

# **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

## *The Writer's Workshop Advanced Course at Sea*

### **January 5-19, 2014**

#### ***How much time do I need to allow for embarking and disembarking?***

For air arrivals and departures from Sydney, it is recommended that guests allow adequate time for transfer between the airport and pier, customs inspections and airport security checks. On the day of departure (January 5<sup>th</sup>) flights should arrive no later than 1:00 pm, and on the day the ship returns (January 19<sup>th</sup>) international flights should depart after 1:00 pm from Sydney and domestic flights after 12:00 pm.

#### ***Can I purchase transfers from the airport to the ship?***

If you are arriving to or departing from the Sydney Kingsford International airport you may add transfers to the ship for \$38 per person. These transfers are provided by Holland America and must be added to your cruise booking by **December 6th, 2013**. Flight numbers and details are requested for your reservations. Requests for transfers must be in writing to [asavage@worldviewtravel.com](mailto:asavage@worldviewtravel.com). Guests may also use a Taxi between Sydney Kingsford airport and the pier for approximately \$35 per taxi\*. When traveling with at least two passengers, most guests prefer taxis. \*(Prices may vary based on exchange rates).

#### ***When may I embark the ship?***

The *ms Oosterdam* departs from the port of Sydney at 6:30 pm. **Embarkation begins at approximately 12:00 pm**. Lunch is served in the Lido Restaurant until 4:30 pm. Guests are required to be on board no later than 90 minutes prior to sailing time. The pier address is: Overseas Passenger Terminal, The Rocks, 5 Hickson Rd., NSW 2000 Sydney, Australia. Pier address is subject to change closer to date of sailing. We do recommend verifying pier address with Holland America closer to sailing.

#### ***Australian Visa Requirements -***

An Australian Visa is required for entry into Australia by all North American Passengers (U.S. and Canada) and is also needed for many other foreign passport holders. All residents outside of North America are responsible to determine if they need any additional visa / entry document requirements for either Australia or the Pacific Islands visited on this itinerary. The Australian Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) website offers electronic processing of visa applications with a virtual visa attachment for your passport. This is something that should be handled early, as waiting could hinder your travel plans. Go to <http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/> to complete the visa application that is required for your country of origin. **Passenger Visas are the sole responsibility of the individual. Life Journeys cannot take responsibility for procuring these for any individual. Failure to provide complete documentation can result in denial to board without the possibility of refund.**

#### ***Air or Hotel Reservations -***

For those passengers who need airfare from the U.S., the Worldview Travel Air Department can give you a free quote for the best fare and schedule. Please contact Lynn at 800-627-8726 ext. 1226 or email her at [lynn@worldviewtravel.com](mailto:lynn@worldviewtravel.com). Please include requested dates and times with all email requests. There are many good discount internet sites available for booking hotels such as [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com) or [www.venere.com](http://www.venere.com), both offering a variety of different-priced hotel options.

#### ***Dining -***

Our group will use "Anytime Dining" which allows you the flexibility to dine anytime between 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. With "Anytime Dining" the choice is yours, whether you want the gracious service and stellar dining experience in the Main Dining Room or a more casual meal in the Lido where you can choose either the buffet or a made-to-order meal. Also, room service is available and is complimentary.

#### ***Reservation-Only Dining Rooms -***

As a delicious alternative to the main dining room, try the Pinnacle Grill restaurant. This restaurant is by reservation only, which can be made onboard or online in advance. There is a \$25 per person charge for this special dining experience.

### ***Can the dining room accommodate special diets?***

Watching your salt, fat or sugar intake? Going vegetarian? Advise us at the time of booking, and we'll be sure to notify Holland America to accommodate any special diets. Gluten-free or special medically necessary diets must be pre-ordered a minimum of 60 days prior to sailing. These do require a form submission to Holland America directly. Contact Life Journeys/Worldview Travel to request this form.

### ***What's included in the Cruise Price?***

- All meals, including room service, except in the specialty "reservations only" restaurants.
- Most entertainment & activities on board.
- The full seminar program and special events for the group.

### ***What's not included in the price?***

- Air Transportation or transfers to the ship
- Shore excursions in the various ports
- On board: sodas, alcoholic beverages and bottled water, telephone calls or internet service, spa treatments, laundry/dry cleaning, photographs, casino gambling, and gratuities (\$11.50-\$12.00 per day).

### ***Stateroom Details -***

All staterooms include: safe, hairdryers, mini-bar, multi-channel music system, remote-controlled color TV and DVD players. They are all equipped with both North American standard 110 volt and European Standard 220 volt outlets.

### ***May I bring my own liquor on-board?***

Only wine and champagne are allowed. A corkage fee will be charged for wine or champagne brought to the restaurants or bars for consumption.

### ***Cruise Attire -***

Casual wear will be appropriate for days onboard. For evening wear, count on two basic types of attire.

- Smart Casual: dresses, or slacks & blouse for women; sport shirts & trousers for men
- Formal: cocktail dresses for women; suits & ties, or tuxedos for men

There are three formal nights, and eleven smart casual evenings. Full laundry services, including pressing, are available for a fee.

### ***Are there any special activities for kids?***

Holland America has a special, fully supervised program for children from ages 3 to 17. (Young children must be potty trained to participate.) Programs include arts and crafts, dance parties, scavenger hunts, pizza parties, and much more. More information is available at <http://www.hollandamerica.com/cruise-vacation-onboard/Activities.action>

### ***When can I reserve my Shore Excursions?***

Booking shore trips are usually available between 120-60 days before sailing. Pre-booking excursions is recommended. You can pre-book your excursions with your booking number up to 4 days prior to sailing at <https://book.hollandamerica.com/fe/secondaryBooking.action> or by calling Holland America at 888-425-9376. You may also make arrangements when you board your ship at the Excursions Desk.

### ***Ship Contact Information –***

Your E-Documentation packet will contain detailed information including the phone number and email address for your ship. The Internet Café is available for sending and receiving emails and you are able to buy different minute packages on-board. Wireless internet is available from various locations on-board for your laptop, but not in the staterooms. Charges for internet access will be posted to your ship board account.

### ***Weather -***

Expected temperatures range from a low of 70° F (night) to a high of 85° F (day). It is advisable to check the internet for up-to-date weather conditions.

