

B.C. FJORDS CRUISE

June 16, 2018 - 6 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1890 double/twin

\$2195 single

\$1800 triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$100 discount on first 10 seats; \$50 on next 6

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$15 discount with BC Services Card

> **Experience Points:** Earn 46 points from this tour.

Redeem **46 points** if you book by **April 12.**



* HIGHLIGHTS *

Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, world's fastest

Knight Inlet, BC's longest fjord

Grizzly Bear viewing at Glendale River

Cascade Falls & Chatterbox Falls

Desolation Sound

Princess Louisa Fjord

Includes

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Ferry from Comox to Powell River
- Afternoon excursion to Desolation Sound
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferries across Jarvis Inlet and Howe Sound
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **10 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 1 dinner

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Our Cruise Vessels

The *MV Naiad Explorer* is owned by Bill and Donna Mackay of Port McNeill and operates exclusive charters and whale watching excursions throughout British Columbia's coastal waters. The ship is 55 feet long and is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating in case of inclement weather and there is an outdoor rear deck and an upper deck for excellent viewing. Visitors are welcome on the bridge and you can even take a turn steering. *Naiad Explorer* was built in 1999 by the Mackays and incorporated specific features for whale watching such as quiet engines to minimize underwater noise. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, the *Naiad Explorer* is a very fast vessel and is capable of travelling great distances in a day, including the length of Knight Inlet. Another benefit of her powerful engines is that she can hold a position in the Nakwakto tidal rapids, allowing a thrilling view of this amazing coastal phenomenon.

Desolation Sound is explored during a three-hour excursion using a variety of boats including zodiacs. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to enter shallow areas and narrow passages. The boats are open-air and do not have bathroom facilities. This excursion will be cancelled if weather or ocean conditions are inclement. There is seating for 30 people, so if nobody chooses the option below, the last 2 booked will not be able to go and will get the reduction.

Option: If you do not wish to take this trip, there is a reduction of \$75 per person offered, and you can spend the afternoon at the Beach Gardens Hotel in Powell River.

Three vessels, each carrying 10 or 12 passengers, are used for the voyage up Jervis Inlet to Malibu Lodge and into Princess Louisa Fjord. All have indoor seating. They are operated by Bryce Christie, owner of Sunshine Coast Tours and a long-time captain on the British Columbia coast.

Wells Gray Tours has previously offered other small ship excursions that have circled Quadra and Cortes Islands, explored fjords and narrow channels as far north as Kelsey Bay, and cruised in the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. This will be our 11th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 9th cruise up Knight Inlet, British Columbia's longest fjord; also our 9th trip into Desolation Sound, and our 7th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the seven days on this tour, 3½ days are devoted to cruising the sheltered waters near Vancouver Island. Come and join this unique tour, cruising some fabulous scenic waterways.

Itinerary

Saturday, June 16:

Meals: L

After pickups around Victoria, we drive north on the Island Highway with a lunch stop in Parksville. In **Port McNeill**, we stay two nights at the Haida Way Motor Inn.

Sunday, June 17:

Meals: B,L

We board the *Naiad Explorer* for the first of four exciting ocean experiences. We cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere Passage to the mainland. Today's timing is important so we can experience the thrilling tidal rush through the **Nakwakto Rapids**. Here the waters of Seymour Inlet (58 km long) and Belize Inlet (40 km long) surge through the 300-metre wide gap. With the benefit of the *Naiad's* big engines, we cruise right into the tidal flow and have a sensational vantage point as the usually calm ocean comes to life like a giant rushing river. The spectacle happens twice a day, but a combination of factors makes June 17 one of the best days in 2018 to experience the Nakwakto Rapids as the tide is ebbing (flowing out of the fjords) and predicted to reach the awesome speed of 13.9 knots

at 11:05 am. These are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness. The boiling waters collide with Turret Island, nicknamed **Tremble Island**. The rapids were discovered by explorers under the command of Captain Pender in 1865 and named for the local Indian tribe. Today's voyage also includes **Blunden Harbour**, made famous by an Emily Carr painting, before we return to Port McNeill.

Monday, June 18:

Meals: B,L

Today we head to **Knight Inlet**, British Columbia's longest fjord at 113 km. Captain Vancouver, during his 1792 expedition, was impressed with "the high stupendous mountains rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" and named the fjord for John Knight, a British naval officer. The route goes past Village Island (an old First Nations village), then through Beware Pass to see the pictographs on Turnour Island. After Minstrel Island and Clio Channel, we pause at Cutler Cove estuary for possible sightings of **grizzly bears**. The *Naiad's* powerful engines make short work of the journey up Knight Inlet to **Cascade Falls** which plunges

directly into the ocean. Here, deep in the Coast Mountains, we are almost at the foot of giant Mount Waddington, British Columbia's highest mountain. During the return ride, we stop at the Glendale River estuary for another chance to see grizzly bears, then we weave through the Broughton Archipelago to Fife looking for Steller sea lions. Heading back to Port McNeill, we finish another day of splendid coastal scenery. Then we drive south to Campbell River and stay overnight at the Coast Discovery Inn.

Tuesday, June 19:

Meals: B,L,D

We catch the 10 am ferry from Comox to Powell River, then drive to the end of Highway 101 at Lund. **Desolation Sound** is British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973, and attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, unusually warm waters, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snowcapped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain George Vancouver saw it differently two centuries ago when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our three-hour excursion visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay and Copeland Islands. Note the option (previous page) to not participate in this excursion. Back in **Powell River**, we stay overnight at the oceanfront Beach Gardens Resort. Tonight, take a stroll beside the ocean and enjoy the splendid setting.

Wednesday, June 20:

Meals: B,L

We ride the ferry across Jervis Inlet to Earls Cove. This is a day of dramatic sights as we explore one of British Columbia's best known fjords. Departing from Egmont, we cruise for two hours up **Jervis Inlet** past soaring peaks and waterfalls that cascade directly into the ocean. **Malibu Narrows** is the location of historic Malibu Lodge, an impressive log structure that was an exclusive retreat for Hollywood celebrities in the 1940s and is now a popular church camp. The narrows and tidal rapids mark the entrance to **Princess Louisa Fjord** and, from here on, the sheer cliffs rise thousands of feet out of the water. The vessels dock at the upper end of the fjord and we have time ashore to admire the thundering cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. Princess Louisa was Queen Victoria's mother, but the native name "Sway-oo-lat" means "facing the rising sun's rays". A picnic lunch is served at the falls. Back at Egmont, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechelt and stay overnight at the Driftwood Inn on the waterfront.

Thursday, June 21:

We board a mid-morning ferry at Langdale for the 40-minute crossing of Howe Sound to Horseshoe Bay. Then we ride the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo, and drive home over the Malahat.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 12, 2018.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$100 discount on first 10 seats and \$50 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 12. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$15 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Gold Care Card or the new Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 12, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 13 to April 30, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From May 1 to May 30, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After May 30, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur anytime and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credit: Brian Husband (Knight Inlet and Cascade Falls)

Activity Level: Light activity including short distances to walk, such as on docks to and from the vessels and the short trail to Chatterbox Falls. Ramps onto docks can be steep at low tide. There are some steps, mainly getting in and out of the vessels. The boat tour to Desolation Sound utilizes open boats and zodiacs with no restroom; this trip will be cancelled if weather is inclement. 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 46 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 12.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842

