

CRUISING THE GULF ISLANDS

Includes Salt Spring Island & Poets Cove Resort on Pender Island

September 10, 2017 - 4 Days

**WELLS GRAY TOURS**

a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1225 double/twin

\$1530 single



- > Please add 5% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$70 discount on first 10 seats; \$35 on next 6
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 31 points from this tour.
Redeem **31 points** if you book by **July 6**.

Includes

- Coach transportation for 2 days
- 3 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Swartz Bay to Salt Spring Island
- Locally-guided tour of Salt Spring Island
- Van transportation to top of Mount Maxwell
- Ferry from Salt Spring Island to Pender Island
- 2 days cruising on *Pride of Victoria* around Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands
- Gratuities for Salt Spring guide, Mount Maxwell driver, and crew on *Pride of Victoria*
- Transfer from Swartz Bay to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **8 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Poets Cove Resort

Poets Cove is the premier luxury resort of the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. The main building has 22 beautifully-appointed bedrooms, all with ocean view and a deck. The Aurora Dining Room serves our dinners, and Syrens Bistro serves breakfasts, plus offers a pub atmosphere for casual evening get-togethers. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is free time when you can enjoy this service. An outdoor pool and hot tub are tucked into the hillside above the lodge. This tour was first offered as Wells Gray Tours' spring 2010 Mystery Tour and everybody was impressed with the luxury of Poets Cove and the scenic cruises in the Gulf Islands. For 2017, enjoy two days of cruising in different parts of the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. The *Pride of Victoria* carries only 32 passengers for comfort, so with limited capacity on this tour, early booking is recommended.

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Itinerary

Sunday, September 10:

Meals: D

After pickups around Victoria, we board the 11 am ferry at Swartz Bay for the short trip to Fulford Harbour on **Salt Spring Island**. This afternoon, a locally-guided tour visits some island highlights, including **Ruckle Provincial Park** where you can stroll some pleasant trails along the ocean. We stay overnight at Harbour House Hotel in Ganges.

Monday, September 11:

Meals: B,D

This morning, we ride in vans up the winding road to the summit of **Mount Maxwell** and enjoy a panoramic view over Salt Spring Island, the other Gulf Islands, and the Sansum Narrows. Back on the ferry, it is a 40-minute crossing from Salt Spring Island to North Pender Island. Then we drive to **Poets Cove Resort** on South Pender Island and settle into the luxurious rooms for the next three nights. Tonight, enjoy dinner in the Aurora Room overlooking the harbour, music in Syrens, a walk in the extensive grounds, or sitting on your deck watching the sunset across the water.

Tuesday, September 12:

Meals: B,L,D

We board the **Pride of Victoria** in the marina below the hotel and depart at 9 am into Bedwell Harbour and the Gulf Islands. The cruise route is flexible and depends on sightings of **Orca whales** or other marine creatures. We may cross the border to the San Juan Islands (no passport needed, since we don't land). We may cruise along the

rugged shore of **Spieden Island**, a privately-owned island with a collection of exotic animals. Tides permitting, we may go through the narrows between the Pender Islands. A gourmet lunch is served on board. The vessel has two decks with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating for excellent viewing, and it has a washroom. After about six hours of great scenery, we return to Poets Cove. During free time at Poets Cove this afternoon, a soothing spa treatment is recommended (please check the website www.poetscove.com and choose your spa treatment, then call directly to book it).

Wednesday, September 13:

Meals: B,L

Back on the *Pride of Victoria*, a five-hour cruise is offered with lunch at a beach or at a restaurant near a marina. We may explore the shorelines of **Saturna Island**, Galiano Island, Mayne Island, or Prevost Island. The cruise finishes at the marina in Swartz Bay or Sidney, then a coach transfer takes you back into Victoria.

Packing note: Please plan on bringing a small suitcase on this tour. All luggage must go on the *Pride of Victoria* for the September 13 cruise and there is limited storage space. The coach returns to Victoria on the afternoon of September 11 and picks you up from the boat in Swartz Bay or Sidney on September 13.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 6, 2017.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$70 discount on first 10 seats and \$35 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 6.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 6, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 7 to August 8, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 9 to August 22, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 22, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from ferries, the boat 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.

Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mostly getting on and off *Pride of Victoria*. The ramps to the boat docks can be steep at low tide. There is a short walk between Poets Cove Resort and the boat dock. There is a short walk from the coach parking to your room in the resort, or a golf cart can assist you. 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.

e-points: This tour earns 31 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 July 6.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842

