

B.C. FJORDS CRUISE

June 8, 2020 - 6 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$2360 double/twin

\$2725 single

\$2265 triple



- > Please add 5% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$100 discount on first 10 seats; \$50 on next 6
- > **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$10 discount with BC Services Card
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 55 points from this tour.
Redeem **55 points** if you book by **March 31**.

* HIGHLIGHTS *

Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, world's fastest
Knight Inlet, BC's longest fjord
Grizzly Bear viewing at Glendale River
Desolation Sound dinner cruise
Cascade Falls & Chatterbox Falls
Princess Louisa Fjord

Includes

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Ferry from Comox to Powell River
- 5-hour dinner cruise into Desolation Sound
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferries across Jarvis Inlet and Howe Sound
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo
- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **11 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 dinners

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Our Cruise Vessels

Knight Inlet & Nakwakto Rapids — *MV Naiad Explorer* operates exclusive charters and whale watching excursions throughout British Columbia's coastal waters. The ship is 17 metres long and is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating in case of inclement weather and there is an outdoor rear deck and an upper deck for excellent viewing. *Naiad Explorer* was built in 1999 and quiet engines were installed to minimize underwater noise for whales. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, the *Naiad Explorer* is a very fast vessel and is capable of travelling great distances in a day, including the length of Knight Inlet. Another benefit of her powerful engines is that she can hold a position in Nakwakto tidal rapids, allowing a thrilling view of this amazing coastal phenomenon.

Desolation Sound — British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973, attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, unusually warm waters, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snowcapped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain George Vancouver saw it differently two centuries ago when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our five-hour excursion from Lund visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay, and Copeland Islands, and dinner is served on board. Two vessels for 12 passengers each are used; both have indoor seating and washroom. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to enter shallow areas and narrow passages. Also see box below.

Princess Louisa Fjord — Three vessels, each carrying 10 or 12 passengers, are used for the voyage up Jervis Inlet to Malibu Lodge, through the narrows of Malibu Rapids, and into Princess Louisa Fjord. A stop is made at Chatterbox Falls where lunch is served on shore. All have indoor seating.

All vessels are operated by long-time captains with lots of experience on the B.C. coast.

Wells Gray Tours has previously offered other small ship excursions that have circled Quadra and Cortes Islands, explored fjords and narrow channels as far north as Kelsey Bay, and cruised in the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. This will be our 13th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 11th trip up Knight Inlet, British Columbia's longest fjord, and our 9th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the seven days on this tour, four days are devoted to cruising the sheltered waters near Vancouver Island. Come and join this unique tour, cruising some fabulous scenic waterways.

This tour is limited to 32 passengers to ensure comfort for everyone on the vessels.

Desolation Sound Opt-out: You can opt out of this cruise and your fare is reduced by \$130 each. Instead, a walking tour of historic Lund is offered with a local guide including an art gallery visit. Dinner is included at Beach Gardens Hotel in Powell River. The two vessels carry 24 passengers. Early bookers get first choice of the boat trip or the opt out. It is possible that late bookers will not have a choice.

Itinerary

Monday, June 8:

Meals: L

After pickups around Victoria, we drive north on the Island Highway with a lunch stop in Parksville. In **Port McNeill**, we stay two nights at the Haida Way Motor Inn.

Tuesday, June 9:

Meals: B,L

We board the ***Naiad Explorer*** for the first of four exciting ocean experiences. We cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere Passage to the mainland. Today's timing is important so we can experience the thrilling tidal rush through the **Nakwakto Rapids**. Here the waters of Seymour Inlet (58 km long) and Belize Inlet (40 km long) surge through the 300-metre wide gap. With the benefit of the *Naiad's* big engines, we cruise right into the tidal flow and have a sensational vantage point as the usually calm ocean comes to life like a giant rushing river. The spectacle happens twice a day, but a combination of

factors makes June 9 one of the best days in 2020 to experience the Nakwakto Rapids as the tide is ebbing (flowing out of the fjords) and predicted to reach the awesome speed of 12.4 knots at 9:53 am. These are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness. The rapids were discovered by explorers under the command of Captain Pender in 1865 and named for the local Indian tribe. Today's voyage includes **Blunden Harbour**, made famous by an Emily Carr painting, before we return to Port McNeill.

Wednesday, June 10:

Meals: B,L,D

Today we head to **Knight Inlet**, British Columbia's longest fjord at 113 km. Captain Vancouver, during his 1792 expedition, was impressed with "the high stupendous mountains rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" and named the fjord for John Knight, a British naval officer. The route goes past Village Island (an old First Nations village),

then through Beware Pass to see the pictographs on Turnour Island. After Minstrel Island and Clio Channel, we pause at Cutler Cove estuary for possible sightings of **grizzly bears**. The *Naiad's* powerful engines make short work of the journey up Knight Inlet to **Cascade Falls** which plunges directly into the ocean. Here, deep in the Coast Mountains, we are almost at the foot of giant Mount Waddington, British Columbia's highest mountain. During the return ride, we stop at the Glendale River estuary for another chance to see grizzly bears, then we weave through the Broughton Archipelago to Fife looking for Steller sea lions. After returning to Port McNeill, we drive south to Courtenay and stay overnight at **Kingfisher Resort**.

Thursday, June 11: *Meals: B,L,D*

We catch the 10 am ferry from Comox to Powell River, then drive to the end of Highway 101 at Lund. Our destination by boat is Desolation Sound and we spend five hours cruising among these islands and waterways with dinner on board. Note the option (previous page) to opt out of this cruise and take a guided walk in Lund with a visit to an art gallery. We stay overnight in **Powell River** at the oceanfront Beach Gardens Resort.

Friday, June 12:

Meals: B,L

We ride a ferry across Jervis Inlet to Earls Cove. This is a day of dramatic sights as we explore one of British Columbia's best known fjords. Leaving Egmont, we cruise for two hours up **Jervis Inlet** past soaring peaks and waterfalls that cascade directly into the ocean (see photo on first page). Malibu Narrows is the location of historic **Malibu Lodge**, an impressive log structure that was an exclusive retreat for Hollywood celebrities in the 1940s and is now a popular church camp. The narrows mark the entrance to **Princess Louisa Fjord** and, from here on, the sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water. The vessels dock at the upper end of the fjord and we have time ashore to admire the thundering cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. A picnic lunch is served at the falls. Back at Egmont, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechart and stay overnight at the Driftwood Inn on the waterfront.

Saturday, June 13:

We board a mid-morning ferry at Langdale for the 40-minute crossing of Howe Sound to Horseshoe Bay. Then we ride the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo, and drive home over the Malahat.

Nanaimo, Comox, Courtenay & area clients: You can easily join this tour. We will pick you up on June 8 in your home city and a transfer home will be provided from Nanaimo on June 13. Fares are the same as shown on the first page. If you live north of Parksville, there is no lunch included on June 8.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 31, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$100 discount on first 10 seats and \$50 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 31. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$10 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to March 31, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 1 to April 15, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From April 16 to May 6, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 6, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur anytime and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credit: Pat Manthey (waterfall in Jervis Inlet, seen on 2018 Wells Gray Tour)



Activity Level: Moderate activity including short distances to walk, such as on docks to and from the vessels and the short trail to Chatterbox Falls. Ramps onto docks can be steep at low tide. There are some steps, mainly getting in and out of the vessels. If you opt out of the Desolation Sound cruise, there is a leisurely walking tour around Lund. 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 frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour.

e-points: This tour earns 55 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 31.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842