

MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE

7 days on *Eurodam*, plus Palm Springs & San Diego
January 22, 2019 - 13 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$4125 Inside Stateroom L

\$4645 Balcony Stateroom VD

\$5685 Signature Suite SS

> Other categories, plus single and triple fares are also available.

> Tour is exempt from GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 70 points from this tour.

Redeem **70 points** if you book by **October 17.**



* HIGHLIGHTS *

7 nights on Holland America's *Eurodam*

Ports: Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta

3 nights in Palm Springs at Palm Mountain Resort

2 nights in San Diego at Homewood Suites

Includes

- Transportation to/from Victoria airport
- Westjet flight from Victoria to Palm Springs
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Airline fees for one checked suitcase
- Transfer from Palm Springs airport to hotel
- 4 days of coach transportation in California
- 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
- Locally-guided tour of Palm Springs
- Show at Palm Canyon Theatre
- Locally-guided tour of Joshua Tree Park
- Joshua Tree National Park fee
- San Diego Safari Park
- San Diego Harbor cruise
- Maritime Museum
- Transfer from San Diego hotel to the ship
- Stateroom for 7 nights on board *Eurodam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Westjet flight from San Diego to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides and California driver
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **27 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners

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WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience

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 (October 2018). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills. 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 *Eurodam* 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.



Activity Level: The cruise days are Activity Level 1. There is some walking prior to the cruise such as in Joshua Tree Park and from the hotel to Palm Canyon Theatre (4 blocks). Cabo San Lucas is accessed by the ship's tenders. Cobblestone streets are common in the historic districts of Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Check activity level for shore excursions you purchase on the ship or on the docks. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to Palm Springs and back from San Diego; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. The coach cannot carry a scooter. 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. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense, and travel insurance will probably not cover you.

MS Eurodam

The **MS Eurodam** made her inaugural cruise in 2008 after being dedicated by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. She is Holland America's third newest ship as well as the second largest with a capacity of 2,100 passengers. The **Eurodam's** gross tonnage is 86,000 and she is 936 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 **Eurodam** has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views. An exquisite \$2 million collection of art and artifacts is showcased throughout the ship with a theme of "The Dutch Golden Age".

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise. The elegant two-floor **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 intimate **Pinnacle Grill**, the **Canaletto Restaurant** and the **Tamarind 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 nearly 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.

Itinerary

Tuesday, January 22:

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport. We fly on Westjet via Vancouver to **Palm Springs**. Our coach meets us at the airport. We stay three nights at Palm Mountain Resort which has an excellent location, a block off Palm Canyon Drive where many shops and restaurants are found.

Wednesday, January 23: *Meals: B*

Breakfast is included each morning at Ruby's Diner, a nostalgic 1950s-style café. We thrill to one of the city's highlights – the spectacular **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway** which ascends nearly 2,000 metres into the San Jacinto Mountains. Each car rotates slowly during the climb, affording an incredible 360-degree view of the desert and craggy cliffs. At the top, you can visit the interpretive centre. During the afternoon, a local expert conducts a drive around Palm Springs past some celebrity homes and historic attractions. Tonight, we go to **Palm Canyon Theatre** for a show (January theatre schedule will be available in summer 2018).

Thursday, January 24: *Meals: B,L*

A local guide is with us all day as we travel north out of Palm Springs to **Joshua Tree National Park**, created in 1994. It protects 800,000 acres of Mojave Desert wilderness and features curious rock formations and a great array of desert plants such as the imposing Joshua Tree, ocotillo, yucca, and cactus. Tonight, Palm Canyon Drive is closed to vehicles and the street is converted to a pedestrian area for **Village Fest** where you can enjoy music, street entertainment, food, and people watching.

Friday, January 25: *Meals: B*

After leaving Palm Springs, we stop at **San Diego Safari Park** (formerly Wild Animal Park) which has animals in large natural enclosures. The Africa Tram travels around the grounds for easier viewing. We stay two nights at Homewood Suites in downtown San Diego.

Saturday, January 26: *Meals: B*

This morning, we get a different perspective on California's second largest city with a cruise around the busy **San Diego harbour** including the lofty Coronado Bridge, the shipyards, Point Loma, and the Naval Air Station. Afterwards we go to the **Maritime Museum** on the waterfront which fea-

tures many nautical displays and three historic ships including the *Star of India*, the world's oldest active ship.

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

A transfer is provided to the cruise terminal in downtown San Diego. We board the **Eurodam** and an embarkation buffet lunch is served in the Lido. The afternoon is free time to get familiar with the ship. We sail at 5 pm with a festive "Farewell to San Diego" deck party as we leave San Diego Bay and head south. Enjoy your first wonderful dinner, followed by a lively stage show or many other evening activities.

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

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea while we cruise south off the **Baja Peninsula**. The ship's daily newsletter keeps you informed about scheduled activities like stage shows, movies, bingo games, group fitness, and game times in lounges. Book a treatment at the spa. Get some advice on a workout plan at the fitness centre. Sidle up to the wine tasting bar and sample wines from around the world. There may be a cooking class offered. The choices are many.

Tuesday, January 29: *Meals: B,L,D*

Our first port is **Cabo San Lucas**, situated at the southern tip of the 1,300-km long Baja Peninsula. We anchor in the harbour and take a short tender ride ashore. Sightseeing tours can be purchased on the ship, at www.hollandamerica.com in advance, or on the dock with independent operators. Many people want a closer view of Los Arcos, the spectacular sea arch in the cliffs near the harbour. The ship arrives at 10 am and departs at 6 pm.

Wednesday, January 30: *Meals: B,L,D*

Overnight, we cruise east across the Sea of Cortez to the mainland of Mexico and dock at 8 am at **Mazatlan**. The city is Mexico's principal Pacific coast fishing, shrimping and commercial port as well as a popular resort. Old Mazatlan contains the historic cathedral, narrow cobblestone streets, zocalo, and markets, whereas Zona Dorado offers the luxury resorts and famous beaches. A variety of tours and experiences can be purchased. The daring **cliff divers** at Malecon are worth seeing. The ship leaves at 6 pm.

Thursday, January 31: Meals: B,L,D
Puerto Vallarta is our last port of call along the Mexican Riviera. The *Eurodam* arrives at 8 am and departs at 10 pm. Be sure to be on deck early as the ship maneuvers inside the narrow entrance to this harbour. A bazaar is next to the dock and numerous other boutiques are in the historic downtown area, about 3 km distant. Puerto Vallarta was a quiet fishing village until 1964 when Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton arrived to film *Night of the Iguana* at nearby Mismaloya Beach. Their celebrity status attracted much attention to PV and it became a popular resort over the following decades.

Friday, February 1: Meals: B,L,D
Saturday, February 2: Meals: B,L,D
During our last two days on board the *Eurodam*, we cruise north along the Baja.

Sunday, February 3: Meals: B
We dock in **San Diego** and disembark about 9 am. A transfer is arranged to the airport for our flight on Westjet to Calgary, connecting to Victoria. Transportation is provided to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 17, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 15 seats and \$100 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 17.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 17, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 18 to October 17, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From October 18 to November 12, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 13 to December 12, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 12 there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the cruise line, airline 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: Cabo Tourism Authority (Los Arcos)

E-points: This tour earns 70 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 October 17.

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