

# INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

July 22, 2019 - 8 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$2950** double/twin

**\$3515** single

**\$2785** triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$150 discount on first 15 seats; \$75 on next 10

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$107 discount with BC Gold Care Card

> **Experience Points:** Earn 70 points from this tour.

Redeem **70 points** if you book by **May 16**.



## Includes

- Coach transportation for 8 days
- 7 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- *Northern Expedition* ferry voyage through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- Reserved seat in ferry's Aurora Lounge
- Museum of Northern British Columbia
- North Pacific Cannery Museum
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- VIA Rail from Prince Rupert to Prince George in "Touring Class" with seating in dome car
- Local guide during drive to Barkerville
- Barkerville admission with Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor
- Harrison Hot Springs & Copper Room show
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **10 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

## *Northern Expedition*

B.C. Ferries' **Northern Expedition** was specially designed for Inside Passage voyages. Launched in 2009, she is 150 metres long with a beam of 23 metres and a draft of 7½ metres. She carries 130 vehicles, 600 passengers, and 30 crew at a travelling speed of 20.3 knots. The ferry has three passenger decks and an outdoor sun deck. Facilities include the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant, gift shop, and Raven's Lounge. A comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included in your fare. The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert takes 15 hours, all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, marine life and birdlife. Our motorcoach travels on the ferry, so luggage and other belongings can be stored there.

**Please book early!** Unsold ferry and train space must be released on May 16. Even though we may have seats on the motorcoach, there may not be space on the ferry or train if you book after this date.

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## Itinerary

### Monday, July 22:

Meals: L

We drive north on the Island Highway, past Campbell River to **Port Hardy**, and stay overnight at the Kwa'lilas Hotel.

### Tuesday, July 23:

The **Northern Expedition** departs Port Hardy for a 15-hour scenic voyage in the **Inside Passage**. Along 500 kilometres of magnificent coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or whales. Highlights are the narrows at Bella Bella, Princess Royal Channel, and the long canal-like **Grenville Channel**. On arrival at **Prince Rupert**, we stay three nights at the Crest Hotel.

**Cabin option:** You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$130 or inside cabin for \$100 (per cabin), if available. Each is equipped with two berths, sink, toilet, and shower. Please request when you book.

### Wednesday, July 24:

The morning is at leisure to visit downtown shops and the wonderful Museum of Northern B.C. In the afternoon, we drive to Port Edwards on the Skeena River and tour the restored **North Pacific Cannery** which was built in 1889.

### Thursday, July 25:

Meals: L

**Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary** was established in 1994 and preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in B.C. We board a 22-metre catamaran for an all-day excursion to the sanctuary. The vessel has lots of outdoor deck space and floor to ceiling windows for unsurpassed viewing. We travel north through Chatham Sound, listening to fascinating stories about native villages and watching for dolphins, seals, sea lions, bald eagles, and blue herons as we learn first-hand about this diverse marine environment. July is a great month for easy viewing, as grizzlies are playing and feeding along the shoreline.

### Friday, July 26:

Meals: B,L,D

**VIA Rail's Skeena Train** is a spectacular all-day journey east to Prince George. There are splendid views as we follow the broad Skeena River and the rushing Bulkley River through the Coast Mountains. Across the Interior Plateau, the train skirts dozens of lakes and the tracks mostly follow a different route than the Yellowhead Highway. Enjoy being pampered all day in deluxe "Touring Class" with seating in the **dome car** and three meals served at your seat. Luggage stays conveniently on the coach and our driver meets us in **Prince George**. We stay at Ramada Plaza Hotel.

### Saturday, July 27:

Meals: B

We are treated to the knowledge of an expert historian from Quesnel to **Barkerville**. BC's largest restored town offers plenty to do for the day – listen to a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge Begbie at the Richfield Courthouse, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish waterwheel, attend church at St. Saviour's, or discuss an 1880s character with a costumed interpreter. The afternoon show at **Theatre Royal** is included. We stay overnight in Williams Lake at the Coast Fraser Inn.

### Sunday, July 28:

Meals: B,L,D

We follow the Cariboo Highway to Cache Creek. Lunch is included at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. This afternoon, we enjoy dramatic views through the scenic Thompson and Fraser Canyons. Our last night is at Harrison Hot Springs where you can relax in the hot pools and savour an elegant dinner in the Copper Room with entertainment by Hayley and The Lefties.

### Monday, July 29:

Meals: B

The morning is leisure time to use the hot pools again or stroll the park-like grounds. We take an afternoon ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 16, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$150 discount on first 15 seats and \$75 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 16. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$107 discount extended by BC Ferries and Via Rail. Deadline is May 16. You must show your BC Gold CareCard or Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to April 16, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 17 to May 16, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From May 17 to June 17, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After June 17, there is no refund.

**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:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some steps, mainly the cruise boat, train and around Barkerville. The ferry has an elevator. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you think you may have difficulty participating 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. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense.

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 70 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 May 16.

**Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842**

