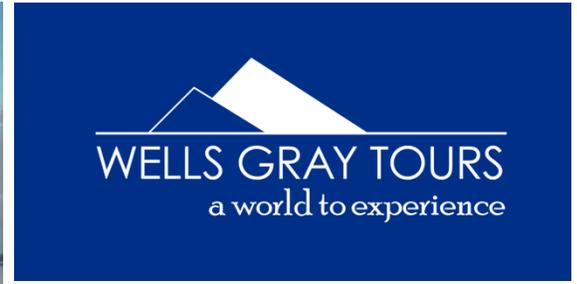




Poets Cove Resort



Salt Spring

CRUISING THE GULF ISLANDS

September 6, 2020 - 6 Days

This tour stays four nights at Poets Cove, the premier luxury resort in the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. The main building has 22 beautifully appointed bedrooms, all with ocean view and a deck. The Aurora Dining Room serves our breakfasts and dinners, and Syrens Bistro offers a pub atmosphere for casual evening get-togethers. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is free time for you to enjoy this service. An outdoor pool and hot tub are tucked into the hillside above the lodge. Other highlights include two full days of cruising in the Gulf Islands on Orca Spirit's Pacific Explorer led by a certified marine naturalist whose knowledge and passion for Vancouver Island's marine wildlife is unequalled in the industry, and is equipped with hydrophones to bring the underwater experience to light. One full day is dedicated to touring Pender Island and one full day is spent at Salt Spring Island with a tour up Mt. Maxwell and free time at Ganges.

Activity Level: 1



11 Meals Included:

3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners

Fares:

\$2,525 pp double/twin in Lodge room

\$2,525 pp double/twin in Cottage or Villa shared with 2 others

\$3,065 pp single in Lodge or shared with single in Cottage or Villa

\$2,620 pp triple in Cottage or Villa

Please add 5% GST

Early Bookers:

\$140 discount on first 12 seats; \$70 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 57 points on this tour

Redeem 57 points if you book by July 6



ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, September 6

During the ferry ride to Swartz Bay, enjoy the extensive Pacific Dinner Buffet. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if the ship changes.)

We stay overnight at the Coast Harbourside Hotel in **Victoria**.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Coast Harbourside Hotel

Day 2: Monday, September 7

We board the **Pacific Explorer** in the marina beside the hotel and cruise out of the Inner Harbour. The cruise route is flexible and depends on sightings of **Orca whales** or other marine creatures. We may cross the border to the San Juan Islands (no passport needed, since we don't land). We may cruise along the rugged shore of **Spieden Island**, a privately-owned island with a collection of exotic animals. A box lunch is served on board. After about six hours of splendid island scenery, we enter peaceful Bedwell Harbour and dock in front of **Poets Cove Resort** on South Pender Island. Settle into your luxurious lodge room, cottage or villa for the next four nights. Tonight, savour dinner in the Aurora Room overlooking the harbour, then enjoy music in Syrens, a walk on the extensive grounds, or sitting on your deck watching the sunset across Bedwell Harbour.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Day 3: Tuesday, September 8

Back on board the Pacific Explorer, a six-hour cruise is offered which may explore the shorelines of **Saturna, Galiano, Mayne, or**

Prevost Islands or other Gulf Islands. Lunch is served on board. The captain continues to watch for whales, seals and other marine life. Tides permitting, we may go through the narrows between the Pender Islands.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Day 4: Wednesday, September 9

During a tour of Pender Island, our first stop is **Roesland**, a popular beach resort from the 1920s until 1990. The property is now part of Gulf Islands National Park and the Pender Islands Museum is here. Enjoy a walk among the arbutus trees to the tip of Roe Islet. We also visit **Sea Star Winery** for a tour and tasting. There are short walks along Mortimer Spit and across the bridge that joins the two Pender Islands. You may wish to book a spa session for later today.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Day 5: Thursday, September 10

The Gulf Islands water taxi picks us up at the marina and takes us over to **Salt Spring Island** and the town of Ganges. We ride in vans up the winding road to the summit of **Mount Maxwell** and enjoy a panoramic view over Salt Spring Island, the other Gulf Islands, and the Sansum Narrows. There is free time in Ganges, then we ride the water taxi back to Poets Cove in mid-afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Poets Cove Resort

Day 6: Friday, September 11

We drive to the ferry terminal on North Pender Island and take the ferry to Tsawwassen with short stops at Mayne and Galiano Islands.

POETS COVE RESORT & PACIFIC EXPLORER

Poets Cove is the luxury resort of the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. The main building has 22 beautifully appointed bedrooms, all with ocean view and a deck. There are also spacious 2-bedroom cottages and villas with living room and 2 bathrooms which are suitable for 4 double/twin guests sharing or 2 single guests sharing at the same fares. The Aurora Dining Room serves our breakfasts and dinners, and Syrens Bistro offers a pub atmosphere for casual evening get-togethers. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is leisure time to enjoy this service. An outdoor pool and hot tub are tucked into the hillside above the lodge. This tour was first offered as the 2010 Mystery Tour and everybody was impressed with the luxury of Poets Cove; the tour has been offered five times since then.

Our charter vessel, Pacific Explorer, is licenced for 70, but this tour carries only 42 passengers for comfort. She has full-length tinted windows, indoor nook seating for everyone, washrooms, bar service, and an open-air viewing deck with bench seats and awning. She is 15.5 metres long and travels at up to 22 knots.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation to Victoria and home from Pender Island
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay
- 2 days of cruising on Pacific Explorer around the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands
- Mini-bus/van tour of Pender Island
- Water taxi from Pender Island to Salt Spring Island and return
- Van transportation to top of Mount Maxwell
- Pender Island Museum at Roesland
- Sea Star Winery tour and tasting
- Ferry from Pender Island to Tsawwassen
- Gratuities for crew on Pacific Explorer, water taxi, Pender Island driver, Mount Maxwell drivers
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **11 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners

TOUR NOTES

 **Activity Level 1:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs, mostly getting on and off Pacific Explorer. The ramps to the boat docks can be steep at low tide. There is a short walk from the hotel along the dock to the vessel. The cottages and villas have a downhill walk with some stairs to reach the main lodge building. The coach and vessel 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. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 6, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. ,

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$140 discount on first 12 seats and \$70 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 6.

Cancellation Policy: Up to July 6, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From July 7 to August 6, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 6, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from ferries, the vessel, 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 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: are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Please request no later than at final payment.

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Experience Points: This tour earns 57 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 July 6.

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

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www.wellsgraytours.com

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