

INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

June 24, 2017 - 8 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$2585 double/twin

\$3080 single

\$2455 triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$140 discount on first 15 seats; \$70 on next 10

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$89 discount with BC identification

> **Experience Points:** Earn 60 points from this tour.

Redeem **60 points** if you book by **April 20**.



Includes

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 7 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Transfer from Victoria to Nanaimo
- *Northern Expedition* ferry voyage through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- Reserved seat in ferry's Aurora Lounge
- Museum of Northern British Columbia
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- North Pacific Cannery Museum
- VIA Rail from Prince Rupert to Prince George in "Touring Class" with seating in dome car
- Barkerville admission with Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor
- Flight from Kelowna to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **8 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner

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 Port Hardy to Prince Rupert 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 April 28. 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

Saturday, June 24:

There are departures throughout Greater Victoria, and we meet the Interior travellers in Nanaimo. During the afternoon, we drive north on the Island Highway, past Campbell River to **Port Hardy**, and stay at the Glen Lyon Inn.

Sunday, June 25:

The **Northern Expedition** departs Port Hardy for a 15-hour scenic voyage in the **Inside Passage**. Along this 500 km coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises or killer whales. Highlights are the narrows at Bella Bella, Princess Royal Channel and the long canal-like **Grenville Channel**. On arrival at **Prince Rupert**, we stay three nights at the Prestige Hotel.

Ferry cabin option: You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$120 or inside cabin for \$90 (per cabin). Each has two berths, sink, toilet and shower. Please request at booking. Limited cabins available; may not be confirmed until April 20.

Monday, June 26:

Meals: B

Today is leisure time to visit downtown shops and the wonderful **Museum of Northern B.C.**

Tuesday, June 27:

Meals: B,L

Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary was established in 1994 and preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in B.C. We board a 22-metre 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. After

returning to Prince Rupert about 3 pm, we drive to Port Edwards on the Skeena River and tour the restored 1889 **North Pacific Cannery Village**.

Wednesday, June 28:

Meals: B,L,D

VIA Rail's Skeena Train is a spectacular all-day journey east to Prince George. There are splendid views of passing scenery as we follow the broad Skeena River and the rushing Bulkley River through the Coast Mountains. Across the Interior Plateau, the train skirts dozens of lakes and the tracks mostly follow a different route than the Yellowhead Highway. You will be pampered all day in deluxe "Touring Class" including seating in the **dome car** and three meals served at your seat. Our luggage stays conveniently on the coach and our driver meets us in **Prince George**. We stay at the Sandman Signature Hotel.

Thursday, June 29:

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 a 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 Williams Lake at the Coast Fraser Inn.

Friday, June 30:

Meals: B,L

We follow the Cariboo Highway to Cache Creek. Lunch is included at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. We stay overnight in Kelowna near the airport.

Saturday, July 1:

We fly from Kelowna to Victoria, and a transfer takes you to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 20, 2017.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$140 discount on first 15 seats and \$70 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 20. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$89 discount extended by BC Ferries and Via Rail. Deadline is April 20. You must show your BC Gold CareCard or Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 20, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 21 to May 22, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From May 23 to June 8, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After June 8, there is no refund.

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.



Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly the cruise boat, train and around Barkerville. 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 60 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