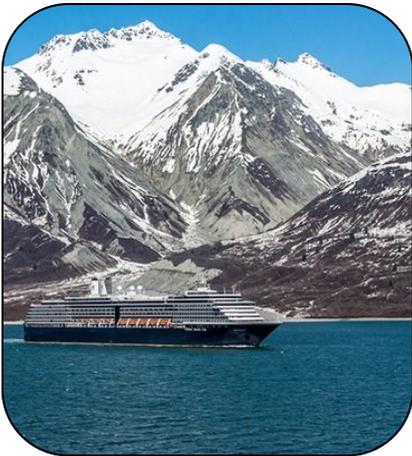


THE YUKON

With 7 day cruise from Seward to Vancouver on Noordam
August 2, 2016 - 20 days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$5140 Inside Category K

\$5540 Outside Category F

\$6300 Verandah Category VC

> Please add 1% GST

> Other categories available along with single and triple fares.

> **Early Bookers:** \$180 discount on first 15 seats; \$90 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 81 points from this tour.

Redeem **81 points** if you book by **May 11**.



Includes

- Transfer to Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna with current air transportation taxes and surcharges
- Coach transportation for 13 days
- 12 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Naturalist walk at Muncho Lake
- Swim at Liard Hot Springs
- Signpost Forest at Watson Lake
- Yukon Beringia Centre
- Museum of Transportation
- Frantic Follies
- Copperbelt Mining Museum
- Whitehorse Waterfront Trolley
- SS Klondike National Historic Site
- Locally-guided tour of Dawson City and Bonanza Creek goldfields
- Diamond Tooth Gerties with show
- Dredge #4 National Historic Site
- Goldpanning on Bonanza Creek
- Transfer to cruise ship terminal in Seward
- 7-day Holland America cruise from Seward to Vancouver on board Noordam
- Cruise gratuities
- Cruise taxes and port charges
- Reservation in the Noordam's Pinnacle Grill
- Transportation from Vancouver cruise terminal to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **35 meals:** 10 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 10 dinners

102 - 736 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
www.wellsgraytours.com

victoria@wellsgraytours.com
Toll Free > 888-595-7889
Phone: > 250-590-7889



MS Noordam

The **MS Noordam** made its inaugural cruise in 2006. It was the last of four Vista-class ships launched, preceded by *Zuiderdam* in 2002, *Oosterdam* in 2003 and *Westerdam* in 2004, each named for the primary points of the compass. Carrying 1,972 passengers, the *Noordam* is Holland America's second largest design (after *Eurodam* and *Nieuw Amsterdam*), but she is still more intimate than some mammoth cruise ships nowadays. The **Noordam's** gross tonnage is 82,000 and she is 936 feet long. Her 11 decks feature a 900-seat live entertainment theatre, seven 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 **Noordam** 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 intimate **Pinnacle Grill** and **Canaleto 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 TV, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of about 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. Every evening, there is live stage entertainment in the **Vista Lounge** and Holland America is known for the quality and variety of its shows.

Notes about your tour and cruise

- Since hotels in the Yukon and Alaska have a limited season and enormous operating expenses, summer room rates are very high, sometimes exceeding \$200 per night. In the North, the old saying "you get what you pay for" is very true and cheaper rooms means a much lower standard which Wells Gray travellers are not accustomed to. That is why this tour costs more per day than most Wells Gray tours.
- This tour is scheduled for August, so you can enjoy the beginning of 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 Alaska, 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. This has occurred several times recently and we had to waitlist disappointed customers, even though there were seats still available on the motorcoach part of the tour.
- If you prefer not to take the cruise from Seward to Vancouver, please enquire about flying home. You can stay longer in Anchorage if you wish, or our coach can drop you off at Anchorage airport on August 14 while returning from Seward. Your flight should be booked for after 5 pm.

Activity Level: Some travelling days are long as hotels and towns are far apart in the north. There are walks to some viewpoints. Some communities do not have paved streets and sidewalks, so the walking surface may be uneven. 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 and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.



Itinerary

Tuesday, August 2:

An afternoon transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel.

Wednesday, August 3:

Meals: L,D

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley and Kamloops. We travel north along the Cariboo Highway to Quesnel and overnight at Best Western Tower Inn. A welcome dinner is included, a chance to meet your fellow travellers as we embark on our Yukon and Alaska cruise adventure.

Thursday, August 4:

Meals: L

Beyond Prince George, we follow the Hart Highway across Pine Pass, then over the rolling farmlands of "Peace River Country". We see the **Mile 0 Post** for the Alaska Highway at Dawson Creek and overnight in **Fort St. John** at the Northern Grand Hotel.

Friday, August 5:

Meals: L,D

The world-famous **Alaska Highway** was built in 1942 in just eight months and has been continually upgraded to match the growth of the north. The highway is now paved all the way to Fairbanks, but it was only 25 years ago that travellers endured a thousand kms of gravel and dust. Beyond Fort St. John, we leave behind the grainfields and oil rigs of the Peace River and journey through the vast forests of northern B.C. to Fort Nelson. This afternoon's scenic drive winds through the barren Rocky Mountains to Muncho Lake. We stay two nights at **Northern Rockies Lodge**, one of Canada's largest log structures.

Saturday, August 6:

Meals: B,L

Enjoy a leisurely day! Activities include a trip to nearby **Liard Hot Springs** for a relaxing swim and a nature walk along the shore of **Muncho Lake**. If you and several others are interested, a sightseeing flight over nearby glaciers or even to Nahanni National Park can be arranged.

Sunday, August 7:

Meals: B,L

We continue on the Alaska Highway along the mighty Liard River and enter the Yukon. In **Watson Lake**, we see the famous Sign Forest, started by a homesick roadbuilder 74 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 three nights in **Whitehorse** at the downtown Best Western Gold Rush Inn.

Monday, August 8:

The morning is free time. In the afternoon, we go to the Yukon Transportation Museum which brings to life tales of bush pilots, Chilkoot Trail travellers, Klondike stamperders, and Alaska Highway builders. Next is the wonderful **Yukon Beringia Centre** which tells the story of native people and animals that lived in a prehistoric land between Alaska and Siberia known as the Bering Land Bridge. Tonight, we have reserved seats at the **Frantic Follies**, a hilarious vaudeville show.

Tuesday, August 9:

First, we explore the Copperbelt Mining Museum which documents the lesser-known "copper rush" of 1898, then we relax in the soothing waters of **Takhini Hot Springs**. Later, we ride the Waterfront Trolley to the restored sternwheeler **SS Klondike** which used to ply the Yukon River to Dawson City and is now a National Historic Site.

Wednesday, August 10:

Meals: L

We leave Whitehorse via the **Klondike Highway** and follow the Yukon River past Lake Laberge, made famous by Robert Service, 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 is now home to just 800 persons. We stay two nights at the Downtown Hotel.

Thursday, August 11:

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, at a Bonanza Creek claim, you can try **panning for gold** yourself (you keep what you find, even at over \$1,000 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 sternwheeler. This evening, don't miss casino gambling at **Diamond Tooth Gerties** and a vaudeville show.

Friday, August 12:

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 at 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 an unusual postmark. Back on the Alaska Highway, we stay in Tok at Golden Bear Lodge.

Saturday, August 13:*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. We stay a night in **Anchorage**, Alaska's largest city, at the downtown Hilton Hotel. Dinner is at the Sourdough Mining Company, known for its 20-foot high chocolate waterfall, followed by entertainment by Dusty Sourdough.

Sunday, August 14:*Meals: L,D*

We drive south from Anchorage along Turnagain Arm and through the lush forests of the Kenai Peninsula to **Seward**. At noon, we say goodbye to our coach and driver who deadheads 3,800 km home. We board Holland America's **Noordam**, enjoying the welcome embarkation lunch, and sail at 8 pm.

Monday, August 15:*Meals: B,L,D*

The Noordam enters the Gulf of Alaska where some of the tallest peaks on the continent rise from the shoreline.

Tuesday, August 16:*Meals: B,L,D*

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up this morning amidst the grandeur of **Glacier Bay**. The Noordam 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 17:*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 stampede 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 ship sails at 9 pm.

Thursday, August 18:*Meals: B,L,D*

The Noordam 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.

Friday, August 19:*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 Creek Street boardwalk.

Saturday, August 20:*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. Our farewell dinner is in the ship's Pinnacle Grill featuring an exquisite menu and superb service.

Sunday, August 21:*Meals: B*

We dock at Canada Place in **Vancouver** this morning. Transportation is provided to Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 11, 2016.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$180 discount on first 15 seats and \$90 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 11.

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 11, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From May 12 to May 26, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From May 27 to June 23, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After June 23, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to foreign currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the 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.

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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups and dropoffs may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and the size of the chartered vehicle. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credit: Holland America Line

e-points: This tour earns 81 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until May 11.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842