

CRUISING THE LOWER FRASER RIVER

September 20, 2016 - 5 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1295 double/twin

\$1575 single

\$1220 triple



> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$70 discount on first 15 seats; \$35 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 32 points from this tour.

Redeem **32 points** if you book by **August 4.**

Includes

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Hells Gate Airtram
- Harrison Hot Springs pools
- Copper Room dinner, music with the Jones Boys Band, and dancing
- Fraser River Safari boat from Mission to Kilby with local naturalist
- Kilby Historic Store and farm tour
- Fort Langley National Historic Site
- *MV Native* paddlewheeler cruise from Fort Langley to New Westminster
- Paddlewheeler cruise from New Westminster to the mouth of the Fraser River
- Guide on the paddlewheeler
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
- Stave Falls Powerhouse tour
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **10 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner

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

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



The Mighty Fraser

"Our past, present and future are linked with the Fraser. The past saw fur-traders, the gold rush of 1858, and early settlers. The present sees waters teeming with migrating salmon and a highway and railways confined to the gorge carved by the river. The Fraser, beautiful, bountiful and powerful, must always flow in the pattern of our future."

So read one of British Columbia's stop-of-interest plaques, erected in the early 1960s by the Department of Recreation & Conservation to provide travellers with 50-word snippets of roadside history. "The Mighty Fraser" plaque was located on the Trans-Canada Highway just west of Hope and was removed years ago when the freeway was built.

The message is still true today, 50 years later, because the Fraser is truly British Columbia's great river. Flowing entirely within the province, it starts from a spring 50 km south of Yellowhead Pass and ends, 1390 km later, in the Strait of Georgia near Vancouver. Along the Fraser's tortuous route, it races past Mount Robson, highest in the Canadian Rockies; it tumbles over Rearguard Falls where salmon can swim no further; it meanders for 240 km through the broad Rocky Mountain Trench; it flows past old homesteads like the Huble Farm and under historic crossings such as Alexandra Suspension Bridge; it passes industrial cities like Prince George and Quesnel; it plunges through the awesome Fraser Canyon and squeezes through Hells Gate. At the end of its journey, the Fraser spreads out into multiple channels and carries its huge load of sediment quietly into the ocean at Steveston.

The Fraser River's intrigue is not only its geography, but the vital role it has played in British Columbia's history. First Nations tribes lived and worked on its banks long before Europeans arrived; fur traders such as Simon Fraser and Alexander Mackenzie travelled on its waters over 200 years ago; thousands of miners sought gold on its sandbars in the 1850s; a route for the Canadian Pacific Railway was blasted through its canyons in the 1880s; and Vancouver grew from hamlet to metropolis at its outlet.

During three cruises, this tour explores the last 130 km of the Fraser from its confluence with the Harrison River to its mouth at Steveston. The first is a nature-oriented trip from Mission to the historic Kilby Store at Harrison Mills viewing bird and animal life with the benefit of an expert naturalist. The second cruise is on board the *MV Native*, an authentic replica of a paddlewheeler, from Fort Langley to New Westminster, passing under four bridges. A second charter excursion on the *Native* continues downstream into the Strait of Georgia. All three cruises are unique experiences because they are available only to tour groups.

Tour Notes

The cruises — All three cruises are on gently-flowing sections of the Fraser with no white or rough water. The *Native* is equipped with restrooms. Cruises are one-way and the coach meets you at the other end.

 **Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps. There is a level walk of less than ¼ mile from the dock to Kilby Store. There are steps or ramps to get on or off each vessel. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, 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.

Itinerary

Tuesday, September 20:

Meals: L,D

We drive along the Nicola River from Merritt to Spences Bridge, where it joins the Thompson. At Lytton, we view the "Meeting of the Waters" where the clear Thompson flows into the muddy Fraser. At the narrowest point of the Fraser Canyon, we ride the cablecar down to awesome **Hells Gate** and have lunch there. At Hope, the Fraser emerges from its canyon into the fertile farmlands of the Fraser Valley and turns west for its final 160 km to the ocean. We stay two nights at **Harrison Hot Springs Resort** in the west tower rooms, closest to the hot pools. Tonight, dine in elegance in the **Copper Room** with music by the Jones Boys Band and dancing.

Wednesday, September 21:

Meals: B,L

During today's **Fraser River Safari**, we take a two-hour jet-boat excursion from Mission to the mouth of the Harrison River while viewing bird and animal life with an expert naturalist. Although the Fraser flows near cities such as Chilliwack, Abbotsford and Mission, this 50-km section is less visited because the major highways on the north and south shore are well away from the river. The trip ends at **Kilby Store**, a wonderful restoration of a century-old general store. An interior tour is provided as well as a walking tour of the farm. Note: Half the group travels upstream and half downstream.

Thursday, September 22:*Meals: B,L*

The Hudson Bay Company built **Fort Langley** beside the Fraser River in 1827. It traded furs with the natives and shipped them to Europe via Cape Horn, as well as providing produce to Russia and California. In 1858, the Fraser River gold rush caused a huge influx of Americans, so Governor James Douglas proclaimed a Crown Colony here. Today, Fort Langley National Historic Site interprets the influence of this strategic post on the province's history. After visiting Fort Langley, we board the **MV Native paddlewheeler** for a three-hour excursion on the Fraser River. We sail around Barnston Island, up part of the Pitt River and underneath the **Golden Ears and Port Mann Bridges**. An expert guide is on board with lots of stories to tell about sights along the way. Arriving in New Westminster, we pass under the Pattullo and Skytrain bridges, then dock at the **Inn at Westminster Quay**. It is a unique hotel, built on a pier jutting into the Fraser River, and we stay two nights here, enjoying a view of the river from every room.

Friday, September 23:*Meals: B,L*

We board the paddlewheeler and continue cruising down the last 30 km of the Fraser River, enjoying the benefit of a local guide again. We sail under the Alex Fraser Bridge and over the Massey Tunnel. At **Steveston**, the Fraser finally flows into the Strait of Georgia and we cruise a few km offshore to see its brown fresh water mingling with the blue salt water. We disembark at Steveston and tour **Gulf of Georgia Cannery**, built in 1894. During its peak production at the turn of the 20th century, the cannery produced 2½ million cans of salmon and employed several hundred workers. It has been a National Historic Site since 1984. Afterwards, we ride our coach back to New Westminster.

Saturday, September 24:*Meals: B,L*

We take a tour of the **Stave Falls Powerhouse** which was built in 1908 and generated power for nearly a century. After lunch in Chilliwack, we travel home via the Coquihalla.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 4, 2016.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$70 discount on first 15 seats and \$35 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after August 4.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 4, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From August 5 to August 19, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 20 to September 5, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After September 5, 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.

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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credit: Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours

Experience Points: This tour earns 32 points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until August 4.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924