

# KOOTENAYS HOT SPRINGS

Fairmont, Radium and Ainsworth Hot Springs  
February 9, 2020 - 6 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$1695** double/twin

**\$2045** single

**\$1595** triple

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$60 discount on first 15 seats; \$30 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 28 points from this tour.

Redeem **28 points** if you book by **January 3**.



## Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Fairmont Hot Springs
- Radium Hot Springs admission & towel rental
- Kootenay Lake ferry
- Ainsworth Hot Springs (unlimited use)
- Presentation by Nelson historian
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **12 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

## Escape to the warmth of the Kootenays

The Kootenays region is known for many incredible wonders, one of which is the great variety of hot springs. February is a beautiful time to admire the winter wonderland of this area. Soaking up the snowy mountain scenery from the warmth of a steaming outdoor pool is nothing short of magical. This tour visits three hot springs: Fairmont, Radium and Ainsworth. Accommodation is right next to the hot pools at Fairmont for two nights and Ainsworth for two nights. Just bring your swim suit and be prepared to relax.

**Tip:** Luggage handling may take an hour after the coach arrival at Fairmont and Ainsworth. If you want to get into the hot pools quickly, we suggest you pack your bathing suit in your carry-on bag.

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## Itinerary

### Sunday, February 9:

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport. We fly to Kelowna and stay at the Best Western Hotel.

### Monday, February 10:

*Meals B,L,D*

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley. We travel east across **Rogers Pass** through Glacier National Park, admiring a winter wonderland of snowy peaks and frozen rivers. From Golden, we drive along the broad Rocky Mountain Trench to **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort**. As a hotel guest, you can enjoy a private hot pool close to your room, or use the larger public pool. The water temperature ranges from 104 to 110 degrees F and about 1.4 million gallons of odourless, mineral-rich water flows through the pools daily.

### Tuesday, February 11:

*Meals: B*

The morning is free time at Fairmont Hot Springs, an excellent opportunity to enjoy an optional spa treatment. In the afternoon, we drive a half-hour north to **Radium Hot Springs** in Kootenay National Park. Sir George Simpson of the Hudson Bay Company made the first recorded visit in 1841, bathing in a one-person sized pool dug out of the gravel. The present Aquacourt was built in 1951 and is now Canada's largest hot springs pool with a water temperature of 103 degrees F.

### Wednesday, February 12:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We travel south along Columbia Lake and the

Kootenay River to Cranbrook. From Creston, we follow the east shore of **Kootenay Lake** and ride the 'longest free ferry in the world' over to Balfour. Our destination is **Ainsworth Hot Springs** where we stay for two nights at the resort beside the hot pools overlooking Kootenay Lake. During your stay, there is unlimited access to the pools. The horseshoe-shaped cave is the hottest at 114 degrees F. and the main lounging pool averages 96 degrees F. For the brave, there is also a cold plunge pool.

Note: Some rooms at this hotel have lake views and some face the mountainside with no view; the earliest bookers are assigned lake view rooms.

### Thursday, February 13:

*Meals: B,L,D*

You can spend the whole day relaxing in and out of Ainsworth Hot Springs if you wish. Otherwise, a drive into nearby **Nelson** is offered. There are some interesting stores along Baker Street. Lunch is included at Nelson's famous **Hume Hotel**, a historical landmark which opened in 1898. A long-time resident meets us there to give a presentation about the fascinating history and architecture of Nelson where buildings less than a century old are considered "modern".

### Friday, February 14:

*Meals: B,L*

We drive across Bonanza Pass over the Monashee Mountains. After lunch in **Grand Forks**, we follow Highway #33 to the Okanagan Valley and fly from Kelowna to Victoria.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due January 3, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$60 discount on first 15 seats and \$30 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after January 3. Early bookers are also assigned lake view rooms at Ainsworth, subject to availability.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to December 3, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From December 4 to January 3, 2020, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person (your deposit). From January 4 to January 17, the cancellation charge is 60% of the tour fare. After January 17, there is no refund.

**Fare changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from 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, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

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

**Photo credit:** Ainsworth Hot Springs



**Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, 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.

**e-points:** This tour earns 28 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 January 3.

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