

MANNING PARK

July 27, 2021 – 3 Days

With alpine meadows and Hells Gate

Manning Provincial Park is located in the Cascade Range of southern British Columbia, along the Hope-Princeton Highway #3. It was created in 1941 and named in memory of Ernest Callaway Manning, Chief Forester of British Columbia from 1936 to 1941. The park protects the headwaters of the Skagit and Similkameen Rivers, and a variety of terrain such as wet coastal rain forests, jagged snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows filled with wildflowers, a chain of small lakes, and broad river beds along the valley floors. Manning Park Resort opened in the 1950s and has been continually upgraded with more rooms, restaurant, gift shop, and visitor services. You have probably driven this scenic highway many times with only a few stops, but this 3-day tour with 2 nights at the Resort focuses on the many sights and activities that are easily missed. Late July is blossom time in the Manning Park alpine meadows and one of the highlights of this tour is a walk with the naturalist among the flowers.

Activity Level: 2



All Meals Included (7):

2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$885 double/twin; \$1,060 single; \$845 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$50 discount on first 15 seats; \$25 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 21 points on this tour.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, July 27

From Kamloops and the Okanagan, we travel to Keremeos and tour the Grist Mill. This provincial historic site consists of the mill, built in 1877 and still powered by a waterwheel, the original milling machinery, and a historic general store. We continue along the Similkameen River with stops in Hedley and at Bromley Rock, and enter **Manning Provincial Park**. We stay two nights at Manning Park Resort, in the heart of the Cascade Range, halfway between Princeton and Hope. After dinner, the naturalist presents an entertaining show of slides and props about the park and its flora and fauna.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Manning Park Resort

Day 2: Wednesday, July 28

The naturalist joins our coach for the drive up to the lush alpine meadows of Three Brothers Mountain. Along the road, he points out interesting changes of vegetation as the altitude increases, then leads a walk along the **Paintbrush Trail**, explaining the lives of plants and animals at this alpine elevation. This tour is scheduled for the expected "peak bloom" period when you can enjoy the brilliant colours of Paintbrush, Heather, Western Anemone, Yellow Arnica, Spreading Phlox, and dozens of others. Back in the valley bottom, there is time at the visitor centre, and the naturalist leads an interpretive stroll along the Rein Orchid Nature Trail or the Beaver Pond Trail.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Manning Park Resort

Day 3: Thursday, July 29

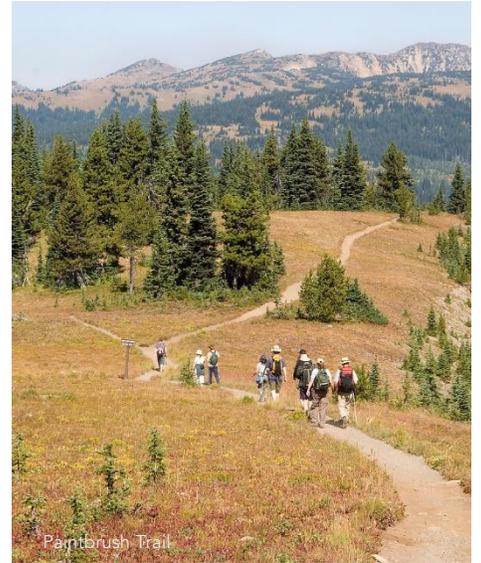
We continue west along the Hope-Princeton Highway across Allison Pass. We take a walk among the giant cedars of **Sumallo Grove** and stop at the **Hope Slide** where tons of rock buried the valley in 1965. After joining the Trans-Canada Highway, we drive through the **Fraser Canyon**. We ride the **Hells Gate Airtram** down to and across this narrowest point on the mighty Fraser River where some 200 million gallons of water per minute surge through the 30-metre wide gorge. Heading home, we travel through Lytton and Spences Bridge, then follow the winding Nicola River to Merritt.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch



E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK

The earliest form of the park was established in 1931 as the Three Brothers Mountain Reserve to prevent overgrazing and this later became Three Brothers Game Reserve. In 1941, a provincial park was created and named Three Brothers Mountain Park. Soon after, it was renamed in memory of Ernest Callaway Manning, Chief Forester of British Columbia from 1936 to 1941 (not to be confused with Ernest C. Manning, Premier of Alberta from 1943 to 1968). Mr. Manning was killed in an airplane accident in 1941. During his time as Chief Forester, he was instrumental in developing the idea of setting park lands aside for the benefit of future generations. It was the teamwork of Manning and Arthur Wellesley Gray, Minister of Lands from 1933 to 1944, that established Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, Hamber Provincial Park, Wells Gray Provincial Park, and E.C. Manning Provincial Park. After the Hope-Princeton Highway was completed through the Park in 1949, Pine Woods Lodge was built to serve travellers and consisted of a restaurant and a few cabins. This has evolved into Manning Park Resort today with the restaurant and gift shop still in the original building. Over the years, Manning Park has decreased in size, the most noticeable change being the park boundary in the east. Originally, the park included Similkameen Falls, but due to mine claims and private land ownership, the boundaries have since been moved more than 4 km west. Manning Park today is a very busy place in summer and winter since it is only 3 hours from Vancouver. The summer has bustling campgrounds, many hiking trails, serene lakes for fishing, and the colourful alpine meadows, and the winter offers excellent downhill and cross-country skiing at Gibson Pass.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 3 days
- 2 nights accommodation at Manning Park Resort and hotel taxes
- Keremeos Grist Mill Historic Site
- Naturalist talk about Manning Park
- Alpine meadows walk with naturalist
- Rein Orchid interpretive walk with naturalist
- Hells Gate Airtram
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for guide and naturalist
- **7 meals:** 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

TOUR NOTES



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including some walks and stairs. There is no elevator at Manning Park Resort and rooms are on two levels. The alpine meadows walk starts at 2,000 metres at the end of the road, and has some uphill and downhill; you can opt out if this altitude bothers you. Sumallo Grove is a level walk of 700 metres if you do the loop or can be as short as you wish. The coach cannot carry a scooter. 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 think you may have difficulty participating 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 tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 9, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$50 discount on first 15 seats and \$25 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 9, 2021.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 9, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 10 to July 9, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After July 9, 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.

Photo Credits: Roland Neave (flowers, meadows walk, Sumallo Grove), Hells Gate Airtram, Wikipedia (Paintbrush Trail)

Experience Points: This tour earns 21 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 tours longer than 3 days. You can accumulate enough points to earn a free tour (this tour eligible until June 9, 2021).

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

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