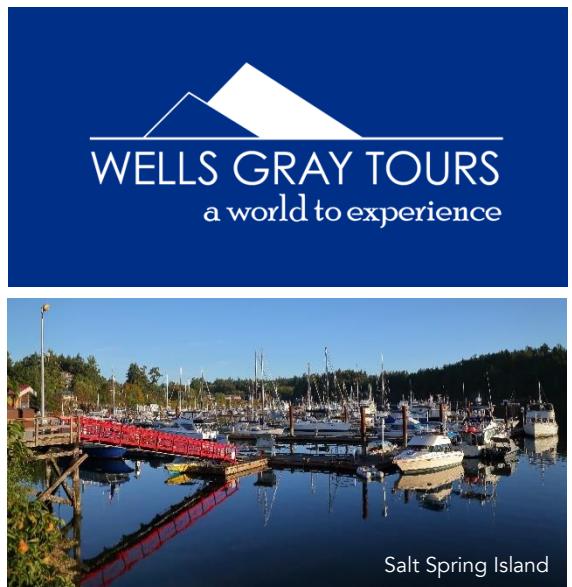




Poets Cove Resort



Salt Spring Island

## CRUISING THE GULF ISLANDS

May 29, 2022 – 6 Days

4 nights at Poets Cove with 2 days cruising

Poets Cove is the premier luxury resort in the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. The main building has 22 beautifully appointed bedrooms, all with a balcony and spectacular ocean view. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is free time for you to enjoy this service. This tour features two full days of cruising in the Gulf Islands on Orca Spirit's *Pacific Explorer*. She is equipped with hydrophones to enhance the underwater experience and a certified marine naturalist with great knowledge and passion for Vancouver Island's marine wildlife is on board. We ride a water taxi over to Salt Spring Island with a drive to the top of Mount Maxwell and free time in Ganges. Come and explore the Gulf Islands with the benefits of small vessel cruising and a luxury resort for home base.

Activity Level: 1



10 Meals Included:

3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,605 double/twin; \$3,130 single

Please add 5% GST.

Early Bookers:

\$120 discount on first 12 seats; \$60 on next 8

Experience Points:

Earn 59 points on this tour.

Redeem 59 points if you book by March 24, 2022.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



Sunset at Poets Cove

# ITINERARY

## Day 1: Sunday, May 29

We meet the BC Interior Wells Gray travellers in mid-afternoon. During the ferry ride to Swartz Bay, enjoy the extensive Pacific Dinner Buffet. (Note: Most ferries on this route offer the buffet, but an alternative will be arranged if the ship changes.) We stay overnight in **Victoria** at the Coast Harbourside Hotel overlooking the Inner Harbour.

**Meals included:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Coast Harbourside Hotel

## Day 2: Monday, May 30

We board the **Pacific Explorer** in the marina beside the hotel and cruise out of the Inner Harbour. The cruise route is flexible and depends on sightings of **Orca whales** or other marine creatures. We may cross the border to the San Juan Islands (no passport needed, since we don't land). We may cruise along **Spieden Island**, a privately-owned island with a collection of exotic animals. A marine naturalist is with us on board today and tomorrow to spot wildlife and provide commentary about the islands. A box lunch is served on board. After about six hours of splendid Gulf Islands scenery, we enter peaceful Bedwell Harbour and dock in front of **Poets Cove Resort** on South Pender Island. Settle into your luxurious lodge room with a view of the harbour for the next four nights. Tonight, savour dinner in the Aurora Room, then enjoy music in Syrens, a walk on the extensive grounds, or sitting on your deck watching the sunset across Bedwell Harbour.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Poets Cove Resort

## Day 3: Tuesday, May 31

Back on board the **Pacific Explorer**, a six-hour cruise is offered which may explore the shorelines of **Saturna, Galiano, Mayne, or Prevost Islands** or other Gulf Islands. Lunch is served on board. The captain continues to watch for whales, seals, sea lions, and other marine life. Tides permitting, we may go under the bridge that connects the Pender Islands.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

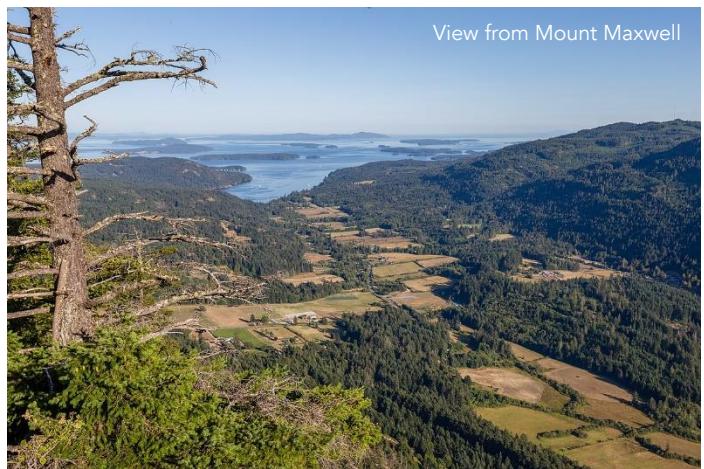
**Accommodation:** Poets Cove Resort

## Day 4: Wednesday, June 1

The Gulf Islands water taxi picks us up at the marina and takes us over to **Salt Spring Island** and the town of Ganges. We ride in vans up the winding road to the summit of **Mount Maxwell** and enjoy a panoramic view over Salt Spring Island, the other Gulf Islands, and the Sansum Narrows. There is free time in Ganges, then we ride the water taxi back to Poets Cove in mid-afternoon.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Poets Cove Resort



View from Mount Maxwell

## Day 5: Thursday, June 2

The morning is free time and an appointment at the Susurru Spa is recommended. During an afternoon tour of Pender Island with our local guide, there are short walks at Brooks Point, along Mortimer Spit, and across the bridge between the two Pender Islands.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Poets Cove Resort

## Day 6: Friday, June 3

We drive to the ferry terminal on North Pender Island and take the ferry to Tsawwassen with short stops at Mayne and Galiano Islands.

## POETS COVE RESORT

Poets Cove is the luxury resort of the Gulf Islands. Nestled in Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island, the resort has every amenity you could wish for. It was built in 2004 at a cost of \$30 million. The main building has 22 beautifully appointed bedrooms, all with ocean view and a deck. There are also spacious 2-bedroom cottages and villas with living room and 2 bathrooms which are suitable for 4 double/twin guests sharing or 2 single guests sharing at the same fares (please request availability). The Aurora Dining Room serves our breakfasts and dinners, and Syrens Bistro offers a pub atmosphere for casual evening get-togethers. Spa treatments are available in the Susurrus Spa and there is leisure time to enjoy this service. An outdoor pool and hot tub are tucked into the hillside above the lodge. This tour was first offered as the 2010 Mystery Tour and everybody was impressed with the luxury of Poets Cove; the tour has been offered six times since then.



## PACIFIC EXPLORER

Our charter vessel, *Pacific Explorer*, is licenced for 70, but this tour carries only 40 passengers for comfort. She has full-length tinted windows, indoor nook seating for everyone, washrooms, bar service, and an open-air viewing deck with bench seats and awning. She is 15.5 metres long and travels at up to 22 knots. The vessel is equipped with hydrophones to hear what is happening underwater and a certified marine naturalist is on board.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation to Victoria and return from Pender Island
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay
- 2 days of cruising on *Pacific Explorer* around the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands
- Marine naturalist for 2 days on board
- Water taxi from Pender Island to Salt Spring Island and return
- Van transportation to top of Mount Maxwell
- Locally-guided tour of Pender Island with nature walk at Brooks Point
- Ferry from Pender Island to Tsawwassen
- Gratuities for crew on *Pacific Explorer*, water taxi, Mount Maxwell drivers, local guide
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- 10 meals: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners

## TOUR NOTES

 **Activity Level 1:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs, mostly getting on and off *Pacific Explorer* or the water taxi. The ramps to the boat docks can be steep at low tide. There is a short walk from the hotel along the dock to the vessel. The coach cannot access the Poets Cove lodge building due to a narrow driveway, so there is a short uphill walk from lodge to coach on June 2 and 3. The nature walk at Brooks Point and the walk onto Mortimer Spit are optional. The coach and vessels cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. If you think you may have difficulty participating 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. 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.

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## TOUR POLICIES

**Payments:** A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 24, 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 12 seats and \$60 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after March 24, 2022.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to February 24, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 25 to March 24, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From March 25 to April 22, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. After April 22, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from ferries, the vessels, and other 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.

**Home pickups** are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Transfer is to meet the coach along Highway #17 on May 29 and return from there on June 3. Please request no later than at final payment.

**Photo Credits:** Poets Cove Resort (page 1 and 3), Adobe Stock (Salt Spring), Marion Wienhold (Poets Cove sunset), Wikimedia (Mt. Maxwell), Orca Spirit (vessel)

**Experience Points:** This tour earns 59 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 24, 2022.

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

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