

# RAILS, RIVERS & ROSES

2 trains, 2 river cruises & Portland Rose Festival  
June 4, 2018 - 8 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$2870** double/twin

**\$3760** single

**\$2625** triple



> Tour is exempt from GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$120 discount on first 15 seats; \$60 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 59 points from this tour.

Redeem **59 points** if you book by **April 3**.

## Includes

- Transfer to Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna
- Transfer from Kelowna Airport to hotel
- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 7 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
- Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler dinner cruise
- Mount Hood Railroad
- Tour behind the scenes at floats barn
- International Rose Test Gardens
- Tony Starlight's Rat Pack Tribute dinner show
- Portland Rose Festival Queen's Coronation
- Reserved indoor seating for Grand Floral Parade
- Grand Floral Parade souvenir program & pin
- Portland Spirit lunch cruise on Willamette River
- Mount Rainier Railroad
- Logging Museum
- Gratuities for crew on cruises and trains
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **13 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

## Trains, boats and flowers

Wells Gray Tours has offered tours to the Portland Rose Festival for nearly 30 years. Those tours focused on the many events during the festival, but times have changed. You have told us that you are looking for more variety and different experiences during your holidays, so this tour has been created to provide a diverse range of activities. You travel on two trains (Mount Hood Railroad and Mount Rainier Railroad) and two boats (Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler on the Columbia River and Portland Spirit on the Willamette River). Three events of the Portland Rose Festival are included – a tour behind the scenes of the floats barn, the Rose Queen's Coronation, and the Grand Floral Parade.

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## Portland Rose Festival

After the city's first floral parade on June 10, 1904 and after the success of the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition, Mayor Harry Lane decided the city should have a festival of roses. An electrical parade was a sparkling feature at the first festival in 1907 and was described as the most lavish spectacle of its kind on the continent. Following the 1907 event, a group of businessmen formally organized the Portland Rose Festival as a non-profit civic enterprise. In those early years, Festival highlights included horse drawn floats in the floral parade, aquatic events in the nearby harbour, and fireworks at night. These visionaries created a celebration that held its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007, giving a lifetime of memories for millions. The International Festivals & Events Association presented the 2015 Portland Rose Festival with a total of 18 awards, and has previously ranked it as one of the world's top 10 festivals.

At the 2018 Festival, highlights include the Grand Floral Parade with indoor reserved seating, the Rose Queen's Coronation, a behind the scenes tour of the floats barn where the final stages of decorating take place, the International Rose Test Gardens, and a dinner theatre show *Tony Starlight's Rat Pack Tribute*. Immediately after the Parade, to avoid the congestion of thousands of visitors and over 100 coaches, we board the *Portland Spirit* for a lunch cruise on the Willamette River.

## Itinerary

### Monday, June 4:

A transfer is provided to the airport. We fly from Victoria to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Best Western Hotel.

### Tuesday, June 5:

Meals: L,D

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley. We cross the border at Osoyoos and travel south along the Okanagan and Columbia Rivers to Wenatchee. Soon we arrive in the quaint Bavarian-themed town of **Leavenworth**. We stay overnight at the lovely Enzian Inn, located near the town square.

### Wednesday, June 6:

Meals: B,L,D

Near The Dalles, we visit the impressive Columbia Gorge Discovery Center which interprets the history and geology of this vital river. We board the authentic **Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler** at Cascade Locks for a cruise with views of the cliffs, Bonneville Dam, and the lofty **Bridge of the Gods**, built in 1926. Dinner is served on board. We stay overnight at the Best Western Hotel in Hood River.

### Thursday, June 7:

Meals: L

Our first train ride is on **Mount Hood Railroad**. It has served as an economic lifeline for the Hood River Valley since 1906, carrying fruit and forest products to market. In the 1930s, area residents used it as a commuter train and now passengers ride it to enjoy great views of the orchards and volcanic Mount Hood and Mount Adams. This is a four-hour excursion including a stop in the village of Parkdale and lunch is on board. We continue the scenic drive through the Columbia Gorge with a

stop at 620-foot high Multnomah Falls. In downtown **Portland**, we stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel for three nights. Enjoy two hours of complimentary wine, beer or mixed drinks.

### Friday, June 8:

Meals: B,D

We go to the **Rose Festival floats barn** for a behind the scenes tour to see the final stages of float decorating on the day prior to the parade. The guide talks about the types of flowers and natural materials they use to create the life-like effects, and explains how the creative process works. Next we go to the International Rose Test Gardens in Washington Park. The afternoon is leisure time. Tonight, we attend a dinner theatre featuring **Tony Starlight's Rat Pack Tribute**. Join Tony and his band of seven players who perform the favourite songs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis.

### Saturday, June 9:

Meals: B,L

Today's highlight is the **Grand Floral Parade**. The event starts with the Rose Queen's Coronation, then the parade features two hours of elaborately decorated floats, marching bands, and equestrian groups. Every float displays an exquisite collection of fresh flowers. Our tickets were purchased in September 2017 to ensure you have excellent view seats inside the Coliseum. Since central Portland is so congested after the parade, we walk to the dock beside the Coliseum, then enjoy a two-hour cruise on the **Portland Spirit** along the Willamette River with lunch served on board. The rest of the day is free time. Don't miss the reception starting at 5:30.

**Sunday, June 10:***Meals: B,L*

We follow I-5 north, then rural roads to Elbe where we board the **Mount Rainier Railroad**. This steam train travels through the forest and across the glacial-fed Upper Nisqually River to the Logging Museum. Exhibits offer a chance to explore a comprehensive collection of steam logging locomotives and discover the stories behind the pioneers of railroad logging camps in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We continue through Seattle and stay overnight at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood. As in Portland, a complimentary two-hour reception is offered after arrival.

**Monday, June 11:***Meals: B*

Transportation is provided back to our Victoria departure points.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 3, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to April 3, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 4 to April 24, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From April 25 to May 15, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After May 15, there is no refund.

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

**Home pickups and dropoffs** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and the size of the chartered vehicle. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Photo Credit:** Portland Rose Festival

 **Activity Level:** Moderate activity including walking and steps, such as a 1-block walk to reach the *Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler* dock; steps in the Coliseum to reach your seat for the Floral Parade; a walk from the Coliseum to the *Portland Spirit* dock; and getting on and off the two trains. 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 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. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense. Travel insurance will probably not cover you.

**E-points:** This tour earns 59 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 3.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**