

BALTIC CRUISE

Round trip Copenhagen on Holland America's *Zuiderdam*
July 12, 2020 - 15 days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$9,330 Inside Category I

\$9,665 Oceanview Category D

\$10,030 Verandah Category VD



tour
25
a more intimate travel experience

- > Please add 0.3% GST.
- > Other categories available along with single fares.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 8 seats; \$125 on next 4
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 190 points from this tour.
Redeem **190 points** if you book by **April 7.**

Includes

- Flight from Vancouver to Copenhagen & return
- Current air transport taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Transfer from Copenhagen airport to hotel
- 3 nights accommodation & taxes in Copenhagen
- Guided tour of Copenhagen highlights: Tivoli Gardens, Danish Parliament & Little Mermaid
- Changing of the Guards at Amalienborg Palace
- Rosenborg Castle
- Guided tour of Island Sjælland
- Kronborg Castle, setting for *Hamlet*
- Karen Blixen Museum (author of *Out of Africa*)
- Transfer from hotel to cruise terminal
- 10 days & nights on board *MS Zuiderdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Afternoon guided tour of Tallinn, Estonia
- 2-day guided tour of St. Petersburg, Russia
- Hermitage Museum with early admission
- Traditional borscht lunch with folklore
- Catherine's Palace
- Peter & Paul Fortress & Cathedral
- Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood
- Morning guided tour of Helsinki, Finland
- Temppeliaukio Rock Church & Olympic Tower
- Half-day guided tour of Stockholm
- City Hall Tower
- Vasa Ship Museum
- All-day guided tour of Berlin with Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie
- Paddlewheeler cruise on the Kiel Canal to Rendsburg with coach return
- Transfer from ship to Copenhagen Airport
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour and cruise
- Gratuities for all local guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at airline, hotel and ship
- **35 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 8 lunches, 13 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255
Vernon > 250-545-9197
Toll Free > 800-667-9552

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience

MS Zuiderdam

The **MS Zuiderdam** (pronounced Zy-der-dam) made her inaugural cruise in 2002. She was the first of four Vista-class ships launched, followed by *Oosterdam* in 2003, *Westerdam* in 2004, and *Noordam* in 2006. The *Zuiderdam* carries 1848 passengers, gross tonnage is 82,000, and she is 284 metres long. Her 11 decks feature a 900-seat live entertainment theatre, seven lounges, casino, shops, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, internet centre, spa, gymnasium, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). The *Zuiderdam* 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 **Canaleto 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.

Cruise & Tour Notes

Shore excursions included: On many cruises, shore excursions are a significant additional expense during your holiday, yet most people want to do some organized sightseeing in the ports visited. For instance, Holland America's two-day tour of highlights of St. Petersburg with attraction admissions costs about \$400 US funds per person. Wells Gray's planners know tour operators in many countries who offer excursions that are independent of the ship's and much less costly. So this cruise includes excursions in every port and visits to the key attractions, all handled by multi-lingual guides. In addition, we have two full days and three nights in Copenhagen with tours before embarking the *Zuiderdam*.

Shore excursion lunches: The tours in Tallinn, Helsinki, and Stockholm last about 4 hours and are arranged for morning or afternoon, so you can have lunch on the ship. There is a traditional borscht lunch included in St. Petersburg, a lunch during the Berlin tour, and a buffet brunch during the Kiel Canal cruise. Lunch is on your own during the second day in St. Petersburg.

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 2020). 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.

Documentation: A passport is required and must be valid for six months after your return to Canada. A visa is not required for any countries visited. The usual visa requirements for Russia are waived for cruise ship passengers staying less than 72 hours (our St. Petersburg visit qualifies). However, you must stay with our arranged tour and you cannot return to the ship on your own.



Activity Level: Light activity on the ship. Moderate activity during shore excursions and in Copenhagen including distances to walk of up to 1 km and some stairs. Walking tours may be part of a city tour and are noted in the itinerary; these could be more challenging if on cobblestone streets or uneven sidewalks in historic districts. Some historic buildings and museums may not have elevators. There is lots of walking at attractions such as Catherine's Palace and the Hermitage if you want to see everything. You should consult with the local guide if you want to omit part of a tour. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. There can be longer walks in airports; request a cart or wheelchair at check-in if this could be an issue for you. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, 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. There can be many stops during the land tours and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. 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; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Itinerary

Sunday, July 12:

Meet the rest of the Wells Gray group at Vancouver Airport. Our flight to Copenhagen leaves in late afternoon.

Monday, July 13:

Meals: D

Welcome to Copenhagen! Local time is 9 hours ahead of Pacific Time. Our Danish guide and coach driver meet us at the airport and we drive to the 4-star Tivoli Hotel for a stay of three nights. A welcome dinner is included.

Tuesday, July 14:

Meals: B,D

During the morning, a guided city tour passes the major attractions of this wonderful city — Tivoli Gardens, Amalienborg Palace, the Royal Danish Opera House with its panoramic view, the Danish Parliament Christiansborg, Islands Brygge, the renowned **Little Mermaid**, and many statues and landmarks. We take a tour through Rosenborg Castle which was built as a country summerhouse in 1606 and is an example of the legendary Danish King Christian IV's many architectural projects. We also experience the Changing of the Royal Guards at **Amalienborg Palace**. The afternoon is leisure time.

Wednesday, July 15:

Meals: B,D

We travel through the northeastern part of the island Sjælland to **Kronborg Castle**. This impressive Renaissance castle was built in the 15th century at a strategic point protecting the narrow strait between Denmark and Sweden. It is probably best known as "Elsinore," the setting of Shakespeare's tragedy, *Hamlet*. In the afternoon, we drive to Rungsted for a guided visit at the **Karen Blixen Museum**. Well known for her book *Out of Africa*, she was born in the house and returned to it after 17 years in Africa, and lived here until her death in 1962. It is a great example of an aristocratic farm which dates to 1680 with original furniture and a great collection about Blixen's life and work.

Thursday, July 16:

Meals: B,L,D

In late morning, we drive to the cruise terminal and board the **Zuiderdam**. An embarkation lunch is served in the Lido Market. The rest of the day is free time to explore the ship and get familiar with the many facilities. We cast off at 5 pm and sail away from Copenhagen into the **Baltic Sea**. Afterwards, savour your first sumptuous dinner, followed by a lively "welcome" performance at the Main Stage Theatre.

Friday, July 17:

Meals: B,L,D

Enjoy a leisurely day at sea while we cruise through the western Baltic.

Saturday, July 18:

Meals: B,L,D

We arrive in **Tallinn, Estonia** at 10 am. We disembark after lunch, and meet our local guide and driver. During the coach tour, we see the modern city centre with skyscrapers, Freedom Square, National Library, Opera House, and the romantic **Kadriorg Park** with its baroque palace. Contrasting with the beautiful architecture are the block buildings from the Soviet era in the Lasnamäe district. We admire the view from Pirita Beach and the Toompea observation platform. We see the ruins of St. Bridget's Convent, the Estonian Song Festival Grounds, the 1980 Olympic Village where the Moscow Sailing Regatta took place, the marvelous Dome Church, and Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. The ship sails at 6 pm.

Sunday, July 19:

Meals: B,L,D

The *Zuiderdam* arrives in **St. Petersburg** at 7 am and we stay overnight at the dock. **Welcome to Russia!** Sometimes called the City of 300 Bridges, St. Petersburg is one of the world's most splendid cities and two days of touring are included. First, we have arranged early admission ahead of the crowds at one of the world's most famous institutions, the **Hermitage Museum**. It has over three million items and houses a prestigious collection of art, antiquities, jewellery, and sculptures. It has been said that it could take 11 years to view every piece, so we take a guided tour that features some of the famous works, including artists like da Vinci and Michelangelo. A traditional borscht lunch is included in Podvorye. Afterwards, we visit the elegant **Catherine's Palace**, a UNESCO site. Once the summer residence for the Russian Czars, the palace is named for Catherine I, Peter the Great's widow, and is a masterpiece of Russian Rococo architecture unrivalled in luxury and scale. We tour the opulent halls, including the storied Amber and Agate Rooms. Note that you must return with the tour to the ship, and you are not allowed to stay ashore and return on your own (a condition of the visa waiver).

Monday, July 20:

Meals: B,D

The St. Petersburg tour continues with a visit to the **Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood** which resembles St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. Afterwards, during a tour of other St. Petersburg landmarks, we visit **Peter & Paul Fortress and Cathedral**

which was built between 1712 and 1733 and has a 123-metre tall spire. Most of Russia's czars are buried in this ornate cathedral. We return to the ship about 3 pm and sail from St. Petersburg at 6 pm.

Tuesday, July 21: *Meals: B,L,D*
During a morning tour of **Helsinki, Finland**, we see the Senate Square, Helsinki Cathedral, Presidential Palace, and the Temppeliaukio Church, built directly into solid rock. (An inside visit to the Rock Church cannot be guaranteed in the event of religious services.) We visit the 1952 Olympic Stadium and ride up the tower. The *Zuiderdam* is docked from 7 am to 4 pm.

Wednesday, July 22: *Meals: B,L,D*
The ship arrives in **Stockholm**, capital of Sweden, at 8 am. Our city tour visits the beautiful districts of Södermalm, Gamla Stan, Östermalm and Djurgården. In Södermalm we see the small wooden houses from the 1700s and fantastic views of the city. Gamla Stan or Old Town offers narrow alleyways and cobblestone streets that are full of history. In Stockholm's modern city centre, we visit City Hall Tower, one of its most impressive buildings. Next we go to the fascinating **Vasa Museum** which houses the Vasa ship. She was built between 1625 and 1628 as the pride of the Swedish navy. As she embarked on her maiden voyage, she fired a gun salute, sailed for 20 minutes, and sank. She stayed perfectly preserved at the bottom of the sea for 333 years, then was salvaged and is now one of Stockholm's major attractions.

Thursday, July 23: *Meals: B,L,D*
The *Zuiderdam* is at sea today while we cruise across the Baltic to Germany.

Friday, July 24: *Meals: B,L,D*
We dock in Warnemünde, Germany, at 7 am. It is a three-hour drive to **Berlin**. There is no better place to experience its dynamic history than the city centre Mitte. Largely hidden behind the **Berlin Wall** during the Cold War, Mitte provides a window into the city's medieval origins, its Prussian and Nazi past, its legacy as a divided city, and the constant change that is New Berlin. We see the government district, contemporary culture and art, and architecture, plus highlights such as the Reichstag, **Brandenburg Gate**, **Checkpoint Charlie**, remains of the Berlin Wall, the broad boulevard of Kurfürstendamm, and the Jewish Memorial. This is a long day to see everything, returning to the ship about 8 pm (late dinner on board). We sail at 11 pm.

Saturday, July 25: *Meals: B, Brunch, D*
The *Zuiderdam* docks at **Kiel, Germany**, and we board the paddle steamer "Freya" for a cruise on the **Kiel Canal**. Built in 1914, the 98-km waterway connects the Baltic Sea with the North Sea and saves the long journey around the Danish Peninsula. It is one of the world's busiest canals utilized by more than 100 ships daily, but most cruise ships are too large to use it. A brunch buffet is served on board while we view passing sights and vessels. We cruise the canal to Rendsburg, then return to Kiel by coach in time for a 4 pm sailing.

Sunday, July 26: *Meals: B*
We arrive back in Copenhagen and say goodbye to the *Zuiderdam*. A transfer is provided to the airport, then we fly to Vancouver.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 7, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 8 seats and \$125 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 7.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 6, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From March 7 to April 7, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From April 8 to May 7, the cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. From May 8 to June 5, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After June 5, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Please enquire no later than at final payment.

Tour 25: This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning the tour is limited to 25 participants, a more intimate travel experience.

Photo Credit: Wikimedia (Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood)

Experience points: This tour earns 190 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 April 7.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842