

# GREENLAND & ICELAND CRUISE

Cruise on *Rotterdam* from Netherlands to Boston  
June 25, 2018 - 25 Days



a world to experience



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

**\$10,540** Inside Category K

**\$11,205** Oceanview Category F

**\$14,610** Verandah Category B



- > Other categories available along with single and triple fares.
- > Tour is exempt from GST
- > **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 12 seats; \$150 on next 8
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 158 points from this tour.  
Redeem **158 points** if you book by **March 1**.

## Includes

- Transportation to Seattle airport
- Flight from Seattle to Amsterdam
- Current air transport taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Transfer from Amsterdam airport to hotel
- 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Locally-guided tour of Amsterdam highlights
- Amsterdam canals cruise
- Rijksmuseum & Anne Frank House
- Guided tour of Delft with Royal Delft Blue Pottery, and villages of Zaanse Schans and Volendam
- Transfer from hotel to Rotterdam cruise terminal
- 18 days on Holland America's *Rotterdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Entertainment and other services on board ship
- Locally-guided tour of Bergen, Norway
- Bergen City Museum
- Mount Floyen funicular railway in Bergen
- Locally-guided tour of Shetland Islands
- Tangwick Haa Museum
- Visit with Carol's Shetland ponies
- Locally-guided tour of Akureyri and Lake Myvatn
- Goðafoss — waterfall of the gods
- Skútustadir crater and Námaskarð mud pots
- Myvatn Nature Baths & towel rental
- Locally-guided tour of Iceland's Golden Circle
- Þingvellir National Park
- Strokkur Geysir and Gullfoss
- Locally-guided ½-day tour of Reykjavik
- Locally-guided ½-day tour of St. John's
- Signal Hill & Cape Spear National Historic Sites
- Locally-guided tour of Halifax, Peggy's Cove and Lunenburg
- Lunenburg Fisheries Museum
- Locally-guided tour of Boston
- Walk on the Freedom Trail
- Old North Church & Paul Revere House
- Transfer to Boston Logan Airport
- Flight from Boston to Toronto to Victoria
- Transfer from Victoria Airport to pickup point
- Knowledgeable tour director throughout tour
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **59 meals:** 22 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 21 dinners

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## *MS Rotterdam*

Holland America Line's "Flagship of Excellence," *MS Rotterdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 1997. A sister ship to the *Amsterdam*, the *Rotterdam* reflects a graceful combination of classic and state-of-the-art features, exhibiting wood and deep, vibrant colours for a traditional ship feel. A \$2 million collection of art and artifacts is showcased throughout the ship. The *Rotterdam* carries only 1,404 passengers which is far more intimate than some of the mammoth cruise ships nowadays. Her 10 decks feature a 700-seat live entertainment theatre, 5 lounges, casino, duty-free shops, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, Internet centre, spa, whirlpools, and 2 swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover).

The elegant two-floor dining room serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with full choice of menu. The Lido Restaurant offers buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the 11 pm snack. The intimate Pinnacle Grill and the 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!

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 600 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 Wajang Theatre shows recent movies several times a day. Every evening, there is live entertainment in the Mainstage Theatre, plus musicians are playing in most lounges.

## **Cruise & tour notes**

**Please book early:** Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until three months before sailing (March 2018). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills. This 18-day cruise is very popular because it is offered infrequently, so this can result in our block being reduced. When this has happened before, we had to waitlist disappointed customers, even though we still had seats available on the coaches and planes.

**Dinner reservations:** The *Rotterdam* offers both open dining and fixed dining. Open dining means you can go to a restaurant when you are ready with your friends or make a reservation earlier in the day. All Wells Gray customers are automatically assigned to open dining by Holland America, but if you prefer to dine at the same time with the same people each day, we can request this. The Pinnacle and Canaletto take reservations on board and you should do this early in the voyage.

**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. 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 Bergen, Shetland Islands, Akureyri, Reykjavik (1½ days), St. John's, Halifax, and Boston, plus two days touring in the Netherlands before embarking the *Rotterdam*.

**Passport & Visa.** A valid passport is required and must not expire until three months after return date. A visa is not required for any countries visited.

**Gratuities** for local guides and drivers arranged by Wells Gray are included, as well as the gratuities for the *Rotterdam* cruise staff. You are welcome to offer additional gratuities.



**Tour activity level:** The cruise days are Activity Level 1, but if you are buying extra shore excursions, be sure to check the activity level. Our own shore tours and the two days in Netherlands require walking to see everything, but you can opt out. Four ports are accessed by the ship's tenders. There can be longer walks in the airports; please 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 and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

## Itinerary

### Monday, June 25:

We cross the border at Sumas and stay overnight at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood.

### Tuesday, June 26:

Meals: B

The morning is leisure time and we check in at Seattle Airport by 2 pm. The flight on **Icelandair** changes planes in Iceland, then continues to Amsterdam. Note: Many airlines offer flights to Amsterdam, but fares are high for a one-way flight. Icelandair does not have that restriction.

### Wednesday, June 27:

Meals: D

We arrive at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport in the morning 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 hotel. **Amsterdam** was founded in the Middle Ages and has many historic buildings. We visit Dam Square with the impressive Royal Palace, the New Church, the canals, and Waterloo Square. We stay three nights in Amsterdam at the 4\* NH Hotel. A welcome dinner is included.

### Thursday, June 28:

Meals: B,D

We visit the renowned **Rijksmuseum** which has an exceptional collection of 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century paintings by Dutch masters. View Rembrandt's famous *The Night Watch* plus works by Vermeer, Steen, and Hals. We also visit 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.

### Friday, June 29:

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.

### Saturday, June 30:

Meals: B,L,D

In late morning, we drive an hour to the cruise terminal in Rotterdam and board the namesake ship **Rotterdam**. An embarkation lunch is served in the Lido. The rest of the day is free time to explore the ship and get acquainted with its many facilities. We cast off at 5 pm and sail away into the **North Sea**. Afterwards, savour your first sumptuous dinner, followed by a lively "welcome" performance at the Main Stage.

### Sunday, July 1:

Meals: B,L,D

Happy Canada Day! Enjoy a leisurely day crossing the North Sea.

### Monday, July 2:

Meals: B,L,D

We arrive in **Bergen** at 8 am and depart at 6 pm. Bergen is a charming city full of small painted wooden houses and narrow cobbled streets, situated between seven mountains, seven fjords and the North Sea. The first buildings in Bergen were built along the harbour where a German merchants association set up one of their export offices in 1390 and dominated trade for 400 years. Since then, Bergen has experienced many fires but it was rebuilt on foundations dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and the harbourfront is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A morning tour of Bergen highlights with a local guide includes the Old Bergen Museum and the **funicular** up Mount Floyen for a terrific view over the city.

### Tuesday, July 3:

Meals: B,L,D

The *Rotterdam* arrives in the **Shetland Islands** at 8 am and we ride tenders ashore to Lerwick, the largest town. The Shetlands consist of 16 inhabited islands with a population of 23,000. They were settled by the Vikings in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and are now part of Great Britain. A six-hour tour of the largest island, called "The Mainland", is included. We head north out of Lerwick, through peat and heather covered landscapes to the picturesque community of Voe with its Scandinavian influence. Near Brae, we cross Mavis Grind where the North Sea almost meets the Atlantic Ocean. We admire the Drongs sea stacks and take a cliff top walk at the Eshaness Lighthouse to see the volcanic and glacial influence on the Shetlands' geology. Stops are made at Tangwick Haa Museum and at **Carol's Ponies** to meet some miniature Shetland ponies. The ship leaves at 4 pm.

### Wednesday, July 4:

Meals: B,L,D

A day at sea.

### Thursday, July 5:

Meals: B,D

We dock in **Akureyri, Iceland**, a big city on the Icelandic scale with 15,000 people. An all-day tour is planned with many highlights of northern Iceland. Our first stop is Goðafoss (waterfall of the gods), then we drive around shallow **Lake Mývatn**, exploring natural wonders such as the moon-like crater Hverfjall and the colourful boiling mud pots at **Námaskarð**. Iceland is famous for its geothermal features, so we enjoy a wonderful relaxing dip in the **Mývatn Nature Baths** surrounded by this colourful landscape. The ship departs at 6 pm.

**Friday, July 6:***Meals: B,L,D*

Overnight the *Rotterdam* sails along the north coast of Iceland to the peninsula of Vestfirði (West Fjords). There are 24 hours of daylight here in early July, as we are close to the Arctic Circle, although the sun does set briefly. We arrive at **Ísafjörður** at 8 am and take tenders to the dock. Bordered on three sides by dramatic mountains that form a natural harbour, the idyllic town of Ísafjörður has only 2,600 people. Settled since the 16<sup>th</sup> century and traditionally dependent on fishing, its streets are today lined with old wooden houses interspersed with shops and cafés. Tours and activities are available for purchase on the ship or at the dock. We leave at 5 pm.

**Saturday, July 7:***Meals: B,L,D*

We arrive in **Reykjavik**, northernmost capital of Europe, at 8 am and stay here all day and overnight. The name translates as "Smokey Bay" because the first settlers of Iceland saw steam rising from a cove in a geothermal area. Today's tour has many highlights. We drive through an agricultural area with a mixture of farms and summer cottages. **Hveragerði** has many greenhouses that grow vegetables and flowers, and are heated with natural warm water. Next is the Geysir area where we walk around boiling hot springs and hissing fumaroles, and admire **Strokkur Geysir** which erupts every 5-10 minutes. Nearby is one of Iceland's favourite waterfalls, **Gullfoss**, which plunges 30 metres into Hvítá Canyon. Entering **Þingvellir National Park**, we learn about the National Assembly which was founded here in 930 AD to rule the country, and we take a walk through the old parliament site. Þingvellir is not only important for Icelandic history, but also for geology because the meeting of two drifting continental plates can be seen here. There is a shopping opportunity for fine handicrafts at a woolens store, then we return to the ship.

**Sunday, July 8:***Meals: B,L,D*

During the morning, there is a sightseeing tour of Reykjavik. Weaving through narrow alleys framed with old timber houses, we learn about the life of the city from its beginning to the present. We visit the landmark **Hallgrímskirkja Church**, the harbour, the University, the giant relief map of Iceland at City Hall, and **Höfði House** where the Reagan/Gorbachev summit took place in 1986. We also enjoy the panoramic view over Reykjavik from the Pearl. Lunch is included on the ship, then the afternoon is leisure time to enjoy the multitude of shops along Laugavegur. We sail at 6 pm.

**Monday, July 9:***Meals: B,L,D*

A day at sea, cruising across the North Atlantic.

**Tuesday, July 10:***Meals: B,L,D*

This afternoon, we arrive at the rugged east coast of **Greenland**, a huge Arctic island that is 80% covered by ice. It is hard to imagine the courage of early navigators in wooden ships who struggled to explore this complex coastline of fjords and islands while trying to discover the fabled Northwest Passage. We enjoy scenic cruising in **Prince Christian Sound**, a 100-km long fjord that is a wonderland of spectacular glaciers and awesome fjords, created by the terrific forces of the Greenland ice cap. Tonight, we round Cape Farewell, Greenland's southern tip.

**Wednesday, July 11:***Meals: B,L,D*

All of Greenland's settlements are located along the ice-free coast, including our next port of call, **Qaqortoq**. Organized excursions are not available here because the port is small and easy to see on your own. The ship's tenders take you ashore where you have the opportunity to stroll through the town and marvel at this isolated community that lives a very simple life. One of the oldest buildings dates to 1804 and was the town's blacksmith's shop, now the Qaqortoq Museum.

**Thursday, July 12:***Meals: B,L,D*

We visit the southernmost community in Greenland, **Nanortalik**, where only 1,300 people reside. This is another tender port. The name means "Place of Polar Bears". It was settled in 1770 by the Norse. We leave at 2 pm and the *Rotterdam* turns south to Newfoundland.

**Friday, July 13:***Meals: B,L,D*

A day of leisure while crossing the **Labrador Sea**.

**Saturday, July 14:***Meals: B,L,D*

The *Rotterdam* enters the narrow harbour of **St. John's**, Newfoundland, and docks at noon. An afternoon tour with a local guide visits the Cabot Tower atop Signal Hill, Confederation Building, and Quidi Vidi Battery. An exciting experience is standing at the most easterly point in North America, **Cape Spear**. We depart at 8 pm.

**Sunday, July 15:***Meals: B,L,D*

This is a cruising day.

**Monday, July 16:***Meals: B,D*

We dock in **Halifax** at 8 am and depart at 11 pm. Our coach and guide are waiting to provide an all-day tour of Halifax highlights, followed by a drive out to famous **Peggy's Cove**, one of the most picturesque fishing villages along the Eastern Seaboard. We stroll along the harbor to a view of the iconic lighthouse. In **Lunenburg** we visit the acclaimed Fisheries Museum, housed in two historic vessels and five waterfront buildings.

**Tuesday, July 17:***Meals: B,L,D*

On our last day at sea, we cruise across the entrance to the Bay of Fundy, then along the New England coastline.

**Wednesday, July 18:***Meals: B*

We arrive in **Boston** early this morning and disembark about 9 am, bidding farewell to the *Rotterdam*. One of the oldest cities in the USA, Boston was founded in 1630 by Puritan colonists from England. It was the scene of several key events of the American Revolution, such as the Boston Massacre, the

Boston Tea Party, the Battle of Bunker Hill, and the Siege of Boston. First, there is a driving tour with a local guide including Beacon Hill, Boston Common, and Massachusetts State House. Next is a leisurely walk along a one kilometre section of **Boston's Freedom Trail** to see Granary Burying Ground, Old South Meeting House, King's Chapel, and Old State House. The walk ends at **Faneuil Hall** with lunch on your own in the bustling Quincy Market area and some free time for exploring. Afterwards, we see the Paul Revere House and **Old North Church**. We finish at Boston's Logan Airport and board our Westjet flight to Toronto this evening. We stay overnight at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Terminal 3. Note: We recommend you pack your overnight needs in a carry-on bag, as your suitcase is checked through to Victoria.

**Thursday, July 19:**

The flight continues to Victoria. Transportation is provided to your pickup point.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 1, 2018.

**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 March 1.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to February 1, 2018, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From February 2 to March 1, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From March 2 to April 1, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From April 2 to May 7, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 7, there is no refund.

**Changes:** Changes to foreign currency exchange rates or taxes, and surcharges from the airlines, 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. Hotels, the cruise route, and itineraries for shore excursions might change as well. Experienced international travellers are always flexible and expect changes.

**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.

**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:** Wikimedia Commons (Qaqortoq, Greenland)

**e-points:** This tour earns 158 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 March 1.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences: #65842**