



MEDITERRANEAN ANCIENT KINGDOMS

BOOK BY MAY 31
SAVE \$200 PP



JOURNEY LEADERS: NICK AND PAM CANNON

ATHENS ROUNDTRIP • HOLLAND AMERICA LINE • MS NIEUW STATENDAM

OCTOBER 2 - 19, 2024 | 18 DAYS | MOST MEALS

Be swept away by mesmerizing ancient wonders and captivating tales during this **55th Anniversary Voyage** aboard Holland America's *Nieuw Statendam*. Immerse yourself in the rich heritage of Greece, Malta, Tunisia, Italy, and Turkey, as you explore sun-kissed beaches and retrace the footsteps of civilizations that shaped these lands.

Begin your odyssey with a two-night stay in Athens, a city that seamlessly blends timeless splendours and present-day enchantments. Its lively streets offer a captivating mosaic of history, culture, and culinary delights. Prepare to be entranced by the mystical allure of these legendary destinations, each possessing its own unique enchantment and beckoning you to discover hidden treasures.

This 18-day Mediterranean Ancient Kingdoms adventure will ignite your imagination, leaving you with cherished tales to share for years to come.



Features and Highlights

- 2-nights pre-cruise hotel stay in Athens at Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel or similar with breakfast daily, city tour, and transfer from the hotel to the pier
- 14-night cruise on the *ms Nieuw Statendam*, based on sharing a twin-bedded stateroom in selected category
- Baggage handling shipside and at hotel
- All meals and entertainment on board
- Services of our journey leaders and/ or cruise director
- All gratuities for included shipboard services
- All cruise line taxes and fees

Air-inclusive rates also include:

- Return economy airfare from cities listed
- Transfers between the airport and the hotel / ship
- All related air taxes and current fuel surcharges
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value

Journey Leaders

Escorting this upcoming 55th Anniversary Mediterranean and Ancient Kingdoms voyage will be **Nick and Pam Cannon**. Nick and Pam, who are inveterate travellers, have journeyed through the United Kingdom, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Mediterranean. As two of our most popular leaders, they have escorted both cruise and tour groups in the last few years to a wide variety of destinations including Panama, Alaska, South Africa, China, Russia, Australia and New Zealand, the Far East, Europe, and South America. Their warm and caring personalities and love of travel will be sure to enhance your travel experience.



55th Anniversary Cruise Series featuring Japan Explorer, Epic British Isles, and Mediterranean Ancient Kingdoms

Enjoy onboard spending money when you **book more***

- First cruise receive \$50 USD pp
- Second cruise receive \$100 USD pp
- Third cruise receive \$200 USD pp

**Offer based on booking cruise series, inquire for details*

Our Cruise Ship • *ms Nieuw Statendam*

A member of Holland America Line's Pinnacle-class ships, the *ms Nieuw Statendam*, is breathtaking in every detail. It offers a world of spacious staterooms, elegant public rooms, expansive teak decks and interiors inspired by musical instruments bringing a new world of sights and sounds to her guests. She provides unforgettable entertainment experiences with her two-story World Stage, the Music Walk or the Lincoln Center Stage, and the new Rolling Stone Rock Room, each presenting a variety of live music nightly. Twenty different lounges, bars and restaurants are yours to enjoy from the intimate Rudi's Sel de Mer seafood brasserie to the Dining Room set on two floors and framed by views of the sea. The transformed Lido is now a modern marketplace offering different themed stations and selections. The Pinnacle Grill is an intimate alternative dining option, and at the Tamarind you can discover exotic tastes evoking traditional Asian cuisine. A complete Promenade deck, two pools and a superb fitness centre, spa and beauty parlour are all yours to enjoy. All staterooms feature two lower beds which can convert to a queen, a private bathroom with shower and interactive flat-screen TV with on-demand movies.



Cruise Itinerary

Oct 2, Wed	Depart Canada
Oct 3, Thu	Arrive Athens, Greece Transfer to Hotel Divani Palace Acropolis (2 nights) D City tour including the Acropolis
Oct 4, Fri	Athens, Greece Visit the National Archeological Museum BD
Oct 5, Sat	Athens, Greece Embark / Sail 4:00pm BD
Oct 6, Sun	At Sea
Oct 7, Mon	Valletta, Malta Arrive 7:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 8, Tue	La Goulette (Tunis), Tunisia Arrive 8:00am / Sail 6:00pm
Oct 9, Wed	Palermo, Sicily, Italy Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 10, Thu	Messina, Italy Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 11, Fri	At Sea
Oct 12, Sat	Mykonos, Greece Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 13, Sun	Marmaris, Turkey Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 14, Mon	Kusadasi (Ephesus), Turkey Arrive 7:00am / Sail 7:00pm
Oct 15, Tue	Rhodes, Greece Arrive 8:00am / Sail 11:00pm
Oct 16, Wed	Kos, Greece Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 17, Thu	Thira (Santorini), Greece * Arrive 8:00am / Sail 9:00pm
Oct 18, Fri	Souda (Chania), Greece Arrive 8:00am / Sail 5:00pm
Oct 19, Sat	Athens, Greece Arrive 7:00am / Disembark and fly home

** Tender Required*

Note: port times are subject to change

Ports of Call

Visit our website for more port details

ATHENS, GREECE: No modern metropolis is more steeped in myth than Athens. From the gritty port of Piraeus—gateway to Greece’s fabled isles—to the Parthenon—eternal symbol of Western civilization—Athens has attracted adventurers and classicists for centuries. This heritage is still very much alive for modern visitors sightseeing in Athens: ancient stadiums and temples dwell alongside apartment blocks, modern performances are staged in the marble amphitheaters where Greek drama was born and millennia-old monuments are scattered in the archaeological park that circles the Acropolis. One of the world’s oldest maritime powers, Athens is blessed with a balmy climate and stunning coastline.

VALLETTA, MALTA: The historic city of Valletta, spanning just one-third of a square mile, is a treasure trove of monuments, churches, and gardens. Despite its strategic location and the rule of various powers like the



Retrace the footsteps of scholars at the Celsus Library in Ephesus



Get a taste of Mediterranean flavours



Be mesmerized by the stunning Santorini, Greece

Romans, Normans, Sicilians, Spanish, Knights of St. John, French, and British, it’s somewhat surprising to see Valletta so well preserved. The city dates back to the 16th century and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980. Extensive restorations of historic buildings are underway, including the rebuilding of the city entrance to mark Valletta’s recognition as the European Capital of Culture in 2018.

MARMARIS, TURKEY: Once a sleepy fishing village, the town transformed into a tourism hotspot in the 1980s. The town was an ancient trading port and a safe haven for armies like Alexander the Great and Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent due to its landscape and proximity to the Aegean and Mediterranean seas. Once docked at the cruise terminal, walk to the old town to find the Grand Bazaar, Marmaris Museum and most restaurants lined up by the superyachts and Turkish *gulets* (wooden sailboats) of the encircling marina. Sunbeds by the beach are within walking distance, though the more attractive İçmeler Beach is just a quick trip by taxi or public bus.

KUSADASI (EPHESUS), TURKEY: The gateway to one of the most legendary cities of the ancient world: Ephesus. St. Paul preached in its Great Theater, while the facade of the Celsus Library survives as a testament to the city's role as a centre of learning and culture. Not far from Ephesus, once stood the Temple of Artemis/Diana one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, drawing pilgrims from around the Mediterranean. While it no longer stands, it is possible to walk amongst its ruins. Other historic sites nearby include the House of Mary, the Basilica of St. John and the Selcuk fortress which reflects the period of Byzantine and Ottoman control of the region. From ancient wonders to holy sites, there are few ports in the Mediterranean as magical as Kusadasi.

RHODES, GREECE: Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands and a popular destination. Its capital, Rhodes Town, boasts a unique blend of history and architecture, while the interior of the island is filled with lush, forested hills. To the south lies Lindos, a stunning village featuring an ancient ruin atop a hill. The island's strategic location between Asia and Europe, as well as its pleasant climate, have contributed to its rich history. Additionally, the island boasts a fine natural port where the Colossus of Rhodes, an immense statue of the sun god Helios and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, once stood. The statue made Rhodes a must-visit destination for ancient world travellers until it collapsed in an earthquake in 226 B.C.E. Even the statue's ruins were grand enough to bring curious travellers to Rhodes for another 800 years until the metal pieces were melted and sold off by an occupying army. Despite the many civilizations that have left their mark on Rhodes, the island's independent spirit has endured, and it has managed to retain its natural beauty.

PALERMO, SICILY: a captivating blend of old and new reflects the region's complex history shaped by Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, and Normans. To see some of the vestiges of ancient empires, take a day trip to the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its Greek and Roman ruins, including the Temple of Concordia, remain wonderfully intact. In the city, explore the attractions in the historic neighbourhoods such as the Arab district of La Kalsa, home to the elegant Palazzo Mirto. A short distance away lies the Norman Palace, another UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Palermo's star attractions, which houses the Palatine Chapel, famous for its intricate mosaics. Palermo is also a perfect jumping-off point for sightseeing excursions to the idyllic beaches of Mondello, the medieval coastal town of Cefalù and the mountain village of Monreale, which is known for its exceptional Norman cathedral.

CT Rating 1.5/5 - Easy: This cruise is suitable for all passengers who meet our basic criteria for group travel. Optional excursions are not covered by this rating and may involve considerable walking, sometimes over rough surfaces.

Shore Excursions are not included in your cruise cost, allowing you the freedom to choose from several optional tours that will be offered in each port. Excursions will also be available through the Holland America Line.

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 **Book and deposit before May 31, 2024**
and save \$200pp 

Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars per person

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin
K Inside (Various)	\$4,645
I Inside (Various)	\$4,965
E Outside (Main, Beethoven)	\$5,725
D Outside (Main, Sun)	\$5,765
C Outside (Main)	\$5,785
VE Verandah (Schubert, Navigation)	\$6,085
VD Verandah (Various)	\$6,475
VC Verandah (Gershwin, Mozart)	\$6,545
VA Verandah (Mozart, Navigation)	\$6,675
V Verandah (Various)	\$6,745
B Vista Suite (Navigation)	\$7,755
A Vista Suite (Various)	\$7,795

Cruise only costs are based on joining at the hotel in Athens and leaving the group on the ship in Athens. See deck plan for full details on the various categories available. For single rates, ask for prices or visit our website.

Estimated air add-ons per person

Toronto	\$1,545
Ottawa / Montreal	\$1,715
Halifax / Winnipeg	\$1,865
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$1,915
Regina / Saskatoon / St. John's / Victoria	\$1,965

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Air prices are estimated (subject to confirmation). Final pricing will be advised once flights are confirmed. Cruise price is based on sharing a twin-bedded stateroom with private bathroom. Prices are based on rates, taxes and fees effective November 2023 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. This cruise will operate with a minimum of two members as listed and will be escorted with a minimum of 20 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment will be due July 3, 2024

Deposit is \$1,000 per person

To reserve your spot on this cruise, simply complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the cabin type you prefer and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



Experiencing Our World

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