

# ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA & CHILE CRUISE

January 2027

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**  
a world to experience



## 22 days on Holland America's Oosterdam cruising around Cape Horn

Wells Gray Tours only offers this special opportunity to visit the 7<sup>th</sup> continent every few years. There are so many highlights on this tour, but the most astounding will likely be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs of Antarctica. On board experts will present lectures about glaciers, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain what route-finding skills are used. Other memorable experiences include elegant Buenos Aires, awesome Iguazu Falls, the isolated Falkland Islands, the thrill of rounding Cape Horn, Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city; the Chilean Fjords, Darwin Channel, Glacier Alley, and the vast Amalia or Bruggen Glacier.

What an incredible journey!



CRUISE TOUR



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

### ► Departure from:

- ❶ **BC Interior:** January 27, 2027 - 30 days
- ❷ **Vancouver Island:** January 27, 2027 - 30 days
- ❸ **Lower Mainland:** January 28, 2027 - 29 days

### ► Fares per person

❶ from **\$19,945** double/twin, **\$26,705** single\*  
\*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

### ► Early Booking Bonus

**\$300** on first 10 seats; **\$150** on next 6.

### ► Earn 311 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

# DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

**I BC Interior:** We depart on Wednesday, January 27 and drive to Vancouver where we overnight before flying to Buenos Aires, Argentina, the following morning. We fly from Santiago, Chile, to Vancouver on Thursday, February 25 and drive home. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

**V Vancouver Island:** We depart on Wednesday, January 27 and travel to Vancouver where we overnight before flying to Buenos Aires, Argentina, the following morning. We fly from Santiago, Chile, to Vancouver on Thursday, February 25 and travel home.

**Departure from Victoria:** Depending on the number of people booked and coach size, home pickups may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Departure from Up-island:** There is an additional cost to fly to and from Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour. Transportation to and from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. While we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox Airport at the time of booking.

**L Lower Mainland:** We fly from Vancouver to Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Thursday, January 28. We fly from Santiago, Chile, to Vancouver on Thursday, February 25 and travel home.

**Departure from Vancouver:** Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

**Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack:** Transportation is provided by the BC Interior coach. Please refer to the BC Interior dates and pricing.

## FARES PER PERSON

Departure Point	Inside Stateroom Category I	Oceanview Stateroom Category C	Veranda Stateroom Category VA
<b>I BC Interior</b>	\$20,160 double/twin \$27,155 single	\$21,250 double/twin \$29,330 single	\$23,600 double/twin \$34,025 single
<b>V Vancouver Island</b>	\$20,360 double/twin \$27,355 single	\$21,450 double/twin \$29,530 single	\$23,800 double/twin \$34,225 single
<b>L Lower Mainland</b>	\$19,945 double/twin \$26,705 single	\$21,035 double/twin \$28,880 single	\$23,385 double/twin \$33,575 single

- Please add 0.2% GST.
- Other cruise categories may be available.
- There is an additional cost to join this tour from Nanaimo or Comox.
- Single seats are limited. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## ▶ Meals

**I 78 total:** 26 breakfasts, 26 lunches, 26 dinners

**V L 77 total:** 26 breakfasts, 25 lunches, 26 dinners

## ▶ Transportation

- Transfers between the Vancouver Airport & the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- Flights from Vancouver to Buenos Aires
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Buenos Aires airport to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to airport
- Flight from Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls & return
- Transportation in Iguazu Falls area
- Transfer from airport to cruise terminal
- 22 days cruising on *Oosterdam*
- Transfer from San Antonio terminal to Santiago
- Transfer to Santiago Airport
- Flights from Santiago to Vancouver

## ▶ Accommodation

**I V** 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

**L** 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes

- Stateroom for 22 nights on *Oosterdam*
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels & ship

## ▶ Guides, Gratuities, Fees & Taxes

- Guide in Iguazu Falls area
- Iguazu Falls National Park fee
- Cruise gratuities (US\$374 per person)
- Chile departure tax
- Gratuities for guides & drivers in South America

## ▶ Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Estancia Santa Susana with horse demonstration & asado
- Tren de las Cataratas train at Iguazu
- Entertainment & expert lecturers on *Oosterdam*
- Locally-guided tour of Montevideo, Uruguay
- Locally-guided tour of Tierra del Fuego Park
- End of the World Steam Train excursion one-way
- Locally-guided tour of Punta Arenas, Chile
- Maggiorino Borgatello Museum
- Noa Victoria Ship Museum
- Locally-guided tour near Puerto Montt, Chile
- Petrohué Waterfalls Park
- Casablanca winery tour & wine tasting
- Locally-guided tour of Santiago, Chile

*Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.*

## ▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour & cruise



Cape Horn

# ITINERARY

## Wednesday, January 27

BC Interior and Vancouver Island passengers travel to Vancouver Airport and stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel, conveniently located in the international terminal. Get acquainted with your travelling companions at a reception after arrival.

**Meals included:** Lunch (BC Interior)

**Accommodation:** Fairmont YVR (BC Interior & Vancouver Island)

## Thursday, January 28

Vancouver passengers meet us at the airport. Our flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina, leaves in the morning and there is a connection stop. There is a five-hour time change from Vancouver to Buenos Aires.

## Friday, January 29

The flight arrives in Buenos Aires and our bilingual guide, driver, and coach meet us at the international airport. **Buenos Aires**, the capital and largest city of Argentina, was founded in 1580 and now boasts a metropolitan population of 14 million. A sightseeing tour of Buenos Aires includes the La Boca neighborhood, Avenida 9 de Julio (widest boulevard in the world), Avenida Libertador, the Floralis Generalis sculpture, the Palermo neighborhood, its lakes and theme parks, and Recoleta Square. At the vast **Plaza de Mayo**, we admire the pink Casa Rosada, home of the Argentinian government. This is the square where Eva and Juan Perón addressed the crowds during their political rallies (memorialized by the musical *Evita*). We stay two nights at the 4-star Marriott Hotel with an excellent downtown location.

**Meals included:** Lunch

**Accommodation:** Marriott Hotel

## Saturday, January 30

We drive to **Santa Susana**, a beautiful 1000 hectare “estancia” and watch a Gaucho skills demonstration on horseback, listen to folk music, and enjoy an “asado”, an Argentine style barbecue, in the lovely gardens surrounding the house.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Marriott Hotel

## Sunday, January 31

Our morning flight to Iguazu takes less than two hours. The magnificent **Iguazu Falls** is one of the world’s most incredible natural sights and it is sure to take your breath away – in fact, it won the distinction of being voted one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World. Iguazu consists of 275 waterfalls spread along an escarpment nearly 3 km wide. The individual cascades range from 65 to 80 metres high, considerably taller than Niagara. The most stunning section is Garganta del Diablo (**Devil’s Throat**) which has water pouring into it from three sides. Walkways and bridges provide easy access to numerous viewpoints on the Argentinian side of the falls. A local guide accompanies us as we stroll from one panoramic vista to another.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Gran Melia Hotel Iguazu Falls

## Monday, February 1

We ride the Tren de las Cataratas (train) for a scenic trip through the lush rainforest to reach the iconic Iguazu Falls. We take a noon flight back to Buenos Aires, then we drive to the cruise terminal and board the **Oosterdam**. The rest of the day is free time to explore the ship and get acquainted with its many facilities. This evening is our first sumptuous dinner on board, followed by a lively “welcome” stage show. The *Oosterdam* stays docked in Buenos Aires tonight.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Tuesday, February 2

This is a free day to explore more sights in Buenos Aires, or relax on board.

**Option:** Tour the Argentinian winery Bodega Gamboa. Includes tastings, lunch, bilingual guide, and transportation between ship and winery. Cost is \$413 per person. Please book this no later than final payment.

At 5 pm, be sure you are out on deck or on your balcony as we cast off and sail out into the **Rio de la Plata**. This is the second largest drainage basin

in South America and the river is about 80 km wide at Buenos Aires.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (on ship), Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Wednesday, February 3

Overnight, we sail slowly across the Rio de la Plata and arrive at 8 am in **Montevideo**, the capital of Uruguay. The city was founded in 1726 and Uruguay was created a century later as a buffer between the competing Spanish of Argentina and Portuguese of Brazil. Today, Montevideo is one of the principal ports of South America with a population of 1.4 million. A sightseeing tour includes Plaza Independencia, Palacio Salvo, Solis Theatre, and the Legislative Palace. The *Oosterdam* stays docked in Montevideo until 7 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (on ship), Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Thursday, February 4

This is a leisurely day at sea, cruising off the coast of Argentina. While sailing downstream, enjoy the view of the ever-widening Rio de la Plata approaching the Atlantic Ocean. Because this is a specialty cruise, several experts are on board who are knowledgeable with geology, history, bird, and marine life, as well as Argentina, Antarctica, and Chile. Fascinating illustrated lectures are given during all the days at sea.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Friday, February 5

The *Oosterdam* docks next to downtown **Puerto Madryn**, a city of 95,000 people in Argentina's Patagonia district. The town was founded in 1865 when 150 Welsh immigrants on board the clipper *Mimosa* sailed into this sheltered harbour and named it Porth Madryn from their homeland. Conditions were difficult and the settlers had to dig irrigation ditches for their first crops. The *Oosterdam* is docked here from 10 am to 6 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (on ship), Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Saturday, February 6

A day at sea.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Sunday, February 7

The ship anchors in the harbour of Port Stanley, the largest settlement of the **Falkland Islands**, at 8 am and we ride on tenders to go ashore. The Falklands consist of some 200 barren and rugged islands with a population of less than 3,000 people, of which Port Stanley accounts for over half. The islands have been a British dependency since 1833, although Argentina also claims sovereignty, and this sparked the 1982 skirmish known as the Falklands War. Stroll the attractive waterfront, visit the museum, and buy souvenirs that are surprisingly reasonably priced in British pounds. The *Oosterdam* departs at 5 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (on ship), Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Monday, February 8

This is a day at sea cruising south to Antarctica.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Tuesday, February 9,

## Wednesday, February 10,

## Thursday, February 11,

## Friday, February 12, and

## Saturday, February 13

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up amid the spectacular beauty of **Antarctica**. It is the fifth largest of the Earth's seven continents, covering 14 million square kilometres. All but 2.4% is covered by ice and, even along the rugged coastline, there are few areas of exposed land or beaches. Seven nations claim territory in Antarctica. Since 1961, the continent has been administered cooperatively under the Antarctic Treaty, an international agreement to preserve it for peaceful scientific study. The climate can be summarized as "cold" – the world record low temperature was minus 195 degrees Celsius! The areas we visit along the coast are warm by comparison and, during this late summer cruise, temperatures should be about freezing. Holland America Line pioneered cruise ship travel in Antarctica and this is a unique opportunity to explore this seldom-visited continent. Please note that there are no landings during this Antarctica cruise as ships with over 500 passengers are not permitted to do shore

excursions. The ice pilot has planned the ideal route for optimum sightseeing in Antarctica, but weather, ocean and ice conditions, and visibility are likely to change the course several times. During our four days (February 10 to 13) of slow cruising along the awesome coastline of Antarctica, we may see **Elephant Island**, the Endurance Glacier, **Esperanza Station** (an Argentina research facility), Paulet Island, Half Moon Island, and Deception Island. Half a day is devoted to cruising through a wonderland of icebergs and narrow waterways in the Neumayer and Lemaire Channels. During the passage of “**Iceberg Alley**”, we have the thrilling experience of sailing close to immense floating ice sheets that are taller than the ship and up to six km around. On the third day, the *Oosterdam* may pick up some staff from **Palmer Station** who give a talk about living year-round in this isolated place. Late on February 13, the ship starts the northward journey across **Drake Passage** and it takes 1½ days before South America is visible on the horizon.

**Meals included each day:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Sunday, February 14

Cruising north across Drake Passage.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Monday, February 15

The next highlight is storied **Cape Horn** at the south tip of South America. It was discovered in 1616 by the Dutch navigator, Willem Schouten, who named it for his Netherlands birthplace, Hoorn. For centuries, the cape was legendary in the annals of world explorers for its strong currents, high winds, and rocky hazards for sailing ships. Cape Horn is actually on one of the Wollaston Islands. If conditions permit, the *Oosterdam* may sail close enough to spot the albatross monument at the actual tip.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Tuesday, February 16

The *Oosterdam* calls at **Ushuaia**, Argentina, between 9 am and 3 pm. It is the world’s southernmost city at Latitude 55 south and is

located on **Tierra del Fuego**. Our included tour drives into Tierra del Fuego National Park, affording spectacular views of the mountains, forests, and waterfalls near the tip of South America. At Lago Roca and Bahía Lapataia where the Pan-American Highway ends, there are short walks to appreciate the different species of native forest and fauna. We ride the **End of the World Steam Train** back to Ushuaia if availability and schedule permits. After the ship’s departure, we enter Chile and some awesome scenery awaits as we cruise past the **Italia, Francia, Alemania**, and **Romanche Glaciers** which tumble from rugged mountains right to tidewater. We follow the **Beagle Channel**, named for Charles Darwin’s ship in 1839, and Cockburn Channel through a myriad of islands off Tierra del Fuego.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Wednesday, February 17

Our first port of call in Chile is **Punta Arenas**, a city of 125,000 on the Strait of Magellan. We arrive at 10 am and depart at 10 pm. The Plaza de Armas Square is dominated by the Hernando de Magallanes Monument, commemorating the discovery of this important waterway in 1520. We start with a two-hour city tour visiting Cerro Mirador to enjoy a panoramic view of the city and the Strait, followed by Muñoz Gamero Square, the Plaza de Armas, Cerro de la Cruz, and monuments along Bulnes Avenue. The Maggiorino Borgatello Museum has an excellent collection of flora and fauna, and relics of Patagonian Indian tribes. The Noa Victoria Ship Museum contains a reproduction of Magellan’s ship.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (on tour), Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Thursday, February 18

We sail through the western half of the **Strait of Magellan**, past soaring peaks, and emerge into the Pacific Ocean at the pinnacles of Cabo Pilar. Next, we cruise along the natural Canal Sarmiento, then to the head of a fjord where the vast **Amalia or Bruggen Glacier** plunges into the ocean. It is a finger of the Southern Patagonia Icefield and is a kilometre wide as seen from the *Oosterdam*. The glacier is noted for its incredible blue colour.

Chunks of ice periodically break off its 40-metre high face and crash into the sea.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Friday, February 19

The *Oosterdam* sails through **Darwin Channel** with the massive peaks of the Andes rising to the east. Among these many islands, you may see albatross, penguins, sea lions, and dolphins. These fjords of Chile rival the famous fjords of Norway and Alaska.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Saturday, February 20

The *Oosterdam* enters the **Aisen Fjord** and stops for the day at the isolated town of Puerto Chacabuco which has a population of only 2,000 people. This is a tender port. The ship arrives at 7 am and leaves at 3 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Sunday, February 21

We cruise through Reloncavi Sound to reach our last port, **Puerto Montt**. The city has an attractive setting at the gateway to Chile's lakes district. After taking tenders ashore, our private tour travels along Lago Llanquihue to the imposing **Osorno Volcano** which last erupted in 1869. It soars to an altitude of 2,650 metres and its upper slopes are covered with glaciers. Other stops are **Petrohué Waterfalls**, created by lava from the volcano, and gorgeous Lago Todos los Santos, surrounded by the peaks of the Andes. These sights are all protected within Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park. We return to Puerto Montt and the ship sails at 5 pm.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch (on tour), Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Monday, February 22

Enjoy your last day at sea!

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** *Oosterdam*

## Tuesday, February 23

We dock at **San Antonio** and bid farewell to the *Oosterdam*. A coach meets us and, with a local guide, we head inland from the Pacific Coast. Lunch, a winery tour, and wine tasting are included in the pastoral **Casablanca Valley**, then we drive into Santiago.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Wyndham Garden Kennedy

## Wednesday, February 24

The morning is leisure time. **Santiago** was established in 1541 by the Spanish and became the capital in 1818 when Chile achieved independence. Its population is now five million. An afternoon tour includes the main square, the Presidential Palace, the cathedral, and Barrio Bellavista, one of the classic neighborhoods of Providencia. The tour ends in Mercado Central, an excellent place for some final shopping. A "Farewell to South America" dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about all our adventures, probably highlighted by Antarctica and rounding Cape Horn. Then we go to the airport and board our overnight flight.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

## Thursday, February 25

We change planes and continue to Vancouver, then we travel home.

## ACTIVITY LEVEL



**High Activity:** You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground or sidewalks, walk on docks which may have steep ramps at low tide; and stand for prolonged periods. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted and can handle your own luggage in airports, cruise terminals, and at hotels where luggage handling may not be available. Expect higher activity during the shore excursions, boarding ship's tenders, and pre-cruise and post-cruise tours; the days on board the ship could be rated as Activity Level 2.

This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Walking poles are fine. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost. 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. 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.

**Please note:** Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to [sign a declaration](#) that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



### Tour Size 30

This tour is limited to 30 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

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## CRUISE TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONTINENT

Wells Gray Tours offers a cruise to Antarctica every two to three years. This is a very special opportunity to visit the 7<sup>th</sup> continent and certainly has bragging rights because probably not many of your friends have been there. There are so many highlights on this tour, but the most memorable will likely be the five days cruising among the gigantic icebergs along the Antarctica coast. It is hard to imagine waking up one morning and looking out to see an iceberg longer and higher than the *Oosterdam*. Antarctica experts are on board to present lectures about glaciology, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain what route-finding skills are used.

Other memorable experiences are strolling the elegant streets of Buenos Aires; standing at the rim of awesome Iguazu Falls, 3 km wide and 80 metres high; exploring the remote Falkland Islands; rounding legendary Cape Horn; sailing through the storied Strait of Magellan following sea captains of past centuries; Tierra del Fuego National Park; Ushuaia, world's southernmost city; cruising past tumbling glaciers in the Chilean Fjords and Darwin Channel; and hearing the thunder of falling ice at the vast Amalia or Bruggen Glacier.

This thrilling tour and cruise should be on everyone's bucket list. It will also qualify you for two more continents towards being honoured by Wells Gray Tours' 7 Continents Trophy.



*Oosterdam* in Beagle Channel

## **MS OOSTERDAM**

### [Learn more](#)

Holland America's *MS Oosterdam* made her inaugural cruise in 2003. She was the second of four Vista-class ships launched, preceded by *Zuiderdam* in 2002 and followed by *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. *Oosterdam'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). *Oosterdam* 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 beds or a queen-size bed, 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.

# CRUISE & TOUR NOTES

**Documentation:** A passport is required with an expiry date after you return to Canada. A visa is not required for a Canadian to enter Argentina, Uruguay, Falkland Islands or Chile.

**A very unique voyage:** This cruise features 13 days at sea (including 7 days of scenic cruising) and 8 days visiting ports in Argentina, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, and Chile. The voyage is most likely to appeal to people who want to learn about their destinations and experience awesome scenery. Antarctica and South America experts are on board to present lectures and they are so popular that you should be in the theatre early to get a seat. During the four days in Antarctica, you should be in the Crow's Nest Lounge by 5 am to secure a window seat, although many people bring winter coats, sweaters, toques, and gloves, and spend many hours on deck enthralled with the passing icy spectacles. Even though February is late summer in Antarctica, the weather is still cool. **The ship does not dock in Antarctica and you do not set foot on land or ice. Regulations about visiting Antarctica are very strict and only small expedition ships are allowed to put guests ashore, 100 at a time.** The wildlife, including hundreds of penguins, can be seen from the ship, but bring along some binoculars for even better viewing.

**Shore excursions included:** On most cruises, shore excursions are a major additional expense during your holiday. For this trip, Wells Gray has arranged private guided tours at Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Puerto Montt, and Santiago. Gratuities to drivers and guides are also included.

**Please book early:** Cruises are very popular nowadays. Ships are filling up faster and earlier than they once did, so waiting too long to book usually means "Sorry, wait until another year." Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this cruise and they are normally held until 4 months before sailing (late September 2026). However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship or even a category fills, and Antarctica cruises always sell out due to the limited number of departures. This often occurs on our group cruises, then we must turn away disappointed customers, even though seats are available on the motorcoach. Please don't delay booking this tour.

**Currency & expenses:** As this tour has been planned and priced a year before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations between the Canadian and US dollars 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 US dollar is preferred in Argentina and Uruguay, although each has its own currency. The Chilean peso is used in Chile and US dollars are not widely accepted; a Canadian dollar is worth about 625 pesos. You should order US dollars or Chilean pesos from your bank 1-2 weeks before departure, or plan to use ATMs. The Falkland Islands use their own pound which is at par with the British pound; there are no ATMs there, so 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).

**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 which will be known in April and book your own flight which allows seat selection. Please refer to our [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information on taking the "No Flight" option.

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

**Flight delays or cancellations:** In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

**Single travellers:** Only 8 single seats are available. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.

**Gratuities** are included for the local guides and coach drivers in South America. If you buy a shore excursion on the ship or at the dock, bring cash for gratuities. The standard crew gratuities on board 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.

**Food Allergies:** You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. During the pre-cruise and post-cruise touring and the included shore excursions, some restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. Most food allergies can be handled at meals on the ship, but you may have to order 24 hours in advance. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

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## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due September 24, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level 3 [Declaration](#), and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

**Early Booking Bonus:** Receive a \$300 discount on the first 10 seats and \$150 on the next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 24, 2026.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 11, 2026, cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From September 12 to September 24, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From September 25 to November 13, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 14 to December 11, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 11, there is no refund.

**Itinerary and Fare Changes:** Our many suppliers may notify us 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 tour component 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, currency exchange rates, 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.

**Photo Credits:** Roland Neave (Antarctica), tour director Lisa (Iguazu Falls), Wikimedia (Cape Horn), and Holland America Line (*Oosterdam* in Beagle Channel).

**Experience Points or E-points:** This tour earns 311 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 24, 2026.

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