

ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA & CHILE CRUISE

22 day cruise from Buenos Aires to Valparaiso (Chile)

January 2, 2018 - 29 days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$14,150 Inside Category K

\$14,555 Outside Category F

\$20,325 Verandah Category BB

> Tour is exempt from GST.

> Other categories are available, as well as single fares.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 8 seats; \$150 on next 4

> **Experience Points:** Earn 200 points from this tour.

Redeem **200 points** if you book by **September 14, 2017.**



Includes

- Coach transportation from Okanagan Valley, Kamloops & Salmon Arm to Seattle Airport
- Hotel accommodation and taxes for 4 nights in Seattle, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, and Santiago
- Flight from Seattle to Buenos Aires
- Current air transport taxes, fuel surcharges and security fees
- Transfers from Buenos Aires international airport to hotel and back to Jorge Newbery airport
- Locally-guided tour of Buenos Aires
- Flight from Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls and return
- Transportation and guide in Iguazu Falls area
- Iguazu Falls National Park fee
- Transfer from Newbery Airport to cruise terminal
- 22 nights stateroom accommodation on the MS Zaandam
- Port charges & cruise taxes (\$728 per person)
- Cruise gratuities (US\$297 per person)
- Entertainment, expert lecturers and other services on the Zaandam
- Locally-guided tour of Montevideo, Uruguay
- Locally-guided tour of Puerto Madryn, Argentina
- Punta Loma Nature Reserve
- Estancia San Guillermo with shearing demo
- Locally-guided tour of Punta Arenas, Chile
- Museo Salesiano and cemetery
- Parque del Estrecho fee
- Locally-guided tour near Puerto Montt, Chile
- Petrohue Waterfalls admission
- Transfer from Valparaiso cruise terminal to Santiago with Casablanca sightseeing tour
- Locally-guided tour of Santiago, Chile
- Transfer from Santiago hotel to airport
- Chile departure tax
- Flight from Santiago to Kelowna
- Transfers from Kelowna airport to Okanagan cities and Kamloops
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour and cruise
- Gratuities for all local guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **78 meals:** 26 breakfasts, 26 lunches, 26 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



MS Zaandam

The MS Zaandam made its inaugural cruise in 2000 and she is a sister ship to the Volendam. The Zaandam carries only 1,440 passengers which is far more intimate than some of the mammoth cruise ships nowadays. Her gross tonnage is 65,000 and she is 780 feet long. Her 10 decks feature a 700-seat live entertainment theatre, seven lounges or bars, casino, duty-free shops, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, internet centre, spa, fitness centre, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover).

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise. The elegant two-floor main 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 11 pm snack. The intimate Pinnacle Grill and Italian-themed 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. 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 presents films several times daily and, every evening, there is live entertainment in the Mainstage Theatre, plus musicians playing in most lounges.

Cruise to the 7th Continent

Wells Gray Tours offers a cruise to Antarctica every two to three years. This is a very special opportunity to visit the 7th continent and certainly has bragging rights because probably not many of your friends have been there. There are so many highlights on this tour, but probably the most memorable will be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs of Antarctica. It is hard to imagine waking up one morning and looking out to see an iceberg longer and higher than the Zaandam. Antarctica experts are on board to present lectures about glaciology, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain his route finding skills.

Other memorable experiences are elegant Buenos Aires, awesome Iguazu Falls, three km wide and 80 metres high; charming Puerto Madryn; the bleak and isolated Falkland Islands; the thrills of rounding Cape Horn and entering the legendary Strait of Magellan; Ushuaia, world's southernmost city; cruising in the Chilean Fjords and Darwin Channel, and past many tumbling glaciers including the vast Amalia Glacier.

This tour and cruise should be on everyone's bucket list. It will also qualify you for two more continents towards being honoured by Wells Gray Tours' 7 Continents Certificate.

Cruise Notes

A very unique voyage: This cruise features 12 days at sea (including 6 days of scenic cruising) and 8 days visiting ports in Argentina, Falkland Islands, and Chile. The voyage is most likely to appeal to people who want to learn about their destinations. Antarctica and South America experts are on board to present lectures and they are so popular that you should be in the theatre half an hour before to get a seat. During the four days in Antarctica, you should be in the Crow'snest Lounge by 5 am to secure a good window seat, although many people bring winter coats, sweaters, toques, and gloves, and spend many hours on deck enthralled with the passing icy spectacles. Even though January is summer in Antarctica, the weather is still cool. The ship does not dock in Antarctica and you do not set foot on land or ice. Regulations about visiting Antarctica are very strict and only small expedition ships are allowed to put guests ashore, 100 at a time. The wildlife, including hundreds of penguins, can be seen from the ship, but bring along some binoculars for even better viewing.

Shore excursions included: On most cruises, shore excursions are a major additional expense during your holiday. For this trip, Wells Gray has arranged private guided tours at Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Puerto Madryn, Punta Arenas, Puerto Montt, and Santiago. Gratuities to drivers and guides are also included.

Please book early: Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until four months before sailing (early September 2017). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills and Antarctica cruises always sell out due to the limited number of departures. On previous tours, we had to turn away disappointed customers, even though we still had seats available on the coaches and planes.

Itinerary

Tuesday, January 2, 2018: Meals: L

We depart from the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm, drive to Seattle, and stay overnight at the Quality Inn Renton near the airport.

Wednesday, January 3: Meals: B, In-flight

We fly from Seattle and arrive the next morning in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There is a five-hour time change during the flight.

Thursday, January 4: Meals: L,D

Our bilingual guide, driver and coach meet us at the international airport. **Buenos Aires**, the capital and largest city of Argentina, was founded in 1580 and now boasts a metropolitan population of 14 million. A sightseeing tour of Buenos Aires includes the Palermo and Barrio Norte districts with expensive houses and classic architecture, the historic districts of La Boca and San Telmo, Julio Avenue (widest boulevard in the world), the Opera House, and Eva Peron's mausoleum. At the vast Plaza de Mayo, we admire the pink Casa Rosada, home of the Argentinian government. This is the square where Eva and Juan Peron addressed the crowds during their political rallies. The rest of the day is leisure time to relax after the long flight. We stay overnight at the **Claridge Hotel**, a four-star hotel with a wonderful location half a block from Florida Street which is a pedestrian mall with many shops.

Friday, January 5: Meals: B,L,D

Our morning flight to Iguazu takes less than two hours. The magnificent **Iguazu Falls** is one of the world's most incredible natural sights and it is sure to take your breath away — in fact, it won the distinction of being voted one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World. Iguazu consists of 275 waterfalls spread along an escarpment nearly three km wide. The individual cascades range from 65 to 80 metres high, considerably taller than Niagara. The most stunning section is Garganta del Diablo (**Devil's Throat**) which has water pouring into it from three sides. Walkways and bridges provide easy access to numerous viewpoints on the Argentina side of the falls. A local guide accompanies us as we stroll from one panoramic vista to another. We stay overnight at the luxurious Sheraton Hotel near the falls.

Saturday, January 6: Meals: B,L,D

Part of the morning is free to return to your favourite viewpoints of Iguazu Falls. We take a noon flight back to Buenos Aires, then we drive to the cruise terminal and board the **Zaandam**. The rest of the day is free time to explore the ship and get acquainted with its many facilities. This evening is

our first sumptuous dinner on board, followed by a lively "welcome" stage show in the theatre. The Zaandam stays docked in Buenos Aires overnight.

Sunday, January 7: Meals: B,L,D

This is a free day to explore more sights in Buenos Aires, or relax on board. At 5 pm, we cast off and sail out into the Rio de la Plata. This is the second largest drainage basin in South America and the river is about 80 km wide at Buenos Aires.

Monday, January 8: Meals: B,L,D

Overnight, we cross the Rio de la Plata and arrive in **Montevideo**, the capital of Uruguay. The city was founded in 1726 and Uruguay was created a century later as a buffer between the competing Spanish of Argentina and the Portuguese of Brazil. Today, Montevideo is one of the principal ports of South America with a population of 1.4 million. A sightseeing tour is included which visits Plaza Independencia, Palacio Salvo, Solis Theatre, and the Legislative Palace. The Zaandam sails at 4 pm.

Tuesday, January 9: Meals: B,L,D

Enjoy a leisurely day at sea, cruising off the coast of Argentina.

Wednesday, January 10: Meals: B,L,D

The Zaandam docks next to downtown **Puerto Madryn**, a town of 58,000 people in Argentina's Patagonia district. It was settled by the Welsh in 1865 and still retains its Welsh culture. A tour is included to the **Punta Loma Nature Reserve** where sea lions can be viewed. We continue to a sprawling ranch, Estancia San Guillermo, to see a sheep-shearing demonstration and the shy guanacos which are related to llamas. The ship leaves at 6 pm.

Thursday, January 11: Meals: B,L,D

This is another day at sea. Because this is a specialty cruise, several experts are on board who are knowledgeable with geology, history, bird and marine life, as well as Argentina, Antarctica and Chile. Fascinating illustrated lectures are given during the days at sea.

Friday, January 12: Meals: B,L,D

The Zaandam arrives at Stanley, the largest settlement of the **Falkland Islands**, at 8 am and departs at 5 pm. The Falklands consist of some 200 barren and rugged islands with a population of less than 3,000 people, of which Stanley accounts for over half. The islands have been a British dependency since 1833, although Argentina also claims sovereignty and this sparked the 1982 skirmish known as

the Falklands War. This is a tender port. Stroll the attractive waterfront, visit the museum, and buy souvenirs that are surprisingly reasonably priced in British pounds.

Saturday, January 13: *Meals: B,L,D*
This is a day at sea cruising south to Antarctica.

Sunday, January 14: *Meals: B,L,D*

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

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

Wednesday, January 17: *Meals: B,L,D*

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

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up amid the spectacular beauty of **Antarctica**. It is the fifth largest of the Earth's seven continents, covering 14 million square kilometres. All but 2.4% is covered by ice and, even along the rugged coastline, there are few areas of exposed land or beaches. Seven nations claim territory in Antarctica. Since 1961, the continent has been administered cooperatively under the Antarctic Treaty, an international agreement to preserve it for peaceful scientific study. The climate can be summarized as "cold" – the world record low temperature was minus 195 degrees Celsius. The areas we visit along the coast are warm by comparison and, during this mid-summer cruise, temperatures should be about freezing. Holland America Line pioneered cruise ship travel in Antarctica and this is a unique opportunity to explore this seldom-visited continent. Please note that there are no landings during this Antarctica cruise as ships with over 500 passengers are not permitted to do shore excursions. The ice pilot has planned the ideal route for optimum sightseeing in Antarctica, but weather, ocean and ice conditions, and visibility are likely to change the course several times. During our four days of slow cruising along the awesome coastline of Antarctica, we may see **Elephant Island**, Endurance Glacier, **Esperanza Station** (an Argentina research facility), Paulet Island, Half Moon Island, and Deception Island. Half a day is devoted to cruising through a wonderland of icebergs and narrow waterways in the Neumayer and Lemaire Channels. In "**Iceberg Alley**", we have the thrilling experience of sailing close to immense floating ice sheets that are taller than the ship and up to six km around. On the third day, the Zaandam picks up some staff from **Palmer Station** who give a talk about living year round in this isolated place. Late on January 17, the ship starts the northward journey across **Drake Passage** and it takes 1½ days before South America is visible on the horizon.

Friday, January 19: *Meals: B,L,D*
We arrive at the next highlight, storied **Cape Horn** at the south tip of South America. It was discovered by the Dutch navigator, Willem Schouten, in 1616 and, for centuries, was legendary in the annals of world explorers for its strong currents, high winds, and rocky hazards for sailing ships.

Saturday, January 20: *Meals: B,L,D*
The Zaandam calls at **Ushuaia** this morning. It is the world's southernmost city at Latitude 55 and is located on Tierra del Fuego. After departure at 1 pm, some spectacular scenery awaits as we cruise out of Ushuaia past the Italia, Francia, Alemania, and **Romanche Glaciers** which tumble from rugged mountains right to tidewater. We follow the **Beagle Channel**, named for Charles Darwin's ship in 1839, and Cockburn Channel through a myriad of islands off **Tierra del Fuego**.

Sunday, January 21: *Meals: B,L,D*
Our first port of call in Chile is **Punta Arenas**, a city of 125,000 on the Strait of Magellan. The Plaza de Armas Square is dominated by the Hernando de Magallanes Monument, commemorating the discovery of this important waterway in 1520. This morning's included tour visits the penguin colony at Otway Sound. After lunch, a drive around the city visits Plaza de Armas, Cerro de la Cruz, the cemetery, and monuments along Bulnes Avenue. The Museo Salesiano (included) is operated by friars and has an excellent collection of flora and fauna, and relics of Patagonian Indian tribes. The tour also includes the **Parque del Estrecho** on the shore of the Strait of Magellan.

Monday, January 22: *Meals: B,L,D*
We sail through the western half of the **Strait of Magellan**, surrounded by soaring peaks, and emerge into the Pacific Ocean at the pinnacles of Cabo Pilar. Next, we cruise along the natural Canal Sarmiento, then to the head of a fjord where the **Amalia Glacier** plunges into the ocean. It is a finger of the vast Southern Patagonia Icefield and is a kilometre wide as seen from the Zaandam. The glacier is noted for its incredible blue colour. Chunks of ice periodically break off the 40-metre high front and crash into the sea.

Tuesday, January 23: *Meals: B,L,D*
The Zaandam sails through **Darwin Channel** with the massive peaks of the Andes off to the east. Among these many islands, you may see albatross, penguins, sea lions, and dolphins. These fjords of Chile rival the famous fjords of Norway and Alaska.

Wednesday, January 24:*Meals: B,L,D*

The Zaandam enters the **Aisen Fjord** and stops for the day at the isolated town of Puerto Chacabuco which has a population of only 2,000 people. This is a tender port. The ship arrives at 8 am and leaves at 5 pm.

Thursday, January 25:*Meals: B,L,D*

We anchor off **Isla Chiloe** and ride tenders to Castro, the capital of this province of Chile. The town is known for its palafitos which are traditional colourful stilt houses built on pilings beside the harbour. Plaza de Armas is the picturesque town square with many shops. The Zaandam is here from 8 am to 5 pm.

Friday, January 26:*Meals: B,L,D*

We cruise through Reloncavi Sound to reach our last port, **Puerto Montt**. The city has an attractive setting at the gateway to Chile's lakes district. Our included tour travels to the base of the imposing Osorno Volcano which was very active in the 19th century and last erupted in 1869. We also visit the **Petrohue Waterfalls** near Lake Todos los Santos in Vicente Perez National Park. The ship sails at 5 pm.

Saturday, January 27:*Meals: B,L,D*

Enjoy your last day at sea!

Sunday, January 28:*Meals: B,L,D*

We dock at **Valparaiso**, the primary port of Chile and bid farewell to the Zaandam. A coach meets us at the dock and, with a local guide, we tour the city, built on steep hills overlooking the harbour. Lunch and wine tasting are included at Vina Mar in the scenic **Casablanca Valley**, then we continue inland on the 150-km drive to Santiago. Our overnight accommodation is at Hotel Atton El Bosque, a luxury four-star hotel in the Las Condes district. A "Farewell to South America" dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about all our adventures, probably highlighted by Antarctica and rounding Cape Horn.

Monday, January 29:*Meals: B,D*

The morning is leisure time. An afternoon sightseeing tour of Chile's capital city includes the main square, the Presidential Palace, the cathedral, and the residential areas. From Cerro San Cristobal, there is a panoramic view of the city and the Andes to the east. **Santiago** was established in 1541 by the Spanish and became the capital in 1818 when Chile achieved independence. Its population is now approaching five million. After the tour and an early dinner, we go to the airport and board our overnight flight back to North America.

Tuesday, January 30:

We arrive in Seattle, then fly to Kelowna. Shuttles are provided to Okanagan cities and Kamloops.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due September 14, 2017.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 8 seats and \$150 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 14.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 31, 2017, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From August 1 to September 14, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From September 15 to November 1, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 2 to December 1, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 1, there is no refund.

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.

Changes to tour: As this tour has been planned 14 months in advance, 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. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be of similar or better quality.

Visa: A visa is not required for a Canadian to enter Argentina, Falkland Islands or Chile. A passport is required.

Photo Credit: Roland Neave (Antarctica peaks seen from the ship)



Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps during the shore excursions, boarding ship's tenders, and pre-cruise and post-cruise tours. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you are not able to participate 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.

e-points: This tour earns 200 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 September 14.

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