

WELLS GRAY PARK

Canada's Waterfalls Park

May 31, 2018 - 5 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$1495 double/twin

\$1725 single

\$1425 triple



tour
a more intimate travel experience

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Experience Points:** Earn 23 points from this tour.

Redeem **23 points** if you book by **April 17**.

Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport and Kelowna Airport to hotel
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Coach transportation for 4 days
- 4 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Copy of *Exploring Wells Gray Park*, 6th edition
- 6-hour boat excursion on Clearwater and Azure Lakes to Rainbow Falls
- Gratuities for boat crew
- Trophies Lodge historic tour
- Knowledgeable tour director
- **10 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

Tour Notes

Wells Gray Park is a vast wilderness area of 1.3 million acres, nicknamed Canada's "Waterfalls Park" and the "Volcanoes Park". Early June is an excellent time to visit Wells Gray Park since the waterfalls are spectacular with their spring run-off. The tour is escorted by Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours and Wells Gray Gateway Guesthouse. Roland is also the author of the guidebook *Exploring Wells Gray Park*; the 6th Edition was published in 2015 and a complimentary autographed copy of this 400-page all-colour book is yours as a souvenir of this tour.

This tour is limited to 20 travellers. With a small group, the boats are able to take us up Clearwater Lake, through the Clearwater River into Azure Lake, then to the beach at the east end of Azure Lake to view Rainbow Falls.

The trip has been a 3-day tour for many years, offered once annually. For 2018, we are adding an extra day which gives time for more activities, longer walks, and a more leisurely itinerary.

Come and see the birthplace of Wells Gray Tours! There is a connection to the Park's name, dating back 46 years. An environmental organization offered tours of Wells Gray Park in 1972 as a means of protesting BC Hydro's plans to build seven dams on the Clearwater River. Roland and some university friends were volunteer guides. From this modest beginning with a single tour route, Wells Gray Tours has evolved to offer worldwide travel.

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Itinerary

Thursday, May 31:

Transportation is provided to Victoria airport. We take an afternoon flight to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Best Western Hotel.

Friday, June 1:

Meals: B,L,D

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan and Kamloops. We travel north via the Yellowhead Highway and along the North Thompson River to Clearwater. After lunch, we drive through the pristine **Clearwater River Valley** and see the extinct Pyramid Volcano and Mushroom Canyon. We admire a panoramic view across southern Wells Gray Park from the summit of Green Mountain. The highlight is awesome **Helmcken Falls** where the Murtle River plunges 141 metres (465 feet) over a lava cliff to form Canada's 4th highest waterfall. We stay three nights at the Wells Gray Inn in Clearwater. After a buffet dinner, Roland presents a slide show about Wells Gray Park, gleaned from 50 years of exploring its roads and trails.

Saturday, June 2:

Meals: B,L

At road's end, we board two fast boats for the journey up lovely **Clearwater Lake** with splendid views of the Cariboo Mountains and **Garnet Peak**, Wells Gray Park's third highest mountain. Then the boats' powerful engines make easy work of the fast-flowing Clearwater River and soon we enter pristine **Azure Lake** which is 28 km long and surrounded by soaring peaks. A picnic lunch is provided at a beach, then there is a short

walk through an old-growth cedar forest to **Rainbow Falls** on Angus Horne Creek. This 6-hour boat excursion explores a spectacular area of Wells Gray Park that few tourists get to see, since it can only be reached by boat.

Sunday, June 3:

Meals: B,L,D

Almost every visitor to Wells Gray Park sees Helmcken Falls from the viewing platform on the north rim of the canyon, reached by a road. This morning, we take a nearly level hike along the Murtle River for 4 km to the **brink of Helmcken Falls**, an amazing viewpoint that is much closer to this incredible cataract and much less visited. See Activity Level (below) for more details. Other sights today are **Bailey's Chute**, the furthest point that spawning salmon swim up the Clearwater River, Marcus Falls, the abandoned pioneer Ray family homestead, and the bubbling **Ray Mineral Springs**. During our return to Clearwater, we see 90-metre wide **Dawson Falls** on the Murtle River. Dinner is at the Painted Turtle Restaurant on the shore of Dutch Lake.

Monday, June 4:

Meals: B,L

This morning, we visit **Spahats Falls** which tumbles 75 metres into a deep gorge, Clearwater Valley Overlook, and Third Canyon. Next is a historical tour of **Trophies Lodge** which once catered to celebrities fishing the teeming waters of the Clearwater River. The Wells Gray Park Visitor Centre is our last stop. We take a late afternoon flight from Kelowna to Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 17, 2018.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 17, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 18 to May 16, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After May 16, 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.

Activity Level: Moderate activity including walking on gravel trails and uneven surfaces, stepping in and out of the boat, and spending lots of time outdoors. The longest walk is 8 km round trip and 3 hours is planned for this; a day pack, water bottle, and hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes are essential. You can wait on the coach or take short nearby walks if this is too strenuous for you. Other walks are less than 30 minutes round trip. Luggage handling is not available at the hotel. Seeing all the natural sights mentioned requires active participation. You should not book this tour if you are dependent on a walker. 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 23 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 17.

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