

WHITEHORSE & GLACIER BAY CRUISE

With White Pass Railway, Skagway and Ketchikan

June 11, 2019 - 9 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$2600 Inside Stateroom K

\$2790 Outside Stateroom F

\$3700 Verandah Stateroom B

> Please add 1.4% GST. Single & triple fares and suites also available.

> **Early Bookers:** \$80 discount on first 15 seats; \$40 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 41 points from this tour.

Redeem **41 points** if you book by **March 7**.



Includes

- Transportation to/from Vancouver
- Air North flight from Vancouver to Whitehorse
- 4 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 3 days of coach transportation in Yukon
- Yukon Museum of Transportation
- Beringia Centre
- Takhini Hot Springs swim
- Copperbelt Mining Museum
- SS Klondike National Historic Site
- Yukon Suspension Bridge over Tutshi Canyon
- White Pass Railway from Fraser to Skagway
- Stateroom for 4 nights on board Volendam
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- One reservation in Pinnacle Grill
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels, airline & ship
- **14 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners

A one-way Alaska Cruise

This is a very unique cruise because it is not offered in Holland America's catalogue. Most Alaska cruises are round trip from Vancouver or Seattle. You may have ridden the White Pass Railway as far as the summit, but this tour boards the train at the village of Fraser which is further north, and you experience the one-way trip through the mountains and down the thrilling grade to Skagway. Whitehorse is too far inland to be accessible as a one-day shore excursion from the ship, but there are enough attractions in the Yukon's capital to fill at least 1½ days.

On this tour, you fly to Whitehorse and stay two nights at the Westmark Hotel with attractions such as the Beringia Centre, Takhini Hot Springs, and the SS Klondike. After the train ride to the coast, your cruise on the *Volendam* is one-way to Vancouver with a day spent in the incredible scenery of Glacier Bay.

Come and enjoy this unique cruise and tour. Wells Gray last offered this trip in 2016 and Holland America does not make it available every year.

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Cruise & Tour Notes

Staterooms: When you book this tour, your stateroom on the *Volendam* 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 K, Outside F, and Verandah B, but other categories are also available.

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:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. There are steps on and off the train. There can be longer walks in Vancouver and Whitehorse airports; request a cart or wheelchair at 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 and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not able to keep 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; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

MS Volendam

The **MS Volendam** made her inaugural cruise in 1999 and she is a sister ship to the *Zaandam*. The *Volendam* carries only 1,440 passengers which is far more intimate than some of the mammoth cruise ships nowadays. Her gross tonnage is 65,000 and she is 236 metres long. Her 10 decks offer a 700-seat live entertainment theatre, five lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, whirlpool spa, and two swimming pools (one with a sliding dome cover). A \$2 million collection of art and artifacts is showcased throughout the ship. Although the *Volendam* is now 20 years old, she had a major refurbishment in 2014.

The elegant 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!

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 main stage, plus musicians are playing in most lounges.

Itinerary

Tuesday, June 11:

Transportation is provided to Vancouver and we stay at the Pacific Gateway Hotel near the airport.

Wednesday, June 12:

Meals: B

It is a 2½-hour flight on Air North from Vancouver to **Whitehorse**, arriving about 1 pm. Our coach meets us at the airport. First we go to the Yukon Museum of Transportation which brings to life tales of bush pilots, Chilkoot Trail travellers, Klondike stamperders, and Alaska Highway builders. Next is the wonderful **Yukon Beringia Centre** which tells the story of native people and animals that lived in

a prehistoric land between Alaska and Siberia known as the Bering Land Bridge. We stay two nights in downtown Whitehorse at Westmark Hotel.

Thursday, June 13:

First, we relax in the soothing waters of **Takhini Hot Springs** with temperatures of up to 42° C., then we explore the Copperbelt Mining Museum which documents the lesser-known "copper rush" of 1898. This afternoon, we visit the restored stern-wheeler **SS Klondike** which plied the Yukon River to Dawson City from 1937 to 1955, and is now a National Historic Site.

Friday, June 14:*Meals: L*

Along the Klondike Highway, we take a walk across the Yukon Suspension Bridge over Tutshi Canyon. At Fraser, we board the **White Pass & Yukon Railway** for a thrilling two-hour journey through the rugged St. Elias Mountains. This narrow gauge railway was built in 1898 to serve stampeders to the Klondike Gold Rush. Today, it ranks among the world's most scenic rail journeys and has been designated an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. After crossing White Pass, the train descends 850 metres through tunnels and across high trestles on a cliff-hanging route to reach the ocean at **Skagway**. We stay overnight at the Westmark Inn.

Saturday, June 15:*Meals: L,D*

We board the **Volendam** and an embarkation lunch is served. The Klondike Gold Rush was in full swing 120 years ago and Skagway was the major gateway to the Yukon. Today, that heritage is kept alive with old boardwalks, quaint false-fronted buildings, and interesting architecture. You may want to get off the ship this afternoon to explore more of Skagway. After dinner, there is a lively stage show and the ship sails at 9 pm.

Sunday, June 16:*Meals: B,L,D*

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up this morning amidst the grandeur of **Glacier Bay**. The **Volendam** sails close to the Margerie Glacier and the Grand Pacific Glacier where chunks of ice periodically break away and crash into the sea. A National Park Ranger on board explains the natural phenomenon in detail. We spend most of today exploring an unforgettable world of floating ice castles and tidewater glaciers.

Monday, June 17:*Meals: B,L,D*

We dock in **Ketchikan** from 10 am to 6 pm. This picturesque town has waterfront buildings on stilts, weathered stairways clinging to steep hillsides, and the famous Creek Street boardwalk.

Tuesday, June 18:*Meals: B,L,D*

Today, we admire the magnificent scenery of B.C.'s famed **Inside Passage**. We pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises or killer whales. We sail through the narrow sheltered waterways of Princess Royal Channel and Seymour Narrows where Ripple Rock used to menace ships.

Wednesday, June 19:*Meals: B*

We dock at Canada Place in **Vancouver** this morning. Transportation is provided to your pickup point in Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 7, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$80 discount on first 15 seats and \$40 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 7.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 7, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 8 to March 7, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From March 8 to April 5, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From April 6 to May 7, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 7, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from airline, cruise ship and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes until 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 may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. 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 41 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 7.

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