

BALTIC CRUISE

On Holland America's newest ship, MS Koningsdam
August 30, 2016 - 21 days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$8880 Inside Category J

\$9395 Outside Category D

\$9840 Verandah Category VD

> Please add 0.2% GST.

> Other categories available along with single fares.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 10 seats; \$150 next 7

> **Experience Points:** Earn 170 points from this tour.

Redeem **170 points** if you book by **May 26**.



Includes

- Coach transportation to/from Vancouver Airport
- 2 nights accommodation & taxes in Vancouver
- Flight from Vancouver to Amsterdam return
- Current air transport taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Transfer from Amsterdam airport to hotel
- 3 nights accommodation & taxes in Amsterdam
- Locally-guided tour of Amsterdam highlights
- Rijksmuseum and Anne Frank House
- Amsterdam canals cruise
- Locally-guided tour of Dutch villages of Delft, Zaanse Schans, and Volendam
- Transfer from Amsterdam hotel to cruise terminal
- 14 days & nights on board MS Koningsdam
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Entertainment & expert lecturers on Koningsdam
- All-day guided tour of Copenhagen with Tivoli Gardens, Danish Parliament & Little Mermaid
- Changing of Guards at Amalienborg Palace
- Frederiksborg Castle
- All-day guided tour of Berlin with Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie
- All-day guided tour of Tallinn, Estonia
- 2-day guided tour of St. Petersburg, Russia
- Catherine's Palace
- Hermitage Museum with early admission
- Peter & Paul Cathedral, Church on Spilled Blood
- All-day guided tour of Helsinki, Finland
- Ferry to Suomenlinna Sea Fortress and tour
- All-day guided tour of Stockholm
- City Hall Tower, Vasa Ship Museum
- Paddlewheeler cruise on the Kiel Canal to Rendsburg with coach return
- Afternoon guided tour of Kiel, Germany
- All-day guided tour of Göteborg, Sweden, with Feskekorka Market & Tradgardsforeningen Park
- Transfer from ship to Amsterdam Airport
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour and cruise
- Gratuities for all local guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **45 meals:** 19 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 18 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

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

a world to experience

MS Koningsdam

Holland America Line's newest ship, the ms Koningsdam, makes her grand entrance into the cruising world in April 2016. To bring this new ship to life and give form and function to its brand, Holland America commissioned two legendary partners, Adam Tihany, regarded as one of the world's pre-eminent hospitality designers, and architect Bjørn Storbraaten. Their design cues for Koningsdam? Light-filled spaces. Fluid curves. A sophisticated interplay of high technology and elegance. Beautiful architectural elements inspired by music. All woven together in a forward-thinking design approach to create an interior that blends a fresh, contemporary styling in perfect harmony with Holland America's renowned classic elegance. Koningsdam carries 2,650 passengers, the largest ever built by the company. Her 12 decks feature four performance venues including the 1000-seat live entertainment theatre, five lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, internet centre, spa and fitness centre, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover).

Koningsdam offers 12 restaurants or cafés. The elegant two-deck Dining Room serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with full choice of menu. The Lido Market offers buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner and the 11 pm snack. The Pinnacle Grill, the Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine, the Tamarind Restaurant with Asian cuisine, and Sel de Mer with a seafood menu all 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. All meals are culinary delights!

Staterooms have twin lower beds (some convert to queen-size double), TV, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of over 1,000 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. Every evening, there is live stage entertainment in World Stage Theatre, and several other venues each offer a performance schedule. Holland America is known for the quality and variety of its shows.

Cruise & Tour Notes

Shore excursions included: On many cruises, shore excursions are a significant additional expense during your holiday, yet most people want to do some organized sightseeing in the ports visited. For instance, a two-day tour of highlights of St. Petersburg with attraction admissions costs about \$400 US funds per person. Wells Gray's planners know tour operators in many countries who offer excursions that are independent of the ship's and much less costly. So this cruise includes excursions in every port and visits to the key attractions, all handled by multi-lingual guides. In addition, we have three nights in Amsterdam with tours before embarking the Koningsdam.

Shore excursion lunches are usually not included and the tour stops at a convenient place where you can purchase your own lunch. This is cheaper and quicker than having an arranged lunch. Exceptions are the traditional borscht lunch in St. Petersburg and the buffet lunch during the Kiel Canal cruise. For the other shore excursions, the "meals included" line indicates no lunch, but if you do not take the tour you can of course have lunch on the ship.

Please book early: Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until three months before sailing (early June 2016). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills. Since Koningsdam is a brand-new ship, the summer of 2016 is expected to be fully-booked and recalls are likely. When this has happened before, we had to waitlist disappointed customers, even though we still had seats available on the coaches and planes.

 **Activity Level:** Light activity most days including short distances to walk and some steps during the shore excursions and the pre-cruise tour in Amsterdam. Walking tours may be part of a city tour and are noted in the itinerary; these could be more challenging if on cobblestone streets or uneven sidewalks in historic districts. Some historic buildings and museums may not have elevators. There is lots of walking at attractions such as Catherine's Palace and the Hermitage if you want to see everything. You should consult with the local guide if you want to omit part of a tour. There can be longer walks in Vancouver and Schiphol airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

* HIGHLIGHTS & PORTS OF CALL *

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
ANNE FRANK HOUSE
ROYAL DELFT POTTERY
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
LITTLE MERMAID
BERLIN, GERMANY
BRANDENBURG GATE
TALLINN, ESTONIA

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
CATHERINE'S PALACE & HERMITAGE
HELSINKI, FINLAND
SUOMENLINNA SEA FORTRESS
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
VASA SHIP MUSEUM
KIEL CANAL CRUISE
GOTEBURG, SWEDEN

Itinerary

Tuesday, August 30: *Meals: D*
There are afternoon departures from the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm. We drive to Vancouver and stay overnight at the Fairmont YVR Hotel in the Airport. Note: While it may seem unnecessary to go to Vancouver a day before the flight, closures of the Coquihalla due to accidents can cause a missed flight.

Wednesday, August 31: *Meals: B*
Enjoy the Fairmont's extensive buffet breakfast and a leisurely morning at the hotel. Our KLM flight leaves at 3:45 pm and is non-stop to Amsterdam.

Thursday, September 1: *Meals: D*
We arrive at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport at 10 am and local time is 9 hours ahead. Our Netherlands guide and coach meet us at the airport and we have an orientation tour on the way to the NH Hotel Amsterdam Centre. We stay three nights at this 4-star hotel. A get-acquainted dinner is included.

Friday, September 2: *Meals: B,D*
Amsterdam was founded in the Middle Ages and has many historic buildings. This morning, we enjoy a guided city tour visiting Dam Square with the impressive Royal Palace, the New Church, the canals, and Waterloo Square. Admissions are included to the Rijksmuseum and the **Anne Frank House**. During the afternoon, we explore the city via a narrated canal cruise, passing gabled warehouses, arched bridges, noble mansions, and colourful houseboats.

Saturday, September 3: *Meals: B,D*
We head out of Amsterdam for a visit to Delft and a tour of the famous **Royal Delft Blue Porcelain** exhibition. Next is the picturesque UNESCO-listed

village of **Zaanse Schans** where we visit a cheese farm, paint mill, and oil mill, and view traditional crafts of cheese- and clog-making. The third village is **Volendam** which has a bustling harbour on the Zuiderzee and is known for traditional costumes of ancient clothing, the klederdracht.

Sunday, September 4: *Meals: B,L,D*
In late morning, we drive to the cruise terminal and board the **Koningsdam**. An embarkation lunch is served in the Lido Market. The rest of the day is free time to explore this beautiful new ship and get acquainted with its many facilities. We cast off at 4 pm and sail away from Amsterdam into the **North Sea**. Afterwards, savour your first sumptuous dinner, followed by a lively "welcome" performance at the World Stage.

Monday, September 5: *Meals: B,L,D*
Enjoy a leisurely day at sea while we cruise around the Danish peninsula.

Tuesday, September 6: *Meals: B,D*
The Koningsdam is docked in **Copenhagen** from 7 am to 4 pm. During the morning, a guided city tour passes all the major attractions of this wonderful city — Tivoli Gardens, Amalienborg Palace, the Royal Danish Opera House with its panoramic view, the Danish Parliament Christiansborg, Islands Brygge, the renowned **Little Mermaid**, and many statues and landmarks. We also experience the Changing of the Royal Guards at the Amalienborg Palace. This afternoon, we drive north of Copenhagen to **Frederiksborg Castle**. This impressive and unrivalled Renaissance castle was built in the early 17th century by the legendary Danish King Christian IV and incorporates the best of Renaissance architecture and craftsmanship.

Wednesday, September 7:*Meals: B,D*

We dock in Warnemunde, Germany, at 7 am and meet our guide and coach. It is a three-hour drive south to **Berlin**, one of the most beautiful cities of Europe. Berlin has many layers of dynamic history, and there is no better place to experience them than the city centre Berlin Mitte. Largely hidden behind the Berlin Wall during the Cold War, Mitte provides a window into the city's medieval origins, its Prussian and Nazi past, its legacy as a divided city, and the constant change that is New Berlin. During a city tour, we see the government district, contemporary culture and art, and architecture, plus Berlin's best known highlights: the Reichstag, **Brandenburg Gate**, **Checkpoint Charlie**, remains of the **Berlin Wall**, the broad boulevard of Kurfürstendamm, and the Jewish Memorial. This is a long day to see everything, returning to the ship about 8 pm, with departure at 10 pm.

Thursday, September 8:*Meals: B,L,D*

The Koningsdam is at sea today while we cruise east into the **Baltic Sea**.

Friday, September 9:*Meals: B,D*

We arrive in **Tallinn, Estonia** at 9 am. We start with a walking tour through Old Town, seeing the marvelous Dome Church and Alexander Nevsky's Cathedral, then enjoy the panoramic view from Toompea viewing platform. During the coach tour, we see the modern city centre with skyscrapers, Freedom Square, National Library, Opera House, and romantic **Kadriorg Park** with its baroque palace. Contrasting with the beautiful architecture are the block buildings from the Soviet era in the Lasnamäe district. Along the waterfront, we admire the view from Piritä Beach and see the ruins of St. Bridget's Convent, the Estonian Song Festival Grounds, and the 1980 Olympic Village where the Moscow Sailing Regatta took place. The ship sails at 5 pm.

Saturday, September 10:*Meals: B,L,D*

The Koningsdam arrives in **St. Petersburg** at 7 am and we stay overnight at the dock. **Welcome to Russia!** Sometimes called the City of 300 Bridges, St. Petersburg is one of the world's most splendid cities and two days of touring are included. Today, we travel to the Pushkin area to visit the elegant **Catherine's Palace**, a UNESCO site. Once the summer residence for the Russian Czars, the palace is named for Catherine I, Peter the Great's widow, and is a masterpiece of Russian Rococo architecture unrivalled in luxury and scale. We tour the opulent halls, including the storied Amber and Agate Rooms. A traditional borscht lunch is included in

Podvorye. Afterwards, during a tour of St. Petersburg landmarks, we visit **Peter & Paul Fortress and Cathedral** which was built between 1712 and 1733 and has a 123-metre tall spire. Most of Russia's czars are buried in this ornate cathedral.

Sunday, September 11:*Meals: B,D*

One of the world's most famous institutions, the **Hermitage Museum** has over three million items, and houses a prestigious collection of art, antiquities, jewellery, and sculptures. It has been said that it could take 11 years to view every piece, so we take a guided tour that features some of the more famous works, including artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Early admission ahead of the crowds has been arranged. The city tour continues with a visit to the **Church on the Spilled Blood** which resembles St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. The ship's departure is 6 pm.

Monday, September 12:*Meals: B,D*

During a city tour of **Helsinki, Finland**, we see the Senate Square, Helsinki Cathedral, Government Palace, and the Temppeliaukio Church, built directly into solid rock. (An inside visit to the Rock Church cannot be guaranteed in the event of religious services.) Afterwards, we take the ferry to **Suomenlinna (Sveaborg) Sea Fortress**, built 2½ centuries ago and known as the Gibraltar of the North. It is the largest fortress in the Baltic Sea and one of the most popular attractions in Finland. The Koningsdam is docked from 8 am to 5 pm.

Tuesday, September 13:*Meals: B,D*

The ship arrives in **Stockholm**, capital of Sweden, at 8 am. Our city tour visits the districts of Södermalm, Gamla Stan, Norrmalm, Östermalm and Djurgården. In Södermalm we see the small wooden houses from the 1700s and fantastic views of the city. Gamla Stan or Old Town offers narrow alleyways and cobblestone streets that are full of history. Norrmalm is Stockholm's modern city centre where we visit City Hall Tower, one of its most impressive buildings. Next we go to the fascinating **Vasa Museum** which houses the Vasa ship. She was built between 1625 and 1628 as the pride of the Swedish navy. As she embarked on her maiden voyage, she fired a gun salute, sailed for 20 minutes, and sank. She stayed perfectly preserved at the bottom of the sea for 333 years, then was salvaged and is now one of Stockholm's major attractions.

Wednesday, September 14:*Meals: B,L,D*

Today is at sea while we cruise south to Germany.

Thursday, September 15:*Meals: B,L,D*

The Koningsdam docks at **Kiel, Germany**, and we board the paddle steamer "Freya" for a cruise on the **Kiel Canal**. Built in 1914, the 98-km waterway connects the Baltic Sea with the North Sea and saves the long journey around the Jutland or Danish Peninsula. It is one of the world's busiest canals utilized by more than 100 ships per day, but most cruise ships are too large to use it. A brunch buffet is served on board while we view the passing sights and vessels. We cruise the canal as far as Rendsburg, then return to Kiel by coach. A tour of Kiel highlights is provided, then we are back on board the Koningsdam for sailing at 5 pm.

Friday, September 16:*Meals: B,D*

During the evening and overnight, we cruise north through the Kattegat between Denmark and Sweden, and dock at **Göteborg, Sweden**, at 8 am. First, we enjoy a walking tour through the old town, Haga, which dates to 1648 with cobble streets, wooden houses, antique shops, ca-

fés, and Skansen Kronan fortress. We also visit the fish market (Feskekôrka), the Stadsteatern municipal theatre, the Konserthuset concert hall, and the Seaman's Tower. We walk through the urban park **Trädgårdsföreningen** with its palm house and collection of roses which makes it the largest rose garden in Europe.

Saturday, September 17:*Meals: B,L,D*

On our last day at sea, we cruise southwest across the **North Sea**.

Sunday, September 18:*Meals: B*

We arrive back in Amsterdam and say goodbye to the beautiful ship Koningsdam. A transfer is provided to Schiphol Airport. Our flight on KLM departs about 1:30 pm and we arrive in Vancouver at 2 pm. We stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver Airport.

Monday, September 19:*Meals: B,L*

We travel home via the Coquihalla.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 26, 2016.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 10 seats and \$150 on next 7 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 26.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 26, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 27 to May 26, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From May 27 to June 24, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From June 25 to July 29, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After July 29, there is no refund.

Changes to tour: Changes to foreign currency exchange rates, taxes and surcharges from airlines, the cruise ship and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Visas: A visa is not required for any countries visited. The usual visa requirements for Russia are waived for cruise ship passengers staying two days or less. A passport is required.

Photo Credit: Holland America Line (Koningsdam)

e-points: This tour earns 170 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until May 26.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924