



CHRISTMAS IN VICTORIA

December 22, 2020 – 5 Days

Coach #2 – Kelowna, Westbank, Summerland, Penticton, Osoyoos, Lower Mainland

Staying at Chateau Victoria

Christmas in Victoria is an annual tradition for Wells Gray Tours. We have stayed at Chateau Victoria for many years and our guests love the Christmas décor and spirit. All rooms are one-bedroom suites. The hotel has a great location near the corner of Burdett and Douglas, close to the Inner Harbour and Legislative Buildings. Some highlights are a tour of Victoria with a local historian, a choice of visiting Craigdarroch Castle or Helmcken House, the Royal BC Museum, a reception with entertainment by the Victoria Operatic Society, and the Festival of Lights at Butchart Gardens. Some wonderful meals are planned including a festive Christmas lunch at Abkhazi Garden Teahouse, Christmas Brunch at Vista 18 atop the Chateau, and an extravagant Christmas Dinner at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Come and enjoy Christmas 2020 in Victoria!

Activity Level: 1



TOUR
30

10 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,065 double/twin; \$2,375 single; \$1,980 triple

Please add 5% GST.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$15 discount with BC Services Card

Experience Points:

Earn 53 points on this tour

Redeem 53 points if you book by October 27.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, December 22

After meeting the BC Interior travellers in mid-afternoon, we take a ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. Enjoy the elaborate Pacific Buffet during the crossing. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if there is a ship change.) We stay four nights at **Chateau Victoria**. Rooms are oversized and amenities include an indoor pool and whirlpool. A hospitality room is provided by the hotel for the duration of our stay where you can meet other Christmas travellers and socialize or play games.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 2: Wednesday, December 23

Breakfast is included each morning in Vista 18. We stroll through the **Royal BC Museum** with its wonderful galleries about BC plants and animals, early explorers, the gold rush, and First Nations culture. A show on the giant Imax screen is included. This afternoon, choose one of two historic homes to explore. Please select by final payment date.

1) **Craigdarroch Castle** is a Victorian-era mansion of 39 rooms built in the 1890s by wealthy coal baron, Robert Dunsmuir. The Castle features four floors of exquisite stained glass windows, intricate woodwork, and lavish furnishings representing late 19th century lifestyles of the rich and famous. Note: Access to the castle is by a 10-minute uphill walk, as coaches are not allowed on the street in front.



Craigdarroch Castle

2) **Helmcken House** was built in 1852 by Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken, the first doctor in Victoria who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. It is one of the oldest houses in British Columbia.

We visit **Butchart Gardens** tonight to admire a fantasyland of Christmas lights, listen to traditional carollers and festive brass, and enjoy a carousel ride.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 3: Thursday, December 24

A local historian and author of five books, Danda Humphreys, meets us and conducts a fascinating **tour of Victoria** with many stories about its colourful characters and historical oddities. A festive Christmas lunch is served at the quaint **Abkhazi Garden Teahouse**. This was the home of Prince Nicholas Abkhazi and his wife Peggy who came to Canada from Georgia (Russia) in 1946 and created these gardens with majestic trees and a dramatic location. Afterwards, Chateau Victoria hosts a reception with music and singing by the wonderful **Victoria Operatic Society**. Christmas Eve dinner is at Ambrosia Centre with a show (details available later).

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 4: December 25 – Merry Christmas!

For early risers, a continental breakfast is offered in Clive's Lounge. Expect a gift from Santa during a delectable brunch in Vista 18. The afternoon is leisure time, then we savour a wonderful Christmas Dinner at the **Grand Pacific Hotel**.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Chateau Victoria

Day 5: Saturday, December 26

We take the 11 am ferry to Tsawwassen and dine in the Pacific Buffet for lunch.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferries
- Royal BC Museum
- Imax Theatre
- Choice of Craigdarroch Castle OR Helmcken House
- Butchart Gardens Festival of Lights
- Butchart Gardens Carousel ride
- Tour of Victoria with local historian
- Abkhazi Garden with Christmas Festive Lunch
- Reception with Victoria Operatic Society
- Christmas concert at Ambrosia Centre
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **10 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES

 **Activity Level 1:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs such as to/from Ambrosia seats and at Butchart Gardens. There are short walks with the historian during the Victoria tour. If you have mobility challenges, choose the Helmcken House tour, as the access to Craigdarroch Castle has a 10-minute uphill walk. 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due October 27, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$15 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 25, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 26 to October 27, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From October 28 to November 16, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 17 to November 30, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 30, 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 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.

Photo Credits: Butchart Gardens, Roland Neave (Abkhazi tea), Chateau Victoria, Wikimedia Commons (Craigdarroch)

Experience Points: This tour earns 53 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 October 27.

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

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