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## **What's in a Name? Meet the Seven Holland America Line Ships Called Rotterdam Since 1872**

### **ROTTERDAM I (1871-1883)**

Tonnage: 1,694

Passenger Capacity: 8 first class, 288 third or steerage

Rotterdam I was Holland America Line's first ship. It was constructed of iron with two full decks and could be rigged as a brig with 10 sails. The ship was christened by the daughter of Captain Hus, and the first crossing from the Netherlands to New York in 1872 was an arduous Atlantic crossing that took 14 days and 6 hours. In those days, propulsion was a combination of both steam and sail power.

On Sept. 26, 1883, the ship stranded on the Zeehondenbank near the Dutch Island of Schouwen. Then the weather turned and the abandoned ship broke into two pieces on October 12 due to the pounding waves. Eventually the hull disappeared under the sea.

### **ROTTERDAM II (1886-1895)**

Tonnage: 3,300

Passenger Capacity: 87 first class, 70 second class and 650 third class

Rotterdam II was built for British Ship Owners Co. and purchased by Holland America Line in 1886. In 1895, the ship sailed Holland America Line's first ever vacation cruise, carrying 180 passengers. On this voyage it became the first non-German ship to sail through the Kiel Canal when it was opened to avoid upsetting Great Britain or Germany about who would be first. The Kingdom of the Netherlands was neutral so choosing Rotterdam would not ruffle any feathers.

### **ROTTERDAM III (1897-1906):**

Tonnage: 8,186

Passenger Capacity: 200 first class, 150 in second and 2,000 third class passengers

Rotterdam III of 1897 only sailed for nine years for the company, as it then had to make space for the arrival of Rotterdam IV. This ship is the first Holland America Line has on record that two Dutch emigrants eloped from their family to get married in the U.S. She was rich and he drove her horse and carriage ... and they fell in love. The family did not approve so they eloped to New York and got married there.

### **ROTTERDAM IV (1908-1940):**

Tonnage: 24,143

Passenger Capacity: 552 first class, 555 second class and 2,232 third class

Holland America was now becoming the trendsetter of the North Atlantic with innovative ideas. Rotterdam IV was the first two-funnel ship for the company. Two of its public areas were crowned by stunning Tiffany Glass domes. This Rotterdam also was the first ship with an enclosed promenade deck with glass windows, so that the first-class passengers could walk around the decks, even during inclement weather. This was considered opulence of the highest level. This Rotterdam also was the last ship in the company fleet that carried sails. They were never used and were still folded away as new when the ship went in for scrap.

Rotterdam IV carried notable figures from Europe to America. Some were starting new lives in the United States, others for a foreign or state visit. Among the most notable were Albert Einstein and his wife Elsa, as well as Winston and Clementine Churchill.

### **ROTTERDAM V (1959-1997):**

Tonnage: 39,647

Passenger Capacity: 647 first class and a minimum of 809 tourist class

Rotterdam V, also known as “The Grande Dame,” was untraditional, as there were no funnels — just two smoke stacks. Also unusual was that the two-class system was horizontal in layout. By constructing the central staircase as a double helix and alternating the class decks, it could be a one-class ship when the connecting doors were opened. The interiors of Rotterdam V were functional with the use of a lot of different woods and integrated artwork. It later converted to a one-class ship in 1969.

On her maiden voyage she carried the then Crown Princess of the Netherlands to New York. Rotterdam V sailed with Holland America Line for 38 years until 1997, including several Grand World Voyages, and currently is a hotel and museum in the city of Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

### **ROTTERDAM VI (1997-2020):**

Tonnage: 61,849

Passenger Capacity: 1,404

Rotterdam VI was the first ship in Holland America Line’s new R-Class series of ships. She was christened by Princess Margriet of the Netherlands. In summer 2011, Rotterdam operated Holland America Line’s first standalone transatlantic crossing since 1971, making a single trip both eastbound and westbound.

### **ROTTERDAM VII (2021 – Current)**

Tonnage: 99,500

Passenger Capacity: 2,668

The third vessel in the Pinnacle Class series, Rotterdam showcases all of Holland America Line’s hallmarks that drive one of the highest guest repeat rates in the industry: exquisite cuisine guided by the world’s leading chefs; gracious, award-winning service; and superbly appointed staterooms and suites, including family and single accommodations.

The ship delivers the best live music at sea with an exclusive collection of world-class performances nightly at Music Walk’s B.B. King’s Blues Club, Rolling Stone Rock

Room, Lincoln Center Stage and Billboard Onboard venues. The 270-degree LED projection at World Stage immerses guests in panoramic visual and sound effects. The ship also boasts a two-deck Lido Pool area with retractable magrodome for use in all climates.

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