

# MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE

7 days on *Oosterdam*, plus Palm Springs & San Diego  
January 8, 2020 - 12 Days



a world to experience



**Fares Per Person:** based on double/twin

**\$4435** Inside Stateroom I

**\$4735** Balcony Stateroom VD

**\$5545** 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 78 points from this tour.

Redeem **78 points** if you book by **October 3**.



## \* HIGHLIGHTS \*

**7 nights on Holland America's *Oosterdam***

**Ports: Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta**

**3 nights in Palm Springs at Palm Mountain Resort**

**1 night 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
- 4 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
- Stateroom for 7 nights on board *Oosterdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Maritime Museum
- San Diego Zoo
- Alaska flight from San Diego to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides and California driver
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **27 meals:** 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners

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## 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 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:** The *Oosterdam* 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 Oosterdam*

The **MS Oosterdam** (pronounced OH-ster-dam) made her inaugural cruise in 2003. She was the second of four Vista-class ships launched, preceded by the *Zuiderdam* in 2002 and followed by the *Westerdam* in 2004 and the *Noordam* in 2006. Carrying 1848 passengers, these ships are Holland America's third largest design. The *Oosterdam*'s gross tonnage is 82,000 and she is 936 feet long. Her 11 decks feature a 900-seat live entertainment theatre, seven lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie lounge, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). The *Oosterdam* has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views.

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** 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 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 over 800 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

### Wednesday, January 8:

*Meals: D*

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. A Welcome Dinner to meet your fellow travellers is planned.

### Thursday, January 9:

*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, 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 10:

*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, we go to **Palm Canyon Theatre** for a show (January theatre schedule will be available in summer 2019).

### Saturday, January 11:

*Meals: B,L,D*

After leaving Palm Springs, we drive to the cruise terminal in downtown San Diego. We board the **Oosterdam** 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.

### Sunday, January 12:

*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.

### Monday, January 13:

*Meals: B,L,D*

Our first port is **Cabo San Lucas**, situated at the southern tip of the 1,300-km long Baja Peninsula. The ship arrives at 10 am and departs at 6 pm. We anchor in the harbour and take a short tender ride ashore. Sightseeing tours can be purchased on the ship, at [www.hollandamerica.com](http://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.

### Tuesday, January 14:

*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 5 pm.

### Wednesday, January 15:

*Meals: B,L,D*

**Puerto Vallarta** is our last port of call along the Mexican Riviera. The *Oosterdam* arrives at 8 am and departs at 9 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.

**Thursday, January 16:**

*Meals: B,L,D*

**Friday, January 17:**

*Meals: B,L,D*

During our last two days on board the *Oosterdam*, we cruise north along the Baja.

**Saturday, January 18:**

*Meals: B*

We dock in **San Diego** and disembark about 9 am. First, we go to the **Maritime Museum** on the waterfront which features many nautical displays and three historic ships including the *Star of India*, the world's oldest active ship. Lunch is at Seaport Village where you can browse the shops and

choose from many different restaurants. Afterwards, we visit the **San Diego Zoo**, one of the largest in the world with over 4,000 animals representing 800 species. An aerial tram, shuttle trolleys and a narrated bus tour make it easy for you to get around. We stay overnight at Homewood Suites in downtown San Diego.

**Sunday, January 19:**

*Meals: B*

We fly on Alaska Airlines to Seattle, connecting to Victoria. 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 October 3, 2019. 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 3.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 3, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From September 4 to October 3, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From October 4 to November 1, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 2 to December 3, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 3, 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** 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:** Cabo Tourism Authority (Los Arcos)

**E-points:** This tour earns 78 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 3.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**