

HANDS - ON OREGON

September 20, 2019 - 9 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$5090 double/twin

\$6020 single

\$4810 triple



tour
a more intimate travel experience

- > Tour is exempt from GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 6 seats; \$100 on next 4
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 100 points from this tour.
Redeem **100 points** if you book by **July 17**.

Includes

- Transfer to/from Victoria airport
- Coach transportation for 9 days
- 8 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Alaska Airlines flight from Victoria to Portland
- Locally-guided walking tour of Portland
- Craft making at DIY Bar with beverage
- Star-gazing at Hopservatory
- Electric bike tour of Bend
- Tour and tasting at Deschutes Brewery
- Beachcombing for glass balls
- Marine Discovery cruise in Yaquina Bay
- Behind-the-scenes tour of Oregon Coast Aquarium with dinner among the sea creatures
- Kite-building workshop and learn to fly your kite
- Creative class at Mor Art Studio
- Flight from Portland to Victoria
- Gratuities for local guides, boat crew, instructors, and Oregon driver
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **15 meals:** 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners

Behind the Scenes in Oregon

There are so many amazing experiences in Oregon and Wells Gray Tours has arranged trips to many highlights of the state. This tour focuses on lesser-known attractions, culinary events, and hands-on activities. The quaint towns have a penchant for serving up legendary seafood, historic lighthouses, breathtaking viewpoints, stunning state parks, a cornucopia of galleries and museums, and a world class aquarium. Stroll through Portland with an expert guide. Make a craft while sipping a local brew. Learn about the night sky during a star-gazing session. Ride an electric bike. Explore a town famous for quilts. Look for glass balls on an Oregon beach. Explore an aquarium, then savour dinner among the sea creatures. Make your own kite at a workshop and learn how to fly it. Get up close and personal with a myriad of marine life. Create your own glass or mosaic art piece. Oregon has so much to do that most tourists don't know about. This tour is limited to just 20 travellers, as a small group is the best way to enjoy all these experiences.

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Itinerary

Friday, September 20:

Meals: D

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport. We fly via Seattle to Portland. The next two nights are in downtown **Portland** at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Built in 1912 as the Multnomah Hotel, it became a government office building during the 1970s and 1980s. A \$20 million restoration brought this beautiful structure back to life as an all-suite hotel in 1998. Visit with fellow travellers each evening at a two-hour reception with complimentary beverages. A welcome dinner is included.

Saturday, September 21:

Meals: B,D

We start the day with a **walking tour** of downtown Portland, led by a local guide. This afternoon, we go to **DIY (Do-it-Yourself) Bar** for some crafting lessons - you could make your own leather luggage tag or a passport holder. The lessons and a locally-made beer or wine are included, and you keep your craft item after completing it. Portland is known for its culinary finesse, and dinner is at the Hairy Lobster with share plates.

Sunday, September 22:

Meals: B,L

Mount Hood dominates the eastern skyline of Portland and rises to 3,429 metres. It is one of the string of volcanoes along the west coast and last erupted in 1866. We drive up to **Timberline Lodge**, a remarkable hotel built in 1936-38 by local artisans employed by the WPA program during the Great Depression. A walk around the huge lobby is a look back into history with its numerous antiques and stunning stone and wood architecture. Many films have been made at Timberline, most notably *The Shining*. Our lunch is a "Taste of Oregon" buffet. Descending from Mount Hood, we are now on the dry side of the Cascade Range. We stay two nights in **Bend** at the Riverhouse Hotel beside the Deschutes River. After dark, we drive to the **Hopservatory** for a star-viewing session with a 16-inch telescope and expert commentary by an astronomer. Afterwards, join your tour director in the adjacent pub for a hosted locally-made beer or other beverage.

Monday, September 23:

Meals: B,D

Hop on an **electric bike** for a leisurely riding tour of Bend. It is a beautiful city with vistas of mountains and the twisting Deschutes River along the route. Enjoy the exercise, but the motor assists you when you reach an uphill. This afternoon, there is a tour with tastings at **Deschutes Craft Brewery**.

Tuesday, September 24:

Meals: B

We head west to the quaint village of **Sisters**, named for the nearby trio of towering peaks. Sisters is a vibrant, artsy community with charming 1880s facades and famously known for its outdoor Quilt Show in July. We drive over the Cascades again, headed for **Florence** on the Oregon Coast where we stay at Driftwood Shores Resort, right on the beach.

Wednesday, September 25:

Meals: B,L,D

This morning, we roam the beach near the hotel, looking for souvenir glass balls (actually hidden for us by the local tourism board). We drive scenic Highway 101 north to Newport. In the afternoon, we board the MV Discovery for a two-hour sea-life **cruise around Yaquina Bay** featuring sea lions, seals, marine birds, some whales, and maybe a crab pot full of Dungeness crabs. We dock at the fabulous **Oregon Coast Aquarium**. There is time to enjoy its many displays, then we have a unique experience: a private dinner among the aquarium tanks with a great variety of marine life swimming around us. We stay two nights at Elizabeth Oceanfront Suites in Newport.

Thursday, September 26:

Meals: B,D

Lincoln City is a windy stretch of coastline, so it is ideal for **flying a kite**. We meet some professional kite flyers who teach us how to build our own kite and then how to fly it. You can even watch a demonstration set to music. Admire the elaborate and colourful creations by other kite enthusiasts. This afternoon, we visit the **Mor Art Studio** and learn from an expert artisan how to make a gorgeous piece of glass fusion art or a mosaic. Back in Newport, dinner is included at Zach's Bistro and we are treated to a talk by owner/chef Zach about everything that went into our meal.

Friday, September 27:

Meals: B

On the drive into Portland, we have a shopping opportunity at **Woodburn Premium Outlets**, one of the largest in the northwest. Our overnight stay is at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach Hotel, located beside the Columbia River.

Saturday, September 28:

Meals: B

We fly from Portland to Victoria, then a transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Tour Notes

The flights: To avoid two long days of driving to and from Oregon, this tour flies from Victoria to Portland and return. The flight is likely on Alaska Airlines both ways, so please plan on paying the luggage fee at check-in as Wells Gray Tours cannot pre-pay this; amount is about \$30 each way.

Capacity of tour: This tour is limited to just 20 travellers because a small group is the best way to enjoy all these unique hands-on experiences. Early booking is recommended!



Activity Level: Moderate activity including short distances to walk and stairs. There is a walking tour of downtown Portland with several hours of walking at a leisurely pace, standing or sitting. The altitude of Timberline Lodge is 1,817 metres or 5,960 feet. The ramp to the boat dock for the Yaquina Bay cruise could be steep at low tide. 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. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart at check-in if this could be an issue for you. 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. 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.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 17, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 6 seats and \$100 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 17.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 17, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From June 18 to July 17, the cancellation charge is \$500 per person (your deposit). From July 18 to August 16, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 16, there is no refund.

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

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: Grays Bay

E-points: This tour earns 100 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 17.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842