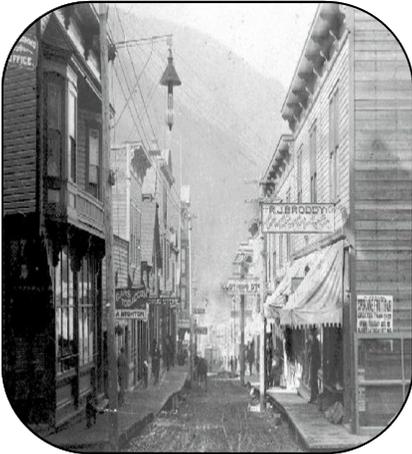


# KOOTENAYS GHOST TOWNS & HOT SPRINGS

October 2, 2015 - 7 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$1395** double/twin

**\$1725** single

**\$1295** triple

Please add 5% GST.



>**Early Bookers:** \$60 discount on first 15 seats; \$30 on next 10

>**TIC Travel Insurance:** Plan 2 — Cancellation

\$117 double/twin, \$145 single, \$109 triple

**Redeem Experience Points:** Book by **September 2** and redeem up to **29 e-points**

## Includes

- Coach transportation for 7 days with ferries
- 6 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Greenwood Museum and guide
- Unlimited access to Ainsworth Hot Springs
- SS Moyie sternwheeler
- Local guide in Kaslo, Sandon and area
- Sandon Museum with powerhouse tour
- Nikkei Internment Centre
- Blaylock Mansion
- Ride on Nelson streetcar #23
- Walking tour of Nelson's downtown heritage
- Three Valley Gap ghost town
- Revelstoke Railway Museum
- Locally-guided tour of Revelstoke
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **14 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners

**Experience Points:** Earn **29 e-points**

## Spirits and Silver

In the boom and bust economies of British Columbia's last 150 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, historic towns, and a mansion in the West Kootenays. Featured ghost towns are Retallack and Sandon, as well as a created one at Three Valley Gap. Historic towns are Greenwood, Kaslo, Nelson, and Revelstoke. We visit the Kootenays' grandest mansion, Blaylock in Nelson. Unique experiences include a ride on Nelson's heritage Streetcar #23, lunch with a talk in 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 3 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!

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## Itinerary

### Friday, October 2:

After pickups around Victoria, we board the 11 am ferry. We drive the Coquihalla Highway to **Kelowna** and stay overnight at the Best Western.

### Saturday, October 3:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We head east along Highway #3 into the West Kootenays, a region influenced by mines and railways. **Greenwood** once boasted 7,000 inhabitants at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when copper, gold and silver poured from its smelter. A local guide points out its surviving landmarks: the city hall, courthouse and smelter chimney. In Grand Forks, we pass the fabulous Averill Mansion, built in the Queen Anne style in 1895. We drive over Bonanza Pass, across the Columbia River and through Nelson, headed for **Ainsworth Hot Springs**. We stay three nights at the resort beside the hot pools overlooking Kootenay Lake. You have unlimited access to the pools during the stay. The horseshoe shaped cave is the hottest at 114 degrees F. and the main lounging pool averages 96 degrees F.

### Sunday, October 4:

*Meals: B,L,D*

Today's drive includes some towns which played a special role in Kootenay history — Kaslo, Sandon and New Denver. In **Kaslo**, we tour the restored sternwheeler **SS Moyie** which once plied Kootenay Lake. A local guide joins us here for the drive to Sandon as we pass the ghost towns of Retallick and Three Forks, and follow the tortuous route of the once-busy Kaslo & Slocan Railway. In the 1890s, when silver was king, **Sandon** was a boomtown with a population of 5,000, two newspapers, 24 hotels, 23 saloons, and three railways. It was incorporated as a city in 1898 and remained the soul of the silvery Slocan for 50 years. A tour of the century-old powerhouse is included. Perhaps you will sense the presence of "Headless Eric", Sandon's longtime ghost, who sometimes occupies a rocking chair on his favourite porch. In New

Denver, the **Nikkei Internment Centre** recalls the World War II years when 22,000 Canadians of Japanese descent were moved to isolated camps.

### Monday, October 5:

*Meals: B,L,D*

In Nelson, we visit **Blaylock Mansion**, one of the finest examples of Tudor architecture in western Canada. It was completed in 1937 for Cominco's president and boasts 35 rooms. Next we ride the restored **Streetcar #23**. It was built in 1906, served Nelson residents from 1924 to 1949, then became a dog kennel for 33 years. A local historian talks to us during lunch at Nelson's landmark Hume Hotel. Afterwards, another historian leads a stroll through downtown Nelson where buildings less than a century old are considered "modern".

### Tuesday, October 6:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We drive through Nakusp and along the Arrow Lakes reservoir to Halcyon Hot Springs for lunch. A ferry takes us over to the west shore, passing the flooded sites of lost towns such as Beaton and Arrowhead. We stay overnight at **Three Valley Lake Chateau**. The adjoining ghost town is full of authentic buildings saved by the Bell family and moved here from other sites. A barbecue dinner is served in the old saloon.

### Wednesday, October 7:

*Meals: B*

Nearby **Revelstoke** has many historic buildings and we learn about them during a sightseeing tour with a local guide. The Railway Museum has a fascinating collection of exhibits about the CPR. This afternoon, we cross Eagle Pass and go south through the Okanagan Valley to **Penticton** for an overnight stop at the Ramada Hotel.

### Thursday, October 8:

*Meals: L*

We drive through the Similkameen Valley and across Allison Pass in Manning Park. Lunch is in Chilliwack, then we ride the 5 pm ferry to Victoria.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$100 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due September 2, 2015.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$60 discount on first 15 seats and \$30 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 2. BC Seniors receive \$5 discount on BC Ferries but you must bring your Gold Care Card or Services Card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to September 2, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 3 to September 17, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. After September 17, 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.

**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 Archives (Sandon in 1897)



**Activity Level:** Walking tours of Greenwood, Sandon, Nelson and 3 Valley Gap are at an easy pace. Expect some stairs at SS Moyie, the streetcar and Blaylock. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 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.

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 29 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 September 2.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**