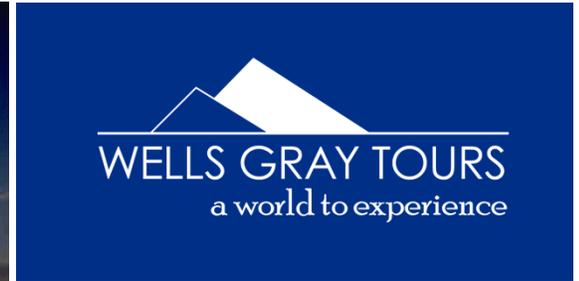




Strokkur Geysir



Zuiderdam

ICELAND & GREENLAND CRUISE

August 3, 2023 – 25 Days

18 days on Holland America's Zuiderdam cruising from Rotterdam to Boston

This cruise from Europe to America has so many incredible sights and ports, ranging from the bigger cities such as Rotterdam and Dublin to seldom visited outposts like Qaqortoq, Greenland. Seven countries are visited during these 25 days of travelling, but fortunately a passport is all that is needed for documentation. After flying into Amsterdam, we have 3 days of Netherlands attractions before boarding the *Zuiderdam*. During 18 days cruising to Boston, some memorable experiences are: Kissing the Blarney Stone, a pint at the Guinness Brewery, the *Titanic* exhibit at Belfast, the erupting Strokkur Geysir and Pingvellir National Park in Iceland, the icy wonders of Prince Christian Sound in Greenland, North America's easternmost point at Cape Spear, Peggy's Cove, and Boston's Freedom Trail. A highlight almost every day on this amazing cruise!

Activity Level: 2



65 Meals Included:

23 breakfasts, 20 lunches, 22 dinners

Fares per person based on double/twin:

\$14,435 Inside Category I

\$14,875 Oceanview Category E

\$18,025 Verandah Category VC

Other categories are available, as well as single fares.

Please add 0.1% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$300 discount on first 10 seats; \$150 on next 6

Experience Points:

Earn 250 points on this tour.

Redeem 250 points if you book by May 2, 2023.

Departure from: BC Interior



Kinderdijk

ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, August 3

Departures are from Kamloops, Salmon Arm and the Okanagan, and we travel by coach to New Westminster. We stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay, overlooking the Fraser River. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted dinner.

Note: While it may seem unnecessary to travel to the Lower Mainland the day before your flight, the Coquihalla can have long closures or flights can be cancelled by weather which would cause a missed international flight.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay

Day 2: Friday, August 4

The morning is leisure time and you may want to take a stroll along Westminster Quay. Our flight on KLM to Amsterdam departs in the afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Saturday, August 5

We arrive at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport in the morning and local time is 9 hours ahead. Our Netherlands guide and coach meet us at the airport. **Amsterdam** is built on 70 islands which are separated by nearly 80 km of canals and connected by more than 1,000 bridges. Our introduction to this fascinating city is via a narrated **canal cruise**, passing gabled warehouses, arched bridges, noble mansions, and colourful houseboats. We stay three nights at the Park Plaza Victoria Hotel. Opened in 1890, its prestige today is thanks to historians, novelists, filmmakers, fashionistas, and illustrious guests who have



Amsterdam canal cruise

immortalised the hotel in popular culture. A welcome dinner is included.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Park Plaza Victoria Hotel

Day 4: Sunday, August 6

Amsterdam was founded in the Middle Ages and has many historic buildings. During a walking tour, we see Dam Square, the impressive Royal Palace, the New Church, Waterloo Square, Begijnhof, and the floating Flower Market. Later, we visit the renowned **Rijksmuseum** which has an exceptional collection of 15th and 17th century paintings by Dutch masters. View Rembrandt's famous *The Night Watch* plus works by Vermeer, Steen, and Hals.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Park Plaza Victoria Hotel

Day 5: Monday, August 7

We head out of Amsterdam to Delft and a tour of the **Royal Delft factory**. Lunch is served on Delft Blue earthenware, followed by a guided tour of the city of Delft.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Park Plaza Victoria Hotel

Day 6: Tuesday, August 8

We travel through the typical Dutch countryside to **Kinderdijk**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Learn about water management in the Netherlands, then enjoy a narrated boat tour past a unique collection of 18th century windmills. Afterwards, we drive to the cruise terminal in Rotterdam 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 acquainted with its many facilities. We sail at 5 pm, down the Nieuwe Maas into the North Sea. This evening is our first sumptuous dinner on board, followed by a lively "welcome" stage show.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 7: Wednesday, August 9

Overnight, we sail through the English Channel and during the daytime across the Celtic Sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 8: Thursday, August 10

The *Zuiderdam* arrives in **Cork, Ireland**, at 8 am. Our included shore excursion travels first to **Kinsale** and a walking tour shows off its historic streetscapes and brightly coloured shops. Lunch is at a quaint local restaurant. In the afternoon, we go to Blarney Castle, one of the best known of Ireland's icons. Climb to the castle ramparts where you can kiss the **Blarney Stone** and become endowed with the Gift of the Gab. There is also a shopping opportunity at Blarney Woollen Mills. Back on the ship, we sail out of Cork's narrow harbour at 6 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*



Kissing the Blarney Stone

Day 9: Friday, August 11

The *Zuiderdam* is docked in **Dublin** from 7 am to 11 pm. This is Ireland's largest city, a historical and contemporary cultural centre. A local guide takes us on a city tour past landmarks such as Trinity College and Christ Church Cathedral. We finish the tour at famous **Guinness Brewery** for a tour and to enjoy a pint of its iconic beer. Later, our coach provides several transfers between the cruise port and the Dublin city centre.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch (ship), Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 10: Saturday, August 12

We arrive in **Belfast, Northern Ireland**, at 8 am and depart at 5 pm. A half-day tour visits the Peace Wall and the Republican and Loyalist murals, and we hear a unique perspective on the troubled decades of the 1970s to 1990s. Later, we visit **Titanic Belfast** where nine galleries

explain the conception and building of *RMS Titanic* in Belfast, the discovery of the wreck, and modern exploration. There are special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions, and interactive features to explore the Titanic story.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch (ship), Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 11: Sunday, August 13

A day at sea while we cruise north to Iceland.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 12: Monday, August 14

Iceland is a remote island in the North Atlantic, noted for its awesome glaciers, about 30 volcanoes, geothermal activity, countless waterfalls, and numerous hot springs. Out of a population numbering more than 300,000, half live in the capital of Reykjavik and the rest of the island is mostly rural. Sheep outnumber humans by 3:1. The *Zuiderdam* anchors in the harbour of **Djúpivogur** on the east coast of Iceland and we take tenders to the dock. Shore excursions can be booked on the ship. The recommended trip goes to Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon where you board an amphibious boat and sail among huge floating icebergs cast off by the icefield of Vatnajökull. The ship sails at 4 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*



Jökulsárlón
(optional trip)

Day 13: Tuesday, August 15

Overnight we cruise along the south coast of Iceland and arrive in the capital of **Reykjavik** at 11 am. After lunch, a sightseeing tour is included. Weaving through narrow alleys framed with old timber houses, we learn about the life of the city

from its beginning to the present. We visit the landmark **Hallgrímskirkja Church**, the harbour, the University, the giant relief map of Iceland at City Hall, and **Höfði House** where the Reagan-Gorbachev summit took place in 1986. We also enjoy the city panorama from the Perlan viewing deck. The ship stays docked here overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 14: Wednesday, August 16

Today's tour is known as the Golden Circle and features highlights of western Iceland. We drive through an agricultural area with a mixture of farms and summer cottages. At the Friðheimar Farm, we tour a greenhouse heated with natural warm water and learn about the small Icelandic horse during a **horse show**. Next is the Geysir area where we walk around boiling hot springs and hissing fumaroles, and admire **Strokkur Geysir** which erupts every 5-10 minutes. Nearby is one of Iceland's favourite waterfalls, **Gullfoss**, which plunges 30 metres into Hvítá Canyon. Next



is **Pingvellir National Park**, site of the National Assembly which was founded here in 930 AD to rule the country, and we take a walk through the old parliament site. Pingvellir is not only important for Icelandic history, but also for geology because the meeting of two drifting continental plates can be seen here. The ship departs Reykjavik at 11 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 15: Thursday, August 17

This is a day at sea while we cruise between Iceland and Greenland.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 16: Friday, August 18

Today, we arrive at the rugged east coast of **Greenland**, a huge Arctic island that is 80% covered by ice. It is hard to imagine the courage of early navigators in wooden ships who struggled to explore this complex coastline of fjords and islands while trying to discover the fabled Northwest Passage. We enjoy scenic cruising in **Prince Christian Sound**, a 100-km long fjord that is a wonderland of spectacular glaciers and awesome fjords, created by the terrific forces of the Greenland ice cap. Tonight, we round Cape Farewell, Greenland's southern tip.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 17: Saturday, August 19

All of Greenland's settlements are located along the ice-free coast, including our next port of call, **Qaqortoq**. Organized excursions are not available here because the port is small and easy to see on your own. The ship's tenders take you ashore where you can stroll through the town and marvel at this isolated community that lives a very simple life. One of the oldest buildings dates to 1804 and was the town's blacksmith's shop, now the Qaqortoq Museum.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*



Day 18: Sunday, August 20

We cruise south from Greenland across the Labrador Sea to Newfoundland.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 19: Monday, August 21

Near the top of Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, we anchor at **St. Anthony** and take tenders ashore. This village of 2,400 people predates even the famed navigator Jacques Cartier. Though he gave the town its name, it was already a seasonal camp used by French and Basque fishermen when he arrived in 1534. St. Anthony's fortunes have long been tied to the sea, but now tourism has become important. The World Heritage Site of L'Anse aux Meadows was the location of a Viking settlement about 1000 years ago and the sod houses have been reconstructed. You can book this shore excursion or several other tours on the ship to explore the St. Anthony area.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 20: Tuesday, August 22

Be sure to be on deck or your balcony in mid-morning as we cruise through the narrows into the protected harbour of **St. John's**, capital of Newfoundland & Labrador. The ship is here until 11 pm. Our tour with a local guide visits St. John's highlights such as the **Cabot Tower** atop Signal Hill, Confederation Building, the colourful Jellybean Row Houses, and Quidi Vidi Battery. An exciting experience is standing at the most easterly point in North America, **Cape Spear**, and learning about the remarkable lifestyle of the lighthouse keepers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 21: Wednesday, August 23

This is a day at sea while we cross the Cabot Strait to Nova Scotia.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 22: Thursday, August 24

We spend the day in **Halifax**. Our morning tour with a local guide around this historic port city includes the waterfront, universities, St. Paul's Church, the Public Gardens, and residential areas. After a lunch break on the ship, the tour resumes, travelling to famous **Peggy's Cove**, one of the most picturesque fishing villages along the Atlantic coast. We stroll along the harbour to a view of the iconic lighthouse. Tonight, prepare

for fun and laughter at **Grafton Dinner Theatre** where a musical comedy is performed with dinner served by the actors.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*



Day 23: Friday, August 25

During our last day at sea, we cruise along the Maine coast.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Zuiderdam*

Day 24: Saturday, August 26

We dock in **Boston** and bid farewell to the *Zuiderdam*. A tour with a local guide is included. One of the oldest cities in the USA, Boston was founded in 1630 by Puritan colonists from England. It was the scene of several key events of the American Revolution, such as the Boston Tea Party, the Battle of Bunker Hill, and the Siege of Boston. First, there is a driving tour including Beacon Hill, Paul Revere House, Old North Church, Boston Common, and Massachusetts State House. We also visit Cambridge with Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lunch is on your own in the bustling Quincy Market area. Afterwards, there is a leisurely walking tour along a one kilometre section of **Boston's Freedom Trail**, ending at Faneuil Hall for some free time exploring on your own. At the Embassy Suites, enjoy a reception with beverages and a farewell dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Logan Airport

Day 25: Sunday, August 27

We fly to Kelowna and transfers are provided to home cities.

Meals included: Breakfast

MS ZUIDERDAM

Holland America's *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 2002, *Westerdam* in 2004 and *Noordam* in 2006. Carrying 1,848 passengers, these ships are Holland America's third largest design, but they still have an intimate feel to them. *Zuiderdam's* gross tonnage is 82,000 and she is 300 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). *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 six buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the 11 pm buffet. The 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 24 hours a day.

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, and board games. The movie theatre presents recent films frequently, there is an entertaining live stage show every evening, and musicians are playing in most lounges.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation to Vancouver Airport
- Flight from Vancouver to Amsterdam
- Current air transport taxes & fuel surcharges
- 5 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 4 days of coach transportation in Netherlands
- Amsterdam canals cruise
- Guided walking tour of Amsterdam highlights
- Rijksmuseum
- Royal Delft Blue Pottery factory
- Guided tour of Delft city
- Boat tour, film and windmill tour at Kindereijk
- 18 days on Holland America's *Zuiderdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Entertainment and other services on ship
- Locally-guided tour of Cork and area
- Walking tour of Kinsale, Ireland
- Blarney Castle and kiss the Blarney Stone
- Locally-guided tour of Dublin
- Guinness Brewery tour and pint of beer
- Locally-guided tour of Belfast
- Titanic Belfast exhibit
- Locally-guided ½-day tour of Reykjavik
- Locally-guided tour of Iceland's Golden Circle
- Friðheimar Farm greenhouse
- Icelandic Horse show
- Strokkur Geysir and Gullfoss
- Þingvellir National Park
- Locally-guided ½-day tour of St. John's
- Signal Hill National Historic Site
- Cape Spear National Historic Site & lighthouse
- Locally-guided tour of Halifax & Peggy's Cove
- Grafton Dinner Theatre
- Locally-guided tour of Boston
- Walk on the Freedom Trail
- Transfer to Boston Logan Airport
- Flight from Boston to Kelowna
- Knowledgeable tour director throughout tour
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **65 meals:** 23 breakfasts, 20 lunches, 22 dinners

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 (early May 2023). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time when the ship fills. This is a unique cruise itinerary, so it could sell out early and 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. If staterooms are available for late bookers, they are usually surcharged, not discounted, due to the unprecedented demand for cruises after Covid.

Dinner reservations: The *Zuiderdam* 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 two specialty restaurants require advance reservations and you should do this prior to the cruise or early in the voyage to get the best choice of seating times.

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. 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 Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Reykjavik (1½ days), St. John's, Halifax, and Boston, plus three days touring in the Netherlands before embarking the *Zuiderdam*.

Currency & expenses: As this tour has been planned and priced 10 months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations between the Canadian and US dollars and Euro could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. Your purchases on the ship are charged in US dollars. The Euro is the currency of Netherlands and Ireland, the British Pound in Northern Ireland, the Icelandic Kronur in Iceland, and the Danish Krone in Greenland. You should order US dollars or Euros from your bank 1-2 weeks before departure, or plan to use ATMs. For one-day visits to the other countries, it is best to pay by credit card. In all these countries, credit cards are accepted almost everywhere (exceptions are the markets where cash is typical).

Gratuities are included for the local guides and coach drivers for 4 days in Netherlands and the Wells Gray shore excursions from the ship. If you buy a shore excursion on the ship or at the dock, bring cash for gratuities. The standard crew gratuities on the ship are included, but a gratuity is normally charged extra for your purchases such as drinks or spa. Gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and Canadian drivers are not included and left to your discretion.

Passport & Visa: A valid passport is required and must not expire until three months after return date. A visa is not required for any countries visited.

Flight seating: We are unable to 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 \$1,600 and book your own flights which allow seat selection.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights from Vancouver to Amsterdam and return from Boston. Premium economy and business class may be available.



Activity Level 2: Due to the historic nature of some cities and attractions, it will be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk up to 2 km, plus stand for an extended time on walking tours. Expect moderate activity during the shore excursions, boarding ship's tenders, and pre-cruise and post-cruise tours.

Choose ship's shore excursions carefully based on your mobility. Seeing and experiencing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. There can be longer walks in the airports. If Activity Level 2 could be challenging, you must bring a companion who is able 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 need 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1000 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due May 2, 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 \$300 discount on first 10 seats and \$150 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 2, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 3, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 4 to May 2, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From May 3 to June 2, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From June 3 to June 30, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After June 30, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: As the world emerges from the pandemic, many of our suppliers such as hotels, restaurants, attractions, and other tour operators 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 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.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. The ship can handle most allergies, but it is impossible to handle everybody's requests for food preferences. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not.

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.

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Experience Points: This tour earns 250 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 May 2, 2023.

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

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Prince Christian Sound