

KOOTENAYS GHOST TOWNS & HOT SPRINGS

September 30, 2017 - 6 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1670 double/twin

\$1995 single

\$1565 triple



- > Please add 5% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$60 discount on first 15 seats; \$30 on next 10
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 27 points from this tour.
Redeem **27 points** if you book by **August 16**.

Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 5 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Locally-guided tour of Revelstoke
- Revelstoke Railway Museum
- Three Valley Gap ghost town and roundhouse
- Arrow Lakes ferry to Galena Bay
- Unlimited access to Ainsworth Hot Springs
- SS Moyie sternwheeler
- Local guide in Kaslo, Sandon and area
- Sandon Museum with powerhouse tour
- Nikkei Internment Centre
- Gardens tour at Blaylock Mansion
- Ride on Nelson's Streetcar #23
- Walking tour of Nelson's downtown heritage
- Greenwood Museum and guide
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

Spirits and Silver

In the boom and bust economies of British Columbia's last 160 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 such as Retallack and Sandon, as well as a created one at Three Valley Gap, and historic towns like Revelstoke, Kaslo, Nelson, and Greenwood. We visit the gardens at Blaylock, the Kootenays' grandest mansion. Unique experiences include a ride on Nelson's heritage Streetcar #23, lunch with a Nelson historian, an overnight at 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 2 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

Saturday, September 30:

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

Sunday, October 1:

Meals: L,D

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan. We head through Eagle Pass to **Revelstoke** and learn about its interesting buildings from a local guide. Afterward, we visit the Railway Museum which has a fascinating collection of exhibits about the CPR. 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.

Monday, October 2:

Meals: B,L,D

We take the ferry across the **Arrow Lakes** to Galeana Bay, passing the flooded sites of lost towns such as Beaton and Arrowhead. Lunch is at Halcyon Hot Springs, then we drive through Nakusp and Kaslo, headed for **Ainsworth Hot Springs**. We stay two 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. For the brave, there is also a cold plunge pool.

Tuesday, October 3:

Meals: B,L,D

Today's drive includes several towns which played a special role in Kootenay history, such as 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 Retallack 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 half a century. A tour of the century-old powerhouse is included. Perhaps you can 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 Japanese Canadians were moved to isolated camps.

Wednesday, October 4:

Meals: B,L

Blaylock Mansion is one of the finest examples of Tudor architecture in western Canada. It was completed in 1937 for Cominco's president and boasts 35 rooms. We have a guided walk in the gardens and possibly the mansion's interior if there are no guests (it operates as an exclusive B & B). In Nelson, 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 and leads a stroll through downtown Nelson where buildings less than a century old are considered "modern". We stay overnight at Nelson's famous **Hume Hotel**, an historical landmark which opened in 1898.

Thursday, October 5:

Meals: B,L

Heading home, we cross the Columbia River and drive over Bonanza Pass. In **Grand Forks**, we pass the fabulous Averill Mansion, built in the Queen Anne style in 1895. **Greenwood** once boasted 7,000 inhabitants at the turn of the 20th 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. We fly in late afternoon from Kelowna to Victoria, and there is a transfer to your pickup point.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due August 16, 2017.

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 August 16.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 16, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From August 17 to August 31, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From September 1 to September 15, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After September 15, 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.

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.

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. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. 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.

e-points: This tour earns 27 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 August 16.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842