

CANADA'S 150th BIRTHDAY IN OTTAWA

Includes Montréal and Kingston

June 24, 2017 - 9 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$4140 double/twin

\$5100 single

\$3875 triple

> Please add 5% GST

> **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 97 points from this tour.

Redeem **97 points** if you book by **April 20**.



Includes

- Transfer to Victoria Airport and return
- Westjet return flight from Victoria to Montréal
- Current air transport tax & security fees
- Airline baggage fees (one per person)
- Coach transportation for 8 days in Ontario and Quebec
- 8 nights hotel accommodation & taxes
- Locally-guided tour of Montreal
- Maison Saint-Gabriel
- Neighbourhoods Come Alive celebration
- Choice of Montréal Museum of Fine Arts OR McCord Museum of Canadian History
- Kingston Public Market
- Locally-guided tour of Kingston
- Bellevue National Historic Site
- Old Fort Henry
- Canadian Penitentiary Museum
- Dinner cruise through the 1000 Islands
- Locally-guided tour of Ottawa landmarks
- Tour of the Parliament Buildings
- Canadian Museum of History
- Canada's 150th Birthday Gala Dinner and various other events to be announced
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **13 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

CANADA 150



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

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



Celebrating 150 years since Confederation!

Canada is a rich and dynamic country that is home to more than 34 million people. We have a lot to be proud of. Canada is the second largest country in the world. We have vast geography, diverse cultures, and vibrant communities unlike any other nation. Since Confederation in 1867, Canada has seen a world of change. Today, we're part of a global community that is connected by technology and travel. Our provinces and territories continue to transform to reflect the evolving face of our people.

Our country is home to a diverse spectrum of citizens. Today, more than 20% of people living in Canada were born outside the country - a proportion we've not seen in almost a century. Conversely, more than one million Canadians call another country home. These are some of the factors that influence our country and our communities.

As we look ahead to Canada's 150th anniversary, it's important to reflect on the Canadian experience and what it means to be Canadian.

Confederation was the process by which the British colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were federally united into one Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867. At the same time, Canada was divided into four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Confederation was accomplished when Queen Victoria gave royal assent to the British North America Act on March 29, 1867, followed by a royal proclamation stating: "We do ordain, declare, and command that on and after the First day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-seven, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, shall form and be One Dominion, under the name of Canada." Since Confederation, Canada has seen many territorial changes and expansions, resulting in the current configuration of ten provinces and three territories.

The term Confederation has entered into Canadian parlance both as a metaphor for the country and for the historical events that created it. It has therefore become one of the most common names for Canadian landmarks. Examples include Mount Confederation, Confederation Square, Confederation Building, Confederation Park, Confederation Station, Confederation Heights, and Confederation Bridge. This is similar to the American and British practices of naming things "Union" and likewise the Australians with "Federation".

Sir John A. Macdonald was appointed by the Governor General, Lord Monck, to be the first Prime Minister of Canada and served until 1873, then again from 1878 to 1891. As the dominant figure of Confederation, he had a political career which spanned almost half a century. Macdonald's greatest achievements were building and guiding a successful national government for the new Dominion, using patronage to forge a strong Conservative Party, promoting the protective tariff of the National Policy, and building the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway.

Canada's 100th birthday in 1967 was a year-long celebration, highlighted by Expo '67 in Montreal. Events were held in communities all across the country. Today, 49 years later, 1967 is remembered fondly by many as a significant year for Canada.

As 2017 and Canada's 150th birthday approach, the excitement is building across Canada. Kingston, the first capital from 1841 to 1844, will share some of the celebrations. Montréal was briefly the capital in 1844, but its major focus in 2017 will be its own 375th anniversary. Ottawa became the capital of the united Province of Canada in 1849, and Confederation confirmed its permanent status. This tour includes stays in Montréal and Kingston, and culminates in Ottawa with three nights over Canada Day, July 1.

When this tour was planned in summer 2016, very few events in the three cities were finalized. During the months leading up to July 1, 2017, many events will be announced and Wells Gray planners will assess the most interesting ones and add them to the tour itinerary. The culmination of Ottawa's celebrations of Canada 150 will be a gala dinner with entertainment at the Shaw Centre for the evening of Canada Day and Wells Gray Tours has secured tickets.

Canada's 150th birthday will be a truly significant year and attending the celebrations in the capital city will be an occasion for you to talk about and share your photographs for a long time to come. Travel with Wells Gray Tours on this memorable journey, learn about the roots of Canada as a country, participate in the celebrations in three cities, and thrill to the gala July 1st evening in Ottawa.

Saturday, June 24:

Transfers are provided to Victoria Airport. We fly on Westjet to **Montréal**, arriving about 7 pm. Our accommodation for three nights is at the Delta Hotel which has a great location in Centre Ville near Sherbrooke Street and the subway.

Sunday, June 25:*Meals: B*

The city of **Montréal** awaits! Explore this vibrant centre of French Canadian traditions with a locally guided tour that includes Mount Royal, Ile Ste-Helene, downtown landmarks, and Olympic Park. The tour ends in **Old Montréal**, where there is free time for lunch and maybe a visit to the imposing Notre Dame Basilica. During the afternoon, we visit **Maison Saint-Gabriel National Historic Site**. Located in Pointe-Saint-Charles, this magnificent 350-year-old building is a fine example of the traditional architecture of New France. Purchased by Marguerite Bourgeoys in 1668 to house the King's Wards, it lay at the heart of the agricultural and educational activities of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame for three centuries. Tonight, we join the celebrations of Montréal's 375th anniversary, a program called **Neighbourhoods Come Alive** which aims to showcase the richness and diversity of Montréal's neighbourhoods and citizens. For 19 consecutive weekends, each of the city's 19 boroughs has its turn in the spotlight with festive activities.

Monday, June 26:*Meals: B,D*

The morning is free time for you to explore Montréal on your own. This afternoon, you have a choice between two Montréal museums. The **Museum of Fine Arts** opened in 1860 and is among the largest art museums in North America with a collection of 42,000 works. The **McCord Museum of Canadian History** features artifacts in archeology, costumes, decorative arts, paintings, and photographs. Tonight, dinner is included at L'Auberge Saint-Gabriel. Built in 1688 by a French soldier, it was the first Inn in North America to receive a liquor licence, in 1754.

Tuesday, June 27:*Meals: B*

This morning, we drive through the St. Lawrence Valley to **Kingston** at the outlet of Lake Ontario. Kingston's place in Canada's birth was always a military fort, first as a French stronghold against both British and Iroquois enemies and then as a British fort defending against American invaders. Once the Rideau Canal was built, it became the primary economic centre for Upper Canada and was briefly the capital of the Province of Canada. After arrival, there is free time in the Public Market. A local guide meets us to conduct a city tour that

explains the city's special place in Confederation. We see landmarks such as Queens University, Bellevue House, Fort Henry, City Hall, the Martello Towers, the Royal Military College, and Kingston Penitentiary. We stay two nights at the Holiday Inn on the waterfront.

Wednesday, June 28:*Meals: B,L,D*

This morning, we explore **Fort Henry National Historic Site** which has loomed over Kingston since the War of 1812. A much larger fort was constructed between 1832 and 1836 to defend Lake Ontario, the entrance to the Rideau Canal, and the harbour. These were the strongest defences in Canada west of Quebec City, but neither the original nor the second Fort Henry was ever attacked. Interpretive activities take place throughout our visit. Lunch is included in a restaurant built inside the stone walls. In the afternoon, we visit **Bellevue House**, John A. Macdonald's home in the late 1840s, then the Canadian Penitentiary Museum which has replicas and artifacts from the infamous Kingston Penitentiary, closed in 2013. Tonight's highlight is a **sunset dinner cruise** on Lake Ontario and among the westernmost of the 1000 Islands of the St. Lawrence River.

Thursday, June 29:*Meals: B,D*

It is a two-hour drive to **Ottawa**. After a lunchtime visit to Byward Market, a sightseeing tour with a local guide passes the Parliament Buildings, other noted government buildings, Rideau Canal, Chateau Laurier, 24 Sussex Drive, Rideau Hall, and the lovely homes of Rockcliffe Park. For the next three nights, we stay at the **Lord Elgin Hotel** which has an excellent location near the Parliament Buildings, Sparks Street, and downtown shops.

Friday, June 30:*Meals: B*

A tour of Centre Block of the **Parliament Buildings** is arranged, including the House of Commons and the Senate chambers. This afternoon, we go to the **Canadian Museum of History** (formerly Museum of Civilization) and enjoy its vast collection and amazing architecture.

Saturday, July 1:*Meals: B,D*

Happy 150th Birthday, Canada! Activities for today will be confirmed as events are planned. Tonight, is the gala celebration dinner with entertainment at the Shaw Centre.

Sunday, July 2:*Meals: B*

We drive back to Montréal (since Ottawa flights are extremely expensive this weekend). Our 2 pm flight on Westjet via Toronto goes to Victoria, and a transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 20, 2017.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 20, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 21 to April 20, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From April 21 to May 4, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From May 5 to May 18, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 18, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from the airline and other tour suppliers can occur at any time. The gala July 1 dinner is included, but price could change. Since many celebration events are still being planned, there could be unexpected extra costs. Since this tour has been planned 10 months prior to Canada Day, there are some costs that are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to 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 for medical and cancellation claims, 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: Ottawa Tourism

Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps. The Montreal event, Neighbourhoods Come Alive, may involve more walking. Due to huge crowds and congestion expected on Canada Day, coach transfers to Parliament Hill and Shaw Centre will be impossible, so you should plan to walk these short distances. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to and from Montreal; 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 97 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 April 20.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842

