

# WELLS GRAY PARK

Canada's Waterfalls Park

May 27, 2020 - 5 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$1675** double/twin

**\$1935** single

**\$1590** triple



**tour**  
a more intimate travel experience

> Please add 5% GST.

> **Experience Points:** Earn 29 points from this tour.  
Redeem **29 points** if you book by **April 8**.

## Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport and Kelowna Airport to hotel
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Coach transportation for 4 days
- 4 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Copy of *Exploring Wells Gray Park*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition
- 6-hour boat excursion on Clearwater and Azure Lakes to Rainbow Falls
- Gratuities for boat crew & schoolhouse guide
- Trophies Lodge historic tour
- Knowledgeable tour director
- **10 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

## Tour Notes

Wells Gray Park is a vast wilderness area of 1.3 million acres, nicknamed Canada's "Waterfalls Park" and the "Volcanoes Park". Late May is an excellent time to visit Wells Gray Park since the waterfalls are spectacular with their spring run-off. The tour is directed by Roland Neave, owner of Wells Gray Tours and Wells Gray Gateway Guesthouse. Roland is also the author of the guidebook *Exploring Wells Gray Park*; the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition was published in 2015 and a complimentary autographed copy of this 400-page all-colour book is yours as a souvenir of this tour.

With a small group like this, the boats are able to take us up Clearwater Lake, through the Clearwater River into Azure Lake, then to the beach at the east end of Azure Lake to view Rainbow Falls.

The trip was a 4-day tour for many years, offered once annually. In 2018, we added an extra day to give time for more activities, longer walks, and a more leisurely itinerary, and this will continue in 2020.

Come and see the birthplace of Wells Gray Tours! There is a connection to the Park's name, dating back 48 years. An environmental organization offered tours of Wells Gray Park in 1972 as a means of protesting BC Hydro's plans to build seven dams on the Clearwater River. Roland and some university friends were volunteer guides. From this modest beginning with a single tour route, Wells Gray Tours has evolved to offer worldwide travel.

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## Itinerary

### Wednesday, May 27:

Transportation is provided to Victoria airport. We take an afternoon flight to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Best Western Hotel.

### Thursday, May 28:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We travel north along the Yellowhead Highway to Clearwater. After lunch, driving through the **Clearwater River Valley**, we see the extinct Pyramid Volcano and Mushroom Canyon, and tour the 1948 one-room schoolhouse. We admire a panoramic view across southern Wells Gray Park from the summit of Green Mountain. The highlight is awesome **Helmcken Falls** where the Murtle River plunges 141 metres (465 feet) over a lava cliff to form Canada's 4<sup>th</sup> highest waterfall. We stay three nights at the Wells Gray Inn in Clearwater. After a buffet dinner, Roland presents a slide show about Wells Gray Park, gleaned from over 50 years of exploring its roads and trails.

### Friday, May 29:

*Meals: B,L*

At road's end, we board two fast jet-boats for the journey up lovely **Clearwater Lake** with splendid views of the Cariboo Mountains and **Garnet Peak**, Wells Gray Park's third highest mountain. The boats' powerful engines make easy work of the fast-flowing Clearwater River and soon we enter pristine **Azure Lake** which is 28 km long and surrounded by soaring peaks. A stroll through an

old-growth cedar forest leads to **Rainbow Falls** on Angus Horne Creek, then a picnic lunch is provided at the beach. This six-hour boat excursion explores a spectacular area of Wells Gray Park that few tourists get to see, since it can only be reached by boat.

### Saturday, May 30:

*Meals: B,L,D*

We hike to 35-metre tall **Moul Falls**. A flight of stairs leads to an awesome view at the bottom of the waterfall. See Activity Level (below) for more details. Next is a historical tour of **Trophies Lodge** which once catered to celebrities fishing the teeming waters of the Clearwater River. Other sights today are **Bailey's Chute**, the furthest point that spawning salmon swim up the Clearwater River, Marcus Falls, the abandoned pioneer Ray Family homestead, and the bubbling **Ray Mineral Springs**. During our return to Clearwater, we see 90-metre wide **Dawson Falls** on the Murtle River. Dinner is at the Painted Turtle Restaurant on the shore of Dutch Lake.

### Sunday, May 31:

*Meals: B,L*

We visit **Spahats Falls** which tumbles 75 metres into a deep gorge. There are also stops at Clearwater Valley Overlook and the waterfalls of Third Canyon. The Wells Gray Park Visitor Centre is our last stop. We take a late afternoon flight 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 April 8, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to March 6, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 7 to April 8, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From April 9 to April 28, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After April 28, 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 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.

 **Activity Level:** Moderate activity including walking on gravel trails and uneven surfaces, stepping in and out of the boat, and spending lots of time outdoors. The longest walk is to Moul Falls which is 4 km round trip and a descent of 120 metres including the stairs to the bottom of the falls. Duration is 2½ hours. A day pack, water bottle, and hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes are essential. You can wait at Trophies Lodge, the start of the hike, if this is too strenuous for you. Completing this hike is rated as **Activity Level 3**. Other walks are less than 30 minutes round trip. Luggage handling is not available at the hotel. Seeing all the natural sights mentioned requires active participation. You should not book this tour if you are dependent on a walker. 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 29 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 April 8.

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