

NORWAY FJORDS CRUISE

Cruise on *Nieuw Statendam* departing Amsterdam
July 3, 2019 - 20 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$10,195 Inside Category J

\$10,995 Outside Category D

\$11,585 Verandah Category VD



- > Other stateroom categories available along with single fares.
- > Please add 0.3% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 12 seats; \$125 on next 6
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 130 points from this tour.
Redeem 130 points if you book by March 20.

Includes

- Transportation to/from Vancouver airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Amsterdam and return
- Current air transport taxes, fuel surcharges & security fees
- 4 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- 2 days transportation and guide in Amsterdam
- Locally-guided tour of Amsterdam highlights
- Rijksmuseum
- Amsterdam canals cruise
- Transfer from Amsterdam hotel to cruise terminal
- 14 days on Holland America's *Nieuw Statendam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges and cruise taxes
- Entertainment and other services on board ship
- Dinner reservation in the Pinnacle Grill
- Guided half-day tour of Måbødalen Valley and the Vøringsfossen Waterfalls
- Hardangervidda Nature Centre
- Guided half-day tour of Bergen
- Gamle Bryggen Museum
- Fløibanen funicular up Mount Fløyen
- Guided half-day tour of Ålesund
- Guided half-day tour of Trondheim with Nidaros Cathedral and Archbishop's Palace
- Guided full-day coach tour from Honningsvåg to Nordkapphallen (North Cape)
- North Cape Visitor Centre and Museum
- Guided full-day coach tour of Jostedalsglacier National Park with Nigardsbreen Glacier
- Boat trip on glacier lake (if available)
- Breheim Visitors Centre and Park Centre
- Train excursion from Flåm to Myrdal and return
- Flåm Railway Museum
- Guided half-day tour of Haugesund
- Olav's church and Viking Farm
- Transfer from Amsterdam cruise terminal to Schiphol airport
- Gratuities for guides and drivers in Amsterdam and Norway
- Knowledgeable tour director throughout cruise
- Luggage handling at hotels, ship and airlines
- **50 meals:** 18 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 17 dinners

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MS Nieuw Statendam

Holland America Line's newest ship, *MS Nieuw Statendam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in December 2018. She is a sister to the *Koningsdam*, launched in 2016, and is the 6th ship to carry the *Statendam* name. 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 *Nieuw Statendam*? 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. *Nieuw Statendam* carries 2,650 passengers, the largest design 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).

Nieuw Statendam 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.

Come and enjoy a fabulous cruise of the Norway Fjords on Holland America's magnificent new ship, *Nieuw Statendam*.

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 (early April 2019). 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: *Nieuw Statendam* 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 and days on shore are Activity Level 2. Due to the historic nature of some cities, the included tours may have some walking with rest stops or standing with limited seating while listening to commentary. You can skip these tours if you think they may be too strenuous. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Amsterdam; request a cart or wheelchair at airport check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coaches 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

Wednesday, July 3:

Meals: D

Transportation is provided to Vancouver and we stay overnight at the Pacific Gateway Hotel near the airport. A get-acquainted dinner is planned this evening. Note: It may seem unnecessary to go to Vancouver a day before the flight, but various factors can cause an extended closure of BC Ferries resulting in a missed international flight.

Thursday, July 4:

Meals: B

The morning is leisure time and we go to the airport about noon for our flight to Amsterdam.

Friday, July 5:

Meals: L,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. The capital of Holland is a marvelous city! It is built on 70 islands which are separated by nearly 80 km of canals and connected by more than 1,000 bridges. 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 two nights in Amsterdam at the 4-star Rembrandt Square Hotel. A welcome dinner is included.

Saturday, July 6:

Meals: B,L,D

We visit the renowned **Rijksmuseum** which has an exceptional collection of 15th and 17th century paintings by Dutch masters. View Rembrandt's famous *The Night Watch* plus works by Vermeer, Steen, and Hals. During the afternoon, we explore the city via a narrated **canal cruise**, passing gabled warehouses, arched bridges, noble mansions, and colourful houseboats.

Sunday, July 7:

Meals: B,L,D

A transfer is provided to the cruise terminal in late morning. We board **Nieuw Statendam** at noon and enjoy an embarkation buffet lunch. The afternoon is free time to explore the ship and get settled into your stateroom. We sail at 5 pm with a festive "Farewell to Amsterdam" deck party. After a sumptuous dinner, enjoy a lively show in the World Stage, or music in many venues.

Monday, July 8:

Meals: B,L,D

During the first day of our cruise, we sail across the **North Sea** to Norway.

Tuesday, July 9:

Meals: B,L,D

We dock at **Eidfjord** at 8 am. Its history dates back to the Iron Age and Viking era. The village is surrounded by mountains up to 1,900 meters high

and Hardangerjøkulen Glacier is visible. During our morning tour, we see Viking graves at Hereid and Eidfjord "old" church, built in 1309. We visit the Hardangervidda Nature Centre which displays natural and cultural history. Then we drive through the impressive Måbødalen Valley to a view of the **Vøringsfossen Waterfall** which plunges 182 metres from the Hardangervidda mountain. The afternoon is free time prior to sailing at 6 pm down the Eid Fjord and into the Hardanger Fjord.

Wednesday, July 10:

Meals: B,L,D

The **Nieuw Statendam** arrives in **Bergen** at 8 am and departs at 5 pm. Bergen is a charming city full of small painted wooden houses situated between seven mountains, seven fjords, and the North Sea. Pleasantly compact and ideal for easy, accessible sightseeing, Bergen has an attractive maze of narrow cobbled streets and lovely parks. The first buildings in Bergen were built along the harbour in 1390. Since then, Bergen has experienced many fires but it was rebuilt on foundations dating to the 11th century and the harbourfront is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A four-hour tour of Bergen highlights with a local guide is included. We visit the open-air **Gamle Bryggen Museum**, consisting of 50 wooden houses dating from different centuries. We also see the Bergenhus Fortress, Håkons Hall, St. Mary's Church, and the famous fish market. Then we ride the **Fløibanen funicular** up Mount Fløyen for a panoramic view of Bergen and the harbour.

Thursday, July 11:

Meals: B,L,D

The fishing capital of Norway, **Ålesund** is a picture-perfect town that sits on a narrow fishhook-shaped peninsula stretching out to sea. After a terrible fire raged through the town in 1904 destroying 850 homes, Ålesund was rebuilt in the Art Nouveau architectural style. With a myriad of turrets, spires and monuments, it's easy to see why Ålesund was voted the most beautiful town in Norway by the Norwegian people in 2007. The ship arrives at 8 am and departs at 5 pm. A three-hour guided tour is included.

Friday, July 12:

Meals: B,L,D

Voted TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice 2013 Destination winner, **Trondheim** was Norway's original capital during the Viking Age until 1217. Founded in AD 997 when King Olav Tryggvason established it as a trading post, it is now a modern university city and the technology capital of Norway. The marvelous **Nidaros Cathedral**, completed in 1300, towers over the city centre and is where all Norwegian coronations take place and the crown

jewels are kept. Other sights on our three-hour tour are Old Town Bridge, Royal Residence Stiftsgården, and Archbishop's Palace. *Nieuw Statendam* is docked from 8 am to 5 pm. After departure, there is scenic cruising in **Trondheimsfjord**, Norway's third longest at 135 km. Its deepest point is over 600 metres near the entrance from the Norwegian Sea. Some of Norway's best agricultural areas are along the south and east sides of Trondheimsfjord.

Saturday, July 13: *Meals: B,L,D*
We spend the day and night sailing north, and reach an important milestone with the crossing of the **Arctic Circle**.

Sunday, July 14: *Meals: B,D*
Honningsvåg, a pretty town dotted with colourful modern buildings, is the northernmost town on Norway's mainland at 71 degrees north latitude. Situated on the island of Magerøya on the Barents Sea, Honningsvåg has a population of only 2,500 and is surrounded by barren hills. The ship docks here from 10 am to 6 pm. Our six-hour sightseeing tour with a local guide takes us 30 km north, across Magerøya, to Nordkappfjorden or the famous **North Cape**. Here you are standing on top of a 300-metre cliff that drops straight into the ocean where the Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea meet. This awesome viewpoint is a favourite place to watch the midnight sun because at this northern latitude the sun never sets from May 14 to July 31. A visitor centre with exhibits, gift shop, a film about the four seasons at the Cape, the world's northernmost ecumenical chapel, and a restaurant is here; lunch is on your own. The tour also visits a traditional fishing village, a Sami family, and some reindeer. After departure, *Nieuw Statendam* cruises off the North Cape so you can get a seaward view of this mammoth cliff. Nearby is Knivskjellodden Peninsula, the actual northernmost point of mainland Norway (which juts further north than North Cape by a km). Afterwards, the ship turns south in the **Norwegian Sea**.

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

Tuesday, July 16: *Meals: B,L,D*
These are two days at sea cruising south and we cross the Arctic Circle again. If you want a gourmet change from the dining room menus, try one of the four specialty restaurants (Pinnacle Grill, Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine, Tamarind Restaurant with Asian cuisine, and Sel de Mer with a seafood menu). One dinner reservation fee is included at the Pinnacle Grill during this cruise.

Wednesday, July 17: *Meals: B,L,D*
Our next port is **Hellesylt** which has a breathtaking location at the head of majestic Sunnlyvsfjorden, surrounded by snow-covered peaks, cascading waterfalls, and soaring cliffs. A quaint village nestled in a narrow valley, Hellesylt is a busy place with summer tourists and a cruise ship arriving almost every day. We arrive at 8 am and an all-day tour is planned to **Jostedalbreen National Park**, nestled between two of the world's longest fjords, Sognefjorden and Nordfjord and boasting the largest glacier on the European mainland. The amazing scenery varies from fjords and lush farmland to barren mountains and glaciers. Lunch is at the Breheimsenter visitor center, then we drive along the splendid Brevegen Glacier road to the **Nigardsbreen Glacier** and take a boat ride on the lake (subject to available space). We finish the tour with a view of Hellesylt Waterfall which cascades over polished granite into the fjord. After the ship's departure at 5 pm, we sail into the **Geirangerfjord**, hemmed by sheer cliffs, and past the bottom of De Syv Søstrene (Seven Sisters Falls) and Suitor Falls. Then we cruise through the larger Storfjord to return to the Norwegian Sea.

Thursday, July 18: *Meals: B,L,D*
Flåm is nestled deep in the innermost part of the Aurlandsfjord, a tributary of the world's longest and deepest fjord, **Sognefjord**, and is surrounded by towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls. After taking a tender ashore, we board the renowned **Flåmsbana Train** which climbs nearly 1,000 metres in 20 km to Myrdal. It is one of the steepest standard gauge railways in the world with up to a 5.5% grade. The line has 20 tunnels and the longest is 1¼ km. Some stations serve only as viewpoints of nearby waterfalls or the valley far below. After returning to Flåm, there is time to wander around the village and admission to the railway museum is included. *Nieuw Statendam* departs Flåm at 6 pm and cruises through 215-km long Sognefjord.

Friday, July 19: *Meals: B,L,D*
Our last port is **Haugesund**, a small town on the west coast of Norway. This is the area where Vikings used to live and where the Viking Kings had their Royal seat. After a short sightseeing tour of Haugesund, we travel to **Avaldsnes** where King Harald Fairhair established his royal estate about 870 AD, making it the oldest royal seat in Norway. A guided tour of 700-year old Olav's church and the Viking Farm is arranged. Next is the picturesque village of Skudeneshavn which consists of 225 wooden houses and is regarded as one of the best preserved in Europe.

Saturday, July 20:*Meals: B,L,D*

This is our last day at sea as we cruise from Norway across the North Sea to Amsterdam.

Sunday, July 21:*Meals: B*

We dock in Amsterdam this morning and bid farewell to the *Nieuw Statendam*. A transfer is provided to the airport. Our flight to Vancouver leaves in mid-afternoon and arrives same day. We stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver Airport.

Monday, July 22:*Meals: B*

Transportation is provided this morning to Victoria and 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 20, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 12 seats and \$125 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 20.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 20, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 21 to March 20, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From March 21 to April 19, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After April 19, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes, currency exchange rates 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 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: Holland America Line

E-points: This tour earns 130 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 20.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842