

# SAN DIEGO TO VANCOUVER CRUISE

Includes Palm Springs, Santa Barbara & San Francisco  
April 20, 2020 - 13 Days



a world to experience



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

**\$3955** Interior Stateroom J

**\$4105** Oceanview Stateroom D

**\$4555** Verandah Stateroom VD

> Other categories, plus single and triple fares are also available.

> Please add 0.2% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$180 discount on first 15 seats; \$90 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 89 points from this tour.

Redeem **89 points** if you book by **January 16**.



## \* HIGHLIGHTS \*

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

**Palm Springs Aerial Tram & Joshua Tree National Park**

**2 nights in San Diego at Homewood Suites**

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

**Ports: Catalina Island, Santa Barbara, San Francisco & Victoria**

## Includes

- Transfer to Victoria airport
- Flight from Victoria to Palm Springs
- Current air transportation taxes and fees
- 5 days of coach transportation
- 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Transfer from Palm Springs airport to hotel
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
- Locally-guided tour of Palm Springs and Valley
- Guided tour of Joshua Tree National Park
- Museum of Making Music
- San Diego harbour cruise
- San Diego Maritime Museum
- Stateroom for 7 nights on board Oosterdam
- Transportation from Canada Place to Victoria
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at airline, hotels and ship
- Gratuities for California guides and drivers
- **29 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners

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## Cruise 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 (late January 2020). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills. Coastal cruises are very popular, so this can result in our block being reduced. When this has happened before, we had to waitlist disappointed customers, even though we still had seats available on the coaches and plane.

**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.



**Tour activity level:** The cruise days are Activity Level 1 and other days can have more activity. There is some walking prior to the cruise such as at the Palm Springs Tram and in Joshua Tree Park. Choose shore excursions at the cruise ports based on your abilities. There can be longer walks in the airports, so please 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 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.

## Holland America's *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* carries 1,848 passengers, her gross tonnage is 82,000 and she is 284 metres 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 pleasures 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 **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

### Monday, April 20:

Meals: D

Transportation is provided to Victoria Airport. Our flight on Westjet via Calgary arrives in the popular desert resort of **Palm Springs** about 5 pm. 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.

### Tuesday, April 21:

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 and east into the Palm Desert Valley, featuring some celebrity homes and historic attractions.

### Wednesday, April 22:

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.

### Thursday, April 23:

Meals: B,L

We head to the coast at Carlsbad for a visit to the **Museum of Making Music**. It celebrates the music products industry with hundreds of vintage instruments on display. Each gallery features the historic milestones, popular music and instruments of those eras. We stay two nights at Homewood Suites in downtown San Diego.

### Friday, April 24:

Meals: B

This morning, we get a different perspective on **San Diego**, California's second largest city, with a cruise around the busy harbour including the lofty Coronado Bridge, the shipyards, Point Loma and the Naval Air Station. Afterwards we go to Seaport Village for a shopping opportunity and return to the hotel in mid-afternoon.

### Saturday, April 25:

Meals: B,L,D

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. We drive to the cruise ship terminal and board the **Oosterdam** at noon. An embarkation buffet lunch is served on the Lido Deck. The afternoon is free time to explore the ship. Enjoy a festive "Farewell to San Diego" deck party as we cast off at 5 pm. Savour a sumptuous dinner in the dining room, followed by a lively stage show in the theatre.

### Sunday, April 26:

Meals: B,L,D

We arrive at **Avalon on Santa Catalina Island** at 8 am and depart at 5 pm. The Wrigley Gum company bought the island in 1919 and has carefully controlled its development for the past century. In 1975, 88% of the island was deeded to the Catalina Island Conservancy, founded by the Wrigleys, and it still protects the island today. About 3,700 people live on Catalina, almost all in the island's only town, Avalon. Its cobblestone streets are narrow, quaint and winding, so the Wrigleys regulated the number of cars allowed, and today there is a 14-year waiting list to bring a car to the island. Most people get around by walking or using electric golf carts. The ship's tenders arrive at the Green Pier in the centre of Avalon and numerous shops and restaurants are within a few blocks. You can purchase an excellent sightseeing tour which uses low-gearred buses for a drive on the narrow roads to the interior. Avalon is dominated by the **Catalina Casino**, a huge Art-Deco building on the waterfront. It was built by the Wrigleys in 1929 as an entertainment centre and contained a 1,100-seat movie theatre and a ballroom where 6,000 people could dance, but it has never been a gambling casino. Tours are available.

### Monday, April 27:

Meals: B,L,D

The *Oosterdam* anchors at **Santa Barbara** at 8 am and departs at 5 pm; this is also a tender port. The city is known as America's Riviera and enjoys a distinctly Mediterranean climate. Built along the Mission Trail, Santa Barbara has a delightful balance of traditional Spanish and modern structures. Mission Santa Barbara was founded in 1786 on the feast day of Saint Barbara and is considered "The Queen of the Missions". You can buy a sightseeing tour from the ship or on the dock. Other attractions are the panoramic view from the open air tower of the Spanish-Moorish Courthouse and **Stearns Wharf** which dates to 1872 and is lined with restaurants and unique shops.

**Tuesday, April 28:***Meals: B,L,D*

Be sure to be on deck or out on your balcony about noon when the *Oosterdam* makes a dramatic entrance to **San Francisco**, passing under the amazing Golden Gate Bridge. This is a free day to explore San Francisco as you wish — take a ship's shore excursion, book a tour on the dock, stroll Fisherman's Wharf, or browse the shops of Pier 39. The *Oosterdam* stays docked overnight, so you can experience some San Francisco nightlife.

**Wednesday, April 29:***Meals: B,L,D*

The ship stays docked in San Francisco all day, and we cruise out of the Bay at 5 pm. Tonight or sometime during the cruise, you may wish to dine in the Pinnacle Grill or Canaletto restaurants for a special experience (make a reservation in advance).

**Thursday, April 30:***Meals: B,L,D*

This is a day of cruising off the California and Oregon Coasts. Enjoy all the facilities on board.

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

In the morning, the *Oosterdam* rounds Cape Flattery at the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula and sails east into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We dock in **Victoria** from 2 pm to 11 pm. You may wish to stroll the Inner Harbour, browse the shops of Government Street, or visit local friends and relatives.

**Saturday, May 2:***Meals: B*

We dock at Canada Place in Vancouver and bid farewell to the *Oosterdam*. Transportation is arranged to Victoria and your pickup point.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due January 16, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$180 discount on first 15 seats and \$90 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after January 16.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to December 16, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From December 17 to January 16, 2020, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From January 17 to February 14, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From February 15 to March 16, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After March 16, 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.

**Photo credit:** Holland America Line

**E-points:** This tour earns 89 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 January 16.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**