

# Panama Canal Cruise

## on board Holland America's *Zuiderdam*

### February 20–March 3, 2011

#### Jim & Loretta Church, Tour Hosts



#### About the Panama Canal.....

It demanded cutting through dense and dangerous jungles, carving passages through solid rock, the Gailord Cut, and creating one of the largest artificial lakes in the world at 25 1/2 miles long, called Gatun Lake. What it took to forge this magnificent link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans was nothing short of extraordinary.

Attempted first in 1881 by Ferninand de Lesseps, architect of the Suez Canal, the project was abandoned less than a decade later. It was not until the twentieth century that the Panama Canal was finally completed through American ingenuity.

At one point, 80,000 people worked on the canal, and many lives were lost. It cost 366 million dollars to build, and was completed under budget and ahead of schedule in 1914. The canal runs a length of 50 miles and saves nearly 8,000 miles of travel.

The lush green hills nearby are a rich tapestry of jipijapa trees and brilliantly hued exotic flowers...an awesome sight punctuated by the cries of tropical birds. In Gatun Lake you'll be amazed to see exotic wildlife and emeral-green jungles that existed there before the lake was formed.

As you cruise quietly through this unique juxtaposition of mechanical brilliance and natural splendor...take a moment to marvel as a series of three giant locks gently raise your ship 85 ft into Gatun Lake. You may feel for just a moment that you've entered another world. It's only natural because nothing on earth is quite like the magnificent Panama Canal.

Perhaps most astonishing of all, with a few small modifications, the original mechanics still operate the huge locks of the canal today.

On every sailing, a Canal Historian is on board to answer your questions, present lectures and illuminate stories from behind the scenes.

As you sail the Panama Canal aboard the ms Zuiderdam, the toil and struggle that went into the construction of the Canal are mere echoes of the past.



**Sunday, February 20**      **Depart**

Depart by motorcoach from Ephrata/Lancaster and Souderton for our flight to Ft. Lauderdale. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

**Monday, February 21**      **Ft. Lauderdale**

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, transfer to our luxury liner, the *ms Zuiderdam*. Set sail at 5 pm.

**Tuesday, February 22**      **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas**

Today we arrive at Half Moon Cay, Bahamas at 8 am. When was the last time you whiled away the day on a private Caribbean island? Here's your chance. The island is Holland America's; the day is yours to sun, swim, and sail. Enjoy! Sail at 3 pm.

**Wednesday, February 23**      **At Sea**

An entire day at leisure to enjoy your choice of shipboard activities. Holland America provides you with a friendly atmosphere, and combines all the best parts of other vacations and lets you decide which ones are perfect for you.

**Thursday, February 24**      **Oranjestad, Aruba**



Oranjestad, Aruba, a Dutch jewel with a tropical touch. We arrive at 11 am to Aruba's capital, where we can explore the colorful floating market and Nassaustraat, brimming with quaint shops.

Head for the beach, snorkel, ride on glass bottom boats and submarines, or venture into the countryside to see the haunts of the huge green parakeet, or the unique rock gardens of Casi Bari. Sail at 11 pm.

**Friday, February 25**      **Willemstad, Curacao**

This morning we arrive at Willemstad, Curacao at 8 am. This is an isle of Dutch treats, gabled houses painted in every pastel hue, duty-free shops, plus we'll sail right into town on an Amsterdam-like canal. Sail at 5 pm.

**Saturday, February 26**      **At Sea**

Another full day at sea aboard your luxurious cruise ship, *ms Zuiderdam*. Relax and enjoy all this mega ship has to offer.



**Sunday, February 27**      **Panama Canal**

**Enter Panama Canal at Cristobal at 5am.**

**Partial Transit through the Panama Canal/Gatún Lake 9 am to 10 am**

(Tour disembarkation)

**Return transit from Gatún Lake to Cristobal 1 pm**

**Scenic cruising Limon Bay, Cristobal, Panama 2-6 pm**

(Returning tour passengers embark ship at Cristobal)

**Tour Choices**

Upon entry into Gatun Lake you will have the opportunity of a lifetime to experience and explore Panama. At the completion of your tour you will re-board your ship in Colon, Panama. (Note: Cruises which transit the Canal completely do NOT offer the unique opportunity of these shore tours, which show you many things you would not see otherwise). Some of your tour choices will be:

**Grand Tour of Panama:** This tour provides a triple combination of ecological wonder, the Embera Indian Culture and the Panama Canal Locks. Panama has one of the most impressive and complete Eco Systems in the world and you will be witness to many species of plants, birds, mammals, and reptiles. Then visit the Embera Indians living today much like their ancestors. Then go on to the famous Locks of Panama Canal for an up-close view.



**Two Ocean Railroad – Domed Car:** Imagine traveling on the tracks of the World's first Trans-Continental Railroad, running parallel to the Panama Canal. Combine the extraordinary beauty of flora and fauna and spectacular views. Pass through a lush tropical rainforest as you cross the Continental Divide to the Pacific Side. As you approach Panama City you can get a close look at the Locks of the Canal and also see some of the old Canal Zone areas.

Then continue by motorcoach to see the Pacific Ocean at the Causeway that is the entrance of the Panama Canal. Nowhere else in the world can you travel from one ocean to another, crossing the amazing continent of the Americas.



Many other choices will be available.

**Monday, February 28**

**Puerto Limon, Costa Rica**

We arrive at 6:30 am in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica. Surrounded by nearly half of all the animal species on earth and 8,000 species of plants, marvel as we tour tropical flower farms or ride a Mawamba boat through the jungle canals. Or you can choose to stroll through the markets bursting with color in San Jose. Sail at 4 pm.



**Tuesday, March 1**

**At Sea**

Another great day at sea.

**Wednesday, March 2**

**At Sea**

This is your last full day at sea. Delight in a variety of ways to pamper and enjoy yourself. Relax in a deck chair by the pool. Tempt your pallet with culinary delights the ship offers.

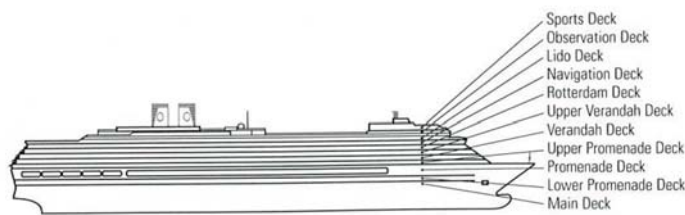


**Tour Cost:** Based upon choice of cabin category listed below which are per person costs based on double occupancy. All rooms have two beds on the floor which can be arranged as a queen sized bed, private bathtub and shower, toilet, television, VCR, telephone, multi-channel music and, in-room safe. Outside rooms also have at least one window or porthole.

**Thursday, March 3**

**Ft. Lauderdale, Florida**

Arrive at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida at 7 am. After transferring to the airport, we'll fly home where our waiting motorcoach will return the group to Souderton and Ephrata.



- Year entered fleet:** 2002
- Number of passenger cabins:** 658
- Passenger Decks:** 11
- Ship's Registry** The Netherlands
- Passenger capacity** 1,916
- Crew members** 817
- Gross tonnage** 82,305 grt.
- Length** 936 feet
- Maximum speed** 24 knots

Category	Description	Charge ( per person)
<i>Inside Cabins:</i>		
K	Large Inside Cabin	\$2380
C	Large Outside Double <i>Lower Promenade Deck</i>	\$2580
VD	Balcony	\$2880
VE	Balcony	\$2930

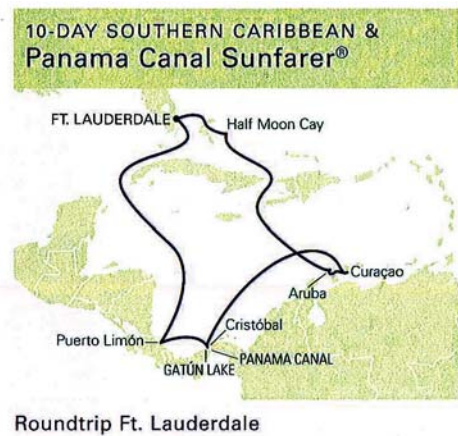
***Other categories and rates and information on cabins with private verandahs are available on request.***

**IMPORTANT:** Book now to reserve the cabin category of your choice. The ship is booked on a first-come, first-served bases. Don't be disappointed! Space is limited in certain categories. Book today to receive your first choice.

**Hosted by:**  
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**Travel Arrangements by:**  
  
 mtstravel.com

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 Ephrata, PA 17522  
 Tel: 800-874-9330 or 717-721-7376  
 Fax: 717-733-1009  
 pamm@mtstravel.com



# Tour Features and Conditions

**Air Transportation:** Air transportation is restricted to the services of any IATAN carrier, in economy class based on nonrefundable fare. Travelers are responsible to provide their names as they appear in their passport. Ticketing will be made 60 days prior to departure, after which there will be a charge for name corrections. Tour price includes current airline taxes and fuel surcharges which are subject to change until ticketed. *Tour participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes or fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.*

**Accommodations:** Based on two persons sharing a cabin as listed in itinerary, or similar, with private facilities, including service charges and taxes. Single cabin supplement is usually 175% of the tour price. We strongly encourage you to find a roommate. Rates are available upon request. *If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.*

**Meals:** In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. All meals on board ship, including 24-hour room service, snacks and buffets.

**Transfers and Baggage:** Transfers between airports, hotel and ship upon arrival and departure including handling of one medium-sized suitcase per person, not exceeding 62 dimensional inches (length plus width plus height) or weighing more than a maximum of 50 pounds. *In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.*

**Tips and Taxes:** Air taxes, port charges, taxes on accommodations and services are included (currently \$508.87). Tips to guides, and shipboard staff are not included. Tips for personal services are not included and are at tour member's own expense.

**Shore Excursions:** There will be variety of shore excursions available at all ports of call at an additional charge on board ship. Information will be provided with final cruise documents and on board ship.

**Surface Transportation:** By motorcoach to airport and return for scheduled flight.

**Passport Information:** United States citizens are now required to have passports for air travel when re-entering the United States. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining a passport will be provided upon receipt of deposit. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until September 2011.

**Not Included:** Meals not specifically indicated, laundry, beverages with lunch or dinner, trip interruption insurance, tours indicated as optional or sightseeing not mentioned, tips to shipboard personnel, and any other items of a personal nature. Checked luggage fees charged by the airline.

**Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure a reservation for the tour. Final payment is due by November 12, 2010.

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:** A full refund (except for prepurchased insurance) will be made for written cancellations received no later than November 12, 2010. Passengers who cancel after that date for any reason, including medical reasons, are subject to the following cancellation fees, plus any additional unrecoverable costs. There is no refund for unused tour services.

November 13, 2010–December 22, 2010: \$500 per person

December 23, 2010–January 18, 2011 : 50% of gross fare per person

January 19, 2011–February 1, 2011 : 75% of gross fare per person

February 2, 2011 to Departure: 100% of gross fare per person

Given that the resale of cancelled space will likely result in a lost opportunity to sell other space, these fees are due regardless of resale. Fees incurred as a result of cancellation cannot be applied to future bookings.

Name changes require the prior approval of Celebrity Cruises and may not always be possible. Cruise contracts are non-transferrable. Name changes and departure date changes are considered reservation cancellations and are subject to cancellation fees.

**Travel Protection: Protect Your Investment:** If you purchase the protection plan upon enrollment with your deposit, any restriction on pre-existing conditions is waived. *If protection plan is purchased after the deposit is received, all coverage is subject to exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Trip cancellation and interruption protection is made available to tour members at a cost of \$250 per person. You will receive a detailed description of the protection plan, which you will have ten days to review. Certain conditions, exclusions and limitations apply as set out in the Evidence of Coverage and Confirmation of Coverage. Following is a brief description:*

- This protection plan will cover you for cancellation fees if you need to cancel because of death, injury or illness to you, your traveling companion or your immediate family member.
- Trip Interruption or Delay
- Medical Evacuation
- Medical Expenses
- Lost, stolen or damaged baggage

**Note:** All prices, schedules, and tour conditions are based on information current at time of printing, and are subject to change prior to departure. Prices shown are based on many factors, and in the event of an increase in any cost factor, the right is reserved to increase the prices at any time up to the date of departure. All fares are per person double occupancy (unless otherwise noted) and are quoted in US currency.

**Responsibility**  
Menno Travel Service, Inc., D/B/A MTS TRAVEL, with its officers and staff act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delays, which may be occasioned by reason of, defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers. The steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserves the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.

CST 2013363-40

**Reservation Form  
Panama Canal Cruise  
February 20–March 3, 2011**

To be assured of reservations, please complete and mail this registration form to  
Jim & Loretta Church, PO Box 183, Telford, PA 18969, along with your deposit of \$500 per person.

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$500 per person, or \$750 per person with insurance.  
Please make check payable to MTS TRAVEL.

*(Please Print)*

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (days) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary while on the cruise: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passport Copies:** Please provide a clear photocopy of the photo and signature page of your passport. This is required for all international tours.

**CabinType:**     Category K - Large Inside Stateroom                       Category C - Large Outside Stateroom  
                     Category VD - Balcony Stateroom                                       Category VE - Balcony Stateroom

I/we wish to be covered by travel protection insurance as follows:

\$250 per person (Please include this payment for travel insurance along with your deposit payment.)  
*Insurance payments are not refundable.*

I DO NOT wish to be covered by travel insurance. **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my credit card as follows:**     M/C     Discover     AMX     Visa    **Exp.** \_\_\_\_\_

\$500 deposit per person

\$250 Insurance premium per person

**Card No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Security Code:** \_\_\_\_\_