



Amtrak on California Coast



Roaring Camp Railroad

WEST COAST CRUISE AND RAIL

September 27, 2023 – 15 Days

Cruise from Vancouver to San Diego; return by coach and 3 trains

This is a wonderful trip to California and it is truly unique because you cannot do it in your own car. Cruise on Holland America's *Volendam* from Vancouver to San Diego for 5 days with a day to explore San Francisco. Then travel home using a combination of motorcoach and 3 train excursions – Amtrak from Santa Ana to San Luis Obispo, Roaring Camp Railroad, and Amtrak from Portland to Seattle. You stay at 2 oceanfront hotels, Inn at Morro Bay and Elizabeth Suites. Other highlights are Hearst Castle, National Steinbeck Center, Monterey Aquarium, Charles Schulz Museum, the Redwoods, a Newport Harbor cruise, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. A terrific cruise and rail tour for lovers of both!

Activity Level: 2



34 Meals Included:

14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 9 dinners

Fares per person double/twin:

\$6,100 Interior Stateroom category I

\$6,280 Oceanview Stateroom category C

\$6,750 Veranda Stateroom category B

Single & triple fares and ship suites also available.

Early Bookers:

\$300 discount on first 15 seats; \$150 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 140 points on this tour.

Redeem 140 points if you book by June 21, 2023.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



Golden Gate Bridge

ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, September 27

A transfer is provided to the Canada Place cruise terminal and we board the **Volendam** about noon. An embarkation buffet lunch is served in the Lido Restaurant. The afternoon is free time to get familiar with the ship. We sail from Canada Place at 4 pm with a festive "Farewell to Vancouver" deck party as we pass under Lions Gate Bridge. Savour your first wonderful dinner, followed by a lively stage show or many other evening activities.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Volendam*

Day 2: Thursday, September 28

Day 3: Friday, September 29

Enjoy two relaxing days at sea. Although we are in the open Pacific, the *Volendam* is remarkably smooth because it is equipped with the best stabilizers. How do you want to spend your days? The ship's daily newsletter keeps you informed about scheduled activities like stage shows, movies, bingo games, group fitness, and game times in lounges. Schedule a treatment at the spa, get some advice on a workout plan at the fitness centre, or sidle up to the wine tasting bar to sample wines from around the world. The choices are many.

Meals included (each day): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Volendam*

Day 4: Saturday, September 30

Be sure to be on deck about 7 am as the *Volendam* makes a dramatic entrance to San Francisco under the majestic **Golden Gate Bridge**. We dock from 8 am to 5 pm. A local guide takes us on a sightseeing tour around **San Francisco** including Golden Gate Park, ocean beaches, Twin Peaks, and lots of history and architecture. Afterwards, there is time to enjoy the sights and shops of nearby Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39. You may want to take a harbour cruise under the bridges, ride an iconic cablecar up and over the hills to downtown, or savour local cuisine for lunch (lunch is included if you go back on the ship after the tour).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holland America's *Volendam*

Day 5: Sunday, October 1

This is another day at sea, cruising along the California coast.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

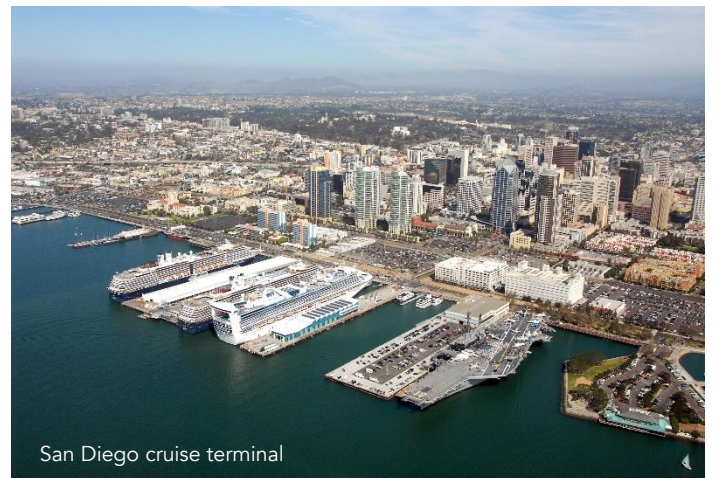
Accommodation: Holland America's *Volendam*

Day 6: Monday, October 2

The *Volendam* docks in **San Diego** and we disembark about 9 am. While we were relaxing on the ship, our driver brought the coach down from Vancouver to meet us. We visit 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. Afterwards, we start our northward journey and stay overnight in Santa Ana at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Enjoy the Manager's Reception with your fellow travellers.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Santa Ana



San Diego cruise terminal

Day 7: Tuesday, October 3

We board the **Amtrak train** near the hotel for a 7-hour journey through Los Angeles and along the California coast. This is one of Amtrak's scenic daylight routes as the train hugs the shoreline for many miles and provides great views of the vast Pacific Ocean. West of Santa Barbara, the freeway turns inland but the train continues along the coast, rounding Point Conception and Point Arguello on the Lompoc Peninsula. We get off the train in **San Luis Obispo** and stay overnight at the oceanfront Inn at Morro Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Inn at Morro Bay

Day 8: Wednesday, October 4

Today's treat is the incredible **Hearst Castle**, the vast mansion built on a mountaintop at San Simeon by art collector and publisher, William Randolph Hearst. La Casa Grande (the main house) contains 115 rooms, and there are three guesthouses with up to 18 rooms each. Construction started in 1919 and lasted 28 years at a cost of about \$10 million (equivalent to \$170 million today). Our tour includes the ground floor of La Casa Grande, the gardens, two pools, one guesthouse, and the Imax film *Hearst Castle - Building the Dream*. Nearby, at the beach at



Piedras Blancas, is a highly populated **elephant seal rookery**. A volunteer member of the Friends of the Elephant Seal tells about the remarkable lifecycle of this enormous sea creature. This afternoon, we travel through the farmlands of the Salinas Valley, nicknamed "America's Salad Bowl". We explore the **National Steinbeck Center**, an elaborate tribute to the author which features seven themed theatres with film clips and exhibits from *East of Eden*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and other books.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express Monterey

Day 9: Thursday, October 5

We visit famed **Monterey Bay Aquarium** which displays typical sea life of the California coast. The exhibits of jellyfish and seahorses are particularly fascinating. Afterwards, there is time to explore Cannery Row which has numerous shops, craft galleries, and restaurants.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express Monterey



Day 10: Friday, October 6

We board the **Roaring Camp Railroad** for a 1¼-hour excursion pulled by an 1890 steam locomotive through a grove of redwoods. A barbecue lunch is followed by some local entertainment. During the afternoon, we skirt San Francisco and stay overnight in Rohnert Park.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Oxford Suites

Day 11: Saturday, October 7

Nearby Santa Rosa was the home of **Peanuts creator, Charles Schulz**, for 40 years and we visit the museum devoted to him and his much-loved characters. The afternoon drive follows the scenic Redwoods Highway and one narrow winding section of the **Avenue of the Giants** where we can admire these tallest trees in the world. After a stop at the curious Carson Mansion, we stay overnight in Eureka.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: BW Humboldt Bay Inn

Day 12: Sunday, October 8

Highway 101 is the scenic byway that meanders along the **Oregon Coast** with spectacular views of the ocean. Stops are made at Coos Bay to shop for exquisite myrtlewood products and at Cape Perpetua Visitor Center. We have a two-night stay at Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites in Newport. Weather permitting, we gather around a bonfire with smores served.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites



Day 13: Monday, October 9

Happy Thanksgiving! There are many lighthouses along this coastline, and we tour one at Newport, **Yaquina Head Lighthouse**. Opened in 1873 and still active, it has recently undergone restoration to preserve its important history. Afterwards, we visit the fabulous Oregon Coast Aquarium. There is time for lunch and shopping at Newport's Embarcadero. Then we board the *MV Discovery* for a two-hour sea-life **cruise around Yaquina Bay**

featuring sea lions, seals, marine birds, some whales, and maybe a crab pot full of Dungeness crabs. Thanksgiving Dinner is planned this evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites

Day 14: Tuesday, October 10

We leave the Oregon Coast at Lincoln City and travel inland. In Portland, we board **Amtrak** for a scenic rail journey along the broad Columbia River, then through Olympia and Tacoma. Our coach meets us in Seattle. Our last night is in Lynnwood at the lovely Embassy Suites Hotel which features one-bedroom suites, indoor pool, a huge atrium, and complimentary drinks.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Lynnwood

Day 15: Wednesday, October 11

There are shopping stops at Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham and the Duty-Free Store, then we cross the border and travel home.


Meals included: Breakfast

MS VOLENDAM

The *MS Volendam* made her inaugural cruise in 1999 and she is a sister ship to the *Zaandam*. The *Volendam* carries only 1,440 passengers which is far more intimate than some of the mammoth cruise ships nowadays. Her gross tonnage is 65,000 and she is 236 metres long. Her 10 decks offer a 700-seat live entertainment theatre, five lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, whirlpool spa, and two swimming pools (one with a sliding dome cover). A \$2 million collection of art and artifacts is showcased throughout the ship. Although the *Volendam* is now 24 years old, she had a major refurbishment in 2019.

The *Volendam* offers 6 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 11 pm snack. The Pinnacle Grill and Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine 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.

A crew of over 600 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. The Wajang Theatre shows recent movies several times a day. Every evening, there is live entertainment on the main stage, plus musicians are playing in most lounges.

 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. There is lots of walking at the museums and historic sites if you want to see everything. Expect some steps getting on and off the trains. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. The coach 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 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 tour days. 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.

CRUISE NOTES

Importance of early booking: 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.” Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this one-way cruise and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing (late June). 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 *Volendam* is guaranteed and the stateroom number is usually confirmed a few weeks before sailing. Fares are quoted for categories Oceanview C, Verandah A, and Neptune Suite SA, but other categories may also be available.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Home pickups and transfer to Canada Place
- Stateroom for 5 nights on board *Volendam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Coach transportation for 10 days
- Hotel accommodation & taxes for 9 nights
- Locally-guided tour of San Francisco
- San Diego Maritime Museum
- Amtrak train from Santa Ana to San Luis Obispo
- Hearst Castle
- Imax film *Hearst Castle — Building the Dream*
- Elephant seal rookery guided tour
- National Steinbeck Center
- Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row
- Roaring Camp Railroad
- Charles Schulz Museum
- Avenue of the Giants
- Cape Perpetua Visitor Center
- Yaquina Head Lighthouse
- Marine Discovery cruise in Yaquina Bay
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Amtrak train from Portland to Seattle
- Gratuities for local guides and boat crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at ship and hotels
- **34 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 9 dinners

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due June 21, 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).

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 15 seats and \$150 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 21, 2023.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 23, 2023, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From May 24 to June 21, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From June 22 to July 21, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From July 22 to August 21, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 21, 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 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. This tour goes to a remote destination where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. Please do not tell us about your food preferences, as restaurants ignore these requests. 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.

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 are offered complimentary in Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Surrey, and Richmond. Transfer is to Canada Place cruise terminal and home from the coach route along Highways #1 and #17.

Photo Credits: Amtrak, Roaring Camp Railroad, Holland America Line (Golden Gate Bridge), Wikimedia (San Diego), Flickr (Hearst Castle), Monterey Bay Aquarium, Travel Oregon (Oregon Coast)

Experience Points: This tour earns 140 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 June 21, 2023.

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

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