

MacMania 10 / IMPORTANT INFORMATION: **A MUST READ**

Back in the good 'ol days, Holland America used to print out your cruise tickets and mail them to me along with a *KNOW BEFORE YOU GO* booklet, and a book listing shore excursions. Well, no more!

- 1) Online check-in is now required ...
- 2) *KNOW BEFORE YOU GO* is now only available as a PDF here:
[InSightCruises.com/pdf/edox.pdf](http://www.InSightCruises.com/pdf/edox.pdf)
- 3) And shore excursion details (as well as booking your shore excursions) are all on the Holland America website: <http://www.insightcruises.com/HAL_Shore>

This document will provide you with what you need to know and/or where to find it.

Online Check-in Is Now Required By Holland America:

<http://www.insightcruises.com/HAL_Checkin>. You will need to check-in via these web pages to retrieve your tickets. For \$50 per person or \$75 per booking (whichever fee is lower), InSight Cruises can do this check in for you. Printing and mailing of your tickets would be included in this price.

Your Cruise Document Packet: *The first thing to do is to check to make sure your name, as it appears on your cruise ticket, is the same as on your proof of citizenship.*

Aside from your cruise ticket, which you will present to the embarkation agents at the pier terminal, there are several important items in your Holland America Line document kit that you will print out. Your cabin assignment is on your ticket. Please be aware that Guaranteed Share cabins are subject to change at any time. *Also, some tickets will read "Cabin 0" — this means your cabin has not yet been assigned. I will notify you when your cabin is assigned.* Extra baggage tags will be available at the pier. At pier check-in you will be given a Holland America I.D. Card, which will enable you to make purchases on board, and serve as your boarding pass to get back on the ship in the various ports we visit. In addition to the boarding pass, for security reasons, the ship will require you to carry a photo I.D. on and off the ship in the various ports. To set up your shipboard account you simply have to present cash or a credit card to the front desk after boarding, a credit-card at the pier, or pre-register your credit card when you check-in online.

Confirm Your Flights. *Remember to always keep your valuables and essentials like tickets, money, I.D., medicine, etc. with you in your carry-on bag.*

Transfers and Luggage: If you have booked a motor coach transfer from the cruiseline (or air from the cruiseline) you will see a notation on this in your itinerary. There are no transfer vouchers anymore. If you've made your own arrangements, the easiest way to get from any of the NYC airports to the Pier is by taxi. The ride is about 30 miles and costs approximately \$40 U.S.

If you are staying in the Omni Berkshire Palace plan on taking a taxi to the pier. It's about a 5-minute taxi ride and will cost about \$6.

Directions To The Pier: The ship departs from the Manhattan Cruise Ship Terminal — Pier 88 & 90: 711 12th Avenue (vehicles enter at 12th Ave. and W. 55th St.), New York, NY 10019. <www.nycruise.com> Phone: 212-246-5450.

Boarding Information: While your cruise ticket says boarding starts at 1pm you should be able to do so as early as 11am. Your dining room

table assignment will be printed on your room-key card. Please see the Maitre'D for any necessary assistance and confirmation of special requests. After the first night, seating will be open in the MacMania area of the dining room. Remember the ship sails at exactly 4:45pm. You will need to be the pier at least two hours prior to this. FYI, the ship will not wait for you (unless you booked your flights with the cruise line)! *We will have our traditional "Bon Voyage Cocktail Party/Gathering" at 6 pm in the Crow's Nest.*

Holland America Line's "Know Before You Go" Booklet:

<<http://InSightCruises.com/pdf/edox.pdf>> Be sure to read this guide, as it is extremely informative. It addresses such things as arrival issues, tipping, what to wear, and proof of citizenship. *We can not stress enough* how important it is for you to familiarize yourself with the information in this booklet. There will be two (2) formal, one (1) informal, and four (4) casual nights on the cruise. Phone numbers for the ship are printed with your tickets/documents. If you happen to lose your cruise ticket just simply get to the pier and present your I.D.. Your name will be on the manifest and you will be allowed to board as long as you have proper I.D..

Conference Information: *InSight Cruises I.D. badges and our final program guide will be distributed at the the Bon Voyage Party, in the Crow's Nest at 6pm, May 2.*

Power Strips: You may want to bring one as the cabin only has one 110 and one 220 volt socket/outlet. **Do NOT bring a surge-protected power strip.**

Special Dietary Requirements, Food/Allergies, and Special Occasions: Please confirm any special occasions, special dietary requirements, or food allergies with the Maitre'D and your waiter on board.

Expenses Onboard and Ashore: See *Know Before You Go* Booklet. Your food on board, as much as you want, is included with your cruise — with one or two exceptions.: There are some "high-end" private restaurants that carry a small fee, typically, of \$20 per person. All shipboard entertainment and activities are also included. The expenses that are extra include (but not limited to) internet access, shore excursions, liquor, soda, laundry, self service laundry, dry cleaning, beauty or spa treatments, gambling, tipping, and purchases in the shipboard shops. All purchases on board are in U.S. dollars. We advise using your credit card wherever possible when off the ship.

Shore Excursions: You can order your shore excursion tickets onboard the ship or online before boarding. To order in advance, online, you'll need your booking number. If you can't find this number, please contact InSight Cruises. <<https://www.hollandamerica.com/cruise-vacation-planning/BookShoreExcursions.action>>

Onboard Activities For The Kids: See *Know Before You Go* Booklet.

Proof of Citizenship: See *Know Before You Go* Booklet.

Disembarkation: The ship will return to NYC on May 9. Once the ship has cleared customs and immigration, passengers will be allowed to disembark. If you have purchased your return flights through Holland America, you will have a bus transfer (to take you to the airport) in with your cruise tickets.

Welcome Aboard!