



NORTH TO ALASKA

A Journey to Alaska, the Great Land by Train & Dutch Ocean Liner with the 'Empire Builder' and Holland America's ms Zuiderdam.

September 12 - September 28, 2011 17-days from \$2,895

One of the comments we often hear about Alaska cruises is that the overall vacation is a bit too hectic, with long flights into Vancouver, without enough time in Vancouver, then all too short a cruise before fooling with airports all over again. With this in mind, we have designed a relaxing, stylish and leisurely holiday to Alaska, the Great Land, at the perfect time of the year that features little or no airports, a comfortable pace, plenty of time to enjoy both Seattle and Vancouver and travel aboard some of the most famous trains in the country like the Empire Builder, the California Zephyr or the Coast Starlight.

We begin with FREE train travel from ANY US city or town to Seattle aboard the Empire Builder train (Guests living in the Southwest and California/Nevada enjoy travel aboard the famed Coast Starlight to Seattle). In fact, when booked early, guests enjoy free round-trip travel by train, that is, to Seattle and the start of the trip and then home from San Diego after the cruise! In Seattle, there is a superb hotel (with all taxes and breakfast included) and plenty of free time for exploring the Emerald City before we depart for Vancouver by train. Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and our guests have two days to enjoy it all along with a city tour that includes Queen Elizabeth Park.

Saving the best for last; after our time in Vancouver, we board Holland America's ms Zuiderdam, an acclaimed moderate sized ship for the stunningly beautiful Inside Passage cruise, a visual feast that includes awesome Glacier Bay National Park. After our Alaska cruise, we enjoy another day in Vancouver with time to see what we were not able to visit seven days earlier. Our final port call is a very rare visit to scenic Astoria, Oregon, on the mouth of the Columbia River before two blissful days sailing down the West Coast with time to relax before our arrival in San Diego. At San Diego, guests may extend their stay in Southern California or travel home aboard such well known trains at the 'Southwest Chief' or 'Sunset Limited'. All Aboard!

Holiday Features

- ✦ **Free train travel from any US city to Seattle** and the start of the tour utilizing the famed Empire Builder or Coast Starlight trains. Guests may even stopover at no additional cost or arrive in the Pacific Northwest earlier if they like. Train travel home from San Diego is included to any US point when booked early.
- ✦ **Two-night hotel stay in Seattle** at the superb Warwick Hotel in the heart of downtown along with plenty of free time in this beautiful city.
- ✦ **Seattle to Vancouver passage aboard the 'Talgo' train**, a scenic ride along the Puget Sound.
- ✦ **One-night stay in Vancouver** at the wonderfully located Hyatt Regency Hotel.
- ✦ **Complete Vancouver sightseeing tour** including a visit to Queen Elizabeth Park and Afternoon Tea overlooking English Bay.
- ✦ **12-night Alaska Inside Passage cruise** from Vancouver to San Diego aboard the Holland America liner ms Zuiderdam visiting Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay National Park, and Ketchikan, Alaska, and Astoria Oregon.
- ✦ **Fully hosted by professional tour manager** with special parties & events for our guests both aboard ship and 'ashore'.
- ✦ **FREE train travel home** to any US city from San Diego when booked early!
- ✦ **Overnight First Class hotel stay in San Diego.** Guests can extend their stay if they choose taking advantage of our great hotel rates.
- ✦ **All transfers from the start of the tour** in Seattle until the final day in San Diego.



Alaska's Majestic Glacier Bay



*White Pass & Yukon Railroad.
Skagway Alaska*

Holland America Lines' Superlative ms Zuiderdam



The ms Zuiderdam began her inaugural season with Holland America Line in 2002. She embraces the latest industry and environmental technologies such as her use of a diesel-electric power plant for optimal energy efficiency and an Azipod propulsion system.

At the heart of the ms Zuiderdam, suspended in a three-story atrium, a Waterford Crystal Seahorse sets the mood for exquisite pieces of art to be seen throughout this elegant ship. Other notable pieces include a painting of Queen Beatrix by pop culture artist and icon, Andy Warhol, medallions by Frank Lloyd Wright, cast aluminum elevator doors inspired by the art deco work of the New York Chrysler Building, and a massive floral painting by Charles Ben. You will also discover a large collection of antiques and centuries-old paintings throughout the ship.

CONDENSED DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Chicago Union Station

Guests depart Chicago today aboard the Empire Builder bound for Seattle via Glacier National Park.

Day 2: Empire Builder

Today the train travels through the Continental Divide and ascends into Glacier National Park as it continues its westbound journey to Seattle. Overnight is spent onboard.

Day 3: Seattle Washington

Morning sightseeing, afternoon at leisure, overnight in Seattle at the Warwick Hotel.

Day 4: Seattle Washington

A full day to explore the 'Emerald' City.

Day 5: Vancouver British Columbia

We depart the hotel this morning and travel aboard the sleek European designed Talgo train north to Vancouver, a pretty 3.5 hour ride along the Puget Sound and the best way to travel between these two cities. Arriving in Vancouver at noon, we have a city sightseeing tour of this extraordinary city followed by Afternoon Tea overlooking English Bay before our arrival at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the heart of downtown.

Day 6: ms Zuiderdam

All morning to sleep in or further sightsee in Vancouver since we do not leave the hotel for the pier until 2pm. At 5pm, Zuiderdam sets sail for Alaska, the Great Land.

Cruise Itinerary:

Day 7: Inside Passage

The fabled Inside Passage is one of the most scenic sea-lanes in the world, and one of the few where deep-draft vessels can sail close to steep mountain walls. The scenery is unbelievable, with forests in a hundred shades of green, tumbling turquoise glaciers, and evocative towns loaded with history.



Go By Train

Coach train travel is included to Seattle to start the tour and returning from San Diego after the tour. Guests who wish to upgrade from the included coach accommodations may upgrade to bedroom accommodations and pricing varies by date and room type. Like airline tickets, rates are less costly when early reservations are made. Both trains feature full Dining Car and Sightseer Lounge service regardless of your accommodation onboard.



**UNCOMMON JOURNEYS
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RESERVATIONS:
800-323-5893

Day 8: Tracy Arm & Juneau

This narrow, 26-mile-long fjord is another of Alaska's most dramatic glacier settings. The lush rain forest recedes to reveal a stunning canyon of bare rock.

Day 9: Skagway

Take your time and poke into every little store from the Trail Bench to Lynch & Kennedy's Dry Goods. The Red Onion Saloon, with its honky-tonk piano and costumed barmaids, is a treasure trove of memorabilia. This is also the starting point of the fabled White Pass & Yukon Railway, an optional tour that is worth every penny.

Day 10: Cruising Glacier Bay

Glacier Bay National Park protects a unique ecosystem of plants and animals living in concert with an ever-changing glacial landscape

Day 11: Ketchikan

Built out over the water and climbing weathered stairways, Ketchikan clings to the shores of the Tongass Narrows and drapes the mountains with a cheerful air.

Day 12: Inside Passage

Day 13: Vancouver

Day 14: Astoria

Astoria is a beautiful setting at the mouth of the Columbia River and the final point of the westbound trek of the Lewis & Clark expedition since this is as far as Sacagawea could get them.

Day 15: At Sea

Day 16: At Sea

Day 17: San Diego

Guests disembark after breakfast to begin their journey home. Guests departing/returning to West Coast points do not need to start/end in Chicago. Please call for train route details!



COMPLETE FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS

Listed fares are per person, based on double occupancy.



Verandah Suite \$4,895

2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen-sized bed, whirlpool bath and shower, sitting area, private verandah, VCR, mini-bar, refrigerator, floor to ceiling windows.



Large Outside \$3,495

2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen-sized bed, bathtub and shower, picture window.

Standard Outside \$3,395

2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen-sized bed, bathtub and shower, picture window.



Large Inside \$3,095

2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen-sized bed, shower

Economy Inside \$2,895

2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen-sized bed, shower. *Very limited availability.*

Port Taxes are \$295 per person and not included in the above fares. 3rd/4th passengers sharing a room pay \$1,995 plus port taxes. Single occupancy rates begin at \$3,995 for inside and \$4,995 for outside cabins. Additional categories may be available aboard the ship.