

CHRISTMAS IN VANCOUVER

Staying at Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
December 23, 2017 - 5 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1620 double/twin

\$1945 single

\$1565 triple



> Please add 5% GST

> **Early Bookers:** \$90 discount on first 15 seats; \$45 on next 10

> **Seniors (65 and over):** \$6 discount with BC Services Card

> **Experience Points:** Earn 40 points from this tour.

Redeem **40 points** if you book by **November 2.**

Includes

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of accommodation at Fairmont Hotel Vancouver & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- *Onegin* at Granville Island Stage
- Bloedel Conservatory
- *The Day Before Christmas* at Goldcorp Stage
- Vancouver Aquarium
- Burnaby Heritage Village
- *Cirque du Soleil Kurios* at Grand Chapiteau
- Museum of Anthropology
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **7 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners

The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

This tour stays four nights at the renowned Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Opened in 1939 at a cost of \$12 million, it was the third Hotel Vancouver and a downtown landmark with its copper green roof and a height of 17 storeys. It was a CN Hotel for its first 50 years, then became a Canadian Pacific Hotel, and finally a Fairmont Hotel after CP acquired the worldwide Fairmont chain. Its public rooms became famous including the Panorama Roof, the Timber Club, and the Pacific Empire Ballroom. A \$70 million restoration during the 1990s followed by a \$12 million update in 2014 have brought this magnificent hotel back to being among the finest in Vancouver. The Hotel Vancouver has an excellent location on West Georgia Street, surrounded by dozens of interesting shops and restaurants, and a block from Pacific Centre Mall. Wells Gray Tours is pleased to offer this Christmas experience again as it has garnered rave reviews from customers in recent years.

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Itinerary

Saturday, December 23:

We depart from many points in Greater Victoria and take the 9 am ferry to Tsawwassen. This afternoon, we see **Onegin** at Granville Island Stage. When Evgeni Onegin visits the Larin family estate, his romantic charms stir passions long forgotten by its residents. Poet Vladimir Lensky's romantic ideals are challenged (a duel!) after Onegin flirts with his fiancée Olga Larin, and even the sensible Tatyana Larin falls for the handsome rogue. The hit musical moves audiences with its sweeping score. Then we check in at the **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** for our four-night stay.

Sunday, December 24: *Meals: B,D*

The Fairmont's extensive buffet breakfast is included each day in Notch8 Restaurant. This morning, we visit **Bloedel Floral Conservatory** in Queen Elizabeth Park. The triodetic dome was erected in 1969 and named for one of its biggest donors, Prentice Bloedel of MacMillan Bloedel Lumber Company. The conservatory contains three habitats: tropical rainforest, subtropical rainforest, and desert. Over 200 birds of various species reside within the dome and are allowed to fly free. The conservatory houses about 500 species of plants from jungle to desert climates. Afterwards, we go to the Goldcorp Stage to see the infectious comedy, **The Day Before Christmas**, starting at 2 pm. Alex is a perfectionist who is desperately holding on to Christmas traditions. While juggling family, work and a movie star, she loses control of her holiday plans, and her home becomes a disaster zone. Can she save the turkey from the dog and salvage a broken-down tree?

Monday, December 25: *Meals: B,D*

Merry Christmas! Expect a visit from Santa Claus during a lovely Christmas breakfast. Then we go to the **Vancouver Aquarium** to view marine life such

as Steller sea lions, dolphins, sea turtles and sea otters. **Option:** If you have previously been to the aquarium and prefer to do something else, you can opt out and your fare will be reduced \$16.

A hospitality room is provided by the hotel where you can meet other Christmas travellers and socialize or play games. Our festive **Christmas Dinner** at the hotel offers three courses with choice of turkey or beef, accompanied by wine. More menu details will be available in the fall.

Tuesday, December 26: *Meals: B,D*

The morning is leisure time, then we visit Burnaby Heritage Village. The buildings are beautifully decorated for the season and we take a ride on the historic carousel. Dinner is included at The Boathouse overlooking English Bay. Then we go to the Grand Chapiteau and thrill to **Cirque du Soleil's Kurios**, starting at 8 pm. Step into the curio cabinet of an ambitious inventor who defies the laws of time, space and dimension in order to reinvent everything around him. Suddenly, the visible becomes invisible, perspectives are transformed, and the world is literally turned upside down. In the Contortion scene, deep-sea creatures that embody electric eels inside the Seeker's cabinet come to life in this stunning and fluid act where wriggling artists execute a series of incredible pyramids and figures at an astonishing pace. **Kurios** premiered in Montreal in 2014 and has toured the USA since then. This is the show's first visit to Vancouver.

Wednesday, December 27: *Meals: B*

We visit the **Museum of Anthropology**, housed in a stunning Arthur Erickson structure with exquisite First Nations artifacts and exhibits, including Bill Reid's sculpture "The Raven and the First Men". We head home to Victoria on the 2 pm ferry with great memories of Christmas in Vancouver.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due November 2, 2017.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$90 discount on first 15 seats and \$45 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after November 2. A \$6 discount is offered to BC seniors on BC Ferries and you must show your Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to October 2, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From October 3 to November 2, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From November 3 to November 16, the cancellation charge is 40% of tour fare. From November 17 to December 1, the cancellation charge is 70% of tour fare. After December 1, 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: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly at theatres. 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.

Experience Points: This tour earns 40 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 November 2.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842