

WINTER JAUNT TO CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Palm Springs

January 28, 2015 - 21 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$3955 double/twin

\$5265 single

\$3605 triple

Tour is exempt from GST.



> **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 on next 10

> **TIC Travel Insurance:** Plan 3-Comprehensive
\$376 double/twin, \$500 single, \$342 triple

Redeem Experience Points: Book by **November 27** and redeem up to **88 e-points**

Includes

- Coach transportation for 21 days
- 20 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Charles Schulz Museum
- Locally guided tour of San Francisco
- Amtrak train from San Jose to Santa Barbara
- Locally guided tour of Santa Barbara
- Mission Santa Barbara
- Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
- *Discovery of King Tut* Exhibition
- Maritime Museum
- San Diego Safari Park
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
- Locally guided tour of Palm Springs
- Locally guided tour of Joshua Tree National Park
- Joshua Tree Park fee
- Hilmar Cheese Factory
- Locally guided tour of Sacramento and Capitol
- Old Sacramento
- California Railroad Museum
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling
- **24 meals:** 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 2 dinners

Experience Points: Earn **88 e-points**

The Best of California

California's temperate climate and sunny skies draw Canadian visitors looking to escape the winter cold, and Wells Gray Tours will take you there. This leisurely tour features many of California's favourite get-aways with two or three nights in San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Palm Springs and Sacramento. Ventura is a new destination for Wells Gray and two nights at an oceanfront hotel are included. Free days are offered in Ventura, Palm Springs and Sacramento, plus free afternoons in San Francisco, Santa Barbara and San Diego — opportunities for you to explore on your own or relax in the warm weather.

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Tour Options

Whale watching at Ventura — This three-hour cruise takes you to the Santa Barbara Channel, known for its marine mammal diversity. You may get to see migrating gray whales, seals, sea lions, dolphins, orca whale pods, and other sea creatures. Offered on February 5, a free day in Ventura. Price is C\$38 per person including transportation to/from the dock. Price subject to change.

Flight from Palm Springs to Victoria — On February 12, you can fly to Victoria instead of taking the coach home. This shortens the tour to 16 days and 15 nights. Flight is on United from Palm Springs, changing in San Francisco. Fare reduction is \$20 per person double/twin or \$270 single; \$45 surcharge for triple. Price includes flight, air taxes, transfer to Palm Springs airport, transfer from Victoria airport to pickup points. Airline luggage fee is not included and is payable at airport. Limit is 10 people choosing this option.

Itinerary

Wednesday, January 28:

Transportation is provided to Seattle. We stay overnight at the Quality Inn in Renton near the Seattle airport.

Thursday, January 29:

Meals: B,L,D

Our drive continues through Olympia and Portland. After arriving on the splendid **Oregon Coast**, we stay overnight at Newport's Elizabeth Street Inn with a view of the Pacific from every room.

Friday, January 30:

Meals: B,L

Continuing along this spectacular coastline, more highlights are Devil's Churn and a myrtlewood factory. After entering California, we drive through several groves of **giant redwoods** on the way to Eureka. The night stop is at Best Western Humboldt Bay Inn.

Saturday, January 31:

Meals: B,L

Our morning drive follows the Redwoods Highway and part of the narrow winding **Avenue of the Giants** where we see one of the tallest trees in the world. Santa Rosa was the home of *Peanuts* creator, **Charles Schulz**, for 40 years and we visit the museum devoted to him and his much-loved characters. After a dramatic entrance to San Francisco via the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, we arrive at the Holiday Inn at **Fisherman's Wharf** for a two-night stay. It is convenient to the Wharf's many restaurants and shops.

Sunday, February 1:

In the morning, a local guide takes us on a sight-seeing tour around **San Francisco** including Golden Gate Park, ocean beaches, Twin Peaks and lots of history and architecture. The afternoon

is leisure time to shop at **Pier 39**, take a harbour cruise, or ride the historic cablecars.

Monday, February 2:

Meals: L

We drive to San Jose, and board the **Amtrak train** for an eight-hour journey along the Salinas Valley and the California coast. This is one of Amtrak's scenic daylight routes as the train hugs the shoreline for many miles and provides great views of the vast Pacific Ocean. We first travel through the farmlands of the Salinas Valley, nicknamed "America's Salad Bowl", as far as San Luis Obispo. South of Pismo Beach, the freeway turns inland but the train continues along the coast, rounding Point Conception and Point Arguello on the Lompoc Peninsula. Our coach meets us in Santa Barbara and we stay two nights at the Best Western Pepper Tree Inn.

Tuesday, February 3:

Santa Barbara is known as America's Riviera and enjoys a Mediterranean climate. Built along the Mission Trail, the city has a lovely balance of traditional Spanish and modern structures. A local guide takes us on a comprehensive tour of the city. We make a stop at Mission Santa Barbara, "The Queen of the Missions," maintained as an active place of worship, sightseeing stop, and national historic landmark. There is time to enjoy the view from the open air tower of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, a red-tiled Spanish-Moorish structure. The coach drops off at **Stearns Wharf**, dating back to 1872. Dine in one of the many restaurants, search for treasure in the unique shops, or stare into the ocean's blue. A transfer is provided back to the hotel later.

Wednesday, February 4:

Today we visit the **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library**, a state-of-the-art museum that highlights the events that shaped history during his eight White House years including the end of the Cold War. Air Force One is on display here and you can actually walk through this famous plane that carried seven presidents. A section of the Berlin Wall and a replica of the Oval Office can also be seen. We stay in Ventura for two nights at the ocean-front Crowne Plaza Hotel and all rooms have a view.

Thursday, February 5:

This is a free day to explore **Ventura** as you wish. The eclectic shops and restaurants of Main Street are three blocks away. The beach is directly beside the hotel and San Buenaventura State Park is a little east. A long wharf, often lined by anglers, reaches out into the ocean. A whale watching cruise in Oxnard is available as an option with transportation included.

Friday, February 6:

Our first stop is at the magnificent **Getty Center**, the \$1.2 billion flagship location of the J. Paul Getty Trust, the largest arts endowment in history. The Center showcases Getty's collection of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present against a backdrop of dramatic architecture, tranquil gardens, and fine views of the city. We continue south through Los Angeles to **San Diego**, and stay in La Jolla for three nights at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The nightly reception with complimentary wine, beer and other drinks is always a popular get-together. The hotel has an impressive atrium lobby with shrubs and a stream, two restaurants (and many nearby), indoor pool, hot tub, sauna and fitness facility.

Saturday, February 7:

Meals: B

First we go to the San Diego Natural History Museum to see the special exhibition, **The Discovery of King Tut**. It highlights the moment when Howard Carter stepped into Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 and discovered an amazing treasure trove of Egyptian artifacts. Afterwards we visit the **Maritime Museum** on the waterfront which features many nautical displays and three historic ships including the *Star of India*, the world's oldest active ship.

Sunday, February 8:

Meals: B

We spend half the day at **San Diego Safari Park** (formerly Wild Animal Park) which has animals in large enclosures and easy viewing from the convenience of the Africa Tram trolley. The afternoon is free time. Enjoy another reception with your Wells Gray friends at 5:30 pm.

Monday, February 9:

Meals: B,L

It is a two-hour drive to the lush oasis of **Palm Springs**, playground to the stars. First, we thrill to one of the city's highlights – the spectacular **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway** which ascends 6,000 feet into the San Jacinto Mountains. Each car rotates slowly during the climb, affording an incredible 360-degree view of the desert and craggy cliffs. At the top, there is an interpretive centre and lunch is included. Back in Palm Springs, a local expert conducts a city tour featuring celebrity homes and historic attractions. We stay three nights at Palm Mountain Resort which has an excellent location a block from the shopping district of Palm Canyon Drive.

Tuesday, February 10:

Meals: B,L

A local guide is with us all day as we travel north out of Palm Springs to **Joshua Tree National Park**, created in 1994. It protects 800,000 acres of Mojave Desert wilderness and features curious rock formations and a great array of desert plants such as the imposing Joshua Tree, ocotillo, yucca and cactus.

Wednesday, February 11:

Meals: B

A free day to enjoy Palm Springs as you wish.

Thursday, February 12:

Meals: B,L

There is an option offered today to fly from Palm Springs to Victoria (refer to the Options Box). Otherwise, we start our coach journey home, climbing over the San Bernardino Mountains via Cajon Pass and entering the Mohave Desert. After crossing Tehachapi Pass, we reach **Great Central Valley** where a vast array of crops is grown. Our night stop is in Fresno at the University Square Hotel.

Friday, February 13:

Meals: B,L

A stop is made at the **Hilmar Cheese Factory** for some tasting and a tour. On arrival in **Sacramento**, we take a locally-guided tour including the state capitol building. We stay two nights at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza.

Saturday, February 14:

The Holiday Inn is on the edge of the historic area of **Old Sacramento**. Its 28 acres beside the Sacramento River are a National Historic Landmark District with a theme from the California Gold Rush. Over 100 interesting shops and restaurants are within easy walking distance from the hotel. Admission is included to the **California Railroad Museum** which displays 21 restored locomotives and train cars, along with many other exhibits and a film about railroading. There are five other museums in Old Sacramento if you want to learn more about California history.

Sunday, February 15:*Meals: L*

Following I-5, we travel through the north part of the Central Valley, past Redding, Shasta Lake and Mount Shasta. We enter Oregon at Siskiyou Summit and stop in Medford at the Harry and David Country Store. We stay overnight in Canyonville at the **Seven Feathers Hotel & Casino**.

Monday, February 16:*Meals: B,L,D*

North of Portland, Mount St. Helens may be glimpsed on a clear day, and we continue through Seattle. Our last night is in Lynnwood at **Embassy Suites**. After complimentary cocktails, a farewell dinner is planned, so you can reminisce with fellow travellers about our three-week winter jaunt to California.

Tuesday, February 17:*Meals: B*

There is time for shopping at **Bellis Fair Mall** in Bellingham. After stopping at the Sumas Duty-Free Store, we head home on an afternoon ferry.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due November 27, 2014.


Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 15 seats and \$100 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after November 27.

Cancellation Policy: Up to October 28, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From October 29 to November 27, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From November 28 to December 18, the cancellation charge is 30% of the tour fare. From December 19 to January 6, 2015, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After January 6, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

TIC Insurance: In addition to Plan 3-Comprehensive, plans are available for Trip Cancellation & Interruption only and Extended Medical only. Policies can be purchased no later than at final payment.

Photo credit Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau

 **Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps. The Reagan Library is very large. There is a walk of 10-15 minutes to board the tram at Safari Park. If you choose to fly home, there can be long walks in the airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you.

€-points: This tour earns 88 €-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or €-points. 1 €-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until Nov. 27.

Travel Wholesaler License: #65842