

# NEW YORK CITY & WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 22, 2020 — 9 days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$5595** double/twin

**\$7095** single

**\$5200** triple

> Please add 0.1% GST

> **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 10 seats; \$125 on next 6

> **Experience Points:** Earn 125 points from this tour.

Redeem **125 points** if you book by **February 19**.



## Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Westjet flight from Victoria to New York
- Current air transport taxes and security fees
- 8 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Transfer from airport to Manhattan hotel
- 7-day New York subway pass
- Locally-guided tour for 5 hours of the landmarks and famous sights of Manhattan
- Subway and ferry to/from Ellis and Liberty Islands
- Ellis Island Museum
- Ticket to *Girl from the North Country*
- 2-day hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus pass
- Top of the Rock
- Ticket to *Ain't too Proud*
- Cruise past Manhattan landmarks
- Coach transportation to Washington, DC
- National Mall trolley pass
- Ticket to *Shear Madness*
- Alaska Airlines flight from Washington to Victoria
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling fees at hotel and Westjet
- **5 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners

**New York City**, the city of icons. Empire State Building. Statue of Liberty. Rockefeller Center. American Museum of Natural History. Top of the Rock. Macy's Fifth Avenue. Radio City Rockettes. Metropolitan Museum of Art. Ground Zero. Central Park. Times Square. Broadway. The list of familiar sights and experiences goes on and Wells Gray Tours is proud to take you there. The tour is planned for late May, traditionally a quieter time for the city, when hotel rates are not as exorbitant. This tour has lots of choices. There is a balance of organized activities and free time to help you maximize your exploration during your stay. We have included a 2-day hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus pass and a 7-day subway pass which are great ways to get around the city. Two Broadway musicals are included — *Girl from the North Country* and *Ain't too Proud*. Your knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director is available to assist you with your plans.

**Washington, DC** is the seat of American history and government. Lincoln Memorial. Capitol Hill. The Pentagon. Smithsonian Museums. National Mall. The White House. A city tour with a local guide provides an introduction, then your ticket on the National Mall trolley gets you easily to the places you want to visit.

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## Tour Notes

**Novotel Hotel** — Our accommodation for six nights in New York City is at the four-star Novotel Times Square Hotel, located in the heart of Midtown New York. It is right in the theatre district on the corner of 52<sup>nd</sup> St and Broadway and is within walking distance to the best attractions: 6 minutes to Times Square, 8 minutes to Central Park, 5 minutes to Rockefeller Center, and 6 minutes to Fifth Avenue's prestigious shops. The hotel has a fitness centre and restaurant, and many other restaurants are nearby.

**Embassy Row Hotel** — We stay two nights in Washington at the Embassy Row Hotel which has an excellent location in the Dupont Circle neighbourhood downtown. The Dupont Circle Metro Station is 3 minutes walk and gives easy access to all the museums and monuments along the National Mall. The hotel has a restaurant and roof-top pool and lounge.

**Getting around** — Both cities are best explored on foot. In New York City, because of traffic congestion and the proximity of everything to our hotel, many of the attractions we visit will be reached by walking. Taxis are numerous and accessible, so you always have the option of taking a cab to the location where the group is going if you prefer. In Washington, the subway is a convenient and fast way to get around, but a taxi will easily take you where you wish to go.

**Theatre** — We have included show tickets for two Broadway musicals — *Girl from the North Country* and *Ain't too Proud*. A tour of Radio City Music Hall is optional. Wells Gray staff can assist you in purchasing tickets to additional shows in advance, or you can wait until you get to New York and pick up 'day of show' tickets for a greatly reduced rate at the ticket office located in Times Square. There could be 40 to 50 shows playing when you are there. In Washington, the long-running show *Shear Madness* is included. You may want to check the schedule for the Kennedy Center as there is likely to be a concert or other show on the other night we are there.

## Itinerary

### Friday, May 22:

Transfers are provided to Victoria Airport. We fly on Westjet via Toronto to New York's La Guardia Airport, arriving in the evening. Welcome to **New York City!** Your tour director provides a brief orientation on the way to the Novotel Hotel.

### Saturday, May 23:

Meals: B

During a five-hour guided sightseeing tour around **Manhattan**, we view some of its iconic sights such as Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Fifth Avenue, Little Italy, and Central Park. Your tour director provides an introduction to the New York subway system, an essential way to get around the city conveniently. If you are interested, we can arrange a backstage tour of famous **Radio City Music Hall** for an extra C\$32 each.

### Sunday, May 24:

Meals: D

We ride the subway, then the ferry to **Ellis Island** and Liberty Island. The Ellis Island Museum tells stories of the 17 million immigrants who arrived here from 1892 to 1954. Dinner is at Ellen's Stardust Diner. Afterwards, we go to our first Broadway show — ***Girl from the North Country***. It is set in the 1930s and incorporates 19 Bob Dylan songs. The show won two Lawrence Olivier awards in 2018 and received excellent reviews.

### Monday, May 25:

The day is on your own with unlimited access to the sightseeing tour buses. Using the supplied map showing different routes and pick up locations, you can hop on, ride a few blocks, hop off, and conveniently visit an attraction. In order to give you lots of free time, the only scheduled activity is the **Top of the Rock**, the 70<sup>th</sup> floor art deco observation deck above Rockefeller Center. Enjoy the panoramic view of New York City spread out below.

### Tuesday, May 26:

This is another day to use your hop-on, hop-off touring pass. Tonight, we enjoy a second Broadway musical, ***Ain't Too Proud***, the story of the vocal group The Temptations. It includes 30 of their best known songs and won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography. The show opened in 2017 and had extended runs in several cities before moving to Broadway in 2019.

### Wednesday, May 27:

Meals: D

Most of the day is free time. At noon, we take a 1½ hour narrated **landmarks cruise** to view New York's most famous buildings from the water, including a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty. Dinner is at Emmett O'Lunney's Irish Pub on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a block from the Novotel.

**Thursday, May 28:**

Meals: B

We leave New York City and travel by coach to **Washington, DC**. This afternoon, a city tour with a local guide provides an orientation to the many attractions along the National Mall that you may wish to visit during free time tomorrow.

**Friday, May 29:**

Meals: B

There are 19 Smithsonian museums and 11 of them are around the Mall, all with free admission, and different themes. We have left today as a free day, because people have many different interests and selecting one or two museums probably won't satisfy everyone. On the north side of the Mall are the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of African American History, and the National Museum of Natural History. On the south side are the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Air and Space Museum, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Arts and Industries Building, Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle), Freer Gallery of Art, Sackler Gallery,

and the National Museum of African Art. Other attractions are the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, White House, International Spy Museum, Vietnam Memorial, and Martin Luther King Memorial. The choices are many and there is only a day to visit those sites that interest you. An all-day trolley pass is provided to conveniently get you around the Mall. Tonight, we go to Kennedy Center to see **Shear Madness**, one of the world's longest running non-musical plays, now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year in Washington. Much of the dialogue in this murder mystery is improvised by the actors, and the humour tends to revolve around topical references to current events. The ending of the play is different every night as audience members hear clues, question the characters, and then vote on who they think is guilty.

**Saturday, May 30:**

A transfer is arranged to Dulles Airport. We fly on Alaska Airlines via Seattle to Victoria. Transportation is provided to your pickup point.

**Tour Policies**

**Payments:** A deposit of \$500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 19, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 10 seats and \$125 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after February 19.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to January 17, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From January 18 to February 19, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From February 20 to March 19, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From March 20 to April 17, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After April 17, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to currency exchange or taxes 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 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** 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.

**Airline luggage fee:** Please note that Alaska Airlines charges a fee of US\$30 per piece and payment must be made individually at airport check-in. The Westjet luggage fee is included.



**Activity Level:** Moderate activity including lots of walking on New York streets and the Washington National Mall, and touring independently. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart or wheelchair 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 drivers

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.

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 125 points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until February 19.

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