



TRANS-ATLANTIC CRUISE TO SPAIN

April 5, 2023 – 21 Days

On Holland America's Nieuw Statendam

There has always been something enticing about cruising across the Atlantic Ocean on a passenger liner. Perhaps it was the fine food, attentive service, or superb entertainment. Today's crossings are more leisurely and the ships are bigger, offering even more amenities. The prices are appealing too because the ships are generally relocating from their winter home in the Caribbean to their summer itineraries in the Mediterranean. A Trans-Atlantic cruise appeals to people who love leisurely days at sea without the bustle of a new port each day. What better ship to do it on than Holland America's second newest, *Nieuw Statendam*, launched in 2019 featuring a revolutionary design with beautiful architectural elements inspired by music!

Activity Level: 2



50 Meals Included:

18 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 16 dinners

Fares per person double/twin:

\$7,195 Interior Stateroom category I

\$7,455 Oceanview Stateroom category C

\$7,840 Veranda Stateroom category VC

Single & triple fares and ship suites also available.

Please add 0.2% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$280 discount on first 12 seats; \$140 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 130 points on this tour.

Redeem 130 points if you book by January 3, 2023.

Departure from: Victoria



ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, April 5

We cross the border and follow I-5 south to Seattle. We stay overnight at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the Seattle airport. Meet your fellow travellers during a reception after arrival.

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Sea-Tac

Day 2: Thursday, April 6

We fly on Alaska Airlines from Seattle to **Fort Lauderdale**. The next two nights are at the Embassy Suites which has a convenient location downtown between the airport and cruise terminal. All units have a living room and separate bedroom. Amenities include a pool, whirlpool, restaurant, and lounge. A reception with a variety of beverages and snacks is offered until 7:30 pm. **Note:** We have scheduled 1½ days in Fort Lauderdale to avoid the risk of a flight delay which could cause you to miss the ship departure.

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Hotel

Day 3: Friday, April 7

Start the day with the Embassy Suites' extensive breakfast buffet. This is a free day to relax around the hotel or visit the many shops and restaurants nearby.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Hotel

Day 4: Saturday, April 8

The morning is leisure time. A transfer is provided to the Port Everglades cruise terminal. We board the **Nieuw Statendam** in early afternoon and enjoy an embarkation buffet lunch. The afternoon is free time to explore the ship and get settled into your stateroom. We sail out of Port Everglades at 4 pm with a festive "Farewell to Florida" deck party as we head across the Atlantic Ocean. After a sumptuous dinner, enjoy a lively stage show or music in many smaller lounges.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 5: Sunday, April 9

Day 6: Monday, April 10

Day 7: Tuesday, April 11

Day 8: Wednesday, April 12

Day 9: Thursday, April 13

Day 10: Friday, April 14

During these six days, we sail east across the Atlantic Ocean. Although we are cruising in the open Atlantic, the *Nieuw Statendam* is remarkably smooth because it is a large ship equipped with excellent stabilizers using the newest technology. There is always some interesting activity scheduled and the daily ship's newsletter keeps you informed, whether you want a stage show, movie, bingo game, or a walk around deck. The ship's library has an extensive collection of novels and non-fiction books. There are board games in several rooms, and some bridge groups usually form. The front office has a great variety of movies that you can borrow for your stateroom DVD player. The culinary experiences on board are amazing. For example, appetizers at dinner could be Steamed Mussels with Curry, Saffron and Lemon Grass or Crab Tower with Avocado Salsa. Entrees could be Ginger Grilled Half Chicken with Mango Lime Relish or Prime Rib of Beef au Jus. There is also a fabulous choice of desserts. The menu is extensive and these are only a few selections from Holland America's website. If you tire of the dining room menu (which is different each evening), try one of the specialty restaurants – Pinnacle Grill, Canaletto with Italian cuisine, Tamarind Restaurant with Asian cuisine, or Sel de Mer with a seafood menu.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 11: Saturday, April 15

Land is in sight as we arrive in the **Azores** at noon and have a day to step ashore in the town of **Ponta Delgada** on São Miguel Island. This is the capital of the Azores, situated on the largest of these nine volcanic islands. The Azores are located 1,360 km west of Portugal and are governed as an autonomous region of Portugal. The islands extend 600 km in a northwest to southeast direction. European explorers discovered

the islands in 1431 and named them for the goshawk birds (acor in Portuguese). The highest point in the Azores (and Portugal) is volcanic Mount Pico which rises to 2,351 m and last erupted in 1720. Shore excursions can be purchased on the ship. The *Nieuw Statendam* sails at 11 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 12: Sunday, April 16

Day 13: Monday, April 17

During these two days, we continue cruising across the eastern Atlantic to Spain.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 14: Tuesday, April 18

The mainland of Europe is on the horizon and at 8 am the *Nieuw Statendam* docks at **Cadiz** on the southwest coast of Spain. We take a private coach to Seville, about 120 km inland, then a guided tour of the city. Included is a visit to the massive **Seville Cathedral**, the world's largest Gothic structure and resting place of Christopher Columbus, as well as the **Alcazar**, the palace built by King Pedro in the 1360s.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 15: Wednesday, April 19

This morning, the landmark of Gibraltar Rock lies ahead and we dock at 8 am. A half-day tour with a local guide is arranged visiting the highlights of Gibraltar including the cable car ride to the top of the Rock. We drive its narrow winding roads, viewing buildings perched on the steep sides of the Rock and the colony of Barbary apes. Gibraltar Rock marks the entrance to the Mediterranean (it is only 20 km across to Morocco) and it rises 420 m from the ocean. This strategic fortress has been in British hands since 1704. There are 30,000 people squeezed into just six square kms. The afternoon is free time. After the ship sails at 5 pm, we cruise through one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, the **Strait of Gibraltar**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 16: Thursday, April 20

The *Nieuw Statendam* docks at **Malaga** on Spain's Costa del Sol at 7 am. Today's tour travels to Grenada, settled in the 5th century BC, capital of the Moors until the 15th century, and centre of Spanish exploration and colonization for two centuries. We tour awe-inspiring **Alhambra Palace**, one of the world's most beautiful Moorish structures, constructed in the mid-14th century. Included is the original fortress of the Alcazaba, Charles V's Palace, the ornately carved Court of Lions, and spectacular **Generalife Water Gardens**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*



Day 17: Friday, April 21

Overnight, we cruise northeast off the Spanish coast and dock at **Alicante** at 9 am. The area was first settled 7,000 years ago and the city has been occupied by the Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans, Moors, and Arabs. Although it was once a major freight port, those ships have mostly moved north to Valencia and Alicante has become a frequent cruise ship call. You may wish to buy a shore excursion featuring sights such as Castle of Santa Barbara, the promenade Explanada de Espana, Barrio de la Santa Cruz, and the 14th century Basilica of Santa Maria. The ship sails at 4 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Statendam*

Day 18: Saturday, April 22

We arrive in **Barcelona** this morning and bid farewell to the *Nieuw Statendam*. Our morning tour with a local guide introduces us to the city's diversity and is highlighted by visits to the Cathedral, the Columbus Monument, and Pueblo Español (Spanish Village), a gathering of the many

building styles found throughout Spain. We stroll down Las Ramblas and enjoy the ambiance of this lively city. One of Barcelona's architectural themes is the work of **Antoni Gaudi** and we see several examples such as Güell Park, Lleó Morera, and the famous **Sagrada Familia**, his extraordinary unfinished church. Next is **Picasso Museum**, one of only three museums dedicated to the works of Picasso. We stay two nights at the Hotel



Catalunya Plaza, a few minutes walk from Las Ramblas and the Gothic Quarter.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Catalunya Plaza

Day 19: Sunday, April 23

This morning, we tour **Casa Mila** one of the elegant homes designed by Gaudi in 1906, reflecting his peculiar architectural genius. Tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner where we can reminisce about our trans-Atlantic journey and visits to the Azores, Gibraltar, and the coast of Spain.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Catalunya Plaza

Day 20: Monday, April 24

We fly on KLM from Barcelona through Amsterdam to Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Fairmont YVR

Day 21: Tuesday, April 25

Transportation is provided from YVR to your Victoria area pickup point.

MS NIEUW STATENDAM

Holland America Line's second newest ship, *MS Nieuw Statendam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 2019. She is a sister ship to the *Koningsdam* and the recently-launched *Rotterdam*. To bring this new ship design 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* in 2016 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 *Nieuw Statendam* 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 *Nieuw Statendam* 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.

CRUISE & TOUR NOTES

Many relaxing days at sea and six ports: This cruise features 8 days at sea and 5 days visiting ports in the Azores, Gibraltar, and Spain, plus the port of disembarkation, Barcelona. The cruise is most likely to appeal to people who enjoy lots of time on the ship, many relaxing days at sea, good books or movies, and shipboard activities or entertainment. The ports are: Ponta Delgada in the Azores, Cadiz with a tour to Seville, Gibraltar with a cable car ride, Malaga with a tour to the fabulous Alhambra Palace, Alicante, and Barcelona where we stay two nights before flying home.

Shore excursions included: On many cruises, shore excursions are a significant additional expense during your holiday. On this cruise, a shore excursion is included at each port except the Azores and Alicante. The tours to Seville and the Alhambra last a full day. Gibraltar is a half-day tour.

Dinner reservations: The *Nieuw Statendam* 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. Call the Wells Gray office if you prefer to dine at the same time with the same people each day. The four specialty restaurants take reservations and you should do this online before sailing or early in the voyage.



Importance of booking early: Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 75 days before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship fills and this has happened on several recent cruises. We had to turn away disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the connecting motorcoach. Sometimes cruise fares are reduced after final payment to fill remaining vacant staterooms, but a shipboard credit is usually offered as compensation to those who reserved early. **Please book early** and take advantage of the discount of up to \$280 per person.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. The ship can probably handle most food allergies, but restaurants on the tours in Spain may not be able to. As restaurants recover from two years of pandemic restrictions, many facing severe labour shortages, we have been informed that food allergies should be honoured, but it is impossible to handle everybody's requests for food preferences. (An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not.) For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Flight seating: We cannot take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$1,500 and book your own flights which allow seat selection.



Activity Level 2: Although cruising is normally Activity Level 1, the tours to Seville and the Alhambra have more activity which could include walks of up to 1 km, walking on cobblestone streets, and stairs. There is lots of walking if you want to see all the Alhambra and Generalife Water Gardens. The two days of touring in Barcelona has some extensive walking with frequent rest stops and cobblestone streets are common. Choose shore excursions at the other 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 Activity Level 2 could be challenging, you are urged to bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, drivers and local guides 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.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation to Seattle airport
- Flight from Seattle to Fort Lauderdale
- Air transport taxes & security fees
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
- 6 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Transfer from Fort Lauderdale airport to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to cruise terminal
- 14 days & nights on *Nieuw Statendam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges and cruise taxes
- Entertainment and other services on ship
- Locally-guided tour to Seville
- Seville Cathedral & Alcazar Palace
- Locally-guided tour in Gibraltar
- Cable car to the top of Rock of Gibraltar
- Locally-guided tour to Granada and Alhambra
- Alhambra admission with Generalife Gardens
- Transfer from Barcelona port to hotel
- Locally-guided tour of Barcelona
- Sagrada Familia
- Picasso Museum
- Casa Mila
- Transfer from hotel to Barcelona airport
- Flight from Barcelona to Vancouver
- Transportation from YVR to your pickup point
- Knowledgeable tour director throughout cruise
- Gratuities for European guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **50 meals:** 18 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 16 dinners

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due January 3, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking, cheque, Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person per booking on credit cards).

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$280 discount on first 12 seats and \$140 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after January 3, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to December 2, 2022, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From December 3, 2022 to January 3, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From January 4 to February 3, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From February 4 to March 3, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After March 3, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: As the world emerges from the pandemic, many of our suppliers are struggling with shortage of staff, inflated costs, and supply line challenges. Sometimes we are notified about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a component of an extensive tour due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges from airlines and cruise line, and changes to taxes or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to 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.

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 Credits: Holland America (page 1 and 5), Wikimedia (Gibraltar, Alhambra, Sagrada Familia)

Experience Points: This tour earns 130 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 3, 2023.

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

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