday, August 22:***Meals: B,L,D*

We follow the **Glenn Highway** along the north side of the rugged Chugach Mountains, past Matanuska Glacier and through the fertile farmlands of the Matanuska Valley. On arrival in **Anchorage**, Alaska's largest city, we stay overnight at the Dimond Center Hotel, located next to Alaska's largest mall. Dinner is at the Sourdough Mining Company, known for its 20-foot high chocolate waterfall, followed by entertainment by Dusty Sourdough.

**Sunday, August 23:***Meals: D*

The morning is leisure time to visit Anchorage. During the afternoon, we drive around Turnagain Arm onto the Kenai Peninsula. At **Seward**, we bid farewell to our coach and driver who deadheads 2,300 miles home. We board Holland America's **Oosterdam** and sail at 8 pm with a festive deck party.

**Monday, August 24:***Meals: B,L,D*

**College Fjord** is the first of many thrills during our 7-day cruise south to Vancouver. The Oosterdam is surrounded by sheer cliffs laced with waterfalls and 16 glaciers which tumble from icy peaks into the bay. This afternoon, the ship sails across **Prince William Sound** and enters the Gulf of Alaska where some of the tallest peaks on the continent rise from the shoreline.

**Tuesday, August 25:***Meals: B,L,D*

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up this morning amidst the grandeur of **Glacier Bay**. The Oosterdam sails close to the Margerie Glacier and the Grand Pacific Glacier where chunks of ice periodically break away and crash into the sea. A National Park Ranger on board explains the natural phenomenon in detail. We spend most of today exploring an unforgettable world of floating ice castles and tidewater glaciers.

**Wednesday, August 26:***Meals: B,L,D*

**Haines** is a rare port of call for Alaska cruises. It is situated at the south end of the Haines Highway which crosses the St. Elias Mountains to the Yukon and the north end of the Alaska Marine Highway ferry system. The Klondike Gold Rush brought a rush of people to the area in the 1890s, until the White Pass Railway was built into nearby Skagway, resulting in the abandonment of Haines. The ship docks near Fort William Seward which was the only US military outpost in Alaska until World War II. The Oosterdam is in Haines from 7 am to 9 pm.

**Thursday, August 27:***Meals: B,L,D*

The Oosterdam docks in **Juneau**, the capital of Alaska, at 8 am and departs at 6 pm. City tours can be purchased which visit the Capitol Building, Governor's Mansion and the sprawling Mendenhall Glacier. During the rest of the day, you can shop the many boutiques, visit the Museum, ride the cablecar up Mount Roberts for a terrific view, or enjoy the action at the Red Dog Saloon. For a change of scene from the dining room tonight, you may wish to make a reservation (fee included) in the Pinnacle Grill which features an exquisite menu and superb service.

**Friday, August 28:***Meals: B,L,D*

Our last port of call is **Ketchikan** from 11 am to 7 pm. This picturesque town has waterfront buildings on stilts, weathered stairways that cling to steep hillsides and the much-photographed Creek Street boardwalk.

**Saturday, August 29:***Meals: B,L,D*

This is a restful day at sea as we cruise south through the **Inside Passage**, past hundreds of islands and waterfalls, viewing wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises or killer whales. If you tire of the scenery, there is always some interesting activity scheduled and the daily ship's newsletter keeps you informed, whether it is a stage show, a movie, a card game, a demonstration of napkin folding or ice-carving, or a walk around deck.

**Sunday, August 30:***Meals: B,L*

We dock at Canada Place in **Vancouver** this morning. Our motorcoach meets us there and we travel home to Kamloops, the Okanagan and Salmon Arm.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 6, 2015.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 12 seats and \$150 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 6.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to March 24, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 25 to May 6, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From May 7 to June 4, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From June 5 to June 30, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After June 30, there is no refund.

**TIC Insurance:** In addition to Plan 3-Comprehensive, plans are available for Trip Cancellation & Interruption only and Extended Medical Coverage only. Policies can be purchased no later than at final payment.

**Changes to tour:** As this tour has been planned a year in advance, changes to air taxes, cruise taxes and other costs (either up or down) could occur, in which case the tour fare will be adjusted. Please note that with the current volatile fuel costs, airlines and Holland America can add fuel surcharges any time, even after your final payment, and we must collect those extra costs from you. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be of similar quality.

**PHOTO CREDIT** Northwest Territories Tourism



**Activity Level:** Some traveling days are long as hotels and towns are far apart in the north. There are walks to some viewpoints. There are steps on and off the three planes used and the lake cruise. Walkers or wheelchairs cannot be put onto the Nahanni and Tuktoyaktuk planes. Assistance with walking or boarding planes and coaches cannot be expected from the tour director, driver or other passengers. Some communities do not have paved streets and sidewalks, so the walking surface may be uneven. Those with mobility issues will miss some highlights of this tour.

**e-points:** This tour earns 166 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. 1 e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until May 6.

**Travel Wholesaler License:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924