



Holland America Line

A Signature of Excellence



Oosterdam Today

- Socialising at sea, behind the scenes and family cruising p2
- How to stay healthy on the high seas, HAL's Mariner Society p3
- After-dark fun, cocktail corner, spa life and shore excursions p4



Oosterdam Today



MS Oosterdam: Socialising At Sea

Walking onboard and settling into Holland America Line's Oosterdam, it is quickly evident that the ship incorporates old world cruising glamour and a playful and attentive crew to offer a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for passengers.

It is the first time the nine-year old Vista-class ship has sailed in Australasia, and the liner will complete a season of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island voyages, taking in the region's key ports with plenty of sea days for passengers to enjoy Oosterdam's range of onboard activities.

Conversation between fellow passengers flows easily around the ship as they explore, and there are activities for the many solo travellers to meet one another during the sailing as they play for the USD40,000 bingo jackpot together (it's the captain's favourite onboard activity, so tell clients to watch out for him), try the Culinary Arts Centre or test out the bar's extensive cocktail list by the pool.

Night and day, there are opportunities to learn about the next port of call, hear a new entertainer belt out a tune or two or simply find a nook in one of the many sea-facing seats, read a book from the library or watch the world sail by—an ideal activity for those lazy days at sea.

The lower decks make ample use of windows to provide places for passengers to meet and relax—with most turning into buzzing bars pre-dinner and into the evening.

Pre-Xmas Dry-dock

The Oosterdam is set to undergo a two-week dry dock in Sydney before Christmas. During the soft renovation—the first since the ship first sailed in 2003—her public areas will receive new furnishings and carpets.

Oosterdam For Families

The ms Oosterdam is well equipped for families, from its kids club areas to adventurous shore excursions and spacious suite staterooms. The superior verandah suites have a king bed and a couch that converts into a queen-sized pull out bed, twin-sink bathroom with separate shower and a large balcony. The suites also interconnect through the balcony partition. "Suites cost around USD500-USD1000 more [than an outside cabin], depending on the cruise destination and duration," says Francis Travel Marketing's Tony Smith.

On Deck 10 are three areas equipped for children of different ages, from the toddlers to teens. Craft, movies, video games and chill-out areas give the kids a chance to have fun away from their parents.



Behind The Scenes

Passengers curious about the inner workings of a passenger liner can take part in a Behind the Scenes tour. Starting below deck in the laundry, the tour also takes in the stores, galleys, engine control room and waste rooms—detailing efforts Holland America Line makes to reduce its impact on the environment, and offering a taste of the intricate workings of the massive liner. The tour ends on the bridge, with sweeping views of the sea and a commentary of the ship's sophisticated sailing and navigation technology—lucky passengers may even get to meet the captain and have their picture taken. There is usually at least one tour each cruise. It costs around USD150 and is limited to around 12 participants.

Summer 12/13 Sailings

The Oosterdam will sail a series of Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific itineraries until Mar and local GSA Francis Travel Marketing is offering balcony upgrades and complementary dinners for two at the liner's Pinnacle Grill on selected sailings.

Itinerary options include a 10 and 14-night Pacific Treasures sailing from Sydney in Jan and Mar, priced from \$2259pp s/t and taking in New Caledonia's highlights. There's also the 19 Dec Christmas sailing from Sydney and around New Zealand, with port calls in Dunedin, Lyttelton, Wellington, Napier, Tauranga, Auckland and the Bay of Islands. Details ph: 0-9-444 2298.

Small Important Details

The Oosterdam's cabins are equipped with US two-pin power sockets and onboard satellite Wi-Fi at a cost of USD55 per 100 minutes. There are internet packages available up to 1000 minutes for passengers at sea for longer periods. As with all satellite internet, connections are significantly slower than on land, and clients should always remember to log out after their session.

Duty Free Shopping

Clients looking for a memento from their cruise holiday have a range of options available in the ship's shopping area, from t-shirts to fine jewellery and top shelf spirits, all at GST and duty free pricing. On many sailings there are mid-ship poolside sales, where items are heavily discounted.



Top Agents Sail Away On Oosterdam Odyssey

Francis Travel Marketing hosted a group of top-selling agents onboard Oosterdam's inaugural Australia and New Zealand sailing this week. Pictured enjoying a stunning evening sail away from Sydney Harbour is Andrew Singleton and cruising buddy House of Travel Upper Riccarton's Dalwyn Sinclair, Michael Flynn and Kate Flynn from Harvey World Travel Timaru, Roydon and Lyn McLeod from Paul Borrie United Travel and Francis Travel Marketing's Tony Smith.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH PACIFIC

10 to 14 night cruises aboard ms Oosterdam

\$ **1999***
from

* cruise only. per person share twin. NZ Dollars.

FRANCIS TRAVEL MARKETING 0800 422 784 | reservations@francistravelmarketing.co.nz



VIEW FLYER



Oosterdam Today



Staying Healthy On The High Seas

Tony's Oosterdam Tips

Holland America Line's Kiwi representative Tony Smith has top five tips for cruising on Oosterdam:



- 1 Take the time to sit and read a good book by the various pools onboard.
- 2 Save costs onboard by purchasing a Navigator wine package (seven bottles for USD199 plus gratuities).
- 3 Indulge in an Espresso Martini or one of the flavoursome Martinis of the day—they're extremely moreish.
- 4 Have a go at winning the huge prizes offered in onboard bingo.
- 5 Get to know your stewards and waiting staff, they have some excellent stories to tell.

Pinnacle Class

The waiters aren't lying when they tell you the steak in Pinnacle Grill is the best you'll ever eat. Cooked to perfection on a searing grill at 870°, the evenly marbled filet mignon melts in your mouth, full of flavour. There is the opportunity to pair the generous filets with sauces, but all it really needs is a dusting of pepper. Advise clients that it's a good idea to take the advice of the ever attentive and playful waiters, and leave room for dessert. There's only one option in this writer's opinion: crème brûlée. The dessert is composed of three delicately flavoured slivers; coffee, chocolate and traditional vanilla. An expert sommelier complements each course with a range of appertifs and wines—and the setting is complete. A surcharge of USD20 applies, book early on formal nights.



They say a cruise passenger puts on an average half a kilo per day—and it's not hard to see why, with food and drink available practically 24 hours a day.

It was a challenge to avoid the temptation to simply eat and laze about—a challenge I duly accepted, in the interests of research and the waistline. At the end of the day, it's all about balance and following the first rule of cruising (well, my first rule anyway): always take the stairs. Whether or not the rule made any difference I will not share in kilograms or grams—but the Oosterdam's large gym, equipped with brand new and high tech treadmills, cycle machines and weights definitely helped work off the previous night's filet mignon and reising. It doesn't hurt also that the gym is staffed by two enthusiastic and tough Kiwi personal trainers, who take a range of classes, including ab workouts, pilates and early morning yoga—all tailored for first-timers and the inevitable swaying onboard. Some of the classes, such as yoga

Vegetarian Dining

The Oosterdam's various foodie destinations all offer vegetarian options for veggie passengers, or for those after a lighter option, from sushi at the Lido buffet, to gourmet vegetarian appetizers and mains at the Vista Dining Room. Salads and fresh cut fruit are also available all day from Lido.

and pilates, attract an additional USD12 fee, but the gym itself is available to all passengers. A tip for clients: head off for a workout during peak meal times, as it's said to be less busy.

On days when it's pleasant to be outdoors, decks three and 10 are ideal for laps. For some unwritten reason, people tend to head in an anti-clockwise direction, so tell clients to be mindful of this if they plan on tearing around the decks.

Mariner Society

From their first voyage with Holland America, clients become a member of the Mariner Society and begin earning Cruise Day credits with each day spent onboard.

There are four star ratings and from their second sailing passengers are welcomed onboard with an embarkation lunch, Champagne brunch, a subscription to the *Mariner* magazine, special sailing offers and a 50% cruise fare discount on the third/fourth guest staying in their stateroom on selected sailings. With each additional star, clients will receive benefits including:

- *Two-star Mariner (30+ Cruise Day credits): merchandise discounts, a recognition pin.
- *Three-star Mariner (75+ Cruise Day credits): specialty restaurant surcharge, wine, bar and spa discounts; advance information on new itineraries; air deviation fee waivers.
- *Four-star Mariner (200+ Cruise Day credits): Priority check-in, tender and disembarkation, free laundry and pressing and *Travel + Leisure* or *Food & Wine* magazine subscription.



Culinary Arts Discovered On Board

The Culinary Arts Centre is a partnership between Holland America Line and Food & Wine magazine. Guest chefs will lead demonstrations and seminars on various HAL ships—on Oosterdam the centre is located in the Queens Lounge. Clients can try their hand at creating everything from mini burgers to soups and lobster salad, and the onboard sommelier is on hand to pair wines. Clients should see their onboard Explorer newsletter for what's happening onboard their voyage.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH PACIFIC

10 to 14 night cruises aboard ms Oosterdam

\$ **1999***
from

* cruise only. per person share twin. NZ Dollars.

FRANCIS TRAVEL MARKETING 0800 422 784 | reservations@francistravelmarketing.co.nz



VIEW FLYER

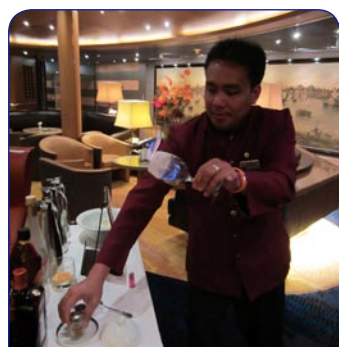


Oosterdam Today



Alaska Season

During the northern summer Oosterdam sails a series of Alaska voyages that continue to be popular amongst Kiwi cruisers, says Francis Travel Marketing's Tony Smith. Holland America has boosted Alaska capacity for 2013, with seven ships based in the region and more departures. Oosterdam will sail 21 seven-night voyages from Seattle on Suns. Itinerary highlights include Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan, Alaska; Victoria, British Columbia and Glacier Bay National Park. The line is encouraging clients to book early, as its Alaska sailings are among its most popular globally.



Setting The Bar

The Pinnacle Bar on Deck Three is an ideal, and popular, spot to meet for pre- or after dinner drinks, with its broad cocktail menu and cluster seating. On formal nights, this is where the people-watching is best as guests make their way to dinner. Before dinner, a 0010 Martini goes down a treat as the water races past outside, and for a night cap, the Spanish Coffee, with cointreau, kahlua, spices and whipped cream—all theatrically prepared in front of you, flaming glass and all.

The Lights Go Up On Oosterdam



Dressed in their finery before dinner on our last night onboard Oosterdam together is Michael and Kate Flynn, Lyn McLeod, Dalwyn Sinclair, Roydon McLeod, Tony Smith and Andrew Singleton.

After the sun sinks below the vast horizon, the deck chairs empty and the ship's public areas go quiet, just for a while, before passengers emerge ready to take on the evening's entertainment—and there are options for any taste.

For sail away evenings with clear skies, the Sea View Bar on Lido Deck aft will offer the clearest views of the port Oosterdam is departing from that evening.

As the night progresses past dinner, there is the opportunity to catch the Oosterdam's Broadway-style show at the Vista Lounge, check out the HALcats band with lead singer Ben (Kiwi rugby fans might like to chat with Ben after the gig, he has a few footy

stories to share) or sing along with the piano man at the Piano Bar (he claims to have a repertoire of more than 2000 songs—it's a fun to test just what those songs are!)

The Oosterdam also hosts a revolving cast of entertainers that change with each voyage, from comedians to singers.

Agents onboard Oosterdam last week enjoyed a raft of evening options—but the group repeatedly found themselves in the Crow's Nest bar during all times of the day.

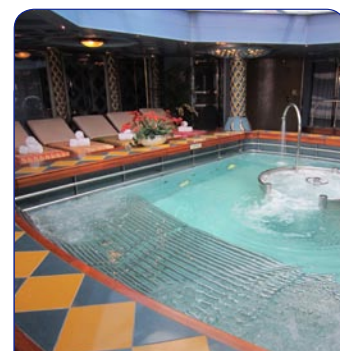
"The Crow's nest was a particularly pleasant area, either to enjoy the forward vista, the library for books and magazines or the bar for pre-dinner drinks and live entertainment," says House of Travel Upper Riccarton's Dalwyn Sinclair.

The Oosterdam also features a dedicated night club, the Northern Lights, the first in the Holland America Line fleet and an indication of its younger demographic, particularly during school holiday periods, when parents want to head out for an evening sans children.

There's even a Bar Olympics, a pub crawl of sorts, with five beers from five bars included in the small fee, as well as USD3 cocktail sampling and free wine tasting events around the ship during the voyage.

All Ashore Adventures

Shore excursion options for Holland America passengers vary as greatly as its passenger demographics—there are adventurous options for the outdoorsy, culinary tours for the foodie in all of us, and exclusive transport for clients after a personal experience. On Oosterdam's New Zealand Discovery voyage, shore excursions included an eco-adventure along the Tasman peninsula coast, an 8x8 Argo vehicle adventure on Taiaoroa Head on the Otago Peninsula, America's Cup yacht sailing in Auckland and a Blue Mountains excursion after disembarkation in Sydney.



Spa Life

The Oosterdam's Greenhouse Spa & Salon has a plethora of spa treatments for men, women and couples, from hot stone massages to hair and make-up services, but the highlight experience has to be the thermal spa (pictured). Clients can soak in the large spa pool, enriched with salts and minerals and jets that will target a niggly back or neck.

Digital Enhancement

Holland America Line is known for its Digital Workshop powered by Windows, where clients can take seminars on photo editing, come to grips with Windows 7, and quiz onboard experts with any computing related questions. The centre is on Deck 3 in the Erasmus Room, and the curriculum is regularly updated to keep pace with techy developments.

For more photos, see
our Facebook page

>>CLICK HERE<<

LGBT-friendly Oosterdam

On most nights Oosterdam hosts a gathering for the ship's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender passengers in the Crow's Nest from 1930, giving community members the chance to meet each other onboard and socialise together. The gathering is listed in the Explorer newsletter.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH PACIFIC

10 to 14 night cruises aboard ms Oosterdam

\$ **1999***
from

* cruise only. per person share twin. NZ Dollars.

FRANCIS TRAVEL MARKETING 0800 422 784 | reservations@francistravelmarketing.co.nz



VIEW FLYER