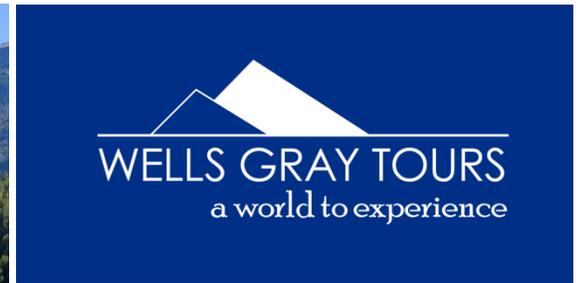




Princess Louisa Fjord



Naiad Explorer

B.C. FJORDS

August 8, 2021 – 7 Days

Knight Inlet, Nakwakto Tidal Rapids, Mitlenatch Island & Princess Louisa Fjord

Some of the most thrilling sights along the B.C. coast cannot be reached by road, and the only access is by boat. This tour includes four boat excursions into these remote places. Knight Inlet is the longest fjord on our coastline, extending 113 km deep into the Coast Mountains, almost to the foot of gigantic Mount Waddington. Nakwakto Rapids are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness, and during our visit the waters pouring out of Seymour Inlet and Belize Inlet will attain the incredible speed of 13.2 knots. Mitlenatch Island Provincial Park is the largest seabird colony in the Strait of Georgia, located off Campbell River. Malibu Rapids marks the entrance to amazing Princess Louisa Fjord where sheer cliffs rise a thousand metres out of the water and thundering Chatterbox Falls dominates its upper end.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
30

13 Meals Included:

5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,940 double/twin; \$3,415 single; \$2,820 triple
Please add 5% GST.

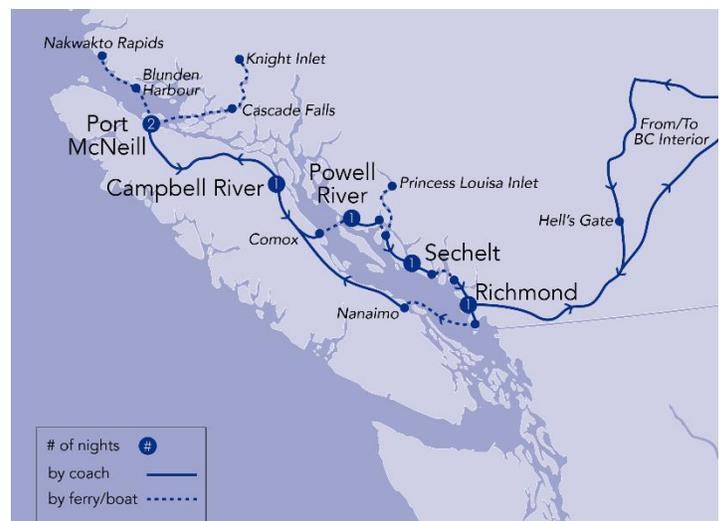
BC Seniors (65 & over): \$25 off with BC Services Card

Experience Points:

Earn 69 points on this tour.

Redeem 69 points if you book by July 7, 2021.

Departures from: BC Interior



ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, August 8

For a change from the familiar Coquihalla, we drive down the Fraser Canyon and ride the **Hell's Gate Air Tram** across the boiling rapids of the mighty Fraser River. We drive to New Westminster and stay overnight at the Inn at the Quay where every room has a view of the Fraser River. You may want to take a stroll along Westminster Quay this evening.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay

Day 2: Monday, August 9

After riding the ferry to Nanaimo, we drive through Campbell River and stay two nights in **Port McNeill**.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Haida Way Motor Inn

Day 3: Tuesday, August 10

We board the *Naiad Explorer* for the first of four exciting ocean experiences. Today we head to **Knight Inlet**, British Columbia's longest fjord at 113 km. Captain Vancouver, during his 1792 expedition, was impressed with "the high stupendous mountains rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" and named the fjord for John Knight, a British naval officer. The route goes past Village Island (an old First Nations village), then through Beware Pass to see the pictographs on Turnour Island. After Minstrel Island and Clio Channel, we pause at Cutler Cove estuary for possible sightings of **grizzly bears**. The *Naiad's* powerful engines make short work of the journey up Knight Inlet to **Cascade Falls** which plunges directly into the ocean. Here, deep in the Coast Mountains, we are almost at the foot of giant Mount Waddington, British Columbia's highest mountain. During the return ride to Port McNeill, we stop at the Glendale River estuary for another chance to see grizzly bears, then we weave through the Broughton Archipelago to Fife looking for Steller sea lions.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Haida Way Motor Inn

Day 4: Wednesday, August 11

Back on the *Naiad Explorer*, we cruise north across Queen Charlotte Strait and Labouchere

Passage to the mainland. Today's timing is important so we can experience the thrilling tidal rush through the **Nakwakto Rapids**. Here the waters of Seymour Inlet (58 km long) and Belize Inlet (40 km long) surge through the 300-metre wide gap. With the benefit of the *Naiad's* big engines, we cruise right into the tidal flow and have a sensational vantage point as the usually calm ocean comes to life like a giant rushing river. The spectacle happens twice a day, but a combination of factors makes August 11 one of the best days in 2021 to experience the Nakwakto Rapids as the tide is ebbing (flowing out of the fjords) and predicted to reach the awesome speed of 13.2 knots at 9:14 am. These are the fastest tidal rapids in the world, according to Guinness. The rapids were discovered by explorers under the command of Captain Pender in 1865 and named for the local First Nations band. After returning to Port McNeill, we drive south to Campbell River and stay overnight at **Painter's Lodge** on the shore of Discovery Passage.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Painter's Lodge

Day 5: Thursday, August 12

Our next boat excursion is from Campbell River to **Mitlenatch Island**, the largest seabird colony in the Strait of Georgia. The park protects thousands of glaucous-winged gulls, cormorants, pigeon guillemots, oystercatchers, and rhinoceros auklets. Marine life around the island is also fascinating and includes otters, harbour seals, and Steller's and California sea lions. Mitlenatch, which means 'calm waters all around' in the Coast Salish language, is a small barren uninhabited island with semi-arid conditions caused by its location in the 'rain shadow' of Vancouver Island. The boat slowly cruises around the island looking at the huge variety of bird and animal life. Discovery Passage is also a great area for **whale watching** and we keep an eye open for humpbacks, orcas, and dolphins. Later, we ride the ferry from Comox to Powell River. Stroll the hotel's waterfront this evening and enjoy the appealing views.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Beach Gardens Resort

Day 6: Friday, August 13

We ride a ferry across Jervis Inlet to Earls Cove. 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**. A picnic lunch is served at the falls. Back at Egmont, we drive south along the **Sunshine Coast** to Sechelt.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Driftwood Inn

Day 7: Saturday, August 14

We board a mid-morning ferry at Langdale for the 40-minute crossing of Howe Sound to Horseshoe Bay, then we travel home.

Meals included: Lunch

OUR CRUISE VESSELS

Knight Inlet & Nakwakto Rapids — *MV Naiad Explorer* is 17 metres long and is powered by twin Volvo-Penta D12 engines with 615 horsepower each. The lower deck has ample enclosed seating with washroom and there is an outdoor rear deck and an upper deck for excellent viewing. *Naiad Explorer* was built in 1999 and quiet engines were installed to minimize underwater noise for whales. With a cruising speed of 30 knots, *Naiad Explorer* is a very fast vessel and is able to travel great distances in a day, including the full length of Knight Inlet. Another benefit of her powerful engines is that she can hold a position in Nakwakto tidal rapids, allowing a thrilling view of this amazing coastal phenomenon.



Mitlenatch Island — Two or three vessels which could be zodiacs or covered boats are used, both equipped with washroom. The small size, maneuverability, and minimal draft allow the boats to get close to the island and its wildlife.

Princess Louisa Fjord — Two or three vessels with indoor seating and washroom are used for the voyage up Jervis Inlet, through the narrows of Malibu Rapids, and into Princess Louisa Fjord.

All vessels are operated by long-time captains with lots of experience on the B.C. coast.



Wells Gray Tours has previously offered other small ship excursions that have circled Quadra and Cortes Islands, explored fjords and narrow channels as far north as Kelsey Bay, and cruised in the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands. This will be our 14th cruise to spectacular Princess Louisa Fjord, our 12th trip along the full length of Knight Inlet, and our 10th cruise to experience the wild rush of the Nakwakto tidal rapids. Of the seven days on this tour, four days are devoted to cruising sheltered waters near Vancouver Island.

Come and join this unique tour, cruising some fabulous scenic waterways.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Hell's Gate Air Tram
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Duke Point
- Day cruise to Cascade Falls in Knight Inlet
- Day cruise to Nakwakto Tidal Rapids
- Mitlenatch Island cruise with whale watching
- Ferry from Comox to Powell River
- Day cruise to Princess Louisa Fjord
- Ferries across Jervis Inlet and Howe Sound
- Gratuities for crew on all boat tours
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **13 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners

TOUR NOTES



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 and boats cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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 7, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$25 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 25, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 26 to July 7, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person (your deposit). After July 7, 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: Wikimedia (Princess Louisa), Mackay Whale Watching (*Naiad Explorer*), Pat Manthey (Knight Inlet), Roland Neave (sea lions)

Experience points: This tour earns 69 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

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