



## **Holland America Line Offers More Ways to Experience the Panama Canal in 2017–18 with Eight Ships and 35 Cruises**

August 1, 2017

*Man-made wonder to welcome a record number of Holland America guests this season*

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 1, 2017 — Travelers who want to transit the lakes and locks of the Panama Canal will have eight Holland America Line ships and 19 cruises to choose from between fall 2017 through spring 2018. In addition to the full transits, *ms Zuiderdam* will offer two Southern Caribbean & Panama Canal Sunfarer itineraries that feature a partial transit through the Panama Canal.

With transits ranging from 14 to 23 days, Holland America Line provides guests more ways to experience the famous waterway than any other premium cruise line. During the 2017–18 season, Holland America Line's full and partial transits will carry more than 400,500 guests through the Central American man-made marvel.

"The Panama Canal is among the greatest engineering feats of our time, and its easy access from a U.S. home port makes it one of the most popular longer itineraries we feature," said Orlando Ashford, president of Holland America Line. "There's no better way to become more immersed in the world than by experiencing something like the Panama Canal, where history comes to life as you witness up close what it took to connect these two oceans. Everyone should transit the Panama Canal at least once in their lifetime."

### **See Two Oceans on Full Panama Canal Transit**

From September 2017 through May 2018, *ms Amsterdam*, *ms Eurodam*, *ms Maasdam*, *ms Nieuw Amsterdam*, *ms Oosterdam*, *ms Westerdam* and *ms Zaandam* will make 19 transits between the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean from five departure cities. Guests can set sail from Boston, Mass.; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; San Diego and San Francisco, California; and Vancouver, British Columbia. Cruise rates start at \$1,199.

In addition to visiting the Panama Canal, the 14- to 23-day cruises include a variety of port calls along the way. On the full transits the guests will visit destinations in Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the Caribbean. Additionally, most sailings visit Half Moon Cay, Holland America Line's award-winning private Bahamian island known for its pristine beaches, exciting shore excursions, exclusive beach cabanas and child-friendly activities.

### **Aruba, Bahamas and the Panama Canal on Partial Transits**

In addition to the full transits, *Zuiderdam* will make sixteen partial transits between November 2017 and April 2018. The 10- and 11-day Southern Caribbean & Panama Canal Sunfarer itineraries include an exploration of the Canal's Gatún Lake and a combination of Southern Caribbean calls in Aruba, Bonaire, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Panama and Half Moon Cay. Cruise rates start at \$1,099.

## Explorations Central (EXC) Brings Panamanian Culture on Board

Throughout the voyages, EXC programming brings Panama's local traditions, culinary tastes and cultural experiences to life on board. Through EXC Encounters, guests can practice their language skills, find out about local customs, or enjoy the simple pleasure of storytelling. Those who want to learn more can attend an EXC Talk where a Panama Canal expert recounts the history and drama of constructing the famous waterway. A Panamanian market on the Lido Deck is a highlight of the voyage where guests can indulge in regional delicacies such as empanadas, arroz con pollo, *ropa vieja* and *pastel de tres leches*.

The EXC Team will provide further customized guidance for the port calls, and online EXC Port Planners in partnership with AFAR Media offer exclusive tips and information for each destination. The in-stateroom EXC Channel will feature a selection of curated films, documentaries and TV shows exploring destinations on the ship's itinerary.

**For more information**, contact a travel professional, call 1-877-SAIL HAL (1-877-724-5425) or visit [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com).

**Editor's note:** Photos are available here: <https://www.cruiseimagelibrary.com/c/tp0fsrx2>.

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Find Holland America Line on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and the [Holland America Blog](#). Access all social media outlets via the [Online Communities](#) quick link on the home page at [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com).

### About Holland America Line [a division of Carnival Corporation and plc (NYSE: CCL and CUK)]

Holland America Line's fleet of 14 ships offers more than 500 cruises to more than 400 ports in 98 countries, territories or dependencies around the world. From shorter getaways to 113-day itineraries, the company's cruises visit all seven continents with highlights including Antarctica explorations, South America circumnavigations and exotic Australia/New Zealand and Asia voyages; four annual Grand Voyages; and popular sailings to the Caribbean, Cuba, Alaska, Mexico, Canada & New England, Bermuda, Europe and the Panama Canal. The line welcomed *ms Koningsdam* in 2016 and has a second Pinnacle-class ship, *ms Nieuw Statendam*, is to be delivered in December 2018. A third Pinnacle-class ship, due for delivery in 2021, recently was announced.

The company is undergoing \$300 million in brand enhancements to secure its position as the leader in premium cruising. Fleetwide, the ships feature innovative initiatives and a diverse range of enriching experiences focused on destination immersion and personalized travel. Guests can expand their knowledge through an exclusive partnership with O, *The Oprah Magazine*; during an America's Test Kitchen show; at Explorations Café presented by The New York Times; and by taking a Digital Workshop powered by Windows. Outstanding entertainment fills each evening at venues including Lincoln Center Stage, Billboard Onboard and B.B. King's Blues Club. The dining experience can be savored at a variety of restaurants with menus that feature selections from Holland America Line's esteemed Culinary Council that comprises world-famous chefs who design dishes exclusively for our guests.

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