



WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



The Experience Quarterly

Currently Available Tours – as of August 2017



www.wellsgraytours.com
800.667.9552

Kamloops
250-374-0831

Vernon
250-545-9197

Kelowna
250-762-3435

Penticton
250-493-1255

GREETINGS FRIENDS

As you know, there are currently around 167 wildfires burning throughout the province. Safety is a top priority for us and we are actively monitoring the wildfires in BC to ensure that we are not running any tours into dangerous areas. Each tour is being assessed as it gets closer to departure to either reroute or cancel if necessary. Our thoughts are with all those affected. We recently made a \$500 donation to the Red Cross for relief efforts regarding the BC Wildfires as about 37,000 people have been displaced. A huge "Thank You" to all of the amazing men and women fighting these fires, and the emergency service workers and volunteers helping the evacuees get through this difficult time.

E-Newsletter

Sign up for our monthly E-Newsletter to get access to newly released tours, travel tidbits and information on upcoming events. All we need is your contact information, so call your local office today or visit us online at www.wellsgraytours.com and click "Receive Tour & News Updates".

Facebook Photo Contest

Every year we plan incredible trips to show you the world. Now we want to see the world through your eyes. Send us your favourite shot from your Wells Gray Tours adventure and we'll enter it in our Facebook Photo Contest. You could win a \$300 Travel Voucher! Contest runs June 1 to December 31, 2017.

What we're looking for: Pictures you've taken while travelling with Wells Gray Tours that show your exceptional experiences. Action photos, close-ups, destinations, people, places, nature or culture – give us your best shot!

How to enter: Submit your photo by email to kerrie@wellsgraytours.com. Include your name, names of people appearing in photo, date, destination and tour. There is no limit on the number of entries per person.

How to win: Photos appear in the Wells Gray Tours Facebook page photo album titled "Photo Contest 2017". The picture with the most "Likes" will win – get your friends to "Like" your picture on Facebook! You can only win once per year.

PRIZES

1st Place - \$300 Travel Voucher
2nd Place - \$100 Travel Voucher
3rd Place - \$50 Travel Voucher

Visit our Facebook page or our website for official contest rules & deadlines.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

Kamloops 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Vernon 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Kelowna 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Penticton 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Full tour itineraries can be found online at www.wellsgraytours.com or at your local office.

- All tours include coach and/or air transportation, accommodation, knowledgeable tour director, and luggage handling at hotels, unless otherwise indicated.
- Tours depart from Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton and communities in between. Depending on the individual tour routing and number of people in a location, additional pick up points may be available or added.
- GST is charged where applicable.
- Single and triple fares are available on most tours.
- Consumer Protection BC Licenses: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924

Cover photo: Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach. Thanksgiving on the Oregon Coast, itinerary on page 7.
Photo Credit: Pixabay

Wells Gray Tours Fall Destination Travel Shows

Finalization of our 2018 destinations is well underway and we are excited to share what's coming up with you. Join Wells Gray Tours for a multimedia presentation of upcoming tours, cruises and international destinations.

Salmon Arm

Wednesday, October 18th

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Comfort Inn & Suites

1090 22nd Street NE
Salmon Arm, BC

Please RSVP to Maritime Travel 250-832-9481

Kelowna - NEW LOCATION!!

Wednesday, October 25th

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Best Western Plus Kelowna Hotel & Suites

2402 Hwy 97 N
Kelowna, BC

Please RSVP 250-762-3435

Vernon

Thursday, October 26th

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Village Green Hotel

4801 27th Street
Vernon, BC

Please RSVP 250-545-9197

Penticton

Tuesday, October 31st

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Days Inn Conference Center

152 Riverside Drive
Penticton, BC

Please RSVP 250-493-1255

Kamloops

Wednesday, November 1st

1:30 to 3:30 pm

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

1136 6th Avenue
Kamloops, BC

Please RSVP 250-374-0831



ACTIVITY LEVELS



Wells Gray Tours offers three levels of activity on our tours. The symbol  of one, two or three walkers appears on each tour brochure to indicate the activity level you can expect. A written description is also provided. In addition, on Activity Level 3 tours, every customer must sign a statement that he/she understands that the tour has lots of activity and is capable of handling it. Tours with Activity Level 1 or 2 have the following statement on the brochure:

If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 1 or 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.

Do I really need travel insurance?

Unexpected emergency medical treatment is the single most expensive hidden cost you can incur.

Why Travel Guard?

- No medical questionnaire!
- Insurance is fully refundable if tour is cancelled
- No maximum age
- 24/7/365 assistance services

What about Extra Coverage?

- Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions, when purchased within 7 days of the initial trip payment:
- Insured must be medically able to travel at the time of purchase.
 - Pre-existing medical waiver applies to a maximum of \$15,000 per person for trip cancellation.
 - Pre-existing medical waiver applies to a maximum of \$1M when the medical upgrade is purchased.

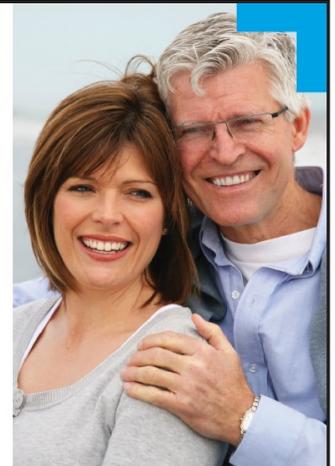
Is There Anything Else?

- If a claim is denied, a personal call to the client will be made to explain why.
- If Travel Medical Assistance is required, direct medical payment will be arranged when available.

The insurance products available through Travel Guard Group Canada, Inc. ("Travel Guard") are underwritten by AIG Insurance Company of Canada. The insurance policy will contain reductions, limitations, exclusions and termination provisions. Coverage may not be available in all provinces. 1962_002 04/25/16



Travel Guard®



BRITISH COLUMBIA & CANADIAN GETAWAYS

FRASER RIVER FROM SOURCE TO MOUTH

September 6, 2017 — 10 days

\$3075 pp double **\$3665** single



The source of the Fraser River was discovered by a *Beautiful British Columbia Magazine* team in the mid-1980s. The nearest road is 50 km away and there is no trail to the site, so the only access is by a helicopter. Less than 200 people, most of them travelling with Wells Gray Tours, have seen the remarkable phenomenon of a tiny dripping spring flowing into a pond from where the Fraser River, all of six inches wide, starts its long journey to the ocean. This tour lets you experience the thrill of a helicopter ride, as well as planting your feet on each side of the not-so-mighty Fraser. You have bragging rights for a truly unique opportunity! Then we follow the Fraser downstream with exciting experiences all the way to the coast. We also enjoy a relaxing evening at Harrison Hot Springs Resort and dine in elegance in the Copper Room with music and dancing by the Jones Boys. Enjoy a two-hour jet-boat excursion from Mission to the mouth of the Harrison River with an expert Naturalist, and board the paddlewheeler MV Native for a four-hour excursion down the last 30 km of the Fraser River.

COWBOY TRAIL & WATERTON LAKES

September 13, 2017 — 7 days

\$1685 pp double **\$2150** single

11 Seats left!



The road that traverses the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains has been nicknamed the Cowboy Trail. Ranching and the cowboy life are still very much part of the culture of this region. On this tour, we visit several attractions that celebrate history such as Bar U Ranch, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Remington Carriage Museum, Fort Macleod, and Frank Slide. Southern Alberta also boasts one of Canada's less visited national parks, Waterton Lakes, and admission is free during Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. Shared with Glacier National Park in Montana, Waterton has rugged mountains rising from a stark prairie, surrounding an idyllic lake. Add to this the dramatic beauty of Kananaskis and Crowsnest Pass, relaxing Fairmont Hot Springs, and the emerging fall colours, and you have the perfect late summer getaway.

KOOTENAYS GHOST TOWNS & HOT SPRINGS

October 1, 2017 — 5 days

\$1125 pp double **\$1390** single

discounts up to \$30 pp



In the boom and bust economies of British Columbia's last 160 years, a lot of towns have come and gone. Some rivalled San Francisco for size and luxuries, but are now just a collection of broken buildings. Some are still inhabited, but are now a ghost of former glories. This is another of Wells Gray's popular themed tours. During five days, we visit ghost towns such as Retallack and Sandon, as well as a created one at Three Valley Gap, and historic towns like Revelstoke, Kaslo, Nelson, and Greenwood. We visit the gardens at Blaylock, the Kootenays' grandest mansion. Unique experiences include a ride on Nelson's heritage Streetcar #23, lunch with a Nelson historian, an overnight at Nelson's old Hume Hotel, and a tour of the historic powerhouse at Sandon. Guides are hired at each attraction or town to explain the historical details as only a local person can do. We stay 2 nights at Ainsworth Hot Springs, so you have unlimited use of the pools. Come and join us on this exciting tour with a ghostly twist!

TYAX RESORT

October 3, 2017 — 4 days

\$980 pp double **\$1245** single

Filling fast!



Join us for a Fall Foliage Tour in the South Chilcotin and spend 3 nights at Tyax Wilderness Resort, a peaceful retreat on Tyaughton Lake with a fine view of snowy peaks. The lodge is one of the largest log buildings in western Canada and you are sure to admire its fine craftsmanship, especially the cathedral lobby with a soaring stone chimney. It was built in 1986 and totally renovated a few years ago. You will have a free day to relax at Tyax Resort and enjoy the beautiful setting as well as numerous entertaining and recreational activities. Enjoy a locally guided tour of Bralorne & Gold Bridge. A flight over the nearby glaciers and peaks of the South Chilcotin wilderness is offered as an option.

THANKSGIVING AT TSA-KWA-LUTEN LODGE

October 7, 2017 — 5 days

\$995 pp double **\$1235** single

19 Seats left!



Magnificent Tsa-kwa-luten Lodge was built by the Kwagiutl people and its vast lobby resembles a traditional "Big House" with massive timbers, a soaring cathedral ceiling, and huge windows overlooking Discovery Passage. All rooms have an ocean view. Relax on your private balcony and enjoy the panorama of the ocean, the mountains of Vancouver Island beyond, the rapidly-moving tides, and the tugboats with barges navigating this narrow waterway. Meals are served in the main dining room which has an entrancing view, and all meals are included due to the isolation of the lodge. There are walking trails along the waterfront to the lighthouse, and a more difficult trail to the bluff at Cape Mudge with a view south into the Strait of Georgia. It's a wonderful place to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving.

JASPER PARK LODGE SENIOR FALL GETAWAY

October 9, 2017 — 5 days

\$1195 pp double **\$1470** single

7 Seats left!



Celebrate beauty and friendship in the majestic Canadian Rockies. Each fall, the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge invites seniors to head out to the mountains for fresh air, fall foliage, and lots of fun. Delicious food, classic entertainment and a multitude of activities make for a great getaway. With fitness programs, craft-making, lectures, walking tours, and entertainment, the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge program has it all! And you simply can't beat the value — a stay at the Lodge in summer with meals costs over \$500 per night. This tour offers extraordinary savings and lets you experience this renowned lodge, with exceptional meals and experiences included, at a very attractive price. Combine this with the spectacular drive through Rogers Pass, Kicking Horse Pass, and Yellowhead Pass, and along the Icefields Parkway, and you have an unbeatable fall tour.

THEATRE ESCAPE TO OAK BAY BEACH HOTEL

November 21, 2017 — 5 days

\$1470 pp double **\$1835** single

discounts up to \$40 pp



Escape to the gorgeous coast and settle into the Oak Bay Beach Hotel for four nights, one of the finest lodgings in the Victoria area. A gourmet buffet lunch is served at the Chemainus Festival Theatre and we enjoy the afternoon show **Cornwall's All-Inclusive Cancun Christmas**. The Cornwalls are back for another great holiday season, featuring more classic 1980s tunes, crazy antics, and big hair. Back in Victoria, we go to Ambrosia Dinner Theatre for a variety show with the Victoria Broadway Chorus. We also visit the Royal British Columbia Museum, Robert Bateman Centre and enjoy a traditional British afternoon tea at the quaint Abkhazi Garden Teahouse. One evening will be at the intimate Langham Court Theatre to see **Les Belles Soeurs**. The story — Montreal house-wife Germaine has won a million Gold Star stamps, given out by grocery stores and exchanged for goods like BBQs and lawn chairs, and invites all the women she knows to help her stick them into redemption booklets. On our final evening we enjoy the Victoria Operatic Society and their presentation of **Anne of Green Gables** at the McPherson Theatre. Canada's longest-running musical is being performed to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Come enjoy a pampered five-day getaway with four shows!



We hope we are your favourite travel company and that you will tell your friends about us too!

That's why we are rewarding you when you REFER A FRIEND. Introduce someone new to Wells Gray Tours, and if they book any tour, and you let us know at the time of booking you are both eligible for a discount based on the value of your tour! You both must book within a week.

It's just our way of saying "Thank You" for your recommendation.

2017 SHOW TOURS

ALADDIN & RAGTIME IN SEATTLE

October 20, 2017 — 4 days

\$1120 pp double **\$1375** single
discounts up to \$60 pp



Theatre is a great way to celebrate the full range of human emotion, and these two love stories certainly accomplish that. **Aladdin** follows the familiar tale of how a poor young man discovers a genie in a lamp and uses his wishes to marry the princess that he loves and to thwart the Sultan's evil Grand Vizier. The show was adapted from the 1992 Disney movie and premiered in Seattle in 2011. It was nominated for five Tony awards and won one plus a Drama Desk Award. *A Whole New World* is the best known song. **Ragtime** was created by Canadian impresario Garth Drabinsky and opened in Toronto in 1996 and Vancouver in 1998. It was nominated for 13 Tony Awards and won 4, and 13 Drama Desk Awards and won 5. It tells the story of three groups in the USA in the early 20th century: African Americans, represented by Coalhouse Walker Jr., a Harlem musician; upper-class suburbanites, represented by Mother, the matriarch of a wealthy New York family; and Eastern European immigrants, represented by Tateh, a Jewish immigrant from Latvia. Filled with 36 songs and dramatic music and staging, this revival of *Ragtime* is not to be missed. We stay three nights at the beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel and enjoy a cooked-to-order breakfast each morning. Choose between Chihuly Garden & Glass or the Pacific Science Center & Imax Theatre.

ANDRE RIEU IN TACOMA

October 27, 2017 — 3 days

\$870 pp double **\$1110** single
3 Coaches nearly full!



This Dutch musician has mastered the violin, as well as the art of conducting and composing music. He is best known for creating an international revival in waltz music with his "Johann Strauss Orchestra". Together, their music results in breathtaking beats, unforgettable accompaniment and overall a magical performance. Rieu and his orchestra have performed throughout Europe, North America and other continents. Experience his amazing performance in Tacoma! André Rieu's 2017 world tour visits several European countries, Chile, Mexico, and USA. Unfortunately, there are no performances in Canada. Tacoma, Washington, is the closest concert for André Rieu's British Columbia fans. **Concert Seating:** Section 7A, rows 17 to 20. We stay two nights at the stunning Hotel Murano known for its amazing glass works which are on display throughout the lobby. We visit the Museum of Glass and a docent leads us through an interactive experience of the glass artwork including watching professional artists blow glass art in the Hot Shop. In the afternoon, choose between America's Car Museum or Lakewold Gardens Estate. On the way home we stop at the Duty Free Store in Oroville.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S *KURIOS* IN VANCOUVER **\$885** pp double **\$995** single

November 17, 2017 — 3 days

Filling Fast!



Kurios: Step into the curio cabinet of an ambitious inventor who defies the laws of time, space and dimension in order to reinvent everything around him. Suddenly, the visible becomes invisible, perspectives are transformed, and the world is literally turned upside down. **Kurios** premiered in Montreal in 2014 and has toured the USA since then. This is the show's first visit to Vancouver. **Show seating in the Grand Chapiteau:** Seats are in Section 200, Rows O and P. This is the best category with excellent viewing of the stage and the stunning aerial acts. The next day in the afternoon we go to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for **Jersey Boys**. We have been waiting since 2012 for the return of **Jersey Boys** to Vancouver! Winner of 4 Tony Awards, this musical is about The Four Seasons: Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi. This is the story of how a group of blue-collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop music sensations of all time during the 1960s. They wrote their own songs, invented their own sound, and sold 175 million records worldwide - all before they were 30. The show features their hit songs *Sherry*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Rag Doll*, *Oh What a Night* and *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*. We stay both nights at the renowned Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.

2017 NORTH AMERICAN DESTINATIONS

MYSTERY TOUR

September 4, 2017 — 8 days

\$2195 pp double **\$2895** single
14 Seats left!



We never tell you where you will go or what you will see, but that is the intrigue of Mystery Tours! You may be amazed when the coach pulls up beside a cruise ship, or you board a plane for an overseas flight, or you arrive at a unique hotel. Each day of the tour has surprises, as the mystery route is revealed only as we travel along from day to day. However, we can promise you that our route or destination has interesting sights and unusual experiences — often the first time that Wells Gray has been there or stayed at a particular hotel. Some mysteries are offered in subsequent years as a regular tour. Wells Gray Tours has been a pioneer in offering Mystery Tours in British Columbia. Among the 800 or so tour operators in North America, only a handful offer multi-day mystery itineraries like ours. Please join us for Mystery Tour #55! Some exciting surprises are waiting for you.

Here are 3 of the 7 clues to the mystery route. These clues are arranged in the order that they occur on the itinerary. Find a map and have fun guessing where we're going!

1. Peter waits at his gates during a heavy shower and welcomes his guests to Paradise.
2. Cars are prohibited on these Venetian islands, but a Nissan is the exception.
3. A floral opera was created by Wagner in 1938 and a garbage collector started showing off his favourite vehicles in 1978.

THANKSGIVING ON THE OREGON COAST

October 6, 2017 — 8 days

\$1990 pp double **\$2490** single
discounts up to \$60 pp



Oregon's nearly 550 km of pristine, public coastline is made up of diverse terrain that changes from rugged cliffs to lush evergreen forests to Sahara-like dunes and boundless sandy beaches. Join Wells Gray Tours as we follow the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway, US Highway 101, past a smorgasbord of one-of-a-kind attractions between Coos Bay and Lincoln City. The quaint towns have a penchant for serving up legendary seafood, historic lighthouses, breathtaking viewpoints, stunning state parks, a cornucopia of galleries and museums, and a world class aquarium. Stroll the beaches and do some beachcombing. Wonder at the unique myrtlewood crafts. Explore an aquarium, then savour dinner among the sea creatures. Taste the treasures of the region, such as renowned cheese, cranberries, and seafood. Get up close and personal with a myriad of marine creatures. Yell out loud as you cruise the sands in a dune buggy. Watch the waves crashing into the narrow slot of Devil's Churn. Get ready for the Oregon Coast!

BRANSON - *See 13 Musical Shows!*

October 24, 2017 — 10 days

\$3645 pp double **\$4195** single
16 Seats left!



The entertainment in Branson, Missouri is non-stop, filled with music, laughter and legends of the stage. Bring your sense of fun and excitement to experience 13 musical shows including **Daniel O'Donnell's** annual performance in Branson. Other shows include: **Presley's Country Jubilee**, **George Dyer**, **The Dutton Family Show**, **#1 Hits of the Sixties Show**, **Puttin' on the Ritz Show**, **Down Home Country Show**, **Million Dollar Quartet**, **Showboat Branson Belle**, **Pierce Arrow**, **Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies**, **Texas Tenors**, and **John Denver Tribute**. Branson had its modest beginning in 1882 when Reuben Branson opened a general store and post office in the area. The first tourist attraction opened in 1894 when William Lynch bought Marble Cave, renamed it Marvel Cave, and began charging for tours. Branson began its transformation into a major tourist attraction in 1983 when the Roy Clark Celebrity Theatre opened and began to bring famous country music stars to Branson. Currently there are 40 theatres operating in Branson and it has more theatre seats than Broadway or Las Vegas. It has been named the #1 U.S. destination for groups for the past five years and entertains more than six million visitors annually, but has a year-round population of only 11,000. Branson's title today is the "Live Music Capital of the World."

VIVA LAS VEGAS!

November 8, 2017 — 5 days

\$1950 pp double **\$2350** single

21 Seats left!



Las Vegas is an internationally renowned resort city known primarily for its gambling, shopping, fine dining, entertainment, and nightlife. It bills itself as "The Entertainment Capital of the World" and is famous for its mega casino-hotels and grandiose shows including seven Cirque du Soleil productions and headliner stage shows. Las Vegas traces its roots to 1905, but 1931 was the pivotal year when Nevada legalized casino gambling and construction started on the nearby Hoover Dam. Today, Las Vegas annually ranks as one of the world's most visited tourist destinations. We stay at the MGM Mirage, one of the outstanding hotels on the famous Las Vegas Strip. It offers 14 restaurants, cafés and delis, two gigantic free-form pools with waterfalls, lavish entertainment, spa, shopping centre, and a casino with lots of games. There is so much to do in Las Vegas. Some are content to visit casinos — nearby are Caesars Palace, Bellagio, Flamingo, Harrah's, and Treasure Island. Some enjoy the museums, some relax in a spa or pool, and others attend as many shows as possible. This tour includes; The Ethel M Chocolate Factory, Botanical Cactus Garden, Mob Museum, tour to Red Rock Canyon, the Cirque du Soleil show – *The Beatles: Love* and sunset viewing from Stratosphere Tower. There is also lots of free time to do as you wish.

LEAVENWORTH LIGHTING

December 6, 2017 — 4 days

\$920 pp double **\$1165** single

discounts up to \$50 pp

The beauty of the Christmas season joins with the quaint Bavarian theme to create a magical experience in Leavenworth. Browse the shops, savour the pastries, and enjoy the entertainment. All the buildings are decorated and adorned with lights, so in the evening the town seems like a fairyland setting. Note that we are scheduled to be in Leavenworth on a weekday when the town is not as crowded as on the famed Saturday light up nights. This tour stays 2 nights at the Enzian Inn, located across from Leavenworth's town square and is convenient to the shops. A sure highlight is the Christmas concert by Leavenworth's acclaimed harpist Bronn Journey. There is an option for Red Tail Canyon Farm sleigh ride or to visit Aplets & Cotlets. We then head to Seattle for an overnight at the beautiful Embassy Suites and a matinee performance of *Elf* at the Paramount Theatre. On the way home we stop at Bellis Fair Mall and the Duty-Free Store.

CALL FOR AVAILABILITY!

San Juan Islands - September 5 - 4 days

WAIT LIST ONLY!

Maritimes & Newfoundland - August 28 - 24 days

Leavenworth Summer Theatre - August 29 - 4 days

St. Lawrence River Cruise - September 3 - 10 days

South Africa - September 14 - 19 days

Black Hills & Yellowstone - September 27 - 14 days

Hawaii Cruise on *Norwegian Jewel* - October 2 - 15 days

Tanzania & Zanzibar - November 4 - 17 days

New Zealand President's Cruise - January 12 - 25 days

Columbia River Cruise - May 20 - 11 days

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

CHRISTMAS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

December 20, 2017 — 7 days

\$1855 pp double **\$2160** single
14 seats left!



Christmas in Victoria has been an annual tradition for Wells Gray Tours for over 25 years. This tour includes the added benefit of staying two nights at spectacular Tsa-kwa-luten Lodge on Quadra Island. It was built by the Kwagiutl people and its vast lobby resembles a traditional "Big House" with massive timbers, a soaring cathedral ceiling, and huge windows overlooking Discovery Passage. All rooms have an ocean view. Relax on your private balcony and enjoy the panorama of the ocean, the mountains of Vancouver Island beyond, the rapidly-moving tides, and the tugboats with barges navigating this narrow waterway. Then we head into Victoria for three nights at the Coast Harbour-side Hotel. Two shows are included: *Cornwall Christmas* at Chemainus Theatre and Dinner Theatre at Oak Bay Beach Hotel. Culinary highlights for 2017 include a Christmas Eve reception with entertainment by the Linden Singers, brunch at the Coast, Christmas Dinner at the Grand Pacific Hotel, and a festive lunch at Abkhazi Garden Teahouse.

CHRISTMAS IN PORTLAND

December 21, 2017 — 7 days

\$1940 pp double **\$2490** single
discounts up to \$100 pp



Our Christmas tour stays four nights at the splendid **Embassy Suites Hotel** in downtown Portland. Built in 1912 as the Multnomah Hotel, it became a government office building during the 1970s and 1980s, then it was closed and empty during the 1990s. A \$20 million restoration brought this beautiful structure back to life as an all-suite hotel in 1998. It features an elegant columned lobby with fountain, a restaurant, indoor pool, and fitness centre. As with all Embassy Suites, there is a nightly cocktail reception for two hours and a generous cooked-to-order breakfast included. Four shows are included: *A Christmas Memory* paired with *Winter Song* at Ellyn Bye Studio; *The Nutcracker* with Oregon Ballet, and *Newsies* at Village Theatre in Issaquah.

CHRISTMAS IN VICTORIA

December 22, 2017 — 6 days

\$1795 pp double **\$2150** single
Filling Fast!



Christmas in Victoria is an annual tradition for Wells Gray Tours. We have stayed at Chateau Victoria for many years and our guests love the Christmas décor and spirit. All rooms are one-bedroom suites. The hotel has a fine location near the corner of Burdett and Douglas, close to the Inner Harbour and Legislative Buildings. Highlights for Christmas 2017 include *Cornwall Christmas* at Chemainus Theatre, a reception with entertainment by the Victoria Operatic Society, Robert Bateman Centre, and *Beauty and the Beast* at Stanley Theatre. Some wonderful meals are planned including Christmas Eve Dinner at Coast Harbourside Hotel, Christmas Brunch at Vista 18 atop the Chateau, Christmas Dinner at Grand Pacific Hotel, and a festive Christmas lunch at Abkhazi Garden Teahouse.

NEW YEARS IN VANCOUVER

December 30, 2017 — 4 days

\$1055 pp double **\$1270** single
10 Seats left!



Start the new year right with two shows and three nights at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. We go to Canada Place to experience **Fly Over Canada** and have a free evening to visit family and friends. We thrill to **Cirque du Soleil's Kurios** on December 31. We have excellent seats in the Grand Chapiteau in Section 201 Rows H to L. A three-course New Year's Dinner is included in Gastown at the popular Steamworks Grill. On January 1, we enjoy the annual performance of **Salute to Vienna** which has been billed as the world's greatest New Year's concert. The show has become a New Year's tradition in North America featuring glorious music performed by the Vancouver Symphony with an outstanding cast of 75 musicians, singers and dancers. We have reserved superb seats at the ornate Orpheum Theatre in Right and Left Centre Orchestra Rows 11 to 13.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

KOOTENAYS HOT SPRINGS **February 19, 2018 — 5 days**

\$1020 pp double **\$1275** single
discounts up to \$50 pp



The Kootenays region is known for many incredible wonders, one of which is the great variety of hot springs. February is a beautiful time to admire the winter wonderland of this area. Soaking up the snowy mountain scenery from the warmth of a steaming outdoor pool is nothing short of magical. This tour visits three hot springs: Fairmont, Radium and Ainsworth. Accommodation is right next to the hot pools at Fairmont for two nights and Ainsworth for two nights. A 1-hour step on guided drive around Nelson with George Miller and lunch at Hume Hotel in Nelson are included. Just bring your swim suit and be prepared to relax.

LONG BEACH & VICTORIA THEATRE **February 21, 2018 — 6 days**

\$1515 pp double **\$1830** single
discounts up to \$80 pp



Long Beach is known for its wild winter storms. A pleasant winter experience is to snuggle up to a warm fire and watch the rain and wind lash the hotel windows. More intrepid travellers bring lots of warm and waterproof clothes and enjoy the weather outdoors. We stay 2 nights in Tofino at the oceanfront Tin Wis Resort. There is time to stroll the lovely beach and bay and we also take you to Long Beach at Pacific Rim National Park and to Amphitrite Lighthouse in Ucluelet to watch the waves roll in. Unfortunately, Wells Gray Tours cannot guarantee that you will witness a thrilling west coast storm; in fact, the 2017 group experienced cool but sunny weather.

From Long Beach, the tour travels to Victoria and stays two nights at the popular Chateau Victoria downtown. We have lunch at the quaint Abkhazi Garden Teahouse. We see the performance of *La Boheme*, an opera in four acts. It was composed by Giacomo Puccini to an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, based on *Scènes de la vie de bohème* by Henri Murger presented by the Pacific Opera at the Royal Theatre.

COMING SOON 2018!

***Hamilton* in Seattle- February or March**

***Love Never Dies (Phantom Sequel)* in Seattle - May**

Cruising the Gulf Islands - May 26

Coast to Coast by Train - May 27

Coast to Coast by Train (Westbound) - May

New England - May 31

***Les Miserables* in Seattle - June**

Inside Passage & Skeena Train - June 23

St. Lawrence & Ottawa River Cruise - August 28

Call our office to be put on our "Interested List"

When the tour comes out for sale, we will notify you. Please note, this does not mean you are automatically booked on the tour. To book you on the tour we must speak to you and collect a deposit.

WARM WINTER GETAWAYS

ARIZONA WINTER ESCAPE

January 6, 2018 — 18 days

\$5520 pp double **\$7145** single
discounts up to \$300 pp



In January, British Columbians are longing for blue skies and a warm sun, and that is when a getaway to Arizona is very welcome. This tour offers the warm weather, but there is lots more than just sitting beside the pool. Some highlights are Zion National Park, the vast Grand Canyon, Verde Canyon Railroad, a back-country jeep tour in Sedona, the exquisite Kartchner Caverns, a cooking class in Tucson, Dutton Family show, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, and a cruise on Saguaro Lake. Some marvelous hotels are also featured. Enjoy a 2-week escape from winter with 4 nights in Tucson and 5 nights in Scottsdale!

25 **COSTA RICA**
January 19, 2018 — 16 days

\$6995 pp double **\$8355** single
2nd Coach now filling!



Costa Rica covers a mere 0.03% of the planet's surface, but is home to 5% of all living organisms on earth. Active volcanoes, lush cloud forests, lowland jungles, rolling savannas, and coral beaches create a spectacular setting to experience the country's natural beauty and exotic flora and fauna. Much of this area is preserved by one of the most remarkable park systems in the world, making Costa Rica a model for conservation in harmony with community development and economic growth. During this unique tour, we travel through some of the richest habitats of Costa Rica, from Caribbean lowland rain forests to central volcanic highlands, from a cloud forest interior to coastal resorts. One highlight of the tour is our three-night stay at Barcelo Langosta Hotel at Tamarindo Beach on the Pacific Ocean. You will be awed by the natural beauty of this private tropical resort and have plenty of time to relax and soak up the sun. The resort is all-inclusive so meals, drinks and most activities are complimentary. Come and admire the natural wonders of Costa Rica and get away from a Canadian winter for two relaxing weeks.

25 **BELIZE WINTER GETAWAY**
February 5, 2018 — 13 days

\$5095 pp double **\$6130** single
discounts up to \$100 pp



Belize, formerly British Honduras, is a small country on the Caribbean coast of Central America, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala. Its mainland is only 290 km long and 110 km wide. Belize's abundance of terrestrial and marine species and its diversity of ecosystems gives it a key place in the globally significant Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. Belize has a diverse society, composed of many cultures and languages that reflect its rich history.

There is lots of fascinating history on this tour. Several archeological sites are visited including the incredible Xunantunich and Caracol Mayan Temple Site. The Mayan civilization spread across what is now Belize around 1500 BC and flourished there until about 900 AD.

We have two nights at the beautiful Radisson Fort George Hotel in Belize with two enticing pools in a courtyard full of tropical plants. A locally-guided tour of Belize City includes the Belize Museum, House of Culture, and a cultural dance and music show. Then heading two hours west we stay four nights at the San Ignacio Resort, only a 10-minute walk to the bustling public market. In San Ignacio an interpretive and educational exhibit is included at the Green Iguana Conservation Project which has been at the forefront of conservation for the threatened Green Iguana. We also visit the San Antonio Village Women's Co-op Center where women are reviving the lost art of making ceramics, cooking methods and pottery making in the style of the ancient Maya. A sure highlight on this tour will be a boat excursion to the Great Blue Hole, a giant submarine sinkhole off the coast of Ambergris Caye in Lighthouse Reef. Our final three nights are in San Pedro at the Grand Colony Island Villas located right next to the beach with three swimming pools. Spend your last day at leisure here enjoying the resort, and wonderful beaches. Come and admire the natural, historic and cultural wonders of Belize on this unique journey, and escape from the Canadian winter for 10 days.

EXOTIC GETAWAYS!

NATURAL WONDERS OF ICELAND

June 2, 2018 — 18 days

\$11,595 pp double; **\$14,150** single

25 Seats left!



Iceland was settled by Nordic people in the ninth century and is a unique destination that offers unspoilt nature, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture. Everywhere you turn there are glaciers, waterfalls, lava fields, rainbows, streams and mountain ranges. The scenery is truly out of this world, and falls right into your lap. A sightseeing tour in Reykjavik includes the landmark Hallgrímskirkja Church, the harbour, the University, City Hall and Höfði House. Next is the Geysir area where we walk around the boiling hot springs and hissing fumaroles. A boat excursion takes us around the rocky islands of Breiðarfjörður viewing many nesting birds including puffins, kittiwakes, cormorants, fulmars and the white-tailed eagle. We also take a short ferry ride to Hrísey, to view plovers, arctic terns, and ptarmigans. Cars are rare here so our tour on the island is on a wagon pulled by a tractor. Iceland is known as the "Land of Ice and Fire" because of the numerous glaciers and volcanos that are scattered around the island. An awesome sight awaits us at Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe at 8,300 square kilometres or covering about 8% of Iceland. Then, at the Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, we board an amphibious boat and sail among huge floating ice-bergs. A soothing swim in the Blue Lagoon is a must, as the water temperature averages 37–39 °C year round making it one of the most popular destinations in Iceland. We will also learn the secrets of the Icelandic horses during a Farm horse show and in Husavik view the minke on a whale watching excursion. This enchanting visit of Iceland's natural wonders will fill you with wonder and astonishment.

TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY

July 15, 2018 — 22 (23) days

from **\$15,585** pp double; from **\$19,265** single

Half-full already!



Experience one of the world's greatest train journeys — the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Beijing. Crossing three countries (Russia, Mongolia and China) and seven time zones, this legendary rail excursion spans more than 9,000 kilometres and stops at 80 stations. Wells Gray Tours has booked space on the Tsar's Gold Train which is among the most deluxe with impeccable service and meals. Wells Gray customers can mingle with other well-heeled travellers from around the world. English is the primary language on board, but you may also hear (and practice) French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian. We start our journey with three nights in Amsterdam touring the many historic buildings, including the Dam Square, Royal Palace, Rijksmuseum, and take a canal cruise. A three-hour flight then takes us to Moscow where we stay two nights. Highlights here include the Bolshoi Theatre, Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin. We board the Trans-Siberian Railway in Moscow and begin our 11-day adventure to the Far East. The route passes 87 cities or towns, and hundreds of hamlets. Winding through the Ural Mountains and along the shore of stunning Lake Baikal, and traversing the Gobi Desert, a trip on the Tsar's Gold Train on the Trans-Siberian Railway is likely to be one of life's most memorable journeys. We reach the end of our epic journey in Beijing and spend three days and nights touring the city before returning home. We tour the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall of China and Ming Tombs.

DANUBE RIVER CRUISE

August 3, 2018 — 19 days

from **\$9795** pp double; from **\$13,710** single

2 Seats left!



Many of Europe's major capital cities are along the Danube River, a testament to its importance in the history of civilization in this area. Our Avalon Waterways cruise takes in a very scenic portion from Bucharest in Romania to Budapest in Hungary with eight relaxed days to enjoy the vistas from the river. A highlight is the Iron Gates gorge. Award-winning land programs help you experience each destination, with guided sightseeing in every port (complete with headsets), engaging port lectures, VIP access into key destinations, no waiting in lines, and great cultural immersion and storytelling, thanks to skilled cruise directors and guides.

EXCITING 2018 CRUISES



Holland America Line®

SAVOR THE JOURNEY

ANTARCTICA, ARGENTINA & CHILE CRUISE

January 2, 2018 — 29 days 11 Seats left!

from **\$14,150** pp double

from **\$18,780** single



Wells Gray Tours offers a cruise to Antarctica every two to three years. This is a very special opportunity to visit the 7th continent and certainly has bragging rights because probably not many of your friends have been there. There are so many highlights on this tour, but probably the most memorable will be the four days cruising among the gigantic icebergs of Antarctica. It is hard to imagine waking up one morning and looking out to see an iceberg longer and higher than the Zaandam. Antarctica experts are on board to present lectures about glaciology, geology, natural history, and history, plus the ice pilot may take a break from the bridge to explain his route finding skills.

Other memorable experiences are elegant Buenos Aires, awesome Iguazu Falls, three km wide and 80 metres high; charming Puerto Madryn; the bleak and isolated Falkland Islands; the thrills of rounding Cape Horn and entering the legendary Strait of Magellan; Ushuaia, world's southernmost city; cruising in the Chilean Fjords and Darwin Channel, and past many tumbling glaciers including the vast Amalia Glacier.

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

January 10, 2018 — 20 days

from **\$5555** pp double; from **\$7505** single

discounts up to \$160 pp



Treat yourself to a 14 day cruise aboard Holland America's *Rotterdam*, and savour a vacation defined by enriching activities, fine cuisine, room to move and intuitive personal service. You are sure to create memorable adventures on your Caribbean cruise that will inspire you for a lifetime. Life on the islands offers more than awe-inspiring views of vast blue waters and hilly scenery. Each port city has its own unique flavour and rhythm. The ports of call on this tour are Key West in Florida, San Juan in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas in US Virgin Islands, St. John's in Antigua, Castries in Saint Lucia, Willemstad in Curacao, Oranjestad in Aruba, and George Town in Cayman Islands. Highlights include a locally-guided tour of St. Petersburg, Salvador Dali Museum, and a visit to the Ringling Museum and Mansion.

Hot Off The Press!

PALM SPRINGS WITH SAN DIEGO CRUISE

April 26, 2018 — 11 days

from **\$2795** pp double; from **\$3625** single

discounts up to \$160 pp



Head south to Palm Springs and spend three nights at the excellent location of Palm Mountain Resort. We thrill to one of the city's highlights - the spectacular Palm Springs Aerial Tramway which ascends nearly 2,000 metres into the San Jacinto Mountains. We also tour Joshua Tree National Park and go to Palm Canyon Theatre for a show. We stop in San Diego for two days of sightseeing. We spend two nights at Embassy Suites in beautiful La Jolla. Highlights here include a tour at the Museum of Making Music in Carlsbad where we discover and play musical instruments at a unique museum that tells the story of how instruments were made, used and sold. We also spend one morning cruising the San Diego Harbour and the afternoon at Seaport Village for lunch and shopping. Boarding Holland America's *Zaandam* for a five night cruise back to Vancouver we have three relaxing days at sea and an all day port stop in San Francisco.



GREENLAND & ICELAND CRUISE
June 25, 2018 — 25 days

from **\$10,390** pp double; from **\$14,105** single
discounts up to \$300 pp



Come cruise and enjoy 18 days on the *Rotterdam* from the Netherlands to Boston. Holland America Line's "Flagship of Excellence," *MS Rotterdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 1997. A sister ship to the *Amsterdam*, the *Rotterdam* reflects a graceful combination of classic and state-of-the-art features, exhibiting wood and deep, vibrant colours for a traditional ship feel. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games, and fitness activities. The Wajang Theatre shows recent movies several times a day. Every evening, there is live entertainment in the Mainstage Theatre, plus musicians are playing in most lounges.

We start this epic journey in Amsterdam and spend three nights exploring historic buildings and impressive sights such as the Dam Square, Royal Palace, the New Church, the canals, and Waterloo Square. We also visit the renowned Rijksmuseum, Anne Frank House and the UNESCO-listed village of Zaanse Schans.

Our first port stop is in Bergen where we enjoy a morning tour including the Old Bergen Museum and the Funicular up Mount Floyen. Next in the Shetland Islands, a six hour tour of the largest Island, is included. We dock in Akureyri, Iceland and an all-day tour takes you around Lake Myvatn with a swim in the hot springs at Myvatn Nature Baths. In Reykjavik, the northernmost capital of Europe, many highlights are included such as Strokkur Geysir which erupts every 5-10 minutes, mighty Gullfoss waterfall, and Pingvellir National Park.

We enjoy scenic cruising in Prince Christian Sound along the rugged east coast of Greenland. Our first port is in Qaqortoq, where we tender into shore. You have the opportunity to stroll through the town and marvel at this isolated community that lives a very simple life. We also visit the southernmost community in Greenland, Nanortalik, where only 1,300 people reside.

A day of leisure cruising takes us across the Labrador Sea before arriving in St. John's, Newfoundland. Here an afternoon tour with a local guide includes the Cabot Tower atop Signal Hill, Confederation Building, and Quidi Vidi Battery. Next, we dock in Halifax where our coach and guide are waiting to provide an all-day tour of Halifax highlights, followed by a drive out to famous Peggy's Cove.

Our last port of call is in Boston, one of the oldest cities in the USA, founded in 1630 by Puritan colonists from England. It was the scene of several key events of the American Revolution, such as the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, the Battle of Bunker Hill, and the Siege of Boston. There is a driving tour with a local guide who will take us to Beacon Hill, Boston Common and Massachusetts State House as well as a leisurely walk along a one kilometre section of Boston's Freedom Trail. From Boston we fly back to Kelowna via Toronto on Westjet.



Holland America Line®
SAVOR THE JOURNEY

*** NOTE FOR ALL CRUISES ***

Early booking is essential. Unsold staterooms are taken away by the cruise company when the ships get close to being full.



NORWEGIAN[®]
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FREESTYLE CRUISING™

PANAMA CANAL CRUISE
April 4, 2018 — 26 days

from **\$6310** pp double; from **\$8675** single
discounts up to \$250 pp



Treat yourself to a 21 day cruise aboard the *Norwegian Pearl* from New Orleans to Seattle. Spend three nights in New Orleans before boarding the *Pearl* and enjoy a walking tour of the French Quarter, Mardi Gras World, a unique experience at the New Orleans School of Cooking, a cruise on Sternwheeler Natchez on the Mississippi River and a jazz show at the Maison Bourbon Dixieland Club. A dream more than 400 years in the making, the Panama Canal opened in 1914 and this epic man-made marvel changed the world in the process. A Panama Canal expert is on board to explain its history and technical operations as your ship passes through the locks. Ashore there is everything from Costa Rican rainforests to Old World cities like Cartagena that recall the Age of Exploration. Locally guided tours in Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Acapulco and Los Angeles are included. Our tour in Costa Rica features a boat trip on the Tarcoles River and Guacalillo Estuary. We see one of the world's largest colonies of crocodiles, the richest mangrove forest in the mid-Pacific Coast, and the country's most important conservation area for the scarlet macaw. We enjoy a locally guided tour to the colonial city of Leon in Nicaragua and in Guatemala we take a trip up to the highlands and the picturesque town of Antigua. Then before sailing home we spend a full day touring the City of Angels. Look for stars in Hollywood at Grauman's Chinese Theatre; view the rich abodes in Beverly Hills, the Hollywood Bowl, downtown skyline, Music Center, and El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

TRANS-ATLANTIC CRUISE TO SPAIN
April 5, 2018 — 21 days

from **\$5970** pp double; from **\$7965** single
discounts up to \$250 pp



This cruise features 15 days and nights on the *Norwegian Epic* visiting 5 ports plus the port of disembarkation, Barcelona. The cruise is most likely to appeal to people who enjoy lots of time on the ship, many relaxing days at sea, good books or movies, and shipboard activities or entertainment. Locally-guided tours are included in Bermuda, Madeira, Seville, Gibraltar, Granada, Alhambra and Barcelona where we stay two nights before flying home. A four-hour tour is included in Bermuda with local guides and features a walking tour of St. George's, the oldest town on the islands, with a visit to the World Heritage Centre and a film. Back in Hamilton, we go to Queen Elizabeth Park for a town crier greeting. In Madeira, our tour visits the fishing village of Camara de Lobos with its enchanting harbour. Then we travel up through Madeira's famous vineyards to Cabo Girao, a cliff which rises 580 metres from the ocean and has a glass skywalk to enhance the view. We also visit the hamlet of Monte and its church. Our guided tour in Seville includes a visit to the massive Seville Cathedral, world's largest Gothic structure with its notable La Giralda Tower and the tomb of Christopher Columbus. A local tour is included in the morning visiting the highlights of Gibraltar including the colony of Barbary apes and a tour to the awe-inspiring Alhambra Palace. Highlights in Barcelona include a visit to the Cathedral, Columbus Monument, Picasso Museum, Pueblo Espanol (Spanish Village) stroll down Las Ramblas enjoying the ambiance of this lively city.

*** NOTE FOR ALL CRUISES ***

Early booking is essential. Unsold staterooms are taken away by the cruise company when the ships get close to being full.



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