



Pride of America



Waikiki Beach sunset

HAWAII CRUISE

January 15, 2024 – 14 Days

A 7-day cruise among the Hawaiian Islands on Norwegian's Pride of America

By mid-January, many people are longing to get away from snow in the Interior or rain at the Coast. Some head to Mexican beaches, Arizona, or California. How about a cruise in Hawaii? Many cruises leave from the mainland and take 5 or 6 days at sea to reach Hawaii. Norwegian Cruise Lines has registered their ship *Pride of America* in the USA, so they are able to offer this week-long cruise leaving from Honolulu. The cruise features 5 ports on 4 of the Hawaiian islands: Honolulu on Oahu, Kahului on Maui, Hilo and Kona on Hawaii, and Nawiliwili on Kauai. The ship stays overnight in Kahului and Nawiliwili, giving you extra time to explore these areas and enjoy services on shore. Prior to the cruise, we stay 5 nights in Waikiki close to the beach. Come to Hawaii and escape from the Canadian winter.

Activity Level: 2



27 Meals Included:

12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners

Fares per person:

\$8,565 twin; \$13,140 single – Category BB (balcony)

\$8,615 twin; \$13,240 single – Category BA (balcony)

Other categories and triple fares may be available.

Please add 0.4% GST.

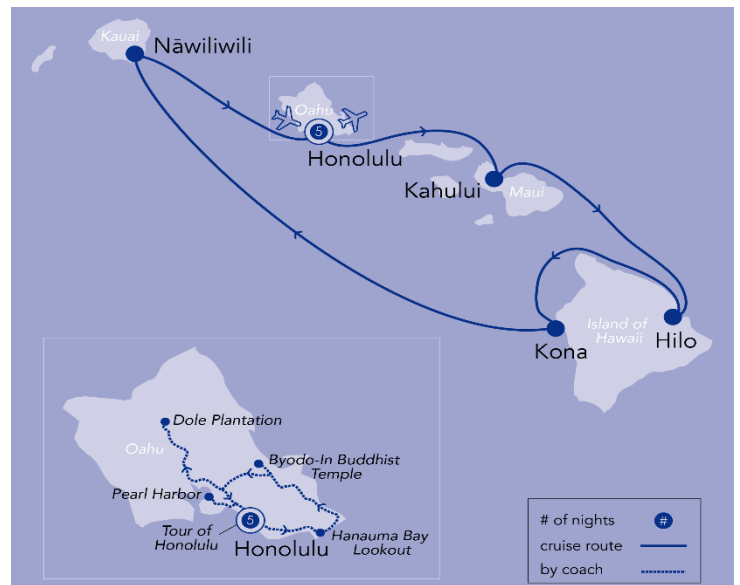
Early Booker Bonus:

\$200 discount on first 12 seats; \$100 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 125 points on this tour.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, January 15

A home pickup with a ride to Vancouver Airport is provided. Our flight on WestJet leaves Vancouver at 10 am and takes about 6½ hours to Honolulu. Hawaii time is two hours earlier than Pacific Time. **Welcome to Hawaii.** A transfer is provided from the airport to the Outrigger Beachcomber Hotel in Waikiki where we stay five nights. This hotel has a superb location on Kalakaua Avenue surrounded by shops and restaurants, and across from the bustling International Marketplace. All rooms have a balcony with ocean view (partial or full), coffee and tea, and wi-fi. Hotel amenities include an outdoor pool, hot tub, and fitness centre. Maui Brewing Company is the hotel restaurant, but there are dozens of restaurants within a few blocks. A breakfast buffet is included each day at nearby Duke's. The hotel is a block from Waikiki Beach with a convenient walkway from Kalakaua Avenue to access the sand and ocean.

Accommodation: Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber



Day 2: Tuesday, January 16

Honolulu is the bustling commercial centre and capital of the Hawaiian Islands, located on the Island of Oahu. Our morning tour focuses on Pearl Harbor and the involvement of Hawaii in World War II. We visit several museums, see a short film, and take a boat to the **USS Arizona Memorial** which features prominently in this story. This evening, take a stroll along Kalakaua Avenue and choose one of many restaurants for dinner; Cheesecake Factory is a nearby favourite.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber



Arizona Memorial

Day 3: Wednesday, January 17

This is a free day to enjoy as you wish. Tours on Oahu can be booked with a hotel pickup.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber

Day 4: Thursday, January 18

Today's included tour explores part of the **island of Oahu** north of Honolulu. Stops are made at the Blowhole, Hanauma Bay, Pali Lookout, Byodo-In Buddhist Temple, and Dole Plantation.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber



Byodo-In Temple

Day 5: Friday, January 19

This is another day at leisure. Take a walk along Waikiki Beach and watch a colourful sunset or enjoy the Friday fireworks.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Outrigger Waikiki Beachcomber

Day 6: Saturday, January 20

A transfer is provided in late morning to the cruise terminal and we board **Pride of America**. An embarkation lunch buffet is served in the Aloha Café. Explore the ship this afternoon. You may want to be on deck or your balcony at 7 pm as we cast off and cruise away from Honolulu.

Enjoy your first wonderful dinner on board in one of the two main dining rooms or the five specialty restaurants. Later, take in the entertainment in the Hollywood Theatre or one of the lounges.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 7: Sunday, January 21

Pride of America docks at **Kahului** on the north coast of **Maui** at 8 am. This is the major shopping centre for Maui residents. The most interesting shore excursion on Maui is to Haleakalā Volcano, ascending 3,055 metres in 37 switchbacks. The summit provides an awesome view and the colourful crater is a photographer's dream. The ship stays docked at Kahului overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 8: Monday, January 22

The ship stays in Kahului all day, sailing at 6 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 9: Tuesday, January 23

The *Pride of America* arrives at **Hilo** on the east coast of **Hawaii, the Big Island**, at 8 am and departs at 6 pm. This is the wet or windward side of the island and has a jungle-like environment. A popular tour here visits several waterfalls such as 135-metre tall Akaka Falls, the Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory, and Richardson Black Sand Beach. In the evening, the ship cruises along the rugged coastline with views of **Kilauea Volcano** which has been erupting regularly since 1983.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 10: Wednesday, January 24

Overnight, we cruise around Hawaii Island and anchor at **Kona** on the west coast and the island's dry side. This is a tender port, meaning that you take a small boat ashore instead of disembarking onto a dock. We arrive at 7 am and depart at 5:30 pm. Do as you wish today – stroll the town or book a shore excursion.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 11: Thursday, January 25

Kauai is the westernmost of the five major islands. It is the island where Hawaiians vacation, a circle of steeply rumpled green velvet known for its primeval splendour and nicknamed The Garden Isle. The ship docks at 8 am at **Nawiliwili Harbor** near Lihue, the largest town. A recommended shore excursion visits awesome Waimea Canyon which is 16 km long, up to 1,000 metres deep, and filled with vivid colours of red and green. The ship stays overnight at the dock.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 12: Friday, January 26

This is a free day to do as you wish while the ship remains in Nawiliwili. Another recommended shore excursion is a boat ride along the Wailua River to the romantic Fern Grotto where several weddings may be held every day. The ship sails at 5 pm. Tonight is our last evening on board *Pride of America* and you may want to reserve an elegant dinner in one of the specialty restaurants.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Pride of America*

Day 13: Saturday, January 27

We arrive back in **Honolulu** and disembark the *Pride of America*. Our coach is waiting and our tour stops at highlights of Honolulu such as the State Capitol Building, Chinatown, Iolani Palace, and Kawaiahau Church. We also drive through **Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific** which honours men and women of the US Armed Forces. There is time for shopping and lunch at Ala Moana Mall. The tour ends at Honolulu Airport, then we fly in mid-afternoon on WestJet to Vancouver.

Note: The flight arrives at YVR at 11:30 pm. By the time you clear Customs and get your bags, it is probably 12:30 am. Therefore, a room at the Fairmont YVR is included. If you prefer to go home tonight, you can do that and arrange your own transportation. Deduct \$150 per person double/twin or \$300 single from the tour fare.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Fairmont YVR Hotel

Day 14: Sunday, January 28

Transportation is provided to your pickup point.

PRIDE OF AMERICA

Pride of America was launched in 2005 and was refurbished in 2022. Carrying 2,186 passengers, she is one of the smaller vessels in the Norwegian fleet of 19 ships. *Pride of America's* gross tonnage is 80,000 and she is 279 metres long with 11 decks and 10 elevators. Facilities include the Hollywood Theatre for live entertainment, 12 bars and lounges, duty-free shops, beauty shop, library, games room, internet access, spa, fitness centre, 2 pools, and 5 hot tubs.

Pride of America is a USA-registered ship which is unusual in the cruise industry. This allows her to operate exclusively in Hawaii, whereas most ships are required, under the Jones Act, to stop at a foreign port during every cruise. There is no casino because of these regulations. She has 927 crew and many are Americans instead of the predominately international staff on other ships.

Pride of America offers 15 places to eat. The complimentary dining rooms include Liberty and Skyline, and Aloha Café is the buffet. The five specialty restaurants are Cagney's Steakhouse, Jefferson's Bistro (French), Moderno (Brazilian), La Cucina (Italian), and Tepanyaki (Asian), each with gourmet menus. Your tour fare includes the extra fee and gratuities for two dinners in these specialty restaurants. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the room service menu (extra fee). You can enjoy a different venue for each of your seven dinners on board. You can reserve in advance for specialty restaurants 3 months before sailing, or book as soon as you get on board. You can show up when you are ready for the main restaurants.

Staterooms have television, music, telephone, safe, and bathroom with toilet, sink, and shower or bathtub. A great variety of stage shows is presented in the Hollywood Theatre and Norwegian is known for its extravagant entertainment. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games, and fitness classes.

Your tour fare also includes a beverage package while on the ship – a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks up to US\$15 each. Gratuities are included. You can order your favourite beverage from your restaurant table or at any lounge. When ordering wine, you can have a glass, but not a bottle.

Other included amenities on board are a US\$100 shipboard credit per stateroom (can be used for any purchases on board), a shore excursion credit of US\$50 per stateroom per tour, and 250 minutes of free internet use.

ROLAND'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Roland and Anne Neave, owners of Wells Gray Tours, travelled on the *Pride of America* in January 2023 and 2020 and have some personal recommendations.

- Consider splurging and booking a suite. The ship has 72 suites of different sizes and layouts. Suites get lots of perks such as breakfast and lunch complimentary in Cagney's, priority seating for dinners, reserved seating in the centre section of Hollywood Theatre until 5 minutes before showtime, daily appetizers delivered at 5 pm, fancy chocolates for bedtime, and even a butler for personal service. If you are interested, our office staff can check for available suites and quote the fare.
- Roland and Anne were impressed with the menu, food, and service in Jefferson's Bistro (French restaurant) and La Cucina (Italian restaurant), but your choices will depend on your culinary preferences.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Home pickup and transfer to/from YVR
 - Flight from Vancouver to Honolulu and return
 - Current air transport taxes and fuel surcharges
 - Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
 - 6 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
 - Transfer from Honolulu Airport to hotel
 - Tour to Pearl Harbor
 - Pearl Harbor museums
 - USS Arizona Memorial
 - Tour on island of Oahu
 - Byodo-In Buddhist Temple
 - Dole Plantation
 - Transfer from hotel to cruise terminal
 - 7 days and nights on board *Pride of America*
 - Cruise gratuities
 - Port charges and cruise taxes
 - US\$100 per stateroom shipboard credit
 - Entertainment and other services on the ship
 - Beverage package on ship with gratuities
 - 2 special restaurants on ship with gratuities
 - US\$50 per stateroom credit per shore excursion
 - 250 minutes of free internet use
 - Driving tour of Honolulu highlights
 - Punchbowl National Cemetery
 - Gratuities to drivers for 3 tours on Oahu
 - Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
 - Luggage handling at hotels and ship
 - **27 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners
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TOUR NOTES

- **Please book early:** Cruises are incredibly popular nowadays. Ships are filling up faster and earlier than they once did, so waiting too long to book usually means "Sorry, wait till next year." Norwegian has confirmed a block of staterooms for this cruise and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing (early October). 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. This cruise is especially popular with travellers staying for an extended time in Hawaii.
Therefore, please don't delay booking this tour.
- **Shore excursions:** All your shore excursions should be booked when they become available on Norwegian's website www.ncl.com, usually 3 months prior to the cruise. The popular shore excursions fill up early (such as those mentioned in the itinerary), so booking on board is not possible. There is a shortage of drivers on the islands, so extra coaches seldom get added. Your \$100 shipboard credit (per stateroom) can be used to purchase tours of interest and you get a \$50 discount (per stateroom) on each Norwegian shore excursion. Before and after the cruise, three tours are included on Oahu.
- **Flights:** Do you prefer seating in premium economy? Do you want window or aisle seating? Do you want to stay longer in Honolulu and return independently? For all 3 preferences, WestJet does not allow changes to our group block, so please book your own flight and take our option of "No Flight" for a discount of \$650 per person.
- Deluxe ocean view rooms are reserved at Waikiki. If you request a lower floor room, there is no view.



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including walking and stairs during the Oahu tours. At Kona, you board the ship's tenders to go ashore. Choose shore excursions at the cruise ports based on your abilities. There can be longer walks in the airports. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. **Everybody** participating in this tour is expected to be capable of handling Activity Level 2. The tour director 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 require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at time of booking and balance is due September 14, 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 (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Early Booker Bonus: Receive \$200 discount on first 12 seats and \$100 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 14, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 14, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From August 15 to September 14, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From September 15 to October 13, the cancellation charge is 30% of the tour fare. From October 14 to November 14, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After November 14, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Due to continuing after effects of the pandemic, 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 this 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.

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.

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 offered complimentary in Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Surrey, and Richmond. Transfer is to and from YVR.

Photo Credits: Norwegian Cruise Lines (*Pride of America*), Roland Neave (Waikiki Beach, Waikiki, Arizona Memorial, Byodo-In Temple, ship's pool deck, atrium, Hanauma Bay, Pali Lookout)

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 125 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until September 14, 2023.

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

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