



INSIDE PASSAGE & SKEENA TRAIN

June 30, 2022 – 8 Days

Includes grizzly bear watching at Khutzeymateen Sanctuary

Explore the stunning North Coast by land and sea! The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert aboard BC Ferries' *Northern Expedition* takes 15 hours, all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife. In Prince Rupert, we thrill to a 7-hour catamaran excursion to the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary. Then we board VIA Rail's *Skeena Train* for a spectacular all-day journey east to Prince George in deluxe 'Touring Class' with seating in the dome car. Experience the mighty Fraser River with a jetboat ride through Fort George Canyon. Then we drive south through the Cariboo with a visit to the historic gold rush town of Barkerville. Our last night is at the popular Harrison Hot Springs Resort with entertainment in the Copper Room. This is a wonderful British Columbia circle tour!

Activity Level: 2



13 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$3,265 double/twin; \$3,835 single; \$3,095 triple
Please add 5% GST.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$115 discount with BC Services Card; must book by April 28, 2022.

Experience Points:

Earn 76 points on this tour.

Redeem 76 points if you book by April 28, 2022.

Departures from: Victoria



ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday, June 30

We drive north on the Island Highway, past Campbell River to **Port Hardy**.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Kwa'lilas Hotel

Day 2: Friday, July 1

Happy Canada Day! The *Northern Expedition* departs Port Hardy for a 15-hour scenic voyage in the **Inside Passage**. Along 500 kilometres of magnificent coastline, we pass hundreds of islands and waterfalls, and probably see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, or whales. Highlights are the narrows at Bella Bella, Princess Royal Channel, and the long canal-like Grenville Channel. Enjoy a comfortable reserved seat in the private, key-access Aurora Lounge for the whole voyage. On arrival at **Prince Rupert**, we stay two nights at the Crest Hotel, the finest in the city.

Cabin option: You can purchase an outside ferry cabin for \$135 or inside cabin for \$105 (per cabin), if available. Each is equipped with two berths, sink, toilet, and shower. Please request when you book this tour.

Accommodation: Crest Hotel



Day 3: Saturday, July 2

Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary was established in 1994 and preserves one of the largest populations of grizzly bears in B.C. We board a 22-metre catamaran for a seven-hour excursion to the sanctuary. The vessel has lots of outdoor deck space and floor to ceiling windows for unsurpassed viewing. We travel north through Chatham Sound, listening to fascinating stories about native villages and watching for dolphins,

seals, sea lions, bald eagles, and blue herons as we learn first-hand about this diverse marine environment. July is a great month for easy viewing, as grizzlies are often feeding along the shoreline.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Crest Hotel



Day 4: Sunday, July 3

VIA Rail's Skeena Train is a spectacular all-day journey east to Prince George. There are splendid views as we follow the broad Skeena River and the rushing Bulkley River through the **Coast Mountains**. Across the Interior Plateau, the train skirts dozens of lakes and the tracks usually follow a different route than the Yellowhead Highway. Enjoy being pampered in deluxe "Touring Class" with seating in the **dome car** and three meals served at your seat. Your luggage stays conveniently on the coach and the driver meets us in **Prince George**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza Hotel



Day 5: Monday, July 4

Today we experience the mighty **Fraser River** which flows through Prince George on its long journey from the Rockies to the ocean. We board jetboats for the 30-km fast run down the river to **Fort George Canyon**. Until the building of roads a century ago, sternwheelers served the upper Fraser River and this canyon was one of the obstacles where vessels had to be winched through the fast current. The river splits into multiple channels around several rocky islands. This afternoon, we visit **Huble Homestead**, built in 1912 beside the Fraser River. At this point, it is only 12 km to the Arctic drainage and, starting in the mid-19th century, the Giscome Portage Trail served early travellers. Lunch at the homestead is followed by a heritage tour.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Ramada Plaza Hotel

Day 6: Tuesday, July 5

We are treated to the knowledge of an expert historian from Quesnel to **Barkerville**. Governor James Douglas, sometimes called "Father of British Columbia", was a key figure in Barkerville's early years and our guide's name is also James Douglas! Barkerville is B.C.'s largest restored heritage town and offers plenty to do today – listen to a discussion of Cariboo justice with Judge

Begbie at the Richfield Courthouse, watch the gold cleanup at the Cornish waterwheel, attend church at St. Saviour's, or discuss an 1880s character with a costumed interpreter. The afternoon show at the **Theatre Royal** is an hour of lively music and songs, funny stories of the gold rush, and great entertainment.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Coast Fraser Inn, Williams Lake

Day 7: Wednesday, July 6

We follow the Cariboo Highway to Cache Creek. Lunch is at **Ashcroft Manor**, a roadhouse built in 1862 to serve travellers on the Cariboo Wagon Road. This afternoon, we enjoy dramatic views through the scenic Thompson and Fraser Canyons. Our last night is at **Harrison Hot Springs** where you can relax in the hot pools and savour an elegant dinner in the Copper Room with entertainment by the Jones Boys.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Harrison Hot Springs Resort

Day 8: Thursday, July 7

The morning is leisure time to use the hot pools again or stroll the park-like grounds. We take an afternoon ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED


- Coach transportation for 8 days
- 7 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- *Northern Expedition* ferry through Inside Passage from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert
- Reserved seat in the ferry's Aurora Lounge
- All-day boat excursion to Khutzeymateen Sanctuary for grizzly bear viewing
- VIA Rail train from Prince Rupert to Prince George "Touring Class" with dome car seats
- Jetboat excursion on the Fraser River to Fort George Canyon
- Huble Homestead
- Barkerville Historic Town
- Theatre Royal show
- Ashcroft Manor
- Harrison Hot Springs pools
- Copper Room dinner with entertainment by Jones Boys dance band
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for local guides and boats crew
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **13 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

NORTHERN EXPEDITION

B.C. Ferries' *Northern Expedition* was specially designed for Inside Passage voyages. Launched in 2009, she is 150 metres long with a beam of 23 metres and a draft of 7½ metres. She carries 130 vehicles, 600 passengers, and 30 crew at a travelling speed of 20.3 knots. The ferry has three passenger decks and an outdoor sun deck. Facilities include the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant, gift shop, and Raven's Lounge. A comfortable reserved seat in the private Aurora Lounge is included in your fare. The 500-kilometre journey from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert takes 15 hours, almost all in daylight to permit great viewing of the rugged coastline and abundant wildlife, marine life, and birdlife. Our motorcoach travels on the ferry, so luggage and other belongings can be stored there.

TOUR NOTES

Please Book Early! Unsold ferry and train space must be released on April 28, 2022. Even though we may have seats on the motorcoach, there may not be space on the ferry or train if you book after this date.

 **Activity Level 2:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk and some stairs, mainly on the cruise boat, train, and walking around Barkerville. The ferry has an elevator. There is a short walk to/from both boat docks. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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 days of the tour.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due April 28, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$115 discount extended by BC Ferries and Via Rail. Deadline is April 28, 2022. You must show your BC Services Card to receive the discount when you book and also bring it with you on the tour. Your photo ID is required to board the ferry.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 28, 2022, your payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From March 1 to March 28, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From March 29 to April 28, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From April 29 to May 27, cancellation charge is 50% of tour fare. After May 27, there is no refund.

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: BC Ferries (2 Inside Passage photos), Northern BC Jetboat Tours, AdobeStock (Khutzeymateen Grizzly), Lisa Migneault (Skeena Train)

Experience Points: This tour earns 76 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 April 28, 2022.

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

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