

ONTARIO THEATRE

Includes 6 shows in Toronto and at Stratford and Shaw Festivals
October 11, 2016 - 9 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$3545 double/twin

\$4120 single

\$3355 triple



> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$180 discount on first 10 seats; \$90 on next 8

> **Experience Points:** Earn 81 points from this tour.

Redeem **81 points** if you book by **July 27**.

Includes

- Transfers to and from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Toronto and return
- Air transportation taxes and security fees
- Airline luggage fees for 1 checked piece
- Coach transportation for 9 days
- 8 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Locally guided tour of Toronto
- CN Tower with dinner in the 360 Restaurant
- Cirque du Soleil show *Luzia*
- Casa Loma
- Bata Shoe Museum
- *Matilda* at Ed Mirvish Theatre
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- *The Hypochondriac* at Festival Theatre Stratford
- Locally guided tour of Kitchener-Waterloo area
- Mennonite Interpretive Centre
- St. Jacob's Market
- Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest
- Tour of Stratford Festival costume warehouse
- Backstage tour at Festival Theatre
- Option of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* at Avon Theatre OR *Macbeth* at Festival Theatre
- *A Chorus Line* at the Festival Theatre
- Locally guided tour of Niagara Falls
- Hornblower boat trip to bottom of Niagara Falls
- *The Falls Movie: Legends & Daredevils* at IMAX Theatre Niagara
- *Sweeney Todd* at Shaw Festival Theatre
- Farewell dinner at Skylon Tower revolving restaurant
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **9 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners

102 - 736 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1
www.wellsgraytours.com

victoria@wellsgraytours.com
Toll Free > 888-595-7889
Phone: > 250-590-7889



On With the Show!

Ontario is the place to be if you want to experience Canadian Theatre at its best. Toronto has firmly established itself as the Broadway of Canada, plus the long running Shaw Festival and Stratford Shakespeare Festival consistently attract the best of the best in stage actors. This tour features three different theatre centres and six separate productions.

TORONTO

Matilda the Musical has received widespread critical acclaim and box-office popularity, winning seven 2012 Olivier Awards and five 2013 Tony Awards. It is the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Based on the beloved novel by Roald Dahl, Matilda continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages on Broadway and in London's West End. The Wall Street Journal says, "The makers of Matilda have done the impossible – triumphantly! It is smart, sweet, zany and stupendous fun." The show is at the Ed Mirvish Theatre, formerly Pantages Theatre.

Cirque du Soleil Luzia — This is Cirque's 38th original production since 1984 and its 17th touring show under the Grand Chapiteau. This giant tent will be erected on Toronto's Port Lands. The name Luzia fuses the sound of "luz" (light in Spanish) and "lluvia" (rain), two elements at the core of the show's creation. Luzia is a show inspired by the richness of the Mexican culture.

STRATFORD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

With William Shakespeare as its foundation, the Stratford Festival has set the standard for classical theatre in North America for over 60 years. The company creates stimulating, thought-provoking productions of Shakespeare's plays, as well as presenting other plays from the classical repertoire, while attracting the best stage talent. Five productions are featured and three are included.

The Hypochondriac — This is a riotous farce about a father who's healthy, wealthy and hilariously unwise. (Stratford advice: May cause hysteria, convulsions and elevated levels of delight.)

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe — In a world where imagination and magic conquer all, this is the ultimate family fun escape. Inspired by wonder, four kids travel through a wardrobe to the land of Narnia to fulfill their destiny.

Macbeth — Surrender to a haunting story of ambition and its dark consequences, as a military hero and his wife conspire to seize the throne of Scotland.

Shakespeare in Love — A young playwright named Will Shakespeare comes down with writer's block – until he finds a muse. Art mirrors life in a hilarious and passionate tale of romance and backstage fun.

A Chorus Line — On stage, they move as one. But each member of that glittering line has a unique history of hope and heartbreak, revealed in the life stories they share in this inspiring musical masterpiece.

SHAW FESTIVAL

Founded in 1962 on the work of George Bernard Shaw, Niagara-On-The-Lake's Shaw Festival is another of Ontario's great theatre destinations. The Festival produces plays from and about Shaw's era and contemporary plays that share Shaw's provocative exploration of society and celebration of humanity.

Sweeney Todd — Two men arrive in London, one young and hopeful, the other dark and brooding. Anthony Hope and Sweeney Todd – a barber by trade – are about to become inextricably linked in a tale of love and revenge, with a beautiful girl who sings through her barred window, a beggar woman with a mysterious secret, and the irrepressible Mrs Lovett whose pie shop becomes the surprising scene of the crime. Darkly comic and brilliantly unsettling, this is one of Stephen Sondheim's most celebrated musicals.

Options & Extras (must be booked at or before final payment)

Stratford Shows — On October 15, choose between two performances at 2 pm — *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* at Avon Theatre **OR** *Macbeth* at Festival Theatre. Your tour fare includes **one** of these shows. On the evening of October 15, you can book an extra show — *Shakespeare In Love* at Avon Theatre. Cost is \$90 per person including transportation (5% GST is extra).

Wild Magic at Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls. Frewin is currently ranked as the International Grand Champion of Magic, having won every major award offered within the magic community. He won Magician of the Year in 2009 at the World Magic awards, effectively ranking him as the world's top illusionist. In his 15-year professional career, Frewin has performed live all over the world, from Japan to Monte Carlo, on cruise ships, and on the Las Vegas Strip. He has also appeared on over 35 television programs including NBC's *World's Greatest Magic*, ABC's *Champions of Magic*, and his own CBC special *Magic Man*. Cost is \$70 per person including buffet dinner and transportation (5% GST is extra).

Itinerary

Tuesday, October 11:

After transfers to Victoria airport, we fly on Westjet to Toronto, arriving late afternoon. A transfer is provided into downtown. Our accommodation for the next three nights is at the Chelsea Hotel. It has an excellent location just off Yonge Street, three short blocks from the giant Eaton Centre. The hotel still ranks as the largest in Canada with 1,590 rooms. It has a restaurant (with dozens of others close by), a spa, and indoor pool.

Wednesday, October 12:

Meals: D

A sightseeing tour of **Toronto** with a local guide passes landmarks such as the CN Tower, the stadiums of Rogers Centre and Air Canada Centre, Eaton Centre, Queens Park, City Hall, and the Lake Ontario waterfront. We visit districts like Yorkville and drive along famous streets including Bay, Yonge, and Bloor. The afternoon is free time. At 5 pm, we go to the **CN Tower**, one of the tallest buildings in the world at 1,815 feet, and enjoy a panoramic view of Toronto. Are you brave enough to stand on the glass floor? Dinner is included in the revolving 360 Restaurant and, as we go around every 72 minutes, we can watch dusk falling and the city lights come on far below. Then our coach takes us over to the Port Lands area beside Lake Ontario where **Cirque du Soleil's** Grand Chapiteau has been erected. Our first show, **Luzia**, starts at 8 pm.

Thursday, October 13:

First, we go to **Casa Loma**, Toronto's fabulous castle built by Sir Henry Pellatt between 1911 and 1914, and today used in many movie productions. It has 98 rooms, secret passages, and two towers, and cost \$3½ million to build. Next we go to one of Toronto's lesser-known attractions, the **Bata Shoe Museum**, which exhibits an amazing collection of footwear from ancient times to the present and includes the shoes worn by some famous people. Those who want to visit the venerable Royal Ontario Museum can walk a block from Bata. A transfer is provided to the shopping mecca of the Kensington Market, then the rest of the afternoon is free time. Tonight, we go to the splendid **Ed Mirvish Theatre** (formerly Pantages and Canon Theatres) to see **Matilda The Musical**.

Friday, October 14:

Meals: D

As we leave Toronto, our first stop is at one of Canada's most celebrated art galleries, the **McMichael Canadian Art Collection**. It showcases 6,000 works by the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson, Emily Carr, Clarence Gagnon and other contemporaries, as well as First Nations, Inuit and other

artists who have made a contribution to Canada's artistic heritage. The sprawling galleries have a beautiful woodland setting along the Humber River Valley. Following the busy 401 freeway, we journey west through Kitchener to Stratford and stay three nights at the Best Western Arden Park Hotel. The small town of **Stratford** became the home of the largest classical repertory theatre in North America thanks to the dream of Tom Patterson. In the early 1950s, he conceived the idea of a theatre festival devoted to the works of William Shakespeare. His vision won the support not only of Stratford City Council and an enthusiastic committee of citizens but also of the legendary British actor and director Tyrone Guthrie, who agreed to become the first Artistic Director. The initial performance was on July 13, 1953, when actor Alec Guinness spoke the opening lines of *Richard III*. Tonight, we go to the Festival Theatre for a performance of **The Hypochondriac** starting at 8 pm.

Saturday, October 15:

Meals: B

With a local guide, we explore the rolling countryside east to Kitchener. We drive rural roads before visiting the **Mennonite Interpretive Centre** in the village of St. Jacobs. Not to be missed is the huge **St. Jacob's Market**, with over 600 vendors demonstrating the vibrant agricultural heritage of the Waterloo region. We are lucky enough to coincide our visit with Canada's greatest Bavarian Festival, **Oktoberfest**. Since 1969, the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest has developed its own traditions, becoming the largest Bavarian festival in North America. Back in Stratford, there are two options to attend plays this afternoon at 2 pm: **The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe** at the Avon Theatre or **Macbeth** at the Festival Theatre. Tonight at 8 pm, there is an option offered to see **Shakespeare In Love** at the Avon Theatre (see details on page 2).

Sunday, October 16:

Meals: B

First, there is a **backstage tour of Festival Theatre**, visiting the props, wardrobe, wigs, and makeup departments. Next, we take a behind-the-scenes tour of the **Stratford Festival Warehouse** where thousands of costumes and props from many years of shows are stored and catalogued for future use. During the rest of the morning, you can visit the Gallery Stratford, shop the vibrant downtown, do a tea tasting with a certified Tea Sommelier, explore the Perth Museum, or take a self-guided walking tour of history and architecture. At 2 pm, we attend our final Stratford performance, **A Chorus Line**.

Monday, October 17:*Meals: B,L*

Leaving Stratford, we have a two-hour drive east through Hamilton to **Niagara Falls**. A sightseeing tour of the Niagara area is conducted by a local guide. Niagara is one of the world's mightiest waterfalls, measured by its great width of over 1,000 metres, its water volume of about 750,000 gallons per second and its height of 50 metres. We ride the Hornblower (formerly **Maid of the Mist**) for an awesome view of the Horseshoe and American Falls from the river, see the floral clock, and stand at Table Rock. Lunch is included at a Niagara icon, Table Rock Restaurant, which looks directly out at the brink of the falls. We settle into the luxurious Hilton Hotel for a two-night stay. The hotel has a prime location across the street from the huge Niagara Fallsview Casino and just over one block from the waterfront Victoria Park. Every room has a view of the falls. Tonight, there is an option for dinner and the amazing show, **Greg Frewin's Wild Magic** (see details on page 2).

Tuesday, October 18:*Meals: B,D*

First, we go to the Niagara Imax Theatre to see **The Falls Movie: Legends & Daredevils**, a spectacular show on a giant screen. Then we drive into

Niagara-on-the-Lake, a quaint town of historic buildings and interesting shops, and there is time to browse and have lunch. The **Shaw Festival** is based in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was started in 1962 by lawyer and playwright Brian Doherty, who organized eight weekend performances of George Bernard Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell* and *Candida* under the title "Salute to Shaw". Currently, the Festival produces about ten plays each season, with over 800 performances and audiences totaling about 300,000 people. Today, we attend the matinee performance of the musical, **Sweeney Todd**. Back at Niagara Falls, we ride to the top of the 160-metre **Skylon Tower** and enjoy a farewell dinner in the revolving restaurant with a fabulous view of both the Horseshoe and American Falls. Arrival is at dusk, then the lights of the city come on, and after 7 pm the falls are colourfully illuminated with floodlights.

Wednesday, October 19:*Meals: B*

We drive back to Toronto Airport. Our flight on Westjet leaves at 1:40 pm via Calgary to Victoria. Transfers are provided to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 27, 2016.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$180 discount on first 10 seats and \$90 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 27.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 12, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 13 to July 27, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From July 28 to August 26, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 27 to September 9, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After September 9, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from airlines 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 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.

Home pickups and dropoffs may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and the size of the chartered vehicle. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo credit: Stratford Festival

Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly to/from your theatre seats. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Toronto; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for 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 81 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 27.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842