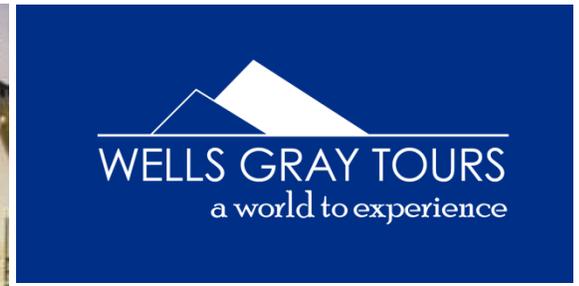




Fort Steele



Ainsworth Hot Springs

FORT STEELE & THE KOOTENAYS

August 22, 2021 – 7 Days

Enjoy St. Eugene Resort, Ainsworth Hot Springs & South Thompson Inn

Wells Gray Tours normally offers a tour to Barkerville once a year, but for 2021 we have instead planned this tour to British Columbia's other major living history museum, Fort Steele. It is also themed around the gold rush, but has a train ride, carriage rides, a theatre show, and interpretive guides. Best of all, Fort Steele is flat and, for many seniors, easy to walk around. While we are in the Kootenays, there is a wealth of other attractions: Museum of Rail Travel in Cranbrook, Bavarian-themed Kimberley, the Glass Bottle House, Ainsworth Hot Springs, and the ghost town of Sandon. We stay 3 nights at St. Eugene Resort near Cranbrook, plus the Holiday Inn on Osoyoos Lake, Ainsworth Resort, and South Thompson Inn near Kamloops. Come and enjoy the Kootenays this summer, highlighted by Fort Steele.

Activity Level: 1



15 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,275 double/twin; \$2,845 single; \$2,130 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$140 discount on first 15 seats; \$70 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 57 points on this tour.

Redeem # points if you book by June 21, 2021.



St. Eugene Resort

ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, August 22

We ride the 9 am ferry to Tsawwassen, then travel through the Fraser Valley and along the Hope-Princeton Highway. In **Manning Park**, we stroll among the towering trees of Sumallo Grove. After crossing Allison Pass and Richter Pass, we stay overnight in **Osoyoos**.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express

Day 2: Monday, August 23

During the climb out of the Okanagan Valley on Anarchist Mountain, we stop at a magnificent vista of lakes and mountains. We follow Highway #3 into the Kootenays, through the Kettle Valley and over Bonanza Pass and the Kootenay Skyway. We stay three nights at **St. Eugene Resort** near Cranbrook. Built in 1910 as an Indian residential school, it was operated for 60 years, was abandoned for 25 years, then the mission was totally renovated and opened as a luxury hotel in 2003. There is so much to do at the Resort — hit some balls at the golf course, take a dip in the pool, play some games in the casino, and visit the Interpretive Centre which tells the story of the Ktunaxa people both past and present.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: St. Eugene Resort

Day 3: Tuesday, August 24

Most of today is devoted to immersing in B.C. history at the remarkable **Fort Steele Heritage Town**. It was founded in 1864 during the gold rush and is now one of the province's largest living history museums. Costumed interpreters provide a guided walk around the restored town, and our visit may include a carriage ride, a train



ride, gold-panning, a show at the Wild Horse Theatre, and a snack at the delectable bakery. (Some activities cannot be confirmed yet due to Covid-19). Lunch is served at the authentic International Hotel. There is time to browse the shops and explore the museum exhibits.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: St. Eugene Resort

Day 4: Wednesday, August 25

We visit the fascinating **Canadian Museum of Rail Travel**, dedicated to the social aspects of longer train trips. Some of the cars that have been restored are the 1886 Pacific Express, the 1907 Soo-Spokane Train Deluxe, and the 1929 Trans-Canada Limited. **Kimberley** is nearby and has a distinctly Bavarian flavour. A tour with a local guide features Cominco Gardens, Happy Hans, World's Largest Cuckoo Clock; Marysville Falls, and the **Underground Mining Railway** which recalls the days of the fabulous Sullivan Mine.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: St. Eugene Resort



Day 5: Thursday, August 26

We meander along Kootenay Lake, stopping to admire the **Glass Bottle House**, built by an undertaker from 500,000 empty embalming bottles. In Crawford Bay, we visit the Northern Woven Broom Company, known for providing brooms for the Harry Potter book releases and for movies like *Bewitched*. After lunch, we ride the 'longest free ferry in the world' from Crawford Bay to Balfour. In **Kaslo**, we tour the restored sternwheeler **SS Moyie** which once plied Kootenay Lake. We

stay overnight at **Ainsworth Hot Springs** where we soak in the hot pools overlooking Kootenay Lake. The horseshoe-shaped cave is the hottest at 45.5° C or 114° F and the main lounging pool averages 35.5° C or 96° F. For the brave, there is also a cold plunge pool.

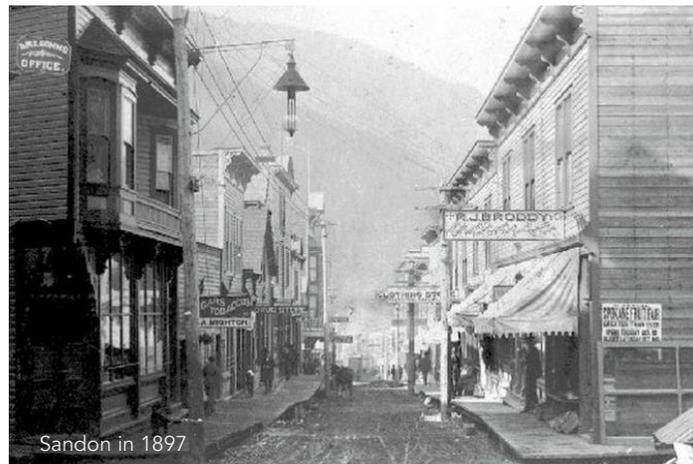
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort



Day 6: Friday, August 27

A local expert joins us for the drive to Sandon as we pass the ghost towns of Retallack and Three Forks, and follow the tortuous route of the once-busy Kaslo & Slocan Railway. In the 1890s, when silver was king, **Sandon** was a boomtown with a population of 5,000, two newspapers, 24 hotels, 23 saloons, and three railways. It was incorpor-



ated as a city in 1898 and remained the soul of the silvery Slocan for half a century. During a walking tour, our guide shares many stories of Sandon including "Headless Eric", Sandon's longtime ghost, who sometimes occupies a rocking chair on his favourite porch. We travel through Nakusp and take a ferry across the Arrow Lakes. We stay at the **South Thompson Inn**, a delightful hotel overlooking the placid South Thompson River.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: South Thompson Inn

Day 7: Saturday, August 28

We drive the Coquihalla Highway and take a late afternoon ferry to Swartz Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- Fort Steele with guided walk, carriage and train rides, gold-panning
- Wild Horse Theatre show
- Canadian Museum of Rail Travel
- Locally-guided tour of Kimberley
- Cominco Gardens
- Underground Mining Railway
- Boswell Glass Bottle House
- Northern Woven Broom Company
- Kootenay Lake ferry to Balfour
- *SS Moyie* sternwheeler
- Unlimited access to Ainsworth Hot Springs
- Local guide in Kaslo, Sandon and area
- Sandon ghost town tour
- Arrow Lakes ferry to Galena Bay
- Gratuities for local guides
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **15 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES



Activity Level 1: Light activity on most days including some walking and stairs. The walk at Sumallo Grove is optional. There is lots of walking at Fort Steele if you want to see all the exhibits, and at Sandon to see the whole ghost town. Expect some stairs at the Underground Mining Railway and SS Moyie. 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 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.

Nanaimo & Parksville clients: You can easily join this tour. We will pick you up on August 21 in your home city and drive you to Victoria. You can book your own hotel room or we can arrange a room at Chateau Victoria at your expense. A transfer home will be provided on August 28. Fares are the same as shown on the first page.

Note about Fort Steele: At time of writing this brochure, Fort Steele was unable to confirm that all activities and the theatre will be operating in summer 2021, due to Covid-19. When restrictions are lifted, there may not be time to organize everything that normally operates in summer. There will be a fare reduction or refund if some paid activities are closed.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$150 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 21, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$140 discount on first 15 seats and \$70 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 21, 2021. Early bookers are also assigned lake view rooms at Ainsworth, subject to availability.

Cancellation Policy: Up to May 21, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From May 22 to June 21, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From June 22 to July 21, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After July 21, 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: Fort Steele, Ainsworth Hot Springs, St. Eugene Resort, Kootenay Rockies Tourism (Fort Steele, Mining Railway), BC Archives (Sandon)

Experience Points: This tour earns 57 Experience 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 June 21, 2021.

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

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