

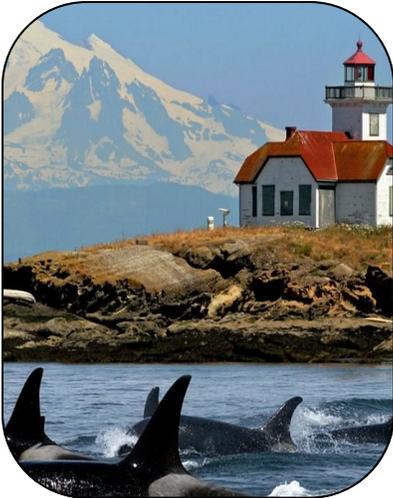
# SAN JUAN ISLANDS

Small ship cruising on the *Victoria Star 2*

September 18, 2018 ~ 5 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$1560** double/twin

**\$2045** single

**\$1490** triple



> Tour is exempt from GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$80 discount on first 10 seats; \$40 on next 6

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

> **Experience Points:** Earn 37 points from this tour.

Redeem **37 points** if you book by **July 12**.

## Includes

- Coach transportation to/from Bellingham dock
- 4 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Two cruises in the San Juan Islands on board *Victoria Star 2* for 2 hours and 4½ hours
- Choice of Whale Museum OR Museum of Art
- Tour of San Juan Island
- Lime Kiln State Park
- Alpaca Ranch
- San Juan Island National Historic Park
- Westcott Bay Sculpture Park
- Gratuities for *Victoria Star 2* crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **8 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner

## Tour Notes

- The *Victoria Star 2* is 30 metres long and carries about 100 passengers comfortably. It has two decks with lots of indoor seating, plus outside decks at the bow and stern for better viewing. The vessel is owned and operated by San Juan Cruises which has run excursions among the islands for many years.
- The itinerary consists of two cruises, one for 2 hours and one for 4½ hours. We will be sharing the vessel with people who are not in our tour group.

 **Activity Level:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps, such as boat docks, the *Victoria Star 2*, and to the two museums in Friday Harbor. At low tide, ramps to the docks can be steep. The coach and vessel cannot carry a scooter. 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 boat crew have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

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## Itinerary

### Tuesday, September 18:

Meals: L

After pickups around Victoria, we ride the 11 am ferry to Tsassassen. Enjoy the extensive Pacific Buffet for lunch during the crossing. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if the ship changes.) We cross the border at Blaine and stay overnight in Bellingham at the Oxford Suites. Bellis Fair Mall is a short walk and is open till 9 pm.

### Wednesday, September 19:

Meals: B

We board the *Victoria Star 2* in Bellingham and depart at 9:30 am. The **San Juan Islands** are an archipelago of 172 islands. Explored in 1791 by the Spanish expedition of Francisco de Eliza, these islands are rich with history, and the captain and crew tell entertaining tales of discovery, smuggling and war. After clearing Bellingham Bay, we cruise west for two hours, weaving among the San Juan Islands, and dock at **Friday Harbor**. It got its name from Joseph Poalie Friday, a native Hawaiian man who worked at the Hudson Bay Company's farm from 1841 to 1859. Your luggage is transferred from the vessel to our hotel. There is free time for lunch at one of the numerous restaurants near the marina. This afternoon, choose between two Friday Harbor museums. The **Whale Museum** opened in 1979 and was the first in the country to be dedicated to a species living in the wild. The **Museum of Art** is committed to promoting the arts of the Pacific Northwest and Southwest British Columbia, and champions the creativity of the amazing variety of artists in this region. (If you prefer to visit neither museum and have free time, your fare is reduced by \$10.) We stay two nights at Friday Harbor Suites.

### Thursday, September 20:

Meals: B,D

A driving tour of San Juan Island includes stops at Lime Kiln State Park, Whale Watch Park, Alpaca Ranch, a lavender farm, English Camp in **San Juan Island National Historic Park**, and Westcott Bay Sculpture Park. Hear the delightful story of the Pig War which started in 1859 on San Juan Island between British and American settlers and lasted 12 years — the only shot fired was the one that killed the pig. A stop is made in **Roche Harbor** which was established in 1886 as the company town of the Roche Harbor Lime Works. The classic Hotel de Haro is still open today and is listed on the National Historic Register. There is leisure time in Friday Harbor later this afternoon.

### Friday, September 21:

Meals: B,L

The morning is free time to enjoy the vibrant seaside town of **Friday Harbor**, filled with interesting shops and artist galleries. Walk to the dock (about 10 to 15 minutes along Spring Street) or the hotel's free shuttle can give you a ride. Lunch of local wild salmon is served on board *Victoria Star 2* at 1 pm. While cruising, we search for wildlife including Orca, Humpback and Minke whales, bald eagles, harbour seals, harbour porpoises, and sea birds. Then we continue on the final leg of our voyage, taking us through narrow channels and past scenic islands, and we dock in **Bellingham** about 5:30 pm. We stay overnight again at the Oxford Suites.

### Saturday, September 22:

Meals: B,L

There are shopping opportunities at **Bellis Fair** in Bellingham and the Duty-Free Store at Blaine. We head for home via the ferry to Swartz Bay and the Pacific Buffet is included on board.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 12, 2018.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$80 discount on first 10 seats and \$40 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 12. Seniors (65 & over) receive \$6 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Gold Care Card.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to July 12, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From July 13 to July 26, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From July 27 to August 15, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After August 15, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to currency exchange rates and 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.

**Nanaimo and Comox Valley pickups and dropoffs** will be offered if enough people book. Ride the Nanaimo to Tsawwassen ferry and meet the Victoria coach. Deduct \$40 per person as the Pacific Buffet is not offered on this ferry.

**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:** San Juan Cruises

**e-points:** This tour earns 37 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 July 12.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**