

TRANS-ATLANTIC CRUISE TO SPAIN

Nieuw Amsterdam from Fort Lauderdale to Barcelona
April 5, 2015 - 21 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$5665 Inside Category J

\$5885 Outside Category E

\$6150 Verandah Category VD

Tour is exempt from GST

Other categories available along with single and triple fares.

>**Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 15 seats; \$125 on next 10

>**TIC Travel Insurance:** Comprehensive \$538 J, \$559 E, \$584 VD



Redeem Experience Points: Book by **January 13** and redeem up to **113 e-points**

* PORTS OF CALL *

HORTA, AZORES (Portugal)
GIBRALTAR (Great Britain)
MALAGA (Spain)

ALICANTE (Spain)
PALMA, MALLORCA (Spain)
BARCELONA (Spain)

Includes

- Transportation to Seattle airport
- Flight from Seattle to Fort Lauderdale
- Air transport taxes & security fees
- 6 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Transfer from Fort Lauderdale airport to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to cruise terminal
- 14 days on Holland America's Nieuw Amsterdam
- Cruise gratuities, port charges and cruise taxes
- Entertainment and other services on board ship
- One reservation in the Pinnacle Grill
- Locally-guided tour in Gibraltar
- Locally-guided tour to Granada and Alhambra
- Alhambra admission with Generalife Gardens
- Locally-guided tour in Alicante
- Locally-guided tour of Island of Mallorca
- Transfer from Barcelona port to hotel
- Locally-guided tour of Barcelona
- Admissions to Pueblo Espanol, Sagrada Familia, Picasso Museum, Casa Mila and Casa Battlo
- Transfer from hotel to Barcelona airport
- Flight from Barcelona to Vancouver
- Transportation from Vancouver airport to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director throughout cruise
- Luggage handling
- **48 meals:** 20 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 15 dinners

Experience Points: Earn **113 e-points**

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MS Nieuw Amsterdam

The **MS Nieuw Amsterdam** made her inaugural cruise in 2010 and she is Holland America's newest ship as well as the largest with a capacity of 2,100 passengers. The **Nieuw Amsterdam's** gross tonnage is 86,000 and she is 935 feet long. Her 11 decks feature a 1,000-seat live entertainment theatre, nine lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). The **Nieuw Amsterdam** has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views. A \$2 million collection of art and artifacts is showcased throughout the ship.

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise. The elegant two-floor **Manhattan 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. All meals are culinary delights and you will not go hungry on board!

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 900 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 shows recent films several times a day. Every evening, there is live stage entertainment in the Showroom at Sea and Holland America is known for the quality and variety of its shows.

Cruise Notes

Many relaxing days at sea and six ports: This cruise features 8 days at sea and five days visiting ports in the Azores, Gibraltar, Island of Mallorca and Spain, plus the port of disembarkation, Barcelona. The cruise is most likely to appeal to people who enjoy lots of time on the ship, many relaxing days at sea, good books or movies, and shipboard activities or entertainment. The ports are: Horta in the Azores, Gibraltar at the entrance to the Mediterranean, Malaga with a tour to the fabulous Alhambra Palace, Alicante, Palma on the Island of Mallorca, and Barcelona where we stay two nights before flying home.

Shore excursions included: On many cruises, shore excursions are a significant additional expense during your holiday. On this cruise, a shore excursion is included at each port except the Azores. Gibraltar, Alicante and Mallorca are half-day tours and the tour from Malaga to the Alhambra is a full day.

Importance of booking 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 turn away disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the connecting motorcoach. Sometimes cruise fares are reduced after final payment to fill remaining vacant staterooms, but a shipboard credit is usually offered as compensation to those who reserved early. **Please book early.**

Itinerary

Sunday, April 5:

Transportation is provided to Seattle. We stay overnight at the Quality Inn in Renton near the Seattle airport.

Monday, April 6:

Meals: B

We fly from Seattle to **Fort Lauderdale**, arriving in the early evening, and stay two nights (hotel TBA).

Tuesday, April 7:

Meals: B

This is a free day to relax around the hotel or visit a nearby shopping centre.

Wednesday, April 8:

Meals: B,L,D

We board the **Nieuw Amsterdam** at noon and enjoy an embarkation buffet lunch. The afternoon is free time to explore the ship and get settled into your stateroom. We sail out of Port Everglades at 4 pm with a festive "Farewell to Fort Lauderdale" deck party. After a sumptuous dinner in the Manhattan Dining Room, enjoy a lively stage show in the Showroom at Sea.

Thursday, April 9:

Meals: B,L,D

Friday, April 10:

Meals: B,L,D

Saturday, April 11:

Meals: B,L,D

Sunday, April 12:

Meals: B,L,D

Monday, April 13:

Meals: B,L,D

Tuesday, April 14:

Meals: B,L,D

During these six days, we sail east across the Atlantic Ocean. Although we are cruising in the open Atlantic, the Nieuw Amsterdam is remarkably smooth because it is a large ship and it is equipped with excellent stabilizers using the newest technology. There is always some interesting activity scheduled and the daily ship's newsletter keeps you informed, whether you want a stage show, movie, bingo game or a walk around deck. The ship's library has an extensive collection of novels and non-fiction. There are board games in several rooms, and some bridge groups usually form. The front office has a great variety of movies that you can borrow to play on your stateroom DVD. The culinary experiences on board are amazing. Every meal is a treat and the menu changes daily. For example, appetizers at dinner could be Steamed Mussels with Curry, Saffron and Lemon Grass or Crab Tower with Avocado Salsa. Entrees could be Ginger Grilled Half Chicken with Mango Lime Relish or Prime Rib of Beef au Jus. There is also a fabulous choice of desserts. The menu is extensive and these are only a few selections from Holland America's website. If you tire of the dining room menus, don't forget to make a

reservation for specialty dining in the Pinnacle Grill (one dinner there is included) or the Canaletto Restaurant.

Wednesday, April 15:

Meals: B,L,D

Land is in sight as we arrive in the **Azores** at 8 am and have a day to step ashore in the town of Horta on Faial. This is one of the nine volcanic islands that comprise the Azores and is the third most populous with 15,000 residents. The Azores are located 850 miles west of Portugal and are governed as an autonomous region of Portugal. The islands extend 370 miles in a northwest to southeast direction. Faial is one of the five islands in the centre group. The islands were discovered in 1431 by the Portuguese captain Cabral and named for the goshawk birds (acor in Portuguese). The highest point in the Azores (and Portugal) is volcanic Mount Pico which rises to 7,700 feet and is visible from Horta. Shore excursions can be purchased on the ship. The Nieuw Amsterdam sails at 4 pm.

Thursday, April 16:

Meals: B,L,D

Friday, April 17:

Meals: B,L,D

During these two days, we continue cruising across the Atlantic.

Saturday, April 18:

Meals: B,L,D

During the morning, we approach the mainland of Spain and Morocco, with the landmark of Gibraltar Rock ahead. We dock at **Gibraltar** at 1 pm and stay until 11 pm. A local tour is included for the afternoon visiting the highlights of Gibraltar. We drive its narrow winding roads, viewing buildings perched on the steep sides of the Rock and the colony of Barbary apes. Gibraltar Rock marks the entrance to the Mediterranean (it is only 12 miles across to Morocco) and it rises 1,400 feet from the ocean. This strategic fortress has been in British hands since 1704. There are 30,000 people squeezed into just 2.3 square miles. You may wish to go ashore again after dinner and enjoy the Gibraltar nightlife. After departure, we cruise through one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, the **Strait of Gibraltar**.

Sunday, April 19:

Meals: B,D

The Nieuw Amsterdam docks at **Malaga** on Spain's Costa del Sol at 7 am. Today's tour travels to Grenada, settled in the 5th century BC, capital of the Moors until the 15th century, and centre of Spanish exploration and colonization for two centuries. We tour the awe-inspiring **Alhambra Palace**,

one of the world's most beautiful Moorish structures, constructed in the mid-14th century. Included is the original fortress of the Alcazaba, Charles V's Palace, the ornately carved Court of Lions, and spectacular **Generalife Water Gardens**.

Monday, April 20: *Meals: B,L,D*
Overnight, we cruise northeast off the Spanish coast and dock at **Alicante** at 10 am. The area was first settled 7,000 years ago and the city has been occupied by the Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans, Moors and Arabs. Although it was once a major freight port, those ships have mostly moved north to Valencia and Alicante has become a frequent cruise ship call. Our half-day tour includes sights such as Castle of Santa Barbara, the promenade Explanada de Espana, Barrio de la Santa Cruz and the 14th century Basilica of Santa Maria. After the tour, you can return to the ship for a late lunch or stay in town for time on your own. The ship sails at 6 pm.

Tuesday, April 21: *Meals: B,L,D*
During the night, the Nieuw Amsterdam cruises east to the Balearic Islands and docks at **Palma, Mallorca** at 8 am. A half-day tour is included which drives around this mountainous island. Since the 1950s, Mallorca has been growing its tourism industry and now its economy is almost entirely dependent on winter snowbirds and cruise ships, with about 11 million visitors each year.

Wednesday, April 22: *Meals: B*
We arrive in **Barcelona** this morning and bid farewell to the Nieuw Amsterdam. Our morning tour with a local guide introduces us to the city's diversity and is highlighted by visits to the Cathedral, the Columbus Monument, and Pueblo Español (Spanish Village), a gathering of the many building styles found throughout Spain. We stroll down Las Ramblas and enjoy the ambiance of this lively city. One of Barcelona's architectural themes is the work of **Antoni Gaudi** and we see several examples such as Güell Park, Lleó Morera and the famous Sagrada Familia, his extraordinary unfinished church. We stay two nights at the Hotel HCC St. Moritz which was built in 1883 and converted to a 4-star hotel in 1990.

Thursday, April 23: *Meals: B,D*
The Barcelona tour continues with a visit to the **Picasso Museum**, one of only three museums dedicated to the works of Picasso. We also tour two homes designed by Gaudi which reflect his peculiar architectural genius: Casa Battlo built in 1877 and Casa Mila in 1906. Tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner where we can reminisce about our trans-Atlantic journey and visits to the Azores, Gibraltar and the coast of Spain.

Friday, April 24: *Meals: B*
We fly on British Airways from Barcelona through London to Vancouver. We stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver Airport.

Saturday, April 25: *Meals: B*
Transportation is provided back to Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due January 13, 2015.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 15 seats and \$125 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after January 13.

Cancellation Policy: Up to December 5, 2014, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From December 6, 2014, to January 13, 2015, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From January 14 to January 30, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From January 31 to March 4, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After March 4, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes, Euro exchange rates and surcharges from the airline, cruise line 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.

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.

PHOTO CREDIT Holland America Line (Nieuw Amsterdam at Gibraltar)

 **Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps. Due to the historic nature of cities visited on the sightseeing tours and the size of the Alhambra, there could be some extensive walking with frequent rest stops and cobblestone streets are common. You can opt out of these tours if they are too strenuous for you. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to Fort Lauderdale and returning from Barcelona; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue.

e-points: This tour earns 113 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 January 13.

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