



Painter's Lodge



Whale watching

SCENIC WATERFRONT HOTELS

April 24, 2022 – 7 Days

Staying at Inn at the Quay, Inn at Laurel Point, Painter's Lodge & Beach Club

British Columbia has numerous hotels in scenic locations, many featuring an ocean, river or lake view. This tour travels to four of the unique ones. Inn at the Quay juts out into the Fraser River at New Westminster. Inn at Laurel Point has a wonderful location beside Victoria's Inner Harbour where you can watch a constant parade of vessels. Painter's Lodge in Campbell River is a classic fishing lodge, overlooking beautiful Discovery Passage. Our final night is at the Beach Club beside the gorgeous sandy expanse of Parksville Bay. Each hotel is uniquely different and you can look forward to plenty of relaxation time in diverse waterfront settings. Add a whale watching trip to Race Rocks, the new Malahat Skywalk, Elk Falls Suspension Bridge, and a guided tour of Strathcona Park to get a terrific spring tour.

Activity Level: 2



14 Meals Included:

6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,285 double/twin; \$2,795 single; \$2,170 triple
Please add 5% GST.

BC Seniors (65 & over): \$20 discount with BC Services Card

Early Bookers:

\$120 discount on first 15 seats; \$60 on next 10

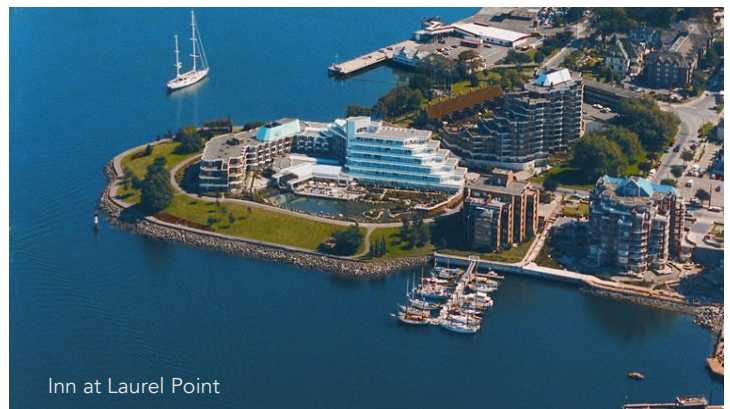
The first 15 parties booked will be assigned oceanview rooms at Painter's Lodge.

Experience Points:

Earn 54 points on this tour.

Redeem 54 points if you book by March 8, 2022.

Departures from: BC Interior



Inn at Laurel Point

ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, April 24

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 Westminister Quay this evening.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Inn at the Quay



Day 2: Monday, April 25

We ride a morning ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay. Enjoy the extensive Pacific Lunch Buffet during the crossing. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if there is a ship change.) From Victoria's Inner Harbour, we take a **whale-watching** boat excursion with Orca Spirit Adventures. The cruise passes the southernmost point of Vancouver Island at **Race Rocks**. This protected area is home to plenty of marine wildlife and birds, and is dominated by a lighthouse built in 1860. Our second waterfront hotel is the **Inn at Laurel Point**, built at the entrance to the Inner Harbour so you can watch the many vessels heading in and out.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Inn at Laurel Point

Day 3: Tuesday, April 26

We drive north on the Island Highway with a stop to admire the panoramic view of Saanich Inlet from the newly-opened **Malahat Skywalk**. Lunch is in Parksville. A local guide joins us for a drive around the tri-cities of Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland. At the **Cumberland Museum**, we learn about its coal mining history and the influence of the wealthy Dunsmuir family on the



region. Afterwards, we arrive at **Painter's Lodge** in Campbell River for a three-night stay. In the 1920s, salmon fishing in the area had become so popular that tent colonies had sprung up at the mouth of the Campbell River. E.P. Painter, a boat builder by trade, arrived in 1922 and, seeing the need for better accommodation for sport fishermen, opened his Painter's Lodge in 1929. It attracted clientele from Hollywood and regular patrons included Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, John Wayne, and Susan Hayward. The lodge burned down in 1985 and was soon rebuilt.

Note: Painter's Lodge has oceanview and gardenview rooms. The oceanview rooms are assigned to the first 15 parties booked for this tour, so we suggest you book early.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Painter's Lodge

Day 4: Wednesday, April 27

We take the short ferry ride across Discovery Passage to Quadra Island. Lunch is served at beautiful **Tsa-Kwa-Luten Lodge** with time to stroll the beach. It was built by the Kwagiutl people and its vast lobby resembles a traditional "Big House" with massive timbers, a soaring cathedral ceiling, and huge windows overlooking Discovery Passage. Back at Painter's Lodge, enjoy a leisurely afternoon, perhaps using the outdoor pool, fitness centre, spa services, tennis court, and bocce ball. There is an optional trip for active walkers to the **Elk Falls Suspension Bridge** which spans the Quinsam River canyon below the falls at a height of 64 metres. The walk is 4 km round trip with several flights of stairs.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Painter's Lodge

Day 5: Thursday, April 28

The day is devoted to **Strathcona Provincial Park**. This was British Columbia's first provincial park, established in 1911, and protects the rugged peaks of central Vancouver Island. We take short walks in the forest to see Lupin Falls and Lady Falls, and stroll a beach on Buttle Lake. We are accompanied during the day by Catherine Gilbert, a local author and expert on the park. Lunch is planned at Strathcona Park Lodge.



Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Painter's Lodge

Day 6: Friday, April 29

We visit the **Wildlife Recovery Centre** at Errington to view eagles, owls, falcons, hawks, ravens, and black bears. Many have been injured and are receiving rehabilitation before being returned to the wild. Nearby is **Englishman River Falls** which has a lovely forest walk to the bridge overlooking

the falls. There is time for shopping and lunch at unique Coombs Market, known for its goats grazing on the roof. Our last waterfront hotel is the **Beach Club Resort** in Parksville with ocean view rooms. The hotel's amenities include seaside pool and hot tub, fitness centre, and Stonewater Spa. You may want to take a stroll on Parksville's long boardwalk or the sandy beach.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation: Beach Club Resort



Day 7: Saturday, April 30

We ride the ferry from Duke Point to Tsawwassen and travel home via the Coquihalla.

Meals included: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 7 days
- 6 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 2 Strait of Georgia ferry crossings
- Whale watching excursion to Race Rocks
- Malahat Skywalk
- Comox Valley guide
- Cumberland Museum
- Ferry to/from Quadra Island
- Elk Falls Suspension Bridge
- Guided tour of Strathcona Park with local author and expert, Catherine Gilbert
- Wildlife Recovery Centre
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **14 meals:** 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners

TOUR NOTES



Activity Level 2: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. Malahat Skywalk is a 32-metre ascent via a spiral ramp to reach the observation deck. Ramps to the boat docks could be steep at low tide. There are short walks with some uphill trail to see the waterfalls in Strathcona Park. The Elk Falls Suspension Bridge is an optional walk of 4 km return. 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. 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 tour days.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$200 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due March 8, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$120 discount on first 15 seats and \$60 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 8, 2022. BC seniors (65 & over) receive \$15 discount extended by BC Ferries, so you must bring your BC Services Card.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 8, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From February 9 to March 8, the cancellation charge is \$150 per person. From March 9 to March 24, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After March 24, 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 up until the time of 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: Painter's Lodge, Orca Spirit Adventures (whale watching), Inn at Laurel Point, Roland Neave (Inn at the Quay, Lady Falls), Malahat Skywalk, Beach Club

Experience Points: This tour earns 54 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 March 8, 2022.

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

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