



CHRISTMAS IN VANCOUVER

December 21, 2021 – 6 Days

Staying at Granville Island Hotel

This tour stays all five nights at Granville Island Hotel, a charming boutique hotel located on False Creek at the east end of Granville Island. The hotel is surrounded by dozens of interesting shops and restaurants, including many art galleries, craft shops, and Christmas stores. Stroll the waterfront boardwalks, relax in the Jacuzzi, or ride the Aquabus across False Creek to downtown Vancouver.

Some highlights are a lunch cruise on the paddlewheeler on the Fraser River, Burnaby Heritage Village, the Christmas lights at VanDusen Gardens, a lively show *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*, cruising the harbour in the parade of the Christmas Carol Ships, and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden.

Come and enjoy Christmas 2021 in Vancouver!

Activity Level: 1



11 Meals Included:

4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 3 lunches, 3 dinners

Fares per person:

\$2,225 double/twin; \$2,795 single; \$2,070 triple
Please add 5% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 52 points on this tour

Redeem 52 points if you book by November 2, 2021.

Departure from: BC Interior



ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, December 21

We drive to Vancouver and settle into the charming **Granville Island Hotel** for our five-night stay. This boutique hotel is located on False Creek at the east end of Granville Island. Amenities include a waterfront restaurant, sauna and jacuzzi. Granville Island has many art galleries, craft shops, and Christmas stores within walking distance.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation: Granville Island Hotel

Day 2: Wednesday, December 22

Breakfast is included each day at the hotel. We board the *MV Native paddlewheeler* in New Westminster for an excursion on the Fraser River with lunch included. We sail along the waterfront of New Westminster and Surrey, and underneath three bridges, including Port Mann and Pattullo. The captain has lots of stories to tell about sights and historical places along the "Mighty Fraser". This afternoon, we visit **Burnaby Heritage Village**, a re-creation of a pioneer community at the turn of the 20th century. Tonight, we go to **VanDusen Gardens' Festival of Lights** and admire the spectacle of thousands of Christmas lights, the dancing lights on the lake, a giant decorated tree, Candy Cane Lane, and a choir concert.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Granville Island Hotel

Day 3: Thursday, December 23

Two attractions are offered in the morning; please choose one by final payment.

- 1) **Maritime Museum** — Explore the maritime history of Vancouver and the BC Coast, and see the RCMP vessel *St. Roch* which was the first to sail eastbound through the Northwest Passage in 1940-42.
- 2) **MacMillan Space Centre** — Founded in 1968, this astronomy museum offers live demonstrations on science in the GroundStation Theatre, exhibits and games in the Cosmic Courtyard, and astronomy shows in the Planetarium.

At 1:30 pm, the curtain rises at the Stanley Theatre for **Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol**. Set during the 1930s in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, this joyful musical imagines Ebenezer Scrooge as

the owner of a mining company town where his callous greed blinds him to the joys of the season. On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by his deceased business partner and three ghosts who compel him to see life anew. Dickens's classic characters and Parton's song-writing expertise are certain to make this a memorable holiday event. At 6 pm, we join the traditional **Christmas Carol Ships Parade** through Burrard Inlet, under Lions Gate Bridge, past Stanley Park, and into False Creek. Our private chartered vessel, *Royal Vancouver I*, is beautifully decorated with hundreds of colourful lights and you are sure to also admire the decorations of other vessels in the procession. Sing along to recorded Christmas music or simply sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season unfolding around you. Dinner is served on board.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Granville Island Hotel

Day 4: Friday, December 24

We visit the **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden**, an authentic representation of a Ming Dynasty Garden. After a guided tour, we have a chance to taste Chinese tea while a tea expert gives a talk on its cultural significance. Next, we go to the **Museum of Anthropology**, housed in a stunning Arthur Erickson structure with exquisite First Nations artifacts and exhibits, including Bill Reid's famous sculpture "The Raven and the First Men".

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Granville Island Hotel

Day 5: December 25 – Merry Christmas

Expect a gift from Santa during a delectable brunch in the Docksider Restaurant at the hotel. The afternoon is leisure time, then we savour an extravagant Christmas Dinner.

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Granville Island Hotel

Day 6: Sunday, December 26

We travel home with good memories of our Christmas stay in Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Coach transportation for 5 days
- 5 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Fraser River paddlewheeler cruise with lunch
- Burnaby Heritage Village
- VanDusen Gardens Festival of Lights
- Choice of Maritime Museum OR MacMillan Space Centre
- *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*
- Christmas Carol Ships Parade cruise with dinner
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden with tea and tour
- Museum of Anthropology
- Gratuities for paddlewheeler & Carol Ship crew
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **11 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 brunch, 3 lunches, 3 dinners



Activity Level 1: Light activity including short distances to walk and some stairs. There is a short walk from coach to dock for the paddlewheeler and Carol Ship. You can do a short or long walk at VanDusen Gardens and Burnaby Heritage Village. The coach 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.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$300 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due November 2, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 24, 2021, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From September 25 to November 2, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From November 3 to November 17, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From November 18 to November 30, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 30, 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: Granville Island Hotel, MV Native Paddlewheeler, Museum of Anthropology

Experience Points: This tour earns 52 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 November 2, 2021.

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

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