

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Cruise on *Koningsdam* from Fort Lauderdale
January 20, 2019 - 16 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$5760 Inside Category J

\$6215 Outside Category E

\$7125 Verandah Category VD

> Other categories available along with single and triple fares.

> Tour is exempt from GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$160 discount on first 15 seats; \$80 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 80 points; redeem 80 points by October 9.



* PORTS OF CALL *

PHILIPSBURG (Sint Maarten)

CASTRIES (Saint Lucia)

BRIDGETOWN (Barbados)

FORT-DE-FRANCE (Martinique)

ST. JOHN'S (Antigua & Barbuda)

ST. THOMAS (US Virgin Islands)

HALF MOON CAY (Bahamas)

Includes

- Transportation to/from Seattle airport
- Flight from Seattle to Fort Lauderdale and return
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 4 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Transfer from Fort Lauderdale airport to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to cruise terminal
- 11 days on Holland America's *Koningsdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Entertainment and other services on board ship
- Coach transportation in Fort Lauderdale
- Locally-guided tour of Fort Lauderdale
- Bonnet House with golf cart tour of Gardens
- Knowledgeable tour director throughout cruise
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **38 meals:** 15 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 11 dinners

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MS Koningsdam

Holland America Line's newest ship, *MS Koningsdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 2016. To bring this new ship to life and give form and function to its brand, Holland America commissioned two legendary partners, Adam Tihany, regarded as one of the world's pre-eminent hospitality designers, and architect Bjørn Storbraaten. Their design cues for *Koningsdam*? Light-filled spaces. Fluid curves. A sophisticated interplay of high technology and elegance. Beautiful architectural elements inspired by music. All woven together in a forward-thinking design approach to create an interior that blends a fresh, contemporary styling in perfect harmony with Holland America's renowned classic elegance. *Koningsdam* carries 2,650 passengers, the largest ever built by the company. Her 12 decks feature four performance venues including the 1000-seat live entertainment theatre, five lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, internet centre, spa and fitness centre, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover).

Koningsdam offers 12 restaurants or cafés. The elegant two-deck 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 Pinnacle Grill, the Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine, the Tamarind Restaurant with Asian cuisine, and Sel de Mer with a seafood menu all 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), television, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of over 1,000 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 World Stage Theatre, and several other venues each offer a performance schedule. Holland America is known for the quality and variety of its shows.

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 (mid-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 *Koningsdam* 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 paid restaurants (Pinnacle, Canaletto, Tamarind, and Sel de Mer) 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 in Fort Lauderdale, mainly after the cruise during the city tour. 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 and from Fort Lauderdale; 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.

Itinerary

Sunday, January 20:

Transportation is provided to **Seattle** and we stay overnight at the Red Lion Hotel in Renton near the airport.

Monday, January 21: *Meals: B*

We fly from Seattle to **Fort Lauderdale**. The next two nights are at the Embassy Suites which has a convenient location downtown between the airport and cruise terminal. All units have a living room and separate bedroom. Amenities include a pool, whirlpool, restaurant, and lounge. Note: We have scheduled 1½ days in Fort Lauderdale to avoid the risk of a flight delay which could cause you to miss the ship's departure.

Tuesday, January 22: *Meals: B*

Start the day with the Embassy Suites' extensive breakfast buffet. This is a free day to relax around the hotel or visit the many shops and restaurants nearby. Tonight, join your fellow travellers for a complimentary two-hour reception with wine, beer, and cocktails.

Wednesday, January 23: *Meals: B,L,D*

A shuttle takes us over to the Port Everglades cruise terminal. We board **Koningsdam** at noon and enjoy an embarkation buffet lunch in the Lido Market. The afternoon is free time to explore the ship and get settled into your stateroom. We sail out of Port Everglades at 5 pm with a festive "Farewell to Fort Lauderdale" deck party. After a sumptuous dinner, enjoy a lively stage show or a lounge with music and dancing.

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

Friday, January 25: *Meals: B,L,D*
During these two relaxing days at sea, we sail north of Cuba and **Hispaniola**.

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

We arrive at Philipsburg, the main town and capital of the country of **Sint Maarten**. It is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and covers the southern 40% of the divided island of Saint Martin, while the northern 60% is a French collectivity. The island was first sighted by Columbus in 1493. Philipsburg was founded in 1763 by John Philips, a Scottish captain in the Dutch navy. **Koningsdam** arrives at 8 am and departs at 4 pm.

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

We arrive at **Castries, Saint Lucia**, at 8 am. The island was claimed by the French in 1635, but switched between British and French rule 14 times, due to numerous wars. Saint Lucia gained full independence from Britain in 1979. We depart at 4 pm and enjoy scenic cruising along the Soufriere coastline past the rugged peaks known as The Pitons. Saint Lucia is a volcanic island and is more mountainous than most Caribbean islands.

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

Barbados is an island in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies which measures 34 km by 23 km. The **Koningsdam** docks at Bridgetown, the capital and largest city, at 8 am. Inhabited by Kalinago people since the 13th century, **Barbados** was visited by Spanish navigators in the late 15th century and claimed for Spain. It first appeared on a Spanish map in 1511. An English ship, *Olive Blossom*, arrived in Barbados in 1625 and its men took possession in the name of King James I. The first permanent settlers arrived in 1627 and created a British colony with great wealth from sugar. Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison were added as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011. We depart at 5 pm.

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

We arrive in **Martinique** and dock at the capital city of Fort-de-France at 8 am. The island is an overseas region of France and is part of the European Union. Although Columbus visited Martinique, the island was first settled by the French in 1635, taken over by the British, then traded back to France in 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. In 1902, the major town of St. Pierre was completely destroyed by the eruption of Mont Pelée and most residents moved to Fort-de-France. **Koningsdam** is here until 5 pm.

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

The ship docks at **St. John's, Antigua** at 8 am. It has been the administrative centre of the country of Antigua and Barbuda which consists of these two main islands and several dozen tiny ones. The islands were first colonized in 1632 and St. John's became the capital when the nation achieved independence from Britain in 1981. Attractions include the botanical gardens, Fort James, and the cathedral. We sail at 5 pm.

Thursday, January 31:*Meals: B,L,D*

We arrive at **St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands**, at 8 am and depart at 5 pm. Colonized by Denmark in the 17th century, the islands were purchased by the United States in 1917 for \$25 million and tourism has become the most important industry.

Friday, February 1:*Meals: B,L,D*

Enjoy another relaxing day at sea.

Saturday, February 2:*Meals: B,L,D*

Koningsdam arrives at **Half Moon Cay**, Holland America's private island in the Bahamas. We ride tenders ashore. There are plenty of recreational activities here, or you can laze on the long sandy beach. We stay here from 8 am to 3 pm.

Sunday, February 3:*Meals: B,L*

We arrive back in **Fort Lauderdale** and bid farewell to *Koningsdam*. Our coach and local guide meet us at the dock and we have a morning tour of city highlights. **Bonnet House** was built in 1920 by artist Frederic Bartlett and his wife Helen, and we take a golf cart tour of the extensive gardens as well as a house tour. This evening, we fly to Seattle and stay overnight at the Red Lion Hotel in Renton.

Monday, February 4:*Meals: B*

Transportation is provided to your pickup point in Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 9, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$160 discount on first 15 seats and \$80 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 9.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 7, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 8 to October 9, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From October 10 to November 9, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 10 to December 7, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 7, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to foreign currency exchange rates or taxes, and surcharges from the airline, 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, 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 80 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 9.

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