

Elegant Palm Springs

A distinctive holiday by train and Dutch Ocean Liner
with four magical days in picturesque Palm Springs

Departing March 10 - 21
& November 1 - 12, 2015
12 Days from \$1,995 pp

We have long been fans of Palm Springs, believing it to be the perfect warm weather destination with its beautiful setting against the San Jacinto Mountains and the fact that with a nice hotel downtown, the entire 'small town' village is within a few blocks making it even more appealing. The casual lifestyle, dozens of superb restaurants and rugged natural beauty, combined with sunshine, swimming, golf and tennis make it the ideal vacation destination. In fact, we have taken hundreds of people to 'The Desert' as Frank Sinatra worded it over the years and all have praised it as one of their finest vacations in years. Similarly, we have long been fans of Holland America Line and their superbly run Dutch Ocean Liners. With teak decks, roomy staterooms, fine art, legendary dining and service as well as little touches like beautiful floral arrangements, Rosenthal china and 24 hour room service, Holland America is near the top of our list of favorite ways to spend a week. Therefore, it was only natural that we combine Palm Springs with a short but indulgent Holland America cruise, into an affordable holiday with little or no flying required.

Our vacation begins in downtown Palm Springs with a four-night stay at the wonderfully located Palm Mountain Resort, in the center of downtown. We have included an interesting though entirely optional sightseeing adventure daily, as well as at least one meal. Naturally, if you would rather golf, bicycle or lay by the pool, this too, is fine. Since we know the area so well, both our sightseeing and dining are of exceptional quality, as you would expect from Uncommon Journeys. Everything that you wish to see or visit is a few short blocks from our hotel, making this a vacation of great ease and relaxation. After four blissful days in Palm Springs, we have a short but scenic ride South to San Diego where the ms Veendam awaits. Here too, great dining is featured including the acclaimed Pinnacle Grill one evening in addition to acres of deck space, pools, a cinema, a choice of lounges and nightclubs, a spa, casino and much more. Onboard, there are special parties and events for our guests and in a way, our ports in Mexico are almost incidental to the fun and relaxation of being on this beautiful ship, so much so that many of our guests do not even disembark in port! For those that do disembark, a range of excellent shore tours are available for purchase and one of our favorites is Mismayola Beach in Puerto Vallarta, where the film 'Night of the Iguana' was made. Of course, ruggedly beautiful Cabo San Lucas, at the very tip of Baja California never fails to impress.

We are naturally biased but for an elegant and relaxing escape to warm weather, with little or no flying, foreign airports, intrusive security checks and general discomfort, there may be a better holiday but we doubt it. We look forward to welcoming you aboard this elegant pairing of a great resort destination with a fine Dutch liner. All Aboard!



- ❖ Free round-trip train travel from any California point and reduced rate train or air travel with special fares from any US city outside of California.
- ❖ Four nights in magical Palm Springs with fine hotel accommodations, complete sightseeing, wonderful dining and plenty of free time to enjoy this desert oasis. We have included something fun and a special dining experience each day while leaving plenty of time for swimming, tennis, golf, riding, hiking or whatever most intrigues you, all combined with the luxury of a four-night stay in the heart of Palm Springs 'village' within easy walking distance of everything.
- ❖ Transfers including to the ship on sailing day.
- ❖ Seven night round-trip voyage from San Diego to the Mexican Riviera aboard the intimate ms Veendam of Holland America Line with port calls in beautiful Cabo San Lucas at the tip of Baja California, historic Mazatlan and wonderful Puerto Vallarta.
- ❖ Special amenities aboard ms Veendam including cocktail parties for our group and dinner one evening in the chic Pinnacle Grill.
- ❖ Fully hosted by a professional tour manager from start to finish.





Day One | Palm Springs

With 350 days of sunshine a year, Southern Pacific Railroad knew what they were doing promoting tourism to this desert oasis starting in the 1920's. Since hotels should always be well-located, ours is in the heart of downtown, just a few minutes walk from hundreds of stores, boutiques, galleries, restaurants and nightclubs. And tonight is our casual welcome dinner at a long-time desert favorite, Las Casuelas Terraza, a nice way to meet your fellow travelers. D

Day Two | Palm Springs

This morning features a city tour showing not only the astonishing range of mid-Century architecture in this city but homes of some of the famous residents that have lived here. We enjoy lunch in a stylish downtown bistro while leaving all afternoon and evening at leisure for you to enjoy as you wish: biking, golfing, swimming, tennis or shopping. B L

Day Three | Palm Springs

This morning is a visit to the Palm Springs Art Museum with award-winning areas devoted to modernist architecture and design, western art, photography and glassware including Dale Chihuly. We have left the afternoon free for soaking up the sun by the pool but later today is a special treat, the aerial tram ride up 8500 foot high Mt San Jacinto, a two and a half mile trip to the summit. After time exploring, and this tram ride is the equivalent to driving from Baja California to the Yukon in terms of geographical changes, we enjoy dinner at Peaks Restaurant with a memorable view. B D

Day Four | Palm Springs

This morning we visit the extraordinary Living Desert Reserve, a remarkable 1200 acre botanical garden and zoo showing the full spectrum of life in the Colorado Desert. We have left the afternoon free and tonight is a special treat, dinner at Lyons English Grill. Lucille Ball, Bob Hope and Cary Grant all enjoyed Lyons' and you will too, with its rich interior, expert waiters and delicious menu. The Prime Rib is especially recommended. The perfect end to our stay in Palm Springs. B D

Day Five | Set Sail

All morning to sleep in since we do not leave the hotel until 10am for the short scenic drive south to San Diego and ms Veendam. At 4pm, we set sail, departing San Diego's beautiful harbor, bound for the Mexican Riviera. Tonight is your first taste of Holland America's justly acclaimed cuisine and service. A favorite spot of ours for before dinner drinks is the Crows Nest Bar, looking forward over the bow. B L D

Day Six | At Sea

All day at sea to enjoy ocean travel at its best with time for lunch on deck, a movie, a visit to the spa or simply relaxing in a deck chair with a good book. Tonight is our welcome aboard cocktail party followed by dinner in a choice of restaurants. B L D

Day Seven | Cabo San Lucas

Ruggedly beautiful Cabo San Lucas, at the tip of Baja California welcomes us this morning and there are a choice of excellent shore tours ashore to choose from. Another relaxing evening to enjoy the many delights of the Veendam with a favorite of ours being the opulent Explorers Lounge for after dinner drinks and dessert where a string quartet performs. B L D

Day Eight | Mazatlan

Historic Mazatlan with its colorful Zocalo in the ancient center of town is our port of call today and here too, a nice variety of optional tours are available including two favorite, a bird watching tour through mangroves by boat and another to a sanctuary for the rare gulf turtles. B L D

Day Nine | Puerto Vallarta

Quaint Puerto Vallarta, best known for the film 'Night of the Iguana' is a treat today, with our favorite being an excursion to Las Caletas, the former home of John Huston, the film director. There is also a wonderful Dolphin encounter program that our guests rave about. B L D

Day Ten | At Sea

After three ports in a row it is a nice to have a day at sea to relax and do nothing more than swim, relax and enjoy all that ship travel has to offer. Tonight is a splendid time to enjoy dinner in the stylish Pinnacle Grill followed by a show or visit to the Casino. B L D

Day Eleven | At Sea

A final day at sea to sleep in, perhaps with breakfast in bed, to enjoy a lazy lunch by the pool or to finish off that book or to say goodbye to newfound friends. We travel up the coast of Baja today, within sight of land normally and whale sightings are not uncommon. B L D

Day Twelve | Welcome Home

After breakfast, we disembark in San Diego and guests may extend their stay in this lovely city or travel home by train or air. B



COMPLETE FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS

Listed fares are per person, based on Double Occupancy.

Stateroom Category **Fare**



Neptune Suite **\$4,495**
2 lower beds convertible to 1 king-size bed, whirlpool bath & shower, large sitting area, dressing room, private verandah, 1 sofa bed for 2 persons, mini-bar, refrigerator, floor-to-ceiling windows. Approximately 575 sq. ft. including verandah.



BB Verandah Suite **\$3,195**
VQ Verandah Suite **\$2,995**
2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen-size bed, whirlpool bath & shower, sitting area, private verandah, mini-bar, refrigerator, floor-to-ceiling windows. Approximately 283 sq. ft. including verandah.



DD Outside Picture Window **\$2,595**
FF Outside Picture Window **\$2,395**
2 lower beds convertible to 1 Queen sized bed, bathtub and shower, picture window.

J Large Inside **\$2,095**
M Standard Inside ***limited availability \$1,995**
2 lower beds convertible to 1 Queen sized bed, and shower.

Port Taxes are \$189 per person and not included in the above fares. Single occupancy rates begin at \$3,895 for inside and \$4,295 for outside staterooms.

Luxury upgrade to the Ingleside Inn for your stay in Palm Springs

For guests wanting the ultimate pre-war resort experience, in an elegant, gracious low-key setting, we offer an upgrade to the superb Ingleside Inn, in the heart of Palm Springs just a block from famed Palm Canyon Drive. This elegantly landscaped resort offers personalized service, fine dining, inviting grounds and a level of tranquility seldom found in any hotel, which has made it the favorite choice of stars, celebrities and various Royals over the years. It is only \$445pp to upgrade (\$795. Single) and as space is extremely limited, this upgrade should be requested at the time you make your reservation.



USA River Cruises

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