

WEST COAST CRUISE & RAIL

Vancouver to Los Angeles cruise and 4 train excursions coming home
September 24, 2018 - 16 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$5055 Inside Stateroom L

\$5315 Outside Stateroom DA

\$5440 Balcony Stateroom BB

> Please add 0.2% GST.

> Single and triple fares and other ship categories also available.

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

> **Experience Points:** Earn 105 points from this tour.

Redeem **105 points** if you book by **June 19**.



* HIGHLIGHTS *

5 nights on Holland America's Amsterdam
Amtrak train from Irvine to San Luis Obispo
Roaring Camp Railroad
Skunk Train in the Redwoods
Amtrak train from Klamath Falls to Portland

Includes

- Transportation to Vancouver cruise terminal
- Stateroom for 5 nights on board *Amsterdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Coach transportation for 10 days
- Hotel accommodation & taxes for 9 nights
- Locally-guided tour of San Francisco
- Richard Nixon Presidential Library
- Amtrak train from Irvine to San Luis Obispo
- Hearst Castle
- Imax film *Hearst Castle — Building the Dream*
- Elephant seal rookery guided tour
- Steinbeck Center
- Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row
- Roaring Camp Railroad
- Skunk Train in the Redwoods
- Amtrak train from Klamath Falls to Portland
- Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
- Flight from Kelowna to Victoria
- Transfer from Victoria airport to pickup point
- Gratuities for local guides
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at ship and hotels
- **31 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 6 dinners

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

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



Cruise & Tour Notes

Staterooms: When you book this tour, your stateroom on the *Amsterdam* is guaranteed in the category you selected and the stateroom number is usually confirmed a few weeks before sailing. Fares are quoted for categories Inside L, Outside DA, and Balcony BB, but other categories are also available. Consider booking a beautiful Neptune Suite for only about \$300 more than a balcony stateroom.

Dinner reservations: You can go to the dining room when you are ready with your friends or make a reservation in advance. The specialty restaurants, Pinnacle Grill and Canaletto, can also be reserved.

Importance of early booking: Holland America Line has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship or even a category fills. This has occurred several times recently and we had to turn away disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the connecting motor-coach. Therefore, please don't delay booking this tour.



Tour activity level: Moderate activity including short distances to walk and stairs, mainly getting on and off the trains. The Hearst Castle tour has 159 steps (up and down total) and a 1 km walk, so if this is too strenuous you can wait at the visitor centre. There is also walking and standing in places like Nixon Library, Steinbeck Center, and the Redwoods. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, 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. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing 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. Travel insurance will probably not cover you.

MS Amsterdam

Holland America Line's "Flagship of Excellence," the *MS Amsterdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 2000. A sister ship to the *Rotterdam*, the *Amsterdam* 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 *Amsterdam* carries only 1,380 passengers which is far more intimate than some of the mammoth cruise ships nowadays. Although the *Amsterdam* is now 18 years old, she had a major refurbishment in 2014. Her gross tonnage is 63,000 and she is 781 feet long. Her 10 decks feature a 700-seat live entertainment theatre, 5 lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, internet, spa, and 2 swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover).

The elegant LaFontaine 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 on the Queen's Lounge stage, plus musicians are playing in most lounges.

Itinerary

Monday, September 24:

Transportation is provided to Vancouver and we stay overnight at the Century Plaza Hotel.

Tuesday, September 25:

Meals: L,D

We board the **Amsterdam** and an embarkation buffet lunch is served in the Lido Restaurant. The afternoon is free time to get familiar with the ship. We sail from Canada Place at 5 pm with a festive "Farewell to Vancouver" deck party as we pass under **Lions Gate Bridge**. Enjoy your first wonderful dinner in the LaFontaine Room, followed by a lively stage show or many other evening activities.

Wednesday, September 26:

Meals: B,L,D

We round **Cape Flattery** during the night and follow the coast of Washington southward, docking at noon at the historic city of **Astoria** at the mouth of the Columbia River. Some local attractions are the 1885 Flavel Mansion, the spectacular view from the Astoria Column, and the Columbia River Maritime Museum. The ship sails at 8 pm.

Thursday, September 27:

Meals: B,L,D

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea. Although we are in the open Pacific, the *Amsterdam* is remarkably smooth because it is equipped with the best stabilizers. Explore your opulent surroundings while deciding how to spend your day. The ship's daily newsletter keeps you informed about scheduled activities like stage shows, movies, bingo games, group fitness and game times in lounges. Schedule 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.

Friday, September 28:

Meals: B,L,D

Be sure to be on deck about 7 am as the *Amsterdam* makes a dramatic entrance to San Francisco under the majestic **Golden Gate Bridge**. We dock from 8 am to midnight. A local guide takes us on a sightseeing tour around **San Francisco** including Golden Gate Park, ocean beaches, Twin Peaks, and lots of history and architecture. Afterwards, there is time to enjoy the sights and shops of Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39. You may want to take a harbour cruise under the bridges or the ferry to the historic Alcatraz Island prison, ride an iconic cablecar up and over the hills to downtown, or savour local cuisine for lunch (lunch is included if you go back on the ship after the tour).

Saturday, September 29:

Meals: B,L,D

This is another day at sea while we cruise south off the coast of California.

Sunday, September 30:

Meals: B

The *Amsterdam* docks at San Pedro near **Los Angeles**. While we were relaxing on the ship, our driver brought the coach down from Vancouver to meet us. We tour the **Richard Nixon Presidential Library** in Yorba Linda and see a different perspective about his troubled years in the White House. We stay overnight at Hotel Irvine.

Monday, October 1:

Meals: B,L

We board the **Amtrak train** at Irvine for a 6½-hour journey through Los Angeles and along the California coast. This is one of Amtrak's scenic daylight routes as the train hugs the shoreline for many miles and provides great views of the vast Pacific Ocean. West of **Santa Barbara**, the freeway turns inland but the train continues along the coast, rounding Point Conception and Point Arguello on the Lompoc Peninsula. We get off the train in San Luis Obispo and stay overnight in **Pismo Beach** at the oceanfront Sea Crest Hotel.

Tuesday, October 2:

Meals: B

Today's treat is the incredible **Hearst Castle**, the vast mansion built on a mountaintop at San Simeon by art collector and publisher, William Randolph Hearst. La Casa Grande (the main house) contains 115 rooms, and there are three guesthouses with up to 18 rooms each. Construction started in 1919 and lasted 28 years at a cost of about \$10 million. Our tour includes the ground floor of La Casa Grande, the gardens, two pools, one guesthouse, and the Imax film *Hearst Castle - Building the Dream*. Nearby, at the beach at Piedras Blancas, is a highly populated **elephant seal rookery**. A volunteer member of the Friends of the Elephant Seal tells about the remarkable lifecycle of this enormous sea creature. This afternoon, we travel through the farmlands of the Salinas Valley, nicknamed "America's Salad Bowl". We explore the **National Steinbeck Center**, a \$15 million tribute to the author which features seven themed theatres with film clips and exhibits from *East of Eden*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and other books. We stay two nights in **Monterey** at the Best Western Victorian Inn.

Wednesday, October 3:*Meals: B*

We visit famed **Monterey Bay Aquarium** which displays typical sea life of the California coast. The exhibits of jellyfish and seahorses are particularly fascinating. Afterwards, there is time to explore **Cannery Row** which has numerous shops, craft galleries, and restaurants.

Thursday, October 4:*Meals: B,L*

We board the **Roaring Camp Railroad** for a 1¼-hour excursion pulled by an 1890 steam locomotive through a grove of redwoods. A barbecue lunch is followed by some local entertainment. During the afternoon, we skirt San Francisco and stay overnight in Rohnert Park at the Doubletree.

Friday, October 5:*Meals: B,L*

The **Skunk Railroad** was built in 1885 to haul massive redwood logs from the backwoods to coastal sawmills near Fort Bragg. Steam passenger service started in 1904, then self-propelled railcars began in 1925 and were called "Skunks" because folks said "you can smell 'em before you can see 'em". We ride the steam-powered Skunk train on a 3½-hour excursion from Willits to Northspur and back, criss-crossing the Noyo River through awesome groves of redwoods. A barbecue lunch is served at the turnaround point in the midst of tall trees. The afternoon drive follows the scenic **Redwoods Highway** and one narrow winding section of the Avenue of the Giants where we can admire these tallest trees in the world. After a stop at the curious Carson Mansion, we overnight at the Best Western Humboldt Bay Inn in **Eureka**.

Saturday, October 6:*Meals: B,L*

We leave the coastal drive at Crescent City and enter Oregon. In Medford, there is a shopping stop at unique Harry & David Country Store. We stay overnight near **Klamath Falls** at The Lodge at Running Y Ranch.

Sunday, October 7:*Meals: B,L*

Our second Amtrak excursion is also in daylight with terrific scenery as we climb over the **Cascade Range** and travel through many loops and tunnels. At Springfield, we emerge from the mountains and follow the verdant Willamette Valley through Salem to **Portland**. Back on our coach, we stay overnight at the Red Lion Hotel on the Columbia River.

Monday, October 8:*Meals: B,L,D*

Happy Thanksgiving! We travel through the Columbia Gorge with stops at **Multnomah Falls** (188 metres tall) and the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. We stay our last night in the Bavarian-themed town of **Leavenworth** at the Enzian Inn. A "Taste of Germany" farewell dinner is included.

Tuesday, October 9:*Meals: B*

We stop in Omak for lunch and at the Duty-Free Store, then cross the border at Osoyoos. We take an evening flight from Kelowna to Victoria and a transfer 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 June 19, 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 June 19.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 18, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From May 19 to June 19, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From June 20 to July 19, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From July 20 to August 17, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 17, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and currency exchange rates, 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: Amtrak (Coast Starlight train along California coast)

E-points: This tour earns 105 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 June 19.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842