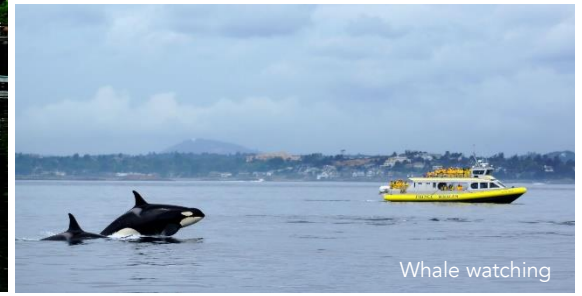




Telegraph Cove



Whale watching

TELEGRAPH COVE & ZEBALLOS CRUISE

September 18, 2021 – 4 Days

Whale watching at Telegraph Cove & private charter cruise on MV Uchuck

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 the capital city of Victoria to remote mountain peaks in Strathcona Park, and from narrow fjords that slice into the west coast to secluded harbours like Telegraph Cove. To explore northern Vancouver Island properly, you have to get out of your car (or coach) and head out on the water. This tour features a whale-watching excursion at Telegraph Cove and a private cruise on the *MV Uchuck III* from Zeballos to Gold River through several scenic waterways.

Activity Level: 2



All Meals Included (10):

3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$1,490 double/twin; \$1,825 single; \$1,420 triple

Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$80 discount on first 12 seats; \$40 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 34 points on this tour.

Redeem 34 points if you book by July 29, 2021.



Whale Centre

ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, September 18

After pickups around Greater Victoria, we drive north on the Island Highway with a stop for lunch in Parksville. Our destination is **Telegraph Cove**, a charming village surrounding a narrow harbour. This was the northern terminus of the telegraph line built on Vancouver Island in 1912. A sawmill and commercial fishery supported the village for many years, but 30 years ago it transitioned into tourism. Telegraph Cove Resort owns most of the village and has renovated the old buildings into lodging, restaurant, shops, and a museum. Whale-watching cruises are the big draw with Robson Bight located nearby. Our accommodation is in two buildings, the Lodge and the Dockside. A welcome dinner is at the Whale Café on the waterfront.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Telegraph Cove Resort

Day 2: Sunday, September 19

At Telegraph Cove, we board a 70-person semi-covered, custom-built vessel for a three-hour fully-guided **whale and marine wildlife viewing** excursion. We head out into Johnstone Strait and navigate the Broughton archipelago in search of orcas and humpback whales. Marine mammal experts are on board to bring the animals' stories to life from the comfort of the cruiser. This afternoon, be sure to visit the Whale Interpretive Centre on Telegraph Cove's boardwalk. It was founded in 2002 to increase public awareness about the biology of marine mammals and the threats facing their populations. The Centre is home to one of the best collections of marine mammal skeletons in British Columbia. The exhibits focus on orca whales, fin whales, humpback whales, and sea otters. There are also several shops to browse nearby.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Telegraph Cove Resort

Day 3: Monday, September 20

This morning, we drive to **Zeballos**, a tiny community at the end of a fjord on the west coast of Vancouver Island. This waterway was named for Lt. Ciriaco Ceballos, a crew member on board the Malaspina expedition of 1789-1794. A gold rush in the 1930s established a mining camp spelled "Zeballos" and that name became official when a post office opened in 1946. Zeballos may have had a population of over 5,000 during the peak of the gold rush when \$13 million worth of gold bricks were shipped from here. Forestry replaced mining in the 1950s. Today, Zeballos has shrunk to about 100 residents. This afternoon, we board the **MV Uchuck III** for a private five-hour cruise from Zeballos to Gold River with splendid coastal scenery. Catherine Gilbert, a local historian and Nootka expert, is on board to provide interpretive talks. Our route follows a maze of narrow waterways such as Zeballos Inlet, Esperanza Narrows, and Tahsis Inlet. Emerging into **Nootka Sound**, the ship sails along the north side of Bligh Island (named for the *Mutiny on the Bounty* captain who was in these waters with Captain Vancouver in 1792). Then we cruise along Muchalat Inlet to the dock near **Gold River**, and stay overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ridgeview Motor Inn

Day 4: Tuesday, September 21

Catherine is with us again during a morning tour of **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 walks in the forest to see Lady Falls and Lupine Falls, and stroll a beach on Buttle Lake. After lunch in Campbell River, we head down the Island and home.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

MV UCHUCK III

MV Uchuck III derives her name from the First Nations Nootkan word for “healing waters” and has been serving the west coast of Vancouver Island area for nearly 70 years. She was built in 1942 in Oregon as a minesweeper, then was converted to passenger and freight service in Barkley Sound. By 1961, she was operating in Nootka Sound, supplying remote logging camps and fishing villages. More recently, *Uchuck III* was fully renovated with a comfortable wood-finished lounge, coffee shop, bathrooms, and lots of seating on the open-air upper deck. She is 41 metres long and carries 100 passengers on public cruises, but this is a private charter with only Wells Gray customers on board.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 4 days
- 3 nights of accommodation and hotel taxes
- Whale-watching excursion at Telegraph Cove
- Whale Interpretive Centre
- Private charter excursion on *MV Uchuck III* from Zeballos to Gold River
- Strathcona Park tour
- Local guide / historian on board *Uchuck* and in Strathcona Park
- Gratuities for whale-watching and *Uchuck* crew and historian
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **10 meals:** 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners



TOUR NOTES



Activity Level 2: Moderate activity on some days including short distances to walk and some stairs or gangways getting on and off the two vessels. The ramps to the boat docks may be steep at low tide. A small shuttle is available between the Lodge rooms and the dock where the restaurant, shops, and boat are located, or you can walk (about 10 mins). Telegraph Cove is a compact village with a boardwalk that accesses businesses, and the coach cannot drive there. 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 balance is due July 29, 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 12 seats and \$40 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 29, 2021.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 29, 2021, the cancellation charge is \$50 per person. From June 30 to July 29, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From July 30 to August 17, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After August 17, 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: Telegraph Cove Resort, Tourism Vancouver Island (whales), Whale Interpretive Centre, Roland Neave (Uchuck)

Experience Points: This tour earns 34 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 29, 2021.

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

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Closed holidays &
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