



CRUISING VANCOUVER ISLAND'S MAGICAL WEST COAST

August 25, 2021 – 5 Days

Cruise Alberni Inlet & Nootka Sound

Vancouver Island is the 11th largest island in Canada, stretching 460 km from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Queen Charlotte Sound. Named for Captain George Vancouver who explored B.C.'s coast in 1792, the island has great diversity ranging from B.C.'s capital city to remote mountain peaks in Strathcona Park, and from the wild wind-lashed beaches of the west coast to the sandy expanse of Rath Trevor Beach. The east coast is busy with cities and highways, but the west coast is remote and seldom-visited. The best way to explore this rugged shoreline is by boat. This tour features two cruises – *MV Frances Barkley* from Port Alberni along Alberni Inlet to Bamfield and *MV Uchuck* from Gold River through Nootka Sound to Friendly Cove where Captain James Cook landed in 1778 and met the First Nations.

Activity Level: 1



12 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,540 double/twin; \$1,880 single; \$1,465 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$80 discount on first 15 seats; \$40 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 35 points on this tour.

Redeem 35 points if you book by July 7, 2021.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, August 25

After pickups around Greater Victoria, we drive north on the Island Highway. Lunch is included in Parksville and you may want to take a stroll along the waterfront. In **Port Alberni**, a local guide leads a driving and walking tour and we stay two nights.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Barclay Hotel

Day 2: Thursday, August 26

On board the *MV Frances Barkley*, we cruise 40-km long Alberni Inlet, the longest fjord on Vancouver Island. After it widens into Barkley Sound, the ship weaves through a maze of little islands, some protected by Pacific Rim National Park. We dock at **Bamfield** for an hour, giving time to explore the historic buildings. The cable station, designed by Francis Rattenbury, opened in 1902 when Bamfield became the terminus for the trans-Pacific telegraph cable. The Marine Sciences Centre is a world-class research facility operated by the University of Victoria. The *Frances Barkley* is a heritage vessel, built in Norway in 1958, then she sailed through the Panama Canal in 1990 to her new home. There she joined the famous *Lady Rose* (now retired) providing service to Bamfield, Ucluelet, and Barkley Sound. Today's cruise leaves Port Alberni at 8 am and returns at 5 pm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Best Western Barclay Hotel

Day 3: Friday, August 27

We stop at Cathedral Grove for a stroll among towering trees, then head north to Campbell River. This afternoon, Catherine Gilbert, local historian and author, meets us to provide interpretive talks during the drive through **Strathcona Park**. This was



British Columbia's first provincial park,

established in 1911, and it protects the rugged peaks of central Vancouver Island. We take short forest walks to see Lupine Falls and Lady Falls, and stroll a beach on Buttle Lake. Then we head across the Island to **Gold River**, once a bustling pulp mill town, and stay two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

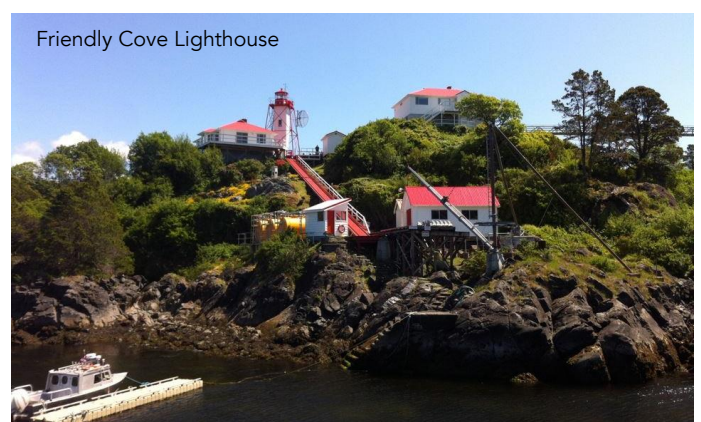
Accommodation: Ridgeview Motel

Day 4: Saturday, August 28

Breakfast is included both days in the town of Gold River (not at the motel). At 10 am, we board the *MV Uchuck* for a cruise among splendid coastal scenery. Catherine is with us again today to share her knowledge of Nootka Sound. Our route follows the fjord Muchalat Inlet past Bligh Island to **Nootka Sound** where we dock at Friendly Cove, site of Captain James Cook's meeting with Chief Maquinna in 1778. Lunch is included on the ship. During the 1½-hour stop, you can take a walk through the village and church, stroll the beach, or visit the lighthouse. You can explore on your own or join Catherine for an interpretive walk and talk. The return cruise goes past Resolution Cove and through narrow King Passage.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ridgeview Motel



Day 5: Sunday, August 29

We return to the east coast and have lunch in Parksville, then drive into Victoria.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
 - 4 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
 - Locally-guided tour of Port Alberni
 - Excursion on *MV Frances Barkley* to Bamfield
 - Local expert and historian guide for 2 days in Strathcona Park and Nootka Sound
 - Gratuities for ships' crew and guides
 - Excursion on *MV Uchuck* to Nootka Sound and Friendly Cove
 - Knowledgeable tour director
 - Luggage handling at hotels
 - **12 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
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TOUR NOTES

Nanaimo, Comox, Courtenay & area clients: You can easily join this tour. There are convenient pickup points on August 25. Please call us for details. Fares are the same as shown on the first page.



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk, some walking on sandy or pebbly beaches, and some stairs. There are optional walks at Lupine Falls and Lady Falls (each is 500 m one way gently uphill). The ramps to the boat docks may be steep at low tide. There are stairs between decks on both vessels. 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. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you are not able to participate 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 \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 7, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$80 discount on first 15 seats and \$40 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 7, 2021.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 7, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 8 to July 7, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 8 to August 4, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 4, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from tour suppliers can occur anytime 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 for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credits: Lady Rose Marine Services (*Frances Barkley*), Roland Neave (*Uchuck*, beach, Lady Falls), Sema Phair (lighthouse)

Experience points: This tour earns 35 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 7, 2021.

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

VICTORIA

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

KAMLOOPS

(Head Office)
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

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www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552