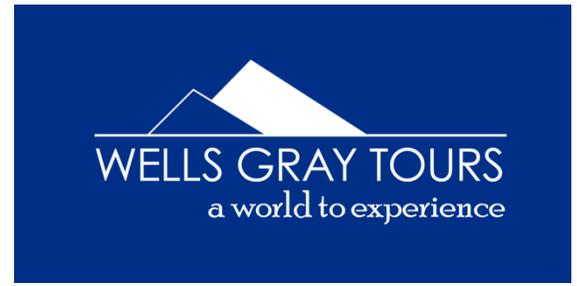


Dempster Highway



Virginia Falls

## ROAD TO THE ARCTIC

July 30, 2021 – 23 Days

With 4-day cruise from Skagway to Vancouver on *Koningsdam*

This epic journey to the Arctic Ocean has only been possible since the road to Tuktoyaktuk opened in late 2017. Come and enjoy a great variety of sights and experiences in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, and a cruise to Vancouver. Some of the many highlights are: Yellowknife, the capital and largest community of the Northwest Territories; a boat trip on Great Slave Lake with a fish fry lunch served on an island, a scenic flight to Nahanni National Park landing at Virginia Falls, a swim at Liard Hot Springs, SS Klondike National Historic Site, the storied Dempster Highway, crossing the Arctic Circle, the new Tuktoyaktuk road, a locally-guided tour of Tuktoyaktuk with a visit to an Inuit home and a fashion show, Dawson City with goldpanning on Bonanza Creek, a show at Diamond Tooth Gerties, Top of the World Highway, Kluane Lake, the St. Elias Mountains, highest in Canada; and the White Pass & Yukon Railway from Carcross to Skagway. Then we board Holland America's *Koningsdam* for a four-day cruise to Vancouver via Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, and the Inside Passage.

Activity Level: 2



46 Meals Included:

16 breakfasts, 18 lunches, 12 dinners

Fares per Person: based on double/twin

\$8,755 Inside Category I

\$9,125 Oceanview Category C

\$9,380 Verandah Category VA

Other cruise categories available along with single and triple fares.

Please add 2.9% GST

Early Bookers Discount:

\$300 discount on first 10 seats; \$150 on next 6

Experience Points:

Earn 200 points from this tour

Redeem 200 points if you book by April 20.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Friday, July 30

We fly on WestJet from Kelowna via Calgary to **Yellowknife**, the capital and largest community of the Northwest Territories. We stay two nights at the Explorer Hotel. Dinner is a chance to meet your fellow travellers as we embark on our Arctic road tour.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Explorer Hotel

### Day 2: Saturday, July 31

A locally-guided tour features highlights of Yellowknife, followed by a boat trip on **Great Slave Lake** with a fish fry lunch served on an island. This is the deepest lake in North America at 610 metres, and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest lake in the world, covering 27,195 square km. The rest of the day is free time for you to explore Yellowknife and visit the outstanding **Prince of Wales Museum**.

**Meals included:** Lunch

**Accommodation:** Explorer Hotel

### Day 3: Sunday, August 1

We start our road journey across the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Alaska. The Mackenzie Highway winds around the north arm of Great Slave Lake to Fort Providence. We cross the mighty **Mackenzie River** on the Deh Cho Bridge which opened in 2012 at a cost of \$200 million. The Mackenzie starts just upstream in Great Slave Lake and flows 1,742 km to the Arctic Ocean, making it Canada's longest river. We stop at Sambaa Deh Falls, then a ferry takes us over the broad Liard River to **Fort Simpson**.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Nahanni Inn

### Day 4: Monday, August 2

Today is one of the most memorable of our Arctic journey. We board charter planes for a thrilling air excursion into the wilderness of **Nahanni National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The highlight is 100-metre high **Virginia Falls**, one of Canada's greatest cataraacts and also one

of the least-visited. The planes land near the falls and you have 1½ hours to visit the awesome viewpoints. Downstream from the falls, the Nahanni River boils through miles of rapids below 1,000-metre tall cliffs. These canyonlands were made famous by prospectors' tales a century ago of lost gold and the Headless Valley. A recommended book is Raymond Patterson's *The Dangerous River*, a gripping account of his 1927 journey into the Nahanni. Weather permitting, our flight route follows the Nahanni River from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Canyon past Pulpit Rock, then goes to Little Doctor Lake, the rugged **Mackenzie Mountains**, and the soaring cliffs of Ram Plateau.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Nahanni Inn

### Day 5: Tuesday, August 3

We follow the Liard Highway south into B.C. and join the **Alaska Highway**. This world-famous road was built in 1942 in just eight months and has been continually upgraded. This scenic part of the Alaska Highway winds through the barren Rocky Mountains. We stay two nights on the shore of Muncho Lake at **Northern Rockies Lodge**, one of Canada's largest log structures.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Northern Rockies Lodge

### Day 6: Wednesday, August 4

A trip is offered to nearby **Liard Hot Springs** where the water temperature ranges from 108° to 126°F. This afternoon, you may want to take a pleasant stroll along the shore of Muncho Lake.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Northern Rockies Lodge

### Day 7: Thursday, August 5

We continue along the Alaska Highway following the Liard River and enter the Yukon at an elaborate monument. In **Watson Lake**, we see the famous Signpost Forest, started by a homesick roadbuilder in 1942 and now numbering over 77,000 city signs. We drive along the east shore



resident and includes a chance to dip a toe or finger in the frigid **Arctic Ocean**. We also enjoy a traditional lunch at an Inuit home and a presentation on Inuit fashions and lifestyles.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Mackenzie Hotel

### Day 13: Wednesday, August 11

A popular attraction is Our Lady of Victory Church, nicknamed the Igloo Church. We fly at noon from Inuvik to Dawson City, a flight of 1¼ hours on Air North. This afternoon, a local guide accompanies us on a drive around **Dawson City** and up Bonanza Creek to the gold diggings. The gigantic Dredge #4, now a National Historic Site, is included and you can try panning for gold yourself at Claim #33 (you keep what you find, even at \$1,700 an ounce).

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Downtown Hotel



### Day 14: Thursday, August 12

This is a free day and there are many optional activities to enjoy: the visitor centre, a presentation by the "Ghost of Robert Service", a cruise on the Yukon River, or the SS Keno sternwheeler. The Downtown Hotel's bar serves the famous

Dawson drink, the Sour Toe Cocktail, if you dare! Tonight, we go to **Diamond Tooth Gerties** for casino gambling and a vaudeville show.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Downtown Hotel

### Day 15: Friday, August 13

Today's drive traverses the magnificent **Top of the World Highway**, so named because it winds for miles across the tops of high ridges above treeline. A surprise is the isolated U.S. Customs building, for this is "Welcome to Alaska". Just past the border is the unique village of **Chicken** where you can mail your postcards with a very unusual postmark. We stay overnight in **Tok** on the Alaska Highway.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Young's Motel

### Day 16: Saturday, August 14

We soon re-enter Canada and the Yukon at Beaver Creek, following the Alaska Highway. Much of this drive offers spectacular mountain scenery, dominated by the rugged **St. Elias Mountains** to the south. Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak at 5,959 metres, is located in this range and Kluane National Park protects all these tall mountains and glaciers. The highway hugs the shore of **Kluane Lake**, the Yukon's largest lake with a length of 81 km. Until 2016, the lake was fed by the Slim's River which started in the giant Kaskawulsh Glacier. As it receded due to climate change, its meltwater began to flow through a different valley to the Gulf of Alaska instead of via Kluane Lake which caused the lake level to drop many metres. We stay overnight in Destruction Bay on the shore of Kluane Lake.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Talbot Arm Motel

## Day 17: Sunday, August 15

In Haines Junction, we explore the Kluane National Park visitor centre and Da Ku Cultural Centre. We stay overnight in **Whitehorse**.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Best Western Gold Rush Inn

## Day 18: Monday, August 16

We visit the Yukon Museum of Transportation which brings to life tales of bush pilots, Chilkoot Trail travellers, Klondike stampedeers, and Alaska Highway builders. We continue to Carcross and board the **White Pass & Yukon Railway** for a thrilling five-hour journey through the St. Elias Mountains. This narrow-gauge railway was built in 1898 to serve stampedeers to the Klondike Gold Rush. Today it ranks among the world's most scenic rail journeys and has been designated an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. A stop is made at Bennett to visit the White Pass Museum, then the train descends 850 metres through tunnels and across high trestles on a cliff-hanging route to reach **Skagway** and the ocean.

**Meals included:** Lunch

**Accommodation:** Westmark Inn



## Day 19: Tuesday, August 17

We board the *Koningsdam* and an embarkation lunch is served. The Klondike Gold Rush was in full swing 120 years ago and Skagway was the major gateway to the Yukon. Today, that heritage is kept alive with old boardwalks, quaint false-fronted buildings, and interesting architecture.

You may want to get off the ship this afternoon to explore more of Skagway. After dinner, there is a lively stage show and the ship sails at 8 pm.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Holland America's *Koningsdam*

## Day 20: Wednesday, August 18

Nothing quite prepares you for waking up this morning amidst the grandeur of **Glacier Bay**. The *Koningsdam* sails close to the Margerie Glacier and the Grand Pacific Glacier where chunks of ice periodically break away and crash into the sea. A National Park Ranger on board explains the natural phenomenon in detail. We spend most of today exploring an unforgettable world of floating ice castles and tidewater glaciers.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Holland America's *Koningsdam*

## Day 21: Thursday, August 19

We dock in **Ketchikan** from 11 am to 7 pm. This picturesque town has waterfront buildings on stilts, weathered stairways clinging to steep hillsides, and the famous Creek Street boardwalk.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Holland America's *Koningsdam*

## Day 22: Friday, August 20

Today, we admire the magnificent scenery of B.C.'s famed **Inside Passage**. We pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and will probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises or killer whales. We sail through the narrow, sheltered waterways of Princess Royal Channel and Seymour Narrows where Ripple Rock used to menace ships.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Holland America's *Koningsdam*

## Day 23: Saturday, August 21

We dock at Canada Place in **Vancouver** this morning. Our motorcoach meets us there and we travel home to the Interior.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

## MS KONINGS DAM

Holland America Line's second newest ship, *MS Koningsdam*, made her grand entrance into the cruising world in 2016. To bring this new ship to life and give form and function to its brand, Holland America commissioned two legendary partners, Adam Tihany, regarded as one of the world's pre-eminent hospitality designers, and architect Bjørn Storbraaten. Their revolutionary designs for the *Koningsdam* featured light-filled spaces, fluid curves, a sophisticated interplay of high technology and elegance, and beautiful architectural elements inspired by music. All were woven together to create an interior that blends a fresh, contemporary styling in perfect harmony with Holland America's classic elegance.

The *Koningsdam* carries 2,650 passengers, the largest ever built by the company. Her 12 decks feature four performance venues including the 1,000-seat live entertainment theatre, five lounges, casino, shopping arcade, movie theatre, beauty shop, library, games room, 12 elevators, internet centre, spa and fitness centre, and two swimming pools (one with sliding dome cover). The *Koningsdam* offers 12 restaurants or cafés. The elegant two-deck Dining Room serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner with full choice of menu. The Lido Market offers buffet-style serving stations for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the 11 pm snack. The Pinnacle Grill, the Canaletto Restaurant with Italian cuisine, the Tamarind Restaurant with Asian cuisine, and Sel de Mer with a seafood menu all offer extraordinary service, reserved seating, and gourmet menus for an extra charge.

Staterooms have twin lower beds (some convert to queen-size double), television, music, telephone, and bathroom with toilet, sink and shower or bathtub. A crew of over 1,000 ensures top-quality service and entertainment. Every day has a full schedule of optional activities: dance class, bridge, bingo, shuffleboard, table-tennis, karaoke, board games, and fitness activities. Every evening, there is live stage entertainment in the World Stage Theatre, and several other venues each offer a performance schedule.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 18 days
- 18 nights of hotel accommodation and taxes
- Flight from Kelowna to Yellowknife on WestJet
- Current air taxes and fuel surcharges
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase per person
- Locally-guided tour of Yellowknife
- Great Slave Lake boat trip with fish fry lunch
- Prince of Wales Museum
- Deh Cho Mackenzie River bridge toll
- Liard River ferry twice
- Scenic flight to Nahanni National Park with landing at Virginia Falls
- Nahanni National Park fee
- Swim at Liard Hot Springs
- Yukon Beringia Centre
- SS Klondike National Historic Site with guide
- Local guide to Tombstone on Dempster Hwy
- Locally-guided tour of Tuktoyaktuk
- Visit to an Inuit home in Tuktoyaktuk with traditional lunch and Inuit fashion show
- Transfer from hotel to Inuvik Airport
- Flight on Air North from Inuvik to Dawson City
- Locally-guided tour of Dawson City
- Dredge #4 National Historic Site
- Goldpanning on Bonanza Creek
- Diamond Tooth Gerties with show
- Da Ku Cultural Centre
- Yukon Museum of Transportation
- White Pass & Yukon Railway from Carcross to Skagway
- White Pass Museum
- Transfer from Skagway train station to hotel
- Transfer from Skagway hotel to *Koningsdam*
- 4-day Holland America cruise from Skagway to Vancouver on board *Koningsdam*
- Cruise gratuities
- Cruise taxes and port charges
- Entertainment and other services on ship
- Transportation from Vancouver cruise terminal to Okanagan, Kamloops, and Salmon Arm
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides
- Luggage handling at most hotels, train & ship
- **46 meals:** 16 breakfasts, 18 lunches, 12 dinners

## NOTES ABOUT YOUR ARCTIC TOUR

- Accommodation in the North is the best available, but it may not be up to the standard you expect in the rest of Canada. In places such as Fort Simpson, Eagle Plains, and Destruction Bay, there is only one place to stay. Since hotels in the North have a limited season and enormous operating expenses, room rates are very high, so that is why this tour costs more per day than most Wells Gray tours.
- This tour is scheduled for August, so you can enjoy pleasantly warm days and cool nights, possibly the aurora borealis, and a minimum of mosquitoes or other insects. Some customers ask for a June tour to the North, but that is the height of bug season and some people have difficulty sleeping with nearly 24 hours of daylight.
- A passport is required to enter the USA and to board the ship.
- **Please book early!** Holland America has confirmed a block of staterooms for this tour and they are normally held until 90 days before sailing. However, any unsold staterooms can be recalled any-time if the ship fills and this has happened on several recent cruises. We had to waitlist disappointed customers, even though we had seats available on the motorcoach portion of the tour.
- **Dinner reservations on ship:** *Koningsdam* offers both open dining and fixed dining. Open dining means you can go to a restaurant when you are ready with your friends or make a reservation earlier in the day. All Wells Gray customers are automatically assigned to open dining by Holland America, but if you prefer to dine at the same time with the same people each day, we can request fixed dining. The specialty restaurants take reservations online starting 3 months in advance.



**Activity Level 2:** Some travelling days are long as hotels and towns are far apart in the north.

There are walks to some viewpoints. Some communities do not have paved streets and sidewalks, so the walking surface may be uneven. There are stairs on and off the Nahanni plane and Inuvik to Dawson plane, and the lake cruise. This tour is not appropriate if you depend upon a walker. The coach, train, and planes cannot carry a scooter. Seeing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. 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. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be asked / required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.



*Koningsdam* in Glacier Bay

## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 20, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 10 seats and \$150 on next 6 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after April 20.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to February 19, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 20 to April 20, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From April 21 to May 20, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From May 21 to June 18, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After June 18, there is no refund.

**Changes to tour:** As this tour has been planned 13 months in advance, changes to air taxes, cruise taxes and other costs (either up or down) could occur, in which case the tour fare will be adjusted. Please note that with the current volatile fuel costs, the airlines and Holland America can add fuel surcharges any time, even after your final payment, and we must collect those extra costs from you. Hotels named in the itinerary could change. Inclement weather could cancel the Nahanni flight, but a refund of that cost will be provided.

**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.

**Photo Credits:** Roland Neave (Arctic Circle, Virginia Falls, Arctic Ocean, goldpanning), Aina Juzups (Signpost Forest), White Pass Railway, Holland America Line (Glacier Bay)

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 200 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 20, 2021.

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

### KAMLOOPS

(Head Office)

250 Lansdowne St.  
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7  
**250-374-0831**

#### Office Hours:

8:30am to 4:30pm  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri  
Weds 9:00am to 4:30pm  
Closed holidays & week-ends

### KELOWNA

2575 Richter St.  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1  
**250-762-3435**

#### Office Hours:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed holidays & weekends

### VERNON

3206 35th St.  
Vernon, BC V1T 6B7  
**250-545-9197**

#### Office Hours:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed holidays & weekends

### PENTICTON

100-159 Wade Ave East  
Penticton, BC V2A 8B6  
**250-493-1255**

#### Office Hours:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed holidays & week-ends

### VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.  
Victoria, BC V8W 1E1  
**250-590-7889**

#### Office Hours:

8:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed holidays & weekends

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