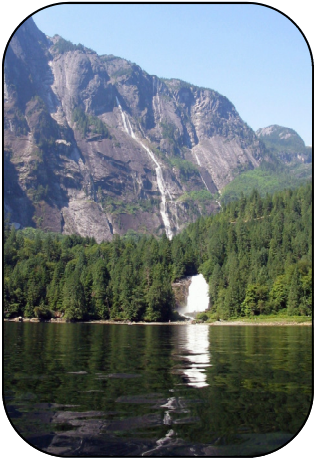


B.C. FJORDS CRUISE

June 17, 2015 - 7 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1950 double/twin

\$2280 single

\$1870 triple

Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$80 discount on first 12 seats; \$40 on next 4 seats

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$11 discount with BC Gold Care Card

> **TIC Travel Insurance:** Plan 1-Cancellation

\$164 double/twin, \$192 single, \$157 triple



Redeem Experience Points: Book by **April 30** and redeem up to **48 e-points**

* HIGHLIGHTS *

Knight Inlet, BC's longest fjord
Cascade Falls & Chatterbox Falls
Grizzly Bear viewing at Glendale River
Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
Desolation Sound
Princess Louisa Fjord

Includes

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Hells Gate Air Tram
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Nanaimo
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Ferry from Comox to Powell River
- Afternoon Zodiac excursion to Desolation Sound
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferries across Jervis Inlet and Howe Sound
- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling
- **12 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 1 dinner

Experience Points: Earn **48 e-points**

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

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



Our Cruise Vessels

The MV Naiad Explorer is owned by Bill and Donna Mackay of Port McNeill and operates exclusive charters and whale watching excursions throughout British Columbia's coastal waters. The ship is 55 feet long and is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating in case of inclement weather and there is an outdoor rear deck and an upper deck for excellent viewing. Visitors are welcome on the bridge and you can even take a turn steering. The Naiad Explorer was built in 1999 by the Mackays and incorporated specific features for whale watching such as quiet engines to minimize underwater noise. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, the Naiad Explorer is a very fast vessel and is capable of travelling great distances in a day, including the length of Knight Inlet. Another benefit of her powerful engines is that she can hold a position in the Nakwakto tidal rapids, allowing a thrilling view of this amazing coastal phenomenon.

Desolation Sound is explored during a three-hour excursion with Zodiacs operated by the Lund Hotel. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to enter shallow areas and narrow passages. The boats are open-air and do not have bathroom facilities. This excursion will be cancelled if weather or ocean conditions are inclement. If you wish to opt out of this trip, there is a reduction of \$75 per person offered, and you can spend the afternoon at the Beach Gardens Hotel in Powell River.

Three vessels, each carrying 10 or 12 passengers, are used for the voyage up Jervis Inlet to Malibu Lodge and into Princess Louisa Fjord. All have indoor seating. They are operated by Bryce Christie, owner of Sunshine Coast Tours and a long-time captain on the BC coast.

Wells Gray Tours has previously offered other small ship excursions that have circled Quadra and Cortes Islands, explored fjords and narrow channels as far north as Kelsey Bay, and cruised in the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. This will be our 8th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 6th cruise up Knight Inlet, British Columbia's longest fjord; also our 6th trip into Desolation Sound, and our 4th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the seven days on this tour, 3½ days are devoted to cruising the sheltered waters near Vancouver Island. Come and join this unique tour, cruising some fabulous scenic waterways.

This tour is limited to 32 passengers to ensure comfort for everyone on the vessels.

Itinerary

Wednesday, June 17:

Meals: L

For a change from the familiar Coquihalla, we drive down the Fraser Canyon. We ride the **Hells Gate Air Tram** across the boiling rapids and have lunch overlooking the mighty Fraser River. We stay overnight at the luxurious **Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel**. From your soundproof bedroom window, watch all the bustle of YVR with planes landing and taking off every few minutes.

Thursday, June 18:

Meals: B

Enjoy the Fairmont's bountiful breakfast buffet. After riding the ferry to Nanaimo, we drive north on the Island Highway, past Campbell River to **Port McNeill** and stay three nights at the Haida Way Motor Inn.

Friday, June 19:

Meals: B,L

We board the **Naiad Explorer** for the first of four exciting ocean experiences. We cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere Passage to the mainland. Today's timing is important so we can experience the thrilling tidal rush through the **Nakwakto Rapids**. Here the waters of

Seymour Inlet (58 km long) and Belize Inlet (40 km long) surge through the 300-metre wide gap. With the benefit of the Naiad's big engines, we cruise right into the tidal flow and have a sensational vantage point as the usually calm ocean comes to life like a giant rushing river. The spectacle happens twice a day, but a combination of factors makes June 19 the second best day in 2015 to experience the Nakwakto Rapids as the tide is ebbing (flowing out of the fjords) and predicted to reach the awesome speed of 12.5 knots at 9:30 am (the fastest tide of the year occurs at 6 am, suitable for very early risers). These are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness. The boiling waters collide with Turret Island, appropriately nicknamed **Tremble Island**. The rapids were discovered by explorers under the command of Captain Pender in 1865 and named for the local Indian tribe. Today's voyage also includes Wells Pass and **Blunden Harbour**, made famous by an Emily Carr painting, before we return to Port McNeill.

Saturday, June 20:*Meals: B,L*

Today we head to **Knight Inlet**, British Columbia's longest fjord at 113 km. Captain Vancouver, during his 1792 expedition, was impressed with "the high stupendous mountains rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" and named the fjord for John Knight, a British naval officer. The route goes past Village Island (an old First Nations village), then through Beware Pass to see the pictographs on Turnour Island. After Minstrel Island and Clio Channel, we pause at Cutler Cove estuary for possible sightings of **grizzly bears**. The Naiad's powerful engines make short work of the journey up Knight Inlet and we turn around at **Cascade Falls** which plunges directly into the ocean. Here, deep in the Coast Mountains, we are almost at the foot of giant Mount Waddington, British Columbia's highest mountain. During the return ride, we stop at the Glendale River estuary for another chance to see grizzly bears, then we weave through the Broughton Archipelago to Fife looking for Steller sea lions. Heading back to Port McNeil, we finish another day of splendid coastal scenery.

Sunday, June 21:*Meals: B,L,D*

We make an early start to catch the 10 am ferry at Comox because the same tidal conditions that make Nakwakto Rapids so impressive cause an extremely low tide this afternoon and a coach cannot board the ferry. **Desolation Sound** is British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973, and attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its splendid scenery, pleasant summer climate, unusually warm waters, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 8,000 feet from the water. Captain George

Vancouver saw it differently two centuries ago when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our three-hour excursion in Zodiacs visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay and Copeland Islands. Back in **Powell River**, we stay overnight at the oceanfront Beach Gardens Resort. Tonight, take a stroll beside the ocean and enjoy the splendid setting.

Monday, June 22:*Meals: B,L*

We ride the ferry across Jervis Inlet to Earls Cove. This is a day of magnificent scenery as we explore one of British Columbia's best known fjords. Departing from Egmont, we cruise for two hours up **Jervis Inlet** past soaring peaks and waterfalls that cascade directly into the ocean. **Malibu Narrows** is the location of historic Malibu Lodge, an impressive log structure that was once an exclusive retreat for Hollywood celebrities and is now a popular church camp. The narrows and tidal rapids mark the entrance to **Princess Louisa Fjord** and, from here on, the sheer cliffs rise thousands of feet out of the water. The vessels dock at the upper end of the fjord and we have time ashore to admire the thundering cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. Princess Louisa was Queen Victoria's mother, but the native name "Sway-oo-lat" means "facing the rising sun's rays". A picnic lunch is served at the falls. Back at Egmont, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechelt and stay overnight at the Driftwood Inn on the waterfront.

Tuesday, June 23:*Meals: L*

We board a morning ferry from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay, then travel home to the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 30, 2015.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$80 discount on first 12 seats and \$40 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 30. Seniors (65 & over) receive \$11 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Gold Care Card or the new Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 30, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From May 1 to May 13, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From May 14 to June 4, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After June 4, 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 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.

PHOTO CREDIT: Sunshine Coast Tours (Princess Louisa Fjord)



Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk, such as on docks to and from the vessels and the short trail to Chatterbox Falls. Ramps onto docks can be steep at low tide. There are some steps, mainly getting in and out of the vessels. The Zodiac tour to Desolation Sound utilizes open boats; this trip will be cancelled if weather is inclement.

E-points: This tour earns 48 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 30.

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