



Quilt Seminars at Sea  
www.quiltcruises.com



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## Tropical Quilting Retreat at Sea

Nov 8, 2024 - Nov 17, 2024

Join us on this wonderful 9-day exploration filled with quilting! We'll sail on Holland America Line's beautiful *Rotterdam*, round trip out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida!

Our classes are held during our "at sea" days. As usual, we bring you a wide variety of classes from which to choose, taught by three award-winning, renowned instructors in the world of quilting:

**Gyleen Fitzgerald, Geraldine Wilkins and Latifah Saafir!**

We will visit some of the Caribbean's most beautiful ports; St. Thomas, St. John's, Tortola, San Juan and Turks & Caicos! What a great way to beat the winter blues and take a short break from everyday life while enjoying 5 star service and the company of fellow quilters!

From turtles to stingrays, submarines to snorkeling, there's something wonderful awaiting you in every port of call! Onboard ship you will have the opportunity to perfect your quilting skills with many class choices from our fabulous teachers, as well as myriad opportunities for "SEWCIALIZING" with other people who all share your love of quilting!

Bring a friend, your spouse or your family - non-quilters are always welcome to join us! There are many activities to pursue while you are in class! We can't wait to see you on board!

## Trip Summary

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### November 8 - Friday

3:00 PM Embark from Fort Lauderdale on a 9-day Tropical Quilting Getaway  
Welcome and Getting to Know You!

### November 9 - Saturday

At Sea

9:00 AM Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 1 - Chasing Rainbows

9:00 AM Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 2 - Peaceful Portrait

9:00 AM Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 3 - Mermaid Tails

### November 10 - Sunday

At Sea

Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 1 - Stylized Hand Stitching on Garments

Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 2 - Caribbean Reflections

Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 3 - Notorious

### November 11 - Monday

8:00 AM Arrive at St Thomas, USVI

5:00 PM Depart from St Thomas, USVI

### November 12 - Tuesday

8:00 AM Arrive at St John's, Antigua

5:00 PM Depart from Antigua

### November 13 - Wednesday

8:00 AM Arrive at Roadtown, Tortola BVI

6:00 PM Depart from Roadtown, Tortola BVI

### November 14 - Thursday

7:00 AM Arrive San Juan, Puerto Rico

5:00 PM Depart from San Juan, Puerto Rico

### November 15 - Friday

12:00 PM Arrive at Grand Turk, Turk and Caicos

7:00 PM Depart from Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos

### November 16 - Saturday

At Sea

9:00 AM Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 1 - Pandora

9:00 AM Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 2 - Sea & Sky Strata

9:00 AM Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 3 - All Eyez On Me

4:00 PM Sew and Tell Party

### November 17 - Sunday

7:00 AM Disembark at Fort Lauderdale

## Information & Documents



### November 8 - Friday



#### 3:00 PM DEPARTURE

#### Embark from Fort Lauderdale on a 9-day Tropical Quilting Getaway

**Ship Information** Named Rotterdam, a powerful and symbolic moniker honoring cruise ships of our past, this Holland America new ship (and new flagship) is the third in our Pinnacle-class fleet. Rotterdam hits all the right notes: exquisite dining, innovative entertainment, superbly appointed staterooms and suites, the finest service and craftsmanship that reflects nearly 150 years of seafaring expertise. Music is front and center on this new cruise ship and the result is a ship that moves—not only through water, through the hearts of guests. Rotterdam will be the soundtrack of discovery from that very first day to the end of each perfect night.



#### Welcome and Getting to Know You!

We'll have fun games and SEW-cial events along the way!

### November 9 - Saturday



#### At Sea

Enjoy this day at sea as you travel to your next port of call.



9:00 AM - 6 hr 30 min

#### Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 1 - Chasing Rainbows

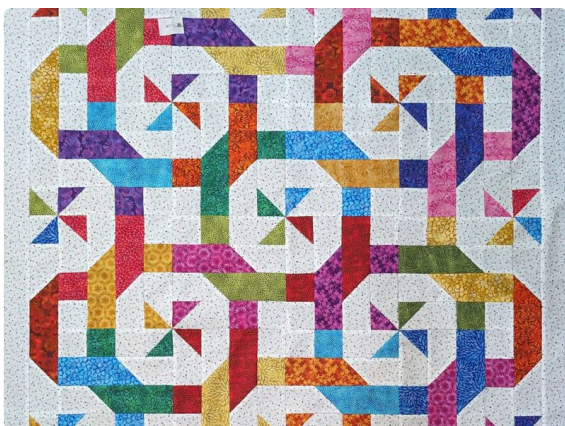
Gyleen Fitzgerald

Modern with a twist! "KNOT" so hard that you will "SPIN"! It's visually dynamic with fast easy piecing. A wall-hanging you will need (21) or for a lap quilt (42) 2½" x 40" strips.

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**Sewing machines will be provided for this class.**





9:00 AM - 6 hr 30 min

## Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 2 - Peaceful Portrait

Geraldine Wilkins

Three Stitching Styles

Discover the serene beauty of portraiture through the art of quilting in our Peaceful Portrait class, where participants will explore three distinctive stitching styles. Quilters will embark on a creative journey to craft a small art piece depicting a tranquil resting face.

Choose from a selection of captivating faces to transfer onto fabric, each offering its own story waiting to be stitched. Whether you prefer the precision of decorative and free-motion machine stitches or the meditative rhythm of hand stitching, you'll have the opportunity to express relaxation, rest, and reflection in your artwork.

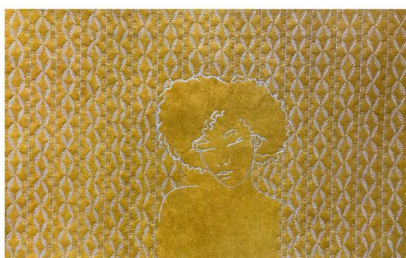
Join us as we blend artistry with introspection, capturing the essence of serenity through the power of quilting and stitching.

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**Sewing Machines will be provided for this class**

### Peaceful Portrait



9:00 AM - 6 hr 30 min

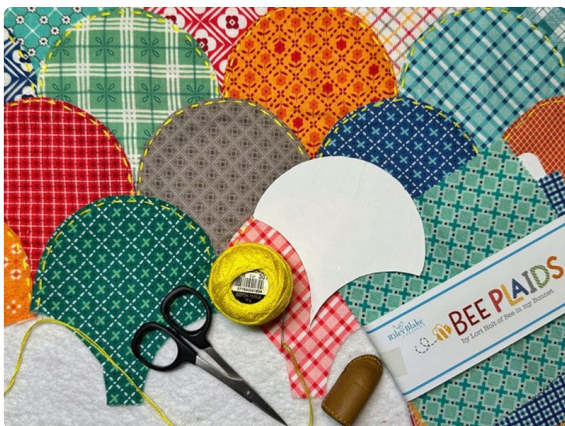
## Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 3 - Mermaid Tails

Latifah Saafir

Hand stitch a dynamic clamshell pillow as you learn a fun quilt as you go technique. Learn to piece and quilt your clamshells at the same time as you make this one charm pack pillow front. Not only is this a fun technique to learn it can easily be sized up for larger quilt projects. And as a bonus you will learn the magic pillow facing tutorial to finish up your pillow with pretty finished insides.

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**No Sewing machines required for this class.**



## November 10 - Sunday



### At Sea

Enjoy this day at sea as you travel to your next port of call.



### Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 1 - Stylized Hand Stitching on Garments

Gyleen Fitzgerald

It's time to "update or upcycle" an old garment to give it a fun new life. Denim works best or something of similar weight. Think jeans, jackets, tote bag, placemat or table runner. Oh boy, are you thinking, what do I have that I'm not using but love? You bring the item and I'll assemble the kit.

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**No Sewing machines required for this class.**



### Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 2 - Caribbean Reflections

Geraldine Wilkins

In this dynamic workshop, beginners will dive into the art of acrylic ruler quilting, mastering the basics while creating mesmerizing straight line designs. Meanwhile, seasoned quilters will uncover invaluable tips and tricks for echo quilting, elevating their quilting to new heights. With just one ruler and a handful of essential tools, you'll unlock the secrets to crafting stunning quilting designs. Our canvas? The Caribbean Reflections mini fabric quilt panel, which will serve as both a conversation piece and a cherished memento of your unforgettable sea voyage. Whether you're a novice eager to explore ruler quilting or an experienced quilter seeking fresh inspiration, this class promises an enriching experience filled with fun techniques and endless possibilities. Join us as we stitch together memories against the backdrop of tropical paradise!

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**Sewing machines will be provided for this class.**





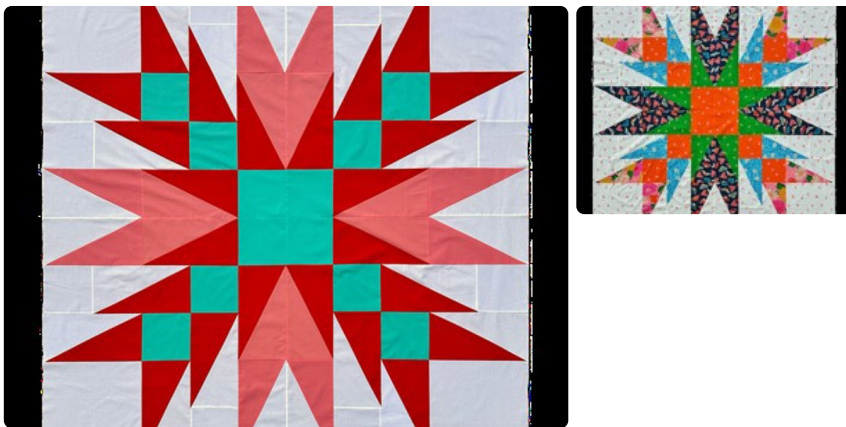
## Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 3 - Notorious

### Latifah Saafir

Half rectangle triangles make this quilt the star of the show. Master this challenging shape using The HuRTy 1 ruler for both pre-cutting and trimming. This 60" x 60" quilt is a relatively quick sew and some of you will be able to complete it during the cruise!

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**  
**Sewing machines will be provided for this class.**



## November 11 - Monday



### 8:00 AM ARRIVAL

#### Arrive at St Thomas, USVI

The capital island of the U.S. Virgin Islands is often the first stop for travelers on a Caribbean cruise. Its easy access, use of American currency and cultural cues, as well as its reputation for safety, make St. Thomas the easy first choice. But just because it appeals to the comfortable side of travel doesn't mean that St. Thomas is basic. Just the opposite—the 80-square-kilometer (31-square-mile) island is full of superlatives. It's home to some of the Caribbean's highest viewpoints, spectacularly positioned among verdant tropical foliage. It offers some of the best snorkeling around. And the island has got the hands-down coolest attraction in the region—an ice museum.

Cruise to St. Thomas and surround yourself with pristine beaches, excellent shopping and dining. Charlotte Amalie, the main town in St. Thomas, buzzes with activity. It's one of the busiest cruise ports in the Caribbean. Founded in 1666 and renamed in 1691 to honor the Danish queen, Charlotte Amalie contains excellent of all Danish-colonial architecture. In fact, a number of sites in Charlotte Amalie are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



### 5:00 PM DEPARTURE

#### Depart from St Thomas, USVI

## November 12 - Tuesday



### 8:00 AM ARRIVAL

#### Arrive at St John's, Antigua

The former British colony of Antigua is something special. Just ask Richard Branson, Eric Clapton, Giorgio Armani and Oprah—they all have homes here. Known for its beaches—there are 365 of them, all white sand lined with palm trees—Antigua also boasts charming harbors and a countryside dotted with old sugar mills. At one time the island was a juggernaut in the sugar trade, and also produced tobacco and cotton. Today, agriculture is still important, with Antiguan sweet potatoes, black pineapples and guavas being among the major crops. Book a Caribbean Cruise and explore the port of St. Johns.

On an Antigua cruise, visit St. Johns, the capital city of the dual-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda. This city is the center of commerce, with international banks and boutiques as well as a lone rum distillery. St. Johns is located in the Caribbean Sea and is one of the hottest vacation spots. Immerse yourself in the colonial history of Antigua. Explore the best of Antigua on one of many Holland America shore excursions and visit English Harbour, known for its maritime heritage, historic sites and excellent restaurants. Plus, get a glimpse of some impressive yachts as they sail in and out of the bay. Discover Nelson's Dockyard, which features gorgeous 18th- and 19th-century architecture but also buzzes with modern eateries and shops. On an Antigua cruise, explore St. Johns island beaches, snorkeling, and more.



**5:00 PM DEPARTURE**  
**Depart from Antigua**

## November 13 - Wednesday

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**8:00 AM ARRIVAL**  
**Arrive at Roadtown, Tortola BVI**

Road Town, on the island of Tortola, sits at both the literal and figurative center of the British Virgin Islands. As the BVI's capital, it serves as the administrative hub for the islands. Its central location also makes it an ideal jumping-off point for cruising the islands of the Sir Francis Drake Channel and for visiting spots like the Baths on Virgin Gorda and the legendary Soggy Dollar Bar on Jost Van Dyke's White Bay Beach.

Most visitors to Road Town make a beeline for the water. Sailors have long loved the BVI for its idyllic island-hopping. Excellent scuba diving and snorkeling can be found at spots like the Norman Island Caves and the *RMS Rhone* shipwreck. For those who prefer to explore on dry land, the beach at Cane Garden Bay is only a 20-minute drive from Road Town, and a great spot to enjoy the Caribbean sun and sea while sipping a rum cocktail. While you're at Cane Garden Bay, save time to visit the historic Callwood Rum Distillery. Sage Mountain National Park, home to the tallest peak in the Virgin Islands, is also nearby. Hikers can explore the park's shady tropical forest and take in breathtaking island views.



**6:00 PM DEPARTURE**  
**Depart from Roadtown, Tortola BVI**

## November 14 - Thursday

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**7:00 AM DEPARTURE**  
**Arrive San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Explore the vibrant city of San Juan on a cruise to Puerto Rico with Holland America Line. Take a stroll along and then past the old city walls and explore the colorful cobblestone streets of old San Juan – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Site within the U.S. National Park Service. Taste your way through the city's extraordinary culinary scene, immerse yourself in its colorful history, or just pull up at a beach and grab a local rum cocktail. On a cruise to San Juan, Puerto Rico explore one of many cruise excursions like El Yungue National Rainforest. Or a drive to Old San Juan where you can enjoy the architecture, historic buildings, and shopping.



**5:00 PM DEPARTURE**  
**Depart from San Juan, Puerto Rico**

## November 15 - Friday



### 12:00 PM ARRIVAL

#### Arrive at Grand Turk, Turk and Caicos

Cruise to Turks and Caicos and experience the sugar-white sand, brilliant blue waters, and the kaleidoscopic sea life that is plentiful in the Caribbean paradise. Without hyperbole, this is one of the world's most photogenic spots. T&C, as it is sometimes called, is the ultimate fantasy-island destination—the screen saver in all its glorious reality.

Grand Turk, a jewel of an isle that measures just 18 square kilometers (seven square miles), is awesomely rich in natural wonders. Ringed by translucent warm waters teeming with coral and fish, this Turks and Caicos cruise is a bonanza for divers, snorkelers and anglers. Of course you can always simply kick back and just enjoy the view from under a palm tree. Or explore the fascinating history of Turks & Caicos in its capital, Cockburn Town, lined with Bermudan-style buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries.



### 7:00 PM DEPARTURE

#### Depart from Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos

## November 16 - Saturday



### At Sea

Enjoy this day at sea as you travel to your next port of call.



9:00 AM - 6 hr 30 min

### Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 1 - Pandora

Gyleen Fitzgerald

Wow is the first word that comes to mind. Graphic is the second word that describes this beauty. The Gems shape gives a folded or 3D effect and you can't get pointy points with such ease. Give it a go, you will not be disappointed.

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**Sewing machines will be provided for this class.**



9:00 AM - 6 hr 30 min





## Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 2 - Sea & Sky Strata

### Geraldine Wilkins

Sashiko Watercolor

Set sail on a creative journey that captures the essence of your Caribbean voyage in vibrant hues with our Sea & Sky Strata class! Designed for all skill levels, this class invites cruisers to transform their memories of the sea or sky, captured on their cell phones at sunrise or sunset, into stunning Sashiko watercolor strata.

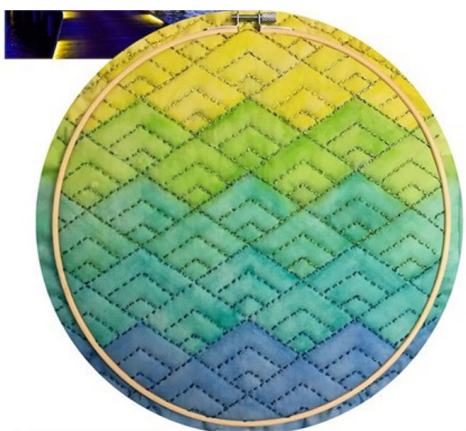
Using simple yet effective watercolor pencil techniques and the soothing rhythm of Sashiko hand stitching, participants will craft a piece that embodies the beauty and tranquility of the Caribbean. Whether destined for a pillow, a tote bag, or adorning the back of a denim jacket, this versatile creation will serve as a tangible reminder of your unforgettable adventure at sea.

Join us as we blend artistry with the splendor of nature, turning cherished moments into timeless keepsakes that will be treasured for years to come.

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**NO Sewing machines required for this class.**



**9:00 AM - 6 hr 30 min**

## Full Day of Quilting Classes: Option 3 - All Eyez On Me

### Latifah Saafir

Master curved piecing and explore value and color in this vibrant quilt. This classic quilt is made modern through scale and construction and looks great in your favorite fabrics. Made with the Clammy 12" this quilt is both charm pack and layer cake friendly. As a bonus you will get instructions for using 12 circle "blocks" to make a beach mat.

*Lunch break from 11:30AM-1:00PM*

**Skill Level: Fun for all (perfect for all levels of experience)**

**Sewing machines will be provided for this class.**





4:00 PM - 1 hr  
**Sew and Tell Party**

## November 17 - Sunday

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### 7:00 AM ARRIVAL

#### **Disembark at Fort Lauderdale**

Popular with tourists and lined with beaches and boating canals, Fort Lauderdale has a truly pleasant year-round temperature of 75.5 °F on average.

Restaurants, marinas, shopping malls and over 60 golf courses are just a few of the things that make this city in the Miami Metropolitan area a huge draw for visitors.

Some of Fort Lauderdale's key attractions include the tropical Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, the shopping district East Las Olas Boulevard, and the all-ages Museum of Discovery and Science.



## **Geraldine Wilkins**

*Fredericksburg, VA*

*[www.courses.livingwaterquilter.com](http://www.courses.livingwaterquilter.com)*

Geraldine is a native New Yorker with a love of travel, elephants, crafting and sewing. She has a passion for connecting with women through sewing and quilting. She enjoys helping fellow makers through inspirational lectures, practical workshops at quilt retreats and national quilt shows like Quilt Con and the American Quilters Society. She shares her experience and expertise in free motion and ruler quilting enabling quilters to become confident and creative quilters.



## Latifah Saafir

*Los Angeles, CA*

<https://shop.latifahsaafirstudios.com>

Latifah Saafir is a Professional Seam Ripper and Hoarder of Fabric. She tries to justify her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree by designing cool multi-functional tools for quilters to use. She loves to challenge quilters to try hard things and make it a bit easier by developing easy to follow techniques for such skills as curved piecing, bias tape applique and half rectangle triangles. Having learned how to sew as a kid Latifah tries to influence kids to also fall in love with sewing through her line of products Quilt Cadets, specifically designed for kids who sew. Her secret wish is to fill the world with quilt-y friends which is why she selfishly co-founded the Los Angeles Modern Quilt Guild and the worldwide Modern Quilt Guild. Her biggest love is to teach but most days she can be found sitting in front of her computer feverishly trying to break the code to create a pattern that goes viral.



## **Gyleen X. Fitzgerald**

*Baltimore, MD*

*[www.colourfulstitches.com](http://www.colourfulstitches.com)*

Gyleen was born in Philadelphia, PA but grew up in Taiwan and Japan. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering at Drexel University and opened Colourful Stitches in 1999.

Those formative years in the Far East developed her love for simplistic artistry. She began needlework at the very young age of four and has since pursued artistic expression in drawing and quilt making. Her quilts blend colour, pattern and texture to provide a contemporary essence to traditional quilting.

Her strength as a quilter is demonstrated by the infusion of engineering tools and techniques to simplify visually complex quilts. Her written works center around Haiku poetry, Quilt project books, patterns and magazine articles and of course the crème de la crème, children's books.

As an artist, she has achieved "Best of Show" recognition; as a writer and publisher, she has achieved award winning status with Quilts: Unfinished Stories with New Endings. Gyleen has appeared on The Quilt Show and Lifetime TV promoting finishing antique quilts and the new spirit of traditional quilting.

For Gyleen, quilting is the passion which colours her world as her writing journey continues.

## Cruise Pricing

We are pleased to offer a special cruise rate for all passengers aboard the Tropical Quilting Retreat at Sea.

### Your Quilt Seminar at Sea includes:

- Award-winning quilting instructors Gyleen Fitzgerald, Geraldine Wilkins and Latifah Saafir
- Numerous class choices
- Fabulous Holland America cruise
- Sew & Tell at the Farewell party
- Challenge Block Contest
- “Sewcial” events onboard

### Your cabin

Your cabin will be modern and cheery whether you choose a more economical inside cabin or a room with a view. You can even have your own private balcony if you choose, or a penthouse suite. Each cabin has two lower beds (which can be arranged into a Queen or 2 Twin beds), a TV, safe, refrigerator and bathroom with a shower and/or tub. Cabins which are designed for the physically challenged are also available.

### Prices and cabin options

For more information on room types and locations, please refer to the [Rotterdam deck plan](#).

<i>Room Type</i>	<i>Cost Per Person (Double Occupancy)</i>	<i>Cost Per Person (Single Occupancy)</i>
<b>Standard Inside Forward/Aft –K</b>	\$1,588	\$2,676
<b>Large Inside Midship – J</b>	\$1,649	\$2,798
<b>Large Oceanview Forward/Aft – F</b>	\$1,939	\$3,378
<b>Large Oceanview Midship – C</b>	\$2,159	\$3,818
<b>Verandah Forward/Aft – VD</b>	\$2,499	\$4,498
<b>Verandah Midship – VA</b>	\$2,699	\$4,798
<b>Vista Suite - A</b>	\$3,199	\$5,898
<b>Signature Suite - SS</b>	\$4,549	\$8,598
<b>*Neptune Suite – SA</b>	\$6,099	\$11,698

*\*Includes Suite Amenities*

*\*\*Non-quilting companions welcome. Please inquire for applicable discounts\*\**

## Looking for an “All-Inclusive” package for your cruise?

Purchase Holland America’s “Have It All” package for only \$55 per person, per day of the cruise. This valuable package includes the Signature Beverage package, Wi-Fi Surf package, 1 Night of Specialty Dining and a \$100 Shore excursion credit per person.

*Please note that if this package is selected, ALL persons traveling together in one stateroom must purchase this package. For more details [click here](#)*

*Rates are per person, cruise only in USD. If you are a single and would like to share a cabin, we can assist you with finding a roommate. The rate for the third person in the cabin is \$1,914 plus taxes on eligible triple occupancy cabins. Other cabin categories are also available, including the penthouse suite (call for pricing).*

## Costs not covered in the cruise price

**Port charges are included in the above prices, however government fees, fuel surcharges, and taxes estimated at \$205 per person are additional.**

Other items not covered in the cruise cost are kit fees for each class, plus items of a personal nature such as photographs, laundry, massage, as well as shore excursions, alcoholic beverages, sodas, or tipping. Holland America applies a service charge for tipping to your account on board at the rate of at least \$17 per guest per day. All service personnel on board receive gratuities from this service charge, so no additional tipping is necessary except for bar drinks and spa services which have “as-you-go” service charges added separately.

## Deposit & final payment

**A deposit of \$600 per person** is needed to guarantee your reservation. (\$100 per person is non-refundable). Final payment will be due no later than July 30, 2024. Payments must be made by major credit/debit card.

## Cancellation

The cruise cancellation policy is as follows:

**Before 100 days prior to the cruise:** \$100 per person, non-refundable

**From 99 days to 46 days prior to the cruise:** 50% per person, non-refundable

**There is no refund within 45 days of sailing.**

*Above cancel fees apply to the cruise portion only. If you have purchased airfare, pre or post cruise accommodations, tours, insurance, ground transportation or any other items related to this cruise they may have different cancelation policies than the cruise. Please contact us for details.*

## Travel Information

### **What to wear**

Being casual and comfortable is a part of life on the *Rotterdam*. Weather in the Southern Caribbean region can be hot during the daytime, yet cool in the evening—the “layered look” is a must! You may need a light jacket for both cool weather and potential rain. (A sweater may also be desired for comfort in the air conditioned public areas.) The temperature in each cabin is individually controlled for your own comfort. Bring comfortable shoes to wear in port, streets are often uneven or rough. There are two dressy nights (black tie not required, but suit and tie for gents), and other nights are smart casual nights no jeans or T-shirts in the dining room). We will have early dining reserved for the group. If you don’t want to participate in the formal nights, you have the option of dining casually on the Lido deck.

### **Travel to and from Fort Lauderdale**

We can arrange airline tickets and other personalized travel. We are able to quote fares for all airlines and look for the best prices. Transfers from the airport to the cruise ship and back are available at a minimal charge. Pre and post-cruise packages are available at an additional cost for those who would like to arrive in Fort Lauderdale a day or two early, or stay after the cruise. We will also offer custom hotel packages both before and after the cruise.

### **Trip Insurance**

**The purchase of trip cancellation, travel accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended.** There are many uncertainties and unforeseen circumstances involved in our world; therefore we strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance. It will provide coverage in the event of cancellation of your trip due to unforeseeable sickness, injury or death to you, a family member, or a traveling companion. In addition, it will provide coverage for travel accidents, baggage loss or damage, and medical evacuation. This insurance coverage is available at a rate, which varies by your age and the cost of your cruise. You will be completely covered, waiving all pre-existing conditions, only if the insurance is purchased at the time of deposit, and you cover the full amount of your cruise, including taxes and fees. Please complete the section on the registration form (**online** or **pdf**) regarding insurance. **We cannot accept your registration unless this is completed and signed.**

### **Immigration Requirements**

A passport that is valid for at least six months beyond your return date is required for travel. Non-US citizens must have a valid passport and any necessary visas. Legal names must be correct on all documents. Lack of proper ID will result in denial of embarkation; therefore all passengers are responsible for necessary identification. If you have access to the Internet, the following website offers excellent information regarding applying for and renewing passports: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html). If you need to obtain a certified copy of your birth certificate: <http://www.vitalchek.com> is a helpful website.