

# CANADA DAY IN OTTAWA

Includes Montréal and Kingston

June 24, 2019 - 9 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$3970** double/twin

**\$4865** single

**\$3740** triple

> Please add 5% GST

> **Early Bookers:** \$180 discount on first 15 seats; \$90 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 96 points from this tour.

Redeem **96 points** if you book by **March 19**.



## Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Montréal
- Current air transport tax & security fees
- Airline baggage fees (one per person)
- Coach transportation for 8 days in Ontario and Quebec
- 8 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Locally-guided tour of Montréal
- Maison Saint-Gabriel
- Choice of Montréal Museum of Fine Arts **OR** McCord Museum of Canadian History
- Kingston Public Market
- Locally-guided tour of Kingston
- Canadian Penitentiary Museum
- Bellevue House National Historic Site
- Old Fort Henry with parade
- Dinner cruise through the 1000 Islands
- Locally-guided tour of Ottawa landmarks
- Tour of the Parliament Buildings
- Canadian Museum of History
- Canada Day events to be announced
- Fireworks viewing from Marriott Hotel
- Flight from Ottawa to Victoria
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **13 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

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## Celebrating 152 years since Confederation!

Canada is a rich and dynamic country that is home to more than 34 million people. We have a lot to be proud of. Canada is the second largest country in the world. We have vast geography, diverse cultures, and vibrant communities unlike any other nation. Since Confederation in 1867, Canada has seen a world of change. Today, we're part of a global community that is connected by technology and travel. Our provinces and territories continue to transform to reflect the evolving face of our people.

Our country is home to a diverse spectrum of citizens. Today, more than 20% of people living in Canada were born outside the country - a proportion we have not seen in almost a century. Conversely, more than one million Canadians call another country "home". These are some of the factors that influence our country and our communities. As we celebrate Canada's 152<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, it is important to reflect on the Canadian experience and what it means to be Canadian.

Confederation was the process by which the British colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were federally united into one Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867. At the same time, Canada was divided into four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Confederation was accomplished when Queen Victoria gave royal assent to the British North America Act on March 29, 1867, followed by a royal proclamation stating: "We do ordain, declare, and command that on and after the First day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-seven, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, shall form and be One Dominion, under the name of Canada." Since Confederation, Canada has seen many territorial changes and expansions, resulting in the current configuration of ten provinces and three territories.

The term Confederation has entered into Canadian parlance both as a metaphor for the country and for the historical events that created it. It has therefore become one of the most common names for Canadian landmarks. Examples include Mount Confederation, Confederation Square, Confederation Building, Confederation Park, Confederation Station, Confederation Heights, and Confederation Bridge. This is similar to the American and British practices of naming things "Union" and likewise the Australians with "Federation".

Sir John A. Macdonald was appointed by the Governor General, Lord Monck, to be the first Prime Minister of Canada and served until 1873, then again from 1878 to 1891. As the dominant figure of Confederation, he had a political career which spanned almost half a century. Macdonald's greatest achievements were building and guiding a successful national government for the new Dominion, using patronage to forge a strong Conservative Party, promoting the protective tariff of the National Policy, and building the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway.

Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1967 was a year-long celebration, highlighted by Expo '67 in Montréal. Events were held in communities all across the country. Today, 52 years later, 1967 is remembered fondly by many as a significant year for Canada. Similarly, our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017 was a momentous event across the Canada, although there was not a world exposition to anchor it.

This tour also features Kingston, the first capital from 1841 to 1844, and Montréal which was briefly the capital in 1844 and commemorated its 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. Ottawa became the capital of the united Province of Canada in 1849, and Confederation confirmed its permanent status. This tour includes stays in Montréal and Kingston, and culminates in Ottawa with three nights over Canada Day, July 1.

When this tour was planned in fall 2018, very few events in the three cities were finalized for 2019. We expect events will be announced in spring 2019. Dinner with a view of the Parliament Hill fireworks is confirmed at the Marriott Hotel in Ottawa.

Attending Canada Day in Ottawa is something special for Canadians. Travel with Wells Gray Tours on this memorable journey, learn about the roots of Canada as a country, and participate in Canada Day celebrations.

### Monday, June 24:

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport. We fly on Westjet to **Montréal**, arriving after 7 pm. Our accommodation for three nights is at the Delta Hotel which has a great location in Centre Ville near Sherbrooke Street and the subway.

### Tuesday, June 25:

Meals: B

The city of **Montréal** awaits! Explore this vibrant centre of French Canadian traditions with a locally guided tour that includes Mount Royal, Île Sainte-Hélène, downtown landmarks, and Olympic Park. The tour ends in **Old Montréal**, where there is free time for lunch and maybe a visit to the imposing Notre Dame Basilica. During the afternoon, we visit **Maison Saint-Gabriel National Historic Site**. Located in Pointe-Saint-Charles, this magnificent 350-year-old building is a fine example of the traditional architecture of New France. Purchased by Marguerite Bourgeoys in 1668 to house the King's Wards, it lay at the heart of the agricultural and educational activities of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame for three centuries.

### Wednesday, June 26:

Meals: B,D

The morning is free time for you to explore Montréal on your own. This afternoon, you have a choice between two Montréal museums (please select by final payment). The **Museum of Fine Arts** opened in 1860 and is among the largest art museums in North America with a collection of 42,000 works. The **McCord Museum of Canadian History** features artifacts in archeology, costumes, decorative arts, paintings, and photographs. Tonight, dinner is included at L'Auberge Saint-Gabriel. Built in 1688 by a French soldier, it was the first Inn in North America to receive a liquor licence, in 1754.

### Thursday, June 27:

Meals: B

This morning, we drive through the St. Lawrence Valley to **Kingston** at the outlet of Lake Ontario. Kingston's place in Canada's birth was always a military fort, first as a French stronghold against both British and Iroquois enemies and then as a British fort defending against American invaders. After the Rideau Canal was built, it became the primary economic centre for Upper Canada and was briefly the capital of the Province of Canada. After arrival, there is free time in the Public Market. A local guide meets us to conduct a tour that explains the city's special place in Confederation. We see landmarks such as Queens University, Bellevue House, Fort Henry, City Hall, the Martello Towers, the Royal Military College, and Kingston Penitentiary. We stay two nights at the Delta Hotel on the waterfront.

### Friday, June 28:

Meals: B,L,D

This morning, we visit the **Canadian Penitentiary Museum** which has replicas and artifacts from the infamous Kingston Penitentiary, closed in 2013. Later, we go to **Bellevue House**, John A. Macdonald's home in the late 1840s, which is now preserved as a National Historic Site. **Old Fort Henry**, also a National Historic Site, has loomed over Kingston since the War of 1812. A much larger fort was constructed between 1832 and 1836 to defend Lake Ontario, the entrance to the Rideau Canal, and the harbour. These were the strongest defences in Canada west of Quebec City, but neither the original nor the second Fort Henry was ever attacked. Lunch is included in a restaurant built inside the stone walls. This afternoon, there are various interpretive activities, highlighted by the parade at 3 pm. Tonight, we enjoy a **sunset dinner cruise** on Lake Ontario and among the westernmost of the 1000 Islands of the St. Lawrence River.

### Saturday, June 29:

Meals: B,D

It is a two-hour drive to **Ottawa**. After a lunchtime visit to Byward Market, a sightseeing tour with a local guide passes the Parliament Buildings, other noted government buildings, Rideau Canal, Chateau Laurier, 24 Sussex Drive, Rideau Hall, and the lovely homes of Rockcliffe Park. For the next three nights, we stay at the **Lord Elgin Hotel** which has an excellent location near the Parliament Buildings, Sparks Street, and downtown shops.

### Sunday, June 30:

Meals: B

A tour of the **Parliament Buildings** is arranged, including the House of Commons and the Senate chambers which are in temporary quarters while the Centre Block has an extensive renovation for the next few years. This afternoon, we go to the **Canadian Museum of History** (formerly Museum of Civilization) and enjoy its vast collection and amazing architecture.

### Monday, July 1:

Meals: B,D

**Happy 152<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Canada!** Activities for today will be confirmed as events are planned. A snacking dinner with drinks is arranged at the Marriott Hotel's 27<sup>th</sup> floor with a view of the spectacular **fireworks** starting at 11 pm.

### Tuesday, July 2:

Meals: B

The morning is free time. Our mid-afternoon flight on Westjet via Toronto goes to Victoria, and a transfer is provided to your pickup point.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 19, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to February 19, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 20 to March 19, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From March 20 to April 19, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From April 20 to May 17, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 17, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from the airline 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.

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

**Photo Credit:** Ottawa Tourism



**Activity Level:** Moderate activity including walking and stairs, especially at historic sites. There is no coach provided on Canada Day in Ottawa due to traffic congestion near Parliament Hill, so plan on lots of walking to those activities. The walk from Lord Elgin Hotel to Marriott Hotel for dinner is 1 km each way. There can be longer walks in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. The coaches 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 asked or required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

**e-points:** This tour earns 96 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 March 19.

**Consumer Protection BC Licences: #65842**