

# VANCOUVER ISLAND FROM TOE TO TIP

Explore Vancouver Island from end to end

May 22, 2015 - 9 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$2195** double/twin

**\$2675** single

**\$2060** triple

Please add 5% GST.



>**Early Bookers:** \$120 discount on first 10 seats; \$60 on next 6

>**TIC Travel Insurance:** Plan 1-Cancellation  
\$184 double/twin, \$225 single, \$173 triple

**Redeem Experience Points:** Book by **April 7** and redeem up to **53 e-points**

## Includes

- Coach transportation for 9 days
- 8 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- Whale watching excursion with Orca Spirit to Race Rocks (south end of Vancouver Island)
- Abkhazi Garden
- Traditional Victoria afternoon tea
- Ferry to/from Quadra Island
- Nuyambalees Cultural Centre
- Strathcona Park tour
- Private charter excursion on MV Naiad Explorer to Cape Sutil (north end of Vancouver Island)
- Pacific Rim National Park fee
- *The Mousetrap* at Chemainus Theatre
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **16 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners, 1 afternoon tea

**Experience Points:** Earn **53 e-points**

## Exploring an Island

Vancouver Island is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest island in Canada, stretching 460 km from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Queen Charlotte Sound. Named for Captain George Vancouver who explored B.C.'s coast in 1792, the island has great diversity ranging from the capital city of Victoria to remote mountain peaks in Strathcona Park, and from the wild wind-lashed beaches of the west coast to the stately giants of Cathedral Grove. Only a handful of people have travelled from toe to tip and experienced both ends of Vancouver Island: Race Rocks off Victoria and Cape Sutil (not Cape Scott) north of Port Hardy. There are no roads to either place, so we have chartered vessels to get you there. In between the toe and tip, there is so much to see and do on the Island that a month would not be long enough, but we have picked some highlights for this nine-day tour that are well-known and less-known. Come and explore Vancouver Island!

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
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[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255  
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## Highlights

### Victoria

**Race Rocks (toe of Vancouver Island)**

**Abkhazi Garden with afternoon tea**

**Quadra Island**

**Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge**

**Nuyambalees Cultural Centre**

**Rebecca Spit**

**Strathcona Provincial Park**

**Cape Sutil (tip of Vancouver Island)**

**Long Beach & Pacific Rim National Park**

**Ucluelet & Tofino**

**Cathedral Grove**

**Little Qualicum Falls**

**Coombs Market**

**Rath Trevor Beach**

**The Mousetrap at Chemainus Theatre**

## Itinerary

### Friday, May 22:

*Meals: L*

After driving the Coquihalla, we take the 3 pm ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. We stay two nights at **Chateau Victoria** which has a fine downtown location close to the Inner Harbour and behind the Empress Hotel.

### Saturday, May 23:

*Meals: Tea*

During the morning, we take a boat excursion with Orca Spirit Adventures looking for whales off the coast of Victoria. Another reason is to cruise past the southernmost point of Vancouver Island (the toe) at **Race Rocks**. This protected area is home to plenty of marine wildlife and birds, and is dominated by a lighthouse built in 1860. Later, we visit one of Victoria's lesser-known beauty-spots, **Abkhazi Gardens**. This was the home of Prince Nicholas Abkhazi and his wife Peggy who came to Canada from Georgia (Russia) in 1946 and created these gardens with majestic trees and a dramatic location. A traditional **Afternoon Tea** is served in the prince's modest home.

### Sunday, May 24:

*Meals: L,D*

We start our journey up Vancouver Island and, during the next week, enjoy unique experiences along the entire 460-kilometre length of one of the world's great islands. We follow the scenic Malahat Drive north to **Nanaimo**, then the Island Freeway to Campbell River. A short ferry ride takes us over to **Quadra Island**. Our overnight accommodation is at magnificent **Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge**. Built by the Kwagiutl people, its vast lobby resembles a traditional "Big House" with massive timbers, a soaring cathedral ceiling and huge windows overlooking Discovery Passage. Relax on your private balcony and enjoy a view of the ocean, the mountains of Vancouver Island be-

yond, the rapidly-moving tides, and the tugboats with barges navigating this narrow waterway. During the afternoon, we visit **Rebecca Spit** for a stroll along a beach with ocean on both sides, and the Nuyambalees Cultural Centre which has exquisite displays about Kwagiutl art. A succulent salmon buffet is served in the lodge's dining room.

### Monday, May 25:

*Meals: B,L*

We take a 10 am ferry back to Campbell River. **Strathcona Park** was British Columbia's first provincial park, established in 1911, and protects the rugged peaks of central Vancouver Island. We drive along Buttle Lake and take a short forest walk to Lupine Falls. Then we continue north to **Port McNeill** and stay two nights at the Haida Way Motor Inn.

### Tuesday, May 26:

*Meals: B,L*

We board the 55-foot **Naiad Explorer** at Port McNeill for a five-hour excursion looking for Orca whales, Minke whales, Pacific White-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoises, Steller sea lions and a great variety of sea birds. The vessel is equipped with a hydrophone (an underwater microphone), so we can listen to the whales' vocalizations. The trip is hosted by the Mackay family who are pioneers in the whale watching industry. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, the Naiad is a very fast vessel and is capable of travelling great distances in a day. The voyage goes past Port Hardy at the end of the Island Highway, then through Goletas Channel to **Cape Sutil**. This is the northernmost tip of Vancouver Island where the Pacific Ocean meets Queen Charlotte Strait. Although less known than Cape Scott (the northwest point of the island), Cape Sutil is the appropriate destination of a tour like this that travels Vancouver Island

from toe to tip. Cape Sutil was first mapped in 1792 by the Spanish captains Galiano and Valdes, and named for their ship. The Naiad also explores the shores of Hope Island and Nigel Island before returning to Port McNeill.

**Wednesday, May 27:** *Meals: B,D*

Having reached the north tip of Vancouver Island, we start heading south with some different experiences included. There is time for shopping and lunch at unique **Coombs Market**, known for its goats grazing on the roof. Then we drive across the Island to Long Beach. We stay two nights near **Tofino** at Tin Wis Resort which has a magnificent setting beside Mackenzie Beach and every room has a splendid ocean view. Until a century ago, this sheltered bay provided a safe landing site for Nuuchah-nulth whale hunters and Tin Wis (which means "calm waters") was built and is owned by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations. Due to the isolation of Tin Wis, both breakfasts and dinners are included during our stay. Tonight, savour a bountiful dinner buffet while overlooking the beach.

**Thursday, May 28:** *Meals: B,D*

The best known feature of **Pacific Rim National Park** is Long Beach. Low tide occurs today at 7:30 am and high tide is at 1:45 pm. During the low tide in the morning, we visit Long Beach to view the life in tidal pools and do some beachcombing. We continue to **Ucluelet** to enjoy the spectacle of big waves hitting the point near Amphitrite Lighthouse. The afternoon is free time at the hotel.

**Friday, May 29:** *Meals: B,L,D*

Our stops today include some magnificent parks: the massive trees of **Cathedral Grove**, Little Qualicum Falls, and **Rathtreavor Beach**. After lunch in Parksville, we drive to **Chemainus**. The town is famous for its exquisite murals and there is time for shopping in the interesting boutiques. Our overnight accommodation is at Chemainus Festival Inn. Tonight, we go to Chemainus Theatre for a superb buffet dinner followed by a performance of Agatha Christie's **The Mousetrap**. It has been a fixture of London theatre since 1952 and celebrated its 25,000<sup>th</sup> performance in 2012, the longest-running play in history. The plot: Who will escape Monkswell Manor? A snowstorm traps guests, a police detective, and a killer in a series of betrayals and murders. No one escapes suspicion, no one is safe — until the final moments of the mystery!

**Saturday, May 30:** *Meals: B*

We bid Vancouver Island farewell after our adventures exploring this great island from toe to tip. We ride the ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen, then travel home to the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm.



**Activity Level:** Moderate activity on some days including short distances to walk and some steps such as getting on and off boats. There are optional walks at Rebecca Spit, Lupine Falls, Cathedral Grove, Little Qualicum Falls, and Rathtreavor Beach. These walks are level except Lupine Falls. The ramps to the boat docks may be steep at low tide. Seeing everything mentioned in this itinerary will require participation at Activity Level 2.

### Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 7, 2015.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$120 discount on first 10 seats and \$60 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 7.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to April 7, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 8 to April 22, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From April 23 to May 7, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After May 7, 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:** Plan 1 (Cancellation) is offered on this tour since BC residents have medical insurance already and do not need a comprehensive policy. The policy can be purchased no later than at final payment.

**E-points:** This tour earns 53 E-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or E-points. 1 E-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until April 7.

**Travel Wholesaler License:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924