

## Weather & Destination Specific Information

# Panama Canal Cruise with Holland America

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

**Time Zone:** We will be in one of three different time zones depending on our port of call.

Location	Time Zone	UTC Offset
Fort Lauderdale, U.S.	Eastern Standard Time (EST)	UTC-5
Half Moon Cay, Bahamas	Eastern Standard Time (EST))	UTC-5
Oranestad, Aruba	Eastern Standard Time (EST)	UTC-5
Cartagena, Colombia	Eastern Standard Time (EST)	UTC-5
Panama	Eastern Standard Time (EST)	UTC-5
Limon, Costa Rica	Central Standard Time (CST)	UTC-6
Ocho Rios, Jamaica	Eastern Standard Time (EST))	UTC-5

**Weather:** Average High/Low

Location	February
Fort Lauderdale, U.S.	78 °F/62 °F
Half Moon Cay, Bahamas	78 °F/63 °F
Orangestad, Aruba	87 °F/76 °F
Cartagena, Colombia	87 °F/75 °F
Panama	85 °F/54 °F
Limon, Costa Rica	84 °F/69 °F
Ocho Rios, Jamaica	83 °F/71 °F

**Currency:** Currency in the countries through which you travel:

- Aruba: The Aruba Florin, has an exchange rate of 1.80 to 1 USD. Shops and restaurants accept American credit cards and USD throughout Aruba.
- Colombia: The Colombian Peso (COP) has an exchange rate of 1 USD to 4,012.50 COP . Most shops and restaurants accept American credit cards.
- Panama: The Panamanian Balboa (B/ or PAB) has an equal exchange rate with USD. 1 PAB equals 1 USD. All shops and restaurants accept American credit cards and USD.
- Costa Rica: The Costa Rican Colon (CRC, plural is 'colones') has an exchange rate of 533.70 CRC to 1 USD. Most shops and restaurants accept American credit cards and USD.
- Jamaica: The Jamaican Dollar has an exchange rate of 153.00 JAD to 1 USD. Most shops & restaurants accept American credit cards.

**Electrical Current:** The staterooms on our cruise ship come equipped with USA-standard 110 AC and 220 AC outlets. If you keep your devices properly charged aboard ship you will not need to buy an adapter or converter for your cruise. There are normally 2 outlets per cabin, some travelers like to bring a power strip to allow them to plug in more devices. If you have a C-Pap machine, you may also want to bring an extension cord.

## ABOARD SHIP

**Shipboard Account:** Holland America Line ships operate as a "cashless society." Most guests furnish a credit card to Holland America Line during their pre-cruise check-in. You may also bring cash to pay for your onboard account or credit your account with a prepaid card but these alternatives come with additional risk\*.

All onboard expenses guests incur aboard ship will be added to their individual onboard account. The day prior to disembarkation an itemized statement will be delivered to your stateroom. Please review this statement thoroughly and request any adjustments as necessary before departure. Then upon disembarkation the balance of the onboard account will be charged to the credit card the guest assigned to their shipboard account.

\*If you wish to bring cash aboard ship to pay for your onboard account, you must have the cash in your personal possession upon boarding AND you must furnish it to the ship's front desk within 24 hours of boarding. The minimum amount of cash you must furnish is determined by Holland America Line during your pre-cruise check-in. Likewise, if you are paying for your onboard account with a prepaid card, the prepaid card's balance must be at least the amount of money determined by Holland America Line during your pre-cruise check-in AND you must furnish the card to the front desk within 24 hours of boarding. The ship's front desk will not accept personal checks. Failure to meet HAL's Onboard Expenses Terms & Conditions may forfeit your right to board the ship. Holiday Vacations is not responsible for penalties guests incur for failing to meet HAL's Onboard Expenses Terms & Conditions.

**Shipboard Gratuities:** It is the practice of Holland America Line to add the shipboard gratuities (also known as Crew Incentives) onto your ship bill for your Cabin Steward and Dining Staff on your ship. An onboard service charge will be automatically added to each person's shipboard account. Currently the amount for cabins below a suite category charge the amount of \$17.00 per person, per day. Suites service charge of \$19.00 per person, per day. If service exceeds or fails to meet your expectations, you are free to adjust this amount at the end of your cruise. Tips for beverages are not included. A 15% gratuity is automatically added to any beverage service, so it is not necessary to leave an additional tip unless you are so inclined.

**Shipboard Clothing:** Holland America recommends the following when it comes to clothing:

- Daytime: Dress is casual. Shirts/cover-ups and footwear are always required indoors.
- Most evenings: Smart casual is appropriate. Shorts, pool and beachwear, distressed jeans, and tank tops are not permitted in table service restaurants aboard ship.
- Dressy nights: Slacks, skirts, dresses, blouses, collared shirts, and jackets are recommended. Jeans, shorts, and t-shirts will only be permitted in casual dining areas.

Holiday Vacations also advises low-heeled, rubber-soled shoes while on deck. When at port, we suggest wearing comfortable walking shoes.

**Shipboard Internet Access:** All Holland America ships are equipped with 24-hour Internet Cafés. Guests may use their own laptops at Wi-Fi hotspots around the ship or utilize the ship's Internet Café terminals 24 hours a day. Internet fees will be posted in the Internet Café and time packages are available.

**Shipboard Phones:** At sea, you can phone and fax to anywhere in the world. Rates are posted in your stateroom and your shipboard account will be billed for any outgoing ship-to-shore calls.

Your relatives and friends may contact you aboard the cruise ship by calling 1-800-993-5483. Please note that ship to shore calls are very expensive. It is wise to text or email your loved ones at home.

**Cruise Ship Safety:** Once aboard ship there will be a mandatory emergency drill. All guests are required to attend this drill to learn what to do in case of an emergency. Life vests are located in your stateroom and should not be worn during the drill. Completing this drill requires you to your designated muster station. Your muster station number or letter can be found on your guest key card. Crew members will be available to direct you to the correct muster station. Attendance will be taken so be sure to check in once you arrive at your muster station.