



Koningsdam in Glacier Bay



White Pass Railway

WHITEHORSE & GLACIER BAY CRUISE

July 14, 2023 - 9 Days

On Holland America's Koningsdam

This is a very unique cruise because it is not offered in Holland America's catalogue. Most Alaska cruises are round trip from Vancouver or Seattle, but this is one-way from Skagway to Vancouver with Glacier Bay. Whitehorse is too far inland to be accessible as a one-day shore excursion from the ship, but there are enough attractions in the Yukon's capital to fill 2 days. On this tour, fly to Whitehorse for a 3-night stay and enjoy the Beringia Centre, Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs, Yukon Wildlife Preserve, MacBride Museum, and Yukon Transportation Museum. Board the White Pass Railway at Carcross and ride this historic train through the St. Elias Mountains and down the thrilling grade to Skagway. Then embark the *Koningsdam*, one of Holland America's newer ships, and cruise to Vancouver with a day spent in the incredible scenery of Glacier Bay. Come and enjoy this unique cruise and tour. Holland America does not make it available every year.

Activity Level: 1



14 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners

Fares per person double/twin:

\$3,050 – Oceanview Stateroom category C

\$3,300 – Veranda Stateroom category VA

\$4,855 – Neptune Suite category SA

Single & triple fares are also available.

Please add 1.4% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$100 discount on first 15 seats; \$50 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 55 points from this tour.

Redeem 55 points if you book by April 13, 2023.

Departures from: Lower Mainland



Eclipse Hot Springs

ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday, July 14

Meet the other Wells Gray travellers in early evening at Vancouver Airport. Our flight is on Air North and arrives in Whitehorse about 10 pm. We stay three nights in the downtown area.

Accommodation: Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Day 2: Saturday, July 15

First, we go to the wonderful **Beringia Centre** which tells the story of native people and animals that lived in a prehistoric land between Alaska and Siberia known as the Bering Land Bridge. Next is the Yukon Museum of Transportation which brings to life tales of bush pilots, Chilkoot Trail travellers, Klondike stampedeers, and Alaska Highway builders. This afternoon, we see the exterior of the sternwheeler **SS Klondike** which plied the Yukon River to Dawson City from 1937 to 1955 (the interior is being renovated in 2023). A "Welcome to the Yukon" dinner is planned.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Day 3: Sunday, July 16

We relax in the soothing waters of **Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs** with temperatures up to 42° Celsius. This beautiful new facility with three pools was reopened in 2021 after being totally rebuilt. Next, we learn about the native animals at the **Yukon Wildlife Preserve**, a unique 350-acre viewing facility featuring 12 major species of northern mammals such as moose, muskox, mountain goat, wood bison, woodland caribou, elk, lynx, and Dall's sheep, presented in their natural environments. In the afternoon, we explore the amazing **MacBride Museum** which has a large collection of relics and photos from gold-rush days, including the log cabin belonging to Sam McGee about whom Robert Service, "Bard of the Yukon", wrote a famous ballad.

Accommodation: Best Western Gold Rush Inn

Day 4: Monday, July 17

We drive to Carcross and board the **White Pass & Yukon Railway** for a thrilling five-hour journey through the rugged St. Elias Mountains. This narrow-gauge railway was built in 1898 to serve stampedeers to the Klondike Gold Rush. Today it ranks among the world's most scenic rail journeys

and has been designated an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. A stop is made at Bennett to visit the White Pass Museum. Beyond White Pass, the train descends 850 metres through tunnels and across high trestles on a cliff-hanging route to reach the ocean at **Skagway**. The Klondike Gold Rush was in full swing 125 years ago and Skagway was the major gateway to the Yukon. Today, that heritage is kept alive with old boardwalks and quaint false-fronted buildings.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Westmark Skagway Inn

Day 5: Tuesday, July 18

A transfer is provided from the hotel to the dock and we board Holland America's **Koningsdam**. An embarkation lunch is served and you may want to wander the ship and discover its many amenities. You can also get off to explore more of Skagway. After dinner, there is a lively stage show and the ship sails at 8 pm.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Koningsdam*

Day 6: Wednesday, July 19

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up this morning amidst the grandeur of **Glacier Bay**. The *Koningsdam* sails close to the Margerie Glacier and the Grand Pacific Glacier where chunks of ice periodically break away and crash into the sea. A National Park Ranger on board explains the natural phenomenon in detail. We spend most of today exploring an unforgettable world of floating ice castles and tidewater glaciers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Koningsdam*

Day 7: Thursday, July 20

We dock in **Ketchikan** from 11 am to 7 pm. This picturesque town has waterfront buildings on pilings, weathered stairways clinging to steep hillsides, and the famous Creek Street boardwalk.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Koningsdam*

Day 8: Friday, July 21

We admire the magnificent scenery of B.C.'s famed **Inside Passage**. We pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or killer whales. We sail through the narrow, sheltered waterways of Princess Royal Channel and Seymour Narrows where Ripple Rock used to menace ships.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Koningsdam*

Day 9: Saturday, July 22

We dock at Canada Place in **Vancouver** this morning.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Air North flight from Vancouver to Whitehorse
- Current air taxes and fuel surcharges
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
- Transfer from Whitehorse Airport to hotel
- 4 nights of hotel accommodation and taxes
- 3 days of coach transportation in Yukon
- Beringia Centre
- Yukon Museum of Transportation
- *SS Klondike* National Historic Site (grounds)
- Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs
- Yukon Wildlife Preserve
- MacBride Museum
- White Pass Railway from Carcross to Skagway
- White Pass Museum in Bennett
- 2 transfers in Skagway
- 4-day Holland America cruise from Skagway to Vancouver on board *Koningsdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **14 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners

MS KONINGS DAM

Holland America Line's third newest ship, *MS Koningsdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 2016. To bring this new ship to life and give form and function to its brand, 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, a sophisticated interplay of high technology and elegance, 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, the Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine, the 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 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.



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. There are steps on and off the train. Wheelchair assistance is available in the airports upon request. There can be longer walks on the ship between your stateroom, dining rooms, and theatre. The coaches and train cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 1. 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 able to keep 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.

CRUISE NOTES

Importance of early booking: Cruises are incredibly popular post-Covid. Ships are filling up fast and earlier than they once did, so waiting too long to book usually means "Sorry, wait till next year." Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this unique one-way cruise and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing (mid-April). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship or even a category fills. This occurs on most of our group cruises, then we must turn away disappointed customers, even though seats are available on the connecting motorcoach. Therefore, please don't delay booking this tour.

Staterooms: When you book this tour, your selected stateroom category on the *Koningsdam* is guaranteed and the stateroom number is usually confirmed a few weeks before sailing. Fares are quoted for categories Oceanview C, Verandah VA, and Neptune Suite SA, but other categories may also be available.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 13, 2023. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$100 discount on first 15 seats and \$50 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 13, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 13, 2023, your tour payments are refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From March 14 to April 13, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From April 14 to May 12, the cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. From May 13 to June 13, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After June 13, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and foreign currency exchange rates, and surcharges from airline, cruise ship and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$75 per person round trip. Transfer is to and from YVR. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: Holland America Line, White Pass Railway, Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs

Experience Points: This tour earns 55 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 March 23, 2023.

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

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