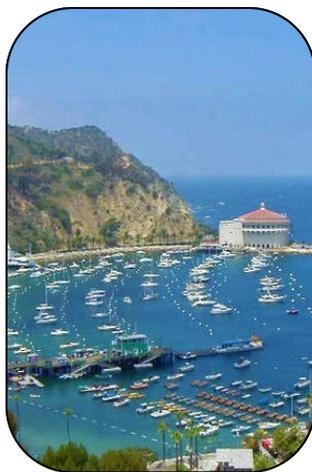


NEW YEAR'S ON CATALINA ISLAND

December 28, 2018 - 8 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$4175 double/twin

\$5285 single

\$3850 triple



- > This tour is limited to 25 people. Early booking recommended!
- > Please add 0.6% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 8 seats; \$100 on next 4
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 83 points; redeem 83 points by Sept 19.

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Includes

- Transportation to Vancouver Airport
- Westjet flight from Vancouver to Los Angeles
- Current air transport taxes and security fees
- 7 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Transfer from airport to Catalina ferry terminal
- Ferry from Long Beach to Catalina Island return
- Skyline tour on Catalina Island
- Taste of Catalina walking culinary tour
- New Year's Eve Dinner, Dance and Gala at Catalina Casino
- Wrigley Memorial & Botanical Gardens
- Historic tour of Catalina Casino
- Catalina Island Museum
- Transportation from Long Beach to San Diego
- Maritime Museum
- Transfer from San Diego hotel to airport
- Westjet flight from San Diego to Kelowna
- Transfers from Kelowna Airport to home cities
- Gratuities for culinary guide & California drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels, ferries and airlines
- **11 meals:** 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners

Welcome 2019 on Catalina Island!

Wells Gray Tours is excited to offer a very unique experience, ringing in the New Year of 2019 at a Gala Ball on Santa Catalina Island off the coast of California. The event is the 46th Annual New Year's Eve Celebration, staged in the magnificent ballroom at the historic Catalina Casino on Avalon's waterfront. Catalina Island is reached by an hour-long fast ferry ride from Long Beach south of Los Angeles. During our 3½ days and 4 nights on the island, we take a drive across the scenic hills, savour a culinary walking tour of Avalon, stroll the Wrigley Botanical Gardens, take an interior tour of the iconic Catalina Casino, and explore island history at the Catalina Museum. This will be a memorable New Year's to celebrate the arrival of the last year of the 2010s decade.

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

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



Santa Catalina Island

Santa Catalina Island is located 36 km off the coast of California south of Los Angeles. About 3,700 people live on Catalina, almost all in the island's only town, Avalon. The island is 37 km long and 13 km across at its widest point. Catalina Express provides frequent fast ferry service between Long Beach and Avalon for passengers only.

The chewing gum magnate, William Wrigley, bought the island in 1919 and the family has carefully controlled its development for the past century. In 1975, 88% of the island was deeded to the Catalina Island Conservancy, founded by the Wrigleys, and it still protects the island today. Avalon's cobblestone streets are narrow, quaint and winding, so the Wrigleys regulated the number of cars allowed, and today there is a 14-year waiting list to bring a car to the island. Most people get around by walking or using electric golf carts. Avalon is busy in the daytime when tourists come from Los Angeles on the ferries, but at night, after the last ferry has left, it is a delightful quiet village with an incomparable setting by the ocean.

Avalon is dominated by the Catalina Casino, a 12-storey Art-Deco building on the waterfront. It was built by the Wrigleys in 1929 as an entertainment centre and contained a movie theatre, seating 1,100 people, and a ballroom where 6,000 people could dance. It was never a casino for gambling; the name is from the Italian language meaning "gathering place" and Las Vegas popularized the word with an entirely different meaning in English. This magnificent building with perfect acoustics in the ballroom is the setting for our New Year's Eve Gala and Dance.

Itinerary

Friday, December 28:

Meals: L

We drive to Vancouver and stay overnight at the Fairmont YVR Hotel in the airport.

Saturday, December 29:

Meals: B

We fly on Westjet, arriving in the Los Angeles area at the small Orange County Airport to avoid the bustle of LAX. We ride the Catalina Express fast ferry for an hour from Long Beach to **Avalon on Catalina Island**. It is 10 minutes walk from the dock to the Pavilion Hotel where we stay for four nights. It is located on the harbour with a pedestrian walkway between the buildings and the beach. Each night, the hotel hosts a reception featuring local and imported wines and fine cheeses, and a sommelier explains the attributes of each.

Sunday, December 30:

Meals: B

Breakfast is included each morning, either indoors or on the patio overlooking the harbour. This morning is free time for optional paid activities such as kayaking in the harbour, the thrilling zipline with five lines and platforms, or a round of golf. You may prefer to stroll the harbourfront streets and explore Avalon. This afternoon, we take the **Skyline Tour** which uses low-g geared buses that can navigate the narrow roads to the island's interior. Many roads are single-lane with mirrors at the sharp corners to help the driver spot occasional oncoming vehicles. Along the way, there are

splendid views of the island and ocean as we climb over 600 metres to the Airport in the Sky.

Monday, December 31:

Meals: B,L,D

The morning is leisure time. At noon, we start a culinary walk through Avalon with **Taste of Catalina Food Tours**. Local guides share the inside scoop on everything food-related including hidden tidbits of the island's rich history and culture. Satisfy your appetite with award winning cuisines as you indulge your palate for a few hours of sipping, sampling, and savouring! Tonight, we go to the island's famous icon, the Catalina Casino, for a gourmet buffet dinner starting at 8 pm, followed by entertainment, dancing, and the **New Year's Eve Gala Ball**. Music is provided by The Xceptional Music Company Band featuring ten incredible musicians who have appeared on Austin City Limits, The Tonight Show, the Joan Rivers show, and at the Royal Albert Hall. They bring Big Band Music from Duke Ellington to *In The Mood* to *Sing Sing Sing*, and then the best music from the sixties till now to appeal to guests of all ages. The band performs from 9 pm to 1 am. Party favours, hats, noisemakers, and a champagne split are provided, ready for midnight when a balloon drop is staged. **Happy New Year!** Please note that the dress code tonight is semi-formal (jacket and tie required for men, dress for women) and also that the band is subject to change until mid-summer.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019:*Meals: B,D*

This morning, we go to **Wrigley Botanical Gardens**. Created in 1935 by Mrs. Ada Wrigley, its 37 acres feature California island endemic plants. Many are extremely rare and some are on the Endangered Species list. The centerpiece is the Memorial, dedicated to William Wrigley and his vision for Catalina Island - that it remain protected for all generations to enjoy. In the afternoon, we return to the **Catalina Casino** for an interior walking tour. Listen to stories about this magnificent structure, test the perfect acoustics in the ballroom, and enjoy the view of Avalon from the balcony. The **Catalina Island Museum** is also included. There is free time to enjoy the hotel's reception, then our Farewell to Catalina dinner is at the Bluewater Avalon Seafood Restaurant.

Wednesday, January 2:*Meals: B*

The morning is free time, then we ride the noon fast ferry back to Long Beach. Our coach meets us at the terminal and we drive to **San Diego** for two nights at Homewood Suites in the city centre.

Thursday, January 3:*Meals: B*

This is a free day to enjoy many optional attractions in San Diego. Join your tour director for a short walk to the **Maritime Museum** on the waterfront (admission included). It features many nautical displays and three historic ships including the *Star of India*, the world's oldest active ship. You may wish to visit other museums today, and 17 museums with different themes are located in beautiful Balboa Park.

Option: The renowned San Diego Zoo is an option this afternoon. Cost is \$69 per person including admission and transportation. Please book this option no later than final payment date.

Friday, January 4:*Meals: B*

The morning is free time. In the afternoon, we fly on Westjet from San Diego via Calgary to Kelowna. Transfers are provided to home cities.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due September 19, 2018. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 8 seats and \$100 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 19.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 17, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From August 18 to September 19, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From September 20 to October 19, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From October 20 to November 19, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 19, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from airlines 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo credit: California Travel

Tour 25: This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of tour is limited to 25 people, a more intimate travel experience.



Activity Level: Moderate activity including walking distances of up to 1 km and some steps. Motorized vehicles are discouraged on Catalina Island, so there is a 10-minute walk from the ferry to hotel (a cart can be requested if you need one), and a 15-minute walk to the Catalina Casino. Transportation has been requested for the Gala Ball. The hotel has no restaurant (breakfast is included), but there are numerous restaurants within a few minutes walk. Luggage handling from the ferry to the hotel and back is included. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. The coaches 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 frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour.

E-points: This tour earns 83 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 September 19.

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