

# INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

June 22, 2015 - 8 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$2195** double/twin

**\$2580** single

**\$2065** triple

Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$120 discount on first 15 seats; \$60 on next 10

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$60 discount with BC Gold Care Card

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

\$184 double/twin, \$217 single, \$174 triple



**Redeem Experience Points:** Book by **April 22** and redeem up to **53 e-points**

## Includes

- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna
- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 7 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Barkerville admission with Theatre Royal show
- VIA Rail train from Fort Fraser to Prince Rupert with seating in Economy (option for Dome Car)
- Museum of Northern British Columbia
- North Pacific Cannery Museum
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- *Northern Expedition* ferry voyage through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- Reserved seat in ferry's Aurora Lounge
- Transfer from Nanaimo to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **6 meals:** 1 breakfast, 4 lunches, 1 dinner

**Experience Points:** Earn **53 e-points**

## Northern Expedition

B.C. Ferries' **Northern Expedition** was specially designed for Inside Passage voyages. Launched in 2009, she is 150 metres long with a beam of 23 metres and a draft of 7½ metres. She carries 130 vehicles, 600 passengers and 30 crew at a travelling speed of 20.3 knots. The ferry has three passenger decks and an outdoor sun deck. Facilities include the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant, gift shop and Raven's Lounge. A comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included in your fare. The 500-kilometre journey from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy takes 15 hours, all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, marine life and birdlife. Our motorcoach travels on the ferry, so luggage and other belongings can be stored there.

**Please book early!** Unsold ferry and train space must be released on May 8. Even though we may have seats on the motorcoach, there may not be space on the ferry or train if you book after this date.

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## Itinerary

### Monday, June 22:

An afternoon transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel.

### Tuesday, June 23:

Meals: L

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley and Kamloops. Lunch is included at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. In the afternoon, we head north on the Cariboo Highway with a stop at Painted Chasm. We stay overnight at the Coast Fraser Inn in Williams Lake.

### Wednesday, June 24:

Meals: B

We drive to Quesnel and **Barkerville**. BC's largest restored town offers plenty to do for the day – listen to a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge Begbie at the Richfield Courthouse, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish waterwheel, see an historic slide show at the Museum, attend church at St. Saviour's, or discuss an 1880s character with a costumed interpreter. The afternoon show at **Theatre Royal** is included. We stay overnight in Prince George at the Sandman Signature Hotel.

### Thursday, June 25:

Meals: L,D

**VIA Rail's Skeena Train** is a spectacular all-day journey west to Prince Rupert. We drive to Fort Fraser and board the train there to reduce the usual 13-hour train ride out of Prince George. Across the Interior Plateau, the train skirts dozens of lakes and the tracks mostly follow a different route than the Yellowhead Highway. There are splendid views of passing scenery as we follow the rushing Bulkley River and the broad Skeena River through the Coast Mountains. Seating is in the economy car, but you can upgrade to the dome car for \$180 extra. On arrival at **Prince Rupert**, we stay three nights at the Crest Hotel, the city's finest. **Early booking bonus:** The first 15 parties booked get harbour view rooms.

### Friday, June 26:

The morning is at leisure to visit downtown shops and the wonderful Museum of Northern B.C. In the afternoon, we drive to Port Edwards on the Skeena River and tour the restored **North Pacific Cannery** which was built in 1889.

### Saturday, June 27:

Meals: L

**Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary** was established in 1994 and preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in B.C. We board a 72-foot catamaran for an all-day excursion to the sanctuary. The vessel has lots of outdoor deck space and floor to ceiling windows for unsurpassed viewing. We travel north through Chatham Sound, listening to fascinating stories about native villages and watching for dolphins, seals, sea lions, bald eagles, and blue herons as we learn first-hand about this diverse marine environment. June is a great month for easy viewing, as grizzlies are playing and feeding along the shoreline.

### Sunday, June 28:

The **Northern Expedition** departs Prince Rupert for a 15-hour scenic voyage in the **Inside Passage**. Along 500 kilometres of magnificent coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or killer whales. Highlights are the long canal-like **Grenville Channel**, Princess Royal Channel, and the narrows at Bella Bella. A reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included. On arrival in Port Hardy, we stay at the adjoining Glen Lyon and Quarterdeck Inns.

**Cabin option:** You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$120 or inside cabin for \$90 (per cabin). Each is equipped with two berths, sink, toilet and shower. Please request at time of booking.

### Monday, June 29:

Meals: L

We drive south on the Island Highway with a lunch stop at Campbell River. We say goodbye to our Interior travellers at Nanaimo, then a transfer is provided back to Victoria.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 22, 2015.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$120 discount on first 15 seats and \$60 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 22. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$60 discount extended by BC Ferries. Deadline is April 22. You must show your BC Gold CareCard or the new Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to April 22, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 23 to May 21, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From May 22 to June 8, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After June 8, there is no refund.

**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:** BC Ferries

 **Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly the cruise boat, train and around Barkerville.

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 53 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 April 22.

**Travel Wholesaler License: #65842**