

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this an all-gay cruise?

No, we book our group on a regularly scheduled sailing, which allows us to offer much better pricing than large 'all-gay' charters and pass the saving on to our group. The cruises we offer are a more relaxed diverse environment.

Is There A Hotel Service Charge?

Holland America crew works very hard to make sure that every aspect of your cruise meets the highest standards. This includes those crew members who serve you directly, such as the dining room wait staff and the stewards who tend to your stateroom each day. There are also many others that tend to your care that you may never meet, such as galley and laundry staff. To ensure that the efforts of all of our crew members are recognized and rewarded, a daily Hotel Service Charge of USD\$11 per passenger is automatically charged to each guest's shipboard account. If our service exceeds or fails to meet your expectations, you are free to adjust this amount at the end of the cruise. The Hotel Service Charge is paid to Holland America Line crew members, and represents an important part of their total compensation package. A 15% service charge is automatically added to bar charges and dining room wine purchases. In terminals, airports, ports of call and on shore excursions, we suggest that you extend gratuities consistent with customary local practices

What should I pack?

Pack as you would for any resort. Cruise vacations are casual by day, whether you're on the ship or ashore. The suggested attire for most evenings is resort casual; slacks and collared shirts for men informal evening. On formal men wear a jacket and tie, dark suit, or tuxedo you always have the option of alternative dining options, including a casual buffet or even in-cabin room service.

Tipping work on-board?

It's a cashless society is designed to make your life on board as simple as possible. Once you have registered your credit or debit card(s) (Visa®, Mastercard®, American Express®, and Discover®) you will be able to use your onboard account for shipboard purchases. Your credit or debit card number(s) will be securely sent to the ship in preparation for your cruise. Upon embarkation, we will seek an initial authorization on your card(s) for USD \$60 per person for each day of your cruise. Please note, this authorization will not be placed against your credit or debit card(s) until the day of sailing.) At the end of your cruise, you will receive a final statement, and your card(s) will be charged only for the actual amount of your purchases. Refunds for purchases of onboard products and services will be credited to your onboard account whether purchased prior to or during your cruise. Please have the credit or debit card(s) you registered with you and available for the duration of the cruise in case our shipboard staff needs additional information.

If you do not want to use a credit or debit card, the ship will collect a cash deposit from you at time of boarding in the same amount (USD \$60/person/day). ***Note - With the cash option, you MUST bring enough cash to cover the \$60/person/day account deposit. Failure to do so may forfeit your right to board. Any excess deposit will be refunded to you at the end of the cruise. Traveler's checks may be cashed at the front office to make your deposit. Personal checks are not accepted on board.

What's included in the price?

All meals, non-alcoholic drinks such juices, Ice Tea, upgraded dinner in the Pinnacle Grill, a \$25/pp shipboard credit.

What's NOT included in the price?

Optional excursions, optional specialty restaurants, alcoholic drinks, sodas, spa services, telephone calls, and shop purchases can usually be charged to your room and settled upon departure.

Drinks

Water, lemonade, iced tea, coffee and tea are free. With "Soda Fountain" option (around US\$ XX) you can have free soda for the whole cruise. Alcoholic beverages are not included.

Is this a bear only cruise?

What is a bear anyway? Everyone has its point of view. We encourage diversity of our group. While of course we are mostly hairy beefy 'bear' types, with a mix, singles and couples, bears/cubs/otters/chubs/chasers and just about anyone else you can think of! We encourage you to consider booking your straight friends and/or family as well and one of the nice things about being on a 'regular' sailing is that you can enjoy the company of Bears and join your straight friends and family in-port, or for meals, etc. "All are welcome" Please click on Facebook's event on WHO is attending to see the kind of guys you will find.

Excursions

We can arrange as a group or on your own. Details to follow:

Dinning:

We reserve an area of the Dining Room, you can opt to join us in that area, sitting with whomever you would like as we do not assign seating. Of course you can also choose to eat at other dining rooms and times each evening if you'd prefer. This is your vacation, and while we always have an option for you to be with 'the group' - how, when, where and with who you eat is entirely up to you.

Where to meet while on the ship:

Most of our group is located in certain areas of the ship, depending upon what type of cabin you book. The earlier you book the more likely it is that you will have neighbors from within our group nearby. During the day we would all gather around the back/AFT pool.