

INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

July 10, 2020 - 9 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$3395 double/twin

\$4075 single

\$3180 triple

> Please add 5% GST.

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

> **BC Seniors (65 & over):** \$100 discount with BC Services Card

> **Experience Points:** Earn 73 points from this tour.

Redeem **73 points** if you book by **May 6**.



Includes

- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna
- Transfers to Victoria airport; from Kelowna airport to hotel; from Nanaimo to Victoria
- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 8 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ashcroft Manor
- Local historian during drive to Barkerville
- Barkerville Historic Town & Theatre Royal show
- VIA Rail train from Prince George to Prince Rupert in "Touring Class" with dome car seating
- Museum of Northern British Columbia
- North Pacific Cannery Museum
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- *Northern Expedition* ferry voyage through Inside Passage from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy
- Reserved seat in ferry's Aurora Lounge
- Ticket to a show at Chemainus Theatre
- Gratuities for local guides and boat crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **11 meals:** 5 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 Prince Rupert to Port Hardy 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 6. 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

Friday, July 10:

An afternoon transfer is provided to Victoria airport. We fly to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Best Western Hotel.

Saturday, July 11:

Meals: B,L

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley and Kamloops. Lunch is included at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. In the afternoon, we head north on the Cariboo Highway with a stop at Painted Chasm. We stay overnight at the Coast Fraser Inn in Williams Lake.

Sunday, July 12:

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 in Prince George at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

Monday, July 13:

Meals: B,L,D

VIA Rail's Skeena Train is a spectacular all-day journey from Prince George west to Prince Rupert. Across the Interior Plateau, the train skirts dozens of lakes and the tracks mostly follow a different route than the Yellowhead Highway. There are splendid views of passing scenery as we follow the rushing Bulkley River and the broad Skeena River through the Coast Mountains. You will be pampered all day in deluxe "Touring Class" with seating in the **dome car** and three meals served at your seat. Our luggage stays conveniently on the coach and our driver meets us in **Prince Rupert**. We stay three nights at the Crest Hotel, the city's finest.

Tuesday, July 14:

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.

Wednesday, July 15:

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.

Thursday, July 16:

The **Northern Expedition** departs Prince Rupert 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 killer whales. Highlights are the long canal-like **Grenville Channel**, Princess Royal Channel, and the narrows at Bella Bella. A reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included. On arrival in Port Hardy, we stay at the Kwa-lilas Hotel.

Cabin option: You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$135 or inside cabin for \$105 (per cabin). Each is equipped with two berths, sink, toilet, and shower. Please request at time of booking.

Friday, July 17:

Meals: B,L,D

We drive south on the Island Highway through Campbell River, and stay overnight at Best Western Chemainus Inn. A sumptuous buffet dinner is served at **Chemainus Theatre** and we attend the evening performance (2020 season will be announced in November).

Saturday, July 18:

Meals: B

There is free time to browse the shops in Chemainus, then we drive back to Victoria.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 6, 2020. 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 6. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$100 discount extended by BC Ferries and Via Rail. Deadline is May 6. You must show your BC Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour. Your ID is required to board the ferry.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 6, your payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From April 7 to May 6, cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From May 7 to June 5, the cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. After June 5, 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 stairs, mainly the cruise boat, train and walking 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.

E-points: This tour earns 73 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 6.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842