

# CRUISING THE GULF ISLANDS

Includes 4 nights at Poets Cove Resort on Pender Island

May 26, 2018 - 6 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$2195** double/twin

**\$2665** single



- > Please add 5% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$100 discount on first 10 seats; \$50 on next 5
- > **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$6 discount with BC Gold Care Card
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 53 points from this tour.  
Redeem **53 points** if you book by **March 22.**

## Includes

- Coach transportation to/from Sidney
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- 2 days of cruising on *Pride of Victoria* around the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands
- Cruise on *Pride of Victoria* from Pender Island to Salt Spring Island and return
- Van transportation to top of Mount Maxwell
- Mini-bus/van tour of Pender Island
- Pender Island Museum at Roesland
- Sea Star Winery tour and tasting
- Cruise on *Pride of Victoria* to Sidney
- Gratuities for crew on *Pride of Victoria*, Pender Island driver/guide, Mount Maxwell driver
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners

## Poets Cove Resort

Poets Cove is the premier luxury resort of the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. The main building has 22 beautifully-appointed bedrooms, all with ocean view and a deck. The Aurora Dining Room serves our breakfasts and dinners, and Syrens Bistro offers a pub atmosphere for casual evening get-togethers. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is free time when you can enjoy this service. An outdoor pool and hot tub are tucked into the hillside above the lodge. This tour was first offered as Wells Gray Tours' 2010 Mystery Tour and everybody was impressed with the luxury of Poets Cove and the scenic cruises. The tour has been offered four times since then. The 2018 tour stays four nights instead of three at Poets Cove with three days of cruising on *Pride of Victoria* in different parts of the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. The ship carries only 32 passengers for comfort, so early booking is recommended with such a limited capacity on this tour.

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
Kelowna > 250-762-3435  
[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255  
Vernon > 250-545-9197  
Toll Free > 800-667-9552



## Itinerary

### Saturday, May 26:

Meals: L,D

We travel via the Coquihalla to the coast. During the ferry ride to Swartz Bay, enjoy the extensive Pacific Dinner Buffet. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if the ship changes.) We stay overnight at the Best Western Emerald Isle in Sidney.

### Sunday, May 27:

Meals: L,D

We board the **Pride of Victoria** in the marina near the hotel and depart about 9 am into the Gulf Islands. The cruise route is flexible and depends on sightings of **Orca whales** or other marine creatures. We may cross the border to the San Juan Islands (no passport needed, since we don't land). We may cruise along the rugged shore of **Spieden Island**, a privately-owned island with a collection of exotic animals. Tides permitting, we may go through the narrows between the Pender Islands. A gourmet lunch is served on board. The vessel has two decks with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating for excellent viewing, and it has a washroom. After about five hours of splendid scenery, we enter Bedwell Harbour to arrive at **Poets Cove Resort** on South Pender Island and settle into the luxurious rooms for the next four nights. Tonight, enjoy dinner in the Aurora Room overlooking the harbour, music in Syrens, a walk on the extensive grounds, or sitting on your deck watching the sunset across the water.

### Monday, May 28:

Meals: B,D

Back on board the *Pride of Victoria*, we have a 1½ hour cruise to **Salt Spring Island** and the town of Ganges. We ride in vans up the winding road to the summit of **Mount Maxwell** and enjoy a panoramic view over Salt Spring Island, the other Gulf Islands, and the Sansum Narrows. There is free time in Ganges, then we cruise back to Poets Cove in mid-afternoon.

### Tuesday, May 29:

Meals: B,L,D

During a tour of Pender Island, our first stop is **Roesland**, a popular beach resort until 1990 and now the site of Pender Islands Museum. Enjoy a walk among the arbutus trees to the tip of Roe Island. We also visit **Sea Star Winery** for a tour and tasting. There are short walks along Mortimer Spit and across the bridge that joins the two Pender Islands. You may wish to book a spa session later.

### Wednesday, May 30:

Meals: B,L,D

A six-hour cruise is offered which may explore the shorelines of **Saturna, Galiano, Mayne, or Prevost Islands** or other Gulf Islands. Lunch is served on board. The captain continues to watch for whales, seals and other marine life.

### Thursday, May 31:

Meals: B,L

We leave Poets Cove on the *Pride of Victoria* and enjoy our last cruise, about 1½ hours to **Sidney**. We meet our coach there, and take the 11 am ferry from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen. The Pacific Lunch Buffet is included (see note on May 26). We drive home in the afternoon.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 22, 2018.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$100 discount on first 10 seats and \$50 on next 5 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 22. Seniors (65 & over) receive \$6 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Gold Care Card or the new Services Card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to March 22, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 23 to April 23, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From April 24 to May 9, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 9, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from ferries, the vessel and other 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, 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, mostly getting on and off *Pride of Victoria*. The ramps to the boat docks can be steep at low tide. There is a short walk between Poets Cove Resort and the marina. The coach and vessel cannot carry a scooter. 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 53 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 March 22.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924