

# VICTORIA HISTORY & MYSTERY

*Lesser-known experiences of olden times in Victoria!*

March 25, 2018 - 5 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$1135** double/twin

**\$1370** single

**\$1075** triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$60 discount on first 15 seats; \$30 on next 10

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$6 discount with BC Gold Care Card

> **Experience Points:** Earn 27 points from this tour.

Redeem **27 points** if you book by **February 8.**



## Includes

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of hotel accommodation and taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- Breakfast talk with Victoria historian, Danda Humphreys, then downtown walking tour
- Abkhazi Garden with afternoon tea
- Emily Carr House
- Victoria unique sites tour with Danda
- Craigdarroch Castle
- Victoria ghost stories, Old Cemeteries walks & evening mysteries tour with expert, John Adams
- Ross Bay Villa
- Gratuities for guides and speakers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **7 meals:** 1 breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 tea, 2 dinners

## Mysteries of Victoria

Victoria is a city with a fascinating history and numerous mysteries. Many buildings dating from over a century ago have been restored and a walk along Government Street or Douglas Street is like a walk back in time. Wells Gray Tours has offered many trips to Victoria to enjoy its gardens, theatres, and Christmas festivities, but this is our first tour in 15 years to focus on the city's past. To better understand Victoria's remarkable past, we have arranged for two well-known Victoria historians, Danda Humphreys and John Adams, to conduct three days of drives, walks, and talks around the city. Danda has lived in Victoria for over 20 years and is so passionate about the city's unique history that she has written five books. Her contagious enthusiasm brings history and Victorian characters alive during the guided excursions. John has been organizing interpretive tours for over 30 years. He is the author of four books and an expert on ghosts and unexplained incidents in Victoria. He is known for conducting "ghostly walks" in the evenings and is one of the organizers of the annual Ghosts of Victoria Festival.

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

### Sunday, March 25:

*Meals: L,D*

We travel the Coquihalla and take the 5 pm ferry to Swartz Bay. Enjoy the extensive Pacific Dinner Buffet during the crossing. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if the ship changes.) We stay four nights at **Chateau Victoria** which has an excellent location downtown near the Inner Harbour.

### Monday, March 26:

*Meals: B, tea*

During breakfast, **Danda Humphreys** presents "A Pocket History of Victoria and Vancouver Island", followed by a walking tour near the Inner Harbour with tales of Francis Rattenbury, Amor de Cosmos, and other colourful characters who made their mark along Government Street, the first paved street west of the Rockies. Afternoon tea is served at **Abkhazi Garden Teahouse**. This was the home of Prince Nicholas Abkhazi and his wife Peggy who came to Canada from Georgia (Russia) in 1946 and created these delightful gardens. Next, we tour **Emily Carr House** which was the birthplace and long-time home of the famous artist and writer. It has been restored to the ambiance experienced by the Carr family in the 1870s.

### Tuesday, March 27:

Danda joins us on the coach for a morning tour of historic sites of Victoria including St. Ann's Academy, imposing Christ Church Cathedral, the grand homes of Rockland Avenue, Government House,

and the upscale Uplands neighbourhood. This afternoon, we visit extraordinary **Craigdarroch Castle**, a Victorian-era mansion of 39 rooms built in the 1890s by wealthy coal baron, Robert Dunsmuir. The Castle features four floors of exquisite stained glass windows, intricate woodwork, and lavish furnishings representing late 19<sup>th</sup> century lifestyles of the rich and famous. Tonight we meet **John Adams** to hear tales of ghosts, peculiar incidents, and urban legends such as Cadborosaurus.

### Wednesday, March 28:

*Meals: L,D*

This morning, John takes us for leisurely walks through three fascinating old cemeteries – the Jewish Cemetery, Old Burying Ground, and **Ross Bay Cemetery**. Next we have a picnic lunch on the grounds of **Ross Bay Villa** and an interior tour of this 1865 cottage. Tonight, we take a drive past some of the most haunted places in Oak Bay, Victoria, and Saanich with two stops for ghost investigations and storytelling. One of these is at the **Victoria Golf Club** where Doris Gravlin was murdered in 1936 and still makes occasional appearances to the surprise of golfers.

### Thursday, March 29:

*Meals: L*

We take the 11 am ferry to Tsawwassen with the Pacific Buffet being served for lunch (see March 25 note). We travel home along the Coquihalla Highway.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 8, 2018.

**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 February 8. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$6 discount offered by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Gold Care Card or the new BC Services Card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to February 8, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From February 9 to February 23, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From February 24 to March 9, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After March 9, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes or 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, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Photo Credit:** Tourism Victoria (Craigdarroch Castle)



**Activity Level:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps. The Inner Harbour walking tour lasts 1 hour. There is an uphill walk of 2 short blocks to reach Craigdarroch Castle. The walking tours of 3 cemeteries are at a leisurely pace. 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. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you require a walker, you may miss some attractions. 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, driver and local guides 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 February 8.

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