

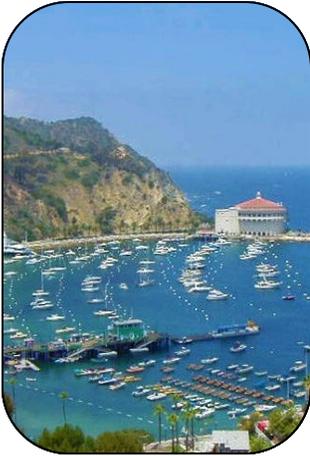
CATALINA ISLAND & COASTAL CRUISE

Join Wells Gray for our first cruise with Norwegian

April 25, 2016 - 11 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$2915 Inside Stateroom ID

\$2975 Outside Stateroom OG

\$3330 Stateroom with Balcony BA

> Please add 0.25% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$140 discount on first 15 seats; \$70 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 60 points from this tour.

Redeem **60 points** if you book by **February 18.**



* HIGHLIGHTS *

**Santa Catalina Island with 2 nights in Avalon
Culinary walking tour in Avalon**

2 nights on the retired luxury liner "Queen Mary" in Long Beach

5 nights cruising on "Norwegian Pearl"

Ports of call in San Francisco and Victoria

Includes

- Coach transportation to/from Vancouver
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 5 days and 5 nights on *Norwegian Pearl*
- Flight from Vancouver to Los Angeles
- Transfer from airport to ferry terminal
- Ferry from Long Beach to Catalina Island return
- Skyline driving tour on Catalina Island
- Taste of Catalina walking culinary tour
- Historic tour of Catalina Casino
- Transfer from Long Beach ferry terminal to *Queen Mary*
- First class stateroom on *Queen Mary*
- Historic walking tour of the ship
- Aquarium of the Pacific
- Transfer from *Queen Mary* to San Pedro
- Complimentary alcoholic drinks and soft drinks on the ship
- Cruise gratuities
- Port charges & cruise taxes
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels and both ships
- **24 meals:** 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 6 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255
Vernon > 250-545-9197
Toll Free > 800-667-9552



Cruise & Tour Notes

Staterooms: When you book this tour, you can choose your stateroom on the *Norwegian Pearl*. Fares are quoted for inside, outside and balcony, but other categories are also available.

Dinner reservations: The *Pearl* has no formal dinner sitting times. You can go to a dining room when you are ready with your friends or book ahead for one of the specialty dining rooms.

Importance of early booking: Norwegian Cruise Line has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be taken away from us at any time if the ship fills or if there is greater than expected demand for a longer segment of this cruise. This has occurred several times with other cruise lines and we had to wait list disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the connecting motorcoach. Therefore, it is very important that you book early for this tour.



Tour activity level: Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps. Motorized vehicles are discouraged on Catalina Island, so there is a 10-minute walk from the ferry to hotel (a cart can be requested if you need one) and a 15-minute walk to the Catalina Casino. The hotel has no restaurant (breakfast is included), but there are numerous restaurants within a few minutes walk. Luggage handling from the ferry to the hotel and back is included. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Los Angeles; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. You must be able to handle your luggage from the customs hall in Vancouver to the coach. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

Norwegian Pearl

Norwegian Pearl made her inaugural cruise in 2006. She was the third of four "Jewel" class ships built between 2005 and 2007 (others were Jewel, Jade and Gem). The *Pearl* was completely refurbished in 2013 to the tune of \$30 million. Carrying 2,394 passengers, these ships are midsize in the Norwegian (NCL) fleet of 14 ships, but they are still more intimate than some mammoth cruise ships nowadays. The *Pearl's* gross tonnage is 93,000 and she is 965 feet long with 12 decks and 12 elevators. Facilities include a live entertainment theatre, 15 bars and lounges, casino, shopping arcade, beauty shop, library, games room, Internet centre, spa, gymnasium, two bowling alleys, climbing wall, two swimming pools, and six hot tubs.

Dining is one of the highlights of a cruise and the *Pearl* has 19 places to eat. The complimentary dining rooms include Summer Palace, Indigo, O'Sheehan's Pub, Lotus Garden, and Garden Café buffet. Six specialty restaurants including Cagney's Steakhouse, La Cucina, Moderno, and Teppanyaki have different themes and gourmet menus, and charge fees of \$20 to \$30 per person. You can also dine in the privacy of your stateroom by ordering from the room service menu 24 hours a day (\$8 charge may apply). You can enjoy a different venue for each meal, reserve in advance, or just show up when you are ready.

Staterooms have TV, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of about 1,072 ensures top-quality service and entertainment. There are many different categories ranging from inside and outside to balconies and suites. The Haven, at the top of the ship, is an exclusive area of suites with 24-hour butler service, a private courtyard with pool, and private restaurant. A great variety of stage shows is presented in the Stardust Theatre. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games and fitness classes.

Wells Gray Tours has offered cruises with Holland America Line and occasionally Princess Cruises for over 20 years. This Pacific Coastal cruise is the first with NCL. Two of our staff were on board the *Norwegian Star* in the Baltic in August 2015 to check out NCL and were very impressed.

Unlimited alcoholic beverages included

On this cruise, unlimited complimentary beverages are offered. Order your favourite drink such as wine, beer, a mixed beverage, or a soft drink, and relax with friends in a lounge or your stateroom. Please be aware that this offer could be withdrawn by NCL for late bookings.

Santa Catalina Island

Santa Catalina Island is located 22 miles off the coast of California south of Los Angeles. About 3,700 people live on Catalina, almost all in the island's only town, Avalon. The island is 22 miles long and 8 miles across at its widest point. Catalina Express provides frequent fast ferry service between Long Beach and Avalon for passengers only.

The chewing gum magnate, William Wrigley, bought the island in 1919 and the family has carefully controlled its development for the past century. In 1975, 88% of the island was deeded to the Catalina Island Conservancy, founded by the Wrigleys, and it still protects the island today. Avalon's cobblestone streets are narrow, quaint and winding, so the Wrigleys regulated the number of cars allowed, and today there is a 14-year waiting list to bring a car to the island. Most people get around by walking or using electric golf carts. Avalon is busy in the daytime when tourists come from Los Angeles on the ferries, but at night, after the last ferry has left, it is a delightful quiet village with an incomparable setting by the ocean.

Avalon is dominated by the Catalina Casino, a 12-storey Art-Deco building on the waterfront. It was built by the Wrigleys in 1929 as an entertainment centre and contained a movie theatre, seating 1,100 people, and a ballroom where 6,000 people could dance. It has never been a casino for gambling; the name is from the Italian language meaning "gathering place" and Las Vegas popularized the word with an entirely different meaning in English.

Itinerary

Monday, April 25:

Meals: L

We drive the Coquihalla Highway to Vancouver and stay overnight at the Fairmont YVR Hotel.

Tuesday, April 26:

Meals: B,D

We fly on Westjet to Los Angeles, then drive to Long Beach and ride the Catalina Express fast ferry over to Avalon. Welcome to **Santa Catalina Island!** It is a 10-minute walk from the dock to the Pavilion Hotel where we stay for two nights. It is located on the harbour with a pedestrian walkway between the buildings and the beach. Numerous shops and restaurants are within a few blocks. Each night, the hotel hosts a reception featuring local and imported wines and fine cheeses, and a sommelier explains the attributes of each.

Wednesday, April 27:

Meals: B,L

Breakfast is included each morning, either indoors or on the patio overlooking the harbour. First, we take the **Skyline Tour** which uses low-g geared buses that can navigate the narrow roads to the island's interior. Many roads are single-lane with mirrors at the sharp corners to help the driver spot occasional oncoming vehicles. Along the way, there are splendid views of the island and ocean as we climb nearly 2,000 feet to the Airport in the Sky. At noon, we start a culinary walk through Avalon with **Taste of Catalina Food Tours**. Local guides share the inside scoop on everything food-related including hidden tidbits of the island's rich history and culture. Satisfy your appetite with award winning cuisines as you indulge your palate for a few hours of sipping, sampling and savouring!

Thursday, April 28:

Meals: B

We take a walking tour of the **Catalina Casino**. Listen to stories about this magnificent structure, test the perfect acoustics in the ballroom, and enjoy the view of Avalon from the balcony. Ours is the more extensive behind-the-scenes tour, not the basic introduction that most visitors get. We ride the afternoon ferry back to Long Beach. A landmark in the harbour is the famous luxury liner **RMS Queen Mary** and we stay two nights on board. The ship completed 1,000 trans-Atlantic crossings for Cunard Line from 1936 to 1967. When she was retired, Long Beach outbid a Japanese scrap yard and the ship was permanently moored there as a tourist attraction. Extensive renovations followed and the *Queen Mary* re-opened in 1971 as a hotel with restaurants and a ship's tour. Our accommodations are in the spacious staterooms once occupied by first-class passengers.

Friday, April 29:

Meals: B

Breakfast is included each morning on the *Queen Mary*. The historic walking tour of the ship covers many decks from engine room to bridge, and can be done at your own pace and in segments. *Queen Mary* is actually longer than the *Norwegian Pearl* at 1,019 feet, but has less tonnage at 82,000 tons, and has only 12 decks. This afternoon, we go to the **Aquarium of the Pacific** which has a collection of over 11,000 creatures representing 500 different species living in the Pacific Ocean. The three permanent galleries feature the warm waters of Southern California and Baja, the frigid waters of the Northern Pacific, and the colourful reefs of the Tropical Pacific.

Saturday, April 30:*Meals: B,L,D*

It is a short drive to the cruise terminal in San Pedro where we board the **Norwegian Pearl**. An embarkation buffet lunch is served in the Garden Café. The afternoon is free time to get familiar with the ship. We sail at 5 pm with a festive "Farewell to Los Angeles" deck party. Enjoy dinner in one of the five included restaurants or the six specialty venues with a cover charge, then go to the Stardust Theatre for a lively stage show.

Sunday, May 1:*Meals: B,L,D*

This is a relaxing day at sea while we cruise north off the California coast. There are numerous activities to enjoy and the daily newsletter tells you what to expect.

Monday, May 2:*Meals: B,L,D*

Be sure to be on deck about 7 am as the *Pearl* makes a dramatic entrance to San Francisco under the the majestic **Golden Gate Bridge**. We dock at Pier 35 from 8 am to 5 pm. The day is yours to explore **San Francisco** as you wish. Take a harbour cruise under the bridges or the ferry to the historic Alcatraz Island prison. Browse the shops of Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf. Ride an iconic cablecar up and over the hills to downtown. Savour local cuisine for lunch such as seafood or Chinese. Enjoy a variety of experiences today.

Tuesday, May 3:*Meals: B,L,D*

Another day at sea!

Wednesday, May 4:*Meals: B,L,D*

In the morning, the *Pearl* rounds Cape Flattery at the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula and sails east into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We dock in **Victoria** at 2 pm and stay until 10 pm. Shuttles are available to downtown for a small fee.

Thursday, May 5:*Meals: B,L*

After docking at Canada Place in Vancouver, we bid farewell to the *Pearl*. Our motorcoach meets us and we travel home to the Okanagan and Kamloops.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 18, 2016.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$140 discount on first 15 seats and \$70 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after February 18.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 18, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From February 19 to March 8, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From March 9 to March 25, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After March 25, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to US exchange rates or taxes and surcharges imposed by the cruise line and other 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.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo credit: California Travel

E-points: This tour earns 60 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until Feb. 18.

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