

# SAR JOINT WESTERN DISTRICT/PACIFIC DISTRICT JOURNEY TO ALASKA

SAR SEATTLE MEETING, VANCOUVER AND ALASKAN CRUISE

Friday, May 13, 2016



Depart home cities for Seattle – on arrival in Seattle you will transfer from the airport to downtown Seattle where overnight accommodations will be arranged at the Hyatt Regency at Olive or similar downtown Seattle Hotel.

Seattle, on Puget Sound in the Pacific Northwest, is surrounded by water, mountains and evergreen forests, and encompasses thousands of acres of parkland (hence its nickname, "Emerald City"). It is home to a thriving tech industry, with Microsoft and Amazon.com headquartered in its metropolitan area. The futuristic Space Needle, a legacy of the 1962 World's Fair, is its most recognizable landmark and offers spectacular 360 degree views of the city's skyline and beautiful mountain ranges. Among great things to see in addition to the Space Needle are the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum, the Pike Place Market, or the Sky View Observatory. There is shopping and great restaurants all around your downtown hotel.

**Evening**: SAR Dinner Meeting with the Washington Society, SAR.

**Overnight Hyatt** 

#### Saturday, May 14, 2016

Breakfast at leisure at the Hyatt. Balance of morning at leisure to enjoy Seattle until time to check out of the Hyatt Regency. After check out, we will board our motor coach from the front entrance of the hotel and begin our scenic drive to Vancouver. Our approximate time of departure will be 11:30 AM.

Departing the city, we will begin our drive along interstate I-5. We will leave I-5 at Burlington to travel on Chuckanut Drive, a scenic 20-mile roadway that hugs the cliffs of Chuckanut Mountain above Puget Sound. This scenic route will take us down the beautiful old forest road going



across the flats of Skagit Valley for approximately 9 miles and then on to the Chuckanut Drive, which is above the water along the cliffs. The Chuckanut Drive has unbelievable views that overlooks the Sound as well as the San Juan Islands. We will stop at one of the fabulous restaurants offering regional food and fabulous seafood such as the Oyster Bay or the Chuckanut Manor. After



lunch we will continue on to Bellingham, where we will connect again with I-5 for the rest of the drive to Vancouver.

The total drive to Vancouver is approximately 3 ½ hours, but we will add about an hour for lunch as well as a half hour for the scenic drive along Chuckanut. Depending on traffic at the border, we should arrive at downtown Vancouver around 4:30-5:00 PM. Check in time at the hotel is 4:00 PM so rooms should be ready on arrival.



#### Vancouver

Vancouver, named the Top Destination in Canada by Travel and Leisure as well as Trip Advisor in 2014, offers travelers great opportunities for outdoor adventures and sophisticated amenities only found in a world class city. This ocean side location is known

for its temperate climate in the city, while the surrounding snow covered slopes are perfect for winter sports and breathtaking views. As a matter of fact, Vancouver is one of the few places in the world where you can ski in the morning and sail in the afternoon. Vancouver began in Gastown. You will want to stroll down the charming cobbled streets, explore heritage buildings and mews, visit unique stores and dine in restaurants that range from quirky to gourmet. Here you will also find great night life. Or perhaps your interest will take you to Chinatown's historic buildings, exotic markets and herbal apothecaries and even visit the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden, the first full-scale Scholar garden built outside China. Or perhaps you simply want to stroll around Stanley Park. Regardless of the things you enjoy you are sure to find Vancouver is a delightful city.

Arriving downtown Vancouver we will disembark at The Sutton Place Hotel or similar deluxe downtown Vancouver hotel.

Evening on your own to enjoy downtown Vancouver. There are many wonderful restaurants within walking distance as well many sites, etc. The hotel is really conveniently located close to anything you may like to see or do.

Overnight at the hotel

#### Sunday, May 15, 2016

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast this morning, you may wish to attend church services. There are many churches of all denominations in downtown Vancouver, and you should check with the concierge at the hotel for a listing of churches and time of church services.

Check out time at the hotel is 11 AM, and we will check out of the hotel and transfer to the cruise terminal, where we will check in for our cruise on Holland America's *Noordam* for our 7-day Glacier Discovery Cruise.



Launched in 2006 the, *Noordam* is the newest member of the *Vista*-class ships. Named for the Northern compass point, she embraces the latest industry and environmental technologies such as her use of a diesel-electric power plant for optimal energy efficiency and an Azipod® propulsion system that maximizes maneuverability. On board *Noordam* there are museum-quality paintings, such as an oil painting of the city of Utrecht painted in 1842, as well as contemporary art like the series of photographs of the music greats Dizzy Gillespie and BB King. One of the most valuable pieces of furniture on board the ship is a remarkable inlaid chest flanked by carved wooden 17th-century Baroque columns. Made in Germany in 1885, the chest is inlaid with ebony and precious stones. A few of the amenities onboard are the fitness center, spa, movie theatre, casino, showroom, pool and much more.

Your cabin aboard the *Noordam* is an outside Veranda Cabin which will enable you to enjoy the amazing views of the Glaciers and wildlife we will see along the way. All veranda staterooms offer 2-lower beds which convert to one queen-size bed, bathtub, shower, sitting area, private veranda, and floor-to-ceiling windows.

After checking in, there will be plenty of time to unpack and get comfortable with our cabins. There are many food options available before our 5 PM departure. A quick glance of our cruise itinerary is as follows:

Day	Date	Port	Arrive	Depart
0	15 May 2016	Vancouver, B.C., CA		05:00 PM
1	16 May 2016	Scenic Cruising The Inside Passage CO		
2	17 May 2016	Ketchikan, Alaska, US	07:00 AM	03:00 PM
3	18 May 2016	Juneau, Alaska, US	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
4	19 May 2016	Skagway, Alaska, US	07:00 AM	09:00 PM
5	20 May 2016	Glacier Bay	07:00 AM	04:00 PM
6	21 May 2016	At Sea		
7	22 May 2016	Seward (Anchorage), Alaska, US	06:00 AM	

On May  $22^{nd}$  a one-night extension trip to Denali will be offered or return to home cities departing from the Anchorage airport.

#### May 16

Enjoy a beautiful sailing through the inside passage. Relax and enjoy a full day of scenic Inside Passage cruising and immerse yourself in Holland America Line elegance. It is a great day to enjoy a glass of wine on your veranda while taking in all the beauty of the area.

### **May 17**

Ketchikan, Alaska – The Indian name is *Kach Khanna*, which means spread of the wings of the eagle. In Ketchikan you are sure to see many of the magnificent birds perched in the trees. You will want to explore this uniquely Alaskan port which is famous for its rich native culture as well as salmon fishing and the scenic Misty Fjords.



**May 18** Juneau, Alaska



Juneau – Alaska's capital city. Here you will find unparalleled glacier viewing from such places as Tracy Arm Fjord, the Juneau Ice Fields and Glacier Bay National Park. Kayak up one of the area's many protected waterways, go flightseeing, tour historic downtown or try your hand at panning for gold. Just a few of the many adventures of Juneau.

**May 19** Skagway, Alaska



Skagway – Step back to the days of the great gold rush — Skagway was the spot to pan for gold. In one year from 1896 to 1897 this small town grew from a few tents to a city with 20,000 gold seekers. Today, travelers come to experience a time gone by and enjoy the charming boardwalk lined with buildings that replicate those of the Gold Rush days.

**May 20**Glacier Bay



Cruise the ice studded fjords of this national treasure as a Park Service Ranger narrates. This United Nations World Heritage Site is comprised of 3.3 million acres of natural wonders. It is home to magnificent glaciers, snow-capped mountains and abundant birds and wildlife. Truly a day for pictures.

# May 21 Day at Sea

A wonderful day to relax and enjoy the many amenities and fun activities onboard the Noordam. Perhaps it would be a good day for a spa appointment or try your luck in the casino. The Noordam always has many special activities onboard so be sure to check the activity schedule so you don't miss any of the fun.

## May 22

**Arrive Seward** 

This morning there is plenty of time for a great breakfast on the Noordam before we are



cleared to disembark in Seward. Once we have cleared customs if you are returning home, transportation will take you to the Anchorage airport for you to begin your flight home. For those extending, transportation will pick you up for our Denali Extension.

Estimated Trip Price Per Person

\$2,870.00

(Based on two persons sharing Double accommodations; both at the land hotels and on board the *Noordam*)

#### **Trip Inclusions**

Meet and greet at Seattle Airport and transfer to Seattle downtown deluxe hotel

One night at deluxe Hyatt Olive or other deluxe downtown hotel including tax and service fees

Breakfast at Seattle hotel including tax and gratuity

Coach transportation from Seattle to Vancouver

Tour of Chuckanut Drive from Skegit Flats to Bellingham

Lunch stop at scenic restaurant on Chuckanut Drive i.e. Chuckanut Manor or Oyster Bar

One night at deluxe Sutton Place Hotel (or other deluxe) in downtown Vancouver

Breakfast at the hotel including tax and gratuity

Transfer from hotel to Cruise Terminal

7-Day Cruise in Veranda Staterooms aboard the *Noordam*, a Holland America Ship based on two persons sharing a veranda cabin

Cruise Port Tax –not included in cruise price

All meals on board Noordam

All entertainment on board Noordam

Farewell Reception on board Noordam on final evening

Transfer from Seward, Alaska, to Anchorage – a 2 ½ hour transfer

Services of meeting planner and staff to manage program prior to operation.

Services of professional staff on site to provide assistance for attendees including staff to assist with local activities and hospitality desk.

On site hospitality service desk to provide information and service to SAR participants

Management for group for on-site activities

Trip documents

Total Nightly Accommodations:

9 Nights including all taxes and service fees

9 Breakfast including all taxes and gratuities

Lunch 8 Lunches (7 on ship and 1 Chuckanut Drive

Dinners 7 Dinners on board *Noordam*Snacks All snacks on *Noordam* 

Cocktail Reception 1 Private SAR Cocktail Reception

