Christmas in the Caribbean
Holland America Line • ms Volendam
Ft. Lauderdale Roundtrip
December 20, 2019 - January 5, 2020
17 Days • All Meals
The warm sunshine, sparkling blue waters, white sand beaches, waving palm trees and fun loving inhabitants make the Caribbean a paradise on earth. Come with us to escape the cold, snow and bitter winds of the Canadian winter and to share the experience of Christmas in a truly pleasurable way.

Why not make this a family affair? Bring the whole family with you and enjoy time together during this special season. Holland America offers activities for all ages, ensuring everyone has the time of their lives while, as a family, you will enjoy Christmas Day together.

After a short flight to Florida, we embark on the gracious ms Volendam, settle into our comfortable cabins and simply sit back and relax as we are taken to islands, each unique from one another. We never have to pack a bag or change our hotel for sixteen wonderful days in the sun.

Do call us today to reserve your places on this cruise and to ensure the best price, flights, and choice of cabin.

Our Cruise Ship • ms Volendam

The ms Volendam is breathtaking in every detail, from the truly spacious staterooms to the priceless antiques that line the halls. At 61,000 tons, she carries just 1,432 guests in truly spacious comfort.

Thirteen different lounges and restaurants are ours to enjoy from the Mainstage, two decks high and a lounge stage that will fill your evenings with entertainment, to the twin levels of the elegant Dining Room with its grand staircase and floor to ceiling windows. Recent additions to the ship are the beautiful Explorations Café with its in depth library, internet access and coffee bar, and the Culinary Arts Centre for cooking classes and presentations. Ample deck area, a complete Promenade Deck, two pools, one of which can be covered, and the superb Greenhouse Spa and fitness area are all ours to enjoy.

Luxurious accommodations await and each stateroom will feature two lower beds, most of which can convert to a king-size bed, plush pillow top mattresses, fine Egyptian cotton sheets, personal terry cloth bathrobes, a private bathroom, individually controlled air conditioning, telephone, multi-channel in-room music and ample closet space. Each has a television and DVD player. All staterooms feature a separate sitting area and vanity and average stateroom size is over 190 square feet, some of the largest in the industry. Most outside staterooms feature picture-window viewing and all feature a bathtub/shower. The deluxe mini-suites feature a private balcony, floor to ceiling windows, mini-bar, whirlpool bath and more.

Inclusive Features

- 16 night cruise on the ms Volendam, based on sharing a twin bedded stateroom in category selected
- All meals and entertainment on board
- Services of the cruise director and local representatives
- Baggage handling shipside
- All gratuities for included shipboard services
- All cruise line taxes and fees

Air-inclusive rates also include:

- Estimated return economy airfare from cities listed
- Transfers between the airport and the ship
- All current air taxes, fuel surcharges and fees
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value
Cruise Itinerary
Dec 20, Fri Depart Canada / Arrive Ft. Lauderdale
Embark / Sail 5:00pm
Dec 21, Sat At Sea
Dec 22, Sun At Sea
Dec 23, Mon Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI*
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Dec 24, Tue Philipsburg, Sint Marteen
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Dec 25, Wed At Sea
Dec 26, Thu Bridgetown, Barbados
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Dec 27, Fri Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Dec 28, Sat Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Dec 29, Sun At Sea
Dec 30, Mon Willemstad, Curaçao
Arrive 7:00am / Sail 11:00pm
Dec 31, Tue Oranjestad, Aruba
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 8:00pm
Jan 1, Wed At Sea
Jan 2, Thu Ocho Rios, Jamaica
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Jan 3, Fri Georgetown, Cayman Islands*
Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Jan 4, Sat At Sea
Jan 5, Sun Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Arrive 7:00am / Disembark / Fly Home
* Tenders to shore

Ports of Call
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: Visit the newly redesigned Fort Lauderdale Beach and cafés, stroll the historic Riverwalk, shop the luxurious stores on Las Olas Boulevard or venture to the Everglades for an intriguing air boat excursion.

Cruz Bay, St. John, US Virgin Islands: St. John is the least developed and most sparsely populated of the three main islands in the U.S. Virgin Islands. More than half of its land is protected as a U.S. National Park. A village with only a few thousand residents, Cruz Bay has gained a reputation as an upscale retreat for movie stars and other high-profile people looking for a secluded getaway.

Philipsburg, Sint Marteen: This Leeward island has been famously bisected into French and Dutch territories since 1648, and is referred to both as Saint Martin and Sint Maarten. In their respective capitals, Marigot and Philipsburg there are ancient stone forts and candy-coloured buildings lining winding streets. Take in the European feel of this beautiful island right in the heart of the Caribbean!

Bridgetown, Barbados: Barbadians, or Bajans in local parlance, consider their island nation the most British of the Caribbean: Queen Elizabeth II is still head of state, and English products are stocked in many of its stores and restaurants. Centered around a waterway called the Careenage and its handsome Chamberlain Bridge, the historic center of Bridgetown, the country's capital, was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 2011 for its wealth of British colonial architecture dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Explore the striking beauty of this coral island and see a number of different turtle species.

Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago: Think of the Caribbean island of Tobago as the little sister to Trinidad. Although in many ways Tobago feels like a separate country, its population is more Afrocentric than the ethnically mixed Trinidad, and its dialect is its own. Treat yourself to the Indian-style roti or to curried crab and dumplings that can be found at the island's ubiquitous food

Stollmeyers Castle in Port of Spain - Credit Trinidad & Tobago Tourism Development Company
shacks. Tobago is a prime destination for nature fans. Rare species of birds make their home on the thickly vegetated volcanic ridge that runs the length of the island.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago: Trinidad is the definition of a true melting pot. Locals speak a language of their own: English peppered with Creole and patois. Along with Afro-Trinis, there are citizens of Indian descent, both Hindu and Muslim, who have maintained their ethnic heritage. As is true in much of the West Indies, many locals have Chinese and Middle Eastern roots as well. Port-of-Spain is now a modern city which retains much of its historical charm.

Willemstad, Curacao: The historic centre of Willemstad is a unique mixture of Dutch architecture and Caribbean pastels. Its gabled row houses overlook Sint Anna Bay, a waterway dividing the city in two and connecting the Caribbean to the protected Schottegat Bay. Highlights of this multicultural melting pot might include a stop at its floating market and a visit to a curacao distillery to taste the famous local liqueur.

Oranjestad, Aruba: Any visitor will create their own Aruba cruise experience, but here are two to try. First, there is the Aruba of beaches, sun and shopping. And why not? The beaches shimmer. The sun grants its benedictions through dry, 27-degree days all year long. And the shopping buzzes along Main Street and Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard. Second, there is the time-sculpted Aruba. Arikok National Park covers nearly one-fifth of the island and is home to species you'll find nowhere else, caves for exploring, and ragged, wind-torn bits of coastline. Of course, there are a million other Arubas. All you need to do is find yours.

Ocho Rios, Jamaica: On his fourth voyage, Columbus was marooned for a year outside of Ocho Rios on Jamaica’s north coast. You may imagine that the explorer gave the town its name after finding eight rivers here, but surprisingly that isn't its origin: It’s a corruption of a word for waterfalls, of which there are many, far more than eight. The nearby region is one of the island’s finest for nature hikes among all the plants that provide the spices and fruits that go into making Jamaican cooking so outrageously delicious.

Georgetown, Cayman Islands: The Cayman Islands have everything you would want from a Caribbean destination: warm breezes, clear seas and a laid-back attitude. In and around George Town, the Cayman Islands’ capital, you will also find an extraordinary array of culinary offerings. After trying out the local delicacies, enjoy stunning swimming and snorkeling.

Shore Excursions are not included in your cruise cost, allowing you the freedom to choose from several optional tours that will be offered in each port. Excursions will be available for purchase through the Holland America Line website or after embarkation.

CT Rating 1/5 – Leisurely: This cruise is suitable for all passengers who meet our basic criteria for group travel.