

CARIBBEAN CRUISE

January 2027

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Half Moon Cay

On Holland America's *Nieuw Amsterdam*

By mid-January, picture yourself leaving winter behind in favour of warm breezes, blue skies, and Caribbean sunshine. This 12-day cruise is a perfect escape, combining relaxing days at sea with engaging port visits to Half Moon Cay, Aruba, Cartagena, Colón, Costa Rica, and the Cayman Islands. A true highlight is cruising halfway through the iconic Panama Canal to Gatun Lake, offering a memorable look at this remarkable engineering achievement before returning the same way. You'll sail aboard the elegant *Nieuw Amsterdam*, a comfortable mid-sized ship with a welcoming atmosphere and a range of stateroom options. Your journey begins in Fort Lauderdale with a two-night oceanfront stay, setting the stage for a wonderful Caribbean holiday.



CRUISE TOUR



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- 📍 **BC Interior:** January 14, 2027 - 16 days
- 📍 **Vancouver Island:** January 14, 2027 - 16 days
- 📍 **Lower Mainland:** January 14, 2027 - 16 days

► Fares per person

- 📍 from **\$6,970** double/twin, **\$9,855** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

► Early Booking Bonus

\$300 on first 12 seats; **\$150** on next 8.

► Earn 135 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 Thursday, January 14 and fly from Kelowna to Calgary where we overnight before flying to Fort Lauderdale the following morning. We fly from Fort Lauderdale to Kelowna on Friday, January 29 and drive home. Transportation is provided from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.
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- V Vancouver Island:** We depart on Thursday, January 14 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Calgary where we overnight before flying to Fort Lauderdale the following morning. We fly from Fort Lauderdale to Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox on Friday, January 29.
- 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:** 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.
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- L Lower Mainland:** We depart on Thursday, January 14 and fly from Vancouver or Abbotsford to Calgary where we overnight before flying to Fort Lauderdale the following morning. We fly from Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver or Abbotsford on Friday, January 29.
- 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:** No transportation is provided to and from Abbotsford Airport. Please refer to the BC Interior pricing below.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Inside Stateroom Category I	Oceanview Stateroom Category C	Veranda Stateroom Category VA
I	BC Interior	\$6,970 double/twin \$9,855 single	\$7,855 double/twin \$11,615 single	\$8,375 double/twin \$12,660 single
V	Vancouver Island	\$7,070 double/twin \$9,955 single	\$7,955 double/twin \$11,715 single	\$8,475 double/twin \$12,760 single
L	Lower Mainland	\$7,010 double/twin \$9,895 single	\$7,895 double/twin \$11,655 single	\$8,415 double/twin \$12,700 single

- Please add 0.2% GST.
- Please inquire for triple fares and other cruise categories.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- **39 total:** 14 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 13 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transfers between the Kelowna, Vancouver, or Victoria Airport & the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- Flight via Calgary to Fort Lauderdale & return
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Fort Lauderdale Airport to hotel & from hotel to cruise terminal
- Coach transportation in Fort Lauderdale Jan 29
- 12 days cruising on *Nieuw Amsterdam*

▶ Accommodation

- 3 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 12 days & nights on *Nieuw Amsterdam*
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Luggage handling at Florida hotel & ship

▶ Key Highlights

- Ports of call:
 - ▶ Half Moon Cay, Bahamas
 - ▶ Oranjestad, Aruba
 - ▶ Cartagena, Colombia
 - ▶ Colón, Panama
 - ▶ Puerto Limón, Costa Rica
 - ▶ Grand Cayman
- Partial Panama Canal Crossing
- Tour of Stranahan House (time permitting)

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

▶ Guides, Gratuities, Fees & Taxes

- Cruise gratuities
- Gratuities for Florida drivers

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director throughout tour & cruise

Activity Level 2



Moderate Activity: As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without

assistance. You can stand for prolonged periods and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Please be aware that on tours with flights and cruises you must handle your own luggage and walk longer distances in airports and cruise terminals. You may need to handle your own luggage at the hotels if luggage service is not available.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. This tour is not appropriate for people who require the use of a walker. Choose shore excursions at the cruise ports based on your abilities. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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 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 Size 40

This tour can accommodate 40 participants.



ITINERARY

Thursday, January 14

We fly to Calgary and stay overnight at the Marriott Hotel, conveniently located in the airport terminal. Meet your fellow travellers during a welcome dinner.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Marriott Hotel YYC

Friday, January 15

Our morning flight is non-stop from Calgary to **Fort Lauderdale**. We stay two nights at the Embassy Suites in Deerfield which has a wonderful location next to the beach. All units have a living room and separate bedroom. Amenities include a pool, whirlpool, restaurant, and lounge.

Note: We have scheduled two nights and 1½ days in Fort Lauderdale to avoid the risk of a flight delay which could cause you to miss the ship departure.

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Deerfield Beach

Saturday, January 16

Start the day with the Embassy Suites' extensive breakfast buffet. This is a free day to relax around the hotel, stroll the beach or walk into the village for some shopping. Tonight, join your fellow travellers for a reception with wine, beer, and cocktails.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Embassy Suites Deerfield Beach

Sunday, January 17

The morning is leisure time. A transfer is provided to the Port Everglades cruise terminal. We board the **Nieuw Amsterdam** in early afternoon and enjoy an embarkation buffet lunch. The afternoon is free time to explore the ship and get settled into your stateroom. We sail out of Port Everglades at 4 pm with a festive "Farewell to Florida" deck party. After a sumptuous dinner, enjoy a lively stage show or music in many smaller lounges.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Monday, January 18

The *Nieuw Amsterdam* anchors at **Half Moon Cay**, Holland America's private island in the Bahamas, and we ride tenders ashore. There are plenty of recreational activities here, or you can laze on the long sandy beach. We stay here from 8 am to 5 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Tuesday, January 19 & Wednesday, January 20

During these two days at sea, we sail southeast past Cuba. 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. Reserve a treatment at the spa. Enjoy the entertainment at the Lincoln Stage or BB King's Blues Club. Get some advice on a workout plan at the fitness centre. Side up to the wine tasting bar and sample wines from around the world. There may be a talk offered at Explorations Central. The choices are many. The culinary experiences on board are amazing. Every meal is a treat and the menu changes daily.

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

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Thursday, January 21

We arrive at 8 am at **Oranjestad, Aruba**, a small island just off the coast of Venezuela. One of the Lesser Antilles, Aruba was granted home rule by the Netherlands in 1986 and became fully independent in 1996. The island has a population of about 70,000, but is only 30 km long and 8 km wide. Together with Bonaire and Curaçao, Aruba forms a group referred to as the ABC islands. Collectively, Aruba and the other Dutch islands in the Caribbean are often called the Dutch Caribbean. Driving and walking tours of Oranjestad can be purchased on the ship or on shore. The city is noted for its Dutch Colonial

architecture and the Royal Plaza outdoor shopping mall. The ship departs at 5 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Friday, January 22

Enjoy another day at sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Saturday, January 23

The *Nieuw Amsterdam* docks at **Cartagena** in Colombia for a short visit from 7 am to 1 pm.

Founded in 1533 by the Spanish, it rivalled Mexico City for commercial importance in the New World by the 17th century. The Fortress of San Felipe on the mainland guarded the wealth of the Spanish Main whereas the modern city is on an island accessed by a causeway. Tours can be purchased featuring historic Cartagena, colonial architecture, impressive fortifications, ornate mansions, a cup of delicious Colombian coffee, the Palace of Inquisition, and the Gold Museum.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Sunday, January 24

Geographically, **Panama** is a curious country which connects two continents and has a length of 600 km, but a width of just 50 km between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea at its narrowest. Panama has a population of 3.3 million people, mostly concentrated near the Panama Canal. Panama City, the capital and largest in the country, was founded in 1519 by the Spanish and has grown into a modern and bustling city. One of the highlights of our cruise is today's halfway transit of the remarkable **Panama Canal**. Opened in 1914, after nine years of construction, it still ranks as one of the world's greatest engineering achievements with 134 million cubic metres of earth moved and a cost of \$336 million. Currently about 14,000 ships per year (38 per day) pass through the canal and pay tolls of about \$450 million. Cruise ships pay a toll based on berths, so Holland America will pay about \$290,000 for the *Nieuw Amsterdam's* passage. We go halfway into the Canal, so the ship is lifted by three locks and enters Gatun Lake, then returns the same way into the Caribbean. A Panama Canal expert is on board to explain its history and technical operations. At

5 pm, we dock at **Colón**, the city near the north entrance to the Canal, and stay until 9 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Monday, January 25

We arrive in **Costa Rica**, docking in its only Caribbean port, Puerto Limón, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. The country is known for its natural beauty, many parks, and exotic wildlife. San Jose, the capital, is about 150 km away on a high interior plateau. Limón is the second largest city with a population of 55,000 people. Christopher Columbus visited this area in 1502. The city was founded in 1854 and grew after a railroad was built to the interior to carry exports, especially coffee, to the port.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Tuesday, January 26

During a day at sea, we sail north to the Cayman Islands. If you haven't dined in all the specialty restaurants, we suggest you reserve the Pinnacle Grill, Canaletto, Tamarind or Morimoto Restaurants for a superb dinner (extra cost).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Wednesday, January 27

We arrive at **Grand Cayman Island** at 7 am and take a short tender ride from the ship into George Town, the capital. The flat coral island is only 35 km long and best known for its turtle farms, Seven Mile Beach, and liberal banking laws. Many tourists enjoy mailing a letter from the tiny post office of Hell. The *Nieuw Amsterdam* departs at 4 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Thursday, January 28

This is another relaxing day at sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Friday, January 29

We dock in **Fort Lauderdale** and say goodbye to *Nieuw Amsterdam*. If time permits, there is a stop at the historic Stranahan House on the way to the airport. We fly home from Fort Lauderdale via Calgary. Arrival home will be very late this evening or very early in the morning January 30.

Meals included: Breakfast



MS NIEUW AMSTERDAM

[Learn More](#)

Holland America's *MS Nieuw Amsterdam* made her inaugural cruise in 2010 and was last refurbished in December 2023. Carrying 2,100 passengers, she is Holland America's second largest design, but still feels intimate. *Nieuw Amsterdam's* gross tonnage is 86,000 and she is 312 metres long. Her 11 decks feature a 1,000-seat live entertainment theatre, nine lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie lounge, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). *Nieuw Amsterdam* has 14 elevators and four of them are glass with panoramic views. A \$2 million collection of art and artifacts is showcased throughout the ship.

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, Canaletto, Tamarind, and Morimoto restaurants 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 900 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.

TOUR & CRUISE 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 until next year.” Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this cruise and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing (mid-October 2026). 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.

Dinner reservations: The *Nieuw Amsterdam* 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 three specialty restaurants take reservations and you should do this early in the voyage or online up to 3 months before sailing.

Shore excursions: All your shore excursions should be booked when they become available on [Holland America's website](#), usually three months prior to the cruise. The popular shore excursions fill up early (such as those mentioned in the itinerary), so booking on board may be too late.

Included lunches: The above itinerary shows an included lunch on every cruise day. These lunches are on the ship, so if you book a shore excursion, you may miss an included lunch if you are not back on board at lunchtime. There is no compensation for missed lunches.

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 \$1000 and book your own flight which allows seat selection. Please see our [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information on the “No Flight” option.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights to and from Fort Lauderdale. First 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.

Flight routing: In past years, this tour has driven to Seattle and taken the Alaska Airlines flight to Fort Lauderdale. Since many customers want to minimize their time in the US nowadays, the 2027 tour is flying via Calgary to and from Fort Lauderdale. That and Miami are the major cruise ports for the Caribbean, so it is still necessary to stay two nights before embarking.

Food Allergies on cruises: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 7, 2026. 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 (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$300 discount on the first 12 seats and \$150 on the next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 7, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 8, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From September 9 to October 7, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From October 8 to November 6, the cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. From November 7 to December 7, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After December 7, 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.

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. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage. Please do not travel to the USA without medical insurance as a minimum.

Photo Credits: Wikimedia (*MS Nieuw Amsterdam*) and Holland America Line (all others).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 135 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 October 7, 2026.

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

KAMLOOPS (Head Office) 250 Lansdowne St. Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7 250-374-0831	KELOWNA 2575 Richter St. Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1 250-762-3435	VERNON 3206 35th St. Vernon, BC V1T 6B7 250-545-9197	PENTICTON 159 Wade Ave E Penticton, BC V2A 8B6 250-493-1255	VICTORIA 102-736 Broughton St. Victoria, BC V8W 1E1 250-590-7889
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