

Join OZ Bridge Travel on board the elegant MS Koningsdam

# New Orleans, Central America & Panama Canal Cruise

with Gary Brown

New Orleans, Miami, San Diego (USA); Cartagena (Columbia);  
Panama Canal, Panama City (Panama); Puntarenas (Costa Rica);  
Acajutla (El Salvador); Puerto Quetzal (Guatemala);  
Puerto Chiapas, Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta (Mexico)

6 to 29 April 2026

*Lots of Bridge*

**Comprehensive  
Bridge Program**



**TRAVELRITE**  
INTERNATIONAL

Oz Bridge Travel

# New Orleans, Central America & Panama Canal Cruise

with Gary Brown



## Gary Brown

Gary is the author of six Bridge books, including one 'Learn to Play Bridge' 'with 5-Card Majors' that clinched the 2007 American Bridge Teachers' Associations 'Book

of the Year. He also created the popular 'FLASH CARDS' (*the Ultimate Guide by the Bridge Players Side*). Gary conducts duplicates, teaches seminars, and arranges Bridge Holidays globally, with over 60 Cruise Holidays/Bridge Boot Camps to his credit. We are dedicated to making your journey a 'trip of a lifetime. Our Bridge program is extensive yet laidback; you can play when you want to, with a partner guaranteed. Non-bridge playing Spouses/partners are also welcome – as there's a world of activities to discover and enjoy!

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Three nights in the cosmopolitan city of New Orleans, home to Jazz, Creole cooking and Bourbon Street.
- Traversing the full Panama Canal
- Visit Colombia's enchanting port city of Cartagena
- See the Mayan archaeological ruins of Izapa in Mexico

## YOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1 Monday 6 April 2026

#### Depart Australia/ New Orleans

Our holiday begins with a flight to New Orleans, arriving the same day, as we cross the International Date Line. On arrival in the early evening, we are transferred to our hotel for check in.

### DAY 2 Tuesday 7 April 2026

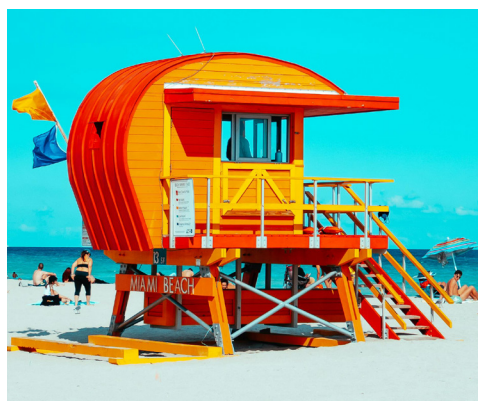
#### New Orleans

French settled and influenced, New Orleans is one of the USA's most exciting and interesting cities, famous for its jazz, creativity, romance and drama. We will enjoy a morning tour of the city with a local guide that will include the key sights of the French Quarter: Jackson Square, Royal Street, French Market and Bourbon Street, as well the surrounding Garden District, Audubon Park, the Mississippi River and the commercial downtown. This evening, you are invited to join our Welcome Dinner aboard a paddle steamer cruising along the Mississippi River.

### DAY 3 Wednesday 8 April 2026

#### New Orleans

Today is a free day to experience New Orleans. You may want to visit nearby 'swamp country'. See the moss-covered bayous and unique wildlife, including alligators. Alternatively, visit a traditional plantation to get a taste of what life was like in days gone by.



### DAY 4 Thursday 9 April 2026

#### Miami

Today we fly to Miami, Florida. On arrival, we enjoy an orientation tour including the major thoroughfare Ocean Drive, Freedom Tower and several famous movie locations. Then we will visit the residence of Pulitzer Prize winning author Ernest Hemingway. The tour concludes with visits to palm-lined beaches, downtown Miami, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables and Little Havana, before we check into our hotel.

### DAY 5 Friday 10 April 2026

#### Embarkation

The morning is free. At midday we are transferred to the cruise-terminal in Fort Lauderdale to embark the Koningsdam for our 18 Day Panama Canal Cruise.

### DAY 6 Saturday 11 April 2026

#### At Sea

Our first day at sea and our first full day of Bridge! Morning coaching followed by lunch, then an afternoon of Duplicate Bridge.

### DAY 7 Sunday 12 April 2026

#### At Sea

A full program of Bridge and/or a day to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

### DAY 8 Monday 13 April 2026

#### Cartagena, Colombia

Cartagena is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. We begin with a pleasant drive through Boca Grande, the modern residential district in Cartagena. We will visit the Convent of la Popa.

Construction began in 1606 as a refuge for blacks. Tranquil, peaceful, and bright with flowers, the Convent provides striking views of the city and the bay area. Our tour will continue through San Felipe's Fort which was built in the 1600s and used to protect the city from invaders. Inside the fort is the Old City, a real gem of colonial architecture, packed with churches, monasteries, plazas and palaces. Enjoy a relaxing stroll around this spectacular walled colonial city with time to shop and stop for lunch.



### DAY 9 Tuesday 14 April 2026

#### Panama Canal

Today will be a highlight of the cruise as we sail through the Panama Canal. It is a 77-kilometre-long canal joining the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and is a key link for international maritime trade. Built from 1904 to 1914, annual traffic has risen from about 1,000 ships in the canal's early days to currently, more than 14,000 vessels. It has been named one of the seven modern wonders of the world by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The canal consists of a series of 3 sets of locks: The Gatun, Pedro Miguel and the Miraflores Locks. A complete transit of the canal usually takes between 9 and 10 hours. Watch from the deck as we transverse this miracle of engineering.

### DAY 10 Wednesday 15 April 2026

#### Fuerte Amador, Panama

Fuerte Amador is a man-made peninsula, located at the Pacific Ocean entrance to the Panama Canal. This mile long causeway was created using rocks excavated from the Panama Canal to connect four small islands and offers panoramic views of nearby Panama City. Today, we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Panama City. Our first





## MS Koningsdam

Launched in 2016, Koningsdam carries forward all the tradition, nautical heritage, and signature service and style for which Holland America Line is known—while raising the bar for 21st-century elegance. The 2,650-guest Koningsdam is the first of her class, ushering in a new era of Pinnacle-class cruising. At the heart of the ship, Koningsdam's central atrium is pure visual drama. Soaring three decks high, the space is graced by an airy stainless-steel sculpture that evokes the feeling of a classical quartet, with strings, arches, and bows. Onboard activities abound, including wine-blending classes and private tastings. There are several restaurants to choose from other than the main dining room. Take a Pilates class, simply relax and unwind or rejuvenate at the Greenhouse Spa. In the evenings you may choose to attend entertainment in the main theatre (live shows, dancing, magic, music...etc). There are several other entertainment options including the new Lincoln Centre Stage, the Billboard venue and the popular B.B. King's Blues Club which offers a more up-beat experience.



## Comprehensive Bridge Program

On each sea day, a 'Coaching Session' will be held every morning, followed by a Duplicate game in the afternoon. Additionally, on numerous port days, an afternoon mini-Duplicate game will be scheduled if we return to the ship on time. A partner is always provided, ensuring you can participate when a game is on.

stop will be the Old Town with its colonial style houses and cobblestone streets. In the afternoon we visit the Miraflores locks, where ships transit the Panama Canal and you'll have the chance to explore the Canal Museum to learn about its history and construction.

### DAY 11 Thursday 16 April 2026 At Sea

Today's schedule includes a full day of Bridge. Alternatively, you may choose to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

### DAY 12 Friday 17 April 2026 Puntarenas, Costa Rica

The Central Pacific's largest city, Puntarenas sits on a long, narrow peninsula in the Gulf of Nicoya. It was discovered by Hernan Ponce de Leon in 1519. A boat ride on the River Tarcoles provides the opportunity to view crocodiles, as well as local bird and plant life. In the afternoon a ride on the Aerial Tram provides the opportunity to view all levels of the tropical transitional forest – from the ground to the tree tops.



### DAY 13 Saturday 18 April 2026 At Sea

A full program of Bridge and/or a day to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

### DAY 14 Sunday 19 April 2026 Acajutla, El Salvador

This morning, we arrive in Acajutla, the port for San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador. El Boquerón is an iconic volcano that looms over San Salvador. Because it is considered an active volcano at rest, people live in the hills leading right up to the edge of the crater. San Salvador lacks colonial buildings due to centuries of destruction from volcanoes.

However, the reconstructed areas of San Salvador feature wonderful architecture including the imposing National Palace and the white-stucco Metropolitan Cathedral, both of which flank the popular gathering place – Plaza Barrios.

### DAY 15 Monday 20 April 2026 Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala

A visit to the beautiful city of Antigua, a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, starts our tour. The historic city, approximately a 90-minute drive from Puerto Quetzal, is home to several historical landmarks that have been preserved from the 17th and 18th centuries, including the Palace of the Captains-General and the Universidad de San Carlos. This visit offers insight into Guatemala's colonial history.



### DAY 16 Tuesday 21 April 2026 Puerto Chiapas, Mexico

Experience Mexico's past and present as you explore the ancient Mayan archaeological site of Izapa. Founded around 1500 BC as a modest village, Izapa rose to prominence in the region for its cultivation of highly prized cacao, serving as a nexus for various ancient Mesoamerican cultures. We then enjoy a sightseeing tour of Tapachula, whose history and heritage have been influenced not only by the Mayans, Mestizos and Spaniards but by German, Chinese, Japanese and French immigrants as well. There may time for you to explore the local artisan shops.



### DAY 17 Wednesday 22 April 2026 At Sea

A full program of Bridge and/or a day to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

### DAY 18 Thursday 23 April 2026 Manzanillo, Mexico

Today we spend time in the beautiful region of Colima beginning with a drive along the scenic coast then inland to the capital city, Colima. We will have a guided tour of the town followed by a visit



to the ruins at La Campana. The low, pyramid-like structures feature shaft tombs, ceramics, storm drain systems, streets, an administrative and religious centre with numerous monuments, and even a ball court.

### DAY 19 Friday 24 April 2026 Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Puerto Vallarta is a city experiencing constant growth and development, while at the same time maintaining a provincial air. It was named after Ignacio Vallarta a former governor of the region. Our sightseeing tour takes us into the heart of downtown Puerto Vallarta, for a stroll along the Malecon (board walk) to see the many shops and art galleries. Our visit includes a stop at Our Lady of Guadalupe, situated in a beautiful plaza. Next, we visit Los Arcos, for a stunning view of the bay followed by a visit to a Tequila manufacturer, where an expert will explain the process. If it is your cup of tea – you can indulge in a tequila tasting or enjoy the shops.

### DAY 20 Saturday 25 April 2026 At Sea

A full program of Bridge and/or a day to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

### DAY 21 Sunday 26 April 2026 At Sea

A full program of Bridge and/or a day to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

### DAY 22 Monday 27 April 2026 Disembark/Departure

Our cruise comes to an end in San Diego, USA. We disembark this morning and will enjoy a sightseeing tour of San Diego before being transferred to the airport, for our flights back to Australia.

### DAY 23 Tuesday 28 April 2026 In Flight

### DAY 24 Wednesday 29 April 2026 Arrive Australia

Today we arrive in Australia and tour arrangements conclude.





# New Orleans, Central America & Panama Canal Cruise with Gary Brown

6 to 29 April 2026

## Included in the tour price:

- Economy-class air travel from Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane to New Orleans and return from LA. Internal economy-class flight from New Orleans to Miami.
- Travel on Koningsdam in the selected cabin category.
- All meals, entertainment and gratuities aboard Koningsdam.
- 2 nights' accommodation in New Orleans including breakfast and 1 night accommodation in Miami including breakfast.
- Sightseeing with admissions and meals as shown in the itinerary.
- Tour leadership by Oz Bridge Travel.
- Comprehensive Bridge Program.
- All port taxes, air taxes, fees and current fuel supplements.
- Transfers to and from Koningsdam.
- Cruise gratuities.

## Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Drinks on board.
- Lunches when not on the ship
- Additional travel arrangements not detailed in the itinerary.

Per person in Australian Dollars			Standard Fare		Early Booking Discount Fare	
Cabin / Description		Deck	Twin-share	Single Fare	Twin-share	Single Fare
L	Inside	4,5,6,7,8	\$ 12,790	\$ 16,690	\$ 11,790	\$ 14,690
K	Inside	4,5,6,7,8,11	\$ 12,890	\$ 16,790	\$ 11,890	\$ 14,790
J	Inside	1,4,5,6,7,8	\$ 13,190	\$ 17,490	\$ 12,190	\$ 15,490
I	Inside	1,4,5,6,7,8	\$ 13,290	\$ 17,590	\$ 12,290	\$ 15,590
F	Oceanview	1	\$ 13,690	\$ 18,490	\$ 12,690	\$ 16,490
E	Oceanview	1,4	\$ 14,190	\$ 19,490	\$ 12,690	\$ 17,490
D	Oceanview	7,11	\$ 14,290	\$ 19,590	\$ 12,790	\$ 17,590
C	Oceanview	1	\$ 14,390	\$ 19,690	\$ 12,890	\$ 17,690
VF	Oceanview	4,8	\$ 14,490	\$ 19,990	\$ 13,490	\$ 17,990
VE	Balcony	7,8	\$ 14,590	\$ 20,190	\$ 13,590	\$ 18,190
VD	Balcony	5,6,7	\$ 14,990	\$ 21,190	\$ 13,790	\$ 19,190
VC	Balcony	5,6	\$ 15,090	\$ 21,390	\$ 13,890	\$ 19,390
VB	Balcony	4,11	\$ 15,190	\$ 21,590	\$ 13,990	\$ 19,590
VA	Balcony	6,7,8	\$ 15,290	\$ 21,690	\$ 14,090	\$ 19,690
VQ	Balcony	10	\$ 15,390	\$ 21,990	\$ 14,190	\$ 19,990
B	Suite	4,6	\$ 16,590	\$ 23,990	\$ 14,390	\$ 20,990
A	Suite	4,5,6,7	\$ 16,790	\$ 24,490	\$ 14,790	\$ 21,490
AS	Suite	4,7	\$ 16,990	\$ 24,990	\$ 14,990	\$ 21,990
SY	Suite	5	\$ 20,490	\$ 31,690	\$ 20,490	\$ 31,690
Included Port and Handling charges			\$ 1,708	\$ 2,348	\$ 1,708	\$ 2,348
Included Cruise Gratuities			\$ 387	\$ 387	\$ 387	\$ 387
Included Air Taxes as at 1 March 2025			\$ 290	\$ 290	\$ 290	\$ 290

**Availability:** All cabins are subject to cabin availability. Please call 1800 630 343 for fares and information on other cabin categories.

**Extending:** You can stay longer in the USA for minimal extra cost. Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.

## General information and booking conditions

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

**TOUR OPERATOR:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005817 078) is the tour organiser. The MS Koningsdam is operated by Holland America and the fly/cruise arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions and general information detailed in the Holland America website [www.hollandamerica.com](http://www.hollandamerica.com).

**DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per passenger should be sent with a completed Travelrite International booking form that lists your requested cabin category. As soon as the booking is confirmed, (usually within 24 hours), a cruise confirmation advice will be posted to the client. The passenger must also complete Holland America cruise personaliser. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 90 days prior to the commencement of the fly/cruise. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payments by credit card.

**CANCELLATION CHARGES:** Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 90 days	loss of deposit
90 – 61 days	100% of full fare
Non-appearance/no written notice:	100% of full fare.

**REFUNDS:** The cruise is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** All passengers will require a valid passport. An ESTA visa waiver is required for entrance into the USA. If you are not an Australian passport holder check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cruise members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

**BAGGAGE:** Passengers qualify for a 23kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise.

**MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS:** The fly/cruise arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 90 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS No. A10538) is the tour organiser. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to, or in connection with these fly/cruises, shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier restaurant company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, or by act of God. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery break-down, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the fly/cruise. The passage contract between the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this fly/ cruise and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/cruise and/or make such changes in the fly/cruises as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/cruise. If the tour leader is unable to lead the tour due to unforeseen circumstances, for example illness, Travelrite International reserves the right to replace the tour leader. This contract shall be construed in accordance of the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria. Attention is also directed to the terms and conditions of the Holland America fly/cruise passage contract with Holland America, detailed on the back of the Holland America reservation form. If you do not have a copy of this form please contact Travelrite International and we will send one to you.

**DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS:** You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent

engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite International your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

**HOW TO BOOK:** Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person to:

**Travelrite International Pty Ltd**  
423 Whitehorse Road,  
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

**Toll Free: 1800 630 343**

[www.travelrite.com.au](http://www.travelrite.com.au)

**Cruise info – Email Nigel:**

[nigel@travelrite.com.au](mailto:nigel@travelrite.com.au)

**Bridge info – Email Gary:**

[ezeriah78@gmail.com](mailto:ezeriah78@gmail.com)

**ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (A.B.N.64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 40 years. It is fully IATA and ATAS accredited: A10538. As such, it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International has been operating special interest tours for 30 years, and now runs over 120 tours a year. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association – ATIA.