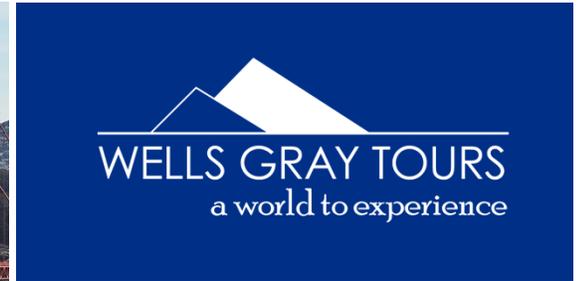




Golden Gate Bridge



Palm Mtn Resort

## SAN DIEGO TO VANCOUVER CRUISE

March 29, 2022 – 13 Days

*On Holland America's Koningsdam*

With cruising proving to be more popular than ever, here is a pleasant 7-day cruise on one of Holland America's new ships, *Koningsdam*. We start with 3 nights at Palm Mountain Resort, a favourite for Wells Gray travellers with rooms that surround a palm tree lined pool terrace. The hotel is just off Palm Canyon Drive, noted for classy shopping, numerous restaurants, theatres, and art galleries. Then we head to San Diego for a 2-night stay featuring a harbour cruise, Seaport Village, and the Maritime Museum. On board *Koningsdam*, we take a week to cruise up the coast to Vancouver. Enjoy day-long stops at Catalina Island and Santa Barbara, and 1½ days and overnight in San Francisco. You are sure to admire the revolutionary design for *Koningsdam* with light-filled spaces, fluid curves, and architectural elements inspired by music. With 6 days in Palm Springs and San Diego plus a cruise, this is a wonderful way to see some highlights of California.

Activity Level: 1



30 Meals Included:

12 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 8 dinners

Fares per person double/twin:

\$3,645 Interior Stateroom category I

\$3,850 Oceanview Stateroom category C

\$3,995 Veranda Stateroom category VD

Single & triple fares and ship suites also available.

Please add 0.2% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$180 discount on first 15 seats; \$90 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 89 points on this tour.

Redeem 89 points if you book by December 20, 2021.

Departure from: BC Interior



Koningsdam dining room

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Tuesday, March 29

After pickups in Kamloops and through the Okanagan Valley, we drive to Kelowna Airport. Our flight on WestJet via Calgary arrives in the popular desert resort of **Palm Springs** in late afternoon. 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.

**Accommodation:** Palm Mountain Resort

### Day 2: Wednesday, March 30

Breakfast is included each day at nearby Sam's Place. This morning, 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 an entertaining **drive around Palm Springs** and the Palm Desert Valley past some celebrity homes and historic attractions. A welcome dinner is planned at Lulu's Bistro.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Palm Mountain Resort

### Day 3: Thursday, March 31

A local guide is with us all day as we explore **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, Palm Canyon Drive is closed to vehicles and the street is converted to pedestrian use for **Village Fest** where you can enjoy music, entertainment, food, or people watching. We also attend a locally-produced show at Palm Canyon Theatre; theatre schedules are expected to be announced in fall 2021.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Palm Mountain Resort

### Day 4: Friday, April 1

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 in downtown San Diego.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Homewood Suites

### Day 5: Saturday, April 2

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, then return to the hotel in mid-afternoon.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Homewood Suites

### Day 6: Sunday, April 3

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. The cruise ship terminal is nearby and we board the **Koningsdam** about noon. An embarkation lunch is served on the Lido Deck. The afternoon is free time to explore all the wonderful features of this new 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.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*

### Day 7: Monday, April 4

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-g geared 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. Interior tours are available.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*



### Day 8: Tuesday, April 5

The *Koningsdam* 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 shops.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*

### Day 9: Wednesday, April 6

During the morning, we cruise along the California coast. Be sure to be on deck or out on your

balcony about noon when the *Koningsdam* 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, ride a historic cablecar, or browse the shops of Pier 39. The *Koningsdam* stays docked overnight, so you can experience some San Francisco nightlife.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*

### Day 10: Thursday, April 7

The ship stays docked in San Francisco all day, so you can continue exploring this diversified city. We cast off at 5 pm and cruise again under the **Golden Gate Bridge**, leaving San Francisco Bay. Tonight or sometime during the cruise, you may wish to dine in the Pinnacle Grill, Canaletto, Tamarind, or Sel de Mer restaurants for a special experience (make a reservation in advance).

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*

### Day 11: Friday, April 8

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

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*

### Day 12: Saturday, April 9

In the morning, the *Koningsdam* 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 10 pm. You may wish to stroll the Inner Harbour, browse the shops of Government Street, or visit local friends and relatives.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Koningsdam*

### Day 13: Sunday, April 10

We dock at Canada Place in Vancouver and bid farewell to the *Koningsdam*. Our coach meets us and we travel home to the BC Interior.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

## MS KONINGS DAM

Holland America Line's second newest ship, *MS Koningsdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 2016. To bring this new ship to life, Holland America commissioned two legendary partners, Adam Tihany, regarded as one of the world's pre-eminent hospitality designers, and architect Bjørn Storbraaten. Their revolutionary designs for *Koningsdam* featured light-filled spaces, fluid curves, and beautiful architectural elements inspired by music.



All were woven together to create an interior that blends a fresh, contemporary styling in perfect harmony with Holland America's classic elegance.

The *Koningsdam* carries 2,650 passengers, the largest ever built by the company. Her 12 decks feature four performance venues including the 1,000-seat live entertainment theatre, five lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, internet centre, spa, fitness centre, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). The *Koningsdam* 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, Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine, 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 the World Stage Theatre, and several other venues each offer a performance schedule.

## TOUR & 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 (early January 2022). 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 *Koningsdam* offers both open dining and fixed dining. Open dining is standard, so you can go to a restaurant when you are ready with your friends or make a reservation earlier in the day. If you prefer to dine at the same time with the same people each day, we can request this. The four specialty restaurants take reservations on board and you should do this early in the voyage.



**Activity Level 1:** 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 in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfers to Kelowna airport
- Flight from Kelowna to Palm Springs
- Current air transportation taxes and fees
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
- 6 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
- Show at Palm Canyon Theatre (title TBA)
- Museum of Making Music
- San Diego harbour cruise
- San Diego Maritime Museum
- Stateroom for 7 nights on board *Koningsdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- Gratuities for California guides and drivers
- **30 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 8 dinners

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## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due December 20, 2021. 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 December 20, 2021.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to November 19, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From November 20 to December 20, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From December 21, 2021 to January 20, 2022, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From January 21 to February 18, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After February 18, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to foreign currency exchange rates or taxes and surcharges from the airline, cruise line or 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 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, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Photo Credits:** Holland America Line (Golden Gate Bridge, dining room, ship), Palm Mountain Resort, Pixabay (Catalina)

**Experience 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 December 20, 2021.

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

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