



The Hometown Travelers welcome you aboard
Holland America's m/s Veendam for a

12 - Day Greek Odyssey Cruise

Cruising from Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy to Venice, Italy

June 30 - July 15, 2019

What a spectacular cruise we have planned for 2019 on Holland America's ms Veendam! Imagine flying into Rome and spending a night at a choice hotel enjoying optional touring opportunities and then, boarding our ship the next afternoon on a once in a lifetime adventure with 12 spectacular ports of call. We'll end up in the fantasy city of Venice with a post-night stay in this floating labyrinth. Unpack once and enjoy new sights each day.

Enjoy spectacular ports such as Naples, Santorini, Crete, Athens, Nafplion, Argostoli, Kotar and Rijeka with optional shore touring opportunities at every stop.

The m/s Veendam is a smaller ship, carrying just **1,350 passengers** compared to the newer megaships which can carry 2,000 to 6,000 passengers. Lovingly enhanced in 2009, the Ms Veendam has been transformed into a first-class cruise ship defined by its elegant dining rooms, \$2 million dollar art and antique collection and spacious staterooms, many with private verndahs providing sensational views. Despite being refitted with exciting new features, MS Veendam still maintains its long-standing tradition of promoting an atmosphere of intimacy and relaxation, offering a selection of retreats and private spaces where you can relax with a cool drink reading a book in complete comfort. The four-star ms Veendam is not only the perfect ship for relaxation but also excitement with its very own casino and energetic Broadway shows.

Many of our travelers have been requesting a Mediterranean cruise so here is your chance to cross one more item off of your "Bucket List" and enjoy cruising with friends. The earlier you secure your stateroom, the better selection locations.

Stateroom Category	Per Person Cruise Costs	Roundtrip Air with Taxes & Security	Port Taxes & Transfers	Pre & Post-Night Hotels & All Tfrs	Total Price Per Person
A - Vista Verandah Suite	\$3949.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$7118.00
B - Vista Verandah Suite	\$3799.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$6968.00
BA - Vista Verandah Suite	\$3649.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$6818.00
C - Ocean-View Stateroom	\$2509.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$5678.00
D - Ocean-View Stateroom	\$2479.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$5648.00
DA - Ocean-View Stateroom	\$2449.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$5618.00
K - Interior Stateroom	\$2119.00	\$1709.00	\$385.00	\$1075.00	\$5288.00

Limited number of staterooms in each category. Cruise must have a minimum of 16 passengers.

A, B & BA: 2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen, whirlpool bath & shower, sitting area, private verandah, floor-to-ceiling windows.

C, D, & DA: Large Ocean-View Staterooms with 2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen, bath tub & shower.

K: Standard Interior Staterooms with 2 lower beds convertible to 1 queen plus shower.

\$750.00 Per Person Deposit will guarantee your Stateroom

Final Payment will be due by **April 10, 2019**

Trip Cancellation Protection is available and highly recommended. Cost is \$498.00 per person for Category A.

Categories B & BA are \$435.00.00 per person and C, D, DA & K are \$373.00 per person.

Passports are required on this tour and a copy must be turned in with your deposit.

You will be notified prior to final payment of any unexpected increases in air / port taxes or fuel surcharges.

If you do not purchase Travel Protection, the following Cancellation Policies apply: Prior to 75 days from departure, deposits are 100% refundable. 75 - 57 days prior to commencing travel: amount equal to deposits paid. 56 - 29 days prior to commencing travel: 50% of gross fare. 28 - 16 days prior to commencing travel: 75% of gross fare. 15 days or less before commencing travel: 100% of gross fare.

Patsy Weaver at (936) 633-5110 / Dora or Lacey at (936) 639-5566

Please make checks payable to "Hometown Travelers" and mail to:

403 South Chestnut, Lufkin, TX 75901, Attn: Patsy

Travel arrangements by SJO-PRO Tours

Holland America's Greek Isle Cruise June 30 - July 15, 2019

Day 1 - Sunday - June 30: Overnight flights to Civitavecchia (Rome), Italy.

Day 2 - Monday - July 1: Arrive Italy and check into our hotel. Afternoon & evening touring options.

Day 3 - Tuesday - July 2: Rome is both a modern bustling city and an ancient open-air museum. You can walk in the footsteps of emperors, have coffee in Renaissance piazzas and see contemporary art all in one afternoon. Your sightseeing time in Rome begins at the nearby port of Civitavecchia, a seaside town with roots that stretch back to the Etruscan era.

Afternoon, board ship with sailing at 6:00 P.M.

Day 4 - Wednesday - July 3: Naples (Pompeii), Italy. 7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Rising behind the wide curve of its bay with brooding Mount Vesuvius and the deep blue sea as a backdrop, Naples, Italy enjoys a magnificent natural setting. It is the third-largest city in Italy after Rome and Milan, and arguably the most colorful and seductive of them all: Splendor and squalor live side by side in 21st-century Naples, and the mix is intoxicating.

Day 5 - Thursday - July 4: At Sea

Day 6 - Friday - July 5: Thira (Santorini), Greece. 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Santorini, the jewel in the crown of Greece's Cyclades, is best known as the island with the giant volcanic caldera at its heart. All but the largest ships can anchor here in this stunningly scenic bay. Cruise visitors who come for an afternoon or a day can immerse themselves in the art, food and legendary wines of this island that some believe may have been the site of the lost civilization of Atlantis. On Santorini you can do as Dionysus, the Greek god of wine, would do and sample the island's wonderful wines or play Indiana Jones and explore the archaeological treasures of ancient Thera. Santorini's pleasures will likely leave you with a taste for more and planning your return.

Day 7 - Saturday - July 6: Kusadasi (Ephesus), Turkey. 7:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Kusadasi in Turkey is 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 center of learning and culture. Not far from Ephesus, the Temple of Artemis (also known as the Temple of Diana), one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world, once stood, drawing pilgrims from around the Mediterranean. While it no longer stands, it is possible to walk amongst its foundations and the remains of its towering columns. Other historic sites can also be found nearby: The House of Mary is believed to be the home of Jesus's mother at the end of her life, and the Basilica of St. John, constructed in the 6th century, marks the location of his tomb. (Like Mary, he spent his final years in Ephesus.) Nearby, the Selcuk fortress 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, and a day here is a day spent in the company of some of antiquity's greatest figures.

Day 8 - Sunday - July 7: Iraklion (Crete), Greece. 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Iraklion is the regional capital and the biggest city on Crete (Greece's largest island), and a favorite of travelers for hundreds of years. Members of the first great European civilization, the Minoans, were building palace complexes near here 5,000 years ago; these were only rediscovered in the 20th century. The city was founded in 824 B.C.E. by the Saracens, and in the modern era the island and city saw some of the fiercest resistance to invaders: first against the Turks in the 18th and 19th centuries, and then against the Germans in World War II. Even today Crete and its capital maintain a character distinct from that of the rest of Greece. It is a mixture of a certain wildness and traditional hospitality, blended with its history and a harsh but beautiful landscape of hidden plateaus and mountains that tower to almost 2,500 meters (8,200 feet). The people, peaks, ancient sites and stunning coast make it an altogether unforgettable place.

Day 9 - Monday - July 8: Piraeus (Athens), Greece. 8:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M. No modern metropolis is more steeped in myth than Athens, Greece. 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. The seaside suburbs of Athens are scalloped with sandy beaches, fancy yacht clubs and glamorous beach bars. While the Athenian lifestyle is known for late-night dinners and dancing until dawn, the city shines brightly by day in the bustling markets, lively cafés and fascinating museums that illuminate Greece's past and present. Contemplate the magnitude of all that culture and ancient tourist attractions while marveling at the sun setting into the Aegean or rising over the Acropolis.

Day 10 - Tuesday - July 9: Nafplion, Greece. 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Nafplion is one of the most beautiful towns in the eastern Peloponnese. It sits on the Argolic Gulf with the formidable Palamidi fortress standing over it, keeping a watchful eye out towards the sea. According to mythology, Nafplios, the son of Poseidon, founded Nafplion. The legends continue—the area reputedly played a hand in the Trojan War as well as the Argonaut expedition. Over the years, Nafplion was taken over by Frankish, Venetian and Turkish forces, and these influences are evident everywhere—in the medieval castles, the Ottoman fountains and especially in the neoclassical architecture. Much of the life in Nafplion centers on the medieval Old Town, with its cobblestone alleyways and Venetian homes. Numerous cafés and tavernas sprawl along the waterfront, facing a port that dates back to the Bronze Age. Turkish mosques sit alongside modern museums, bridging the gaps in culture and time.

Day 11 - Wednesday - July 10: Argostoli, Cephalonia, Greece. 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Cephalonia is the largest island in the Ionian Sea, famous for its gorgeous beaches, crumbling castles, secluded monasteries and warm Greek hospitality. Throughout the course of history, Cephalonia has exchanged hands many times—from the Normans to the Venetians to the Ottoman Turks, and it has survived occupations by German and Italian soldiers during WWII. These influences from other European countries have shaped the island's culture, and are especially evident in the spelling variations of place names. Several museums and memorials around town pay tribute to both Cephalonia's classical and recent history, and are worth a visit. Argostóli is Cephalonia's port town, on the bay of Livadi. It was rebuilt after a devastating 1953 earthquake. The architecture, although new, remains traditionally Greek. Lithostroto is the main drag—a pedestrian-only street lined with specialty shops and tourist kiosks offering souvenirs and the island's famous cheese pastries.

Day 12 - Thursday - July 11: Kerkira, Nisos Kerkira (Corfu), Greece. 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Corfu is the pearl of the Ionian Sea, attracting royalty from across Europe in the 19th century, and modern celebrities from all over the world ever since. The island reflects a triple heritage. As well as being undeniably Greek, the culture and food also show a clear nod towards nearby Italy, particularly Venice, whose fortresses dot the island. The British influence may be unexpected, but as they ruled the island for many years, they have left such surprises in the Mediterranean as cricket and ginger beer. The bustling atmosphere of Corfu Town remains elegant, infused with culture and history. Parts of the rest of the island have been overdeveloped, but there are still great swaths that epitomize why the Greek islands are still regarded as the most beautiful in the world, with white-sand beaches backed by verdant mountains hiding traditional old villages.

Day 13 - Friday July 12: Kotor, Montenegro. 7:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Cruising into the Bay of Kotor, you'll be wowed by the dramatic beauty of this coastal Montenegrin town. Dreamy seafront villages are set to a backdrop of mountains plummeting into the Adriatic Sea, while the stone labyrinth of the Old Town is filled with medieval architecture and historic monuments—as well as the narrowest street in the world.. The area only became part of Montenegro after WWII, and as such has a very different history to the rest of the country. There's a reason it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The cruise ship dock is across the street from the Sea Gate, the main entrance to the Old Town, while a conveniently located taxi stand by the harbor gates allows for easy exploration of the region.

Day 14 - Saturday - July 13: Rijeka, Croatia. 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Croatia's third-largest city, Rijeka is a bustling blend of gritty 20th-century port and Italianate Habsburg grandeur. Most people speed through en route to the islands or Dalmatia, but those who pause will discover charm, culture, good nightlife, intriguing festivals and Croatia's most colourful carnival. Despite some regrettable architectural ventures in the outskirts, much of the centre is replete with ornate Austro-Hungarian-style buildings. It's a surprisingly verdant city once you've left its concrete core, which contains Croatia's largest port, with ships, cargo and cranes lining the waterfront.

Day 15 - Sunday - July 14: Venice, Italy. This enchanted land was built on stilts, set into the water by ancient Venetians seeking refuge from the harsh realities of landlocked life. And Venice still offers a palpable feeling of escape from the real world today. When you cruise into the lagoon and step onto what passes for solid ground, you'll still be very much on the water. Venice is a floating labyrinth of reflections, with mirror and glass sights everywhere, from glorious Venetian architecture echoed in the canal waters to the marble palaces that shimmer in the sky. Venice will openly reveal her charms even to those who are only here for a few hours, an afternoon or a magical evening. Enjoy your day and evening in Venice as we will **spend the night at a local hotel** prior to our flights home tomorrow.

Day 16 - Monday - July 15: Venice, Italy. Late morning or early afternoon flights back to Texas with arrivals Monday evening.