



Princess Louisa Fjord



Gibsons

SUNSHINE COAST

September 12, 2021 – 6 Days

With Princess Louisa Fjord, Agamemnon Channel & Desolation Sound cruises

The Sunshine Coast is a distinct region of BC, located on the southern coast between Desolation Sound on the north and Howe Sound on the south. The rugged mountains bordering these inlets cut it off from direct road connection to the rest of the province, so although part of the BC mainland, it can only be reached by ferries or planes. Here are the traditional territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), Sechelt (Shíshálh), Sliammon (Tla'Amin), and Klahoose First Nations. There are many highlights during our 5 days on the Sunshine Coast – 3 cruises through Agamemnon Channel, Princess Louisa Fjord, and Desolation Sound; a local guide in Gibsons, *The Beachcombers* filming locations, a First Nations cultural program "Talking Trees", and Botanical Gardens.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
25

10 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,710 double/twin; \$3,155 single; \$2,615 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$150 discount on first 8 seats; \$75 on next 4

Experience Points:

Earn 65 points on this tour.

Redeem 65 points if you book by July 12, 2021.



Jervis Inlet

ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, September 12

We meet the BC Interior travellers, then take a late afternoon ferry from Horseshoe Bay across Howe Sound to Langdale. Welcome to the Sunshine Coast! We continue to **Sechelt** and stay three nights at the Driftwood Inn on the waterfront. A get-acquainted dinner is planned.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn

Day 2: Monday, September 13

A local guide shows us the highlights along the southern part of the **Sunshine Coast**. In Gibsons, we stop for photos at Molly's Reach, the famous restaurant seen by millions of viewers on CBC's **The Beachcombers** which ran for 19 seasons from 1972 to 1990. The tugboat *Persephone* has been restored and is displayed nearby. This afternoon, we drive to Egmont where Sechelt Inlet joins Jervis Inlet. We board two small vessels for a scenic cruise through **Agamemnon Channel** south to Pender Harbour. Steep rock walls rise 150 metres from the water, and some 2000-metre high peaks are visible. We stop at several pictographs, probably drawn centuries ago by Shíshálh people, and you can speculate on their meaning.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn

Day 3: Tuesday, September 14

A First Nations guide presents a cultural program "**Talking Trees**" which shares the stories of the Coast Salish people, the land, and the harmonious ways of living. This afternoon, we stroll through the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden in Sechelt. Next is the **Tems Swiya Museum** which exhibits an extensive collection of artifacts and cultural materials belonging to the Shíshálh Nation. The name means 'our world' and the museum is central to the presentation, conservation, and protection of Shíshálh cultural heritage.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn

Day 4: Wednesday, September 15

This is a day of dramatic sights as we explore one of British Columbia's best known fjords. Leaving Egmont, we cruise for two hours up **Jervis Inlet** past soaring peaks and waterfalls that cascade

directly into the ocean. Malibu Narrows is the location of historic **Malibu Lodge**, an impressive log structure that was an exclusive retreat for Hollywood celebrities in the 1940s and is now a popular church camp. The narrows mark the entrance to **Princess Louisa Fjord** and, from here on, the sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water. The vessels dock at the upper end of the fjord and we have time ashore to admire the thundering cascade of **Chatterbox Falls**. Princess Louisa was Queen Victoria's mother, but the native name "Sway-oo-lat" means "facing the rising sun's rays". A picnic lunch is served at the falls. After returning to Egmont, we ride the ferry across Jervis Inlet to Saltery Bay, then drive into **Powell River** for a stay of two nights at the ocean-front Beach Gardens Resort. Tonight, take a stroll beside the ocean and enjoy the splendid setting.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 5: Thursday, September 16

We drive to the end of Highway 101 at Lund which is the jumping-off point for boat excursions into **Desolation Sound**. British Columbia's largest marine park, established in 1973, attracts recreational boaters from around the world because of its magnificent scenery, pleasant summer climate, numerous sheltered harbours, and the snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountains which rise over 2,400 metres from the water. Captain George Vancouver saw it differently in 1792 when he described these waters as "forlorn" and "desolate". Our five-hour excursion from Lund in two small vessels visits sights such as Squirrel Cove, Roscoe Bay, and Copeland Islands, and lunch is provided on board. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to enter narrow passages.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 6: Friday, September 17

A local guide explains the history and sights of Powell River. Heading home, we ride two ferries to Horseshoe Bay, then a transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Meals included: Breakfast

THE SUNSHINE COAST

The “Sunshine Coast” name originated with a pioneer family. In 1914, Harry Roberts painted “The Sunshine Belt” on the first wharf built in Roberts Creek, and promoted the area as a summer resort. When Black Ball Ferries started service in 1951, they promoted the area as “Sunshine Coast” and the name quickly caught on.

In 1912, a pulp and paper mill was built in Powell River. By 1930, the mill employed more than 2,000 workers, and had become the largest newsprint mill in the world. The highway reached Pender Harbour in the 1930s and the end of the Sechelt Peninsula in the 1950s, then the new ferry provided convenient access to all the settlements and the population boomed. Powell River townsite was designated as a National Historic District in 1995, one of only seven in Canada, and boasts over 400 original buildings.

Today, the Sunshine Coast is home to about 50,000 people. Forestry continues to be one of the region’s economic mainstays with tourism a close second. The Sunshine Coast has the highest per capita population of artists and crafters in Canada, and dozens of studios dot Highway 101 with purple banner flags indicating that the artist is open. Here, too, are the traditional territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh), Sechelt (Shíshálh), Sliammon (Tla’Amin), and Klahoose First Nations.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 6 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale & return
- Locally-guided tour of Gibsons and Sechelt
- Agamemnon Channel cruise from Egmont to Pender Harbour
- First Nations cultural program “Talking Trees”
- Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden
- Tems Swiya Museum
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferry across Jervis Inlet and return
- Desolation Sound cruise
- Locally-guided tour of Powell River
- Transfer from Horseshoe Bay to pickup point
- Gratuities for crew on boat tours & guides
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **10 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES

Cruise Vessels — The Agamemnon Channel cruise and the Princess Louisa Fjord cruise are operated with two vessels, each carrying about 12 passengers with indoor seating and no restroom on board. The Desolation Sound cruise utilizes two small vessels with indoor seating and a restroom.

Accommodation — Despite the Sunshine Coast being so close to the metropolitan area of Vancouver, it does not attract crowds of overnight tourists. Therefore, accommodation choices are very limited. Please do not expect luxury hotels, although we have selected two of the better ones in this area — Driftwood Inn in Sechelt and Beach Gardens Resort in Powell River, both located on the waterfront.

TOUR
25 This tour is limited to 24 passengers to ensure comfort for everyone on the vessels.



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity including short distances to walk, such as on docks to and from the vessels and the short trail to Chatterbox Falls. Ramps onto docks can be steep at low tide. There are some stairs, mainly getting in and out of the vessels. The coach cannot carry a scooter. 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. 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 \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 12, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$150 discount on first 8 seats and \$75 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 12, 2021.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 11, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 12 to July 12, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From July 13 to August 12, cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. After August 12, 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.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$20 per person on September 12. This transfer takes you to the nearest coach pickup point. Please request no later than at final payment. The transfer from Horseshoe Bay to your pickup point on September 17 is included.

Photo Credits: Roland Neave (Princess Louisa), Molly's Reach, Pat Manthey (Jervis Inlet), BC Parks (Smuggler Cove)

Experience points: This tour earns 65 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 12, 2021.

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